



Port Augusta

CITY COUNCIL

2008/09
ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Port Augusta City Council's Annual Report for 2008/2009 has been prepared and adopted pursuant to Section 131 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and is compliant with the requirements stipulated within Schedule 4 of the Act.

The Annual Report, in addition to complying with the above legislative requirements, also provides an overview of the activities undertaken by Council within the respective financial year linked to its Strategic Plan.

The report is presented in the following format:

- Section 1 - Executive Overview (Mayor's and City Manager's Reports)
 - Section 2 - The Council
 - Section 3 - Strategic Plans & Activities
 - Section 4 - Compliance Report – Information Statement
 - Section 5 - Accountability Report
 - Section 6 - Community Acknowledgement
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Our Vision

A harmonious, unique, vibrant, community and environment

Our Mission

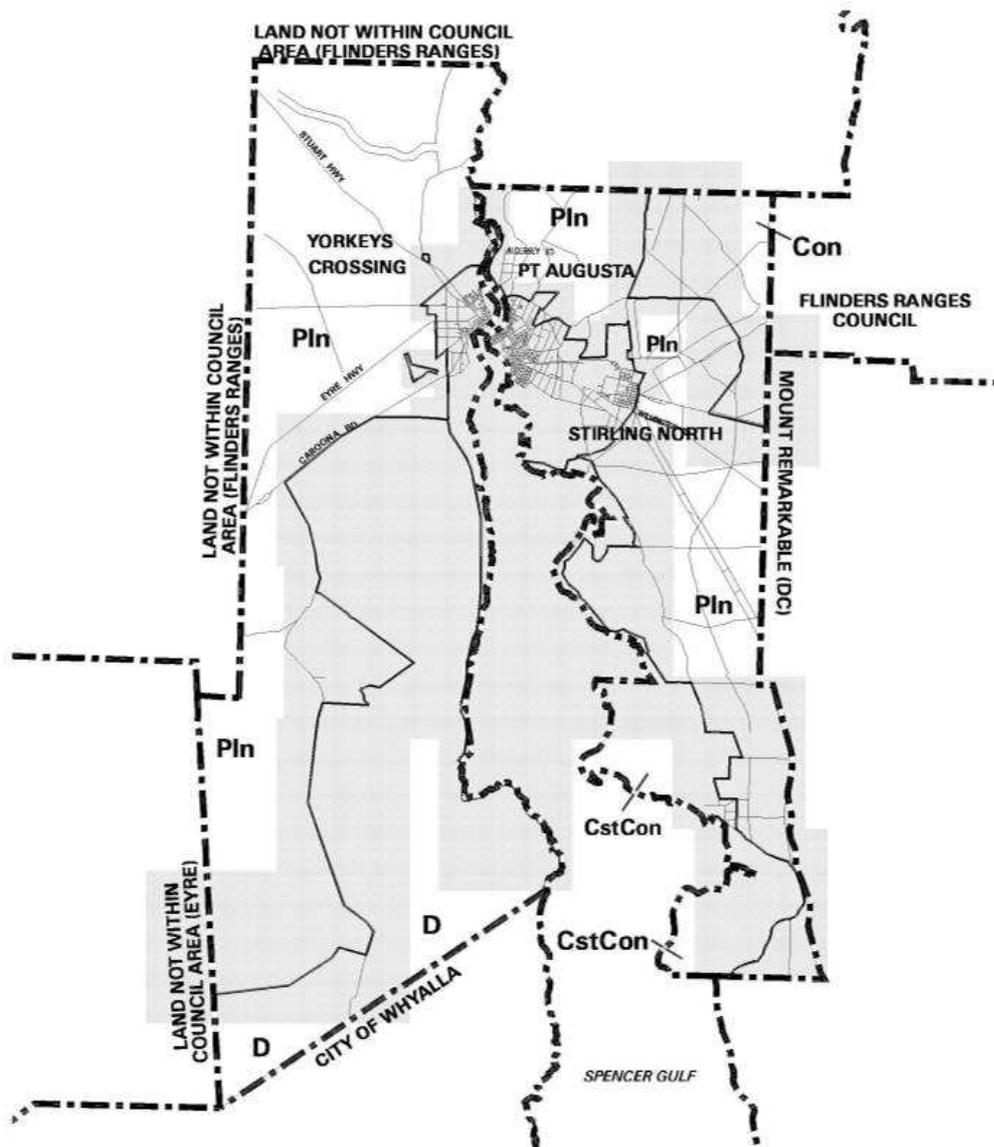
To create and sustain a safe and vibrant community where people want to live, work, play and visit

Our Principles

Respect, Social Justice, Equal Opportunity, Inclusiveness and Accessibility

Council Boundaries

Port Augusta, Stirling North, Blanche Harbour & Miranda



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Executive Overview

Mayor's & City Manager's Reports



Section 1

Mayor's Report



The Resources Boom which resulted in high costs of housing has now subsided across both the Region and the city and prices have now levelled out.

During this period the Mayoral Taskforce undertook a Population Study as well as a Freight Study. These, together with Council's Urban Growth Development Plan Amendment Review, which was a long and frustrating process, have been necessary to assist us with planning for the future growth we expect from the Mining Boom.

The global financial meltdown has had its effects upon retail development. However, we believe that once the expansion date of Olympic Dam is announced interest will be regenerated, and so we must continue to plan for this event. We must continue to focus upon our geographical position in relation to economic possibilities, and never let an opportunity go by which we could capitalise upon.

Our City Manager, Greg Perkin, took up his duties in February, and is quietly settling into this position while making changes where necessary. His Planning expertise will be invaluable to this Council.

At long last the Art works and poles have been erected on the southern entranceway to the City and have resulted in mixed opinions throughout the City. On the other hand the footpaths programme around the CBD, which was funded under the Federal Government Stimulus package, has been overwhelmingly supported both by residents and tourists. This programme as it rolls out greatly complements our Foreshore redevelopment.

Another great success was the Port Augusta Re-Imagines Cultural programme which brought thousands of tourists into the City. This, coupled with the re-development of the Troopers Barracks and Old Magistrates Court, has established Port Augusta as a Cultural Centre upon which we can continue to build for the future.

Council's aim is unaltered. We will continue to establish the City as a Regional Recreational Centre and make it a safe community in which to work, live and visit. We will continue to pursue the Central Oval re-development when the opportunity arises and funding becomes available.

Despite the global economic downturn, I do not believe that we have lost much overall. No-one can take away our geographical position, our optimism, our resilience or ability to meet the changing challenges and trust in God.

As an organisation, we are only as good as our staff. I therefore pay tribute to them for their dedication and loyalty. We are all cogs in this big wheel and rely upon each other to keep it turning. I also sincerely thank the Councillors for their contribution. Their role is not always easy, nor is it always appreciated. We need to uphold each other in what we do and recognise the different talents. We also need to be mindful that if we cut down all the Tall Poppies, that we will end up with weeds.

N J BALUCH AM
MAYOR

City Manager's Report



As a new comer to this Council, I must express my surprise at the breadth and high standard of services provided to the community with a limited number of employees. The range of services shows that Council is clearly listening to the needs of its community and responding accordingly and not simply copying what other Councils do. As a result Port Augusta City Council is truly Community Government.

There are increasing requirements by State Government for Councils to improve the monitoring and development of safety and governance. Expenditures on these issues do not lead directly to facilities and services for residents, but do ensure that risks that could involve substantial costs to the community are avoided and that Council is operating appropriately.

During this last financial year Council received stimulus funding from the Federal Government which has enabled an early start to the City's footpath program. Not only has the paving of footpaths tidied up the appearance of the City, it has also lead to a major increase in the number of people walking, which assists in their health and wellbeing. The aim of the footpath program is to provide a paved footpath within 300 metres of every house in the built up areas of the City and provide ready pedestrian access to community and shopping facilities.

Other facilities that improve the image of the City, are the new entry signs displaying the new City logo and the wind vanes along the wharf and causeway. The image of the Council has also been enhanced by Council vehicles now displaying the new logo. The community can more readily see their Council in action.

Planning has continued for the development of the city in readiness for new and expanding mines and the development of other resources in the region, such as geothermal energy. The State Government is completing the Structure Plan for the city and Council has recently finalised the Urban Growth Development Plan Amendment which, when approved by the Minister, will provide for increased housing opportunities in Port Augusta. Owners of land in the areas to be zoned for residential development are keenly awaiting approval of this Development Amendment Plan. Council is also continuing to negotiate with the purchaser of land adjacent to the aerodrome, in regard to the development of a housing estate to accommodate the city's expected expanding population.

I need to acknowledge the leadership and commitment of Michael Dunemann who undertook the role of Acting City Manager, as well as his own substantive role, during 4 months of this financial year.

GREG PERKIN
CITY MANAGER

The Council

The Council, Management & Staff

- Elected Members Information 2008/2009
- Council and Committee Structure
- Council & Key Committee Meeting Attendance Records
- Other Advisory Committees
- Reference Groups/Working Parties
- Elector Representation Review
- Council's Representation Quota
- Elected Members' Allowances and Benefits
- Elected Members' Training & Development
- Management & Staffing
- Senior Executive Officers – Allowances, Bonuses & Benefits
- Organisational Structure
- Human Resource Management



Section 2

Elected Member Information 2008/2009

The Port Augusta City Council has 10 Members, comprising Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch AM and nine (9) Area Councillors.

Elected Member	Contact Details	Representation
 <p data-bbox="260 685 547 714">Nancy Joy Baluch AM</p> <p data-bbox="296 748 512 875">Term of Office 1981-1982 1983-1993 1995-current</p>	<p data-bbox="635 394 919 423">Her Worship the Mayor</p> <p data-bbox="595 450 970 602">Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch AM (Joy) 76 Stirling Road PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8642 3795 F: 8641 1126 E: jbalach@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p data-bbox="1046 365 1374 416">Ex-officio Member of every Council Committee</p> <ul data-bbox="1058 421 1433 904" style="list-style-type: none"> • President – Local Government Association of SA – 1 July 2007 – 24 April 2009 • Immediate Past President – Local Government Association of SA – 24 April 2009 – 29 April 2011 • Mayor’s Taskforce • Provincial Cities Association • Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group • Outback Areas Community Development Trust • Australian Local Government Association • Aboriginal Consultative Forum
 <p data-bbox="316 1236 491 1265">Phil Greagen</p> <p data-bbox="296 1299 512 1359">Term of Office 1995-current</p>	<p data-bbox="691 943 863 972">Deputy Mayor</p> <p data-bbox="595 999 994 1151">Cr Phil Greagen PO Box 1705 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 M: 0419 665 106 P: 8641 0840 E: pgreagen@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p data-bbox="1098 943 1342 972">Representation:</p> <ul data-bbox="1058 976 1390 1559" style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee • Mayor’s Taskforce • Port Augusta Cemetery Upgrade Working Party • District Bushfire Prevention Committee • Port Augusta Community Transport Steering Group • Port Augusta Alcohol Management Group • Aboriginal Consultative Forum • Wami Kata Old Folks Home • Centre for Excellence for Aboriginal Health Steering Committee
 <p data-bbox="328 1890 475 1919">Renee Ellis</p> <p data-bbox="296 1953 512 2013">Term of Office 2006-current</p>	<p data-bbox="715 1597 839 1626">Councillor</p> <p data-bbox="595 1653 946 1783">Cr Renee Ellis PO Box 2118 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 M: 0407 710 316 E: rellis@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p data-bbox="1098 1597 1342 1626">Representation:</p> <ul data-bbox="1058 1630 1385 2007" style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Port Augusta Skate Park Reference Group • Regional Centre for Culture Reference Group • State Strategic Planning Regional Advisory Board • Country Arts SA Board of Trustees

 <p>Sam Johnson</p> <p>Term of Office 2006-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Sam Johnson 1 Harry Court PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8641 2016 (wk) M: 0429 412 044 E: sjohnson@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Council Development Assessment Panel • Local Government Rep – Northern Regional Development Board Committee • Port Augusta City Council Youth Advisory Committee
 <p>Ken McLean</p> <p>Term of Office 2006-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Ken McLean PO Box 1746 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8642 3463 (hm) M: 0448 354 745 E: kmclean@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Central Oval Precinct Redevelopment Project Management Group • Youth Opportunities Personal Leadership Program – Community Development Board
 <p>Tony Mitchell</p> <p>Term of Office 2003-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Tony Mitchell PO Box 310 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8642 5069 (hm) P: 8641 0900 (wk) F: 8641 0911 M: 0409 428 246 E: tmitchell@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee • Council Development Assessment Panel • Upper Spencer Gulf Business Incubator Network Board • Port Augusta City Council Youth Advisory Committee
 <p>Alan Morris</p> <p>Term of Office 2003-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Alan Morris PO Box 2269 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8641 0369 (hm) P: 8648 5777 (wk) M: 0427 600 279 E: amorris@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee • Port Augusta Skate Park Reference Group • Audit Committee • Flinders Ranges & Outback Strategic Plan Implementation Group

 <p>Fran Paynter</p> <p>Term of Office 2003-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Fran Paynter 24 Sanderson Street PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8642 2597 (hm) M: 0419 422 592 E: fpaynter@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Council Development Assessment Panel • Early Years Parenting Centre Advisory Group
 <p>Chris Pycroft</p> <p>Term of Office 1989-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Christene Pycroft 7 Woodroffe Court PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8642 2787 (hm) M: 0438 422 787 E: cpycroft@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation • Central Oval Precinct Redevelopment Project Management Group • Port Augusta Cemetery Upgrade Working Party • District Bushfire Prevention Committee
 <p>Peter Solomon</p> <p>Term of Office 1989-1993 (May) (Dec) 1993-2003 2006-current</p>	<p>Councillor</p> <p>Cr Peter Solomon PO Box 355 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700 P: 8643 6464 (hm) P: 8641 0517 (wk) M: 0429 098 295 E: psolomon@portaugusta.sa.gov.au</p>	<p>Representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Management Committee • Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee • Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee • Port Augusta Marine Advisory Committee • Audit Committee • Maule Avenue Development Working Group

Council and Committee Structure

The Council and Key Committee Structure for the Port Augusta City Council, is as follows:

1. **City Management Committee** – meets on the 2nd Monday of each month, commencing at 5:30pm.
2. **Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee** – meets on the 3rd Monday of each month, commencing at 5:30pm.

3. **Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee** – meets at the conclusion of either the City Management Committee or Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee Meeting.

Reports prepared by officers are forwarded to the respective Key Committee for consideration. Each report has specific recommendations identified which, if ratified by the Key Committee, are then submitted to Council for adoption. The Chairperson for each Key Committee is elected on a rotating 12 month basis between Councillors.

The Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee was established by Council on 23 March 2009. This Committee met twice during the 2008/2009 financial year.

Membership: Mayor (ex-officio) and all Councillors.

4. **Council Meetings** – held on the 4th Monday of each month, commencing at 7:00pm

Membership: Mayor and all Councillors (Deputy Mayor elected by Councillors)

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta and are open to the public.



Back Row - Left to Right:

- Cr Peter Solomon
- Cr Sam Johnson
- Cr Fran Paynter
- Cr Tony Mitchell
- Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Greagen
- Cr Chris Pycroft
- Cr Alan Morris

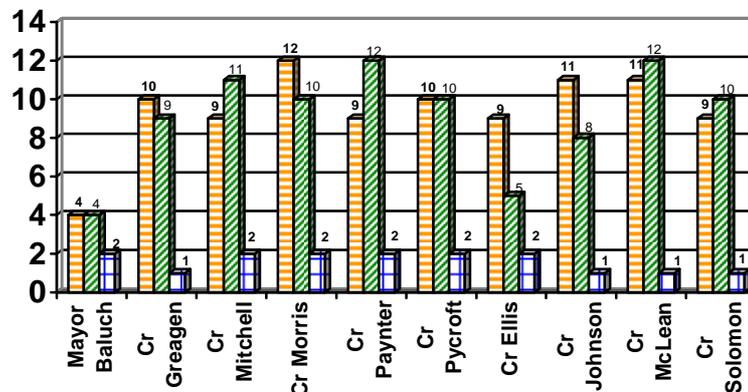
Front Row - Left to Right:

- Cr Ken McLean
- Her Worship the Mayor Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch AM
- Cr Renee Ellis

Council & Key Committee Meeting Attendance Record

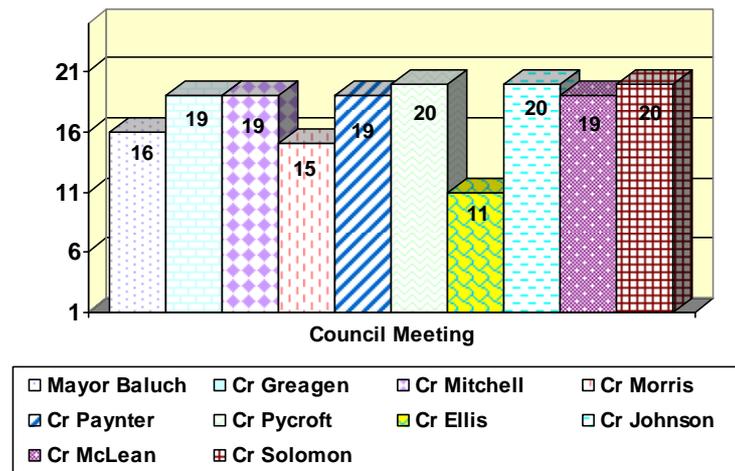
The following graphs provide a record of attendance by Elected Members, for the 2008/2009 financial year for Council and Key Committee Meetings:

Key Committee Meetings



City Management Committee	Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee
Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee	

During the 2008/2009 financial year there were 12 Council Meetings and 9 Special Council Meetings. The Elected Members attendance record at these meetings are outlined within the below table:



Other Advisory Committees

1. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was established pursuant to the provisions of Section 126 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

The functions of the Audit Committee include reviewing annual financial statements to ensure they present fairly and state of affairs of the Council, and proposing and providing information relevant to the review of the Council’s Strategic Plan and Annual Business Plan and the exercise of powers under Section 130A of the Act.

Membership: Elected Members: Cr Peter Solomon and Cr Alan Morris; Independent Members: Mr Neil Finlay and Mr Chris McSparran. The term of office for the independent members are: Neil Finlay – 3 years (November 2007-November 2010), and Chris McSparran 2 years (November 2007 – November 2009).

Only members of the Committee are entitled to vote in Committee Meetings. Other individuals such as the City Manager, Director Corporate Services and if applicable the heads of risk, compliance and internal audit, and representatives from the finance function, may attend any meeting as observers or be responsible for preparing papers for the Committee. Council’s External Auditors, John D Ewen & Associates, may be invited to attend meetings of the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee meet on a quarterly basis and minutes of meetings are presented to Council for adoption and the Sitting Fee for Members is: Chairperson \$350.00 and Members \$300 per meeting attended.

2. Council Development Assessment Panel

The Council Development Assessment Panel undertakes the powers and functions of the Port Augusta City Council, as delegated, in relation to the assessment of development applications against the provisions of the Port Augusta City Council’s Development Plan.

Membership: Chairperson: Mr John Veen, Independent Members: Mr Robert Bemmerl, Mr John Rejack and Mrs Denise Davies, Elected Members: Cr Sam Johnson, Cr Tony Mitchell and Cr Fran Paynter.

The term of office for the CDAP is for a two year period (March 2008 to February 2010). The Sitting Fee for Members is: Chairperson \$250.00 and Members \$200.00 per meeting attended.

The CDAP meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, commencing at 5:30pm.

3. Port Augusta Marine Advisory Committee

The Marine Advisory Committee was established to advise Council on all marine matters relating to the Upper Spencer Gulf, especially in relation to the Marine Plan/Parks, Port Augusta Waterway Development Study, marina infrastructure and activities, and to support the work of the Natural Reserve Management Board (NRM) as it relates to the conservation and protection of flora and fauna.

Membership: Chairperson: Cr Peter Solomon, Council Officer: Mr Rieck Shine, Community Representatives: Mr Robin Sharp, Mr Peter Huxtable, Mr Brett Munns, Mr Aaron Morgan, Mr Andy Ireland, Mr David Powell.

Ex-officio Members: Mayor Nancy Joy Baluch, Ms Rebekah Rasheed (NRM Board), Mr David Pearce (Department for Environment & Heritage), NRD Board Rep (vacant).

The term of office – committee will be reviewed following the implementation of the Marine Plan/Parks for the Upper Spencer Gulf and once all recommendations have been suitably addressed from the Port Augusta Waterways Study.

The Marine Advisory Committee meets generally on the 1st Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7:00pm, and minutes of meetings are presented to Council for adoption.

4. Safety First Committee

Previously known as the OHS&W Committee, the Safety First Committee facilitates co-operation between Council and the employees, initiating, developing, carrying out and monitoring measures designed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the employees of Council, and its contractors and volunteers. The Committee assists in resolution of issues, consultation, and in the formulation, review and dissemination of practices, procedures and policies.

Membership: Mr Anthony McCoy (Chairperson), Ms Zsuzsi Coppin – Parks & Gardens, Mr Alan Dowling – Works, Mr David Stewart – Substance Misuse Services, Ms Kimberley Noll - Tourism, Ms Kellie Ruffles - Childcare, Ms Janice Scott – Aged Care, Ms Lindy Madigan – Cultural Centre and Swim Centre, Ms Julie Beaton (Risk Co-ordinator), and Management Representatives Mr Greg Perkin – City Manage, Ms Lee Heron – Director – City & Cultural Services, Mr Larry Martin – Parks and David Curnow – Works.

The following staff members resigned from the Safety First Committee during the reporting period: Mr Sam Bolitho – Aged Care (Ramsay Village), Ms Julie Rozee – Aged Care (Nerrilda), Ms Sylvia Hogg – Swim Centre, Ms Carol Winen – Childcare.

The Safety First Committee meets at 10:30am on the last Tuesday of each month and minutes of meetings are presented to Council for adoption.

5. Building Fire Safety Committee

The Building Fire Safety Committee plays an important role in protecting the on-going safety of building occupiers and users, by investigating whether building owners are maintaining proper levels of fire safety in their buildings.

Membership: Mr Rod Bahr – Metropolitan Fire Service, Mr Andrew Sharrad – MFS Proxy, Mr Pat Ryan – SA Country Fire Service, Mr Nick Ludborzs – CFS Proxy, Mr Peter Harmer – Consultants Building Surveyor, Mr Nick Heron – Senior Development Officer (Admin), Mr Adam Grantham – Cadet Building Surveying Technician (Admin – proxy).

Mr Max McAlister ceased representing the CFS on the Port Augusta City Council Building Fire Safety Committee in March 2009.

Meeting times and places shall be determined by the Chairperson, having regard to the availability and convenience of the members of the Committee, **but one meeting must be held at least every three months.**

6. Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation

The Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation is responsible for the promotion and encouragement of local junior sportspersons, through the provision of financial assistance and recognition of achievement for participating community sporting organisations.

Successful recipients of monthly and annual awards are outlined within Section 6 of this report.

Membership: Ms Debra Klingberg (Chairperson) – Athletics, Ms Jan Black (Netball), Ms Sherrie Fuller (Basketball), Mr Kevin Freeman (Judo), Mr Neil Drew (Hockey), Mr Luke Snowden (Softball), Ms Shirley Pearce (Volleyball), Mr Jason Di Paolo (Swimming), Mr Gary Rowbottom (Golf), Ms Lynn Greenfield (Pony Club), Mr Mark Maule/Mr Brett Cutler (Motorcycle Club), Mr Neil Finlay (Tennis), Cr Chris Pycroft (Port Augusta City Council).

The Foundation meet on a monthly basis and minutes of meetings are presented to Council for adoption.

Reference Groups/Working Parties

1. Port Augusta Cemetery Upgrade Working Party

The Port Augusta Cemetery Working Party is responsible for upgrading the Port Augusta Cemetery through a 5 stage project to ensure that Port Augusta's local history is not lost, by attempting to mark all graves from 1883 – 1983.

Membership: Cr Phil Greagen (Chairperson), Cr Christene Pycroft, Leita Fennell (Local Family History Researcher), Ms Yvonne Barker (Indigenous Co-ordination Centre), Ms Cynthia Collins & Mr John Moss (Port Augusta Rotary Club), Mr Barry Lovegrove (PA Community Services), Garnett Brady (Country Health/Aboriginal Community Representative), Mr Deon Schumann (Parks Technical Officer), Ms Sue Hocking (Admin Assistant Infrastructure), Ms Estelle Sharpe, Ms Lee-Anne Dalla Santa and Ms Melody Poole (Council Records Department).

Working Party meets on an 'as needs' basis.

2. Aboriginal Consultative Forum

This Forum has been established to provide a flow of information from Council to the Aboriginal community and vice versa.

Membership: Mayor Baluch (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor Cr Greagen, City Manager – Mr Greg Perkin, Co-ordinator Community Harmony – Mr Douglas Longmore and various representatives from the Aboriginal community.

Meetings are held on an 'as needs' basis and all Aboriginal community members are encouraged and welcome to attend.

3. Port Augusta Skate/Family Park Reference Group

The Port Augusta Skate/Family Park Reference Group was formed to enable interested members of the community to be involved in the planning and development of a skate park and to source external funding via grants and other fundraising activities to financially support this project.

Membership: Cr Alan Morris, Cr Renee Ellis, Mr Craig Dearlove (be active Community Field Officer), Ms Lee Heron (Director – City & Cultural Services), various interested community members (adults and youth).

This Group meets on an 'as needs' basis.

4. Regional Centre for Culture

The South Australia Government and Council financially contributed to the Regional Centre for Culture which culminated in 2008 with a year of spectacular arts and cultural activities being exhibited and performed from the Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purli, through the ‘Re-imagines Program’.

Two Reference Groups established at the beginning of this project in 2007 continued to provide support to the Re-imagines Program until its conclusion in December 2008. The two Reference Groups include:

a) **Re-imagines Reference Group**

This Group was responsible for developing the concept, identifying appropriate locations for the program and working with all agencies to ensure the program for 2008 incorporated the arts and cultural activities identified by the general community.

Membership: Lucke Rogers, Ben Webb, Alwyn McKenzie, John O’Dea, Georgie Sharp, Sean Holden, Graham Bull, Bernard Smith, Vanessa Bouilly, Renee Ellis and Tina Dunemann.

b) **Aboriginal Steering Group**

This Group met monthly to oversee the planning for the Yarnballa Arts and Culture Festival and the general programming of Aboriginal arts for the ‘Re-Imagines’ year.

Membership: Kaelene McMillan, Lavene Ngatokorua, Donny McKenzie, Isabelle Taylor, Noblelene Stuart-McKenzie, Charmaine Wilson, Rehanna Coulthard, Linda Dare, Harry Dare, Jared Thomas, Lindsay Thomas and Kym Thomas.

This Group meets on an ‘as needs’ basis.

5. Central Oval Precinct Redevelopment Project Management Group

The Central Oval Precinct Redevelopment Project Management Group is responsible for overseeing the planning process for the redevelopment of Central Oval and commissioning of a Sports & Recreation Master Plan for Port Augusta.

Membership: Mr Craig Dearlove (Port Augusta be active Field Officer – Project Manager), Mr Greg Perkin (City Manager), Mr Michael Dunemann (Director Corporate Services), Mr Hayden Hart (Director – Infrastructure & Environment), Mr Rieck Shine (Strategic Co-ordinator Parks), Ms Lee Heron (Director – City & Cultural Services), Ms Anne O’Reilly (Director Community Services), Cr Ken McLean and Cr Chris Pycroft.

This Group meets on an ‘as needs’ basis.

6. Port Augusta Alcohol Management Group

The Port Augusta Alcohol Management Group is a multi agency forum whose aim is to provide leadership in the planning, facilitation and monitoring of holistic and coordinated initiatives in response to alcohol misuse within the community of Port Augusta.

Membership: Mr Douglas Longmore – Chairperson, (Manager – Community Harmony), Cr Phil Greagen, Mr Allan Liew, Mr David Watts and Mr Phil Meagher (DASSA), Mr Alwyn McKenzie & Ms Sharon Platt (ARRD), Mr Chris Thomson (Office of the Liquor & Gambling Commissioner), Mr Garnett Brady (Country Health SA), Glenise Coulthard & Neville Fazulla (proxy) (Port Augusta Hospital & Regional Health Service), Sgt Ian Feltus & Operations Inspector Mark Syrus (SAPOL), Ms Karyn Reid & Ms Marie Williams (Community Representative), Mr Richard Trevena & Ms Yvonne Barker (Indigenous Co-ordination Centre).

The Group meets on a monthly basis.

7. Railway Museum Working Group

The Railway Museum Working Group is responsible for investigating a proposal to establish a Railway Museum in Port Augusta. The Group, following Council approval, commissioned Brown Falconer Architects to undertake design and cost options for a Railway Museum component to be incorporated within the Wadlata Outback Centre.

Membership: Mr Kym Welsby, Mr Neil Finlay, Mr Bill Donaldson, Mr Ted Gade, Mr Hayden Hart (Director – Infrastructure & Environment), Ms Lee Heron (Director – City & Cultural Services), Ms Pauline Hedger (Manager – Tourism), Mr Peter Cahalan (Northern Regional Development Board).

This Group meets on an 'as needs' basis.

8. Security Patrol Working Party

The Security Patrol Working Party was established to review and progress of the security trial.

Membership: Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs Joy Baluch, Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Greagen, SAPOL Officers, Council Officers and Tony Edmonds (contractor).

This Group met every 2-3 weeks.

Elector Representation Review

Section 12(4) of the *Local Government Act 1999* requires Council to undertake a review of all aspects of its composition and the division (or potential division) of the Council area into wards, at least once in every eight (8) years.

The last Representation Review for the Port Augusta City Council was completed in November 2002, and the State Electoral Office directed in June 2008 that another review be undertaken, commencing no later than January 2009, so as to ensure fair and equitable representation of all electors prior to the 2010 Local Government elections.

Council at its meeting held on 27 January 2009 resolved to commence the Representation Review process and engaged Craig Rowe and Associates (consultants) to assist with the review process.

A Representation Review Workshop was held on 19 February 2009, which the community were invited to attend to have an opportunity to contribute to the representation review discussion and to obtain a greater understanding of the review process. Following the workshop a Special Council Meeting was held at which Council resolved to adopt the 'Options Paper'.

The 'Options Paper' examines the advantages and disadvantages of the various options that are available to Council in respect to its composition and structure. It contains information pertaining to the review process; elector ratios (both within Council and other Councils that exhibit a similar number of electors); demographic trends; population projections; residential development opportunities; and ward structure options.

The key issues that are considered during the review process include:

- the office of Mayor, as opposed to that of Chairperson;
- the need for Area Councillors in addition to Ward Councillors;
- the division of the City into Wards, or not;
- elector ratio, this being the number of electors who (in the opinion of Council) can be adequately and fairly represented by a Councillor (which ultimately determines the total number of Councillors);
- ward presentation (i.e. single, dual and/or multi Councillor wards, or combinations thereof); and
- the identification/naming of any proposed wards.

At the end of the review process, any proposed changes to Council's composition and/or Ward Structure must serve to uphold the democratic principle of "one person, one vote, one value".

The following process was undertaken during the 2008/2009 financial year in relation to Council's representation review:

- a) **Public submissions** were invited on the **Representation Options Paper** with advertisements being placed in the Advertiser and Transcontinental Newspapers on Wednesday 25 February 2009 and the SA Government Gazette on Thursday 26 February 2009.

Consultation closed on Monday 20 April 2009, with no submissions being received.

- b) A **Submission Report** was prepared and submitted to Council in May 2009. Following consideration of the Submission Report, Council resolved to:

- retain the office of Mayor (elected by the whole of the community) as its principal member;
- not divide the City into Wards;
- comprise nine (9) Area Councillors; and
- adopt the 'Representation Review Report' and release it for public consultation.

Consultation commenced in relation to the 'Representation Review Report' on 3 June 2009, with advertisements being placed in the Advertiser and Transcontinental and also the SA Government Gazette on 4 June 2009 and concluded on 30 June 2009, with no submissions being received.

To complete the Representation Review the following processes will be undertaken during the 2009/2010 financial year:

- final report to be prepared, signed and submitted to the Electoral Commissioner for certification – by October 2009;
- insert a public notice in the SA Government Gazette by no later than 10 December 2009.

Council's Representation Quota

The Port Augusta City Council's total representation quota (the number of electors per Councillor) is as detailed below. As indicated, Port Augusta's representation quota for each Elected member is higher than that of similar sized Councils.

Council	Number of Electors	Elected Members including Mayor and Area Councillors	Ratio Elected Members to Electors 1:00
PORT AUGUSTA	10218	10	1:1021
Port Lincoln	10957	11	1:996
Wattle Range	10471	12	1:872
Light Regional	10535	11	1:957
Mid Murray	10781	12	1:898

The Port Augusta City Council does not have a Ward Structure and is represented by 9 Councillors and the Mayor. The Councillors are elected as Area Councillors.

Elected Members' Allowances and Benefits (Section 76, 77 & 78 of the Local Government Act 1999)

Members of Council are entitled to receive an annual allowance for performing and discharging official functions and duties. The Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 1999 provides a range of minimum and maximum allowances for Council Members, who then have an opportunity to adopt an annual allowance within this range. Currently the minimum base amount is \$1,820 per annum and the maximum base amount is \$15,000 per annum.

In respect of a Deputy Mayor and Presiding Member (Chairperson) of Council's Key Committees, the allowance equates to 1.25 times the minimum and maximum base amounts.

In respect of the Principal Member (Mayor) of a Council, the allowance equates to 4 times the minimum and maximum base amounts.

1. The Elected Members' Allowances for the 2008/2009 financial year were:

1 July 2008 to 30 November 2008

- a) Mayoral allowance - \$42,040.00 p.a. (payable monthly in arrears); and
- b) Deputy Mayor & Presiding Member (Chairperson) of Council's Key Committees allowance - \$13,137.50 p.a. (payable monthly in arrears); and
- c) Elected Members' allowance - \$10,510.00 p.a. (payable monthly in arrears).

1 November 2008 to 30 June 2009

- a) Mayoral allowance - \$45,000 p.a. (\$3,750 per month payable in arrears); and
- b) Deputy Mayor & Presiding Member (Chairperson) of Council's Key Committees allowance - \$14,062.50 p.a. (\$1,171.90 per month payable in arrears); and
- c) Elected Members' allowance - \$11,250 p.a. (\$937.50 payable monthly in arrears).

The Minister for State/Local Government Relations released a draft *Statutes Amendment (Council Allowances) Bill 2009* in late December 2008 for consultation with Councils. The Bill includes, and was supported by a majority of Councils, that the Remuneration Tribunal determines Members' allowances. The Remuneration Tribunal was established in 1990 and already determines the allowances of parliamentarians, judges and statutory office holders. It is anticipated that the Bill will be introduced into Parliament during 2009/2010 and, if passed, future Members' allowances will be set once every four years, at least 14 days before the close of nominations for the periodic elections, with the amounts to be adjusted to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index in the interim years.

2. Members' Reimbursement of Expenses

Elected Members are also entitled to receive reimbursement of expenses incurred in the use of a telephone or facsimile and for travelling to official functions or activities on Council business, including attending conferences, seminars and training courses.

Council Policy 1.1.11 – Elected Members' Expenses, Facilities and Support, provides specific guidelines for those expenses that will be reimbursed to assist Members in fulfilling their role in relation to the performance of their official functions and duties on the business of the Council.

3. Allowances & Benefits Register (Section 79 of the LGA 1999)

A register is maintained by Council detailing all allowances and benefits paid to Elected Members on an annual basis. A person is entitled to inspect (without charge) the register at the principal office of the Council during ordinary office hours or, alternatively, on payment of a fee fixed by Council, obtain an extract from the register.

Elected Members' Training & Development (Section 80A of the Local Government Act 1999)

An Elected Members' Training and Development Policy was adopted by Council in February 2007 which outlines the commitment of the Port Augusta City Council to provide training and development activities for its Elected Members.

In 2008/2009 a budget allocation of \$9,000 was made to support training and development activities for Elected Members and the total expenditure for this period was \$11,000.

During the reporting period, Elected Members participated in the following training and development activities:

Date and Training/Development Session	Names of Elected Members Attending
30 July 2008 Council & Committee Meeting Procedures and Chairing Skills	Cr Alan Morris
5 February 2009 Council Development Assessment Panel Training Workshop	Cr Tony Mitchell Cr Fran Paynter Cr Sam Johnson Cr Ken McLean
29 April 2009 Strategic Financial Sustainability Tools for Good Governance Decision Making	Cr Renee Ellis
28 May 2009 Local Government...Creating our Future: Messages and Solutions (Darwin)	Cr Tony Mitchell Cr Alan Morris

Independent CDAP Members - John Veen, Denise Davies, Bob Bemmerl and John Rejack also attended the CDAP Training Workshop held on 5 February 2009.

Management & Staffing

1. Organisational Structure

In early 2008 the City Manager instigated an internal review of the Organisational Structure of the Council. The principal changes identified as part of the review involved the elevation of Anne O'Reilly and Lee Heron to Director level. At that time the Management Team was made up of the City Manager – Mr John Stephens, Director Corporate Services – Mr Michael Dunemann, Director Infrastructure and Environment – Mr John Hogg, Finance Manager Aged and Childcare Services – Mrs Anne O'Reilly and Manager Governance, Economic & Cultural Services – Mrs Lee Heron.

In March 2008 the City Manager consulted with Elected Members regarding the proposed changes he was looking at implementing in relation to Council's Organisational Structure. Following consideration of the comments made by Elected Members, in particular the fact Mr Stephens was retiring in September 2008 and Council felt it would be appropriate for the new City Manager to first consider any proposed changes to the Organisational Structure, Mr Stephens decided to appoint Anne O'Reilly and Lee Heron as Acting Directors as from 1 July 2008.

Mr Greg Perkin commenced as City Manager with the Port Augusta City Council in February 2009 and, following consideration of Council's Organisational Structure, approved the permanent appointment of Anne O'Reilly and Lee Heron as Directors. The Port Augusta City Council has five Directorates: City Management, Corporate Services, Infrastructure & Environment, Community Services and City & Cultural Services, with the City Manager responsible for overseeing the day to day operation of the entire organisation.

On a monthly basis, reporting officers from each of Department forward a monthly report to Council through Management Group to keep Council informed as to their specific activities during that period. Management Group meet on a weekly basis to review activities undertaken by all Departments within Council and to discuss other strategic planning matters.

Management Group



Back Row – Left to Right:

Director Corporate Services
Mr Michael Dunemann

Director Community Services
Mrs Anne O'Reilly

Director Infrastructure & Environment
Mr Hayden Hart

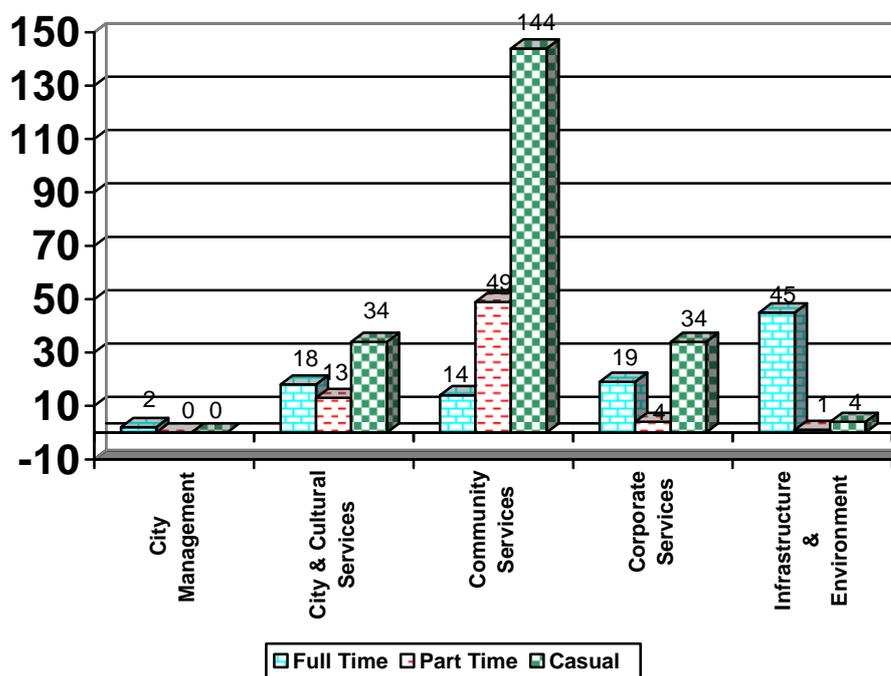
Front Row – Left to Right:

Director City & Cultural Services
Mrs Lee Heron

City Manager
Mr Greg Perkin

2. Staffing overview as at 30 June 2009

As at 30 June 2009, Port Augusta City Council employed 381 staff. The following graph provides an overview of the number of full time, part-time and casual employees within each of Council's Directorates.



Senior Executive Officers – Allowances, Bonuses & Benefits

The Port Augusta City Council has five Senior Executive Officers, who are the responsible officers for each of the five Directorates within Council. As at 30 June 2008, the Senior Executive Officers received the following summary of allowances, bonuses and benefits:

a)	5 Year Employment Contract	Greg Perkin
b)	Senior Officer Level 8 Salary	Michael Dunemann, Hayden Hart
c)	Senior Officer Level 5 Salary	Anne O'Reilly, Lee Heron
d)	Exclusive use of a Council Vehicle	Greg Perkin, Michael Dunemann, Hayden Hart
e)	Use of a Council Pool Vehicle	Anne O'Reilly
f)	Mobile Phone	Greg Perkin, Michael Dunemann, Hayden Hart, Anne O'Reilly, Lee Heron

Pursuant to Section 105 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council maintains a 'Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits' and the register can be inspected at the principal officer of Council during ordinary office hours. Alternatively, a person is entitled to an extract from the register upon payment of a fee fixed by Council.



Swimmers Memorial Garden - Eastside Foreshore

Port Augusta City Council – Organisational Structure

‘The Council’
 Her Worship to Mayor, Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch AM
 Elected Members: Cr Phil Greagen (Deputy Mayor), Cr Renee Ellis, Cr Sam Johnson, Cr Ken McLean,
 Cr Tony Mitchell, Cr Alan Morris, Cr Fran Paynter, Cr Chris Pycroft, Cr Peter Solomon

City Manager
City Management
 Mr John Stephens (retired 12/9/08)
 Mr Michael Dunemann (Acting CM 12/9/08 – 1/2/09)
 Mr Greg Perkin (as from 2/2/09)

Director
Corporate Services
 Mr Michael Dunemann

Director
Community Services
 Mrs Anne O’Reilly

Director
City & Cultural Services
 Mrs Lee Heron

Director
Infrastructure and Environment
 Mr John Hogg (retired 19/1/09)
 Mr Hayden Hart (as from 7/7/08)

Departments
 Finance
 Rates
 Payroll
 Information Technology
 Customer Services
 Human Resource
 Records Management
 Animal Control
 Recreation & Sports
 Outdoor Adventure Centre
 Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre

Departments
 Aged Care
 Childcare Services
 Special Needs
 Youth Activities
 Men’s Shed

Departments
 Governance
 Economic Development
 Planning
 Contracts & Events
 Projects
 Tourism – Wadlata & Australian Arid
 Lands Botanic Gardens
 Library & Information Services
 Regional Centre for Culture
 Substance Misuse Services (Sobering Up
 Unit, Mobile Assistance Patrol and
 Clean Needle Program)
 Community Harmony

Departments
 Works/Road Construction
 Parks/Gardens
 Works – Technical Support
 Development Services – Building
 Health Services
 Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens
 Asset Management

Human Resource Management

1. Equal Employment Opportunity

- a) All recruitment and selection of staff within the various sections of Council is processed in accordance with the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Act 1984. Council also has an Equal Employment Opportunity Policy 4.1.02 and EEO Program which are adhered to at all times.
- b) All selections are based on the merit system. The interview process is conducted by a Panel with a minimum of 3 persons. The Panel will include both male and female members when necessary.
- c) Council's Human Resource Manager has delegated authority as Panel Leader on all appointments within Council. The Human Resource Manager (Mr Anthony McCoy) and Director – City & Cultural Services (Mrs Lee Heron) are Council's Equal Opportunity Employment Officers.
- d) Council's commitment to employ/host indigenous trainees continues through the adoption of 'SEP' Programmes.

2. Risk Management

- a) The Port Augusta City Council seeks to manage its risk exposure to an optimum standard. Council's commitment to risk management as such remains ongoing with review and training a regular feature.

The 5 hierarchies of control remain the basis of Council's management within this area:

- i) substitution
- ii) elimination
- iii) engineering
- iv) administration
- v) personal protective equipment (PPE)

Council currently enjoys a level of rating within the Local Government Association exempt employer Workcover Status of Level 2.

During June/July 2008 Council was subjected to Workcover's Self Insurance Audit Evaluation. Council was fully assessed on its:

- a) Injury Management Program/Procedures; and
- b) OHS&W Program.

3. Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

Local Enterprise Agreements negotiated during 2008/2009 for ASU, AWU and ANF (Aged Care Services) employees remain in force (under agreed variation with appropriate Unions) until a decision has been handed down in the latest IR challenge through the High Court.

4. School Based Apprenticeship Program

As a further incentive towards the provision of opportunity for the vocational development of young people throughout the community, Council has adopted the 'Australia School Based Apprenticeship Program'.

Strategic Plan & Performance

Goal Area 1
Community
Development

Goal Area 2
Image of City

Goal Area 3
Economic Development

Goal Area 4
Infrastructure and Asset
Management

Goal Area 5
Environment
Management

Goal Area 6
Organisational
Effectiveness
(including **Audited
Financial Statements**)



Section 3

Goal Area 1: Community Development

Sub Goal 1.1: Our community feels safe

Three (3) projects were scheduled to be undertaken as part of Council's Annual Business Plans in 2008/2009 relating to Sub Goal 1.1. Progress for each of these projects is as follows:

- 1) Security Patrols (Canine) – this project was extremely successful and the outcomes provided from this initiative have had extremely positive results for the community. Council approved funding for this project to continue during the 2009/2010 financial year.
- 2) Establish a 'Secure Taxi Rank' within the CBD Area – the safe taxi rank operated from early December 2008 until mid June 2009 and was achieved through funding provided from the Attorney-General's Department.
- 3) Alcohol Management Group to meet regularly to action recommendations from the 'Living on Dry Ground' consultant's report relating to the Total City Dry Areas – this Committee meet regularly and will be ongoing for some time.

In 2009/2010 there are four (4) projects programmed in relation to this Sub Goal; three (3) of which are a continuation of those projects listed above plus providing financial support to the Port Augusta Youth Support Service late night bus.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Security Patrols (Canine)

A trial 'City Safe Strategy' commenced operation on 26 December 2008 for a 3 month period. The primary focus and purpose of the security patrol was to improve Port Augusta's image around safety, particularly at night. To achieve this outcome, Mr Tony Edmonds & Mr Walter Champion of SA Special Ops Group Pty Ltd, were appointed authorised officers of the Council with a brief to:

- a) Secure Council infrastructure assets
- b) Reduce the incidence of vandalism and graffiti
- c) Support the Dry Areas Legislation
- d) Assist SAPOL where possible as an extra patrol during the night time
- e) Assist the Mobile Assistance Patrol Program
- f) Assist the PAYSS Bus

A working party consisting of Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch AM, Deputy Mayor - Phil Greagen, Council Officers, SAPOL Officers and Tony Edmonds, was set up to review the progress of the trial.

Noticeable reductions in vandalism and graffiti, particularly around the foreshores became evident following the commencement of the Security Patrols. The Patrol took a very communicative approach with the Dry Areas; rather than a 'big stick', and as a result achieved a great degree of respect from the persons involved.

Community feedback for the patrol has been unbelievably positive; far in excess of what could have reasonably been expected. Council received a petition signed by over 800 persons supporting the continuation of the program.

As part of the 2009 Comparative Performance Measurement Report, Council sought feedback from the community through the Roy Morgan Community Survey in relation to the community's perception of the City Safe Security Patrol (Canine Patrol) as an initiative. 400 surveys were undertaken and 86.2% of the respondents indicated that it was a positive initiative.

2. Total City Dry Areas – Alcohol Management Group

The Alcohol Management Group is a multi agency forum whose aim is to provide leadership in the planning, facilitation and monitoring of holistic and coordinated initiatives in response to alcohol misuse within the community of Port Augusta. During the 2008/2009 financial year the Alcohol Management Group prepared a three year Action Plan for the Committee which address the recommendations from the 'Living on Dry Ground' report relating to the Total City Dry Areas. The recommendations include:

- a) The Port Augusta City Council through the Alcohol Management Group (AMG) advocate for a Total Dry Zone for Port Augusta for a further period of 2 years.
- b) Develop a 'Community Alcohol Management Plan'.
- c) The name, focus and Terms of Reference of the Dry Zone Steering Committee are changed to reflect more local representation and the development of a comprehensive and coordinated response to alcohol in the City.
- d) The Alcohol Management Group (AMG) continues to monitor the effectiveness and assess the impact of the Total Dry Zone (or other Dry Area regulations that may be in effect).
- e) Prepare a 'Data Set' to effectively monitor the outcomes of the Total Dry Zone and specific consequences of the regulations. A formal evaluation should be carried out at the end of a two year period.
- f) Consultation with the Aboriginal community concerning any further Dry Zone proposal is planned and conducted through the AMG, Aboriginal Reference Group and the Aboriginal Consultative Forum.
- g) Further marketing and promotional strategies in relation to the Total Dry Zone include local Aboriginal participation.

Several key strategies are linked to each of the above actions and these are being progressed by the Alcohol Management Group.

Council sought feedback from the community in relation to the effectiveness of the Total City Dry Areas initiatives in reducing anti-social behaviour as part of the 2009 Comparative Performance Measurement Report – Community Survey. 80.3% of the community indicated that this was an effective initiative in reducing anti-social behaviour as a result of alcohol misuse.

3. Secure Taxi Rank

The secure taxi rank was set up to provide safe late night transportation options for people leaving nightspots that may be potentially harmful due to violence and related alcohol consumption.

This initiative was very successful as it did help monitor the CBD of Port Augusta and provided an avenue of safety for community members to get to their respective destinations.

A further application is to be submitted to the Attorney General's Department through the Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner seeking funding to continue the secure taxi rank initiative during the 2009/2010 financial year.

4. CCTV Camera Upgrade

Council was successful in gaining external funding from the Federal Government's Attorney General's Department in 2006/2007 to install four (4) additional CCTV cameras around the City at identified locations and purchased 1 portable unit that can be located in any area where inappropriate activities are taking place.

Installation of the final two CCTV cameras took place in mid August and early September 2008. There were delays with getting these cameras installed as they involved ETSA Utilities installing new power connections or altering existing services. The other two cameras had been installed in March 2008.

The final evaluation of activities was undertaken in August and September 2008 to measure the impact of the cameras prior to the final report being submitted to the Attorney General's Department in October 2008.



Above: Camera located on the corner of the Big W building



Above: Camera located on Stobie Pole corner Loudon/Caroona Roads



Camera located on the Housing SA building (left) and Gladstone Square parklands that the camera overlooks



Below: Camera located on the Commercial Road/Mackay Street Corner



Goal Area 1: Community Development

Sub Goal 1.2: Recognise and value the diverse needs and cultures of our Community.

Fifteen (15) projects were scheduled to be undertaken during the 2008/2009 financial year relating to this sub goal. Three (3) projects were completed and twelve (12) are ongoing and have been carried over into the 2009/2010 financial year.

There are twenty one (21) projects scheduled to be undertaken as part of the 2009/2010 Business Plans linked to this sub goal of Council's Strategic Plan. Some of the projects scheduled include:

- 1) Promote responsible consumption of alcohol amongst the wider community of Port Augusta.
- 2) Financially support a local team to participate in Operation Flinders in 09/10.
- 3) Endeavour to re-commence local Youth Advisory Committee.
- 4) Participate in the OPAL Program.
- 5) Continue facilitation of the Aboriginal Consultative Forum.
- 6) Attain 'Service Excellence' accreditation for the Substance Misuse Services Program.
- 7) Develop Disability Action Plans.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Substance Misuse Services (SMS Program)

The Substance Misuse Service Program provides several programs linked to substance misuse and offers a Clean Needle Program, Mobile Assistance Patrol and Sobering Up Unit.

During the 2008/2009 financial year the Mobile Assistance Patrol participated in 2,612 assists. The Sobering Up Unit achieved 1,032 admissions which provided clients with a safe environment in which to sober up and a total of 918 clients utilised the clean needle program with 17,170 syringes being handed out and 11,350 used syringes being deposited back.

The Substance Misuse Service Program is funded by the Federal Government (Department of Health and Ageing), State Government (Department of Health), and managed and operated by the Port Augusta City Council.

Specific activities undertaken by the Substance Misuse Service Program during 2008/2009 included:

- a) Extended hours trialled over Christmas period
- b) Financially supported NAIDOC Week through the Mini Youth Ball
- c) As part of Drug Action Week – held a stall in Elder Park (Adelaide) to promote the Port Augusta Substance Misuse Service Program
- d) Assisted clients to take the 'next step' in their rehabilitation and referred 1 client to rehabilitation in Murray Bridge
- e) Provided education sessions to students at Bungala, clients at Lakeview Accommodation, Health Educators at Pichi Richi
- f) Manager (Douglas Longmore) participated on various community key reference groups who are responsible for addressing substance misuse issues within the City
- g) 6 Staff attended the Substance Misuse Family Day at Davenport Community
- h) Upgrade air conditioning units installed at the Sobering Up Unit



Staff participated in the Drug Action Week 'Sober Walk' in Adelaide

L-R: Mark Cooper, Daniel Richards, Delrae Brady, Douglas Longmore, Stefan Strangways and Greg Jackson taking the photo.

3. Youth Activities

3.1 Port Augusta Youth Support Service

Port Augusta Youth Support Service (PAYSS) is a crime prevention initiative, funded by the South Australian Attorney General's Department, Port Augusta City Council and Families SA, Port Augusta. PAYSS commenced operations in 2002, in an effort to address community concerns relating to the safety of unsupervised adolescents who were out on the streets late at night, especially on weekends.

PAYSS operates an evening street patrol bus service on Friday and Saturday evenings, commencing at 10pm and working through til early hours of the following morning. Youth Support Workers (two staff per shift) patrol the streets, identifying any young people who require safe transport to an appropriate location, as assessed by the Youth Support Workers. PAYSS work closely with SAPOL, Mobile Assistance Patrol (MAPS) and K-9 Security Patrol in the course of their duties, responding to calls for assistance in a timely manner.

PAYSS contributes to local crime prevention strategies, by referring young people who are out on the streets at late night to support services, sporting and recreation activities, youth programs and events, as well as being an adult presence on the streets during times when youth are unsupervised.

PAYSS current staffing structure consists of a full time Coordinator and 7 casual Youth Support Workers (YSW), accommodated within and managed by Families SA, Port Augusta District Centre. Families SA provides business support, administration, monitoring of financial budget and line management for the program.

PAYSS staff report child protection and adolescent at risk concerns through the Child Abuse Report Line, as well as referring young people to appropriate support agencies as required.

Port Augusta Youth Support Service			
Transport Provision Summary 2008-2009			
Month	Monthly Total	Sub Total	Total
2008			
July	98		
August	224		
September	127		

October	126		
November	128		
December	98	801	
2009			
January	75		
February	116		
March	88		
April	41		
May	109		
June	43	472	1273

3.2 Youth Opportunities Program

Council provided financial support to bring the Youth Opportunities Program to Port Augusta students in Year 10. This is a ten week program with participants attending one day per week in an adult learning environment with follow up continuing for two years following completion. The program aims at building self-esteem and resilience in students and has been operating very successfully in schools in the Metropolitan area for some time now. Two programs were run in the first half of 2009 with both proving to be very successful. Students were clearly able to demonstrate what they have learnt from the program and how it has affected their lives during the graduation ceremonies of both programs. A Community Development Board has been established to ensure the sustainability of the program in Port Augusta through promotion and fundraising.

3.3 Port Augusta Youth Focus Group

Council has continued to network with youth agencies through the Port Augusta Youth Focus Group which meets on a monthly basis. Council took the lead role in organising a National Youth Week event in Gladstone Square with other youth agencies participating by hosting activities and advertising the event. Fun activities included XBox games, golf putting challenge, bungee trampoline, chalk art, wet sponge toss, and cooking demonstrations and tastings. The evening was finished with a "Blue Light in the Barracks".

Goal Area 1: Community Development

Sub Goal 1.3: Best practice in community programs and facilities managed by Council.

The sections of Council that undertake programs linked to this sub goal include: Aged Care, Childcare, Events, Arts, Leisure, Recreation, Library and Community Information, Animal Control, Health Services, Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre and the Outdoor Adventure Centre.

During the 2008/2009 financial year forty five (45) projects were scheduled to be undertaken of which nine (9) were completed and thirty six (36) are ongoing and have been carried over into the 2009/2010 financial year.

There are fifty nine (59) activities scheduled within the 2009/2010 Business Plans relating to this sub goal. Some of these include:

- 1) Upgrade Outdoor Adventure Centre to provide 'dorm' type accommodation.
- 2) Review service delivery & programs of Health Focus
- 3) In conjunction with the Port Augusta Hospital & Regional Health Service organise an Ageing Expo
- 4) Set up & exhibit Country Arts SA touring exhibitions with public openings
- 5) Assist with planning and development of ARID – A Sculptural Collaboration
- 6) Construct a skatepark within the Eastside Foreshore Precinct
- 7) Finalise Recreation & Sports Master Plan for the City

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Port Augusta Library & Community Information Service

The Port Augusta Public Library and Community Information Service was a finalist in the Business Port Augusta Outstanding Business Awards in the 'Financial and Services Industries Section' in March 2009. Congratulations to Library staff for continuing to provide great customer service to the community.

A public library services its community through the provision of access to knowledge, information and works of imagination through a range of resources and services. It does this through access to materials in any format in order to meet the needs of individuals and groups for education, information and personal development including recreation and leisure. *[ALIA statement on public library service]*



Port Augusta Public Library offers a wide range of services and resources to the community. Various activities and events undertaken during 2008/2009 included:

1.1 Author visits

Chrissie Perry - The Library hosted Chrissie Perry children author on Wednesday 20 August 2008 as part of the national Books Alive program, eighty primary school children attending at the Institute Theatre.

Anne Bartlett - South Australian author Anne Bartlett travelled to Port Augusta on 11 September 2008 for an evening 'Meet and hear the author' event held at the Library. Over 40 people attended and enjoyed listening as Anne related her experiences of how to cope with 'suddenly' being a successful author.

Kristin Weidenbach - Kristin Weidenbach entertained over 30 people on 11 December with an evening 'Meet and hear the Author' event held at the Library. Kristin is the best-selling author of 'Mailman of the Birdsville Track' and spoke about her latest book 'Rock Star: the story of Reg Sprigg – an outback legend'

1.2 Exhibition

The Library hosted the History Trust of South Australia's 'With Courage and Humanity' exhibition of Major Peter Badcoe's Victoria Cross and the Yandruwandha - Burke and Wills breastplate over 3 days (22-24 April). The regional tour of these items, especially leading up to ANZAC Day was well received by the community. A special viewing was held on Thursday evening with 45 people attending.

1.3 Women's Switchboard

In early 2008 we were contacted by the Women's Switchboard discussing the housing of an information stand to assist in providing information to country women. Along with this they have donated to the Library a new laptop with software, including their community information database. A representative from the Women's Switchboard travelled to Port Augusta on 11 September 2008 to present the items to the Library.

1.4 Every Generation Festival

Port Augusta Public Library celebrated the Every Generation Festival by bringing together some of the city's youngest and oldest residents for a morning of songs and sharing. The Every Generation Festival is an annual, state-wide community based Festival that involves people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds, celebrating the lives, achievements and contributions of the older people in our community. On Friday 3 October 2008 the Library got involved by organising for their monthly library bus to visit the Port Augusta City Council's Child Care Centre. So instead of selecting their books in the Library, followed by the usual friendly chatter over morning tea, the elderly participants were delighted by a repertoire of songs presented by about 30 children from the centre.

1.5 National Simultaneous Storytime

On Wednesday 27 May 2009 the Library organised for the National Simultaneous Storytime to occur across Port Augusta. All primary school, pre-schools and child care centres were presented with a copy of 'Pete the sheep' by Jackie French to join in reading the same book at the same time with hundreds of other centres and schools across Australia.

2. **Sport & Recreation**

During 2008/2009 the role of the *be active* Field Officer grew and was further embraced by the Port Augusta Sport & Recreation community. More and more sporting clubs are now looking at their strategic direction and are formulating plans to ensure their long term viability.

Sport & Recreation has been a vital part of Port Augusta's culture, and the importance of this is evident in the response to the upgrade of the Central Oval Precinct. Port Augusta is positioning itself to capture the Sports Tourism market as well as improving the overall level of its sporting facilities for our local participants.

During 2008/09 we commenced the development of a Sports & Recreation Master Plan to provide direction for Clubs & Associations and to highlight potential growth areas in this industry.

The Sports & Recreation Master Plan looks to provide and maintain safe, enjoyable and physically active sports and recreation within the community by assisting the sporting clubs and associations to become more self sustainable through planning and implementation of new procedures that meets the community's needs. It also looks to meet the needs, and to ensure the best possible outcome, for the community in terms of developing infrastructure that is cost effective and complements the already established network of sporting facilities.

During the reporting period, the *be active* Field Officer supported the Port Augusta Sport & Recreation Network as follows:

2.1 **Have a Go Cricket**

25 kids participated in the 10 week program with each child receiving cricket equipment

2.2 **Port Augusta Recreation & Sports Network**

Provided various workshops that assisted in the running of their organisation. Delivered the '*be active* Roadshow' to the region with 150 attendees from the 3 cities.

2.3 **Port Augusta Umpire Academy**

22 students took part during this period. Students given opportunities at local netball games.

2.4 **Port Augusta Skate Park**

On going assistance being provided. Location has been confirmed and funding secured. Tenders to be called in early 2009/2010.

2.5 **Central Oval Precinct Development**

During the 2008/2009 financial year, Council finalised the Master Planning process for the project. Council has worked hard to secure partnerships with the sports currently and identified as potentially being located at this site. Council applied for funding through the Federal Governments stimulus fund to complete Stages 1, 2 & 3, however this application was unsuccessful. Council will continue to identify and apply for appropriate grant funding sources in the future. Council assisted the Port Augusta Tennis Association with resurfacing 4 courts as part of the total redevelopment. These courts were overdue for resurfacing and it was agreed to fast-track this in line with future development for this area which forms part of Stages 4 & 5.

2.6 Pichi Richi Marathon

Second consecutive year of record entries and 'Port Augusta Event of the Year' awarded as part of the Australia Day Celebrations.

2.7 Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation

Membership continuing to increase. On-going support given throughout the year.

2.8 ETSA Bowling & Croquet Club

Successful merger of these two clubs with Council providing leadership and assistance.

2.9 Sports & Recreation Master Plan

Commenced development of this plan in consultation with local sporting bodies.

3. Childcare Services

3.1 Port Augusta Childcare Centre

2008/09 saw an increase in the full-time-equivalent number of children attending the Centre. The average full-time-equivalent children attending for 2008/09 was 50.36. The average attendance in 2007/08 was 44.73. Many families are utilizing the Centre, but the vast majority are attending on a part time basis.

A validator from the National Childcare Accreditation Council attended the Centre on 10 and 11 December 2008 to conduct a full site validation audit. The Centre received an excellent result with a high quality rating against all 33 principles across the Quality Areas.

The Centre was audited against the new Food Safety Standard in December 2008 with suggestions made regarding documentation. A follow up audit was undertaken in June 2009 with good results. The next audit is due June 2010.

An unannounced Licence Compliance Inspection was undertaken on 17 February 2009. It was noted that the administration, facilities and equipment had been maintained to an acceptable standard and no additional work was required to meet regulations.

Training opportunities for staff during 2008/09 included Promoting Positive Behaviour, Parent and Infant Mental Health and its effect on Baby, Start Right Eat Right training, "Tree of Life", Promoting Cultural Inclusion, Seizure Management and Asthma First Aid. A staff member attended Level 1 OHS&W training from 23 to 27 February 2009.

Training was undertaken on the new Child Care Management System that was implemented nationally during the year. This new system requires information to be forwarded electronically to Canberra on a weekly basis to calculate the amount of Childcare Benefit to be deducted from accounts prior to distributing accounts to families for payment. Previously Childcare Benefit was paid to Centres on a monthly basis in advance with claims submitted on a quarterly basis for comparison. Childcare Benefit is now paid to the Centre on a weekly basis following the submission of data.

Two Trained Staff were employed on a permanent full time basis during the year. Several untrained childcare workers were employed on a casual call in basis to ensure correct staff:child ratios during peak times.

The Centre hosted numerous students for placements as part of their Certificate 3 and/or Diploma in Children's Services during the year. Several school students also attended the Centre for work experience.

Pool type fencing was installed around the kindy verandah area to enable activities to be undertaken outdoors during inclement weather. Tinted PVC blinds were installed around the verandah of babies' area to enable a larger play area for this age group.

Power points and circuit breakers were upgraded in June 2009. Work was undertaken on the weekend to minimize impact on the operation of the Centre.

New vinyl flooring was laid in the dining area of the Centre. This work was also undertaken on a weekend to minimize impact on the Centre.

A new gable pergola was constructed over the play equipment in the toddlers' yard. This solid roof structure replaced the shade cloth structure which had deteriorated beyond repair.

Artificial turf sourced from the Bowling Club was laid in small sections of the Kindy and toddlers' yards and paving was also re-laid in these areas. A lawn area within the bike track of the Kindy yard was also developed to enable a contrast of textures of surfaces.

Animals Anonymous Wildlife on Wheels attended the Centre on 25 August 2008 giving the children hands on experience with lizards, frogs, a spider, a potaroo, a sugar glider, a python and lots more.

A children's entertainer attended the Centre on 1 May 2009 using puppetry, musical instruments and dress ups to entertain the children. Children were also given opportunities to interact during the show.

3.2 Miriam High Special Needs Centre

Numbers of children attending the program remained constant during 2008/09 with up to 55 families being supported.

The Miriam High Special Needs Outreach Program continued to support families in Whyalla, Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy and Andamooka. Up to 37 children were supported through the program.

Staff training undertaken during the year included Child Safe Environment (Mandatory Notification) training, Promoting Positive Behaviour, Infant Mental Health and its effect on baby, Children's Self Esteem, Grief and Loss, Sensory Workshop, Asthma training, PECS communication system, Aided Language/Communication, Nasal Gastric feed credentialing, Senior First Aid, Manual Handling and Working with Vision Impaired Children.

Outreach Services attending the Centre on a regular basis during the year included Novita Children's Services, Can Do for Kids, Special Education Resource Unit, Kilparrin School for Sight and Hearing Impaired Children, and Autistic Association.

Staff continue to work closely with the Child Health Team and Child Development Unit from Flinders Terrace Health Centre and Northern Regional Paediatric Unit.

Medical Students continued to attend the Centre for placements as part of their six week Country placement in their fifth year of study.

The School Holiday and After Hours Respite program funded through HACC continues to be popular, with children enjoying activities such as a boat cruise, beach activities, picnics in the park, visit to the cinema and YMCA kindergym.

Two third-year Occupational Therapy students attended the Centre for a six week placement where they undertook a project to create a “Lending Equipment and Play” service including a catalogue with information regarding the benefits and uses of each piece of equipment.

The Miriam High Special Needs Centre was a beneficiary of the 2008 Police Charity Golf Day with \$7,650 being donated to the Centre. The Centre also received a donation of \$6,000 from the Spencer Gulf Motorcycle Tourers Poker Run. The staff and families of the Centre are also very grateful for the numerous other donations received from the community.

25th Birthday celebrations were held on 28 and 29 November 2008. This was a huge success with a large number of past and present families, staff and supporters attending. It was pleasing to see the past Director of the Port Augusta Childcare Centre, Ms Jenny Hocking and original staff of the Miriam High Special Needs Centre: Judy Hardie, Sandra Walls, Joy Hill and Shirley Moy, as well as Miriam, John and Rachel High.



Cutting of the Cake:

L-R:
Her Worship the Mayor –
Mrs Joy Baluch AM, Mrs
Miriam High, Mrs Jenny
Hocking and Mrs Carmel
Boscence



Cutting of the Birthday
Cake

L-R:
Past Students: Ms Gemma
Blaschek, Ms Robyn Burt,
Ms Rachel High and Ms
Amanda Rowe

4. Aged Care Services

4.1 Nerrilda Nursing Home

Nine new residents were admitted to Nerrilda Nursing Home during the 2008/09 financial year due to limited availability of bed places.

A full accreditation site audit by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency took place on 26 and 27 August 2008. Nerrilda was found to be compliant with 41 out of 44 standards and accredited for a 12 month period. Staff revised existing systems and made the necessary improvements to ensure all standards are met. A follow up visit on 22 December 2008 resulted in all 44 standards being rated as compliant. An unannounced site visit by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency occurred on Tuesday 26 May 2009 focussing on incident reporting, continuous improvement and lifestyle. Nerrilda was found to be compliant in all areas during this visit.

Various pieces of equipment have been purchased during the financial year as identified to improve quality of care for residents. This has included lifter slings for each resident's room, a new lifter, and a new vaccination/medication fridge.

Regular staff inservice training sessions and also external training has been accessed including Wound Care, Palliative Care, "Train the Trainer" CPR course, taste, touch and smell assessment, podiatry credentialing, manual handling and fire and evacuation. Benchmarking against other aged care services has also occurred during the year.

Desley McKinlay (Clinical Nurse Consultant) completed a Diploma of Business Management - Aged Care through the Australian Nursing Federation.

A mandatory audit of the kitchen based on the new Food Safety Standard was undertaken by Mr Chris Hunt of Yorke Peninsula Council on 16 December 2008. Chris is a qualified National Food Safety Auditor Level 4 High Risk – RABQSA International. Some suggestions to documentation were made and a follow up visit took place in June 2009 to verify that new recording systems had been implemented. The next visit is planned for June 2010.

Upgrades to the building have included the creation of "barn doors" to minimize the impact of wandering residents on bed bound residents, electric door to the front entrance of the building, and changes to external door locks

Students from Port Augusta West Primary School visited Nerrilda on a regular basis throughout the year to entertain the residents with skipping exhibitions, songs and dance.

The Nerrilda Fundraising Auxiliary is continuing to support Nerrilda with significant funds raised. Over \$6,000 worth of equipment was purchased by the Auxiliary during the 2008/09 financial year to assist staff and improve the quality of life for our residents.

Director of Nursing - Mrs Susan Naisbitt was farewelled on 30 June 2009 after 12 years of dedicated service to both Nerrilda and Ramsay Village.

4.2 A.M. Ramsay Village

Eleven new residents were admitted to A.M. Ramsay Village during the 2008/09 financial year.

Various community groups visited Ramsay Village during the year to entertain the residents including the Salvation Army, staff and children of the Miriam High Special Needs Centre, Augusta Park Primary School, JT Shoenz, John Jones and Shirley Moy.

Garden beds were installed around the vicinity of the new building works and connected to the recycled water via subsurface irrigation to finalise the building upgrade.

An unannounced site audit by the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency on 8 July 2008 identified some deficiencies with the continuous improvement systems. A revised program was introduced with an education process being undertaken by staff. A support visit undertaken on 8th October 2008 identified that all deficiencies had been rectified. A further unannounced site audit on 13 January 2009 also found Ramsay Village to be compliant with all standards. A full two day site audit was undertaken on 22 and 23 June 2009 and Ramsay Village was found to be compliant with all 44 standards and accredited for a two year period.

Training undertaken by staff during the year included Manual Handling, Fire and Evacuation, Food Safety and Handling and Senior First Aid.

The Rotary Club built a gazebo near the front entrance to A.M. Ramsay Village much to the appreciation of residents. This has been used on a daily basis and is a great place to gather outdoors. The Lions Club also donated a Nintendo Wii for the residents to use.

Uniting Care Wesley Adelaide commenced the Community Visitors Scheme which matches volunteers to residents of aged care facilities for one to one visiting. Several residents of Ramsay Village have commenced with the scheme and are enjoying the regular contact.

Several staff retired during the financial year after long periods of service including Mrs Terry McSporrnan, Mrs Mary Medwin, and Mrs Susan Naisbitt.

4.3 Health Focus

Programs conducted during the 2008/09 financial year have included “Let’s Keep Active” groups, Low Vision Craft Group, Podiatry, Community Based Exercise Classes and Walking groups. All programs continued to operate at near capacity attendances and various guest speakers have attended the Tuesday and Wednesday groups to present topics such as Diabetes Education, Fire Safety in the Home, and Dangers of Heat Stress.

A six week block of Tai Chi was also undertaken by clients in the Wednesday group. This was enjoyed and it is hoped to be repeated again in 2009/10.

The Tuesday and Wednesday groups celebrated the Beijing Olympics with a modified version of events and also arranged special celebrations for the Melbourne Cup. The Health Focus Clients Footy Tipping competition was closely contested and celebrated in style at the end of the season.

Groups have enjoyed day trip bus outings during the year to Quorn, Booleroo Centre, Hawker, Whyalla, Mambray Creek, Port Pirie, Wirrabarra Forest and Orroroo

The annual trip away was held from 4 to 7 May 2009. This year the destination was Victor Harbor. Twelve clients took this opportunity to have a holiday whilst receiving the support of staff.

Staff undertook training in Cultural Awareness, Senior First Aid, Basic Podiatry Credentialing, Fire and Evacuation and Easy Moves for Active Ageing

Exercise and walking groups were cancelled during a two week period in late January early February due to extreme heat. During this period all clients of Health Focus were contacted to ensure their safety during the extreme weather conditions.

Minimum Data Set statistics were submitted on a quarterly basis throughout the year for the Friday Memory Loss Group to meet HACC funding requirements for this group.

A fourth year Social Work student completed a placement at Health Focus as part of her final year of study.

The Bizzi Bodies Exercise Group was nominated in the Annual SA Great Regional Awards. Bronwyn Filsell attended the award night along with a couple of participants from the group and was thrilled to accept the award for the Sport/Recreation category.

4.4 Men's Shed

The Men's Shed has received donations of timber, shelving, bolts, screws, nails and paint from community members during the year, which has assisted to reduce costs of production of goods.

Work undertaken by the men during the year has included refurbishment of a table, bar sign for the RSL, sanding and oiling of blocks and planks for Flinders View Child Parent Centre, dolls houses, blanket boxes, dog kennel, picture frames, pigeon holes for a school, shelving, jumps for the Pony Club and an outdoor potting table for the Stirling North Primary School's kitchen garden project. Table centre pieces were made from Myall and Pine for the Rotary Club of Port Augusta. Each centre piece holds four club flags. The older men also completed a new Santa's chair for the Port Augusta Community Charities Group.

The Men's Shed once again won a prize for their entry in the Port Augusta Pageant. This year the theme was "Ratatouille" based on the popular children's film. The Men put a lot of work into their pageant float as a way of contributing back to the community.

The Younger Vets have continued to assist members of the community with minor home maintenance tasks through the Community Assistance Program. They also gave talks to school students about their overseas military experiences. The students were very receptive to their presentation.

The Men's Shed received a Commendation Award in the Community Group category at the SA Great Regional Awards.

Health Sessions undertaken during the year have included "I've got a short fuse", "Keeping your cool", Memory Loss and Dementia, Sleeping Better, Dealing with Anxiety and Stress and Beyond Blue.

A social work student completed a placement at the Shed as part of her final year of study. Ten post graduate registered nurses visited the shed to understand the services within the community which may assist the clients they come into contact with.

The Men's Shed received publicity around the internet launch of "Big Stories, Small Towns". This site features short stories about life in Port Augusta, including interviews with Neil Edwards and Clem Hill about what the Shed means to them, and footage of work undertaken at the Shed.

4.5 Port Augusta Ageing Strategy

The Port Augusta Aged Care Service Providers Network (PiPA – Partnerships in Positive Ageing) continued to meet bi-monthly to share ideas, discuss gaps in service, trends and opportunities and progress recommendations of the Ageing Strategy.

5. Community Events

5.1 Vibe Alive, Wednesday 3 & Thursday 4 September 2008



Above left: One of the activities at the 2009 Vibe Alive event at Central Oval.

Above centre: students participating in dance activity at 2008 Vibe Alive.

Above right: Full-On Future activity marquees at 2008 Vibe Alive.

5.2 Port Augusta City Council Outback Surf Boat Carnival, Saturday 8 November 2008

The Port Augusta Foreshore was splashed with colour, competition and excitement on Saturday 8 November 2008 for the Annual Surfboat Carnival. Teams from metropolitan Adelaide gave locals a great competition to watch, whilst more than 300 children joined in the fun of face painting and totem tennis. Awards were presented by Mayor Mrs Joy Baluch.



5.3 Live at the Crossroads

Jimmy Barnes Concert, supported by Adam Brand, Saturday 15 November 2008.

5.4 General Events

Events that received financial or in-kind support from Port Augusta City Council during 2008/2009 are as follows: 2008 - Port Augusta Racing Cup, Wharfest, Jacobs Creek Port Augusta Golf Classic, Port Augusta Pony Club Showjumping Championships, Big Screen Film Festival, Anderson Dancers Annual Pantomime and Top of the Gulf Country Music Festival. 2009 - Australia Day Breakfast, Port Augusta Kids Crabbing Day, Pichi Richi Marathon, Quilters Guild Exhibition and Port Augusta City Council Cup (Port Augusta and Districts Greyhound Club)

5.5 Global Maintenance Conference

Council provided in-kind support to Global Maintenance Upper Spencer Gulf by organising and managing their Trade Show which was held to coincide with their Resources Conference held at the Standpipe Golf Motor Inn on Thursday 30 April 2009. This is the third year that Council has managed the Trade Show component of their event.



Images above are of the Global Maintenance USG Trade Show Display which was comprised of an outside display of equipment and a Marquee containing 22 exhibiting companies.

6. The Arts

6.1 Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli

The Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli was officially opened on Friday 5 September 2008 by The Hon. John Hill Assisting the Premier in the Arts, and her Worship the Mayor Joy Baluch AM. The facility became the focal point for the 'Port Augusta Re-Imagines' program for 2008.

The opening of the Cultural Centre combined with Port Augusta Re-Imagines! has increased community civic pride, participation in the arts, and enticed community members from the wider region, not just Port Augusta, to share the experience. It has reinforced the value and importance of arts and culture in the community - their ability to inspire, educate and challenge the community, and create new experiences for the benefit of the community.

Overall, the 2008 Port Augusta Re-Imagines Program of arts and cultural events and activities comprised of:

- 32 exhibitions with associated events and workshops
- 70 performances of 45 productions
- 30 exhibitions and performances with schools' components including professional development for teachers

- 8 individual festivals and celebrations
- Numerous workshops for all age groups in art, drama, circus, dance, music, history, volunteering, film, multi-media, heritage, literature, arts law and media.

Port Augusta Re-Imagines! also incorporated Port Augusta's existing arts and cultural program including Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, Jazz and Blues in the Barracks, Country Music Festival, Country Arts SA Shows on the Road program, and the ongoing program of local artist and touring exhibitions.

The Regional Centre for Culture played an important role in transferring experiences and knowledge between visitors, artists and community members. It has encouraged personal and professional development through art experiences, workshops, master classes and forums.

During 2009 the staff settled into strengthening our vision to enrich the community, socially and economically, through the practice and enjoyment of the arts and cultural experiences.

6.2 Highlights and Events during July 2008 - June 2009:

6.2.1 Desert Fringe

Desert Fringe returned to Port Augusta on 20-21 March with acclaimed artists and performances that offered spontaneous comedy and street theatre, outrageous cabaret, cool music and captivating installations. It was wonderful to see the Institute Theatre, the Barracks, Gladstone Square and the façade of the Port Augusta Cultural Centre – Yarta Purtli come alive as well as see such enthusiastic responses from appreciative audiences who were enthralled from one event to the next.

It was a weekend of talent that showcased new performances by local artists including Mathew Timms, The Caroon Road Band, Our House Theatre Company, Cindi Drennan, Desert Voices, Andy Killcross, and visiting favourites including Tripod, The Casio Brothers and Demolition Girl, Juke Baritone and the Swamp Dogs, Cocoloco, Pandora Pink and Mr Spin.

Cindi Drennan opened Desert Fringe in Gladstone Square with her remarkable two part sound and light projection onto the Cultural Centre façade. The first part cleverly utilised the architectural features of the façade and mischievous grabs of recent Port Augusta history. The second part accompanied Car-cophany, an unusual sound experience designed and produced by Mathew Timms from Quorn.

Car-cophany involved local car owners with big car stereos to create a symphony of car horns and music with lighting effects supplied by headlights and blinkers. On Saturday, Cindi's installation piece at the Institute Theatre, *Jive in the Theatre* attracted rave reviews from both young and old. Desert Voices sang to their heart's content with a newly developed repertoire of songs, and Our House Theatre group performed their original piece *Karen: A dot point presentation*.

Just as important as the performances, were the opportunities for local performers to hone their skills by working with friendly, supportive professionals and using state of the art equipment.

6.2.2 Grindell's Hut Artist in Residency

In April aspiring visual artists are invited to apply for the 2009 Grindell's Hut Artist in Residency program sponsored by the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges National Park Co-management Board in partnership with the Port Augusta City Council and Country Arts SA.

The Cultural Centre received 11 applications, the highest number of applicants to date, making the selection process very competitive. Although all the applicants were of a high calibre, ceramist Barry Wemyss, Senior Technical Officer, University of Ballarat Arts Academy, Victoria was chosen as the 2010 recipient of the residency program. The selection panel was impressed by Barry's inspirational ceramic forms and intricate artist's books. His work is highly technical, exquisite with a presence that emanates its own sculptural terrain. Barry's work will bring diversity and a new perspective on the Flinders Ranges through the eyes of a ceramic artist.

Barry Wemyss is expected to begin his three week residency mid October 2009, followed by an exhibition of his inspired work at the Cultural Centre in June 2010.

6.2.3 In the Bin Film Festival

Australia's largest touring short film festival, *In the Bin*, returned to Port Augusta, 11-13 June. The Festival encompassed a three-day educational workshop for students over 14yrs and a film night at Cinema Augusta during which 12 award-winning short films (chosen from a record 285 entries from across the globe) and the completed student film were screened.

The student workshop, held in the Institute Theatre, was attended by six students whose creative juices joined together to create a humorous short film focused on a 'terror chicken break-out' in Port Augusta. In producing the film the students were taught basic film theory, shooting and editing.

6.2.4 Exhibition Program

The new galleries provide a quality venue for the display of all cultural art forms created by local, intrastate and interstate artists. The Cultural Centre's focus this year was to showcase local artists and crafts-people from Port Augusta and surrounding communities.

Figures below include exhibitions at Fountain Gallery for July 2008-December 2008, with the last exhibition at Fountain Gallery in December the gallery was closed and all exhibitions for 2009 held in the Cultural Centre Gallery space.

- BURNING ISSUES (6/6/08 – 21/7/08) - **Total 566 (1/7/08 to 21/7/08)**
- NAIDOC (3/7/08 – 30/7/08) - **Total 247**
- ANTIFRACTURALISATION (25/7/08 – 30/8/08) & PERCEPTIONS OF DISTANCE (26/7/08 – 28/8/08) - **Total 577**
- 100 YEARS OF MUSIC IN PORT AUGUSTA (4/8/08 – 3/9/08) - **Total 369**
- ENVIRONMENTS (8/08 – on show for 14 days) - **Total 152**
- STEPHANIE SCHRAPEL (9/08 – on show for 29 days) - **Total 168**
- FLIGHT OF THE FLINDERS and PORTRAIT OF A PLACE – CARRICK HILL (9/08) - **Total 332**
- BIRDS AND LANDSCAPE (8/9/08 – 30/9/08) - **Total 377**
- A SCULPTURAL MUSING (2/9/08 – 27/9/08) - **Total 462**
- ARID – A SCULPTURAL COLLABORATION 2008 (5/9/08 – 18/10/08) - **Total 461**
- OUR MOB (2/10/08 – 26/10/08) - **Total 534**
- SEVEN SISTERS STORIES (9/10/08 – 29/10/08) - **Total 238**
- RIPPLES IN THE SAND (23/10/08 – 29/11/08) - **Total 801**
- AS WE SEE IT (30/10/08 – 29/11/08) - **Total 411**

- SNAPSHOTS OF REMOTE COMMUNITIES (3/11/08 – 20/12/08) - **Total 238**
- OF THE HEART (4/12/08 – 20/12/08) - **Total 178**
- MY FAMILY, MY LAND, MY ART AND I (4/12/08 – 20/12/08) - **Total 264**
- COLLECTANEA 2009 (6/2/09 – 28/2/09) - **Total 217**
- DESIGN NOW (6/2/09 – 28/2/09) - **Total 220**
- ONE YEAR ON (5/3/09 – 4/4/09) - **Total 286**
- LONG SLEEP PLAIN (5/3/09 – 4/4/09) - **Total 241**
- RETROSPECTIVE (9/4/09 – 9/5/09) - **Total 284**
- MELVA WATERMANN (9/4/09 – 9/5/09) - **Total 355**
- FARMED ART (14/5/09 – 6/6/09) **includes Farmer's Market, Sunday 24/5/09** - **Total (estimate) 407**
- ALLTERRAIN (11/6/09 – 11/7/09) - **Total 293**
- CENTRED ON DIVERSITY (11/6/09 – 11/7/09) - **Total 289**

6.2.5 Volunteers

The Cultural Centre continues to incorporate a volunteer program offering community members an opportunity to play a vital role in managing the facility and events. This involvement gives the community a sense of ownership and involvement.

In April the Cultural Centre experienced a dramatic drop in the number of volunteers available to man the galleries due to illness, family and other commitments. For the first time in 10 years the galleries were closed for one afternoon as no one was available. A volunteer night was held Monday 18 May as a way of the staff showing their appreciation for the volunteers' enormous effort and time.

6.2.6 Other Activities

a) Winnie Bamara

In 2008 South Australian residents John Weightman and Joy Noble donated three noteworthy artworks by Aboriginal artist Winnie Bamara to the Port Augusta City Council as a memorial to the artist and Mr Weightman's late wife Mrs Ruby Weightman. Mr Weightman's donation consisted of a watercolour with Mrs Nobel donating two smaller gouaches.

Winnie Bamara was born at Nullarbor Station in 1939. She spent 14 years, during the 1960-70s, as a resident of Umewarra Mission and Children's Home at Davenport on the outskirts of Port Augusta. Her talent as an artist shone through and she was given the opportunity to study art in Sydney in 1958 by the Mission. By the time she reached late adult life Winnie had achieved notable acclaim for her painting skills and was able to earn a modest income from their sale. She married William Fred Smith and had five children. Winnie passed away at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1987.

The paintings are on permanent display in the Cultural Centre foyer and will be on public display in May 2010 when the Cultural Centre will curate a retrospective of Winnie Bamara's work on loan from family, friends and local collections.

b) **Public Art installation**

March 2009 marked the completion of the city's first major metropolitan art installation, along the causeway entrance/exit to the city centre and the recently developed foreshore area. The convergence of both components, the gravel mounds and the poles, conveys a strong physical and social identity, representing the people, colours, symbols and landscape to visitors travelling into Port Augusta.

The finale to the project was erecting the 'procession of poles' at the causeway entrance and at the northern end of the Foreshore. The poles support individually designed stainless steel wind vanes, creating a striking entrance to the causeway and foreshore. The symbolic designs for the wind vanes were drawn from community and interest groups' ideas during a series of consultative workshops.

The first component of the work is *Making Tracks*, the series of gravel mounds representing the colours of the local landscape. They reflect the forms of the Flinders Ranges in one direction and the horizon line of the bush in the other. The title also refers to the location of Port Augusta at the cross roads of East – West and South – North travel across Australia.

The second component is *Swinging Tales*, a set of wind vanes atop the coloured poles, carrying the symbols of what is valued most highly by the people of Port Augusta. In conversation, each local has a story they can tell related to any one of the symbols. Their movement in the wind reflects the interactive energies that characterise the people of Port Augusta.

7. **Port Augusta Outdoor Adventure Centre**

The Port Augusta Outdoor Adventure Centre runs programs that offer alternative physical activities, such as bushwalking, orienteering, climbing, abseiling, kayaking, windsurfing and sailing.

Programs are run to provide access to the general public to these activities, either on an individual or group basis. Specific programs can be tailored to meet the needs of participants.

The Centre has upgraded its accommodation facilities and is now providing low cost short term accommodation for groups visiting Port Augusta as part of its service. The Centre can cater for up to 40 people.



8. **Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre**

The Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre provides a diverse range of water activities for members of the community. During 2008/2009 these included:

- Aqua Aerobics
- SOS (Sink or Swim) Classes
- Education (term time) swimming
- Vacswim
- Port Augusta Swimming Club Programme
- Aussi Masters
- Free days organised by the Port Augusta Youth Centre

The Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre also ran a ‘Bronze Medallion Course’ over a two week period with eleven people registering and completing this course.

The upgrade of the BBQ area which adjoins the pool continues and this area is a very popular outdoor areas used by the community for birthday parties, social gatherings etc.

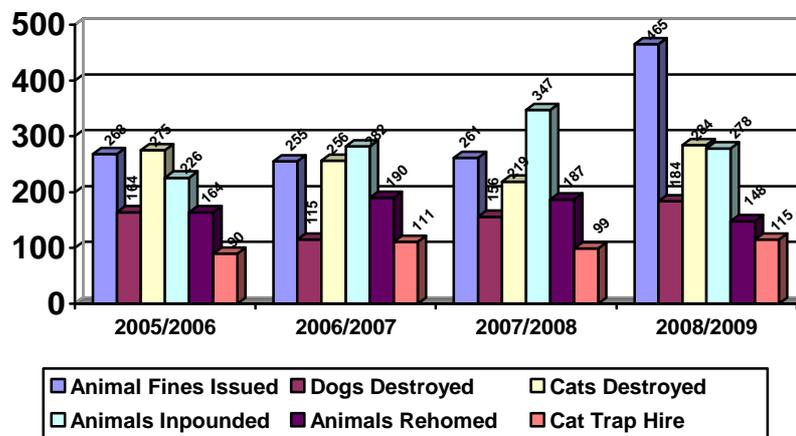


A new Eremophila Garden has been established within the pool grounds and these plants were purchased from the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens. The garden has been completed and includes a drip system for watering the plants. The Swim Centre attracted 33,011 people through the gates during the 2008/2009 financial year.

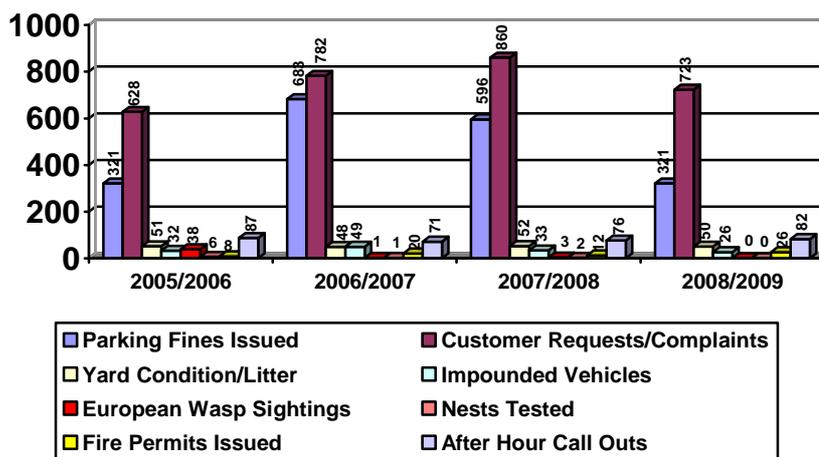
9. General Inspector Activities

The General Inspectors are responsible for undertaking specific duties to ensure the control and management of animals, and other general activities such as parking, unsightly conditions of land, vehicle impounding etc. The following graphs provide an overview of activities undertaken during 2008/2009 in comparison to previous years’ figures.

Animal Related Statistics



General Inspector Activity Statistics



9.1 PetPEP Program

Council has participated in the PetPEP program every year since joining in 2006. So far staff have attended the Port Augusta West Primary School (twice), Willsden Primary School and Carlton Primary School. The PetPEP program is a community education initiative and was developed in response to the need to address societal issues associated with owning pets.

The decision to target primary school children was made for the following reasons:

- 1) children often share an affinity with animals;
- 2) education about pets needs to start at any early age, thus encouraging sound pet care practice early in life;
- 3) children are often the primary carers of pets in the family home;
- 4) children often encourage the process of attaining a family pet;
- 5) schools offer accessibility to a wide range of community groups; and
- 6) the education framework sets an excellent standard in planning educational programs.

9.2 General Inspector Training/Development Activities

General Inspector, Wayne McKerlie completed Certificate IV in Regulatory Services for the reporting period.

9.3 Animal Management Plans

During the reporting period, Council's General Inspectors have continued to implement initiatives that are included within the Port Augusta Animal Management Plans. Some of these activities include:

- Annual Door Knock (search for unregistered dogs and issue relevant fines).
- Installation of relevant signs within parks to ensure community awareness of on-leash/off-leash provisions applicable to the open space areas.
- Hire of cat traps with pick up and disposal of cats.
- Animal patrols throughout the City.
- Police Council's By-laws relating to dogs and cats.
- Re-homing of animals – Council's Animal Adoption Scheme in conjunction with Local Vets, Whyalla Vets and local Boarding kennels.
- Respond to animal complaints (attacks, barking, wandering, unregistered and injured).

9.4 Millions Paws Walk

Council raised \$1,522 for the RSPCA as part of the 2009 RSPCA Million Paws Walk held on the 18 May 2009. This activity forms part of Council's Animal Management Plan to involve and educate the community in responsible animal management.

Some of the attendees are pictured below:



Goal Area 2: Image of City

Sub Goal 2.1: A positive and progressive image of our City.

Maintaining a positive image of our City is an important goal and is acknowledged within this area of the Council's Strategic Plan. Council continues to implement initiatives to enhance the image of the City and in 2008/2009 two (2) specific projects were undertaken, one being completed and the other ongoing.

During the 2009/2010 financial year ten (10) projects have been programmed to be undertaken in relation to sub goal of Council's Strategic Plan. Some of these include:

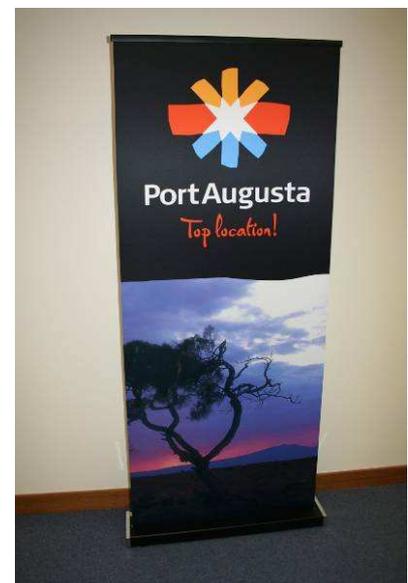
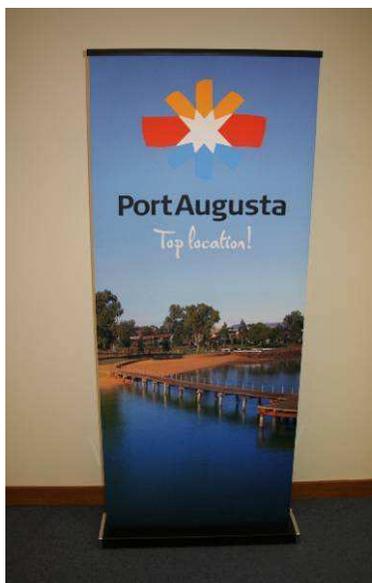
- 1) Expand the range of postcards to increase the 'Port Augusta' branded product range for souvenirs and clothing and Wadlata and AALBG.
- 2) Seek funding to develop a 'Style Guide' for the City of Port Augusta.
- 3) Continue to roll-out the new Port Augusta Branding Project.
- 4) Continue to develop the signage strategy and signage throughout the City.
- 5) Co-ordinate events throughout the year and support local organisations with advertising of events.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Port Augusta Branding and Marketing Strategy

The branding and marketing strategy activities undertaken during the 2008/2009 financial year include:

- 1.1 Printing of promotional banners to be used by Council and other local agencies to promote Port Augusta at events and functions.



- 1.2 The construction and erection of new ‘Welcome & Event Advertising Signs’ at the three entrances to Port Augusta.



- 1.3 Commitment of funding to the value of \$70,000 towards the upgrade of the three Business Port Augusta Information Bays. Business Port Augusta have commenced a tendering process for these upgrades and it is likely that work will be completed during the 2009/2010 financial year.
- 1.4 Purchase of men’s ties and ladies scarves to be used as Corporate Gifts.



2. **Welcome to Port Augusta**

The 2009 ‘Welcome to Port Augusta BBQ’ was held on Thursday 2nd April 2009 at the Barracks in the Port Augusta Cultural Centre - Yarta Purtli. The event was well attended by new professionals to the City. Council’s new City Manager Greg Perkin and his wife Raelene were among the new residents who attended the BBQ. Approximately 60 new professionals and visiting medical and health students attended the event. The new venue gave the event an enjoyable atmosphere and worked well in regards to logistics and event management.

3. Entranceway Project

As reported in previous Annual Reports, Council has during the last two years, undertaken an upgrade to the southern entranceway leading into the City.

The first stage of the project included the construction of mounds covered with three different coloured stones.

The final stage completed in 2008/2009 was a series of wind vanes on top of coloured poles situated at strategic locations along the entranceway corridor. The design of the wind vanes was based on feedback from a community consultation workshop facilitated by Artist, Margaret Worth.



Artistic Impression:

The alternating orientation and colours of local stone reflects the nearby Flinders Ranges, the dunes of the desert and the rhythms of long distance travelling.

Goal Area 3: Economic Development

Sub Goal 3.1: Economic Growth for long-term benefit

Included within the 2008/2009 Business Plans were seventeen (17) projects scheduled to be undertaken linked to this goal area of Council's Strategic Plan. Of the 17 projects, 6 were completed, 9 are ongoing and 2 have been deleted due to budget constraints.

There are twenty (20) projects listed within the 2009/2010 Business Plans linked to this sub goal. Some of these include:

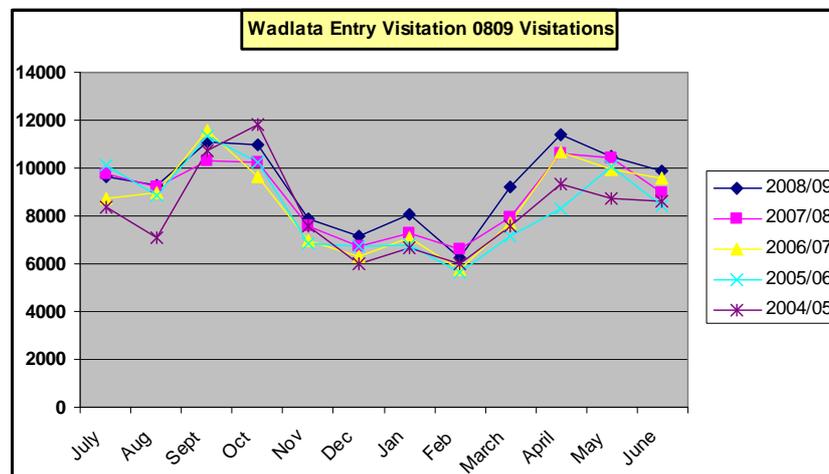
- 1) Complete the Urban Growth and Regional Town Centre Development Plan Amendments.
- 2) Commence a Heritage Development Plan Amendment.
- 3) Commence a Westside Development Plan Amendment.
- 4) Investigate opportunities for developing Council's industrial land.
- 5) Upgrade carriage roof and repaint carriage (Wadlata).
- 6) Contribute to the development of a promotional DVD for Port Augusta.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Wadlata Outback Centre

1.1 Visitations

A record 111,310 visitors visited the Wadlata Outback Centre during the 2008/09 Financial Year. This highlights a 5.3% (5,654 visitors) increase in visitations compared to the 2007/08 Financial Year, with a 2.4% increase over the previous most successful year, being 2002/2003, which was Year of the Outback. The graph below provides an overview of visitation over the past 5 years.

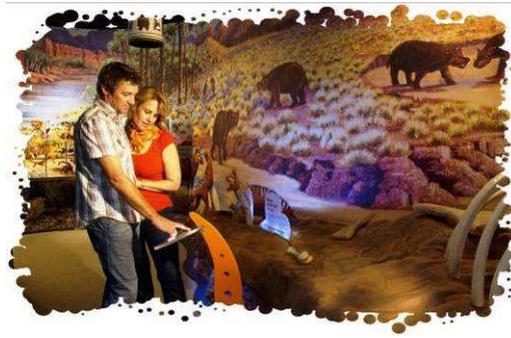


It is believed this success is partly attributed to the interest in Lake Eyre, which has created enormous visitations.

The very successful Jimmy Barnes concert, held in November 08, attracted over 5,000 people, and as a result 1,028 additional people entered Wadlata to purchase tickets for the event.

March 09 welcomed visitors from the Motorhome and the Vintage Car Club Rally. The popularity of the Eyre Peninsula, Flinders Ranges, Outback of South Australia, and the Northern Territory, together with State, Regional and Wadlata's normal marketing activities, have resulted in a significant increase in visitations.

The Flinders Ranges & Outback's Discovery Centre... the "Tunnel of Time"



After the completion of Wadlata's Stage 2 redevelopment, involving the ongoing upgrade of the facility, visitations increased by 17.4% during the 2008/09 financial year. An additional 2637 visitors experienced a journey through time, many of whom have said that Wadlata is the best interpretive centre they have seen in Australia.

Wadlata has now been operating for nearly 21 years, and has won six State Tourism Awards from seven nominations, and received 2nd place in the prestigious National Tourism Awards in 1990.

1.2 Olympic Dam Mine Upgrade

During the year negotiations continued between Brown Falconer Architects - Wadlata's Project Managers and BHP Billiton, to further the upgrade of the Olympic Dam Mine in the "Tunnel of Time". In the latter part of the year, BHP Billiton announced they had authorised an allocation of \$45,000 towards Stage 1 of original funding proposal. Work has commenced and the new look 'Underground Mine' is expected to be completed by October 2009.

1.3 Proposed Railway Museum

Following investigations into the viability of a stand alone Railway Museum, it was identified that such a proposal would not be financially sustainable. Council approved funding a Design Feasibility Study including associated costs to incorporate a Railway Museum within the Wadlata Outback Centre. A consultant has been engaged to commence this study, which will hopefully be available in late 2009. The feasibility study will provide relevant information on whether the Railway Museum could be incorporated into existing thematics of Wadlata's "Tunnel of Time".

1.4 Retail Activities - www.wadlata.sa.gov.au



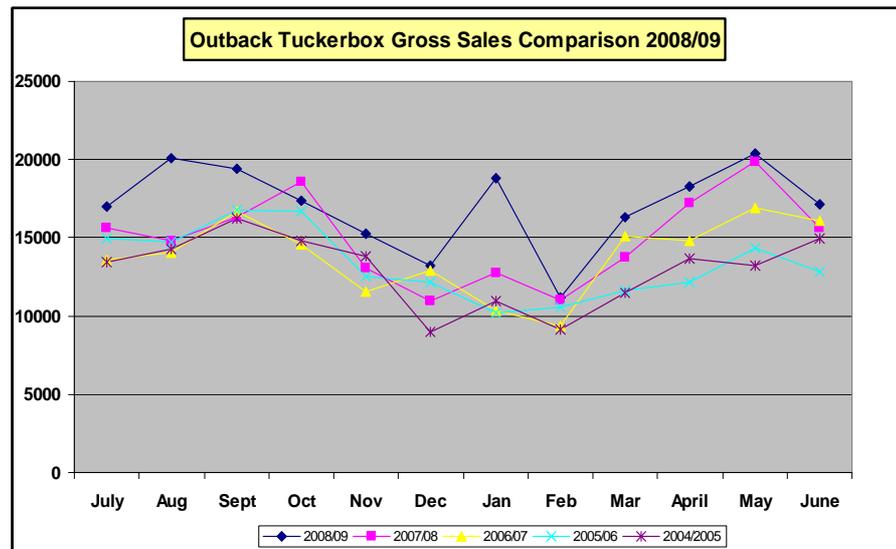
The retail arm of the Wadlata Outback Centre experienced a record 1.7% increase in gross sales for the 2008/09 financial year.

The Wadlata website, which heavily promotes Port Augusta, the Things to See and Do, and Accommodation, also has an Online Shop. The “shop” is now becoming quite successful with sales being made all over the world. During the year this site has continued to be upgraded and expanded resulting in increased visits and length of stay on the site.

1.5 The Outback Tuckerbox



Council have owned and operated the Outback Tuckerbox since the 1999/2000 financial year. During that period the business has increased its gross income by 76%.



The 2008/09 financial year has been extremely busy due to an increase in our tourism market and our loyal local regulars. This increased patronage has ensured the Outback Tuckerbox continues to achieve positive results.

The year-to-date statistics highlight a healthy 13.7% increase in sales. The Outback Tuckerbox offers a Loyalty Card to its regular patrons, offering a 10% discount on meals.

1.6 Port Augusta Visitor Information Centre.....

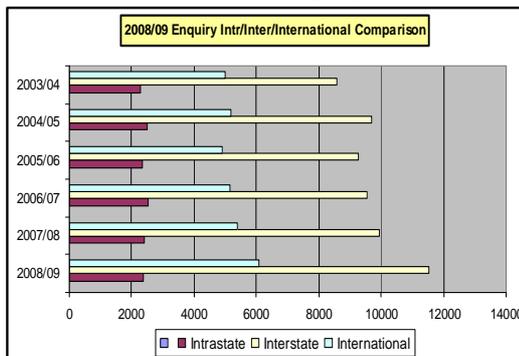


The Nationally Accredited Port Augusta Visitor Information Centre is an integral part of the total operation of Wadlata and is an extension of the “Tunnel of Time”, which also informs and encourages visitors to stay longer in Port Augusta and the region. Wadlata is the shop front for Port Augusta and its operators. It is the first port of call for visitors wishing to find out where they can stay and what they can see and do in our City. Wadlata increases the economy and employment opportunities through the sale and delivery of service.

Enquiry Statistics 23,272 Visitor enquiries were recorded during the 2008/09 financial year, representing an additional 2,203 (+10.5%) visitors seeking visitor information.

Included, where possible, are the statistics derived from the provision of Visitor Information and also through the Point of Sale system, where we record a postcode or country of origin for every transaction. (e.g. **Intrastate** visitors **spend more money** than seek information, **interstate** visitors generally **seek information and spend money**. **International** visitors require **more information** and **spend less** on souvenirs etc.

Visitor Information Enquiry Statistics



Point of Sale (Purchasing) Statistics



Although the National visitation trend was down by about 9%, Wadlata and our region experienced an increase.

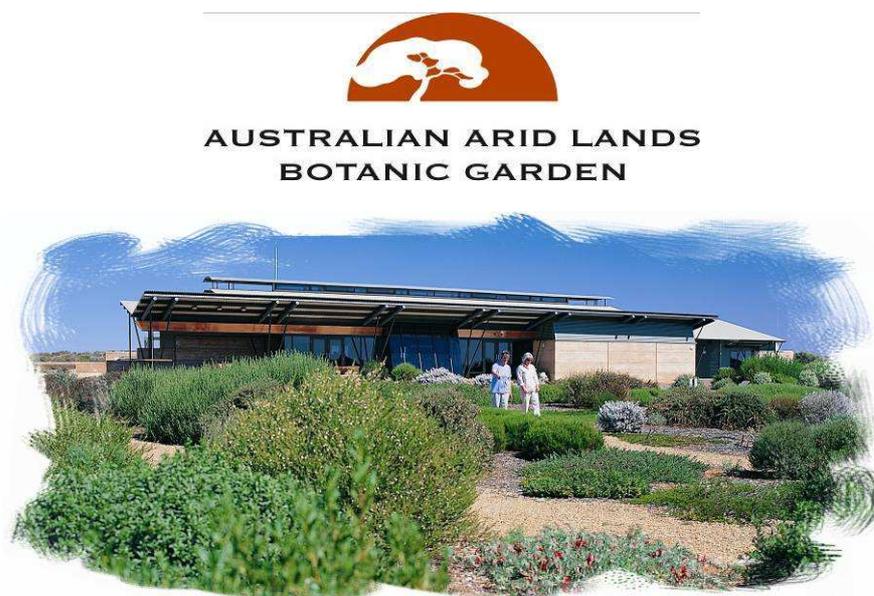
Intrastate - The statistics above and below and through the Point of Sales statistics identify a decrease in our Intrastate (state) market.

Interstate - The Interstate market has highlighted a slight increase of 1.7%, representing 1,605 visitors. We experienced a down turn in the Victorian market, but an increase in every other State.

International - Although the International Market as a whole remained static, overall every other country declined, except Europe, which increased by 0.3%

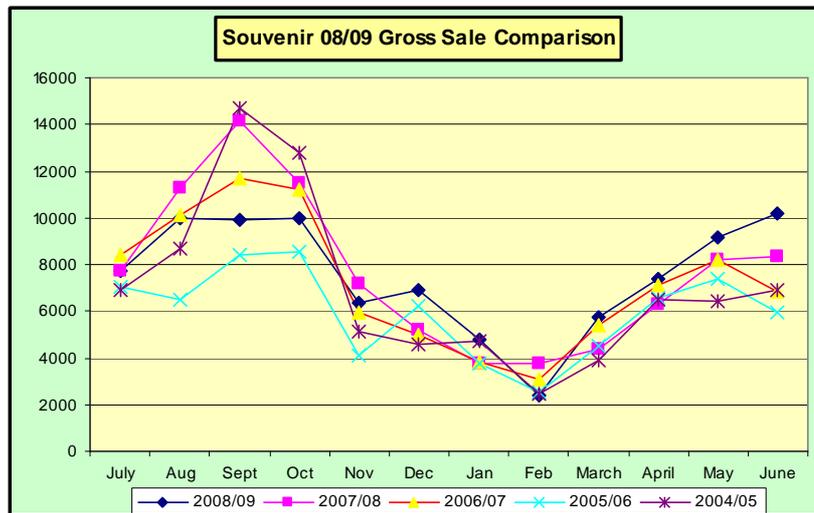
Visitor Information Enquiries % Comparison Breakdowns - TOTAL VISITATION										
Sub Origin	Origin	08/09	07/08	06/07	05/06	04/05	03/04	02/03	01/02	00/01
Intrastate	Local	1.9%	2.8%	2.9%	2.42%	2.5%	2.2%	2.4%	4.8%	5.0%
	SA	3.9%	4.3%	4.5%	5.29%	5.3%	4.8%	4.3%	6.8%	9.1%
	Adelaide	6.1%	6.5%	7.2%	6.45%	6.6%	7.5%	6.9%	9.8%	12.1%
Interstate	Victoria	22.4%	23.6%	23.3%	24.27%	24.0%	23.0%	22.1%	23.3%	23.9%
	NSW	16.8%	15.1%	15.6%	15.52%	15.8%	15.9%	14.6%	14.0%	15.6%
	Qld	10.1%	9.8%	8.8%	8.71%	8.6%	7.7%	8.1%	6.8%	5.8%
	WA	6.2%	5.6%	5.4%	5.36%	5.0%	5.2%	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%
	Tas	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.40%	1.4%	1.5%	1.7%	1.4%	0.9%
	NT	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.87%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%
International	UK	4.4%	4.5%	3.4%	4.14%	5.6%	6.5%	7.1%	6.1%	5.6%
	Europe	20.1%	19.8%	20.6%	20.26%	19.7%	20.2%	21.2%	15.5%	11.4%
	USA/Can	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%	2.19%	2.0%	2.0%	2.6%	2.0%	2.0%
	NZ	1.5%	1.7%	1.8%	1.64%	1.3%	1.4%	1.0%	0.7%	1.1%
	Japan	1.1%	1.1%	0.85%	0.88%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
	Asia	1.0%	0.6%	0.53%	0.28%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
	Other	0.4%	0.5%	0.46%	0.31%	0.3%	0.3%	1.6%	2.0%	1.2%

2. Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG)



2008/09 proved to be another successful year for all components of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden. Visitors Centre staff are responsible for the Bluebush Café, the Gift Shop and the WMC Herbarium Meeting Room, which is available for hire for conferences, meetings, launches or family and special functions.

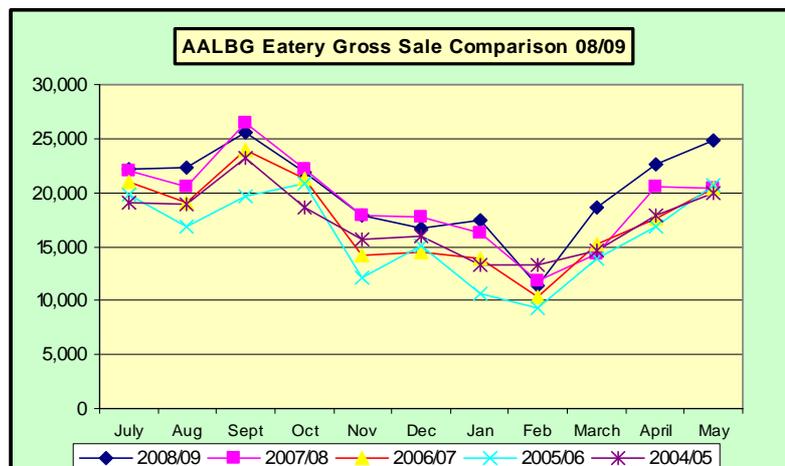
Visitations to the Garden have continued to grow, which has had a positive impact on the patronage of the Bluebush Café and the Meeting Room. A slight decrease in gross sales was recorded during the first part of the financial year, however, as the graph below depicts, significant growth from February 2009.



Only Australian Made products are purchased for sale within the Visitor Centre, with the only exception being the Australian Fine China products, which are now being produced off shore unfortunately.

After an extremely slow start to the year, the souvenir 'year to date' gross sales show a slight decrease of 1.4% for the financial year.

2.1 Dining at the Bluebush Café



2008/09 'year to date' statistics highlight a healthy 4.6% increase in gross sales, compared to the same period last year, and \$5,313 is still to be received, which would have further increased the gross sales statistics.

2.2 Guided Tours



Five volunteer 'Friends' of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden conducted 129 Guided Tours of the Garden. The tours usually occur weekdays at 10am; however 384 of the 772 visitors were part of coach tours, and a special tour at another appropriate time would have been arranged for these groups.

Special recognition and a big 'thank you' is extended to our Volunteer Tour Guides: Dennis Dobson, Chris Nayda, Paul Lloyd, Julie Owens, and Peter Marmasch, for their commitment to the Garden and ensuring visitors to Port Augusta and the AALBG leave with a greater appreciation of the arid plants.

The Garden's Curator – Mr Michael Anlezark and Volunteer Chris Nayda have been working hard to arrange special packaged themed seasonal guided tours of the Garden in the coming year.

2.3 WMC Herbarium – Meeting Room



97 conferences/meetings were held in the Meeting Room at the Garden during the 2008/2009 financial year. This room is available to the public to view the beautiful Ferdinand Bauer original prints and herbarium specimens.

2.4 Interpretive Displays



The Interpretive Displays within the Visitors Centre at the Garden was very popular with the visitors. Due to hardware failure during this reporting period the film could not be shown. During next financial year the projector/DVD system will be replaced with large plasma which will ensure this excellent film will be available to view throughout the year.

3. Development Plan Amendments – Planning Controls

During the reporting period, the Urban Growth DPA & Regional Town Centre DPA were put on public exhibition which resulted in over 70 submissions being received from the community and various agencies. The Urban Growth DPA will be forwarded to the Minister for approval in late 2009 and it has been identified that further consideration of the Planning controls outlined within the Regional Town Centre DPA is required.

A Heritage Statement of Intent (SOI) was submitted to the Minister for Urban Development and Planning during the reporting period for approval and the Heritage DPA review process will continue in 2009/2010.

4. Maule Avenue – Residential Development

Council approved the sale of vacant land on Maule Avenue, via a Developer Initiated Proposal to establish a 38 allotment residential estate on the site.

During the reporting period, Mr Richard Footner (developer) commenced the sub-division process and constructed road reserves, footpaths, stormwater and lighting infrastructure for Stage 1 (first 12 allotments) of the project.

Properties have been placed on the market and sale of the 12 allotments is progressing well.



Stage 2 (second 12 allotments and development of open space area) will be undertaken during the 2009/2010 financial year.

5. Footner Road – Industrial Estate

Council owns a large parcel (approx 26ha) of industrial land on Footner Road (opposite the Port Augusta Prison) and commenced sub-dividing and selling parcels of land in 2008/2009, to promote business development/expansion within the City. Four allotments have been sold and a master planning process will be undertaken during the 2009/2010 financial year for the remainder of the land.

6. Sharp Airlines' successful first year of operation

Sharp Airlines recently completed its first 12 months of operation with flights from Port Augusta to Adelaide and return 5 days per week.

Passenger numbers have doubled in this time, with numbers reaching record levels of around 9000 passengers per annum.

With the demise of O'Connor Airlines in 2007, the new operators have increased scheduling of flights and with the introduction of new larger aircraft, these initiatives are seen to be the primary reasons for the improved passenger numbers.



Goal Area 4: Infrastructure & Asset Management

Sub Goal 4.1: Sustainable and effective maintenance, management and enhancement of the City's existing infrastructure assets.

There were twenty (20) projects included in the 2008/2009 Annual Business Plans relating to this sub goal, of which sixteen (16) were completed and four (4) are ongoing.

In the 2009/2010 Annual Business Plans there are twenty eight (28) projects listed to be undertaken linked to this sub goal of Council's Strategic Plan. Some of these include:

- 1) Upgrades to the Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre
- 2) Upgrade to the planning office within the Civic Centre
- 3) Installation of a rock revetment wall at Westside Foreshore
- 4) Central Oval Redevelopment
- 5) Continue construction of sealed roads throughout the City and Shack Road
- 6) Improve turf management of ovals and parks

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Cemetery Management

Graves more than a century old and all but forgotten have been revived as part of the Port Augusta Cemetery upgrade, on Carlton Parade.

The first two stages of the planned five stage project have been completed, which has seen concrete borders placed around groups of graves dating from 1883 to 1967, and has given relatives an opportunity to place plaques on unmarked graves.

The Port Augusta Cemetery Upgrade Project continued with stages 1 & 2 complete. The third stage is now to be carried out by a new Service Provider, the Salvation Army, in 2009/2010. The project is not only being continued but has been expanded to include work on concreting borders two days a week and upgrading the grounds surrounds two days a week.

There are 36 blocks within stage 3, (blocks 79 -115) with burial dates ranging from around 1927 to 1966. Work is expected to begin 1September and will continue until 1 March 2010.

A 'display block' has also been created by Council using the block inside the first gate of the cemetery, where families can see what the finished project is expected to look like with the block being marked with samples of the memorial plaques that are available for purchase.

Cemetery Working Party Member - Leita Fennell has made herself available to the public at the Port Augusta Library for several weeks for enquires about how families can have a plaque placed on the grave and location of the grave, if unknown.

2. Roads

The unsealed sections of Slade Road, Woolundunga Avenue and a further section of the Miranda access road have been constructed and sheeted with limestone to alleviate excessive maintenance patrol grading.

Road construction (kerbing and sealing) projects during 2008/2009 included:

- a) Francis Street
- b) Drysdale Street

- c) Hamilton Road
- d) Herbert Street (west of rail line) (not kerbed)
- e) Francis Street (west of rail line) (not kerbed)
- f) Shack Road (not kerbed)

Funds were also received from the Department for Transport, Energy & Infrastructure for continued maintenance of Yorkeys Crossing Road.

3. Stormwater

The construction of stormwater infrastructure at Stirling North continued with a pipe connecting the pits at the intersection of Quorn Road/Railway Station Road, along Hedger Street to the open channel south of McConal Road.

Further upgrading of stormwater pipes and installation of enlarged side entry pits/gratings was completed in Hospital Road and Artlett Avenue.

A minor upgrade of stormwater piping in Glyde Street was also completed.

4. Effluent System

Pump station upgrades to include 2 submersible pumps per station as well as telemetry control/monitoring of stations was undertaken at Moyes Street, Hobler Street and Whiting Parade. Final commissioning of the telemetry will be completed in 2009/10.

5. Coastal Protection Levee Banks

Work on the construction and protection of levee banks on the Westside continued with assistance from the Coast Protection Board.

The levee bank was completed at the north end by the Shoreline Caravan Park whilst armour rock was placed to protect the banks behind EDI Rail workshops and partway between the Yacht Club and Flinders Terrace.

6. Footpath Upgrades

Council allocated \$400k for the first time to commence a significant upgrade to footpaths to meet disability access standards. This allocation was increased by the Federal Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund with an initial allocation of \$535k.

Concrete paver footpaths with improved tactile indicated pram ramps and additional street tree plantings were commenced in the remaining CBD areas using a combination of local contractors and Council workforce. This will continue well into the 2009/10 year with the additional funds provided.



7. Development Activities

7.1 Building Rules Assessment

Assessment of Development Applications for compliance with the Building Code of Australia, and any relevant standards, forms part of the Development Assessment Process.

Generally buildings and structures are inspected for structural adequacy and to ensure they have the required facilities for their use.

During the reporting period, Council's Development Section received a total of 418 applications for Development Approval. This reflected a significant decrease of 187 applications from the previous year.

While no data is available to reflect the decrease, it can be assumed the downturn in the financial sector may have had an impact.

NO	CLASSIFICATION	BUILDING TYPES
118	Class 1a and 1b	<i>(House or similar) e.g. New or Used Dwelling, Alteration or Addition to an Existing Dwelling, Boarding House, Guest House or Hostel.</i>
278	Class 10a	<i>(Non- Habitable Building) e.g. Carport, Garage or Shed, Garden Shed, Pergola and Verandah or Patio.</i>
27	Class 10b	<i>(Structures) e.g. Fence, Mast, Antenna, Retaining or Freestanding Wall, Swimming Pool.</i>
29	Class 5, 6, 7 & 9	<i>(Office Building, Shop or Retail Premises, Storage Building, Carpark, Laboratories, Factory, Workshops, Healthcare/Aged care and Assembly Buildings).</i>

The estimated cost of progressive building work for the 2008/2009 financial year was \$17,526,977.00 and the total amount of Development Fees for the same period was \$85,322.07.

7.2 Building Inspections

The Port Augusta City Council Building Officers endeavour to carry out audit inspections of 20% of building work approved in accordance with Council's Building Inspection Policy (Policy Number 2.7.05).

Due to the low numbers of applications received, it has given a chance for staff to increase the number of inspections being carried out. While the overall numbers may not appear to be significant it has alerted the public that officers are out and about.

The issue of not receiving 'Statements of Compliance' for completed work is still an area that is taking a considerable amount of time for staff to follow up.

For the first half of the reporting period Council had one (1) Development Officer; with a new officer commencing work in early January 2009 as a Cadet Building Officer. He is currently undertaking study and it is anticipated that accreditation (under the requirements of the Development Act 1996) should be achieved in approximately four (4) years.

7.3 Building Maintenance (Council owned Buildings)

Part of the Building Officer's role is to be responsible for carrying out annual maintenance, audit inspections and maintenance reviews for Council owned buildings. Council employees and contractors carry out building maintenance identified through these audits.

During 2008/2009 Building Staff were involved in the installation of the new lighting towers at ETSA Oval. The project was managed by Council and tenders were arranged for the footing, tower supply and electrical component. The new towers have become a welcome asset to the oval complex, and with a vast improvement in the lux reading more night sport/activities can be scheduled.

7.4 **Asbestos Registers**

Council maintains Asbestos Registers for all Council owned buildings. As part of Council's Asbestos Register program all buildings located on Council land will be required to adhere to Council's obligations in regard to Asbestos Registers.

7.5 **Building Fire Safety Committee**

Council has delegated its powers pursuant to Section 71 of the Development Act, 1993, to the Building Fire Safety Committee, to undertake inspections of buildings within the City to determine the adequacy of fire safety.

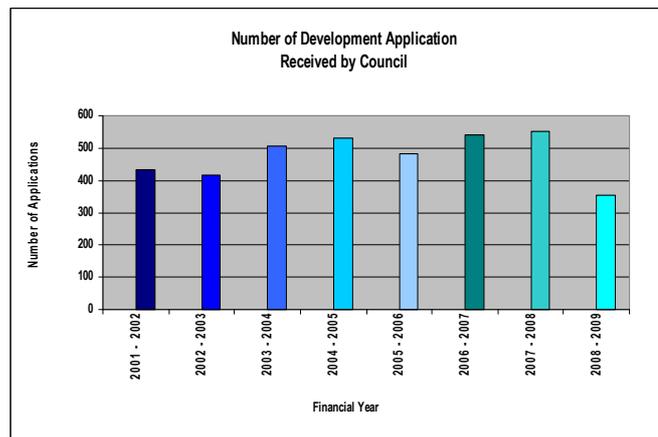
The Council's Building Fire Safety Committee has once again undertaken numerous inspections, including all accommodation houses. Many of the premises incorporating accommodation have either upgraded or completed their fire safety work.

Six (6) properties remain at various stages of their fire safety upgrade activities, and 2 properties have been issued with enforcement notices.

The Committee's focus has moved to buildings where large public gatherings may occur.

7.6 **Planning Assessment**

7.6.1 During the 2008/2009 financial year 356 development applications were lodged with the Port Augusta City Council. These applications brought in a total estimated capital value of \$17,526,977.00. In comparison to the previous year this represented a significant decline in development activities within the community, believed to be an effect of the global economic down turn.



7.6.2 Out of the 356 development application lodged during this period, Council's planning department sent 256 letters to applicants for either a request for further information or other associated matters within the assessment.

7.6.3 35 of the 356 development application received were required to be referred to Council's Development Assessment Panel for consideration. Out of the 35, 5 were deferred for decision until other matters were addressed.

- 7.6.4 18 of the 356 development application were required to be referred for consultation and comment by a State Government Agency in accordance with Schedule 8 of the Development Regulations 2008.
- 7.6.5 9 were subject to public notification either as a category 2 or 3 development. No appeals were lodged with the Environment, Resources and Development Court as a consequence of the category 2 and 3 public notifications.
- 7.6.6 11 of the 356 development applications received were refused development plan consent.
- 7.6.7 Council received \$85,832.07 in development application fees during the financial year, however a percentage of these fees were forwarded to the Development Assessment Commission and other State Government Agencies in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Development Regulation 2008.
- 7.6.8 The number of new dwellings applications lodged within this period was 92. A slight decline has occurred compared to previous years; however, the 92 dwelling applications are still a good indicator of modest residential growth in the community. The decline is believed to be caused by two factors: the global economic situation, and the limited supply of residential land. The latter is being resolved the Urban Growth Development Plan Amendment (DPA) which is expected to be finalised in the next few months.

7.7 Residential Development Code

During March 2009, the amendments to the Development Regulations 2008 came into effect. The amendments resulted in significant changes to the development assessment. These changes were:

- 7.7.1 Expands the exempt development class which includes minor residential development that homes owners commonly undertake to improve their properties and lifestyle. An exempted development does not require development assessment or approval.
- 7.7.2 A new category of development requiring building consent only has been introduced. Some residential development matters required building consent for safety reason but not planning assessment or consent.
- 7.7.3 Changes have been introduced to expand the complying development list (tick-box assessment for single storey alterations and additions to existing detached or semi-detached dwellings).
- 7.7.4 Changes have been introduced to expand the complying development list (tick-box assessment for sheds, carports, verandahs, etc.).
- 7.7.5 Changes have been introduced to achieve increased complying development (tick-box assessment for new detached and semi-detached dwellings).
- 7.7.6 The amendments also required a minimum standard of information and plans that should accompany an application. For example: a Certificate of Title is required, scaled plans (site, floor, elevation, footing plans etc). The Development Application Form has been updated to incorporate these amendments.
- 7.7.7 Planning staff have been provided with training to keep pace with the above changes and are now providing a desktop assessment at the counter, to determine which category of the categories outlined above the application will be assessed against.

7.7.8 In order to assist applicants to provide appropriate plans and information, Council advised, in writing, all builders/contractors of the changes. Development application packages have been developed to contain information brochures, copies of the Residential Development Code and a scale ruler; these are available to applicants and the community.

7.8 Additional Planning Resoucrs

In January of 2008, Yantel Mundy – Development Services Administrative Officer, commenced as the Assistant Community Planner for two days a week. Since December 2008 she has completed her Diploma in Town Planning and commenced further study for a Degree and has been appointed fulltime as Assistant Community Planner.

7.9 Major Development Group

A Major Development Group was established in June 2008 by Council’s planning staff to discuss development application of major significance.

The group consists of Council’s planning, building, infrastructure and environmental health staff. The group meets to discuss development application of major significance and to bring forward any issues that need to be address prior to application being assessment for approval/refusal.



Goal Area 4: Infrastructure & Asset Management

Sub Goal 4.2: Plan for the provision of additional Infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city.

There were five (5) projects included in the 2008/2009 Annual Business Plans relating to this sub goal, of which four were completed.

During the 2009/2010 financial year, 2 projects have been programmed to be undertaken as part of this sub goal. These include:

- 1) Assist in the investigation of the operation of the Lawrie Wallis Aerodrome to identify future options for the Airport.
- 2) Complete an Infrastructure Plan for the City of Port Augusta to provide guidelines as to Council's infrastructure standards.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Lawrie Wallis Aerodrome

Council made provisions in 2008/2009 for the resealing of the southern apron area and subsequent line-marking to suit the arrival of the Alliance F50 operation from Port Augusta to Prominent Hill.

In late 2007 the new RFDS facility was opened at the Airport site, with subsequent removal of the old RFDS hangers and building located airside earlier this year.



General upgrades of the Airport frontage, with new signage and plantings have also occurred.

2. Freight Study & Population Study

The Mayor's Taskforce, comprising of the Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs Joy Baluch AM, City Manager Mr Greg Perkin, CEO of Northern Regional Development Board Mr Jerry Johnson, consultant Mr David Shetliffe and State Government Representative Mr John Hanlon, commissioned a Freight Study and Population Study to be undertaken to enable key issues associated with the mining developments to the north of the city, specifically in regard to freight activities and population trends, and the impacts that these will have on Port Augusta to be considered.

The Freight Study prepared by Mr Scott McKay (SCM Advisory) and the Population Study prepared by Mr Phil Ruthven (Ibisworld) were presented to the Mayor's Taskforce on Friday 19 September 2008 and to Council in July 2009.

Goal Area 5: Environment Management

Sub Goal 5.1: Effective management and maintenance of the City's unique natural and built environment

There were five (5) projects included in the 2008/2009 Annual Business plans relating to this sub goal, of which three (3) were completed and two (2) are ongoing.

In 2009/2010 five (5) projects have been scheduled to be undertaken as part of the Annual Business Plans which are linked to this sub goal of Council's Strategic Plan. These include:

- 1) Finalise contractual arrangements for the construction and operation of a Waste Transfer Station.
- 2) Complete the closure & post closure plan for Stirling North Refuse Reserve.
- 3) Develop a 'Business Plan' linked to the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Master Plan and Interpretation Plan.
- 4) Oversee the monitoring of water standards and salinity levels of the Bird and Pink Lakes.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Public and Environmental Health Act

- 1.1 During the 2008/2009 financial year three (3) notices under the Public and Environmental Health Act were served.
- 1.2 Thirty five (35) complaints requiring inspections of insanitary and other general conditions were attended to, mainly involving accumulations of refuse, animals, birds and insects, which were resolved on site or by letter, negotiation, notice or direction.
- 1.3 Development applications received by Council were 353 between 1/7/08 and 30/6/09 and of these, 198 were assessed by the Health Section of Council in accordance with legislation.
- 1.4 208 Searches were assessed by the Health Section of Council.
- 1.5 Septic approvals and inspections this year totalled 18 Septic and 28 Aerobic approvals, resulting in a total of 77 routine inspections, as some of these systems are not completed yet, and there are some carried over from previous years.

Council also received a total of 30 complaints in relation to septic/aerobic systems causing nuisance and other issues throughout the reporting period.

2. Air Quality

- 2.1 There have been over 20 complaints received during the reporting period regarding fugitive coal dust/smoke or fly ash dust from disposal areas.

The increasing height of the fly-ash storage area at the Power Station, and the difficulty associated with keeping the surface wet, will inevitably result in fly-ash lift-off during moderate to high winds unless adequate control measures are implemented.

Although there has been some action taken by the Power Station to control excessive fly-ash lift-off, all enquiries were forwarded:

- a) to the Power Station in the first instance; and
- b) to the EPA for licensing requirements and to ensure parameters were being met.

- 2.2 There were no complaints received during the reporting period regarding smoke emissions from domestic combustion heaters.

3. Food Act

There are 79 commercial food outlets in operation within the City. All food premises are inspected and Council is finding that notification has not been received from all businesses advising that they are operating.

It is a requirement under legislation that all operators notify Council of their existence and this can be done online or by calling Council's Health Department for the required forms for completion. There are penalties for non compliance.

During the reporting period, 28 food complaints were investigated and satisfactorily resolved.

4. Immunisation

The 2009 School Based Immunisation Program included Year 8 HPV (cervical cancer vaccine), Chicken Pox, Hep B and Year 9 Boosterix.

Council have two Registered Nurses who visit school site. All secondary schools are being covered, including Port Augusta Secondary School, Caritas College, Port Augusta Special School and Carlton School.

Three (3) school site visits are scheduled during 2009 and as at 30 June 2009, 2 visits had already been undertaken.

A total of 569 vaccinations were administered for the school based program for the calendar year ending 31 December 2008.

The Flu Program this year was conducted for employees of Council with visits to all sites. High risk employees were also offered Boosterix vaccination (whooping cough/ADT).

5. Vector Control

5.1 Mosquitoes

One (1) complaint was received during 2008/2009. Regular surveillance of known breeding areas is undertaken throughout the year.

5.2 Midge Flies

Midge Flies in the Lakes on the southern entrance to the City continue to be controlled effectively by salinity manipulation. Lake salinity testing and water inflow adjustment to manipulate water levels and salinity are undertaken on a daily basis throughout the year.

Pink Lake, which is located to the south of the railway line and north of Highway One, at times is dry due to waters being unavailable to be supplied from Bird Lake in the winter months. If winter rains are produced then Pink Lake fills from stormwater flows from the Willsden area. The stormwater supply is sufficient for Pink Lake during these months.

5.3 European Wasps

Throughout the reporting period there was one (1) reported sighting of European Wasp activity. From this report, there were no nests destroyed.

6. Lakes System Management

Seawater for Bird Lake, at the City's southern entrance, is extracted from Flinders Power's polishing pond via the new pipe and valve system on the levee bank that divides the lake and the pond.

The upgraded system of pipes and valves has allowed operator Roger Christophersen to flow water into Bird Lake and to maintain a level of salinity which controls midge flies and odour.

It is a balancing act to maintain correct salinity levels in Bird Lake which are affected by rainfall and evaporation. If the water is not saline enough the midge flies and odour can become a problem in a matter of days and if it is the end of summer it can take months to bring the problem back under control.

The newly created platform has provided for ease of operation and the opening and closing of the waterflows by using the lever system.

7. Liquid Waste facility

Council's liquid waste facility is licensed for and receives oily waters and grease trap wastes from licensed approved operators only. This year has seen many changes to the site including the lining of the facility into the pond receiving grease trap waste.

When licensed operators require to dispose oily waters they must provide a sample first in accordance with the EPA licensed conditions before disposal at the site to ensure the lining of the pond is not affected.

In the year 1/7/08 to 30/6/09, the facility was closed in December 2008 to complete the lining of the pond.

The facility received waste from local as well as outside Port Augusta and the total volume received throughout this period was 789.65 kilolitres, some 129kl less than the previous year, and again this year 09/10 will be substantially less than the 789 kilolitre figure.

8. Waste Management

The 3 bin waste collection system introduced in October 2007 is settling down with some initial 'teething problems' relating to roll-out of bins gradually being resolved. Contamination issues in regard to green waste and recyclables is an on-going concern and education programs continue to provide the community with information about the correct use of the three bin system.

Council has entered into a memorandum of understanding which will lead to a contract with Trans Pacific Industries to own, construct and operate a Resource Recovery Centre (Waste Transfer Station) on Council land in the Footner Road industrial zone. The facility is expected to be operational by mid 2010 to coincide with the closure of the Stirling North Refuse Reserve.

9. Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

Water restrictions have had a major impact on gardens throughout the State but the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden (AALBG) at Port Augusta is providing real solutions for frustrated gardeners everywhere.

Six AridSmart display gardens have been designed and created at the AALBG, all showcasing practical and aesthetic uses for extremely water-wise desert plants in a home garden environment.



Arid Courtyard Garden



Coastal Garden

The gardens use a variety of native plantings in a range of styles from the very formal courtyard garden through to the semi-formal desert garden and the informal Flinders Ranges and coastal gardens.



Arid Courtyard Garden

All gardens are watered by a very efficient sub surface dripper system placed in the soil or under the mulch. Just three-quarters of an hour a week of water provides more than enough for the young plants. Once plants are established the water will be turned off completely in some of the gardens and the plants will rely on rainfall.



Mallee Garden

Goal Area 6: Organisational Effectiveness

Sub Goal 6.1: A professional effective, efficient and customer focussed organisation responsive to the needs of the community

There were twenty seven (27) projects included in the 2008/2009 Annual Business plans relating to this sub goal, of which eighteen (18) were completed and nine (9) are ongoing.

During the 2009/2010 financial year there are thirty one (31) projects scheduled to be undertaken as part of the Annual Business Plans which are linked to this sub goal of Council's Strategic Plan. Some of these include:

- 1) Support staff in continuous professional educational activities at Nerrilda & A.M. Ramsay Village
- 2) Review Childcare Centre Policy Manual
- 3) Implement mobile technology
- 4) Provide a high level of strategic thinking and planning for the City and the Council
- 5) Develop a Corporate Plan for the organisation
- 6) Review the impacts of the Olympic Dam Expansion and make a submission as part of the consultation process

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. OHS&W Workcover Audit

During June/July 2008 Council was subjected to Workcover's Self Insurance Audit Evaluation. Council was fully assessed on its:

- a) Injury Management Program/Procedures; and
- b) OHS&W Program.

2. Comparative Performance Measurement Project – Community Survey

The Port Augusta City Council again participated in the annual Comparative Performance Measurement Project – Community Survey. It is increasingly evident that communities are demanding that the services of all spheres of government meet their perceived needs and, to ascertain whether Council is achieving an acceptable standard in regard to service provision, feedback is sought from the community via the community survey undertaken as part of the Comparative Performance Measurement Project.

Roy Morgan Research undertake 400 random surveys and endeavour to obtain feedback from differing sections of the community to ensure a range of age groups and equal male and female community members are given an opportunity to be a part of the feedback process.

In March 2009, Roy Morgan Research interviewed the following demographics:

51% - males and 49% females. Of these 12% were between 18-24 years, 27% were between 25-39 years, 29% were between 40-54 years and 32% were 55+.

A full overview of the results of each of the seven areas evaluated are outlined within Section Four – Compliance Report of this Annual Report.

3. Council/Key Committee Minutes and Agendas

Council and Key Committee minutes and agendas are available on Council's Website on the Thursday prior to meetings, which are held on Mondays or a Tuesday if a public holiday falls on the Monday. The minutes and agendas can be found at www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au under the heading 'The Council' then clicking on 'Minutes and Agendas', then follow the prompts.

4. Trainees

Two trainees commenced with the Public Library and Cultural Centre undertaking Certificate II in Office Administration in December 2008. The trainees are rostered to work between both centres allowing them to be involved in a range of activities and work experience.

The trainees were offered these positions after being involved in the 'Arid Sites' project co-ordinated by Carlew Youth Arts that produced two mosaic and jarrah benches, now located in front of the Institute Theatre, Commercial Road, Port Augusta.

5. Volunteers

Council's volunteer body continues to grow with major representation in Aged Care, Child Care, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens and Cultural Arts.

A volunteer group from the Port Augusta Special School has seen their adoption of the Northey Crescent Parklands maintenance program (weeding, racking, mulching etc) This small body also tends to a vegetable garden located within Council's Parks Depot.

The 'Off Centre Work Gang' (low profile offenders) remains active throughout the community attending to graffiti/vandalism attacks and general clean up maintenance.



Volunteers from the Port Augusta
Special School

Left to Right:

Ryan, Kenneth, Saraphine and Tracey

Goal Area 6: Organisational Effectiveness

Sub Goal 6.2: Optimise the use and management of the Council's financial and physical resources

There were four (4) projects included in the 2008/2009 Annual Business Plans relating to this sub goal, of which one (1) was completed and three (3) are ongoing.

In the 2009/2010 financial year, eight (8) projects are scheduled to be undertaken in relation to this sub goal linked to Council's Strategic Plan. These include:

- 1) Finalise a 10 year long-term Financial Plan.
- 2) Finalise Asset Management Plans.
- 3) Finalise Asset Management and work order IT systems.
- 4) Develop a Land Management Project to pro-actively manage surplus Council land.
- 5) Provide support to the Marine Advisory Committee.
- 6) Identify and source funding opportunities for projects being undertaken by Council.
- 7) Co-ordinate and support Audit Committee activities.
- 8) Financially support community organisations/individuals through the Community Grants Program.

Activities and highlights for 2008/2009

1. Annual Budget and Business Plans

The Annual Budget and Business Plans are prepared and released for consultation with the community prior to being adopted by Council. The Budget/Business Plan process commences in April and is completed in July each year.

The progress of the Budget is reported on by the Director Corporate Services to Council throughout the year and the progress in relation to each project identified within the Business Plans are updated 6-monthly and a copy of the updated Business Plans are provided to Elected Members for perusal.

A copy of Council's Budget and Annual Business Plans are available on Council's Website www.portaugustasa.gov.au under the heading 'The Council' and then 'Financial Papers'.

A copy of the updated Business Plans are available under the heading 'The Council' – 'Council Documents' and then 'Business Plans'.

2. Community Grants

In 2008/2009 Council allocated a budget of \$35,000 towards supporting community organisations and community members through its 'Community Grants' initiative. The 'Community Grants' were established to financially assist organisations within the community who are organising events, or for community members who have excelled in their chosen sporting field, shown outstanding ability in an academic field or are seeking assistance to attend sporting events, carnivals and other similar types of activities in which they are participating.

During the 2008/2009 financial year, Council made financial contributions to the following parties:

NAME	PAID
	\$
McGuinness McDermott Foundation - Charity Edition Monopoly	\$3,000.00
Blanche Harbour Shelter Shed (07/08)	\$3,727.28
Life FM - Xmas Party for special children	\$795.46
Friends of Daffodil Day Port Augusta	\$1,000.00

PAA&OAC George Copley Challenge kayak hire (07/08)	\$165.00
Royal Flying Doctor Service - annual donation	\$1,500.00
Caritas College - Year 12 award	\$100.00
Adelaide University Rural Workshop "Campfire"	\$0.00
Port Augusta Secondary School - Year 12 award	\$100.00
World Vision Child Sponsorship	\$516.00
Port Augusta "Tri State Games" Team	\$1,207.73
Kids Flix - provisions from Terry Gardiners Meats	\$149.00
RSL - Leopard Tank Project	\$1,000.00
Ms Preeti Nair - Academic Achiever Award 2008	\$500.00
Youth Opportunities Program	\$5,000.00
Port Augusta Swimming Club 2009 carnival	\$500.00
Outstanding Business Awards 2008	\$300.00
Port Augusta Tennis Assoc. Junior Tournament	\$500.00
Gil Schupelius - State Croquet Team	\$350.00
AUSSI Masters Club George Copley Open Water Swim	\$100.00
Red Cross Victorian Bush Fire Appeal	\$10,000.00
2009 Gulf Cruise welcome afternoon tea	\$250.00
Vietnam Veterans Walk for Charity	\$500.00
Port Augusta Dancing Club - Poinsettia Ball	\$640.00
Lifeline Country to Coast	\$3,000.00
Total Community Grants	\$34,900.47

3. Information Technology (IT) Activities

Information Technology activities within organisations are vast and at times very complex. Technology is forever changing and updating systems to keep them up-to-date and relevant for all of Council's processes is an important role undertaken by the IT Section.

The following activities were implemented by IT staff during the 2008/2009 period:

3.1 Wireless Network project for Civic Centre/Nerrilda/Ramsay

Wireless Network Project commenced for Civic Centre/Nerrilda/Ramsay during 2008/2009 and will be completed by December 2009.

3.2 Care Management Software at Nerrilda and Ramsay Village

Partial (Live) rollout of Care Management software to selected Nerrilda and Ramsay staff. Full rollout to all other staff members will occur in January 2010.

3.3 EDRMS (Electronic Document Records Management System)

EDRMS (Electronic Document Records Management System) project has commenced and is due to go live early February 2010 – delays with software vendor. Hardware and Software have been deployed to the Civic Centre.

3.4 New Desktop Computers for Staff and Public Access – Library

New desktop computers have been deployed to selected Records/Finance/Engineering staff as well as the Library.

3.5 New Servers/SAN Infrastructure

New Servers/SAN infrastructure virtualised to cope with future growth and to reduce costs.

3.6 Virtualise Network Infrastructure

Server/Network Infrastructure virtualised to cope with future growth and to reduce costs.

3.7 ICT Disaster Recovery Project

ICT Disaster Recovery Project has commenced, hardware and software is in test phase, will be rolled out in February 2010.

3.8 Update to Core Communications (Email) Software

Communications software (Email System) was updated to cope with EDRMS Project.

3.9 Network Monitoring System Upgrade

Network monitoring system upgraded to allow full monitoring of Council ICT Network.

3.10 New Websites Developed for Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and Outdoor Adventure Centre

New websites developed in-house for Arid Lands and Aquatic Centre, will be launched in November 2009.

3.11 Security System updates for CCTV and Aridlands Systems

Security systems updated for the Arid Lands system and additional cameras added to the CCTV system. New network monitoring system in rollout stage for the CCTV system, will be live in November 2009.

3.12 Mobile Computer Project

Mobile computer project has commenced and will be rolled out in November 2009 to outside staff members (Works, Parks and Animal Control).

3.13 Smart Phone Project

Smart phone project rollout to core staff members. These phones give the staff member access to all their email/contact/calendar data when they are away from their desk.

3.14 ICT Hardware/Software Audit

Full ICT hardware and software audit commenced and will be completed in January 2010.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A copy of Council's audited financial statement for 2008/2009 is provided on the following pages of this report for the reader's information

**A copy is also available on Council's Webpage
www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au**

Compliance Report

Information Statement

- Decision making structure and functions of the Council
- Delegations
- Public Participation
- Confidentiality Provisions
- Community Consultation
- Public Access to Council Documents
- Freedom of Information Requests



Section 4

Information Statement

Pursuant to Section 9 (1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 1991, Council must, at intervals of not more than 12 months, cause an up-to-date information statement to be published.

The following information fulfils Council legislative requirements in relation to its reporting obligations in regards to an up-to-date information statement.

1. Decision Making Structure And Functions Of The Council

1.1.1 The Port Augusta City Council's decision making structure consists of three Key Committees, each represented by the 10 Elected Members. The Mayor is an **ex-officio** member of each Committee. These Committees receive reports from officers of Council and make recommendations to full Council on each of the reports received.

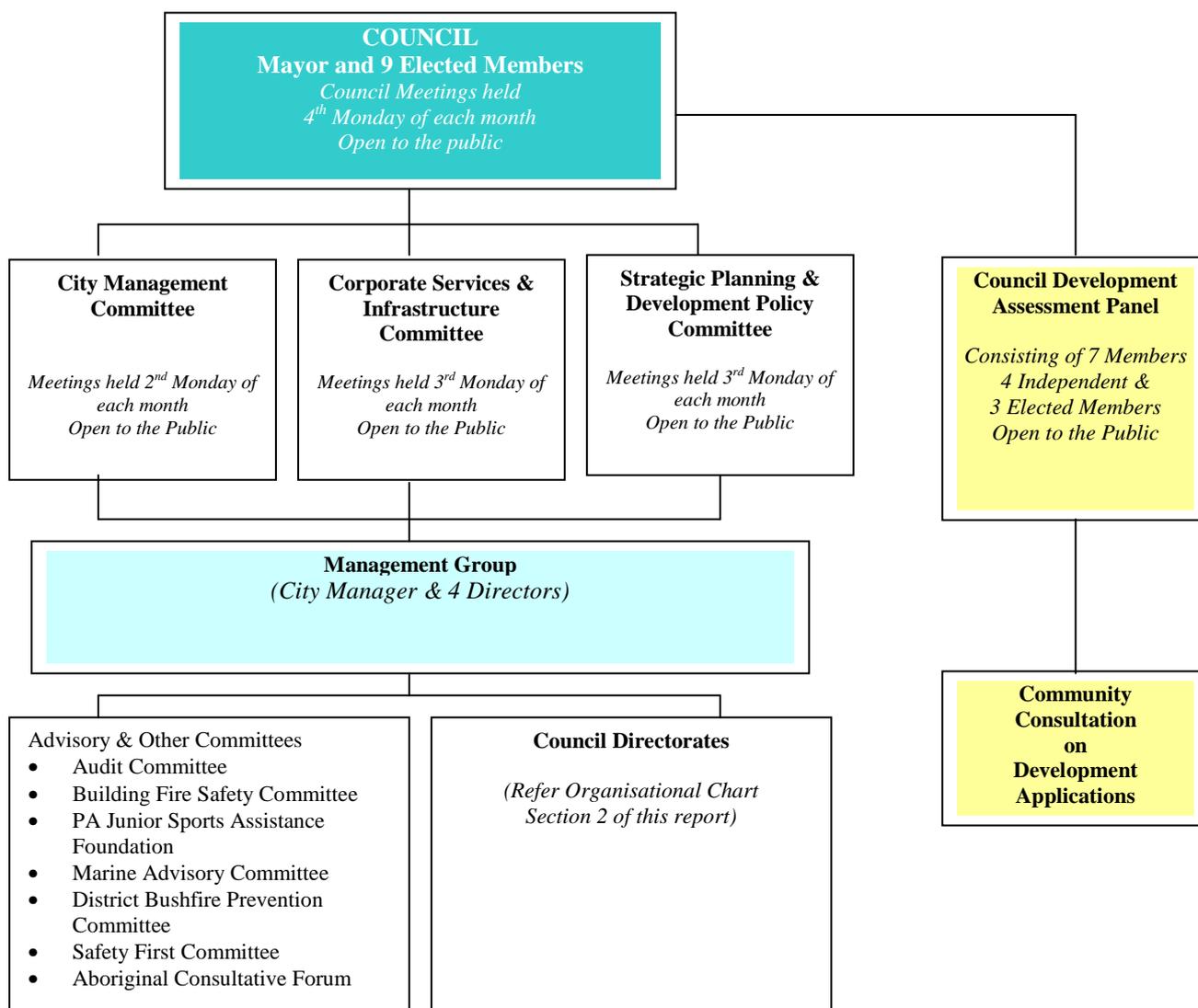
1.1.2 The first Key Committee meets at 5.30pm on the 2nd Monday of every month and is known as the City Management Committee. The second Key Committee meets at 5.30pm on the 3rd Monday of every month and is known as the Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee. The third Key Committee meets on the 2nd or 3rd Monday of the month, commencing at the conclusion of the City Management Committee or Corporate Services & Infrastructure Committee on an as needs basis. This Key Committee is known as the Strategic Planning & Development Policy Committee. Should a public holiday fall on the Monday of a scheduled Key Committee Meeting, then the meeting will be held on the following evening (Tuesday).

Full Council meets at 7pm on the 4th Monday of every month except public holidays when meetings are scheduled on the following evening (Tuesday).

1.1.3 Council also has a 'Management Group' who meet on a weekly basis to peruse all reports prior to them being included in the agenda for the appropriate Key Committee/Council. The Officers who make up the Management Group are the City Manager – Mr Greg Perkin, Director Corporate Services - Mr Michael Dunemann, Director Infrastructure and Environment Services – Mr Hayden Hart, Director Community Services – Mrs Anne O'Reilly, and Director City & Cultural Services – Mrs Lee Heron.

1.1.4 Agendas for all Council and Key Committee Meetings are placed on display on the Thursday preceding the Monday Meeting, and Minutes of all meetings are placed on display in the Civic Centre. Copies are also available on Council's Website – www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au. If copies of Agendas and Minutes are required, they can be obtained from the Civic Centre for a charge, as outlined within Council's Fees & Charges Register. A copy of the Fees & Charges Register is available from the Civic Centre or on Council's website by clicking the following headings: 'The Council' – 'Council Documents' – 'Registers'.

1.2 Decision Making Structure



2. Delegations

The City Manager has delegated authority of Council to make decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters under various Acts that Council administer. The City Manager has sub-delegated many of these delegations to officers of Council. A Delegations Register has been developed and provides details of all delegations and sub-delegations including any limitations and conditions imposed by Council and/or the City Manager.

A copy of the Delegations Register is available on Council's Website www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au under the headings: 'The Council' – 'Council Documents' – 'Registers'.

3. Public Participation

3.1.1 Public involvement in Council Meetings:

Meetings of Council or Council Key Committees are conducted in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta. This venue is open to the public and community members are encouraged and welcome to attend all Council/Council Key Committee Meetings.

3.1.2 Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council. These include:

a) Elected Members

Members of the public can contact Elected Member/s of Council to discuss any issues relevant to Council.

b) Written Submissions

A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council practice, procedure, activity or service. All written submissions should be forwarded to the City Manager, Port Augusta City Council, PO Box 1704, Port Augusta 5700 or by email to admin@portaugusta.sa.gov.au

c) Petitions

Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

d) Deputations

A request to appear before Council or a Council Committee must be made in writing to the City Manager at least five days prior to the meeting at which the issue will be considered and should include a statement of the reasons why the deputation wishes to appear.

e) Community Consultation

The Port Augusta City Council consults with the public on particular issues that affect their neighbourhood or the City in accordance with its 'Public Consultation Policy' (2.1.03).

4. Confidentiality Provisions

Pursuant to Section 90 (2), a Council or Council Key Committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting for a variety of reasons:

The table below indicates the reasons that a matter may be considered under the confidentiality provisions and the number of occasions during 2008/2009, each of these provisions was enforced as follows:

Section of the Local Government Act	Number of times used
Section 90(3)(a) – information the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)	-
Section 90(3)(b) – information the disclosure of which: (i) could reasonably be expected to confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting, or proposing to conduct, business, or to prejudice the commercial position of the council, and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.	14
Section 90(3)(c) – information the disclosure of which would reveal a trade secret.	-
Section 90(3)(d) – commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which: (i) could reasonably expected to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or to confer a commercial advantage on a third party; and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.	14

Section 90(3)(e) – matters affecting the security of the council, members or employees of the council, or council property, or the safety of any person.	2
Section 90(3)(f) – information the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to prejudice the maintenance of law, including by affecting (or potentially affecting) the prevention, detection or investigation of a criminal offence, or the right to a fair trial.	-
Section 90(3)(g) – matters that must be considered in confidence in order to ensure that the council does not breach any law, order or direction of a court or tribunal constituted by law, any duty of confidence, or other legal obligation or duty.	-
Section 90(3)(h) - legal advice	-
Section 90(3)(i) – information relating to actual litigation, or litigation that the council or council committee believes on reasonable grounds will take place, involving the council or an employee of the council	-
Section 90(3)(j) – information the disclosure of which: (i) would divulge information provided on a confidential basis by or to a Minister of the Crown, or another public authority or official; and (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.	-
Section 90(3)(k) – tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works	-
Section 90(3)(l) - deleted	
Section 90(3)(m) – information relating to a proposed amendment to a Development Plan under the Development Act 1993 before a Plan Amendment Report relating to the amendment is released for public consultation under the Act.	6
Section 90(3)(n) – information relevant to the review of a determination of a council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991	3

4.1.1 During the reporting period, there were 36 instances where Council considered an item under the confidentiality provisions, however in 3 of the 36 cases, either two or more of the above sections of the Act were attributed to a single issue.

4.1.2 Where an order is made to exclude the public, a note must be made in the Minutes of the making of the order and of the grounds on which it is made, as well as the duration of the order.

4.1.3 Of the 36 confidential items, 1 item did not have the confidentiality provisions preserved, 11 items remained confidential for a period of 3 months or less, 5 items were for a period of 3-6 months, 19 items were for a period greater than 6 months.

4.1.4 Pursuant to Section 91 (9) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, a review was undertaken of all confidential orders which have operated for a period exceeding 12 months. Following a review in July 2009 of all Confidential Orders, Council approved eleven (11) items (that exceed 12 months) to remain under confidential provisions.

4.1.5 Contracts with Confidentiality Clauses

Pursuant to Clause 13 (2) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 1991, Council has an opportunity to include a clause within a contract document outlining a schedule of confidentiality provisions within the contract. Council must also regularly report to the Minister administering the Act, the number of contracts containing confidentiality clauses that have been entered into by Council. Council did not have cause to include these provisions within any contract documents during the 2008/2009 financial year.

5. Community Consultation

Council seeks feedback from the community on a range of issues each year. Submissions made by the community, during consultation processes, assist Council when making decisions on issues that are being considered.

Furthermore, residents are notified of some development applications that are to be assessed by the Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP) pursuant to the Development Act 1993. When an application is publicly notified, residents have the opportunity to write to the CDAP expressing their views on the application, and also have an opportunity at this time to request to address the CDAP before a decision is made. It should be noted however, that a number of applications are exempted from public notification by the Development Act 1993.

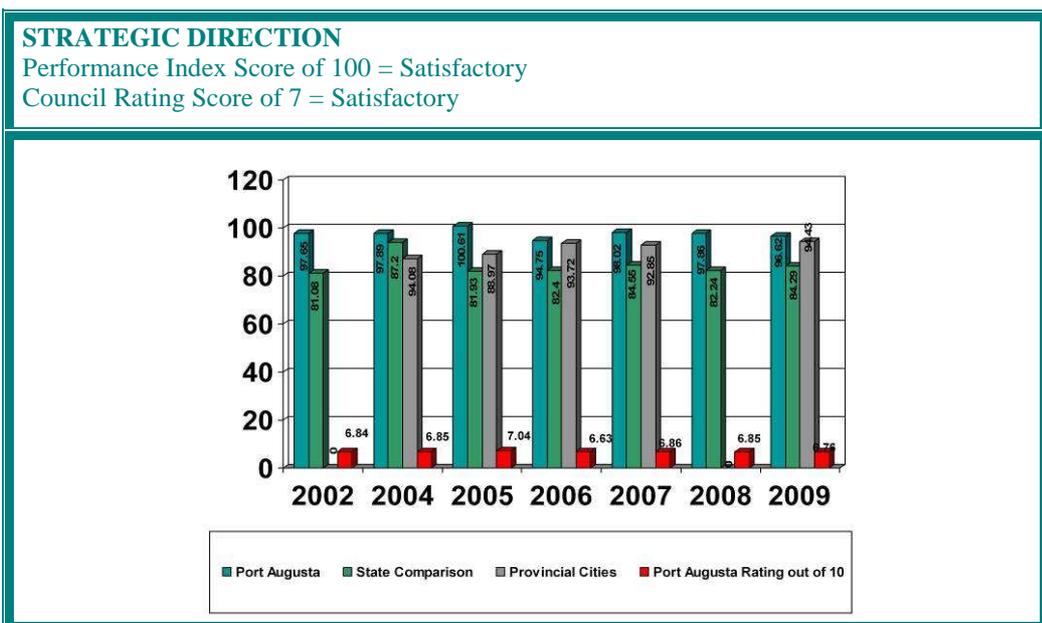
In addition to the above types of community consultation, the Port Augusta City Council since 2002 has also been involved in the Comparative Performance Measurement Report, which is facilitated by the Local Government Association on an annual basis. A community survey is undertaken by Roy Morgan Research as part of the Comparative Performance Measurement Report.

The community survey provides Council with valuable feedback from the community on their perception of Council's performance in the following areas:

- a) Strategic Directions
- b) Community Consultation
- c) Council Services
- d) Quality of Life
- e) Public Access to Information
- f) Asset/Infrastructure Management
- g) Safety & Security

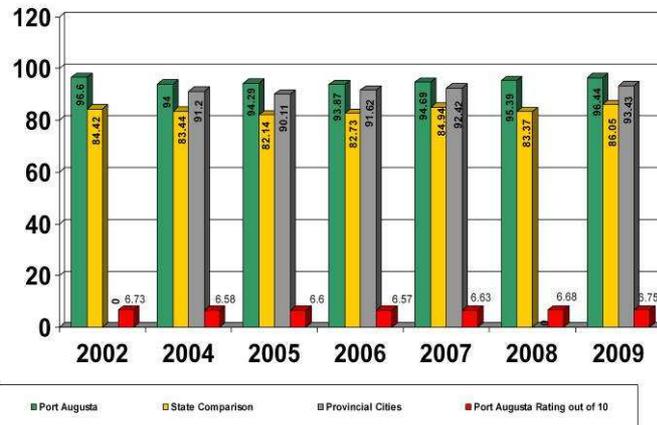
The Comparative Performance Measurement Project provides a foundation for identifying areas of continuous improvement and assists Council to measure and analyse its performance over time.

The following graphs outline the ongoing results of the surveys undertaken for Port Augusta, which are also compared to the State Comparison and other Provincial Cities. The results continue to be very pleasing; however Council acknowledges the importance of always endeavouring to improve the services and programs that are provided to the community and strives to meet their expectations wherever possible.



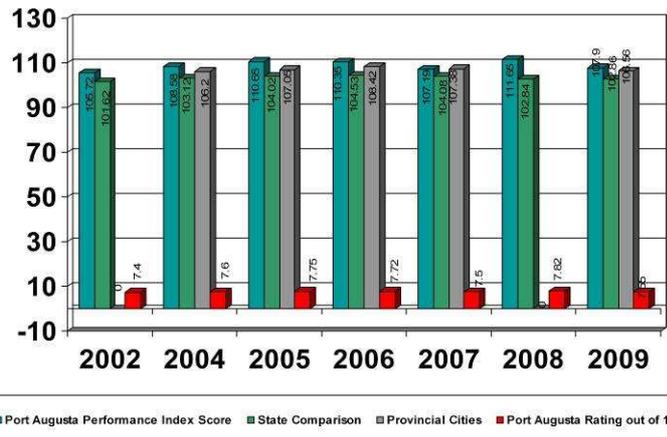
Community Consultation

Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory
 Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



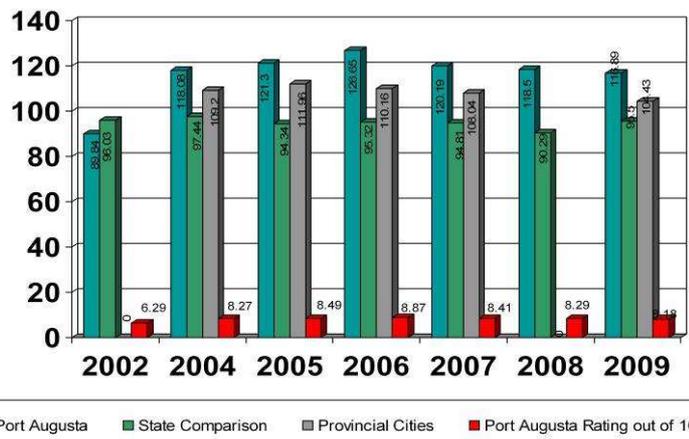
Council Services

Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory
 Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



Quality of Life

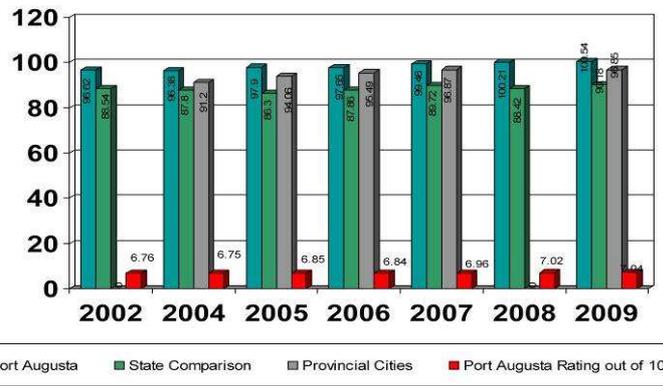
Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory
 Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



Public Access to Information

Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory

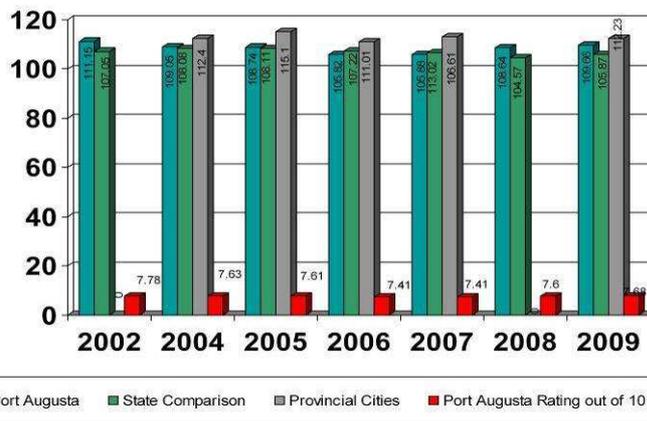
Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



Asset/Infrastructure Management

Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory

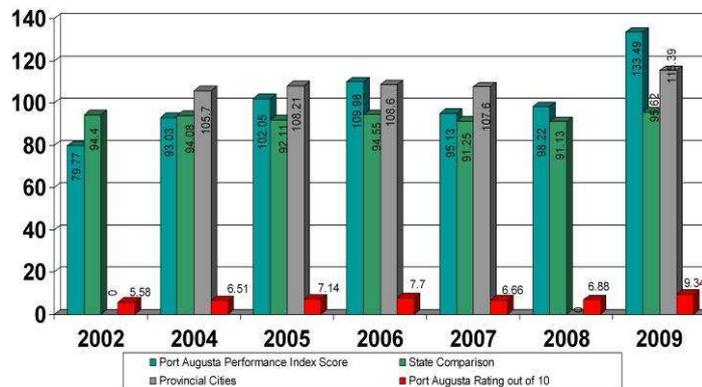
Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



Safety & Security

Performance Index Score of 100 = Satisfactory

Council Rating Score of 7 = Satisfactory



As part of the 2009 Comparative Performance Measurement Project, Council sought feedback from the community on two additional questions. The following information provides details of the two additional questions asked as part of the random Community Survey and the results:

a) ***Effectiveness of the Total City Dry Areas initiatives in reducing anti-social behaviour.***

Results:	Total Effective	80.3% of responses
	Total Ineffective	12.1% of responses
	Can't say/not aware	2.2% of responses

b) ***Perception of City Safe Security Patrol (aka Canine Patrol) as an initiative.***

Results:	Total Effective	86.2% of responses
	Total Ineffective	5.1% of responses
	Can't say/not aware	3.2% of responses

Council's overall performance for 2009 was 7.14, being a satisfactory result.

6. Public Access to Council Documents

The Port Augusta City Council's Annual Report and Information Statement is available free of charge upon request at the front counter of the Council Office, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta or the Public Library. A copy is also available on Council's website – www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au

The public also has access to the following documents, some of which are available free of charge via Council's website, while others can be viewed at the Council Office. Alternatively, copies may be obtained at a charge as outlined in Council's Fees and Charges Register.

6.1.1 Registers/Manuals/Plans

- a) Policy Manual
- b) Delegations Register
- c) By-Law Register
- d) Public Roads Register
- e) Elected Members – Register of Allowances & Benefits
- f) Elected Members – Register of Interest
- g) Officers' Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits
- h) Officers' Register of Interest
- i) Register of Campaign Donations Returns
- j) Community Land Management Plan Register
- k) Fees and Charges Register
- l) Council Development Assessment Panel – Register of Interest
- m) Strategic Plan
- n) Annual Business Plans and Budget
- o) Animal Management Plans

6.1.2 Policy/Procedure Manual

Council's Policy Manual has been divided into 4 specific Manuals – Executive Manual, Operational Units Manual, Human Resource Manual and Emergency Manual.

Policy documents that directly affect the community are developed in consultation with the community. When a new policy is being considered, Council will establish a 'Reference Group' who will be responsible for drafting the policy for consideration by the community and Elected Members.

Registrations of interest from community members who have an interest in a particular issue will be sought, to encourage them to become involved during the development stage of a Policy. A draft policy once developed by the Reference Group is then forwarded to Council for perusal and comment. After Council has had an opportunity to view the draft Policy, it is then made available to the entire community for comment. All submissions

received from the community are considered by Council, prior to the policy being formally adopted.

Following is a list of the various Policies and Codes of Practice that Council have available. These documents are able to be accessed via Council's Website www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au under the heading 'The Council' and sub-heading 'Council Documents':

Executive Manual

Elected Members

1.1.01	Voters' Roll	1.1.08	Statutory Code of Conduct – Elected Members
1.1.02	Supplementary Elections	1.1.09	Elected Members Initiating Action
1.1.03	Election of Deputy Mayor	1.1.10	Statutory Code of Practice – Access to Council Meetings and Documents
1.1.04	Portfolio Allocation	1.1.11	Elected Members' Expenses, Facilities & Support
1.1.05	Committees and Panels	1.1.12	Elected Members' Training and Development
1.1.06	Council Representatives on Boards and Organisations	1.1.13	Elected Members' Caretaker Role during Election Period
1.1.07	Deleted		

Public Relations

1.2.01	Public Statements	1.2.06	Use of Council's Official Documents, Brand & Logo by Elected Members
1.2.02	Residents Newsletter	1.2.07	Council's Corporate Seal
1.2.03	Public Consultation	1.2.08	Use of City Brand & Logo
1.2.04	Statutory Procedure Internal Review of Council Decisions	1.2.09	Acknowledging Traditional Custodians
1.2.05	Customer Service Charter		

Administrative Services

1.3.01	Port Augusta City Council – Appropriate Naming	1.3.06	Processing of Limited Liquor Licence Applications
1.3.02	Sale of Council Land	1.3.07	Safe Environment – Minimising the risk to children and vulnerable people
1.3.03	Crown Land under Council's Care, Control & Management	1.3.08	Application of Delegations
1.3.04	Reporting of Hazards (Potential injury to members of the public)	1.3.09	Application of Delegations to the Council Development Assessment Panel (CDAP)
1.3.05	Making of Orders		

Operational Units Manual

Corporate Services - Financial

2.1.01	Rating Policy 2007/2008	2.1.07	Petty Cash
2.1.02	Rate Rebates	2.1.08	Special Capital Reserve Fund
2.1.03	Rating – Recoveries	2.1.09	Community Donations
2.1.04	Fees & Charges	2.1.10	Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Fund
2.1.05	Purchasing, Contracts & Tendering	2.1.11	Financial – Internal Controls
2.1.06	Bank Signatories		

Corporate Services – Information Technology

2.2.01	Electronic Communications Management	2.2.03	Privacy Policy
2.2.02	Records Management		

Corporate Services – Aged Care/Health Focus

2.3.01	Admission & Discharge Nerrilda Nursing Home and A.M. Ramsay Village	2.3.03	Community Assistance Program (Men’s Shed)
2.3.02	Admission & Discharge Health Focus		

Corporate Services - Child Care/Special Needs

2.4.01	Admission to Childcare Centre	2.4.02	Admission to Miriam High Special Needs Centre
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Infrastructure & Environment – Parks & Gardens

2.6.01	Street Tree Policy	2.6.03	AALBG – Living Collections Policy
2.6.02	AALBG –Environmental Protection		

Infrastructure & Environment – Planning & Building

2.7.01	Pre-used Transportable Dwellings/Buildings – Land Management Agreement	2.7.05	Building Inspections
2.7.02	Pre-used Transportable Dwellings/Buildings – Asbestos Removal	2.7.06	Objects on Public Footpaths
2.7.03	Pre-used Transportable Dwellings/Buildings – Development Application Requirements	2.7.07	CDAP – Code of Conduct
2.7.04	Pre-used Transportable Dwellings/Buildings – Owners Obligations	2.7.08	CDAP – Complaint Handling

Infrastructure & Environment – Works

2.8.01	Common Effluent Drains	2.8.03	Excavation & Reinstatement of Council Roads, Footpaths or Properties
2.8.02	Street Names		

Infrastructure & Environment – Environmental Health Services

2.9.01	Pigeon Keeping		
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Corporate Services – Animal Control

2.10.01	Dog Management	2.10.02	Cat Management
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Infrastructure & Environment – General

2.11.01	Machinery Air-conditioning	2.11.05	Event Bookings on Council Land
2.11.02	Plant, Machinery & Equipment – Use by Sporting & Community Bodies	2.11.06	Pontoon Management
2.11.03	Cemetery Management	2.11.07	Entry to Julia Lodge & Poinsettia Village (Aged Cottage Homes)
2.11.04	Council Oval Hire	2.11.08	Street Stalls

Infrastructure & Environment - Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre

2.12.01	Unattended Children at Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre		
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Executive Services - Library

2.13.01	Library Security	2.13.01	Unattended Children in Library
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Executive Services – Wadlata & AALBG

2.14.01	Unattended Children at Wadlata & AALBG		
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Emergency Manual

3.1.01	Emergency Facilities & Procedures	3.1.02	Fire Evacuation – Civic Centre & Library
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Human Resource Manual

4.1.01	Statutory Code of Conduct – Council Employees	4.1.08	Discipline/Termination of Employees
4.1.02	Equal Employment Opportunity	4.1.09	Council Volunteers
4.1.03	Risk Management	4.1.10	Apprentices
4.1.04	Recruitment & Selection	4.1.11	Australian Reserve Forces
4.1.05	Staff Appointments (Interview) – Cost Reimbursement	4.1.12	Sexual Harassment
4.1.06	Probationary Appointment & Assessment	4.1.13	Employee Assistance Program
4.1.07	Employees – General Grievance Procedures	4.1.14	Workplace Bullying

OHS&W Policy Manual

The OHS&W Policy Manual is made up of an OHS&W Injury Management Policy Statement, Aims & Objectives, Responsibilities, Responsible Officers, Constitution and Rules (POLA0075), Framework for Resolution of OHS&W problems and relevant policies as listed below:

POLA0097	Accident Investigation & Reporting	POLA0156	Internal Audit Review
POLA0122	Asbestos	POLA0109	Manual Handling & Risk Identification Form
POLA0102	Blood Spill Mop Up	POLA0091	Needle Stick/Sharps
POLA0151	Cash Taking/Robbery Activity	POLA0149	Occupational Noise Control
POLA0099	Confined Space Policy & Register of Confined Spaces & Checklist	POLA0160	OHS Contractor Management Policy
POLA0152	Contractors	PROA0008	OHS Contractor Management Procedures
POLA0073	Drug & Alcohol	POLA0105	OHS&W & First Aid in the Workplace
POLA0148	Drug & Alcohol Policy/Testing Procedure	POLA0103	Personal Protective Equipment
POLA0101	Electrical Safety	POLA0096	Plant Management
POLA0106	Evacuation	POLA0158	Policy Development & Review
POLA0104	Eye Protection	POLA0087	Purchasing of Plant & Equipment
POLA0147	Fire Evacuation	POLA0136	Risk Management
POLA0100	Hazardous/Dangerous Substances & Procedures	POLA0118	Safe Working Environment
POLA0111	Hire/Lease of Plant & Equipment	POLA0079	Smoking in the Workplace
POLA0157	Hot Work Procedures	POLA0108	Staff training
POLA0120	Immunisation Clinic – Emergency Action	POLA0078	Sun Protection
POLA0107	Inclement Weather & Procedures	POLA0150	Tag-out Safety
POLA0130	Injury Management Policy & Procedures	POLA0153	Vaccination
FORA1268	Isolated/Remote Work Procedures	POLA0080	Workers Compensation (Video Surveillance)
POLA0159	Institute Retractable Tiered Seating	POLA0146	Workplace Bullying Policy

7. Freedom of Information Requests

Requests for other information not included above will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1991, which may also involve the payment of search fees and other costs. Enquiries relating to FOI issues should be directed to:

Mrs Lee Heron, Director – City & Cultural Services or
 Ms Melanie Jenkins, Executive Assistant
 Port Augusta City Council
 PO Box 1704
 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700
 Phone: (08) 8641 9100

7.1 FOI Activities for 2008/2009:

During 2008/2009, Council received seventeen (17) Freedom of Information requests. Full release of documents was provided for all requests.

7.2 A member of the public may gain access to Council documents to make amendments concerning their personal affairs by making a request under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 (Section 31). A member of the public may then request a correction to any information about themselves that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out of date by completing a Freedom of Information Request Form, identifying such information that should be amended to bring their personal information up-to-date.



Accountability Report

- Rating Policy 2008/2009
- Rate Rebates
- Auditor Independence
- National Competition Principles
- Competitive Tendering Statement
- Community Land Management Plans
- Internal Review of Council Actions



Section 5

1. Rating Policy



PortAugusta

CITY COUNCIL

2. OPERATIONAL UNITS POLICY AND PROCEDURES

2.1 CORPORATE SERVICES - FINANCIAL

POLICY NUMBER:	2.1.01			PAGES:	14		
SUBJECT:							
RATING POLICY 2008/2009							
COUNCIL MEETING		ISSUE DATE	9 th July 2008	REVIEW DATE	MICA0297 - 24/11/08	DELETE D DATE	
EXTERNAL LEGISLATION:				INTERNAL REFERENCES:			
Local Government Act 1999				Rating Policy Summary 2008/2009			
RELATED POLICIES:				RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:			
Rebate of Rates Policy 2.1.02 Rating - Recoveries Policy 2.1.03 Purchasing, Contracts & Tendering - 2.1.05				Director - Corporate Services			
SECTION A							
1.0 POLICY STATEMENT							
1.1	The Rating Policy sets out the guidelines the Port Augusta City Council adheres to, for setting and collecting rates from it's community.						
1.2	The policy covers :-						
	a)	method used to value land					
	b)	adoption of valuations					
	c)	business impact statement					
	d)	differential general rates					
	e)	minimum rate					
	f)	maximum rate					
	g)	service rate charge					
	h)	pensioner concessions					
	i)	unemployed persons concessions					
	j)	payment of rates					
	k)	late payment of rates					
	l)	remission and postponement of rates					
	m)	rebate of rates					
	n)	sale of land for non-payment of rates					
1.3	<u>STRATEGIC FOCUS</u>						
	In setting its rates for the 2008/2009 Financial Year, the Council has given consideration to the following:-						

1.3.1 The Strategic Plan 2008-2011

- a) Commencing in July, 2007, Council undertook a review of its Strategic Plan, in consultation with the community, to ensure it continues to provide appropriate programs and service, as well as delivering major projects and infrastructure improvement.
- b) The Strategic Plan is the major budget deliberations to ensure that Councils identified goals and objectives are able to be fulfilled.
- c) The current budget and those of recent years reflect the Strategic Plan's goals of managing long term debt, introducing a greater focus on pavement and infrastructure management and providing impetus for regional economic development.
- d) The Strategic Plan maintains, as one of its major focuses over the coming years, its commitment to community safe and city image initiatives.
- e) Planning for an ageing community will also be a major focus of the Strategic Plan review.

1.3.2 Strong Leadership

The determination that strong leadership is required if it is to overcome many of the issues confronting the City. To that end it has resolved to:-

- a) develop a stronger focus on upgrading and improving it's roads, streets and footpath assets, with continued work on its Asset Management Plan and long term financial plans a priority;
- b) improve the economy of the City by fostering regional development initiatives such as the proposed business incubator;
- c) finalise the development of a significant Capital Works Program such as the foreshore redevelopment and the construction of the Shack Road;
- d) retain community based programs that attract visitors to the City and the Region;
- e) enhance existing trainee/apprentice programs that support young people in the community;
- f) introduce a full waste recycling collection for the City;

1.3.3 Budget Implications

- a) The budget for the 2008/2009 financial year.

1.3.5 Impact of rates on community

- a) The impact of rates on the community, including:-
 - i) householders, businesses and primary producers;
 - ii) the broad principle that the rates collected from the different program groups should rise equally and equitably each financial year. Where there is clearly a different level of services available to ratepayers or some other circumstance which warrants variation from the broad principle a differential rate will be applied (refer section on Differential General Rates);
 - iii) issues of equity arising from circumstances where ratepayers are not provided with the level of infrastructure or services of other areas;
 - iv) the levy of an effluent drainage charge for properties connected to the effluent drainage system;
 - v) the levy of a waste management charge for the introduction of a full recycling household waste collection;
 - vi) the levy of a Natural Resource Management charge;

1.3.6 Rate Increases

- a) The need to increase rate revenue for the 2008/2009 financial year of the Council by 6.5% to maintain exiting services.

1.4 The Strategic Plan documents and the Council's budget are available for inspection at the Customer Service Counter of the Council Office, and the Public Library, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta and via the internet at <http://www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au>.

1.5 The Council conducts public consultation on a broad range of issues relating to the future directions of the area. These meetings are always advertised in local papers and on television. Ratepayers and interested parties are welcome to attend. The Council also encourages feedback at anytime and such comments may be sent to:-

Greg Perkin
City Manager
Port Augusta City Council
PO Box 1704
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

1.6 ANNUAL ADOPTION OF THE POLICY

1.6.1 Section 171 of the Local Government Act requires a Council to prepare and adopt each year, in conjunction with settling the rates, a "Rates Policy". The policy must be available at the principal office of the Council and a summary version must be distributed with the rate notice.

This policy is available for inspection at the Customer Service Counter of the Council Office, 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta SA 5700.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.1 To provide a clear understanding of the process of determining rates on an annual basis.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY & REVIEW

3.1 Director – Corporate Services

3.2 Reviewed annually in May of each year.

SECTION B

4.0 FLOWCHART

4.1 Not applicable in this instance.

SECTION C

5.0 PROCEDURE

5.1 METHOD USED TO VALUE LAND

5.1.1 The Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value the properties in its area. They are:-

- a) Capital Value – the value of the land and all of the improvements on the land;
- b) Site Value – the value of the land and any improvements which permanently affect the amenity of use of the land, such as drainage works, but excluding the value of buildings and other improvements;
- c) Annual Value – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

5.1.2 The Council has decided to continue to use site value as the basis for valuing land within the council area.

- a) Site value methodology of rating will be reviewed prior to the next budget, to determine if it continues to provide a fair and equitable method of distributing the rate burden across all ratepayers.

5.1.3 Council must comply with the provisions of the Local Government Act as amended, which stipulates that Council can only levy the minimum rate to less than 35% of rateable properties. The distribution of property values is widely varied and the requirements set out above will mean variations in rates levied can be significant.

5.2 ADOPTION OF VALUATIONS

5.2.1 The Council adopted the valuations made by the Valuer-General on the 9th July, 2008. If a ratepayer is dissatisfied with the valuation made by the Valuer-General then they may object to the Valuer-General in writing, within 60 days of receiving this notice of the valuation, explaining the basis for the objection – provided they have not:-

- a) previously received a notice of this valuation under the Local Government Act, in which case the objection period is 60 days from the receipt of the first notice; or

b) previously had an objection to the valuation considered by the Valuer-General.

5.2.2 The address of the Office of the Valuer-General is "Office of the Valuer-General, GPO Box 1354, ADELAIDE SA 5001", and the telephone number is 1300 653 345.

NOTE - The Council has no role in this process. It is also important to note that the lodgement of an objection does not change the due date for payment of rates.

5.3 BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

5.3.1 The Council has considered the impact of rates on business and associated activity in the area. In considering the impact, Council assessed the following:-

- a) Council's policy on "Rebates of Rates" (2.1.02).
- b) The support provided to the Northern Regional Development Board Inc., which in turn supports small business operations in the City and adjoining areas.
- c) Council's Purchasing, Contracts & Tendering policy (2.1.05), which provides preference for any supplier in the region where price and quality offered by two (2) or more suppliers are equal.
- d) Council's commitment to the continuing development of Port Augusta as a transport interchange and important regional service centre and has undertaken a review of its current Development Plan during 2007/2008. Recommendations from the review which have been presented to Council and will be actioned during the 2008/2009 financial year.
- e) The equity of the distribution of the rate burden between classes of ratepayers based on land use.
- f) Issues of equitability that are created as a result of wide and varied increases in property valuations across the City.

5.4 DIFFERENTIAL GENERAL RATES

5.4.1 All land within a council area, except for land specifically exempt (eg. Crown land, council occupied land and other land prescribed in the Local Government Act), is rateable. The Local Government Act provides for a Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through a general rate which applies to all rateable properties. At its meeting of 9th July, 2008 the Council resolved to raise rate revenue of \$8,602,000 in a total revenue budget of \$23,284,000. As a result of this decision the Council has set general rates in the dollar to raise the necessary revenue by way of utilising the land code categories adopted by the Valuer-General of, namely:-

- a) Residential
- b) Commercial – Shop
- c) Commercial – Office
- d) Commercial – Other
- e) Industry Light
- f) Industry Other
- g) Primary Production
- h) Vacant Land
- i) Other Use

5.4.2 The use to which the land is put may govern the differential rate. If a property owner is of the opinion that the description is incorrect, he/she may object. The objection must be in writing and lodged within 21 days of the date of the notice and addressed to "The City Manager, Port Augusta City Council, PO Box 1704, PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700".

Category	Land Use	Rate in \$ (Cents)	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate	Maximum % rise	
Urban	Residential	2.24	840.00	1,995.00	9.0%	
	Commercial – Shop	3.142	840.00		9.0%	
	Commercial – Office	3.142	840.00		9.0%	
	Commercial – Other	3.142	840.00		9.0%	
	Industry – Light	3.142	840.00		9.0%	
	Industry – Other	3.142	840.00		9.0%	
	Primary Production	.0437	840.00		9.0%	
	*****	Vacant Land	2.24	840.00	1,995.00	9.0%
		Other Use	2.24	840.00		9.0%

Category	Land Use	Rate in \$ (Cents)	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate	Maximum % rise
Non-Urban	Residential	1.493	840.00	1,545.00	9.0%
	Commercial – Shop	3.142	840.00		9.0%
	Commercial – Office	3.142	840.00		9.0%
	Commercial – Other	3.142	840.00		9.0%
	Industry – Light	3.142	840.00		9.0%
	Industry – Other	3.142	840.00		9.0%
	Primary Production	.437			9.0%
	Vacant Land	.747			9.0%
	Other Use	1.493	840.00		9.0%
Shacks	Residential	.49	840.00		10.0%
	Primary Production	.437			9.0%
	Vacant Land	.747			9.0%
	Other Use	1.493	840.00		9.0%

** Maximum rate to apply to vacant residential allotments only. Maximum rate to apply to individual allotments in any contiguous parcel of vacant land containing greater than a single allotment.

5.5. MINIMUM RATE

5.5.1 A Council may impose a minimum amount payable by way of rates, provided that it has not imposed a Fixed Charge. Where two or more adjoining properties have the same owner, and are occupied by the same occupier only one minimum rate is payable by the ratepayer. Where a Council imposes a minimum rate it must not apply to more than 35% of properties in the council area including the % of properties affected by tiered rating.

5.5.2 The Council has decided to impose a minimum rate of \$840.00. The reasons for imposing a minimum rate are:-

- a) Council considers it appropriate that all rateable properties make a contribution to the cost of administering the Council's activities and creating and maintaining the physical infrastructure that supports each property.
- b) Minimum rates have been applied for many years and their continuation together with the rating impacts/trends that apply provide a consistent approach to rating levels

5.5.3 The minimum rate will affect 1908 rateable properties (28.8%) and will raise 18.6% of the total rate revenue. The imposition of a minimum rate raises an additional \$215,837 which is 2.5% of the total rate revenue.

5.6. MAXIMUM RATE & RATE CAPPING

5.6.1 Council has determined that a maximum rate be applicable to properties that have a land use code of residence and vacant land for residential properties only. The maximum rate payable is \$1,995 for urban properties, \$1,545 for non-urban properties.

In setting these maximum rate levels, Council took into account:-

- a) The very wide range of values applied to residential properties in the municipality.
- b) The unreasonable rate impost that would be applied to a number of properties, without a maximum rate.

5.6.2 Council will provide a rebate to limit the maximum increase in rates payable due to increase in valuation to 9% for residential properties, 10% for Blanche Harbour Shack properties and 9% for business properties over the rates levied for 2007/2008.

5.7. SERVICE RATE / CHARGE

5.7.1 The Council provides a septic tank effluent disposal system (STED) to 1341 properties within the Council area. A service charge of 270.00 will apply to properties connected to the STED schemes installed in the Willsden, Augusta Park, Hospital Road, Zanuckville, Conwaytown, Transcontinental Estate and Stirling North Railway Siding areas.

5.7.2 A service charge of \$150 per property will apply to all households, businesses and properties that receive a garbage collection.

5.7.3 A service charge of \$23.50 will apply to all rateable properties for the NRM levy.

5.8 PENSIONER & SELF FUNDED RETIREES CONCESSIONS

5.8.1 If you are an eligible pensioner or self funded retiree, you may be entitled to a rebate on your rates, if you do not currently receive one. Application forms, which include information on the concessions, are available from the Council's Civic Centre at 4 Mackay Street, Port Augusta SA 5700. They are also available from the SA Water Corporation and its District Offices and the State Taxation Office. An eligible pensioner or self funded retiree must hold a Pension Card, State Concession Card or be a T.P.I. Pensioner. You must also be responsible for the payment of rates on the property for which you are claiming a concession.

5.8.2 Applications are administered by the State Government. Payment of rates should not be withheld pending assessment of your application by the State Government as penalties will apply to unpaid rates. A refund will be paid to you immediately Council is advised that a concession applies and the rates have already been paid.

5.8.3 Council will also provide a rebate of up to \$250 to eligible pensioners and self funded retirees whose net rate levy after deduction of the State Government concession exceeds \$1,200 will receive a rebate to limit the maximum net rate levy payable to \$950. Pensioners with a net rate levy greater than \$1,200 to receive a rebate of \$250.

5.9 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS CONCESSIONS

5.9.1 Families SA may assist with the payment of Council rates for your principal place of residence (remissions are not available on vacant land or rental premises). Please contact your nearest Families SA Office for details.

5.10 PAYMENT OF RATES

5.10.1 Rates levied for the year may be paid in four quarterly instalments, due and payable by **5th September 2008, 5th December 2008, 5th March 2009 and 5th June 2009**. Separate notices relating to instalments due in December 2008, March 2009 and June 2009 will be issued to property owners in October 2008, January 2009 and April 2009.

5.10.2 However, payment of the total rates levied on a property for the 2008/2009 financial year by the 5th September 2008, will attract a discount equivalent to 5% of the total rates declared on the property.

5.10.3 Rates may be paid at the Civic Centre, 4 Mackay Street Port Augusta between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. EFTPOS facilities are available.

5.10.4 Rates may also be paid via the internet www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au (select "Online Transactions" from the Fast Find menu) or by telephone on 1300 303 201 (ANZ Bank bill pay, Council's info pay number is 4321), at any Post Office, via Bpay Code 27961, via Centre Pay and by Direct Debit.

Payments by post can be made to PO Box 1704 Port Augusta SA 5700.

5.10.5 Any ratepayer who may, or is likely to, experience difficulty with meeting the standard payment arrangements is invited to contact Phyllis Robinson, Rates Administrator on 86419100 to discuss alternative payment arrangements. Such inquiries will be dealt with in the strictest confidence.

5.10.6 The Council has adopted a policy that where the payment of rates will cause a ratepayer demonstrable hardship, the Council is prepared to make extended payment provisions or defer the payment of rates.

5.11 LATE PAYMENT OF RATES

5.11.1 **The Local Government Act provides that Councils impose a penalty of 2% on any payment for rates, whether instalment or otherwise, that is received late. A payment that continues to be late is then charged an interest rate set each year according to a formula in the Act for each month it continues to be late. The purpose of this penalty is to act as a genuine deterrent to ratepayers who might otherwise fail to pay their rates on time, to allow Councils to recover the administrative cost of following up unpaid rates and to cover any interest cost the Council may meet because it has not received the rates on time.**

5.11.2 **The Council allows a further two working days after the due date for payment as a grace period. The Council remits the late payment penalties allowed by the Local Government Act if payment is received within the grace period.**

5.11.3 The Council is prepared to remit fines/penalties for late payment of rates for a limited range of circumstances such as financial hardship due to unemployment or sickness, sudden hospitalisation and similar situations. Written applications for remission of fines are to be forwarded to the Rates Department.

5.11.4 The Council issues an overdue account for payment of rates when rates are overdue ie. Unpaid by the due date. Should rates remain unpaid for more than 30 days after the issue of the overdue account then the Council refers the debt to a debt collection agency for collection. The debt collection agency charges collection fees that are recoverable from the ratepayer. When the Council receives a payment in respect of overdue rates the Council applies the money received as follows:-

- a) first – to satisfy any costs awarded in connection with court proceedings;
- b) second – to satisfy any interest costs;
- c) third – in payment of any fines imposed;
- d) fourth – in payment of rates, in chronological order (starting with the oldest account first).

5.12 REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT OF RATES

5.12.1 Section 182 of the Local Government Act permits a Council, on the application of the ratepayer, to partially or wholly **remit** rates or to **postpone** rates, on the basis of hardship.

Where a ratepayer is suffering hardship in paying rates he/she is invited to contact the Rates Administrator, on 86419100 to discuss the matter. Although arrangements for late payment of rates are negotiable, remission of rates in whole or part is rarely approved due to the inequitable situation for the rest of the community.

5.13 REBATE OF RATES

5.13.1 The Local Government Act requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries, the Royal Zoological Society and educational institutions.

5.13.2 Discretionary rebates may be applied by the Council under Section 166 of the Act. Council currently provides discretionary rebates for council owned land that is leased or licensed such as that used by sporting bodies and community organisations.

5.13.3 Council will consider all applications for rebate under Section 166 of the Act on merit.

5.14 SALE OF LAND FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RATES

5.14.1 The Local Government Act provides that a Council may sell any property where the rates have been in arrears for three years or more. The Council is required to provide the principal ratepayer and the owner (if not the same person) with details of the outstanding amounts, and advise the owner of its intention to sell the land if payment of the outstanding amount is not received within a given time.

5.14.2 Except in extraordinary circumstances, the Council begins the sale of land for arrears of rates after 3 years. A copy of the Council's policy is available from our Rates Administrator (Phyllis Robinson) on 86419100, or by writing to the Rates Administrator, Port Augusta City Council at PO Box 1704, Port Augusta SA 5700.

5.15 APPLICATION OF THE POLICY

5.15.1 Where a ratepayer believes that the Council has failed to properly apply this policy it should raise the matter with the Council. In the first instance contact the Rates Administrator on 86419100 to discuss the matter. If, after this initial contact, a ratepayer is still dissatisfied they should write to the City Manager, Port Augusta City Council, PO Box 1704, Port Augusta SA 5700.

5.15.2 A rate cannot be challenged on the basis of non-compliance with this policy and must be paid in accordance with the required payment provisions.

6.0 **STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 6.1 Director Corporate Services.
- 6.2 Rating Administrator.

7.0 **AUDITS**

- 7.1 **Annual financial audit by John D Ewen & Associates.**

2. Rate Rebates

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Councils to rebate the rates payable on some land. Specific provisions are made for land used for health services, community services, religious purposes, public cemeteries, the Royal Zoological Society and educational institutions. Discretionary rebates may also be applied for pursuant to Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1999.

The Port Augusta City Council has adopted a 'Rate Rebate' Policy 2.1.02 which outlines the procedures that must be followed by businesses, groups or organisations when applying for a rate rebate.

Applications for rebates should be received on or before 1 May each year for the following financial year, to enable consideration of the application prior to the distribution of rate notices in July. Council reserves the right to refuse any application made after 1 May.

Rate Rebates approved during the 2008/2009 financial year totalled \$78,885. Council also supported various sporting bodies and community groups who occupy Council sporting grounds/facilities, by granting rate rebates for these areas. Furthermore, Council provides a 5% discount for rates paid in full before the due date of the first instalment. A further \$262,599 was discounted on rate payments using these provisions. In addition to the above rebates, Council provided a capping rebate limiting the general rate payable to a 10% increase on the rate paid in the previous financial year. This resulted in Council foregoing rates to the value of \$722,401 in the 2008/2009 financial year.

3. Auditor Independence

Pursuant to Section 128 of the Local Government Act 1999, a Council must have an Auditor. The term of appointment of an Auditor must not exceed 5 years. An Auditor may only continue in that office if he or she ensures that any individual who plays a significant role in the audit of the Council for 5 successive financial years, or for 5 out of 6 successive financial years, does not then play a significant role in the audit of the Council for at least 2 financial years.

Council at its meeting held on 20 March 2006 resolved to appoint John D Ewen & Associates as Council's Auditor for a period of 3 years (2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008) with a set fee of \$5,800p.a. plus travel and accommodation expenses.

During the reporting period Council resolved to appoint John D Ewen & Associates for a further two year period (2008/2009 & 2009/2010).

The Port Augusta City Council paid John D Ewen & Associates a total of \$11,500 during the 2008/2009 financial year, plus \$4,000 travel costs.

4. National Competition Principles

4.1.1 The main aims of the National Competition Policy are:

- a) to develop an open and integrated market for goods and services by removing unnecessary barriers;
- b) to prevent anti-competitive conduct;
- c) ensuring government business activities do not enjoy any net advantages solely as a result of their public ownership;
- d) regulation of business activities which restrict competition.

4.1.2 Part 7 of the Clause 7 Statement on the application of 'competition principles' requires Council to include in its Annual Report, wherever relevant, information in relation to:

- a) commencement or cessation of significant business activities;
- b) the competitive neutrality measure applied to each significant business activity control by the Council;
- c) the review and reform of by-laws which restrict competition, including proposed by-laws;
- d) complaints received alleging a breach of competitive neutrality principles; and
- e) the structural reform of public monopolies.

4.1.3 During the 2007/2008 reporting period, the Port Augusta City Council had no significant business activities to report and did not receive any complaints regarding the application of competition principles.

5. Competitive Tendering Statement

Purchasing, or contracting, consists of both the act of and functional responsibility for securing necessary inputs from outside sources or from an appropriate internal source where financial and policy consideration dictate. These inputs can be quite diverse and can cover most of the needs of a Council. In the main Council buys a variety of services from external service providers, either as needed or on a contractual basis.

Council must have a 'policy' on contracts and tenders in accordance within the Section 49 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, which sets out the procedure that the Council will follow when engaging contractors/businesses in the supply of goods and services.

Whether internal or private operators are selected to provide a Council service, competition has been identified as a means of improving performance and enhancing customer satisfaction. It is emphasised however, that the need for a balanced, case by case approach to competitive tendering and contracting out services is required.

Council adopted its original Purchasing, Contracts and Tendering Policy (2.1.05) in 2000, and regularly reviews this policy. The last review of this policy was undertaken in May 2009 and the reviewed policy was adopted by Council at its meeting held on the 25th May 2009.

During the reporting period, Council utilised a competitive tendering approach for the provision of the following goods and services:

1)	Purchase of Water Truck	Public Tender
2)	Purchase Bogie Drive Tip Truck and Super Dog Trailer	Public Tender
3)	CBD & Collector Roads – Footpath Paving Works	Selective Tender
4)	Nerrilda Nursing Home – Pharmacy Contract	Single Tender
5)	AM Ramsay Village – Pharmacy Contract	Single Tender
6)	Civic Centre – Air Conditioning	Public Tender
7)	Stirling North Garden Cemetery – Operation & Maintenance	Public Tender
8)	Consultancy Review of BHP Billiton EIS	Selective Tender
9)	ETSA Oval Lighting Upgrade	Selective Tender
10)	ETSA Oval Lighting Footings	Single Tender
11)	Consultancy Preparation of Westside Structure Plan and Infrastructure Plan	Single Tender
12)	Heritage Development Plan Amendment	Single Tender

6. Community Land Management Plans

Pursuant to Section 196 of the *Local Government Act 1999* Council must prepare and adopt a Management Plan or Management Plans for its community land. Community Land Management Plans for the City of Port Augusta have been prepared and adopted by Council.

Council may revoke the classification of land as community land in accordance with the provisions of Section 194 of the *Local Government Act 1999* and during the reporting period, Council formally revoked the community land classification pertaining to the following parcels of land:

- 1) Allotment 101 in DP 17923 CT 4219/67 (Parham Crescent, Port Augusta)

Furthermore, pursuant to Section 193 (4a) of the *Local Government Act 1999* land that formed a road or part of a road that is vested in a Council after the closure of the road under the *Roads (Opening and Closing) Act 1991* is taken to have been classified as community land unless the Council resolves before, or at the time of, the making of the relevant road process order under that Act, that it is to be excluded from classification as community land under this section. During the 2008/2009 financial year, Council resolved to exclude the following portions of road reserve from the community land classification:

- 1) Portion Nestor Street, Stirling North created within DP11 (located between Allotment 503 and 504 in FP 21299) adjacent Maule Avenue.
- 2) Portion Barrett Street, Stirling North
- 3) Smith Street, Stirling North
- 4) Portion un-named Government Road adjacent Footner Road, Port Augusta running between Section 944 and 1000.

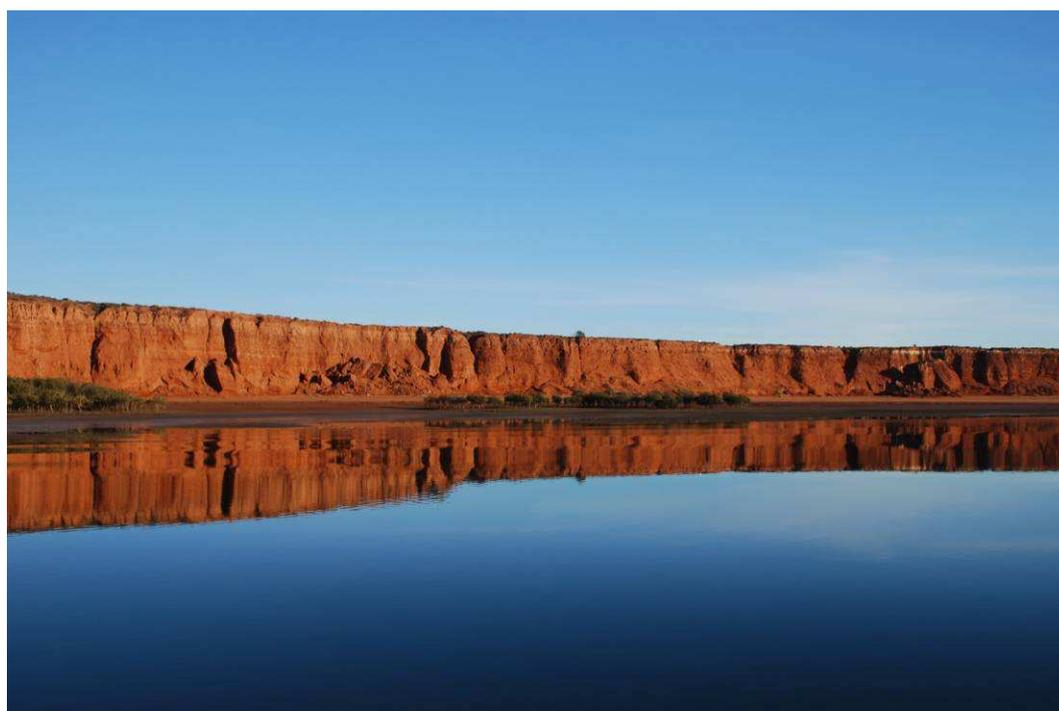
7. Internal Review of Council Actions

Section 270 of the *Local Government Act 1999* provides that Council must establish grievance procedures to ensure that an appropriate process has been adopted for internal reviews of Council actions.

As per Council Policy (1.2.04) the focus for review of Council decisions will be on **process review**, not merit review. In short, any review will be about the process mechanism and the gathering of appropriate information leading to a particular decision, rather than the merits of the actual decision itself.

During the reporting period, Council received one request for an 'Internal Review' of a decision of Council.

A review was undertaken by the City Manager, Mr Greg Perkin and advice forwarded to the applicant on his findings. No further action was taken in relation to this matter.



Community Acknowledgement

- Christmas Lighting Festival
- Mayoral Christmas Party
- Rotary Christmas Pageant
- Carols in the Park
- Academic Achiever Award
- Australia Day Awards
- Lions – Youth of the Year Quest – Civic Reception
- Annual ‘Staff Thank You Function’
- Port Augusta Junior Sports Foundation
- Australian Citizenship Ceremonies



Section 6

This section of the Annual Report has been prepared to acknowledge community organisations and individuals who work tirelessly to make our City a better place in which to live, work and play. Many volunteers assist with specific projects throughout the year and their support and commitment to Port Augusta is greatly appreciated.

1. Christmas Lighting Festival

The launch of the Christmas Lighting Festival was held on the evening of Thursday 20 November 2008 in Gladstone Square. The event had various stalls and activities such as a craft stalls, wobble board & hoola hoop activities, tattooing by Ranges Youth Centre, face painting, the Early Years Parenting Centre had dancing activities, a bouncing castle and a super slide. Other service providers that were involved in the event were Pika Wiya Health Service, Umeewarra Media and the Port Augusta Family Relationship Centre.

The presentation event for the 2008 Port Augusta Christmas Lighting Festival was held on Wednesday 17 December at the Institute Theatre of the Port Augusta Cultural Centre, Yarta Purtli. 25 people attended the evening with winners of the various categories being announced and presented with their certificates and prizes. Judging had been carried out by the Christmas Lighting Festival Reference Group during Monday 8 – Friday 12 December 2008.



Invited guests enjoying refreshments at the Christmas Lighting Festival Presentation event at the Institute Theatre.

- a) **Best Residential Display** – Peter, Lyn & Chris Brine 20 Jane Street, Stirling North. A Special Commendation/consistency award was presented to Isabel & Darryl Carn 7 Davies Crescent; Commendation awards were presented to the following entries: Damien Hutcheon 6 Wastell Street, Stirling North, Dorothy Peake 18 Fullerton Crescent, Leiuanna Rowe 19 Simmons Crescent, Wendy Zanon 6 Murdoch Street, and David Gill 63 Hospital Road.
- b) **Best Business Display** – Augusta Pest Control 43 Shirley Street
- c) **Best Housing SA Display** – Judith Watkins 8 Domeyer Court; Commendations were awarded to the following entries: Suzanne Page 30 Elizabeth Terrace, Jean Absalom 28 Hicks Street, Trevor Bell 42 Power Crescent, Jeanette Grantham 2 Kirwan Crescent.
- d) **Best Display for a Not for Profit Organisation** – The Red Shield Variety Store 27 Mackay Street.
- e) **Best Street Display** – Davies Crescent comprised of the following residents – 2, 3, 7, 9, 22, 27, 34, 35, 68 and 70.

2. Mayoral Christmas Party

The Mayoral Christmas Party was held on Friday 5 December in Gladstone Square, 7:30pm – 10pm. The event was well attended by the community of Port Augusta. The amusement rides are popular every year with the children who attend the event, as Council provides these rides free of charge.

Entertainment for the evening included performances from the Ticklish Allsorts, Hip Hop dancers, Eva Andrew and friends, Gabrielle Ballard and friend, Douglas Longmore, Andy Killcross and band. The winning pageant floats were announced at 8:20pm by the Mayor of Port Augusta, Mrs Joy Baluch AM. The fireworks display took place at 9:30pm.



Above left: Amusement rides that are provided free of charge for the Community by Council at the Port Augusta Mayoral Christmas Party.
Above centre: Children visiting Santa in the Rotunda at Gladstone Square at the 2008 Mayoral Christmas Party.
Above right: Ticklish Allsorts performance

3. Rotary Christmas Pageant

The Rotary Christmas Pageant was held on Friday 5 December 2008 prior to the Mayoral Christmas Party. Council contributed \$800 towards the event for the “Best Float” prize money as judged by the Rotary Club of Port Augusta. The following recipients were sent certificates from Rotary and a cheque from the Port Augusta City Council:

- a) **Best School Float** – Willsden Primary School prize of \$150
- b) **Best Recreation/Youth/Sport Organisation Float** – Ranges Youth Centre prize of \$150
- c) **Best Private Business/Public Organisation Float** – Families SA prize of \$150
- d) **Float Encouragement Award** – Apex Club of Port Augusta prize of \$100
- e) **Best Overall Float** – Men’s Shed prize of \$250

4. Carols in the Park

The 2008 Carols in the Park event was held in Gladstone Square on Sunday 14 December 2008. This event is coordinated by the Christian Ministers Association of Port Augusta. Several hundred people attended the event. Council provided the funding for this event to cover the costs associated with the hire of sound and lighting equipment and costs associated with printing programs.

5. Academic Achiever Award

The Port Augusta Academic Achiever of the Year Award is presented by Council to the highest scoring student for that year. Ms Preeti Nair from the Port Augusta Secondary School was awarded the 2008 Academic Achiever Award by Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs Joy Baluch AM on 27 January 2009 in acknowledgement of her TER score of 95.15.

6. Australia Day Awards

Gladstone Square comes alive around 7:00am on 26 January each year for the Australia Day Breakfast and Celebrations. Service Clubs: Rotary, Lions, Apex and the State Emergency Services cook a hot breakfast which is available with a gold coin donation.

The morning continues with the official announcement and presentation of the Australia Day Awards which include Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

The nominees of each of these award categories and the winners for 2009 are detailed below:

6.1 Citizen of the Year

Nominees: Mrs Marlene Footner, Mr Clement Hill, Mrs Lindy Madigan, Mr Keith Phillis, Mr John Sharp, Mrs Melva Waterman and the Curnow Family (Greg & Renee and children Caleb, Jessie, Hannah, Michael and Isabelle)
Winner: Mrs Marlene Footner

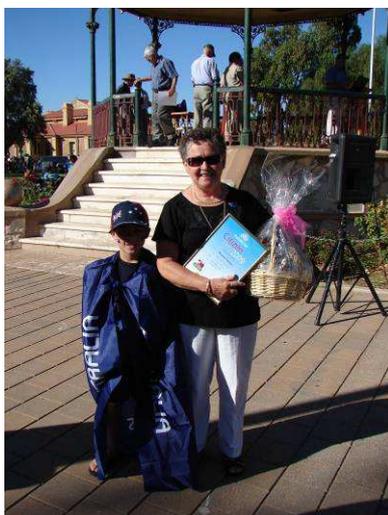
6.2 Young Citizen of the Year Award

Nominees: Casey Whitaker, Craig Rowbottom and Jamie Foster
Winner: Jamie Foster

6.3 Community Event of the Year

Nominees: RSL Memorabilia & Heritage Museum Opening, Pichi Richi Marathon
Winner: Pichi Richi Marathon

Mrs Marlene Footner and Grandson



Nominees for Young Citizen of the Year



Pichi Richi Marathon Representatives



Her Worship the Mayor Mrs Joy Baluch AM is being assisted by Dillon Thompson to cut the Australia Day Birthday Cake. Dillon also celebrates his birthday on 26 January.

7. **Lions – Youth of the Year Quest – Civic Reception**

The Lions Youth of the Year Quest is a project of Lions Clubs International of Australia and Papua New Guinea. The Quest is designed to encourage students interested in leadership and the qualities required to take an active and constructive role in the community. Students from many nations meet to discuss a wide range of international issues. The Quest is an excellent means of assisting Australia's youth and promoting the essential role of leadership development and community service organisations in maintaining Australia's high standard of living.

A Civic Reception was held on Friday 16 January 2009 to welcome each State's Finalist, visiting Port Augusta as part of the Youth of the Year Quest. Students were billeted with local Lions Members whilst they were visiting.



L-R: Mr Sebastyn Konyn (SA State Winner), Lloyd Nelson (President – Lions Club), Her Worship the Mayor Mrs Joy Baluch AM, Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Greagen

8. **Annual ‘Staff Thank You Function’**

Each year a ‘Staff Thank You Function’ is held to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and service of employees to the Port Augusta community. It is also an opportunity to recognise long term employees and their contribution to the community throughout their employment with the Port Augusta City Council.

The following staff awards were presented at the 2008 ‘Staff Thank You Function’ held in October 2008:

8.1 **10 Year Service Awards**

Ms Haley Harris (Childcare Centre)
Mr Peter Langford (Works Depot)
Mr Greg Press (Works Depot)

8.2 **20 Year Service Awards**

Mrs Mary Medwin (A.M. Ramsay Village)
Mrs Jeanette Edwards (A.M. Ramsay Village)
Mrs Pauline Mannion (Nerrilda Nursing Home)
Mrs Sylvia Hogg (Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre)
Ms Melody Poole (Civic Centre)

8.3 **30 Year Service Awards**

Ms Melanie Jenkins (Civic Centre)



L-R: Peter Langford, Mary Medwin, Jeanette Edwards, Melanie Jenkins, Greg Press, Pauline Mannion, Melody Poole

9. Port Augusta Junior Sports Foundation

The Port Augusta Junior Sports Foundation was formed to acknowledge the sporting achievements of young members of the community, who have excelled and/or shown leadership in their chosen sport.

The Foundation's Management Committee meet on a monthly basis to assess nominations and present monthly incentive awards. During the 2008/2009 financial year, 37 monthly incentive awards were presented.

A Presentation Evening is held annually to acknowledge young individuals who have excelled during the year in their chosen sport. The winners of the Annual Awards were:

9.1 Sportsperson of the Year

Winner: Matthew Freeman (Judo)
Runner Up: Laura Packard (Netball)

9.2 Special Achiever of the Year

Joint Winner: Jessica Freeman (Equestrian)
Joint Winner: Todd Kaesler (Swimming)

9.3 Special Club Trophy

The Special Club Trophy is a Trophy presented at a Club Presentation chosen by the Club/Representative (following the awards night). These trophies were presented to:

Adam Bentley (Golf)
 Dylan Sghirripa (Volleyball)
 Ella Mansell (Athletics)
 Emma Grantham (Basketball)
 Sam Broadwood (Judo)
 Becki-Jo Geldard, Ben Hilder, Heidi Stokes & Tom Struck (Pony Club – Team of 4 on the Flat).

10. Australian Citizenship Ceremonies

During 2008/2009, Her Worship the Mayor, Mrs Joy Baluch AM (or her proxy) held Australian Citizenship Ceremonies resulting in 15 adults (6 male and 9 female) and 2 dependents (children) becoming Australian Citizens.

Each new Australian Citizen was presented with a Certificate and a small gift following the ceremony.



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