

ANNUAL REPORT

Port Augusta City Council
2003/2004

introduction

The Port Augusta City Council is pleased to present its Annual Report and Information Statement for 2003/2004.

The Annual Report has been published to ensure we comply with legislative requirements, while also providing information about our business, services, performances and achievements, to the residents and businesses in the community, ratepayers and prescribed bodies.

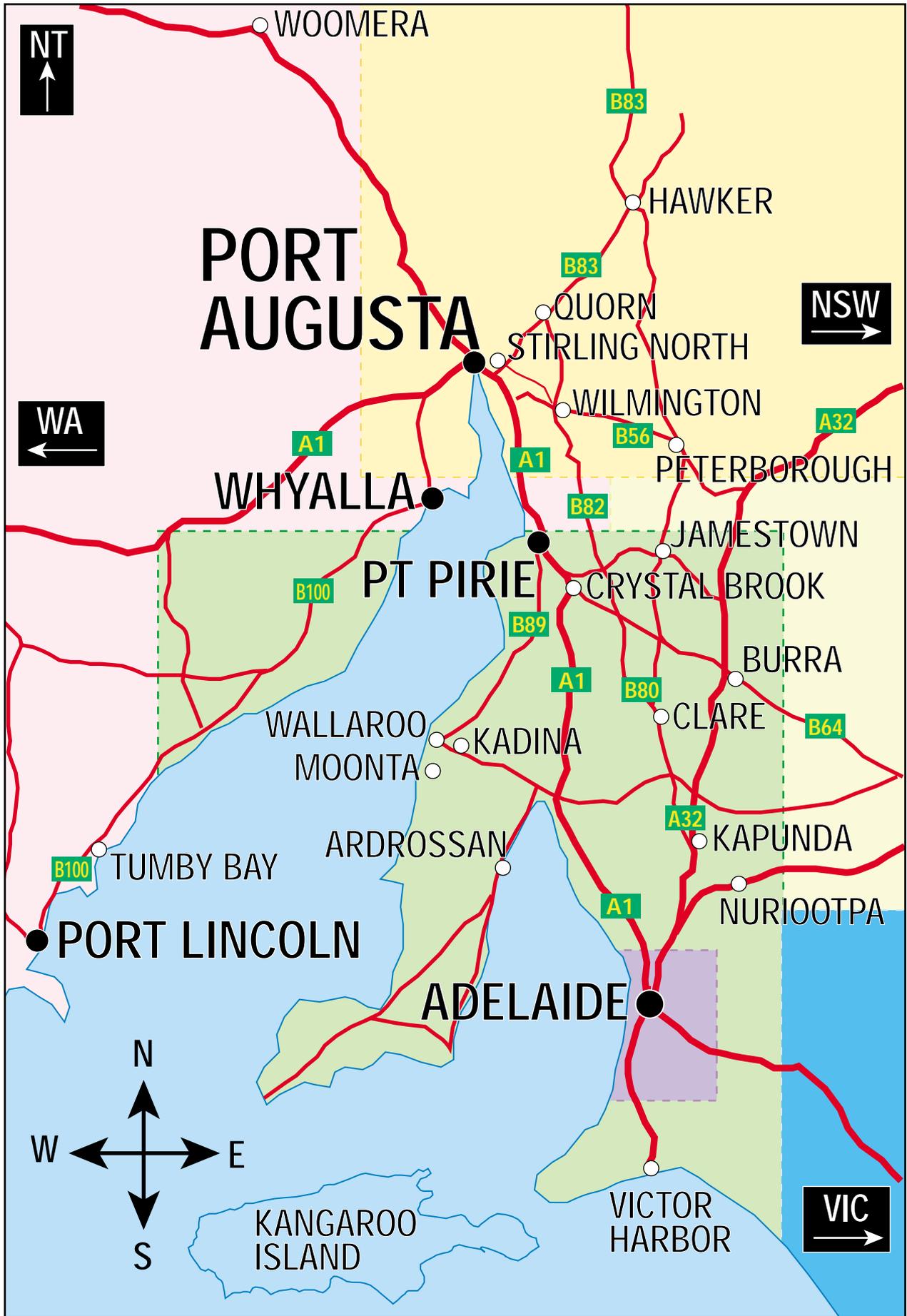
The Annual Report is a historical record of Council's activities and is also used as a promotional tool to acknowledge the achievements of our great community and to attract investment into the area.

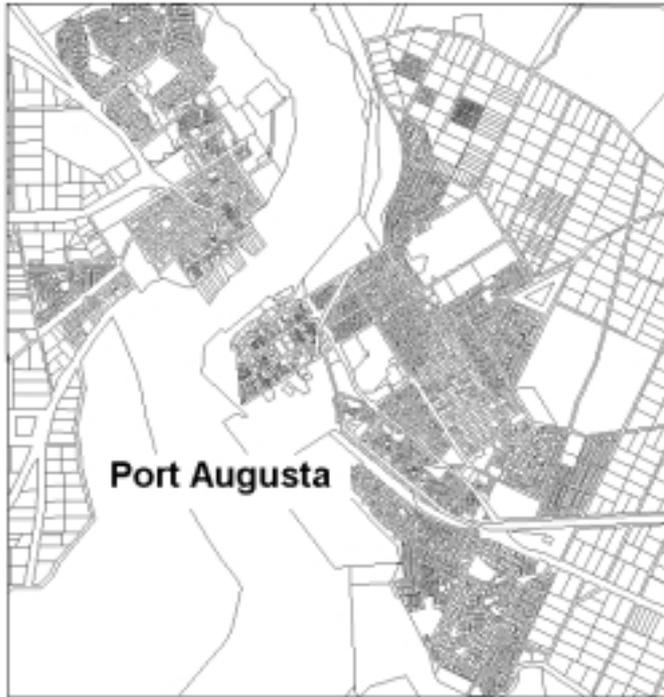
The format of this year's Annual Report is structured as follows:

- Section 1** Executive Overview
 - Mayor's & City Manager's Report
- Section 2** The Council
- Section 3** Strategic Plan & Performance:
 - 1 - Community Development
 - 2 - Image of City
 - 3 - Economic Development
 - 4 - Infrastructure & Resource Management
 - 5 - Environment Management
 - 6 - Organisational Effectiveness
- Section 4** Compliance Report
- Section 5** Accountability Report
- Section 6** Community Acknowledgement

Many initiatives are implemented by Council on an annual basis for the benefit of our Community and we have attempted to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of our activities, events and achievements for the 2003/2004 financial year.







COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

o u r v i s i o n

A harmonious, unique, vibrant community and environment.

o u r m i s s i o n

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

o u r p r i n c i p l e s

Respect, Social Justice, Equal Opportunity, Inclusiveness and Accessibility.

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Executive Overview

s e c t i o n o n e



Section

1



Mayor's & City Manager's Report

We have continued to provide leadership in our respective roles, with regard to Council (Elected Members) and Management (Staff) of the Port Augusta City Council which as a result of Council's Strategic Direction, is indeed emerging as a vibrant Regional Centre with continued growth and upward trends in a number of key economic areas.

Population figures are providing welcomed growth with a confident expectation that Port Augusta will exceed its heyday population of 16,500 of the mid-eighties, by the year 2006. Economic Growth has featured high in Council's Strategic Plan which has been embraced by our important partners; the Northern Regional Development Board and Business Port Augusta (formerly FOCUS).

Property valuations (particularly for waterfront properties) are showing a healthy capital growth for the first time for many years; and though it will continue to provide challenges for the Council in terms of setting its annual rates, this has undoubtedly created a buoyant real estate market with unprecedented property transactions and activity during the past 18 months or so.

The foreshore continues to be a major focus for Council in attracting new development and beautifying the adjacent beach areas on both the East and West sides. It has been particularly encouraging to receive the positive comments regarding the completion of stage 1 of the foreshore development on the East side. Stage 2 landscaping is already underway in conjunction with the new Big W, being one of the largest retail developments to be attracted to the City in recent years. In addition, the Crocker Street development (Barbara Ross Developments Pty Ltd), on the West side has all but commenced; and will provide an attractive backdrop of 14 townhouses adjacent proposed landscaping of similar quality to the East side.

The changing landscape on the foreshore has had a significant impact on the local community which continues to embrace its new image, through gradual social change driven by the various initiatives of Council's Social Vision Unit.

2003/04 will most certainly go down in history as we celebrated the opening of the Alice Spring/Darwin Rail link; with the first Freightliner passing through Port Augusta on its way to Darwin on the 15th January 2004 and the first Ghan on the 1st February 2004. This signifies the exciting economic opportunities for Port Augusta as a major Transport Hub for import and export of goods to Northern Asia.

We are particularly pleased to note the extensive achievements throughout the year as detailed in the Strategic Plan & Performance (Section 3) of this report. Our Key Goal Areas of; Community Development, City Image, Economic Development, Infrastructure & Resource Management and Organisational Effectiveness have been well embraced by the staff; and we congratulate all concerned in the extensive list of achievements during the year.

Finally, to Elected Members and Staff, we thank you all most sincerely for your support and dedicated work over the past year. 2004/05 looks even more promising!

N J Baluch **J G Stephens**
Mayor City Manager

The Council
The Council

s e c t i o n t w o



Section

2

ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION 2003/2004

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



HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR
Mrs Nancy Joy Baluch (Joy)

76 Stirling Road
Port Augusta SA 5700
P: 8642 3795
F: 8641 1126
E: jbaluch@portaugusta.sa.gov.au

Ex-officio member of every Council Committee

- Provincial Cities Association
- Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group
- Outback Areas Development Trust
- Regional Communities Consultative Council
- Flinders Ranges Area Consultative Committee
- SA Multicultural & Ethnic Affairs Commission
- Local Government Association Vice President



DEPUTY MAYOR
Cr. Colleen Hutchison

PO Box 340
Port Augusta SA 5700
P: 8642 2217 (h)
F: 8647 1508 (b)
E: chutchinson@portaugusta.sa.gov.au

Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 3.1

Economic growth for long-term benefit

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel
- Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation
- Murray Darling Association



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Geoff Clark
PO Box 1781
Port Augusta SA 5700
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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 4.1

Optimise use & management of the City's financial and physical resources.

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. John Veen

PO Box 2057
Port Augusta SA 5700

M: 0428 842 173

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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub
Goal 6.1

***A professional, effective, efficient &
customer focused organisation,
responsive to the needs of the
community***

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Fran Painter

24 Sanderson Street
Port Augusta SA 5700

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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub
Goal 1.3

***Best Practice in community
programs***

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Tony Mitchell

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Port Augusta SA 5700

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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub
Goal 1.3

***Economic growth for long-term
benefit***

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Alan Morris

PO Box 2269

Port Augusta SA 5700

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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 2.1

A positive and progressive image of our City

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Phil Greagen

PO Box 1705

Port Augusta SA 5700

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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 4.2

Effective maintenance, management & enhancement of the City's infrastructure needs

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Mick Penglase

PO Box 660
Port Augusta SA 5700
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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 1.1 & 1.2

Our community feels safe; and Recognise and value the diverse needs and culture of our community

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel



COUNCILLOR

Cr. Christene Pycroft

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Port Augusta West SA 5700
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Members Portfolio responsibility - Sub Goal 5.1

Effective management & maintenance of the City's unique environment

- City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee
- Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee
- Development Assessment Panel

MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

The Mayor is ex-officio member of every Council Committee. The Chairperson for the two (2) Key Committees of Council; City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee and the Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee, is elected on a rotating 3 month basis.

The following is a record of attendance of Elected Members for the 2003/2004 financial year for Council and its Key Committees:

NAME	FULL COUNCIL (out of 17)				CITY MANAGEMENT (out of 12)				INFRASTRUCTURE (out of 12)				SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCE (out of a maximum of 41 Meetings)
	P	Ap	Ab	L	P	Ap	Ab	L	P	Ap	Ab	L	
Mayor Baluch	16	1	-	-	5	7	-	-	6	5	1	-	27
Cr Clark	17	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	41
Cr Hutchison	15	2	-	-	10	2	-	-	8	3	-	1	33
Cr Greagen	14	3	-	-	12	-	-	-	11	1	-	-	37
Cr Mitchell	14	2	-	1	11	1	-	-	11	1	-	-	36
Cr Morris	16	1	-	-	12	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	40
Cr Paynter	13	3	-	1	10	2	-	-	9	3	-	-	32
Cr Penglase	15	2	-	-	11	1	-	-	11	1	-	-	37
Cr Pycroft	16	-	1	-	9	3	-	-	11	1	-	-	36
Cr Veen	17	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	11	1	-	-	40

LEGEND:

P = Present **Ap** = Apology **Ab** = Absence **L** =Leave of Absence

ELECTED MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES & BENEFITS

Pursuant to Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1999, a member of Council is entitled to receive an annual allowance from the Council for performing and discharging official functions and duties. The annual allowances are determined by Council (subject to subscribed limits) at the first ordinary meeting of Council after a periodic election and are reviewed annually.

The Elected Members Allowances and Benefits as adopted by Council on the 26th May 2003 for the 2003/2004 financial year are as follows:

1. Members' Allowance

- 1.1 The Mayoral Allowance was set at \$24,000 pa (payable monthly in arrears)
- 1.2 The Deputy Mayor and an Elected Member being a Presiding Member (Chairperson) of

either the City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee or the Infrastructure, Environment and Corporate Services Committee will receive an allowance of \$7,500 pa (payable monthly in arrears).

1.3 The Council Members' allowance will be \$6,680 pa (payable monthly in arrears).

2. Members Reimbursement of Expenses

2.1 In addition to the above allowances, Elected Members are also entitled to 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.

2.2 The introduction of Policy 1.1.11 - "Elected Members' Expenses, Facilities and Support also identifies approved facilities and support that Council will provide Elected Members while performing or discharging their official duties.

ELECTOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 12 (4) of the Local Government Act 1999, the Port Augusta City Council conducted a review of the elector representation, including ward boundaries and the composition of the Council in 2002/2003 financial year. A review must be undertaken at least once in every six years.

As a result of the review the Ward System of representation for the Port Augusta City Council was abolished, with Elected Members commencing the new Portfolio Structure with the "Swearing In" of the new Council on the 20th May 2003.

Elected Members are now responsible for specific Portfolios identified within the 6 Goal Areas of the Port Augusta City Council's Strategic Plan. Members of the community have the opportunity to contact any of the Elected Members regarding an issue. The Goal Areas and Sub Goals (Portfolio's) include:

Goal 1 - Community Development

Sub Goal 1.1: Our community feels safe.

Sub Goal 1.2: Recognise & value the diverse needs & culture of our community.

Sub Goal 1.3: Best practice in community programs.

Goal 2 - Image of City

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

Goal 3 - Economic Development

Sub Goal 3.1: Economic growth for long-term benefit.

Goal 4 - Infrastructure & Resource Management

Sub Goal 4.1: Optimise use and management of the City's financial and physical resources.

Sub Goal 4.2: Effective maintenance, management & enhancement of the City's infrastructure assets.

Goal 5 - Environment Management

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

Goal 6 - Organisational Effectiveness

Sub Goal 6.1: A professional effective, efficient and customer-focused Organisation, responsive to the needs of the community.

An internal review was also undertaken of the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan in early 2004, to ascertain any deficiencies within the Plan, to enable Council the opportunity to identify obvious shortfalls. Verbal feedback from the community, indicated that they felt groups, such as the aged, youth and disabled were not clearly identified within the Plan, therefore no specific strategies, objectives and outcomes had been determined for these areas. Therefore during the internal review, it was decided to include "Sub Goal 1.2 - Recognise and value the diverse needs & culture of our community" to ensure our Strategic Plan is a living document, meeting the needs of our community and which is used as the base for our long term performance objectives to be measured against. Councillor Michael Penglase accepted responsibility for this added Portfolio area. Refer to Section 5 of this report for a full account of Council's activities, performance and future targets in relation to the Strategic Plan.

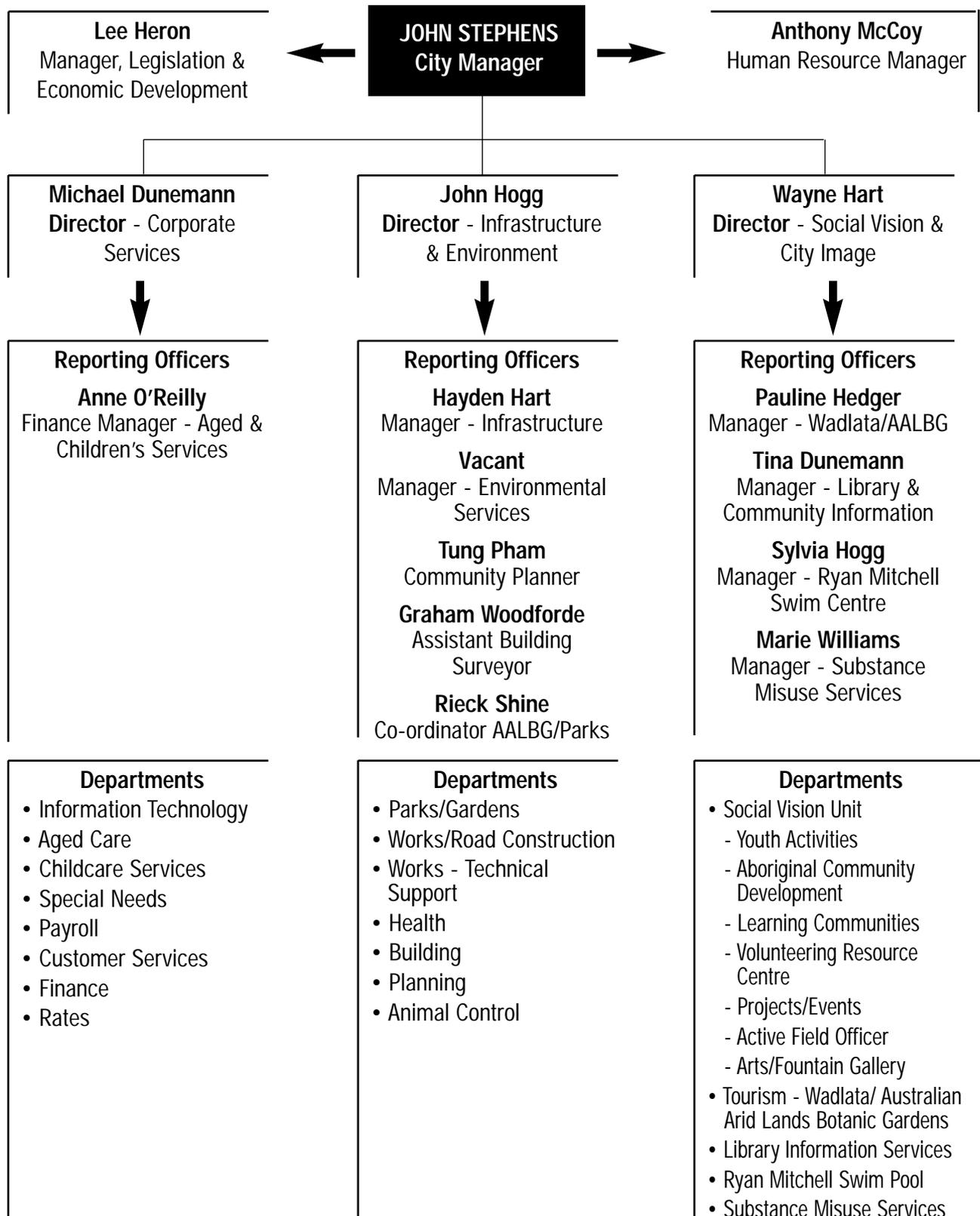
REPRESENTATION QUOTA

The Port Augusta City Council's total representation quota (the number of electors per Councillor) is as detailed below. Also included are some comparisons to similar sized Councils in South Australia which indicates that the Port Augusta representation quota is quite a bit higher in some cases.

Council	Number of Electors	Elected members including Mayor and Area Councillors	Ratio Elected Members to Electors 1:00
PORT AUGUSTA	9603	10	1:960
Light Regional	9150	11	1:831
Loxton Waikerie	9016	13	1:693
Wattle Range	10277	12	1:856
Port Lincoln	10177	11	1:925

MANAGEMENT & STAFFING

The City Manager is responsible for the day to day management of the City to ensure Council's policies and directions are implemented by staff. On the 16th June 2003 the City Manager gave a presentation to Council on proposed changes to the Organisational Structure. The proposed changes included the introduction of several new positions, as well as, upgrading current officers into Managerial or Directorship positions. The new Organisational Structure was implemented on the 1st July 2003 as detailed below:



Staff overview as at the 30th June 2004

Directorate	Number of Staff per Directorate
City Management	6
Corporate Services	187
Infrastructure & Environment	51
Social Vision & City Image	71

Of the above figures 47.6% of the staff are employed as casuals. Also in addition to the above staff, Council also placed 5 trainees within the organisation, as follows:

Social Vision & City Image Unit	2 Clerical Trainees
Parks and Gardens	1 Horticulture Trainee
Library	1 Library Assistant Trainee
Wadlata/AALBG	1 Tourism Officer Trainee

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ALLOWANCES & BENEFITS

The Port Augusta City Council has four (4) Senior Executive Officers who are known as the Executive Management Group within the organisation. As at the 30th June 2004, the Senior Executive Officers received the following summary of allowances, bonuses and benefits:-

- 1) Fixed term contract of employment - 2 SEO's
- 2) Over Award Salary - 2 SEO's
- 3) Private use of a Council vehicle - 2 SEO's
- 4) Reimbursement of "out of pocket expenses" - 4 SEO's

Strategic Plan & Performance

s e c t i o n t h r e e



Section

3

GOAL AREA 1:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sub Goal 1.1: Our Community feels safe

It should be highlighted that many of the Social Vision Unit (SVU) programs described in other sub-goals, also have a positive impact and relationship with City Safe initiatives. Areas such as Summer Activities, Community Leadership Programs, Play by the Rules, the many arts, recreation and sport programs, forums and events, along with direct City Safe initiatives, are all geared to keep the community healthy, active and engaged. They are also about developing respect for self and others of all ages and backgrounds. Whenever social capital and community social well-being are enhanced, so too is community safety.

Highlights from this Sub Goal in 2003/04 include:

1. Continued implementation of the Social Vision and Action Plan
2. Signed a partnership Agreement with The Crime Prevention Unit of the Attorney General's Department to participate in the new Regional Crime Prevention Program
3. Completion of a successful tender process for the purchase and installation of a Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system covering strategic locations, to aid Police in the fight against crime and anti-social behaviour. This was in collaboration with the Port Augusta Police, Police Security Services and the City Safe Reference Group
4. Continued funding and support of the Port Augusta Youth Support Service (PAYSS), in partnership with the Attorney General's Department and Family and Youth Services (FAYS), to assist youth on Friday and Saturday nights (and other times) with safe-ride and referral services.
5. Continued Council management of Port Augusta Substance Misuse Services (SMS) including the Sobering-Up Unit, Clean Needle Program and Mobile Assistance Patrol, counselling and education.
6. Foreshore development consistent with Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
7. Working with the Port Augusta Drug Action Team (DAT) in the production of the SAPOL Truancy/ Shop

Theft/ Drugs & Alcohol booklet for local businesses (for launch in 2004/05)

8. Ongoing interview initiative with citizens on City Safe issues such as footpaths, overhanging trees, poor lighting and similar.
9. Trial of Security Officer at foreshore and discussions on a possible mobile push bike security initiative for the CBD and Foreshore
10. Developed Confidential Council Security Operational Contingency Orders for Easter and major events such as the Ghan and Freightliner celebrations, in collaboration with SAPOL and other security agencies
11. Continued funding of the quick response 'graffiti busters' unit to paint out graffiti as soon as practicable.

GOALS & TARGETS FOR 2004/2005:

1. Continued implementation of the Social Vision and Action Plan.
2. Installation and commissioning of CCTV system Stage 1 - to CBD and Foreshore.
3. Development and implementation of a program to encourage and train community volunteers to participate in the activities of Neighbourhood Watch and the Safety House, through the Volunteer Reference Centre and Community Learning Centre.
4. Continue support for the introduction of a mobile push bike patrol in the CBD Area and Foreshores (supported by vehicle), to cover identified strategic times
5. Continue partnership with SAPOL on strategic initiatives
6. Strategic input into the Port Augusta Transitional Housing initiative, to give temporary support to transient persons to the city.
7. Continued funding, support and management of current programs such as PAYSS, SMS, Regional Crime Prevention, youth activities and others to contribute to the City Safe Network.

GOAL AREA 1:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sub Goal 1.2: Recognise & value the diverse needs and culture of our community.

Activities and Highlights for 2003/2004:

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTRE

1. Volunteer Resource Centre - This year saw the establishment of a new Volunteer Resource Centre for Port Augusta and Regions and the employment of its Coordinator, Ms Cindy Veen in March 2004. The Volunteer Resource Centre is a new initiative in partnership with Volunteering SA to recognise, enhance, train, inform and encourage the availability of volunteers and to link persons wishing to volunteer to those many and varied agencies, community groups and organisations in need of them - through a fantastic database system. The Centre is not a competitor to those groups needing volunteers but a resource to coordinate activities and supply information to allow citizens to explore other volunteering opportunities or to combine in strength for major community events.
2. The recognition of the good work of volunteers and organisations was enhanced through the implementation of the Volunteer of the Month Award, with the official launch and inaugural presentation made by Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, Governor of South Australia and attended by Her Worship the Mayor Joy Baluch and 45 people representing volunteer organisations.
3. The Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) - continued in 2003/04 to establish itself as a professional duly elected body, to give advice to Council and many other agencies on Aboriginal cultural issues and/or to give an aboriginal perspective on diverse areas of change, management, social reform, health, tourism, environment, heritage and development. The AAC have also adopted a portfolio system to better cope with the increasing demand for consultation.
Council also assisted with successful cultural events during the year including NAIDOC Week and Harmony/Multi Cultural Day through the Aboriginal Community Development Officer.
4. Youth - The 2003/04 Summer Activities Program

was another huge success, operating over a six (6) week period during the school holiday period and organised through the Council's Youth Activities Coordinator in partnership with a number of other agencies in Port Augusta. The program saw around 2,500 young people becoming involved in a range of activities including investigator science, art, music, sport, games and activities free swimming pool nights, movies in the park, and orienteering. Although funded principally for young people, this year successfully saw the introduction of many family events to widen the participation and enjoyment for the community.



Other successful youth programs run by Council's Youth Activities Coordinator included Active 8, National Youth Week, Youth Advisory Committee and Music Group with other involvement in many areas such as Law Week, YACFEST and the Xmas pageant.

5. Strategic Forum to Address Issues Surrounding the Summer Influx of Indigenous Peoples from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (the Lands) to Port Augusta during the Summer Months.

This highly complex forum (a major initiative of the Mayor, Joy Baluch) was held over the 18th and 19th August 2003, was successfully brought together by the City of Port Augusta Social Vision Unit in partnership with the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (DAARE), in an extremely short timeframe. The CEO of DAARE Peter Buckskin chaired the forum for the two days, and had a major impact in its success, as did the spirit of cooperation between all parties.

The forum focused on issues from all three perspectives. The APY Lands representatives discussed the interaction with Port Augusta, the

reasons for visiting the City and difficulties faced. Local Indigenous and non indigenous representatives discussed the impact of APY Lands visitors on them, and the service providers discussed the impact upon service delivery during times of high visitation (and other times) both for APY Lands and local Port Augusta peoples.

The forum brought together representatives from:

- Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Council
- Nominated Elders from Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
- Nulla Wimila Kutju Regional Council
- NPY Women's Council
- Nganampa Health Council
- Port Augusta City Council Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- Davenport Community Council
- Pika Wiya Health Service
- ATISIS (including Yalata region)
- Port Augusta City Council
- Government Agencies including: Aboriginal Housing Authority, Police (SAPOL), Attorney General's Department, Family and Youth Services (FAYS), Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) and other State Government Departments and
- Other local Port Augusta stakeholders.

6. Croc Festival 2003 (r) Port Augusta - was once again a major event for the City of Port Augusta and of significance to the social capital and social wellbeing of our city. Croc Festival TM captures the essence of the values in both the City's Strategic Plan and the Social Vision and Action Plan; respect for self, others and culture in a community where people live cooperatively.

Port Augusta is widely recognised as a place of major historical and current cultural significance to aboriginal peoples (for meeting, trade and cultural exchange) and makes Port Augusta the absolute prime location to hold the Croc Festival TM. This view is supported by the chairs of the Port Augusta Aboriginal Advisory Committee and ATISIS and is evidenced in the growth in numbers of participating schools, students and the broader community, each year. It recognises the fact that

most visitors have family in Port Augusta and use the Croc Festival as a way of meeting and celebrating family ties each year.

The Social Vision Unit, with the full support of Council, has also been successful in securing the Port Augusta event for at least the next two (2) years. It continues to be the largest in Australia in recent years and is expected to have over 3,000 children taking part in 2004. The social and economic benefits to the community are enormous.

FOOTBALL UMPIRING PROGRAM

This program is offered to Year10 students at Port Augusta Secondary School to learn the elements required to become a football field, boundary and goal umpire. The program involved a fortnightly session with local football officials and culminated in a trip to Adelaide to an AFL match and the opportunity to meet the officials involved. Approximately 30 youths took part in the class and some of the participants have subsequently officiated in local games.

GOALS AND TARGETS 2004/2005:

Volunteer Resource Centre (in partnership with Volunteering SA)

- a) Establish and launch new Port Augusta and Regions Volunteer Resource Centre
- b) Sign contract with Volunteering Australia to deliver the Volunteer Work Initiative (VWI)
- c) Implement new training plan for volunteers as funded by the Office for Volunteers

Recreation and Sport

- a) Concerted efforts towards establishing the Port Augusta Surf Life Saving Club in conjunction with Surf Life Saving South Australia. This will build on partnerships built through the Port Augusta City Council Surfboat Super Series.
- b) Work towards setting up Port Augusta Sports Executive Committee to deal with issues such as programming clashes, promotion of events and developing a plan for sport and recreation in the City.

Youth Activities

- a) Continue to offer and enhance the plethora of activities for Port Augusta youth particularly in the range of 12-18 year olds.

GOAL AREA 1:

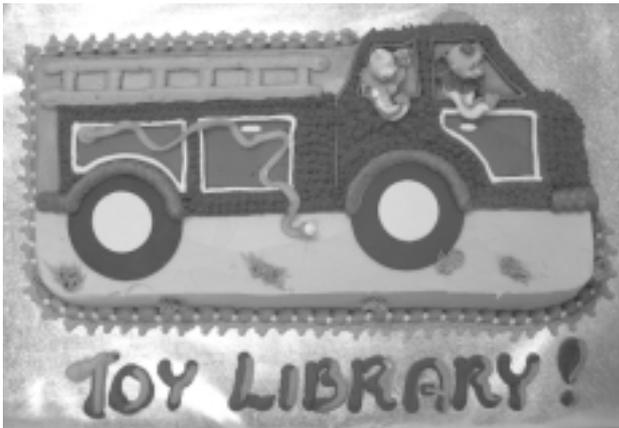
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sub Goal 1.3: Best Practice in Community Programs

PORT AUGUSTA LIBRARY & COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

The Port Augusta Library was named as a finalist in the Port Augusta Focus Awards in the service provider section, in recognition of the service provided to the Community.

1. Toy Library



The Toy Library operated very successfully in its first year with over 100 families enrolled and 1500 toys borrowed. Wednesday mornings have become extremely busy, with families spending extended time in the Children's Section to socialise and allow children to play with a range of toys and books before making a selection to take home.

2. Frozzled

Regular storytelling mornings have been conducted, with local group "Frozzled" providing an interactive and high quality storytelling experience to the children (150-200 children attended during the year).

3. Library Bus

The regular bus service provided to elderly Library members has continued to be very popular in 2003/2004. It has proved to be a social occasion with members interacting with other library users and has developed into a cohesive support network.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAM

Port Augusta Substance Misuse Services is funded by the Federal Government (OATSIH) State Government (Dept of Health), and managed by the Port Augusta City Council. The partnership developed between the three tiers of Government continues to achieve recognition in best practice.

Port Augusta Substance Misuse Services was recently the only South Australian program to be featured in the Australian Local Government: Alcohol Harm Minimisation Projects, as a Best Practice Service.

During the reporting period, the Substance Misuse Services Manager provided support and guidance for the following programs:

1. Delivery of Training and Education to the staff of the new Coober Pedy Mobile Assistance Patrol.
2. Presented Alcohol and other Drug Education to CDEP participants, and prison inmates.
3. Aboriginal inmates are also offered a program which is named "Ending Offending". (This program is unique to Port Augusta).

The Substance Misuse Services Manager was involved in establishing the program content and is the only facilitator who delivers the program for Aboriginal males in the State.

Training and Education programs for the community are available on request.

Statistics for the Mobile Assistance Patrol for the year are **4829 clients** with the Sobering Up Unit accommodating **1137 clients** (29 of whom were referred to Rehabilitation).

Although Clean Needle Program statistics remain higher than previous years, education programmes for clients who access the service means that it has the highest return rate of syringes in the State.

Staff of Substance Misuse Services work closely with the Drug Action Team, DASC, Rural and Remote Health Pathways to Intervention Program, Substance Misuse Response Group, Port Augusta

Hospital, South Australian Housing Trust, Pika Wiya Health Service, Wami Kata Old Folks Home, SAPOL and the Community, to ensure positive outcomes are achieved for those members of the community, visitors and tourists who access the service.

LEARNING COMMUNITIES

2003 saw the development of a model for Port Augusta Learning Community (a partnership with Department of Further Education, Employment Science and Technology, Adult Community Education Unit) including a series of courses and workshops identified by the community to meet community need and coordinated through the Learning Communities Coordinator. In addition the Port Augusta Learning Community Steering Group awarded certificates of recognition to learners who had demonstrated a commitment to learning, to celebrate Adult Learners Week 2003. 2004/05 will see further diversification through more local partnerships with business traders, Spencer Institute of TAFE and community organisations.

THE ARTS

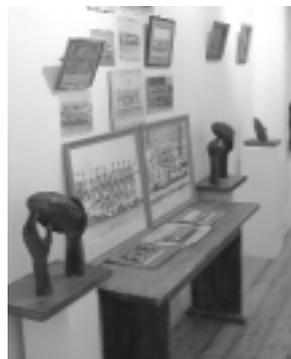
Council continues an innovative partnership with Country Arts SA, through a co-funding arrangement for the Regional Arts Officer, based in Council's Fountain Gallery. The Gallery saw its Visual Arts Program for 2003/04 fully extended, through continuous travelling and local exhibitions aimed at education, inspiration and enjoyment of the arts in diverse range of mediums and at no charge to the community. Included were:

- EMIL GOH 1996 - 2002 [Emil Goh]
May 29 - June 29
- SPENCER GULF FOOTBALL LEAGUE GALLERY OF FAME September 11 - October 29
- FRANZ KEMPF: THINKING ON PAPER 1955-2002
October 31 - December 7
- KISS + MAKE-UP [Rebecca Mayo]
December 10 - January 4
- A RAILROAD OF MEMORIES [coinciding ADE-Darwin Railway) January 29 - March 3
- ARA IRITJA - Indigenous memories in a digital age March 8 - March 28
- REINVENTED DOMESTICITY [Concertina]
March 31 - April 25
- RFDS - 50 Years On
May 1 - May 14

- SSABSA - Year 12 Art Show
May 17 - June 4
- PERTURBED:
June 8 - July 5
[Standing Still, Running Scared, Small Hopes/Ervin Janek]

The exhibitions "A Railroad of Memories" and "Spencer Gulf Football League Gallery of Fame" were both major community events for the City of Port Augusta.

The City's strong historic and current links to the Railways (being at the strategic centre of the East - West and North - South lines) and its strong affiliation and identification with the AFL code, saw many current and past residents lend a huge amount of memorabilia and anecdotes to the Fountain Gallery exhibitions. They involved schools, artists, installation experts, staff, volunteers and the wider public in their monumental production. The end results delighted locals, visitors and tourists alike in a celebration of emotion, memories and pride. The numbers to both exhibitions were huge, with the gallery at times, full to capacity.



RECREATION AND SPORT

Augusta Power Station Junior Soccer League

A junior soccer program was implemented in Port Augusta during 2003/04. Four clubs were established and over 150 children participated in the competition. Soccer had been non-existent in the city for the last ten years. A committee was formed and the association (Soccer Port Augusta) was lodged for incorporation.

1. Port Augusta Rowing Club

Adelaide High School donated an eight man rowing boat, Torrens Rowing Club donated a

four man boat and local doctor Ashley Thomas donated a two man to help in the establishment of a rowing club in Port Augusta. The Union of Master Rowers was instrumental in offering assistance in the formation stage. The rowing club has recently become incorporated

2. Have a Go Cricket

Have a go cricket is a development program for 5-9 year old children and assists participants in the basic technical elements of the game, to assist them for when they enter competition. The program previously had never been held in Port Augusta.

The program ran for 10 weeks and 39 participants enrolled with kids receiving a pack at the completion of the program.

RYAN MITCHELL SWIM CENTRE



The Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre had another very busy summer period with 40,914 people passing through the gates to access the quality swimming facility.

The service was improved during the 2003/2004 financial year by providing toilets for the disabled, to accommodate the growing number of persons with a disability using the pool.

The Swim Centre also offers the following services:

1. SOS (Sink or Swim) Classes
2. Aerobics in Water Classes
3. Education (Term Time) Swimming
4. Vac Swim
5. Port Augusta Swimming Club (six sessions per week)
6. Aussie Masters

One Dollar (\$1) Nights were held on Sunday 4th,

11th, 18th and 25th of January 2004 as part of the Social Vision Unit Summer Activities Program which although the weather was quite cool on these evenings, was still very well attended.

General upgrade to the BBQ enclosure including the installation of additional shade areas was undertaken, along with replacement and repairs of pool equipment to ensure the provisions of a quality service.

AGED CARE SERVICES

The Port Augusta City Council's run aged care facilities provide high quality care for the residents living in the facilities.

The facilities are committed to their Continuous Improvement Program and have implemented many initiatives to ensure the best possible outcomes are being achieved for the benefit of the residents. Listed below are projects that were initiated during 2003/2004 as part of their Continuous Improvement Programs:

1. Nerrilda Nursing Home Improvements:

- a) Upgrade to Bathroom 1 with the installation of a new hydrotherapy spa bath.
- b) Carpet removed from alcoves and replaced with Vinyl Flooring.
- c) Air Conditioning Unit replaced.
- d) Electric Doors installed at Southern End of Building to improve access to and from the building by residents.
- e) Agreement with Bungala CDEP for trainees to undertake work experience for 2 days per week for 10 weeks.
- f) Purchase of new "Chorus" lifter
- g) New photocopier purchased.
- h) Completion of storeroom upgrade with the installation of shelving.

2. A.M. Ramsay Village Improvements:

- a) Painting to the external of building.
- b) Purchase of new furniture.
- c) Supply and installation of food disposal unit.
- d) Installation of Skylight (identified during OHS&W Audit).
- e) Concrete paths around perimeter of the building and the complex to reduce tripping hazards for residents.
- f) Installation of new Air Conditioners.

3. Health Focus:

The programmes offered by Health Focus including the Men's Shed, provide support and assistance to aged community based citizens, to ensure they are able to maintain their independence and have the opportunity to network with other Port Augusta residents in a welcoming and supportive environment.

A new initiative introduced by the Men's Shed during the 2003/2004 financial year was the "Community Assistance Program" which assists elderly/frail people to do basic home maintenance.

The Men's Shed also received a grant of \$1,100 from South Australian Housing Trust to purchase tools and equipment.

CHILDCARE SERVICES:



The Port Augusta City Council's Childcare Facility provides 75 quality care places for children aged between 6 weeks old and 5 years of age. Holiday care for children up to the age of 8 years is also provided on a needs basis.

Ongoing improvements that were implemented during 2003/2004 to ensure the service provides quality care were:

1. Supply and installation of shade sails in toddler and kindy yards.
2. Staff member received a scholarship through DECS to complete the Diploma in Children's Services (childcare).
3. Funding received from Morialta Trust which enabled the facility to purchase new toys.
4. Successful Licensing Audit was conducted in December 2003.

The facility also became an accredited Sun Smart Centre in March 2003 (as assessed by the Cancer Council).

MIRIAM HIGH SPECIAL NEEDS CENTRE:

The Miriam High Special Needs Centre run by the Port Augusta City Council, offers quality care to children with disabilities and provides ongoing support to their families.

Building extensions in 2003/2004 created a lot more room for staff to provide specific one on one programs without disruptions and it also enabled private rooms for families who are sometimes distressed, to talk privately and confidentially.

The extension provided an additional office area and 1 therapy room with large mirror and blackboard, 2 small rooms that can be used as therapy rooms or opened up to 1 large conference room or physiotherapy room and a lounge room for families to sit and relax, while speaking to staff or filling out enrolment forms.

The Hydrotherapy spa was given a general overhaul in January 2004.

The Centre has also been selected to receive the services of 5th Year Medical Students who will be doing 6 week rotation to country areas throughout the year. The Centre will have two Medical Students at a time, working for the 6 week period. They will be introduced to a Community Service Centre, which will provide the students with a better appreciation of the challenges of providing Community Child and Health Services.

A trainee was also appointed to Special Needs and Childcare on a shared basis during the 2003/2004 financial year.

A grant of \$148,000 from the Northern and Far Western Regional Health Service was received by the Special Needs Centre to develop an **Outreach Program**.

The area that the Outreach Program covers is Mintabie, Marla, Coober Pedy, Oodnadatta, Marree, Andamooka, Roxby Downs, Woomera, Leigh Creek, Copley, Hawker, Quorn and Whyalla.

Two positions: Project Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer were advertised in April 2004. The successful applicants have since put together a "package" outlining the services provided by the Centre and also a pamphlet advertising the Outreach Service.

Staff continue to work together in achieving Accreditation for the Centre, and also obtained

accreditation for DHS Service Excellence Framework.

Staff development is an important area of ongoing improvement, to ensure quality care is maintained. During 2003/2004 staff received specialised training in Oxygen Management, Safe Handling of Oxygen Cylinders and Transporting Oxygen.

WADLATA OUTBACK INTERPRETIVE CENTRE:

The Wadlata Outback Centre, a joint Council, State and Federal Government funded \$3.6m Australian Bi-Centennial project, opened in 1988. Over the years, the Centre has won 6 South Australian Tourism Awards and a 2nd at the National Awards.

The world class Interpretive Centre encourages visitors to come to the Centre and to stay longer in Port Augusta and the Region, by providing a taste of what they can see and do whilst here.



The Nationally Accredited Port Augusta Visitor Information Centre provided friendly, up-to-date, unbiased information to the approximately 40,000 people requesting information. The Centre has increased its services by providing accommodation and tour bookings, internet access and is now the booking agent for Pichi Richi Railway. During the 2003/04 Financial Year, Port Augusta attractions and tours were promoted on a professionally printed movable whiteboard, positioned conveniently by the front doors.

Due to the 2002/03 successful "Year of the Outback Celebrations", which encouraged above average visitations to the Region, the Wadlata Outback Centre not unexpectedly recorded a 7% decrease in visitations, representing 7,500 people during the 2003/04 Financial Year.

With vital visitation statistics captured through the electronic point of sale system, it was identified that 53% of the Centre's visitors were from interstate, 26% from South Australia and 21%

being international people. This information is forwarded to the South Australian Tourism Commission and the Flinders Ranges Marketing Board to be used for marketing purposes.

The Souvenir Shop provides an excellent range of souvenirs and gifts allowing the visitor to take a bit of Port Augusta home.

The Port Augusta City Council took over the operations of the Outback Tuckerbox in August 2001 and has since improved the annual financial turnover by 47.5%. Although with the downturn of visitations to the Wadlata Outback Centre during the 2003/04 Financial Year, the Outback Tuckerbox still achieved a 2.5% increase in revenue during this period.

As the Centre is 16 years old, it is imperative to continue to upgrade the Centre to encourage repeat and new visitations. In 2001 Management commenced planning with the South Australian Tourism Commission to access funds from the Outback Infrastructure Fund. In May 2003 the Port Augusta City Council was notified that the subsequent Funding Submission had been successful and work commenced on the extension of the Visitor Information Centre, new signage, additional retail equipment and a plan to highlight the entrance of the displays with a purpose built Mega Mania and a promotional film. The initial upgrade is expected to be completed by November 2004.

AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN:

As a result of the new kitchen extensions to the Visitors Centre at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden and a staff restructure, the annual financial turnover of the Bluebush Cafe increased by 14% from the 2002/03 financial year.



During the 2003/2004 financial year a new security surveillance system was installed and planning for a Restaurant Licence was underway.

The Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden was the recipient of two significant book collections donated by the well known, late Mr Noel Lothian.

To increase the ability of the Visitor Centre's revenue, it is currently promoting the WMC Herbarium - Meeting Room as a Conference and Meeting Facility.

During the year a new E-Beam System, interactive white board was purchased to meet the growing client demand.

Visitations to the Garden decreased by 3.4% over the year, however this figure is not considered to be accurate, due to the malfunction of the road counter during the year.

GOALS & TARGETS 2004/2005:

1. Wadlata Outback Centre (in partnership with SATC) - Upgrade of the Information Services Section and Signage. The Centre is a major drawcard for the City, encouraging a huge injection of tourist dollars into our local economy (through supplies and services, shopping, accommodation, employment and City exposure).

2. AALBG

- a) Major boost in this facilities layout, pathways, signage and plantings, as well as a sealed access road through the AALBG and carpark at the very popular and spectacular Red Banks Lookout.
- b) Bluebush Café (AALBG) will commence operations with a new liquor licence in response to public feedback.

3. The Arts

Maintain a full schedule of Court Arts SA touring exhibitions and local artists exhibitions for the benefit of locals, visitors and tourists. Our feature community exhibition will be **Port Augusta and War**, recognising 60 years since the end of the WWII and the contributions and sacrifices of the people of Port Augusta during the conflict. This will take the form of an exhibition in the Fountain Gallery and various legacy projects in and around the City.

4. Learning Community (in partnership with the ACE Unit of DFEEST)

- a) Implement new Learning Community

model, which sees expanded program delivery through partnerships with Spencer Institute of TAFE and local businesses.

- b) Raise community awareness of the benefits of a Learning Community
- c) Assist all citizens to reconnect to the education system and/or explore pathways to employment through informal and formal training, as part of lifelong learning. This is linked to Government initiatives such as the State Strategic Plan, SA Works, Regional Works, ESFN. This has major positive outcomes for individual's health, and the wider community's social capital and social wellbeing.

5. Swimming Pool

- a) Resurface area around Toddler Pool to improve safety.
- b) Redevelop entrance ways to promote safety for entry and exit of parents with small children.

6. Childcare Centre

- a) Installation of rubber surfacing in Toddler Yard

7. Special Needs

- a) Develop 2004/2005 Business Plans linked to PACC's Strategic Plan.
- b) Develop formal protocols with key partners for service delivery.

GOAL AREA 2: IMAGE OF CITY

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

PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

2003/04 saw the staging of many events run, managed facilitated, organised, sponsored or involving the Port Augusta City Council's SVU, for the enjoyment of the Port Augusta community, and as an attraction for visitors and tourists. Port Augusta's unique position at the cross-roads of Australia, see calls for assistance with many passing events as well as our own.

Some of the major events during 2003/2004 were:

1. Freightliner Celebrations - first freight train on new Adelaide to Darwin Railway

January 15th, 2004 saw the first train to officially use the newly constructed Adelaide to Darwin Railway arrive in Port Augusta. To celebrate this momentous occasion, the famed "Afghan Express NM25" steamed into the Port Augusta Railway Station alongside the Freight Train. The trains were welcomed into the Railway Station by the Port Augusta Secondary School Brass Ensemble playing music from the 1920's and 1930's.

The Premier of South Australia, Hon. Mike Rann M.P. unveiled a plaque to mark the event with the Mayor of Port Augusta, Joy Baluch assisting. Also in attendance was the Patron of the Pichi Richi Preservation Society, Mr. Tim Fischer.

On the conclusion of the official reception, Freightlink dignitaries and guests returned to the train which then departed at 8.40pm to continue on its journey to Darwin.

2. The Ghan Celebrations - first passenger train on new Adelaide to Darwin Railway



On the 1st February, 2004 the inaugural journey for the legendary Ghan began as it became the first passenger train to traverse the newly completed Adelaide to Darwin Railway. Arriving simultaneously was the rejuvenated and original "Afghan Express NM25" on the Pichi Richi line.

The City of Port Augusta welcomed some 300 guests and media who were travelling on the special train and some 4,000-5,000 eager onlookers helped to celebrate this historical event.

Guests travelling on the Ghan were ferried by bus to the newly redeveloped Port Augusta Foreshore to attend the official reception and were then able to join in with the celebrations being held by the Community. Free camel rides, miniature train rides, bungee trampoline and live performances were enjoyed by all, as the celebrations continued into the late afternoon.

The Ghan departed the Port Augusta Railway Station at 6:50pm to continue on its journey to Darwin.



3. Rededication of the Swimmers Memorial

On the 25th January, 1947 the Swimmers Memorial Garden was constructed on the Port Augusta Foreshore in recognition of the Members of the Port Augusta Amateur Swimming Club who had lost their lives in World War II.

Over the years the Memorial Garden had become neglected, however as part of the Foreshore redevelopment the Swimmers Memorial Garden received a long overdue upgrade. As part of the First Passenger Train celebrations held on the 1st February 2004, a re-dedication of the Memorial Garden was undertaken.

The Swimmers Memorial Garden now assumes pride of place on the Foreshore precinct which the Community & Council are immensely proud of.



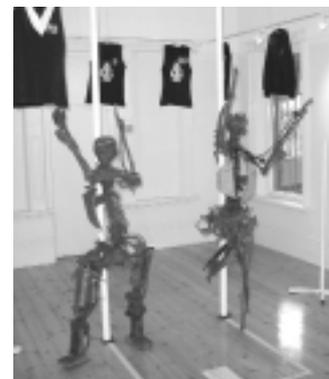
4. Spencer Gulf Football League Gallery of Fame and Port Augusta Football League Hall of Fame - celebrates the inaugural intake

In October 2003, the vision of local football identity and Council Community Development Officer, Mr Russell Keneally came to fruition. He had felt for some time that the achievements of those involved in Australian Rules Football in Port Augusta and more particularly since the inception of the Spencer Gulf Football League in 1961, should be recognised.

Consequently, the Port Augusta Football League "Hall of Fame" came to life with the support of the Port Augusta City Council's Social Vision Unit and the Spencer Gulf Football League.

To mark this important event in the history pages of Port Augusta Football, an exhibition called "Spencer Gulf Football League Gallery of Fame" was placed on display at the Fountain Gallery. The exhibition consisted of Football Memorabilia from over the years, and a magnificent metal sculpture created by artist in residence, Corey Thomas depicting two men leaping for a Football, and stood some six feet high. The name of the creation was "The Great Leap".

A presentation dinner with over 270 guests was held at the South Augusta Football Clubrooms where the inaugural "Hall of Fame Inductees" were named by "Football Hall of Famer", Barry Robran. Also presented on the night by football legend Harry Kernahan were twenty-two certificates to those players named in the SGL Ruby Anniversary Team of the Era including two umpires.



Many other events celebrated during 2003/2004 were:

- a) Visit by Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia
- b) Croc Festival Port Augusta, 2003
- c) Opening of Eastern Foreshore Redevelopment Stage 1
- d) World Solar Cycle Challenge 5th Stage (Port Augusta start)
- e) Big Screen Film Festival
- f) Christmas Lighting Festival 2003
- g) Christmas Pageant 2003
- h) Mayoral Party 2003
- i) Port Augusta Surfboat Super Series & Seagrims Outback Surfboat Safari
- j) Swim Across Australia
- k) Australia Day Breakfast
- l) Port Augusta Golf Classic 2003
- m) Port Augusta Cup 2004
- n) Port Augusta Calendar of Events, Central Television - collation & weekly production
- o) Look Closer - Weekly production
- p) Port Augusta Community Leadership Program Intakes 1 & 2

GOALS & TARGETS FOR 2004/2005:

1. Beautify and enhance entranceways.
2. Croc Festival - The Social Vision Unit will take a greater lead facilitation role in making the 2004 Festival bigger and better than previous years.
3. Continue to support Community and Tourism Events for their positive social and economic benefit for the community.

GOAL AREA 3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sub Goal 3.1: Economic growth for long-term benefit

Economic growth has been high on the agenda for Council for sometime and the activities in this area during 2003/2004, indicate that Port Augusta is moving into an exciting era of development within the City. Population growth and increases in property valuations (particularly on the foreshore), is testament of past and current strategies of Council and its partners; the Northern Regional Development Board and Business Port Augusta, coming to fruition.

2003/2004 saw the continued construction of the **Oasis Majestic Apartments** which incorporate 75 one and two bedroom apartments valued at over \$10m. The Apartments are located along the Eastside Foreshore, which has definitely changed the aesthetic value of the area for the better.



Council also redeveloped the foreshore parkland area which saw a total revamp of the Eastside Foreshore which has provided a beautiful open space area for the community. The redevelopment costs for this work were in the vicinity of \$1.6m with the State Government contributing approximately \$430,000 towards the project. The work undertaken to date on the Eastside area is only Stage 1 of the overall **Foreshore Redevelopment Project**, with the second Stage due to commence in 2004/2005. The upgrade of the foreshore has definitely provided a new face for Port Augusta and is a tangible sign that the city is changing physically. The renewed enthusiasm of the community and visitors to use the upgraded facilities is a pleasing response to the hard work of Council and Staff in providing this attractive open space area for the community.



May 2004 saw development approval of a new **Discount Department Store for Port Augusta (Big W)**. It is anticipated that construction work for this project will commence in October 2004 starting with the new carpark which will run along the foreshore area.

The Port Augusta City Council will also continue with Stage 2 of the foreshore parkland redevelopment that will adjoin the seaward boundary of the Big W carpark area.

There are other exciting projects where considerable work has already taken place during the course of the reporting year; and there is confidence that the following projects will come to fruition during 2004/2005:

- Negotiations had commenced over 18 months ago with the developers associated with **Betta Electrical**. This proposal is in its advanced planning stages and includes: speciality shops and Townhouses.
- Similarly, physical preparations (eg basic infrastructure and utility services) have been arranged for a **Wharf Restaurant** adjacent the Big W complex. Attraction of a builder/operator is underway with the expectation of a facility being open and running towards the end of 2004/2005.



Negotiations had also commenced with interested developers in 2003/2004 to present their Registrations of Interest for developing land owned by Council on the **Westside Foreshore**. Three developers presented their proposals to Council, which were all of a very high standard.

The successful proposal includes a 14 apartment residential development with construction due to commence during the 2004/2005 financial year. Council also intends to beautify the beach area on the Westside, similar to that on the Eastside, to ensure the area reflects the community's aspirations for continued improvement of facilities and services to the broader community and visitors to the City.



The Port Augusta City Council in conjunction with the Northern Regional Development Board, Whyalla City Council and the Whyalla Economic Development Board commenced negotiation on establishing a **Business Incubator** in Whyalla and Port Augusta to support fledgling business in the first 2 years of operation. The organisation will be called the Upper Spencer Gulf Business Incubator Network Inc. and will be overseen by the above 4 key stakeholders under the guidance of a Board of Management. It is anticipated that accommodation facilities for the Business Incubators will be identified and refurbished during the 2004/2005 financial year. Potential tenants will also be sought during this period, to ensure that on completion of the redevelopment of the sites, that occupation of the Business Incubator by new businesses within the area is achieved.

The Port Augusta City Council is "Open for Business" and encourages Developers who may have a development proposal that involves Council owned land, to discuss their ideas with the City Manager.

Other developments that have been identified for the Port Augusta area include the construction of a **Retirement/Lifestyle Village** and an **Intermodal Facility** which is linked with a strong push from Council and the NRDB to bring about a greater presence of Defence in Port Augusta. Cultana is being considered as a **National Training Centre** and consequently there is a listing of the local Lawrie Wallis Aerodrome for upgrade in the State's Draft Infrastructure Plan.

2004/2005 will see further negotiations being undertaken in regard to these developments, with hopefully positive economic outcomes bringing "jobs & investment" to Port Augusta.

The Town Hall continues to be a dilemma for the Council in terms of cost of restoration and the rapid deterioration of the building. 2003/2004 has seen considerable interest from the community in bringing the Town Hall back to life. Expressions of interest were called; and the ensuing year hopefully will be a turning point in the Town Hall's long-term future.

The **Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Historical Society Inc.**, has worked cooperatively with: Port Augusta City Council, Flinders Ranges Council, NRDB and the South Australian Tourism Commission to assist the Pichi Richi Railway to improve its management as it enters a new phase of its history in moving towards the employment of a paid CEO and other support staff.

The **Port Augusta Aquatic Outdoor Centre** has been supported by Council to expand its activities and make them available to the general public. A business plan was prepared; and subject to seed funding through grants, this project if successful, will be a positive enhancement to the Eastside foreshore. The longer-term view is to create a viable business that could be passed onto private enterprise.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service Inc., (RFDS) not only provides a vital medical service to the local community and the Outback; it also is a significant contributor to Port Augusta's economy. 2003/2004 saw an example of how the community can rally to ensure the Port Augusta operations are not only retained but expanded. Discussions have commenced between Council and the RFDS to make the Lawrie Wallis Aerodrome the local base.

GOAL AREA 4:

INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sub Goal: 4.1 Optimise use and management of the City's financial and physical resources.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Annually the Port Augusta City Council financially supports individuals, groups and organisations through a Community Grants Programme, to assist them with projects, initiatives and personal development which have positive outcomes for the community.

The following donations were made during 2003/2004:

Aimee Knight - NIDA Drama Course	\$200.00	Tyson Shine - Rotary Exchange (goods from Wadlata)	\$180.96
Royal Flying Doctor Service - annual donation	\$1,500.00	LifeFM Christmas Party for Special Children	\$204.55
Lifeline Central (SA/NT) Inc - annual donation	\$2,500.00	Port Augusta Swimming Club - annual carnival donation	\$300.00
Anti-Cancer Foundation (Greenhill Lodge) - annual donation	\$2,500.00	John Heaslip - Overseas Exchange (goods from Wadlata)	\$181.00
Hope for the Children Foundation - annual donation	\$5,000.00	Port Augusta Tennis Association	\$500.00
LifeFM Christmas Party for Special Children - annual donation	\$613.45	Amy Moran - Denmark Exchange (goods from Wadlata)	\$182.00
Crossroads Music Showcase 2003 - hall hire	\$221.82	All Saints Parish Bell Restoration Committee	\$1,000.00
Rural Australians for Refugees - Connections Exhibition	\$401.60	All Saints Parish Bell Plaque	\$231.46
Port Augusta Secondary School - Year 12 Award	\$100.00	National Heart Foundation - In memory of Geoff Botten	\$400.00
Trinity Lutheran Church - Jubilee Celebrations	\$218.19	Pro Co Stage & Sound - Carols by Candlelight	\$900.00
Northern SAPSASA - tracksuits	\$800.00	PASS Stage Band trip to Mount Gambier	\$940.51
Port Augusta Junior Basketball Committee - annual carnival	\$70.00	PA Country Music Festival	\$1,000.00
Port Augusta Police Charity Golf Day	\$100.00	John Meegan - 2003 Academic Achiever Award	\$500.00
SAF-8 Coast Guard - training equipment	\$632.19	Casey Whittaker - 2004 Little Athletics State Team	\$300.00
Flinders & Pastoral Rural Counselling Service	\$200.00	Port Augusta Motocross Club - State Championships	\$2,051.73
Mental Health Week Fun Day BBQ at Gladstone Square	\$120.00	Bush Mechanics 2004 - course fees	\$1,000.00
Port Augusta Calisthenics Club - State Championship bus hire	\$520.00	Cert IV Workplace Assess	
Knights Chapel War Gaming Club	\$453.60	Hire of Bus - Meals on Wheels presentation	\$436.37
Port Augusta Model Railway Club - track inspection	\$680.01	Government House	
Stirling North Golf Club	\$380.28	Swim Through Australia - catering dinner/breakfast	\$900.00
		St John Ambulance Cadets - first aid kits	\$700.00
		Anderson Dancers - 35 year birthday reunion	\$500.00
		Port Augusta Golf Club	\$50,000.00
		TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$79,620.00

GOALS & TARGETS FOR 2004/2005:

1. Review use of recreational facilities to ensure all community groups have access to Council's facilities.
2. Installation of a new RF network (communication infrastructure)
3. Introduction of Asset Management Program.

PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL'S AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

An extract from the Port Augusta City Council's audited financial statement is as detailed on pages 56-60. A full detailed report is also available on the Council website: www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au under the heading Online Publications, Subheading Financial papers.

CITY OF PORT AUGUSTA

OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
OPERATING REVENUE			
Rates			
General		5,528,548	5,144,869
Other		262,325	237,120
Statutory Charges		195,430	158,651
User Charges		1,979,118	1,904,298
Operating Grants and Subsidies		7,977,715	7,476,305
Investment Income		92,108	92,376
Reimbursements		293,130	202,286
Gain on Disposal of Non-Current Assets		148,752	
Other		876,657	1,033,920
		<u>17,353,782</u>	<u>16,249,824</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Wages and Salaries	3	7,948,185	7,677,025
Contractual Services	4	3,215,952	2,862,959
Materials	5	2,405,653	2,304,576
Finance Charges		326,907	300,379
Depreciation	6	2,333,774	2,362,455
Loss on Disposal of Non-Current Assets			104,999
Other	7	2,177,451	1,945,570
		<u>18,407,921</u>	<u>17,557,962</u>
Operating (Loss)/Surplus before Capital Revenues		<u>(1,054,138)</u>	<u>(1,308,138)</u>
CAPITAL REVENUES			
Capital Grants, Subsidies and Monetary Contributions		1,072,016	524,318
Operating Surplus after Capital revenues and before Extraordinary items		<u>17,877</u>	<u>(783,820)</u>
CHANGE IN COMMUNITY WEALTH RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS		<u>17,877</u>	<u>(783,820)</u>

CITY OF PORT AUGUSTA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	8	1,540,175	751,611
Receivables	9	1,294,158	1,683,617
Prepayments	9	30,152	50,477
Inventories	10	<u>119,129</u>	<u>140,929</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>2,983,614</u>	<u>2,626,634</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Bank Overdraft	8		292,967
Creditors and Provisions	11&12	1,531,533	1,422,711
Loans	13	<u>1,557,502</u>	<u>1,446,811</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,089,035</u>	<u>3,162,489</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>(105,421)</u>	<u>(535,855)</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Land	14	6,029,132	5,684,365
Buildings, Structures & Reserve Infrastructure	14	20,365,844	19,443,948
Infrastructure	14	16,964,059	17,241,524
Equipment	14	1,823,889	1,531,628
Furniture and Fittings	14	1,083,720	1,083,924
Capital Works in Progress	14	<u>251,522</u>	<u>1,149,014</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		<u>46,518,166</u>	<u>46,134,403</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Provisions	12	772,523	760,165
Loans	13	<u>4,377,718</u>	<u>3,593,756</u>
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>5,150,241</u>	<u>4,353,921</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>41,262,504</u>	<u>41,244,627</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		3,963,095	3,945,218
Reserves		<u>37,299,409</u>	<u>37,299,409</u>
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>41,262,504</u>	<u>41,244,627</u>

CITY OF PORT AUGUSTA

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY FOR THE 30 JUNE 2004

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS			
Balance at beginning of period		3,945,218	4,729,037
Change in financial position resulting from operations (Deficit)/Surplus		17,877	(783,820)
		<u>3,963,095</u>	<u>3,945,218</u>
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Balance at beginning of period		37,299,409	37,299,409
-Revaluation increment			
-Revaluation decrement			
		<u>37,299,409</u>	<u>37,299,409</u>
TOTAL EQUITY			
		<u>41,262,504</u>	<u>41,244,627</u>

CITY OF PORT AUGUSTA

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

	Note	2004 \$	2003 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		Inflows (Outflows)	
Receipts			
Interested Receivd		17,035,092	16,117,164
GST Refund from ATO		92,108	92,376
GST Received		838,954	329,350
		431,017	845,085
Payments			
Interest on Loans		(15,585,233)	(14,691,595)
GST payments on purchases		(292,628)	(269,003)
GST Remitted to the ATO		(323,108)	(869,751)
		(954,363)	(353,411)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	8	1,241,839	1,200,215
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Loans Received		2,220,000	1,680,000
Loan Repayments from Community Groups		10,242	9,339
Accommodation Bonds		250,152	90,732
Payments			
Principal on Loans		(1,441,611)	(1,234,300)
Accommodation Bonds		(100,415)	(79,269)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES		938,368	466,502
CASH FLOWS FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Capital Grants, Subsidies		1,502,016	94,318
Sale of Equipment		539,953	451,157
Sale of Land		189,200	
Payments			
Purchase of Land		(312,267)	0
Purchase of Buildings		(630,107)	(351,221)
Purchase of Infrastructure		(1,055,448)	(221,640)
Purchase of Equipment		(960,353)	(840,620)
Purchase of Furniture and Fittings		(129,226)	(229,067)
Purchase of Capital Works in Progress		(242,444)	(1,035,298)
NET CASH USED IN OTHER ACTIVITIES		(1,098,676)	(2,132,371)
NET INCREASE(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		1,081,531	(465,654)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD		458,644	924,298
CASH AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD	8	1,540,175	458,644

CITY OF PORT AUGUSTA

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2004

NOTE 19: COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL RESULTS (OPERATING)

	2004 Operating		2003 Operating	
	BUDGET \$	ACTUAL \$	BUDGET \$	ACTUAL \$
Revenue				
Administration	8,454,700	8,592,652	7,751,000	8,008,281
Public Order and Safety	32,000	30,514	34,300	32,143
Health	3,079,900	3,219,778	2,578,900	3,115,090
Social Security & Welfare	2,181,000	2,593,956	1,870,900	2,236,326
Housing Community	285,900	584,354	1,147,300	439,721
Protection Environment	20,000	10,847		77,213
Recreational & Cultural	236,500	243,626	439,800	255,141
Economic Services	834,800	1,779,736	631,800	1,127,616
Mining & Construction	22,300	36,787	26,500	21,888
Transport & Communication	752,000	701,165	700,000	649,931
Public Debt Transactions	90,000	92,108	81,600	92,376
Other Purposes	794,000	391,523	852,000	718,415
Total Revenue	<u>16,783,100</u>	<u>18,277,046</u>	<u>16,114,100</u>	<u>16,774,142</u>
Expenses				
Administration	1,450,100	715,171	1,383,800	673,729
Public Order and Safety	75,900	77,372	97,800	108,367
Health	3,164,800	3,590,286	2,540,000	3,498,600
Social Security & Welfare	2,280,600	2,871,221	1,977,600	2,517,862
Housing Community	1,971,200	2,429,963	2,454,100	2,175,887
Protection Environment	44,000	230,429		149,201
Recreational & Cultural	1,579,100	2,250,819	1,450,700	2,258,919
Agricultural Services	8,000			
Fuel and Energy				
Economic Services	1,406,400	1,768,023	1,254,200	1,975,136
Mining & Construction	152,000	158,344	135,300	173,622
Transport & Communication	1,914,300	2,638,343	1,900,500	2,470,706
Public Debt Transactions	309,000	326,907	319,500	300,379
Other Purposes	1,571,900	1,202,292	1,521,800	1,255,555
Total Expenses	<u>15,927,300</u>	<u>18,259,169</u>	<u>15,035,300</u>	<u>17,557,962</u>
less unfunded Depreciation	1,410,000	2,333,774		2,333,774
Surplus	<u>2,265,800</u>	<u>2,351,651</u>	<u>1,078,800</u>	<u>1,550,000</u>

GOAL AREA 4:

INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sub Goal: 4.2 Effective maintenance, management and enhancement of the City's infrastructure assets.

ROADS

The Port Augusta City Council has a total of 166.3km of sealed and 152.8km of unsealed roads within the City that are maintained on an annual basis. With the assistance of the South Australian Local Government Grants Commission funding allocation of \$192,140 (Roads to Recovery Program), Council undertook the following road construction and resealing programs during 2003/2004:

1. Ongoing construction/sealing of the Shack Road, completing a further 2km.
2. Construction and sealing of Nestor Street at Stirling North.
3. 9kms of bitumen resealing under the Road Maintenance Program.



In addition to the above works, Council also redeveloped the Eastside Foreshore which incorporated the construction and sealing of the access road and parking area adjacent to the beach.



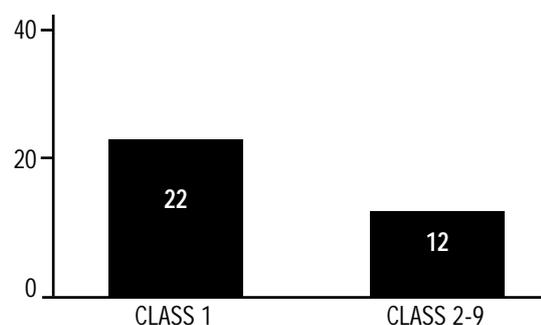
1. Building Assessment

Assessment of Development Applications for compliance with the Building Code of Australia and any relevant standards, forms part of the Development Assessment Process. During the reporting period, Council's Development Section received a total of 469 applications. Of these, 111 were Class 1-9 applications and 358 were Class 10's with an estimated cost of progressive development of \$11,378,465. Total fees applicable were \$66,384, with an increase of 83 applications received from the previous year. Generally buildings and structures are inspected for structural adequacy and to ensure they have the required facilities for their use.

2. Building Inspections

The Port Augusta City Council's Building Officers endeavour to carry out building inspections on 20% of building work approved within Class 1-9 developments.

Number of inspections undertaken during 2003/2004 on Class 1-9 Developments:



Class 1 - developments include detached house or one or more attached dwellings

Class 2-9 include all other types of development

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.

Major projects for 2003/2004 included:

- a) Kitchen extension at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden including the provision of solar panels and back-up generator.
- b) Office extension to the Works Depot.
- c) Construction of disabled toilets at the Ryan Mitchell Swim Centre.
- d) Extensive upgrade to Poinsettia Village and Julia Lodge independent living facilities.

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.

Council is committed to raising the awareness of building users to identify asbestos and safe handling procedures for asbestos. Asbestos registers identify the location, extent and type of asbestos contained within the building.

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 Committee Membership is as follows:

Mr Wayne Murphy - Murphy Design

Mr Graham Woodforde - Council's Assistant Building Surveyor

Mr David Nye - SAMFS Representative

Mr Max McAlister - CFS Representative

Mr Nick Heron - Building Surveying Technician (Committee Admin Support)

The Committee determines the course of action to be undertaken to remedy identified breaches of Section 71 of the Development Act 1993, which is carried out in consultation with the building owner.

During 2003/2004 the Committee concentrated on reviewing fire safety requirements of the larger accommodation establishments within the Council area.

Goals and Targets for 2004/2005:

1. Construction work involved in the upgrade of the Southern Entranceways
2. Upgrade to footpaths
3. Repair stormwater pump in Frome Street
4. Upgrade to Seaview Road Stormwater Drainage
5. Develop various plans/maintenance programs for infrastructure management
6. Continued construction of bike route.
7. New road construction of Howden Street and resheeting various roads within the city.
8. Construction of a further 2km of the Shack Road.
9. Black Spot identification on Footner Road.
10. Upgrade Bridges on Old Whyalla Road.
11. The Building Fire Safety Committee will attempt to broaden the focus of its inspection program to include public use and Class 2 Buildings.
12. Commencement of Stage 2 of the Eastside Foreshore Redevelopment.
13. Installation of sprinkler system in front on bar area ETSA Oval.
14. Improve signage at AALBG.
15. Apply for grant funding to support Stage II of the Eastside Foreshore Redevelopment.

GOAL AREA 5:

STRATEGIC PLAN - PERFORMANCE TARGETS

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

AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

Between July & December 2003, the Australian Government, Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation conducted a successful trial program in the genetic and agronomic improvement of quandongs, in the research area of the garden.

In December 2003, staff from the Botanical Gardens of Adelaide, AALBG and AALBG Friends, undertook seed and plant collecting in the Central High Lands and the Victoria Desert of South Australia. The seeds and plants that were collected are to be used for planting throughout the garden and also to be placed in the mellinium seed bank collection in Que, England.

Refurbishment of the Encounter Track through the garden took place in this reporting period, with the track surface being upgraded with new interpretive signage being installed along the track.



In March 04, the AALBG witnessed the commencement of the South Australian Tourist Commission \$500,000 funded upgrade and development of the Garden. The scope of works that were commenced under this funding included; design and installation of new signage within the garden (\$30,000), track and walkway upgrades (in accordance with the AALBG Track Master Plan \$80,000), road and car park installation at Flinders Red Cliff Lookout (\$160,000), boundary fence extension, including closing off Mcsporrans Crescent Entrance (\$20,000), Garden upgrades (\$145,000), DVD and Brochure development (\$65,000). Approximately 40% of this scope of works were completed at the end of June 04, with the remainder of the project to be completed in 2004-2005.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

1. Central Oval Reclaimed Water Project

Construction of the reclaim water project which is located within the boundary of the Port Augusta Central Oval Complex commenced in December 2003.

The Treatment Plant will produce over 100 megalitres of filtered "Class B" reclaimed water annually, reducing Council's reliance on River Murray water as the major source of water for our parklands.

In conjunction with the construction of the Treatment Plant, underground reticulation systems were laid on Central Oval, Gladstone Square, Apex Park, Homestead Park, Braddock Oval, Pastoral Lawns, Traffic Island on Seaview Road, Mackay Street Park, and to the newly redevelopment Eastside Foreshore.

Although the reticulation system has only been laid to these parklands/ovals so far, our ultimate aim is to further enhance this initiative by extending the water reuse program, using the reclaimed water, to as many parklands and ovals as possible within the City.





2. Solid Waste

Commercial, industrial and domestic solid waste is disposed of by landfill at Stirling North with 13,165 tonnes of solid waste being received at the Refuse Reserve during the 2003/2004 financial year.

Provision for recycling has been made at the Refuse Reserve to the extent that if residents visiting the Refuse Reserve sort their refuse and place it in the appropriate areas, no charge is levied for recyclable material. Approximately 2700 tonnes of material was diverted from the Waste Depot.

A Kerbside Recycling Collection Service is also provided on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. A total of 600 tonnes of recyclable material was collected throughout the City.

3. Liquid Waste

Council is the licensee of the liquid industrial waste disposal area which is situated in a disused effluent pond near Tassie Street. This area receives grease trap wastes from restaurants and other commercial facilities in addition to oily waste water. 678 kilolitres were received at the Depot during the year.

4. Domestic Waste Oil

A free domestic waste oil recycling facility has been constructed at the Stirling North Refuse Reserve under the Federal Government's Waste Oil Stewardship Programme. This new initiative has proved to be very popular with residents.

FORESHORE AREA

Considerable redevelopment of the Eastside Foreshore was undertaken during the 2003/2004 financial year. Refer Goal Area 3.1 for detailed report regarding this project.

TREENET TRIALS

The Port Augusta City Council is establishing tree trial sites within the City and will trial species of trees which have not previously been represented within the urban streetscape of the City but show promise for meeting the needs of Council.

TreeNet (Tree and Roadway Experimental and Education Network), is based at the Adelaide University's Waite Arboretum, is a collaborative program providing a resource for the successful selection, production, installation and management of street trees in the urban environment.

TreeNet also involves participants from the fields of arboriculture, landscape design, urban planning, secondary and tertiary educational institutions, Nursery Industry Association of Australia and individuals with a stake in urban streetscapes and tree related issues.

The trial site program gathers data about tree performance under street conditions and makes this data available to other Councils, to assist in the selection of species for new plantings. Through increasing the appropriate selection and maintenance of street trees, a longer-lived, healthier and safe street tree population can be achieved.

Future potential projects include:-

- Revising ways to harvest storm water in gutters for the benefits of street trees.
- Modelling different footpaths and establishing the effect on tree establishment.
- Incorporation of green waste into tree planting.

Our first trial site has been established within the City. It is on the footpaths surrounding 55 Jervis Street and was planted in April 2004. A trial usually encompasses the planting of 10 trees of the one variety. We were lucky in this instance that the resident made an application to Council to have 12

trees of the variety *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'frisia', the 'Golden Leaved Black Locust' be planted on the footpath area. As this variety of tree is not commonly grown within the City, it was seen as an ideal candidate for our first trial site.

Addison Road has also been chosen as a major TreeNet trial site for the City, due to the length of the road, exposure of the site and the relatively few plantings that exist on site within the street. For this trial, it is hoped that we will be able to trial native trees from the arid interiors of Australia once we are able to source suitable specimens or seed for propagation.

BIRD LAKE FOAM FENCE

The installation of a foam fence in Bird Lake along the length of Highway One was undertaken in late 2003. The foam fence has been installed to eliminate foam that is blown across the Highway on windy days.



GOALS AND TARGETS FOR 2004/2005:

1. Improve street cleaning and maintenance by reviewing and benchmarking existing litter management practices.
2. Develop an environmental management system for Council staff and contractors.
3. Identify potential savings for Council by reducing energy, water, waste disposal and other utility costs.
4. Prepare a tree planting program in Streets and Open Space.
5. Replacement/upgrade of signs at the AALBG Lookout Area.
6. Upgrade AALBG Main Entrance.

GOAL AREA 6: ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

Sub Goal 6.1: A professional effective, efficient and customer-focused Organisation responsive to the needs of the Community.

COMMITMENT TO AGED CARE

The ever increasing problem of attracting suitably qualified nursing personnel into the Aged Care arena, saw a new initiative being implemented by management of Nerrilda Nursing Home and A.M. Ramsay Village, with the support of Council, by offering Nursing Bursaries to current nursing staff.

This program supports staff financially in their endeavours to further enhance their training and personal career development, while also ensuring that the Council's Aged Care Facilities have suitably qualified staff, to provide ongoing care to the residents.

The Health Services Award restructure also resulted in the majority of employees being reclassified to higher levels.

Nerrilda Nursing Home and A.M. Ramsay Village provide a very high standard of care to all residents and have been successful in gaining Accreditation since the introduction of the new auditing process, by being compliant with all 44 outcomes.

The Port Augusta City Council is proud of its commitment to providing quality Aged Care Services for the community.



ASSISTANCE TO THE PORT AUGUSTA HOCKEY CLUB

Council were approached by the Port Augusta Hockey Association in 2003, who were experiencing problems with their playing field, and were therefore required to play the previous seasons games in Whyalla.

Through consultation with the Education Department and the Hockey Club, an agreement has been reached for the Hockey Club to take over responsibility for their playing field and a lease has been entered into with Council for their clubrooms.

Council has also provided support in upgrading the playing field to ensure the field is to an acceptable standard.

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Staff are acknowledged for their contribution over the many years they have worked for Council, through the Annual Staff Awards. Staff receive a certificate & gift in recognition of their service to the Port Augusta City Council & its Community, with awards being given for the following milestones:

- a) 10 Years Service
- b) 20 Years Service

The following staff were acknowledged for their commitment to the Port Augusta City Council at the 2003 Staff Awards:



Back (L-R) Mayor, Joy Baluch, Russell Warren, City Manager, John Stephens. Front (L-R) Allan Dowling, Marg Gohl, Dianne McDowall, Janice Scott

GOALS & TARGETS FOR 2004/2005:

1. Review and upgrade signage throughout the city to improve directional information.
2. Consultation on Westside Foreshore Redevelopment with appropriate organisations.
Road Closure, Dedication of Land, approval of proposed concept by key stakeholders.
3. Staff Appraisal and update of Job Descriptions.
4. Annual function to provide recognition of service by employees.
5. Introduce a staff acknowledgement award for cost saving measures/ideas introduced by employees.
6. Development of Business Plans.
7. Employment of Records Management Officer.
8. Implement Disability Action Plan
9. Introduction of a Sportsperson of the Month Award.

Compliance Report

s e c t i o n f o u r



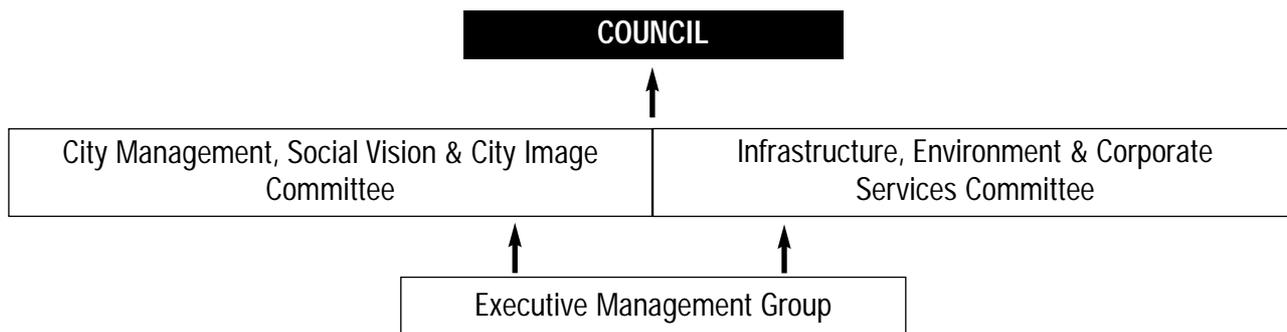
Section

4

INFORMATION STATEMENT

1. Decision Making Structure and Functions of the Council

- 1.1 Full Council, consisting of nine (9) Councillors and the Mayor, is the decision making body on all matters. Ordinary Meetings of the Full Council are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.00pm (except public holidays when meetings are held on the following evening).
- 1.2 In addition, Council has two Permanent Key Committees to assist in streamlining Council business. In most cases the majority of discussion and debating occurs within the committee structures, as they are not as formal as a normal Council Meeting. The Key/Standing Committee then make recommendations to Council on the content of reports they have received from Reporting Officers. The Permanent Key Committees are known as the City Management, Social Vision & City Image Committee and the Infrastructure, Environment & Corporate Services Committee. Meetings of these Committees are held on the 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month respectively and commence at 5.30pm.
- 1.3 The Directors of each Directorate meet on a weekly basis (Executive Management Group Meetings) to peruse all reports prior to them being placed on the agenda for the appropriate Key Committee, to ensure they are kept abreast of all staff activities within the organisation.



1.4 Other Committees/Advisory Committees

- 1.4.1 Other Committees of the Council meet from time to time to make recommendations to the Full Council.
- 1.4.2 The Local Government Act provides that Council may establish Committees consisting of, or including, persons who are not members of the Council for the purposes of enquiring into and reporting to the Council on any matters within the Council's responsibilities (i.e. Advisory Committees).

As at the 30th June 2003, Other Committees and/or Advisory Committees who report to Council on a range of issues, include:

- a) Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- b) Development Assessment Panel (assessment of development applications)
- c) OHS&W Working Committee
- d) Fire Safety Committee (established pursuant to the provisions of the Development Act 1993 and makes its own decisions)
- e) Port Augusta Junior Sports Assistance Foundation

1.5 Sitting Fees - Aboriginal Advisory Committee Members

Council approved setting the following level of sitting fees for members of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee:-

- a) Chairperson or Acting chairperson \$40.00 per meeting; and
- b) Other Members \$30.00 per meeting.

1.6 Proceedings of Council and Council Committees

A meeting of a Council or Council Committee must be conducted in a place open to the public. A Council Committee includes a Sub-Committee and an Advisory Committee established by the Council. Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council Committee Meetings.

2. Confidentiality Provisions

Pursuant to Section 90 (2) a Council or Council Committee may order that the public be excluded from attendance at a meeting.

2.1 The table below indicates the reasons that a matter may be considered under the confidentiality provisions and the number of occasions during the 2003/2004 financial year, these provisions were enforced.

Section of the Local Government Act	Number of time 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)	9
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.	15
Section 90(3) (c) - information the disclosure of which would reveal a trade secret.	10
Section 90(3) (d) - commercial information of a confidential nature (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which - (i) could reasonably be 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.	11
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.	4
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.	0
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.	1
Section 90(3) (h) - legal advice	1
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.	1
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.	0
Section 90(3) (k) - tenders for the supply of goods, the provision of services or the carrying out of works.	2
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 that Act.	0
Section 90(3) (n) - information relevant to the review of a determination of a council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991.	0

- 2.2 During the reporting period, there were 31 instances where Council considered an item under the confidentiality provisions, however in 19 of the 31 cases, either two or three of the above Sections of the Act were attributed to a single issue.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Of the 31 items considered 3 became public decisions and no confidential orders were issued. From the remaining 28 items, 7 items remained confidential for a period of 3 months or less, 9 items were for a period of 3-6 months, 7 items were for a period of 6-12 months and 5 items remain under the provisions of confidentiality.

3. Public Participation

3.1 Council Meetings

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

3.1.1 Elected Members

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

3.1.2 Written Requests

A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council practice, procedure, activity or service.

3.1.3 Petitions

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

3.1.4 Deputations

A request to appear before Council or Council Committee must be in writing to the City Manager and should include a statement of the reasons why the deputation wishes to appear.

3.2 Community Consultation

There are statutory requirements for public consultation on a range of issues (e.g. By-law reviews, leasing proposals for Council land, revocation of the classification of Community Land Status, proposed sale of council land etc).

Also residents are notified of some Development Applications requiring the approval of the Development Assessment Panel (a requirement of the Development Act 1993). When an application is publicly notified, residents have the opportunity both to write to Council expressing their view of the application and to subsequently address the Council before a decision is made. It should be noted however, that a number of applications are exempted from public notification by the Development Act.

4. Public Access to Council Documents

The Port Augusta City Council's Annual Report is available free of charge upon request at the front counter of the Civic Centre, 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 have access to the following documents:

4.1 List of Registers/Manuals

- 4.1.1 Policy Manual
- 4.1.2 Delegations Manual
- 4.1.3 By-Law Manual
- 4.1.4 Public Roads Register
- 4.1.5 Elected Members - Register of Allowances & Benefits
- 4.1.6 Elected Members - Register of Interest
- 4.1.7 Officers' Register of Remuneration, Salaries and Benefits
- 4.1.8 Officers' Register of Interest
- 4.1.9 Register of Campaign Donation Returns

4.2 Codes of Practice

- 4.2.1 Access to Council Meetings, Council Committees & Council Documents
- 4.2.2 Council Members Code of Conduct
- 4.2.3 Council Employees Code of Conduct
- 4.3 Statutory Procedures
 - 4.3.1 Internal Review of Council Decisions
 - 4.3.2 Making of Orders
 - 4.3.3 Purchasing, Contracts & Tendering

4.4 Policy Manual

A review of all Council's Policies commenced in May 2004 to ascertain their accuracy and to identify any shortfalls within the Manual. As at the 30th June 2004 the Policy Manual consisted of:

POLA0033	AM Ramsay Village & Nerrilda Nursing Home - Admission & Discharge	POLA0113	Business Rate Rebate
		POLA0086	Cemetery Management
POLA0004	AM Ramsay Village - Smoking	POLA0003	Central Oval Hire
POLA0090	Annual Reports Submitted by Officers of the Council	POLA0011	Child Care Centre - Child Care
		POLA0015	Common Effluent Drains
POLA0005	Apprentices - Expenses	POLA0144	Community Assistance Program (Men's Shed)
POLA0089	Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden - Environmental Protection Requirements	POLA0095	Community Donations
		POLA0098	Community Rate Rebate
POLA0142	Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden - Living Collections	POLA0141	Council Building Inspection Policy
		POLA0077	Council Member's Grievances against Employees
POLA0008	Australian Workers Union - Membership		

POLA0016	Council Representatives on Boards & Organisations	POLA0040	Nerrilda Nursing Home - Health Focus Day Therapy Centre
POLA0085	Council Volunteers	POLA0047	Pigeon Keeping
POLA0048	Development Act - Additional Building Work	POLA0064	Plant, Machinery & Equipment - Sporting & Community Bodies
POLA0051	Development Act - Carparks	POLA0137	Pool - Unattended Children
POLA0052	Development Act - Cut-off Date for Applications	POLA0134	Probationary Appointment & Assessment
POLA0054	Development Act - Notice to Councillors	POLA0121	Public Consultation (Mandatory)
POLA0055	Development Act - Painting of Buildings	POLA0125	Rating - Flats
POLA0056	Development Act - Painting of Buildings	POLA0143	Rating Policy 2003/2004 (Mandatory)
POLA0060	Development Act - Relocation of Transportable Dwellings	POLA0002	Rating - Recoveries
POLA0061	Development Act - Relocation of Transportable Dwellings	POLA0068	Rating - Sporting Clubs & Associations
POLA0129	Discipline/Termination of Employees (Procedures)	POLA0133	Recruitment & Selection
POLA0138	Emergency Facilities & Procedures	POLA0140	Reporting of Hazards (Potential Injury to Members of the Public)
POLA0127	Employees - General Grievance Procedures	POLA0136	Risk Management
POLA0094	Equal Employment Opportunity	POLA0069	Sale of Land Etc.
POLA0128	Excavation & Reinstatement of Council Roads, Footpaths or Properties	POLA0088	Sexual Harassment
POLA0126	Foreshore Beaches, Jetties & Launching Ramps	POLA0071	Shacks - Blanche Harbour Area
POLA0025	Hoardings	POLA0072	Shacks - Standards of Development
POLA0026	Housing Rentals - Review	POLA0092	Special Event Permit
POLA0028	Leases	POLA0012	Special Needs Program (Miriam High Special Needs Centre)
POLA0131	Library Security	POLA0115	Staff Appointments (Interviews) Cost Reimbursement
POLA0132	Library - Unattended Children	POLA0074	Staff - Australian Reserve Forces
POLA0029	Limited Liquor Licence Applications - Processing of (was Licenced Premises)	POLA0075	Street Names
POLA0032	Miranda	POLA0076	Street Trees
POLA0036	Nerrilda Nursing Home - Complaints Mechanism	POLA0081	Taxi Operations - Number of Taxi Plate Licences
POLA0039	Nerrilda Nursing Home - Smoking	POLA0082	Temporary Dwellings
		POLA0139	Unattended Children (Wadlata & AALBG)
		POLA0063	Vehicles - Airconditioning
		POLA0084	Work Performed by Contractors

4.5 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 & Rules, Framework for resolution of OHS&W Problems and relevant Policies as listed below:

POLA0097	Accident Investigation & Reporting	POLA0109	Manual Handling & Risk Identification Form
POLA0122	Asbestos		
POLA0102	Blood Spill Mop Up	POLA0091	Needle Stick/Sharps
POLA0099	Confined Space Policy & Register of Confined Spaces & Checklist	POLA0105	OHS&W & First Aid in the Workplace
		POLA0103	Personal Protective Equipment
POLA0073	Drug & Alcohol	POLA0096	Plant Management
POLA0101	Electrical Safety	POLA0087	Purchasing of Plant & Equipment
POLA0135	Employee Assistance Program	POLA0140	Reporting of Hazards (Potential Injury to Members of the Public)
POLA0106	Evacuation		
POLA0104	Eye Protection	POLA0136	Risk Management
POLA0100	Hazardous/Dangerous Substances & Procedures	POLA0118	Safe Working Environment
		POLA0079	Smoking in the Workplace
POLA0111	Hire/Lease of Plant & Equipment	POLA0108	Staff Training
POLA0120	Immunisation Clinic - Emergency Action	POLA0078	Sun Protection
		POLA0080	Workers Compensation Video Surveillance
POLA0107	Inclement Weather & Procedures		
POLA0130	Injury Management Policy & Procedures		

4.6 Availability of Documents

Of the Registers, Manuals, Code of Practice and Statutory Procedures listed above the following documents are available on Council's Website (www.portaugusta.sa.gov.au) free of charge:

- 4.6.1 By-Laws
- 4.6.2 Policies
- 4.6.3 Codes of Practice
- 4.6.4 Statutory Procedures
- 4.6.5 Strategic Plan

In addition to these documents, Council's Minutes and Agendas are also included on Council's website for the public's convenience.

Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1999, members of the public may purchase copies of the following documents, however a charge as listed below will apply for this service:

Section 68 (3)	Members Register of Interest	\$5.00 per entry
Section 79(4)	Members Allowances	\$5.00 per entry
Section 84(3)	Notice of Council Agenda	20¢ per page
Section 88(3)	Notice of Committee Agenda	20¢ per page
Section 91(6)	Minutes & Reports	\$20.00 per month or 20¢ per page (payable monthly in advance)
Section 105	Register of Staff Salaries	\$5.00 per entry
Section 174(2)	Assessment Book	\$5.00 per entry
Section 231(4)	Public Roads Register	\$5.00 certified copy or 20¢ per page

5. Other Information Requests:

5.1 Requests for other information not included above will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information provisions of the Local Government Act. For the reporting period an application and a search fee of \$22.30 was applicable to "Requests to Access Documents". Should the applicant require copies of any document inspected pursuant to such a request, additional charges will apply.

5.2 The Officer responsible for Freedom of Information requests is:

Ms L Heron
 Manager - Legislation & Economic Development
 Port Augusta City Council (PO Box 1704)
 PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700

5.3 Forms are available on request from the Council Offices during normal working hours (9am-5pm). Applications will be responded to within the statutory 30 days of Council receiving the properly completed Freedom of Information Request Form.

5.4 In 2003/2004 Council received 3 Freedom of Information requests.

5.5 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 them up-to-date.

Accountability Report

s e c t i o n f i v e



Section

5



PORT AUGUSTA CITY COUNCIL

2. OPERATIONAL UNITS POLICY AND PROCEDURES
2.1 CORPORATE SERVICES - FINANCIAL

POLICY NUMBER:		2.1.01		PAGES:		15	
SUBJECT:							
RATING POLICY 2004/2005							
COUNCIL MEETING	MICA0199	ISSUE DATE	30/6/03	REVIEW DATE	1/7/04	DELETED DATE	
EXTERNAL LEGISLATION:				INTERNAL REFERENCES:			
Local Government Act 1999				Rating Policy Summary 2004/2005			
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 City of Port Augusta adheres to, for setting and collecting rates from its 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 Strategic Focus

In setting its rates for the 2004/2005 Financial Year, the Council has given consideration to the following:-

1.3.1 The Strategic Plan

- a) Council has recently undertaken an internal review to assess the success of our Strategic Plan. Only minor changes were identified as being necessary to ensure Council continues to provide the best possible outcomes for its community within its budget constraints.
- b) The Strategic Plan continues to be one of the main driving factors during budget deliberations to ensure that Council's 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 lowering long term indebtedness, maintaining a measured approach to 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.

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) maintain its commitment to deliver the recommendations of the Social Vision and Action Plan;
- b) improve the economy of the City by fostering regional development initiatives such as the proposed business incubator;
- c) continue 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)* Support the formation of a peak tourism body that will oversee all aspects of marketing and product development for Port Augusta;
- g) Support the expansion of the Miriam High Special Needs Centre to provide essential services to disabled children in the north and western region of South Australia.

* Prior to finalisation of this report, the proposal for a peak tourism body was abolished by Council on 8th November 2004.

1.3.3 Budget Implications

- a) The budget for the 2004/2005 financial year.

1.3.4 Rates Reference Group

- a) The recommendations and observation of the "Rates Reference Group" which was formed to review Council's rating policy. This Group was comprised of members from various community groups and members of the City Council.

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 rate in the dollar should be the same for all properties except where there is clearly a different level of services available to ratepayers or some other circumstance which warrants variation from the broad principle (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.

1.3.6 Rate Increases

- a) The need to increase rate revenue for the 2004/2005 financial year of the Council by 8.5%.

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

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:-

John Stephens
City Manager
City of Port Augusta
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 front 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 over the next twelve months, to determine if it provides a fairer 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 Values

5.2.1 The Council has adopted the valuations made by the Valuer-General as provided to the Council on 20th March, 2004. 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 the 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 lodgment 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 "Rate Rebates" (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 (Plan Amendment Report Review almost completed).
- e) The equity of the distribution of the rate burden between ratepayers by resolving to continue the setting of a single general rate for all properties in urban areas.
- f) Issues of equitability that exist because of high land values in Commercial Road.

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 1st July, 2004 the Council resolved to raise rate revenue of \$6,134,500 in a total revenue budget of \$17,973,800. 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, ie:-

- 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, Corporation of the City of Port Augusta, PO Box 1704, PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700".

Category	Land Use	Rate in \$	Minimum	Maximum
Urban	Residential	.061610	640.00	1,659
	Commercial - Shop	.067193	640.00	-
	Commercial - Office	.067193	640.00	-
	Commercial - Other	.067193	640.00	-
	Industry - Light	.067193	640.00	-
	Industry - Other	.067193	640.00	-
	Primary Production	.004897	640.00	-
	Vacant Land	.061610	640.00	-
	Other Use	.061610	640.00	-
Non-Urban	Residential	.041073	640.00	1,106
	Commercial - Shop	.067193	640.00	-
	Commercial - Office	.067193	640.00	-
	Commercial - Other	.067193	640.00	-
	Industry - Light	.067193	640.00	-
	Industry - Other	.067193	640.00	-
	Primary Production	.005538	640.00	-
	Vacant Land	.020534	640.00	-
	Other Use	.041073	640.00	-
Shacks	Residential	.041073	640.00	640.00
	Primary Production	.005538	-	-
	Vacant Land	.020534	-	-
	Other Use	.041073	640.00	-

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 \$640.00. 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 32.43% of rateable properties and will raise 21.4% of the total rate revenue. The imposition of a minimum rate raises an additional \$323,842 which is 5.28% of the total rate revenue.
- 5.6 Maximum Rate
- 5.6.1 Council has determined that a maximum rate be applicable to properties that have a land use code of residence. The maximum rate payable for urban properties is \$1,659 and for non-urban properties \$1,106.
- 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.
- 5.7 Service Rate/Charge
- 5.7.1 The Council provides a septic tank effluent disposal system (STED) to 1330 properties within the Council area. A service charge of \$190.00 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.
- 5.8 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 provide a rebate of up to \$150 to eligible pensioners and self funded retirees whose net rate levy after deduction of the State Government concession exceeds \$950. Pensioners with a net rate levy between \$950 and \$1,100 will receive a rebate to limit the maximum net rate levy payable to \$950. Pensioners with a net rate levy greater than \$1,100 to receive a rebate of \$150.
- 5.9 Unemployed Persons Concessions
- 5.9.1 The Department of Family & Youth Services (FAYS) 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 Department of Family & Youth Services office for details.
- 5.10 Payment of Rates
- 5.10.1 Rates levied for the year may be paid in four quarterly installments, due and payable by **3rd September 2004, 3rd December 2004, 4th March 2005 and 3rd June 2005**. Separate notices relating to installments due in December 2004, March 2005 and June 2005 will be issued to property owners in October 2004, January 2005 and April 2005

- 5.10.2 However, payment of the total rates levied on a property for the 2004/2005 financial year by the 3rd September 2004, 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 eServices button) or by telephone on 1300 303 201 (ANZ Bank bill pay, Council's info pay number is 4321). 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 Michelle Dobson, 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 installment 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 & 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 a 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 Rebates 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 4 years. A copy of the Council's policy is available from our Rates Administrator (Michelle Dobson) on 86419100, or by writing to the Rates Officer, City of Port Augusta at PO 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 a Rates Administrator on 86419100 to discuss the matter. If, after this initial contact, the ratepayer is still dissatisfied they should write to the City Manager, City of Port Augusta, 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.

SECTION D

8.0 FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS

- 8.1 Rating Policy 2.1.01 - Summary 2004/2005

R A T E R E B A T E S

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 by Council pursuant to Section 166 of the Act.

The Port Augusta City Council has adopted Policies (Business Rate Rebate POLA0113, Community Rate Rebate POLA0098, Rating - Flats POLA0125 and Rating - Sporting Clubs & Associations POLA0068) which stipulate the procedures to be adhered to when a business, group or organisation is applying for a rate rebate.

Applications for rebates for the following financial year are to be received on or before the 1st May each 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 the 1st May.

Council approved rate rebates totaling \$43,213.27 in the 2003/2004 financial year for various businesses, groups or organisation within the City.

R E T I R E M E N T V I L L A G E S R A T E R E B A T E

Section 23 of the Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999 requires that a report in relation to the number of applications for rebates of rates received from retirement villages in respect of the relevant financial year and the result of those applications must be reported on in conjunction with the Council's Annual Report.

In the reporting period, the Port Augusta City Council received no applications for rate rebates from retirement village owners/operators.

N A T I O N A L C O M P E T I T I O N P R I N C I P L E S

The main aims of the National Competition Policy are to:

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

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:

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

During the 2003/2004 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.

All Council's by-laws were reviewed in 1998 having regard to the principles of the National Competition Policy. Council's by-laws are:

1. Council Land
2. Moveable Signs
3. Flammable Undergrowth
4. Waste Management
5. Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden

COMPETITIVE TENDERING STATEMENT

During the 2003/2004 financial year, Council formally advertised and accepted the following tenders for the provision of goods and services:

- Reclaimed Water Reticulation System/Central Oval (Water Reclamation & Recycling Plant).
- Cleaning Contract - Civic Centre & Other Buildings
- Skidsteer Loader & Attachments
- 2 x 8-10tonne Tipper Trucks
- Health Focus (Community) Bus
- AM Ramsay Village - Painting
- Miriam High Special Needs Centre - Extension
- Wadlata Outback Centre - Extension to Interpretive Centre
- Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden - Kitchen Extension
- Nerrilda Nursing Home/AM Ramsay Village - Pharmacy Contract
- Salvage Items

COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS

In accordance with the requirements of Section 196 of the Local Government Act 1999, the development of Management Plans for all land under the classification of Community Land commenced in January 2004.

The Port Augusta City Council adopted a "Parkland Rationalisation Report" in 1997, which identified the different types of parkland, their uses and the facilities available for use by the public within each park. This report was used as an integral part of the development of the Management Plans for Community Land within the Council area, to ensure both documents complimented each other upon completion of the management plans.

As at the 30th June 2004, all Community Land within the Council area had been identified and placed into one of eight categories, the ownership of the land had been ascertained and whether a trust, dedication or restriction was subject to any of the land and all stakeholders had been identified. The development of draft Management Plans for each category of the community land has commenced, and are due to be completed by the end of August 2004.



Upon completion of the draft Management Plans for the 8 categories of Community Land, the Plans will be subject to a public consultation process after perusal and comment by Council. All submissions made during the public consultation process will be addressed by Council prior to the Management Plans being adopted. Pursuant to Section 207 of the Local Government Act 1999, a Register of all Community Land is also being developed and will be completed prior to the 31st December 2004.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Equal Employment Opportunity

(i) Council believes that under the present terms of recruitment and selection within all sections of Council, that selection will be in accordance with the provisions of the Equal Opportunity Act.

All selections are based on the merit system. The interview process is conducted by a panel with a minimum of 3 persons. The panel is to include both male and female members when necessary. Council's Recruitment Policy (POLA0133) is reviewed on a regular basis.

Council's Human Resource Manager has delegated authority as Panel Leader on all appointments within Council and is also the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer.

(ii) Council's commitment to employ indigenous trainees through the introduction of the Structure Training and Employment Program (STEP), continues through the placement of 3 trainees (Tourism x 2, Admin x 1).

Risk Management

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 hierarchys of control remain the basis of Council's management within this area:-

- a) substitution;
- b) elimination;
- c) engineering;
- d) administration;
- e) personal protective equipment (PPE)

Council currently enjoys the top level of rating within the Local Government Association exempt employer Work Cover Status of Level 3.

Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

New Enterprise Agreements were negotiated during 2003/2004 for ASU and AWU employees. New clauses within the Agreement include:-

ASU Agreement # 5 - Date of effect 1/6/04 to 30/6/05

- a) Salary increases
- b) Accident & Sickness Insurance
- c) Commitment to Strategic Plan

A site specific agreement between Council & Substance Misuse Services staff continues to be negotiated.

Community Acknowledgement

s e c t i o n s i x



Section

6

The Port Augusta City Council acknowledges the input by community members in making our City a great place to live, work and play. Annually Council present certain Awards to members of the community as a thank you for their outstanding service, personal achievements and noteworthy contribution in making our City a better place. Please find below a list of Awards presented during 2003/2004:

A U S T R A L I A D A Y A W A R D S

Port Augusta celebrates Australia Day with a breakfast in Gladstone Square which is offered by the community service clubs; Rotary Club, Lions Club, Apex Club and the State Emergency Services.

The Port Augusta Australia Day Awards for 2004 were presented to:

Citizen of the Year - Jan & Joe Roberts

Certificates of Recognition - Carmel Boscence, Anna Caponi, Vince Coulthard, Laurel Dodd, Irene McKenzie, Amanda Rowe

Young Citizen of the Year - Jonathon Altmann

Community Event of the Year - The Saltbush Motor Cycle Club Toy Run.

Congratulations to all of the community members/organisations listed above for being recognised as worthy recipients of the Australia Day Awards.

A C A D E M I C A C H I E V E R A W A R D



The Port Augusta City Council recognises the effort and commitment made by our youth in their endeavours to achieve their ultimate goals and dreams for their futures and present an award to Port Augusta's top honours student annually. The Award is presented to the student who received the highest Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) as a result of the Year 12 Exams.

It is pleasing therefore to announce that the winner of the 2003 Academic Achiever Award was John Meegan, a student of Caritas College. John is currently studying computer systems engineering at the Adelaide University.

John received a cheque to the value of \$500.00 from the Port Augusta City Council and his name has been included on the Academic Achiever Honour Board located in the foyer area adjacent the Council Chambers, in recognition of achieving an overall TER score of 94.55.

P O R T A U G U S T A J U N I O R S P O R T S A S S I S T A N C E F O U N D A T I O N

Over the years Port Augusta has produced a number of people who have been successful in their chosen sporting field to the highest possible level. The Port Augusta City Council acknowledges the sporting achievements by members of the community who have excelled and/or shown leadership in their chosen sport.

The following residents received awards in 2003/2004 in acknowledgement of their sporting contributions:

Sportsperson of the Year 2003/2004: Jordan Dodman (Basketball)

Special Achiever Award: Ryan Harrison (Golf)

Special Incentive Award: Susan Kirkham (BMX)

2003/2004 saw the inaugural Geoff Botten Memorial Trophy for "**Most Dedicated Sportsperson**" presented to Christopher Drew (Hockey).

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING FESTIVAL

To signal the beginning of the festival a "lighting up" ceremony took place at the Wadlata Information and Interpretive Centre on Thursday 20, 2003. The windmill was lit up using festoon and decorative lights and the Mayor, Joy Baluch flicking the switch. The month of November and early December was the prime time for the Christmas lights to be on. Judging was conducted December 2 to December 10, with some 271 businesses and residences taking part.

Free Lighting Bus Tours of the businesses, houses and streets were provided by Port Augusta Employment Services on Friday December 5, 2003.



The presentation ceremony was held at the Hotel Flinders on Tuesday December 16, 2003 from noon, with the winners from each category being announced as follows:

Best Residential Display - 16 Seaview Road (Brian and Kay Moroney) who received a \$500 cheque donated by the Transcontinental Newspaper

Best Business Display - Myoora Hotel (Ian and Marie Backshall) who received a \$500 advertising voucher donated by Central TV/Radio 5AU

Best Street Display - Hurcombe Crescent, Port Augusta West who received \$50.00 cheques donated by the Port Augusta City Council.

SAHT Winner - 22 Butler Crescent (Tanya Young) who receive a \$200 cheque donated by the South Australian Housing Trust.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Port Augusta Christmas Pageant had its origins in 1967 and has been organised by the Jaycees and more recently the Rotary Club of Port Augusta in conjunction with the Port Augusta City Council.

Last year some 57 floats were entered with the Quorn/Willsden Wolves Football Club leading the pageant on two laps of Commercial Road. Father Christmas delighted the huge crowd with an appearance at the tail end of the procession.

Winners of the best Float awards were:

Best Float Overall - The Flintstones entered by Anderson Dancers & PA City Council Library who received \$250.00

Best Float School - Dingle Dangle Scarecrow entered by the Port Augusta West Kindergarten who received \$150.00.

Best Float Recreation, Youth or Sport - The Port Augusta Secondary School Swing Band who received \$150.00.

Best Float Public/Private Business/Organisation - Guidolin Carpentry who received \$150.00.

Encouragement Award - The Clowns who received \$100.00

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH AWARD

Volunteering is an activity which is of benefit to the community; it is done of one's free will and is undertaken without monetary reward.

Volunteers play a major role in all aspects of everyday life and without volunteers many community initiatives and services would disappear or be greatly reduced.

Volunteers provide services, support, encouragement and strengthen communities.

Therefore as a way for us to honour the volunteers of our community and give formal recognition to their volunteer contributions, an award for "Volunteer of the Month" was launched in April 2004.

The following volunteers received awards during 2003/2004:

April 2004 - Shirley Mundy

The inaugural presentation and launch of the Volunteer of the Month Award of Recognition was very well received with 45 people in attendance representing a large range of local organisations.

Shirley Mundy was presented her award by Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, Governor of South Australia and Her Worship the Mayor, Joy Baluch.

Shirley volunteers for the Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Services, The Fountain Gallery, Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Meals on Wheel and Red Cross.

May 2004 - Neko Galich

Neko has managed, prepared meals, organised volunteers and served the meals in PAM'S (Port Augusta Meals Service) Kitchen for the past 2 years. PAMS serves meals for the nine anti-poverty agencies (Government & Non-Government) in Port Augusta. In the past 12 months he has planned, prepared and served some 1200 meals to those in need, often buying much of the raw product out of his own pension.

June 2004 - Lorna Campbell

Lorna Campbell works tirelessly for the needs of our community, mainly through the Uniting Church. She regularly visits the sick in hospital, at Ramsay Village and Nerrilda Nursing Home offering comfort and hope. She visits the Prison, where she is involved in Pastoral Care, Christian Education for the prisoners and provides music for the regular Church Services at the Prison. In addition, she is an Elder with the Uniting Church, where her Ministry of caring extend throughout the community as does her musical ability.

TRIBUTE TO GEOFF BOTTEN



GEOFFREY ERNEST FRANCIS BOTTEN - 5/5/1947 - 22/1/2004 (Former Director - Corporate Services of the Port Augusta City Council).

On the 22nd January 2004, Mr Geoff Botten a former long time employee of the Port Augusta City Council passed away suddenly in Adelaide.

Mr Ian McSparran, the former City Manager of the Port Augusta City Council gave a heartfelt eulogy at Geoff's funeral and commented that Geoff's legacy in Port Augusta and Upper Spencer Gulf will be forever remembered. Part of that legacy being:

- the formal establishment and operation of the Junior Sports Assistance Program which has helped many young members of the community to attend State, National and International (World) sporting events;

- the City Ambassador's Program which assisted many local and regional organisations to hold market events in Port Augusta; and
- the development of the Aquaculture Industry, (now a multi-million dollar industry in Upper Spencer Gulf) by convincing the City Council of the day and private industry, to seek Commonwealth and State Government support to assist in the development of facilities to spawn and grow various marine species, such as Oysters, Snapper and Yellowtail Kingfish.

Ian also commented on Geoff's tenacity and his continuous endeavours to ensure that the interests of the City Council and the community were always safeguarded. Geoff will be continually missed by his work colleagues in the Local Government Industry because of his vast knowledge of the intricacies of the Local Government Act and associated Legislation and Regulations. He will also be remembered as a much loved and loving husband, father, brother, son and a great mate.

Va'le Geoff

A U S T R A L I A N C I T I Z E N S H I P

During the reporting period, Her Worship the Mayor held several citizenship ceremonies to enable 13 adults and 3 children to become Australian Citizens.

V I S I T B Y S A G O V E R N O R

Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson

The Miriam High Special Needs Centre, A.M. Ramsay Village and The Royal Flying Doctor Service were just some of the places South Australian Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson visited on her trip to Port Augusta.

Spending a day in the City in May, Her Excellency was accompanied by Port Augusta Mayor, Joy Baluch when she attended a number of functions.



Her Excellency met staff at the Port Augusta City Council and received a presentation on the progress of the Social Vision and Action Plan and developments happening in the City.

Her Excellency also visited Augusta Park Primary School, A.M. Ramsay Village and opened the Royal Flying Doctor Service exhibition at Fountain Gallery.

Of her visit to Port Augusta, Her Excellency said she had visited Port Augusta recently during the celebrations of the first Ghan from Adelaide to Darwin and had enjoyed the celebrations and atmosphere Port Augusta turned on and was pleased to return.

The day after her tour of the City, Her Excellency spent the day with RFDS staff on an Outback clinic run, visiting a number of stations.

She took Olympic medals to show the children on the RFDS run.

"I wanted to come out and see what they (RFDS Staff) do out on the stations."

She acknowledged the wonderful work of the RFDS and said she had met patients who had been air lifted to Adelaide by the RFDS.

"To be able to speak to these patients and you see what wonderful work they (RFDS) do for the people of the country," she said.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT'S VISIT



In March 2004 the Port Augusta City Council hosted between 60-70 3rd Year Architectural Students as part of their Bachelor of Design Studies, to enable them to undertake a study involving a planning and landscape design review of Port Augusta.

There was an emphasis on the environment and sustainability issues in the project designs the students developed after visiting Port Augusta. The visit created the opportunity for new creative design ideas to be produced for Port Augusta and reflected fresh ideas of the students for their vision for the future of the City.

The students were accommodated at the caravan parks located on the Westside and they rode around Port Augusta on their push bikes while they were here.

The projects designed by the students on their return to Adelaide, were presented to the Port Augusta City Council, which provided a range of exciting new development ideas for the City.



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