



ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010



BASE OF THE PYRAMIDS – PORCUPINE GORGE NATIONAL PARK



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FORWARD

Welcome to the Flinders Shire Council's 2009-2010 Annual Report. This reporting requirement is a mandatory obligation under the Local Government Act 2009.

The purpose of this document is to reflect on our achievements and to share with you the challenges, the opportunities and our plans for the future. Flinders Shire Council is proud to reflect on these achievements and looks forward to continuing to build together a successful Flinders Community.

VISION FOR THE SHIRE

The Flinders Shire is a vibrant centrepiece of sustainable activity.

COUNCIL'S MISSION – OUR PURPOSE

Council's mission is to promote quality of life through leadership attitude and respect.

COUNCIL'S CORE VALUES

- Equality of Opportunity
- Local Ownership
- Community Spirit
- Freedom
- Respect for National Symbols
- Pursuit of Excellence
- A Caring Philosophy
- Teamwork
- Law and Order
- Community Development through Education and Training
- Fairness



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009-2010

- Hughenden Sewerage Rehabilitation - completed
- Brodie Street Playground
- Town Street Construction and sealing Refuse Tip Access and Paine Street
- Development New Refuse Tip - Commenced
- New Emergency Services (SES) Facility
- Swimming Pool Landscaping Works
- Community Small Grants Scheme
- Upgrade of Aged Persons Cottages, Hammond Court
- Hughenden Racecourse Improvements
- Upgrade Saleyards Complex
- Contribution "Outback Arena" Centre at Showgrounds
- Showgrounds Outback Arena Fencing and Surface
- Upgrade of main Arena at Showgrounds
- Skate Park Shelter
- Upgrade Street Lighting
- Caravan Park Upgrade Drainage/Roadways

Main Roads Contracts

- Road Maintenance Contract
- Flinders Highway
- Flood Damage Works
- Hann Highway Construction and Sealing works

Shire Roads

- Prairie Road – Tower Hill Creek Floodway
- Basalt Byway Torver Valley Upgrade
- Construct Floodways
- Flood Damage Reinstatement to Shire Road
- General Shire Road Maintenance



SHIRE PROFILE



Flinders Shire Council Chambers
34 Gray Street
HUGHENDEN 4821

Address all Correspondence to –
Chief Executive Officer
Flinders Shire Council
PO Box 274
HUGHENDEN 4821

Email flinders@flinders.qld.gov.au

Web www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Land area	41,422 square kilometres
Annual Rainfall	492mm
Population	1,997
Metres above sea level	324m
Rateable Valuation	\$285,631,220
Net Rate Revenue	\$2,742,766
Gross Actual Revenue	\$27,685,049
Gross Actual Expenditure	\$25,538,125

State Controlled Roads:

Sealed	411.7	Kilometres
Gravelled	132.0	Kilometres
Formed	215.1	kilometres
TOTAL	758.8	Kilometres

Shire Controlled Roads:

Sealed	67.2	Kilometres
Gravelled	285.0	Kilometres
Formed	1187.0	Kilometres
Unformed	710.0	Kilometres
Urban	30.6	kilometres

TOTAL 2279.8 kilometres (lengths of roads in Shire)

Land under Roads does not have a value in Council's Financial Statements.

AUDITOR Moore Stephens, Townsville

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

- The area is famous for high quality discoveries of Dinosaur and Marine Fossils
- Flinders Discovery Centre - Information and Interpretive Centre
- Porcupine Gorge National Park
- White Mountains National Park
- Blackbraes National Park
- Moorinya National Park
- Flinders River - Queensland's longest river flowing through Hughenden
- Kooroorinya Falls Nature Reserve - camping, fishing and race track
- Local Arts and Sculptures in parks and roadways
- Basalt Byway, Flinders River Byway and Eromanga Sea Byway – 4x4 self drive
- Mount Walker Scenic Lookouts over Hughenden and surrounding areas
- Australia's Dinosaur Trail - Themed trail linking Winton, Richmond and Hughenden townships
- Overlander's Way - Themed trail from Townsville to Tennant Creek
- Eco Walk on Flinders - Riverbank Project
- Explorers Tree
- Prairie Park amenities – Old Gaol now Public Toilets and 35 foot Comet Windmill



KOOROORINYA FALLS

Flinders Shire is situated approximately half way between the cities of Townsville and Mount Isa and is named after Queensland's longest river - the Flinders River. The Flinders Shire is divided by the Flinders Highway - now known as the popular tourist drive 'Overlander's Way'. The Flinders Highway runs east and west through the Kennedy Developmental Road - which runs north and south through the Flinders Shire. Encompassing the townships of Hughenden, Prairie, Torrens Creek and Stamford, Flinders Shire has become a major hub for transports and travellers alike.

Lt. Stokes of the "Beagle" discovered the Flinders River on July 30, 1841. In 1863 Ernest Henry was the first person in this area to select a pastoral holding which he named "Hughenden Station" after his Grandfather's Tudor Manor in Buckinghamshire, England. It was from this station the township of Hughenden took its name, however it was not officially surveyed until 1867.

The Flinders Shire has a population of 1,997 residents. Its main industries are cattle, sheep grazing and tourism. The Shire has three prominent geological features. Porcupine Gorge in the north, Flinders River which winds from the White Mountains in the north-east through to the west of the Shire. The Shire was also part of a Great Inland Sea and the centre of Dinosaur Country, home to many fossils including the great Muttaborrasaurus and the Queensland Pterosaur.



The Shire has four different bio-regions with ever-changing eco systems including the Desert Uplands, Einasleigh Uplands, Mitchell Grass Downs and a small portion of Gulf Plains.

While maintaining and improving Council's 2279.8km road network consumes a great deal of effort, Council actively strives to provide its residents with high quality sporting, cultural and recreational facilities.

Major events held in the Flinders Shire include the Annual Hughenden Agricultural Show, Hughenden Country Music Festival, Hughenden Campdraft, Porcupine Gorge Challenge, Hughenden Races and PBR Bull Ride as well as country race meetings held at Stamford, Prairie and Kooroorinya Falls Nature Reserve annually. The Shire welcomes over 15,000 visitors annually through the accredited Visitor Information Centre, The Flinders Discovery Centre.

This Centre houses a full skeletal replica of a Muttaborrasaurus as well as the Porcupine Gorge Light and Sound Show, Shearing the Stragglers display and other fossil and gem collections with some historical memorabilia and much more.

PROMOTION OF FLINDERS – CARAVAN AND CAMPING SHOW, MELBOURNE



MAYOR'S REPORT



The 2009-2010 year continued to be a busy year for our staff with a full Works Program for our outside workforce and additional reporting and planning requirements for our inside staff in addition to their normal duties. I would like to thank the workforce and staff for their attitude and dedication during the year.

The State Government Reform Agenda for Local Government is continuing with the new Local Government Act coming into force on the 1 July 2010. Complying with the new Act and implementing new plans such as the Asset Management Plan and Community Plan has certainly increased the workload on our staff. The reduction in the number of Councillors in this term continues to increase the workload of Councillors as they balance the demands of Council work and their own businesses. We have had Council Meetings with the Mayor and two Councillors present which is not good governance and have had to postpone a meeting for lack of a quorum. This is the first time in my nineteen years on

Council that a quorum has not been present to hold a meeting. We have made representations to the State Government Electoral Act Review Commission to increase the number of Councillors to six.

The upgrade of the Sewerage Scheme in Hughenden was completed during the 2009-2010 year. The project cost approximately \$10.5 million and it is good to have completed the task as it had been planned and lobbied for a number of years. I would like to thank townspeople for tolerating the disruption while this major infrastructure upgrade was occurring around their houses. The project was completed without incurring any debt which is a good result for Council. I would also like to congratulate all staff and contractors for bringing this project to completion.

Road works continue to be a major part of Council business. Work has been completed on the final widening of the Flinders Highway through the Shire. This is in line with Main Roads priority for the Highway which has greatly improved its safety. Sealing works have continued on the Hughenden – The Lynd Road with the Australian Government Strategic Roads to Recovery funding. The current works will result in approximately 115km of this road being sealed. Since the end of the financial year, the State Government has recently announced \$20 million for The Lynd Road, which will seal approximately 70km. This has been a major achievement for the Hann Highway Action Group, Flinders and Etheridge Shires and we will continue lobbying for the full sealing of the road. Further works through the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program, State Government TIDS funding, Flood Damage and Shire Roadworks have meant that our road construction crews have been fully occupied in the 2009-2010 year. Major work on the Hughenden-Winton Road has begun. The Main Roads construction crew Roadtek is working on this road, where they are using flood damage funds, in combination with the \$23 million of rail maintenance savings to upgrade the road. This road has been deteriorating very quickly and this injection of money should certainly return it to an acceptable state.

The relocation of the Hughenden Rubbish Tip is progressing well. Final plans have been approved by DERM and an access road has been constructed. The work on the tip site will commence early in the new financial year. We are hoping to have access to the new Tip around Christmas.



A number of improvements were made to our Parks during the year to improve the sport and recreation opportunities for our residents. Council contributed to the Outback Arena at the Showgrounds which is an exceptional venue for horse-sports and other events that require a large covered arena. The Playground in Brodie Street has had a major upgrade with a funding contribution from the State Government RLIP Program. The Park has been identified as a younger children's park in our park planning. This theme has been implemented with development which includes play equipment, BBQs and a riding and training area for bicycles. The Skate Park has also benefited from a new shelter over the area, and this will certainly encourage use during hotter times. The parks and gardens in the Shire have been very well maintained by our staff and are very welcoming for people entering Hughenden. Funding has been received to employ a Sport and Recreation Officer which will help our local clubs.

**BRENDAN McNAMARA
MAYOR
FLINDERS SHIRE**

**HISTORIC PRAIRIE PUB
PRAIRIE**



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2009-2010 financial year has continued on this extraordinary period of change that is expected to continue for the next few years as the State Government implements the new Local Government Act on the 1 July 2010 along with regulations, Local Laws and various new plans under the State Government's Local Government reform agenda.

With a small team of part time Councillors sharing the work load in representing the community and Council, many challenges have been presented with having fewer members at meetings to present ideas, enter into debate and make decisions without their businesses or work places suffering. The issue of having minimum numbers of Council members available to form a quorum at meetings has also been a challenge.



The high level of contract work to the Main Roads Department has continued to create a significant programming challenge for our construction work force. This challenge of completing a significant roads contracting program along with Council's commitment to upgrading its own road network continues to be met by a dedicated and skilled workforce. Council recognised this need and has implemented a full review of its human resource management system to provide clear direction, training opportunities and career paths to help retain and attract employees.

With the Shire's location at the cross-roads of a number of significant State roads, the short to medium term outlook for a continuation of contract works is very positive. Council's main priority for new construction works on this network is the Kennedy Developmental Road (Hann Highway) - the last section of unsealed road linking Cairns to Melbourne via a truly "Inland Highway". Council along with the community based Hann Highway Action Group continue the Government lobbying process to develop this strategic link. With the current year's Works Program completed there is now approximately

95 kms of the road sealed with 70 kms remaining to be sealed in Flinders Shire. With an ongoing commitment from the State and Federal Government, Council is planning for the link to be fully sealed in the next 5 – 10 years. This will open up many opportunities for the grazing industry, freight companies and tourism.

The completion of the upgraded Hughenden Sewerage Network was completed on budget at a cost of \$10.5m. RMS Engineering and Construction working under our project manager Base iGi Consulting Engineers did an excellent job in retro-fitting the new system throughout Hughenden. The limited number of complaints and issues within the community was a good indication of how successful this project was completed.

With this upgraded sewerage network in South Hughenden, the infrastructure throughout the Shire is generally in reasonable condition. This includes an excellent water supply system to Hughenden and good supplies to the other small towns. Ongoing challenges include the need to treat our water supplies with chlorine and fluoride to comply with current health regulations, consideration of a sewerage system for north Hughenden and a new tertiary sewerage treatment plant.



Council continues to maintain and upgrade the excellent sport and recreation facilities that include a Multi-Purpose Sports/Entertainment Centre, Swimming Complex, Skate Park, Showgrounds Complex and extensive public parks that provide for most community activities. Ongoing plans for upgraded sport and recreation facilities and the appointment of a Sport and Recreation Officer will ensure that Council continues to work with the community for improved recreational facilities. The Council Local Community Small Grants Scheme continues to provide essential capital funding to local groups to help develop their club recreation facilities.

The tourism industry continues to provide an alternate income stream for many local businesses. The Flinders Discovery Centre with its interpretation of the local area - combined with the development of our local parks with its art works and historical interpretation enables visitors to enjoy the areas culture and charm. The *Eco-Walk on Flinders* - a project that provides walking trails and interpretation of the various bio-regions along a section of the Flinders River park land in Hughenden continues to be further developed with local flora. Council is conscious of the local history and will continue to interpret and create our own unique features to attract tourists into the Flinders River park lands. Council is fully committed to ensuring the continued development of our local geographic features and is working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife to help plan the development and promotion of the unique National Parks in our area.

Hughenden's location on the cross roads of major highways, a quality rail and road network, a developing agricultural industry and significant natural attractions, combined with the traditional grazing enterprises, all points to a positive future for the area. With the increased mining exploration for coal seam gas and thermal coal in the Hughenden region combined with planning for a high voltage transmission line through the mid west and development of the Flinders River Agricultural Precinct will create many opportunities for sustainable development. The region has the opportunity to become the renewable energy capital of Australia with plans for wind, solar and green power generation to take advantage of our natural resources and feed into the proposed new electricity grid. Council's challenge is to continue to help set the scene for development by working with the State and Federal Governments to promote the many opportunities for development.

In a time of global recession Council has been lucky to have a significant Works Program that has created employment opportunities in various roles with Council. The local businesses have also been able to share in this economic stimulus through the extra level of works on roads, buildings and the contractors working on projects in the region.

Council will continue to be challenged with maintaining its long term financial sustainability that will always be an ongoing consideration for Council when planning future developments. With continuing effort by Councillors, employees and the community we will achieve the goals and objectives to make the Shire an enjoyable place to work, play and visit.

**STEPHEN McCARTNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



**FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL
COUNCILLORS 2008-2012 (ELECTED MARCH 08)**



**DEPUTY MAYOR
GREG JONES**



**COUNCILLOR
KATHERINE EGAN**



**MAYOR
BRENDAN McNAMARA**



**COUNCILLOR
CLARRIE HAYDON**



**COUNCILLOR
SEAN O'NEILL**



Flinders Shire Council Annual Report 2009-2010

<p>PORTFOLIOS CR BRENDAN VINCENT MCNAMARA Mayor - Flinders Shire "Abbotsford" Station HUGHENDEN 4821 Telephone 07 4741 7115 Facsimile 07 4741 7155 Mobile 0427 417 115 E-mail flindersmayor@bigpond.com</p> <p>Administration and Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit Budget Revenue & Purchasing Loan Raising and Debt Management <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Fast Train Water Infrastructure Industrial Relations <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South-West Quadrant (Winton Road-Hughenden-Muttaborra) South West Quadrant (Winton Road – Flinders Highway) <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flinders Discovery Centre <p>Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stamford <p>Standing Committees (BV McNamara)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Govt Association Qld Executive State and Federal Governments North Qld Local Government Assoc MITEZ Greater Northern Queensland Development Alliance (GNQDA) Australia's Dinosaur Trail <p>Standing Committees (GJ Jones)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WQ Local Government Ass. MITEZ Chamber of Commerce RADF 	<p>CR GREGORY JOHN JONES Deputy Mayor – Flinders Shire PO Box 156 HUGHENDEN 4821 Telephone 07 4741 1154 Facsimile 07 4741 1414 Mobile 0427 411 154 Email gregcarolejones@bigpond.com</p> <p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Radio & TV Facilities <p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Houses Community Housing Chamber of Commerce Home for Aged Persons Intermediate Care Facility Home & Community Care Public Housing Shire Halls – Hughenden & Prairie Library Social Welfare Childcare Education General Cultural Activities Youth Regional Arts Development Fund <p>Council Undertakings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saleyards <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Infrastructure Fast Train All Economic Development Opportunities <p>Plant and Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase Utilisation Maintenance <p>Town Planning and Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Building Inspection & Legislation Plan/ Develop. Control Regulations <p>Workshop and Depot Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Depot Complex Maintenance Workshop 	<p>CR SEAN MICHAEL O'NEILL PO Box 125 HUGHENDEN 4821 Telephone 07 4741 1644 Facsimile 07 4741 1883 Mobile 0400 174 546 Email seanoneill@live.com.au</p> <p>Area Promotion / Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative Tourism Bodies <p>Economic Regional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Infrastructure All Economic Development Opportunities <p>Industrial Relations</p> <p>Public Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerodrome <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-East Quadrant <p>Sport and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Racecourse Showgrounds Diggers Entertainment Centre <p>Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water and Sewerage Operations/Maintenance Water Quality Sewerage Effluent Quality Septic Tank Installation Capital Works Total Management Planning <p>Standing Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North West Outback Queensland Tourism Authority Group NQ Games Foundation 	<p>CR CLARENCE NELSON HAYDON "Penrice" Station PRAIRIE 4816 Telephone 07 47 41 5 194 (h) Facsimile 07 4741 5017 Mobile 0427 417 127 Email penrice.stn@bigpond.com</p> <p>Natural Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noxious Weeds Landcare <p>Parks and Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath Maintenance Street Sweeping Parks and Gardens Operations Town Streets <p>Plant and Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase Utilisation Maintenance <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North West Quadrant <p>Rural Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockroutes and Reserves Council Reserves Pest Management <p>Towns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prairie and Torrens Creek <p>Workshop Depot Operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Depot Complex Maintenance Workshop <p>Standing Committees (CN Haydon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desert Uplands Southern Gulf Catchments Western Qld Local Government <p>Standing Committees (KM Egan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber of Commerce Health Forum 	<p>CR KATHERINE EGAN PO Box 174 HUGHENDEN Q 4821 Telephone 07 4741 0449 Facsimile 07 4741 1061 Mobile 0427 410 230 Email egan.haydon@westnet.com.au</p> <p>Community Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chamber of Commerce Intermediate Care Facility Public Housing Council Houses Community Housing Home for Aged Persons Home and Community Care Shire Halls – Hughenden & Prairie Library Social Welfare Childcare Education General Cultural Activities Youth <p>Council Undertaking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funerals Cemeteries Saleyards <p>Environmental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspections and Administration Immunisation Mosquito & other Vermin Control Public Conveniences Garbage Collection Garbage Disposal Management Bulk Rubbish Collection Waste Management – Recycling Hazardous Waste Litter Control <p>Nuisance Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Control Noise Abatement Air and Water Pollution Overgrown Allotments <p>Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Quadrant (Prairie-Muttaborra) South East Quadrant <p>Sport and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming Pool/Caravan Park
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HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Flinders Shire Council places a high priority in ensuring that it employs a workforce that is responsive to the community's needs. Council recognises that in order to accomplish this, it must invest sufficient funds for training. This ensures that employees are kept up to date with changes to legislation, technology etc. This policy has been successful in that it has built strong relationships between Councillors and employees.

Flinders Shire provides employment to one hundred people in a variety of professions and trades. Teamwork and commitment of the workforce has made many of Council's highlights and achievements possible.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy remains unaltered from the previous year. The Flinders Shire is committed to the Equal Employment Opportunity principles. The Equal Opportunity Management Plan aims to implement employment practices that are based on fairness and equity.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Flinders Shire, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, adopted a Code of Conduct and a Code of Discipline for employees, contractors and consultants in April 1997. The Code of Conduct is now integrated with other Council policies and every employee is provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct at the commencement of employment.

The Code of Conduct is based on these five ethics principles -

1. Respect for the law and the system of Government
2. Respect for persons
3. Integrity
4. Diligence
5. Economy and efficiency

There were no breaches of this code by any Councillors during the 2009-2010 year.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Flinders Shire is committed to ensuring that a healthy and safe working environment is maintained and that employees are not placed at risk while conducting activities for the Council. Council employs a fully qualified Workplace Health and Safety Officer and has an active Safety Committee.



TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council encourages all employees to undertake relevant training. Council is fully aware of the benefits of training employees to help maintain their skills and knowledge. This approach helps to keep employees abreast of the changes in their work environment and relevant legislation and technology.

Some examples of our training programs include-

1. Workplace Health and Safety training
2. Quality Assurance Internal Audit Workshop
3. Workplace Trainer and Assessor Certificate
4. Seminars for Foremen
5. Payroll, Accounting and Local Buy Workshops
6. Internet Based Training
7. Certificate 2 in Horticulture
8. Certificate 3 in Tourism/Administration

AUDIT OF THE STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

In conformity with guidelines prescribed by Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) an audit of Council's Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for water supply and sewerage was conducted by LG Infrastructure Services in August 2008 to determine Council's level of compliance with the Plan.

Aspects examined included documentation, methodology, processes, performance, resources and Customer Service Standards for Water Supply and Sewerage.

The SAMP Audit identified that opportunities exist for Council to further develop its asset management capability and regulatory compliance and has the support of management to do so.

Positive aspects of Council's current position include:

- Possession of a compliant SAMP that satisfies Department of natural Resources and Water's requirements for a SAMP;
- Council commitment to funding replacement and development of new sewerage reticulation schemes;
- Achieving a standard of maintenance with the built water and waste water assets considering their age, skills shortages and limited access to funding;
- Awareness of operational requirements of water and sewerage assets and acknowledgement by the Chief Executive Officer and Council staff that the system although sound, would benefit from additional improvements to performance monitoring.



It was recommended that Council develop a simple Asset Management System in order to comply with its statutory obligations. It is envisaged that current gaps in maintenance data will be addressed with the implementation of the new Asset Management System with subsequent improvements to performance reporting in the future.

Further recommendations related to developing Customer Service Standards, development of operations manuals, applicable staff training, capturing staff knowledge electronically and exploring shared services opportunities with neighbouring Shires.

Council supports the recommendations contained in the Audit Report and is applying internal and external resources towards addressing the issues raised. Council is currently compliant with the requirement and is on track to be fully compliant with State Regulations by 31 December 2012.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue

The total revenue received for 2009-2010 totalled \$27.57m. Main roads contracts and recoverable works formed 54% of the Council's total revenue while 24.56% was from operating grants and subsidies. The rates, levies and charges for the year formed 9.77% of Council's total revenue.

Expenditure

Council's total recurrent expenses for 2009-2010 totalled \$25.54m. Main roads contracts and recoverable works formed 67.85%, while Shire roads formed 16.73% of this expenditure.

General

The financial position of Council is sound with reserves of \$3.75m at the 30 June 2010. Council's financial position remains sound as it is debt free.

Overview of Operations

This review of operations for the year 2009-2010 follows the structure of Council's Corporate Plan to provide a summary of progress towards the achievement of those broad objectives developed in consultation with Shire residents and ratepayers. Expenditure on activities with each strategic objective can be found in the financial statements.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY OUTCOMES

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

GOAL To maintain the rights of electors through fair, equitable and democratic decision-making and by encouraging participation in Council's decision-making process; and

To achieve Council's goals and perform Council's statutory responsibilities through effective and efficient organisational mechanisms and procedures.

Community Advisory bodies that provide advice and information to Council -

- Chamber of Commerce
- Town Beautification Committee
- Hughenden Healthy Communities Group
- State Emergency Service
- Diggers Entertainment Centre Advisory Group
- Saleyards Advisory Committee
- Family History Society
- Regular attendance of senior students at Council Meeting
- Wild Dog Advisory Group
- Annual Review of the Corporate Plan
- Quarterly Reports on Operational Plan
- Use of Councillor Portfolios in forming sub-committees
- Hann Highway Action Group

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

GOAL To administer the affairs of the Council to improve the viability, effectiveness and accountability and to manage and utilise available resources and information systems to achieve maximum community benefit.

- An unqualified Audit Report received for the 2009-2010 financial year
- Continually update Policy Manuals
- Upgrade computer network by contracting CIVICA for new Records Management System (TRIM) and accounting system (AUTHORITY)
- Successful in receiving funding for HR Project

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

GOAL To encourage proper management, development and conservation of man-made resources for the purpose of promoting the social and economic welfare of the community.

- Continual upgrade and improvement to all facilities relating to the tourism sector
- Continuing support to K.T. Australia Tannery which has the potential to be a major employer
- Promote sustainable development of an irrigation scheme on the Flinders River (i.e. Flinders River Agricultural Precinct)
- Continue to lobby Queensland Rail to upgrade the rail services for freight, passengers and loading of cattle
- Development of the Hughenden Industrial Estate- with the sixteen Lots in Stage 1 and 2 lands now sold
- Relocating and offering two houses for sale

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY OUTCOMES

WORKS, ROADS AND DRAINAGE

GOAL To provide efficient access throughout the Shire area through the provision and maintenance of functional, safe and varied land transport infrastructure.

- Development of Rural Roads network with Council, Roads to Recovery and TIDS funding
- Continuation of road restoration works caused by flood damage
- Construction and sealing town streets including McLaren Street (Tip Access) and Paine Street
- TIDS – Prairie Road – Towerhill Creek Floodway

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

GOAL To provide and maintain a healthy and natural environment that is sustainable for future generations and meets community expectations.

- Compliance with Government Legislation
- Coordinated baiting program continued
- Rubbish Tip - Completion of design works and commenced construction

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL

GOAL The provision of community and cultural services, which are accessible and meet the needs of the community.

- Continual development of Parks and Gardens
- Council continues to administer the Community Care Programs with expanded program with Disability Services and Personal Helpers and Mentors Program
- Completed "Eco-Walk on Flinders"
- Interpretive panels Hughenden and Prairie
- Erected "Warilla" Windmill on banks of Flinders River
- Swimming Pool grounds drainage works
- Contribution to "Outback Arena" at the Showgrounds
- Erect shelter over Skate Park area
- Erect new SES Headquarters building



PLAYGROUND BRODIE STREET PARK

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY OUTCOMES

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

GOAL To ensure the proper management of Council's business activities for the social and economic welfare of the community.

- Water and Sewerage – regular programmed maintenance carried out during the year
- Reviewed, adopted and commenced implementing Council's Total Management Plan for Water and Sewerage
- Completion of the refurbishment of the Hughenden Sewerage System with \$4.4m SCAP funding. Total cost \$10.8m
- Caravan Park Road/Drainage Works
- Main Roads Contracts –
 - Heavy Vehicle Parking area on Flinders Highway at Burra Range and Hughenden
 - Flood Damage works
 - Hann Highway construction/sealing works

WORKS DIVISION

GOAL To conduct Council's works related programs on a cost-effective basis through the efficient utilisation of employees, appropriate plant and machinery, resources and sub-contractors.

- Continue to upgrade and replace various items of plant
- Continued use of a computerised plant maintenance system
- Upgraded Stores Office, Overseer and Foreman Office and new Crib Room

SKATE PARK FRENZY





COUNCIL MEETING AND MINUTES

Ordinary Meetings are held monthly from February to December based on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise advertised. Confirmed Minutes are available for purchase at applicable photocopying charges, or are available on the web site www.flinders.qld.gov.au

TENDER MANAGEMENT

All purchasing is conducted in accordance with Part Three of Division 3 of the Local Government Act. No action was taken under Sections 488 and 489 of the Local Government Act during 2009-2010.

REVENUE POLICY

Rates and Charges

General rates are determined in relation to maintaining Council services to an acceptable standard. Water, Sewerage, Cleansing and Wild Dog Charges are determined in relation to maintaining assets and services to the community.

Council Pensioner Concession on Rates

The Pensioner Concession on rates is determined at the adoption of each Budget. It represents Council's intentions to assist Pensioners.

Increase in Rates and Charges

Council considers the following factors in relation to the increase of rates within the Shire-

1. Cost of Living Index
2. Changes in Valuation
3. Economic Conditions
4. LGAQ Local Government Index

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY COMPLAINTS

In compliance with Section 48 *Local Government Act 2009*, the Flinders Shire Council received no complaints that required investigation for its Business Undertakings of Water and Sewerage.



COUNCIL RATE CONCESSIONS

Pensioners

The Council allows a Council Pensioner Remission of 50% on Council Rates and Charges up to a maximum of \$475.00 to all approved Pensioners. Pensioners are also entitled to the State Subsidy of 20% of Rates and Charges to a maximum of \$180.00.

Discount

The Council allows a discount of 15% on Council Rates and Charges if the total amount is paid within thirty days of the rate notice being issued.

Borrowing Policy

The Flinders Shire Council is debt free as at the 30 June 2010. Council did not budget to borrow any funds in the 2009-2010 financial year.

Council Registers

The following Registers are available for inspection at the Council Office-

1. Register of Delegations
2. Register of Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws
3. Register of Commercial Charges
4. Register of Regulatory Fees
5. Impoundment Register
6. Council Meeting Minutes
7. Cemetery Register
8. Annual Report

All documents are subject to a \$5.00 charge.

Overseas Travel

During 2009-2010 no Councillor or employee undertook any work related overseas travel.



REMUNERATION PAID TO COUNCILLORS

COUNCILLOR	COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDED	OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED	ALLOWANCE \$	TRAVEL \$	TOTAL \$
Mayor Cr B.V. McNamara	11	113	57,810.06	-	57,810.06
Deputy Mayor Cr G.J. Jones	9	58	25,690.02	-	25,690.02
Cr C.N. Haydon	9	15	19,270.02	2,156.00	21,426.02
Cr S.M. O'Neill	9	23	19,270.02	-	19,270.02
Cr K.M. Egan	10	44	19,270.02	-	19,270.02
TOTAL			141,310.14	2,156.00	143,466.14

Local Government (Finance, Plans and Reporting) Regulation 2010 - Chapter 3 Financial sustainability and accountability - Part 3 Planning and accountability documents- s114 Councillors

- a) As above.
- b) There were no contributions to a superannuation benefit fund for Councillors during this period.
- c) All Councillors received a Laptop at a total cost of \$3,675. This total amount includes licences and configuration.
- d) The Local Government's Expenses reimbursement Policy has been entered onto the website.
- e) Number of meetings each Councillor attended 2009-2010 – Refer Item (a).
- f) There were no orders and recommendations made under section 180(2) or (4) of the Act (*Disciplinary Action*).
- g) Each of the following during the year—
 - (i) the name of each Councillor in relation for whom an order or recommendation was made under section 180 of the Act or an order was made under 181 of the Act;
 - (ii) a description of the misconduct or inappropriate conduct engaged in by each of the Councillors;
 - (iii) a summary of the order or recommendation made for each Councillor.

Nil
- h) There were no complaints about the conduct or performance of Councillors assessed as frivolous or vexatious under section 177(4) of the Act.



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR

(a) Services rendered as a Consultant

Various Engineering Projects	\$ 51,953.49
New Refuse Tip	\$ 10,653.59
Water	\$ 17,473.65
Roads	\$ 10,203.65
Purchasing Review	\$ 6,844.55
Sewerage	\$ 184,744.85

(b) Entertainment and hospitality \$ 7,455.00

(c) Advertising \$55,347.51

(d) Grants to Community Organisations \$70,793.92



WORKING ON THE OUTBACK ARENA - SHOWGROUNDS



NOTE ON RESERVES AND CONTROLLED ROADS –

(a) Land that is a Reserve under the Land Act 1994

RESERVE	DESCRIPTION OF RESERVE	AREA	LEASED
Stamford	Camping Water and Road Reserve	3362ha	Yes
15 Mile	Pasturage Reserve	1611ha	Yes
Torrens Creek	Reserve for Stock Trucking	1810ha	Yes
Prairie	Reserve for Stock Holding Paddock	319ha	Yes
Hughenden Town			
Common/Tailing Paddock	Pasturage Reserve	2415ha	Agisted/Rented
Prairie Common	Reserve for Pasturage	540ha	Agisted
<u>CEMETERIES</u>			
Cemetery (Hughenden)	Cemetery Reserve	10.6ha	No
Cemetery (Prairie)	Cemetery Reserve	2.023ha	No
Cemetery (Torrens Creek)	Cemetery Reserve	2.023ha	No
<u>RACECOURSES</u>			
Hughenden Racecourse	Reserve for Racecourse and Recreation	242ha	Partly Rented
Stamford Racecourse	Racecourse Reserve	64.75ha	No
Prairie Racecourse	Reserve for Racecourse	80.942ha	No
<u>AERODROME</u>			
Hughenden Aerodrome	Reserve for Landing Ground Aircraft	305.4ha	Partly
<u>RECREATION</u>			
Torrens Creek (Golf Course and Cricket Field)	Reserve for Recreation	44.2ha	No
Prairie Cricket Field	Reserve for Recreation	6.74ha	No
Driver Reviver	Reserve for Park and Recreation	2.39ha	No
Bully Playford Park	Reserve for Park and Recreation	2.83ha	No
<u>RUBBISH TIPS</u>			
Rubbish Tip (Torrens Creek)	Reserve for Local Government Purposes	2ha	No
Bedford Street			
Torrens Creek Rubbish Dump - Russell Street	Reserve for Rubbish Depot	2.023ha	No
Flinders Highway at Torrens Creek	Sanitary Reserve	2.023ha	No
Prairie Rubbish Tip	Reserve for Sanitary	2.023ha	No
	Reserve for Local Government Purposes		
Hughenden Rubbish Tip		11.72ha	No

(b) Roads not owned by Council

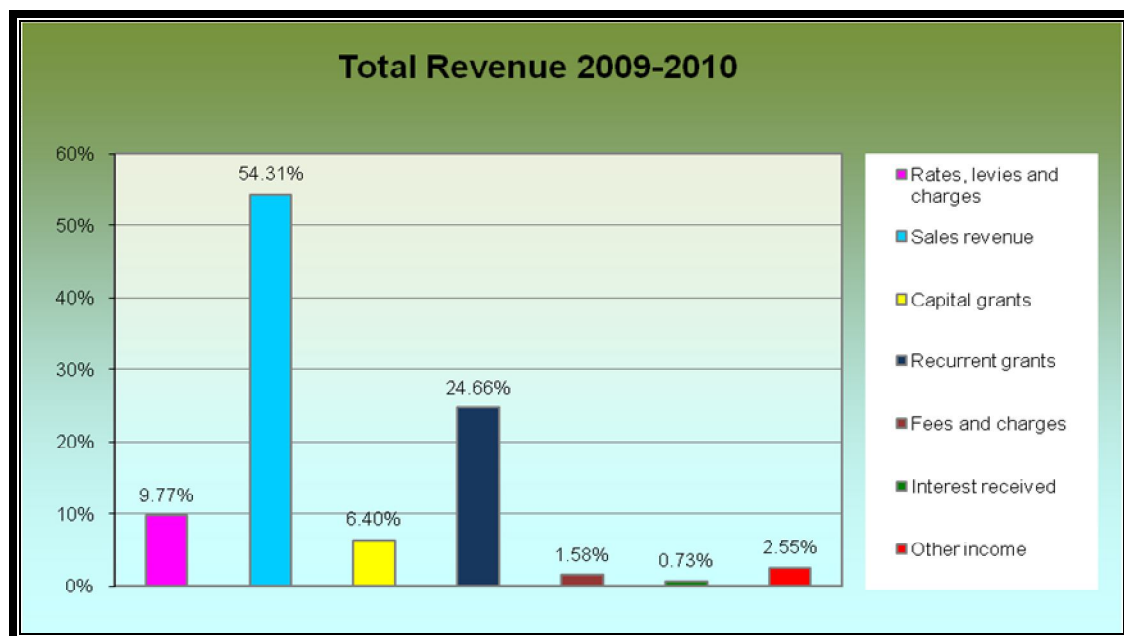
Nil



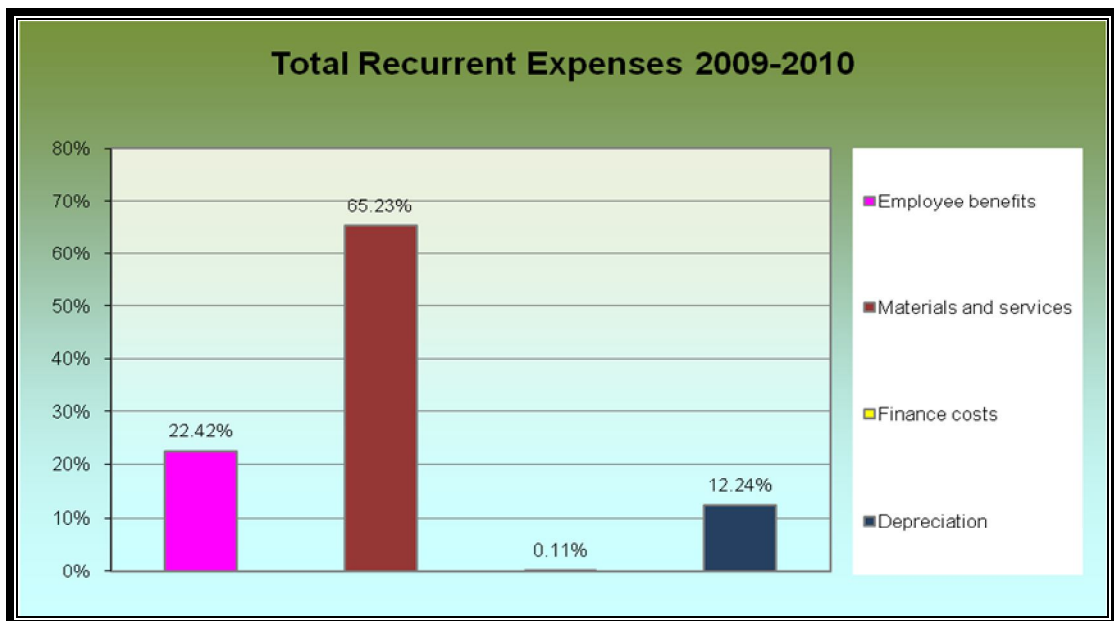
COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT ON COUNCIL OPERATIONS 2009-2010

Council finished the 2009-2010 financial years in a balanced position after turning over \$27.57m in total revenue. The following graph illustrates the main revenue sources by line item in the statement of comprehensive income.

This simple view clearly illustrates Council's reliance on sales revenue totalling \$14.98m. A large amount of sales revenue is sourced through contracts and recoverable works from the Department of Main Roads. Government grants totalled \$8.57m. Rates, levies and charges formed only a small part of Council's total revenue.



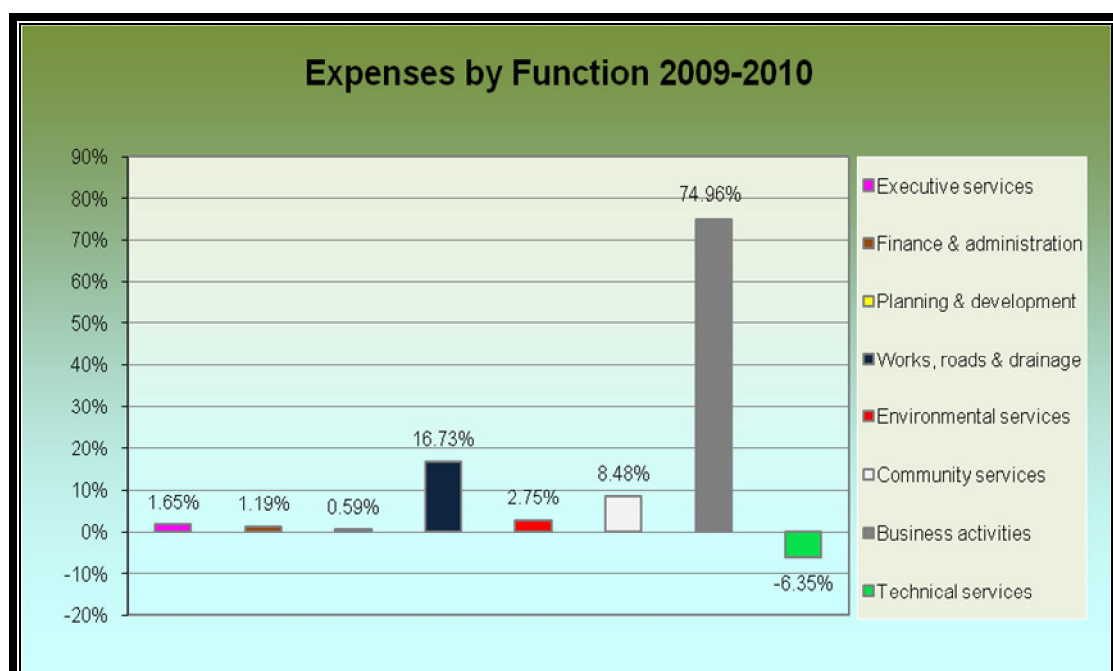
Total recurrent expenses for the 2009-2010 financial year was \$25.54m. Materials and services amounted to \$16.66m of Council's expenses. Council currently has no debt so finance costs comprise only of bank fees and charges. Employee benefits amount to \$5.72m of Council's expenses. The level of expenditure is reviewed and set in the annual budget, which is constantly monitored throughout the year. Target indicators are set for various departmental sectors and reported to Councillors quarterly via an operational plan.



The graph below shows Council's expenses by business function. A significant portion of Council's total recurrent expenses are attributed to the business activities function which comprises water, sewerage, airport, saleyards, Caravan Park, Main Roads contract works, private works and the Flinders Discovery Centre. 90.5% of business activities expense \$19.14m was incurred as a result of Main Roads contract works.

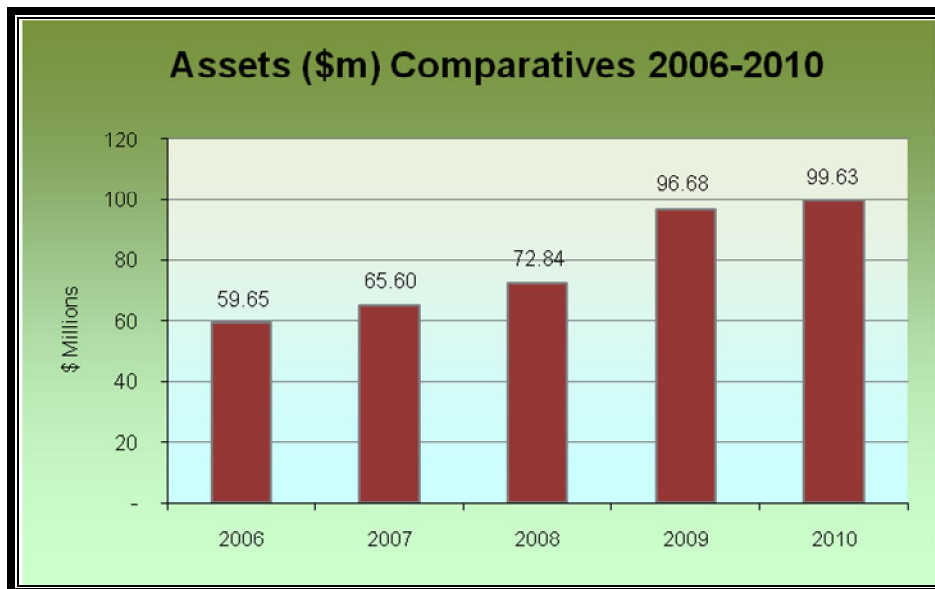
Works, roads and drainage function represents maintenance and construction of Shire roads including flood damage works. Technical services area includes workplace health and safety, store, workshop and depot and plant. The negative indicates that we recovered all expenses through overheads.

The major areas under the community services function include HACC, Community Care Packages, Meals on Wheels, Veterans Home Care, Disability Services, Personal Helpers & Mentors Program, community halls, swimming pool, showgrounds, parks, reserves, skate park, employee housing, aged housing, state emergency services and the library.

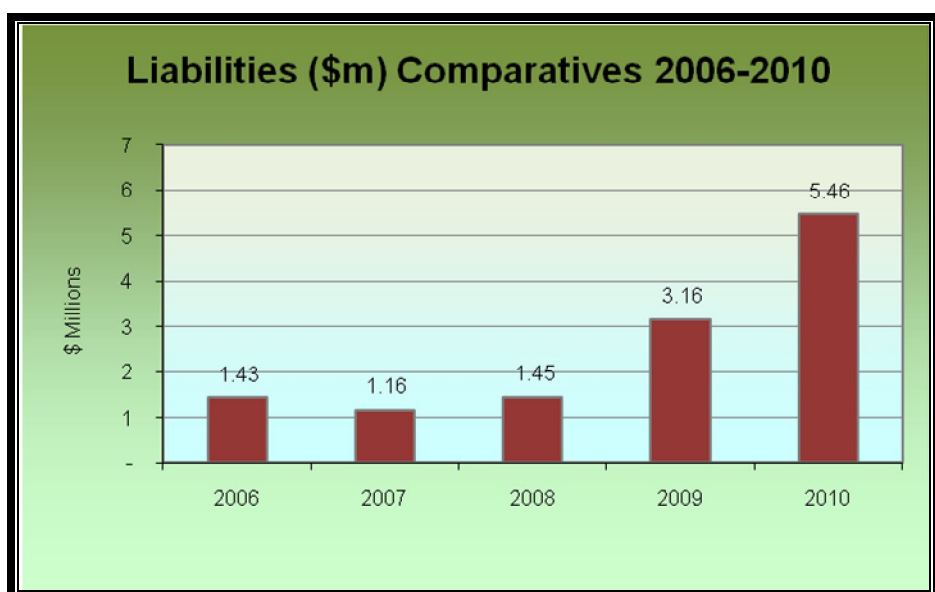




Total assets comprised of \$99.63m, total liabilities of \$5.46m and Council continues to remain debt free. This provides Council with the flexibility to borrow funds for future infrastructure needs. Council's upgraded sewerage reticulation valued at \$10m was capitalised in 2010. Council also revalued some of its asset classes and a significant impairment was recognised for road assets due to flood damage.



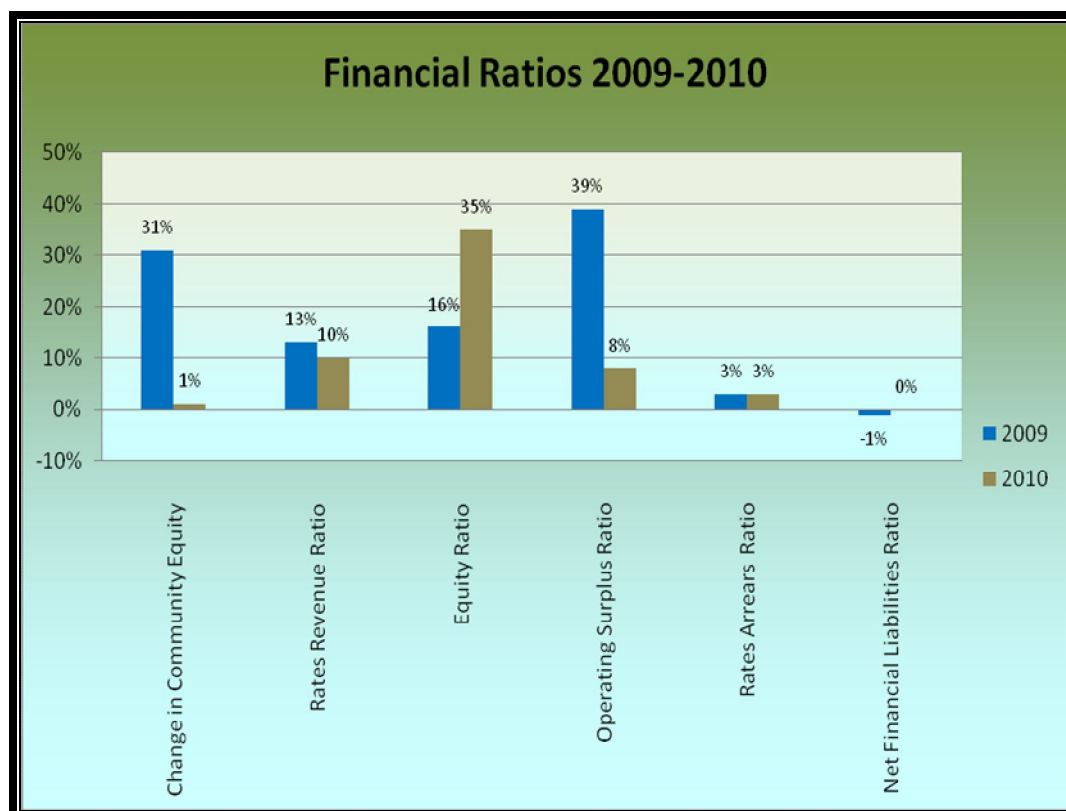
The increase in liabilities is attributable to the increase in main roads construction works and related trade and other payables at the 30 June 2010.





FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – FINANCIAL RATIOS 2009 - 2010

The following ratios help explain the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2010.



Change in Community Equity Ratio

This ratio represents the percentage change in the net wealth of the Council. The change in community equity is calculated as current year total community equity less prior year total community equity divided by prior year total community equity. The large decrease in community equity in 2010 shows there was little in the ratio for 2009-2010.

Rates Revenue Ratio

This ratio represents the proportion of revenue that is directly sourced from Council's ratepayer base. The rate revenue ratio is calculated as net rates and charges revenue divided by total recurrent revenue.

Equity Ratio

This ratio shows current liabilities as a percentage of convertible current assets. The significant increase in the equity ratio for 2010 was attributed to the of the sewerage assets.

Operating Surplus Ratio

This ratio is an indicator of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes. The operating surplus ratio is the operating surplus (deficit) expressed as a percentage of general and other rates net of (excluding) rebates. The operating surplus ratio is calculated as net operating surplus divided by total operating revenue. Council's decrease in this ratio is a result of accounting for grants received in prior years being in reserves.



Rate Arrears Ratio

This ratio calculates the percentage of net rates and charges receivable to net rates and charges revenue.

Net Financial Liabilities Ratio

This ratio is an indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of Council can be serviced by its recurrent revenue. A ratio of greater than 0 (positive) indicates that Council's total liabilities exceed its current assets. These net liabilities must be serviced using recurrent revenues. A positive value less than 60% indicates Council has the capacity to fund the liabilities and appears to have the capacity to increase its loan borrowings.

Working Capital Ratio

This ratio is not shown in the graph as it is not expressed as a percentage as it measures the extent to which Council has liquid assets available to meet short term financial obligations. The working capital ratio is calculated as current assets divided by current liabilities. The working capital ratio for 2009 was 6.24 times and 3.49 times in 2010. The ratio for 2010 suggests that Council had current assets 3.24 times its current liabilities.

IRRIGATED LAND – RIVERVIEW STATION, HUGHENDEN





LIST OF PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2010-2011

The following list of projects proposed the following year provides an indication of the variety of works Council undertakes to improve the quality of life of all residents.

\$

MRD - Road Maintenance Contract	1,825,000
MRD - Flood Damage Works	1,000,000
Hann Highway Construction and Sealing Works	3,000,000
Rural Road Network Upgrade Works	560,000
Prairie Road - Construction & Seal Kooroorinya Section	380,000
Dutton Downs Road - Bean Tree Wall Upgrade	187,000
Construct Floodways	61,000
Flood Damage Reinstatement to Shire Roads	3,000,000
General Shire Road Maintenance	889,000
Shire Road Reseals	332,000
Town Street Construction Works	342,000
Footpath Works Hughenden	50,000
Complete Development of New Refuse Tip	250,000
Completion of Brodie Street Playground	50,000
State Emergency Service (SES) Facility Upgrade Works	20,000
Caravan Park Upgrade Works	40,000
Staff Housing Upgrade Works	160,000
Upgrade Water Bore Pump Switchboards	35,000
Depot Building Upgrade Works	200,000
Swimming Pool Facilities Upgrade Works	80,000
Robert Gray Memorial Park -Exercise Equipment/Lighting	100,000
Street Lighting Upgrade	15,000
Community Small Grants Scheme	40,000
Cemetery Access and Lawn Section Development	70,000
Fleet Upgrade	1,270,000



HUGHENDEN SALEYARDS



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HUGHENDEN 4821

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