

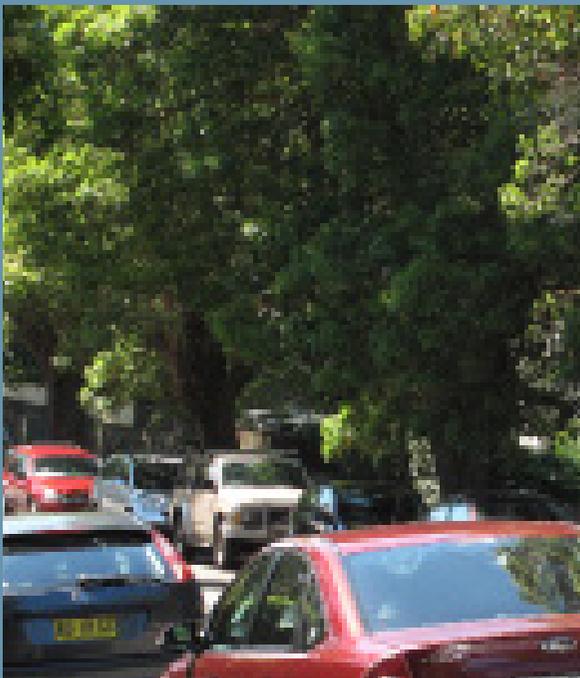


ANNUAL REPORT

2016/17

HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

Our mission is 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.



13,999

total population



82%

internet accessed from dwelling



40 %

2 motor vehicles per dwelling

# About this annual report

This report covers the year to 1 July 2017. The Annual Report under Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 reviews how Hunter's Hill Council complied with its statutory obligations in 2016/17.

This 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.

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 Delivery Program (4 year plan) is a statement of commitment to the community from each newly elected council. In reviewing the Delivery Program Council accounted for its stewardship of the community's long term goals,

towards achieving these goals during its term of office and what its priorities will be.

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](http://www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au)

***This document contains a 'Report Card' on Council's achievements via the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.***



## *Our local government area*

Hunters Hill Municipality was founded in 1861 and is located about 7 kilometres from the Sydney GPO. Hunters Hill is bound by Buffalo Creek and the Lane Cove River in the north, Tarban Creek and the Parramatta River in the south, and Punt Road, Victoria Road, Pittwater Road and the City of Ryde in the west.

Hunters Hill Municipality includes the suburbs of Gladesville (part), Henley, Hunters Hill, Huntleys Cove, Huntleys Point and Woolwich. The Municipality is predominantly a residential area with very little commercial or industrial land use.

Hunters Hill is the smallest local government area in metropolitan Sydney, covering an area of 6 square kilometres, including many parks and reserves.

Hunters Hill is recognised as Australia's oldest garden suburb, with 75% of the Municipality declared a conservation area. The original inhabitants of the area were the Wallumedegal Aboriginal people.

European settlement dates from 1795 when land was first farmed. Growth was minimal until the late 1840s when many mansions were constructed (many of them from local sandstone) and a monastery was established. Growth took place from the 1880s to the early 1900s, spurred by subdivision, the establishment of a regular ferry service, the opening of several bridges and growth in the shipbuilding industry.

Magnificent sandstone buildings, heritage listed houses and buildings with significant stone walls that border the streets are found within the Municipality. Gladesville Hospital and The Priory (the original home of the Marist Father's Order) are two publicly accessible examples of early colonial sandstone structures.

A rich, diverse and significant tree canopy, suburban bushland and parks are evidenced in The Great North Walk, Boronia Park, Tipperary Falls, Buffalo Creek Reserve, Riverglade (Tarban Creek) Reserve, Gladesville Reserve and Bedlam Bay (Parramatta River) Regional Park.

Living and working examples of our nation's early shipbuilding and maritime industry are on display at Woolwich Dock and Lookout, Clarkes Point Reserve, Morts Reserve, The Goat Paddock, The Horse Paddock, Kellys Bush and Weil Park.

A commitment to education and learning, that in such a small area, has and continues to be a significant part of Sydney's development at; St Josephs College, Marist Sisters College, Villa Maria Parish School, Hunters Hill Public School, Gladesville Public School, Boronia Park Public School, Hunters Hill High School, and Riverside Girls High School.

# Council's vision

In 2030 Hunters Hill is renowned for its well preserved heritage buildings, sandstone walls, magnificent tree canopy and bushland, surrounded by its pristine waterways and sandstone seawalls.

People enjoy and embrace the lifestyle, restaurants and cafes, and quiet ambience that complement Australia's oldest garden suburb.

Architectural excellence is evident throughout Hunters Hill. New developments have been limited in height to 2 storeys in residential areas, which is compatible with the character of the area.

There is a strong sense of community. Residents are committed to the area, know their neighbours and feel a strong sense of belonging to Hunters Hill.

Our Aboriginal heritage and cultural diversity are reflected in a vibrant cultural scene and harmonious community.

The broad needs of the community are provided through a range of facilities, services, and events.

Community organisations are flourishing with many residents volunteering their time and participating in a wide variety of activities.

Gladesville is the focal point of commerce and our thriving village centres (Woolwich, Garibaldi, Hunters Hill, and Pittwater Rd) are warm and welcoming, supported by a network of business people and the community.

Our footpaths, walking trails and cycleways are popular as they connect the Municipality and provide access to waterways, foreshores, and open green spaces, and traffic is managed

so that people can move around safely. Residents and visitors can get where they want to go easily via an integrated public transport system that is cost effective, comfortable, convenient and accessible.

Ferries are bringing people from all parts of the world to enjoy what Hunters Hill has to offer, and this has led to waters edge improvements around the wharves.

We have upgraded our infrastructure, public facilities, urban spaces and sea walls by taking up opportunities to provide more diverse sources of income. Council has sustainably

## *The broad needs of the community are provided through a range of facilities, services, and events*

managed its assets with the support of the community to ensure its on-going financial viability.

Hunters Hill has become a jewel in the World's greatest city, Sydney.

# Message from the Mayor

2017/18 is expected to bring as many challenges as 2016/17. At the time of writing this report Hunter's Hill Council was still no clearer on the outcome of our legal challenge. Hunter's Hill Council will remain strong, united and vigilant. As I stated at a meeting with the previous Premier, the Hon Mike Baird MP:

- Hunter's Hill Council supports to the spirit of reforms of local government in NSW;
- The assumption that "bigger is better" is not widely supported by empirical analysis, and that expert opinion supported by empirical research strongly challenges this view;
- Independent surveys and presentations to the OLG's Delegate indicate that 80% of our community is opposed to a forced merger and supports the formation of a joint organisation with neighbouring councils for service delivery;
- Any forced merger will result in an adverse and major reduction of local representation, with the current Hunters Hill LGA likely to be represented by just one councillor on the proposed merged council;
- Given the significant reduction of local representation on the proposed council, our community will lose local control of its critical planning instruments, namely our Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plans, which to date have ensured appropriate stewardship of heritage and our built and natural environment, and our "sense of place";
- Hunter's Hill Council fully supports the formation with the City of Ryde, Lane Cove Council and any other council, of a Joint Regional Authority (JRA) to achieve the necessary service delivery efficiencies and economies of scale, without sacrificing a significant reduction of local representation.

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.



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***Hunter's Hill Council will  
remain strong, united and  
vigilant***

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Clr Richard Quinn  
Mayor



# Message from the GM

Each year knowledge around the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework increases, with 2017/18 being no exception. Providing communities with information that is both transparent and as simple to understand as possible are the most important aspects of the framework, which includes:

1. Publishing a 10-year strategic plan (known as a Community Strategic Plan). This is revised and rolled forward every 4 years within 18 months after each council election. A core feature of this is a 4-year Delivery Program with details of how each strategy in the plan will be delivered. The plan also links with State and Regional plans to reflect joint priorities.
2. An annual Operational Plan with a budget that is uniformly presented across councils and consistent with a national approach. This document implements the Delivery Program.
3. A simple reporting system that focuses on risks to achieving stated outcomes.
4. An Annual Report that comprises performance against key indicators.
5. An End of Term Report which highlights the many achievements of Council in the previous 4 year cycle.

## Merger Update

On 14 February 2017 the NSW Premier announced that all Sydney

mergers will proceed and for those that are taking legal action, such as Hunter's Hill Council, that the current court cases will continue. Council's appeal was heard and we are still waiting the decision of the Court of Appeal. At the time of preparing this article there has been no indication as to when that may occur. When Council has been informed of the outcome we will then decide how to respond to any directions, or decisions. Despite the uncertainty about Council's future, an election for Councillors administered by the NSW Electoral Commission will be conducted on Saturday 9 September 2017. Nominations for Councillors will open on Monday 31 July 2017 and close

***it is important to  
acknowledge the hard  
work of our Councillors***

on Wednesday 9 August 2017. It is important at this time to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our current Councillors and the planning and forward thinking they have delivered to ensure Council's survival in 2017/18 and beyond.

Barry Smith  
General Manager

*The Priory, which is a State Heritage Listed property was transferred to Council by the Dept of Lands*



### Contracts awarded by Council

Contracts Awarded by Council: Hunter's Hill Council awarded 2 contract in 2016-17 over the amount of \$150,000:

1. NSROC Waste Alliance Disposal Contract valued at \$704,000
2. Waste Collection Service Contract valued at \$852,255

### Levies for stormwater

In 2016-17 Council did not levy an annual charge for stormwater mangement 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 \$14,903.88.

# Management structure & senior staff remuneration

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.

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:

(i) The total value of the salary component of the package:  
\$19,788

(ii) 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

(iii) 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:  
\$ 22,022 (superannuation) + \$5,653.93 (voluntary contribution)

(iv) The total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package:  
\$12,000

(v) The total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits:  
\$6,000

***The General Manager is the only senior staff contracted employee***

TOTAL = \$231,810

# Costs, fees & charges

## DETAILS OF MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR FEES, EXPENSES AND FACILITIES

The Mayor and Councillors did not undertake overseas visits/travel during 2016-17 whilst representing Council or at a cost to Council.

The total cost of Mayoral and Councillor fees for 2016-17 was \$172,970. The total cost for Mayoral and Councillor expenses for 2016-17 was \$27,374. 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 duties:

- reasonable supply of Council stationary
- business cards
- Hunters Hill Council tie/scarf

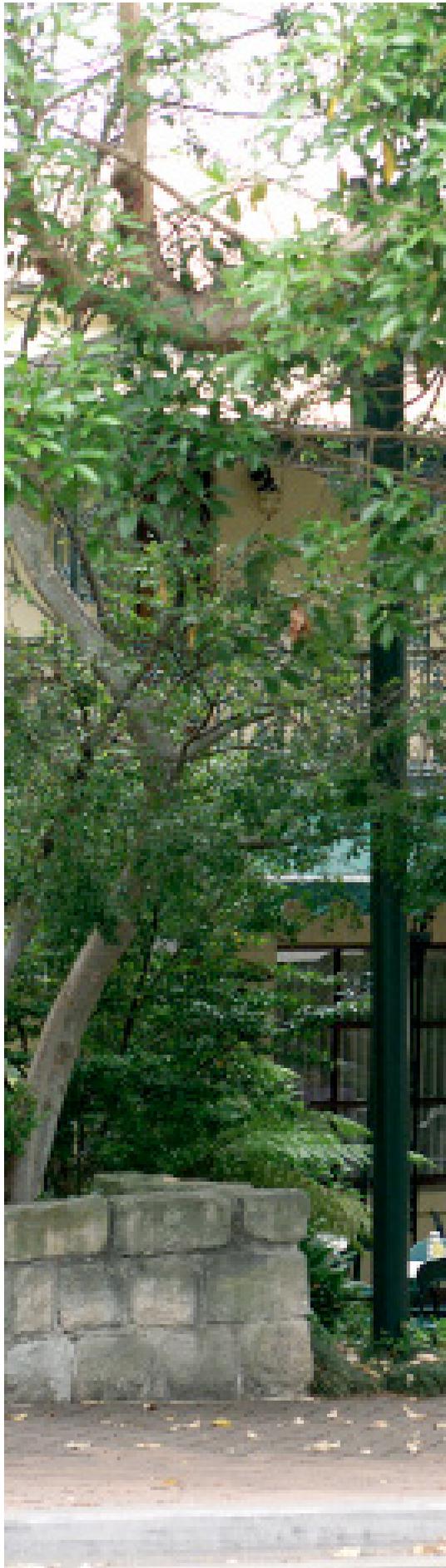
### ***Council has adopted a Facilities and Expenses Policy for Councillors***

- 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

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.



# Your Councillors

Seven councillors, who are elected every four years govern Hunter's Hill Council. Their 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.



## 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*  
zacmiles@huntershill.nsw.  
gov.au

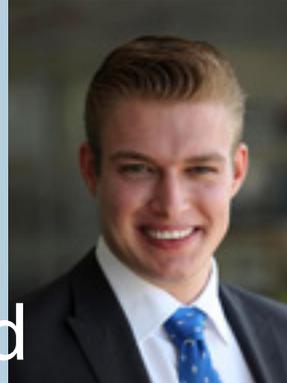
Council's Business Paper is available on Council's web site and from the Council Chambers and Gladesville Library on the Friday preceding the meeting.

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.

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***A popularly elected Mayor (for a four year term) carries out civic and ceremonial duties, to represent Council in business and community forums or meetings, and to preside at Council meetings, and to preside at Council meetings.***

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## North Ward



## South Ward

*Clr Gary Bird*  
Ph: 0401 991 770

*Clr Mark Bennett*  
Ph: 0415 577 866

*Clr Peter Astridge*  
Ph: 9816 2579



## KEY PLANNING SITE IN GLADESVILLE

On 29 March 2016 Council resolved not to support the GSV Planning Proposal to increase the height limit

## Strategic Planning

and floor space ratio permissible on the “Key Site” in Gladesville (bounded by Massey, Flagstaff and Cowell Streets).

On 19 April 2016 GSV lodged a pre-gateway review request asking the Department of Planning and Environment (Department) to review Council’s unfavourable decision.

On 14 October 2016 the Department forwarded a letter to Council advising

that they considered that the GSV planning proposal had strategic merit and should proceed to the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP). On 21 October 2016 the Department advised that their completed assessment report regarding the GSV pre-gateway review was available on their website.

On 3 November 2016, the JRPP assessed the pre-gateway review request lodged by GSV Developments. If the JRPP recommends that the planning proposal should not proceed to Gateway that is the end of the process. However, if the JRPP decides to recommend that the planning proposal should proceed through Gateway it is invariably subject to a number of conditions, many of which must be satisfied prior to exhibition.

## DRAFT MEDIUM HOUSING CODE

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 provides a fast-track assessment path for single

dwellings that comply with a set of numerical standards. Merit issues such as views, solar access and overlooking are not required to be addressed and neighbour consultation is not required.

This means approvals can be delivered in a much shorter period. The State Government would like to extend the Complying Code to cover a range of medium density development such as townhouses, terraces, dual occupancies and manor homes.

In late 2016 the State Government released a Draft Medium Density Housing Code (Statement of Intent) and a Draft Medium Density Housing Design Guide for public review. Council staff prepared a report and submission and the matter was considered at the council meeting of 12 December 2016. Council provided a submission to the State Government on 13 December 2016. Council’s submission raises a number of issues with the introduction of the code and design guide and can be viewed on council’s webpage under planning/submissions.

## GREATER SYDNEY COMMISSION

The Greater Sydney Commission was established in 2015. The Commission is a NSW Government Agency charged with coordinating planning and infrastructure delivery across Sydney through the implementation of district plans.

These draft plans were exhibited until March 2017. The Greater Sydney Commission invited communities from the north district to attend one of their community drop-in sessions to find out more about planning for Sydney’s long-term future, and how to provide feedback.

PacificSmilesDENTAL

HOME SPACE WAREHOUSE

HOME SPACE WAREHOUSE

Platinum coffee house

BAR

GRAND OPENING

Campos Specialty Coffee Professionals



# CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING

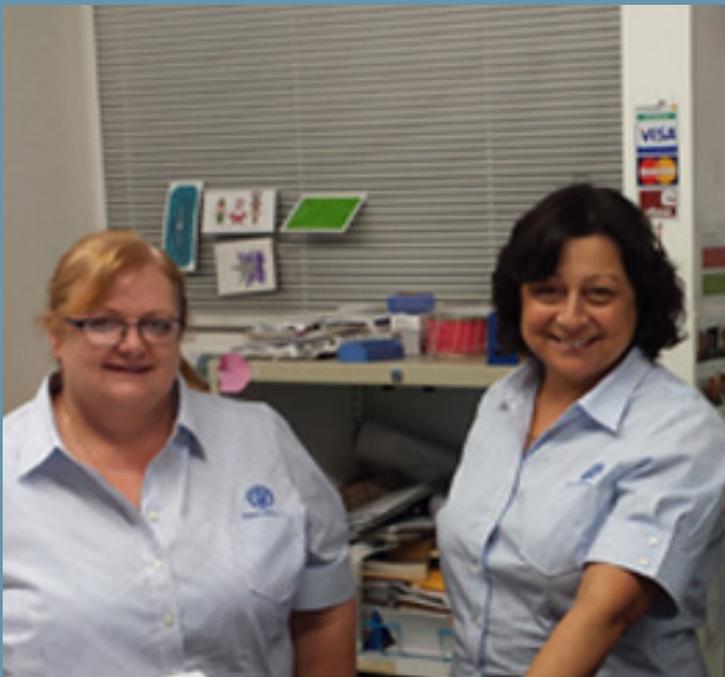
Learning and development is an integral part of our culture as it is an important aspect, not only professional development, but also assisting staff to perform their duties in a competent manner. We track staff training by completing Learning and Development Plans and updating these regularly.

Council's Performance Review and Development system has been designed to provide benefits for both the employee and Council.

General benefits include:

- Financial gains – overspending is less likely when outcomes are clearly linked to business objectives, as projects deemed not to meet Council's objectives are not undertaken.
- Improved productivity – incentive plans clearly linked to performance encourage Council's primary objectives to be met, not just 'business as usual' outcomes.
- Open communication – individual performance is assessed and discussed and each employee's goals outlined in line with the Council's needs. It is a good mechanism for managers to communicate with their staff in a focused manner.
- Clear accountabilities – results are transparent and individuals are aware of the results they need for success.

- Happy employees – employees understand how their role and results contribute to Council's overall goals. In most cases it is not just "about the money" but being appreciated for a job well done.
- Goal alignment – professional development programs are closely aligned with the goals of the Council.



# People & Culture

At Hunter's Hill Council we recognise the value of our staff and are committed to achieving a safe and rewarding workplace that is free from unlawful harassment and discrimination.

As a responsible employer, we are committed to taking proactive measures to ensure our employees are afforded equal access to employment, promotion and learning and development opportunities within our workplace.

To ensure we maintain a workplace culture that is supportive of equality and diversity principles, it is important that we continue to monitor our progress against agreed performance indicators and targets and also strive to implement new strategies and initiatives that will benefit all staff.

Council's EEO Plan was revised in 2016-2017 and aims to promote equal employment opportunities for all employees of Hunters Hill Council with the introduction of several new initiatives including increased career opportunities in the form of secondments and higher grade assignments for both office and works staff.

The implementation of this Plan has enabled Council to create a diverse and skilled workforce that is built on values such as equality and respect for all individuals whilst continuing to utilise Council's Performance Review and Development System to further develop core capabilities to deliver quality services to our community.

By doing so we will drive the achievement of our Vision, along with the effective execution of our Values which are at the HEART of what we do and who we are: Honesty | Excellence | Accountability | Respect | Team Work

## EEO Management Plan Statement

The Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan aims to promote equal employment opportunities for all employees, and future employees, of Hunter's Hill Council. To facilitate the success of this Plan, seven key objectives have been established and include:

1. Commitment to consultation throughout the development and implementation of EEO planning outcomes;
2. Policies, procedures and corporate documents contributing to EEO outcomes;
3. To raise the level of awareness amongst staff of EEO practices and principles;
4. Ensure all recruitment, appointment, induction and transfer practices conform with EEO principles and demonstrate fair practice;

## ***Council's EEO Plan was revised in 2016-2017 and aims to promote equal employment opportunities for all employees***

5. Ensure all employees have equal access to learning and development opportunities;
6. Achieve a diverse and skilled workplace that is better able to meet the needs of the community; and
7. Ensure the EEO Management Plan is successfully implemented, effectively evaluated and periodically reviewed.



**NSW Environmental Trust Grant**  
**August 2016 – August 2019**  
**Total Grant Value \$98,964**

NSW Environmental Trust Grant:  
habitation restoration along the lower  
Parramatta River estuary

Hunter's Hill Council in conjunction  
with NSW National Parks and Wildlife  
Service and Habitat Network received  
a 3 year NSW Environmental Trust  
Grant to strategically approach habitat  
restoration at a landscape level along  
the lower Parramatta River estuary.

Bushcare groups and bush  
regeneration contractors are working  
across five reserves in the Hunter's  
Hill LGA i.e. Clarkes Point, Kellys  
Bush, Gladesville Reserve, Betts  
Park and Parramatta River Regional  
Park. These reserves form part of a  
regionally significant biodiversity  
corridor. Bush regeneration works  
will improve ecological connectivity  
between bushcare sites and restore

Endangered Ecological Communities  
(EECs) under the Threatened Species  
Conservation Act 1995 i.e. Coastal  
Saltmarsh and Swamp Oak Floodplain  
Forest. The project involves improving  
habitat for fauna in particular small  
birds.

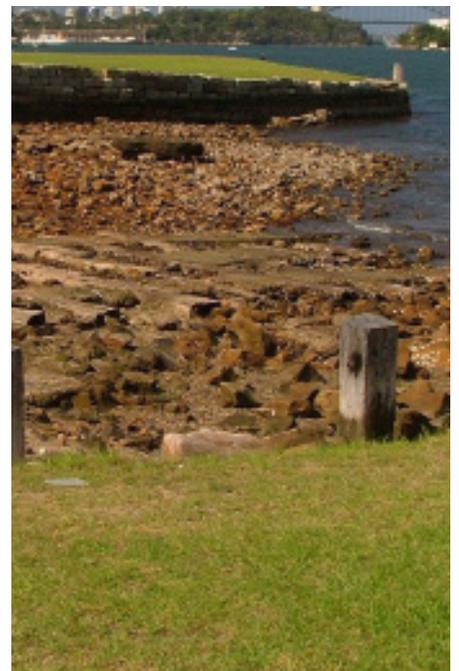
bushcare group or help plant habitat  
in these reserves, please contact  
Council's Bushland staff on Ph: 9879  
9439 or email [jdarcy@huntershill.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jdarcy@huntershill.nsw.gov.au).

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***Total grant  
value  
\$98,964***

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In addition it is hoped that the  
project will engage the local  
community particularly increase  
volunteer numbers and community  
awareness and involvement including  
encouraging adjoining residents to  
plant suitable habitat in their gardens.  
If you would like to more information  
on the project, would like to join a





***In 2016 1,250 plants  
were planted and in  
2017 1,252 plants were  
planted***

Bushland throughout the Hunters Hill local government area could not be maintained without the dedication of the 60 volunteers who spend countless hours each month attacking Asparagus Fern, Privet, Ochna, Ehrharta, Fishbone Fern and Blackberry throughout our reserves and bushland areas to name a few.

Volunteers also maintain garden beds, paths, lay down mulch and new plantings. The reward is seeing natural regeneration in the areas that have been painstakingly cleared of environmental 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 and working bees.

Whilst Hunter's Hill Council is enormously appreciative of the dedication of its Bushland Volunteers more help is always needed.

Key sites include:

- Betts Park & Gladesville Reserve
- Boronia Park
- Buffalo Creek Reserve
- Collingwood St Reserve
- Ferdinand Street Reserve
- The Priory
- Kellys Bush
- Riverglade Reserve
- Bedlam Bay
- Tarban Creek North & Bridge

***Bushcare stats***  
***2016 hours volunteered =***  
***1,471.5***  
***2017 hours volunteered =***  
***1,223 ongoing***

# Bushcare programs

With over 30 hectares of bushland in public reserves and being part of the Sydney Harbour peninsula, Hunter's Hill Council is committed to preserving and maintaining the unique natural environment and heritage of the local area.

Council has implemented many strategies to strive toward a healthy and sustainable environment.

These include:

- Bush regeneration and bushcare programs
- Environmental education, programs and events
- Programs for control of weeds and feral animals
- Estuary management program
- Programs for bushland maintenance
- Programs for management of waterways
- Environmental sustainable projects

Other joint ventures during 2016-17 have included:

- Sydney North Sub Regional Weeds Committee
- VPC (Vertebrate Pest Committee)
- Bushfire Management Committee
- National Tree Day
- Bushland Management Working Party and Environmental Projects and Advisory Group

***Our 2011 financial performance was significantly better than industry averages in most categories***

Being home to the site of the world's first Green Ban in 1971 (Kelly Bush), Hunters Hill is steeped in tradition of safeguarding its natural environment. Results from the independent Community Survey, conducted in 2015 by IRIS Research Reported that 91.5% of resident placed a 'high importance' rating on healthy waterways, whilst BUSHCARE 86.2% of residents placed a 'high importance' rating on managing our bushland.

There are a number of initiatives that Hunter's Hill Council continues to participate in. The Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG) is but one. The PRCG has launched the Our Living River initiative with a mission "to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025".

The PRCG is implementing a Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2018 which interacts with a range of other local and regional plans including the incorporation of key actions identified within the Parramatta River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan (2012) and the Our Living Catchment Native Habitats and Fauna Report (2014).



# Upgrading community facilities

The 2016/17 year has seen the completion of a number of major upgrades across Council's major sporting and recreational facilities, particularly in Boronia Park, which has a high level of community use.

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. This special rate levy expired at the end of the 2016 financial year. Council was unable to re apply to extend the levy for a further 10 years because of the restrictions imposed by the NSW State Government to those councils who did not voluntarily merge.

However, Council did see the completion of a range of works assisted via funding from the expiring Special Rate Levy as listed below:

These upgrades have included:

- Upgrade of the toilets at Boronia Grandstand.
- Construction of North Boronia public toilets.
- Construction of a netball court.
- Upgrade of lights to a system where the user has to log in to turn the lights on.
- Boronia Park Oval wicket upgrade, which was funded

## *Council did see the completion of a range of works assisted via funding from Special Rate Levies*

- with assistance from the Ryde Hunters Hill Cricket Club.
- Planting of approximately 40 trees on streets and in parks including; Earl street, Barons Crescent, and Tarban Creek.
- Maintaincance of bike tracks.
- Construction of a naming sand stone wall at Boronia Park.
- Track works at Boronia Oval No. 2.



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# *“Council’s Asset Management Plan sets out a 10 year program”*

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## Completed road works



- Jourbert Street – full length
- Figtree Road - full length
- Martin Street - full length
- King Street – full length
- Pitt Street – King Street to George Street
- Woolwich Road – (Near Weil Park - Collingwood St section)
- The Avenue – full length
- Pittwater Rd – Venus Street to Auburn Street
- Princes Street

## Reconstructed kerb & gutter



- Jourbert Street
- Figtree Road
- Martin Street

## Footpath reconstruction

- On Western side of Mary Street from Paul Street to Ryde Road -
- On Southern side of Gladesville Road from Manning Road to Reserve Street
- On Northern side of the Gladesville Road from Augustine Street to Mary Street
- On Northern Side of Woolwich Road from Crescent Street to Gale Street

## Replaced & constructed pram ramps



- At the intersection of Earl Street and Princes Street, on Princes Street Northern side of the footpath and the Southern side of the footpath.
- At the Corner Mount Street and Church Street
- On St Ives Avenue closer to Vernon Street – new pram ramp

## Picnic Shelter

- Picnic shelters constructed at the end of Princes Street

## Bus Shelter

- Alexandra Street
- Princes Street

## Sea Walls

- Mount Street
- Dick Street

## Solar lighting

- Waruda Place solar lighting works X 5 poles





*More than 500 inspections  
across two targeted  
campaigns on developments  
of all sizes were conducted*

## HOUSEHOLD WASTE COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE

In April 2017 Council in partnership with NSROC Council's including, North Sydney, Lane Cove, Willoughby and Ryde and the EPA opened the Community Recycling Centre (CRC) for household hazardous wastes at 8 Waltham St, Artarmon. The centre accepts problem household waste: oils, paints, batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles, mobile phones, fluoro globes and tubes, x-rays and e-waste (TV's, printers, computers, etc) and is open Monday, Tuesday & Friday 8am – 2pm and Saturday and Sunday 8am – 4pm.

## PARRAMATTA RIVER CATCHMENT GROUP 'GET THE SITE RIGHT' CAMPAIGN

Get the Site Right is a joint initiative of the PRCG Subregulatory Group, which is a partnership between the NSW Environment Protection Authority, the Department of Planning and Environment, Parramatta River Catchment Group, and its member councils including Hunter's Hill Council. More than 500 inspections across two targeted campaigns on developments of all sizes were conducted in 2016/17 to encourage and enforce best practice on building sites. This initiative is part of the Parramatta River Catchment Group's mission to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025, and highlights the role that developers and builders play in cleaning up the river.

## THE BOWER REUSE & REPAIR CENTRE

In 2016 NSROC funded Bronze Membership for their member councils with The Bower Reuse and Repair Centre for collection and re-homing of suitable household goods that can be reused. Residents were encouraged to plan ahead and contact The Bower in advance of a household collection to see if their goods could be "rehomed". A referral system is offered by The Bower, which aims to redistribute and recycle where possible. In addition, The Bower support Sydney's homeless and encourage people to shop for pre-loved goods while supporting charity and not-for-profit groups.

## REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE NEWSLETTER

We are continually encouraging the residential and business community to manage their waste sustainably. To that end, the Waste Management Team at Council continues to produce and circulate the 'Reduce, Recycle, Reuse Newsletter,' introduced in September 2014, which provides information on waste services, facilities and initiatives to steer the community towards making informed choices that reduce their environmental footprint.

# Sustainability & waste management

More people are using sustainable practices in disposing of waste & recycling and Council continues to encourage residents to consider their environmental footprint in the waste and recycling space.

Council's Waste Management Team work collaboratively with the Northern Sydney Region of Councils (NSROC) sharing ideas and knowledge to improve the services offered to residents across the region. Council is committed to enhancing environmental sustainability in the local area and with growing public and government awareness of environmental issues. Council plays an important role in modelling and encouraging sustainable and regenerative practices.

Waste and Resource Management is one of the largest financial commitments Council has and current practices and contracts are designed to maximise and improve waste diversion from domestic collections as well as council operations.

## WASTE PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

The NSROC Waste Service Alliance, comprising the Councils of Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Ryde and Willoughby commenced working together in 2012 to establish the Waste Services Alliance Disposal Contract that, over the ten year contract, as other processing facilities come on-stream, will see up to 280,000 tonnes of waste diverted away from landfill via a Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant process turning a proportion of the red bin waste into compost and a subsequent process making refuse derived fuel for cement manufacturing.

From 1 December 2015, Council's waste has been delivered to Clyde Transfer Terminal by our collection contractor URM from where it is compacted and transported by train from Sydney to Veolia's facility near Goulburn NSW saving thousands of truck movements. The new facility provides an overdue expansion of waste treatment capacity for metropolitan waste, and will advance resource recovery under a process that is both environmentally and economically sustainable.

## GARAGE SALE TRAIL

Garage Sale Trail commenced in 2010 as a local community event in Bondi. By 2016 it was a giant purpose driven marketplace powered by local councils enabling residents

## ***Northern Sydney Councils support 'The War on Waste' through innovation in waste management***

to declutter, fundraise, meet the locals and hopefully find some treasure. Council promoted Garage Sale Trail 2016 as a way to redistribute unwanted goods while encouraging community spirit and enterprise. There were 26 garage sales on the Garage Sale Day in October.



# Community Services

## COMMUNITY SERVICES CONTINUE TO DELIVER

Throughout 2016/17 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, held in collaboration with Lane Cove and City of Ryde to encourage them to be engaged in the local community which have been well attended. These include sleep information session, brain health 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 about Aged Care and the National Disability Insurance Scheme have been well attended.

Access issues have been addressed in the area with close consultation with local people through the Hunters Hill Access Advisory Committee. The recommendations of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans have been implemented, additional bus shelters and solar street lighting completed. A key achievement has been the completion of the Hunters Hill Disability Inclusion Action Plan, a regional initiative undertaken in collaboration with City of Ryde and Lane Cove Councils

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.

## *A range of programs to support local residents*

Key events throughout the year have included Volunteers 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:

- Continued partnership with City of Ryde to deliver library services to residents of our Municipality.
- 21 local groups receiving grant funds under Council's Community Services grant program to a total of \$16,093.
- Continued 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.

# Cultural Events

## HUNTERS HILL ART EXHIBITION

The 63rd Hunter's Hill Art Exhibition attracted over 962 entries. It 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 372 artworks displayed across three historic venues. The total value of sales was \$122,734 with 109 artworks sold.

## YOUNG IN ART

The Young in Art Exhibition is a popular event for the youth in our community. Attracting student art-work from kindergarten through to Yr 12 from our 8 local schools. The 2016 Exhibition was an astounding success with visitors overwhelmed by the quality of the artwork

## MOOCOBOOLA

A large crowd attended the 2015 Moocooboola Festival at Boronia Park. The thousands of people who attended the event 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 the plan and co-ordinate 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 was awarded to Andrew Curtin. Andrew has been volunteering for 20 years.
- Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Patrick O'Farrell. He has been impressive as a student academically, in his community service and also in his sporting endeavours.
- Sportsperson of the Year was awarded to Nicholas Wilkinson. Nicholas was named in the Australian Schoolboys Rugby XV and has been Captain of the College First XV team.
- Community Event of the Year was awarded to The Hunters Hill Historical Society for the project, the Hunters Hill Heritage Walks Guide.

## 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.

# Partnering Programs

Sharing Knowledge creativity, innovation and 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 the NSW Government to achieve projects funded by various grants.
- Partnering on a regional basis to deliver waste disposal contract services.
- 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 Control Plans to reflect maintain or augment our HERITAGE BUILDINGS, GARDEN AREAS, PARKS AND RESERVES.

***Hunter's Hill Council's capacity to undertake new functions and major projects is supported by our robust***



# 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 2016/17 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: Clarkes 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.

***A link to the Companion Animals homepage is also available on Council's website***

# Council's Audited Financial Reports

Council recorded a net operating deficit of \$0.486 million for 2016/2017, an decrease from the surplus of \$3.665 million in 2015/2016.

Revenue from rates and annual charges was \$11.100 million, grants and contributions \$1.447 million, user charges & fees \$1.602 million, interest \$0.505 million and other revenues of \$0.935 million.

The total expenses from ordinary activities of \$16,070 million included \$2.249 million depreciation, amortization and impairment of assets.

Overall Council's total cash and investment has increased from \$19.220 million in 2015/2016 to \$19.826 million in 2016/2017. Council's Net Current Assets have increased from \$14.529 million in 2015/2016 to \$14.745 million in 2016/2017.

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



# Legals

Council's total expenditure for the 2016/2017 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 \$1,162,000 made up as follows:

	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012
Administration	\$309,000	\$201,290	\$19,527	\$10,830	\$29,693	\$6,279
Town Planning	\$853,000	\$458,679	\$231,851	\$222,044	\$267,156	\$334,245
Building	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Order & Safety -Animal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Health	0	0	0	0	0	0
Engineering	0	\$4,280	\$3,244	\$5,195	\$4,004	\$7,678
TOTAL	\$1,162,000	\$664,249	\$524,622	\$238,067	\$300,955	\$348,202



Income Statement	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$000
Expenses from Continuing Operations		
Employee benefits & in-going costs	5,180	5,359
Borrowing Costs	5	10
Materials & Contracts	6,162	5,336
Depreciation & Amortisation	2,249	2,282
Other Expenses	2,179	2,118
Net Losses from the Disposal of Assets	295	0
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	16,070	15,105
Income from Continuing Operations		
Revenue		
Rates & Annual Charges	11,100	10,858
User Charges & Fees	1,602	1,111
Interest & Investment Revenue	505	354
Other Revenues	873	935
Grants & Contributions provided for Operating Purposes	1,053	1,053
Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	394	445
Other Income		
Net Gains from the Disposal of Assets	0	4,000
Net Share of Interests in Joint Ventures & Associates using the Equity Method	57	32
Total Income from Continuing Operations	15,584	18,770
Operating Result from Continuing Operations	-486	3665
Net Operating result for the Year before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	-880	3220

# Statement of Performance Measure

## 1. Operating Performance Ratio 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants & contributions less operating expenses	-642	-4.24%	-5.68%	-2.86%
Total continuing operating revenue exclng capital Grants & Contributions less Operating Expenses	15,133			

## 2. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Total continuing operating revenue exclng all Grants and Contributions	14,080	90,68%	89.96%	85.97%
Total continuing operating revenue	15,527			

## 3. Unrestricted Current Ratio 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Current assets less all external restrictions	17,740	7.35x	7.57x	3.38x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	2,415			

#### 4. Debt Service Ratio 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation	1,612	23.03x	20.56x	22.92x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	70			

#### 5. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Rates, annual and extra charges outstanding	338	2.95%	2.84%	2.54%
Rates, annual and extra charges collectible	11,444			

#### 6. Cash Expense Cover Ratio 2016/17

Factors	Amounts	2017	2016	2015
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	19,286	16.5 mths	16.4 mths	9.1 mths
Payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	1,201			

# Statement of Changes in Equity

	2017					2016				
	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	110,142	86,210	196,352	0	196,352	106,007	79,956	185,963	0	185,963
Correction of Prior Period Errors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Changes in accounting policies (prior year effects)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revised opening balance (as at 1/7/16)	110,142	86,210	196,352	0	196,352	106,007	79,956	185,963	0	185,963
Net operating result for the year	-486	0	-486	0	-486	3,665	0	3,665	0	3,665
Revaluations: IPP&E Asset Revaluation Reserve	0	16,650	16,650	0	16,650	0	6,724	6,724	0	6,724
Other adjustments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Other comprehensive Income	0	16,650	16,650	0	16,650	0	6,724	6,724	0	6,724
Total comprehensive Income	-486	16,650	16,164	0	16,164	3,665	6,724	10,389	0	10,389
Transfers between equity	0	0	0	0	0	470	-470	0		0
Balance at end of the reporting period	109,656	102,860	212,516	0	212,516	110,142	86,210	196,352	0	196,352

# Operational Expenditure 2016/2017

OUR HERITAGE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT	10%
OUR COMMUNITY AND LIFESTYLE	21.5%
OUR ENVIRONMENT	20.8%
MOVING AROUND	22.1%
OUR COUNCIL	25.6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	100%

# Operational Expenditure 2016/2017

Plant & Equipment	12.3%
Office Equipment	0.7%
Furniture & Fittings	1.7%
Other Structures	26.9%
Building Specialised	1.6%
Buildings - Non Specialised	8.6%
Roads, Bridges	30.9%
Footpaths	13%
Kerb & Guttering	2.6%
Stormwater Drainage	1.6%
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	100%

# Income, Expenses & Assets have been directly attributed to the

Functions/ activities	Income from continuing operations			Expenses from continuing operations			Operating result from continuing operations			Grants 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
	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000	2017 \$'000	2016 \$'000
Governance	0	0	0	289	1,489	1,489	-289	-1,489	-1,489	0	0	0	0
Administration	199	568	203	4,676	3,464	3,214	-447	-2,896	-3,011	0	0	29,899	29,358
Public order and safety	11	6	39	727	731	685	-716	-725	-646	0	0	38	47
Health	72	65	60	118	107	102	-46	-42	-42	0	0	2	1
Environment	2,801	2,846	2,877	2,957	2,927	2,996	-156	-81	-119	48	89	79	79
Community services and education	231	274	135	569	580	388	-338	-306	-253	129	81	23,960	18,268
Housing and community amenities	394	450	2,009	1,248	1,644	1,333	-854	-1,194	676	39	34	21,142	19,650
Recreation and culture	891	1,079	961	2,442	2,479	2,615	-1,551	-1,400	-1,654	25	47	61,472	51,613
Mining, manufacturing and construction	31	25	31	0	188	171	31	-163	-140	0	0	67	82
Transport and communication	1,689	1,572	4,309	2,212	2,459	2,112	-523	-877	2,197	25	285	81,319	82,638
Economic affairs	1	1	2	7	2	0	-6		2	0	0	0	0
Total functions and activities	6,320	6,886	10,626	15,245	16,070	15,105	-8,925	-9,184	-4,479	266	536	217,978	201,736
Joint ventures (using the equity method)	0	57	32	0	0	0	0	57	32	0	0	522	465
General purpose income	8,387	8,641	8,112	0	0	0	8,387	8,641	8,112	694	474	0	
Operating result from continuing operations	14,707	15,584	18,770	15,245	16,070	15,105	-538	-486	3,665	960	1,010	218,500	202,201

# Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	Actual 2017 \$'000	Actual 2016 \$'000	Actual 2015 \$'000
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	19,826	19,220	10,333
Receivables	836	939	1,039
Inventories	8	13	9
Other	49	155	117
Total current assets	20,719	20,327	11,498
Non-current assets			
Receivables	32	32	32
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	197,227	181,377	180,080
Investments accounted for using the equity method	522	465	433
Total non-current assets	197,781	181,874	180,545
TOTAL ASSETS	218,500	202,201	192,043
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	4,016	3,840	4,096
Borrowings	34	65	57
Provisions	1,924	1,893	1,799
Total current liabilities	5,974	5,798	5,952
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	0	34	104
Provisions	10	17	24
Total non-current liabilities	10	51	128
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,984	5,849	6,080
Net assets	212,516	196,352	185,963
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	109,656	110,142	106,007
Revaluation reserves	102,860	86,210	79,956
Total equity	212,516	196,352	185,963