



ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009



SUNSET OVER MOUNT WALKER



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FORWARD

Welcome to the Flinders Shire Council's 2008-2009 Annual Report. This reporting requirement is a mandatory obligation under the Local Government Act 1993.

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



JARDINE VALLEY RESEAL

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-2009

- Hughenden Sewerage Rehabilitation commenced
- Upgrade of Gray Street Pavement

- **Main Roads Contracts**
 - RMPC
 - Flinders Highway East
 - Flood Damage
 - Hann Highway Network Upgrade Works

- **Shire Roads**
 - Prairie-Muttaborra Road - Tower Hill Creek Floodway
 - Hughenden-Muttaborra Construction Sealing Works
 - Basalt Byway – Torver Valley Upgrade
 - Construct Floodways Sloanes/Rockwood/Landsborough
 - Flood Damage Reinstatement to Shire Roads
 - General Shire Road Maintenance
 - Upgrade Facilities Caravan Park
 - Erect 35ft Comet Windmill Hughenden and Prairie
 - New SES Facility commenced
 - New Public Toilet Torrens Creek
 - Community Small Grants Scheme
 - Upgrade of Aged Persons Cottages, Hammond Court
 - Hughenden Upgrade Saleyards Complex
 - Hughenden Racecourse Improvements
 - Contribution “Outback Arena” at Showgrounds
 - Upgrade Main Arena Showgrounds
 - Relocate three houses into Hughenden
 - Purchase four Units – 67 Brodie Street, Hughenden
 - Development new Refuse Tip commenced
 - Upgrade Street lighting



SUN DIAL/ROTUNDA AT Q150 PARK 'ECO WALK ON FLINDERS'



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	350mm – 450mm
Population	1,997
Metres above sea level	316m
Rateable Valuation	\$286,173,380
Net Rate Revenue	\$2,249,712
Gross Actual Revenue	\$23,575,078
Gross Actual Expenditure	\$16,313,043

State Controlled Roads:

Sealed	393.7 kilometres
Gravelled	150.0 kilometres
Formed	215.1 kilometres
TOTAL	758.8 kilometres

Shire Controlled Roads:

Sealed	65.4 kilometres
Gravelled	285.0 kilometres
Formed	1187.0 kilometres
Unformed	710.0 kilometres
Urban	29.6 kilometres
TOTAL	2277.0 kilometres (lengths of roads in Shire)

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

AUDITOR **Moore Stephens**
Townsville



WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

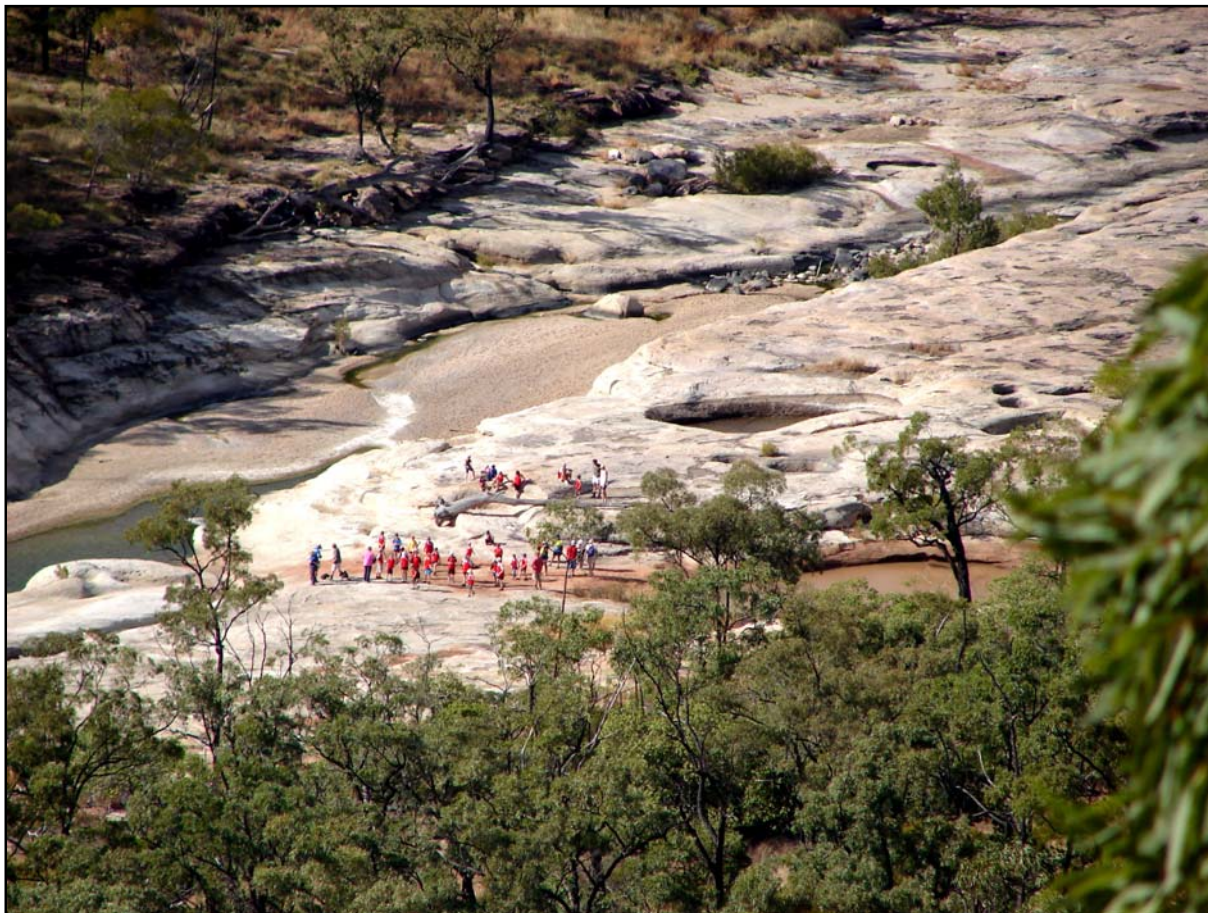
- The area is famous for high quality discoveries of Dinosaur and Marine Fossils
- Flinders Discovery Centre - Information and Interpretive Centre
- Porcupine Gorge National Park
- White Mountains National Park
- Blackbraes National Park
- Moorinya National Park
- Flinders River - Queensland's longest 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

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 1,871 residents. Its main industries are cattle and sheep grazing and tourism. The Shire has three prominent geological features. Porcupine Gorge in the north, the 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 is the centre of Dinosaur Country - home to many fossils including the great Muttaborrasaurus and the Queensland Pterosaur.



PORCUPINE GORGE CHALLENGE – JUNIOR START

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 2,277 kilometre 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, 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.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The 2008-2009 year was another productive year for Council with a number of projects being worked in addition to our core activities. I would like to thank the workforce for their attitude and dedication which enables us to meet our schedules and goals.

The State Government reform agenda for Local Government is continuing with the review of the Local Government Act and Regulations still progressing. It is expected that the new Act and Regulations will take effect by the end of the 2009-2010 financial year. The reduction in the number of Councillors in this term has significantly increased the workload of Councillors as they balance the demands of Council work and their own businesses. With continuing reforms of Local Government this will not change in the future.



MAYOR, BRENDAN MCNAMARA
AND STEPHEN MCCARTNEY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The upgrade of the Sewerage Scheme in Hughenden has at last commenced and should be completed by December 2009. The program is expected to cost around \$10 million, with \$4.4 million provided by the State Government. The balance of funding will be provided from Council reserves and borrowings if necessary. The project has progressed well when you consider the major disruption that it has caused home owners as sewerage mains have been laid through their house blocks.

The Flinders Shire was part of the exceptional rain event at the start of 2009. Some flooding occurred, however, the majority of the Shire is near the headwaters of the river and creek systems and we don't experience the inundation that occurred in the lower Gulf. Food drops were necessary to assist graziers on isolated properties. Emergency road repairs were carried out with further flood damage repairs still to be completed.

Roadworks continue to be a major part of Council business. Work is continuing on widening the Jardine Valley section of the Flinders Highway. This is the last major section of the Highway to be widened and will greatly improve the safety of the Highway. Sealing works have continued on the Hughenden–The Lynd Road with the Australian Government Strategic Roads to Recovery funding. When this funding is spent by mid-2010 almost half of the Hughenden–The Lynd Road will be sealed. Council has continued its involvement in the Hann Highway Action Group which is lobbying to obtain further funds to seal the road. Further works through The Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program, State Government TIDS funding, Flood Damage and Shire Road Works have meant that our road construction crews have been fully occupied in the 2008-2009 financial year.

The upgrade of the Hughenden – Winton Road will commence soon. An agreement has been reached between Queensland Transport, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Flinders Shire and Winton Shire to remove the railway line and invest \$23 million of the rail maintenance savings into upgrading the Hughenden – Winton Road. This money will be fast tracked to be spent over five years. Work has already commenced with major flood damage repairs from the wet season early in the year. This upgrade will save this asset which was deteriorating very quickly.



The process of relocating the rubbish tip in Hughenden is progressing well. Land has been acquired from Department of Environment & Resource Management (DERM) and a detailed design is being drawn up for approval by the EPA before construction can commence. Major expenditure will be incurred on sealing the access road and constructing the tip infrastructure, but the long term outcome will be much better waste disposal for the residents of Hughenden

Tourism initiatives have continued during the year, as Council continues its efforts to attract and retain visitors to the Shire. The Q150 Project on the northern bank of the Flinders River has been completed and was opened in June when the Q150 steam train travelled through Hughenden. This project interprets three of the Shire's four bioregions and has included major tree plantings and some exceptional artwork by local resident, Les Carter. A thirty-five foot Comet windmill has been erected on the banks of the Flinders River. The preservation of this size windmill is important as there were only fifteen constructed and three operated in the Flinders Shire. The National Parks and Wildlife need to be congratulated on their upgrade of the camp facilities at the Porcupine Gorge National Park camp ground. Council continues to work with local graziers to obtain access to the White Mountains National Park.

BRENDAN MCNAMARA
MAYOR
FLINDERS SHIRE



ECO WALK ON FLINDERS PERGOLA – Q150 PROJECT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2008-2009 financial year has seen the continuation of a period of changes expected to continue for the next few years as the State Government looks to implement a whole raft of legislation that will impact on Local Government operations.

After the March 2008 Elections, Council now consists of four Councillors and a Mayor which now creates a number of challenges for Councillors in managing their roles. Being only paid for a part time role the reduced numbers have required all Councillors to spend more time in sharing the workload in representing both the community and Council. This is a role that presents many challenges in not only having fewer members at meetings to present ideas, enter into debate and make decisions but being able to represent their community without their businesses or work places suffering. With the new Local Government Act due to be implemented, along with new regulations, local laws and various new plans under the State Government's Local Government reform agenda, we will continue to have an interesting period of change.



STEPHEN McCARTNEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

With the Federal Government's Roads to Recovery Program, the Auslink Strategic Roads Program on the Hann Highway and the high level of contract work to the Main Roads Department has continued to create a significant programming challenge for our construction workforce. 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.

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 Hann Highway (The Lynd Road) - 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. The current Works Program will see approximately 100km of the road sealed with 65km remaining to be sealed in our Shire by mid 2010.

Flinders Shire Council infrastructure is generally in reasonable condition with an excellent water supply system to Hughenden and good supplies to the other small towns with the only main issue being low pressure. It is of a very good quality with virtually an unlimited supply from sub-artesian bores.

The construction of the new Hughenden Sewerage Network valued at approximately \$10.5m finally commenced with RMS Engineering and Construction undertaking the project with Base iGi Consulting Engineers overseeing the project. Council will be funding the project with State Government Grants of \$4.3m, a loan of \$1m and the balance from Council reserves. The project is well underway with the contractors working well with the community in retro-fitting the new system throughout town. The



project is on track to be completed by late December 2009 and thereby providing Council with an essential piece of infrastructure that will serve the community for many years.

Council has an excellent Multi-purpose Sports/Entertainment Centre, Swimming Complex, Skate Park, Showgrounds Complex and extensive public parks that provide for most community activities. The recent completion of the "Outback Arena" - an undercover equestrian facility helps consolidate these facilities. With a whole of Shire Sport and Recreation Plan and a Hughenden Showgrounds Master Plan, Council will continue to work with the community for improved recreational facilities. The Council Local Community Grants Program has provided a further stimulus to local groups to help develop their club's 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.

Council with the State Government's Q150 funding recently completed the *Eco-Walk on Flinders* - a project that provides walking trails and interpretation of the various bio-regions along an 800m section of the Flinders River parkland in Hughenden. The recent erection of a thirty-five foot comet windmill on the banks of the Flinders River continues Council's efforts to retain the history of the area and provide unique features to attract tourists into the Flinders River parklands. Council is also committed to ensuring the continued development of our local features and is working with Queensland Parks and Wildlife to help plan the development and promotion of the unique National Parks in our area.

With Hughenden's location on the crossroads 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. Council's challenge is to help set the scene for development by working with the State and Federal Governments to promote the many opportunities for development such as irrigation with the abundant waters of the Flinders River, the unique National Parks and the towns location for industrial/commercial developments.

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 the sewerage project.

The main challenge facing Council will be to maintain our long term financial sustainability that will always be an ongoing consideration for Council when planning future developments. With a conscientious effort by Councillors, employees and the community we can continue to achieve the goals and objectives to make the Shire an enjoyable place to work, play and retire.

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
2008-2009

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

Administration and Finance

- Audit
- Budget
- Revenue & Purchasing
- Loan Raising & Debt Management

Economic Development

- Strategic Planning
- Fast Train
- Water Infrastructure

Industrial Relations

Roads

- South-West Quadrant (Winton Road-Hughenden-Muttaborra)
- South West Quadrant (Winton Road -Flinders Highway)

Tourism

- Flinders Discovery Centre

Towns

- Stamford

Standing Committees (BV McNamara)

- Local Govt Association Executive
- State & Federal Governments
- North Qld Local Government
- MITEZ
- Greater Northern Queensland Development Alliance (GNQDA)

Standing Committees (GJ Jones)

- WQ Local Government Ass.
- MITEZ
- Chamber of Commerce
- RADF

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

Communications

- Community Radio & TV Facilities

Community Services

- 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

Council Undertakings

- Saleyards

Economic Development

- Water Infrastructure
- Fast Train
- All Economic Devel. Opportunities

Plant and Equipment

- Purchase
- Utilisation
- Maintenance

Town Planning and Building

- General Building Inspection & Legis.
- Plan/ Develop. Control Regulations

Workshop and Depot Relations

- Council Depot Complex
- Maintenance Workshop

CR SEAN MICHAEL O'NEILL
PO Box 125
HUGHENDEN 4821
Telephone 07 4741 1644
Facsimile 07 4741 1883
Mobile 0428 411 644
Email seanoneill@live.com.au

Area Promotion / Tourism

- Radio Segment
- Representative Tourism Bodies

Economic Regional Development

- Water Infrastructure
- All Economic Development Opportunities

Industrial Relations

Public Transport

- Aerodrome

Roads

- North-East Quadrant

Sport and Recreation

- Racecourse
- Showgrounds
- Diggers Entertainment Centre

Utilities

- Water and Sewerage Operations/Maintenance
- Water Quality
- Sewerage Effluent Quality
- Septic Tank Installation
- Capital Works
- Total Management Planning

Standing Committees

- North West Outback Queensland Tourism Authority Group
- NQ Games Foundation

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

Natural Environment

- Noxious Weeds
- Landcare

Parks and Gardens

- Footpath Maintenance
- Street Sweeping
- Parks and Gardens Operations
- Town Streets

Plant and Equipment

- Purchase
- Utilisation
- Maintenance

Roads

- North West Quadrant

Rural Services

- Stockroutes and Reserves
- Council Reserves
- Pest Management

Towns

- Prairie and Torrens Creek

Workshop Depot Operations

- Council Depot Complex
- Maintenance Workshop

Standing Committees (CN Haydon)

- Desert Uplands
- Southern Gulf Catchments
- Western Qld Local Government

Standing Committees (KM Egan)

- Chamber of Commerce
- Health Forum

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

Community Services

- 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

Council Undertaking

- Funerals
- Cemeteries
- Saleyards

Environmental Health

- 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

Nuisance Control

- Animal Control
- Noise Abatement
- Air and Water Pollution
- Overgrown Allotments

Roads

- South Quadrant (Prairie-Muttaborra)
- South East Quadrant

Sport and Recreation

- Swimming Pool/Caravan Park



BRODIE STREET REDEVELOPMENT

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 ninety 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 2008-2009 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 Workplace Health and Safety Officer.



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 11 in Horticulture
8. Certificate 111 in Tourism/Administration

AUDIT OF THE STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

In conformity with guidelines prescribed by Department of Natural Resources and Water, 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 of 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 or procure 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.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue

The revenue received for 2008-2009 totalled **\$23.58m**. Contracts and Recoverable Works formed 34% of the Council's revenue while 26% was from Operating Grants and Subsidies. The Net Rates and Charges levied for the year formed 11% of Council's revenue.

Expenditure

Council's expenses for 2008-2009 totalled **\$16.31m**. Main Roads Contracts (included as part of Business Activities) formed 48.6%, while Shire Roads formed 24.4% of this expenditure.

General

The financial position of Council is sound with reserves **\$4.19m** at the 30 June 2009. Council's financial position remains strong as it is debt free. However Council does intend to borrow **\$1m** in 2009-2010 to help finance the Sewerage Project which is scheduled to be completed towards the end of 2009.

Overview of Operations

This review of operations for the year 2008-2009 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.



35 FT WINDMILL BEING ERECTED RIVERSIDE PARK



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES KEY OUTCOMES

EXECUTIVE SERVICES

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.

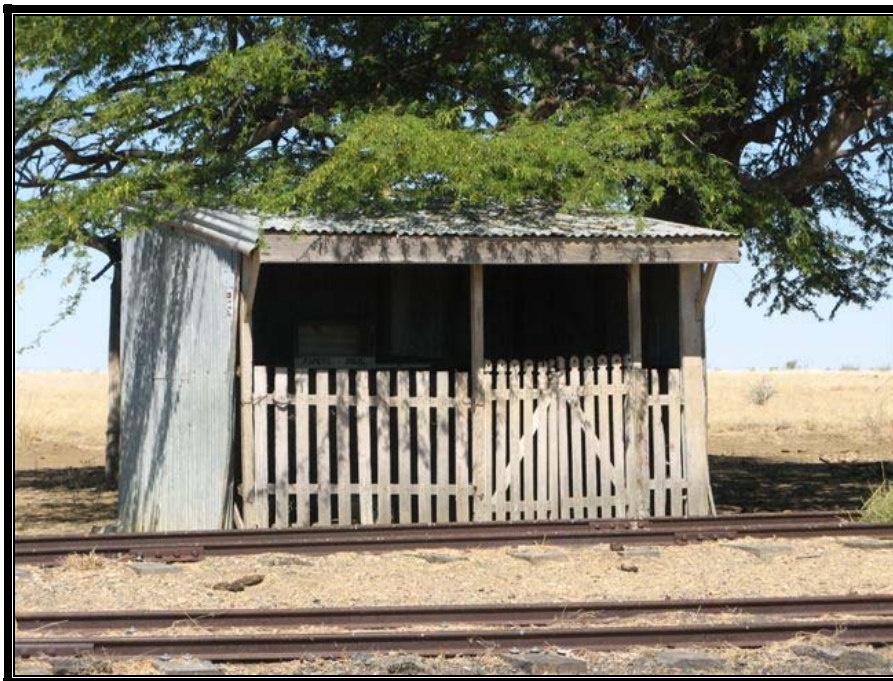
Community Advisory bodies that provide advice and information to Council -

- Chamber of Commerce
- Town Beautification Committee
- Community Health Forum
- 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 2008-2009 financial year
- Continually update a Policy Manual
- Upgrade computer network
- Successful in receiving funding for HR Project



TARVANO WAITING SHED ON THE WINTON RAIL LINE



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 Brodie Street

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
- 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 majority of Stage 1 and 2 lands now sold (twelve of sixteen Lots Stage 1 and 2)

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
- Purchase of land to setup a new Refuse Tip

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
- Completed "Eco-Walk on Flinders"
- Interpretive panels Hughenden and Prairie
- Erected "Warilla" Windmill on banks of Flinders River

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
- Commenced the refurbishment of the Sewerage System with \$3.2M SCAP funding



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

KEY OUTCOMES

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

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 2008-2009.

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 847 *Local Government Act 1993*, 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 2009. Council did not budget to borrow any funds in the 2008-2009 financial year. Council is planning a borrowing program to partially fund the Hughenden Sewerage Scheme Upgrade estimated at a total cost of \$10m.

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.



SPRING VALLEY WALL REDEVELOPMENT

Overseas Travel

During 2008-2009 no Councillor or employee undertook any overseas travel.



REMUNERATION PAID TO COUNCILLORS

COUNCILLOR	COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDED	OTHER MEETINGS ATTENDED	ALLOWANCE \$	TRAVEL \$	TOTAL \$
Mayor Cr B.V. McNamara	11	97	56,950.08	-	56,950.08
Deputy Mayor Cr G.J. Jones	10	81	25,310.04	-	25,310.04
Cr C.N. Haydon	11	21	18,980.04	3,038.00	22,018.04
Cr S.M. O'Neill	11	39	18,980.04	-	18,980.04
Cr K.M. Egan	9	69	18,980.04	-	18,980.04
TOTAL			139,200.24	3,038.00	142,238.24

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR FOR –

(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



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	1161ha	Not currently
Torrens Creek	Reserve for Stock Trucking	1810ha	Yes
	Reserve for Stock Holding		Yes only
Prairie	Paddock	386ha	319ha
Hughenden Town			
Common/Tailing Paddock/2			
Mile Lane and Horse			
Paddocks	Pasturage Reserve	2184ha	Agisted/Rented
Prairie Common	Reserve for Pasturage	544ha	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>			
	Reserve for Racecourse and		
Hughenden Racecourse	Recreation	242ha	Partly Rented
Stamford Racecourse	Racecourse Reserve	64.75ha	No
Prairie Racecourse	Reserve for Racecourse	80.942ha	No
<u>AERODROME</u>			
	Reserve for Landing Ground		
Hughenden Aerodrome	Aircraft	305.4ha	Yes Part of
<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) Bedford Street	Reserve for Local Government		
Torrens Creek Rubbish	Purposes	2ha	No
Dump -Russell Street			
Flinders Highway at Torrens	Reserve for Rubbish Depot	2.023ha	No
Creek	Sanitary Reserve	2.023ha	No
Prairie Rubbish Tip	Reserve for Sanitary	2.023ha	No
	Reserve for Local Government		
Hughenden Rubbish Tip	Purposes	11.72ha	No

(b) Roads not owned by Council

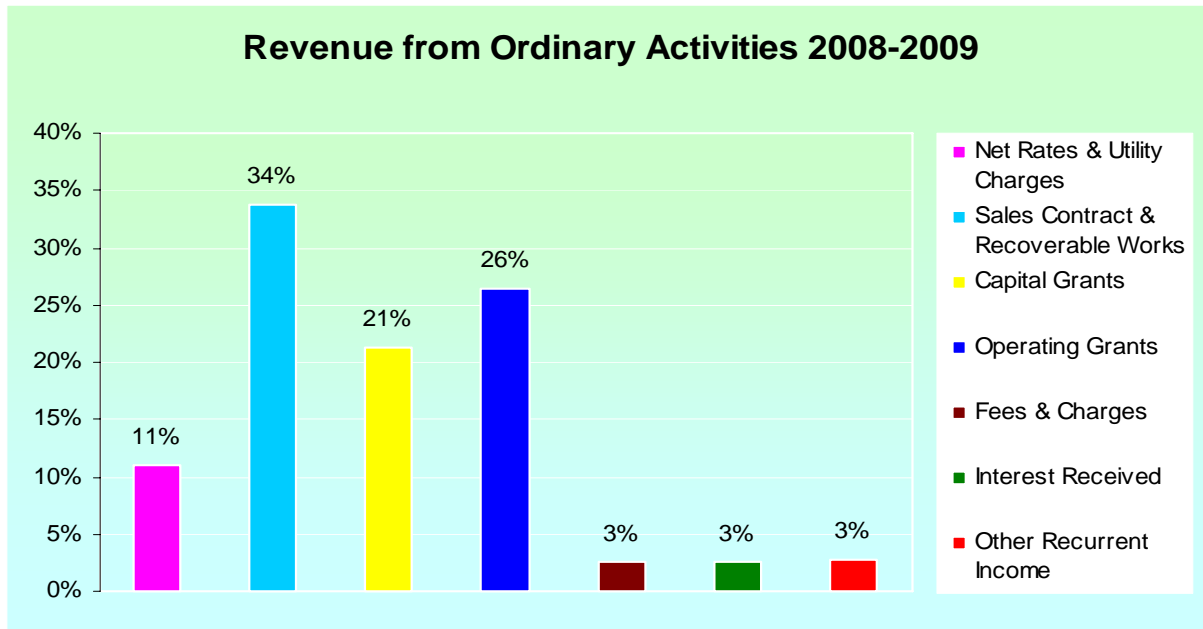
Nil



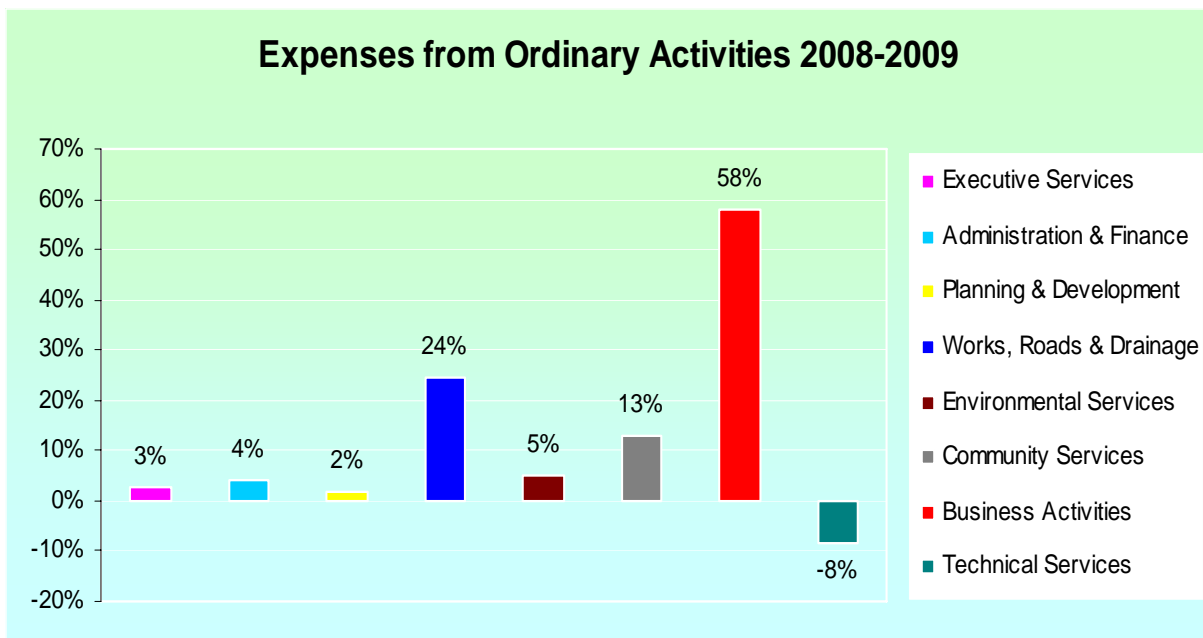
COMMUNITY FINANCIAL REPORT ON COUNCIL OPERATIONS 2008 - 2009

Council finished the financial year in a balanced position after turning over **\$23.58m** in revenue. The following graphs illustrate the main revenue sources and where the money was expended. This simple view clearly illustrates Council's reliance on Government Grants and Contract Works to the Department of Main Roads.

FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES 2008 - 2009

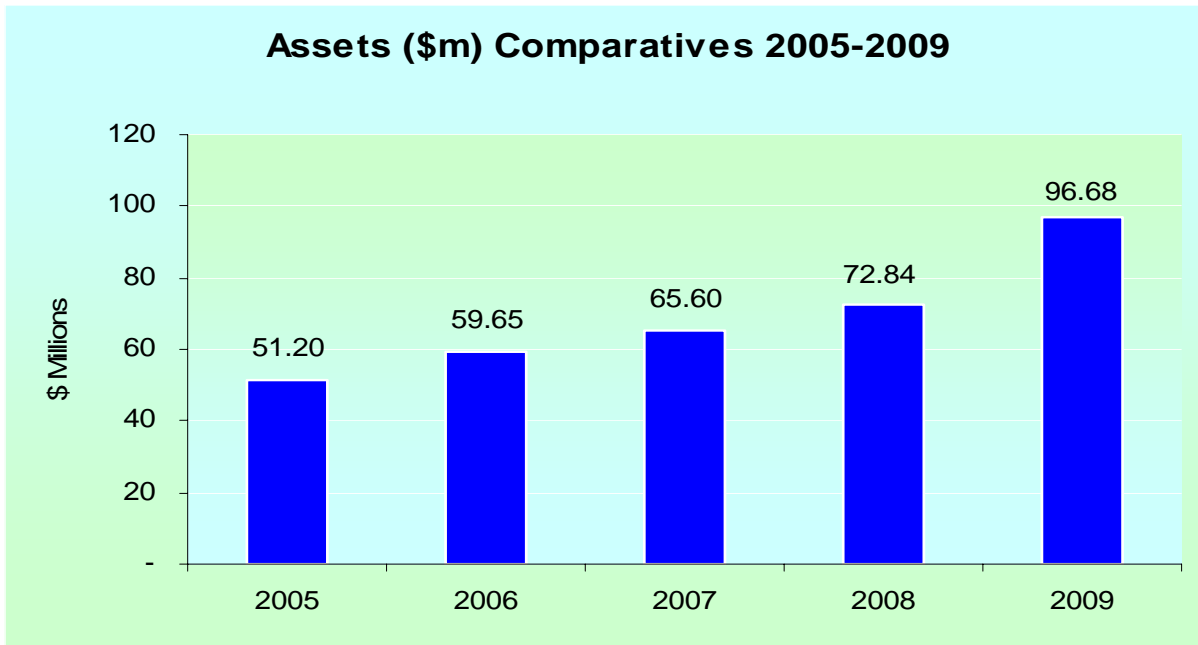


FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES 2008 - 2009

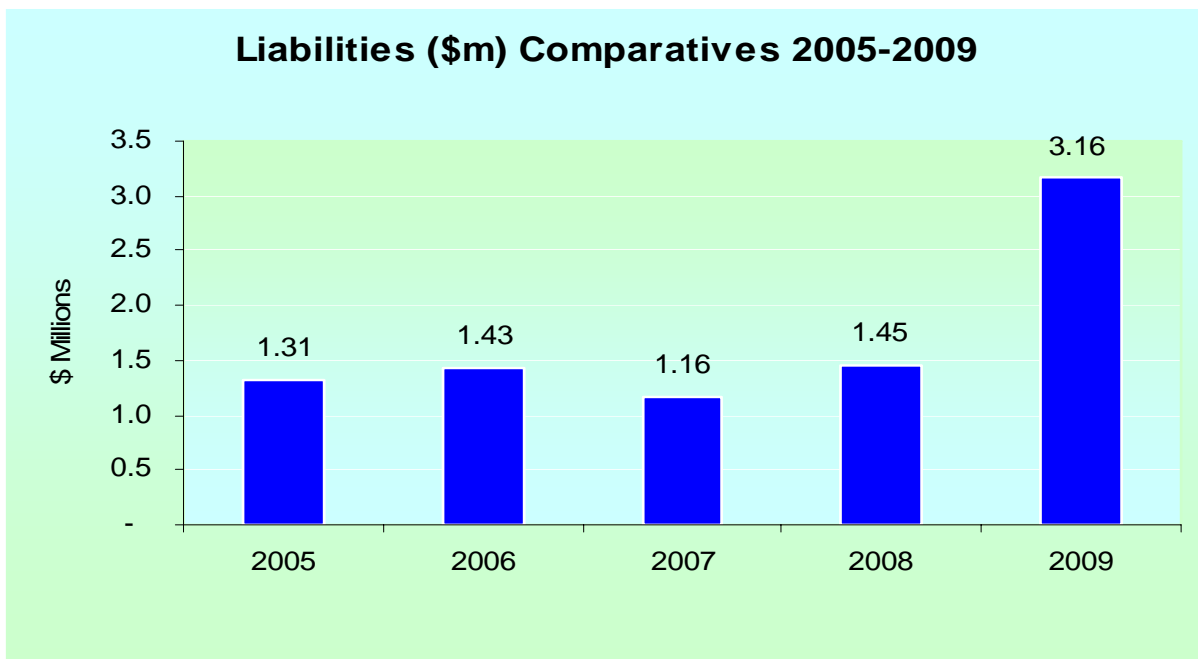




FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – ASSETS COMPARATIVES – 2005 - 2009



FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – LIABILITIES COMPARATIVES – 2005 - 2009

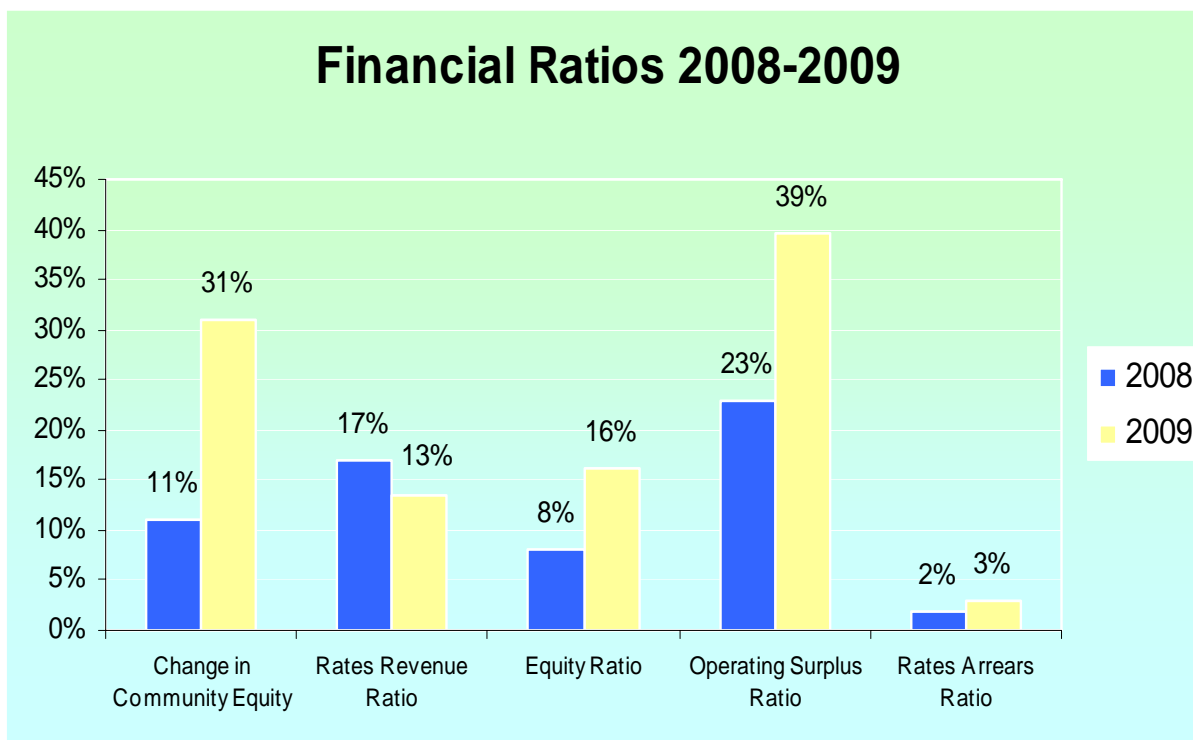


With total assets of **\$96.68m**, total liabilities of **\$3.16m** and Council continuing to remain debt free, it provides Council with the flexibility to borrow funds for future infrastructure needs. The major item being an upgraded Sewerage Reticulation System estimated at \$10m. It is planned that Council will borrow \$1 million in the 2009-2010 year to help fund the Sewerage Project.



FINANCIAL REPORT – GRAPH – FINANCIAL RATIOS 2008 - 2009

The following ratios help explain the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2009.



Change in Community Equity Ratio

The percentage change in the net wealth of the Council - The increase in community equity in 2009 is due to revaluation of Council assets.

Rate Revenue Ratio

This ratio shows Council's dependence on net rates and utility charges as a percentage of total recurrent revenue.

Equity Ratio

This ratio shows current liabilities as a percentage of convertible current assets.

Operating Surplus Ratio

The ratio calculates the operating surplus as a percentage of total recurrent revenue.

Rate Arrears Ratio

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



LIST OF PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR 2009-1010

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.

	\$
Hughenden Sewerage Rehabilitation Completion	6,544,000
Main Roads Department Maintenance Contract	1,825,000
Main Roads Department Contracts – Flinders Highway	4,800,000
Main Roads Department Flood Damage Works	500,000
Hann Highway Construction and Sealing Works	3,514,000
Rural Road Network Upgrade Works	469,000
Prairie-Muttaburra Road – Tower Hill Creek Floodway	490,000
Basalt Byway Torver Valley Upgrade	170,000
Construct Floodways	60,000
Flood Damage Reinstatement to Shire Roads	1,000,000
General Shire Road Maintenance	912,000
Shire Road Reseals	160,000
Town Street Construction Works	363,000
Complete Development of New Refuse Tip	170,000
Redevelop Rotary/Lions Park	270,000
Construct Shelter over Skate Park	158,000
Complete Construction New SES Building	150,000
Caravan Park Upgrade Works	50,000
Staff Housing Upgrade Works	160,000
Upgrade Water Bore Pump Switchboards	35,000
Depot Building Upgrade Works	150,000
Swimming Pool Upgrade Works	65,000
Cemetery Access and Lawn Section Development	70,000
Net Plant Upgrade	1,261,000



FISH SCULPTURE IN ROBERT GRAY MEMORIAL PARK



PORCUPINE GORGE - THE PYRAMIDS