



*Tatiara District Council*  
2008 - 2009  
Annual  
Report





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## Mayor's Report

Tatiara, "The Good Country". Finally the slogan and the reality are one and the same. While it is early days yet, there is promise of a bountiful harvest and the commensurate economic activity hopefully follows. Our district, like all others in South Australia, Australia and globally have been challenged by the Global Financial Crisis and its fall out. For Council in the short term, there are some advantages amongst this gloom. The cost of funds has been significantly decreased and professional people with skill sets that our Council needs are now more readily attracted to our district.

In response to the Global Financial Crisis, the new Rudd Government acted quickly with one of its most significant responses being the establishment of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Fund. This Council received a one-off payment of \$326,000 under this program, which it allocated to the Civic Centre Redevelopment. Additionally, our district is benefiting from the Building Education Revolution Program for primary schools, with each school in our district benefiting from grants ranging from \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 for infrastructure projects.



*Opening of 50 year time capsule held at the Bordertown Council Office - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

In November, another of the Rudd Federal Government's new initiatives was the establishment of the Council of Australian Local Governments. This inaugural meeting of the nations nearly 600 Mayors, Chairpersons and Shire Presidents was attended by virtually the entire Federal Cabinet and most of the Government members. This serious attempt by the Federal Government to interact professionally with Local Government is of major interest to a regional Council like ourselves, given the increasing percentage of our non rate revenue which they contribute to us.

We also submitted an application to the competitive component of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program for the Keith Sport and Recreation Complex Project. Unfortunately in this instance, we were not successful, but this project remains a high priority for this Council.

After several previous attempts to address the access issues and appropriateness of the various venues within the Civic Centre Complex, we finally made the decision to proceed with the redevelopment at a cost of approx \$4.2m. This was a particularly hard decision for Council to make given the economic climate and uncertainty that prevailed at the time. The new complex will host a much larger, more modern, more useable library, an up to date and more substantial gallery, capable of hosting higher level exhibitions, a new function area comprising 40% of the big hall with acoustic ceilings, retractable wall, carpeting and climate control and an expansive new foyer area with new amenities on the same level of the function room and hall. A lift will provide access to the foyer area and also up to the Council Chamber and meeting room.

This very exciting project is expected to be completed in September 2010.

Hender Street in Keith has benefited from the undergrounding of power lines and next year, will see the entire streetscape upgraded. The Keith Entrances Project welcomes visitors to Keith with three very distinctive art works and landscaping designs.

Local Government in South Australia continues to evaluate the best way of inhibiting, monitoring and dealing with corruption and inappropriate behaviour. We look forward to resolving this issue with the State Government, potentially as part of a National Framework. We in Local Government continue to set standards of accountability and community consultation that other levels of Government are far from emulating.

I wish to thank community members and all volunteers, not only for their input to Council's various Section 41 Committees and services that we provide, but for ensuring the viability and enhancement of our, and I congratulate those citizens who received Volunteer of the Year Awards and Citizen of the Year Awards.

Whilst self reflection often isn't the best judge, I believe this district is well served by a group of Elected Members who both individually and collectively endeavour to sensitively and proactively make sure the Tatiara is a competitive, modern and desirable place to reside and conduct business.

Their selfless service combined with the professionalism of our staff results in this Council providing good value for rate payers.

Richard VICKERY  
Council Mayor



*Hon Gail Gago MP at the opening of the new Scouts and Guides Hall – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009*

## Elected Members as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

### East Ward



**Cr Jo EDWARDS**  
PO Box 4, Wolseley  
Phone: 8753-2323  
Fax: 8753-2379  
Mobile: 0417 827 122  
Email: dunalan@bigpond.com



**Cr Graham EXCELL**  
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Phone: 8753-4096  
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Mobile: 0428 534 096  
Email: gexcell@bigpond.com



**Cr Jan McLELLAN**  
PO Box 59, Wolseley  
Phone: 8753-2217  
Fax: 8753-2201



**Cr Mark MURPHY**  
C/- Post Office, Padthaway  
Phone: 8765-5025  
Fax: 8765-5245  
Mobile: 0408 055 025  
Email: markanderica@bigpond.com



**Cr Diana PENNIMENT**  
PO Box 177, Bordertown  
Phone: 8752-0403  
Fax: 8752-0654  
Mobile: 0419 546 037  
Email: diana.penniment@bigpond.com



**Cr John ROSS**  
RSD 629, Bordertown  
Phone: 8754-2035  
Fax: 8754-2081  
Mobile: 0407 407 929  
Email: alga@lm.net.au



**Cr Steve DICK**  
99 South Tce, Bordertown  
Phone: 8752-1024  
Mobile: 0438 521 024  
Email: sjdick@lm.net.au

### West Ward



**Cr Janet ALLEN**  
PO Box 94, Keith  
Phone: 8755-1126  
Fax: 8755-1551  
Mobile: 0438 551 126  
Email: allenj@harboursat.com.au



**Cr Russell DAVIS**  
PO Box 332, Keith  
Phone: 8755-3040  
Fax: 8755-1722  
Mobile: 0427 641 827  
Email: keithiga@bigpond.com



**Cr Richard VICKERY**  
PMB 88, Keith  
Phone: 8754-2042  
Fax: 8754-2042  
Mobile: 0427 097 436  
Email: coolami@bigpond.com

## Committee Chairpersons as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009



**Cr Richard VICKERY**

**COUNCIL MAYOR**



**Cr John ROSS**

**DEPUTY COUNCIL MAYOR  
&  
Chairman of  
Engineering Committee**



**Cr Diana PENNIMENT**

**Chairman of  
Administration & Finance  
Committee**



**Cr Graham EXCELL**

**Chairman of  
Development Committee**

## Ward Boundaries

The Tatiara District Council area has been divided internally into two areas known as East Ward and West Ward. The East Ward encompasses the townships of Bordertown, Mundulla, Padthaway and Wolseley, whereas the West Ward encompasses the townships of Keith and Willalooka.

## Ward Members

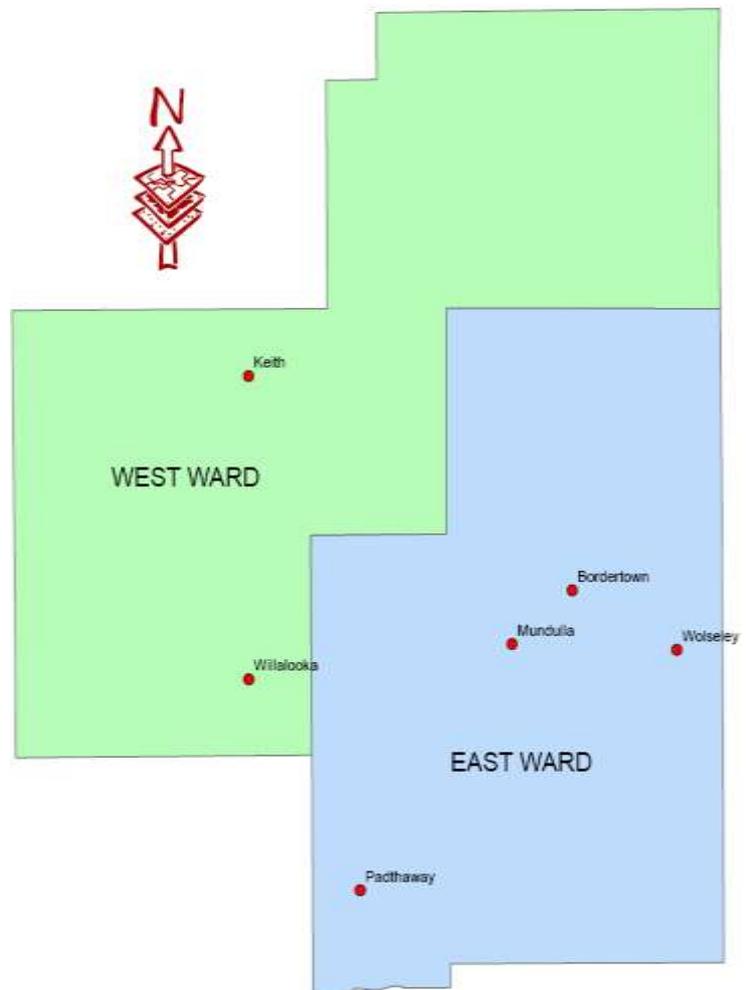
Tatiara District Council is a corporate body consisting of ten (10) Elected Members. In accordance with quota requirements as set out in the Local Government Act 1999 (Section 33), there are seven (7) Elected Members in the East Ward and three (3) Elected Members in the West Ward.

### East Ward:

- Cr Steve DICK
- Cr Jo EDWARDS
- Cr Graham EXCELL
- Cr Jan McLELLAN
- Cr Mark MURPHY
- Cr Diana PENNIMENT
- Cr John ROSS

### West Ward:

- Cr Janet ALLEN
- Cr Russell DAVIS
- Cr Richard VICKERY



## General Information

### District Population

Bordertown	2,445
Keith	1,128
Mundulla	189
Padthaway	340
Wilalooka	358
Wolseley	367
Other areas	1,993
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,820</b>

### Length of Road System

State roads	327km
Council roads and streets	1,947km

### Capital Valuation of Rateable Land

Bordertown	\$224,949,800
Keith	\$101,973,500
Mundulla	\$14,208,000
Padthaway	\$7,091,000
Wolseley	\$4,330,700
Rural	\$1,315,349,700
SUB TOTAL	<u>\$1,667,902,700</u>
Non-rateable	\$28,738,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,696,641,400</u></b>

### Council's Auditor

Galpin, Engler, Bruin & Dempsey  
233 Commercial Street (West)  
Mount Gambier SA 5290

### Council's Banking Corporation

Westpac Banking Corporation  
81 Woolshed Street  
Bordertown SA 5268

### Council Owned Facilities

Council owns a number of buildings and structures throughout the district and is responsible for managing many parcels of crown land. Since the introduction of the Local Government Act 1999, Council staff are considering the requirements of the Act relating to its community land and have prepared management plans for this land.

#### *Major facilities include:*

- Bordertown Council Office and Chamber
- Bordertown Civic Centre and Library
- Bordertown Senior Citizens Clubrooms
- Bordertown Swimming Pool
- Keith and Bordertown Council Works Depots
- Bordertown Saleyards
- Keith Institute
- Keith Swimming Pool
- Old Bordertown School Building
- Recreation Grounds and Buildings at Wolseley
- Wirrega Council Chamber
- Showgrounds at Bordertown and Mundulla

### Council Provides and Maintains

- Roads, footpaths and kerbing
- Traffic control and street closures
- Parking bays and car parks
- Street lighting
- Street sweeping
- Street tree planting
- Public toilets
- Seats and signs
- Library facilities
- Parks, gardens and reserve areas
- STED scheme

### Council Administers

- Parking
- Signage
- Litter control
- Waste removal
- Building and planning regulations
- Development plan
- Dog control and registration
- Immunisation programs
- Home and community care
- Fire prevention

### Council Assists

- Sporting groups
- Community organisations

### Council Advises On

- Infectious diseases
- Pool hygiene
- Pest eradication

### Council Inspects and Licences

- Food premises
- Nursing/Rest Homes
- Sanitary conditions of buildings

### Council Conducts

- Australia Day Awards
- Volunteer Awards
- Citizenship Ceremonies



## Chief Executive Officer's Report

After a number of dry years finally the rains have returned and although nowhere near wet, the Tatiara can once again be called the Good Country! The district needs a good 2009/10 to counteract the effects of low commodity prices, a rising Australian \$ and the Global Economic Crisis.

For Council, 2008/09 was a productive and successful year and this Annual Report includes some of Council's many achievements. This result would not have been possible without the contributions from our volunteers, elected members, Council staff and the general community.

Councillor Richard Vickery continues as Council's Principal Member, being elected as Council's first Mayor at the November meeting. Others on the Council Executive are John Ross (Deputy Mayor and Engineering Committee Chair), Diana Penniment (Administration & Finance Chair) and Graham Excell (Development Committee Chair). In October 2008 Steve Dick attended his first Council meeting after being elected to fill the East Ward vacancy (Tim Wei resigned) at a by-election.

There were a few staff changes in 2008/09, mainly due to Maternity Leave, and this will continue in 2009/10. Council currently has a very skilled and experienced workforce all working together to provide good customer service and to achieve the goals set out in Council's Strategic Management Plan. A priority over the last 12 months has been the development of long term Asset Management Plans and a long term Financial Plan. Initial results indicate that Council has a lot of work to do to maintain its asset base but is well positioned financially to do so.

Council continues to strive to improve its community consultation processes, which included:

- Council meetings again being held at Padthaway and Keith.
- Good attendances and lots of good feedback from community consultation sessions that were held at Bordertown, Keith, Mundulla, Wolesey and Padthaway.
- Residents were invited to comment on Council's draft Annual Business Plan and draft 2009/10 budget.
- More residents taking up the opportunity to have their say at the community forum at the start of each Council meeting.
- Council's Website ([www.tatiara.sa.gov.au](http://www.tatiara.sa.gov.au)) is continually updated with interesting and relevant information about Council activities and policies.

Some of the major issues/projects Council and the district faced over the last year were:

- The Bordertown Skate Park was completed with funding assistance from both Federal and State Governments.
- Work commenced on the Keith entrances project and on the undergrounding of power lines in Hender Street.
- The Scouts and Guides new premises at the old Bordertown Band Hall was opened by Minister Gail Gago in February.
- Council decided to proceed with the upgrade of the Bordertown Civic Centre complex at an estimated cost of \$4.2 million. Additional Federal Government Community Infrastructure grant funding of \$326,000 has been allocated to this project.

- Local community radio station 5tcb closed for a short period due to financial problems but due to the enthusiasm and perseverance of a loyal band of volunteers, started up again.
- Council is still looking to obtain additional water license so it can maintain its parks and garden areas in the manner that the community is used to.
- Discussions continue over the future of Council's 3 Refuse Depots and where our rubbish will be disposed of.

We especially congratulate:

- Our Australia Day Citizen of the Year - Tony Physick, Junior Citizen of the Year - Jack Karger and our Community Event of the Year organizers - the Tatiara Community Support Network for the Chinese New Year Celebrations.
- Our Volunteer of the Year Award recipients were Bev & Francis Harris, Geoff Mackereth, Gordon Creaser and Graham Croser. Council held functions at Bordertown, Keith and Padthaway in May to recognize the tremendous work our many volunteers do.

Council has the continual challenge of finding a balance between what the Community needs and wants and what Council can afford to provide. Councillors and staff have worked hard over the last 12 months to provide a high level of quality service to the residents of the Tatiara. This effort will continue in 2009/10 and beyond.

Mr Robert HARKNESS  
Chief Executive Officer



*Australia Day Celebrations – Padthaway 2009*

## Section 41 Committee Reports

### Bordertown on the Move

I would like to refer to my comments in the Annual Report for 2007/2008:

*The ongoing development of Bordertown in consultation with the community is paramount in building the framework for infrastructure, the environment and the social well being for our town.*

*As a Section 41 Committee, Bordertown on the Move's main objective is to be innovative and forward thinking in making recommendations to Council to help make this happen, enabling both the residents of Bordertown, the Tatiara and visitors alike, to benefit from the amenities we have to offer.*

*The Bordertown on the Move report handed to Council in 1994 was a staged report. Whilst not set in concrete the committee has basically followed the stages with the upgrading of Woolshed Street, Apex Park, town signage and town entrances.*

This year under review has been interesting. Some items of note:

The kerbing, installation of footpaths and streetscaping in North Terrace is still ongoing. \$100,000 has been included in the 2009/10 budget for North Terrace footpaths.

The BMX track has been completed and also the Skate Ramp and surrounds. This has been an outstanding addition to the ongoing improvements to Memorial Park. The next stage now needs to be considered by Council (children's playground) so that the project does not lose momentum. Budgetary constraints may have a bearing on this project moving forward.



*Opening of the Bordertown Skate Park – 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

The Recreation Lake continues to be a problem. Council has addressed the vandalism issues but is now faced with the problem of maintaining the water level. A difficult challenge but necessary as the Lake features prominently in our tourism brochures and on the Tatiara District Council website.

Special Effort Awards have been presented to Border Gym, Tatiara Karting Club, Bordertown High School Eisteddfod, Bob Taylor representing the Christmas Eve Committee, Bordertown Speedway Club and Bordertown Scouts and Guides.

Items still under notice include the footbridge on North Terrace, continuation of Memorial Park upgrade, wheelchair access to a number of street intersections, median strip on the Duke's Highway, footpath on Cannawigara Road and North Terrace paving and streetscaping.

To all members of the Bordertown on the Move Committee, thank you for being there for the long haul. The implementation of the vision we have for Bordertown and developing strategies for the future is a slow process. However, if you reflect on where we were in 1994 and where we are today, we have come a long way.

Mr Ken MCINERNEY  
Chairman

### Bordertown Civic Centre Management Committee

The past year has been a waiting game for Civic Centre users. Questions of whether the redevelopment will proceed or not were frequently asked. In spite of these questions, regular users of the complex continued their patronage, in particular KinderGym and the Table Tennis Club. Films have become a regular occurrence thanks to Mr Tyson Brown and a regular projectionist, and maintain high attendances.

After a long wait, the redevelopment has been passed by Council to proceed and we can look forward to a new user friendly Civic Centre. Easier access for all will delight those who've not always been able to attend the entertainment on offer, an improved library area and a functional main hall. Our theatre has always been praised by visiting performers, but will be enhanced by the improvements and for lovers of visual arts, a better gallery will entice even further.

We look forward to the new and improved complex with excitement.

Ms Nancy MATTINSON  
Chairman

### Clayton Farm Heritage Museum Management Committee

In March of 2009, our caretakers Vicki and Michael Eckert resigned and we appointed Ingrid Srubjan as caretaker. Ingrid commenced at Clayton Farm soon after Easter whilst volunteers looked after Clayton Farm between the Eckert's departure and Ingrid's arrival. Ingrid has a background in history and has worked for the History Trust for some time.

Next year Mundulla will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> show and Clayton Farm has been invited to display and work crop harvesting machinery. We are currently restoring and rebuilding a winnower, autosythe, stripper and Fergy tractor.

We have completed repairs to the hay shed in accordance with direction from Richard Woods, Councils heritage advisor and his engineer.

Members attended the National Vintage Machinery Rally at Murray Bridge and the Mundulla Show where they displayed old machines and promoted Clayton Farm.

Last year we built an extension to the office to be a kitchen for preparing lunches during group visits to the farm and this kitchen is within OH&S standards. We had several bus loads of visitors including Keith Mens Club, Probus, Bordertown Primary School and a Garden Club from Adelaide.

Three members attended a fire safety course held with the Tatiara District Council in April for OHS&W purposes. Volunteers have spent 2,662 hours working at Clayton Farm over the past 12 months. During the past year, items around the farm have been photographed and catalogued on the new computer program 'Mosaic'. The aim is to have all items catalogued, including the smallest items in the house.

Rebuilding the pig sties which were burnt in the fire is the next major project. Hopefully this work can commence soon. We are now looking for old posts which can be used.

The majority of our visitors come to Clayton Farm through information received at the Visitor Information Centre.

Mr Phillip SALMON  
Chairman



[www.antonycirocco.com](http://www.antonycirocco.com)

Clayton Farm

### **Council Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee aims to provide a bridge between Elected Members, management and the community to ensure the accuracy and importance of Council's long-term financial viability and sustainability. More specifically, the Audit Committee's main priorities for 2008/09 included:

- Reviewing the 2008/09 annual financial statements to ensure they fairly presented the state of affairs of Council.
- Proposing, and contributing relevant information to, a review of Council's strategic management and annual business plan.
- Liaising with Council's auditor on the adequacy of Council's accounting, internal control, reporting and other financial management systems and practices.
- Reviewing Council's quarterly financial reports to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's operations to ensure congruence with its four-year strategic management plan and annual business plan.

- Reviewing Council's Draft Long Term Financial Plan and recommending its adoption.
- In accordance with the Local Government Financial Sustainability Program, continuing to refine a series of financial indicators that have been incorporated into Council's Model Financial Statements. These indicators provide information on financial performance, financial position and long term viability, with performance targets currently being developed for each financial indicator.

The Committee continues to review the development of Council's Asset Management Framework, ensuring it is based on industry standards and lifecycle asset management principles. The Committee is working with staff to ensure asset inventories have been established and will continue to be updated and processes have been defined to identify renewal, rehabilitation and maintenance requirements based on service standards and asset performance. Initial work had concentrated on 'high value high risk' assets, including buildings, roads and footpaths. Work still continues to extend to other asset classes, with all information being integrated into Council's long-term financial planning framework.

The Committee was pleased to see the inclusion of Council's strategic plan in the Annual Business Plan and were of the opinion that this improved its content.

The Committee appreciates the assistance provided to it by Council staff, who have facilitated a communication process that has resulted in a high level of accountability, transparency and good governance.

Mr Ken MCINERNEY  
Chairman

### **Keith Swimming Pool Management Committee**

The past year has seen some big improvements to the Keith Swimming Pool. All paving surrounding the pool and barbecue shed have been replaced. This was to be done over several years, but it was decided to be more cost effective to complete whilst the contractor was on site.

Chemical containers from the pump shed have been relocated to a new fenced and bunded area. Lane lines have been repainted, a new cover fitted to shade the southern side of the pool and a basketball ring erected which was donated by the ANZ bank.

These improvements have made the pool a more user friendly and attractive place to visit.

Pool attendance was down slightly on previous years, but the pool was very well used during the heat wave. Many clubs and groups enjoyed the pool during the year including the Keith Swimming Club, school swimming classes, VacSwim, private lessons, early morning swimmers, squad and carnivals from surrounding areas.

The replacement of the pump shed and electrical upgrade will be the next major improvement. Thank you to our pool manager, Leanne Gill for her commitment and endeavour over the past year and thanks to the management committee for their assistance in 2008/09. Council staff are also to be commended on their assistance, in particular Mr Rocky Callisto for his effective management of works completed in 2008/09.

Cr Russell DAVIS  
Chairman



*Keith Swimming Pool*

### **Keith Urban Development Committee**

The Keith Urban Development Committee has continued to work with Council, the Keith Community and Landscape Architects, Oxigen, to develop a coordinated approach to maintaining and upgrading the Keith township.

Early in 2009, the process of undergrounding the power in Hender St began and should be completed by the end of August 2009. The upgrading of the paving and streetscape will take place after this, finishing in 2010.

The three entrance statements are underway and should be an attractive landscaped area. The use of art works designed by local artist Julia Davis will highlight local industries and products.

The smaller projects Council has undertaken include the upgrade of the Interment Wall at the cemetery, the Institute garden, replacement of the Park Tce fence and the old Council depot reinstatement. The extension of the bike/walking track linking Tolmer Tce, Park Tce and Naracoorte Rd has proved to be popular. The area around the Heritage St toilets was paved and planted in a Council and school initiative called Targeted Works.

The drought continues to challenge us and Council staff have worked hard to maintain the parks and gardens in the town. The community also continues to work towards a safer, more attractive town. These community groups include the Lions Club, Apex Club, the Conservation Park Group, the Keith War Memorial Community Centre, Keith Means Business, Keith National Trust, Keith Institute Committee, Keith Caravan Park Committee, Keith Swimming Pool Committee, Keith Showgrounds Committee, Keith Sport and Rec Committee, various sporting clubs and the newly formed Neighbourhood Watch.

This year we will be developing plans for the upgrade of the railway yards and cemetery gates. The committee will continue to advise Council on issues relating to the town and parks development and safety.

We are living in "interesting times" and it is important for our local economy that we maintain our facilities to attract travellers off the road as well as for the Keith community to enjoy and be proud of. Thank you to the members of Keith Urban Development Committee who continue to be a positive, forward thinking group to work with who provide valuable input to Council decisions.

Cr Janet ALLEN  
Chairman



### **Tatiara District Memorial Pool Management Committee**

After my first year of Chairman of the Tatiara District Memorial Pool Committee, I am happy to report on a good season with a new Pool Manager and some changes being made.

I would like to congratulate Michele Vincent on her first year as Pool Manager, as it was a big learning curve with the running of the pool. Michele will find it easier for the upcoming season now that she has one season under her belt.

The two new pool blankets that were purchased from grant money were a big help with keeping the water temperature at a constant level (if not too warm!). Attendances were up and down, with the start of the season being cooler and February being the hottest month with good attendance.

Dolphins and Bordertown Swimming Clubs utilised the pool with weekly trainings and also time trials and carnivals. Both clubs purchased and donated new barbecues for public use whilst at the pool. The Dolphins Club purchased a new lane rope that both clubs were able to utilise for their respective training schedules.

VacSwim, AustSwim, Life Guard and school swimming programs were run during the season with good attendances. The Bordertown High School was host to the SESSA carnival in February with a large number of patrons passing through the gate.

Royal Life Saving promoted a new program in December titled "Swim and Survive". The program was well attended and with the community now knowing how the program is run, it will be utilised better this coming season.

Quite a few improvements were made around the pool this season which included:

- Two new pool blankets
- Paved area for storage of the pool blankets
- Two new barbecues purchased
- Canvas covers for the pool blankets
- Storage area in disused toilet block
- New sign making public aware of pool hours if inclement weather and low attendance
- New chemical controller installed
- Rainwater tank installed near canteen
- Shades installed over change rooms

A sub-committee has been formed to advise on entry and hire fees for the upcoming season. There are a lot of areas to discuss regarding this subject including keeping charges to a minimum to encourage new patrons to utilise the pool facility.

In closing I would like to thank the Committee for their support over the past season and look forward to the coming season.

Mr Lawrie TUCKER  
Chairman



### **Tatiara Road Safety Group**

We have again had a productive year with a range of subjects discussed and some put forward for action.

Earlier in the year a stand was organized at the Lucindale Field Days in which the Tatiara Road Safety Committee was involved.

In Keith, the railway crossing at Densley Avenue and Bunker Road was discussed. It has now been approved for installation of warning signals in the near future.

In Keith the problem for pedestrians crossing the Duke's Highway from the northern residential area was highlighted. This especially is a problem for school children coming through the tunnel and then trying to get across the busy highway. This situation has been addressed and plans for a solution are being drawn up by Council.

The problems at the Martins Camp Road and Dukes Highway intersection at Keith were also raised again, as this has had no action and remains a very dangerous corner, with school buses and large semi-trailers using the road. We would hope a solution will be found soon.

Finance for driver training in rural areas is being sought, after funding was cut by the Motor Accident Commission.

Purchase of reflective armbands for pedestrians and bicycle riders has been sourced and is being negotiated.

A vehicle inspection amnesty has been recommended, to check the roadworthiness of vehicles. This operation will be held in coming months in Bordertown and Keith.

It is with concern that the reduction of country road speed limits has been opposed by SELGA, after discussion of this matter the question was asked why?

Thank you to Dawn Kanofski for her help and guidance. Thanks to Heidi Pfeiffer for her efficient work at meetings, to assist Ray Gilmartin with secretarial duties. Also thank you to Stow Penniment for stepping into the Chair when I have been unable to attend meetings, and to the whole group for their valuable input.

Mr Peter COOK  
Chairman

### **Tatiara Tourism Group**

The Tatiara Tourism Group has been involved in a diverse range of projects in the last year, all aimed at supporting and developing tourism in the Tatiara.

**Photo Competition** – a photo competition was held with the aim of acquiring quality photos of the Tatiara for use in tourism promotion. This was very successful, with 115 entries being received (all entrants except one were Tatiara residents) on four topics –

- History
- Nature
- Agriculture
- People at Work or Play

A special event was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to announce the winners and open the display of winning photos in the Walkway Gallery. They were displayed for a month in both Bordertown and Keith, giving locals and visitors ample time to view them. We are grateful to Hansen Print for being a major sponsor, Malcolm McEachern and Cindy MacDonald for judging the entries and also to Tyson Brown for helping mount the display.

It has been decided to hold the competition every two years so the next competition will be held during the 2010/11 financial year. It is planned to have topics more directed to tourism and more categories to cater for the range of photographic styles.

**District Famil** - The group conducted a district famil trip around the Tatiara in October – the last was held three years ago. We produced a report on minor maintenance and upgrade works needed for infrastructure and signage of importance to tourism. These works have slowly been completed over time.

**David Pisoni MP – Shadow Minister for Tourism** – We responded to a letter from David Pisoni MP. The letter sought submissions for inclusion in a general discussion paper on tourism for policy development. In our reply we made two major points:-

1. The importance of tourism for the whole state and the need to highlight country regions more.
2. The poor state signage for South Australia at the border in comparison with others such as that at the SA/NT border.

**Tatiara Visitor Guide** – The new Tatiara Visitor Guide was launched at a breakfast event on the 29<sup>th</sup> August. We invited Mr Steve Bourne, Chairman of Limestone Coast Tourism to officiate. The breakfast was very well attended by invited guests from Council, our advertisers, Visitor Information Centre volunteers and Committee members. We have been pleased that in these difficult times, our advertiser numbers have remained much the same with some new businesses replacing others.

New features in this issue of the Guide are:

- A new walking trail for Padthaway
- Bigger and indexed maps, making them easier to read
- Information on skate parks, golf courses and art galleries

These highlight more things of interest for visitors whilst they are in the region. Several entries from the photo competition were included. We have retained the front page with its special depiction of the white kangaroo on the purple background, as this has become our icon and a great point of difference for our guide on the brochure stands.

25,000 copies were printed and from past experience, we expect this to last for approximately two years. Brochures are distributed to all Visitor Information Centres in the state, many in western Victoria, local tourist operators and of course, to the many visitors at our own Visitor Information Centre in Bordertown. Another new feature this year will be the availability of the brochure to be downloaded from the Tatiara website as a PDF file, a useful tool for prospective interstate and international visitors.

**Gourmet Tour of the Tatiara** – To support Tourism Week in October, the Committee hosted a gourmet tour of the Tatiara, visiting the Old Mundulla Hotel and the Cellar Doors of Padthaway Estate, Henry's Drive and Stonehaven, with the aim of promoting local tourism and showcasing what is available in our own backyard.

**Gold Escort Trail Brochure** – Development and production of a Gold Escort Trail brochure was produced in house at low cost and is an attractive information sheet for those who wish to know more about the gold escort trail and explore it for themselves.

#### **New developments for the next financial year:**

- A special committee is presently working on an Arts Trail Brochure for the Tatiara, following a suggestion from Bordertown High School arts teacher, Rose Milton. This will actually result in two brochures; one for public and community art and another for artists and art galleries within the Tatiara.
- New signage to support the Padthaway History Walk featured in the new guide is being worked on at present, and should be erected within the next few months.

The Committee has remained stable this year, with no resignations and all members contributing actively to the work carried out over the past twelve months. Rosemary Roberts and Purdey Finlayson have been particularly helpful in brochure development and Chris Mackereth is once again to be commended for her excellent and thorough work as group secretary. Her support gives great value to the achievements of our group. We also appreciate the support from Tyson Brown (Arts and Community Development Officer, Tatiara District Council) so freely given when requested.

Mrs Pam FOULIS  
Chairman



*Bordertown Visitor Information Centre*

#### **Tatiara Native Vegetation Advisory Group**

Council has an Advisory Group which comments on Native Vegetation clearance applications that are referred to Council. This group has been in operation for over eight years.

The Advisory Group members are Bryan Paech (Chairman), Charles Crozier (Secretary), Trevor Thomas, Ed Davis, Mike Gaden, Jamie Steer, David Lowe and Raelene Eats.

The members have expertise and experience in many different areas ranging from native vegetation and soil management.

The primary role of the group is to comment on the amenity value of vegetation under application. Even though there have been minimal applications the group is pro-active.

It may also comment on other aspects where relevant to the principles of clearance set out in the Native Vegetation Act and where the body believes it has appropriate qualifications or experience to provide such comments.

When considering 'other' aspects the group attempts to provide a balanced view so issues such as revegetation, economics and biodiversity are considered.

2008/09 has seen limited inspections carried out. Our committee is always willing to make time available when required to do inspections fairly and consistently, using the guidelines provided.

The management of Stringy Bark trees has been an ongoing issue of concern for landowners particularly in the Upper South East around Bordertown for several years.

As the trees are very mature, branches hang down and spread along the ground, impeding access for rabbit control and inhibiting pasture management and stock mustering.

A funding application was submitted to the Native Vegetation Council to undertake trials for the 'management of stringy bark trees on sandy rises' in September 2006.

Unfortunately there have been no trials undertaken even though Council has been informally notified that it was successful in obtaining a grant.

The recent Planning Review has recommended changes to Native Vegetation processes, which envisages greater autonomy at local/regional level in native vegetation management.

Mr Bryan PAECH  
Chairman



Tolmer Park – Bordertown

#### **Tatiara Roadside Vegetation Management Committee**

This group consists of 3 members of the public who:

- Have knowledge of, and an interest in native vegetation.
- Are appointed by Council and endorsed by the Native Vegetation Council.
- Have authority to approve minor applications to remove roadside native vegetation.
- Meet on an "as required" basis but individual members inspect roadside sites on a more regular basis.
- Provide advice to Council staff in line with Councils approved Roadside Vegetation Management Guidelines.

Current group members are Brian Clarke, Trevor Thomas and Ed Davis.

Council and the Native Vegetation Council have been toing and froing for some time over a review of Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Policy. It is now accepted that our existing policy needs to be expanded and work has commenced on this project.

Council again contributed \$5,000 to Professor John Randles and Dr Dagmar Hanold from the Waite Institute to assist them further investigate the cause and a possible solution to "Mundulla Yellows".

Mr Robert HARKNESS  
Acting Secretary

#### **Bordertown Sports and Showgrounds Management Committee**

The Bordertown Sports and Showground Committee met 4 times during 2008/09 and comprisea volunteers who demonstrate a high level of passionate and dedicated commitment to representing their sporting and community club.

The representative groups include the: Bordertown Football Club; Bordertown Cricket Club; Bordertown Apex Club; Bordertown Show Society; Tatiara Lodge; Bordertown Netball Club; Pistol Club; a community elected representative; and a Council representative (normally the Manager Corporate and Community Services). Clearly, the Bordertown Sports and Showground Committee is a case of local people serving the community.

More specifically the committee has attempted to:

- Coordinate the aims, objectives, policies and strategies of the sporting clubs and community organisations to identify realistic and effective individual and/or joint funding opportunities and initiatives.
- Identify and coordinate strategic priorities and opportunities which Council can provide assistance.
- Consider and review the sporting and community activities of the sporting clubs and community organisations to support their operations and non-infrastructure assets.
- Ensure that the sporting clubs and community organisations optimise community development opportunities.

The Committee seeks to position the Bordertown Showground as a vital and resourceful regional sporting and community centre with significant natural, built and cultural attractions, and quality sustainable events and festivals. A key element of the Committee's success over the past 12 months has been the maintenance of close working relationships and rapport between the respective groups and the significant investment of time and resources into these activities.



Mr Kingsley GREEN  
Chairman



## *Administration Report*

- Our Mission, Our Vision & Our Values
  - Senior Executive Officers
  - Decision Making Structure
    - Organisation Structure
- Nominated Council Representatives
  - Elected Member Allowances
  - Elected Member Attendances
    - Meeting Times
  - Elector Representation
  - Confidentiality Provisions
  - Freedom of Information
- Mandatory Registers, Policies and Codes
  - Equal Employment Opportunity
    - Cost Effective Delivery
  - Strategic Management Plan
  - National Competition Principles

## Our Mission...

To make the Tatiara a better and safer place to live, work and visit

## Our Vision...

To be a progressive and well managed Council that works closely with its various communities

## Our Values...

- We value rigorous debate conducted by well informed Council Members
- We facilitate socially and environmentally responsible development
- We will display leadership and reflect community aspirations
- We believe in transparency and accountability
- We value respect and loyalty

## Senior Executive Officers

As at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Council had four Senior Executive Officers under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999.



**Mr Robert HARKNESS**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**Mr Kingsley GREEN**

Manager  
Corporate & Community  
Services



**Mr Rocky CALLISTO**

Manager  
Development &  
Inspectorial Services



**Mr Ray GILMARTIN**

Manager  
Technical Services

All four of these officers are engaged under contracts. Their total remuneration packages consisted of the following:

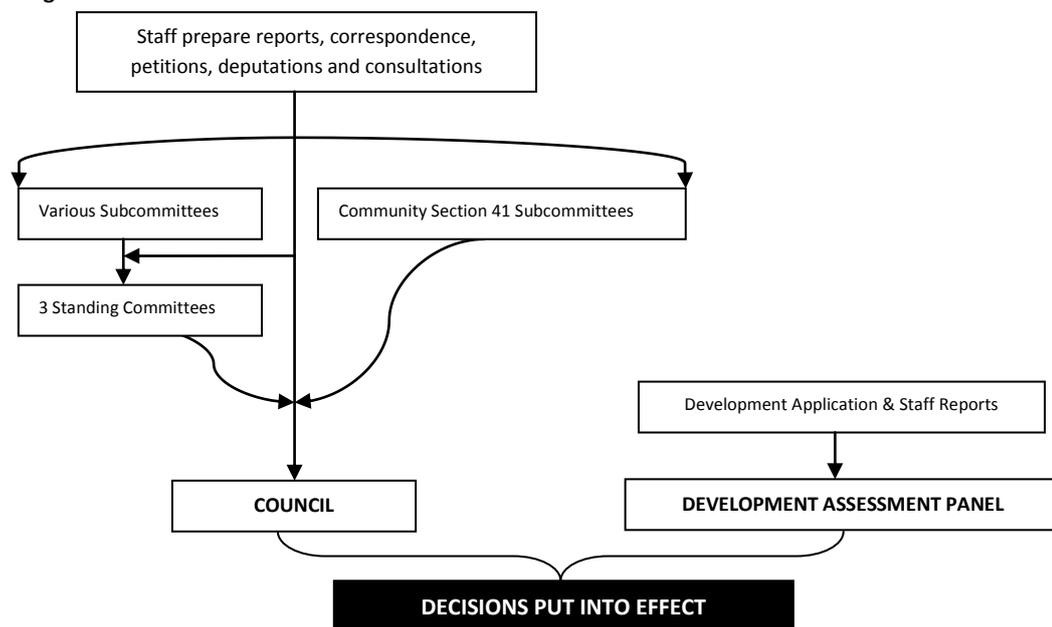
**Chief Executive Officer**, Mr Robert Harkness – Total remuneration package includes, salary, superannuation, plus private use of vehicle (3-year contract).

**Manager Corporate & Community Services**, Mr Kingsley Green – Total remuneration package includes salary, superannuation, plus private use of a vehicle in lieu of overtime (4-year contract).

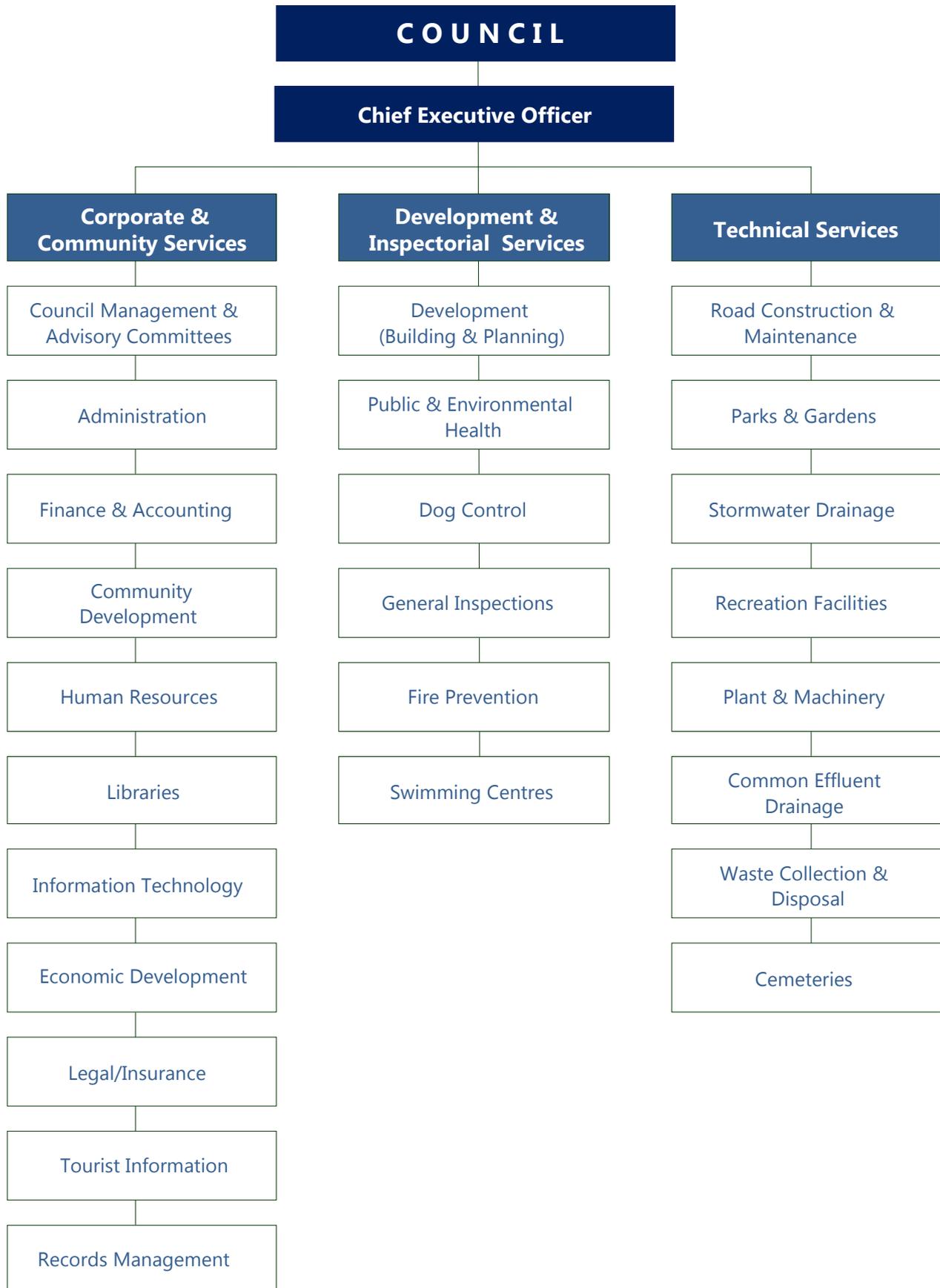
**Manager Development & Inspectorial Services**, Mr Rocky Callisto – Total remuneration package includes salary, superannuation, plus private use of a vehicle in lieu of overtime (3-year contract).

**Manager Technical Services**, Mr Ray Gilmartin – Total remuneration package includes salary, superannuation, plus private use of a vehicle in lieu of overtime (4-year contract).

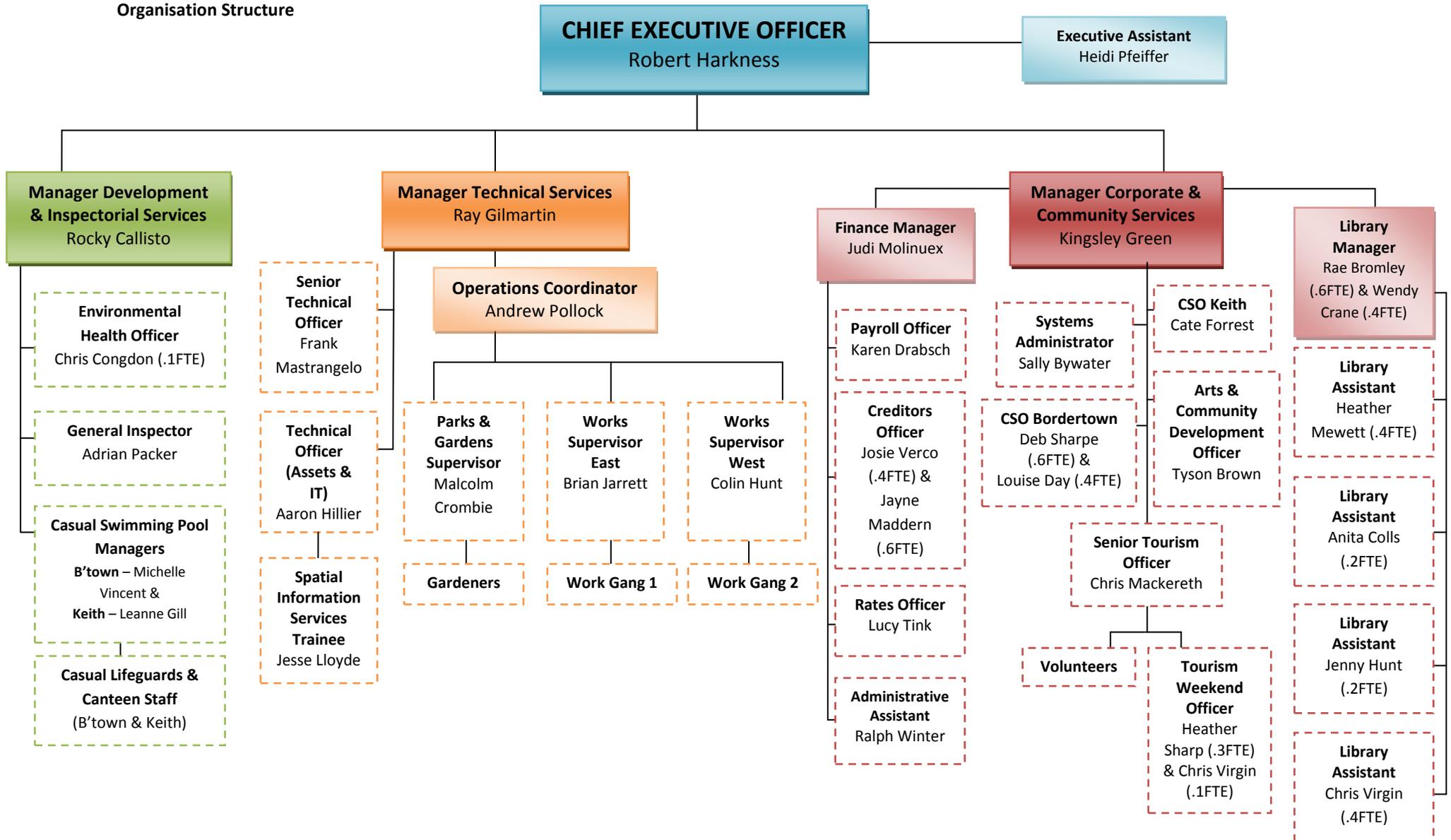
## Decision Making Structure



**Corporate Structure**



Organisation Structure



## Nominated Council Representatives

Representatives as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Committee / Organisation	Nominated Council Representatives
Bordertown Memorial Hospital Advisory Council	Cr S Dick
Local Government Association voting delegate	Mayor Cr R Vickery
Local Government Finance Authority SA voting delegate	Mayor Cr R Vickery
South East Local Government Association (SELGA)	Mayor Cr R Vickery (Proxy – Deputy Mayor Cr J Ross & Cr G Excell)
Tatiara Community Health Service Advisory Board	Cr J McLellan (Proxy – Cr J Allen)
Bordertown High School Equipment Trust Fund	Cr D Penniment
Tatiara Fire Prevention Committee	Cr G Excell & Mr Peter Micklem
SELGA's Waste Management Subcommittee	Engineering Chairman Cr J Ross & Mngr. Technical Services
Box Flat Dingo Control Committee	Cr J Ross (Proxy – Tony Hedges)
SELGA's Roads & Transport Subcommittee	Engineering Chairman Cr J Ross & Mngr. Technical Services
Keith Community Library	Cr R Vickery, Mrs Mary Densley & Mrs Meredith Cunningham
Tatiara Road Safety Group	Cr S Dick
Tatiara Tourism Committee	Cr J Allen & Cr D Penniment
SELGA Telecommunications Subcommittee	Mngr. Corporate & Community Services
Keith Gymnasium Committee	Cr R Davis
Tatiara Community Support Network	Cr J McLellan
Keith Urban Development Committee	Cr J Allen & Cr R Davis
Bordertown Sports & Showgrounds Committee	Mngr. Corporate & Community Services
Public Transport Committee	Cr J McLellan & Mngr. Corporate & Community Services (Proxy – Cr J Allen)
Bordertown on the Move	Cr D Penniment
Keith Swimming Pool Committee	Cr R Davis
Tatiara District Memorial Pool Management Committee	Cr D Penniment
Bordertown Civic Centre Management Committee	Cr J Edwards
Audit Committee	Independent Member Mr K McInerney, Cr R Vickery, Cr D Penniment, Cr J Ross & Cr G Excell
Tatiara District Council Development Assessment Panel	Independent Members Mr B Hender, Mr E Langley, Mrs C Thompson, Cr R Vickery & Cr G Excell

### Elected Member Allowances

The below allowance amounts (as of November 2008) are per annum and are paid in arrears:

#### Type of Allowance:

- Mayor \$34,000 (payable monthly)
- Deputy Mayor \$10,625 (payable quarterly)
- Standing Committee Presiding Member \$10,625 (payable quarterly)
- Elected Member \$8,500 (payable quarterly)

Councillors are also reimbursed for expenses such as travelling and the Mayor is provided with a vehicle for Council use.

### Meeting Times

As of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009, meetings are held as outlined below and the public are welcome to attend as part of the gallery:

- Committee Meetings – held on the first Tuesday of each month commencing at 2.00pm.
- Council Meetings – held on the second Tuesday of each month commencing at 4.00pm.

## Elected Member Attendances

Elected Members	Council		Standing Committee	
	Normal (12)	Special (3)	Normal (12)	Special (0)
JB Allen	12	3	11	0
RJ Davis	9	3	10	0
SL Dick	12	3	11	0
JF Edwards	11	3	11	0
GJ Excell	11	3	12	0
JE McLellan	11	2	9	0
MF Murphy	11	3	11	0
DE Penniment	11	3	11	0
JS Ross	10	2	10	0
RJ Vickery	12	2	12	0

## Elector Representation

### Representation Quota

The Tatiara District Council is a corporate body consisting of 10 Elected Members. The Council area has been divided internally into two areas known as East and West Wards. There is a requirement in the Local Government Act (Section 33) that the number of people represented by a Councillor in a ward must not vary by more than 10% from other wards. Currently the Tatiara District Council has 5,596 electors broken into East Ward 3,935 and West Ward 1,651. East Ward with 7 Councillors has a Councillor/Elector ratio of 1:562 while West Ward with 3 Councillors has a Councillor/Elector ratio of 1:550.

Representation Quota for Councils of similar size:

- Coorong District Council 1:602
- Naracoorte Lucindale Council 1:628
- Wattle Range Council 1:872
- Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council 1:779
- Goyder Regional Council 1:579
- Grant District Council 1:713

### Review of Council Representation

Council undertook a review of Council Representation in January 2005 in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, which states that Councils must undertake an Elector Representation Review every 6 years.

Advertisements were placed in local papers, the Advertiser and Government Gazette advising the public that Council was undertaking a review and inviting written submissions on the subject. Council received 2 submissions.

Council's decision was to remain with 2 wards, the same boundaries and with 10 Councillors. East Ward remains with 7 Councillors and West Ward remains with 3. Council also resolved to change the name of the Council from "The District Council of Tatiara" to "Tatiara District Council".

## Elector's Submission on Representation

With the term of Councillors being increased from 3 to 4 years, the next planned Electoral Review will take place in 2013. Under Section 28 of the Act a group of at least 20 eligible electors may submit to a Council a submission that the Council consider a proposal:

1. To alter the boundaries of the Council;
2. To alter the composition of the Council or the representative structure of the Council (including by the creation, alteration or abolition of wards);
3. To incorporate within the area of the Council a part of the State that is not within the area of a Council.

A submission under subsection (2) must:

1. Set out in general terms the grounds on which the submission is made and the issues that, in the opinion of the person or persons making the submission, should be considered in an assessment of the matter; and
2. Nominate five persons who are willing to represent the interests of persons who would be directly affected by any proposal based on the matters raised in the submission; and
3. Comply with guidelines published by the Panel.

The eligible electors making the submission must furnish a copy of a submission under subsection (2) to the Panel in accordance with guidelines published by the Panel.

On the receipt of a submission under subsection (2), a Council must consider the issues determined by the Council to be relevant to the matter and then decide whether or not it is willing to:

1. Conduct a review in relation to the matter under Division 2 of Part 1; or
2. Formulate (or participate in the formulation of) a proposal in relation to the matter under Division 4 of this Part.

The Council must give the eligible electors and the Panel written notice of its decision under subsection (6) in accordance with guidelines published by the Panel (which may include a time-frame within which a decision should be made under that subsection).

A group of eligible electors who, after making a submission under subsection (2), are dissatisfied with:

1. A decision of a Council under subsection (6); or
2. Any aspect of a review or proposal referred to in that subsection, may submit the submission, or a submission in substantially the same terms, to the Panel.

## Confidentiality Provisions

In fulfilling the role of an effective Council that is responsive to the needs of the community and operates within the legal framework as prescribed by the Local Government Act, Council is fully committed to the principle of open and accountable Government, whilst recognising that on some occasions it may be necessary in the broader community interest to restrict public access to discussion or documents.

Council and/or a Council Committee went into confidence twice this past year to discuss:

- On one occasion, information of a confidential nature that (not being a trade secret) the disclosure of which 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 would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest – Section 90 (3) (d).
- On one occasion, information of a confidential nature, the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead) – Section 90 (3) (a).

Council has a Code of Practice – Access to Council Meetings & Documents. The objectives of this code are to:

- Clearly outline to the community for what purpose and on what basis Council may apply the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 to restrict public access to meetings or documents;
- Provide information on Council's code of practice to the community; and
- Summarise the legal position relating to public access to Council and Committee meetings and documents.

A copy of this code is available at the Council Office. Any enquiries in relation to the process for seeking access to documents held by the Council should be directed to Council's nominated Freedom of Information Officer, Mr Robert Harkness on (08) 8752-1044.

### ***Freedom of Information***

This Information Summary is published by Council in accordance with the requirements of Section 9 of the Freedom of Information Act 1991. Council is pleased to comply with this regulation and welcomes enquiries under the Freedom of Information Act.

#### **Section 1 – Policy Documents**

- Standing Committee Agendas & Minutes
- Ordinary Council Agenda & Minutes
- Policy Manual
- Delegated Authority Manual
- Budget Statement
- Annual Financial Accounts
- Council By-Laws
- The Annual Report
- Strategic Management Plan
- Annual Business Plan

**Section 2 – Information Statement** - A copy of the Tatiara District Council Information Statement can be obtained free of charge via the contact arrangements below.

**Section 3 – Contact Arrangements** - All enquiries and applications under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 in relation to the Tatiara District Council should be made in accordance with the provisions of that Act to: Chief Executive Officer, Tatiara District Council PO Box 346, Bordertown SA 5268. Telephone enquiries to the Chief Executive Officer can be made on (08) 8752 1044 from 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday.

**Certificates issued under Section 65zy** - No certificates relating to Freedom of Information requests were issued under Section 65zy of the Freedom of Information Act in the twelve months to June 2009.

### **Mandatory Registers, Policies & Codes**

#### ***Mandatory Registers***

Under the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999, Council is required to list the following registers:

1. Members Register of Interest
2. Members Register of Allowances and Benefits
3. Officers Register of Remuneration
4. Officers Register of Interest
5. Community Land Register
6. By-Law Register
7. Public Roads Register

#### ***Council Policy Documents***

Under the Local Government Act 1999, Council is required to list policy documents of the Council current at the end of the financial year. These policies include:

1. Policy Manual
2. Delegated Authorities Policy
3. District Council of Tatiara By-Law No's 1-6
4. Meeting Procedure Code of Practice
5. Elected Members Allowance & Support Policy
6. Control of Election Signs Policy
7. Public Consultation Policy
8. Contracts and Tenders Policy
9. Fees and Charges Policy
10. Code of Conduct for Elected Members
11. Code of Conduct for Employees
12. Cemetery Policy
13. Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure
14. Code of Practice – Access to Council Meetings & Documents
15. Order Making Policy
16. Benchmarking Policy
17. Roadside Vegetation Policy – Guidelines for Management
18. Risk Management Policy
19. Rate Rebate Policy
20. Mobile Phone Policy
21. Information Policy
22. Computer Systems Usage Policy
23. Records Management Policy
24. Recognising Years of Staff Service Policy
25. Community Financial Assistance Policy
26. Volunteer Policy
27. Service Standards Policy
28. Asset Management Policy
29. Councillors Training and Development Policy
30. Internal Control Policy
31. Council Managed Facilities Hire Grant Policy
32. Photocopying Facilities for Community Groups Policy
33. Code of Conduct for Council's Development Assessment Panel
34. Itinerant Traders & Mobile Vendors Policy
35. Local Heritage Grant Scheme Guidelines and Policy

36. Travel and Accommodation Policy
37. Use of Council Machinery for Community Groups Policy
38. Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy

#### **Mandatory Codes of Conduct or Practice**

Under the Local Government Act 1999, and the Local Government (Elections) Act 1999, Council is required to list the following codes of conduct or practice:

1. Meeting Procedure Code of Practice
2. Code of Conduct for Elected Members, Officers and Employees of Local Government
3. Code of Practice – Access to Council Meetings & Documents

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

Council's Equal Opportunity Policy clearly states the Council has a commitment to appointment on merit and a policy to provide equal opportunity for all persons regardless of sex, race, marital status, religious belief, physical ability or sexual preference.

Issues associated with Equal Employment Opportunity are covered under the umbrella of Council's Consultative Committee and Single Bargaining Unit and not by a specific Equal Employment Opportunity Committee. Experience has shown that this is a very satisfactory method of deal with all Equal Employment Opportunity issues.

#### **Cost Effective Delivery**

Council has not subjected itself to the rigors of competitive tendering to date. Council is however currently pursuing policies including full-cost attribution, unit-based costing and benchmarking to ensure that it is providing its services in a cost-effective manner.

Council does tender out a large number of services including refuse collection and disposal, septic tank cleaning, the cleaning of public conveniences, resealing of sealed roads and streets, rubble raising, footpath construction, some patrol grading and parks and gardens maintenance. In other cases, Council uses contractors and their plant and machinery to supplement its own workforce in order to carry out road construction and maintenance works.

Council altered its Tendering Policy to include a clause that favours goods supplied by local suppliers. Council now will consider paying a 'premium' of up to 5% for those goods and services supplied by:

- Ratepayers of the Tatiara District Council, provided the goods or services offered are equal or better in quality to competitive bids.
- South Australian companies or individuals, where the goods or services are of a comparable quality with other suppliers and/or with imported goods and services.
- Australian companies or individuals, where the goods or services are of a comparable quality with other suppliers and/or with imported goods and services.

#### **Strategic Plan 2008/2012**

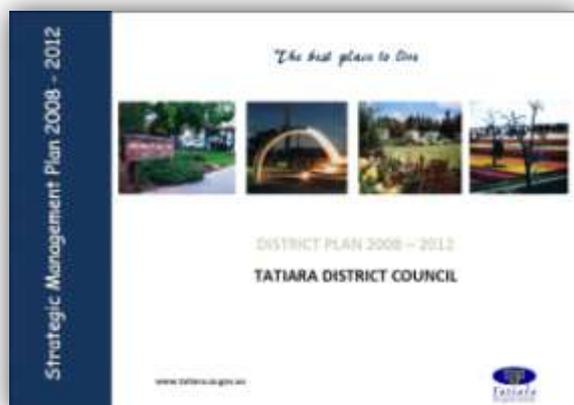
The *Local Government Act 1999* requires Councils to have plans to provide for the management of the local area, collectively referred to as 'strategic management plans'. Strategic management is a system of identifying objectives, developing plans and allocating resources to achieve the objectives, and continuously evaluating developments to ensure objectives are achieved.

The process of developing Council's new Strategic Management Plan 2008 to 2012 commenced during December 2008 and in March 2009 we began asking our communities to help Council identify the big issues facing our District. What we set out to achieve through this exhaustive strategic planning process was to see if the ideas about what to retain, change and create in the Tatiara District going forward, matched the aspirations and opinions of the community we serve. This feedback enabled Council to develop detailed strategies and action plans for a sustainable future. It was pleasing to discover that the feedback which we received, confirmed that we are definitely on track and that many of your comments validated the thinking around where best to direct our energies and resources over the coming years.

The Plan looks at where the Tatiara wants to head as a region and what the region must focus on in order to get there. It is not a Council plan, but a whole of community plan. Council, along with other community partners must identify what it can contribute to the realisation of the Tatiara District Vision. The Plan will be refreshed each year as Council considers external and internal forces affecting our growth, monitor our targets and their achievement, and continually correct our course to stay on track to attain our community's shared vision over the next 5 to 10 years.

Data obtained from community consultations, including participant's priority issues, was used to prioritise existing Strategies, and to inform new actions. A copy of the Tatiara District Council Strategic Plan 2008/2012 can be obtained from Council's website: [www.tatiara.sa.gov.au](http://www.tatiara.sa.gov.au).

The highest strategic priority identified by the community was the maintenance and development of community assets, including roads, footpaths, kerbing and guttering.



## **National Competition Principles**

The State Government, Local Government Association and Councils have agreed on principles and procedures for applying the Federal Government's National Competition Policy. As such Councils have agreed on a model procedure for handling complaints against the Council in regard to this policy.

### ***Complaints Mechanism & Reporting Requirements***

The State Government has set up a competitive neutrality complaints mechanism and any complaints it receives regarding Local Government bodies will be referred to Local Government in the first instance. The Clause 7 Statement encourages each Local Government authority to establish a system for handling complaints and competitive neutrality. Where a complainant is dissatisfied with the Local Government response to a complaint, the matter will be further investigated by the Competition Complaints Commissioner established under the GBE (Competition Act).





## *Corporate & Community*

### *Services Report*

- Manager Corporate & Community Services Report
- Corporate & Community Services Function
  - Human Resources
    - Volunteers
  - Risk Management
- Long Term Financial Plan
  - Asset Management
- Business Improvement Program
  - Council Website
- Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare (OHS&W)
  - Library
  - Tourism
- Arts & Community Development

## Manager Corporate & Community Services Report

It is always encouraging to reflect on Council's achievements for the past year and to recognise the efforts of the people employed by Council to serve "our" community. This year our staff have achieved some impressive results, many of which go unnoticed by our community. This report provides me with the opportunity to highlight some of those achievements.

Before highlighting our achievements I would like to thank the Elected Members and my fellow work colleagues for their support, their commitment and their tremendous work over the past year.

While we all come to the table with different views, aspirations and opinions, in order to make decisions in the best interests of the community, it is important that we work together in an environment of mutual respect and trust. I am pleased to say that this is a strong feature of our Council.



In an ever changing environment, with pressure to achieve more, Council staff have embraced the concept of continuous improvement. In turn, this is leading to significant operational savings and the delivery of best value to our citizens. I am very proud to work with staff of such high calibre, who continue to demonstrate that they share a passion for ensuring this Region is as good as it can be and who are dedicated to improving the quality of life and well being for our District's citizens.

I invite you to read through this Annual Report to see for yourself the successful year the Tatiara District Council has enjoyed.

Most importantly I look forward to working with, and within, the community in the coming year to build on our successes and continue to deliver on our vision for the Tatiara District.

### Corporate & Community Services Function

Council's Corporate and Community Services Section is a service orientated unit encompassing the three main functions of Corporate Services, Community Services and Financial Services.

### Corporate Services Function

- Customer Services
- Records Management
- Human Resource Management functions, including Payroll
- Occupational Health and Safety and Risk Management matters
- Maintenance and upgrade of Council's information technology systems
- Insurance requirements for Council (property, public liability, workers' compensation, personal accident)
- Contracts and Leases
- Maintenance of Council's Voters' Roll
- Assists the State Electoral Commission in conducting Council Elections
- Provision of statistical data for Local Government Association of South Australia, State and Federal Government
- Administration of Freedom of Information requests and legislative requirements
- Maintenance of Acts and Regulations relevant to the Corporate Services function

### Community Services Function

- Youth Services
- Provision of Library Services
- Provision of administrative support for Volunteer Resource Centre
- Provision of administration support for recreation and sporting facilities (halls, ovals, caravan parks and swimming pools)
- Provision of public relations/community information
- Provision of administrative support for community events
- Preparing for Australia Day Breakfast
- Supporting the main street Christmas Parades
- Maintenance of Acts and Regulations relevant to the Community Services function

### Consulting & Engaging the Community

The Tatiara District Council is strongly committed to genuine, effective and timely community consultation on a range of issues, often exceeding the minimum consultation requirements. The process of consultation must encourage the community to actively participate in policy development, planning and programming, the management and evaluation of services and in identifying areas of concern. Community consultation precedes action. It must be seen as the beginning of the cycle that results in action.

Council is committed to openly collaborate with residents, community groups, staff, senior management and elected members to achieve positive communication goals and strategic communications objectives.

Our Council recognises that to provide the best services and infrastructure for our District, we must form close relationships with all levels of the community.

The key elements of this consultation process included:

- A regular newsletter (Tatiara Talks)
- Direct mail publications (Keeping you in Touch; Budget Snapshots)
- Advertising in The Border Chronicle, Radio 5tcb, and other media outlets as seen appropriate
- Regular Media Releases to appropriate media outlets and community groups
- Community forums and stakeholder meetings
- Council's website
- General fixed displays (notice boards in the Council foyer and library)
- Specific displays, as appropriate

Council will continue, as it has done this year, to hold community engagement meetings to give residents and stakeholders of the Tatiara region the opportunity to help us plan for the present and future needs of our region, and assist us in gauging our progress towards our stated goals and objectives. We are committed to ensuring that we are able to respond to the real needs of our communities. Through our community engagement strategies we have put in place systems to ensure that we can confidently hear and understand the views of our communities. We also see that we have an increasingly important role in advocating on behalf of communities with other tiers of government.



www.antonycirocco.com

## Human Resources

*'Clearly, success in service provision is directly linked to Council's ability to attract, retain, motivate and develop a diverse range of quality and skilled people'.*

Our people are our most important asset, where our success as an organisation is commensurate with the calibre and commitment of our staff. Many of our new and continuing endeavours are driven by our desire to make the Tatiara District Council a great place for people to work.

The Tatiara District Council continues to increase its organisational effectiveness, and deliver high quality and responsive Council services, by supporting, developing and growing its people in a positive working environment. Council continues to support its staff in a number of priority areas, including:

- Maintaining our in-house training capabilities
- Providing a range of Employee Well-being programs
- Developing new systems to collect, manage and report on staff
- Increasing our OH&S standards and performance throughout the Council

The Tatiara District Council Municipal Officers Workplace Agreement and Local Government Employees Union Collective Workplace Agreement govern the conditions of employment for Council staff. These agreements encourage multi skilling, flexibility and effective application of staff capability.

We aim to recruit and retain high calibre staff and to contribute to the continued development of their skills and knowledge. At 30 June 2009 the Tatiara District Council had a workforce profile of 51.9 full-time equivalent staff, comprising 14.1 female and 37.8 male staff with an average age of 40.3 years and 8.5 years length of service. Interesting to note that the average age of staff has fallen by approximately 2 years over the last 12 months, which is mostly due to the appointment of 4 trainees, and the average length of service has continued to increase.

During 2008/09 Council employed 82 staff, which in addition to its full time staff and permanent part-time staff, it also used contract staff (3), casual staff (2), trainees (4) and pool staff (19). The total years of service of all staff (excluding pool staff) is 590.5 years.

Staff Facts & Figures				
	Female	Male	Total	
<b>No. (Full Time equivalent)</b>	14.1	37.8	51.9	
<b>Average Age</b>	44.3 years	36.3 years	40.3 years	
<b>Age (years)</b>				
	15-24	7	12	16
	25-34	6	1	7
	35-44	10	7	17
	45-54	7	12	19
	55 & Over	5	12	17
<b>Average Length of Service</b>	7.2 years	9.8 years	8.5 years	
<b>Total Years of Service</b>	149 years	433.1 years	582.1 years	

Staff by Employment Status			
• Full Time	6	30	36
• Part Time	9	1	10
• Casual	17	7	24
• Contract	3	5	8
• Trainee	0	1	1
	35	44	79

Staff by Location (FTE)			
• Bordertown Office	5	10	15
• Keith Office	2	-	2
• Bordertown Depot	-	24.3	24.3
• Keith Depot	-	6	6
• Bordertown Library	2.9	-	2.9
• Bordertown VIC	1.7	-	1.7
	11	37	48

### **Personal Development**

*'The Tatiara District Council is committed to supporting the development of our people by equipping them with the appropriate skills and knowledge for their current and future roles.'*

Staff development programs are an important element of attracting, retaining and developing our people at the Tatiara District Council. As such, Council is committed to providing employees with a range of professional development, skills enhancement, education and on-the-job training opportunities.

Acknowledging that our effectiveness as an organisation is entirely dependent on the skills and commitment of our people, all staff are engaged in an annual personal performance and development appraisal process.

The personal development plan process is continually reviewed to ensure that the expectations of the individual and the organisation are aligned and that employees have every opportunity to successfully fulfill the requirements of their roles.

### **Employee Welfare**

The Council has a strong commitment to working with and supporting staff with their developmental, health and well being needs. The Council has a clear understanding that personal and work lives interact and that the well being of staff is inextricably linked to the achievement of the organisation's business outcomes. The Employee Assistance Program plays an integral role in achieving this commitment. The objective of the program is to provide a confidential counselling and support service and appropriate referrals to all staff to resolve any personal and/or work related problems.

### **Employee Retention & Turnover**

A key measure of success for being an Employer of Choice is the ability to retain a highly skilled workforce. The retention rate is calculated as a 12 month moving average and displayed as a percentage. Recent research has show that within the current tightening recruitment market the average turnover across all industries is now 14%. The Tatiara District Council has been maintaining a retention rate above 90%, despite a high external demand for many of the disciplines and skills that characterise our workforce. This is indicative of an organisation with a highly satisfied workforce that is maintaining its skills and knowledge and provides further validation as to the very positive results being seen with regard to our cultural change program.

### **Volunteers**

We continue to be blessed with great community volunteers that support and enhance our lifestyles and social well-being. Council extends its sincere thanks and appreciation to all our wonderful volunteers, and formally recognises their contribution during National Volunteer Week.

Volunteers connect closely with the local community to help build a positive and vibrant place to live, work and play. Tatiara District Council volunteers extend and enhance the services and programs delivered by Council, at the same time enjoy a great quality of life by participating in our programs and services.

The Tatiara District Council acknowledges the vital role they play both in our community and within the organisation.



*2 of the 5 Tatiara 2009 Volunteers of the Year, Mr Geoff Mackereth and Mr Gordon Creaser receiving their awards from Mayor Richard Vickery*

During the 2008/2009 financial year the Tatiara District Council submitted a successful joint submission to the Office for Volunteers for a South Australian Government Volunteer Infrastructure Program Grant. A Volunteering Resource Centre will be located within the Bordertown Library and the Keith Community Library and it is anticipated that the Centres will be open to the public from late 2009. This project is an excellent example of a collaborative approach to community development and will support the building of cohesive and healthy communities through volunteer community participation.

### **Risk Management**

The Tatiara District Council is committed to high standards of governance and accountability. This statement has been prepared to provide a broad description of internal controls and risk management, contributing to the governance of Council. Council Manages risks through its Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Framework in accordance with Australian Standards AS/NZS 4360:2004. This ensures risks and internal controls are identified, assessed and properly managed and reported on, and that policies and operating guidelines are in place. Such a process ensures that the Council is able to achieve the Strategic Plan and that the Mayor and Councillors fulfil their legislative responsibilities.

Council's Risk Management Framework provides for ongoing risk assessments of projects, contracts, events and departmental responsibilities. Risks identified through this process are managed and mitigated through inclusion in various work plans and programs of the Council for implementation throughout the ensuing financial year. This process includes the Internal Audit Function. The identification of risks assists Council in establishing financial priorities for future budgets.

Council achieved excellent results in the 2008 Risk Management Review conducted by the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme. The Review assesses how well Council applies risk management processes across all its key service areas including land and road management practices. Council scored a 92.8% compliance mark compared to a local government average of 84.5% and regional average of 81.1%.

As a result of this and a low claims loss ratio of 3% we received a discount of 29.16% (\$29,754) on the liability insurance premium for 2009/10.

The breakdown of results is set out in the following table:

Summary of Results – Tatiara District Council			
Category	Local Govt. Avge	Regional Avge	Tatiara District Council
1. Risk & Emergency Management / Professional Indemnity	71.2%	65.4%	90.6%
2. Committee & Non Employment Management	83.3%	79.2%	100.0%
3. Contract Management	89.2%	87.6%	90.9%
4. Legislative Requirements – Land & Asset Management	93.7%	92.4%	95.7%
6. Land Use (Lease/Licence/Permit Activities)	91.3%	89.3%	100.0%
7. Legislative Requirements – Road Management	92.6%	92.1%	92.9%
8. Road Management - Programmes & Systems	87.0%	84.7%	100.0%
<b>Average Overall Result</b>	<b>84.1%</b>	<b>81.1%</b>	<b>92.8%</b>

The outstanding results achieved speak for themselves and are underpinned by the high standard of work and commitment demonstrated by Council staff. The Tatiara District Council continues to be acknowledged as risk management leaders both in our region and the state.

### Long Term Financial Plan

In accordance with Section 122 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council is required to adopt a Strategic Management Plan. The Strategic Management Plan consists of many documents and one of those is a Long Term Financial Management Plan. In accordance with the Regulations, this Plan was adopted by Council before the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008. This plan identified the budget parameters for income and expenditure for 2008/09 from which the detail of the budget for 2009/10 was developed. Council has also adopted a series of *Budget Principles* to underpin its approach in developing its annual budget. These principles are supported by a number of key financial performance indicators (KPI's) which are used to guide performance and ensure long term sustainability of Council operations. Ideally Council needs to raise enough revenue to cover all of its operating expenses.

While this report focuses on the 2008-2009 financial results, it's important to see this result in the context of the long term financial strategic objectives of Council to balance the need to invest in the maintenance and refurbishment of the District's infrastructure (asset renewal) while funding new community and organisational initiatives.

What does all this mean? Council adopted a Long Term Financial Plan framework that included the following key objectives:

- Timing the achievement of the 'Tatiara District Council Strategic Plan' 2008-2012 to match resources available.
- Maintaining a financial position at an average of category 3 over any five consecutive years.
- Continuing to improve the maintenance of assets by working towards fully funding depreciation.
- Maintaining existing services or replacing these by service improvements adopted by Council as having a higher community priority to ratepayers.
- Ensuring Council has the capacity to fund identified major projects using all its resources including advantageous timing and appropriate loan funding.
- Maintaining Council's position for average rates at an equitable level to fulfil community needs.

Council uses financial modelling tools to examine the potential impact of its decisions over the long term in determining what the community can afford for a level of rates, debt and services. The modelling provides a high level budget framework to guide us when preparing the budget detail and ensure we understand the impact of decisions made today on our future.

Council will continue to aim for a break even operating position, where total income equals total expenses and ratepayers in that year are paying for all the resources consumed by the District. However, Council is mindful of the community's ability to pay and wants to avoid excessive rate increases in any one year. Operating deficits are not sustainable or equitable in the long term as they result in services consumed by current ratepayers being paid for by future ratepayers. Clearly, a fair and equitable tax system is one in which taxes paid by each generation is in proportion to the benefits that generation receives.

Therefore, as part of its strategy, each year Council plans to upgrade or replace its existing assets equivalent to depreciation, thereby maintaining the value of its assets. Clearly council will ensure its total debt does not exceed its ability to service this level of debt.



## Sustainable Asset Management Strategy

Under the *Local Government Act 1999* it is a requirement that Council's suite of strategic management plans include long-term financial management plans and infrastructure asset management plans. We are continuing to progress the development of our infrastructure asset management plans and anticipate these being completed by June 2010.

The purpose of the Asset Management Plans is to outline the importance of asset management and to establish organisational responsibilities and objectives for managing Council's assets. Asset management plans are being developed to consider issues that may affect the cost and delivery of services associated with asset management, including maintenance renewal, statutory compliance, strategy development plans, life cycle, disposal, service standards, risk management, and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS).

In 2008/09 we completed our Asset Management Plans for Roads, Buildings and Structures and also Plant and Equipment, as those asset classes were identified as most significant to Council.

The results of these Plans have been integrated into a Long Term Financial Management Plan and we reached our target to meet the legislative requirements to adopt these plans before the end of November 2008. Again this process has been instrumental in how we view our asset stock and importantly how we will manage required assets in the future.

All Council assets are covered by the Asset Management Strategy, as listed below. However, the first asset groups reviewed under the strategy are key asset groups with high value and high risk, which include: road based infrastructure, buildings and plant and machinery.

- Roads and transport
- Stormwater drainage
- Recreation facilities
- Landfills and waste facilities
- Community buildings and facilities
- Operational and commercial facilities
- Passive recreation facilities
- Natural assets; and
- Cemeteries and monuments

These plans have been developed to:

- Demonstrate responsible and sustainable stewardship of community facilities;
- Define and articulate how Council's assets are and will be managed to achieve Council's strategic objectives;
- Improve understanding of service level standards and options;
- Manage the environmental and financial risks of asset failure;
- Ensure the sustainable management of forward capital works programs;
- Achieve savings by optimising whole of life costs; and
- Support Council's Long Term Financial Strategy and plans.

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Council reviewed and updated its infrastructure assets valuation by applying industry indices and price indexation to the previous carrying values. While this has resulted in a significant increase in value, approximately \$6 million worth of community buildings and structures were removed from the asset register, resulting in a decrease in depreciation expense of approximately \$400,000.

Sustainable Asset Management plans provide a comprehensive, whole-of-life planning approach to the assets, determining what is required to ensure our assets are managed sustainably, both in the present and for future generations to enjoy.

A significant component of the plans, which were endorsed by Council in 2009, is the long-term cash flow projections for activities which take account of operational, renewal and development costs. These plans focus on data quality, asset condition, responsibility, maintenance costs and renewal expenditure requirements over the next 10 years. The next objective is to enhance the plans to take service and strategic requirements into account.

## Business Improvement Program

Every decision that Council and its management makes depends on information. However we are experiencing a revolution in the quality and quantity of information. But the ultimate value of information technology is never about computers and software, it is about helping Councillors, management and staff know with confidence that all that has happened, is happening and might happen to every aspect of Council.

Therefore, our future lies in our capacity to grasp strategic opportunities with a skilled, professional and innovative workforce. The challenge is to maintain our professional edge with outstanding people, leadership and management based on reliable and valid information and insights.

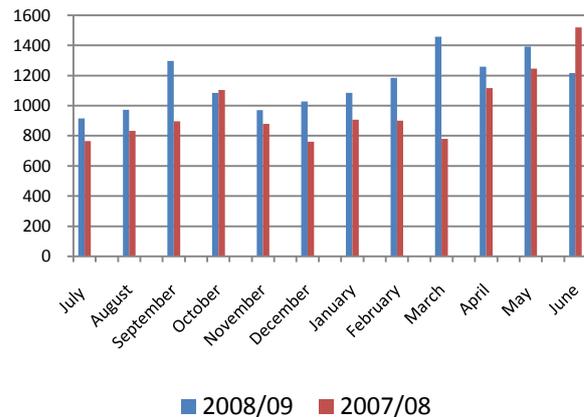
Through the efforts of staff, and the views and opinions of the CEO, managers and supervisors, much was achieved in 2008/09 in looking for opportunities to gain greater levels of business efficiency and productivity. More specifically, our continuous improvement program includes the following proposed schedule:

Timeframe	Project
2008/09	Developing Integrated Contract Management Information System
	Implementing New Telecommunications System (Landline & Mobile Phones)
	Developing Integrated Asset Management Register
2009/10	Developing Integrated HR Information Management System
	Reviewing & implementing New Cemetery Information Management System
	Developing & Implementing Detailed Disaster Recovery Plan
2010/11	Developing Electronic Document & Records Management System (EDRMS)
	Implementing New IT Environment For Conducting Council Meetings

These new initiatives have the potential to change the way we work within Council. It can help us minimise risk, optimise productivity and transform our information into a trusted strategic asset. Clearly our data is one of our biggest assets already, where our IT environment is pivotal for us to manage our vast reservoirs of data in some meaningful, simple way.

In fulfilling our commitment to this new business improvement program, which has a strong emphasis on systems, processes and communication and cooperation, in July 2008 Sally Bywater was appointed to the newly created position of Systems Coordinator. I'm pleased to say that we are already seeing the benefits of this appointment, where she has integrated approximately 433 contracts, agreements, licences, leases, permits etc. within one database. The benefit of this new system is that it will increase staff productivity, reduce inefficiency, comply with OHS&W requirements and reduce our "carbon footprint".

**Website Unique Hits by Month 2007/08 & 2008/09**



**Council Website**

During 2008/09 Council's website [www.tatiara.sa.gov.au](http://www.tatiara.sa.gov.au) continued to be a popular resource for ratepayers and visitors, recording 13,865 visits or an average of 1,155 visits per month. This represents a 35.9% increase on the number of visits recorded in 2007/08.

The site has been strategically designed for the convenience of all users, enabling users to have information about Council around the clock, which includes Council Agendas, Minutes, Annual Reports, Policies, Budgets and other documents.

Facts & Figures – Council Website		
	2007/08	2008/09
	No.	No.
<b>Website Visits (Unique Hits)</b>	<b>11,707</b>	<b>13,865</b>
<b>Total Number of Visits</b>	<b>19,191</b>	<b>26,086</b>
<b>Total Visits Per Month</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,155</b>
<b>Total Visits Per Week</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>266</b>
<b>Total Visits per Visitor</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.88</b>
<b>Total Number of Pages</b>	<b>90,220</b>	<b>103,462</b>
<b>Total Number of Hits</b>	<b>634,379</b>	<b>670,013</b>
<b>Total Hits per Visit</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>25.7</b>



As highlighted by the following graph, Council's website received the most hits in March (1,459), followed by May (1,392) and September (1,298).

The following sites attracted the most visits (62%) on Council's website during 2008/09.

Facts & Figures – Council Website		
Site	2008/09	
	No. of Visits	% of Total Visits
Council Employees	9,964	11.1
Starting a Business	8,031	9.0
Contacting your Council	5,232	5.9
Councillors	4,715	5.3
Job Vacancies	2,222	2.5
Council Services	2,121	2.4
Tenders	2,017	2.3
Council Agenda	1,893	2.1
Council Minutes	1,784	2.0
CEO's Welcome	1,756	2.0
Committee Agendas	1,481	1.7
Privacy Information	1,471	1.7
Committee Minutes	1,470	1.6
Tatiara Clubs & Organisations	1,413	1.6
Bordertown Public Library	1,362	1.5
Performance	1,336	1.5
Community Information Search	1,307	1.5
Cemeteries	1,302	1.5
Keith Community Library	1,234	1.4
Library Services	1,191	1.3
Development Planning	1,142	1.3
Payment of Rates	1,119	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,563</b>	<b>62.2%</b>

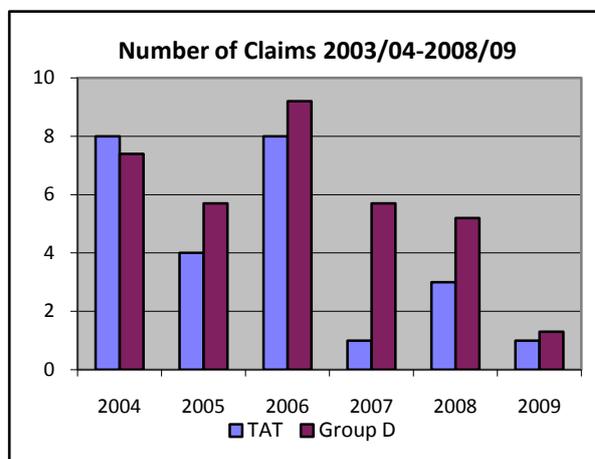
Clearly the use of Council's website has and will continue to grow. This has prompted a need for Council to redevelop and redesign the website to provide a more user friendly and functional website for the community to use and to interact with Council. It is anticipated that the newly developed Council website will 'go live' in 2010.

## OHS&W

Tatiara District Council's Occupational Health Safety and Welfare (OHS&W) Policy is framed around a philosophy of "zero harm". Extensive work has been done at the Tatiara District Council over the last few years, and especially in the last 12 months, to raise the profile of safety throughout the organisation, to ensure our responsiveness to OH&S issues and to consolidate our safety systems and processes.

Through the efforts and commitment of Sally Bywater, Council's OH&S Co-ordinator, and Neal Fallon, Regional OH&S Coordinator for the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme, Council meets its obligation to ensure the health, safety and welfare of staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

As illustrated by the following graph and table, Council has continued to improve its OHS&W environment, through the number of claims and total days lost to injury each year, which is also demonstrated by comparison with other Councils of a similar size (Group D). One of the highest risk areas with respect to Workers Compensation claims is manual handling claims, which is now a focus of attention in training and communication.



Workplace Injuries and Claims		
Year	No. Claims	Total Days Lost
2003/04	12	58
2004/05	8	2
2005/06	4	190
2006/07	8	2
2007/08	1	-
2008/09	3	28

The staff health and wellbeing program has continued to provide opportunities to learn more about maintaining health and fitness. Throughout the past 12 months many activities have been held, including the 10,000 Steps pedometer program, a Work Health Clinic and Skin Cancer examinations. The majority of staff took advantage of the Work Health Clinic which provided a variety of services including health checks, strength and flexibility testing and cardiovascular fitness tests.

## Contractor Management

The OHS Committee has established greater consistency of safety management in Council's arrangements with contractors. This has involved reviewing tender documentation and contract templates, seeking out additional information about elements of contracted works, closer supervision of contracts and general education about the legislative requirements and compliance issues associated with contract management. This is an ongoing challenge for Council and contractors, and it is anticipated that substantial training and support will be provided over the coming year to ensure extra attention and diligence in our management of contracts.

### **Corporate Health Program**

An ongoing program offered to local government employees by the Corporate Health Group is strongly supported by the Tatiara District Council and is seen as a pro-active step in encouraging employees to practice a healthy lifestyle. The regular health checks are carried out by qualified personnel and if problems are evident, employees are advised to consult their medical practitioner. It was noted that staff members have been referred to their general practitioners with suspected skin cancer problems. Early intervention prevented serious complications and long term consequences. The program is a credit to Council's commitment to staff's health & welfare.

### **Library Services**

Council's Library Service grows from strength to strength each year. This year was no exception, with many programs and activities attended by library members and visitors alike. The Bordertown Library is a Council run Library whilst at Keith there is a School Community Library. In 2008/09 the two libraries worked together with most of the Keith Library's purchases being conducted by Bordertown Staff.

Council's Library Services remain committed to '*Preserving the Past and Securing the Future*' and will strive to remain as *the heartbeat of the community*'. It does this by providing a diverse and comprehensive range of collections, programs and services aimed at developing and informing the community. This includes information provision through reference services and reader guidance to the collections, access to information technologies (including the Internet), children's literacy development programs, education support, and lifelong learning programs and activities designed to foster recreation and social connectedness. The Library Service delivers services to the local community from Bordertown and Keith.

The Library is open to the community a total of 43 opening hours per week, including Saturday morning. A 24/7 electronic library is available through the Library Network website for customers who wish to request, search databases and manage their loans online. The wireless internet service is also available 24/7.

#### **Highlights for 2008/09:**

- **Staff Changes:** The library experienced a number of staff changes in 2008/09: Tammie Smedley resigned after her maternity leave finished, resulting in Rae Bromley and Wendy Crane being appointed joint Managers and Heather Mewett being appointed Senior Library Assistant; Marina Graham resigned and Chris Virgin joined the Library as a Contract Library Assistant.
- **Inter-Library Loan/Reserve Network:** The library provides access to materials held in public libraries across South Australia, through the PLAIN inter-library loan network. Reserving items from the local Library Management System, Spydus, allows access to the library catalogue online 24/7 on Council's website.

- **The Advertiser Big Book Club:** A joint initiative of South Australian public libraries and the State Government. The Big Book Club has been operating across South Australia for some years and in so doing has developed strong business partnerships with the media, publishers and booksellers.
- **The Little Big Book Club:** Continues to provide colourful library bags for all children aged six to twelve months, the bags are filled with information for parents on the benefits of reading to children, including how to have fun together by sharing rhymes, songs and reading books with their children. Importantly, the club also helps children develop the skills they need to learn to read and write.
- **Rhyme Time:** A song, rhyme and story time session for toddlers. The 30-minute program held fortnightly has proved immensely popular with a total of 255 babies attending the sessions throughout 2008-2009.
- **The Premier's Reading Challenge:** Encouraging primary school children to read 12 books each year and has been very popular since its introduction in 2004. The Library Service supports this program by helping children to find appropriate and enjoyable books so they can meet the challenge and receive a medal of achievement each year.
- **Children's learning opportunities:** Included balloon experiments; Christmas activities and the Summer Reading Club, which as well as encouraging reading, participants could join in various activities including games; a visiting veterinary; face painting; dancing; and some visiting animals including hopping mice, a python, white rabbit and a sugar glider brought to the library by Jaidyn Box of Mundulla.
- **Guest speakers:** Local community identities were invited to share their knowledge and skill, which included; Trish Daniels and Olive Lee demonstrating and teaching drawing with oil pastels; Rosie Peck teaching children how to juggle; and Peter Brookman holding two sessions on using digital cameras.



*Bordertown Public Library*

- Australia's Biggest Morning Tea: The library participated in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, which involved a fabulous display of decorated bras made by the Gum Tree Quilters and contributions of morning tea from all visitors, with all proceeds being donated to the Australian Cancer Council.
- Celebrating the Centenary of the Bordertown Institute Building: Staff conducted tours of the local history collection, an introduction to family history research and a dramatisation by library staff, volunteers and special guest speakers of the history of the building and life in the township.
- Children's book week: Junior primary classes from Mundulla and Bordertown were invited to visit the library. Library staff used hand puppets, shadow puppets and a felt board to tell a number of stories, to which the children responded very enthusiastically.
- Visiting Presenters: The library hosted a Questacon Science play in November and the Great Big Science Read with author Jeanette Rowe in June, which attracted 600 students from Bordertown and Mundulla primary schools.
- Work Experience: 5 students from the Bordertown High School did work experience and community service at the library during the year.
- Home Library Service: The Library Delivery Service continued to operate from the Bordertown Library to assist the aged, disabled and socially isolated members of the community access vital information services and recreation resources.
- Study Area: During the year the library's study area was refurbished to accommodate more people. This area can now seat 21 people and is highly utilized by the community.

**Facts for 2008/09:**

- Visitors: The Library recorded approximately 59,635 visitors in 2008/09, representing an increase of 4,000 (7.2%) from 2007/08.
- Loans: The library recorded 44,356 loans in 2008/09, representing an increase of 1,828 (4.3%) from 2007/08.
- Membership: The Bordertown Library Service has current membership of 4,528 with 358 new members joining in 2008/09. The majority of members (81%) come from the Tatiara District, with members residing in Bordertown (3,137), Mundulla (257), Keith (133), Wolseley (89) and Padthaway (52).

Membership & Borrowing by Residential Location				
Location	Membership		Borrowing	
	No.	%	No.	%
Bordertown	3,137	69.28	32,259	72.73
Frances	11	0.24	4	0.01
Keith	133	2.94	696	1.57
Mundulla	257	5.68	4,290	9.67
Naracoorte/Lucindale	19	0.42	51	0.11
Padthaway	52	1.15	1,191	2.69
Victoria	37	0.82	104	0.23
Wolseley	89	1.97	431	0.97
Other	793	17.51	5,330	12.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44,356</b>	<b>100.0</b>

- Computer Usage: Technology use in the library remains high with customers using 5,647 hours of Internet time, an increase of 6.9% over 2007/08. This resulted in the level of computer usage increasing from 84% in 2007/08 to 90% in 2008/09.
- Wireless Users: The Library has 530 registered wireless users, with 357 (67%) registering in 2008/09.
- Children's Activities: Approximately 441 people attended the 2 regular activities aimed at attracting young children to the library - 186 people attended Storytelling and 255 attended Baby Rhyme.

Our Library will continue to be innovative and explore new ways of service delivery. Working smarter with the new technologies will allow library and customer service staff to spend less time on routine tasks and more time on their professional roles - helping the customer where and when it really matters.



## Tourism

Tourism and special event management and marketing are well acknowledged by Council as a significant contributor to the local economy and the social and cultural fabric of our respective communities. Council invests significant time and resources into tourism related activities. Council seeks to position the District as a vital and resourceful regional tourist and commercial centre with significant natural, built and cultural attractions, and quality sustainable events and festivals, capitalising on its heritage, culture and character, but having proper regard for the physical, heritage and social environment of the area.

A key element of our success in tourism development and marketing over the past 12 months has been the maintenance of close working relationships and rapport between the respective communities, businesses and private sector groups. Such partnerships deliver real benefits for the whole community, and not just for the tourism industry. Council continues to provide leadership to tourism and special events and endeavours to capitalise on the uniqueness of the region's townships by the maintenance and implementation of collaborative marketing initiatives, highlighting their unique characteristics, events, attractions, walks, trails and capitalising on the traffic flows across the District (and Region). Council sees its role as passive facilitator and sponsor of local events, which it fulfils with great pride and will increasingly focus on attracting and managing District and regional wide major events.

### Facts for 2008/09:

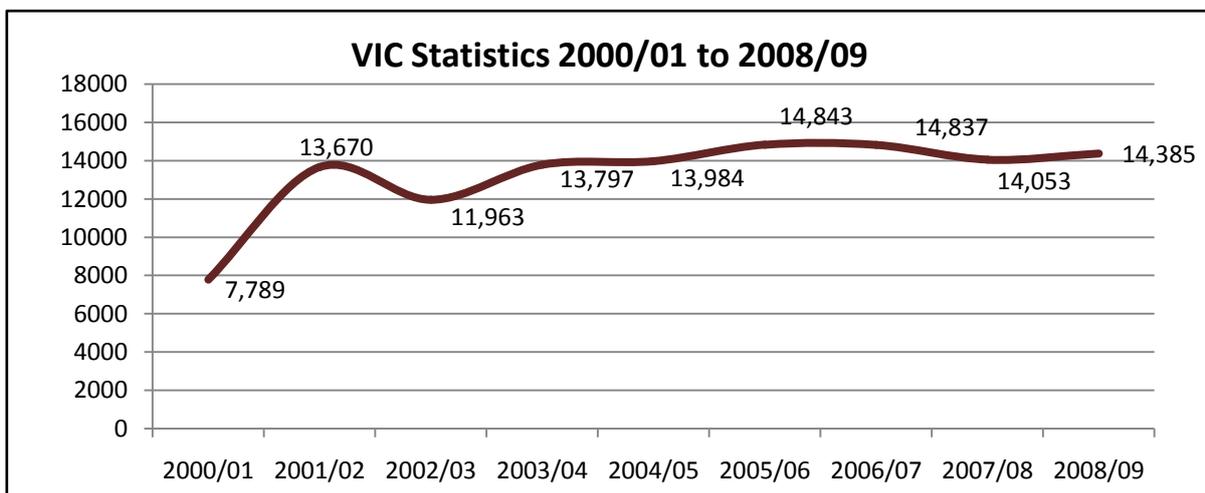
- **Visitors:** The Bordertown VIC recorded 14,385 visitors in 2008/09, which was 2.3% (332) higher than the 14,053 visitors recorded in 2007/08. The majority of visitors (72.6%) came from: Melbourne (3,149), Local (2,424), Adelaide (2,363), Victorian Country (1,477) and SA Country (1,028).
- **Time of Travel:** The highest recorded months for visitors attending the Bordertown VIC was: January (1,509 or 10.5%), October (1,404 or 9.8%), March (1,327 or 9.2%) and December (1,213 or 8.4%).
- **Overseas Visitors:** The highest recorded visitors from overseas were: Europe (879 or 6.1%), Asia (291 or 2.0%), United Kingdom (256 or 1.8%), USA/Canada (191 or 1.3%) and New Zealand (103 or 0.7%).

The Tatiara District Council continues to recognise the value of tourism to the district through its financial support at both a local and regional level.

Tourism continues to play a substantial role in the generation of value and economic benefit across the entire region, with the Tatiara District being a major tourism "gateway" by intrastate, interstate and overseas visitors.

The Visitor Information Centre provides a one stop shop for visitors to the region. Accommodation bookings, souvenirs, tours and an extensive range of brochures on activities and attractions are among the many facilities and services available to visitors. The Centre is open 7 days a week and every day except Christmas Day and is an accredited tourism facility.

The excellent results Council achieved in 2008/09 are the culmination of hard work and dedication of our VIC Manager, Chris Mackereth, whose leadership and commitment during the year is greatly appreciated. I would also like to recognise the significant contribution of our part-time staff, Heather Sharpe and Chris Virgin, and our many volunteers, who continually striving to achieve best practice and excellence.



## Arts & Community Development

As its name suggests, Community Development is all about developing relationships with residents and stakeholders, addressing local needs and developing a community that people are keen to be part of. Council's Community Development Officer, Tyson Brown, has achieved a number of milestones this past year in a range of specific target areas, including grants, youth, multicultural, aged, disability services and social planning. Tyson not only provides advice to Council and is responsible for the coordination of initiatives and projects in the Tatiara District, he also provides support for various committees of Council (formulated under Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999) to help develop and maintain these networks and liaise with community groups, individuals, agencies and Council.

An important component of Tyson's role involves guiding and supporting communities to develop capacity and participate in building social belonging, thus enhancing well-being and sustainability. Grant programs offered during the year have enabled community groups and organisations to foster and build on this ethos with positive results in the form of new equipment, rejuvenated community halls, recreation and sporting facilities thus enabling increased participation and producing positive outcomes for the community.

The Community Development Officer is also responsible for coordinating special events in the district and organising special projects in consultation with Council, Community Services staff and community groups. Through his professional and highly productive work ethic, Tyson is a highly respected and recognised staff member who sacrifices much of his own personal time for "our" community.

### The Arts

The Council values creativity, and in particular the contribution of the arts in making this District a unique place to live. The Council has adopted a Public Art Policy which recognises the value of site specific art. This includes:

- Art integrated into the fabric of a building;
- Community art which has a high degree of community involvement; and
- Place-making art which is art commissioned for a specific location.



### Highlights for 2008/09

- Encouraging positive interaction, cultural and social integration and education by coordinating the following events and functions:
  - National Youth Week
  - Harmony Day
  - Volunteers Week
  - Mental Health Week
  - School Holiday Initiatives
- The Walkway Gallery experienced its largest ever program in 2008/09 with 11 exhibitions being held, which included:
  - Annual Tatiara Art Awards,
  - Day of Ability (persons with a disability),
  - Peter Badcoe Victoria Cross,
  - Tatiara Palette Painters,
  - Our Mob 08 (Indigenous) and
  - 'Here and Now' photographic multicultural exhibition.
- The Walkway Gallery is now seen as a space of significance displaying works and exhibitions of high calibre. School students no longer need to travel to Adelaide or Mount Gambier for the experience. All 5 Tatiara Schools have been at least once to participate in an art workshop and over 1,000 people have been through the gallery doors. Workshops have included Abstract by Kay Hole and Olive Lee on Acrylic.
- The Performing Arts program included the comic genius 'Kevin Bloody Wilson' and international superstars toe tapping in 'The Rhythms of Ireland'. Kids have also enjoyed the program with a performance by Splash Theatre Company with a Beatboxing Fox in a modern tale of Red Riding Hood.



- The Bordertown Cinema received Community Sponsorship from Bordertown Hardware, which enabled Council to increase its program by an additional 6 movies. The program was well supported by the community with 461 more people attending the movies in 2008/09.

- Keith School students got involved with 4 film makers and developed 4 TV commercials and 4 documentaries with a road safety message. This saw 16 students working intensively for 5 days with the film makers and the community to portray local stories with local people to influence how people drive on our roads. These TV commercials are to be shown throughout the WIN TV network in the 09/10 financial year.
- It wasn't just the artists who had a great year. All the future skaters and BMX riders finally got to achieve their 5+ year goal. The Bordertown Skate and BMX Park was officially opened in Youth Week 09 and were treated to workshops, games and prizes. Over 300 people from across the region came together to participate and utilise what is arguably the best facility in regional SA.
- Council continued to provide advice and assistance to community groups and individuals to obtain grant funding, with many letters of support being written.





## *Technical Services Report*

- Parks and Gardens
- Plant & Machinery
- Waste Management
  - Airfields
- Asset Management
  - Roads & Streets

## Parks, Gardens and Reserves

Once again it has been a difficult year to meet a standard of upkeep, with water shortages and staff changes. Hard decreases had to be made on priorities and the Recreation Lake level was allowed to drop so as to maintain some lawns and gardens.



*Bordertown Recreation Lake*

The major achievement would be the completion of the Skate and BMX Park, which when completed over the next year will be of great benefit to the youth of the area.



*Bordertown Skate Park*



Due to water restrictions, Bordertown and Keith parks were unable to be kept at a standard that residents are used to over the past year, but will recover in the next 12 months to a point where residents can be proud of the facilities provided. A new pump at Padthaway, despite falling groundwater levels, maintained the parks in top condition and this was reflected by increased usage.

## Plant and Machinery

Council replaced one Grader, one Front End Loader, one Mower, 6 motor vehicles and added a Toolcat to the plant fleet. Plant expenditure was over \$500,000.00 and continued the Council policy of providing modern and appropriate equipment for the array of functions undertaken.

All replacements and additions are planned and approved by Councils Plant and Machinery Subcommittee.

## Waste Management

Planning has begun on closing landfill sites at Bordertown, Keith and Padthaway and development of transfer stations at Bordertown and Keith.

The development is a result of new legislation requirements by the State Government for operation of landfill sites in South Australia which makes the operating of current sites completely uneconomical for this Council.

The effect on residents will be minimal for normal household garbage with green waste still being received. Closure for the Keith and Padthaway landfill sites is expected to be June 2010, with Bordertown closing in June 2011.



*Recycling initiative by the Bordertown Primary School*

## Airfields

Safety audits were undertaken during the year and the Tatiara's airfields were suitable for continuing use. Regular fortnightly inspections and maintenance was carried out for the year.

## Asset Management

Council has now adopted an Asset Management Plan for roads and streets, which includes footpaths, kerb and gutter and surface construction.

Condition assessments have been made and in conjunction with the adopted Road Hierarchy and Works Maintenance Program, have been developed for the roads and streets for the next five years. The program sets out a priority for all resheets and reseal works on all roads and streets. The Roads Hierarchy has also led to a set of service standards for maintenance (i.e. patrol grading), and then a budget requirement for all forms of maintenance.

The Capital Expenditure is still a matter for Council determination and a program for upgrades is under recommendation. The Capital Program and Maintenance Programs give Council a determined program and continues Council's commitment to providing a better road system for local users.

A similar plan for Plant is now being determined by Council with Parks and Gardens being the next major Asset Management Plan to be developed.



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- **Rural Sealed Roads (\$750,000)**  
Council resealed approximately 30km of sealed rural roads out of a total network of 440km. Council also carried out over \$120,000 worth of shoulder maintenance and sealing together with minor maintenance of \$100,000.
- **Rural Roads – Construction/Reconstruction (\$300,000)**  
Council reconstructed a section of Senior Road, expending \$100,000 and sealed shoulders on the Emu Flat Road for another \$100,000.
- **Urban Streets – Maintenance (\$150,000)**  
Council carried out general maintenance with some reseals within the urban areas. Maintenance expenditure was approx \$100,000 with \$50,000 going towards footpaths and kerb and gutter maintenance.
- **Urban Street Construction (\$320,000)**  
Council carried forward all 2008/09 footpath works to 2009/10, but expended \$210,000 on new kerb and gutter and \$70,000 upgrading unsealed streets to sealed standard. Minor works contributed approx \$40,000 of expenditure.



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## Roads and Streets

During 2008/09, Council received over \$1,000,000 from:

a) Federal Roads Grants	\$463,225
b) Supplementary Roads Grants	\$206,512
c) Roads to Recovery	\$365,000
d) Minor Grants	\$21,000

The Federal Roads Grants and Supplementary Roads Grants are part of Federal Assistance Grants. These grants are vital to the upgrade and maintenance of the local road network. Council expenditure on roads and streets for the year was over \$4,000,000, comprising:

- **Rural Unsealed Roads (\$1,260,000)**  
Council resheeted 20 roads during the year at a cost of approx \$600,000 and graded all roads (other than tracks) at least once, expending \$460,000 with minor maintenance costing \$200,000. Council maintains 1,080km of formed and rubbled roads together with 240km of formed roads across the Tatiara District.





## *Development & Inspectorial Services Report*

- Manager Development & Inspectorial Services Report
  - Planning
  - Crown Land
- Development Assessment Panel
  - Building
- Native Vegetation Advisory Body
  - Asset Management
  - Desludging Programme
- Public & Environmental Health
  - General Inspectorial

## Manager of Development and Inspectorial Services Report

The Tatiara district has gone through a period of stabilisation which has been mainly due to the global financial situation and local climatic conditions.

This has had an impact on the local economy as industries both directly and indirectly have numerous employees and are integral for the viability of the district and region.

Water continues to be a major issue for the horticulture industry especially vineyards around Padthaway.

Council, through its Business Assistance Policy, continues to assist and support businesses where they propose to expand or relocate to an appropriate zone. These include following key areas are considered when considering the business assistance provided:

- Potential to complement marketing of the Industrial Estate.
- Significance of business investment.
- Significance as an Employer.
- Improved residential amenity.

Assistance is not only given to industries that develop in the Industrial Estate but also commercial developments such as bulk grain and horticultural enterprises in general farming zones.

The Residential Policy also provides assistance to developers if they propose:

- To construct a minimum of four new private detached dwellings on individual allotments and the cost of the total development exceeds \$400,000; or
- To construct at least 4 flats or units and the total cost of the development exceeds \$200,000.

The Tatiara Retirement Village continues to provide accommodation for retirees by constructing additional units. Council facilitated the transfer of Crown Land to the Retirement Village which will allow for the continued expansion with an additional 8 self contained 2 & 3 bedroom units being recently approved.



### Development - Planning

Conner Holmes was awarded the contract to undertake the regional Section 30 review which will focus on regional growth, innovation and balance outcomes.

The State Government also commenced preparing the Planning Strategy for the Limestone Coast region and it is envisaged that this document will be completed prior to the end of 2009. The strategy will guide future land use and development in the region. It will also provide a greater focus on policy which is directly relevant to Development Plans.

The outcome of the Section 30 review and the Planning Strategy will determine the extent of the Development Plan Amendment which Council will undertake in early 2010.

Council is also proposing to undertake the conversion to the Better Development Plan modules which will provide consistency with other local government areas.

The South East Natural Resource Management Board reviewed and analysed all the Development Plans within in the region to determine the nature and extent of policies in relation to natural resources.

It was found that the nature and extent of the policies included in the Tatiara (DC) Development Plan in 2004 are similar to those now forming the basis of the BDP natural resource management policies.

### Crown Land

Council secured the ex Scouts and Guides land in Bordertown from the State Government which was then transferred to the Retirement Village who is a local voluntary organisation who construct and manage aged residential accommodation.

Even though the process took some time to finalize it is acknowledged that it is an excellent outcome for all involved.

Council has undertaken reinstatement works at the ex-Keith Council Depot site with the primary focus being to beautify the reserve with substantial landscaping.

### Development Assessment Panel

Council has a Development Assessment Panel, which consists of five members. The members are Bill Hender (Independent Chairman), Councillors Graham Excell and Richard Vickery and Independent Members Christine Thompson and Edward Langley.

The Development Assessment Panel assesses applications that are:

- Non Complying
- Category 3 and
- Category 2 which are subject to third party representations

The Manager of Development and Inspectorial Services assesses and issues decision notifications under delegation. Council reviews the Terms of Reference and the operation of the Panel on an annual basis.

There has not been an application referred to the Panel in the past twelve months which indicates the policy in the current Development Plan is meeting the requirements of the community.

### Development – Building

The value of building work within our district was approximately \$7, 505,021 in the last twelve months which is down by approximately 20% from the previous financial year.

The amendments to the Development Act in relation to exempt and complying development and the introduction of the Residential Code has not caused too many issues for Council.

#### Building Statistics – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

New Dwellings	22
Dwelling Additions	23
Commercial	10
Outbuildings	50
Other	19

Council controls the structural, technical and safety features of building work. Building work means the erection, construction, underpinning, alteration of, addition to or demolition of any building or structure. It includes:

- New buildings
- Alterations and extensions to existing buildings
- Garages, carports, toolsheds etc greater in area than 10m<sup>2</sup> and the building height being over 2.5 metres above natural ground level
- Pergolas if roofed (polycarbonate or steel)
- Swimming Pools

Council staff also provide advice on the building provisions of the Development Act & Regulations 1993.

### Building Inspection Policy

Council has a Building inspection policy that requires Council to inspect a majority of building work at least once and residential buildings at least twice.

### Native Vegetation Advisory Body

Council has an Advisory Body which comments on Native Vegetation clearance applications. This group has been in operation for over nine years.

The primary role of the group is to comment on the amenity value of vegetation under application.

It may also comment on other aspects where relevant to the principles of clearance set out in the Native Vegetation Act and where the body believes it has appropriate qualifications or experience to provide such comments.

When considering “other” aspects, the group attempts to provide a balanced view so issues such as revegetation, economics and biodiversity are considered.

Unfortunately there have been no trials undertaken even though Council has been informally notified that it was successful in obtaining a grant.

The Advisory Body members are:

Bryan Paech (Chairman), Charles Crozier (Secretary), Trevor Thomas, Ed Davis, Mike Gaden, Jamie Steer, David Lowe and Raelene Eats. The members have expertise and experience in many different areas ranging from native vegetation and soil management. The recent amendments to the Native Vegetation Act allows for the clearance of vegetation around buildings for fire safety, which is positive especially when considering the impacts the Victorian fires had in relation to Planning Review. It has recommended changes to Native Vegetation processes, which envisages greater autonomy at local/regional level in native vegetation management.

### Asset Management

Council has the care and control of many properties within the district, many of which contain buildings and structures. An Asset Management Plan and 10 year building maintenance plan has been developed for Council occupied buildings.

The Plan acts as a tool to support the ability of Council to deliver well targeted, responsive and value for money maintenance and operational services for customers and the community as a whole.

Council has continued to contribute funds on an annual basis to local organisations to maintain their facilities.

Council completed the upgrade and refurbishment of the Scouts and Guides facility which is now located on the Bordertown Sports and Showground reserve.

After extensive deliberations and consultation Council finalised the design for the re-development of the Bordertown Civic Centre, which includes the main hall, theatre and library.

Council has resolved to proceed with the project with the first stage due to be completed by late October 2009.

The estimated cost for the re-development is \$4.5 million which is to be funded by State and Federal Government grants with the balance funded by Council.



*Roof works on the main hall as part of the Civic Centre Re-development*

## **Desludging Programme of Septic Tanks Connected to Communal Waste Control Systems**

The septic tank desludging programme continues in the townships of Bordertown, Keith, Mundulla and Wolseley.

This program is an excellent initiative as it does minimise the amount of sludge entering the Community Wastewater Management Scheme.

There are approximately 2,100 septic tanks, which are desludged every five years in addition to the annual desludging of pump stations.

## **Environmental Health**

Council employs an Environmental Health Officer for one day a week on a contract basis. The EHO administers Councils responsibilities pursuant to the Food Act 2001 & Regulations, Public & Environmental Health Act 1987 & Regulations and Housing Improvement Act 1940.

All food premises within the Council area are audited to ensure compliance with Food Safety Standards and inspection frequency is based on a risk assessment process.

The EHO also monitors the water quality of swimming pools and spas available for public access.

Pamphlets and educational material in relation to public health is regularly updated and made available to the public.

Council contracts the Bordertown Hospital to provide immunisation services to all residents who reside in the district.



## **General Inspection/Fire Prevention**

The primary focus of the General Inspector has been animal management, which mainly consists of problems associated with dogs, cats and stock wandering at large.

Council has an Animal Management Plan, which has been endorsed by the Dog and Cat Management Board.

The General Inspector undertakes educational programs for school children, which has been very successful and beneficial.

The General Inspector also monitors untidy township allotments, parking, Council By-Laws and abandoned vehicles.

Fire Prevention is also a duty of the General Inspector and he attends meetings of the District and Regional Bushfire Prevention Committees.

Prior to the Fire Danger Season there is publicity in the local newspaper and the radio advising residents to clean up and to reduce the risk of fire. Fire Danger signage is erected around the district prior to the Fire Danger Season.

Property inspections are undertaken and residents advised of their responsibilities in reducing and maintaining fuel loads.

Notices are issued to landowners when they do not undertake the required action within the specified time frame.



*General Inspector and Fire Prevention Officer,  
Mr Adrian Packer*



## *Financial Report*

- Financial Facts & Figures
- Financial Performance & Sustainability
  - Independent Audit Report to the Councillors
  - Statement by the Auditor
    - Income Statement
    - Balance Sheet
  - Statement of Changes in Equity
  - Cash Flow Statement
- Notes To & Forming Part of the Financial Report

## Financial Management

Throughout 2008/09 Council continued with its rigorous approach to financial accountability, where it not only met all of its financial and statutory reporting requirements, but it also managed its expenditure and income in line with the discipline of a far-sighted Long-Term Financial Strategy. By focusing on the renewal of ageing infrastructure and responsible financial management, Council is protecting future generations by funding a sustainable future today. This resulted in Council adopting a responsible 2008/09 budget which saw funds allocated to core and essential services.

The financial performance and results of Council can be attributed to the ongoing commitment and support of Council, Management and Employees. This is underpinned by the dedicated work and leadership of Council's Finance Manager Judi Molineux, who is committed to supporting the development of our staff by ensuring they are equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge for their current and future roles. This level of commitment will ensure that Tatiara District Council remains in a solid financial position.



Facts & Figures – Budget Performance				
Category	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Actual	% Change 07/08 – 08/09
Capital Valuation	1,717,265,460	1,650,163,760	1,692,474,500	2.56%
No. of Rateable Assessments	4,406	4,500	4,535	0.78%
General Rate Revenue	6,085,766	6,371,567	6,722,132	5.5%
Rates per Assessment	1,381	1,416	1,482	4.66%
Residential Rate in the \$	0.5200	0.5614	0.5700	1.53%
Rural Rate in the \$	0.3325	0.3590	0.3743	4.26%
Refuse Collection & Disposal	-	90	90	-
STEDS Charge - Occupied	210	230	250	8.70%
STEDS Charge - Vacant	150	160	170	6.25%
Minimum Rate	260	280	300	7.14%
South East NRM Levy	28.30	33.06	36.30	9.80%

Facts & Figures – Financial Performance					
Category	Target	2005/06 Actual	2006/07 Actual	2007/08 Actual	2008/09 Adopted
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	Surplus	(649,000)	(62,000)	(172,000)	1,465,000
Operating Surplus Ratio	0 or +	(11.2%)	(1.0%)	(2.0%)	19%
Net Financial Liabilities	0 - \$6.5m	(670,000)	(602,000)	(2,479,000)	(4,817,000)
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio	0 – 65% of Op. Rev.	(7.7%)	(7%)	-24%	-42%
Interest Cover Ratio	0 – 5.5% of Op. Rev.	(0.2)	(0.4%)	(1.0%)	(1.3%)
Asset Sustainability Ratio	90 – 110%	72.7%	84%	47%	69%
Asset Consumption Ratio	40 – 80%	62%	57%	54%	47%

**Our Focus**

Council’s Strategic Plan stipulates that Council will continue to develop and implement a robust and transparent system of financial management aligned to its Strategic Management Plan and maintained to a category 3 level of financial sustainability. Category 3 financial sustainability is described as ‘financially sustainable with a moderate margin of comfort’. It is calculated by dividing the operating surplus (before capital revenues) by the rate revenue for the year and adjusting for any significant capital backlog. Category 3 equates to an operating surplus of between 0% - 5%. In 2008/09 Council achieved an Operating Surplus, and reverses the prior trend of Operating Deficits. The commitment of Elected Members and staff over recent years in achieving financial sustainability in accordance with the Strategic Plan has ensured the Tatiara District Council has secured a solid financial position.

Council maintains its focus through a Corporate Reporting Framework that identifies financial and non financial measures to ensure our performance can be assessed against stated objectives. Included in the regular schedule of reports are:

- Monthly financial reports to Council.
- Quarterly budget reviews to Council and Audit Committee.
- Quarterly key financial indicator updates to Council and Audit Committee.
- Annual Report.

The Framework is continually being reviewed to ensure it delivers the most informative and effective reports to Council.

**Financial Indicators**

In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government (Financial Management and Rating) Amendment Act 2005, Council is required to introduce measures to assess its performance over the financial year.

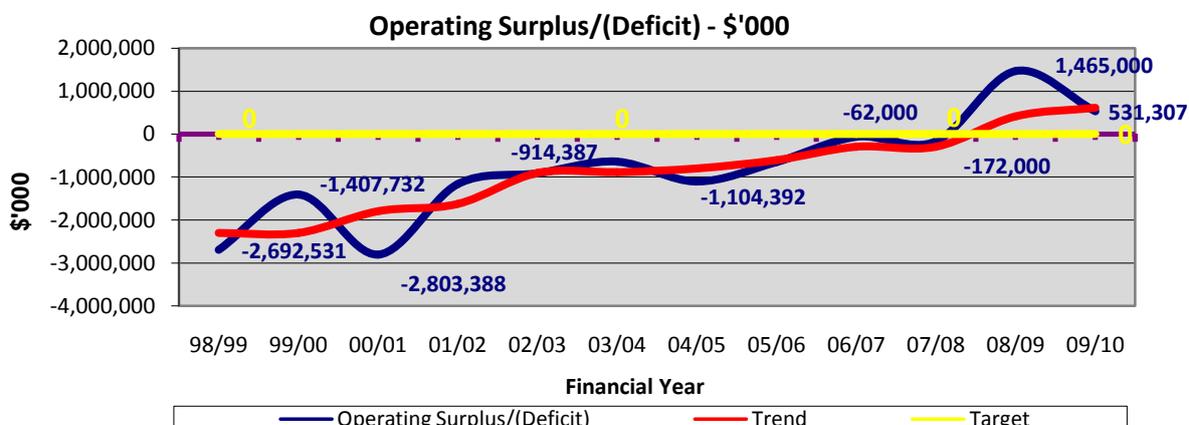
The Local Government Financial Sustainability Program has defined a series of financial indicators that have been incorporated into the Model Financial Statements. These indicators provide information on financial performance, financial position and long term viability. The Operating Surplus before capital items for 2008/09 was above budget and continues our strong performance over recent years. It provides a sound base for the achievement of our financial sustainability objectives into the future.

The financial measures adopted by the Council, which are in line with those recommended for all councils by the Local Government Association of South Australia, are contained in Note 13 of the financial statements and are commented on below.

**Operating Surplus/(Deficit)**

An operating surplus before capital revenues indicates the extent to which operating revenue is sufficient to meet all operating expenses including depreciation. An operating deficit occurs when total operating expenses exceed total operating revenues and consequently the burden of a portion of expenses will need to be met by future ratepayers. For the Tatiara District Council, this indicator is being used to measure the ‘gap’ from our operating result to break even.

In 2008/09 Council budgeted for a small operating deficit (i.e. operating expenditure exceeding income) of \$151,520, but recorded an operating surplus of \$1.465 million, an increase of \$1.616 million. This result was achieved mainly as a result of: receiving early payment of a 2009/10 Financial Assistance Grant of \$695,701; and decreased depreciation expense of \$300,000 following the revaluation of the Council’s assets as at 30 June 2009, as required by Australian Accounting Standards. Council was expecting to achieve another surplus in 2009/10, reversing a long term trend of operating deficits.

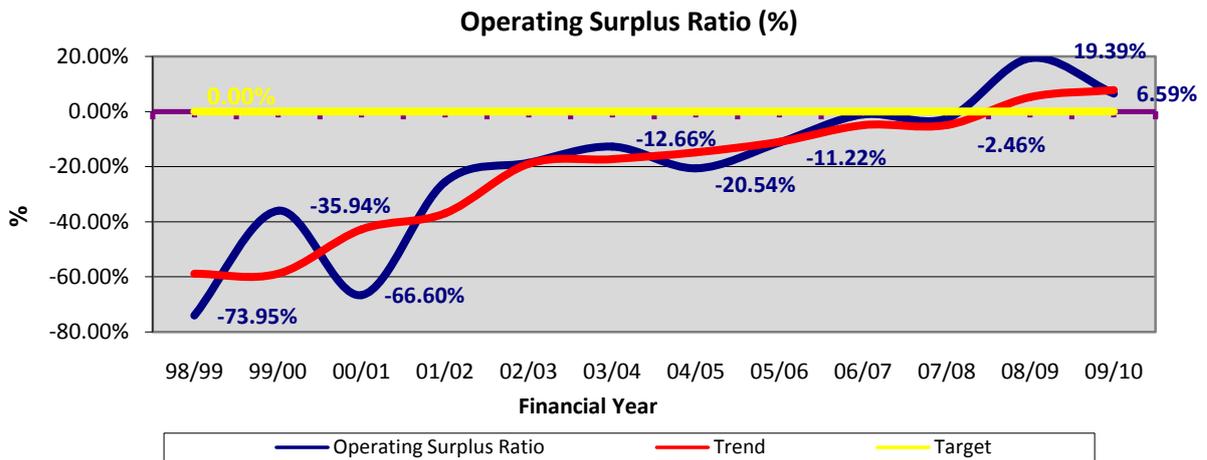


**Operating Surplus (Deficit) Ratio**

This ratio expresses the operating surplus / (deficit) as a percentage of general and other rates, net of rebates. A negative ratio indicates the percentage increase in total rates required to achieve a break-even operating result.

A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total rates available to fund capital expenditure over and above the level of depreciation expense without increasing Council's level of net financial liabilities.

Council budgeted for a 2% deficit but achieved a 19% surplus for the reasons outlined above. Clearly the budget ratio was a considerable improvement on the previous financial years in deficit, with a surplus or positive ratio expected in 2009/10.

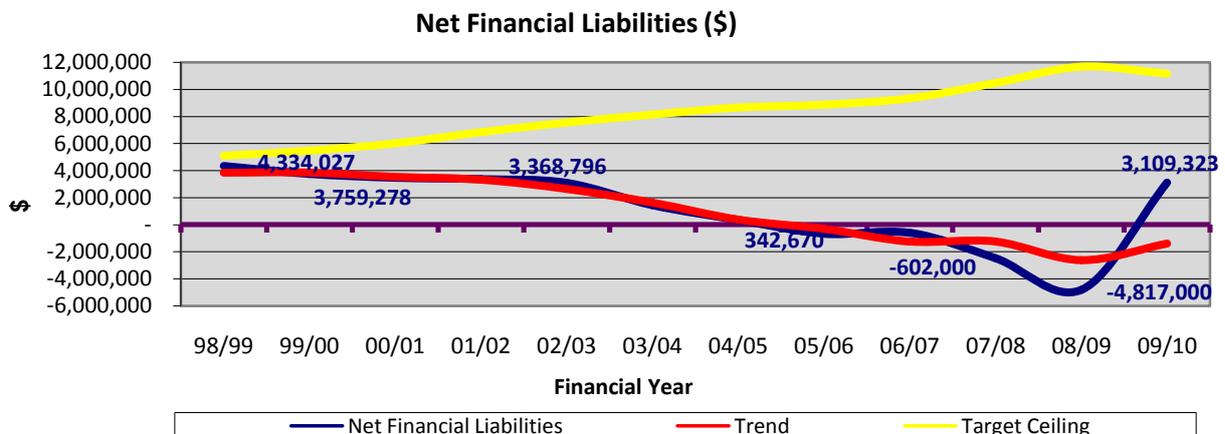


**Net Financial Liabilities**

Net financial liabilities measure a Council's total indebtedness. Net financial liabilities is a broader measure than net debt as it includes all of a Council's obligations including provisions for employee entitlements and creditors. The level of net financial liabilities increases when a net borrowing result occurs in a financial year and will lead to a Council incurring liabilities and/or reducing financial assets.

The level of net financial liabilities decreases when a net lending result occurs in a financial year and will result in a Council purchasing financial assets and/or repaying liabilities.

In 2008/09 Council budgeted for net financial liabilities of -\$2,281,834 but recorded -\$4,817,000, representing an improvement of \$2,535,166. Council plans to borrow for infrastructure expenditure in 2009/10 and will continue to employ tight operating funds management practices to avoid unnecessary costs on any new borrowings.

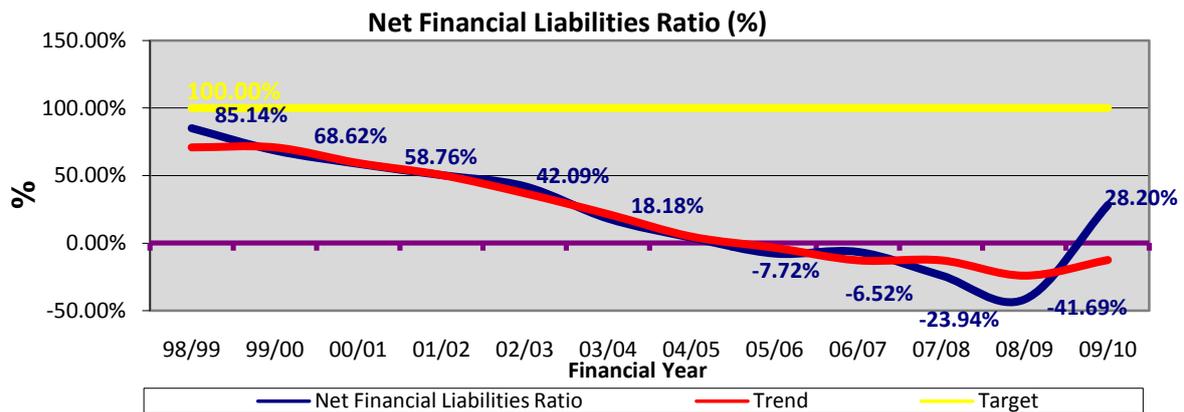


**Net Financial Liabilities Ratio**

This ratio indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities of the Council can be met by the Council's total operating revenue. Where the ratio is falling, it indicates the Council's capacity to meet its financial obligations from operating revenues is strengthening.

Where the ratio is increasing, it indicates a greater amount of Council's operating revenues is required to service its financial obligations.

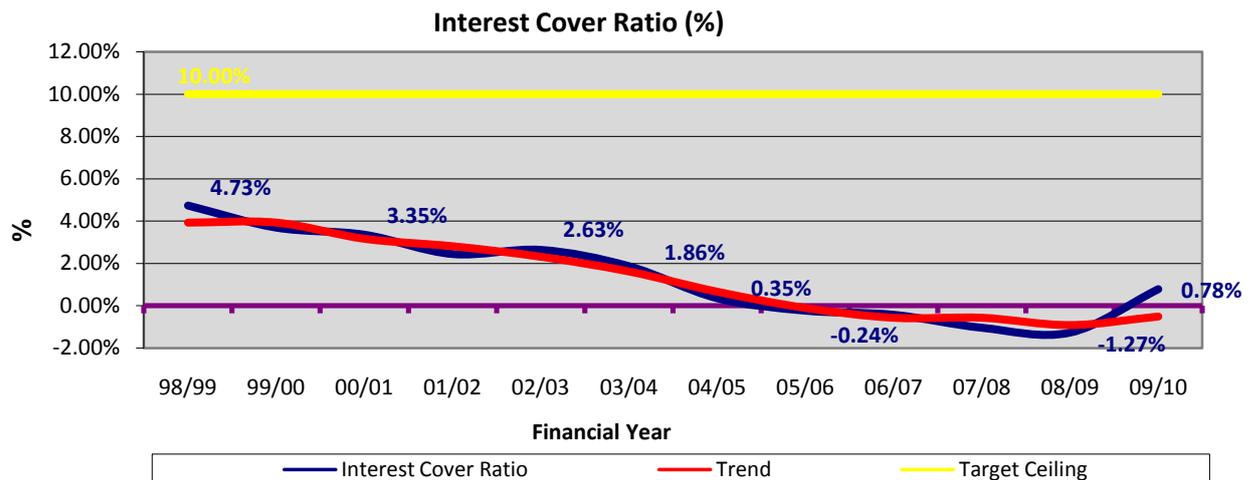
This ratio indicates the extent to which net financial liabilities of the Council could be met by its operating revenue. The Council budgeted for a net financial liabilities ratio of -21.7% and achieved -42.0% as a result of not having to take out new borrowings and carrying forward unspent funds from the 2008/09 budget.



**Interest Cover Ratio**

This ratio indicates the extent to which Council's commitment to interest expenses is met by total operating revenues. This ratio should be less than 10%. The target for net interest expenses/total operating revenue is considered a reasonable limit to ensure operating revenues can meet net interest costs comfortably.

Council budgeted for an interest cover ratio of -0.43% and achieved -1.3%, which is partially attributable to Council's debt management policy of drawing down loan funds when required and using internal reserves when possible.

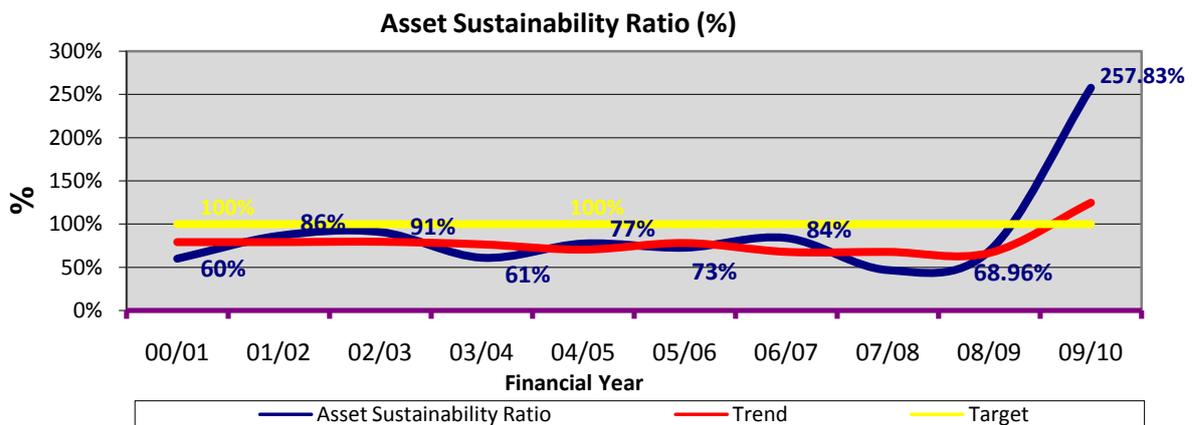


### Asset Sustainability Ratio

This ratio indicates whether a Council is renewing or replacing existing non-financial assets at the same rate that its overall stock of assets is wearing out. The target for this ratio should be for an average of 100% over any five-year period. This would mean that Council is replacing 100% (or all) of the assets that require renewal.

Council is expecting to significantly improve its performance in relation to asset management in 2009/10, where it intends to spend \$8.2 million on the renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure.

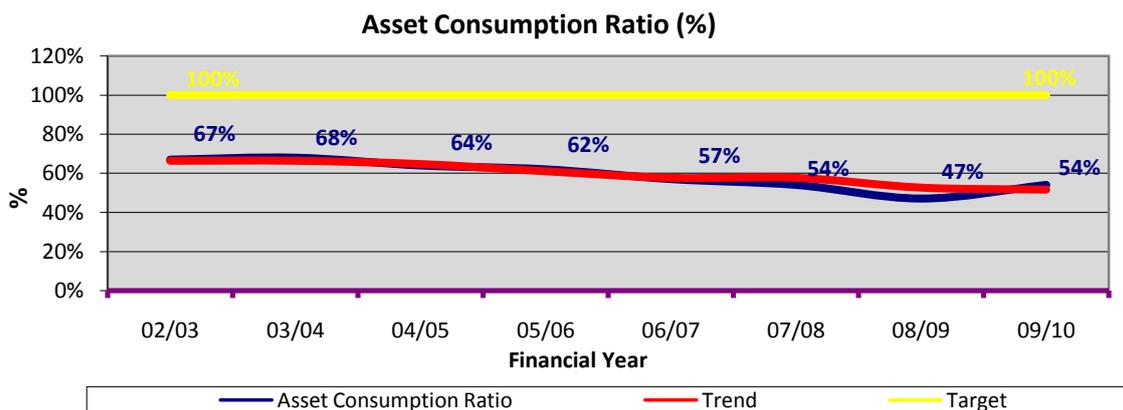
In 2008/09 Council proposed to spend \$4.875 million on assets whilst the depreciation proposed was \$3.3 million resulting in a ratio of 142.7%. However, by the end of the reporting period Council's expenditure on the renewal of assets was \$2.366 million with a depreciation expense of \$3 million, resulting in a ratio of 69%, which is well below Council's target of between 90% and 110%.



### Asset Consumption Ratio

This indicator expresses total carrying value (depreciated value) of assets as a percentage of the gross value (non-depreciated value) of assets. It illustrates the amount of asset life or "a new" condition remaining in the depreciable assets.

Council budgeted to have utilized 52% of the value of its physical assets at 30 June 2009, but experienced a fall to 47%. With the increased expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing infrastructure in 2009/10 this ratio is expected to improve by 7 percentage points.



In summary, the 2008/09 year saw a strengthening of Council's financial capacity. For those with a keen interest in financial performance, I would encourage you to examine our Financial Statements, which are set out in the following pages. While there were a range of budget line variations reflecting timing differences, different

accounting treatments, or the need to respond to changed circumstances to meet the community's service delivery expectations, our financial performance over all was in line with budget, and our financial sustainability continues to strengthen, as it has over a number of years.



**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT  
TO THE COUNCILLORS OF THE  
TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Scope**

**The financial report and Chief Executive Officer's responsibility**

The financial report comprises the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements and the Chief Executive Officers Statement of Tatiara District Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2009.

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

**Audit Approach**

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the Council. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999, applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and context of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements

**Audit Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report of the Tatiara District Council for the year ended 30 June 2009 is properly drawn up:

- (a) so as to give a true and fair view of:
  - (i) the Council's state of affairs as at and its operating result and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) the other matters required by Division IV of the Local Government Act 1999 to be dealt with in the accounts;
- (b) in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999; and
- (c) in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

**GALPIN ENGLER BRUINS & DEMPSEY**

L J Galpin FCPA  
Partner  
27 October 2009

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 June 2009**

**STATEMENT BY AUDITOR**

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of Tatiara District Council for the year ended 30 June 2009, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 — Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16A (4) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.



**Laurence John Galpin**  
**Galpin, Engler, Bruins & Dempsey**

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2009**

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## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates	2	7,689	7,108
Statutory charges	2	80	90
User charges	2	566	652
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2	2,734	1,980
Investment income	2	304	284
Reimbursements	2	95	97
Other income	2	220	273
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>11,688</b>	<b>10,484</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	3	3,038	2,799
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3	4,018	3,694
Finance costs	3	161	179
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	3	3,006	3,984
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>10,223</b>	<b>10,656</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>1,465</b>	<b>(172)</b>
Net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets	4	132	55
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets	2	1,361	1,394
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>2,958</b>	<b>1,277</b>

*This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.*

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### BALANCE SHEET as at 30 June 2009

ASSETS	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	6,383	3,855
Trade & other receivables	5	393	940
Inventories	5	539	380
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>7,315</b>	5,175
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Financial Assets	6	214	190
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	7	86,198	53,325
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>86,412</b>	53,515
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>93,727</b>	58,690
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	8	541	454
Borrowings	8	403	787
Provisions	8	564	535
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,508</b>	1,776
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Borrowings	8	594	665
Provisions	8	71	65
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>665</b>	730
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>2,173</b>	2,506
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>91,554</b>	56,184
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		(3,977)	(5,890)
Asset Revaluation Reserve	9	91,743	59,331
Other Reserves	9	3,788	2,743
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>91,554</b>	56,184

*This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.*

# TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 30 June 2009

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
	Notes	
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS</b>		
Balance at end of previous reporting period	(5,890)	(6,326)
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	2,958	1,277
Transfers to Other Reserves	(1,360)	(1,724)
Transfers from Other Reserves	315	883
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>(3,977)</b>	<b>(5,890)</b>
<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>		
	9	
Balance at end of previous reporting period	59,331	59,331
Gain on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	32,412	-
Transfer to Accumulated Surplus on sale of infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	-	-
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>91,743</b>	<b>59,331</b>
<b>OTHER RESERVES</b>		
	9	
Balance at end of previous reporting period	2,743	1,902
Transfers from Accumulated Surplus	1,360	1,724
Transfers to Accumulated Surplus	(315)	(883)
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	<b>3,788</b>	<b>2,743</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD</b>	<b>91,554</b>	<b>56,184</b>
<i>Total of all revenues recognised directly in Equity</i>	<b>32,412</b>	-
<i>Total of all expenses recognised directly in Equity</i>	-	-
<b>NET CHANGE IN EQUITY</b>	<b>32,412</b>	-

*This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes*

# TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 30 June 2009

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates - general & other			
Fees & other charges			
Operating receipts		12,644	10,364
Investment receipts		327	259
Grants utilised for operating purposes			
<u>Payments</u>			
Employee Costs			
Contractual services & materials			
Operating payments to suppliers & employees		(7,818)	(6,729)
Finance payments		(168)	(188)
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b>4,985</b>	<b>3,706</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Amounts specifically for new or upgraded assets		1,361	1,394
Sale of replaced assets		293	218
Sale of surplus assets		-	125
Sale of investment property		-	
Net disposal of investment securities		-	
Sale of real estate developments		-	
Repayments of loans by community groups		47	55
Distributions received from associated entities		-	
<u>Payments</u>			
Expenditure on renewal/replacement of assets		(2,366)	(2,079)
Expenditure on new/upgraded assets		(1,262)	(1,539)
Purchase of investment property		-	
Net purchase of investment securities		-	
Development of real estate for sale		-	
Loans made to community groups		(75)	-
Capital contributed to associated entities		-	
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities</b>		<b>(2,002)</b>	<b>(1,826)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<u>Receipts</u>			
Proceeds from Borrowings		80	-
Proceeds from Aged Care Facility deposits		-	
<u>Payments</u>			
Repayments of Borrowings		(535)	(632)
Repayment of Finance Lease Liabilities		-	
Repayment of Aged Care Facility deposits		-	
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities</b>		<b>(455)</b>	<b>(632)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>2,528</b>	<b>1,248</b>
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	10	3,855	2,607
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at end of period</b>	10	<b>6,383</b>	<b>3,855</b>

*This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes*

# TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

### Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### 1. Basis of Preparation

##### 1.1 Compliance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS) as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Urgent Issues Group Interpretations (UIGs) and relevant South Australian legislation.

The financial report was authorised for issue by certificate under clause 11 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999.

##### 1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

##### 1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with AIFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates, and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

##### 1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000).

#### 2. The Local Government Reporting Entity

Tatiara District Council is incorporated under the SA Local Government Act 1999 and has its principal place of business at 43 Woolshed Street, Bordertown. These financial statements include the consolidated fund and all entities through which Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and controlled entities have been eliminated.

#### 3. Income Recognition

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Income is recognised when the Council obtains control over the assets comprising the income, or when the amount due constitutes an enforceable debt, whichever first occurs.

Where grants, contributions and donations recognised as incomes during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the amounts subject to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in these notes. Also disclosed is the amount of grants, contributions and receivables recognised as incomes in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the Council's operations for the current reporting period.

#### 4. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Instruments

Cash Assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

## Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONT...

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments forms part of Note 12.

### 5. Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

### 6. Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

#### 6.1 Transitional Provisions

As at 1 July 2008, Council has elected not to recognise any values for land under roads acquired before the commencement of AASB 1051 Land Under Roads. Details of the effects of this election are given in Note 7.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use".

#### 6.2 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

#### 6.3 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are as follows. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Office Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Other Plant & Equipment	\$1,000
Buildings - new construction/extensions	\$1,000
Park & Playground Furniture & Equipment	\$1,000
Road construction & reconstruction	\$1,000
Paving & footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	\$1,000
Drains & Culverts	\$1,000

#### 6.4 Subsequent Recognition

Certain asset classes are revalued on a regular basis such that the carrying values are not materially different from fair value. For infrastructure and other asset classes where no active market exists, fair value is determined to be the current replacement cost of an asset less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation calculated on the basis of such cost to reflect the already consumed or expired future economic benefits of the asset. Further detail of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 7.

#### 6.5 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

## Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONT...

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis. Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown below. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

Plant, Furniture & Equipment	
Office Equipment	5 to 10 years
Office Furniture	10 to 20 years
Vehicles and Road-making Equip	5 to 8 years
Other Plant & Equipment	5 to 15 years
Building & Other Structures	
Buildings – masonry	50 to 100 years
Buildings – other construction	20 to 40 years
Park Structures – masonry	50 to 100 years
Park Structures – other construction	20 to 40 years
Playground equipment	5 to 15 years
Benches, seats, etc	10 to 20 years
Infrastructure	
Sealed Roads – Surface	15 to 25 years
Sealed Roads – Structure	20 to 50 years
Unsealed Roads	10 to 20 years
Bridges – Concrete	80 to 100 years
Paving & Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter	80 to 100 years
Drains	80 to 100 years
Culverts	50 to 75 years
Flood Control Structures	80 to 100 years
Dams and Reservoirs	80 to 100 years
Bores	20 to 40 years
Reticulation Pipes – PVC	70 to 80 years
Reticulation Pipes – other	25 to 75 years
Pumps & Telemetry	15 to 25 years
Other Assets	
Library Books	10 to 15 years
Artworks	indefinite

### 6.6 Impairment

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to depreciation and are reviewed annually for impairment. Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash outflows or value in use).

For assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, the value in use is the depreciated replacement cost. In assessing impairment for these assets, a rebuttable assumption is made that the current replacement cost exceeds the original cost of acquisition.

### 6.7 Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs in relation to qualifying assets (net of offsetting investment revenue) have been capitalised in accordance with the allowed alternative treatment in AASB 1023 "Borrowing Costs". The amounts of borrowing costs recognised as an expense or as part of the carrying amount of qualifying assets are disclosed in Note 3, and the amount (if any) of interest revenue offset against borrowing costs in Note 2.

## 7. Payables

### 7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

## Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONT...

### 7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

### 8. Borrowings

Loans are carried at their principal amounts which represent the present value of future cash flows associated with servicing the debt. Interest is accrued over the period to which it relates, and is recorded as part of "Payables". Interest free loans are carried at their nominal amounts; interest revenues foregone by the lender effectively being a reduction of interest expense in the period to which it relates.

### 9. Employee Benefits

#### 9.1 Salaries, Wages & Compensated Absences

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based oncosts) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based oncosts) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

Weighted average discount rate	4.69% (2008, 6.73%)
Weighted average settlement period	1 year (2008, 1 year)

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

#### 9.2 Superannuation

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. No changes in accounting policy have occurred during either the current or previous reporting periods. Details of the accounting policies applied and Council's involvement with the schemes are reported in Note 17.

### 10. Construction Contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. As there is no profit component, such works are treated as 100% completed. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

### 11. GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax" Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable. Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable. Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment. Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

### 12. Comparative Information

Comparative information has been reclassified to be consistent with the current year disclosure of equivalent information in accordance with AIFRS.

## Note 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONT...

### 13. New Accounting Standards

Certain new accounting standards and UIG interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2009 reporting period.

AASB 3	Business Combinations
AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 123	Borrowing Costs
AASB 127	Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements
AASB 2007-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 123
AASB 2007-8 & AASB 2007-10	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 101
AASB 2008-2	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Puttable Financial Instruments and Obligations arising on Liquidation
AASB 2008-3	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 3 and AASB 127
AASB 2008-5 & AASB 2008-6	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Annual Improvements Project
AASB 2008-7	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Cost of an Investment in a Subsidiary, Jointly Controlled Entity or Associate
AASB 2008-8	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Eligible Hedged Items
AASB 2008-9	Amendments to AASB 1049 for Consistency with AASB 101
AASB 2008-11	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard – Business Combinations Among Not-for-Profit Entities
AASB 2008-12	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Reclassification of Financial Assets – Effective Date and Transition
AASB 2008-13	Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 17 – Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners
Interpretation 15	Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate
Interpretation 16	Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation
Interpretation 17	Distributions of Non-cash Assets to Owners
Interpretation 18	Transfers of Assets from Customers

(Standards not affecting local government have been excluded from the above list.)

Council is of the view that none of the above new standards or interpretations will affect any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements, but that they may impact certain information otherwise disclosed.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 2 - INCOME

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>RATES REVENUES</b>			
<u>General Rates</u>		6,858	6,500
Less: Mandatory rebates		(116)	(116)
Less: Discretionary rebates, remissions & write offs		(18)	(8)
		6,724	6,376
<u>Other Rates</u> (including service charges)			
Natural Resource Management levy		135	129
Waste collection		165	-
Kerbing		3	3
Community wastewater management systems		612	562
		915	694
<u>Other Charges</u>			
Penalties for late payment		50	38
		50	38
		7,689	7,108
<b>STATUTORY CHARGES</b>			
Development Act fees		35	49
Animal registration fees & fines		30	26
Sundry		15	15
		80	90
<b>USER CHARGES</b>			
Cemetery/crematoria fees		44	28
Visitor Information Centre		58	48
Truckwash Fees		31	25
Sangarb Collection Fees		54	205
Swimming Revenues		92	101
Hall & Equipment Hire		8	9
Quarry Operations		254	217
Sundry		25	19
		566	652
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>			
Interest on investments			
Local Government Finance Authority		278	248
Banks & other		6	12
Loans to community groups		20	24
		304	284

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### NOTE 2 - INCOME (continued)

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>REIMBURSEMENTS</b>			
- for roadworks		17	8
- for private works		31	35
- other		47	54
		95	97
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Insurance & other recoupments - infrastructure, property, plant & equipment		1	2
Rebates received		31	9
Sundry		188	262
		220	273
<b>GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
Amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets		1,361	1,394
Other grants, subsidies and contributions		2,734	1,980
		4,095	3,374
<i>The functions to which these grants relate are shown in Note 11.</i>			
<b>Sources of grants</b>			
Commonwealth Government		21	959
State Government		4,074	2,415
		4,095	3,374
<b>Conditions over grants &amp; contributions</b>			
<i>Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:</i>			
<i>Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period</i>		112	-
<i>Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods</i>			
<i>Roads Infrastructure</i>		(50)	-
<i>Sport and Recreation</i>		(62)	-
<i>Subtotal</i>		(112)	-
<i>Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions</i>			
<i>Roads Infrastructure</i>		396	50
<i>Civic Centre</i>		786	-
<i>Heritage Grant</i>		7	-
<i>Keith Town Entrances</i>		49	-
<i>Sport and Recreation</i>		-	62
<i>Subtotal</i>		1,238	112
<i>Unexpended at the close of this reporting period</i>		1,238	112
<i>Net increase (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period</i>		1,126	112

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 3 - EXPENSES

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>			
Salaries and Wages		2,573	2,375
Employee leave expense		130	138
Superannuation - defined contribution plan contributions	15	243	211
Superannuation - defined benefit plan contributions	15	162	150
Workers' Compensation Insurance		150	132
Less: Capitalised and distributed costs		(220)	(207)
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>		<b>3,038</b>	2,799
 <b>Total Number of Employees</b>		 <b>53</b>	 <b>51</b>
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>			
 <b>MATERIALS, CONTRACTS &amp; OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
<u>Prescribed Expenses</u>			
Auditor's Remuneration			
- Auditing the financial reports		13	13
- Other Services		-	-
Elected members' expenses		153	148
Election expenses		9	2
Subtotal - Prescribed Expenses		175	163
 <u>Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</u>			
Contractors		1,471	1,173
Maintenance		2,028	1,625
Legal Expenses		18	19
Levies paid to government - NRM levy		132	127
Sundry		194	587
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses		3,843	3,531
		<b>4,018</b>	3,694
 <b>FINANCE COSTS</b>			
Interest on Borrowings		161	179
		161	179

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 3 – EXPENSES – (continued)**

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Buildings		461	730
Roads		1,665	2,488
Bridges		3	2
Footways		92	35
Sewerage - Effluent Drainage		81	81
Stormwater Drainage		45	45
Other Structures		84	76
Plant and Equipment		465	431
Furniture and Fittings		88	77
Other Community Assets		22	19
		<b>3,006</b>	<b>3,984</b>

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 4 - GAIN OR LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS**

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>			
<i>Assets renewed or directly replaced</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		293	218
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		161	176
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>42</b>
<i>Assets surplus to requirements</i>			
Proceeds from disposal		-	125
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		-	112
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		-	13
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OR REVALUATION OF ASSETS</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>55</b>

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS**

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>CASH &amp; EQUIVALENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		528	246
Deposits at Call		5,855	3,609
		6,383	3,855
 <b>TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>			
Rates - General & Other		251	237
Accrued Revenues		36	59
Debtors - general		54	585
GST Recoupment		3	15
Loans to community organisations		49	45
Total		393	941
 Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts		-	1
		393	940
 <b>INVENTORIES</b>			
Stores & Materials		539	380
		539	380

*Aggregate write-downs and other losses recognised as an expense, and reversals of these, were not material in amount in either year. All such reversals occurred principally as a result of clerical inaccuracies during stores operations.*

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 6 - NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>			
<b>Receivables</b>			
Loans to community organisations		214	190
		214	190

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

	2008 \$'000				2009 \$'000			
	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT	AT FAIR VALUE	AT COST	ACCUM DEP'N	CARRYING AMOUNT
Land	6,165	112	-	6,277	11,348	124	-	11,472
Buildings	13,086	1,526	(2,860)	11,752	25,138	543	(14,484)	11,197
Roads	52,928	2,462	(28,519)	26,871	111,418	1,724	(58,558)	54,584
Bridges	195	-	(24)	171	195	-	(27)	168
Footways	1,422	46	(268)	1,200	2,863	111	(1,428)	1,546
Sewerage - Effluent Drainage	4,548	2	(3,267)	1,283	4,548	2	(3,348)	1,202
Stormwater Drainage	2,256	75	(691)	1,640	2,256	161	(737)	1,680
Other Structures	1,987	108	(664)	1,431	1,987	236	(747)	1,476
Plant and Equipment	-	4,708	(2,378)	2,330	-	5,016	(2,475)	2,541
Furniture and Fittings	-	1,078	(784)	294	-	1,129	(872)	257
Other Community Assets	498	25	(447)	76	498	46	(469)	75
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>83,085</b>	<b>10,142</b>	<b>(39,902)</b>	<b>53,325</b>	<b>160,251</b>	<b>9,092</b>	<b>(83,145)</b>	<b>86,198</b>
<i>2008 Totals</i>					<b>83,085</b>	<b>10,142</b>	<b>(39,902)</b>	<b>53,325</b>

	2008 \$'000	CARRYING AMOUNT MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR \$'000						2009 \$'000
	CARRYING AMOUNT	Additions		Disposals	Depreciation	Impairment	Net Revaluation	CARRYING AMOUNT
		New/Upgrade	Renewals					
Land	6,277	124	-	-	-	-	5,071	11,472
Buildings	11,752	529	14	-	(461)	-	(637)	11,197
Roads	26,871	376	1,351	-	(1,665)	-	27,651	54,584
Bridges	171	-	-	-	(3)	-	-	168
Footways	1,200	19	92	-	(92)	-	327	1,546
Sewerage - Effluent Drainage	1,283	-	-	-	(81)	-	-	1,202
Stormwater Drainage	1,640	85	-	-	(45)	-	-	1,680
Other Structures	1,431	129	-	-	(84)	-	-	1,476
Plant and Equipment	2,330	-	837	(161)	(465)	-	-	2,541
Furniture and Fittings	294	-	51	-	(88)	-	-	257
Other Community Assets	76	-	21	-	(22)	-	-	75
<b>TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>53,325</b>	<b>1,262</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>(161)</b>	<b>(3,006)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,412</b>	<b>86,198</b>
<i>2008 Totals</i>	<b>53,979</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>2,079</b>	<b>(288)</b>	<b>(3,984)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>53,325</b>

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 7 - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (continued)

##### Valuation of Assets

At 1 July 2004 upon the transition to AIFRS, Council elected pursuant to AASB 1.19 to retain a previously established deemed cost under GAAP as its deemed cost for the purposes of AIFRS.

##### Land & Land Improvements

Council being of the opinion that it is not possible to attribute a value sufficiently reliably to qualify for recognition, land under roads has not been recognised in these reports. Land acquired for road purposes during the year is initially recognised at cost, but transferred to fair value at reporting date, effectively writing off the expenditure.

Pursuant to Council's election, freehold land and land over which Council has control, but does not have title, is recognised on the cost basis. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

Land improvements, including bulk earthworks with an assessed unlimited useful life, are recognised on the cost basis, originally deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2004 at current replacement cost. Valuations were conducted by Maloney Field Services, Property Consultants and Valuers. Additions are recognised at cost.

Estimated future costs of reinstatement of land, capitalised in accordance with AASB 116.16(c), are reviewed annually (see Note 1) and depreciated over the estimated remaining life of the relevant asset.

##### Buildings & Other Structures

Pursuant to Council's election, buildings and other structures are recognised on the cost basis, deriving from a valuation at 30 June 2009 at current replacement cost. Valuations were conducted by Maloney Field Services, Property Consultants and Valuers in consultation with Council Officers as at 1 July 2008. Additions are recognised at cost.

##### Infrastructure

Transportation assets were valued by Council officers at written down current replacement cost during the reporting period ended 30 June 2009 and pursuant to Council's election are disclosed at deemed cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Stormwater drainage infrastructure was valued by Maloney Field Services, Property Consultants and Valuers as at 30 June 2004 at written down current replacement cost, based on actual costs incurred during the reporting period ended 30 June 2004 and pursuant to Council's election are disclosed at deemed cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

Community wastewater management system infrastructure was valued by Maloney Field Services, Property Consultants and Valuers at written down current replacement cost during the reporting period ended 30 June 2004 and pursuant to Council's election are disclosed at deemed cost. All acquisitions made after the respective dates of valuation are recorded at cost.

##### All other assets

Pursuant to Council's election, these assets are recognised on the cost basis. Library books and other lending materials are capitalised in bulk, and written out when fully depreciated.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 8 – LIABILITIES

	Notes	2009 \$'000		2008 \$'000	
		Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
<b>TRADE &amp; OTHER PAYABLES</b>					
Goods & Services		219		267	
Accrued expenses - employee entitlements		124	-	103	-
Accrued expenses - other		11	-	18	-
Deposits, Retentions & Bonds		30	-	18	-
Other		157	-	48	-
		<u>541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>BORROWINGS</b>					
Borrowings		<u>403</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>665</u>
		<u>403</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>665</u>
<b>PROVISIONS</b>					
Employee entitlements (including oncosts)		<u>564</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>65</u>
		<u>564</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>65</u>

*All interest bearing liabilities are secured over the future revenues of the Council.*

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 9 – RESERVES**

<b>ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE</b>		1/07/2008	Net Increments (Decrements)	Transfers on Sale	30/06/2009
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land & Buildings		59,331	4,434	-	63,765
Roads		-	27,651	-	27,651
Footways		-	327	-	327
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>59,331</b>	<b>32,412</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>91,743</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>		<b>59,331</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>59,331</b>
<b>OTHER RESERVES</b>		1/07/2008	Transfers to Reserve	Transfers from Reserve	30/06/2009
Bowling Club Loan Repayment Reserve		28	1	(6)	23
Long Service Leave Reserve		196	11	(26)	181
Plant Replacement Reserve		202	10	(43)	169
Clayton Farm Insurance		127	7	(5)	129
Bordertown Civic Centre Access Reserve		21	2	-	23
CWMS Maintenance Reserve		1,843	792	(235)	2,400
Sports & Rec Loan Payment Reserve		26	1	-	27
Reserve Land Development		300	12	-	312
Reserve Civic Centre Upgrade		-	441	-	441
Reserve Keith Community Library		-	23	-	23
Reserve Tatiara Creek		-	60	-	60
<b>TOTAL OTHER RESERVES</b>		<b>2,743</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>(315)</b>	<b>3,788</b>
<b>2008 Totals</b>		<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,724</b>	<b>(883)</b>	<b>2,743</b>

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 9 – RESERVES (continued)

##### **PURPOSES OF RESERVES**

##### **Asset Revaluation Reserve**

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets and available-for-sale financial assets.

##### **Tatiara 21 Loan Payment - (Bowling Club)**

This reserve was set up when the Bowling Club were allowed to pay out their loan to Council early. Council still however, have to make half yearly repayments to the LGFA to meet their loan obligations.

##### **Tatiara 04 Long Service Leave**

The Long Service Leave reserve is for the future cash requirements upon staff leaving Council employment.

##### **Tatiara 20 Plant Replacement**

The Plant Replacement reserve is for urgent unbudgeted major plant and equipment replacement.

##### **Tatiara 22 Clayton Farm Insurance**

The Clayton Farm Insurance reserve is to be spent towards Capital to maintain Clayton Farm's heritage.

##### **Tatiara 01 Bordertown Civic Centre Access Reserve**

The Bordertown Civic Centre Access reserve is for the upgrade of the Civic Centre to provide disability access.

##### **Tatiara 05 CWMS Maintenance Reserve**

The CWMS Maintenance reserve is for future asset replacement and capital maintenance of CWMS.

##### **Tatiara 18 Sports & Rec Loan Payment Reserve**

This reserve has been around for a number of years and will be investigated and dealt with in 2008/09.

##### **Tatiara 26 Land Development Reserve**

This reserve was set up for Land Development in Keith Industrial Estate.

##### **Tatiara 24 Civic Centre Upgrade**

Federal Grant for the Civic Centre Upgrade including disabled access and library and gallery upgrade.

##### **Tatiara 27 Keith Community Library**

Council is acting as an agent and providing financial services for the Library.

##### **Tatiara 28 Tatiara Creek Reserve**

Money held in reserve to prepare for a flood that may happen within 100 years.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 10 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

*Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:*

	Notes	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Total cash & equivalent assets	5	<b>6,383</b>	3,855
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<b>6,383</b>	3,855

**(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities**

Net Surplus (Deficit)		2,958	1,277
Non-cash items in Income Statement			
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment		3,006	3,984
Net increase (decrease) in unpaid employee benefits		56	73
Change in allowances for under-recovery		(1)	97
Grants for capital acquisitions treated as Investing Activity		(1,361)	(1,394)
Net (Gain) Loss on Disposals		(132)	(55)
		4,526	3,982
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets			
Net (increase) decrease in receivables		552	(322)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories		(159)	(54)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables		66	100
<b>Net Cash provided by (or used in) operations</b>		<b>4,985</b>	3,706

**TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 11 - FUNCTIONS**

	INCOMES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES									
	INCOME		EXPENSES		OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		GRANTS INCLUDED IN INCOME		TOTAL ASSETS HELD (CURRENT & NON-CURRENT)	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL				
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Administration	9,261	8,285	487	419	8,774	7,866	1,937	1,379	28,718	23,362
Public Order and Safety	32	37	220	223	(188)	(186)	1	8	80	65
Health	12	11	50	48	(38)	(37)	-	-	60	49
Social Security and Welfare	6	68	167	137	(161)	(69)	-	50	129	105
Housing and Community Amenities	922	907	1,555	1,376	(633)	(469)	3	11	1,615	1,314
Protection of the Environment NEC	-	-	1	1	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	-
Sport and Recreation	280	222	1,538	1,580	(1,258)	(1,358)	145	72	649	528
Agricultural Services	-	6	172	164	(172)	(158)	-	6	179	145
Mining Manufacturing and Construction	290	266	459	428	(169)	(162)	-	-	163	133
Transport and Communications	632	470	3,624	4,068	(2,992)	(3,598)	614	439	58,605	30,118
Economic Affairs NEC	97	76	399	396	(302)	(320)	10	10	548	446
Other Purpose NEC	156	136	1,551	1,816	(1,395)	(1,680)	24	5	2,981	2,425
					-	-				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11,688</b>	<b>10,484</b>	<b>10,223</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>(172)</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>93,727</b>	<b>58,690</b>

*Excludes net gain (loss) on disposal or revaluation of assets, net gain (loss) from joint ventures & associated entities, amounts received specifically for new or upgraded assets and physical resources received free of charge.*

*The methodology for the above has changed and as a result the 2007/2008 comparative figures have been adjusted.*

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 11 - FUNCTIONS (continued)

The activities relating to Council functions are as follows:

##### **Administration**

Governance, Administration n.e.c., Elected Members, Organisational, Support Services, Accounting/Finance, Payroll, Housing for Council Employees, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communication, Rates Administration, Records, Occupancy, Contract Management, Customer Service, Other Support Services, Revenues, LGGC – General Purpose, and Separate and Special Rates.

##### **Public Order and Safety**

Supervision of Various By-Laws, Fire Prevention and Animal Control.

##### **Health**

Food Control, Operation of Community Health Programs.

##### **Social Security and Welfare**

Voluntary Services.

##### **Housing and Community Amenities**

Rubbish Collection Services, Operation of Tip, Effluent Drainage, Public Toilets, Street Cleaning and Lighting, Town Planning, Stormwater Drainage, Land Development, Maintenance of Cemeteries.

##### **Protection of the Environment NEC**

Foreshore Protection, Flood Prevention.

##### **Sport and Recreation**

Parks and Gardens, Sports Facilities – Indoor, Sports Facilities – Outdoor, Swimming Centres – Indoor, Swimming Centres – Outdoor, and Other Recreation.

##### **Agricultural Services**

Pest Plant Services.

##### **Mining, Manufacturing and Construction**

Building Act Requirements, Quarry Operations.

##### **Transport and Communications**

Aerodrome, Bridges, Bus Service, Footpaths and Kerbing, Roads – Sealed, Roads – Formed, Roads – Natural Formed, Roads – Unformed, Traffic Management, LGGC – Roads (Formula Funded), and Other Transport.

##### **Economic Affairs NEC**

Land Development Activities, Caravan Park Operations, Off-Street Parking, Tourism.

##### **Other Purposes NEC**

Public Debt Transactions, Plant and Machinery Operations, Depot Expenses, Vandalism Costs and Private Works.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

##### Recognised Financial Instruments

<b>Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at lower of cost and net realisable value; Interest is recognised when earned.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Deposits are returning fixed interest rates between 2.75% and 7% (2008: 6% and 7%).
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
<b>Receivables - Rates &amp; Associated Charges (including legals &amp; penalties for late payment)</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Secured over the subject land, arrears attract interest of 0.93% (2008: 0.85%) Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries in the State.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
<b>Receivables - Fees &amp; Other Charges</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection in full is no longer probable.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
<b>Receivables - Other Levels of Government</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at nominal value.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Amounts due have been calculated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective programs following advice of approvals, and do not bear interest. All amounts are due by Departments and Agencies of the Governments of the Commonwealth & State.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.
<b>Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.
<b>Liabilities - Interest Bearing Borrowings</b>	<b>Accounting Policy:</b> Carried at the principal amounts. Interest is charged as an expense as it accrues.
	<b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> secured over future revenues, borrowings are repayable (describe basis); interest is charged at fixed (or variable - describe) rates between 5.55% and 7.5% (2008: 5.55% and 7.5%)
	<b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 12 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

##### Liquidity Analysis

2009	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	406			406	406
Borrowings	403	531	63	997	997
<b>Total</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,403</b>
2008	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Total Contractual Cash Flows	Carrying Values
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>					
Payables	333			333	333
Borrowings	787	460	205	1,452	1,452
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>1,785</b>

The following interest rates were applicable to Council's borrowings at balance date:

	30 June 2009		30 June 2008	
	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value	Weighted Average Interest Rate	Carrying Value
	%	\$'000	%	\$'000
Other Variable Rates		406		333
Fixed Interest Rates	6.56%	997	6.8%	1,452
		<b>1,403</b>		<b>1,785</b>

##### Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

##### Risk Exposures

Credit Risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties fail to perform as contracted. The maximum credit risk on financial assets of the Council is the carrying amount, net of any allowance for doubtful debts. All Council investments are made with the SA Local Government Finance Authority and are guaranteed by the SA Government. Except as detailed in Notes 5 & 6 in relation to individual classes of receivables, exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries, and there is no material exposure to any individual debtor.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity Risk is the risk that Council will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations with financial liabilities. In accordance with the model Treasury Policy (LGA Information Paper 15), liabilities have a range of maturity dates based on cash inflows. Council also has available a range of bank overdraft and short-term draw down facilities that it can access.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has a balance of both fixed and variable interest rate borrowings and investments. Cash flow fluctuations are managed holistically in seeking to minimise interest costs over the longer term in a risk averse manner.

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 13 - FINANCIAL INDICATORS

*These Financial Indicators have been calculated in accordance with Information Paper 9 - Local Government Financial Indicators prepared as part of the LGA Financial Sustainability Program for the Local Government Association of South Australia. Detailed methods of calculation are set out in the SA Model Statements.*

	2009	2008	2007
<b>Operating Surplus</b>	1,465	(172)	(62)
<i>Being the operating surplus (deficit) before capital amounts</i>			
<b>Operating Surplus Ratio</b>			
<u>Operating Surplus</u>	19%	(2%)	(1%)
<i>Rates - general &amp; other less NRM levy</i>			
<i>This ratio expresses the operating surplus as a percentage of general and other rates, net of NRM levy</i>			
<b>Net Financial Liabilities</b>	(4,817)	(2,479)	(602)
<i>Net Financial Liabilities are defined as total liabilities less financial assets (excluding equity accounted investments in Council businesses).</i>			
<b>Net Financial Liabilities Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Financial Liabilities</u>	-42%	-24%	-7%
<i>Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy</i>			
<b>Interest Cover Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Interest Expense</u>	(1.3%)	(1.0%)	(0.4%)
<i>Total Operating Revenue less NRM levy less Investment Income</i>			
<b>Asset Sustainability Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Asset Renewals</u>	69%	47%	84%
<i>Depreciation Expense</i>			
<i>Net asset renewals expenditure is defined as net capital expenditure on the renewal and replacement of existing assets, and excludes new capital expenditure on the acquisition of additional assets.</i>			
<b>Asset Consumption Ratio</b>			
<u>Carrying value of depreciable assets</u>	47%	54%	57%
<i>Gross value of depreciable assets</i>			
<i>Total carrying value of depreciable assets divided by total reported value of depreciable assets before accumulated depreciation.</i>			

## TATIARA DISTRICT COUNCIL

### NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the year ended 30 June 2009

#### Note 14 - UNIFORM PRESENTATION OF FINANCES

The following is a high level summary of both operating and capital investment activities of the Council prepared on a uniform and consistent basis. The uniform presentation represents a simplified version of reporting under the Government Finance Statistics (GFS) framework of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

All Councils in South Australia voluntarily have agreed to summarise annual budgets and long-term financial plans on the same basis.

The arrangements ensure that all Councils provide a common 'core' of financial information, which enables meaningful comparisons of each Council's finances

	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Income	11,688	10,484
less Expenses	<u>(10,223)</u>	<u>(10,656)</u>
	1,465	(172)
<b>Net Outlays on Existing Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on renewal and replacement of Existing Assets	(2,366)	(2,079)
less Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	3,006	3,984
less Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	<u>293</u>	<u>218</u>
	933	2,123
<b>Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets</b>		
Capital Expenditure on New and Upgraded Assets (including investment property & real estate developments)	(1,262)	(1,539)
less Amounts received specifically for New and Upgraded Assets	1,361	1,394
less Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets (including investment property and real estate developments)	-	125
	<u>99</u>	<u>(20)</u>
<b>Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year</b>	<u>2,497</u>	<u>1,931</u>

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2009**

**Note 15 – SUPERANNUATION**

The Council makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. The Scheme has two types of membership, each of which is funded differently. Permanent and contract employees of the South Australian Local Government sector have the option to contribute to Marketlink and/or Salarylink. All other employees (including casuals) have all contributions allocated to Marketlink.

**Marketlink (Accumulation Fund) Members**

Marketlink receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation (9% in 2008/09 for Marketlink members and 3% for Salarylink members; 9% and 3% respectively in 2007/08). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

**Salarylink (Defined Benefit) Members**

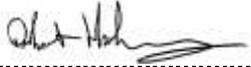
Salarylink is a defined benefit scheme where the benefit payable is based on a formula determined by the member's contribution rate, number of years of contribution and final average salary. Council makes employer contributions to Salarylink as determined by the Scheme's Trustee based on advice from the Scheme's Actuary. The rate is currently 6% (6% in 2007/2008) of "superannuation" salary. Given that Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings in accordance with superannuation guarantee legislation, the remaining 3% for Salarylink members is allocated to their Marketlink account. Employees also make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet the member's benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

The Salarylink Plan is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated by employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided by AASB 119.32(b), Council does not use defined benefit accounting for these contributions.

The most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Scheme's actuary, L C Brett, BSc., FIA, FIAA, of Brett and Watson Pty Ltd as at 30 June 2008, the Trustee has determined that the current funding arrangements are adequate for the expected Defined Benefit Plan liabilities. However, future financial and economic circumstances may require changes to Council's contribution rates at some future time.

### STATEMENT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, Robert Harkness, the person for the time being occupying the position of Chief Executive Officer of Tatiara District Council, do hereby state that the Financial Statements of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2009 are to the best of my knowledge presented fairly, and in accordance with accounting procedures which have been maintained in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

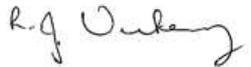


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Robert Harkness  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009

### ADOPTION STATEMENT

Laid before the Tatiara District Council and adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009.



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Mr Richard Vickery  
MAYOR

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### CERTIFICATION OF AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

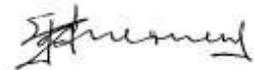
To the best of our knowledge and belief, we confirm that, for the purpose of the audit of Tatiara District Council for the year ended 30 June 2009, the Council's Auditor, Galpin, Engler, Bruins & Dempsey, has maintained its independence in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16A(2) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.



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Robert Harkness  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009



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Ken McNerney  
PRESIDING MEMBER  
AUDIT COMMITTEE

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### STATEMENT BY AUDITOR

I confirm that, for the audit of the financial statements of Tatiara District Council for the year ended 30 June 2009, I have maintained my independence in accordance with the requirements of APES 110 – Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, Section 290, published by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1999 and the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999* made under that Act.

This statement is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 16A (4) *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1999*.



-----  
Laurence John Galpin  
Galpin, Engler, Bruins & Dempsey

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009

*South East Local  
Government Association  
(SELGA) Report*

- Office Bearers 2008-2009
  - Presidents Report
- Strategic Activities 2008-2009
  - Financial Statements

## Office Bearers 2008-2009

President	Mayor Steve Perryman (Jul 08 –Feb 09) Mayor Richard Vickery (Feb 09 - )
Vice President	Mayor Richard Vickery (Jul 08 - Feb 09) Mayor Mark Braes (Feb 09 - )
Executive Officer	Mr. Rob Forgan
Auditor	Galpin, Engler, Bruins and Dempsey

## Member Council Delegates to the Association

City of Mount Gambier	Mayor S Perryman, Cr M White, Deputy Member
District Council of Grant	Mayor D Pegler, Cr B Collins, Deputy Member
Wattle Range Council	Mayor M Braes, Cr R Dycer, Deputy Member
District Council of Robe	Mayor W Peden, Cr D Loxton, Deputy Member
Kingston District Council	Chairman E Flint, Cr G Gribble, Deputy Member
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	Mayor K Grundy, Cr D Hood, Deputy Member
District Council of Tatiara	Mayor R Vickery, Cr J Ross, Deputy Member

## Elected under the provisions of the Constitution of the Local Government Association

### *Delegate to the State Executive (SE Zone)*

Mayor S Perryman – City of Mount Gambier (- Feb 09)  
Mayor R Vickery – Tatiara District Council (Feb 09 - )

### *Proxy Delegate to the LGA State Executive*

Mayor Richard Vickery – Tatiara District Council (- Feb 09)  
Mayor Mark Braes – Wattle Range Council (Feb 09 - )

### *Delegates (2) to the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC)*

Mayor Steve Perryman (- Feb 09)  
Mayor Richard Vickery (Feb 09 - )  
Mr. Rob Forgan

The South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) is an important LGA committee for non-metropolitan Councils. Membership is drawn from each of the six non-metro Regional Local Government Associations with members meeting bi-monthly the day before the State Executive Committee of the LGA providing a focus to the key issues affecting non-metropolitan Councils.

## Presidents Report

Next year the South East Local Government Association will achieve a significant milestone in its history, 125 years of service to the South East of South Australia.

While our forefathers would be amazed at the changes that have occurred over the ensuing generations they would take comfort in the knowledge that SELGA still responds to regional circumstances and needs representing our member Councils.

SELGA has demonstrated that despite all the technological advances over the last 100 years made in the name of progress, Local Government remains the level of Government that is closest to the people. It is pleasing to see that the Australian Government has recognised this aspect and also our on the ground ability to deliver appropriate projects cost effectively and on time. In the last 12 months we have witnessed the Australian Government making a serious commitment to engage with Local Government across Australia which presents our Association and our Member Councils with increased opportunities to grow and strengthen our regional community.

As you will see from this Annual Report, SELGA continues to take on a leadership and advocacy role for our region. The past 12 months has seen numerous challenges and with it opportunities come to the fore. The establishment of Regional Development Australia, the introduction of Marine Parks, Shared Services, Regional Planning and Land Use, Infrastructure programs and the management of our Natural Resources all impact on the future sustainability of our region.

Our ability to respond would not be possible to achieve without the solid support and participation from member Councils and our staff.

I acknowledge the contribution made by Mayor Steve Perryman who led SELGA as President for over a four year term and on behalf of all delegates I thank him for his contribution to SELGA and Local Government in South Australia.

I am confident that the Association will respond to future challenges and continue to serve the Limestone Coast Community.

Richard Vickery  
President

## Strategic Activities 2008-2009

### Built/Physical Environment

Infrastructure is a priority issue for all SELGA Member Councils. The requirement for new and replacement infrastructure is critical for regional Australia. SELGA Member Councils recognized the need for the identification of priority projects that could attract funding from Government programs such as the Local Communities Infrastructure Program (LCIP).

SELGA supported the Infrastructure Fund Australia proposal lodged by the District Council of Grant and the City of Mount Gambier for the upgrade of the region's airport.

#### *SE Transport Infrastructure – the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan*

In May 2008, SELGA hosted the SA Minister of Transport, the Hon Patrick Conlon and the Victorian Minister for Ports, the Hon Tim Pallas in Mount Gambier on the occasion of the Green Triangle Freight Summit. This landmark meeting held in the regional centres of Portland and Mount Gambier involved two State Ministers and senior departmental officials from South Australia and Victoria and concentrated on the opportunities and compliance issues that prevent the efficient movement of freight across our Borders. SELGA also facilitated meetings of the Inter Departmental Working Group held in Mount Gambier.

The Green Triangle Freight Action Plan was launched on the 8<sup>th</sup> April by the Hon Pat Conlon, South Australian Minister for Transport and the Hon Tim Pallas, Victorian Minister for Transport and Ports in Portland, Victoria in April 2009. SELGA hosted a pre launch briefing for the Limestone Coast Transport Industry on the eve of the Ministerial launch. Copies of the Green Triangle Freight Action Plan are available on: [www.transport.vic.gov.au/vtp](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/vtp)

#### *The Regulatory Efficiencies Taskforce (RET)*

SELGA was represented on a Green Triangle Transport Taskforce by Cr David Hood of Naracoorte Lucindale Council and Mr Adrian Schutz, District Council of Grant. The taskforce examined the opportunities on reducing the variations between States on regulatory and compliance issues.

#### *SELGA Roads and Transport Working Group (R&TWG)*

The Roads & Transport Working Group called for submissions to the Local Government Transport Advisory Panel (LGTAP) in March 2009. The R&TWG considered the Special Local Roads Grant applications and prioritised six bids for freight, tourism and social roads. With assistance of Mr John Olson of HDS Australia SELGA's R&TWG endorsed five submissions from four SELGA member Councils using calculations of "weighted benefit" and "weighted benefit/cost score".

\$1.482 million in roads funding was awarded to the region in 2008/2009 under the Special Local Roads Program and SELGA's recommendations for the SLRP funding for 2009/2010 amounts to \$1,207 million.

The level of co-operation between SELGA Member Councils continues to be very high, with a strong focus on maximizing the potential level of grant funding received by SELGA as a whole through supporting projects with high regional significance.

Through teleconferencing SELGA continues to be represented on the Princes Highway West Alliance collaborating with G21 and GSC Shires to secure Victorian and South Australian Government commitment to the campaign.

#### *Telecommunications*

SELGA continues to monitor changes and opportunities to Government policy and funding at Commonwealth and State Government levels by maintaining close contact with the Information Economy Directorate of the Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, the Australian Telecommunications User Group, as well as providers such as Telstra and Next Gen.

#### *Regional TV Coverage and Access issues.*

Access and equity to broadband services as well as mobile phone services in the Limestone Coast remains an issue for many of our Limestone Coast residents.

In August 2008, representations were made to State and Regional Managers of the Nine network and WIN TV about programming and access issues in the Limestone Coast.

In January 2009, SELGA presented a submission to the inquiry on the ABC and the Digital Age expressing regional concerns about existing service levels, poor television reception and programming and inadequate funding and the impact on our region.

#### *SE Heritage Advisory Services*

Proper care and management of our heritage assets within the Local Government areas of Mount Gambier, Grant, Kingston, Naracoorte Lucindale, Tatiara and Wattle Range is the primary objective of this Service. The Heritage Advisory Service is funded jointly by SELGA, participating Councils and the Heritage Branch of the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage.

Richard Woods of Habitable Places Architects provides the advisory service under contract to SELGA. The service also encourages and assists property owners to take care of their heritage places on a voluntary basis thereby developing a positive view of heritage conservation.

#### *Waste Management*

Eight applications for Round 4 of the Zero Waste Regional Implementation Program (RIP) Grants were assessed by an industry panel convened by SELGA in November 2008. The Zero Waste SA Task Force and Board in March 2009 announced four successful landfill, recycling and waste transfer projects in the Limestone Coast (inc. one private sector) in the Limestone Coast for a total of \$191,870.

A further call for the Regional Implementation Grant submissions for the 2008/2009 year was released on 28 May 2008.

SELGA also provided a submission into the Draft Environment Protection (“Waste to Resources”) Policy recommending that:

- the EPA explores the full impact of the introduction of the new rules and regulations on Country and Metropolitan Councils prior to their introduction; and
- in the future, the EPA considers and presents viable options that support local implementation.

SELGA recognises the desire of the EPA to work within the National Framework and for the Environmental Protection Policy to drive behavioural change, but highlighted that implementation in regional areas is difficult without appropriate resourcing.

Illegal dumping remains an issue for Member Councils and a workshop was conducted in collaboration with Forestry SA on this problem.

#### *Land Fill Strategy*

“Waste Disposal - the SELGA Way Forward” project was presented to SELGA’s Waste Management Task Force members in early 2008-2009. The report provided a detailed assessment of options for the disposal of residual waste generated in the South East region and their financial and logistical implications for SELGA Councils. SELGA acknowledges the work of JAC Comrie Pty Ltd, member Councils, staff of the EPA and Zero Waste (SA).

## **Economic Environment**

#### *Limestone Coast Regional Development Board Resource Agreement*

SELGA is a partner in the 5 year Resource Agreement between the Limestone Coast RDB and the Department of Trade and Economic Development which continues State and Local Government commitment to economic development in the Limestone Coast region.

Grant King, CEO of the Limestone Coast RDB provides delegates with regular updates at SELGA General Meetings and the Board’s monthly reports are distributed to member Councils via SELGA’s Executive Officer.

#### *Projects*

SELGA supported LCRDB with their bids for:

- Alternative Energy project
- The SA Works – LCRDB – Career Development Centre bid for the Employment Services Tender.
- The provision of Small Business Advisory Services funded by Ausindustry
- The funding of dairy underpasses

The Executive Officer is a member of the Workforce Development – Population Growth steering committee and represented SELGA in the Strategic Planning day for the SA Works program.

For a copy of the Limestone Coast Regional Development Board’s Annual Report visit: [www.lcrdb.com](http://www.lcrdb.com).

#### *Limestone Coast Tourism*

SELGA is a major stakeholder in a three year funding Agreement with Limestone Coast Tourism. The partnership with our funding partners, Coorong District Council and the SA Tourism Commission enables our regional tourism marketing body to forward plan and implement marketing strategies that maintain and increase visitation to the SE region. Funding is subject to the achievement of KPI’s with the final payment made when LCT meets an agreed level of industry contributions.

In late 2008, SELGA expressed their concerns to the Minister for Tourism and the SATC about the reduction in the number of LCT positions based in the region. We are pleased to report that this did not eventuate and SELGA continues to advocate for LCT staff positions to be regionally based.

SELGA participated in the successful Limestone Coast Tourism Planning Day and also collaborated with LCT and the South Australian Police (SAPOL) in producing the “Safe Holiday Guide to the Limestone Coast.

For a copy of Limestone Coast Tourism’s Annual report visit: [www.thelimestonecoast.com](http://www.thelimestonecoast.com).

#### *Marine Parks*

The South Australian Government has proposed that nineteen new Marine Parks be established by 2010, under the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (SARSMPA).

Member Councils and SELGA presented their submissions on the establishment of Marine Parks 18 (Upper) and Marine Parks 19 (Lower) direct to the Minister for Environment and Heritage in March 2009.

Our submission acknowledged the intent of the legislation and the importance of preserving and protecting our marine environment, but emphasised the need to ensure that the introduction of Marine Parks will not have an adverse impact on our regional economy and communities. In April 2009, Marine Parks Working Groups were commissioned by the Minister for Environment and Heritage in the South East, Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast of South Australia in response to issues raised with the Minister during earlier visits to the regions.

Evan Flint, Chairman of the Kingston District Council was appointed as the Local Government representative for Marine Parks 18 and 19 and was ably supported by Cr Richard Sage of the District Council of Grant.

SELGA has remained supportive of the position taken by the SE Professional Fisherman’s Association and the SE Recreational Fisherman’s Association.

#### *Shared Services Reform*

SELGA continues to voice its concerns to the State Government on the Shared Services project initiative and its impact on rural and regional communities. In February 2009, a submission was presented to the Acting Treasurer, the Hon Paul Holloway expressing our concerns on the Government’s shared service delivery model.

SELGA maintained a position consistent to that of other SA Regional Associations expressing our misgivings about the removal of jobs from the SE and Regional SA without the benefit of a regional impact and economic impact study.

## Natural Environment

*South East Natural Resources Management Board (SENRM)*  
Forging a stronger relationship between SELGA and the SENRM Board was a shared priority for both bodies in 2008-2009. The SENRM Presiding Member and CEO addressed SELGA Delegates at two General Meetings throughout the year on various issues and developments.

SELGA wrote to the Minister for Environment and Heritage expressing their concerns about the existing levels of funding provided to the SENRM Board recommending that the funding provided should be reinstated to the previous funding commitments and indexed. In addition, SELGA recommended that the release of operational funds should occur in advance of the SENRM Work Plan.

During the year SELGA and the SENRM Board embarked on 2 major initiatives that were the subject of a regional Local Government forum held in Naracoorte in June 2009:

- The Engagement and Communications Strategy
- "Our Mutual Agreement" - The development of a Memorandum of Understanding between NRM Boards and Local Government.

### *Native Vegetation Act*

SELGA provided representation on the LGA Native Vegetation Working Party and input into legislative review. Evan Flint, Chairman of the Kingston District Council was SELGA's representative.

### *Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Management Group (LCCMG)*

The Limestone Coast and Coorong Coastal Management Group identified opportunities under the Australian Government's "Caring for Country - Community Coast Care" program to help manage our coastal environment in a balanced and sustainable way.

Access to beaches by the community and visitors remains an issue for coastal Councils and SELGA is concerned about this threat that will impact on our regional lifestyle and tourism industry.

### *Caring for Country "Connecting People to the Coast"*

SELGA entered into a contract with the Australian Government for the delivery of the "Connecting People to the Coast" project. This \$225,113 project aims over the 18 month duration of the project to prevent detrimental change to the local coast environment through community engagement, education and inspiring greater stewardship.

SELGA is represented on the project management team by Cr Peter Riseley of the District Council of Robe and Mr Rob Forgan, Executive Officer, SELGA.

### *Envirofund – Protection and Preservation of Aboriginal Cultural Sites*

The Australian Government's Environment and Heritage project was completed in 2009. This project was a collaborative effort between SELGA and the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH). SELGA acknowledges the work of Mr. David New of DEH who took on the project management bringing this environmental project to a satisfactory conclusion.

## Social Environment

### *Health*

Country Health Reform remains high on the regional agenda. This issue has been elevated via SAROC through to the State Executive of the LGA.

### *Regional Recreation & Sport Program "Be Active"*

In the past 12 months the 'Be Active' Field Officer Program, a partnership between SELGA and the Office for Recreation and Sport continues to kick goals for the region.

There have been over 236 enquiries for assistance:

- Grant funds to the region (ORS figures only) **\$74,970.00**
- SANFL financial assistance for Healthy Clubs **\$1,000.00**
- Club One Financial Assistance for the region **\$880.00**
- Programs/Events/Promotional materials initiated in the South East
- Healthy Clubs:
  - State Category Winner Heart Foundation Award
  - State Overall Winner Heart Foundation **\$2000.00**
  - National Category Winner Heart Foundation **\$2000.00**
- Healthy Clubs:
  - Then third year of this successful program has seen participating clubs reach new heights. (The 2009 Healthy Clubs Fact Sheet is available from SELGA on request)
- Healthy Clubs:
- Invitations to speak at:
  - "Country Clubs in Crisis" Karoonda, SA Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- Social Walking:
  - Regional Walks each month
- Regional Posters:
  - 1000 Posters depicting all council areas promoting the 'Be active' message (September 2009 release)
- Regional Junior Golf Program implementation with schools and community volunteers (Funded through Golf SA) **\$3000.00**

E-news information:

- 4 E-news emailed to over 460 subscribers
- Level One trainers Course:
  - 18 participants in the nationally accredited course delivered by State Training Services

- Wise Move Programs:
  - 4 programs delivered in the region Millicent, Penola, Mt Gambier, Naracoorte. Ongoing and further programs to be delivered in future.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the SELGA members who have provided wonderful support for the 'Be Active' Program and also the Office for Recreation and Sport. The Be Active Field Officer program delivered regionally and in partnership with the South Australian and Local Government provides direct benefit to our towns and communities on a personal and at a grass roots level.

Deb Agnew  
SELGA - Be Active Field Officer



L-R: Deb Agnew, Will Peden – Mayor, District Council of Robe, Alison Day – Heart Foundation, Marcy Lopriore – Country Health SA, Stephen Finch – President, Mount Burr Football Club, Jane Downs – Manager, SERCHS, Mark Braes – Mayor, Wattle Range Council, Teresa Vlahos – Heart Foundation, Don Pegler – Mayor, District Council of Grant.

#### South East Road Safety Strategy

The SE Road Safety Strategy was launched in February 2008 as a result of the South East community's desire to stem the devastating impact of road trauma on Limestone Coast communities.

The SE Road Safety Strategy Steering Group comprising members from five Community Road Safety Groups in the Limestone Coast and is convened by SELGA's Executive Officer. The Steering Group continues to introduce a number of initiatives that at a regional level support and complement the work of the dedicated Community Road Safety Groups in the region and State and National initiatives.

SELGA accepted an invitation to address the Australasian Policing and Road Safety and Education Conference in Adelaide in November 2008. The Executive Officer also addressed the Road Safety Advisory Council sub-committee in Adelaide in September 2008 and was invited to address the South Australian Road Safety Advisory Council chaired by Sir Eric Neal in March 2009.

Some of the initiatives and achievements of 2008-2009 include:

- Seat Belts campaign – a 3 month regional radio campaign nominated for an Australian media award.
- Lights On, see and be seen campaign
- Fatigue, a campaign alerting people to the dangers of fatigue.
- What to do when confronted by wildlife (Kangaroos). A TV campaign subsequently picked up by two other regions in South Australia.
- Development and delivery of training on road safety to migrant workers and their families in Bordertown, Naracoorte and Mount Gambier
- Submission to the Australian Government on the need for a Single National Heavy Vehicle Licence.

SELGA acknowledges the commitment and dedication of the volunteer members of the SE Road Safety Strategy Steering group, the sponsorship from the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI) and the spirit of cooperation demonstrated by our regional Television and Radio network.

#### Rural Addressing Project

Rural Property Addressing for South East Councils was introduced to the region in July 2008. Member Councils in collaboration with the SE Resource Information Centre (SERIC) have been working through various issues associated with the naming of roads to establish a framework for address allocation. It is anticipated that the "first cut" of numbers will be ready by the end of October 2009.

#### SE Zone Emergency Management Committee (SEZEMC)

SELGA is represented on the ZEMC by the Executive Officer. The introduction of changes to Zone Emergency Management Committees in South Australia will see Local Government taking on greater role in recognition of this regional tier of Government being the closest to their communities.

#### Stand Like Stone – Community Foundation

SELGA contributed to the Stand Like Stone Community Foundation's bid to build regional capacity by introducing the "Vital Signs" program into the Limestone Coast. Vital Signs is a community check-up which measures the vitality of our communities. It gathers and publishes data on significant social and economic trends and is used by communities for social planning to identify community needs and strengths.

#### Aboriginal Culture & Heritage

SELGA liaised with Ananguku Arts and Culture and the Tandanya Cultural Centre in Adelaide encouraging the development of a three day cultural festival to be held in the Limestone Coast in 2010. A letter of support was provided to assist Ananguku with their bid for Australian Government funding.

## Regional Governance and Advocacy

### *SELGA Strategic Plan 2007- 2011 Plan Review*

SELGA overhauled their existing Strategic Plan during 2008-2009. As a result of rigorous consultation with Member Councils the new plan will be put to SELGA for endorsement at the August 2009 General Meeting.

Copies of the revised Strategic Plan are available on request.

### *Regional Development Australia (RDA)*

With the proposed merger of the Network of Regional Development Boards and the Australian Government's Area Consultative Committee Network, SELGA recognized an opportunity for our region by nominating SELGA as a pilot region for the introduction of RDA in regional South Australia.

SELGA conducted a regional RDA Workshop for Member Councils on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009 that involved representatives from Infrastructure Australia, the Department of Trade and Economic Development and LGA SA. The LGA also met with SELGA to consult on a key RDA issues paper and the draft MOU between the Australian, State and Local Government on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 in Mount Gambier. Following this meeting SELGA prepared and endorsed a RDA proposal that was submitted to the Hon Maxine McKew, the Hon Paul Caica and Mayor Felicity-Ann Lewis, President of LGA SA.

### *SELGA Joint Section 30 Review*

SELGA strives to obtain consistency between all member Councils in terms of planning issues. An ideal way of achieving this goal has been the facilitation of a Joint Section 30 Planning Review involving all Councils in the region. This is the third Joint Review undertaken by SELGA (1997, 2002) delivering advantages that include:

- Assisting in the provision of a consistent approach to policy issues throughout the region;
- Efficiency and effectiveness of one review for the whole region compared to separate reviews by each Council;
- Opportunity for a consolidated response by agencies and organisations; and
- Providing an effective regional and strategic focus to planning issues.

The Joint Section 30 Review will be done "in tandem" with the Department of Planning and Local Government's Planning Strategy required under Section 22 of the Development Act.

Connor Holmes was awarded the consultancy to undertake the Joint Section 30 Review and the expected date of the "in tandem" project completion is December 2009.

### *Limestone Coast Regional Planning Framework*

SELGA initiated a joint approach to the Department of Planning and Local Government's conduct of the Regional Land Use Planning Framework and SELGA's Section 30 Review. This Planning Strategy provides a physical and policy framework to assist in reaching the various targets outlined in South Australia's Strategic Plan.

The Planning Strategy is applicable to all member Councils; and provides a framework for development based on principles of ecologically sustainable development and management of regional South Australia; and promotes an environment of certainty for investors, State agencies, local government and the community by providing a clear indication of the State Government's policy directions for the physical development of regional South Australia.

The Joint Section 30 Development Plan Review will have regard to the Limestone Coast Planning Framework in order to achieve consistency in all relevant regional planning issues.

### *Shared Services Reform*

SELGA in 2008-2009 supported member Councils by addressing the Shared Services Reform proposals directly with the Minister and through the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC).

### *Shared Services - Working Together for Stronger Communities*

A Local Government Association (LGA) SA and SELGA project facilitated by Ms Janet Binder that examines the feasibility, capacity and options available for resource sharing at a regional and sub-regional level and further cooperation between SE local Government Councils.

### *Regional Communities Consultative Committee (RCCC)*

SELGA is well represented on the RCCC with members including Mayor Mark Braes, Wattle Range Council, Bill Hender, CEO, District Council of Robe and Ms Deb Agnew, SELGA's Be Active Field Officer.

The RCCC conducted two forums in the Limestone Coast in March 2009 gaining first hand information on the key issues in the Limestone Coast.

SELGA became an Alliance Member of the Community Engagement Board in 2008-2009 supporting the strategic objectives in the Regional South Australian Strategic Plan.

### *Limestone Coast Area Consultative Committee (LCACC)*

SELGA continued its association with the LCACC in 2008/2009 and SELGA was represented on the LCACC by Cr Graham Gribble (Kingston DC) to February 2009 and Mayor Steve Perryman from February 2009.

With the introduction of Regional Development Australia the network of Area Consultative Committees around Australia will be disbanded in 2009. The LCACC will cease operations in late September 2009.

SELGA acknowledges the significant achievements of the Limestone Coast ACC and the dedicated efforts of all Board members and staff who have served our region well since its inception.

### *Regional Coordination Network (RCN)*

In October 2008, SELGA was invited to join the Regional Coordination Network (previously known as the Regional Facilitation Group) a structure comprising regionally based South Australian Government agencies with the aim of facilitating improvements at a regional level through exchanging information and improving interagency communication, coordination and cooperation.

### Submissions & Representations

- ABC and the Digital Age (January 2009)
- Environmental Protection Policy – EPA
- Motor Accident Commission (MAC)
- Regional Communities Consultative Committee
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Hon Maxine McKew, Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon Paul Caica, Minister for Regional Development.
- Regional Development Australia (RDA) on the Federal, State and Local Government draft MOU on the integration of ACC's and RDB's.
- Road Safety Advisory Council SA (September 2008 and March 2009)
- SA National Football League (SANFL)
- SE Marine Parks, Delegation to Minister Jay Weatherill (March 2009)
- SE Marine Parks Submission (April 2009)
- SE Natural Resource Management Board – Ministerial Representation
- Shared Services Reform
- Single National Heavy Vehicle Licence (February 2009)
- South Australian Tourism Commission (December 2008)
- Special Local Roads Program (March 2009)
- Nine Network and WIN TV – re Access and Programming
- Youth Allowance – Submissions to:
  - Hon Julie Gillard, MP, Minister for Education
  - Minister Jenny Macklin
  - Minister Kate Ellis
  - Senator Bob Brown
  - Senator Steve Fielding
  - Senator Nick Xenophon
  - Hon Patrick Secker MP
- SAROC
- Zero Waste Regional Implementation Grants (November 2008)

### Into 2009-2010

General meetings will continue to be held on the first Friday of the months of August, October, December, February, April and June. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the first Friday in February in Naracoorte.

The minor program adjustment introduced in 2008 with every second General Meeting to be held in the central location of Naracoorte will remain in 2009-2010.

### 2009-2011 Program

August 2009	Hosted by City of Mount Gambier
October 2009	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
December 2009	Hosted by Wattle Range Council
February 2010	Hosted by Naracoorte Lucindale Council (AGM & GM)
April 2010	Hosted by Kingston District Council
June 2010	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
August 2010	Hosted by Tatiara District Council
October 2010	Naracoorte Lucindale Council
December 2010	Hosted by District Council of Grant

February 2011	AGM and GM hosted by Naracoorte Lucindale Council
April 2011	Hosted by District Council of Robe

### Acknowledgements

#### SELGA Board

To members, delegates, past and present for their dedication and commitment. Many of whom have provided local government representation on internal and external committees and working parties and who have been well supported by Member Council CEO's and staff.

#### Deb Agnew

The SELGA Be Active Field officer for her dedication and untiring effort.

#### LGA SA

The Local Government Association of South Australia has continued to provide support to SELGA and its members throughout the year. Access to its professional services has been invaluable as has the ongoing support provided by Mr David Hitchcock who is a regular contributor to SELGA General Meetings.

#### Local Government Research and Development Scheme

The annual capacity building grant from the Local Government R&D Scheme has enabled SELGA to provide support to a number of SELGA Association activities throughout 2008 and 2009 that enable regional capacity building.

#### Office of State and Local Government Relations (OSLGR)

Subject to availability, representatives from the OSLGR attend SELGA General Meetings providing a regular briefing of relevant matters that their Office is addressing.

#### Limestone Coast Regional Development Board (LCRDB)

The LCRDB has provided significant administrative support to SELGA on a daily basis. SELGA acknowledges the substantial and professional support provided by the Board and in particular the administrative and accounting services provided by Julie Scott, Lorelie Ellis and Jan Shanahan.

#### Department of Transport Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI)

For their assistance with the SE Road Safety Strategy Plan.

#### Limestone Coast Regional Media

SELGA acknowledges the role of the regional media and thanks them for their continued support in 2008/2009.

ABC SE Local Radio  
The Border Watch  
The Border Chronicle  
The Coastal Leader  
The Naracoorte Herald  
The SE Times  
WIN TV  
Radio 5SE – STAR FM



Rob Forgan  
SELGA Executive Officer



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
SOUTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INC**

**Report on the Financial Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of South East Local Government Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2009, and the income statement, and a summary of significant accounting policies.

*Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibilities also include establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for the distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting under the Associations Incorporation Act (SA). We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

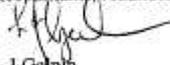
*Independence*

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirement of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

*Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of South East Local Government Association Inc as of 30 June 2009 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

GALPIN, ENGLER, BRUINS & DEMPSEY  
Accountants, Auditors & Business Consultants

  
L.J. Galpin  
Partner.

233 Commercial Street West, Mount Gambier. SA 5290  
Dated this 06 day of August 2009

## Balance Sheet

As of June 2009

	\$	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
General Cheque Account		141,411.08	
Express Saver Account		461,439.3.	
Trade Debtors		54,117.10	
<b>Total ASSETS</b>		<u>656,967.50</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade Creditors		9,126.70	
GST Liabilities			
GST Collected	4,216.10		
GST Control Account	10,198.00		
GST Paid	-829.70		
Total GST Liabilities		<u>13,584.40</u>	
Payroll Liabilities			
PAYG Payable	6,136.00		
WorkCover Payable	14,98		
Accrued Annual Leave	7,433.70		
Total Payroll Liabilities		13,584.68	
Project Liabilities		493,048.20	
<b>Total LIABILITIES</b>		<u>529,343.98</u>	
<b>Net Assets</b>			<u>127,623.52</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings		110,671.12	
Current Earnings		16,952.40	
<b>Total EQUITY</b>		<u>127,623.52</u>	

**Profit & Loss Statement**  
July 2008 through June 2009

	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>				
<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCILS</u>				
City of Mount Gambier		29,102.00		
District Council of Grant		14,170.00		
Kingston District Council		7,107.00		
Naracoorte Lucindale Council		15,922.00		
District Council of Robe		6,284.00		
District Council of Tatiara		13,747.00		
Wattle Range Council		23,327.00		
<u>Total SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCILS</u>			109,659.00	
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>				
LCRDB		73,458.00		
Limestone Coast Tourism		189,995.00		
SAROC		2,000.00		
SE Resource Info Centre		29,995.00		
<u>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</u>			295,448.00	
<u>PROJECTS</u>				
LGR&DS Regional Capacity Build		12,916.18		
Coastal Regional Planning		376.36		
Heritage Services		56,500.00		
SE Regional Health Partnership		7,108.14		
Road Safety Initiative		2,545.12		
Envirofund - Aboringinal Cultural		768.00		
NHT – Coorong and Limestone Coast		16,000.00		
SHE Coastal Protection and Education		330.00		
SE Road Safety Strategy		20,351.61		
<u>REG REC &amp; SPORTS</u>				
Office Rec & Sport Funding	39,702.81			
Council Funding	30,000.00			
C-Over Funds/Sundry/W/Shops	30,926.97			
<u>Total REG REC &amp; SPORTS</u>		100,629.78		
<u>Total PROJECTS</u>			217,525.19	
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>				
Interest		25,332.94		
Miscellaneous		249.87		
Carry Over Funds		21,351.00		
Consolidated Revenue Acc		166.37		
<u>Total OTHER INCOME</u>			47,100.18	
 <u>Total INCOME</u>				669,732.37

**Profit & Loss Statement (cont)**  
*July 2008 through June 2009*

	\$	\$	\$
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<u>EXEC OFFICER/OFFICE EXPENSES</u>			
<u>Executive Officer Salary Costs</u>			
Salary	75,244.07		
Superannuation	6,874.00		
Workcover	839.41		
Exec Officer Annual Leave	3,958.08		
Fringe Benefits Tax	643.46		
<u>Total Executive Officer Salary Costs</u>		<u>87,559.02</u>	
 <u>Vehicle &amp; Travel Costs</u>			
Vehicle Lease	10,684.81		
Fuel Costs	3,596.14		
Travel & Accommodation	2,352.96		
<u>Total Vehicle &amp; Travel Costs</u>		<u>16,633.91</u>	
 <u>Office Expenses</u>			
Advertising	565.00		
Printing & Stationery	5,668.71		
Postage	220.64		
Audit Fees	750.00		
Bank Fees	453.91		
Insurance	1,590.99		
Seminars/Workshops	1,155.04		
Sponsorship	500.00		
Legal Costs	252.00		
Miscellaneous	1,562.16		
Meeting Expenses	4,128.61		
Executive Expenses	1,444.87		
President Allowances	6,000.00		
Telephone	1,166.23		
Computing & IT	2,087.15		
Admin/Clerical	10,000.00		
Consolidated Revenue	166.37		
<u>Total Office Expenses</u>		<u>37,711.68</u>	
 <u>Total EXECUTIVE OFFICER/OFFICE EXPENSES</u>			 <u>141,904.61</u>
 <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>			
LCRDB (LCRDB, SELGA, LCT)		73,458.00	
Limestone Coast Tourism		189,365.00	
SAROC		527.17	
SE Resource Info Centre		30,000.00	
<u>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</u>			<u>293,350.17</u>

**Profit & Loss Statement (cont)**  
*July 2008 through June 2009*

	\$	\$	\$	\$
<hr/>				
<u>PROJECTS</u>				
LGR&DS – Regional Capacity Build		12,916.18		
Coastal Regional Planning		376.36		
Heritage Services		56,500.00		
SE Regional Health Partnership		7,108.14		
Road Safety Initiative		2,545.12		
Envirofund – Aboriginal Cultural		768.00		
SE Road Safety Strategy		20,351.61		
NHT – Coorong and Limestone Coast		16,000.00		
SHE Coastal Protection and Education		330.00		
<u>REGIONAL REC &amp; SPORT CO-ORD</u>				
Salary	54,025.45			
Salary Costs	5,841.01			
Telephone	2,224.58			
Postage/Printing/Stationery	3,206.00			
Vehicle Expenses	14,445.68			
Admin Fee	1,000.00			
Office Rental	1,000.00			
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,346.83			
Programs	17,540.23			
<u>Total REGIONAL REC &amp; SPORT CO-ORD</u>		100,629.78		
<u>Total PROJECTS</u>			217,525.19	
				<hr/>
<b><u>Total EXPENSES</u></b>				<b>652,779.97</b>
				<hr/>
<b>Operating Profit</b>				<b>16,952.40</b>
				<hr/>
<b>Other Expenses</b>				<b>0</b>
				<hr/>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>				<b>16,952.40</b>
				<hr/>

**Balance Sheet (Last Year Analysis)**  
June 2009

	This Year \$	Last Year \$
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
General Cheque Account	141,411.08	58,109.68
Express Saver Account	461,439.32	319,123.75
Trade Debtors	54,117.10	11,000.00
<b><u>Total ASSETS</u></b>	<b>656,967.50</b>	<b>388,233.43</b>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Trade Creditors	9,126.70	9,446.19
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	4,216.10	1,000.00
GST Control Account	10,198.00	3,122.00
GST Paid	-829.70	-859.03
Total GST Liabilities	13,584.40	3,262.97
Payroll Liabilities		
PAYG Payable	6,136.00	5,448.00
WorkCover Payable	14.98	7.08
Accrued Annual Leave	7,433.70	3,813.98
Total Payroll Liabilities	13,584.68	9,269.06
Project Liabilities	493,048.20	
<b><u>Total LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>529,343.98</b>	<b>277,562.31</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>127,623.52</b>	<b>110,671.12</b>
<b><u>Equity</u></b>		
Retained Earnings	110,671.12	101,116.47
Current Earnings	16,952.40	9,554.65
<b><u>Total EQUITY</u></b>	<b>127,623.52</b>	<b>110,671.12</b>

**Profit & Loss Statement (Last Year Analysis)**  
*July 2008 through June 2009*

	This Year \$	Last Year \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCILS</u>		
City of Mount Gambier	29,102.00	27,983.00
District Council of Grant	14,170.00	13,625.00
Kingston District Council	7,107.00	6,834.00
Naracoorte Lucindale Council	15,922.00	15,310.00
District Council of Robe	6,284.00	6,042.00
District Council of Tatiara	13,747.00	13,219.00
Wattle Range Council	23,327.00	22,430.00
<b>Total SUBSCRIPTIONS-MEMBER COUNCILS</b>	<b>109,659.00</b>	<b>105,443.00</b>
<u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		
LCRDB	73,458.00	72,000.00
Limestone Coast Tourism	189,995.00	185,000.00
SAROC	2,000.00	2,000.00
SE Resource Info Centre	29,995.00	29,995.00
<b>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>295,448.00</b>	<b>288,995.00</b>
<u>PROJECTS</u>		
LGR&DS Regional Capacity Build	12,916.18	20,686.20
Roads & Transport	0.00	7,381.90
Coastal Regional Planning	376.36	0.00
Heritage Services	56,500.00	56,483.62
SE Regional Health P/ship	7,108.14	136.40
LCD Gen Practice GP Program	0.00	20,000.00
Senior Week Partnership	0.00	818.18
Road Safety Initiative	2,545.12	245.45
Envirofund – Aboriginal Cultural	768.00	0.00
Landfill Infrastructure Plan	0.00	28,164.39
SE Road Safety Strategy	20,351.61	4,294.64
NHT – Coorong and Limestone Coast	16,000.00	0.00
SEH Coastal Protection and Education	330.00	0.00
<u>REG REC &amp; SPORTS</u>		
Regional Rec & Sport Funding	39,702.81	50,000.00
Council Funding	30,000.00	25,000.00
C-Over Funds/Sundry/W/shops	30,926.97	15,463.08
<b>Total REG REC &amp; SPORTS</b>	<b>100,629.78</b>	<b>90,463.08</b>
<b>Total PROJECTS</b>	<b>217,525.19</b>	<b>228,673.86</b>
<u>OTHER INCOME</u>		
Interest	25,332.94	26,818.51
Miscellaneous	249.87	1,958.33
Carry Over Funds	21,351.00	
Consolidated Revenue Acc	166.37	11,472.38
<b>Total OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>47,100.18</b>	<b>40,249.22</b>
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>669,732.37</b>	<b>663,361.08</b>

**Profit & Loss Statement (Last Year Analysis) (cont)**  
July 2008 through June 2009

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<u>EXEC OFFICER/OFFICE EXPENSES</u>		
<u>Executive Officer Salary Costs</u>		
Salary	75,244.07	76,744.35
Superannuation	6,874.00	6,757.40
Workcover	839.41	827.37
Fringe Benefits Tax	643.46	945.96
Exec Officer Annual Leave	3,958.08	0.00
<u>Total Executive Officer Salary Costs</u>	<u>87,559.02</u>	<u>85,275.08</u>
 <u>Vehicle &amp; Travel Costs</u>		
Vehicle Lease	10,684.81	9,892.31
Fuel Costs	3,596.14	5,047.90
Travel & Accommodation	2,352.96	2,185.01
<u>Total Vehicle &amp; Travel Costs</u>	<u>16,633.91</u>	<u>17,125.22</u>
 <u>Office Expenses</u>		
Advertising	565.00	992.60
Printing & Stationery	5,668.71	2,312.55
Postage	220.64	110.41
Audit Fees	750.00	750.00
Bank Fees	453.91	467.03
Insurance	1,590.99	929.75
Seminars/Workshops	1,155.04	95.46
Sponsorship	500.00	600.00
Legal Costs	252.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	1,562.16	1,591.50
Meeting Expenses	4,128.61	4,151.22
Executive Expenses	1,444.87	2,503.34
President Allowances	6,000.00	6,000.00
Telephone	1,166.23	3,068.72
Computing & IT	2,087.15	1,021.31
Consolidated Revenue	166.37	11,472.38
Admin/Clerical	10,000.00	0.00
<u>Total Office Expenses</u>	<u>37,711.68</u>	<u>36,066.27</u>
 <u>Total EXECUTIVE OFFICER/OFFICE EXPENSES</u>	 <u>141,904.61</u>	 <u>138,466.57</u>
 <u>CONTRIBUTIONS</u>		
LCRDB (LCRDB, SELGA, LCT)	73,458.00	71,666.00
Limestone Coast Tourism	189,365.00	185,000.00
SAROC	527.17	0.00
SE Resource Info Centre	30,000.00	30,000.00
<u>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</u>	<u>293,350.17</u>	<u>286,666.00</u>

**Profit & Loss Statement (Last Year Analysis) (cont)**  
July 2008 through June 2009

<b>EXPENSES (cont...)</b>	<b>This Year</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<u>PROJECTS</u>		
LGR&DS – Regional Capacity Build	12,916.18	20,686.20
Roads & Transport	0.00	7,381.90
Coastal Regional Planning	36.36	0.00
Heritage Services	56,500.00	56,483.62
SE Regional Health Partnership	7,108.14	136.40
LCD Gen Practice GP Program	0.00	20,000.00
Senior Week Partnership	0.00	818.18
Road Safety Initiative	2,545.12	245.45
Envirofund – Aboriginal Cultural	768.00	0.00
Landfill Infrastructure Plan	0.00	28,164.39
SE Road Safety Strategy	20,351.61	4,294.64
NHT - Coorong and Limestone Coast	16,000.00	0.00
SHE Coastal Protection and Education	330.00	0.00
<u>REGIONAL REC &amp; SPORT CO-ORD</u>		
Salary	54,025.45	53,302.83
Salary Costs	5,841.01	5,274.43
Telephone	2,224.58	2,429.60
Postage/Printing/Stationery	3,206.00	1,813.35
Vehicle Expenses	14,445.68	15,508.53
Admin Fee	1,000.00	1,000.00
Office Rental	1,000.00	1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,346.83	4,982.58
Programs	17,540.23	5,151.76
Total REGIONAL REC & SPORT CO-ORD	100,629.78	90,463.08
Total <u>PROJECTS</u>	217,525.19	228,673.86
<b><u>Total EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>653,806.43</b>	<b>653,806.43</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>16,952.40</b>	<b>9,554.65</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>16,952.40</b>	<b>9,554.65</b>



**ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

PO Box 346

Bordertown SA 5268

E: [office@tatiara.sa.gov.au](mailto:office@tatiara.sa.gov.au)

W: [www.tatiara.sa.gov.au](http://www.tatiara.sa.gov.au)

**PRINCIPAL OFFICE:**

43 Woolshed St

Bordertown SA 5268

P: (08) 8752 1044

F: (08) 8752 1442

**SERVICE CENTRES:**

Tatiara District Council Sub-Office

34 Hender St

Keith SA 5267

P: (08) 8755 3347

F: (08) 8755 3354

Padthaway General Store

15 Memorial Ave

Padthaway SA 5271

P: (08) 8765 5020

F: (08) 8765 5020

*The Good Country...*