



**Bland Shire Council**  
**Business Paper**  
**Ordinary Council Meeting**  
**16 August 2016**



# OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



**ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**  
**A guiding checklist for Councillors, Officers and Advisory Committees**

**Ethical Decision Making**

- Is the decision or conduct legal?
- Is it consistent with Government policy, Council's objectives and Code of Conduct?
- What will the outcome be for you, your colleagues, the Council, anyone else?
- Does it raise a conflict of interest?
- Could your possible conflict of interest lead to private gain or loss at public expense?
- Can the decision be justified in terms of public interest?
- Would it withstand public scrutiny?

**Conflict of Interest**

- A conflict of interest is a clash between private interest and public duty. There are two types of conflict: Pecuniary – regulated by the Local Government Act and Office of Local Government and, Non-pecuniary – regulated by Codes of Conduct and policy. ICAC, Ombudsman, Office of Local Government (advice only).

**The test for conflict of interest**

- Is it likely I could be influenced by personal interest in carrying out my public duty?
- Would a fair and reasonable person believe I could be so influenced?
- Conflict of interest is closely tied to the layperson's definition of "corruption" – using public office for private gain.
- Important to consider public perceptions of whether you have a conflict of interest

**Identifying Problems**

1<sup>st</sup> - Do I have private interest affected by a matter I am officially involved in?

2<sup>nd</sup> - Is my official role one of influence or perceived influence over the matter?

3<sup>rd</sup> - Do my private interests conflict with my official role?

Whilst seeking advice is generally useful, the ultimate decision rests with the person concerned.

**Agency Advice**

Officers of the following agencies are available during office hours to discuss the obligations placed on Councillors, Officers and Advisory Committee members by various pieces of legislation, regulation and Codes.

Contact	Phone	Email	Website
Bland Shire Council	6972 2266	<a href="mailto:council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au">council@blandshire.nsw.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au">www.blandshire.nsw.gov.au</a>
ICAC	8281 5999 Toll Free: 1800 463 909	<a href="mailto:icac@icac.nsw.gov.au">icac@icac.nsw.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://www.icac.nsw.gov.au">www.icac.nsw.gov.au</a>
Office of Local Government	4428 4100	<a href="mailto:dlq@dlq.nsw.gov.au">dlq@dlq.nsw.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au">www.dlg.nsw.gov.au</a>
NSW Ombudsman	9286 1000 Toll Free: 1800 451 524	<a href="mailto:nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au">nswombo@ombo.nsw.gov.au</a>	<a href="http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au">www.ombo.nsw.gov.au</a>

## Common Acronyms Used in Bland Shire Council Reports and Documents

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACAT	Aged Care Assessment Team
AFZ	Alcohol Free Zone
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALIA	Australian Library and Information Association
AMP	Asset Management Plan
AMRC	NSW Association of Mining Related Councils
BCA	Building Code of Australia
BEC	Business Enterprise Centre
BFMC	Bush Fire Management Committee
BFMP	Bush Fire Management Plan
BSC	Bland Shire Council
BWW	Business West Wyalong
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority
CBD	Central Business District
CDAT	Community Drug Action Team
CDO	Community Development Officer
CENTROC	Central West Regional Group of Councils
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLRS	Councillors
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CPP	Cowal Partnering Program
Cr	Councillor
CRO	Community Relations Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CSU	Childrens Services Unit
CT	Community Technology
CWA	Country Women's Association
DA	Development Application
DAES	Director Asset & Engineering Services
DCCDS	Director Corporate, Community & Development Services
DCP	Development Control Plan
DEMO	District Emergency Management Officer
DEOCON	District Emergency Controller
DisPlan	Disaster Plan (Local DisPlan, District DisPlan, State DisPlan)
DP	Delivery Program
DPI	Department of Primary Industries
EA	Executive Assistant

EAP	Employee Assistance Program
ED	Economic Development
EDVETAC W	Economic Development, Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
EEO	Equal Employment Opportunity
EFO	Electoral Funding Authority
EOI	Expression of Interest
EPAA	Environmental Planning & Assessment Act
ERA	Eastern Riverina Arts
EWSA	Educator Workplace Safety Audit
EWV	Events West Wyalong
EYLF	Early Years Learning Framework
FAG	Financial Assistance Grant
FDC	Family Day Care
FFTF	Fit for the Future
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
FYI	For your information
GIPA	Government Information (Public Access) Act
GM	General Manager
GTAN	Government Training & Assistance Network
GWCC	Goldenfields Water County Council
HACC	Home and Community Care
HR	Human Resources
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
IPART	Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
IPR or IP&R	Integrated Planning and Reporting
ITAV	It Takes A Village Program
JO	Joint Organisation
K&G	Kerb and gutter
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LALC	Local Aboriginal Lands Council
LBDC	Little Bangs Discovery Club
LCGMCAC	Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LEMO	Local Emergency Management Officer
LEOC	Local Emergency Operations Centre
LEOCON	Local Emergency Operations Controller
LEP	Local Environmental Plan

LG	Local Government
LGA	Local Government Act or Local Government Area
LGNSW	Local Government New South Wales
LIAC	Legal Information Access Centre
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
M	Million
Manex	Management Executive
MHDA	Mental Health Drug & Alcohol
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MML	Murrumbidgee Medicare Local
MOW	Meals on Wheels
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPHN	Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network
MPR	Multi Purpose Room
MR	Main Road
MRU	Mobile Resource Unit
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal & Islander Observance Committee
NFAR	No further action required
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NQF	National Quality Framework
NSRF	National Stronger Regions Fund
NSWEC	New South Wales Electoral Commission
NSWPLA	New South Wales Public Libraries Association
NSWRFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
OGM	Office of the General Manager
OLG	Office of Local Government
OP	Operational Plan
P&G	Parks & Gardens
PA	Per Annum
PC	Personal Computer
PCBU	Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking
PHaMs	Personal Helpers and Mentors
PLA	Public Library Association
POEO	Protection of the Environment Operations Act & Regulations
PSITAB	NSW Public Sector Industry Advisory Board
PSSA	NSW Primary Schools Sports Association
R2R	Roads to Recovery

Rd	Road
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDO	Rostered Day Off
Rec	Recreation
REROC	Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
RFS	Rural Fire Service
RMAP	Risk Management Action Plan
RMS	Roads & Maritime Services
RRL	Riverina Regional Library
RTO	Registered Training Organisation
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SEDTA	Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor
SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy
SES	State Emergency Service
SH	State Highway
SLA	Service-level agreement
SLNSW	State Library New South Wales
SRC	Summer Reading Club
SRV	Special Rate Variation
St	Street
STW	Sewerage Treatment Works
TASAC	Tourist Attraction Signposting Assessment Committee
TCORP	Treasury Corporation
TVET	TAFE Delivered Vocational Education & Training
USU	United Services Union
VC	Victoria Cross
VIC	Visitor Information Centre
VPA	Voluntary Planning Agreement
WAPS	Workforce Assessment Plan & Strategy
WHS	Work Health & Safety
WWBC	West Wyalong Bowling Club
WWFHG	West Wyalong Family History Group
WWRL	West Wyalong Rugby League



## **Council Meeting Agenda**

**16 August 2016**

**commencing at 6:30PM**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

*Let us acknowledge the Wiradjuri people, their elders past and present, traditional custodians of the land we now share.*

*Let us be inspired by the resilience, innovation and perseverance of past generations.*

*Let us honour those who protect this great land, may you draw strength from your God or Faith*

*so that we may, here today, on behalf of our community, - build a vibrant future together.*

*("Pause for Reflection").*

### **2.0 ATTENDANCE**

#### **2.1 Councillors**

Cr P Grellman

Cr L Hampton

Cr K Keatley

Cr T Lord

Cr L McGlynn

Cr B Monaghan

Cr L Pike

Cr N Pokoney

Cr P Templeton

#### **2.2 Staff**

General Manager – Ray Smith

Director Asset & Engineering Services – Will Marsh

Director Corporate, Community & Development Services – Adele Casey

Executive Assistant – Julie Sharpe

#### **2.3 Apologies**

### 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

#### 3.1 Ordinary Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

- **Confirmation**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.

- **Corrections**

- **Business Arising**

### 4.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A pecuniary interest is an interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

A person does not have a pecuniary interest in a matter if the interest is so remote or insignificant that it could not reasonably be regarded as likely to influence any decision a person might make in relation to a matter.

Councillor/Officer	Item	Nature of Interest

### 5.0 PUBLIC FORUM

### 6.0 MAYORAL MINUTE

#### 6.1 End Of Term Report

Included in this business paper is the End of Term Report which is a document that is required to be produced under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and which represents a summary of achievements by the council over the past four (4) year term.

The list of achievements attached to this report is clear evidence that the community has been well served by this Council. Like any democratic process clear differences of opinion have been evident on some issues but almost 85% of the decisions made over the last four years have been unanimous.

I commend the report to you and in doing so this term of office brings to an end my time in Local Government. After seventeen years of serving this community as a Councillor, the last six as Mayor, I have chosen not to re-stand. I would like to thank those Councillors who have put in an effort and actively committed themselves to their Councillor role over the last four years.

I would also like to thank the Council Staff for their continued efforts and great work. I wish the next Councillors and Council staff all the best for the upcoming term.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Bland Shire Council End of Term Report for the period 2012 to 2016 be received and noted.**



# END OF TERM REPORT

August 2016

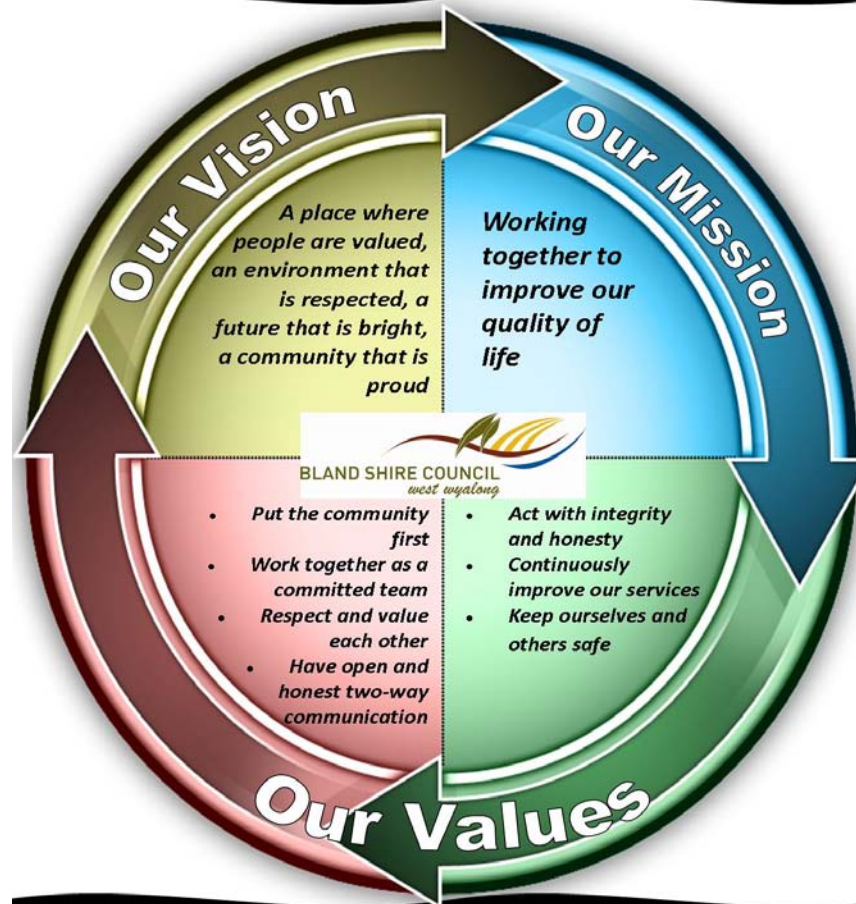


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## OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



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## Mayoral Message

The term of office for this Council has been from September 2012 to September 2016. As per normal procedure for Company Annual Reports where Board Members attendance at meetings is noted, I have provided a summary for this Council period for Councillor attendance at :

- Council Meetings – Normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month
- Council Information Workshops – Normally held on the 1st Tuesday of each month
- Council Budget Meeting – Normally held in February/March each year
- Village Community meetings – Held 2012/13/14/15 - Provide opportunity for the outlying rural and Village areas to communicate with Councillors and the General Manager.
- Community Road Forums – Held 2015/16 - Provide opportunity for the outlying rural and Village areas to communicate with Councillors and the General Manager on matters specific to Council's road network.

Councillor Attendance Summary 2012-2016	Council Meetings				Council Workshops				Budget Workshops				Road Forums 2016	Community Forums 2013, 2014 & 2015
	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16		
Cr Neil Pokoney	12 /13	12 /12	14 /14	12 /13	6 /7	11 /11	10 /10	10 /10	1 /1	1 /1	0 /1	1 /1	9 /9	8 /12
Cr Peter Grellman	13 /13	12 /12	13 /14	12 /13	7 /7	11 /11	10 /10	9 /10	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	5 /9	8 /12
Cr Leeanne Hampton	9 /11	11 /12	13 /14	9 /13	5 /7	8 /11	7 /10	6 /10	1 /1	1 /1	0 /1	1 /1	0 /9	3 /12
Cr Kerry Keatley	12 /13	12 /12	14 /14	12 /13	7 /7	11 /11	10 /10	10 /10	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	8 /9	12 /12
Cr Tony Lord	11 /13	12 /12	14 /14	13 /13	7 /7	9 /11	9 /10	9 /10	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /9	7 /12
Cr Liz McGlynn	13 /13	12 /12	14 /14	13 /13	7 /7	11 /11	10 /10	10 /10	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	7 /9	12 /12
Cr Brian Monaghan	9 /11	10 /12	13 /14	12 /13	6 /7	8 /11	7 /10	4 /10	1 /1	0 /1	0 /1	0 /1	0 /9	0 /12
Cr Lincoln Pike	3 /3	10 /12	12 /14	10 /13	3 /3	4 /11	4 /10	0 /10	NA	1 /1	0 /1	1 /1	0 /9	1 /12
Cr Peter Templeton	9 /11	11 /12	13 /14	11 /13	6 /7	8 /11	8 /10	8 /10	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	1 /1	0 /9	3 /12

As Mayor, I now submit this report on some of Council's activities and achievements during this current term of office.

It was early in the new Council when Cr Pole Bland passed away. Cr L Pike was elected to Council at a subsequent bi-election.

### Health

The 15th December 2015 was an exciting day when the multimillion dollar refurbishment and extension of Waratah Lodge was officially opened by the Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution. It was a day of celebration for our community and a great win for Aged Care Services in the Shire. For those Councillors involved in the transfer of the Village to the RFBI early in 2012, it was clear validation that Council's decision to divest itself of the Village was overwhelmingly the right decision to make on behalf of our community.

On many occasions in the past, the shortage of Doctors has meant the provision of Medical Services throughout our Shire was being carried by a dedicated few. We are grateful to our Doctors for carrying this load during these times. Fortunately, over the last four years, this situation has improved dramatically and we now have vastly increased medical service levels available to the community. Council has played its part in supporting the Medical Practices to help achieve this positive outcome.

### Economic Activity

The change in ownership of the Lake Cowal Gold Mine from Barrick Gold to Evolution Mining saw an almost seamless transition occur in operations. During their time in Bland, Barrick Gold earned a very positive reputation for their Corporate Citizenship. We have already seen a desire by Evolution Mining to continue the excellent relationship between themselves and the communities they operate in.

The closure of Target Country was a significant blow to the local retail sector when the decision to shut the West Wyalong store was announced. Despite strong community protest and the questioning of some of the retail practices the Target hierarchy was implementing, the store closed on 6 June.

Thankfully a number of other retailers in town have introduced new stock lines and extended stock ranges to help reduce the impact and provide continuing strong retail choices for locals.



Council has maintained its focus to attract new industry to the Shire. Behind the scenes Council has been involved in a number of projects that we hoped would bring new employment and added diversity to our economy. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts we haven't been able to secure a major new business development for the Shire. This is a very competitive area with Bland having to compete against other Councils who also offer their own Business packages to attract investors and developers.

Our smaller Business support incentives have however proven to be quite successful as they were taken up by local businesses with 10 in 2015-2016 valued at \$77,321.



### Stadium Issue

The beginning of 2014 saw much community debate surrounding an idea to build a new three court stadium at the Park Street Recreation area adjacent to the High School and West Wyalong Public. Community reaction was mixed however the clear message to the Council was the \$5.4M price tag was too much.

It is no secret that as a strong supporter of the new three court stadium concept I was very disappointed that I could not convince the community that the long term social and economic benefits to our Shire would have been affordable and would have justified the expenditure. The new location would have provided access to a wonderful sporting resource for generations of young people on a daily basis and would have seen our Shire having the best indoor stadium in the region. It would have saved our own residents much money in travelling to other towns for sport and provided much tourism income through sporting events. After a strong “no” campaign being run, the community response was overwhelmingly against the idea, refurbish the existing stadium was the message. Council allocated a \$2M budget to this project. Work is now well under way and should be completed this November.

### Tourism

The issue of a Visitor Information Centre was a constant topic of debate during this term of Council and one which has polarised sections of our community. A great deal of research, costing and discussion took place regarding the various options and strategies Council could use to support tourism generally. The recent decision to adopt the current VIC location in the Library as the permanent seven days a week location for a VIC service in the Shire has at least cemented this Council's position on the issue.

The partnership between “Bland Dull and Boring” certainly got things going when Council became part of the League of Extraordinary Communities. Worldwide attention was drawn to this idea which is one that could be developed even further.

The release of the Spring issue of the Central West Lifestyle magazine will showcase Bland Shire in a wonderfully positive way. The response from both the business sector and community to being part of the magazine's focus on Bland was overwhelming and provided strong evidence that Council's decision to contribute to the project was the right one.

### Events

We continue to be indebted to many individuals and groups for creating activities and events for everyone to enjoy. The “In the West” committee continues to provide a weekend of activities based on a World Country theme. We have our Show Societies across the Shire working hard to bring us their annual local celebrations. Pleasingly there has been a growing interest in the staging of new events on our calendar based around horses, Team Penning and Yard Dogs.

Our own Cultural Committee has also brought an interesting range of performers to town to increase the cultural offering for locals.

### Volunteers

I would like to thank all the volunteers across our Shire for the work they do to make our community a great place in which to live. The aging of our volunteers and the drop in volunteer numbers generally has been an increasingly difficult issue for community groups and I hope this is something we can encourage our young people to do more of in the future.

Our SES and RFS members have been too busy in recent years with multiple incidents demanding much of their time and resources. The repeated flooding of Ungarie and other parts of our Shire has been devastating but it has shown a strong sense of community still exists in Bland. Well done to all those people.

### Roads

In early 2015 Council began to hold Road Forums across the Shire in an effort to provide residents with the opportunity to talk to Council about the work it does on local roads. These sessions have been quite productive and have resulted in a number of changes being made to how Council operates its equipment and workforce.

Earlier this year Road Forums were once again held but an added initiative has been the most recent forums where Council went out and showed Ratepayers the Roads Program for the next eighteen months. These forums were well attended with over fifty people taking the opportunity to see and comment on the planned works Program.





The latest Forums (Mirrool, Barmedman, Ungarie, Weethalle) were well supported and provided good feedback to Council. Those present expressed thanks to council for providing the opportunity for them to have input into the process. This is an initiative I hope continues into the next Council term.

### Communication Challenges

Council has taken pro-active steps during this term of Council to improve communication across the Shire. The development of an active Facebook presence has enabled Council to get its message across to more people. Most recently during the Ungarie floods over 40,000 hits were on Council's Facebook page demonstrating the effectiveness of using the power of Social Media. The development of a much larger email data base for contacting ratepayers has also helped us in this area.

A dedicated Council generated information page in the West Wyalong Advocate each week has helped Council get the information it needs out to the community. This strategy has ensured accurate information is provided to the community in a timely manner.

A huge thank you must go to the ABC Radio network for the way it continues to support regional communities through its news coverage. On many occasions over the last four years the ABC has highlighted Bland Shire events and issues to a wide audience. We are deeply indebted to the ABC for their continued commitment to rural communities such as ours.

### Some high points

It was a great night when earlier this year we welcomed the new Police Officer to Ungarie at a special function in the local hall. It does show “people power” can still work. Congratulations to all involved in the campaign to get a resident “copper” in town.

It was a special occasion when the Reg Ratty VC Memorial was opened. Over five hundred people attended the ceremony recognising and celebrating the achievement of one of our very own Military heroes. The imposing statue now stands as a monument to the achievements of Reg and the special place he holds in the history of our Shire.

The opening of the Wetlands between Wyalong and West Wyalong brought to a close a project that has been developing over the last ten years. The area now provides a wonderful natural precinct to relax in. If you haven’t been there I encourage you to take a stroll on the boardwalk.

### Thank You

The list of achievements attached to this report is clear evidence that the community has been well served by this Council. Like any democratic process clear differences of opinion have been evident on some issues but almost 85% of the decisions made over the last four years have been unanimous.

This term of office brings to an end my time in Local Government. After seventeen years of serving this community as a Councillor, the last six as Mayor, I have chosen not to re-stand. I would like to thank those Councillors who have put in an effort and actively committed themselves to their Councillor role over the last four years.

I would also like to thank the Council Staff for their continued efforts and great work. I wish the next Councillors and Council staff all the best for the upcoming term.

**Cr Neil Pokoney  
Mayor**



# Your Elected Representatives

Council has nine (9) elected representatives, with the Mayor elected in September annually by fellow councillors. Local Government elections were held in September 2012 and a By-Election for Bland Shire held in May 2013 due to the passing of Cr Robert Bland. The elected Council is responsible for the direction and control of Council's affairs in accordance with the Local Government Act and associated legislation. Councillors represent the interests of the residents and ratepayers, provide leadership and guidance of the community, and facilitate communication between the community whilst maintaining the broader vision, needs and aspirations of the whole Bland Shire community.



*Back Row: Tony Lord, Peter Templeton, Kerry Keatley, Peter Grellman, Lincoln Pike, Brian Monaghan  
Front Row: Leeanne Hampton, Neil Pokoney, Ray Smith (General Manager), Liz McGlynn*



*Late Robert Bland*

**Cr Neil Pokoney**

Mayor:

21.9.2010 - present

Councillor:

11.9.1999 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Local Traffic Advisory Committee
- Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee
- Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee
- NSW Association of Mining Related Councils

**Cr Liz McGlynn**

Deputy Mayor:

25.9.2012 - 16.9.2014

and

15.9.2015 - present

Councillor:

5.4.2004 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee
- Cultural Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Advisory Committee
- NSW Association of Mining Related Councils
- Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Aged Care Advisory Committee
- Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee

**Cr Tony Lord**

Councillor:

5.4.2004 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Plant Advisory Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee (Visitor Economy & Tourism)
- Museums Advisory Committee
- Riverina Regional Tourism
- Newell Highway Taskforce
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Public Libraries NSW
- Cultural Advisory Committee
- Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Riverina Regional Library

**Cr Brian Monaghan**

Councillor:

15.9.2012 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee
- Murrumbidgee Medicare Local Board
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Internal Audit Committee
- Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee





**Cr Peter Templeton**

Councillor:

15.9.2012 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Plant Advisory Committee
- Goldenfields Water County Council Board
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee
- Internal Audit Committee

**Cr Kerry Keatley**

Councillor:

16.3.2011 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Cultural Advisory Committee
- Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee
- Bland District Bushfire Management Committee
- Museums Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Aged Care Advisory Committee
- Community Services Advisory Committee
- Lachlan Catchment Management Authority

**Cr Leeanne Hampton**

Deputy Mayor:

16.9.2014 - 15.9.2015

Councillor:

15.9.2012 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- NSW Association of Mining Related Councils
- Bland Creek Catchment Management Committee
- Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring & Consultative Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee (Visitor Economy & Tourism)
- Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Lachlan Catchment Management Authority Local Government Coordinating Committee
- Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee

**Cr Peter Grellman**

Councillor:

13.9.2008 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Plant Advisory Committee
- Tourism Advisory Committee
- Access Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Local Traffic Advisory Committee
- Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee
- Bland District Bushfire Management Committee
- Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee
- Australian Rural Roads Group

**Cr Lincoln Pike**

Councillor:

15.5.2013 - present

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Visitor Economy & Tourism Advisory Committee of the Whole

**Cr Robert Bland**

Councillor:

15.9.2012 - 1.3.2013

- Australia Day Awards Committee
- Cultural Advisory Committee
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Museums Advisory Committee
- Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Bland Creek Catchment Management Committee
- Lachlan Valley Noxious Plants Advisory Committee
- Economic Development Advisory Committee of the Whole
- Lachlan Catchment Management Authority Local Government Coordinating Committee

## About the End of Term Report

The aim of this End of Term Report is to provide an update to the Bland Shire community on how the Council is progressing towards achieving the social, environmental, economic and civic leadership objectives of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and in doing so provide information about how effective the Community Strategic Plan has been in delivering the desired outcomes. This is the first report of its kind to be prepared for Bland Shire Council.

Bland Shire Council adopted its Community Strategic Plan “Your Vision, Our Future. Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023”, in June 2012 after conducting a comprehensive engagement and consultation strategy with the community and other key stakeholders. Working together, Council and the community developed a long term vision for the future of our Shire “a place where people are valued, an environment that is respected, a history that is captured, a future that is bright, a community that is proud”. This is our opportunity to plan ahead to address the issues the community have told Council are important, “working together to build a brighter future”.

These issues include:

- A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community
- Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy
- Maintaining and improving the Shire’s assets and infrastructure in a changing climate
- A well run Council acting as the voice of the community
- Growing our population and jobs

Responding to the issues the community have told us are important, “Your Vision, Our Future. Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023” presents the long term vision for Bland Shire around five (5) broad interrelated themes:

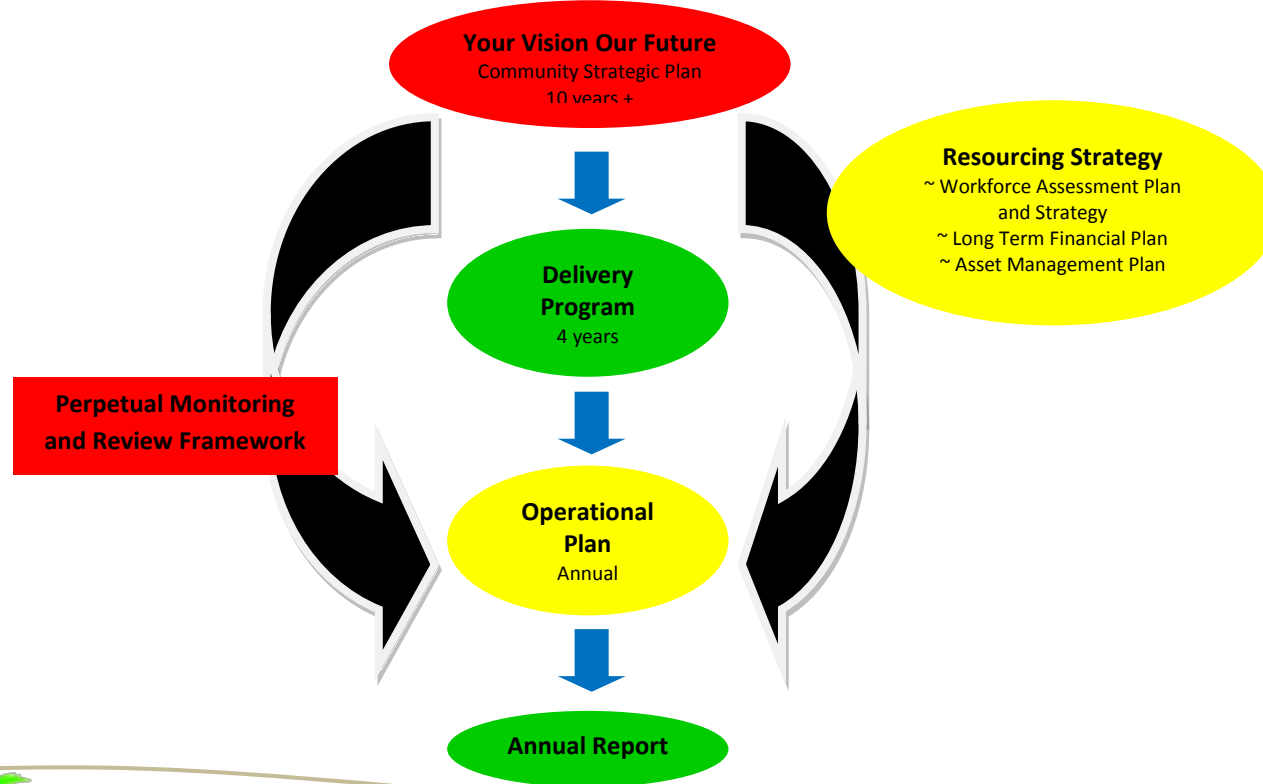
- **Our People – our greatest and most important asset**
- **Our Places – where our sense of community shines**
- Our Infrastructure – reviewing, renewing and improving our core community assets
- **Our Leadership – setting a benchmark for community standards**
- **Our Prosperity – ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future**



Supporting each of these themes are key Strategies and Objectives for Council to pursue and facilitate in partnership with our community and other government agencies.

The Delivery Program describes how Council will work with the community to achieve community goals. It outlines the priorities that Council will pursue to meet the Strategies and Objectives Council has adopted and presented in the CSP “Your Vision, Our Future. Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023”. The Operational Plan includes Council’s annual budget and provides detailed information on the range of Actions and projects Council will undertake in the financial year that will assist in progressing towards the agreed community goals.

## Local Government Planning and Reporting Framework



This End of Term Report 2016 has focused on the period from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2016. It provides a summary of the outcomes achieved by this council, along with its community partners, in meeting the Community Strategic Plan through the implementation of its Delivery Program and Operational Plans. It shows a positive contribution is being made across all strategies and objectives.

As part of the review of the CSP a number of Key Performance Indicators were linked to each of the strategies.

Information has been collated from a number of sources. These include:

- Community Engagement Survey (2011 and 2015)
- Delivery Program Progress Reporting
- 2011 Census data
- Audit Reports
- Staff EEO & Employee Engagement Survey (2013 and 2015)

The Report also highlights what Council considers to be the significant achievements during this term of Council (2012 - 2016).

This information has then been collated to produce Bland Shire Council's first End of Term Report 2016.

The End of Term Report is an important resource to provide the new council, to be elected in September 2016, with direction and feedback to assist them in their review of "Your Vision, Our Future. Bland Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2012-2023", its associated Delivery Program and supporting documents in their four (4) year term.

## Our Goals

Measuring progress towards achieving our goals and key performance indicators for the Community Strategic Plan visions and objectives are measured every four years to coincide with the completion of each Council term. In addition on a quarterly basis the output and actions as detailed in the four year Delivery Program and one year Operational Plan are internally monitored. These collective outcomes are then formally reported to Council, the community and staff on a six monthly basis.





CSP Theme	Vision	Key Performance Indicator
<i>Our people</i>	<b>A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community</b>	1. Community satisfaction with information provided by Council 2. The proportion of residents who agree there is a sense of community is steady or increasing 3. The proportion of residents who volunteer to help within the community is increasing 4. The proportion of residents who feel safe in our community is steady or increasing
<i>Our places</i>	<b>Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy</b>	5. Community satisfaction with Council’s community facilities and services for a range of people is increasing 6. The proportion of residents who think there is a good range of community groups and support networks is steady or increasing 7. Community satisfaction with Council’s arts, entertainment and cultural activities is steady or increasing
<i>Our infrastructure</i>	<b>Maintaining and improving the Shire’s assets and infrastructure in a changing climate</b>	8. The proportion of residents who agree that Council’s assets and infrastructure meet their needs is steady or increasing 9. Community satisfaction with the levels of service provided in the upkeep and maintenance of Council’s facilities and assets
<i>Our leadership</i>	<b>A well run council acting as the voice of the community</b>	10. The proportion of residents who believe Council acts in an open and honest way is increasing 11. Community satisfaction in being informed about Council activities is steady or increasing 12. Community satisfaction with Council’s customer service is steady or increasing 13. Council declared financially sound annually <sup>1</sup> 14. EEO & Employee Engagement Survey results show an overall positive result for employee passion and engagement <sup>2</sup>
<i>Our prosperity</i>	<b>Growing our population and jobs</b>	15. The proportion of residents satisfied with the level of economic development support Council provides to the business community 16. Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council

<sup>1</sup> Measured via annual Audit Report

<sup>2</sup> Measured via employee survey undertaken every 2 years



# Our people

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

Bland Shire will continue to be a community where people feel safe and care for each other, have a sense of belonging and can contribute meaningfully to our local community and neighbourhood through participation in community life.



## Key Performance Indicator

- KPI 1: Community satisfaction with information provided by Council
- KPI 2: The proportion of residents who agree there is a sense of community is steady or increasing
- KPI 3: The proportion of residents who volunteer to help within the community is increasing
- KPI 4: The proportion of residents who feel safe in our community is steady or increasing

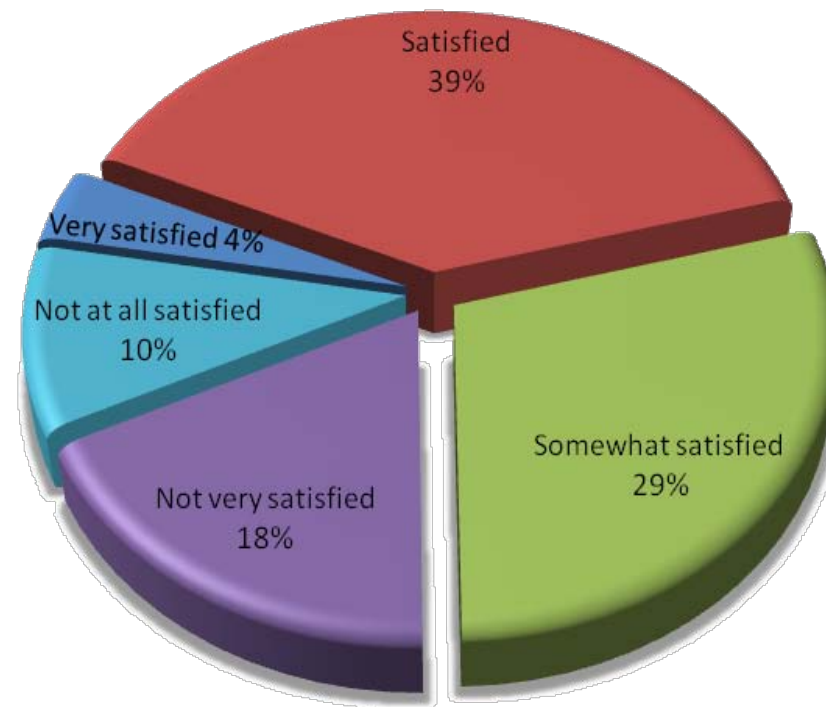
*Our greatest and most important asset*



## *Our People – Key Performance Outcomes*

### **KPI 1 - Community satisfaction with information provided by Council**

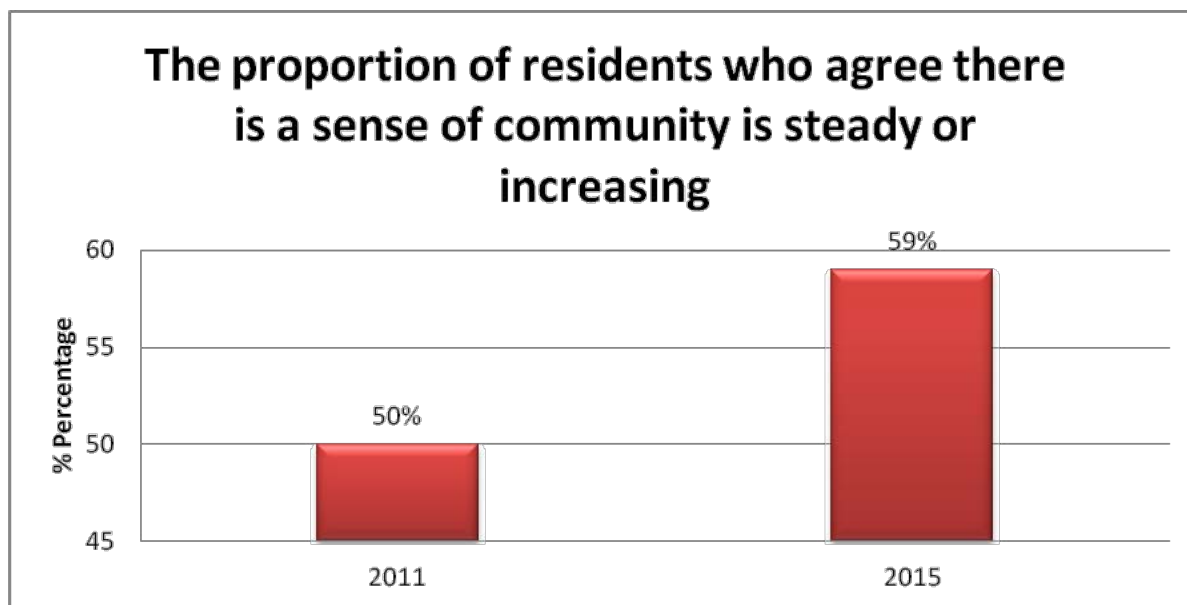
The community engagement survey carried out in 2015 indicates that 72% of residents showed that they are at least “somewhat satisfied” with the level of communication from Council. Of the 10% of residents who were “not at all satisfied”, 54% indicated that Council can improve its communication by newsletters, e-mails, newspapers and notice boards.



## KPI 2 - The proportion of residents who agree there is a sense of community is steady or increasing

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A comparison of the 2011 and 2015 community engagement surveys shows an increase in our residents who have indicated that the best thing about living in Bland Shire is community spirit and the people.



## **KPI 3 - The proportion of residents who volunteer to help within the community is increasing**

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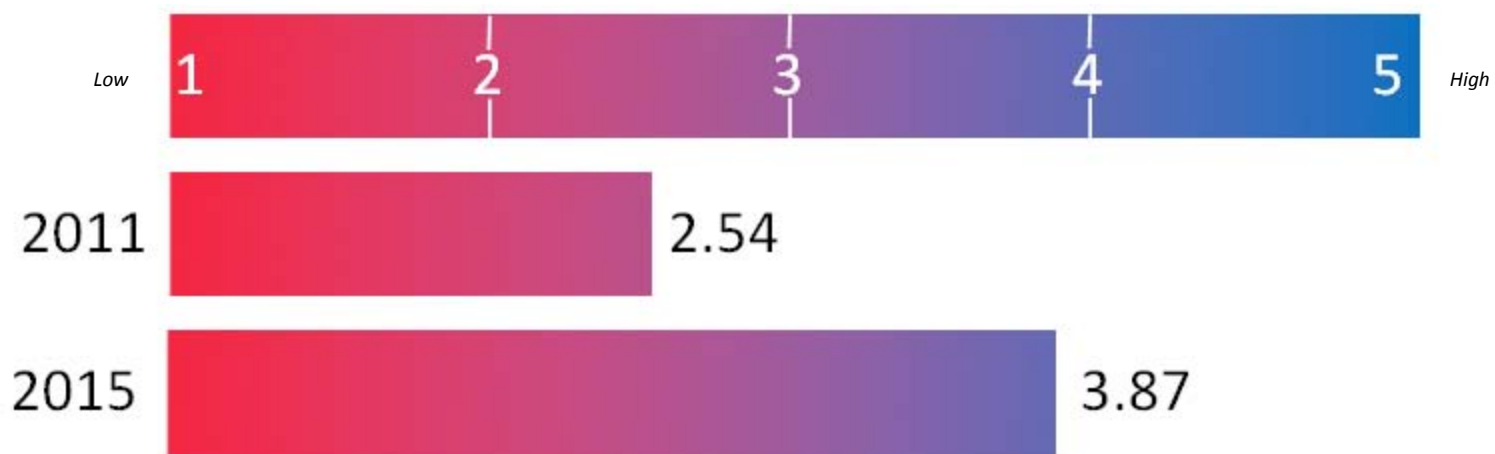
According to the most recent available Census data,

**31.3%**

of our residents volunteer to help within the community. This information is taken from the 2011 Census and will form a baseline for further comparison.

## **KPI 4 - The proportion of residents who feel safe in our community is steady or increasing**

The community engagement surveys carried out in 2011 and 2015 show an increase in our residents feeling safe within our community.





# Our places

*Vision: Providing great community facilities for everyone to enjoy*

Bland Shire Council will continue to provide excellent and accessible community facilities in a responsible manner and foster the contribution of community groups and organisations for the betterment of the Bland Shire.



## Key Performance Indicator

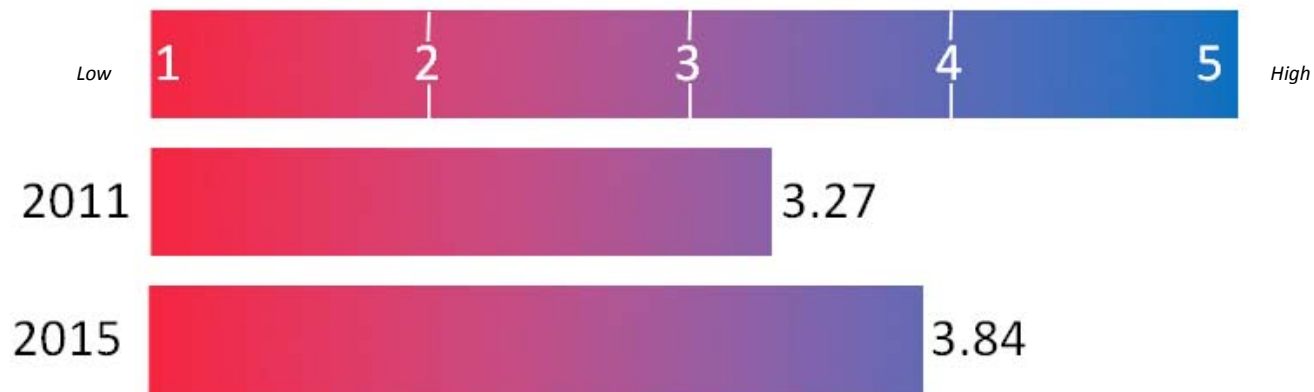
- KPI 5: Community satisfaction with Council’s community facilities and services for a range of people is increasing
- KPI 6: The proportion of residents who think there is a good range of community groups and support networks is steady or increasing
- KPI 7: Community satisfaction with Council’s arts, entertainment and cultural activities is steady or increasing

*Where our sense of community shines*

## Our Places – Key Performance Outcomes

### KPI 5 - Community satisfaction with Council's community facilities and services for a range of people is increasing

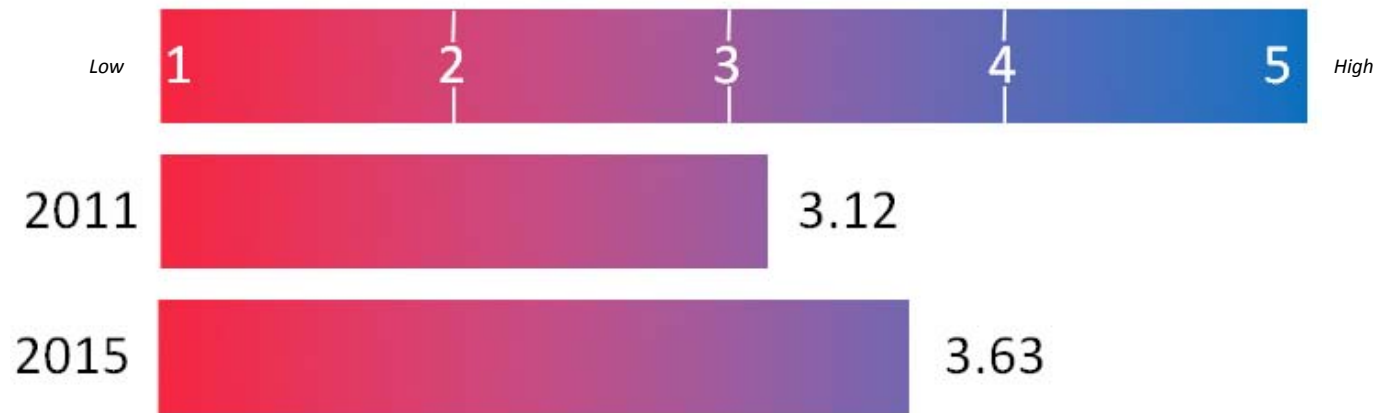
There is an increase in community satisfaction with the facilities and services provided by Council since the 2011 community survey was undertaken.



## KPI 6 - The proportion of residents who think there is a good range of community groups and support networks is steady or increasing

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A comparison of the community engagement surveys undertaken in 2011 and 2015 shows an increase in the proportion of residents who think there is a good range of community groups and support networks within the Bland Shire.



## KPI 7 - Community satisfaction with Council's arts, entertainment and cultural activities is steady or increasing

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The community's satisfaction with the arts, entertainment and cultural activities available has increased between the 2011 and 2015 community engagement surveys.



# Our infrastructure

*Vision: Maintaining and improving the Shire's assets and infrastructure in a changing climate*

Bland Shire Council will strive to face and meet the challenges faced by a large road network and aging infrastructure to best meet community needs in a financially responsible manner while also investigating opportunities for improvements to infrastructure and efficiencies



## Key Performance Indicator

- KPI 8: The proportion of residents who agree that Council's assets and infrastructure meet their needs is steady or increasing
- KPI 9: Community satisfaction with the levels of service provided in the upkeep and maintenance of Council's facilities and assets

*Reviewing, renewing and improving our core community assets*

## Our Infrastructure – Key Performance Outcomes

### KPI 8 - The proportion of residents who agree that Council’s assets and infrastructure meet their needs is steady or increasing

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There is an increase in the proportion of residents who agree that Council’s assets and infrastructure meet their needs.



## KPI 9 - Community satisfaction with the levels of service provided in the upkeep and maintenance of Council's facilities and assets

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The comparison of survey results from 2011 and 2015 shows a slight increase in the community satisfaction with the levels of service Council provides in the upkeep and maintenance of its facilities and assets.





# Our leadership

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

Bland Shire Council will aim to set a benchmark in the community for leadership, governance and customer service. Council will seek to build and strengthen community partnerships and foster participation from all Bland Shire communities in the decision making process.



## Key Performance Indicator

- KPI 10: The proportion of residents who believe Council acts in an open and honest way is increasing
- KPI 11: Community satisfaction in being informed about Council activities is steady or increasing
- KPI 12: Community satisfaction with Council's customer service is steady or increasing
- KPI 13: Council declared financially sound annually
- KPI 14: EEO and Employee Engagement Survey results show an overall positive result for employee passion and engagement

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

## *Our Leadership – Key Performance Outcomes*

### **KPI 10 - The proportion of residents who believe Council acts in an open and honest way is increasing**

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The community engagement survey carried out in 2015 shows,

**80%**

of residents were at least “somewhat satisfied” with the performance of Council staff across all responsibility areas.

## KPI 11 - Community satisfaction in being informed about Council activities is steady or increasing

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The level of communication that Council has with the community was measured In 2015 during the community engagement survey. The results show that,

**72%**

of residents were at least “somewhat satisfied” with 30% of residents stating that Council can improve its communication by increasing the level of community meetings and consultations.

## **KPI 12 - Community satisfaction with Council's customer service is steady or increasing**

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Through the community survey in 2015,

**63%**

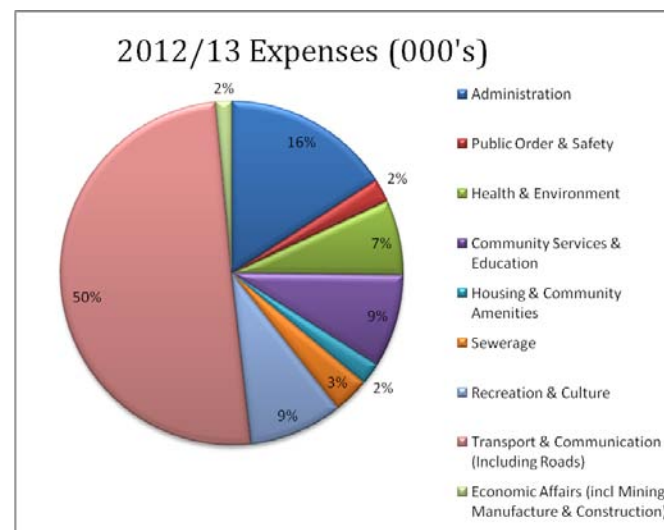
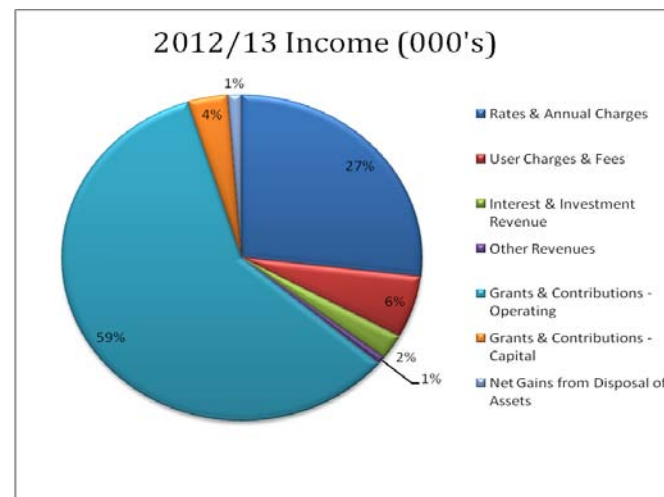
of the community indicated that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Council's customer service.

## KPI 13 - Council declared financially sound annually

### 2012/13

#### Summary of Results

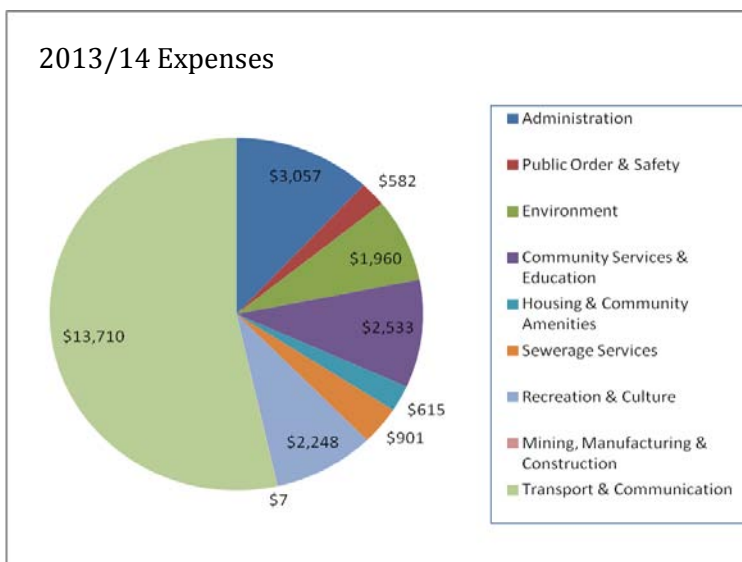
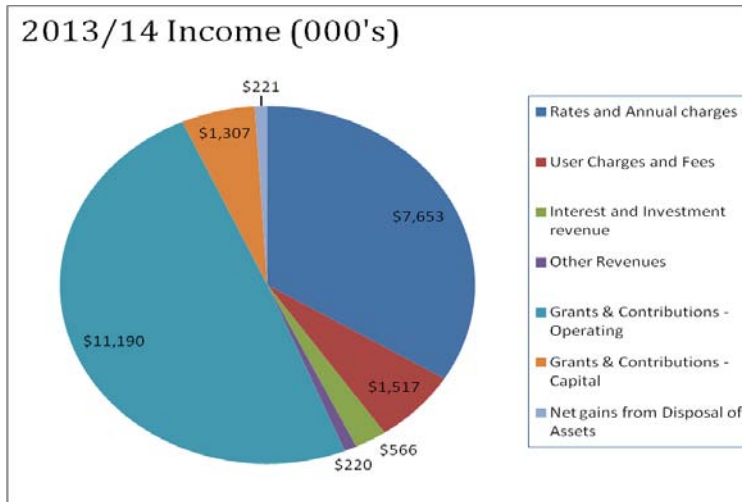
- Operating surplus of \$383,000
- User Charges and Fees ▲ \$195,000
- Grant income and contributions ▲ \$1,284,000
- Grant contributions for Capital Works ▼ \$270,000
- Employee Costs ▲ \$5,000
- Material and Contracts ▲ \$878,000
- Other expenses ▲ \$7,000



# 2013/14

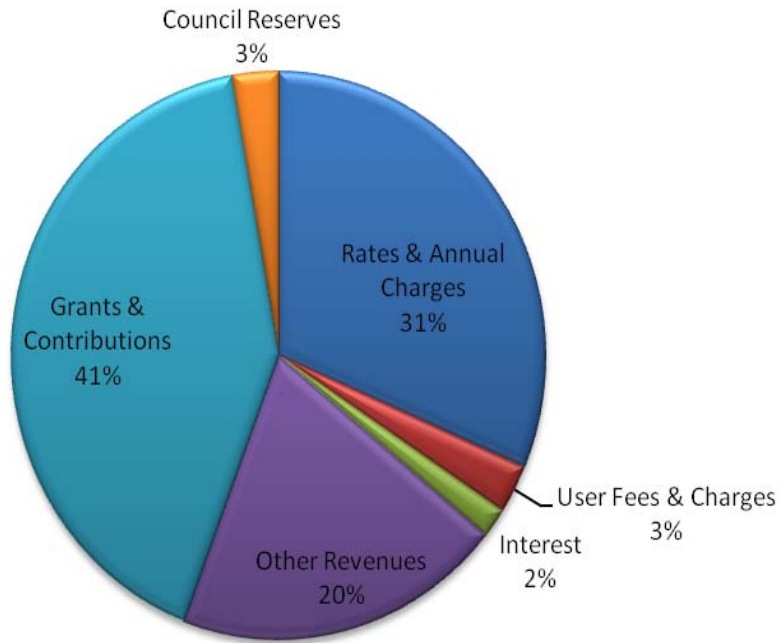
## Summary of Results

- Including Depreciation an operating deficit of \$3,996,000
- Excluding Depreciation an operating surplus of \$2,225,100
- User Charges and Fees ▾ \$170,000
- Grant income and contributions ▾ \$4,986,000
- Grant contributions for Capital Works ▴ 324,000
- Employee Costs ▴ \$73,000
- Material and Contracts ▾ \$1,614,000
- Depreciation ▾ \$161,000
- Other expenses ▾ \$1,000

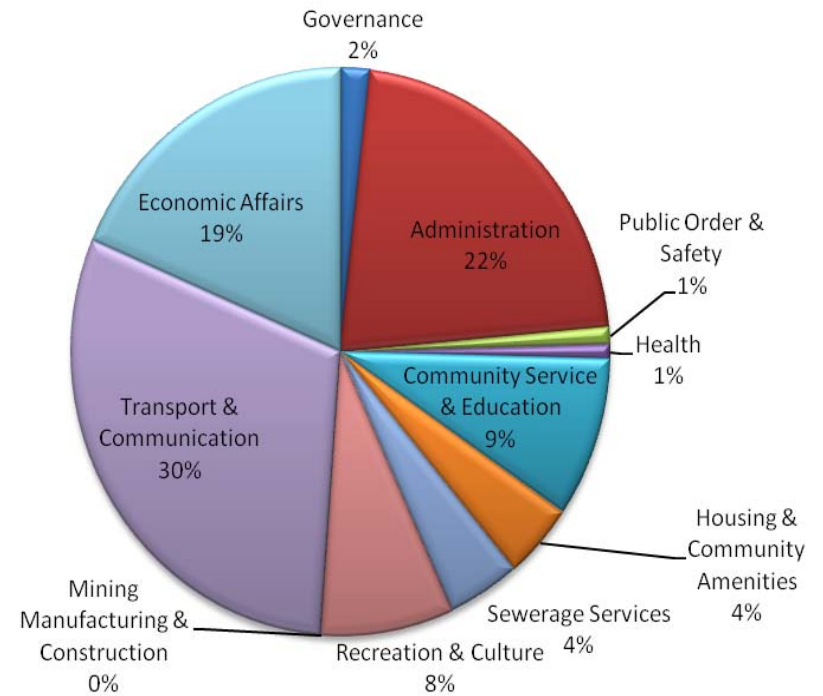


# 2014/15

## Council's 2014-15 Income



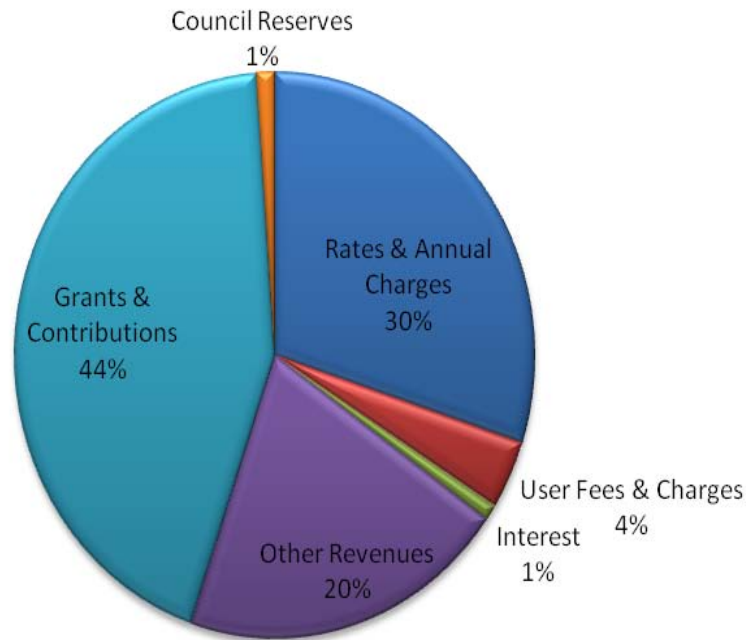
## Council's 2014-15 Expenditure



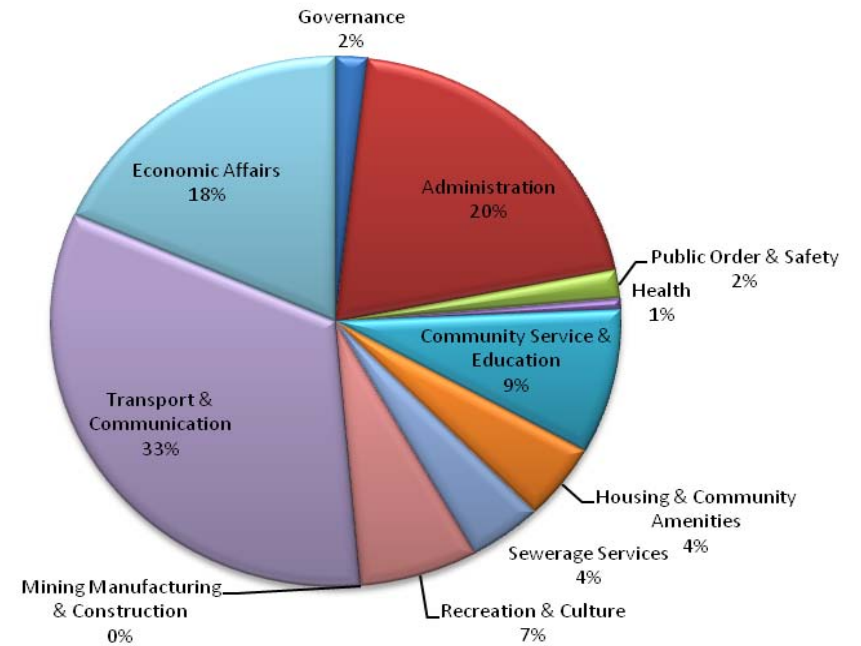


# 2015/16

## Council's 2015-16 Income



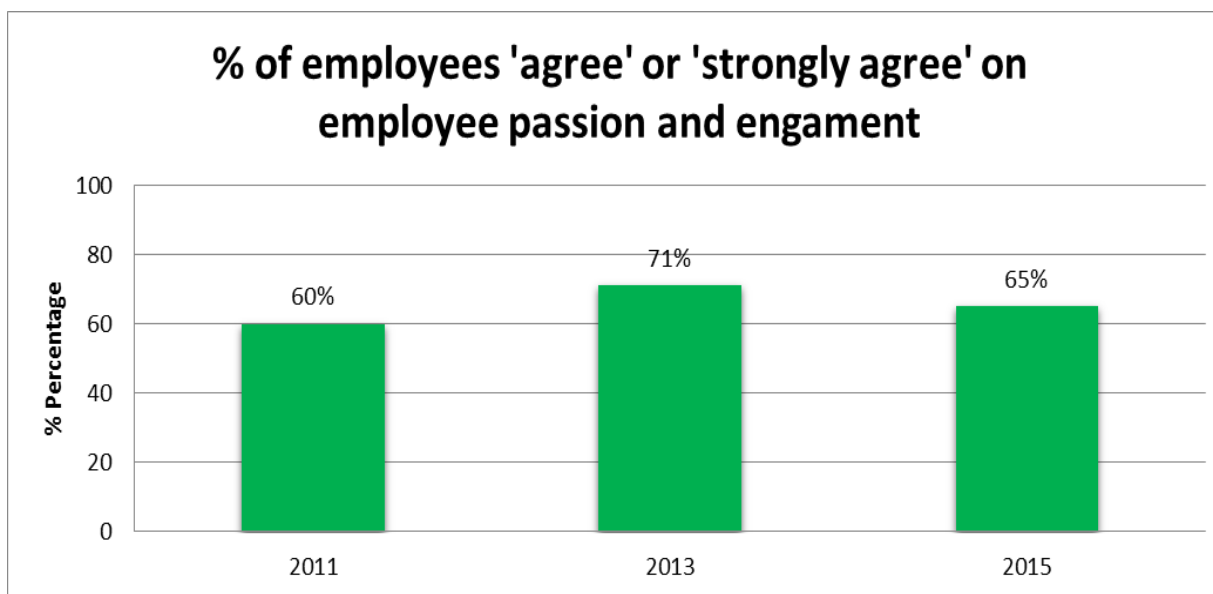
## Council's 2015-16 Expenditure



## KPI 14 - EEO & Employee Engagement Survey results show an overall positive result for employee passion and engagement

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Council surveys its workforce every two (2) years to measure Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Employee Engagement. An analysis of the results from the 2011, 2013 and 2015 surveys has been undertaken and the results are steady across the period. Findings are reported to the executive and actions developed and incorporated into the development of the EEO Management Plan.



# *Our prosperity*

*Vision: Growing our population and jobs*

Bland Shire Council will strive to attract new tourists, new industry and business, support existing businesses and promote leading edge practices to help stimulate investment and employment to ensure a vibrant future.



## **Key Performance Indicator**

- KPI 15: The proportion of residents satisfied with the level of economic development support Council provides to the business community
- KPI 16: Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council

*Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future*



## Our Prosperity – Key Performance Outcomes

### KPI 15 - The proportion of residents satisfied with the level of economic development support Council provides to the business community

There has been a slight rise in the satisfaction levels of economic development support provided to the business community by council when comparing the 2011 and 2015 community engagement survey results.



## KPI 16 - Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council

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The community's satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources has remained steady through 2011 to 2015.



## Putting the plans into action

The Delivery Program is a statement of commitment to the community from each newly elected council. In preparing the program, Council is accounting for its stewardship of the community's long-term goals, outlining what it intends to do towards achieving these goals during its term of office and what its priorities will be. It is designed as the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by Council during its term of office. All plans, projects, activities and funding allocations must be directly linked to this Program. Supporting the Delivery Program is an annual Operational Plan. It spells out the details of the Program – the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.




The Delivery Program 2013 – 2016 came into effect from 1st July 2013 and overall performance against the annual Operational Plans actions that have been undertaken during this period are presented in the charts below.




These achievements reflect a strong teamwork approach, between the elected representatives, council staff and the community. Whilst some performance measures can be clearly quantified, it does not necessarily mean the community is aware of, or fully appreciates, or is fully satisfied with, the extent of progress made. Overall it has been a most successful period but there are still many challenges facing council in its endeavours to provide adequate and cost effective services and facilities.






Our People

2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	119
	In progress	15
	Not progressed	7




2013/14 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	106
	In progress	7
	Not progressed	1




2014/15 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	164
	In progress	2
	Not progressed	0




2015/16 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	104
	In progress	1
	Not progressed	0






Our Places




2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	53
	In progress	13
	Not progressed	2


2013/14 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	54
	In progress	0
	Not progressed	0




2014/15 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	39
	In progress	0
	Not progressed	0




2015/16 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	36
	In progress	0
	Not progressed	0

*Our Infrastructure*




2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	23
	In progress	16
	Not progressed	1


2013/14 Operational Plan Actio0ns		
	Completed	86
	In progress	20
	Not progressed	0




2014/15 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	70
	In progress	10
	Not progressed	0




2015/16 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	48
	In progress	13
	Not progressed	1

Our Leadership




2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	50
	In progress	12
	Not progressed	6



2013/14 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	62
	In progress	12
	Not progressed	2




2014/15 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	92
	In progress	6
	Not progressed	4




2015/16 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	93
	In progress	7
	Not progressed	5

*Our Prosperity*

2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	20
	In progress	10
	Not progressed	5

2012/13 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	37
	In progress	2
	Not progressed	0

2014/15 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	38
	In progress	4
	Not progressed	0

2015/16 Operational Plan Actions		
	Completed	41
	In progress	4
	Not progressed	1

# *Our Challenges and Opportunities*

## **ORGANISATIONAL REVIEWS**

In July 2013 the consulting firm Blackadder & Associates completed a comprehensive review of Council's organisation structure which resulted in reducing the number of Directorates from three (3) to two (2).

A review of the Engineering works and services was undertaken by Jeff Roorda & Associates to identify areas for improvements. The report provides evidence that Council is doing well at achieving efficiency and effectiveness in its operations in this area.

During February/March 2016 the executive team carried out an extensive review with the Fit for the Future framework and Improvement Plan used as a basis for determining staff replacement opportunities and the implications for the levels of service being provided. From the natural attrition of staff, the reduction in council's motor vehicle fleet and the reduction in the payment of the 'housing allowance' there are significant projected savings and opportunities to do more with less are continually being explored as changing situations arise.

## **OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEWS**

### **Promoting Better Practice Review**

The NSW Office of Local Government undertook a Better Practice Review in May 2014 which was a review of council's current practices and procedures. Arising from the Final Report was an Action Plan where 15 areas were identified for further development with 6 areas with a high priority, 7 areas with a medium priority and 2 areas with a low priority. In addition the review identified ten (10) 'better practice' examples covering the areas of:

- Civic leadership and organisational governance
- Resourcing the plans to achieve financial sustainability
- Delivering services to the community

### Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework Review

Council commenced under the IPR legislation as a Group 3 Council. Under the Office of Local Government peer review program a review was undertaken to identify how the intent of the IPR framework has been applied. Feedback from the review has been incorporated into the IPR documentation as opportunities arise. This feedback will also inform the presentation and further development of the IPR framework for the incoming Council.

### COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN AMENDMENT

Following pressure from a number of community representatives and groups for improved indoor sports facilities Council considered the development of a new complex. This concept however was not supported by the community and Council subsequently approved to amend its Community Strategic Plan in April 2014 and allocate funds for the refurbishment of the existing sports stadium.

### DELIVERY PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

During this term of office the Delivery Program was amended on two (2) separate occasions. The first, in April 2014, to reflect the amendment to the Community Strategic Plan and include the refurbishment of the sports stadium. The second was an amendment approved in December 2015 to include the option for Council to apply for a Special Rate Variation.

### FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The State Government's review of local government and the Fit for the Future reform program saw Council assessed in 2015 with the following outcomes:

- Scale and capacity - **Does not satisfy**
- Financial criteria - **Satisfies overall**
- Sustainability - **Satisfies**
- Infrastructure and service management - **Does not satisfy**
- Efficiency – **Satisfies**

The satisfactory outcome of the financial criteria was based on the introduction of a Special Rate Variation (SRV) which was aimed at increasing council's rate revenue with the associated increase being expended on the Shire's road network.

Council at its December 2015 meeting resolved not to proceed with the SRV therefore there is increasing pressure to seriously consider reducing actual existing services, whether they be core or noncore services, in an endeavour for council to remain financially sustainable into the future as costs are increasing at a far greater rate than generated income.

### **FUNDING FREEZE**

In the 2015/16 year the Federal Government froze the indexation of Roads to Recovery funding for the next seven (7) years and the Financial Assistance Grants for three (3) years, resulting in an estimated combined loss of \$764,752.

### **COST SHIFTING**

Similarly to other local councils, Bland Shire faces the pressures of constant burdens being placed on it by the NSW State Government's continued cost shifting. It is becoming increasingly difficult for councils to be 'Fit for the Future' when the very proponents of this philosophy are the ones placing this huge financial burden on local government? The most recent cost shifting survey conducted by LGNSW has identified a financial burden of \$520M per year being placed on local councils as a direct outcome of cost shifting. Lobbying efforts continue to call for an end to this burden being placed on local councils.

### **SIGNIFICANT RAIN AND FLOOD EVENTS**

During March 2012 and July 2016 the Shire experienced significant rain and associated flood events, in particular the small village community of Ungarie was inundated. The affects of this flooding had immediate and ongoing detrimental impacts across the Shire's 3,237 kilometre road network.



# Our Highlights and Achievements

## Year 2012/13

- **AMBULANCE SERVICE APPRECIATION:** In recognition and to show the appreciation of the community a morning tea and ceremony was held to acknowledge the dedicated service of our local Ambulance Officers.
- **MENS SHED:** Council provided its former SES building at minimal rental and assistance to interested community members to obtain grant funding for the highly successful establishment and independent operation of a Mens Shed. Council staff were instrumental in assisting the group establish and obtain funds.
- **UNGARIE NETBALL COURT:** Council invested \$20,000 in the reseal of the netball court at the Ungarie Showground in time to secure a finals game during the 2012/13 season.
- **WORKS DEPOT UPGRADE:** Improvements carried out to the buildings and facilities at Council's Chauvel Street depot, with the addition of a new carpenters workshop, sign shed, fencing, storage bins and upgrades to shelves and racking systems.
- **HACC SERVICES:** Council purchased a small bus to ensure HACC and aged care services are available to more residents. The use of the bus enabled a monthly daycare service to Ungarie residents and is used on a weekly basis for a variety of daycare and social support activities.
- **PERSEVERANCE STREET SPORTING COMPLEX:** Stage 1 upgrade works at the complex were completed with improvements to seating, amenities, canteen and lighting at Ron Crowe Oval. The improvements were celebrated with an official opening.
- **McALISTER OVAL:** The community and Council recognised the many years of dedicated volunteer services to the Park Street grounds by Doug McAlister at the official ceremony.

- **MAIN STREET WEST WYALONG:** Council undertook improvement works to West Wyalong's Main Street during 2012/13. These upgrade works include improvements to pedestrian safety with the construction of 'nibs', pedestrian crossing upgrades and lighting.
- **WETLANDS:** The progressive improvements to the wetlands continued with the construction of a timber boardwalk commencing and native plantings in cooperation with the Local Aboriginal Lands Council.
- **BOUNDARY STREET DAM:** Council undertook works to extend this dam and double its capacity to 45 Megalitres. The extension of this water storage dam ensures adequate supplies of water to irrigate Council's parks and recreation facilities as this dam is a vital part of Council's stormwater harvesting and reuse scheme. Excavated materials were used to build up in the area surrounding the dam, trees planted onsite for National Day Tree and natural grass cover seeded to improve the amenity of the area.
- **CAMP STREET CAUSEWAY:** The redesign and construction of the roadway and water course in Camp Street have made significant improvements for traffic. This causeway is a key flow area for Council's stormwater scheme with overflow from the McCann Park dam passing through for catchment in the Boundary Street dam and then utilised within Council's reticulation system.
- **ROAD HIERARCHY:** Council's road hierarchy was reviewed and finalised with gradual acceptance of the system. The primary focus has been the repair and maintenance of rural roads affected by flood during recent years.
- **PLANNING CONTROLS:** Following the adoption of the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) in 2011 Council undertook a review of the Development Control Plan (DCP).

## Year 2013/14

- **VISITORS INFORMATION SHELTERS:** The new shelters located at McCann Park, Herridge Park and Mirrool were officially opened.
- **'EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR':** Council was announced as the TAFE Riverina Institute "Employer of the Year" at their annual awards ceremony.
- **DOCTORS WELCOMED:** Council hosted a welcome reception for new doctors to our community. The arrival of the new doctors sees a total number of 7 practicing GPs, working from the 3 individual practices and servicing the hospital in West Wyalong.
- **PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS:** Council installed bollards and made improvements in pedestrian movements in White Tank Lane and the adjacent IGA carpark during 2013/14.
- **PUBLIC TOILET IMPROVEMENTS:** Works commenced on the upgrade of the Main Street public toilet facilities adjacent to Aberlines Garage.
- **WETLANDS:** The progressive improvements to the Wetlands have continued with the extension of a timber boardwalk, installation of railings, seating and garbage facilities, further native plantings and the provision of fish stock to the waterway.
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY:** Gradual implementation of the revised strategy progressed with waste infrastructure improvements in Tallimba, Ungarie, Kikiora and West Wyalong. Works included the construction of internal roads, the excavation of pits at Tallimba and Ungarie and the relocation of the site office to the recycle shed at West Wyalong.
- **KURRAJONG STREET WEST WYALONG:** The community welcomed the reconstruction and improvements to Kurrajong Street.
- **VERANDAH RESTORATIONS:** Council's Heritage Assistance Grant Scheme continued with Council contributing a total of \$66,676 towards six (6) completed heritage funding projects.
- **SIR RUSSELL DRYSDALE:** In recognition of the iconic West Wyalong Main Street artwork by Sir Russell Drysdale, Council commissioned the construction of a bronze easel and interpretive panel which was installed at the location of the original drawing and unveiled on 21 February 2014.

## Year 2014/15

- **VIC COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:** Development of a community engagement strategy and consultations commenced on the options for the provision of visitor information services within the Bland Shire.
- **RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY:** Bland Shire Council joined the Riverina Regional Library network.
- **WETLANDS OFFICIAL OPENING:** A hugely successful day of community activities was held at The Wetlands in celebration of the improvements.
- **UNGARIE FLOOD STUDY:** Council has engaged a consultant to conduct an Ungarie flood study. The community of Ungarie was devastated by major flooding in March 2012, with 52 properties inundated, 115 properties isolated and 52 people evacuated from their homes. The sewer treatment plant was inundated and major road damage caused across the Shire's 3237 kilometre road network. Following the release of a confidential draft NSW SES report regarding the flood, Council was able to secure funding to engage a consultant to undertake a flood study focused on Ungarie – through which the Humbug Creek flows. After tenders closed on 22 May, a consultant was later engaged at a cost of \$79,940. Council also invested in improvements to flood proof the sewer system in Ungarie.
- **STATE SIGNIFICANT WEED DISCOVERIES:** Vigilant Council noxious weeds staff made two significant discoveries in May, 2015, with the potential to save the local district and beyond millions of dollars in damages. Through Council's intervention, the local threat of kochia weed and the damaging parthenium weed were eliminated.
- **NEW EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT & EXTENSION OF OPENING HOURS:** A new employee agreement for Council staff came into effect on 1 July 2014. The adoption of the new agreement followed extensive consultation with staff, management and union bodies and delivered mutual benefits to staff, Council and the general community. The agreement included the provision of a nine day fortnight for all staff. Staff with accumulated Time In Lieu (TIL) and/or RDO hours were paid out in order to allow staff to commence the new working arrangements with a 'clean slate' as well as provide overall savings to council by reducing its Employee Leave Entitlements (ELE) liability. The nine day fortnight also allowed Council to extend its opening hours by half an hour each day to 8.30am until 5.00pm – providing a direct benefit to Council customers.

- **ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND:** When the Cowal Gold Mine became operational in 2006, Bland Shire Council resolved to put all mining rates received into a community infrastructure fund. This was designed to minimise the impact of the eventual closure of the mine on Council's operational budget while also delivering major visible benefits for the community such as the \$2 million upgrade to the Holland Park swimming complex. In 2014-2015, Council adopted a motion to allocate 50 per cent of untied mining rates collected by Council into a reserve for economic development (approximately \$400,000 per year). As part of Council's long term strategy, the economic development reserve will be used to help attract new investment, industry and employment opportunities to the Bland Shire. By creating the reserve, Council is taking a proactive stance on economic development with a mission to help the Bland Shire community absorb and prosper past the eventual closure of the Cowal gold mine and help counter a decreasing population which is partly fuelled by a drop in employment numbers in the agricultural industry.

## Year 2015/16

- **ROAD NETWORK FORUMS:** Council held forums on two (2) separate occasions within the Village communities during March and July 2016.
- **REG RATTEY VC:** Council allocated \$80,000 to build a monument in honour of Reg Rattey VC and the memorial was officially unveiled in April 2016.
- **TOWN CRIER:** Mr Kyle Sturgess was appointed to the honorary position and provided with appropriate regalia for the role.
- **SPORTS STADIUM:** Construction Services tender awarded to Burton Constructions Pty Ltd with works commencing in May. The refurbishment project is on target for completion in late 2016.
- **BUSINESS ASSISTANCE:** Council provided business assistance grants to ten (10) new or expanding businesses within the Bland Shire.
- **WEST WYALONG MEDICAL CENTRE:** The Medical Centre's new offices and expanded services were supported by Council with a contribution of \$40,000.
- **VIC HOURS:** The opening hours of the Visitor Information Centre operating within the Library were expanded to seven (7) days per week on a trial basis.
- **WEST WYALONG GOLD TRIATHLON:** Council hosted a hugely successful inaugural triathlon in April with events available for participants of all ages and abilities.
- **CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SUREY:** Council engaged Micromex Research to undertake a customer satisfaction survey of current services and facilities.
- **ASSET MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY:** Council introduced new technology to deliver more efficient and effective services.



## 7.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

## 8.0 DELEGATES & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Section 1 – Delegates & Advisory Committee Reports & Minutes *(for information)*

## 9.0 STAFF REPORTS

That the Council receive the staff reports.

### Section 2 – Office of the General Manager *(reports for decision)*

9.1	Council Meeting Arrangements – September 2016 .....	16
9.2	General Manager’s Appointment to the NSW StateCover Advisory Committee .....	17
9.3	LGNSW Executive Assistant of the Year Awards .....	19
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### Section 3 – Corporate, Community & Development Services *(reports for decision)*

9.5	Financial Statements – July 2016 .....	21
9.6	Completion Of Legal Action – Lehman Brothers Matter .....	26

### Section 5 – Reports for Information

9.7	Asset & Engineering Services Report .....	28
9.8	Community Services Report .....	30
9.9	Bland Shire Library Monthly Update .....	33
9.10	Children Services Monthly Update .....	35
9.11	Bland HACC Services Update .....	37
9.12	Development Services Activity Report .....	38
9.13	Economic Development & Tourism Report – July .....	40



**10.0 URGENT BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**11.0 PRESENTATIONS**

**11.0 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

- Matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of former meetings of the Council
- Other Matters

**12.0 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 10A(2) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

**13.0 RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLOSED SECTION OF THE MEETING**

**14.0 CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

# SECTION 1 – DELEGATES & ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP15.2 Working in partnership with community groups, advisory committees, Government Departments, businesses and Council staff*

## Officer's Recommendation:

**That the Council receive and note the delegate and advisory committee reports from Councillors and Advisory Committee meeting minutes as presented.**

## Section 1 – Delegates & Advisory Committee Reports & Minutes (for information)

Committee	Date/s	Minutes attached
<b>Access Advisory Committee</b> (Cr Grellman)	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	
<b>Australia Day Awards Committee of the Whole</b> (Whole of Council)		
<b>Australian Rural Roads Group Inc</b> (Cr Grellman)	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016	
<b>Bland Rural Fire District Zone Liaison Committee</b> (Cr Grellman, Cr Keatley - alternate)	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	
<b>Bland – Temora RFS Zone Bushfire Management Committee</b> (Cr Grellman, Cr Keatley - alternate)	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2016	
<b>Country Mayors Association of NSW</b> (Mayor & General Manager)		
<b>Cowal Gold Project Community Environmental Monitoring &amp; Consultative Committee (CEMCC)</b> (Mayor Pokoney, Cr McGlynn - alternate/observer, Cr Hampton - observer)	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2016	
<b>Cultural Advisory Committee</b> (Cr McGlynn, Cr Keatley)	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2016	
<b>Goldenfields Water County Council Board</b> (Cr Templeton)	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	
<b>Heritage Advisory Committee</b> (Cr McGlynn, Cr Grellman)	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2016	✓

<b>Lake Cowal Gold Mine Closure Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Mayor Pokoney, Deputy Mayor Hampton, GM)</i>		
<b>Internal Audit Committee</b>		
<b>Local Traffic Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Mayor Pokoney, Cr Grellman - alternate)</i>		
<b>Murrumbidgee Medicare Local Board</b> <i>(Cr Monaghan)</i>		
<b>Museums Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Cr Lord, Cr Keatley)</i>	22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2016	
<b>Newell Highway Taskforce</b> <i>(Cr Lord)</i>		
<b>NSW Association of Mining Related Councils</b> <i>(Cr McGlynn, Cr Hampton)</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	✓
<b>Plant Committee</b> <i>(Cr Grellman, Cr Templeton, Cr Lord)</i>		
<b>Public Libraries NSW South-West Zone</b>		
<b>Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC)</b> <i>(Mayor Pokoney)</i>		
<b>Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee</b> <i>(Cr Lord, Cr Monaghan - alternate)</i>		
<b>Riverina Regional Tourism</b> <i>(Cr Lord)</i>		

**MINUTES OF THE BLAND SHIRE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM ON WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2016 COMMENCING AT 4.20PM**

---

**Present:** Pam Butcher (Chair), Cr Liz McGlynn, Martin Lane, Dot Smith, David Scobie, Lesley Duncan

**Apologies:** Peter Grellman

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Liz McGlynn and seconded by Martin Lane that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016 be taken as read and confirmed.

**CARRIED**

**ITEM 1 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

- Nil

**ITEM 2 CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence In

- Nil

Correspondence Out

- Funding Agreement for Heritage Assistance – Terry Cronin.

**ITEM 3 HERITAGE ADVISORY REPORTS**

David provided the committee with a verbal update on his activities during his visits in July and August.

**ITEM 4 HERITAGE ASSISTANCE FUND**

- Nil received

**ITEM 5 PROJECTS**

- Nil

**ITEM 6 GENERAL BUSINESS**

- A general discussion was held regarding the location of an interpretive panel for Wyalong House. It was agreed that this matter would be addressed after the Council election in September.

- Pam Butcher advised that the Family History Group were commencing work in the North Yalgogrin Cemetery.
- This was the last meeting of the current Heritage Advisory Committee. Lesley Duncan and Liz McGlynn both expressed their thanks for the contribution of each of the committee members over the last four years.

**ITEM 7    CLOSE**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.48 pm.



**Minutes of  
NSW Association of Mining Related Councils Inc.  
Ordinary Meeting  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016  
Room 10  
Level 6 Portside Centre  
Symantec House  
207 Kent Street  
Sydney**

**The meeting commenced at 9.00 am**

**Attendance**

Cr Peter Shinton	Warrumbungle Shire Council (Chair)
Cr Lilliane Brady (OAM)	Cobar Shire Council (Deputy Chair)
Mr Peter Vlatko	Cobar Shire Council
Mr Steve Loane	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Mr Ron Zwicker	Wollongong City Council
Mr Robert Hunt	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Dennis Brady	Lachlan Shire Council
Cr Owen Hasler	Gunnedah Shire Council
Cr Rebecca Ryan	Gunnedah Shire Council from 10 40am
Mr Andrew Spooner	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Holee Jenkins	Singleton Council
Cr John Martin (OAM)	Singleton Council
Mr Jasson Linnane	Singleton Council
Cr Jim Nolan	Broken Hill City Council
Cr Michael Greenwood	Parkes Shire Council
Mr David Henry	Wollondilly Shire Council
Cr Bob Pynsent	Cessnock City Council
Cr Sharon Wilcox	Cabonne Shire Council
M/S Heather Nicholls	Cabonne Shire Council
Mr Brad Cam	Mid Western Regional Council
Cr Paul Hawker	Campbelltown City Council
Cr Gordon Bradbery OAM	Wollongong City Council
Cr Peter Bishop	Upper Hunter Shire Council
Cr Bill Wheeldon	Wentworth Shire Council
Mr Peter Kozlowski	Wentworth Shire Council
Cr Jeff Whitton	Orange City Council



## Staff

Mr Don Tydd

Executive Officer

## Apologies

Cr Jarrod Marsden

Cr Col Mitchell

Cr Michael Banasik

Mr Greg Lamont

Cr Tony Ellis

Cr Nuatali Nelmes

Cr Chris Conner (Deputy Chair)

Cr Liz McGlynn

Cr John Davis

Cr Scott Ferguson

M/S Rebecca Ryan

Cr Des Kennedy

M/S Julie Goodwin

Cobar Shire Council

Wollondilly Shire Council

Wollondilly Shire Council

Narromine Shire Council

Narromine Shire Council

Newcastle City Council

Wollongong City Council

Bland Shire Council

Orange City Council

Blaney Shire Council

Blaney Shire Council

Mid Western Regional Council

Accounting Administrator

## 1. Apologies

**30/2016** Resolved that the apologies be received and noted.

(Cr L Brady/ Cr S Wilcox)

## 2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

**31 /2016** Resolved delegates now disclose any pecuniary interests and reasons for declaring such interests in the matters under consideration at the meeting.

Ron Zwicker declared an interest through holding AGL shares.

Don Tydd declared an interest in the recommendation concerning the employment of the Executive Officer



**3. Adoption of Minutes, Special Meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Aerodrome Auditorium, Tom Perry Drive, Narromine Airport .**

**32 /2016** Resolved that minutes of the Association's Special meeting held Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Aerodrome Auditorium, Tom Perry Drive, Narromine Airport be received and noted.

(Cr J Martin/ Cr L Brady)

**4. Adoption of Minutes, Ordinary Meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Aerodrome Auditorium, Tom Perry Drive, Narromine Airport.**

**33/2016** Resolved that minutes of the Ordinary meeting held Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Aerodrome Auditorium, Ton Perry Drive, Narromine Airport be received and noted.

(S. Loane /Cr S Wilcox)

**5. Matters Arising From The Minutes**

Nil

**6. Short Presentation by Councillor Peter Bishop- Upper Hunter Shire Council's Mining and CSG Policy.**

Cr Bishop spoke on his council's policy. Comments on the issues were made by Steve Loane, Ron Zwicker and Cr Bradbery.

**7. Recommendations From Executive Committee meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**7.1 Review of Discussions Between Association and NSW Minerals Council on Planning Agreements (Formerly Known as Voluntary Planning Agreements- Proposals by Wollondilly Shire Council for Changes to Draft Agreements.**

David Henry spoke to this matter on behalf of Wollondilly Shire Council as to the reasons for the request for the changes.





**34/2016** Resolved the following request from Wollondilly Shire Council for suggested amendments to the draft VPA negotiation process document is not considered possible, practical and is detrimental to the process:

- The inclusion of a process and associated timeline for the development of VPA'S which apply to existing approved mining developments and ,
- The inclusion of a mechanism that enables the concurrent lodgement of any relevant formal VPA offer with the distribution of a draft Environmental Assessment associated with a proposed mining development.

(Cr Hasler/Cr Wilcox)

## **7.2 Discussion Document on Present Negotiations between Association Panel and NSW Minerals Council**

Cr Hasler, Steve Loane, Cr Martin and Cr Nolan spoke on this matter.

**35/2016** Resolved discussion document on VPA negotiations prepared by the Association's consultant and reviewed by Panel member Councillor Owen Hasler be circulated to delegates for comment.

(Cr Hasler/ Cr Wilcox)

**Note:** The report was circulated to delegates prior to the meeting

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

**36/2016** Resolved Standing Orders be suspended at 9 40am to hear presentations by guest speakers.

(Cr Nolan/ Cr Wilcox)

## **Presentation by Councillor Martin Rush – Mayor, Muswellbrook Shire Council**

Cr Rush spoke on the history of open cut mining in the Muswellbrook Shire area. The situation regarding the rehabilitation of mine sites to the more natural landscape had improved over the years. The outstanding issue was the voids which have been left.

Cr Rush also spoke on air quality issues and the assessment of PM 2.5 dust particles. He addressed the matter of night time readings verses day time readings.



In relation to mine site rehabilitation there were ongoing issues with transparency, formula and ongoing maintenance of natural vegetation. Cr Rush also spoke on funding of infrastructure by council from contributions made by the mining industry.

Steve Loane requested relevant documents be made available to the Association.

Cr Rush also answered questions from Councillor Hasler on landscape issues, and Councillor Bradbery on dust matters, rainfall patterns and climate change.

Councillor Shinton thanked Councillor Martin for his presentation.

### **Presentation by Councillor Keith Rhoades, President, Local Government NSW (LGNSW).**

Councillor Rhoades thanked the Association for the invitation to make a presentation at this meeting and introduced accompanying LGNSW Staff, M/S Donna Rygate, Mr Shaun McBride and M/S Jane Partridge.

Councillor Rhoades spoke on the following matters:

- Both organisations having a long history of sharing views and attending each other's meetings.
- NSW local government facing the greatest changes in history.
- LGNSW was critical of the present changes to local government being introduced by the NSW State government with forced amalgamations.
- A tool kit had been developed by LGNSW on its web site for use by councils.
- He was in regular discussions with Ministers and the Government on key local issues.
- Current developments with proposed joint organisations of councils, road funding and water management.
- The 2016 Water Management conference would be held in Broken Hill.
- LGNSW continued to make representations to government on funding issues and the holding of educational events for NSW councils and their staff.
- LGNSW supported the current discussions taking place between the Association and the NSW Minerals Council on Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAS).

### **Delegates Comments**

Councillor Hasler raised his concerns on Association non-member councils having access to the current discussions. M/S Rygate and Mr Mc Bride made comment on this matter.



Councillor Hasler also raised the issue of new RFS funding models. M/S Rygate made comment on the need for more transparency as LG NSW was not part of the discussions but there was a need to prevent the peaks and troughs.

Councillor Rhoades commented on related issues and the timing of decisions. Mr McBride said it was not a perfect system and there was a need to remove the spikes in funding models.

Robert Hunt raised the matter of the IPART review into local government rating, M/S Rygate gave a report on the current situation with the review.

Councillor Shinton thanked Councillor Rhoades for his presentation and the staff of LGNSW for their comments.

### **Resumption of Standing Orders**

**37/2016** Resolved that the meeting resume at 10 55am.

(Cr Martin/ Cr Wilcox)

### **7.3 Acceptance of Departmental Grant Towards Cost of Negotiating/Developing New Voluntary Planning Agreements with the NSW Minerals Council.**

**38/2016 Resolved** The Actions of the Chairperson and the Executive Officer in negotiating and accepting a grant of \$10,000 from the Department of Planning and Environment be endorsed. Further, the grant be used for current expenditure in relation to employing the consultant OzEnvironmental Pty. Ltd.

(Cr Hasler/ Cr Wilcox)

### **7.4 . Budget: Employment of Consultant OZEnvironmental**

**39/2016** Resolved a further \$10,000 be allocated from the Association's cash reserves to finalise the Planning Agreements (formerly known as Voluntary Planning Agreements) project.

(Cr Hasler/ Cr Wilcox)



## **7.5. Use of Association's Web Site for Display of Meeting Documents and Minutes**

**40/2016** Resolved draft minutes be sent to delegates and member councils following each ordinary meeting and also be displayed on the Association's web site.

(Cr Hasler/Cr Wilcox)

## **7.6 . Accounts Administrator's Report and Financial Reports for Period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

**41/2016** Resolved the Accounts Administrators report and financial reports for period 1st July 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be received and noted.

Councillor Hasler requested the Accounts Administrator provide comment in reference to the "salaries and on costs" figures in the financial reports and that "travelling expenses" be separated in to actual travelling costs and accommodation costs.

(Cr Hasler/ Cr Wilcox)

## **7.8 . Support for Wollondilly Shire Council in its Representations on the Effects of Mining on Thirlmere Lakes.**

The representations by Wollondilly Shire Council to gain the Association's support on this matter be noted and the matter be discussed at the next Ordinary meeting when council's delegates are present.

Dealt with in General Business

## **7.9 . Options for Employment of the Association's Executive Officer**

### **Note: Resignation of present Executive Officer**

Prior to this matter being considered, The Executive Officer advised the meeting that under clause 10.3.2 of his current contract with the Association he was tendering his resignation to take effect from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

**42/2016** Resolved that after an extensive review undertaken by the Chair of the Association of Mines Related Councils (AMRC), and an in depth discussion of the options for the Employment of an Executive Officer for



AMRC (an employee either reporting direct to AMRC or in a host Council arrangement versus an Independent Contractor) and in the consideration of concerns raised in relation to existing systems, the need for best practice and transparency in reporting, the Executive make the following strong recommendations:-

1. That the AMRC engage an independent contractor on a twelve month term with the option to renew annually, to undertake the role of Executive Officer, to provide the Secretariat function and any other function agreed in (2) and (3) below, to AMRC at an initial cost not exceeding the Total Remuneration Package (TRP) of the current Executive Officer;
2. That a Panel consisting of the following:-
  - (a) A representative of ARMC Executive - The Chair AMRC (Cr P Shinton);
  - (b) An independent representative - Life Member ARMC (Mr Glen Wilcox) or an alternative suitably qualified independent person;
  - (c) An operational facilitator – Delegate and General Manager (Mr Steve Loane).

be established to determine the Scope of Works and Key Performance Indicators for the Independent Contractor to meet; to source a suitable person; negotiate and appoint them to fulfil the functions in (1) and (2), as agreed upon by the parties;

3. That the Chair of AMRC be authorized to sign the contract for services on behalf of AMRC;
4. That the incumbent Executive Officer be retained on existing terms until the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

(Cr Hasler/ Cr Wilcox)

## **8. Executive Officers Report (For Information)**

**43 /2016** Resolved the Executive Officer's Report for information be received and noted.

(Cr Martin/ Cr L Brady)



## **9. General Business**

### **9.1 Wollongong City Council Merger**

Councillor Bradbery spoke on the current merger discussions involving Wollongong City Council and on behalf of Councillor Chris Connor and himself thanked delegates and the Association for the past involvement.

### **9.2 New Strategic Plan**

In reply to a question on this matter, Councillor Shinton advised that the development of the plan had been under the direction of Councillor Connor. The matter needs to be revisited.

### **9.3 Resources for Regions**

Councillor Greenwood asked for a progress report on this matter.

The Executive Officer advised he understood the next meeting of the Resources for Regions Advisory Panel was to be held in October 2016.

Councillor Hasler spoke on the recent meeting between the NSW Minerals Council and The Executive Committee where it's CEO, Mr Steve Galilee had advised representations on this matter from his organisation were to be stepped up and expressed the view there should be a joint approach to this matter by the NSW Minerals Council and the Association.

Cr Martin and Steve Loane both suggested that this matter should be kept under review by the Association.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11.15am and resumed at 11 40am

## **10, Presentation by Department of Planning and Environment Staff**

The Department was represented by M/S Alex O'Mara, Executive Director of Resources and Industry Policy and Mr Stephen Barry, Director Resources Policy. M/s Allison Frame. Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy was an apology.

M/s O'Mara's presentation included references to:

- Social Impact Assessment (accompanied by a handout)
- Planning reforms
- Biodiversity reforms



- Coastal policy
- E planning
- Windfarm guidelines
- Voluntary planning agreement

M/S O'Mara answered questions from delegates on her presentation. Mr Barry's address involved the Department's present consultation initiatives and the emphasis on talking to communities about local developments at an early stage.

He provided details of staff visitations across NSW to obtain information of local mining developments. This was an ongoing process and the results of the consultations would be made available at the end of 2016.

Councillor Hasler spoke on this matter.

Mr Barry commented that the Department's aim was to streamline the process.

Councillor Shinton thanked M/S Omara and Mr Barry for their presentations and they left the meeting.

**Presentation by The Honourable Sarah Mitchell MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Western NSW and Chair, Western NSW Mining and Resource Development Taskforce and M/S Alison McGaffin, Taskforce Coordinator.**

M/S Mitchell introduced herself and explained the operations of the Taskforce, its focus and achievements.

M/S McGaffin explained her role and that of the Taskforce and the geographical coverage of the issues being considered. Current Projects included:

- Revenue created and linked to local mining developments
- Employment issues associated with local mining developments

Other issues being considered by the Taskforce included strategic planning and the Resources for Regions program.

Both M/S Mitchell and M/S McGaffin answered delegate's questions. M/s McGaffin again listed the Taskforce's achievements and outcomes.

Councillor Shinton thanked M/S Mitchell and M/S McGaffin for their presentations and they left the meeting.



The meeting resumed with general business matters.

**9.4 Support for Wollondilly Shire Council in its Representations on the Effects of Mining on Thirlmere Lakes.**

David Henry made a presentation on this matter on behalf of Wollondilly Shire Council. He gave background information on the Thirlmere Lakes and their importance to the local area. Mining near the Lakes dates back to 1974 with no buffer zones to the consent at that time.

In 2010 the water level in the Lakes dropped. Presently there were no results as to why this had occurred. In 2017 the mine will be closing and there is a need for the rehabilitation of the Lakes to be addressed.

Council has asked the Association for support on this matter.

**44/2016** Resolved (1) the Association provide support to the resolutions of Wollondilly Shire Council regarding concerns over the continued observed water loss from the World Heritage listed Thirlmere Lakes and the conclusion of recent scientific studies regarding this matter and,  
(2) Pursuit to (1) correspondence be sent to the NSW Minister for Resources and Industry (The Honourable Anthony Roberts) and the NSW Minister for Primary Industries (The Honourable Niall Blair) advising of the support to the resolutions and requesting a prompt response.

D Henry/ Cr L Brady)

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 12.55pm

**The Minutes (Pages 1- 11) were confirmed at a meeting held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and are a true and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2016.**

.....

Chairperson



## SECTION 2 – OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

---

### 9.1 Council Meeting Arrangements – September 2016

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP.14.1 Ensure Councillors are provided with appropriate support and resources to carry out their civic duties.*

**Author:** General Manager

#### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council endorse the following meeting arrangements for September 2016 subject to the date of the declaration of the results of the local government elections for the Bland Shire:**

- **Friday 16 September – Councillor Induction Session**
- **Tuesday 20 September – Ordinary Council Meeting incorporating the election of mayor and deputy mayor**

#### **Introduction**

Despite the fact that the results of the September 10<sup>th</sup> council elections may not be known for several days after the close of the polls it is being recommended that the Ordinary meeting of council still remain scheduled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September and that the induction of the new councillors take place on the Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

There will be no council workshop scheduled for September.

There are also proposed changes to the Local Government Act that, if introduced as legislation prior to the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016, will mean the following:

- All new councillors (re-elected or otherwise) will need to take an "Oath of Office"
- The election of mayor and deputy mayor will be for two (2) year terms

Councillors may also be interested in knowing that, with the exception of the mayor, all councillors cease to hold office from midnight on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The mayor, however, continues to hold office until the election of a new mayor on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

#### **Conclusion**

It is expected that the proposed meeting arrangements for September 2016 will meet the needs of councillors at the same time as meeting the various legislative requirements.

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil to this report.

## 9.2 General Manager's Appointment to the NSW StateCover Advisory Committee

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** General Manager

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the advice on the appointment of the general manager, Mr. Ray Smith, as a founding member of the StateCover Advisory Committee be received and noted.**

### **Introduction**

Earlier this year, StateCover advised Members that it had set up an Advisory Committee, and was seeking nominations from suitably qualified Council employees to become Member Representatives on the Committee. I consequently applied for a position on the committee.

StateCover Mutual Limited has been operating since 2001 as a Specialised Insurer, supporting the workers compensation needs of NSW Councils and other local government entities. As at June 2015, StateCover insured around 90% of eligible Councils, covering a workforce of approximately 30,000 employees.

StateCover's Corporate Goals emphasise StateCover's Member-centric philosophy and the importance of quality, superior service and outcomes; all fundamental elements to the organisation's sustainability.

StateCover's goals are to:

- ensure the interests of our Members are central to everything we do
- provide high quality Workers Compensation and WHS services
- deliver optimum outcomes and superior service with integrity
- provide sustainable stakeholder security

### Ownership

StateCover was established as a public company by the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW (LGSA or LGNSW), which remains as StateCover's majority shareholder. In addition, StateCover policy-holding Members are each shareholders in the Mutual.

### Mutual Philosophy

StateCover Mutual was established by LGNSW as a not-for-profit workers compensation insurer to partner with NSW local government entities in the management of their workplace risk. The concept was to provide NSW Councils with an alternative option to self-insurance through an insurer that represented the interests of its Members, provided an integrated injury prevention and injury management service model and would work in partnership to minimise the overall cost of Members' workplace risk. This underlying mutual philosophy continues to operate today for the benefit of all StateCover's stakeholders.

### **Conclusion**

I am now pleased to advise of receipt of the following advice from StateCover:

"It was very pleasing that we had a strong response from Member Councils to be involved in this opportunity. Following a thorough review process against the criteria for the roles, StateCover would like to announce the following appointments to the Committee:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Nina Churchward	Bega	Executive Manager, Organisational Development & Governance
Amanda Collins	Hornsby	Safety & Wellness Manager
Liz Collyer	Tweed	Director Corporate Services
Paul Devery	Cowra	General Manager
Ross Earl	Bourke	General Manager
Michelle Gilliver-Smith	Port Stephens	Organisational Development Manager
Rick Hunt	Wollondilly	Risk Management Officer
<b>Ray Smith</b>	<b>Bland</b>	<b>General Manager</b>
Murray Watson	Albury	Group Leader Human Resources

I am anticipating that I will have the opportunity to have input into future StateCover policies and procedures relating to a range of workers compensation issues specifically aimed at local government and that I will be able to draw on my 45 years experience in the local government industry to improve and enhance how we treat our injured staff and how we can return them to the workforce in a more timely manner.

### **Financial Implications**

The meetings of the committee are expected to be quarterly and based in Sydney with StateCover meeting all travel and accommodation costs.

## 9.3 LGNSW Executive Assistant of the Year Awards

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP17.2 Provide a sustainable, productive, highly skilled and committed workforce which supports current and future service delivery needs.*

**Author:** General Manager

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Bland Shire Council's Executive Assistant, Mrs. Julie Sharpe is congratulated on being announced as the inaugural recipient of the LGNSW Executive Assistant of the Year Award 2016.**

### **Introduction**

Earlier this year I received advice from LGNSW that they were initiating an award category for council executive and personal assistants with the objective of recognising the excellent work undertaken by these members of staff in providing significant support to general managers and mayors.

There were no specific criteria other than a request to general managers to consider nominating their executive assistants for the award.

Consequently, based on the continual high standard of work produced by Julie Sharpe, I had no hesitation in submitting her nomination.

I am now very proud and excited to announce that Julie has been chosen as the inaugural winner of the 2016 LGNSW Executive Assistant of the Year!

### **Conclusion**

The Award consists of a very impressive glass ornament and certificate and is worthy recognition of the great work undertaken by Julie on a consistent basis.

### **Financial Implications**

Nil to this report.

## 9.4 Disclosure of Interest Returns

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.3 Ensure the General Manager takes on a high level role in implementing the Community Strategic Plan and associated documents*

**Author:** Executive Assistant

**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Councillors note the Disclosure of Interest return requirements and accept the Disclosure of Interest Register as tabled.**

**Background**

Pecuniary Interest Returns for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 are due for submission to Council by 30 September 2016 for Councillors and designated persons who held office at 30 June 2016.

At the time of completing this report all returns, with the exception of Cr Templeton and Cr Hampton, have been completed and the Disclosure of Interest Register is tabled for Council's information.

**Legal Statutory Implications**

Under Section 451 (3) of the Local Government Act 1993 a councillor or designated person holding that position at 30 June in any year must complete and lodge with the General Manager within 3 months after that date a return in the form prescribed by the regulations.

## SECTION 3 – CORPORATE, COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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### 9.5 Financial Statements – July 2016

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management.*

**Author** Director Corporate, Community & Development Services

**Officer's Recommendation:**

1. That Council receive and note the statement of Bank Balances, Rates Collections and Investments for the month of July, 2016
2. That Council confirms the payment of accounts, for the period 01 July to 31 July 2016, summarised in the accounts summary totalling \$2,069,740.27

**STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES, RATES COLLECTIONS AND INVESTMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2016.**

**BANK BALANCES AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2016**

<b>ACCOUNT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
General Fund	\$ -379.05
BCard	\$ 15,990.00
	<b>\$ 15,610.95</b>
Invested Funds	
Fixed Deposits	\$16,200,000.00
Deposits at Call	\$ 1,498,649.77
	<b>\$17,698,649.77</b>
Net Balance	<b>\$17,714,260.72</b>
Percentage of investment to Net Balance	99.91%

**STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES AS AT 31.07.16**  
**SUBMITTED TO THE ORDINARY MEETING AUGUST 16TH, 2016**

Balance as at 01.07.16 \$ 628,833.43

**Add Receipts**

For month of July 2016 \$ 1,440,527.79

Includes

<b>Receipt Date.</b>	<b>Receipt Name</b>	<b>Received Total</b>
----------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

Less Payments

For month of July 2016 \$ 2,069,740.27

Includes

<b>Payment Date.</b>	<b>Payee Name</b>	<b>Payment Total</b>
7/7/16	Statewide Mutual	\$403,872.43

Cash Balance \$-379.05

Limit of Overdraft Arranged with Bank \$ 350,000.00

## ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of accounts paid for the period July 01, 2016 to July 31, 2016.

I CERTIFY,

That the accounts included in the accounts summary and totalling as detailed under:-

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Voucher No.s</b>	<b>Total</b>
Cheques	024928 - 024962	\$114,177.78
Auto-pay      Creditors	E008339 – E008554	\$ 1,425,604.60
Auto-pay      Payroll	3/7 - 31/7	\$ 501,970.83
July Bank Charges & Commission etc		\$ 1,255.42
Direct Debits	Repayments & Vehicle Lease	\$ 26,731.64
		<b>\$ 2,069,740.27</b>

1. Are fully supported by vouchers and invoices and have been fully registered.
2. The responsible officer concerned has certified that the goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered to order and/or that the services for which respective accounts are submitted have been rendered according to order.
3. Official orders have been issued for the supply of such goods and services. The goods for which respective accounts are submitted have been checked with the entries in the goods order book.
4. The prices and computations of every account are correct.
5. The prices for the goods supplied or services rendered under the contract or quotation in accordance therewith and in all cases the prices charged are according to order and as far as I am able to ascertain fair and reasonable.
6. The provisions of the Local Government Act, 1993 and Regulations in connection therewith have been complied with.

Further I also certify that the Ledger has been reconciled with the bank statements for the last preceding monthly period.

.....  
Director of Corporate, Community & Development Services



## **CERTIFICATE OF GENERAL MANAGER**

This accounts summary, a copy of which was submitted to each member of Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016, has been checked and is fully supported by vouchers and invoices. These vouchers have been duly certified as to receipt of goods, the rendition of services, to prices and computations, and to costings.

.....  
General Manager

## **CERTIFICATE OF CHAIRMAN OF ORDINARY MEETING**

I certify that this accounts summary, covering amounts totalling \$2,069,740.27 was submitted to the Ordinary Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and that the amounts are presented to Council for confirmation of payment.

.....  
Chairman of Ordinary Meeting

### **RATES SUMMARY**

Total rates income levied (2016/17)	\$9,077,945.97
Rates received as at 31/7/2016	\$454,317.48
% of rates received to date	5%

The total rates income includes rates in arrears and accumulated interest.

**INVESTMENTS**

The following table gives details of Council's Funds invested at 31st July 2016. The funds consist of monies from the Bank Accounts of the Trust Funds, Reserve Accounts, Sewerage Fund and Combined General Account.

DATE	INVESTED WITH WHOM	INVESTED AMOUNT	TERM	YIELD	DATE DUE
05-August-2014	Bank of QLD (Floating Rate Note)	1,000,000.00	731 days	0.95% + BBSW	05-August-2016
19-July-2016	Bank of QLD (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	181 days	2.85%	16-January-2017
03-March-2016	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	152 days	3.09%	02-August-2016
02-May-2016	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	182 days	3.12%	31-October-2016
23-May-2016	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	182 days	3.01%	21-November-2016
16-May-2016	NAB (Term Deposit)	1,500,000.00	182 days	3.01%	14-November-2016
01-April-2016	Rural Bank (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	186 days	3.15%	04-October-2016
22-June-2016	Bankwest (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	180 days	2.85%	19-December-2016
08-September-2015	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	366 days	2.95%	08-September-2016
08-September-2015	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	366 days	2.95%	08-September-2016
08-September-2015	Bendigo Bank (Term Deposit)	400,000.00	366 days	2.95%	08-September-2016
15-March-2016	NAB (Term Deposit)	2,000,000.00	184 days	3.12%	15-September-2016
23-March-2016	People's Choice (Term Deposit)	500,000.00	181 days	3.05%	20-September-2016
16-March-2016	Heritage (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	153 days	3.20%	16-August-2016
16-March-2016	Heritage (Term Deposit)	1,000,000.00	211 days	3.20%	13-October-2016
16-March-2016	Bank of QLD	1,000,000.00	182 days	3.05%	14-September-2016
	ANZ Deposit at Call	50,775.26	Cash at Call		
	CBA Deposit at Call	1,447,874.51	Cash at Call		
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>17,698,649.77</b>			

I certify that the above investments have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Regulation and Council's Investment Policies.

I certify that the above investment has been reconciled with Council's General Ledger Accounts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director Corporate Community & Development Services

## 9.6 Completion Of Legal Action – Lehman Brothers Matter

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP14.4 Ensure the long term financial sustainability of Council through effective and prudent financial management*

**Author:** Manager Financial Services  
Director Corporate, Community and Development Services

### **Officer's Recommendation:**

**That Council receive and note the report on the finalisation of legal action against Lehman Brothers and Standards and Poor.**

### **Introduction**

In 2006 many Council's across Australia invested monies through Grange Securities. Bland Shire Council was no different. Bland Shire Council's investment portfolio consisted of a combination of approved deposit institution and non approved deposit institution interest bearing securities. The total investment managed by Grange Securities was \$9,900,000.

As council would be aware, in late July, early August 2007 the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) began with a loss of confidence by US investors. This situation deteriorated resulting in the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008.

Council resolved to actively redeem all investments and take legal action against Lehman Brothers. As a result, Council received redemptions of both the Approved and Non Approved deposit Institutions resulting in a \$2,306,143 loss.

In addition to the redemptions received and as a direct result of the Class Action against Lehman brothers and Standards and Poor, further dividends were received totalling \$1,047,565.

Staff can now report, the legal action has been completed and the matter finalised, resulting in a total loss to Council of \$1,258,777.

### **Conclusion**

The legal action against Lehman Brothers and Standards and Poor has been finalised within the allocated legal cost expenditure. As the loss has been written down and Council's financial statements are unencumbered, the matter has also be finalised internally.

### **Financial Implications**

In consultation with Council's auditors, Council has previously written down the losses of the investment resulting in unencumbered financial statements.

## **SECTION 4 – REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

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**Officer's Recommendation:**

**That the following reports, provided for information only, be received and noted:**

- **9.7 - Asset & Engineering Services Report**
- **9.8 - Community Services Report**
- **9.9 - Bland Shire Library Monthly Update**
- **9.10 - Children Services Monthly Update**
- **9.11 - Bland HACCC Services Update**
- **9.12 - Development Services Activity Report**
- **9.13 - Economic Development & Tourism Report – July**

## 9.7 Asset & Engineering Services Report

*Our infrastructure*      *Reviewing, renewing & improving our core community assets*

*Vision: Maintaining and improving the Shire's assets and infrastructure in a changing climate*

13. Ensure that public places and facilities are well maintained and easily accessible.

**Author:** Director – Engineering Services

### **Introduction**

The following work was carried out:-

#### **1. NATIONAL AND STATE ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Routine maintenance as per single invitation contract carried out on SH17.

#### **2. REGIONAL ROADS MAINTENANCE**

Bitumen patching carried out on MR57 north, MR231 and MR398W.

#### **3. REGIONAL ROAD REPAIR PROGRAMME**

Pipe extensions are in progress on Mary Gilmore Way west.

#### **4. LOCAL ROADS CONSTRUCTION RTR**

Heavy patching has been completed on Quandialla Road.

#### **5. SHIRE ROADS MAINTENANCE**

- Bitumen patching carried out on the following:-
  - Clear Ridge Road
  - Quandialla Road
  - Kolkilbertoo Road
  - Kikoira Road
  - Gubbatta Road
  - Bonehams Lane
- Gravel Resheeting
  - Kildary Road
- Gravel Patching
  - Hannon Road
  - Waarbilla Road
- Wet Grading
  - Thulloo Road
  - Waarbilla Road
  - Humby Road
- Guide posting has been done on a number of rural sealed roads, minor gravel patching and drainage works has been done on a number of unsealed roads within the shire.

#### **6. NOXIOUS WEEDS/ENVIRONMENTAL**

- The following noxious weeds and other controls were undertaken:-
- Twenty five private property inspections were carried out. Inspections were also carried out on Council land.

- Staff attended the newly formed LLS Regional Weeds Committee meeting.
  - **African Boxthorn** – Collins' Lane, Barmedman town area, Alleena Road, Spauls Lane, Council land adjacent to Collins Lane, Mary Gilmore Way
  - **Coolatai Grass** – Newell Highway, Goldfields Way,
  - **Wild Radish** – Barmedman,
  - **Roadside vegetation control of suckers (Spray)** – Alleena Road, Mary Gilmore Way, Kildary Road, Naradhan Road, Wargin Road, Dundas Road, Mandamah Forest Road, Euroka Road, Rankin Springs Road, Wamboyne Road, Blow Clear Road, Dundas Road,
  - **Crown Land boxthorn control** – Old Barmedman Recreation Reserve, Barmedman Showground,
  - **General weed control** – West Wyalong Memorial Cemetery.

#### 7. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE**

- All parks mown and tidied
- Village main streets swept and rubbish removed
- Trees trimmed and fallen branches picked up
- Village entrances and streets mown and trimmed
- All village park play grounds inspected for safety
- Irrigation checks carried out at Barmedman, Tallimba, Ungarie and Mirrool
- New trees planted in Ungarie main st
- Graves topped up with loam after rain

#### 8. **PARK MAINTENANCE**

- Main street gardens tidied, watered and replanted
- McCann park, Barnado park and small parks and areas mown, trimmed and maintained
- Council chambers lawns and gardens maintained
- Aero drome slashing , inspections and Maintenance work carried out
- Parks and gardens yard and sheds cleaned and tided in wet weather
- Annuals planted in parks
- McCann park prepared for Saturday markets

#### 9. **OVALS MAINTENANCE**

- Maintenance to sporting ovals and surrounds
- Maintenance to lawn and monument cemetery
- Maintenance to Herridge park, Cooinda park and Wyalong court house
- Line marking for rugby league, soccer, Australian rules and athletics

#### 10. **TOWN MAINTENANCE**

- Star lane cleaned and tidied
- Town areas mown and trimmed
- Town trees trimmed and watered when needed
- Small pot holes repaired in roads
- Clean out town drains
- Banner changed in main st
- West Wyalong and Wyalong spraying on nature strips carried out
- Foot path repairs carried out
- Back filled low areas on nature strips

## 9.8 Community Services Report

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP3. Nurture a strong sense of community and enrich the cultural life for the residents of the Bland Shire*

**Author:** Community Development Officer

### **CASP Grant application submission**

Bland Shire Council has submitted a Country Arts Support Program (CASP) grant application in the hopes of securing financial assistance for the delivery of a large scale public art mural on the silos in Weethalle.

Thorough extensive consultation with the community and in accordance with the stipulations outlined by Graincorp, (the owner of the silos) we plan to develop a concept for the work that will focus on areas of significance within the local community including its rich history and agricultural ties.

It is hoped that the delivery of a large scale public art project such as this will give the Weethalle community its own product, having the capacity to reinvigorate the community, foster a sense of pride within the community and also provide a significant tourism and economic boost to the area.

### **Local Government Week Initiatives**

As part of Local Government Week activities, Bland Shire Council will be hosting a number of guided tours of the Wetlands for local primary school children. The sessions which will take place on Monday 22 and Thursday 25 August, will provide a valuable insight into the Wetlands project educating our young residents on the cultural, economic, environmental and social benefits of the Wetlands to the community of West Wyalong and the Bland Shire.

Bland Shire Council will also be holding a drawing competition for Primary School aged Bland Shire residents and a Photography competition for Youth within the Shire. The competition is themed around 'what's the best thing about Bland Shire' with young residents asked to submit entries that depict this theme. There will be some fantastic prizes on offer for the most creative entries so it is hoped that a number of submissions will be received.

Council has further extended invitations to local schools to take part in education sessions with a focus on careers for High School students and a local Government education session and mock Council meeting for Primary students. A 'Careers in Council' session will take place on 21 September with students from both West Wyalong High School and Ungarie Central School invited to attend. These sessions have previously been extremely well received by local schools and it is hoped that Council is able to continue its partnership with local schools to deliver these valuable education initiatives.

### **Youth Focus Group**

Bland Shire Council is partnering with West Wyalong High School in the reestablishment of the Bland Shire youth Focus group for 2016. The young people involved in last year's youth focus group were proactive in working with Council in the delivery of youth focused activities and it is hoped a new group of young people will be willing to take on the challenge of assisting Council to deliver new and exciting youth focused initiatives.

### **Carpe Diem**

Bland Shire Council is hugely excited to have partnered with the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) to deliver an extremely valuable mental health focused theatre production to the Bland Shire community on 22 October as part of 2016 Mental Health Month activities. Carpe Diem, which features highly acclaimed and Gold Logie winning actor John Wood, offers an entertaining look at how friendship and proper care can give a man the strength to cope and the tools to carry on. The production offers some key mental health messages while also being highly entertaining. Council further plans to use the event as a valuable fundraiser for local community groups with groups allocated a number of tickets to sell for the event with all proceeds going back to their organisation. It is hoped this will generate some much needed funds for our local community organisations whilst also encouraging community members to attend the event as they will be enjoying a highly entertaining production whilst also supporting local community focused organisations.

### **Community Newsletter**

The August 2016 edition of the community newsletter has just been finalised and directly mailed to all village and rural residents within the shire. The newsletter is a great means of engaging rural Bland Shire residents and provides valuable information on Council activities and initiatives. Areas of focus for the August edition include the recent road forums hosted by Council, election information, information about the Grain Harvest Management Scheme and the announcement of Disaster Assistance for flood effected residents in Ungarie.

### **Facebook engagement**

Through the use of Facebook, Council was able to engage upwards of an incredible 740,000 people during the week of 1 – 5 August with a post related to the recent changes to provisional licences. At the time of writing, over 5800 people from right across the Country had shared Council's post on their own page with that number continuing to rise, which offers a huge level of national exposure for Bland Shire Council. This hugely increased level of exposure further resulted in over 210 people subscribing to Council's Facebook page which ensures these individuals are actively engaging with Council information on a regular basis. Council now has over 1800 people subscribing to our Facebook page which enables us to actively engage all of these people anytime information is posted.

This huge amount of exposure and national engagement gained from Facebook is an extremely cost effective way for Council to connect with our audience as there is no cost at all attached to this specific advertisement.



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Messages

**Page Summary** Last 7 days + [Export Data](#)

Results from Jul 30, 2016 - Aug 05, 2016 Organic Paid

**Actions on Page** July 29 - August 4  
3  
Total Actions on Page ▲200%

**People** July 29 - August 4  
Men 18-24  
Largest Audience (29%)  
Mobile Devices  
Most Common Device (53%)

**Page Views** July 29 - August 4  
2,222  
Total Page Views ▲1,977%

**Page Likes** July 29 - August 4  
216  
Page Likes ▲2,300%

**Reach** July 29 - August 4  
905,990  
People Reached ▲9,026%

**Post Engagements** July 29 - August 4  
295,652  
Post Engagement ▲15,610%

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Bland Shire Council

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**Overview**

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**Boosted Post** Completed  
1,366 People Reached 62 Post Engagements \$20.00 Spent of \$20.00  
Basin, a new Australian play written by a collab...  
Promoted by Rebecca McDonell on 06/23/2016 [Boost Again](#)

[See All Promotions](#)

**Your 5 Most Recent Posts**

Reach: Organic / Paid Post Clicks Reactions, Comments & Shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement	Promote
08/04/2016 3:16 pm	Bland Shire Council shared NSW Electoral Commission's photo.	Image	Public	285	68 0	
08/04/2016 12:20 pm	The August edition of the Bland Shire newsletter is available for download at ht	Link	Public	504	56 3	
08/04/2016 11:11 am	Please be advised that the 3 tonne weight restriction on unsealed roads within	Text	Public	213	6 5	
08/03/2016 9:21 am	Bland Shire Council will hold a free workshop for parents and supervisors of le	Image	Public	662	278 5	
08/02/2016 10:10 am	The NSW Government has announced changes to the graduated licencing sch	Image	Public	745.1K	232.3K 21.6K	

[See All Posts](#)

**Pages to Watch**

## 9.9 Bland Shire Library Monthly Update

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP 3.4 Monitor and provide up to date and relevant resources and programs within the library  
DP 4.4 Provide and monitor quality library services to the aged, people with disability, young people and families*

**Author:** Senior Library Assistant

### **Exhibition - Portraits of War**

Bland Shire Library will host 'Portraits of War' – a travelling exhibition from the State Library of NSW – from October 24 to November 3. The exhibition is an extraordinary and haunting collection of photographic portraits of World War I soldiers from NSW. The portraits capture the faces of men of all ages set against different backgrounds. (Sadly, many of these portraits are the only photos family members have of their sons, fathers and uncles.) Eighty of these portraits form the free exhibition, along with the fascinating story behind the creation of the portraits

### **Giilanggalang Exhibition**

Giilanggalang, Wiradjuri for "many stories," is on display in the library 5 – 19 August. The Exhibition which is a joint project between Riverina Regional Library and Eastern Riverina Arts, is currently travelling throughout the Riverina and showcases the diversity of contemporary Aboriginal arts practiced in our region. The exhibition is a unique collection, featuring over twenty artists working on a miniature scale.

### **Reading Hour**

The Reading Hour – a legacy of the 2012 National Year of Reading – is to be held on Tuesday 16 August 2016 from 6 – 7 pm with the aim of promoting reading and literacy. Bland Shire Library will participate by holding a storytime session in the library for children three to seven years. The event will also feature a teddy bear sleepover. Children will be invited to leave their teddy or other soft toy at the library overnight for a sleepover. Photos of the teddies, in various poses or participating in various activities, will be taken and circulated via Facebook.

### **Children's Book Week**

Bland Shire Library will celebrate Children's Book Week 22 – 28 August. The library has been inundated with competition entries which will be on display in the library during Book Week. Various activities, including the ever-popular Amazing Race, have been organised for visiting schools groups with the library anticipating that between 400 and 500 students will visit the library during Book Week.

### **Tech Savvy Seniors**

The library is currently conducting a Tech Savvy Seniors Program which consists of six, two hour sessions held each Tuesday from 2 August – 6 September 2016. The program which is funded by Riverina Regional Library includes a three part introduction to the Internet, email, cyber safety, sharing photos and attachments online.

### **HistoryPin**

Bland Shire Library will host a visit by Amy Heap, Outreach and Promotions Coordinator, Riverina Regional Library, on Tuesday 6 September in the Council Chambers. The purpose of Amy's visit is to demonstrate HistoryPin – a digital, user-generated archive of historical photos, videos, audio recordings and personal recollections. Users are able to use the location and date of their content to "pin" it to Google Maps. Where Google Street View is available, users can overlay historical photographs and compare it with the contemporary location. This content can be added and explored online and via a series of Smartphone applications. Members of the museum and family history group have been invited to attend however the session is open to the general public.

### **Twisted Science**

Riverina Regional Library is currently coordinating a tour of RRL branch libraries by Melbourne based company The Scientwists. The Scientwists offer a huge range of hands-on science workshops designed to be both educational and fun. Bland Shire Library will host a session by the Scientwists between 3 – 7 October 2016 (day and time to be confirmed).

### **Meeting /Training**

- Senior Library Officer to attend Outreach and Promotions meeting 15 August in Wagga Wagga. The meeting, which has been organised by RRL for branch staff, will address areas such as easy program delivery – how to deliver more maker style programs and how to utilise staff and time better. There will also be the opportunity to share programs and promotions ideas and to work on new ones.
- All Bland Shire Library staff will attend the All Staff Training days – organised by Riverina Regional Library for branch library staff – to be held 12, 13, 16 and 19 September 2016. Training in Libero, social media, Readers' Advisory and cyber safety will be provided. The training will also address any eResources issues.
- South West Zone Library Manager's meeting to be held at Wagga Wagga on Wednesday 28 September 2016.
- CPLA NSW South West Zone meeting to be held at Wagga Wagga on Thursday 13 October 2016.

### **HSC Lock-in**

A HSC Lock-in was held at Bland Shire Library on Friday 5 August 5pm – 8pm. The purpose of the "lock-in" was to allow students studying for the HSC to have uninterrupted access to resources both within the library's physical collection and online. It also gave students the opportunity to study in a safe, comfortable and calm environment in preparation for their exams. Due to the success of the "lock-in" it is anticipated that another HSC Lock-in will be held later in the year.

### **History Talk**

Gerard Leahy gave a history talk at Bland Shire library on Thursday 14 July. Mr Leahy, the author of a two part series "Shirtsleeves to Shirtsleeves in Two Generations", told the story of his family, their part in Australia's rural history and their close connection to the local area and the Melbourne Cup. The history talk, which was held to coincide with the arrival of the 2016 Emirates Melbourne Cup, attracted 70 people.

### **Membership Statistics**

Since joining the Riverina Regional Library network in January 2015, when library members were asked to re-register, Bland Shire Library had (up to the 30 June 2016) registered 1,346 members. 206 new members were registered between January 1 and June 30 this year.

## 9.10 Children Services Monthly Update

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP 4.5 - Provide quality and affordable Family Day Care, Mobile Resource Unit, Vacation Care and Preschool services*

**Author:** Children's Services Coordinator

### **Mobile Resource Unit Playgroup & Ungarie Preschool**

Term three has commenced with a change in venue schedule, adding Tallimba to our playgroup sessions. Attendance numbers have been steady and we have welcomed over five new families to our service. Our programs are reflecting on current events such as Olympics, Fathers day and up coming local show displays.

### **Vacation Care**

We held two weeks of vacation care during the July School holidays. Attendance numbers averaged 13 per day and the excursion to Temora movies was booked out. During the two weeks we visited local emergency services, our HACC service, enjoyed the cold weather with lots of indoor play and created lots of art.

### **Bland/Temora Family Day Care**

All monitoring visits and home safety audits were conducted as per schedule this month. The service has successfully re-applied to participate in the In Home Care Program and we have received two enquiries from families regarding this. In Home Care is a service provided in families own homes by an approved educator that is available to children who meet certain eligibility criteria. Advertising and promotion for this program will commence next month.

### **Bland Preschool**

Bland Preschool welcomed all of the families back from holidays for a busy Term three. Term three consists of organising Father's day craft and show entries, as well as our normal school readiness programs.

All of our Wednesday/Thursday families have all received letters stating that a child with cancer will be returning to preschool. This will be every second week for small durations as he is still undergoing medical treatment in Sydney. Families were asked as per the Bland Shire Council's Children's Services Unit Infectious Policy if their son or daughter is ill or is suspected of having chicken pox, whooping cough, measles or mumps it is very important that he or she does not attend preschool.

**Surveys:** Our 2016 survey has been completed. We received 18 surveys from our 80 enrolled preschool families which was a disappointing result. However the information received was still worthwhile and extremely positive.

Changes implemented from the survey feedback for 2016 include:

- A text messaging services has been implemented
- We are in the processes of setting up an email distribution list to email the daybook out to families however we are still just waiting on all signed notes to be returned before this can happen

- It was identified that more information could be added to the parent handbook including healthy eating terminology and goals etc. Therefore we are in the process of re doing the entire preschool handout which will include a section on healthy eating discussing the terminology used (sometimes and all the time foods), the expectation from families of what to pack. As well as our service goals including sustainability
- We will go back to having a parent information session at the beginning of term one.

### Upcoming Events

- Jeans for Genes day picnic and gold coin donation Thursday 4 August
- Wuruniri multicultural show 24 August
- An Owl's tale 26 August (Friday 3 year old class first show)
- ½ day Show Day 7 September children will attend 9-12
- Library visits
  - Carlie's Wed/Thurs class 14 September
  - Carlie's Mon/Tues class 12 September
  - Ashley's Wed/Thurs class 21 September.

**Staff Training:** Ashley Blackstock and Carlie Iverach will be attending a speech and language seminar in Wagga 10 August. Kate Spackman will be attending an ongoing six week training called 'Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder – Teaching strategies and behaviour support'



## 9.11 Bland HACC Services Update

*Our people*

*Our greatest and most important asset*

*Vision: A strong, healthy, connected and cohesive community*

*DP 1 – Ensure health and support services and facilities address the physical, mental and general health needs of the community*

**Author:** Community Care Coordinator

A busy month including a visit to our Wednesday Activity Day from the children from Vacation Care. It was great to see the kids interacting with the clients and the clients loved to see the energy the children have. The children helped with the activities and played games with some of the clients. The children had morning tea with the group.

The groups have some trips planned as the weather warms up. Some of the planned trips have been put on hold due to wet weather.

Alzheimer's Australia was in town with the memory van on Friday 26 July, they had the van in the Main street near the newsagency. Alzheimer's commented on the number of visitors to the van as they had a line up at some stages.

Alzheimer's Australia presented a talk at the Community Care Centre maintaining a Healthy mind. The talk was well attended with about 40 people. It was good for the attendees to hear what was normal aging and what was something to be concerned about. The group was happy to hear that losing your keys is normal, it is only a problem when you cannot remember what the keys are for.





## 9.12 Development Services Activity Report

*Our leadership*

*Setting a benchmark for community standards*

*Vision: A well run council acting as the voice of the community*

*DP17 Lead the community by example with sustainable, effective, efficient and customer focused practices*

**Author:** Manager Development Services

### Planning and Building Activities Update

#### Development Applications

The Council has received the following Development Applications during July 2016

Application No	Address	Development
DA2017/0001	10 Gorman Street, West Wyalong	Storage shed
DA2017/0002	184 Main Street, West Wyalong	Change of use, construction of pergola and Install two rain water tanks
DA2017/0003	93 Pine Street, West Wyalong	Demolition of an existing dwelling
DA2017/0004	23 Ungarie Road, West Wyalong	Carport
DA2017/0005	9 Court Street, West Wyalong	Tree removal (1)
DA2017/0006	3 Fisher Crescent, West Wyalong	Additions to dwelling
DA2017/0007	94 Neeld Street, Wyalong	Storage shed
DA2017/0008	23 Ungarie Road, West Wyalong	Use of building for light fabrication and vehicle spray painting
DA2017/0009	Adjacent to 132 Main Street, West Wyalong	Use of footpath – Outdoor dining
DA2017/0010	28 Old Hospital Road, West Wyalong	Pergola
DA2017/0011	15 – 17 Mackrell Street, Ungarie	Change of use to residential
DA2017/0012	4 Harvester Avenue, West Wyalong	New dwelling
DA2017/0013	55a Grenfell Street, West Wyalong	Tree removal (1)

The following DA applications were approved during July 2016:

Application No	Address	Development	Approval Date
DA2017/0001	10 Gorman Street, West Wyalong	Storage shed	20/7/2016
DA2017/0002	184 Main Street, West Wyalong	Change of use, construction of pergola and Install two rain water tanks	21/7/2016
DA2017/0003	93 Pine Street, West Wyalong	Demolition of an existing dwelling	26/7/2016
DA2017/0004	23 Ungarie Road, West Wyalong	Carport	28/7/2016
DA2017/0005	9 Court Street, West Wyalong	Tree removal (1)	13/7/2016
DA2017/0006	3 Fisher Crescent, West Wyalong	Additions to dwelling	28/7/2016
DA2017/0008	23 Ungarie Road, West Wyalong	Use of building for light fabrication and vehicle spray painting	28/7/2016

### Complying Development Certificates

The Council has received the following Complying Development Certificate Applications during July 2016:

Application No	Address	Development
CDC2017/0001	1882 Merringreen Road, West Wyalong	Inground swimming pool
CDC2017/0002	60 Queen Street, Barmedman	Double carport

### Planning Certificates

**Twenty five (25)** - s149 planning certificates were issued during July 2016.

### Heritage Conservation Activities

The Heritage Advisor visited Council on 6 July 2016. Work continues on the review of heritage items.

### Public Health Activities Update

#### Food Premises

Council's food premises inspection program for 2015/2016 was completed and the activity report has been submitted to the NSW Food Authority.

### Regulatory Activities Update

#### Dog Attacks

There was **one (1)** dog attack reported during July 2016. Council has issued a Notice of Intention. No Penalty Infringement Notices to date in relation to this matter as the NSW Police have indicated that they may issue fines for the attack.

### Companion Animal Seizure and Impound Activities July 2016

Seizure Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Seized	10	1
Returned to Owner	5	0

Impounding Activities:	Dogs	Cats
Animals in pound at start of month	0	4
Incoming Animals		
Transferred from Seizure Activities	5	1
Dumped at Pound	17	3
Surrendered	5	0
<b>Total Animals in Pound</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>8</b>

Outgoing Animals		
Released to Owner	4	0
Euthanased	0	2
Rehoused	20	2
Sold	0	0
Died at Pound	0	0
Stolen	0	0
Escaped	0	0
<b>Total Animals Leaving Pound</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>
Animals in Pound at end of Month	3	4



## 9.13 Economic Development & Tourism Report - July

*Our prosperity*

*Ensuring a vibrant and sustainable future*

*Vision: Growing our population and jobs*

*DP15.0 The proportion of residents satisfied with the level of economic development support Council provides to the business community*

*DP 16.0 Community satisfaction with the quantity and quality of tourist information and resources provided by Council*

*19.0 Visitors and tourists are welcomed and make a positive contribution to the community economy*

*DP19.1 Work with business and property owners to rejuvenate their businesses and shop fronts and encourage the maintenance of buildings with character*

*DP19.2 Work with the tourism industry to identify and develop products and services that appeal to visitors of the Shire*

*DP19.3 Visitor information is kept relevant and up to date*

*DP20.0 Plan for a range of industries that build on the strengths of the Bland Shire to stimulate investment and employment*

*DP20.1 Encourage and actively seek out business and industry to relocate within the shire*

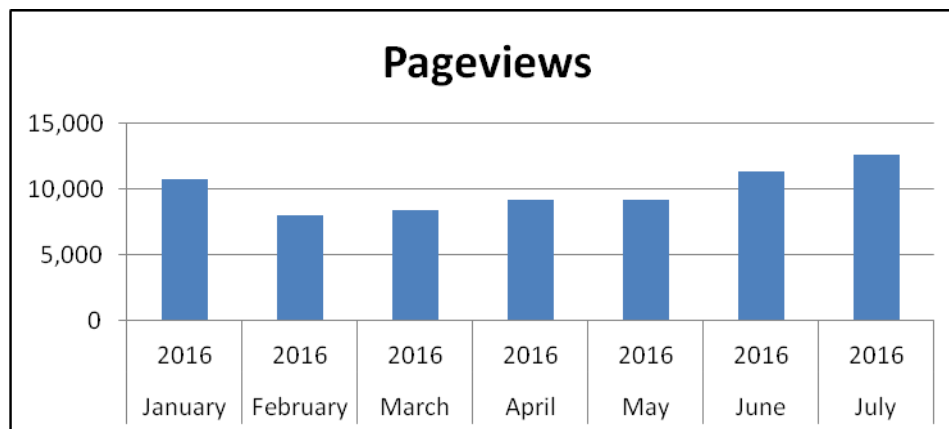
*DP20.2 Have ongoing engagement and communication with the shire's existing and prospective industry and business including diversification into alternate industries/businesses*

*DP20.3 Actively promote the Business Development Assistance to new and existing businesses*

**Author:** Senior Economic Development & Tourism Advisor

### Newell Highway Website Analytics

	January 2016	February 2016	March 2016	April 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016
<b>Pageviews</b>	10,767	8,001	8,434	9,150	9,164	11,328	12,594
<b>Visits</b>	4,104	3,026	3,284	3,527	3,463	4,576	4,569
<b>Visitors</b>	3,101	2,285	2,467	2,667	2,583	3,442	3,488
<b>Desktop</b>	37.7%	44.6%	44.9%	40.2%	41.4%	41.0%	38.6%
<b>Mobile</b>	41.2%	34.1%	35.5%	36.8%	34.2%	36.0%	38.1%
<b>Tablet</b>	21.1%	21.3%	19.6%	23.0%	24.4%	22.9%	23.3%



### The NSW Free Flight Society

The NSW Free Flight Society events that will be held in 2016 include:

- October 1 – 3 the NSW Vintage Power State Championships
- October 29 – 3 November Wings Over West Wyalong

### The Small Biz Bus

The Small Biz Bus will be visiting West Wyalong on Friday 30 September.



### **2016 Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour**

Bland Shire Council was notified by the Victorian Racing Club that we had been selected to host the 2016 Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour on Thursday 14 July. The event was a great success that was made possible by the following organisations:

- Bland Shire Council
- Events West Wyalong
- Business West Wyalong
- Evolution Mining
- GrainCorp
- Royal Freemasons' Benevolent Institution
- West Wyalong Campdraft Committee
- West Wyalong Show Society Incorporated
- NSW Mounted Police
- Wendy's Embroidery







## 2016 Bland Shire Events

DATE	AUGUST EVENTS
Aug 1	Candidate Nominations open
Aug 4	Jeans for Genes day
Aug 1 – 7	Local Government Week
Aug 5	Cancer Support Group
Aug 5-7	Australian Yard Dog Championships
Aug 13	West Wyalong Markets
Aug 21	Weethalle Show
Aug 27	Riding for the Disabled Bush Dance

DATE	SEPTEMBER EVENTS
Sept 4	Barmedman Show
Sept 7	West Wyalong Show
Sept 10	Ungarie Show
Sept 10	West Wyalong Markets
Sept 10	Local Government Election
Sept 17 – 18	West Wyalong Charity Campdraft

DATE	OCTOBER EVENTS
Oct 1	NSW Free Flights Championships
Oct 2	West Wyalong Rodeo
Oct 8	Mirrool Silo Kick
Oct 8	West Wyalong Markets
Oct 15	Barmedman Tractor Pull
Oct 16 – 17	West Wyalong Camp Draft
Oct 28 – 30	In the West Festival
Oct 29 – 30	NSWFFS Wings over West Wyalong

DATE	NOVEMBER EVENTS
Nov 5	West Wyalong Markets

DATE	DECEMBER EVENTS
Dec 2	Business West Wyalong Christmas Carnival
Dec 10	West Wyalong Christmas Markets
Dec 11	Carols by Candlelight

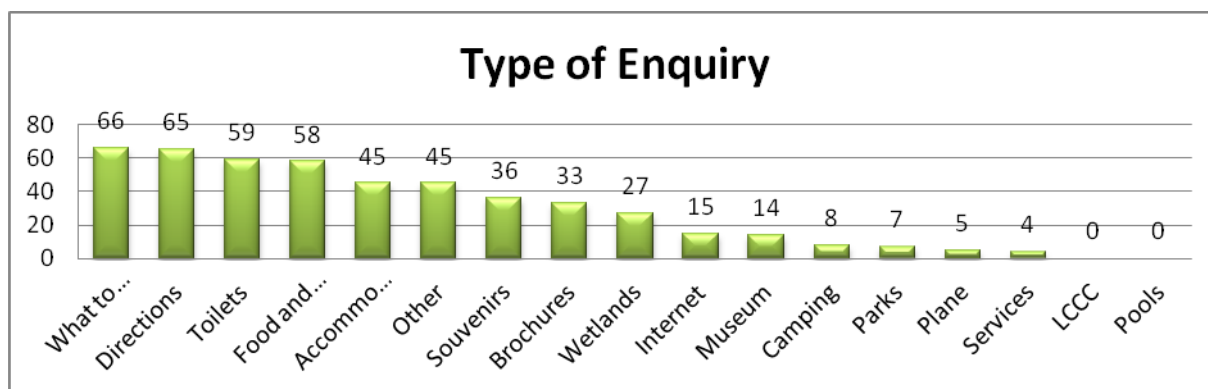
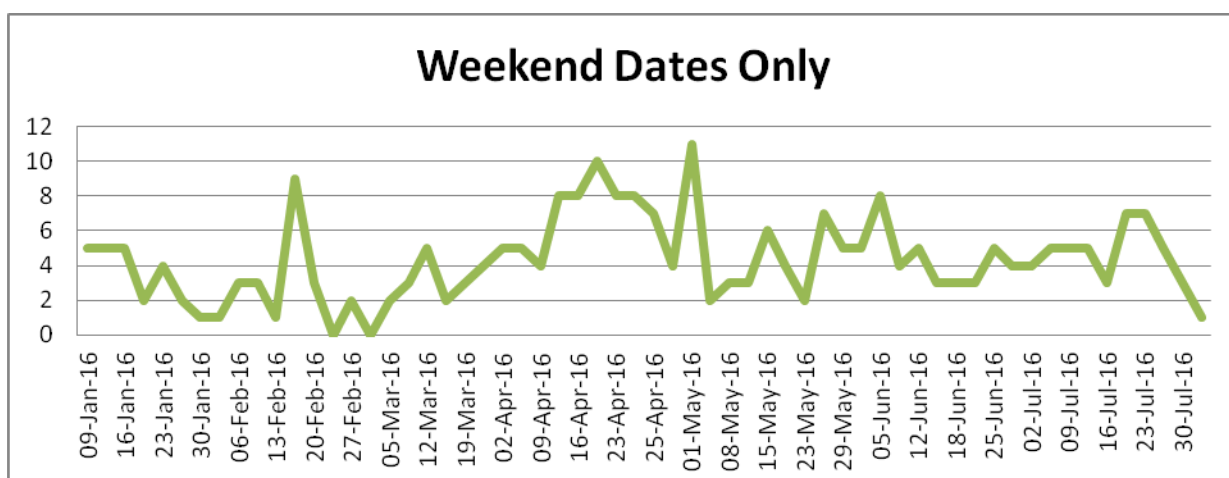
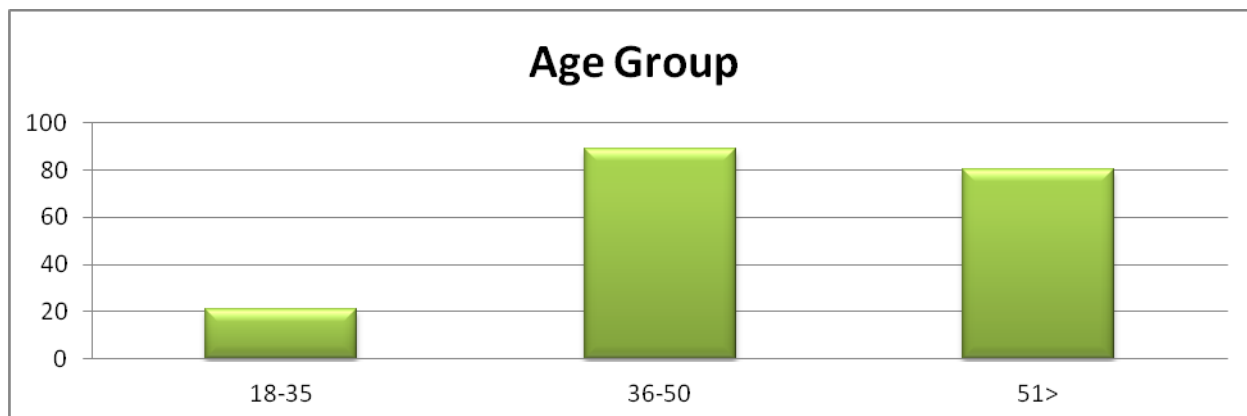
## Resilient & Sustainable Retail Skills Capability Workshops & Consultation Project In The Bland Shire

Bland Shire Council received funding to provide four workshops that were identified through the business survey, health checks that were undertaken by the Central West Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) and the Bland Shire Council. The following workshops and consultation were held from the 4 to 7 July:

- Creating Competitive Visual Merchandising For The Retail Environment
- Social Media & Marketing & Digital Retail Operating Success
- Sales & Service Excellence
- Omni Channel: The First Steps



**VIC Statistics – Period: January to June 2016**



**VIC information during weekdays:**

	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
Visits	135	185	147	210	189	154	118
Calls	20	23	27	19	8	8	11