

Annual Report

2014/15

Hunter's Hill Council

Content include:

- Future Gladesville
- Fit for the Future
- Major Projects
- Partnering Programs
- Cultural Events
- Community Services
- Bushcare & Sustainability
- Case Studies
- Major Capital Works Programs

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Council's MISSION

To protect and enhance the integrity, character and residential amenity of Hunters Hill as Australia's oldest garden suburb – through leadership, community involvement and the pursuit of excellence.

Council's ORGANISATION VALUES

- We will provide a range of services and programs that meet the needs of the community, as effectively and economically as possible.
- We will manage the resources of the organisation efficiently and with proper care to achieve the objectives of the Council, in a fair and equitable manner.
- We are committed to providing quality customer service, accurate and consistent advice and timely responses to all requests.
- We will develop and empower staff to achieve excellence and professional satisfaction in the delivery of services.
- We will promote the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

Council's Vision



The Council vision of Hunters Hill is:

- A sense of history
- A sense of community
- A place to belong
- A sustainable future

Council's CHARTER

The Council Charter is:

- To exercise community leadership.
- To exercise Council functions with due regard for the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Hunters Hill community.
- To properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area.
- To have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of Council decisions.
- To bear in mind that Council is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage those assets.
- To facilitate the involvement of Councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and Council staff in the development, improvement and co ordination of Hunters Hill.
- To raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants.
- To ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, Council acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the Council is affected.
- To be a responsible employer.
- To keep the Hunters Hill community and the State Government (and through it, the wider community) informed about Council's activities.
- To provide directly or on behalf of other spheres of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively.
- The set of principles in Council's charter is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993.

About this Report & Your Council



Legislative Framework

This Report covers the year to June 2014.

The Annual Report under Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 reviews how Hunter's Hill Council complied with its statutory obligations in 2014/2015.

What is the Annual Report about?

The Report is prepared to provide you with a clear indication of what Hunter's Hill Council has achieved for the community over the last financial year.

This document contains a 'Report

Card' on Council's achievements via the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Council reviews the Delivery Program and Operational Plan each year to adjust the goals and objectives according to community needs, the economic climate and changes in State or Federal Government legislation.

The Hunters Hill Community Strategic Plan gives Council and the community a vision for the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the Hunters Hill local government area. The Plan establishes strategic objectives together with strategies to achieve those objectives.

The Draft Delivery Program (4 year plan) is a statement of commitment to the community from each newly elected council. In reviewing the Draft Delivery Program Council accounted for its stewardship of the community's long term goals, outlining what it intends to do towards achieving these goals during its term of office and what its priorities will be.

The Delivery Program has been designed as a single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by the Council during its term of office.

The CSP, Delivery Program

& Operational Plan



Supporting the Delivery Program is the Operational Plan (one year plan). The Operational Plan includes all plans, projects, activities and funding allocations. The Operational Plan spells out the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the other supporting documents.

Council has consistently been working to meet the objectives of the CSP and Delivery Program through regular reports addressing key performance indicators.

Many CSP and Delivery Program achievements are outlined within this report, such as Council's roads and asset programs, environmental projects and legal proceedings. For a full description of Council's IP & R documentation visit:
www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au



**A year of proving that Hunter's Hill Council
is Fit for the Future!**

Report by The Mayor



Responding to calls from the NSW State Government over the past two years has taken considerable time and energy away from Council's core business.

As I stated in the 2013/14 Annual Report, 'The Government's presumption that better service delivery and ability to meet community needs and expectations can only occur through the merging of existing Councils into much larger local government authorities is not supported by Hunter's Hill Council nor by a large majority of the local community.'

Hunter's Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove Councils have taken their challenge to the NSW State Government and have proposed a superior and workable alternative to forced amalgamations - Joint Regional Authorities (JRA's).

Under a JRA model each Council will commit to strategic decisions. The JRA will be equipped to focus on subregional imperatives and will leave individual councils like Hunters Hill better placed to lead its local community.

Hunter's Hill Council has continued in its resolve to address the challenges posed by the NSW State Government. Council has been supported by the community and the findings of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in NSW.

I was fortunate enough to represent Hunter's Hill Council at the Parliamentary Inquiry on 24 August 2015. I had the opportunity to answer a series of questions relating to the JRA proposal. My response to the Inquiry outlined the major benefits of a JRA; subregional land use and infrastructure planning, single point of contact for State and Federal Government, subregional advocacy, subregional procurement and a shared service centre for economies of scale.

The Parliamentary Inquiry Report was released in late October 2015 and outlined clear support for the JRA model:

Recommendation 16:

That the NSW Government make Joint Organisations available to all councils in New South Wales.

Recommendation 17

That the NSW Government work with local government on a statutory model for Joint Organisations based on the Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove Council model as a cooperative and consensus model for local council reform in Metropolitan Sydney.

To this end, the decision by the City of Ryde, Lane Cove and Hunter's Hill Councils to establish a Joint Regional Authority will allow the Councils to remain as local entities to deliver local services with proper representation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Quinn'.

Councillor Richard Quinn
Mayor of Hunter's Hill Council



“Hunter’s Hill Council has never shied away from local government reform”



Report by the General Manger

2014/15 has been a challenging year in local government. The State Government’s ‘Fit for the Future’ framework has driven even more burdens onto the local government sector.

Hunter’s Hill Council has maintained its resolve in responding to the Fit for the Future parameters. Council’s resolutions over the past year have the strong support of the Hunters Hill community and in our view represent a principled response that places the legitimate needs and aspirations of our community first. It also shows the appropriate way forward for local government reform in this State.

Hunter’s Hill Council has never shied away from local government reform.

Council continues to monitor best practice standards and look to the future in implementing a range of progressive partnerships and programs, as has been evident with NSROC and the proposed JRA.

It has been disappointing to feel that the work achieved across our northern region has not been recognised by the NSW State Government as of significant merit to the communities that each council services.

It has also been disappointing to reflect on IPART’s Fit for the Future assessment criteria, particularly the ‘scale and capacity’ criteria which has never been clearly defined as to the State Government’s preferred population number.

Even as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee (providing advice to the Minister of Local Government) was not enough to gain a clear indication of how councils were ever going to be classified as ‘fit’ under this measure.

Council must, however continue to deliver services and programs to our local community regardless of State Government impositions. Quarterly reporting to Council on the status of the Hunter’s Hill Council Delivery Program and Operational Plan has remained important to provide evidence on Council’s continued delivery of community initiated strategies and actions outlined within our IP&R framework. The Hunter’s Hill Council Community Strategic Plan (CSP) remains a working/ living document.

There are many challenges that face not only Hunter’s Hill Council, but councils across the State of NSW in 2015/16, including:

- meeting population growth targets over the long term
- increasing demands on existing assets
- maintaining heritage controls
- supplying affordable housing
- meeting the needs of an ageing population.

Hunter’s Hill Council will accept these challenges and look to its strengths; maintaining its long term environmental and financial sustainability, maintaining TCorp’s Financial Strength Rating (FSR), collaborating regionally (whether it be through the new JRA model or NSROC) and collaborating with local, State and Federal Governments in delivering major projects.

Barry Smith
General Manager

Management Structure

Council has adopted an Organisational Structure to reflect Council's desire to be more customer focused and to respond to the external pressures of competition policy and competitive tendering.

The purpose of this structure is to:

- Remove barriers to improvement.
- Create a structure that facilitates change.
- Focus on the customer (internal and external).
- Promote an environment that supports continuous improvement.
- Empower employees to act in accordance with their responsibilities.

The Local Government Act (1993) requires that a Council review the organisation structure within the first twelve months after a quadrennial election.

Your Councillors

Seven councillors, who are elected every four years govern Hunter's Hill Council. The Councillors role is to direct and control the affairs of Council according to the Local Government Act and other relevant legislation.

Your Councillors represent the interests of residents and ratepayers, provide leadership and guidance to the community, and encourage communication, between Council and the community.

Ordinary Council Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the Hunter's Hill Council Chamber.

Council's Business Paper is available on Council's web site and from the Council Chambers and Gladesville Library on the Friday preceding the meeting.

Meetings are open to the public and if a request is received prior to the meeting to address Council on issues listed in the business paper, this will be arranged.



Mayor

Clr Richard Quinn
Ph: 9817 7599

Clr Meredith Sheil
Deputy Mayor 2013-14
Ph: 9879 6923

Clr Justine McLaughlin
Deputy Mayor 2014/15
Ph: 9817 7120

Clr Zac Miles



North Ward



South Ward

Clr Gary Bird
Ph: 0401 991 770

Clr Mark Bennett
Ph: 0415 577 866

Clr Peter Astridge
Ph: 9816 2579

Costs, fees & charges

DETAILS OF MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

The Mayor and Councillors did not undertake overseas visits/travel during 2014-15 whilst representing Council.

The total cost of Mayoral and Councillor fees for 2014-15 was \$165,000.00. The total cost for Mayoral and Councillor expenses for 2014-15 was \$52,000.00. This is inclusive of conferences and travel. Council has adopted a 'Facilities and Expenses' Policy for Councillors. Separate costs have not been recorded for expenses associated with Council meetings, motor vehicle usage, and expenses related to the use of Council facilities and equipment.

The policy provides for the following facilities to assist Councillors in the performance of their Council duties:

- reasonable supply of Council stationary
- business cards
- Hunters Hill tie/scarf
- name badge
- use of Committee Room, telephone and office equipment during business hours
- transport on works or other committee inspections with relevant staff
- light refreshments after Council meetings.

The following additional facilities are provided for the Mayor:

- Mayoral stationary and postage
- Mayor's office with telephone and use of office equipment
- access to secretarial support assigned by the General Manager
- use of the Town Hall or other Council premises for civic or ceremonial purposes without charges.



The Mayor and Councillors are each allocated an iPad and corresponding keyboard. These items were allocated prior to 2013/14 at a cost of \$4,592.43.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY COUNCIL

Hunter's Hill Council awarded two contracts in 2014-15 over the amount of \$150,000.00:

- Hunters Hill Village Public Domain Improvements \$230,000.00
- Huntleys Point Carpark \$180,000.00

LEVIES FOR STORMWATER

In 2014-15 Council did not levy an annual charge for stormwater management services.

BODIES IN WHICH COUNCIL HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST

Hunter's Hill Council held a controlling interest in The Priory Trust. The Priory, which is a State Heritage Listed property was transferred to Council by the Dept of Lands in 2007. The Trust was established to fundraise for the restoration of the property. The fundraising endeavours enabled restoration of the roof and upper sandstone. The current balance of The Trust account is \$nil.

Details of Senior Staff Remuneration

The following details the total remuneration package of the General Manager (Council's only senior staff contract) during the year that is made up of the following:

- the total value of the salary component of the package:
\$172,200.13
- the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to the general manager that do not form part of the salary component of the general manager:
\$ NIL
- the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor:
\$ 20,960.90 (superannuation) + \$9,480.00 (voluntary contribution)
- the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package:
\$12,000
- the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits:
\$6,000.00

TOTAL = \$220,631.03

Partnerships & Joint Ventures

NSROC

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is a voluntary organisation of local government areas whose members are the Councils of Hunter's Hill, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby. NSROC councils work in partnership in areas such as procurement, waste, regional advocacy, regional planning, joint tendering and networking.

JRA

For the past year Hunter's Hill, Ryde

and Lane Cove Councils have been working collaboratively on a Joint Regional Authority (JRA) model.

It is expected that an integrated and functional regional approach to intergovernmental relationships, strategic decision making, service delivery and advocacy can be made.

Our councils have signed a MOU that indicates serious intent and willingness to collaborate and partner with the NSW Government to establish a successful JRA as a credible and progressive next step in the local government reform agenda.



Clarke's Point Reserve is an off leash area

Companion Animals

Promotion

Hunter's Hill Council promotes the registration of animals via the Council website, with a reduction in registration fees for a desexed animal as compared to a non desexed animal. A link to the Companion Animals homepage is also available on Council's website.

Management/ Enforcement

Under the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1998, Council's rangers have the authority to manage issues relating to companion animals. Areas included

within the companion animals framework include:

- responding to resident requests for support in relation to dogs
- investigating dog attacks
- ensuring owners comply with companion animal legislation such as requesting owners keep their animals leashed in non off-lead areas, and cleaning up after their animal in public places such as parks and reserves.
- monitoring declarations of menacing or dangerous dogs.

Throughout 2014/15 Hunter's Hill Council has continued to monitor and action any companion animal issues.

Off Leash Areas

The following off-leash areas are provided for in Hunters Hill:

Clarke's Point Reserve:

All day Monday - Friday, and until 9.30 am on Saturday and Sunday.

Gladesville Reserve - Lower:

In sign posted area all day Monday - Friday and until 9.30 am on Saturday and Sunday.

Tarban Creek Reserve - East Side:

Unrestricted between Gladesville Road to Manning Road.

Riverglade Reserve:

Unrestricted from east of the concrete spillway, which runs between the two sediment ponds in the centre of the reserve to the green metal footbridge, which crosses the canal.

In all other reserves dogs must be on a leash at all times.

Future Gladesville



ALL AGE GROUPS want **Future Gladesville to be GREEN** foremost - trees, planting, grass, open space, fresh air, breeze, natural light.

Hunter's Hill Council engaged a private consultancy to work closely with Council on Future Gladesville, which established the community's aspirations for the Gladesville area. The engagement drove changes to the building controls for Gladesville and the community's voice is now a strong element in an innovative consolidated Development Control Plan (DCP).

An ex-director of the Department of Planning and Environment is using the Future Gladesville Project as a case study in his PhD, addressing the nexus between engagement and strategic planning.

The aim of the "Future Gladesville project" was to engage with the community to establish their values, aspirations and priorities for the future of a changing Gladesville Village Centre. Then use this feedback to develop public realm controls and improved built form controls.

"Community, family friendly and welcoming"
- survey respondent

The community's top five words for the future Centre were green, exciting, informal, traditional and European.

They understood the meaning of these words as:

51% GREEN

Open space, vegetation and sustainability

41% EXCITING

Lots of people, diversity of things to do/places to go

39% INFORMAL

Opportunistic meetings and interactions

33% EUROPEAN

Outdoor activities/program, pedestrian-friendly

30% TRADITIONAL

Respecting the local history and heritage

"Maintain village character"
- survey respondent

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

11 different engagement activities were delivered with a total of 770 active participants:

- Project Commencement Letter (1,450)
- Information flyer distribution – mail (1,450)
- Businesses visited (109)
- Information flyer distribution to businesses (1,325)
- 3 x advertisements
- Surveys - survey slips (347), online survey (327), face-to-face survey (44)
- 2 x focus groups (22)
- 3 x workshops (70)

The overarching direction that emerged from the engagement of 770 people was that locals, no matter what age, gender, background or interest, wanted more publicly accessible places to socialise and spend time in - places that were green, exciting and informal in character.

"Both sides of Gladesville should look coherent, there is a lack of pride in the suburb"

- focus group participant

People want a simple public domain in terms of materials and detailing, one that referenced heritage materials such as sandstone, increased footpath space and allowance for more planting. However, the priority was on creating places of interaction and engagement that the community could participate in.



Hunter's Hill Council built new car and boat trailing parking facilities at the Margaret Street boat ramp.

A feasibility study was conducted into the viability of the project works, which included:

- Consultation with adjoining marine business
- Consultation with the community
- Securing of consent from the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust for construction of the carpark.
- Development of artist impressions of the proposed work

Twenty-eight car with trailer parking spaces were provided in the work, along with landscaping, lighting and additional car-only spaces. MP Anthony Roberts said:

"I have lobbied heavily for this and I'm glad Hunter's Hill Council built it because they have done a superb job. Now everyone can afford a berth, find a

Major Projects

Margaret Street Boat Ramp & Carpark, Woolwich



parking spot and enjoy a day on the harbour, even if it's just have fun in a four foot dinghy."

Some of the features of the project included:

- Widening of the existing boat ramp to allow two lanes of activity.
- The provision of a floating pontoon to improve access to boats.
- The provision of off-street car parking space for a total of 38 boat trailers.

The project was completed in conjunction with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust. Showcasing collaboration between 3 levels of government.

100% funding for the project was granted by the NSW Government Better Boating Program.

Amenities Block at Riverglade Reserve

An example of best practice in ecologically sustainable projects is the completion of a state of the art amenities block at Riverglade Reserve.

is remotely monitored 24 hours per day, seven days per week to ensure it operates effectively and meets all health standard requirements.



This totally self-contained operation incorporates an environmentally friendly, on-site waste water treatment system.

The system is powered by solar power, generated by the solar panels located on the roof of the building and the whole system

The system uses a 'textile filter', with the wastewater recirculated over the filter to remove impurities. The treated wastewater becomes clean, clear and odourless.

Left: *Hunter's Hill Council Mayor, Richard Quinn opening the amenities block on 3 December 2014*

Partnering Programs

SHARING KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, BEST PRACTICE

Hunter's Hill Council continually delivers on best practice in delivering services and projects to the local and broader community. Hunter's Hill Council's capacity to undertake new functions and major projects is supported by our robust revenue base, our skill at effective collaboration, and our strategic regional alliance strategy. Some of Council's major projects over the past year have included:



- Collaborating with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust and Roads and Maritime Services NSW to deliver **MAJOR REVITALISATION PROJECTS** such as Woolwich Dock, Clarkes Point Reserve upgrade and carpark and Woolwich marina.
- Collaborating with the NSW Government for the **REVITALISATION OF HUNTLEYS COVE WHARF.**
- Partnering on a **REGIONAL** basis to deliver waste disposal contract services.
- Piloting service delivery review **SOFTWARE** for the local government industry through Local Government Professionals NSW
- Collaborating with **NEIGHBOURING COUNCILS** to share best practice methods in strategic planning, human resources, sustainability and community services.
- Liaising with State agencies to **DELIVER MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.**
- Revitalising our Section 94a Contributions Plan to reflect our urbanised environment and provide a stream of income to **MAINTAIN OR AUGMENT OUR HERITAGE BUILDINGS, GARDEN AREAS, PARKS AND RESERVES.**
- **UPDATING OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLANS (LEPS)** into one Standard LEP while working with State agencies such as the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the then Department of Planning.
- Consolidating 28 Development Control Plans (DCP's) into one document to **ERADICATE DUPLICATED CONTROLS** and streamline our strategic planning capabilities.
- Instigating **NEW PROTECTIONS** for our **SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER.** This gives a new level of rigour to the documentation supporting a significant tree listing.

What makes the Hunters Hill local government area special?

Australia's oldest garden suburb is characterised by:

- 6 suburbs
- 50 sqm of open space per capita
- 3 ferry wharfs
- 2 bridges
- 3 primary schools
- 4 high schools
- 5 childcare centres
- 5 playgroup centres
- 10 playgrounds
- 6 aged care facilities
- 1 hospital
- 3 village areas
- 515 heritage items
- 7 heritage conservation areas (70% of the local government area)
- 1 major commercial area
- 19 community buildings
- 100+ bushcare volunteers
- 200 plant species
- 80 bird species
- 33 hectares of bushland
- 2 major roads (Victoria and Burns Bay Rds)
- 70 kms of road network
- 2km of regional roads
- 87km of footpaths and cycleways
- 109km of kerb and gutter

Cultural Events

Crowd at Moocooboola



people who attended both the 2014 and 2015 events enjoyed the sun, the parade, the performances, the food, the bazaar, the rides, the dog show and all of the other activities taking place on the day.

Moocooboola is the largest event on the annual Hunters Hill calendar and could not take place without the large team of volunteers and Council staff who all come together to plan and coordinate the diversity of activities and hundreds of stalls for the entire community to enjoy.

AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day celebrations began with the conferral of sixteen members of the municipality as Australian Citizens, followed by the announcement of the Hunters Hill Australia Day Awards at the Deckhouse Woolwich:

- Citizen of the Year for 2015 Yvonne Dornan
- Sportsperson of the Year Sam Newton
- Community Event of the Year Hunters Hill Street Feast

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Another spectacular event held at Boronia Park with carols, picnicking, Santa, fireworks, soloists, bands, dancers and our dedicated students from our local schools.

Council has a vibrant annual events program which draws large crowds from across the region.

HUNTERS HILL ART EXHIBITION

The 61st Hunter's Hill Art Exhibition attracted over 900 entries and with \$20,000 in prize money is one of the most prestigious art shows in NSW.

The exhibition is the meeting place of established and emerging artists, and an annual celebration of an outstanding selection of Australian art and sculpture with 350 artworks displayed across three historic venues.

YOUNG IN ART

The Young in Art Exhibition is a popular event for the youth in our community. Attracting student artwork from kindergarten through to Yr 12 from our 8 local schools.

The 2014 exhibition was an astounding success with visitors overwhelmed by the quality of the artwork



ABOVE: Primary School Winner
NAME: Amy Poole, Yr 3
TITLE: "Beach Impression"
SCHOOL: Gladesville Public School

MOOCOOBOLA

A crowd of 20,000+ people attended the 2014 Moocooboola Festival at Boronia Park. The thousands of



100 YEARS OF ANZAC

The 92nd Combined Anzac Eve Memorial Service was held at the Hunters Hill Town Hall on 24 April 2015. The event acknowledged the centenary of the first Anzac Day and was a truly moving event for all of those in attendance. Our Guest speaker, the 38th Governor of NSW delivered a moving speech in which he congratulated the community of Hunters Hill on its community spirit.

Equal Employment Opportunity Activities

The purpose of the Hunter's Hill Council EEO Management Plan is to eliminate discrimination in the workplace and provide actions to ensure equality in the workplace.

Some of the activities undertaken in the past year to implement the Plan include:

- EEO staff training.
- EEO principles circulated via the inhouse staff newsletter.
- Annual staff survey.
- Specialist training in behavioural interviewing techniques that incorporates EEO awareness.
- Review of Council policies to ensure no breach of EEO principles.
- Annual performance appraisals ensure staff are maintaining EEO standards.
- Council provided opportunities for unpaid work experience placements to enhance employment opportunities.
- Providing flexible options for mature aged workers.
- Providing flexible working options for employees with families.
- Reviewing flexible working arrangements.
- Providing a confidential Employee Assistance Program.
- Supporting the professional development of employees when applying for Study Assistance by considering all applications on merit.
- Offering of job skills training to internal staff.
- Enabling training according to the needs of Council as specified in Council and individual work plans.

Community Services continue to deliver

Carers Morning Tea 2014



Throughout 2014/15 the dedicated Community Services team have implemented a comprehensive range of programs to support local residents.

There have been a number of **initiatives for seniors** to encourage them to be engaged in the local community which have been well attended. These include basic first aid workshops, a defensive driving workshop and iPad training classes. Additionally information sessions have been held to increase the community awareness about the significant changes that are taking place in the aged care and disability sectors. Information sessions such as Changes to Aged Care, The Aged Care Rights Service and Downsizing Your Home have been held to support this.

Access issues have been addressed in the area with close consultation with local people. **Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans** have been completed for both Gladesville and Hunters Hill Village to prioritise the works that need to be undertaken to improve access in these areas. Hearing loops are now available in many Council buildings including the Council Chambers and Council together with the City of Ryde completed the Age Friendly Gladesville Strategy.

The team work closely to **support the many local organisations** in the Municipality including child care

centres, preschools, playgroups, schools, sporting clubs and services for older people and people with a disability.

Key events throughout the year have included Volunteers Morning Tea, Carers Morning Tea, Seniors Week program, Guringai Festival, youth week and **working in partnership** with the RMS to deliver driver safety and child restraint events.

The past year has also seen:

- Renegotiation of a three year agreement with City of Ryde to **deliver library services** to residents of our Municipality.
- 19 local groups receiving grant funds under Council's Community Services grant program to a total of \$10,000.
- **Improvements to playgrounds** including installation of shade and rubber softfall at Harry Shelley Reserve
- Improved risk management processes for events on Council land.
- Supporting **service delivery groups** such as Hunters Hill Historical Society, Moocooboola Computer Club, Hunter Hill Ryde Community Services, Ryde Hunters Hill Community Transport,
- Maintaining assets including community buildings.

MAJOR URBAN TRANSFORMATION CASE STUDY

Hunters Hill Village

Hunters Hill Village has undergone a large scale transformation over the past 2 years.

Council in conjunction with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS), owners, shopkeepers, residents and users have been working tirelessly to rejuvenate the Village into a thriving vibrant hub.

Council will continue to work with Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to ensure a strategic approach to urban upgrades.

Council will also complete the last stages of the Urban Design Plan in the near future, which has included kerbing, footpaths, roadways, landscaping, street furniture, seating, and signage within the Village.

The Hunters Hill Village Street Feast, which has now been earmarked as an annual event has also brought vibrancy to the area in promoting both old and new businesses.



MAJOR RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Boronia Park Plan of Management (POM)

The previous Boronia Park POM was adopted in 2002. The review of the POM commenced in May 2014.

Council has worked together with stakeholder groups, reserve users and the community to develop a strategy for the protection, management and use of Boronia Park for the next ten years. The process has included extensive consultation with sporting, recreation, conservation and community groups, and local residents. There has been a great deal of community interest in the POM with 267 people participating in its preparation, either via survey, attendance at on site consultations and/or focus group meetings and over 600 submissions have been received by Council.

The proposed amendments to the POM relate to the major issues raised in the exhibition period including:

- Upgrading the pavilion/grandstand.
- Drainage and integrated water management on the three ovals.
- Providing disabled access throughout the Park.
- Playing surface improvements on ovals 1 & 2.
- Limitations on the possible amenities block between ovals 2 & 3.
- Access and parking along the upper section of Princes Street.
- The requirement for development consent for various works within the Park.
- Proposed small amenities block at the Boronia Park North playground (High Street).





Bushcare Programs

Bushland throughout the Hunters Hill local government area could not be maintained without the dedication of the 100+ volunteers who spend countless hours each month attacking Asparagus Fern, Privet, Ochna, Ehrharta, Fishbone Fern and Blackberry throughout our reserves and bushland areas.

Volunteers also maintain garden beds, paths and lawns, lay down mulch and new plantings. The reward is seeing natural regeneration in the areas that have

been painstakingly cleared of noxious weeds. These areas provide essential habitat for native animals including possums, over 80 recorded species of birds, and reptiles such as blue-tongue lizards and red-bellied black snakes.

The Bushland Team held a number of key events throughout the year, including; National Tree Day, Clean Up Australia Day, school holiday workshops, walks, tours, and working bees.

Whilst Hunter's Hill Council is enormously appreciative of the dedication of its Bushland

Volunteers more help is always needed. If you live near or have an interest in the following parks and reserves please contact Council's Bushland Officer, Ph: 9879 9400 for how to get involved. Key sites include:

- Betts Park
- Boronia Park
- Buffalo Creek
- Collingwood St Reserve
- Ferdinand Street
- The Priory
- Kellys Bush
- Riverglade Reserve
- Tarban Creek

Council's Waste and Sustainability Team have been working on services and programs to increase knowledge and awareness of sustainability and waste issues throughout the Hunters Hill local government area.

Hunter's Hill Council provides several waste and recycling collection services across the Municipality. The services are managed by Council, either through the Waste Collection Contractor, United Resource Management (URM) or through Council operations out of its Depot.

Council also targets key community events such as the Hunters Hill Mocooboola Festival to

Sustainability

& Waste



demonstrate education practices and programs.

Council has coordinated a number of key sustainability and waste programs. Over the past year residents have been involved with:

- E-waste collections
- Recycling programs
- Storm water education programs
- Composting education
- Gargare Sale Trail events
- Household on-call clean-up collection services
- mattress recycling
- litter education
- Household chemical clean-out days
- Clean-up Australia Day

Major Capital Works Programs

Council's Asset Management Plan sets out a ten year program for the installation and maintenance of footpaths, roads, kerb & gutters, traffic facilities, stormwater, etc. The completion of a range of works assisted via **funding from Special Rate Levies** are listed below:

Footpath Renewal Program

- Alexandra St, D'Aram - Ferry
- Alexandra St, Mount - Stanley
- Alexandra St, Mount - D'Aram
- Ernest St
- Victoria Rd (Crown to Huntleys Point Rd)
- Huntleys Point Rd

Road Resurfacing Program

- Huntleys Point Road
- Keeyuga Rd
- William St
- Crown St
- Bayview Crs
- Viret St
- Kokera St
- Park Rd
- Pittwater Rd
- Prince Edward St

Traffic Facilities Renewal Program

- Gladesville/Ryde Rd
- Princes St
- Hunters Hill Precinct
- Woolwich Precinct
- Huntleys Point Rd Carpark

S94A Developer Contribution Works

- Harry Shelley Reserve – shade structure and soft fall
- Weil Park - upgrade surface
- Gladesville Reserve - upgrade surface
- Hunters Hill Village - urban design works
- Woolwich Baths – replace shark net and piles
- Joubert St - lighting
- Boronia Park - grandstand and Oval No.3 cricket wicket
- Riverglade Reserve - amenities and pathway
- Boronia Park - Oval No.1 upgrade lighting
- The Priory – sandstone restoration
- Buffalo Creek - playground and synthetic wicket

Solar Lighting Installation

- Joubert St South
- Gladesville Reserve
- Buffalo Creek Reserve

COUNCIL'S EXPENDITURE

The following pie charts below give a graphical representation of the breakdown of council's actual expenditure for 2014/15. The Operational Expenditure is broken down by the categories in the Community Strategic Plan. Broadly these categories include the following functions:

1. Our Heritage and Built Environment

Development control, heritage and forward Planning

2. Our Community and Lifestyle

Community services, events, community centres, child care centres, library contributions, parks and reserves

maintenance, emergency services including Fire Brigades contribution and Council buildings/Halls.

3. Our Environment

Domestic Waste collection, Stormwater drainage, Bushland and Health regulation

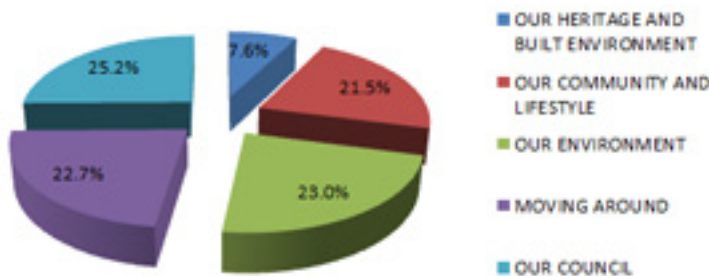
4. Moving Around

Roads, Car parking, Water transport

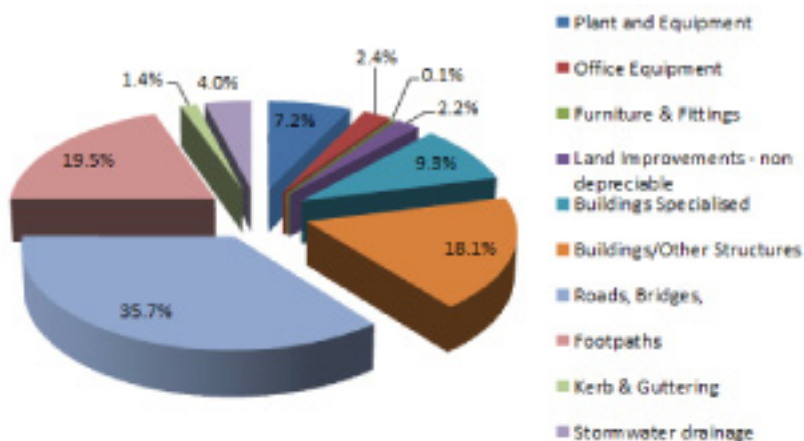
5. Our Council

Councillors, Administration, Information Technology, HR, Insurances

OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN



COUNCIL'S SPECIAL RATES

The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) makes provision for councils to increase revenues above the rate peg amount (2.6%) through the use of 'Special Rate Variations'. Hunter's Hill Council has successfully applied for SRVs to fund ageing infrastructure. The details of these SRVs are outlined below (this special rate is applicable to all rateable properties).

Community Facilities Asset Infrastructure Special Rate Levy (Rate Increase of 4.16% in 2007/08)

Introduced in 2007/08 the income raised by the levy, funds capital works identified in the Asset Management Plans for Buildings and Parks and Recreation. This rate expires on 30 June 2017.

COUNCIL WILL BE APPLYING TO IPART TO CONTINUE THIS RATE FOR A FURTHER 10 YEAR PERIOD IN 2016/17.

Environmental Special Rate Levy (Rate Increase of 2.17% in 2013/14)

Introduced in 2013/14 the income raised by the levy, funds stormwater and environmental projects identified in the Environmental Management Plan. This rate expires on 30 June 2023.

Roads and Operations Special Rate (Rate Increase of 6.8% in 2012/13)

Introduced in 2012/13 this rate provides funds to meet costs associated with maintenance and operation of Road assets. This rate expires on 30 June 2022.

Other Infrastructure Special Rate (Rate Increase of 3.1% in 2013/2014)

Introduced in 2013/14 the income raised by the levy of this rate assists with costs associated with footpaths, kerbing and traffic infrastructure. This rate expires on 30 June 2023.

Council has adopted and is developing a number of alternate strategies and revenue opportunities. A commitment to these strategies, backed by sound financial discipline and adherence to adopted financial objectives will enable Council to remain a sustainable and vibrant local government entity that is able to meet the needs of its community.

Financial & legal

Income statement	Actual	Actual
Expenses from Continuing Operations	2015	2014
	\$'000	\$'000
Expenses from Continuing Operations		
Employee Benefits & on-cost	5,265	5,024
Borrowing Costs	14	18
Materials & Contracts	5,164	4,751
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	2,019	1,974
Other Expenses	2,160	2,077
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	8	0
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	14,630	13,844
Income from Continuing Operations		
Revenue		
Rates & Annual Charges	10,483	10,127
User Charges & Fees	891	1,023
Interest & Investment Revenue	327	363
Other Revenues	1,150	1,115
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	1,365	660
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	733	903
Other Income		
Net gains from the disposal of assets		23
Net Share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associates using the equity method	16	10
Total Income from Continuing Operations	14,965	14,224
Net Operating Result for the Year	335	380
Net Operating Result for the year before capital Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(398)	(523)

COUNCIL'S AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

Council recorded a net operating surplus of \$0.335 million for 2014/2015, a decrease from the surplus of \$0.380 million in 2013/2014.

Revenue from rates and annual charges was \$10.483 million, grants and contributions \$2.098 million, user charges & fees \$0.891 million, interest \$0.327 million and other revenues of \$1.150 million.

The total expenses from ordinary activities of \$14.630 million included \$2.019 million depreciation, amortization and impairment of assets.

Overall Council's total cash and investment has increased from \$9.969 million in 2013/2014 to \$10.333 million in 2014/2015. Council's Net Current Assets have decreased from \$5.866 million in 2013/2014 to \$5.546 million in 2014/2015.

The performance indicators included in this report support this maintained position.

Further information concerning Council's financial performance is shown in the following financial statements and detailed information is contained in Council's audited financial reports, which are available for public inspection.

For a complete list of Council's audited financial reports please see Appendix 1.

LEGAL

Council's total legal expenditure for the 2014/2015 period, including payment to consultants who were engaged by the Council to act as expert witnesses or when in-house expertise are not available, amount to \$254,622 made up as follows:

	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012	2010/2011	2009/2010
ADMINISTRATION	\$19,527	\$10,830	\$29,693	\$6,279	\$958	\$9,188
TOWN PLANNING	\$231,851	\$222,043	\$267,156	\$334,245	\$367,929	\$203,753
BUILDING	0	0	0	0	0	0
PUBLIC ORDER &						
SAFETY-ANIMAL CONTROL	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENVIRO HEALTH	0	0	\$102	0	0	0
ENGINEERING	\$3,244	\$5,195	\$4,004	\$7,678	0	\$1,724
TOTAL	\$524,622	\$238,067	\$300,956	\$348,202	\$368,887	\$214,665

APPENDIX 1

Statement of Performance MEASUREMENT

1. Operating Performance Ratio 2014/15

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Total continuing operating revenue (excl. Capital Grant & Contributions) – Operating Expenses	(406)			
Total continuing Operating revenue (excl. Capital Grants & Contributions)	14,216	-2.86%	-4.18%	-9.51%

2. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio 2014/2015

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Total continuing operating revenue (less ALL Grants & Contributions)	12,851			
Total continuing operating revenue	14,949	85.97%	88.99%	87.86%

3. Unrestricted Current Ratio 2014/15

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Current Assets less all External Restrictions	8,450			
Current Liabilities less Specific Purpose Liabilities	2,502	3.38X	3.88	3.35

4. Debt Service Cover Ratio 2014/15

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Operating Result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation (EBITDA)	1,627			
Principal Repayments (from the Statement of Cash Flows) + Borrowing Interest Costs (from the Income Statement)	71	22.92X	20.51	2.38

5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage 2014/15

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Outstanding	273			
Rates, Annual and Extra Charges Collectible	10,742	2.54%	2.26%	2.89%

6. Cash Expenses Cover Ratio 2014/15

Factors	Amounts	2015	2014	2013
Current Year's Cash and Cash Equivalents Including All Term Deposits x 12	10,333			
Payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,133	9.12	9.33	9.40

APPENDIX 1

Statement of Changes IN EQUITY

	2015					2014				
	Retained earnings	Reserves	Council equity interest	Non-controlling interest	Total equity	Retained earnings	Reserves	Council equity interest	Non-controlling interest	Total equity
Balance at beginning of the reporting period	269,659	279,020	548,679	-	548,679	269,279	219,771	489,050	-	489,050
Correction of Prior Period Errors	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net operating result for the year	335	-	335	-	335	380	-	380	-	380
Revaluations: IPP&E Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	2,958	2,958	-	2,958	-	59,249	59,249	-	59,249
Other adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive income	-	2,958	2,958	-	2,958	-	59,249	59,249	-	59,249
Total Comprehensive Income	335	2,958	3,293		3,293	380	59,249	59,629	-	59,629
Balance at end of the reporting period	269,994	281,978	551,972		551,972	269,659	279,020	548,679	-	548,679

APPENDIX 1

Income, Expenses and Assets have been directly ATTRIBUTED TO THE

Functions/ activities	Income from Continuing Operations			Expenses from Continuing Operations			Operating Result from Continuing Operations			Grant included in Income from Continuing Operations		Total Assets held (Current & Non-current)	
	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Original budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	2015 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000	2014 \$'000
Governance	-	-	-	284	1,500	1,452	-284	-1,500	-1,452	-	-	-	-
Administration	202	167	141	4,543	3,067	2,730	-4,341	-2,900	-2,589	18	-	20,552	20,201
Public Order & Safety	15	13	30	711	654	671	-696	-641	-641	-	-	28	42
Health	54	65	55	121	108	96	-67	-43	-41	17	-	2	2
Environment	2,510	2,829	2,594	2,702	2,906	2,683	-192	-77	-89	175	134	4	4
Community Services & Education	210	219	208	648	554	606	-438	-335	-398	76	133	16,590	16,272
Housing & Community Amenities	414	427	447	1,509	1,265	1,142	-1,095	-838	-695	36	34	27,588	27,712
Recreation & Culture	266	945	1,170	2,198	2,302	2,238	-1,932	-1,357	-1,068	91	1	404,609	404,142
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction	40	22	41	-	96	106	40	-74	-65	-	-	84	125
Transport & Communications	1,312	2,402	2,025	1,752	2,177	2,111	-440	225	-86	752	543	88,162	85,261
Economic Affairs	2	1	1	5	1	9	-3	-	-8	-	-	-	-
Total Functions & Activities	5,025	7,090	6,712	14,473	14,630	13,844	-9,448	-7,540	-7,132	1,165	845	557,619	553,761
Joint Ventures (using the Equity Method)	-	16	10	-	-	-	-	16	10	-	-	433	417
General Purpose Income	9,008	7,859	7,502	-	-	-	9,008	7,859	7,502	479	246	-	-
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	14,033	14,965	14,224	14,473	14,630	13,844	-440	335	380	1,644	1,091	558,052	554,178

APPENDIX 1

Statement of financial POSITION

Assets	Actual	Actual	Actual
Current Assets	2015	2014	2013
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10,333	9,969	10,162
Receivables	1,039	1,101	756
Inventories	9	17	12
Other	117	96	93
Total Current Assets	11,498	11,183	11,023
Non-Current Assets			
Receivables	32	32	29
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	546,089	542,546	483,223
Other	433	417	407
Total Non-Current Assets	546,089	542,995	483,659
TOTAL ASSETS	558,052	554,178	494,682
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	4,096	3,537	3,720
Borrowings	57	57	53
Provisions	1,799	1,723	1,603
Total Current Liabilities	5,952	5,317	5,376
Non-Current Liabilities			
Interest Bearing Liabilities	104	161	217
Provisions	24	21	39
Total Non-Current Liabilities	128	182	256
TOTAL LIABILITIES	6,080	5,499	5,632
Net Assets	551,972	548,679	489,050
EQUITY			
Retained Earnings	269,994	269,659	269,279
Revaluation Reserves	281,978	279,020	219,771
Total Equity	551,972	548,679	489,050