

WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

"WEDDIN COUNCIL - WORKING FOR AND WITH THE COMMUNITY"

COUNCIL'S MISSION STATEMENT

For the future as in the past Weddin Council and Staff will endeavour to achieve:-

- Proper maintenance and improvement of all services
- Assets and finances managed in a proper manner
- Improve communication with residents
- Promote tourism and development in a balanced manner
- Seek high productivity and morale with a well trained, motivated and safe workforce

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1. Council Offices & Facilities

Council Chambers	Camp Street, Grenfell open 8.30am - 4.00pm Mon-Fri (Ph) 6343 1212 (Fax) 02 - 6343 1203 email: mail@weddin.nsw.gov.au website: www.grenfell.org.au
Library	Main Street, Grenfell (Ph/Fax) 6343 1334
Internet Centre	Main Street, Grenfell (Ph/Fax) 6343 1720 email: grentech@grenfell.org.au
Art Gallery	Main Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1864 email: gallery@grenfell.org.au
Arts and Tourism Officer	Main Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 2059 (Fax) 6343 2546 email: claire@grenfell.org.au
Economic Development/ Tourism Office	Main Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 2855 (Fax) 6343 2546 email: edo@grenfell.org.au
Caravan Park	Grafton Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1194, email: caravanpark@grenfell.org.au
Grenfell Swimming Pool	Forbes Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1756
Quandialla Swimming Pool	Second Street, Quandialla (Ph) 63471304
Works Depot	South Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1748 (Fax) 63431651
Noxious Weeds	South Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 2999 (Fax) 6343 1203
Sewage Treatment Works	Memory Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1578
Bushfire Headquarters	Melyra Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1027
SES Headquarters	Dalton Street, Grenfell (Ph) 6343 1027

2. Council and Committee Meetings

<u>Council:</u>	meets on the third Thursday of the month at 5.00 pm.
<u>Correspondence for Meetings:</u>	Correspondence for consideration by Council must be received by the Wednesday in the week preceding the Meeting.
<u>Public Attendance:</u>	members of the public are welcome to attend Council and certain Committee meetings except when otherwise resolved by Council to permit discussion of confidential matters.

Noxious Plants Committee: meets at 3.30 pm on the Tuesday in the week preceding the Council Meeting. (not every month)

Not open to public.

Tourism Committee: meets bi-monthly at 3.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Not open to the public.

Heritage Committee: meets bi-monthly at 5.00 pm on the first Thursday of the month.

Not open to the public.

Art Gallery Committee: meets bi-monthly at 8:30am on the first Thursday of the month.

Not open to the public.

Manex Committee: meets at 8.00am on the Tuesday immediately preceding the Council Meeting.

Not open to the public.

Planning and Development: meets at 4.30 pm on the Monday immediately preceding the Council Meeting.

Open to the public.

Lawson Festival Committee: meets at 7.30 pm EST (or 8.00 pm DST) on the third Tuesday of the month.

Open to the public.

Other Committees: meet as and when required. Meetings are advertised when members of the public may attend.

Note: Meeting times and days may vary on occasions. Some committees may not meet every month.

For confirmation please contact Council's office on 6343 1212.

3. MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR 2015/2016

The 2015/2016 Financial Year saw the continuation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) process which has seen Council take a more strategic approach to asset management and the provision of services to our rate payers.

This process facilitated the development, review and adoption of the following plans by Council:

- 2013-2023 – Community Strategic Plan
- 2013-2017 – Delivery Program
- 2016-2017 – Operational Plan
- Resourcing Strategy (including the Asset Management Plan (AMP), Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and workforce plan.)

While Council has previously endorsed our strategic direction for the next ten years the 2013-2017 Delivery Program was reviewed and outlines various projects to be undertaken in the four year period which are detailed below:

- Grenfell Medical Centre
- Visitor Information Centre
- Grenfell Swimming Pool development
- Grenfell Main Street upgrade

Councils resourcing strategy indicates that these capital projects will be in the future funded in the following ways:

- Loans
- Grant Funding
- Special Rate Variations
- Interest Rate Subsidies

The plans and specifications for the Grenfell Medical Centre and Grenfell Swimming Pool developments have been finalised. Tenders were called for the Grenfell Swimming Pool development with Council accepting the tender from ICON Building Group on 1 February 2016. Demolition and drainage works were completed with construction of the pool to commence in 2016/2017. The construction of the Medical Centre will commence in 2016/2017 after grant funding opportunities have been exhausted. The completion of both of these projects will not only assist in closing our assets infrastructure gap but will allow us to continue to provide quality services to our residents.

After extensive consultation with the community Council applied for and received approval for a multi-year special variation under section 508A of the Local Government Act, 1993. Council requested increases of 6.4% in 2015-16 and 7% each year from 2016-17 to 2018-19 and for the increase to remain in the rate base permanently. Council intends to use the additional revenue from the special rate variation to fund debt servicing costs associated with the Grenfell Swimming Pool development and the new medical centre in Grenfell as well as improving its financial sustainability.

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) was relocated to the Grenfell Community Hub and the (VIC) which is now accredited will allow the promotion of our attractions and events to residents and visitors in a state-of-the-art building.

The NSW State Government previously responded to the Independent Review Panel's final report whereby the 'Fit for the Future' proposal was launched. The 'Fit for the Future' program responded to the final recommendations made by the Review Panel and reflected the priorities identified by the sector during three years of consultation. Every Council in NSW was requested to review their own situation and submit a proposal by 30 June 2015, outlining their plans to become 'Fit for the Future'. Council submitted a Rural Council proposal by the due date and was subsequently advised we were not 'Fit for the Future'. Council is planning to resubmit our 'Fit for the Future' proposal which is due by the 29 July 2016.

Thursday, 12 May 2016 was a significant day for Local Government in NSW with the NSW Premier the Hon Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government the Hon Paul Toole MP announcing a number of Council mergers with nineteen (19) new Councils created. Fortunately, Weddin Shire Council avoided amalgamation which was a credit to the Community, Council and staff who all worked together to achieve this great result. While it is fantastic that we are still operating as Weddin Shire Council we are certainly not immune from the reform process. The process is ongoing whereby we will have to embrace change to remain financially sustainable in the future and remain as an independent Council.

Council's Roads Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) with the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) on SH6 and SH17 continued during 2015/2016 with very good results. Council is accredited to conduct upgrade works to the nominal value of \$2,000,000 for each individual project which is very beneficial to Council and the community. Other major works were conducted on various main and local roads with Grenfell streets construction and village maintenance works also undertaken.

A Sec 355 Committee of Council has been formed to determine the future use and operation of Bogolong Dam which should enhance recreational activities in the Shire.

The Forbes Street caravan parking proposal continued to be developed which includes a beautification plan which will facilitate the further development of the area for caravan parking.

Council continues to respond to land use pressures and is continuing a review of the Shire's Large Lot Residential supply with a view to providing more and better located stocks. In addition the adoption of a comprehensive Development Control Plan provides important and appropriate performance standards to where and how our various land zones are developed.

Council also continues to invest in plant and equipment and information technology allowing staff to operate in a much more efficient and effective environment. Council also completed upgrade works at Lawson Oval and the Sewerage Treatment Works allowing the treatment works to comply with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

Other ancillary works included Caravan Park improvements, tourism signs upgrades, Grenfell Lawn Cemetery upgrade works and upgrade of Grenfell's Tourism website.

Grenfell is celebrating its Sesquicentenary in 2016 being the 150th Anniversary of Grenfell's settlement and a committee is continuing to organise the celebrations throughout the year which will culminate on the October long weekend. The official launch was held on Australia

Day 2016 and the theme “Come Home to Grenfell” will see many past and present residents celebrate Grenfell’s rich history on this very special occasion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Councillors and staff for their support, advice and assistance during the 2015/2016 financial year. I look forward to continuing to work with Council’s team in the future to deliver the projects identified and prioritised in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) process.

CLR MARK LIEBICH
MAYOR

4. Personnel and Professional Agents 2015/2016

Councillors

Mayor: Clr M J Liebich

Deputy: Clr J C Niven

Councillors:

G B Halls
 N W Hughes
 G McClelland
 A C Griffiths
 P H Best
 C Brown
 J E Parlett

Meeting Attendances

Meeting	Council	Town Works	Heritage	Tourism	Noxious Weeds	Property and Development	Planning and Development	Art Gallery	Bogolong Dam
Total Held	16	4	6	6	4	4	5	6	1
Clr Liebich	16	3	-	(1)	(2)	4	5	-	2
Clr Niven	13	3	-	-	3	-	4	-	-
Clr Halls	16	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	2
Clr Hughes	13	(4)	5	5	-	4	3	-	-
Clr McClelland	16	1	-	4	-	1	4	-	-
Clr Griffiths	15	(3)	-	-	2	3	3	4	-
Clr Best	16	3	-	1	-	3	5	-	-
Clr Brown	16	3	6	6	-	(3)	5	6	-
Clr Parlett	15	4	6	6	-	4	5	6	-

Note: numbers in brackets “()” indicate attendances as observers.

Executive Staff

General Manager	G Carroll
Director Engineering	W Twohill
Director Environmental Services	B Hayes
Director Corporate Services	L Gibson

Professional Agents

Auditors:	Intentus Chartered Accountants PO Box 69 Orange NSW 2800
Solicitors:	Gordon Garling Moffitt 129 Main Street Grenfell NSW 2810
Banker:	Westpac 60-62 McNamara Street Orange NSW 2800

5. Statutory Disclosures – Local Government Act

The following matters are required to be reported by Council under Section 428(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, and are listed with the corresponding clause number. Figures given are for 2015/2016.

- (a) Expenses, Revenue & Assets:
See Appendix A.
- (b) Operational Plan – Performance Report 2015/2016:
See Appendix B.
- (c) Completed Works of Note 2015/2016:
See Appendix C.
- (d) Report on the State of the Environment:
See Appendix D.
- (e) Condition of Public Works:
See Appendix E.
- (f) Summary of Legal Proceedings:
Council costs in regard to legal proceedings for 2015/2016 amounted to \$1,530.00.

These expenses were incurred as a result of legal action taken in relation to an animal control dispute.

- (g) Payments to Councillors:
Fees: Fees for Councillors of the Weddin Shire were determined by Council within the limits approved by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal as:-

Councillor	\$10,740pa
Mayor	\$23,440 pa extra

The total expenditure during the year was:-

Councillors fees	\$96,660
Mayoral fees	\$23,440

Expenses: Under its policy for payment of expenses as adopted on 25 June 2015, Council paid the cost of accommodation, meals, conference fees and travel expenses. Travel expenses by car were calculated at 68c/km under 2.5 litres and 78c/km 2.5 litres and over.

Amounts paid during the year were:-

Delegates expenses	\$6,143
Travel, sustenance	\$10,306
Insurance	\$1,999

Council made available an office with telephone for official use by the Mayor and Councillors as and when required.

(h) Senior Staff:

Council's only designated "Senior Staff" position is that of the General Manager.

Payments for the year totalled \$174,500 with deductions for superannuation made from the total package. Charges for private vehicle use were paid post tax.

(i) Contracts:

Council awarded the following contracts over \$150,000 during 2015/2016:

G.C.M. Agencies Pty Ltd	- Supply and delivery of one (1) Multipak 6118H Self Propelled Smooth Drum Vibratory Roller.	\$171,600.00 (less trade in \$22,000.00)
G.C.M. Agencies Pty Ltd	- Supply and delivery of one (1) Multipak 6118H Self Propelled Smooth Drum Vibratory Roller.	\$168,300.00 (less trade in \$19,800.00)

(j) Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Activities: There are 11 Rural Fire brigades in the shire under the control of the Rural Fire Service.

The township of Grenfell is covered by the NSW Fire and Rescue. Vacant allotments were inspected for excessive growth and owners encouraged to slash, mow or graze to reduce vegetation.

Rural property owners are required by public notice to establish and maintain 3 metre wide fire breaks appropriate to the Rural Fires Act. Residential properties in villages are required to keep grass and weed growth below 150 mm.

No Section 66 Notices were issued to those not complying with the public notice. However, 20 letters were sent to owners of blocks requiring treatment.

Council carried out its annual hazard reduction programme on firebreaks around the villages of Bimbi and Caragabal as well as burning off in conjunction with Rural Fire Brigades around the rubbish tips at Grenfell, Quandialla and Caragabal, including spraying and clearing with heavy machinery. Firebreaks were inspected around the Company Dam Reserve north of Grenfell and upgraded where necessary.

Ongoing maintenance was carried out on all tankers and equipment during the year.

- (k) Multicultural Services: Weddin Shire has a relatively low population of indigenous and ethnic residents, and there is no known population which does not speak English. Consequently, there was no demand throughout the year for additional services from people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Brochures in various languages containing information on such matters as social security, immunisation and building services, are available for members of the public but are rarely if ever used.

Two Citizenship Ceremonies were carried out in 2015/2016.

- (l) Subsidised Works on Private Land:
Council has a policy of hiring plant to approved local community organisations for fuel costs only. No work was carried out under this policy in 2015/2016.
- (m) Donations and Contributions under Section 356:
A total of \$80,268.77 was donated or contributed by Council during the year, as follows:

Organisation	Description	Amount
Western Region Acadamey of Sport	Annual Contribution	\$194.00
Grenfell Voices Against Violence	Contribution - LoveBites Domestic Violence Program	\$200.00
The Grenfell Jockey Club (Inc.)	Donation - Race Sponsorship	\$200.00
Scout Association	Donation - Rates	\$314.00
Weddin Development Committee	Donation - Best Business in the Weddin Shire Award	\$500.00
Grenfell Picnic Race Club	Donation - Children's Rides	\$200.00
Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall Association	Donation	\$200.00
Grenfell Rugby Club Incorporated	Donation - Rates	\$419.41
Quandialla Progress Association	Donation - Australia Day	\$250.00
Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall Association	Donation - Australia Day	\$250.00
Caragabal Hall Committee	Donation - Australia Day	\$250.00
Grenfell Henry Lawson Festival	Donation - Acquisitive Prize	\$1,500.00
Grenfell Mens Shed	Donation - DA Fees	\$375.00
The Grenfell Christian Book Shop	Donation - Rates	\$325.82
South West Appaloosa & All Breed's Association	Donation	\$300.00
The Grenfell Jockey Club (Inc.)	Donation - Race Sponsorship	\$200.00
Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall Association	Donation - Le Tour De Greenethorpe	\$300.00
The Henry Lawson High School	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
Grenfell Public School	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
Greenethorpe Public School	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
Grenfell PAH & I Association	Donation - Sewerage Charges	\$1,015.00
Caragabal Public School	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
St Joseph's Catholic School Grenfell	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
Quandialla Central School	Donation - Presentation Day	\$100.00
Grenfell Voices Against Violence	Contribution - LoveBites Domestic Violence Program	\$200.00
Grenfell Gunyah Craft Shop Inc.	Donation - Rates	\$325.82
Grenfell Pre-School & Long Day	Donation - Hire of Traffic Signs	\$90.00
Quandialla Pool Committee	Annual Contribution	\$25,000.00
Grenfell Town Band	Annual Donation	\$500.00
The Henry Lawson High School	Donation - Youth Week Expenses	\$1,221.82
Arts Out West	Annual Contribution	\$2,225.40

Heritage Fund - Local Building Fund	Contributions to Heritage Works	\$18,047.50
CENTROC	Annual Contribution	\$12,370.00
Grenfell Sesquicentenary Committee	Donation - Sesquicentenary Celebrations	\$10,000.00
Greenethorpe Soldiers Memorial Hall Association	Contribution – 50% Tree Removal	\$2,695.00
Total		\$80,268.77

(n) Human Resource Activities:

Industrial Relations at the council remain good and there is close and constant liaison between management and union representatives.

During the year Council operated under the Local Government (State) Award 2014.

The three Directors are employed on employment agreements as per the Local Government (State) Award 2014.

The **Award Consultative Committee** met on four occasions during the year.

The annual **staff assessments** for the majority of the staff were completed by the end of December 2015, with the remaining assessments being completed promptly after the employees' return from leave.

The **Organisation Structure** was reviewed and adopted with one change in May 2016 (see following page). The structure shows the functional roles relating to each department below the level of Director.

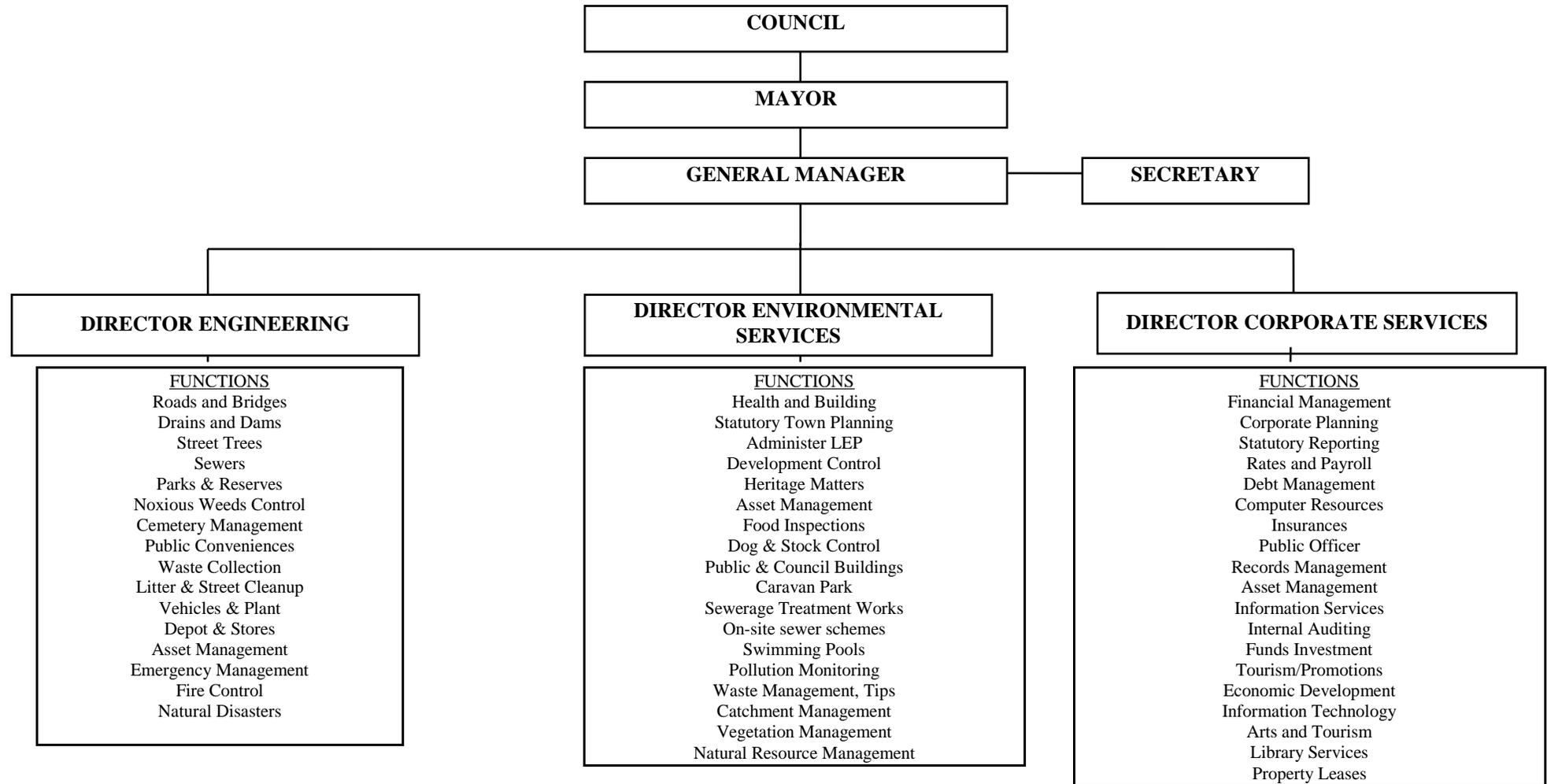
The **workforce** at Weddin Shire is traditionally very stable and turnover is usually minimal. Changes to indoor staff included:-

- appointment of Arts and Tourism Officer
- job sharing of General Managers Secretary position

Changes to the outdoor staff included:-

- appointment of one casual Labourer – Noxious Weeds Assistant
- appointment of one casual Labourer
- appointment of Truck Driver (internal)

WEDDIN SHIRE COUNCIL - ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



Adopted: 25 June 2015

Staff **training** is a major investment for Council. Council also employs trainees and apprentices to offer local youths an opportunity to gain experience or a trade. At the end of 2015/2016 there were:-

- a school based trainee (Parks and Gardens, first year January 2015)
- a school based trainee (Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical, second year January 2015)
- work experience on a week's basis offered to The Henry Lawson High School students in year 10 as requested

Training courses attended by Council staff are listed below.

2015/2016

Name of Organisation	Days	No. Attending	Cost of Training	COURSE DESCRIPTION
Hunter Plant Operator Training	3	2	4,000.00	Grader Operator Training
Lachlan Shire Council	1	1	829.73	Ranger Training
Institute of Public Works Engineering	1	1	800.00	Special Schedule 7 Workshop
Intentus Chartered Accountants	1	1	340.91	Financial Reporting Update
Butch's A1 Driving school	3	1	2,340.00	HC Licence Driver Training
T. C. Training Pty Ltd	1	4	3,200.00	Blue Card Training
T. C. Training Pty Ltd	1	7		Yellow Card Day
Complete Vegetation Management	1	9	4,050.00	Chainsaw Operations Level 1
A1 Roadlines Pty Ltd	0.5	8	800.00	Solar Traffic Lights Training
South Eastern Workplace Safety	1	1	272.73	Red Card Training - P Rolls
T. C. Training Pty Ltd	2	20	5,600.00	Yellow & Blue Card Training
Complete Vegetation Management	2	9	2,475.00	Chainsaw Operations Level 1
Regional Development Australia	1	1	90.00	Grant Writing Workshop
L T Logan	3	36	5,072.73	First Aid Training
Total Training Fees			\$29,871.10	

The total cost of training including wages, travel, accommodation and other costs was \$60,344.24

Council's **WH & S Committee** met four times during the year, pursuant to its role of identifying risks and improving employee safety.

(o) Equal Employment Opportunity:

An Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan was adopted by Council in August 2009 to guide the consideration of Equal Employment Opportunity matters.

Council observes the guidelines of this Plan in conjunction with recruitment, promotion and training activities. Vacancies are advertised internally and externally, and interview panels include an independent community member as well as gender balance where appropriate.

Council has adopted a Policy for Resolution of Grievances which is applied to any complaints by staff to ensure a speedy and fair resolution.

Oversight of the implementation of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan is the responsibility of the Award Consultative Committee, which comprises representatives of management and staff.

(p) Delegations to External Bodies:

External bodies which exercised functions delegated by the Council were:

- Central Tablelands Water - water supply to Grenfell, Quandialla and some rural areas;
- Cowra Council - water supply to Greenethorpe and nearby rural areas;
- Grenfell Historical Society - operation of the Grenfell Museum;
- Grenfell Rotary Club - approved maintenance and upgrading of Rotary Park.
- Rural Fire Service – activities in accordance with the Service Level Agreement.

(q) Controlling Interests:

NIL

(r) Partnerships, Co-operatives and Joint Ventures:

Council was a member of three local government strategic alliances during the year, as follows:-

- Mid Lachlan Alliance – with the councils of Forbes, Lachlan and Parkes.
- City/Country Alliance – with Hawkesbury City Council
- Joint Rail Alliance – with the councils of Blayney, Cowra, Harden and Young.

Council is also a member of the Central West Regional Organisation for Councils (CENTROC), together with thirteen other councils. This organisation has developed a strong training arm and offered a number of joint tenders such as signage and linemarking. Council's representatives regularly attend meetings of the board of management and other sub-groups, to demonstrate support for the arrangement.

Netwaste

There was one organisation in which Council (in conjunction with other Councils) held a joint interest during the year which was NetWaste. NetWaste is a collaborative waste management project originally sponsored by the Central West (CENTROC) and Orana (OROC) regional organizations of councils. It emerged as a response to the challenges to change solid waste planning and service delivery amongst local councils.

NetWaste covers over 30 members. It has a view to improve the planning and delivery of waste management services across the region. To this end, a Subregional Strategic Plan has been compiled and an Action Plan formulated.

Council was not involved in any other partnership, co-operatives and joint ventures during the year.

(s) Additional Information

a) Expenses and Facilities for Councillors:

There were no overseas visits undertaken by Councillors this year.

The total cost of expenses and the provision of facilities to Councillors for 2015/2016 was \$12,304.87. Details of this cost are given below:-

(i)	equipment and telecommunications	Nil
(ii)	telephone calls	Nil
(iii)	conference and seminars	Nil
(iv)	training	Nil
(v)	interstate visits	Nil
(vi)	overseas visits	Nil
(vii)	expenses for spouses	Nil
(viii)	child care	Nil
(ix)	travelling expenses	\$8,052.12
(x)	Council meeting sustenance	\$2,253.75
(xi)	insurance	\$1,999.00

b) Total Remuneration for Senior Staff:

The only member of Council staff designated as “senior staff” is the General Manager, with details of this position being given in item (h) above.

c) Activities for Children:

Local activities for children provided or supported by council include:

- Assistance with the Youth Week project at The Henry Lawson High School
- Donations to school presentation days,
- The financing and operation of public swimming pools at Grenfell and Quandialla,
- Provision and maintenance of playground equipment in the parks at Grenfell, Caragabal, Greenethorpe and Quandialla,
- Maintenance of a number of playing fields and ovals for general sporting use,
- Story-telling, craft activities and playgroups at Library,
- Maintenance of a Skatepark in Vaughn Park,
- Support provided to LoveBites domestic violence program at The Henry Lawson High School,
- Facilitating work experience placements.

d) General:

- i) Council does not have any Category 1 business activities.
- ii) Council has one Category 2 business activity - Grenfell Sewerage.
- iii) There were no competitive neutrality complaints received during the year.

e) Stormwater Management:

Council has not levied an annual charge for stormwater management services.

f) Companion Animals Act

Activities under the Companion Animals Act and Regulation were as follows:

- Pound data collection returns were submitted to the Department on 1 July 2016.
- There were eleven (11) dog attacks reported for 2015/2016.
- Expenditure relating to companion animals management and activities totalled \$58,668.49.
- There was several education programs carried out in 2015/2016 via the local print media.
- If animals are impounded or surrendered, the animals must be microchipped and registered prior to their release. Council encourages the desexing of animals with reduced fees and education of potential pet owners.
- Animals surrendered to Council are advertised in the local newspaper for sale. A list of people wanting particular breeds of dogs is kept by the Animal Control Officer. If these dogs come into Council's possession these people are contacted by telephone.
- Council provides two off leash areas. One at Lawson Oval and the other at Grenfell Arboretum (Gooloogong Road).
- Dog tidy bags were supplied at each off leash area for pet owners to use.
- Enforcement of an impounding fee has encouraged pet owners to be more responsible.
- Details on the use of the Companion Animals Fund are as follows:-

	Income (\$)	Expenses (\$)
Dog Registration	3,112.53	
Companion Animals Registration	315.50	
Impounding Fees, Fines and Costs	2,176.77	
Staff		41,923.96
Other costs		3,565.53
Vehicle		13,179.00
Total	5,604.80	58,668.49

g) Community Consultation and Communication

Council continues to provide a weekly column in the local newspaper (The Grenfell Record) which provides commentary on matters of importance or relevance, and is accompanied by the advertisements and public notices for that week. Some additional advertising is occasionally required.

The weekly column and notices are also forwarded to the six schools of the shire for inclusion of relevant sections within their school newsletters. This is particularly important in the villages of Greenethorpe, Caragabal and Quandialla where the school newsletter acts as the local information bulletin.

All this information is also available on Council's website.

The O'Brien Tributary Drainage Improvements Working Paper was advertised for comment. No comments were received. Plan to be adopted. Funding for Emu Creek Stream Management Plan (\$255,429.00) received.

As part of Council's notification policy, relevant Development Applications are notified and advertised for public comment.

It is recognised locally that topical news spreads quite quickly through the local community via the many social, recreational and business networks which are in place. This process is assisted by the councillors and senior staff being well known and able to be approached by the public.

Council undertook extensive community consultation as part of Local Government Reform which included a public meeting attended by approximately five hundred (500) people, a significant survey, a direct mail out of relevant information to all ratepayers as well as numerous press articles and advertisements.

Council has also consulted the community extensively as part of the 'Fit for the Future' (FFTF) reform process including an open forum in May 2016, social media updates and numerous press articles and advertisements.

Council implemented a Facebook page to assist in informing its residents of Council activities generally and more specifically about its activities as part of the FFTF process.

6. Statutory Disclosures – Government Information (Public Access) Act

Council received no applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act during 2015/2016.

7. Statutory Disclosures - Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act

Council adopted its Privacy Management Plan on 21 March 2013. This plan was based on the Local Government Model Plan prepared by the Department of Local Government.

Council staff continue to observe the twelve (12) Information Protection Principles in their daily routine.

There were no reviews conducted under Part 5.

8. Statutory Disclosures – Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994

Council adopted its policy for Public Interest Disclosures on 21 June 2013.

The Policy establishes an internal reporting system for the reporting of disclosures of corrupt conduct, maladministration or serious and substantial waste of public money by the Council, its staff, and Councillors. The system enables such internal disclosures to be made to the Disclosure Co-ordinator, a nominated Disclosure Officer, or the Mayor, as an alternative to the General Manager.

The policy is designed to complement normal communication channels between supervisors and staff. Staff are encouraged to continue to raise appropriate matters at any time with their supervisors, but as an alternative have the option of making a protected disclosure in accordance with this policy.

There were no disclosures made under the Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994 during 2015/2016.

9. Statutory Disclosures - Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

Council had no planning agreements in force during 2015/2016.

10. Special Rate Variation

In 2015 Council received approval for a four year special rate variation to increase its general income in order to secure its long term financial sustainability, maintain assets and deliver the level of service expected and needed by our community.

The approved special rate variation was approved to fund debt servicing costs associated with capital works including the renewal of the Grenfell swimming pool and a new Medical Centre as well as improving Council's long term financial sustainability.

For the 2015/16 financial year, the Special Rate Variation raised approximately \$85,000 additional revenue. In order to fully exhaust non-retrospective grant funding opportunities associated with the capital works Council delayed the drawn down of debt funding. Accordingly Council used the additional funds raised by the special variation to improve its long term sustainability.

Appendix A: Financial Reports 2015/2016

INTRODUCTION

Council is required under the Local Government Act to prepare financial reports for each year which must comply with the prescribed standards which include the “Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting” and the “Local Government Asset Accounting Manual”, both published by the Division of Local Government.

Council must also refer the annual financial reports for external audit, and this is carried out by Intentus Chartered Accountants.

A full copy of the 2015/2016 Financial Reports may be obtained from the Council Chambers or on Council’s website www.weddin.nsw.gov.au.

Appendix B: Operational Plan – Strategic Objectives and Detailed Activities
Performance Report for 2015/2016

ITEM	ACTION	REPORT
SO#1	Strong, Diverse and Resilient Local Economy	
1.1	Strong and progressive agricultural sector	Lobbying continued to reopen the Blayney-Demondrille rail line. \$5m granted for the Maimuru to Demondrille section of the line. Continue to carry out road upgrades under the FAG, R2R, Regional Roads, State Highway and National Highway programme and Fixing Country Roads to support agriculture.
1.2	Maximise the Weddin Shire's tourism potential	Established accredited VIC in hub building. Continued supporting local events including but not limited to Henry Lawson Festival, Gold Fest, Grenfell Sesquicentenary, Race days etc. Continued active involvement in Gold Trails including contribution to upgrade of Gold Trails website and ongoing support provided by Internet Officer to Gold Trails. Planning and negotiations carried out for the establishment of "Grenfell Festival of Fitness" event. Active social media presence maintained with regular updates. Participation in Central NSW unearthed campaign and coordinated workshop with tourism providers to maximise outcomes from this campaign. Industrial Estate land promoted resulting in sales. Forbes Street caravan parking currently being implemented to attract caravaners. Applications for Local Heritage Grants and Heritage Advisor Grants submitted.
1.3	Infrastructure and services to support business activity	Meetings held with TAFE to discuss training possibilities. TAFE programs promoted internally to staff and to wider community. Support provided to staff members to undertake training via the training and expenses policy. One employee trained as a horticulturist, two employees trained as supervisors, two school based students employed in parks and garden and workshop. Recycling at Quandialla being monitored and working well.
1.4	Support existing business & encourage new industries	Weddin Development Committee supported and support provided to implement 'Go Grenfell' shopping cards. Continued liaison with and support of Central West BEC. Potential investors made aware of Council's incentive policies and opportunities. Council's economic development strategic plan currently being reviewed with stage 1 subdivision approved. Industrial Estate being further developed.
1.5	Promote land zoned for development	Industrial land promoted. Prospectuses distributed to promote the Weddin Shire.
1.6	Foster partnerships to advance economic activity	Weddin Development Committee supported to conduct Weddin Business Awards. Networks maintained with surrounding shires in order to leverage these partnerships to the benefit of our shire. Continued liaison with and support of Central West BEC.

ITEM	ACTION	REPORT
1.7	Support expanded aged care facilities & services	<p>New contractor for the local Taxi Service engaged to maintain a subsidised form of public transport for the community including the aged.</p> <p>IT classes maintained including free classes in Seniors Week.</p> <p>Support provided to numerous community organisations with strong connections to aged community members supporting social cohesion and connections for our elderly community members.</p> <p>Library village deposit stations and house bound service maintained.</p> <p>Seniors resources maintained at the library.</p> <p>Department of Human Services Access Point operated out of Grenfell Internet Centre.</p>
1.8	Support responsible mining	<p>Meeting with mining operations regarding life span and closure and rehabilitation plan.</p> <p>Discussions with Department Primary Industries and Environment Protection Authority regarding transformation from mine to processing facility.</p>
1.9	Encourage renewable energy development	<p>CEEP grant obtained through CENTROC for sewer relining and smoke detection.</p> <p>DA packs including renewable advice.</p>
SO#2	Healthy, Safe and Educated Community	
2.1	Encourage provision of quality medical facilities	<p>Construction Certificate approved for new Grenfell Medical Centre which will include GP's, visiting specialists and a dental surgery. Work undertaken to prepare and release an Expression of Interest for the management of the new Medical Centre to maximise outcomes of this facility.</p> <p>New doctor continues to operate from Main Street Surgery.</p> <p>Local GP's being supported with subsidised accommodation and housing.</p>
2.2	Promote and develop health education	<p>Health education conducted in conjunction with Health agencies.</p>
2.3	Support community transport	<p>Subsidised local taxi service maintained.</p> <p>Advertising and negotiations undertaken to establish a new provider to maintain this service.</p>
2.4	Support provision of adequate aged care service	<p>Support provided to numerous community organisations with strong connections to aged community members supporting social cohesion and connections for our elderly community members.</p> <p>House bound library service maintained as well as village deposit stations.</p> <p>Seniors resources maintained at the library.</p>
2.5	Maximise public health and safety	<p>Complaints and inspections attended to as appropriate.</p> <p>Home swimming pool inspections program developed and adopted, inspections to commence.</p> <p>RFS SLA completed, RFS meetings attended, assistance given to SES as required. Public toilets maintained.</p> <p>SLA adopted.</p> <p>All meetings attended by delegates and Director Engineering.</p> <p>Co-operation with Local Units as requested.</p> <p>Cleaning schedule for toilets and street cleaning etc adhered to, including for special events.</p>

ITEM	ACTION	REPORT
		Street lighting operating satisfactorily.
2.6	Support local education institutions	Support provided to all schools within the shire for their presentation days to assist in encouraging educational achievement. Education and training opportunities for Council staff supported and encouraged. Australia Day academic award presented to recognise academic achievement.
2.7	Provide lifelong learning opportunities	Library resources continually reviewed and updated. Access maintained to the State Library of NSW online resources via State Library E-Resources. Library supports special event and programs for all ages. The Grenfell Internet Centre supports the ongoing development of IT skills in the community. IT classes regularly held including free seniors week classes. IT articles submitted to the Grenfell Record, School Newsletters etc. and presentations and training conducted for community projects. TAFE courses advertised internally and to wider community to support ongoing provision of TAFE services in Grenfell.
SO#3	Democratic and Engaged Community	
3.1	Develop leadership skills in the community	Council staff encouraged and supported to take an active role in the community. Volunteers of community organisations encouraged and supported. Staff actively participate in numerous community organisations and by doing so foster the development of community leadership skills.
3.2	Implement the integrated planning and reporting	IP & R documents implemented and reviewed on an ongoing basis. Ongoing liaison with Councils auditor undertaken to ensure Councils accounting practices conform to best practice. Accounting standards are monitored and any new requirements incorporated into Councils procedures.
3.3	Support village progress organisation activities	Supported by various Councillors on an on-going basis.
3.4	Harness and leverage existing leadership network	Information on grant funding opportunities distributed to community groups. Community networks leveraged to inform and subsequently support Council's 'Fit for the Future' submission. Ongoing support provided to community groups and their initiatives. eg the "Go Grenfell" shopping cards project.
3.5	Community consultation on major decisions	Community groups consulted where appropriate e.g Local Government reform public meeting. Community groups are encouraged to provide feedback to and assist Council where relevant eg. Local Government reform survey. Survey undertaken and public meeting held to inform Council's "Fit for the Future" submission. Council policies and projects advertised publically for feedback and comment. Community members welcomed to address Council. Social media and website presence maintained to engage with and inform the community.

ITEM	ACTION	REPORT
3.6	Educate Community on role of Council & Councillors	Weekly newsletter placed in Grenfell Record and website. Website and social media presence in addition to weekly newsletter.
3.7	Leverage internet and social media to engage community in local leadership and communication.	Regular updates made via website and other social media platforms such as facebook and twitter to engage and inform the community. Survey Monkey surveys undertaken to inform the Council planning and decision making process. Regular website, facebook and twitter updates completed on an ongoing basis in addition to consistent Grenfell Record articles.
SO#4	Culturally rich, vibrant and inclusive community	
4.1	Maintain & develop sporting facilities & events	Master Plan adopted by Council for Henry Lawson Oval. Amenities at Quandialla Pool upgraded as requested. .
4.2	Maintain & develop recreational facilities & events	Tender for redevelopment of Weddin Aquatic Centre carried out. Tender awarded with demolition of old facility completed and construction commenced on Stage 1 and 3 (all water bodies). Completion date March 2017. Free usage by schools granted as requested. Skate park maintained in a clean condition. Youth Week grant obtained. Applied for grants for scoreboards/goal posts at Henry Lawson Oval and Rugby Union Oval. Facilities regularly maintained Scoreboard and goalposts erected.
4.3	Maintain & develop cultural & arts facilities & events	Continued support provided to Henry Lawson Festival and the Art Gallery. Gold Fest event organised and held. Melbourne Cup visit. Support provided to many events including: Henry Lawson Festival, Go Kart Races, Weddin Mountain Muster, Grenfell Sesquicentenary, Grenfell Picnic Races.
4.4	Develop strategy for attracting diverse cultures	Prospectus developed and distributed to market the Weddin Shire to a diverse range of prospective residents. NSW Country Week attended and all leads contacted for follow up.
4.5	Encourage sense of community & connectiveness	Community members encouraged to join community and Council committees and groups. Support provided to numerous community groups. Special events held and supported for all age groups and interests. For example children's puppet making workshop, meet the artist nights, events held during seniors week. Community volunteers invited to assist with events where appropriate.
4.6	Implement a social activities planning program	Seniors Weeks IT classes held in addition to regular IT Classes. Taxi service maintained to provide access to a form of public transport. Cinema service maintained at Community Hub. Conference room made available for employment agencies and social groups/activities. Access Point Services established in CTC for the Department of Human Services.

SO#5	Cared for Natural, Agricultural & Built Environments	
5.1	Implement environmental regs & control in Council ops	DA's being processed in appropriate and timely manner. State of Environment Report completed. Heritage advice applied to applicable DA's. Urban stormwater maintained. Emu Creek maintenance plan adopted. Grenfell sewerage scheme operating well and within statutory limits. Bogolong Dam Management Plan currently being developed. Storm water systems maintained satisfactorily. IWCM actions to be carried out as funds become available. Domestic and commercial waste as well as recycling collected as per schedule.
5.2	Encourage waste reduction & recycling	Grenfell, Greenethorpe and Quandialla recycling services implemented and operating very well. Program for education for recycling in schools and reminders to residents as to recyclable materials conducted.
5.3	Raise awareness of sustainable practices	Environmental education undertaken.
5.4	Improve environmental outcomes of Council operations	Garbage collection services operating well. Landfills operated as prescribed. Mulching of Greenwaste and construction of new putrescible waste cell undertaken. Domestic, commercial waste and recycling carried out satisfactorily including oils, chemicals and metal/steel recycling programs. Improvement plans developed for Grenfell, Caragabal and Quandialla facilities and implemented subject to funding. Trees planting programmes undertaken.
5.5	Inform local ag industry about sustainable practices	Local forums publicised in Council newsletter. Tree planting carried out.
5.6	Preserve the heritage of built areas	Free Heritage Advisory service provided. Local heritage grants programs administered.
5.7	Preserve broader landscape connectivity for native fauna	Support given to schools for Tree Days. Roadside vegetation study for all roads in Weddin Shire completed.
SO#6	Well Maintained & Improving Shire Assets and Services	
6.1	Council facilities meet reasonable community expectations	Hub building services operated and maintained. Property/rating maintained up to date. All rates notices issued on time. Emu Creek Management Plan adopted and O'Briens Tributary drainage improvement being completed. Grant opportunities constantly reviewed. Hub building services maintained and operated.
6.2	Maintain & improve transport infrastructure	All drainage and channels in Grenfell and Villages maintained. State, Regional, urban and rural roads, footpaths and drainage structures upgraded and maintained in good order. Company Dam grounds and facilities maintained. Footpaths upgraded and maintained. Re-evaluation of all road assets in Weddin Shire being carried out on an ongoing basis.
6.3	Maintain structural assets	All structural assets maintained as funds permit within the relevant asset management plans levels of service. Beazley's Bridge upgraded. Grant funding received to upgrade Blacks Bridge. Grant funding application

		submitted to upgrade the Grenfell Sewerage Treatment Works.
6.4	Position Weddin Shire as “employer of choice”	Employees encouraged and supported to identify and undertake continuing professional development and training. High level of WHS attained.
6.5	Provide a modern plant fleet	Plant purchased to maintained high standard. Purchased three light trucks to increase efficiencies.
6.6	Manage classified roads on behalf of RMS	State, National and regional roads maintained within RMS standards.
6.7	Participate in, & support, Localising NSW 2021	Centroc membership maintained and activities supported where relevant to our Shire, including JO pilot planning and development, community infrastructure prioritisation matrix development, joint tenders and joint initiatives. Sewer mains upgraded. Joint tenders with CENTROC such as smoke testing, best practice and road signs tenders undertaken.
6.8	Liaison & partnership with Federal & State govts	Continued liaison with key health sector stakeholders for the planning of the new Medical Centre. Liaison with and participation in Central NSW Tourism initiatives. Liaison with political representatives regarding the ‘Fit for the Future’ process and Council’s submission informed by the community’s wishes. Successful in receiving grant funding of \$400,000 under the State Government’s Innovation Fund in conjunction with Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan Shires. Continued lobbying efforts in regard to Weddin Shire Council activities, grant submissions, capital projects with all levels of government. Liaison with State and Federal Government departments undertaken where appropriate eg. Liaison with RMS in regards to the management of SH Contracts and Bogolong Dam, liaison with NSW Medicare Local and NSW Rural Doctors Network regarding planning of proposed new Medical Centre, NSW Trade and Investment for potential presenters to Weddin Development Committee, Central NSW Tourism in relation to provision of VIC services etc. Utilise Floodplain grant from Office of Environment and Heritage for Emu Creek Management Plan and O’Briens Tributary Drainage Improvement.

Appendix C: Completed Works of Note 2015/2016:

Road Name	Start Chainage	End Chainage	Length (km)	Nos	Description	Date
HIGHWAYS						
SH6	East			1	Replaced a twin cell box culvert	Jul-15
SH6	Gambarra				Guardrail added	Jul-15
SH6			1.5km		Resealed	Aug-15
SH6					Heavy Patched	Nov-15
SH17					Heavy Patched	Nov-15
SH6					Resealed	Dec-15
SH17					Resealed	Dec-15
REGIONAL ROADS						
MR398			0.90km		Completed blackspot upgrade at Dick's Bridge	Dec-15
MR398	44.03	47.89	3.86km		Final sealed	Mar-16
MR237	23.58	27.46	3.88km		Final sealed	Mar-16
MR239	4.23 4.74 7.36	4.39 5.37 7.48	0.91km		Final sealed/resealed	Mar-16
LOCAL ROADS						
Wheatleys Road			1km		Resheeted	Aug-15
Beazleys Bridge including approaches					Completed the bridge	Oct-15
Tyagong Creek Road	6.70km 9.61km 13.08km	7.04km 10.58km 13.76km	2km		Rehabilitated/Heavy patched and primersealed	Oct-15
Edward Square Park					Erection of a new shade structure, swing set, a springer and a bubbler	Oct-15
Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road					Replaced causeway culverts	Nov-15
Greenethorpe-Koorawatha Road			1km		Upgraded and Primersealed	Nov-15
Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road	5.94	10.80	4.86km		Upgraded and primersealed	Feb-16
Brundah Hall Road			2km		Resheeted	Feb-16
Memory Street			100m		Upgraded and primersealed	Feb-16
Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road					Replaced causeway with pipe culverts	Feb-16
Greenethorpe-Bumbaldry Road					Upgraded and primersealed	Mar-16
Nowlans Road	3.72	5.71	1.99km		Final sealed	Mar-16

Road Name	Start Chainage	End Chainage	Length (km)	Nos	Description	Date
Pinnacle Road	Various	Various	1.46km		Rework carried out by Boral at their cost	Mar-16
Ballendene Road	2.49	4.77	2.82km		Final sealed	Mar-16
Pinnacle Road	14.09	18.60	4.51km		Final sealed	Mar-16
Driftway Road			2km		Upgraded and primersealed	Apr-16
Driftway Road					Replaced culvert	Apr-16
Ballendene Road					Replaced culvert	Apr-16
Gannons Lane					Gravel resheeted	Apr-16
Dodds Lane					Gravel resheeted	Apr-16
Grahams Lane					Gravel resheeted	Apr-16
Ballendene Road			2.23km		Upgraded and primersealed	May-16
Adelargo Road					Patch gravelled	May-16
Peaks Creek Road					Patch gravelled	May-16
Driftway Road			2.62km		Upgraded and primersealed	Jun-16
Adelargo Road					Patch gravelled	Jun-16
Wirega Road					Patch gravelled	Jun-16
Driftway Road					Replaced 2 culverts	Jun-16
GRENFELL TOWN AREA						
Grenfell Tip					Raised cell wall	Aug-15
Lawson Oval					Erected new goalposts	May-16
Lawson Oval					Erected new electronic scoreboard	Jun-16
HLO Toilet Block					Continuing	Jun-16

Note 1: Maintenance works are not included in the above table.

Note 2: Primerseal - The initial seal placed over a prepared base (pavement), which needs to be sealed (final seal) in due course.

Seal (Final Seal) - The final seal placed over a primersealed road segment.

Reseal - Seal placed over a final sealed or resealed road segment.

Re/seal - Mix of reseal and final seal across the width of a road segment.

Appendix D: State of Environment Report 2015/2016

INTRODUCTION

Weddin Shire Council is required under the Local Government Act to prepare a State of the Environment Report for the year ending 30th June, 2016.

These eight environmental sectors are:

- [i] land,
- [ii] air,
- [iii] water,
- [iv] biodiversity,
- [v] waste,
- [vi] noise
- [vii] Aboriginal heritage, and
- [viii] non – Aboriginal heritage,

In relation to each such environmental sector, the report must consider any

- management plans relating to the environment,
- special council projects relating to the environment, and
- the environmental impact of council activities.

The 2015/2016 State of Environment Report is a supplementary document to support the comprehensive report of 2014. Copies of the report will be separately available from the Council Chambers.

Appendix E: Condition of Public Works (30/6/16)

ASSETS	QUANTITY	REMAINING LIFE (%) = REMAINING LIFE/USEFUL LIFE		CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST (the cost of replacing the existing asset with a substantially identical new asset or a modern equivalent)	ANNUAL DEPRECIATION	RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2015/2016
Regional Roads - MR236,237,239,398	121 km	76%	62%	\$28.58 M	\$0.210 M	\$0.81 M
Local Roads						
1. Urban - Sealed	31 km	72%	52%	\$6.74 M	\$0.071 M	\$0.02 M
2. Urban - Unsealed	7 km	65%	-	\$0.21 M	\$0.002 M	\$0.01 M
3. Village - Sealed	5km	75%	54%	\$0.81 M	\$0.008M	\$0.01 M
4. Village - Unsealed	3km	64%	-	\$0.10 M	\$0.001M	\$0.01 M
3. Rural - Sealed	394 km	72%	52%	\$57.38M	\$0.518M	\$2.02 M
4. Rural - Unsealed	517 km	53%	-	\$16.64M	\$0.252M	\$0.23 M
1. Bridges						
1.1 Regional - Concrete	4 Nos		80%	\$3.02 M	\$0.015 M	-
1.2 Local - Concrete	3 Nos		58%	\$1.02 M	\$0.008 M	-
1.3 Local - Timber	1 No		13%	\$0.28 M	\$0.003 M	\$0.12 M
1.4 Local - Composite	2 Nos		83%	\$0.93 M	\$0.006 M	-
2. Culverts – Major (Bridge Sized)(Clear span≥6m)						
2.1 Regional	21 Nos		87%	\$6.80 M	\$0.057 M	\$0.01 M
2.2 Local	18 Nos		69%	\$3.64 M	\$0.030 M	\$0.01 M
3. Culverts - Minor						
3.1 Regional	178 Nos		83%	\$4.25 M	\$0.035 M	
3.2 Local	1185 Nos		73%	\$10.85 M	\$0.090 M	\$0.02 M
Drainage (Storm water)	3406 m		79%	\$8.56 M	\$0.071 M	-
Sewer Mains	31278 m		28%	\$9.37 M	\$0.031 M	\$0.06 M
Sewer Treatment Works	1		26%	\$2.91 M	\$0.021 M	\$0.02 M
Swimming Pools	1 each		30%	\$0.76 M	\$0.020 M	\$0.01 M
Parks, sporting fields	12 each		55%	\$1.95 M	\$0.290 M	\$0.16 M
Cemeteries	3 each		84%	\$0.26 M	\$0.060 M	\$0.04 M
Public Toilets	7 each		60%	\$0.41 M	\$0.020 M	\$0.02 M
Street Lighting	Total		68%	\$0.48 M	\$0.370 M	\$0.02 M
Caravan Park	1		79%	\$0.41 M	\$0.013 M	\$0.02 M
Dwellings	4 each		65%	\$0.65 M	\$0.050 M	\$0.33 M
Council Chambers	1 each		6%	\$1.72 M	\$0.061 M	\$0.01 M
Library and Offices	3 each		90%	\$2.01 M	\$0.061 M	\$0.02 M
Depots	1 each		93%	\$1.74 M	\$0.055 M	\$0.07 M

*Causeways/floodways, traffic facilities, footpaths and kerb & gutters are not included.

Notes:

Council's public works assets have been evaluated as required under AAS-27.

Roads to Recovery funding from the Federal Government has continued to be used to accelerate Council's resealing programme as in previous years, thus prolonging the life of Council's bitumen roads.

Generally significant lengths of all sealed road networks require reconstruction and strengthening. Council's gravel road network requires a programme of regravelling which is beyond the capacity of maintenance funds.

Council uses most of its Financial Assistance Grant (Roads Component) to widen and rehabilitate existing sealed local roads and to resheet gravel roads, as well as for minor general maintenance.