The first connection, to the home of George Hulks, took place in August 1886. The final cost of the waterworks was £48,000. Drought the following year saw water cut off at times to residents at night. Council then sank a well 16 feet across near the waterworks at Waterworks Lane.

While there were early plans for a sewerage system, lack of water held up progress. The Cesspit Sanitary Service was closed in December 1886 and the Sanitary Pan System introduced. Work began on a sewerage system in 1913 and finished the following year at a cost of over £45,000. However the plan by the Department of Public Works did not include all homes in the city and some 500 homes still needed septic tanks. By 1933, there were still parts of Bathurst that had not been connected to the sewerage system.

The introduction of steam traction engines in the 1890s contributed to the widespread move away from day labour and horse and carts.

A reticulated water supply and associated waterworks were a long time coming. First discussed in 1876, Mr William Clarke arrived to inspect suitable sites in July the following year. A public meeting in March 1880 resolved to ask the NSW Government to commence work on the project which would require steam pumping engines. Tenders were called in February 1881 and awarded in early January 1883. After further hold-ups Mr B Magill began work in May 1885.
Council contributed the first British-made horse-drawn fire pump, which was housed in the Market Building. In 1886, Council was asked to provide annual funding of £200. After initial debate, Council agreed.

The first fire station was a two storey building designed by Mr James Hines. Located in William Street beside the old Town Hall, it opened on 26 June 1887. A smoke-spotting and bell tower was constructed at a cost of £1,500 during WWI after Bathurst Council donated the required land to the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Fire Brigade Act of 1927 obliged Council to pay 25 per cent of operating costs. This was reduced to 12.5 per cent in 1949. The fire station was later moved to George Street, followed by construction of a new station at Windradyne in 2007.

In August 1870 a public meeting was held to establish a gasworks in Bathurst, but with disagreement over key details the idea waned. Mr John N Wark, a gas engineer from Scotland then offered to supply the town with gas. In January 1871, Mr Wark arrived to negotiate with Council and plan his new gasworks. Land was purchased on the corner of Bentinck and Durham Streets and an Act of Incorporation enacted to proceed with the £6,000 project. Most of the system was imported from Britain.

Efforts to establish a volunteer Town Fire Brigade began in the 1870s. Mr P Gibson approached Council in 1873 to help. As there was no reticulated water in Bathurst, it was suggested that metal tanks be sunk into the ground at accessible locations to provide water. Council thought the proposed expense was too great at the time. A public meeting in 1875 saw no further progress.

In November 1878, 24 young men volunteered to start the first fire brigade. Mr W Butler and Mr W G Stephens had raised £134 to purchase uniforms and equipment, however nothing eventuated. It wasn’t until the NSW Government passed the Fire Brigades Act in 1884 that the Bathurst Fire Brigade commenced.