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# our. City

# **City** snapshot



Newcastle is surrounded by coastal beauty and pristine beaches within walking distance of the economic hub, the city centre.

As Australia's second oldest and arguably largest regional city, Newcastle has a fascinating past, a brilliant present and an exciting future.

Newcastle is a city that defies definition. A city which has shrugged off but still reveres its industrial past. A city that celebrates a vibrant arts and cultural scene but determinedly clings to its bogon past (with thanks to Bob Hudson and The Newcastle Song).

And just like in 1975 when Norm and his mates at the Parthenon milk bar in Hunter Street were infamous around the nation, coal and the working harbour continue to play a pivotal role in the economic wellbeing of the city and the nation.

And while coal remains an important economic generator, our city is rapidly gaining a reputation as a leader in addressing environmental sustainability.

Newcastle has a diverse economy with small business as a key driver. The city is the economic hub of the region, home to peak regional institutions including the University of Newcastle, John Hunter Hospital and CSIRO Energy Research Centre.

With more than 345 parks and sporting fields, the city is a great place for families, sport lovers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The green heart, Blackbutt Reserve, is an extraordinary oasis in the middle of the city providing a sanctuary for picnics and play while the wildlife exhibits offer children a chance to get up close and personal with native wildlife.

Fernleigh Track is another popular facility for cyclists and walkers linking Newcastle and Lake Macquarie along an old railway line through a historic rail tunnel.

The Newcastle Region Art Gallery boasts one of Australia's most substantial art collections. The Newcastle Regional Museum, reopening at Honeysuckle in 2009, will give residents and visitors alike an unprecedented opportunity to reflect and discover our past from our indigenous roots to today.

Honeysuckle is emerging as an exciting new centre for couples chasing a lazy Sunday brunch or a family cycle. And Beaumont and Darby Streets continue to offer great shopping and eating.

With all this, it's no wonder more people are choosing to call Newcastle home!



# Vision and mission



It's no wonder more people are choosing to call Newcastle home

# A sustainable future

Council is committed to maintaining and improving our city's assets for the benefit of our community and future generations.

#### **Our vision**

The City of Newcastle will be a vibrant, cohesive and committed community which respects its heritage. It will have an equitable distribution of resources and above average employment levels where youth have a future.

It will be an attractive and wellplanned garden city, with a healthy lifestyle and ecologically sustainable development.

The city will be promoted and recognised as a regional centre for tourism and conventions, value adding business, advanced technology, health, education and culture. It will be realistic and responsible in its use of resources and will be both financially sound and entrepreneurial in its changing environment.

Newcastle will be an exciting city in which to work, do business and visit. It will be a great place with a great lifestyle and a great future. The elected Council will involve, engage and respect everyone who lives here and will enable their meaningful participation in decision-making. It will use innovative and effective ways to consult with, and be responsive to, the community, and will work as a team to deliver services across the whole local government area.

#### **Our mission**

Through the Local Government Act 1993, Newcastle City Council is charged with a range of responsibilities from planning functions to asset maintenance and infrastructure renewal.

We look after the built and natural environment and provide numerous facilities and services.

And while we strive to look after the future by working toward more sustainable ways we also seek to enhance the quality of life for Novocastrians today.

# Lord Mayor's message

Newcastle
is a great
place to live
and, working
together, we can
keep it that way





This Annual Report marks an end for our last Council and a beginning for this Council. It is the last Annual Report for the Council elected in September 2004. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank each and every Councillor for the valuable contribution they made to the people and city of Newcastle during their term in office.

The past year we boosted funding for our ageing infrastructure with the 2007-2008 rate increase targeted to infrastructure maintenance and renewal.

The Newcastle Report: Issues for Sustainability identified a \$134million infrastructure backlog across the city. This includes buildings, drains, roads, kerbs, pavements, trees and parks which require immediate maintenance and repair.

As a result we have significantly increased funding for road resurfacing and rehabilitation, drainage works and repairs to buildings and commercial structures.

This report details major works completed throughout the financial year as a result of the infrastructure funding boost.

During consultation on the Management Plan we asked community members about their priorities. We sought feedback to get the right balance between providing services and addressing our infrastructure shortfall. The strong message was services are important.

As a result in the 2007-2008

Management Plan, child care centres were retained and funding continued for the Community

Greening Centre and Blackbutt

Reserve.

Council has and will need to continue to make some tough decisions to ensure we meet our community and financial obligations.

We will continue to lobby state and federal governments for a fairer share of funding and look within to ensure we are an efficient organisation providing the greatest value for our ratepayers' money.

Our people are what makes our community strong.

Time and again the people of Newcastle have shown bravery in adversity as endured in the June 2007 storms.

They have shown a love of sport and a sense of humour. They have shown great capacity to care for their neighbours and those less fortunate than themselves and they have taken pride in their identity as Novocastrians.

It is for the people of Newcastle, their children and grandchildren, that we work to care for and shape our city.

Newcastle is a great place to live and, working together, we can keep it that way.

# *Cr John S Tate* Lord Mayor



# General Manager's **Message**







The range of services and facilities provided by council is breathtaking in its diversity and number.

Childcare, libraries and senior citizen centres, waste management services, beach lifeguards, cultural facilities, strategic planning and development and environmental services to name a few. Council delivers services that are integral to a happy, safe and prosperous community.

The challenge for Council is to provide this broad range of services in a sustainable way.

This means balancing emerging and short term financial, social and environmental needs of the community now with those of future generations at a time when the pace of change in our economic and physical environment has never been greater.

Sustainability is now at the heart of our planning and decision making.

Having recently moved to Newcastle to take up the role of General Manager, I have been delighted to rediscover this great city with its beautiful coastline, heritage and environmental consciousness, the vibrant arts and cultural scene, relaxed lifestyle and welcoming people.

I am struck by the absolute potential for this city as it continues to evolve from its industrial past into a modern city with diverse economic opportunities.

This Annual Report outlines the highlights and challenges faced by Newcastle City Council and the community during 2007-08.

It recognises the commitment and achievements of staff and residents who have made an outstanding contribution to the community. Without them, Newcastle would not be the place it is.

It also provides a snapshot of the work program delivered within the strategic priorities set by Council to guide our business.

This annual report provides an overview of the financial management and performance of Council. We are committed to working for, and with, our members of the community to continue to make our city a great place to live and do business.

New State Government planning will be introduced in 2008-09 which aims to integrate long term strategic planning with current activity.

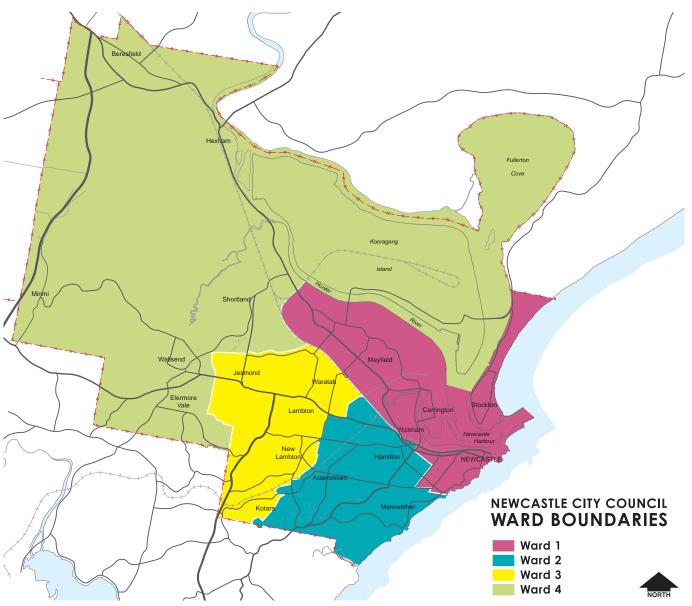
In that context we will formulate a 25 year vision for Newcastle with the community.

I look forward to sharing the journey with you to make that vision a reality over the coming years.

#### Lindy Hyam General Manager

# Our councillors







Local government elections were held across NSW on 13 September 2008. Following the elections, ten new faces joined returning Councillors, Lord Mayor John Tate, Aaron Buman and Michael Osborne to represent the city over the next four years.

# Ward one



Cr Aaron Buman - Independent Mobile 0411 248 934 Email aaronbuman@smartchat.net.au



Cr Sharon Claydon - ALP Mobile 0427 622 067 Email sharon.claydon@pacific.net.au



Cr Michael Osborne - Greens Mobile 0439 442 984 Email ncc-mosborne@hunterlink.net.au

# Ward two



Cr Tim Crakanthorp - ALP Mobile 0427 622 115 Email tim.crakanthorp@pacific.net.au



Cr Brad Luke - Liberal Mobile 0427 622 089 Email brad.luke@pacific.net.au



Cr Scott Sharpe - Independent Mobile 0427 622 149 Email scott.sharpe@pacific.net.au

## Ward three



Cr Dr Graham Boyd - Independent Mobile 0427 622 046 Email graham.boyd@pacific.net.au



Cr Mike King - Independent Mobile 0427 622 224 Email mike.king@pacific.net.au



Cr Nuatali Nelmes - ALP Mobile 0431 622 652 Email nuatali.nelmes@pacific.net.au

# Ward four



Cr Bob Cook - Independent Mobile 0419 241 731 Email bobcook@pacific.net.au

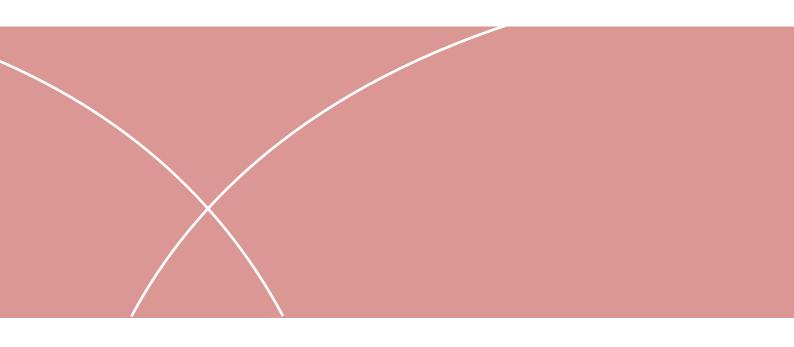


Cr Shayne Connell - Independent Mobile 0427 622 139 Email shayne.connell@pacific.net.au



Cr Mike Jackson - ALP Mobile 0401 089 864 Email mike.jackson@pacific.net.au

# Our councillors cont...



councillors are elected to represent the views of residents and ratepayers. They play an important role in overseeing the functions and services of Council, setting the operational budget and developing policy for the long term benefit of the city.

Newcastle's local government area is divided into four wards, with three councillors elected to represent each ward.

The Lord Mayor is elected by a ballot across the city.

Council meets every Tuesday night from 5.30pm in City Hall.

The following Councillors held office from 27 March 2004 to 12 September 2008:

#### **Lord Mayor**

Lord Mayor, Councillor John Tate

#### **Ward 1 Councillors**

Councillor Marilyn Eade
Councillor Aaron Buman
Councillor Ian McKenzie

#### Ward 2

Councillor Michael Osborne Councillor Helene O'Neill Councillor Barbara Gaudry

#### Ward 3

Councillor Paul Scobie
Councillor Barry Scully
Councillor Keith Parsons

#### Ward 4

Councillor Sonia Hornery

Councillor Dr Cassandra Arnold

Councillor Gwen Jackson





Councillors
represent the
diversity of
views across the
community

Councillors are not expected to pay for expenses incurred as part of their role. There are rules in place to ensure accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Councillors. These are set out in the policy on Payment of Expenses and Provision for Facilities for the Lord Mayor and Councillors. This policy is a public document available on Council's website. \*

### Total expenditure on Councillor fees and expenses 2007/2008

Lord Mayoral Allowance	63,560
Councillors Fees	283,465

Councillors Expenses and Facilities			
Lord Mayor's Office			
Salaries (Secretary/Clerical Staff /Personal Assistants	132,235		
Travel Expenses and Vehicle Expenses	19,929		
Conference/Seminars/Training			
Printing & Stationery	15,441		
Miscellaneous Expenses	11,802		
Purchase Souvenirs	12,093		
Councillors Expenses			
Conferences/Seminars	20,006		
Facsimile/Mobile Phone/Pager Charges	28,045		
Miscellaneous Expenses – Professional Services / Printing & Stationery/ Courier Deliveries	69,900		
Councillors Room Expenses	593		
Meeting Expenses			
Travel	5,037		
Meals	34,895		
Room Hire	812		
Total	\$697,813		



# challenges

# The infrastructure challenge



Newcastle City
Council is a leader in
local government in its
proactive approach to
asset management.

In 2007, Newcastle was the first council in Australia to undertake a complete assessment of the city's infrastructure burden.

The Newcastle Report: Issues for Sustainability was an in depth look at our financial and asset management systems. The report provided a pathway to a more sustainable future with a series of recommendations.

The infrastructure challenge remains a major issue placing considerable pressure on resources.

The undeniable fact for Newcastle and all levels of government is that more funding is needed every year to keep up with ageing infrastructure.

Spending on infrastructure maintenance and renewal was boosted significantly in the 2007/08 year with over \$17 million being spent on the city's buildings, roads, drains, footpaths and natural assets. This represents a 48% increase on expenditure over the previous financial year (2006/07).





Newcastle
City Council
maintains
1,138km of
kerb and gutter

# Infrastructure Program Spending 2007-2008

#### **Buildings and Structures**

Buildings	560*
Retaining Walls	14 km
River Walls	8 km
Recreation (parks	30 (3

#### Roads, Footpaths & Drainage

Pavement	7.2million m <sup>2</sup>
Footpath	1.5 million m <sup>2</sup>
Kerb & Gutter	1,138 km
Bridges & Culverts	240
Pits (stormwater)	17,733
Pipes & Culverts	456 km

#### **Natural Assets**

Trees	106,400		
Creeks	56 km		

<sup>\*</sup> includes civic and community buildings.

#### **Buildings and Structures (\$7.3M)**

Maintaining libraries, swimming centres and ocean baths, community halls, City Hall and Civic Theatre and shelter sheds in parks and reserves.

#### Roads, Footpaths & Drainage (\$8.8M)

Maintaining roads and pathways, renewing road surfaces and rebuilding roads in poor condition. Also funds replacement of stormwater drainage lines and renewing drainage pits to improve capacity.

#### Natural Assets (\$970,000)

To maintain street and park trees and natural creek drainage through revegetation and rehabilitation works.

# The infrastructure challenge cont...



#### Storm system wins award

When massive storms hit the Newcastle coastline over the June 2007 long weekend, around 275mm of rain fell within 24 hours and wind gusts of 130km per hour lashed the city.

Within the first 48 hours, the task of recording the damage so the recovery was systematically and efficiently managed, fell to the asset management team.

The Natural Disaster Recovery System was developed to capture, categorise, track and record the damage.

» The system won a second place in the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia Excellence Awards 2008 in the New or Improved Techniques category.
As a result of the June 2007 storms and resulting flooding, \$4.7 million was spent restoring damaged assets and services with an additional \$1.8 million from insurance spent on

building restoration.

The teams found damage to:

- 156 buildings
- 16,000 m2 asphalt
- 180m kerb and gutter
- 480 drainage pits and pipes
- 87 bridges
- 688 street trees
- 2395 trees in parks and reserves
- 110 playgrounds
- 17 landslips
- 12 retaining walls

#### **Condition of Public Works**

Council's asset management approach relies on knowing the condition of our public assets. During 2006-2007 a complete review was undertaken of all Council's infrastructure assets.

The review identified all public assets and their condition and at what point of deterioration council should undertake maintenance. We call this the 'suitable intervention level'.

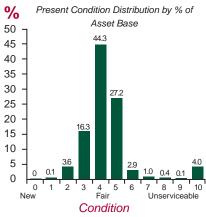
The major asset categories are grouped into roads, stormwater drainage, buildings and structures, natural and recreation assets.

The following tables provide a snapshot of the condition of our community infrastructure.

# challenges

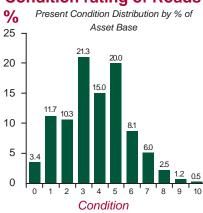


# Condition rating of Buildings & Structures



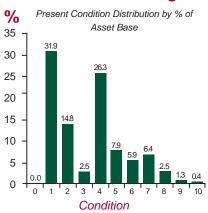
Note: Condition Ratings of Buildings and Structures Updated 2007/2008. Shows 91% of buildings and structures are in fair (5) to new (0) condition.

#### **Condition rating of Roads**



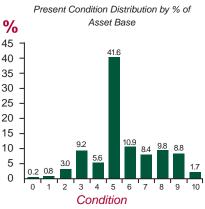
Note: Shows 81% of roads are in fair (5) to new condition (0).

# Condition rating of Stormwater Drainage



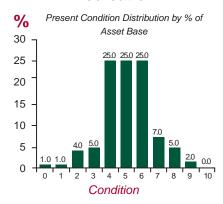
Note: Shows 83% of stormwater drainage are in fair (5) to new condition (0).

#### Condition rating of Natural Assets



Note: Shows 60% of natural assets are in fair (5) to new condition (0).

# Condition rating of Recreation



Note: Shows 61% of recreation assets are in fair (5) to new condition (0).

# The infrastructure challenge cont...



#### The full picture

While spending on each asset class has increased, the full cost of meeting the infrastructure challenge is still a full 30% above current spending levels.

While spending has increased to \$29 million in 2007/08, the full cost of bringing all assets up to satisfactory standard is just under \$45 million a year.

The 2007/2008 estimated cost to bring all asset categories to a satisfactory standard and required annual maintenance expense remains unchanged from 2006/2007.\*

Council maintains, repairs, replaces, monitors and manages community infrastructure with a replacement value of \$1.7 billion.



Newcastle Ocean Baths

<sup>\*</sup> Local Government Act ref s428(2)d(i) & (ii) & (iii)





Below is a summary of the extent of infrastructure, restoration costs and annual current and required expenditure to renew the assets over their lifecycle.

Asset Class	Asset Type	Number	Length (Km)	Area (m2)	Estimated cost to bring to a satisfactory standard	Required Annual Maintenance Expense	Current Annual Maintenance
					\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
						22,100	
Buildings &	Buildings	560			67,801		10,552
Structures	Retaining Walls		14		376		123
	River Walls		8		3,600		258
						11,500	
	Pavement			7,198,072	13,217		7,995
	Footpath			1,509,317	4,959		1,615
Roads	Kerb and gutter		1,138		1,357		1,041
	Bridges and culverts	240			483		22
						4,800	
Stormwater Drainage	Pits	17,733			217		347
	Pipes and culverts		456		32,831		1,080
Recreation	Parks	130			395	2,900	4,166
Natural Assets						3,600	
	Trees	106,400			1,630		2,123
	Creeks		56		6,370		98
Total Classes	Total - All Assets				133,236	44,900	29,420

# The year in review



#### Meeting the challenge...

The past year has seen some significant steps forward in forging a more sustainable future for the organisation.

While local government collects less than three percent of the nation's taxes we are responsible for a broad range of services beyond the capacity of the traditional rate base.

The rate increase adopted in 2007-2008 has put the organisation in a better position to address the infrastructure issue facing councils across the nation.

The report provides a framework for the elected council to make confident and long term decisions about managing city assets and finances.

As a result the city took a major step forward in tackling infrastructure issues by approving a management plan with this focus.

The introduction of the State Government approved stormwater charge, tied directly to improving the city's stormwater and drainage infrastructure, was a part of the solution to long term financial sustainability.

This new charge recognised, at least in part, the inadequacy of the traditional local government rate base.

#### Standard and Poors ...

International credit agency, Standard and Poors, gave council the thumbs up again by reaffirming our AA+ long term and A-1 short term rating.

The stable outlook reflects the agency's expectation we will maintain a robust balance sheet. This expectation has been fulfilled by an end of year surplus of over \$4 million which allows for a significant transfer to the infrastructure reserve.

#### **Promoting Better Practice**

This past year saw Council undergo a Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice review.

The review team found it would 'recommend Council's risk management framework to other Council's that are deficient in that area'. The Internal Audit function and Audit Committee were recognised for their role in monitoring the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisation.

The review also found some areas for improvement including the consistency and coordination of community consultation and reporting.

# **challenges**



Challenge met, \$2.8 million transferred to infrastructure reserve

#### Listen more

Council strives to operate a well run administration which is responsive to community needs.

After a significant review, Council adopted a new framework for communication and consultation to improve consistency and coordination of community consultation.

The new framework will see a Community Reference Panel established as a tool to reach out to seek the view of the community on a broad range of issues.

The panel will use a variety of consultation methods to tap into the community and seek to build greater confidence in consultation and decision making.

#### \$1 million challenge

At the beginning of the 2007/08 financial year, the elected council set the administration a challenge:

"Find \$1million in savings to transfer to the infrastructure reserve."

The challenge has been met and exceeded with more than \$2.8 million being transferred to the infrastructure reserve.

#### The next challenge...

2007/08 began as a tough year for Newcastle.

The entire world tuned in to witness the amazing spectacle of stranded tanker on our most popular beach.

As a community, we had a stormy debate over increasing rates to begin to claw back some ground from the burden of the infrastructure backlog.

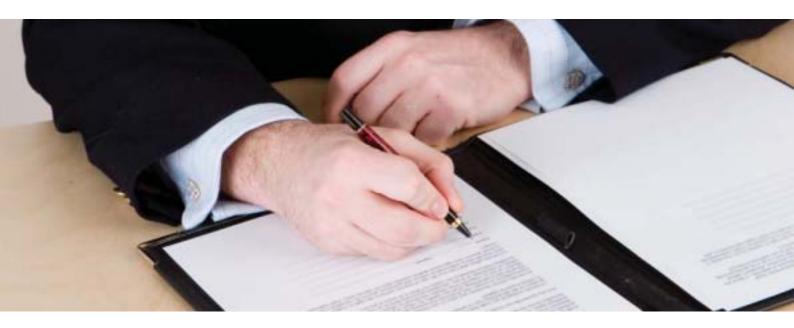
Despite all our efforts, we didn't achieve all we set out to achieve due largely to the additional burden the storms put on the workforce.

As a result there was a large carry forward component at the end of the financial year. It is this challenge which the organisation needs to address in the coming year.



# activities

# Management plan 2007 - 2008



Each year Council produces a management plan to outline activities and projects for delivery over the next twelve months. It includes a detailed budget with operating expenses and fees and charges register.

The 2007-2008 Management Plan was based on Councillor's five strategic priorities; ecologically sustainable development leadership, city wide revitalisation, healthy lifestyle, compassionate and effective and efficient governance.

The plan set out strategies and activities to realise these priorities and established key performance indicators for each.

At the end of June 2007, 84% of key performance indicators had met their target and 16% were below target. Fifty six percent of 2007- 2008 Management Plan activities were completed, with 44% in progress.

This annual report presents a snapshot of achievements identified in the Management Plan as core priorities for 2007-2008. It also reports key performance indicator results for the financial year.

#### Highlights 2007-2008 Management Plan

The focus of the 2007-2008 Management Plan was to take real steps toward addressing the infrastructure crisis.

Highlights of the adopted budget included:

- \$10 million + extra for infrastructure programs almost doubling spending on roads and drainage while building maintenance was increased more than a quarter
- A reduction of \$1.5 million in recurrent expenditure on printing, stationery, training, catering and purchasing efficiencies
- For the first time, an allocation of \$1.4 million for natural assets management, recognising trees and waterways as important community infrastructure.

There were also a number of initiatives on the revenue side of the balance sheet including:

- Increasing user-pays fees and charges
- Increasing focus on commercialising assets
- Growing waste centre income
- Replacing the environment levy with a flat \$25 stormwater charge
- An average rate increase of 9.9% or <\$70 a year or \$1.34 a week.

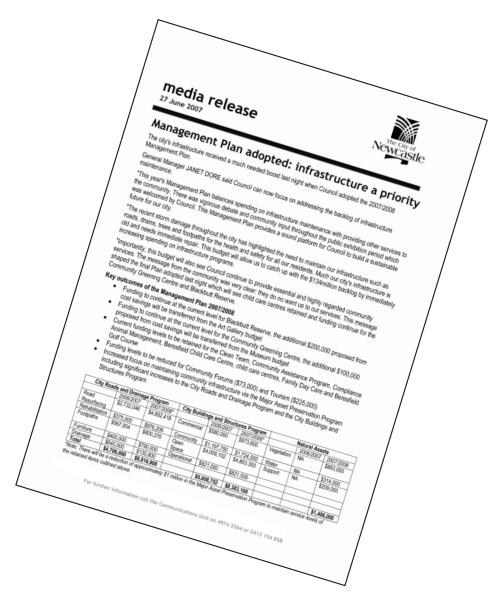
\*based on average residential property land value of \$210,031.

Local Government Act ref s428(2)(b)

# activities



Management
Plan adopted:
infrastructure a
priority



# **Ecologically** sustainable development



Ecologically
Sustainable
Development is one
of five strategic
priorities which
provide a focus for
Council activities.

Ecologically sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising our future generation's ability to meet their own needs.

#### **ESD Leadership Priorities**

- Rehabilitate and improve the coast, bushland reserves, estuaries, wetlands, creeks and stormwater quality
- 2. Reduce greenhouse gases
- Support community based projects to improve the environment
- 4. Reduce the environmental 'footprint' (impact) of the city
- 5. Improve waste management and recycling.

#### **Milestones**

The ClimateCam® project was showcased in New York alongside ten international public/private partnerships including Chicago, Paris and New York.

This program expanded into:

- ClimateCam® for Business
   participants started a six
   month series of learning
   workshops in May 2008
- ClimateCam® for Councils

   65 participants from 22
   councils Australia wide
   attended an intensive
   learning program
- ClimateCam® for schools kicked off with 26 schools participating.

# activities



Council is
a leader in
Ecologically
Sustainable
Development

- » Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils worked together on a 12 month environmental sustainability project partially funded by a \$250,000 grant from the NSW Environmental Trust. The Sustainable City – Kotara project included:
  - Capital works to improve drainage and creeks community, business and school sustainability education programs
  - Regular newsletters with events, tips and current news
  - Business pollution prevention
  - Installing energy saving devices in council facilities in the project area.
- » The first electronic waste (e-waste) recycling program was launched in October 2007. More than three tonnes of electrical goods were diverted from landfill. Another 25 tonnes of household chemical waste was collected as part of the 2007 Chemical Clean Out.

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Divert 18% of waste from landfill

Achieved – 18% of waste diverted from landfill

Site operations at Summerhill Waste Management Centre – maintain compaction density +0.75t/m3

Achieved – 0.87 t/m3

Deliver five community environmental education programs

Achieved – Five projects delivered

Deliver five waste education programs each year

Achieved – 11 programs delivered

Deliver six training initiatives for community event organisers

Achieved – six training initiative delivered

Maintain number of volunteer hours in community programs = 25,000

Achieved – 25,839 volunteer hours

Find out more about our volunteers in the Our Community section of the Annual Report.

Maintain an average less than 155 missed services per month for domestic waste services

Not achieved - Average of 219 services missed

Car parking in front of bins in smaller streets make collection difficult, a community education program has started with the aim of reducing missed collections.

# Ecologically sustainable development cont...



Newcastle has a diverse and complex environment. With a range of landscapes from the coast and estuary to wetlands, plains and hills, it supports a rich biodiversity.

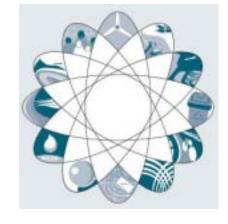
A long history of human occupation and work has developed and altered much of the land, and over 140,000 people now live in the area.

Under the Local Government
Act, part of council's charter is
to "properly manage, develop,
protect, restore, enhance and
conserve the environment of the
area for which it is responsible,
in a manner that is consistent
with and promotes the principles
of ecologically sustainable
development (ESD)".

Councils are required to prepare an annual State of the Environment report each year to outline the range of environmental issues, activities and management strategies conducted over the past twelve months.

The report provides a description of current environmental conditions and pressures created by human activity. It also describes actions taken to address environmental problems, now and into the future.

The report covering 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 is provided as an attachment and is on Council's website at: www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au



# activities



Hazard
reduction is a
key activity for
managing bush
fires

# Bush fire hazard reduction

Hazard reduction is a key activity for the management of bushfires. Council's hazard reduction program priority is to identify areas of potential fire risk and coordinate fire management practices.

During 2007-2008 control burns were undertaken at two bushland sites in conjunction with the New South Wales Fire Brigade.

Control burns reduce fuel levels during mild weather conditions to reduce the intensity and damage of any subsequent wildfire burning.

Council also conducted non fire-based processes of hazard and fuel reduction and clearing of ground fuels.

During 2007-2008, major hazard reduction activities were carried out on 46 high priority bushland sites.

Regular maintenance was also undertaken on 52 bushland sites.

Council is a member of the Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee. In 2007 the committee updated Bushfire Prone Land Mapping.

#### **Stormwater Charge**

Council levied a stormwater management service charge of \$25 per household (\$12.50 for strata) for additional works and services.

The projected expenditure on stormwater drainage works identified in the Management Plan was \$1,250,000. The actual expenditure was \$747,843.

The difference of \$502,157 was carried forward into the 2008/09 financial year. The discrepancy was primarily due to the storms of June 2007 which saw resources diverted to storm repairs.

# City wide revitalisation



Newcastle City
Council will rejuvenate
the city's assets by
keeping them well
maintained and clean.

Footpaths
and suburban
infrastructure will
be improved. Our
beaches and coastal
assets will be a high
priority.

# City Wide Revitalisation Priorities:

- Make the city cleaner and tidier
- Simplify and update development guidelines to deliver better results
- 3. Better manage car parking in the city centre
- 4. Extend art gallery and library operations
- 5. Improve safety and access for pedestrians and vehicles.

#### **Milestones**

- » The Cultural Centre, which includes Newcastle Region Library and Newcastle Region Art Gallery, celebrated 50 years in operation during the year.
- » Residents and staff from Council's Community Greening Centre and Parks and Gardens teams joined forces to beautify Church Walk Park in Newcastle. Together they planted more than 400 plants as well as weeding and mulching the site.

- » In 2008 Fort Scratchley hosted a community preview to showcase the \$10million restoration undertaken by the Commonwealth Government.
- » The handover of the site to the care of Council was a significant boost to the region. Fort Scratchley is an attraction that will bring visitors from far and wide to learn about Newcastle's military history and take in the fantastic coastal views.
- » Council recognised the importance of an urban forest adopting the Urban Forest Policy in May 2008. The policy provides goals and objectives for a coordinated approach to managing Newcastle's urban forest.

# activities



The urban forest policy provides a coordinated approach to managing our urban forest

#### **Key Performance Indicators**

Complete 100% of classified roads contracts from the Roads and Traffic Authority by end of financial year

Achieved 100%

Road maintenance – 92% of complying and exempt development applications for tree management inspected and completed within 30 days.

Achieved – 100%

Facilitate 40 business enquiries by end of June 2008

Achieved

Maintain Visitor Information Centre walk in numbers >38,000

Achieved – 38,183

185 conference leads by the end of the financial year

Achieved – 337 leads

Lend 1.75m items from the Library collection by June 2008

Achieved – 1,802,622 items lent

Complete 35,000 reference enquiries

Achieved - 35,495

Provide 100,000 internet users sessions at Newcastle Region Libraries

Achieved – 116,175

Preserve 1,500 items from local studies collection

Achieved - 2,331

# City wide revitalisation cont...



Newcastle took out top honours as the city with the Best Quality of Life and Best Economic Potential in the prestigious Asian City of the Future Competition. Provide 1,000 new items to the Newcastle city collection online database by the end of the financial year

Achieved – 1,011

45,000 attend exhibitions and programs at the Newcastle Region Libraries

Achieved – 103,845

Maintain at least a 50% increase in usage of new Wallsend District Library in comparison to old Wallsend Library (425,000 loans)

Achieved – 610,098

Provide young people with the opportunity to participate in an average of 12 separate activities per month

Achieved – 19

10,000 participants in public programs at Newcastle Region Art Gallery
Achieved: 14, 046

Number of attendances to reach at least 15,000 at The Loft Youth Venue

Achieved – 17,647

Deliver at least 15 programs at The Loft Youth Venue in partnership with other organisations

Achieved – 30

Participate in at least 50 promotional activities to reach at least 20,000 young people at The Loft Youth Venue

Achieved – 21,434 attendances

20 or more local live performances in the Civic Precinct

Achieved – 38

# activities



Newcastle voted 'City with Best Quality of Life'

The net value per parking space at parking stations is more than \$781

Achieved - \$932

Complete 100% of programmed Construction works by end of financial year

Not achieved – 98%

Inclement weather and availability of contractors prevented 100% completion of the program. Works have been rescheduled for the 2008/2009 financial year.

Meet or exceed the Review Report's operating forecast for 07/08 of \$644,706

Not achieved - \$630, 984

Comment: indicator implemented part way through the year.

75,000 visitors to Newcastle Region Art Gallery

Not achieved – 70,022

Comment: Visitor number decreased for the ArtExpress exhibition. A revised communication/media strategy to be implemented.

Deliver an average 115 housebound loans each month

Not achieved – 109 loans

The number of elderly and housebound people using the service has decreased.

Road maintenance – complete 100% of programmed works.

Not achieved – 93%

Inclement weather and the additional June 2007 storm damage repairs delayed completion of the works program.

Complete 90% of the major asset preservation program

Not achieved – 86%

Shortage of resources in managing projects and additional repair work generated from June 2007 storms delayed completion of the program.

# **Healthy** lifestyle



Newcastle City
Council will improve
the city's parks and
playgrounds to meet
the changing needs
of the community
including taking
an integrated
approach to cycleway
and footpath
improvement.

# Healthy Lifestyle Priorities

- Replace and improve equipment and facilities in playgrounds, parks and ovals
- 2. Create new cycleways
- Base future projects on research about trends in sport and leisure activities
- Enlarge and improve Beresfield Golf Course.

#### **Milestones**

- » Council doubled spending on the city's roads, drainage and footpaths. This includes spending \$4,840,860 for road resurfacing, \$556,048 for road rehabilitation, \$616,840 for footpaths, \$790,000 for street furniture and \$1,358,000 for drainage this financial year.
- » Around \$471,800 was spent at Newcastle swimming centres to improve facilities. Works included new shade structures, playground equipment and waterslide repairs at Lambton as well as upgrades to the filter systems at Stockton and Wallsend Pools.
- » Close to \$50,000 was spent installing energy and water saving devices at council facilaties in our parks via the ECO\*STAR project.
- » Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils continued to work together on the extension of the Fernleigh Track, a joint cycleway/footpath along the former rail corridor from Adamstown to Belmont.



A healthy and happy community

## **Key performance indicators**

Develop funding for the Newcastle Regional Museum from external sources to the value of \$120,000

Not achieved

Museum closed operations in August 2007 and will reopen at a new site. The grant funding will be reapplied for when the site reopens.

Report on visitor numbers to inland pools each quarter

Achieved – 293,943 visitors

Average net cost per visitor at inland pools to be less than \$4.79

Not achieved

 $\label{prop:cost} \mbox{Average cost was $6.08 per visitor. This was attributed to poor weather conditions during summer.}$ 

## **Compassionate** community



Newcastle City
Council will implement
its new Community
Plan to improve equity
and social justice in
the City.

Increasing the supply of affordable housing will be a priority, as will increasing employment opportunities for indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

## Compassionate Community Priorities

- Provide better access to childcare.
- Reduce violence and vandalism by improving transport for late-night visitors around and out of the City Centre.
- Collect more useful information for Council and other agencies on the city's social needs and how to address them.
- 4. Advocate for better public transport facilities.

### **Community Plan**

The Community Plan provides strategic direction on addressing key community issues that affect adequate and equitable access to community services for the people of Newcastle. It provides guidance to Council and other local services providers about social, cultural and recreational issues to be addressed from 2006-210.

Key strategies in the plan include:

- Provide multi-purpose facilities to meet the needs of different groups
- Promote opportunities to obtain information and enhance local networks
- · Support the work of volunteers
- Promote acceptance of diversity
- Advocate for community services
- Encourage greater shared use of open space and community facilities.



Cultural diversity underpins our strong community

# Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Council attended one Federal and two State consultations and planning sessions to advocate for an increase in respite funding. The Hunter Interagency Network was convened to look at Australian and Torres Straight Island awareness, violence prevention strategies and homelessness.

A community language collection was established at Hamilton and New Lambton libraries with the assistance of a grant from the Library Council of Australia. The collection spans four languages including Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Greek and Italian.

A review of the Council Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (EAPS) 2004-07 and a draft EAPS (2007-2010) was exhibited in September/October 2007 and adopted by Council in February 2008. Council facilitated and supported Project Abraham, an interfaith program that explored the religious and historical commonalities between Islam, Judaism and Christianity. The program included:

- An exhibition in City Hall with sessions for 150 high school students
- 150 people attended an open forum Newcastle's hospitality: Learning from Abraham's Table which included presentations from representatives from each of the Abrahamic faiths.

A local partnership with representatives from Council, the University of Newcastle, schools, churches, services organisations and the Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre was formed to promote cultural understanding of growing local diversity. The main achievement of this Jesmond Junction group was a Community Cultural Festival at Heaton Park.

Family Day Care successfully obtained Commonwealth funding for a Workplace English Literacy and Language Program. Within the Newcastle Family Day Care Service, 22% of carers are from 'English as a second language' background.

A Sports Advisory Panel working group was formed to address the needs of disadvantaged and youth from diverse backgrounds to increase access to recreation activities.

## Compassionate community cont...



## **Access and Equity**

Council is committed to developing opportunities that improve quality of life and provide a socially responsible lifestyle for all.

The Access Policy aims to ensure social equity by eliminating barriers for people who have a disability.

- A reference group has been created to advocate employment opportunities for people with disabilities across Newcastle
- The Newcastle Hunter
   Homelessness Interagency
   Network held a forum to
   assist services to develop on
   advocacy skills. The forum was
   sponsored by Council
- A photographic exhibition was staged during Homeless Person's Week highlighting the diversity of people who find themselves homeless.

#### **Milestones**

- » New accessible toilets in King Edward Park and Tarro Community Hall.
- » Audio loop installed at the Beresfield Senior Citizens Centre.
- » Nineteen new kerb ramps installed across the city and improvements to four existing ramps.
- » Council signs agreement to advertise vacant positions on Disability Works Australia website.
- » Mayfield Mobility Map was produced in partnership with the Mayfield Main Street Committee.
- » Adopted the Senior Novocastrian Policy in August 2007 providing strategies to provide for the needs of the growing number of seniors in our community.



Provide
a socially
responsible
lifestyle for all

## **Key Performance Indicators**

Support and information (including specialised assistance) to an average of 90 external services / government departments / individuals per month

Achieved - 149

Maintain the equivalent of 290 full time places for Family Day Care to provide funding to cover operational expenditure

Achieved – 293

Maintain accreditation standards for Beresfield Child Care Centres by performing an annual evaluation/review of centre policies (37+)

Achieved - 37

## Compassionate community cont...



#### Children

Council provides a diverse range of activities, facilities and services to meet the needs of children. A snapshot is provided below.

#### **Newcastle Region Art Gallery**

Guided tours and exhibition related workshops were held for children and youth groups. These included:

- 106 workshops
- 594 guided tours
- 125 schools and
- 1160 students

Special educational programs of interest to children and young people included:

#### Children's Workshops

- 32 school holiday workshops were held for 280 participants
- 56 workshops with 740 students
- Targeted workshops for students from disadvantaged schools funded by ADFAS
- Pluse artNRG weekend workshops sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

Teacher Training and Development In conjunction with

ARTEXPRESS, a digital media workshop for art teachers and a student forum involving high school and tertiary students from the Hunter Region was held.

#### Community Events

- Westfest The gallery again participated in the Westfest School Holiday Program for 12-15 year old age group
- Contributed to the This is Not Art festival with a forum at the Gallery
- Conducted art making activities in conjunction with Laman Street Art Bazaar.

#### **Exhibition Program**

The gallery exhibited ArtExpress, the annual exhibition of works by students for the 2007 HSC.

#### **Civic Precinct**

Civic Precinct venues presented a program of live performances for primary and secondary students including:

- As You Like It (Bell Shakespeare Co.)
- School for Clowns (Popular Theatre Co)
- Lalaluna (Spoontree Productions)
- Mr McGee (Patch Theatre Co.)
- Wilde Tales (Critical Stages)
- Cosi (Tantrum Theatre)
- The Club (HIT Productions)
- Waiting for Godot (Popular Theatre Co)
- Rock Eisteddfod
- Jewells Showcase
- HSPA Student Orientation
- Combined ANZAC Schools Service
- Hunter Region Drama Showcase
- St Mary's Gateshead Drama Showcase.

More than 5,000 group tickets (school, vacation care and targeted community groups) sold from July 2007 to June 2008.



Looking after your kids' future

#### **Newcastle Region Library**

The library hosted a number of book clubs, exhibitions, author visits, story times, Children's Book Week activities, Summer Reading and the National Simultaneous Story time.

Highlights for the 2007/2008 year included:

- Ten Minutes A Day helping parents inspire a love of reading in their children, attracted 1247 participants
- Over 2,900 children visited the library for storytime sessions
- Wacky Wombat Storytime attracted 2,683 pre-school aged children
- Library staff conducted school visits for 1,486 students
- More than 2,480 children participated in school holiday and summer reading programs
- The National Simultaneous Storytime had 244 participants
- Sydney Writers Festival Event in Newcastle included Kids Night Out at Wallsend District Library with popular children's author Terry Denton

 An exhibition of illustrations by renowned children's illustrator, John Winch, was held in the Lovett Gallery.

#### **Loft Youth Venue**

NCC supported a range of youth cultural development activities including festivals and events and a youth venue. The youth venue is now operating at its purpose-renovated heritage building in the Newcastle CBD.

The programs offered by the Loft aim to develop young people's skills as the organisers and managers of their own activities and events.

The Loft provides resources, mentoring and space for a diverse range of activities and events including Inzine (a publication for local young writers), a visual arts program, an aerosol art program, and a comprehensive and diverse music program including all-ages gigs. Internet access, artists-in-residence, school holiday

programs and a volunteers program are also provided. Recent initiatives include the establishment of Newcastle's first youth radio station and a partnership with the TAFE Music program.

The Loft is increasing its outreach activities including a weekly after-school program at Wallsend District Library and holiday programs across the LGA.

Highlights of the 2006/2007 year included:

- 13,756 young people actively participating in Loft programs
- A further 22,417 young people accessed Loft activities via promotional activities
- A total of 48 bands used the Loft for rehearsals and a total of 94 bands performed at Loft gigs
- The Loft undertook a total of 19 partnerships with community and government organisations.

## Compassionate community cont...

## **Community Facilities**

Council provides a number of facilities from which children's services and programs are offered to the community. These include eight purpose-built childcare centres in addition to the community facilities which are used for vacation care, playgroups, Child and Family Health clinics, family support programs, out of school hours care and recreational activities.

Council also maintained sporting venues and recreational areas for use by children in structured and unstructured activities.

#### **Human Services**

Council operates a Family Day Care Scheme and one Long Day Care Centre offering affordable options for quality childcare in the city. In 2008 there were 1,049 children registered with these services from 790 families. The Beresfield Community
Children's Education Centre
received outstanding results
from the Quality Improvement
and Accreditation System of
the National Childcare and
Accreditation Council (NCAC) with
above good quality in all areas.

The annual Westfest school holiday program for 12 to 15 year olds held during the July school holidays continues to prove popular. This year 808 young people attended 28 activities provided by 10 contractors.





Young people have their say in our community

#### **Youth Council**

Council provided funding for the operation of the Newcastle Youth Council which offers an opportunity for young people to reflect the interests of their peers and raise awareness of issues affecting youth.

#### **Youth Week**

In partnership with Department of Community Services Council allocated funding for activities during Youth Week to promote a positive image of young people and provide an opportunity for conversations on issues of importance to young people. 45 young people planned and staged nine events which were attended or participated by 898 young people.

Newcastle City Council was awarded the Local Government Youth Week Award 2008 for Best Local Youth Week Program.



Youth Week concert



Youth Mayor, Stuart Csanki

## Effective and efficient governance



Newcastle City Council will listen to the community and involve them in decision making.

The Council will operate efficiently so it can meet community needs in a financially responsible way.

## **Effective and Efficient Governance Priorities**

- Make sure Council and community buildings, equipment, IT systems and vehicles are adequate and in good condition
- 2. Improve communication with the community
- Implement city wide water management and collect better information to manage flood hazards
- 4. Reduce asbestos hazards from building work.

## **Milestones**

» Council began a program to introduce multifunction devices. The devices replace printers, scanners, faxes and photocopiers with one piece of equipment.

Each device will reduce:

- Operational costs through reduced per page print charges and paper usage
- The number of toneremitting devices in the workplace
- Council's energy consumption.

To be implemented over three years, the program is expected to reduce printing costs by an estimated \$380,000 a year.



Council will be efficiently managed to meet community needs

## **Key Performance Indicators**

Percentage of annual charges outstanding greater than 90 days note greater than 2.5%

Achieved – 1.45%

Investment returns in excess of +0.5% than UBS Australian Bank Bill Index

Achieved – 0.71%

Completion of Management Compliance, Taxation and Statutory reports within designated timeframes

Achieved – 100%

Mean processing time of s608 certificates in less than 1.5 days

Achieved – 0.95 days

Distribution of creditor and payroll data within one day

Achieved – one day

Register 97% of development related applications within one day

Achieved – 97%

Register 96% of animal related applications within one day

Achieved – 99%

Register and distribute 97% of inward mail within one day

Not achieved – 91%

Comment - public holidays and staff shortages

Process 97% of s149 requests in three days

Achieved - 98%

## Effective and efficient governance cont...



Process and validate new properties within an average of four days

Achieved – av. 2.6 days

Respond to more than 87% of logged customer requests and problems within respective time frame

Achieved – 93%

Acknowledge 95% of insurance claims within one day of receipt

Achieved – 99%

Payment of 85% of creditor invoices within 30 days

Achieved – 88%

Process 87% of purchase requisitions within one day of receipt

Achieved – 92%

Turnover stock at the store more than 4.5 times per year

Achieved – 6.42 per year

Complete all printing jobs at Reprographics within one day

Achieved – 100%

Respond to 90% of media requests within one hour

Achieved – 98%

98% of audit recommendations accepted by the Audit Committee

Achieved – 99%

100% of Council business papers delivered to Councillors one week prior to scheduled meeting

Achieved – 100%



We will meet our targets and provide good customer service

No more than two corrections required for all minutes for each council/ committee meeting in one month

#### Achieved – Nil corrections required

100% of Council minutes and actions to be distributed to groups within two working days following a council/committee meeting

Achieved – 100%

Median net processing time for all DAs and s.96 Applications >=26 days

Achieved – 22 days

Median net processing time for all Construction Cert Applications >=26 days

Achieved – 23 days

Median net processing time for Complying DA >=7 days

Achieved – 7 days

98% of progress and final inspections carried out within requested timeframes

Achieved – 99%

Respond to customers' mediation and public voice requests within 5 days

Achieved – 100%

Respond to an owner's failure to provide an Annual Fire Safety Statement for 90% of occurrence within 14 days

Achieved – 100%

Average response to heritage referrals less than 10 days

Achieved – 9 days

Achievement of 80% of project milestones within agreed timeframes

Achieved – 90%

## Effective and efficient governance cont...



#### Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 1989 gives the public the right to apply for access to certain Council information.

This includes the opportunity to personally view documents and obtaining copies. Information available under Freedom of Information covers a wide range of areas and subjects that do not infringe personal privacy policies.

Council's Vision says we will involve, engage and respect everyone who lives here and will enable their meaningful participation in decision making.

Part of showing respect is being open and transparent about information. This respect is reflected in our granting of Freedom of Information requests. During 2007-2008 we processed 38 requests with eight being withdrawn, referred to another agency or the applicant failed to pay the scheduled fee.

The 30 remaining requests were granted in full or in part. For full details of all Freedom of Information applications for the 2007-2008 year are provided in the attached detailed statutory report.

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Newcastle has 17 off leash areas - over 55 hectares for dogs to enjoy

## **Companion Animals**

Council uses a range of education and enforcement tools to comply with the Companion Animal Act. Council spent \$947,000 on companion animal management and activities in the 2007-2008 financial year.

Education activities carried out by the Compliance Services Team included the distribution of brochures and pooch pouches and attendance at a number of community events.

Council promotes the benefits of desexing animals and maintains a relationship with the RSPCA and Hunter Animal Watch to facilitate low cost desexing for persons in financial difficulty.

Enforcement activities included the investigation and management of straying cats and dogs, dog attacks, dangerous and restricted dogs, barking dogs and nuisance cats.

Council investigated 250 dog attacks during the 2007-2008 financial year. All verified dog attacks were reported to the Department of Local Government.

Council's pound is operated by RSPCA NSW. The net cost of running Council's pound is \$168,197. This expenditure exceeds the income received from the Companion Animals Fund which totals \$70,000.

Unclaimed animals in Newcastle are transferred to the RSPCA. Where possible, homes are found for them. Animals are only euthanased when their health or behaviour makes it unsuitable for them to be placed in homes.

The RSPCA updates the pound data collection return every month and lodges it with the Department of Local Government on an annual basis.





# people

## Strategic management team



Newcastle City
Council's Strategic
Management Team
is made up of the
General Manager and
five group managers.

Together, they manage close to 1,000 staff across a range of areas, from parks and gardens to strategic planning, from fixing roads to staging art exhibitions.

#### **Janet Dore**

General Manager (former)
Janet Dore resigned from the
position of General Manager
on 23 November 2007. Graham
Clarke was Acting General
Manager from 24 November 2007
to 31 August 2008.

Lindy Hyam was appointed General Manager on 1 September 2008.

#### **Graham Clarke**

Group Manager Community Development

#### Janice Walsh

**Group Manager City Services** 

#### Michael McMahon

Group Manager Corporate Services

#### **Brent Knowles**

Group Manager Strategic Planning and Development

#### **Belinda Clements**

Executive Manager Human Resources

Note: Senior staff remuneration is detailed in the additional statutory section at the end of this report.



## **Human** resources activities



Our people are the foundation of a great organisation that works hard for Newcastle

Council's Human
Resources
Management Unit
is focussed on
maximising the
contribution of its
people by providing
guidance, support and
tools for employee
management.

## Recruitment and employee opportunities

Recruiting the best possible employees who meet the organisation's needs now and into the future is essential.

Recruitment is a challenge in a highly competitive jobs market characterised by a skills shortage and ageing workforce.

## **Trainees and Apprentices**

Council aims to position itself to meet the future needs of the organisation in a competitive labour market.

The recruitment of apprentices, trainees and graduates is a significant part of achieving that goal.

Five new trainees and nine new apprentices were recruited in IT, civil construction, health and environmental services and energy and resource management in 2008.

Apprentices were also recruited in parks and gardens, mechanics and building trades.

## Learning and development

Council views its people as a valuable asset and encourages employees to develop their potential.

A priority for Council is to increase the flexibility and capability of its workforce. One way of achieving this is by providing learning and development opportunities.

There were 53 professional development courses and 153 OH&S courses offered to employees across Council in the 2007-08 financial year.

## **Equal** employment opportunity



Newcastle City
Council values and
understands equity
and diversity in
the workplace. We
expect all employees
to treat each other
and members of
the community with
dignity and respect.

Council adopted the Equal Employment Opportunity
Management Plan 2005 - 2008
and Respect Policy to ensure we meet legislative requirements and guide procedures and actions around equity in the workplace.

Key achievements during 2007/2008 include:

- Monthly training sessions for new staff, managers, supervisors, coordinators and team leaders
- The merge of the EEO Panel and the Workplace Contact Officer group, with the addition of new representatives for women in the workforce, ATSI, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with disabilities. The group meets every three months
- Four Aboriginal cultural awareness training sessions provided for employees

- Monthly meetings of the
   Disability Employment Advisory
   Group to raise awareness
   about the benefits of employing
   disabled people and support
   the development of a Disability
   Employment Strategy
- A review of the current EEO Management Plan to develop the 2009 - 2011 year plan
- The endorsement of an Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (EAPS) by Council.

# people

## Occupational health & safety



Newcastle City Council and its senior management are committed to the concept of zero harm to all employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors and the public from our operations.

Council policy means every person will have a positive and active involvement in improving health and safety in the work environment.

Council will ensure all health, safety and rehabilitation programs and services meet statutory requirements, standards and codes of practice.

Work continues on implementing and reviewing Council's Occupational Health and Safety Management System.

The role and resources of the OH&S section has ensured the profile of safety across the organisation has been elevated.

Monthly reporting and review of OH&S performance is now implemented across each business group. Specific training programs aimed at OH&S induction, risk management including investigation and

reporting, and workplace inspections have also been developed and rolled out.

A training program has been developed including OHS induction, risk management, incident investigation and reporting and workplace inspections.

#### newSAFE 4 Mates

Council's in house safety program newSAFE 4 Mates continues to reinforce behavioural safety and cultural acceptance of the importance of safety.

## Our community partnerships



It is essential for
Newcastle City
Council to work
with community
groups, commercial
organisations and
government agencies
to provide services to
the community.

Throughout the year there are events, projects and other activities that are a joint effort between these different groups.

#### **Newcastle Airport Limited**

(NAL) was created in June 1993 to stimulate economic development for aviation/airport industries and to provide a civilian airport infrastructure for the region.

Formed on 25 May 1993 by
Newcastle and Port Stephens
councils, the company is limited
by guarantee and reinvests all/
any operating surplus back
into the airport. The airport
has undergone significant
improvements in recent years
and is today serviced by all
the major domestic airlines to
destinations along the east-coast.

The airport is a significant contributor to the domestic and international growth of business and tourism in the Hunter. Since the introduction of jet services into Newcastle Airport, the number of passengers has grown from 214,000 in 2003 to more than 1,000,000 in the 2007 calendar year.

NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme started in 1993 as a joint venture with 96 members forming a 'self insurance mutual' covering public liability and professional indemnity insurance.

Membership has expanded to include councils, the Local Government Association, the Shires Association, a rural Water Board and a Noxious Weed Eradication Board.

Over 15 years, Statewide has delivered many benefits including stable premiums, cost containment and spread of risk.

**Hunter Councils** brings together the 12 local councils to promote cooperation and collaboration to benefit our communities.

This has achieved:

- strong communication between Councils
- Sharing professional expertise
- Intercouncil collaboration.





With the ever increasing pressure on local government to do more with less, Hunter Councils is constantly striving to reduce the cost of 'doing business' for local government through offering economies and efficiencies.

Hunter Integrated Resources (HIR) is a company established by Lake Macquarie, Cessnock, Maitland and Newcastle City Councils to manage the Hunter Region Waste Project.

A Heads of Agreement has been signed with a preferred tenderer to demonstrate a real commitment from the member councils and Thiess to work together to establish a world class alternative waste treatment facility for the lower Hunter region.

The waste treatment facility will serve approximately 181,000 households with a combined population of 440,000 and recover a range of resources currently going to landfill.

Newcastle Region Gallery is one of 11 Australian galleries with a partnership arrangement with the National Gallery of Australia, giving Newcastle access to prestigious travelling exhibitions.

Joint ventures included:

- A monthly concert series at the University of Newcastle presented with the Conservatorium of Music
- A partnership with the Guraki Committee to display the Laverty exhibition and host associated activities such as NAIDOC week events
- Lectures in Australian Art in partnership with Hunter Institute of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and the School of Fine Art at the University of Newcastle
- A partnership with This Is
   Not Art Festival coordinators,
   including input into the festival
   program and the provision of
   venue space for activities
- Collaboration with Rainbow Visions to present an art lecture in the Rainbow Festival program

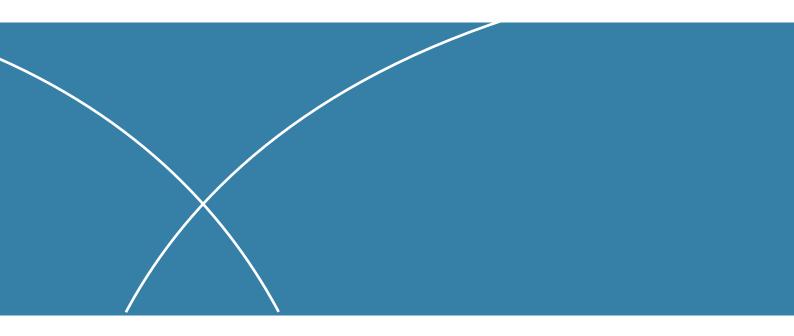
 Hosted the 2008 Waste as Art exhibition with the Department of Environment and other Hunter councils.

The Loft Youth Venue has numerous partnerships including:

- Hunter Water Development of a major aerosol art mural for the Charlestown Water tower
- Arts Upper Hunter, Artstart
   Festival Management of the
   Lower Hunter component of the
   Hunter Artstart Festival
- Hunter Institute of TAFE

   TAFE music production
   program students provide
   sound production for some
   gigs at the Loft. Also facilitated
   the development of a music
   performance project for STOMP
   by TAFE youth work students
- Hunter Headspace development of Hunter headspace launch activities and ongoing programs
- STEPS mental health unit -Mentoring young people in the creation of a video.

## Our community partnerships cont...



Programming the Civic Precinct's annual live performance season INSPIRATIONS involves working with both federal and state arts funding bodies. These assist with touring funding and, along with international, national and local producers, create opportunities to present a diverse program of theatrical or stage based live performances.

Hunter or Newcastle productions over 2007/08 included Popular Theatre Company's *School for Clowns* and *Waiting for Godot*, Tantrum Theatre Company's *Cosi, Clown Doctors Urban Shadows* and Imaginary Friend Company's *My Imaginary Friend*.

National performing arts joint ventures included Company B Belvoir's Keating!, Sydney Dance Company's Underland and Bangarra Dance Theatre's True Stories.

Arts NSW and the Playing Australia Fund brought major Australian companies to
Newcastle including: Bell
Shakespeare's As You Like It,
Sydney Theatre Company's
Wharf Revue and Ying Tong, Hit
Production's David Williamson's
The Club, Patch Theatre
Company's Helpmann Award
winning Mr. McGee and the Biting
Flea and further productions.

The International joint presentations were made with Andrew McKinnon and his *Miriam Margoyles - Dickens Women* plus Sydney Symphony's Nigel Kennedy.

#### The Newcastle Regional

Museum is working in joint partnership with Museums Australia Hunter Chapter, Newcastle Region Library, Newcastle Region Art Gallery and the University of Newcastle to present Museums Australia National Conference 2009 (MA 2009).

The Museum also is involved in the following joint priects:

University of Newcastle Art
 Department to celebrate and
 commemorate the museum
 and with ten artists on an
 exhibition to mounted at the
 new museum on reopening in
 2010.

#### Newcastle Region Library,

Port Stephens, Gloucester and Dungog Councils deliver public library services to the region. Member councils can purchase a range of administrative, computer and cataloguing services from Newcastle and registered library users in the region have access via a union catalogue to the joint holdings of the libraries.

Newcastle Region Library has developed a number of partnerships offering diverse services including:

 The Ten Minutes a Day program and Wacky Wombat program early literacy programs for parents and babies and children under five





Diverse
events make
for a vibrant
community

with Newcastle Permanent Building Society

- Sydney Writers Festival program was held during May with well known Children's author Terry Denton appearing at Wallsend District Library
- 1233 ABC Newcastle was the media partner for a number of small bookshops and publishers provided visiting authors to the library
- TAFE NSW exhibited designTECH, works of HSC design and technology students, at the Lovett Gallery
- Exhibition "Through the Lens" celebrated the 10th Anniversary of HMRI in the Hunter. The exhibition was promoted on 1233 ABC through a series of radio interviews with researchers
- Books Alive, a partnership with the Australia Council for the Arts, was held in July 2008.
   Four author visits were included in the program.

Our **Events** team is part of the *Events in Spring* organising group which includes Mattara, This is Not Art, NSW Hill Climb, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club, National Maritime Festival, Rainbow Visions, Newcastle Music Week, Darby Street Fair and YNOT. This group enables joint programming, marketing, and promotion, coordination of approvals and provision of infrastructure.

Events in Spring is supported by Council with cash and inkind donations through the Community Assistance Program.

The 54th Annual Newcastle
Combined Schools ANZAC
Service is a partnership to
present an ANZAC Day unique
in Australia. Students are
mentored in the management
and presentation to an ANZAC
ceremony designed specifically
for a student audience. Partners
include the Newcastle ex-service
community, Department of

Education & Training Hunter/
Central Coast, Catholic Schools
Office Diocese of Maitland/
Newcastle, Newcastle Grammar
School, Department of Veterans'
Affairs, Australian War Memorial
and the Newcastle Permanent
Building Society.

Newcastle Ex-Service
Ceremonies are a partnership
with ten Newcastle ex-service
organisations to produce a
series of commemorations
at ceremonial sites across
Newcastle.

Newcastle Tourism partnered with Lake Macquarie Tourism to undertake visitation research to determine the viability of joint marketing, represented Council on the Steering Committee for Cruise Hunter and is part of the Hunter Regional Tourism Organisation which coordinates marketing for the region.

## Our community partnerships cont...



#### Family Day Care worked with:

- Samaritans Foundation for early intervention services under the DoCS three year 'Brighter Futures Program' initiative
- Five Hunter/New England FDC Schemes for a joint marketing program
- Funding from Workplace
   English Literacy and Language
   (WELL) program allowed TAFE
   to train 41 carers over 12
   month period.

Council worked with Lake Macquarie City Council on the following projects:

- Production and distribution of Preparing for Disasters information kit. 5000 kits were produced and 22 presentations were held. Funded through the Hunter Community Recovery Fund
- Worked with Lake Macquarie Seniors Week Advisory Panel to develop an Annual Seniors program and Seniors Week event for over 2000 seniors

Worked with the Disability
 Network Hunter on the
 International Day of People with
 a Disability event. Included
 media awards, entertainment
 and information stalls and was
 attended by 300 people with a
 disability and their carers.



## **Council** committees



Our committees include strategic, statutory, operational and expert advisory committees and sub-committees that provide assistance and advice on a variety of issues across Council.

Business precincts throughout the city have a committee to advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of their local areas. They include:
City East, City West, Darby Street, City West, Hamilton, Mayfield, Wallsend and New Lambton.

Newcastle has 345 parks and many have committees to oversee the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the ordinances) of designated sportgrounds and associated facilities.

They include:

Adamstown Park, Beresfield/
Tarro Park, Elermore Vale
Reserve, Federal Park, HeatonBirmingham Gardens Park,
Hexham Park,
Kotara Park, Myamblah Crescent
Oval, New Lambton Oval,
Stevenson Park, Stockton Park,
Tuxford Park, Waratah Park and
Wickham Park.

Community facilities form an integral part of the Newcastle community. Council has S355 committees responsible for the management of council facilities under delegated authority and in accordance with Council policies, procedures and statutory obligations.

S355 committees include: Alice Ferguson Community Centre, Carrington Community Centre, Elermore Vale Community Centre, Hamilton South Community Centre, Henderson Park Hall, Jesmond Neighbourhood Centre, Minmi Progress Association, Maryland Multipurpose Centre, New Lambton Community Centre, Newcastle Elderly Citizens Centre, Rankin Park Progress Association, Tarro Community Hall and Warabrook Community Centre.

The BBC Housing Management and Development Committee is another S355 committee established to aid the revitalisation of Newcastle through demonstration housing projects.

## Award winning team



Newcastle City Council has received many awards for its beaches, environmental achievements and service delivery.

## Hunter Regional Tourism Awards - Ecotourism

Blackbutt Reserve was awarded a distinction for ecotourism at the Hunter Regional Tourism Awards. The awards recognise and encourage tourism businesses that aspire for excellence in all areas of their work. Winning an award is the industry's highest accolade and the recipients represent the best in the region. Blackbutt Reserve is proud to receive this award for the fourth time; 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008.

# NSW State Award in the Management of Open Space - Development

Fernleigh Track was named winner of the NSW State Award in the Management of Open Space Development category on 3 September 2007. The former railway line is a highly popular walk and cycle path, stretching three kilometres from the southern suburb of Adamstown to Kahibah.

## Parks and Leisure Australia National Awards - Open Space Development

Fernleigh Track was highly commended in the Parks and Leisure Australia National Awards - Open Space Development awards on 19 September 2007. The former railway line is a highly popular walk and cycle path, stretching three kilometres from the southern suburb of Adamstown to Kahibah.

## Australasian Fleet Managers Association 2007 Fleet Environmental Award

Council won the Australasian Fleet Managers Association 2007 Fleet Environmental Award for its successful bio-diesel implementation. In November 2003, Council launched Australia's first biodiesel fleet.

## Workcover Safework Awards 2007 - Best Solution to an identified Workplace Health & Safety

Council was a finalist in the Workcover Safework Awards 2007 - Best Solution to an identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue for its signs truck.

# Keep Australia Beautiful - Sustainable Garden Challenge 2007

Native plantings in Civic Park and Christie Place were awarded Regional Council Winner and State Council Runner Up in the Keep Australia Beautiful - Sustainable Garden Challenge 2007 on 4 December 2007.

## Local Government and Shires Association of NSW Excellence in the Environmment Awards

Newcastle City Council's Biodiversity Strategy 2006 was winner in Division C as well as category winner for biodiversity management in the Local Government and Shires Association of NSW Excellence in the Environmment Awards.

# Tocal Field Days - Hunter Water Best Exhibit Award - Land Management Area

The Community Greening Centre's display at Tocal was awarded winner of best exhibit on 4 May 2008.





Newcastle City
Council is an
award winning
council

## Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (NSW Division) - New or Improved Techniques

Council's natural disaster recovery system was awarded highly commended in the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia awards.

## Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge Awards

Nobbys Beach was named the state's 'friendliest beach' at the Keep Australia Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge Awards in Sydney in December 2007. The award sponsored by Energy Australia was not the only win for the popular beach, which also came first in the Sydney Water Conservation Award. Overall Hunter beaches rated highly with Merewether winning the **Environment Protection award and** coming highly commended in the Community Partnership and Action category.

## Local Government and Shire Associations NSW Excellence in the Environment Awards

The Newcastle Biodiversity
Strategy 2006 was recognised at
a state level, receiving an award at
the Local Government and Shire
Associations NSW Excellence
in the Environment Awards. The
strategy was the winner in Division
C as well as the category winner
for Biodiversity Management.

#### Minister's Award

Council received the prestigious Ministers Award as well as a host of other commendations at the 2007 NSW Sport and Recreation and Austswim Water safety Awards. The Ministers Award was for Most Significant Contribution to Water Safety and recognised the outstanding effort of Council towards reducing drowning and water-related injuries and its reinforcement of water safety messages. Other awards Council received included Contribution to Water Safety by an Organisation and Community Education Program of the Year.

## Local Government Week Awards of Excellence

Council was awarded second prize at the Local Government Week Awards of Excellence dinner. Council was nominated in the Multicultural Health Awards for the Water Safety Awareness Program for African Refugees which was run in partnership with Hunter Surf Life Saving. The program was created to increase the confidence and safety awareness of young African refugees when using Newcastle's beaches. The program was a partnership bewteen Council, Hunter Surf Life Saving, the Migrant Resource Centre and local high schools.

### World Environment Day Awards

Council was a finalist in the Best Specific Environmental Initative category in the Local Government Awards section for the *ClimateCam* program.



# community community

## Australia Day awards



Every year council calls for nominations from individuals and organisations in a variety of fields such as arts, sport, the environment, community service and more.

There are three awards ceremonies held each year including the Australia Day Awards, the Community Awards and the Sports Awards.

## **Australia Day Awards**

Held in conjunction with our national day, these awards acknowledge community spirit. They highlight the diversity and depth of individual and group contribution to our local community.

There are three award categories:

## Australia Day Citizen of the Year – Gary Webb

This award is presented to the individual considered to have made the most outstanding contribution to the City of Newcastle during the award year.

In June 2007, when the Pasha Bulker became stranded off Nobbys Beach, Gary Webb (CEO Newcastle Port Corporation) was the Commander in Chief of the recovery mission.



Gary Webb

# **community**



Newcastle's strength and spirit comes from its people.

## Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year –

Callan Nickerson

This award is presented to the individual under the age of 27 years considered to have made the most outstanding contribution in any field to the City of Newcastle during the award year.

Callan was named the first Aboriginal Captain of Newcastle High School. He also won the McCarley and Associates Prize for Contributions to Social Justice.



Callan Nickerson

## Australia Day Community Event of the Year –

Wallsend Winter Carnivale
This award is presented to the
community group or organisation
considered to have made the
most outstanding contribution in
any field to the City of Newcastle
during the award year.

The Wallsend Winter Carnivale attracted a crowd of 30,000 people.

**Commendation** – Diamond IT Doggy Day Out

The 2007 Diamond IT Doggy Day Out brought together business, government and the broader community in an attempt to recruit new members to the volunteer beach lifesavers.

## **Community** awards



**These Awards** recognise outstanding effort and achievement towards advancing values like a fair go, democracy, integrity, diversity, participation, endeavour and service.

They acknowledge the leadership provided by ordinary people doing extraordinary things, or ordinary things extra-ordinarily well.

### Freeman of the City

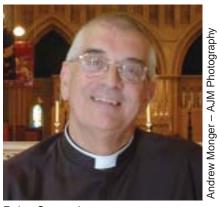
The honour of Freeman of the City is awarded to individuals who have provided the highest level of service. It may be awarded for eminent achievement and merit in the highest order for service to Newcastle, Australia or humanity.

The award dates back to ancient times, when an exceptional person was recognised and given privileges that extended beyond the law.

The title of Freeman of the City was bestowed upon The Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence, Anglican Dean of Newcastle for outstanding contributions to community spirit, wellbeing and pride.

Father Graeme was appointed Dean of Newcastle in 1984.

Father Graeme's pride in Newcastle and his belief in the City and his actions which



Father Graeme Lawrence

support those beliefs are demonstrated consistently.

He has played a major role in the healing of the community in the aftermath of such events as the 1989 earthquake, September 11 terrorist attack, the two Bali bombings and the 2007 June storm emergency.

# community



Awards are an important way to recognise community contribution.

## **City of Newcastle Medal**

The Medal is awarded to individuals, organisations or groups for distinguished service of a high degree to Newcastle and its citizens. No more than five awards are presented each year.

Recipients for 2007 were:

David Le Marchant and

Richard S (Dick) Woodgate

## City of Newcastle Service Award

These are awarded to individuals, organisations or groups for service to a specific group, locality or field of activity. No more than 15 awards are presented each year.

Recipients for 2007 were: The African Lions Sporting Project

**Bruce Avard** 

Keith Davies

Victor and Dulcie Giles

Kim Hillery

William Hopkins

Clive Hogan

Rex Ladkin

Louise Micallef

Volunteers of Stroke & Disability Information Hunter Inc

The Merewethers

## **Honour Roll**

## Freeman of the City of Newcastle

Frank Purdue (dec), former Lord Mayor.

Charlie Jones (dec), former Lord Mayor, Federal Minister for Transport and Minister for Aviation.

Joy Cummings (dec), former Lord Mayor.

**Arthur Wade**, former Lord Mayor, State Member for Newcastle.

Vic Bell (dec), former Deputy Lord Mayor.

**Anne Von Bertouch** (dec), arts patron - (27/4/97), first non-politician.

**Joyce Bond** (dec), heritage and community activist (30/9/97).

**Doug Lithgow**, community and environmental activist (29/8/02).

**Dr William Bowmore** (dec), Patron of the Arts (18/10/05).

The Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence, Anglican Dean of Newcastle.

## **Sports** awards

These awards
acknowledge
the outstanding
performances of many
of our sporting men
and women and boys
and girls.

They also highlight the volunteers and committees of our sports community.

The Sports Advisory
Panel Council host the
award presentation.

Lord Mayors Award
Sportsperson of the Year
Cheryl Salisbury – Soccer
Cheryl Salisbury is the captain of
the Australian Women's Soccer
team, the Matildas. She is
Australia's most capped footballer
and highest international goal
scorer. She represented Australia
in four World Cups at two Olympic
Games.

Sporting Organisation

African Lions Project Team –

Basketball

Sporting Event

Australian National Figure

Skating Championships

Sports Official
Scott Beker – Basketball

Volunteer Support Kim Hillery - Tuxford Park Trust Committee/Soccer



Cheryl Salisbury

# **community**



Council
works with
our sporting
community to
achieve the
best results

Outstanding Sporting Team Junior Newcastle North Stars U11's Ice Hockey Team Senior Newcastle District Cricket

Outstanding Sporting Achievement Junior male, *Matthew Lindsay* -*Ice Hockey* 

Junior female, *Michaela Davis-Meehan – Snowboarding* 

Masters, *Brian Radcliffe* – *Cycling* 

Male, Kurt Gidley - Newcastle Knights Rugby League

Female, Cheryl Salisbury – Soccer

Athlete with a Disability, *Prue Watt - Swimming* 







# **Our** volunteers



Newcastle City
Council has 1,250
volunteers working
with us in a wide
variety of activities
to help improve our
community.

Volunteers help with recreational, sporting, cultural, social, environmental and community activities and programs.

## **Community Greening Centre**

In the past 12 months more than a thousand people volunteered 16,618 hours through the Community Greening Program.

The program supports bushland regeneration, coastal restoration, parkland improvement and sustainable gardening activities.



Training Community Greening Centre volunteers

#### Volunteers contributed:

- the equivalent of \$332,360 in labour
- attracted \$41,000 in grants and sponsorships for volunteer projects
- grew 50,000 plants
- removed 686m3 of weeds
- spread 1,186 m<sup>3</sup> of mulch
- removed 12m3 of green waste and
- collected 169m³ of rubbish from 65 project sites across Newcastle.

# **community**



Council says thank you to its volunteers

#### **Art Gallery guides**

There are currently 25 volunteers who work at the Gallery as guides. They take groups of visitors through the exhibitions introducing them to complex ideas and concepts in a friendly and informative manner. They guide visitors from three year olds to senior citizens groups.

During 2007 they led 594 tours, with over 6,000 participants.

#### artNRG volunteers

Every Saturday and Sunday the Art Gallery comes alive with the voices of young people as they're introduced to the world of art.

The artNRG program is funded by The Newcastle Charitable Foundation for young people aged three to nine to works of art and art making techniques. Children look at one of the works currently on display then make their own work in response to it.

The volunteers are mainly art and art education students from the University of Newcastle.

#### **Blackbutt Reserve**

A team of 40 volunteers at Blackbutt Reserve contributed more that 13,490 hours of service during the year.

Volunteers range from 16 years to over 80 and are involved in food preparation for the exhibited wildlife, exhibit maintenance, assistance with education programs, bush regeneration and park maintenance.

# **Community** assistance program



The Community
Assistance Program
supports community
efforts to maintain and
strengthen community
life, celebrate local
culture, protect the
natural environment,
improve the urban
environment and
create jobs.

The program provides around \$400,000 for non-profit community, cultural, environmental and sporting organisations for community-based projects, events, activities and services.

Proposals must have a cultural, community and/or economic benefit to the city and our residents.

#### **Snapshots**

The National Park Croquet Club received \$1,000 for their annual carnival. Results from this carnival are used to set world rankings and set handicaps within Australia.

The NSW State Committee of Highland Dancing received \$10,000 towards the Festival of the Tartans, a bi-annual championship. The festival attracts officials, competitors and visitors from around the world.

Family Drug Support received \$10,000 for their Stepping

Stones to Success program. The program helps families dealing with alcohol and drug issues.

Every year **Surfest** brings all the top surfers to Newcastle for the World Qualifying Series event. Held in recent years at Merewether Beach, the event receives \$20,000 and returns more than \$2million to the local economy.

The Mattara Festival originated in 1961. The nine day program covers performing arts, sports, craft, entertainment, exhibits, charities and cultural diversity. Mattara receives \$20,000 and is part of the Festivals of Newcastle.

# **community**



Strengthen community life, celebrate local culture and improve our environment



Surfest brings all the top surfers to Newcastle

# **Indigenous** community



Newcastle has the second highest count of Aboriginal persons but the lowest proportion of Aboriginal persons across the Lower Hunter.

In Newcastle, 3,021 persons identify as Aboriginal. This was 2.1% of the total Newcastle Local Government Area population (141,752 persons) in 2006. (Source: Newcastle Aboriginal Communities Snapshot Profile – Census 2006)

Local aboriginal communities are represented in the Newcastle area by the Guraki Committee which was established on 1 June 1999. The Committee meets on a bi-monthly basis and has a voluntary membership of local Aboriginal representatives, the Lord Mayor, Councillors and Council staff.

The Committee provides cultural information and advice to Council on matters and issues of concern to local Aboriginal communities.

The Guraki Committee's vision is to:

 Facilitate the implementation of the Commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of the City of Newcastle and  Further the healing of historical injustices, which in turn will strengthen and enrich our city.

Guraki also advocates the development and implementation of strategies in areas of Aboriginal employment, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal heritage, cultural awareness, and cultural celebration.

An Aboriginal Snapshot Profile was completed to build awareness of Aboriginal culture in the broader community.

The profile is based on the 2006 census and includes information on population, family and household types, housing, education, income and employment.

A live broadcast of the apology to the Stolen Generation was aired at Newcastle City Hall on Wednesday 13 February 2008.

# **community**



GURAKI is an Awabakal word meaning to be wise, skilful.

In an Australian exclusive, Newcastle Region Art Gallery featured an extraordinary selection of contemporary Indigenous Australian art in the Paintings from remote communities: Indigenous Australian Art from the Laverty Collection exhibition drawn from the collection of Dr Colin and Elizabeth Laverty. The exhibition features over 80 paintings from a variety of celebrated Indigenous artists including: Paddy Bedford, Makinti Napanangka, Helicopter Joey Tjungarrayi and Freddie Ngarrmaliny Timms.

A number of activities were organised during NAIDOC Week 2008 including:

- Launch of the Painting from remote communities exhibition
- Launch of the DVD Pambalong Clan, True Custodians
- A screening of short films by Indigenous filmmakers produced as part of the Lester Bostock Mentorship program 2007

- The Loft Youth Venue hosted workshops in screen printing, basket weaving and didgeridoo playing as part of the Past, Present Future 5 program
- The Loft Youth Venue in partnership with Awabakal Youth Services hosted an all ages gig, Get Down Mob.



Photo: Denise Emmerson by Aboriginal photographer Mervyn Bishop



# our Culture

# **Art** gallery



Newcastle Region Art Gallery is the custodian of one of Australia's most substantial public art collections outside major capital cities.

The Gallery proudly houses many works by significant artists, including Arthur Boyd, William Dobell, Russell Drysdale, Sidney Nolan, Margaret Olley, John Olsen, Patricia Piccinini and Brett Whiteley. These works are part of the rich legacy belonging to the city of Newcastle.

The Gallery is funded and administered by Newcastle City Council with support from the NSW State Government through the Ministry for the Arts.

#### A tribute

One of Newcastle Region Art Gallery's most generous benefactors, **William Bowmore AO, OBE,** was honoured in a special exhibition and tribute at the gallery in April 2008.

Dr Bowmore's contribution to the arts in Newcastle has been significant, with more than \$7million of paintings, sculptures and drawings donated to the collection over many years.

These include *Summer at Carcoar* by Brett Whiteley and works by Australian artists Sidney Nolan and William Dobell.

Dr Bowmore was awarded Freeman of the City in 2005 for his contribution to the arts.

#### **Inspiring youth**

A free drop-in activity program, **artNRG**, is drawing crowds of young people to draw, create and explore works on display at the gallery.

At the heart of artNRG is artcart, a mobile cabinet of, art materials which moves around the gallery to focus on a different work. Children explore the gallery's exhibitions through drawing and making activities.

Over 2,000 children and their parents have taken part since the program recommenced in February 2008.

Artcart operates every Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am – 12.30pm and is sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Foundation.



# **Civic** precinct



Our civic and cultural precinct is an entertainment hub.

The Civic Precinct is an entertainment hub.

Brought alive by salsa dancing and outdoor events in Wheeler Place, weddings and corporate functions in City Hall, and acclaimed local and international theatre productions at Civic Theatre and the Playhouse. The precinct has brought the heart of night time culture into the inner city.

Newcastle's City Hall opened in 1929 and is one of Newcastle's most unique and prestigious venues.

More than 600 events were held in City Hall in 2007 – 2008, with weddings, school formals, international conferences and corporate events keeping venue staff busy.

Located near the photographic Civic Park fountain, City Hall continues to be a popular reception centre for Newcastle's newlyweds and debutantes. There were 63 weddings and 16 school formals in the financial year.

Its close proximity to the city centre, restaurants and accommodation makes City Hall an ideal conference facility. Over 60 national and international conferences were hosted, bringing hundreds of visitors to the city.

A highlight of the calendar was the International Society for Growing Plant's national conference which attracted 200 delegates to the region. The conference organising committee worked with Council to plant native species in Civic Park and Christie Place.

### The best children's theatre

Garbage monsters, biting fleas and an enchanted forest provided just some of the colour and fun in the INSPIRATIONS Children's Season of performances at the Civic Theatre during 2007/2008.

Over 5,000 tickets were sold for children's season shows catering for 3-8 year olds.

Mr McGee and the Biting Flea proved the most popular show of the year, enthralling young audiences with fast-paced inventive theatre, music and play.

It capped the second year the Civic Precinct and their Community Theatre Partner, the Commonwealth Bank, proudly presented the INSPIRATIONS Children's Season.

# **Region** libraries



Newcastle
Region Library
is the leading
public library in
NSW, with over
a million visitors
and two million
items borrowed
during the last
financial year.

Author talks, book clubs, home library services, school holiday programs and help services cap a comprehensive range of programs provided by nine branch libraries across the city.

Exhibitions at the Lovett Gallery and Wallsend District Library attracted 93,000 over the year, with popular shows like the Wildlife Photographer of the Year pulling record crowds.

The stunning photographs toured from the London Natural History Museum in February 2008, and included entries from amateur and professional photographers of all ages.

Another highlight, Trent Park's Minutes to Midnight, launched at the Lovett Gallery in April 2008 to rave reviews.



### The loft



We have the busiest libraries in NSW

The Loft Youth
Venue provides
a safe place for
young people
to express
themselves,
hang out with
friends, meet
new people and
learn a variety of
skills.

Located right in the heart of the city centre, the Loft is easily accessible by public transport. It offers meeting spaces, a recording studio and computer access for people between the ages of 12 – 25 years.

More than 16,000 young people attended after school activities, gigs, events and projects coordinated through the Loft during 2007 – 2008.

## Award winning music program

The Loft Youth Venue music program was named winner of the Cultural Industries Award for its work to foster and develop local music in Newcastle.

During the year the Loft music program staged 33 all-ages gigs featuring more than 220 bands. Over 3,000 young people attended these drug and alcohol free events.

Podcasts of the GARAGE radio show featuring live performances

and interviews by local bands and solo performers were produced as part of the program, as were podcasts of the show BEATFIX with local hip hop performers.

The Loft worked in close partnership with the TAFE music production course with students gaining valuable work experience providing sound production for Loft gigs.

#### **Past Present Future**

Traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture was the focus of the Loft Youth Venue's successful Past, Present, Future program. Past, Present, Future offered young Aboriginal people of the Hunter a chance to celebrate and showcase their culture through workshops in Hip Hop skills, DJing, traditional dance, art and puppet making.

A day of celebration was held at the Newcastle Foreshore to conclude the program, attracting more than 200 young people to enjoy dreaming stories, bush tucker tasting and performances.

# Regional museum



After more than 20 years at home in the old brewery building at Newcastle West, Newcastle Regional Museum closed its doors on 26 August 2007 to pave the way for a move to the Honeysuckle Rail Workshops.

The museum is the treasure trove of the Hunter, collecting and preserving historic objects relating to the people, activities and places of our area.

More than 10,000 collection items have been documented, packed and readied for transfer to a new storage annex at Mayfield.

More than 450 tonnes of material will be cleared from the Wood Street site by settlement in December 2008, including the famous fossil tree and Newcastle's last tram LP 284.

Museum staff have been working to design an exciting new museum at the iconic Honeysuckle Railways Workshops, right in the heart of the city.

# culture





Artists impression of the future Newcastle Regional Museum by FJMT Architects





# financials

# Financial performance



The end of year financial performance showed Council is liquid, has a low debt service ratio and manages it rates and annual charges outstanding within policy guidelines. Our results for the financial year are within Department of Local Government best practice indicators.

The operating result for the year showed a \$1,376,000 deficit compared to \$3,519, 000 surplus in the previous year. The deficit can be largely attributed to a \$2.3 million investment write down which was recorded as an expense on Council's Profit and Loss Statements.

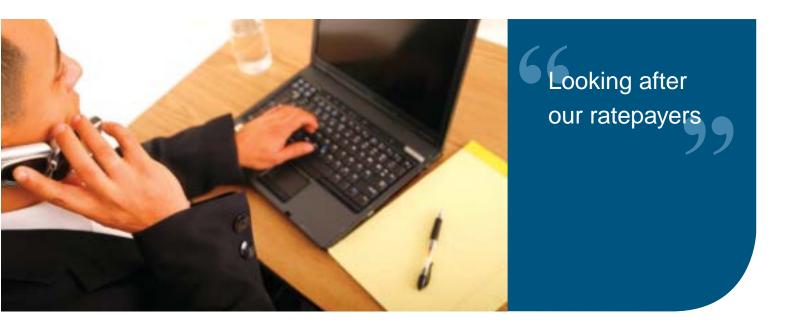
On 30 October 2008, Council received a full recovery of funds invested in a Federation Collaterised Debt Obligation (CDO). The \$2,546,745.05 comprised full repayment of the \$2.5 million principle and full accrued interest of \$46,745.05.

Due to the events surrounding the Lehman Brothers default and the specific clauses contained in the legal documentation supporting the transaction, advisors retained by Council and other bond holders were able to persuade the Trustee to unwind the CDO effecting a full return of invested funds to Council and other bond holders.

#### **Key Financial Indicators**

- » Income was \$191 million, up 16% from \$165 million in 2007. The increase was due to a rise in rates and annual charges including a special rate increase of 9.95%, tipping fees, interest income, grants and contributions including June 2007 storm claim.
- » Expenditure was \$192 million, up 19% from \$161 million in 2007. The increase due to rise in workers compensation costs, raw material and consumable costs, contractor and consultancy costs and payments for the NSW Government Waste Levy.
- » It also includes non-cash costs for revaluation of Queens Wharf and the Clarendon Hotels as well as the Federation investment. Depreciation of \$28 million continues to be a burden on all Local Government Councils.
- » Adjusting for non-cash impact of the hotels, the surplus would be \$9 million.

#### <sup>our</sup> financials



- » Total cash and investments were valued at \$138 million, equal to 2007. Investment markets have impacted on the valuation with a write down of \$2.3M recorded as an expense, together with a \$9 million adjustment through equity.
- » Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment including investment property and assets for sale was \$1.5 billion up from \$1.37 billion in 2007.
- » Land and buildings were revalued during the year in accordance with the Department of Local Government's revaluation regime. This resulted in a net valuation increase of \$131 million.
- Despite the downward financial market and the impact of market valuation adjustments to investment properties, the balance sheet increased net asset wise by \$120 million.

- » Total borrowings were \$34 million down from \$35 million in 2007 and Council continued to repay these within agreed deadlines.
- » Budget to Actual variances are detailed in Note 16 "Material budget variations".
- » Special Schedule 7 "Condition of Public Works" details a public works maintenance lag of \$15million compared to \$20million in 2007. This is in line with the report for Newcastle City Council by Review Today.

Summary of Financial Reports Year ended 30 June 2008	Current year	Previous year
	\$'000	\$'000
Income Statement		
Total income for continuing operations	191,016	164,536
Total expense from continuing operations	192,392	161,017
Operating result from continuing operations	(1,376)	3,519
Net operating result for the year	(1,376)	3,519
Balance Sheet		
Total current assets	96,167	93,172
Total current liabilities	50,400	45,791
Total non current assets	1,549,913	1,429,344
Total non current liabilities	39,694	41,224
Total Equity	1,555,986	1,435,720
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (%)	360%	441%
Debt service ratio (%)	2.12%	2.29%
Rate coverage ratio (%)	47.57%	49.64%
Rates and annual charges outstanding (%)	4.91%	5.71%
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio	7.57%	6.58%

# Financial performance cont ...



### Contributions and Donations

Council recognises the valuable contribution community groups and activities contribute to our quality of life.

The Community Assistance
Program supports community
efforts to maintain the strength
and life of the Newcastle
community, express cultural
values, protect the natural
environment, improve the urban
environment, and create jobs.

The program provides funding for not-for-profit community organisations structured to service Newcastle residents.

This funding supports community led initiatives that contribute to delivery of Council's strategic priorities. Proposals must have:

- A community benefit to the people of Newcastle and/or
- An economic benefit for the city or local business precincts.

Council offers three levels of support:

- Annual support from \$1,000 to \$10,000 for short-term events and community projects
- Multi-year support for major events hosted by local community groups
- Major Events funding for oneoff events hosted by national organisations, for example major sporting competitions.

Newcastle's Subsidy Program provides subsidised access to Council facilities and services for community groups including City Hall, Civic Theatre, the Playhouse, the Mobile Stage and road closures.

Council contributed \$586,618 in contributions and donations during 2007-2008.

For a full list of donations made to community groups and activities please see the Additional Statutory Report section at the end of this document.

### Commercial and business activities

Council has a range of commercial and business activities in areas where there is no private provider of a service, where Council is a traditional provider of the service or facility or where there is a clear financial benefit for the organisation.

Full details of Council's commercial and business activities are provided in the Additional Statutory Report section at the end of this document.

# financials



# Rates and charges written off

Council wrote off the following rates and charges:

Rates and charges written off	2007/2008
Pensioner write-offs	\$1,470,154
Postponed rates and charges	\$27,593
Written off as a result of rounding down	\$7
Changes in category/exemptions	\$114,410
Write off debts	-
Section 600	\$210,487
Total	\$1,822,650

# Notes

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# additional statutory report

# Additional Statutory Reporting



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# **Summary of Legal Proceedings**

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
Corporate services	Workers Compensation emp 1	Section 66 AND 67 Dispute.	Settled	\$10,543.50
	Workers Compensation emp 2	Section 66 and 67 dispute	Settled	\$8,442.50
	Workers Compensation emp 3	Redemption	Settled	\$9,058.50
	Workers Compensation emp 4	Section 60 Hearing Aid dispute	Resolved	\$13,338.95
	Workers Compensation emp 5	Section 40 dispute	Resolved	\$10,543.5
	Workers Compensation emp6	Section 66 and 67 Dispute	Resolved	\$13,841.13
Human Resources	Dismissal of Corporate Services employee	IRC proceedings	Completed, matter settled, confidential terms of settlement	\$8391.38
Strategic Planning and Development	Riverflag; 15 Murray Dwyer Circuit Mayfield West	Class 1 L&EC	Closed: Class 1 Appeal discontinued on 9 July 2007	\$757
	7/230 Scenic Drive Merewether Heights		Land & Environment Court Appeal Regarding Determination of Modification to Development Consent 05/0776 - Appeal upheld.	\$0
	Pepperwood Ridge; 164-168 Lake Rd Elermore Vale; Da 04/0673	Class 1 L&EC	Ongoing: Summons for leave to Appeal to NSWCA. Appeal Discontinued Councils costs to be recovered Costs action on hold pending outcome of Class 1 Merit Appeal. Class 1 Appeal progressing. Applicant has filed Amended Plans and statement of contentions.	\$198,774
	Newcastle Grammar School;62 Newcomen St & 14- 16 Tyrell St The Hill- Da 05/0018-	Class 1 L&EC	Closed: Refusal of Section 96 Application Appeal upheld	\$68,223

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	D&B: Domain Steel River Pty Ltd -50 Macintosh Drive Mayfield West-Da 06/2076	Class 1 L&EC	Closed: Class 1 proceedings settled by consent on 5 August 2008. Appeal upheld subject to conditions favourable to the Council.	\$48,279
	33 Weakleys Drive Beresfield-Da 07/0748	Class 1 L&EC	Closed: Appeal dismissed.	\$40,435
	Hamilton RSL-21 Chaucer St Hamilton	Class 1 L&EC	Closed: Class 1 proceedings in the LEC. 0.09.07 - Court orders issued. Applicant required to report to Council on compliance with certain aspects of orders	\$5,417
	Lee Wharf Developments/Caver stock Pty Ltd- Lee Wharf Honeysuckle- Da 03/X007	Class 1 L&EC	Ongoing: Council joined to LEC proceedings between Applicant and the Minister. Council has obtained expedition for Court of Appeal proceedings regarding the legal status of the s.94 contributions and the ability of the Applicant in the LEC proceedings to seek relief	\$0
	11 Silsoe St, Hamilton East - Illegal Demolition	Class 4 L&EC	Closed: Professional Costs awarded to Council. Examination hearing on 28 February 2008 confirmed the Defendant has no means with which to pay judgment debt.	\$11,619
	8 Flowerdale Avenue Merewether	Class 4 L&EC	Ongoing: Class 4 proceedings commenced. Council successful in obtaining orders and costs on 28 March 2008. The Court orders have been complied with. Council costs have been assessed. Cost recovery action being undertaken	\$56,707

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	Dubbo Holdings Pty Ltd -609 Maitland Road Mayfield-Da 07/518	Class 4 L&EC	Ongoing: Council was successful in Class 4 proceedings. Respondents restrained from demolishing/harming the Quonset hut building without development consent. Consent orders regarding award of costs to Council made 04/02/08	\$59,347
	Leaway Pty- Contempt proceedings - company in liquidation- Class 4 proceedings cost recovery Local Court- Newcastle Transfer Station - DA consent 00/1738	Class 4 L&EC	Ongoing: Class 4 proceeding commenced in the LEC. consent orders agreed for the demolition of unsafe buildings at the site in accordance with DA conditions. The defendant has failed to comply with the orders. The Orders require the building to be demolish	\$2,599
	Obsidian Pty Ltd- 643-651 Hunter St Newcastle (Empire Hotel)	Class 4 L&EC	Ongoing: Class 4 proceeding commenced in the LEC. consent orders agreed for the demolition of unsafe buildings at the site in accordance with DA conditions. The defendant has failed to comply with the orders. The Orders require the building to be demolish	\$23,181
	4/67 Nesca Parade The Hill	Class 4 L&EC	Ongoing: Local Court prosecution adjourned pending outcome of the LEC matter. Offer of settlement in the LEC proceedings rejected by the respondent. Matter listed for hearing in the LEC on 22 – 24 October 2008	\$76,744

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	57 Mawson Shortland - Development Without Consent	Prosecution, Local Court	Closed: Council issued a PIN. The defendant court elected. After reviewing the evidence the PIN was withdrawn with no order for costs on the advice of our solicitors.	\$0
	Appeal Dangerous dog declaration: resident W	CTTT claim	Closed: Matter went to mention. Applicant withdrew claim due to want of jurisdiction	\$0
	Dangerous Dog destruction order: resident S	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Matter heard and the Court ordered the destruction of the dangerous dog. On 7 September 2007 Defendant convicted and fined and ordered to pay court costs	\$4,712
	Dog attack prosecution: resident DB	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Matter heard 5 October 2007. Defendant fined in relation to all 3 offences and ordered to pay Court costs	\$0
	2226 Maitland Rd Hexham-Illegal Fill: Resident Ra	Local Court Prosecution	Ongoing: Matter heard 5 May 2008. The Magistrate fined Mr Alexander \$1,300 and awarded \$1,500 in costs to Council. Under the Fines Act 1996, the State Debt Recovery Office will now enforce the judgment including payment of Council costs	\$40,435
	Companion Animals Act: resident NK	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Court ordered s.10. No order for court costs	\$0
	Companion Animals Act: resident R	Local Court Prosecution	Ongoing: Awaiting advice of Police Prosecutor re outcome of hearing 3 September 2008	\$0

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	Parking infringement for heavy vehicle: Resident AM	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Matter heard on 19 June 2008. Council was successful the convictions were recorded. Council was awarded- \$79 fine for each offence and \$140 court costs	\$0
	PIN -Development without consent: Resident B	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Matter heard on 21 August 2008. The offence was proven. However the Court exercised its discretion to apply s.10 and no conviction recorded	\$0
	PIN Stop on Path In Built up Area: resident M	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Matter heard 1 September 2008. No appearance by Defendant. Conviction recorded- Council awarded \$275 in Court costs	\$0
	PIN Stop in Disabled Bay without Current Permit: resident B	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: PIN withdrawn	\$0
	Companion animal PINs: No Collar or Tag/No registration: resident H	Local Court Prosecution	First PIN withdrawn. The second PIN offence recorded. No court costs awarded	\$0
	Application to the Local Court to set aside the dangerous dog declaration: resident B	Local Court Prosecution	Closed: Court made consent order confirming the terms of the dangerous dog declaration with modifications to the conditions. Applicant not required to muzzle or cage dog in secure yard	\$0
	PIN Depositing of litter: resident G	Local Court Prosecution	Application for annulment dismissed with no order for costs	\$0
		Local Court Debt recovery		\$0
			Total	\$711,388.46

Local Government Act - Section 428(2)(e)

# Details of Overseas visits undertaken by persons while representing Council

Person	Place / Purpose	Duration	Cost to Council
Brent Knowles Group Manager Strategic Planning and Development	University MIT, Boston USA	8 days	\$14,290
Janice Walsh Group Manager City Services	University MIT, Boston USA	8 days	\$14,290
Ron Ramsay Art Gallery Director	Opening of the Emily Kngwarreye exhibition in Japan	5 days	Paid for privately with NCC providing the leave days

Local Government Act – Section 428(2)()r) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217(1)(a1)

# Remuneration Packages for Senior Staff

Details of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of each senior staff member employed during 2007/2008 is as follows:

Position	Total
General Manager (1 July 2007 to 23 November 2007)	\$177,625
Group Manager, Corporate Services	\$190,491
Group Manager, City Services and Presentation	\$186,262
Group Manager, Community Development (1 July 2007 to 25 November 2007) and Acting General Manager (26 November 2007 to 30 June 2008)	\$253,756
Group Manager, Strategic Planning & Development	\$193,960
2007/2008 Total	\$1,002,094
2006/2007 Total	\$1,090,185

Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 - Clause 31 (1)(b)

### **Contracts & External Suppliers**

Contractors and external suppliers provide a range of services and products to enable Council to carry out its work. These include the provision of raw materials to fix our roads and the hire of special plant and equipment. It also includes hiring in the services of specialists as needed to implement the adopted Management Plan. A full list of contracts and suppliers awarded over \$150,000 is provided below.

#### Contracts over \$150,000

Contractor	Contract	Contract Price (\$)	Total Amount Paid (\$)
Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd	Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction	\$230,025.40	\$298,535.54
Computer Systems Australia Pty Ltd	Supply & Install IT Storage Area Network System	\$491,370.00	\$490,482.00
Dell Australia Pty Ltd	Supply of Desktop Personal Computers (2 years)	\$1,200,000.00*	\$353,729.73
National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd	Plant Hire SWMC Permanent Long Term (3 years)	\$1,183,848.00	\$394,616.00
SNP Security Pty Ltd	Provision of Security Services (up to 4 years)	\$1,600,000.00*	\$322,792.74
C & W Constructions Pty Ltd	Beresfield Golf Club Maintenance Facility Construction	\$406,604.00	NIL
Fair Go Services Pty Ltd	Turnstile Attendant & Cashier Services at Lambton Swim Centre (up to 3 years)	\$203,837.28	\$67,945.76
Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd	Excavation & Lining of Cell 7: SWMC	\$4,135,643.00	\$3,538,728.15
Logan City Council	Purchase of One Road Line Marking Machine	\$243,320.00	\$243,320.00
JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd	Works Depot Asbestos Removal Works	\$309,634.00	\$331,314.50
Reino International Pty Ltd	Supply of Pay & Display Parking Machines	\$474,952.50	\$458,287.50
WBM Pty Ltd	Newcastle Post June 2007 Storm Data Collection	\$198,000.00	\$198,000.00
Johns Lyng NSW Pty Ltd	National Park Athletics Track Grandstand Roof Replacement	\$160,326.10	\$166,154.24
F & D deVitis	Tuxford Park Shortland Change Room Additions	\$166,170.00	\$175,069.00
Ricoh Business Centre Newcastle	Provision of Multi Function Devices (up to 30 June 2009)	\$600,000.00*	\$82,944.40
Cleanaway	Storm damage - bulk waste collection	\$196,707.52	\$196,707.52
Neat n Trim Uniforms Pty Ltd	Supply of Corporate Wardrobe (up to 4 years)	\$240,000.00*	NIL
Spoutvac Industries P/L	Manufacture & Supply One Truck Mounted Vacuum Loader	\$184,140.00	NIL
Mercedes-Benz Australia/Pacific	Supply 3 Cab Chassis fitted with tipping bodies	\$229,947.00	\$229,947.00

Contractor	Contract	Contract Price (\$)	Total Amount Paid (\$)
Pty Ltd			
Various	Electrical & Communications Services (2008 - 2010)	\$1,900,000.00*	NIL
Labourco Council Services Pty Ltd	Outdoor Labour Hire (2008 - 2010)	\$2,600,000.00*	NIL
Various	Tree Maintenance Services (2008 - 2010)	\$1,000,000.00*	NIL
Oz Mulching Pty Ltd	Processing & Removal of Green Waste at SWMC (up to 3 years)	\$600,000.00*	NIL
Various	Library Books, Magazines, Audio & Visual Media (2008 - 2011)	\$2,400,000.00*	NIL
Wild Valley Pty Ltd	Service Support of Precinct Committees (up to 4 years)	\$615,600.00*	NIL
United Card Services Pty Ltd	Provision of ULP / E10 via Fuel Cards (1 year)	\$750,000.00*	\$92,092.36

Notes: \* means the amount is an estimate based on historical expenditure. Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428 (2)(h)

#### External Suppliers over \$150,000

Name of Supplier	Amount (\$)	Service/Product
Aqua Assets P/L	276,446.50	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Australian Tourist Park Management P/L	292,010.67	Tourist park management
Australia Post	428,091.07	Postal services
Babic Construction Pty Ltd	367,655.98	Various building & construction projects
Baker & Taylor	213,079.22	Supply library books
J Blackwood & Son Inc	226,202.53	Supply of hardware
BMT WBM Pty Ltd	261,363.30	Flood management advice
Boral Construction Materials (NSW)	9,877,723.92	Road pavement services
Bolans Tree Service	448,356.00	Tree lopping & pruning
Brian Hilton Motor Group	763,192.65	Supply motor vehicles
Caltex Energy	440,794.41	Supply of biodiesel
Cleanaway a Division of Transpacific Limited	594,836.32	Contract waste services
Coates National Hire Pty Ltd	434,996.65	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Computer Systems (Australia) Pty Ltd	716,422.86	Supply computer equipment & consulting services
Corporate Express Australia Ltd	441,612.61	Office & stationery supplies
Data#3 Ltd	293,925.21	MS Software licensing
Dell Australia Pty Ltd	353,729.73	Desktop computers
Department of Lands	578,939.16	Various fees & charges
Denis Veitch & Associates P/L	448,967.42	Debt recovery services
F & D de Vitis	388,120.76	Various building & construction projects
Dept of Local Government	272,980.00	Companion animal registration fees

D & P Fencing Contractors   253,812.35   Supply & install roadside guardrail   Energy Australia   3,582,382.37   Electricity accounts   Enigma Communications Pty Ltd   313,657.37   Marketing & promotion services   Environmental Protection Authority   7,014,080.03   Waste levy   Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd   325,234.72   Newspaper advertising   Francis Jones Morehan Thorp Pty Ltd   316,640.50   Architectural services   Gilbert & Roach   156,800.00   Supply firucks   Hilab Newcastle Pty Ltd   156,800.00   Supply fruck mounted cranes   Hil Tech Concrete Pty Ltd   263,889.19   Supply ready mixed concrete   Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment   Management Authority   Hunter Councils Inc.   171,404.20   Membership fees   Hunter Security & Electrical Services   173,363.19   Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing   Hunter Security & Electrical Services   173,363.19   Maintenance of security systems   Pty Ltd   159,995.00   Casual hire of plant & equipment   JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd   334,609.00   Works Depot asbestos removal works   The James Bennett Group   475,183.43   Supply library books   J.A.G. Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd   166,154.24   Rational Park Grandstand Roof   Replacement   Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd   166,154.24   National Park Grandstand Roof   Replacement   14,960,855.07   Electrical services   Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd   234,293.58   Supply tractors & spare parts   The Kloster Group   363,521.84   Supply motor vehicles   Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd   1,960,855.07   Gasual hire of plant & equipment   Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd   298,535.54   Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction   Lear & Smith Pty Ltd   298,608.17   Supply electrical materials   Livesites - Newcastle Alliance   169,400.00   Stage Livesites events   Long Service Payments Corporation   984,897.40   Remit Payments   Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd   47,974.75   Hire of heavy plant   Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd   3,256,899.93   Civil Works - Summerhill Waste   Management Centre   The Newcastle Alliance   165,999.	Name of Supplier	Amount (\$)	Service/Product
Enigma Communications Pty Ltd Environmental Protection Authority Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd 325,234.72 Newspaper advertising Francis Jones Morehan Thorp Pty Ltd 316,640.50 Architectural services  Gilbert & Roach 369,779.59 Supply of trucks Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd 466,800.00 Supply truck mounted cranes Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd 463,889.19 Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Hunter Councils Inc. Hunter Development Corporation Fy Ltd 159,995.00 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 173,363.19 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 181 Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd 182,699.90 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 182,699.90 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 183,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works Works Depot asbestos removal works The James Bennett Group 475,183.43 Supply library books J.A.G. Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd 366,154.24 Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd 166,154.24 National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd 366,675.97 Electrical services Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd 466,955.07 Hire of outdoor labour persons Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd 196,955.07 Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd 298,535.54 Casual hire of plant & equipment Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 298,635.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 298,635.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 298,608.17 Supply one line marking machine Long Service Payments Corporation 984,897.40 Remit Payments Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	D & P Fencing Contractors	253,812.35	Supply & install roadside guardrail
Environmental Protection Authority Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd 325,234.72 Newspaper advertising Francis Jones Morehan Thorp Pty Ltd 316,640.50 Architectural services  dilbert & Roach 369,779.59 Supply of trucks Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd 156,800.00 Supply truck mounted cranes Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd 263,889.19 Supply ready mixed concrete Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Hunter Councils Inc. 171,404.20 Membership fees Hunter Development Corporation 525,629.89 Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 159,995.00 Casual hire of plant & equipment JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd 334,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works The James Bennett Group JA.G. Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd 166,154.24 Replacement Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 166,957.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 19,608,507.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 19,608,50.77 Casual hire of plant & equipment Cappman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 298,535,54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction Construction Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction Construction Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction Construction Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd 2,247,115.36 Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant Meumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant Meumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant	Energy Australia	3,582,382.37	Electricity accounts
Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd 325,234.72 Newspaper advertising Francis Jones Morehan Thorp Pty Ltd 316,640.50 Architectural services  Gilbert & Roach 369,779.59 Supply of trucks Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd 156,800.00 Supply truck mounted cranes Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd 263,889.19 Supply ready mixed concrete Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Hunter Councils Inc. 171,404.20 Membership fees Hunter Development Corporation 525,629.89 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services 173,363.19 Maintenance of security systems Pty Ltd 159,995.00 Casual hire of plant & equipment JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd 334,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works The James Bennett Group 475,183.43 Supply library books  J.A.G. Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd 533,669.47 Insurance premiums  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd 166,154.24 National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd 234,293.58 Supply tractors & spare parts  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd 166,957.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd 1,960,855.07 Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd 298,535.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 295,608.17 Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance 169,400.00 Stage Livesites events  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 1467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 1467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 167,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 17,926,859.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Enigma Communications Pty Ltd	313,657.37	Marketing & promotion services
Francis Jones Morehan Thorp Pty Ltd Gilbert & Roach Achiever Roach	Environmental Protection Authority	7,014,080.03	Waste levy
Ltd Gilbert & Roach Gilbert & Roach Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd 156,800.00 Supply truck mounted cranes Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Hunter Councils Inc. 171,404.20 Hunter Development Corporation Sephy Ltd Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 159,995.00 Lasual hire of plant & equipment JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd James Bennett Group JA. G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd Labourco Newcastle Alliance Load Marine Constructions Pty Ltd Labourco Newcastle Alliance Logan City Council Long Service Payments Corporation Membership fees Member	Fairfax Media Publications Pty Ltd	325,234.72	Newspaper advertising
Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd 156,800.00 Supply truck mounted cranes  Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd 263,889.19 Supply ready mixed concrete  Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority  Hunter Councils Inc. 171,404.20 Membership fees  Hunter Development Corporation 525,629.89 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing  Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 159,995.00 Casual hire of plant & equipment  JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd 334,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works  The James Bennett Group 475,183.43 Supply library books  JA G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd 533,669.47 Insurance premiums  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd 166,154.24 National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd 234,293.58 Supply tractors & spare parts  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd 166,957.75 Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd 1,960,855.07 Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd 298,535.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 246,689.83 Supply one line marking machine  Logan City Council 246,689.83 Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation 984,897.40 Remit Payments  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 1467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant		316,640.50	Architectural services
Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd  263,889.19  Supply ready mixed concrete  Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority  Hunter Councils Inc.  Hunter Development Corporation  525,629.89  Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing  Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd  Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd  159,995.00  Casual hire of plant & equipment  JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd  334,609.00  Works Depot asbestos removal works  The James Bennett Group  JA G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Wild  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  Johns Loyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Koster Group  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  Johns Loyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Light Grandstand Roof Replacement  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  Lar & Smith Pty Ltd  Lar & Smith Pty Ltd  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  Logan City Council  Land & Marine Corporation  Marrine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Sevents  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd	Gilbert & Roach	369,779.59	Supply of trucks
Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority Hunter Councils Inc. Hunter Development Corporation 525,629.89 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd Sada,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works Works Depot asbestos removal works  Electrical services  Lectrical services  Lectrical services  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd Supply tractors & spare parts  The Kloster Group JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd Aspestos Removal Pty Ltd Aspesto	Hiab Newcastle Pty Ltd	156,800.00	Supply truck mounted cranes
Management Authority       171,404.20       Membership fees         Hunter Development Corporation       525,629.89       Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing         Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd       173,363.19       Maintenance of security systems         Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd       159,995.00       Casual hire of plant & equipment         JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd       334,609.00       Works Depot asbestos removal works         The James Bennett Group       475,183.43       Supply library books         J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd       533,669.47       Insurance premiums         Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd       166,154.24       Insurance premiums         Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd       366,675.97       Electrical services         Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd       234,293.58       Supply tractors & spare parts         Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd       234,293.58       Supply motor vehicles         Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd       166,957.75       Casual hire of plant & equipment         Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd       1,960,855.07       Hire of outdoor labour persons         Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd       298,535.54       Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction         Lear & Smith Pty Ltd       295,608.17       Supply electrical materials         Lives	Hi Tech Concrete Pty Ltd	263,889.19	Supply ready mixed concrete
Hunter Development Corporation 525,629.89 Honeysuckle & Throsby Carparks income sharing  Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd 159,995.00 Casual hire of plant & equipment  JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd 334,609.00 Works Depot asbestos removal works  The James Bennett Group 475,183.43 Supply library books  J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd 533,669.47 Insurance premiums  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd 166,154.24 National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd 234,293.58 Supply itractors & spare parts  The Kloster Group 363,521.84 Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd 1,960,855.07 Electrical materials  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd 298,535.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 296,688.17 Supply one line marking machine  Logan City Council 246,689.83 Supply one line marking machine  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant		1,453,765.57	Membership fees
Hunter Security & Electrical Services Pty Ltd  Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd  I59,995.00  Casual hire of plant & equipment  JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd  334,609.00  Works Depot asbestos removal works  The James Bennett Group  JA.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Johns Grandstand Roof Replacement  Neplacement  Supply motor vehicles  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Msw Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Msw Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Johns Associated Alliance  Load & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group Msw Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Johns Lyng Johns Associated Alliance  Johns Lyng Johns Lyng Johns Associated Alliance  Johns Lyng Johns Lyng Johns Associated Alliance  Johns Lyng Jo	Hunter Councils Inc.	171,404.20	Membership fees
Pty Ltd       Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd       159,995.00       Casual hire of plant & equipment         JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd       334,609.00       Works Depot asbestos removal works         The James Bennett Group       475,183.43       Supply library books         J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd       353,128.61       Electrical services         Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd       533,669.47       Insurance premiums         Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd       166,154.24       National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement         Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd       366,675.97       Electrical services         Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd       234,293.58       Supply tractors & spare parts         The Kloster Group       363,521.84       Supply motor vehicles         Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd       1,960,855.07       Casual hire of plant & equipment         Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd       1,960,855.07       Hire of outdoor labour persons         Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd       298,535.54       Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction         Lear & Smith Pty Ltd       295,608.17       Supply electrical materials         Livesites - Newcastle Alliance       169,400.00       Stage Livesites events         Logan City Council       246,689.83       Supply one line marking machine         Long Service Payme	Hunter Development Corporation	525,629.89	1 7 1
JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd  334,609.00  Works Depot asbestos removal works  The James Bennett Group  475,183.43  Supply library books  J.A. G. Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd  353,128.61  Electrical services  Lid  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  533,669.47  Insurance premiums  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  166,154.24  National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd  234,293.58  Supply tractors & spare parts  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  234,293.58  Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre		173,363.19	Maintenance of security systems
The James Bennett Group  J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Loup Service Payments Corporation  Johns Lyng Johns Lyng Johns Johns Launching Ramp Construction  Johns Lyng Merita Separate Alliance  Johns Lyng Johns Lyng Johns Joh	Ian Rich Asphalt Pty Ltd	159,995.00	Casual hire of plant & equipment
J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions Pty Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Group Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Johns Lyng Group Nsw Group Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Johns Lyng Group Nsw Group Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Johns Lyng Group Nsw Johns Jo	JAC Asbestos Removal Pty Ltd	334,609.00	Works Depot asbestos removal works
Ltd  Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Group National Park Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Johns Lyng Group National Park Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Johns Lyng Group National Park Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Johns Lyng Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Johns Lyng Grandstand Roof  Replacement  Johns Lyng Pty Ltd  Johns Lyng Pty Lynd Pty Lynd Replacement  Johns Lyng Pty Lynd  Johns Lyng Pty Lynd	The James Bennett Group	475,183.43	Supply library books
Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd  166,154.24  National Park Grandstand Roof Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd  366,675.97  Electrical services  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  234,293.58  Supply tractors & spare parts  The Kloster Group  363,521.84  Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07  Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean  Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty  Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	•	353,128.61	Electrical services
Replacement  Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd  366,675.97  Electrical services  Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  234,293.58  Supply tractors & spare parts  The Kloster Group  363,521.84  Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07  Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd	533,669.47	Insurance premiums
Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd  234,293.58  Supply tractors & spare parts  Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07  Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Johns Lyng Group NSW Pty Ltd	166,154.24	
The Kloster Group  363,521.84  Supply motor vehicles  Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07  Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Jones & Gray Electrical Pty Ltd	366,675.97	Electrical services
Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd  166,957.75  Casual hire of plant & equipment  1,960,855.07  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Kentan Machinery Pty Ltd	234,293.58	Supply tractors & spare parts
Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd  1,960,855.07 Hire of outdoor labour persons  Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54 Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17 Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00 Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83 Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36 Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	The Kloster Group	363,521.84	Supply motor vehicles
Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd  298,535.54  Carrington Boat Launching Ramp Construction  Lear & Smith Pty Ltd  295,608.17  Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council  246,689.83  Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation  984,897.40  Remit Payments  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Koppman Earthmoving Pty Ltd	166,957.75	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Lear & Smith Pty Ltd 295,608.17 Supply electrical materials  Livesites - Newcastle Alliance 169,400.00 Stage Livesites events  Logan City Council 246,689.83 Supply one line marking machine  Long Service Payments Corporation 984,897.40 Remit Payments  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd 2,347,115.36 Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 883,792.50 Supply of trucks  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Labourco Newcastle Pty Ltd	1,960,855.07	Hire of outdoor labour persons
Livesites - Newcastle Alliance  Logan City Council  Long Service Payments Corporation  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  169,400.00  Stage Livesites events  Supply one line marking machine  Remit Payments  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Supply of trucks  Hire of heavy plant  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Land & Marine Constructions Pty Ltd	298,535.54	
Logan City Council246,689.83Supply one line marking machineLong Service Payments Corporation984,897.40Remit PaymentsMarine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd2,347,115.36Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean BathsMercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd883,792.50Supply of trucksNational Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd467,974.75Hire of heavy plantNeumann Contractors Pty Ltd3,256,890.93Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Lear & Smith Pty Ltd	295,608.17	Supply electrical materials
Long Service Payments Corporation  984,897.40  Remit Payments  Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36  Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  883,792.50  Supply of trucks  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75  Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93  Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Livesites - Newcastle Alliance	169,400.00	Stage Livesites events
Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd  2,347,115.36 Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths  Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd  883,792.50 Supply of trucks  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd  467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd  3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Logan City Council	246,689.83	Supply one line marking machine
Mercedes Benz Australia Pacific Pty Ltd 883,792.50 Supply of trucks  National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Long Service Payments Corporation	984,897.40	Remit Payments
National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd 467,974.75 Hire of heavy plant  Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre	Marine & Civil Maintenance Pty Ltd	2,347,115.36	
Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd 3,256,890.93 Civil works - Summerhill Waste Management Centre		883,792.50	Supply of trucks
Management Centre	National Plant & Equipment Pty Ltd	467,974.75	Hire of heavy plant
The Newcastle Alliance Inc 155,999.00 CityCentre Management Services	Neumann Contractors Pty Ltd	3,256,890.93	
	The Newcastle Alliance Inc	155,999.00	CityCentre Management Services

Name of Supplier	Amount (\$)	Service/Product
Newcastle Toyota	526,888.34	Supply motor vehicles
N S W Fire Brigades	1,922,388.00	Annual contributions
Nuturf P/L	157,455.73	Supply herbicides / weedicides
Oz Mulching Pty Ltd	212,299.21	Greenwaste processing
Planning NSW - Plan First Fee	258,291.00	Remit Plan First State Gov. Levy
Premier Concrete (NSW) Pty Ltd	184,336.94	Supply ready mixed concrete
Queens Wharf (Holdings) Pty Ltd t/as Blue Star Catering	219,416.40	Contract catering services
Reece Pty Ltd	260,994.32	Plumbers supplies
Reino International Pty Ltd	868,559.51	Supply & install parking meters
JR Richards & Sons Trade Waste Pty Ltd	168,891.11	Waste collection services
Road Management Solutions	171,548.16	Supply road / traffic signs
RSPCA - Newcastle	214,126.18	Animal impounding services
Roads & Traffic Authority	404,256.30	Vehicle registration fees & contracted services
Santana Line Marking Services	174,056.09	Road line marking services
Scott Hoadley's Earthmoving Pty Ltd	413,674.43	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Shell Company of Australia Ltd	1,616,946.35	Supply of fuels
SNP Security	863,625.69	Security & cash in transit services
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	1,137,506.61	Legal services
Spectrum Employment Services	248,230.58	Casual hire of administrative assistants
State Debt Recovery Office	374,900.70	Parking infringement processing
Statewide Mutual	2,098,537.92	Insurance premiums
Suters Architects Pty Ltd	164,723.87	Architectural services
Technology One Ltd	287,084.03	Software services & licensing
Telstra	931,192.08	Telephone services
Thiess Services Pty Ltd	2,835,476.73	Collection of residential recyclables
Town & Park Furniture	168,250.50	Supply outdoor furniture
Veolia Environmental Services	206,686.04	Waste collection services
Water Art Australia Pty Ltd	189,433.17	Casual plumbing services
Waratah Professional Tree Care	625,965.00	Tree lopping & pruning
Wormald Fire Systems	264,033.77	Fire protection services - various

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428 (2)(h)

### **Contributions and Donations**

Council has made the following donations under Section 356. All figures are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Organisation/Event	2007/08 Amount	Organisation/Event	2007/08 Amount
Australia Day Celebrations	59,887	National Young Writers Festival	15,000
Australian Surf Rowers League Championship	10,000	New Lambton Chamber of Commerce	3,000
Bicycle Victoria 2008 Great Escape	6,000	Newcastle & District Tennis Association	5,450
Carols By Candlelight	6,000	Newcastle City Archers	4,000
Cooks Hill Surf lifesaving	3,500	Newcastle Community Arts Centre	5,000
Cultures in Action – Cultural STOMP	7,000	Newcastle District Women's Hockey	5,000
Dept of School Education – Star Struck	7,000	Newcastle Floor ball Association	2,500
Doggy Day Out	916	Newcastle Junior Cricket Association	12,000
Ex-Service Ceremonials	15,137	Newcastle Maritime Festival	20,000
Family Drug Support	10,000	Newcastle Netball Association	5,260
Festival of Tartans	10,000	Newcastle Poetry Prize	8,000
Fiesta	10,000	Newcastle Science Challenge	4,400
Foreshore Show and Shine Events	4,000	Newcastle Temporary Care	4,789
Free Use of Mobile Stage	24,014	Newcastle World Duathlon	15,000
Gallerie Oui	4,600	Nikkinbah Survival Say Festival	8,000
Hall Rental – Various	96,062	Road Closures	11,160
Hunter Hurricanes Water Polo	5,000	Shoot Out	10,000
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	10,000	Shortland Wetlands	10,000
Hunter SLSA	10,000	Students and Sustainability Conference High School Program	9,123
Hunter United Diving Academy	5,725	Surfest	20,000
Hunter Valley Research Foundation	20,455	Tantrum Theatre	5,000
Hunter Writers	7,000	Technical Aid to the Disabled	4,340
Independent Musos Network – Blues Festival	5,000	Triathlon Australia	5,000
Life Activities	10,500	United Skate Competition 2008	7,000
Lions Club Warners Bay	7,000	Valley Petanque Inc.	5,000
Mattara – Festival of Newcastle	20,000	Vocal	2,000
National Park Croquet Club	1,000	Youth Unity Movement	4,800
		Total	\$586,618

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428 (2)(I)

### **Companies**

Council held no controlling interests in companies during 2006/2007 Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428 (2)(p)

### **Category 1 Business Activities**

Council has three category 1 business activities as defined in the Act:

#### **Waste Management Disposal Services**

This provides disposal facilities for domestic, commercial and industrial waste streams, construction and demolition waste separation, greenwaste stockpiling and processing together with the operation of a small vehicle receival centre and on site resource recovery and recycling operation.

#### **Waste Management Collection Services**

This business operation provides for a weekly domestic and commercial waste collection service, weekly 'drop-off' centres for the collection of small quantities of greenwaste, a quarterly kerbside greenwaste collection service together with servicing of street, park and beach litter bins.

#### Civic Theatre / The Playhouse

The two venues present cultural, social and community events and live performances generating income from ticket sales and/or facility hire fees. The venues provide community based and not-for-profit organisations support through discount facility hire fees as well as a program of performing arts featuring original local, Australian and international productions through subscription and single ticket sales. Over 355 ticketed live performances were presented during 2007-2008.

Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428(2)(r)

## **Actual vs Projected Performance for Category 1 Activities**

Service	Perfor	mance Standa	rds	Comments
Element	Measures	2007/2008 Target	2007/2008 Actual	
Site Operations	Compaction density of landfill	0.75t/m³	0.762 t/m³	Target achieved.
	Waste diverted from landfill	18.0%	17.8%	Target not achieved. Ability to achieve the target was influenced by changes to the Section 88 Waste Levy which now discourages source separation of building waste.
Waste Collection	Reduce the number of missed services	Average of 155 per month	219 average per month	Target not achieved

Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(d)(viii)

# **Category 2 Business Activities**

#### **Commercial Properties**

Council owns four properties for 'Investment Purposes' as defined under the Act. These are managed by the Property Management element within Business Management along with many other leased properties owned for public purposes. Leases are negotiated and rentals assessed on a commercial basis with independent valuation and commercial advice obtained wherever necessary to ensure appropriate market returns are achieved.

#### **Newcastle's Stockton Beach Tourist Park**

The tourist park is located on Crown Land adjacent to Stockton Beach with Council the appointed Trust Manager under the Crown Land Act. The tourist park is operated under a contract management arrangement overseen by Business Management. The tourist park has approximately 250 sites comprising powered and unpowered caravan and tent sites, cabins and static holiday van sites. Fees are set annually having regard to market forces and industry trends and the operation and development of the facility is fully self funded.

#### **Beresfield Golf Course**

The course is located adjacent to the western boundary of the city and provides an 11 hole public facility which includes public amenities, an unlicensed club room and a Golf Pro Shop. Fees are set annually having regard to the course's business plan and its positioning in the market place. A Golf Professional operates the course under contract management and Council staff carry out greenkeeping and grounds maintenance for the facility.

#### Off Street Parking

Approximately 1900 paid parking spaces are provided in three multi deck parking stations and several at-grade car parks located throughout the Newcastle CBD, and operated by Parking Services. The fees are set annually having regard to market forces and the objectives outlined in Council's adopted Parking Strategy and Business Plan.

Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(d)(viii)

#### **City Hall**

Within Newcastle's historic City Hall a meetings and live performance business utilises the main concert hall and six purpose built rooms that are hired out for events ranging from small meetings to live performances with up to 800 attendance. On the ground floor are sales and event management offices plus a commercial kitchen operated by a contractor. Income is generated from casual room hire fees, catering sales commissions and the supply of conferencing and audio visual services. City Hall's operations are co-ordinated under the larger Civic Precinct service unit which integrates similar activities at the Civic Theatre, Playhouse, Wheeler Place, Civic Arcade and Honeysuckle Boilershop. A combination of commercial and community access rates are set annually for the casual use of City Hall spaces alongside exclusive use areas for the Lord Mayor, Councillors and Council's Information Technology offices where internal transfers for full cost accounting purposes in effect pay an annual rent to the Civic Precinct.

# **Competitive Neutrality**

Council has adopted the principle of 'competitive neutrality' to its business activities as part of the National Competition Policy which applies throughout Australia at all levels of government. The framework for its application is set out in the June 1996 Government Policy statement on the "Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government". The "Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses A Guide to Competitive Neutrality" issued by the Department of Local Government in July 1997 has also been adopted.

The pricing and costing guidelines outline the process for identifying and allocating costs to activities and provide a standard of disclosure requirements. These disclosures are reflected in Council's pricing and/or financial reporting systems and include taxation equivalents; Council subsidies; return on investments (rate of return); and dividends paid.

During the year Council reviewed its policy and methodology for measurement of its National Competition Policy disclosure. The original methodology assumed all assets used by the business activities were provided by way of a loan from Council's General Fund. The revised methodology assumes that all assets are owned by the business activities.

Local Government (General) Regulation - Clause 217(1)(d)(v)

#### **Competitive Neutrality Pricing Requirements**

Council's Category 1 businesses have full cost attribution to satisfy competitive neutrality requirements.

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1)(d)(vi)

#### **Complaints Handling**

Council adopted a Complaints Handling Procedures Policy on 17 November 1998, incorporating a complaints handling system for competitive neutrality issues.

Council's Electronic Document Management System records, tracks and reports on all public verbal and written requests or complaints.

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (d) (vii)

# **Freedom of Information**

The Freedom of Information Act 1989 gives the public the right to apply for access to certain Council information. This includes the opportunity to personally view documents and obtaining copies. Information available under FOI covers a wide range of areas and subjects that do not infringe personal privacy policies.

Full details of all Freedom of Information applications are provided below.

#### Section A – New FOI Applications

How many FOI applications were received, discontinued or	Number of FOI Applications						
completed?	Personal		Other		Total		
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	
A1 New	8	26	28	16	36	42	
A2 Brought forward	0	0	2	3	2	3	
A3 Total to be processed	8	26	30	19	38	45	
A4 Completed	7	19	20	11	27	30	
A5 Discontinued	1	2	7	6	8	8	
A6 Total processed	8	21	27	17	35	38	
A7 Unfinished (carried forward)	0	5	3	2	3	7	

## **Section B – Discontinued Applications**

Why were FOI applications discontinued?	Number of Discontinued FOI Applications					
	Pers	sonal	Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
B1 Request transferred out to another agency (s.20)	0	1	0	0	0	1
B2 Applicant withdrew request	1	1	7	3	8	4
B3 Applicant failed to pay advance deposit (s.22)	0	0	0	3	0	3
B4 Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been an unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s.25(1)(a1))	0	0	0	0	0	0
B5 Total discontinued	1	2	7	6	8	8

# **Section C – Completed Applications**

What happened to completed FOI applications?	Number of completed FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
C1 Granted or otherwise available in full	3	8	9	9	12	17
C2 Granted or otherwise available in part	4	11	11	2	15	13
C3 Refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
C4 No documents held	0	0	0	0	0	0
C5 Total completed	7	19	20	11	27	30

# Section D – Applications Granted or Otherwise Available in Full

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI Applications (Granted or Otherwise Available In Full)					
	Pers	onal	Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
All documents requested were: D1 Provided to the applicant	3	8	9	8	12	16
D2 Provided to the applicant's medical Practitioner	0	0	0	0	0	0
D3 Available for inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0
D4 Available for purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0
D5 Library material	0	0	0	0	0	0
D6 Subject to deferred access	0	0	0	0	0	0
D7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in D1D6 above	0	0	0	1	0	1
D8 Total granted or otherwise available in full	3	8	9	9	12	17

# Section E –Applications Granted or Otherwise Available In Part

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI Applications (Granted or Otherwise Available In Part)					
	Pers	onal	Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
Documents made available were: E1 Provided to the applicant	4	10	10	2	14	12
E2 Provided to the applicant's medical Practitioner	0	0	0	0	0	0
E3 Available for inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0
E4 Available for purchase	0	0	0	0	0	0
E5 Library material	0	0	0	0	0	0
E6 Subject to deferred access	0	0	0	0	0	0
E7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in E1-E6 above	0	1	1	0	1	1
E8 Total granted or otherwise available in part	4	11	11	2	15	13

# Section F - Refused FOI Applications

Why was access to the document refused?	Number of Refused FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
F1 Exempt	0	0	0	0	0	0
F2 Deemed refused	0	0	0	0	0	0
F3 Total refused	0	0	0	0	0	0

# Section G – Exempt Documents

Why were the documents classified as exempt?	Number of FOI Applications (Refused or Access Granted or Otherw available in Part Only					r Otherwise
	Personal Other		Personal Other To		otal	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
Restricted documents: G1 Cabinet documents (Clause 1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G2 Executive Council documents (Clause 2)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G3 Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)	3	7	5	2	8	9
G4 Documents affecting counter terrorism (Clause 4A)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Documents requiring consultation: G5 Documents affecting intergovernmental relations (Clause 5)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G6 Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)	1	2	5	0	6	2
G7 Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)	0	1	0	0	0	1
G8 Documents affecting the conduct of research (Clause 8)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Documents otherwise exempt: G9 Schedule 2 exempt agency	0	0	0	0	0	0
G10 Documents containing information confidential to Olympic Committees (Clause 22)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G11 Documents relating to threatened species, Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places (Clause 23)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G12 Documents relating to threatened species conservation (Clause 24)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G13 Plans of management containing information of Aboriginal significance (Clause 25)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G14 Private documents in public library collections (Clause 19)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G15 Documents relating to judicial functions (Clause 11)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G16 Documents subject to contempt (Clause 17)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G17 Documents arising out of companies and securities legislation (Clause 18)	0	0	0	0	0	0

G18 Exempt documents under interstate FOI Legislation (Clause 21)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G19 Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G20 Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G21 Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G22 Documents affecting the economy of the State (Clause 14)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G23 Documents affecting financial or property Interests of the State or an agency (Clause 15) G24 Documents concerning operations of agencies (Clause 16)	0	0	1	0	1	0
G25 Internal working documents (Clause 9)	0	1	0	0	0	1
G26 Other exemptions (eg., Clauses 20, 22A and 26)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G27 Total applications including exempt documents	4	11	11	2	15	13

## **Section H – Ministerial Certificates**

How many Ministerial Certificates were issued?	Number of Ministerial Certificates		
	(previous year)	(current year)	
H1 Ministerial Certificate Issued	0	0	

## **Section I – Formal Consultations**

How many formal consultations were conducted?	Number		
	(previous year)	(current year)	
I1 Number of persons formally consulted	63	26	
I2 Number of applications requiring formal consultation	15	13	

## **Section J – Amendment of Personal Records**

How many applications for amendment of personal records were agreed or refused?	Number Of Applications For Amendment Of Personal Records			
	(previous year)	(current year)		
J1 Agreed in full	0	0		
J2 Agreed in part	0	0		
J3 Refused	0	0		
J4 Total	0	0		

## **Section K – Notation of Personal Records**

How many applications for notation of personal records were made (s.46)?	Number of Applications for Notation		
	(previous year)	(current year)	
K1 Applications for notation	0	0	

## **Section L – Fees and Cost**

What fees were assessed and	Assessed	Costs	Fees Received		
received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)?					
	(previous year) (current year)		(previous year)	(current year)	
L1 All completed applications	\$1627.50 \$300		\$780	\$735	

## **Section M – Fee Discounts**

How many fee waivers or discounts were allowed and why?	Number of FOI Applications (Where Fees Were Waived Or Discounted)					
	Perso	onal	Oth	er	Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
M1 Processing fees waived in full	0	2	0	0	0	2
M2 Public interest discounts	0	0	0	0	0	0
M3 Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child	1	6	0	1	1	7
M4 Financial hardship discounts – non profit organisation	0	0	1	0	1	0
M5 Total	1	8	1	1	2	9

## Section N – Fee Refunds

How many fee refunds were granted as a result of significant correction of personal records?	Number of Refunds	
	(previous year)	(current year)
N1 Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records	0	0

# Section O – Days Taken To Complete Request

How long did it take to process	Number of Completed FOI Applications					
completed applications? (Note: calendar days)	Personal		Oth	er	Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
O1 0-21 days – statutory determination period	2	8	8	5	10	13
O2 22-35 days – extended statutory determination period for consultation or retrieval of archived records (S.59B)	5	7	11	3	16	10
O3 Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies	0	2	1	1	1	3
O4 Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies	0	2	0	2	0	4
O5 Total	7	19	20	11	27	30

## **Section P – Processing Time: Hours**

How long did it take to process	Number of Completed FOI Applications					
completed applications?	Personal		Other		Total	
	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)	(previous year)	(current year)
P1 0-10 hours	7	18	20	11	27	29
P2 11-20 hours	0	1	0	0	0	1
P3 21-40 hours	0	0	0	0	0	0
P4 Over 40 hours	0	0	0	0	0	0
P5 Total	7	19	20	11	27	30

## **Section Q - Number of Reviews**

How many reviews were finalised?	Number of Completed Reviews		
	(previous year) (current year)		
Q1 Internal reviews	0	1	
Q2 Ombudsman reviews	0	0	
Q3 ADT reviews	0	0	

## Section R - Results of Internal Reviews

Grounds On Which The	Number Of Internal Reviews						
Internal Review Was Requested	Personal		Other		Total		
	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	
R1 Access refused	0	1	0	0	0	1	
R2 Access deferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R3 Exempt matter deleted from documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R4 Unreasonable charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R5 Failure to consult with third parties	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R6 Third parties views disregarded	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R7 Amendment of personal records refused	0	0	0	0	0	0	
R8 Total	0	1	0	0	0	1	

Local Government Act – Section 68 Clause 10.

# **Planning Agreements**

No planning agreements were undertaken by Council in the 2007 – 2008 financial year. EPA Act 1979 – Section 93G(5)

# Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 – Section 33 (3) Statement of Action Taken and Statistical Details of Reviews Conducted under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act.

The Act prescribes that Council may hold personal information concerning yourself for a lawful purpose that is directly related to an activity or function of Council and is necessary for that purpose.

Any information held by Council is required to carry out Councils lawful and proper functions and to keep you informed on issues before Council, should the need arise. All such use will be in accordance with this Act, its associated Management Plan and code.

If you want to access your personal information held by Council you are welcome to request such information by contacting Council's Privacy Contact Officer.

Newcastle City Council did not have any Part 5 reviews as per Section 33(3)(b) of this Act during the 12 month period to 30 June 2008.

Newcastle City Council has adopted the Model Management Plan as developed by the Department of Local Government.

Council, with Hunter Councils, developed uniform processes and documents for the implementation of the provisions of the Act across member councils.

These documents can be accessed on Council's website at <a href="www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au">www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au</a> Local Government Act – Section 33

# **Private Land**

Section 67 - No work was carried out on private land in the 2007 – 2008 financial year Local Government Act – Section 428(2)(k)

# **Checklist for Annual Reports**

Legend – AR = Annual Report ASR – Additional Statutory Reporting

	R – Additional Statutory Reporting		
Cor	ntains	1	
1	Copy of Council's audited financial reports	s428(2)(a)	Attached CD
2	Amount of rates and charges written off during the year	cl 132	AR 93
3	Comparison of actual performance against projected	s428(2)(b)	AR 26
4	performance of its principal activities measured in accordance with the management plan.	s428(2)(b)	AR 26
	Includes Statement of reasons for any difference		
5	Report as to the state of the environment in the area	s428(2)(c) cl 218-226	AR 30
6	Report on condition of public works (including public buildings, public roads and water, sewerage and drainage works)	s428(2)(d)	AR 18
	<ul> <li>Public works report includes estimate of amount of money required to bring the works up to a satisfactory standard</li> </ul>	s428(2)(d)(i)	AR 21
	<ul> <li>Public works report includes estimate of annual expense of maintaining the works at that standard</li> </ul>	s428(2)(d)(ii)	AR 21
	<ul> <li>Public works report includes council's program of maintenance for that year</li> </ul>	s428(2)9d)(iii)	AR 21
7	Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings	s428(2)(e)	ASR 2
8	Summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and result	s428(2)(e)	ASR 2
9	Total amount of money spent on mayoral and councillors fees	s428(2)(f)	AR 13
10	Council's policy on the provision of facilities for use by councillors and the payment of councillors' expenses	s428(2)(f)	AR 13
11	Details of overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council	s428(2) (r) cl 217(1)(a)	AR 13
12	Total amount of money expended during that year on the provision of councillor facilities and the payment of councillor expenses, including separate details of the total cost of:	s428(2)(f) cl 217(1)(a1)	AR 13
	<ul> <li>Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors</li> </ul>	217(1)(a1)(i) 217(1)(a1)(ii)	AR 13
	Telephone calls made by councillors	217(1)(a1)(iii)	AR 13
	Attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars	217(1)(a1)(iv) 217(1)(a1)(v)	AR 13
	<ul> <li>Training of councillors and provision of skill development</li> </ul>	217(1)(a1)(vi)	AR 13

	<ul> <li>Interstate visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses</li> </ul>	217(1)(a1)(vii) 217(1)(a1)(viii)	AR 13
	<ul> <li>Overseas visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses</li> </ul>	217(1)(a1)(viii)	AR 13
	Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor		AR 13
	Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a councillor (applicable from (2006-07) annual report)		AR 13
13	Statement of the number of senior staff employed by the Council during the year	s428(2)(g)	ASR 7
14	Statement of the total remuneration comprised in remuneration packages of each senior staff member employed during the year	s428(2)(g) cl 217(1)(b)	ASR 7 AR 54
	Includes for each such member, total of the following	cl 217(1)(b)(i)	ASR 7
	Total value of salary component of package	cl 217(1)(b)(ii)	ASR 7
	Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary component	cl 217(1)(b)(iii)	ASR 7
	Total employer's contribution to superannuation (salary sacrifice or employers contribution)	cl 217(1)(b)(iv)	ASR 7
	Total value non-cash benefits	cl 217(1)(b)(v)	ASR 7
	Total fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits		ASR 7
15	Details of contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000 includes:	s428(2)(h)	ASR 7
	Name of contractor	s428(2)(h)	ASR 7
	Nature of goods or services supplied	s428(2)(h)	ASR 7
	Total amount payable under the contract	s428(2)(h)	ASR 7
16	A report of bush fire hazard reduction activities	s428(2)(i1)	AR 31
17	Details of programs to promoter services and access for people with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds consistent with principles of multiculturalism	s428(2)(j)	AR 39
18	Details of activities to develop and promote services and programs that provide for the needs of children	s428(2)(r) cl 217(1)( c)	AR 45
19	Report on the council performance in relation to access and equity activities to meet residents needs outlined in councils management plan	s428(2)(r) cl 217(1)(d)(i)	AR 40
20	Summary of resolutions made under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land. includes:	s428(2)(k)	ASR 23
	Summary or details of work	s428(2)(k)	
	Summary or details of work	5420(2)(K)	

		1	
	Cost of work fully or partly subsidised by council	s428(2)(k)	
	Total amount by which council has subsidised any such work	s428(2)(k)	
21	Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others)	s428(2)(I)	AR 76
22	Statement of human resources activities	s428(2)(m)	AR 55
23	Statement of activities to implement EEO management plan	s428(2)(n)	AR 56
24	Statement of external bodies that exercised functions delegated by council	s428(2)(o)	AR 63
25	Statement of all companies in which council held a controlling interest	s428(2)(p)	ASR 12
26	Statement of partnerships, co-operatives or other joint ventures including public-private partnerships to which council was a party	s428(2)(q)	AR 79
27	List of Category 1 Business Activities Includes:	s428(2)(r) cl 217(1)(d)(ii)	AR 62
	Statement of expenses, revenues and assets for each activity	cl 217(1)(d)(iv)	
	<ul> <li>Comparison of performance with projected performance and statement of reasons for difference for each activity</li> </ul>	cl 217(1)(d)(viii)	ASR 13
28	List of Category 2 Business Activities	cl 217(1)(d)(iii)	ASR 14
29	Summary of progress of council in implementing principles of competitive neutrality	cl 217(1)(d)(v)	ASR 14
30	Statement as to whether competitive neutrality pricing requirements have or have not been applied to each Category 1 Business Activity	cl 217(1)(d)(vi)	ASR 14
31	Statement re the establishment of a complaints handling mechanism for competitive neutrality complaints includes:	cl 217(1)(d)(vii)	ASR 14
	Manner in which publicises and makes known to public	cl 217(1)(d)(ix)	
	Summary of complaints received	cl 217(1)(d)(ix)	
	Subject matter or nature of complaints	cl 217(1)(d)(ix)	
	Statement as to outcome of complaints, includes number disposed of and number outstanding	cl 217(1)(d)(ix)	
32	Comparison of actual stormwater management services with projected stormwater management services as proposed in management plan includes:	cl 217(1)(e)	AR 31
	<ul> <li>Statement of reasons for any difference (applicable from 2006/07 annual report)</li> </ul>	cl 217(1)(e)	AR 31
33	Statement on activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation, including information on:	cl 217(1)(f)	AR 51

	Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the department	Guidelines on the exercise of functions under	AR 51
	Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the department	the companion animals act	AR 51
	Amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management and activities		AR 51
	Companion animal community education programs carried out		AR 51
	Strategies council has in lace to promote and assist the de-sexing of digs and cats		AR 51
	<ul> <li>Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under Section 64 (companion Animals Act) to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals</li> </ul>		AR 51
	Off leash areas provided in the council area		AR 51
	Detailed financial information on the use of Companion Animals fund money for management and control of companion animals in the area. (applicable from (2006-07) annual report)		AR 51
34	Information included on Freedom on Information activity	s68 cl 10	ASR 15 AR 50
35	Statement of action taken by the council in complying with the requirements of the PPIP Act	S33	ASR 23
36	Statistical details of any review conducted by or on behalf of the council under Part 5.  (Part 5 relates to the review of certain conduct being contravention by council of an information protection principles or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register)	s33	ASR 23
37	Particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year	s93g(5)	ASR 23

#### Production

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