



Shoalhaven
City Council



COMMUNITY
REPORT

2015 - 2016

Contents

1. Highlights	3
1.1. Introduction	3
1.2. People	3
1.3. Place	4
1.4. Prosperity	5
1.5. Leadership	6
1.6. Governance	6
2. Our Council	7
2.1. Introduction	7
2.2. Mayor & Councillors	8
2.3. Council Senior Staff	8
3. Corporate Governance	9
3.1. Details of Overseas Visits	9
3.2. Fees Expenses & Facilities	10
3.3. Major Contracts	11
3.4. Legal Proceedings	13
3.5. Private Works	14
3.6. Contributions & Donations	15
3.7. External Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council	19
3.8. Companies in Which Council held a Controlling Interest	19
3.9. Partnerships, Cooperatives & Joint Ventures	20
3.10. Workforce Diversity	23
3.11. Senior Staff Remuneration Package	24
3.12. Stormwater Management Services	25
3.13. Companion Animals Act	26
3.14. Rates & Charges Written Off	28
3.15. Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994	29
3.16. Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009	30
3.17. Special Rate Variation Progress	35
3.18. State of the Environment Summary Report	36
3.20. Financial Assistance Grants	38
4. About this Report	38
4.1. IPR Framework	38

1. Highlights

1.1. Introduction

Our vision towards 2023 is: *“We will work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe, attractive place for people to live, work, stay and play; where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle.”*

Our mission: *“To enhance Shoalhaven’s strong communities, natural, rural and built environments and appropriate economic activities through strategic leadership, effective management, community engagement and innovative use of resources.”*

Having successfully fought to remain a stand alone Council (after a potential merger with Kiama Council was proposed by the State Government was not undertaken), we are continuing to work towards remaining “Fit for the Future” and meeting the needs of our community.

Some interesting facts from last year

- Libraries - Over 365,732 people visiting our libraries and borrowing over 461,722 books, magazines, CDs and DVDs
- Rangers investigated 700 incidents in the last financial year
- Shoalhaven Water provides more than 45 million litres of water each day to more than 48,000 homes/businesses
- Shoalhaven Water collects and treats more than 18 million litres of wastewater each day.
- A total of \$29,404.85 of fees to not for profits for space were waived or discounted during the period of 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
- Shoalhaven Tourism – 3.1 million visitors visited the area
- Entertainment Centre with over 51,700 attendees
- Arts Centre with over 9100 guests
- Swim and Fitness saw over 700,000 visit its pools and centres this year

1.2. People

Council undertook its annual community phone survey of 500 participants to determine the level of satisfaction with Council services. Our community has shown increased satisfaction in Council with the satisfaction rating improving from 82% to 87%. The survey demonstrated there was ongoing improvement in Council’s performance across many services and facilities throughout the year.

Council continues to ensure genuine and representative whole community engagement in our decisions, for example the Our Coast Our Lifestyle and Waste Services engagement programs. Community education programs and communication methods through media, face to face interactions and online platforms continue to grow.

Council has integrated grass roots community development programs, particularly for youth. The safer communities plan has been adopted and implemented to help reduce crime in the City.

Our events continue to grow and prosper and include diversity and attraction strategies for both young and old.

Over the last 12 months, Council also developed and implemented a volunteer management strategy to maximise the benefit of volunteering to the community.

Highlights

- Changes to Shoalhaven Libraries were made to improve the customer experience and increase visitation including self-checkouts at Nowra and Sanctuary Point.
- Continued engagement with Community Consultation Bodies (CCBs) through, the CCB liaison position, bus tours, executive meetings and other engagement opportunities resulting in greater communication between the CCBs and Council.
- The community were supported in a number of initiatives including Berry CCB Community Strategic Plan as well as a number of projects and initiatives in other communities including: Callala Bay Footpath Construction and Artworks; Bomaderry Pride Mural and park upgrades; Manyana Footpath and community events and Bawley Point community night-time activities.
- Programs were established that meet the needs of youth, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, multicultural communities and seniors.
- The construction of a new State Emergency Services (SES) shed including extensions to the Emergency Operations Centre and SES offices.

1.3. Place

The community has a strong connection with their sense of place and community. We continue to look at sustainable approaches to development and community living to ensure the protection of our pristine natural environment.

Council is ensuring that growth is sustainable, in keeping with the character of the unique villages and, does not significantly impact on the ecological value of natural environments. The urban design and landscape appearance of City and town entrances and major thoroughfares is improving.

Planning and implementation has been undertaken for the impacts of climate change and natural hazards; resolving the lakes management strategy; enhancing and improve recreational and leisure facilities to support lifestyle opportunities that meet the needs of the community.

We continue to create active and connected foreshores that support and promote the natural environment while encouraging appropriate community recreational use.

The Shoalhaven River waterfront and surrounds are getting reactivated to make the River a place to gather and a place which provides for a range of community uses.

Highlights

- Our waterfront and waterways revitalisation spend exceeded \$3.5 m with projects in the Shoalhaven River, Crookhaven, Jervis Bay, St Georges

Basin, Sussex Inlet, Lake Conjola and Ulladulla harbour having upgraded boat ramps, launches, parking and jetty maintenance.

- Completion of the Nowra Aquatic Park with its 9 lane 50m pool, new aquatic playground, and refurbishment of the existing amenities building, new meeting and office building and replacement of the waterslides.
- Implementation of the Nowra CBD Revitalisation Strategy saw annual Façade Improvement Grants; 'Faces of Nowra' Murals; Car Parking Subsidy Policy; Streetscape improvements in Egan's Lane and Junction Street and the Kinghorne Street Footpath upgrade.
- Completion of Stage 2 Jellybean Park in Nowra CBD to activate the town centre.
- New landscape improvements and designs for a large number of areas throughout the City including: Sussex Inlet, Nowra CBD, Bomaderry, Culburra, South Nowra and Milton town centre.
- The Report Illegal Dumping Community Champion program was launched with ongoing community support to combat illegal dumping.

1.4. Prosperity

Council has implemented strategies that encourage the development of a range of tourist facilities and accommodation which meet the future needs of Shoalhaven's visitors. We want to encourage environmentally sustainable and eco-friendly businesses to the region; to recognise and support the tourism industry and continue to promote major investment in our City.

Over the last financial year, Council has planned and advocated for infrastructure improvements to support economic activity and investment.

Strategies and partnerships are continually maintained to enhance key Shoalhaven economy sectors including: tourism, defence, manufacturing, healthcare, small business and government.

We continue to advocate for improved employment outcomes and educational facilities, programs and opportunities that help retain young people, attract new workers and improve work opportunities for the unemployed.

Highlights

- Thirty five Aboriginal town signs, acknowledging the rich history of Aboriginal people and their continued spiritual and diverse cultural connections were installed by Council in conjunction with Shoalhaven Tourism and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.
- Council's tourist parks underwent a number of improvements to amenity blocks, cabins, and enhancements of recreational facilities such as splash pads and jumping pillows along with shade sails. The tourist parks increased a profit of \$1.3m on the back of upgraded facilities.
- Albatross Aviation Technology Park extension resulted in over \$4m expended, with \$1.8m claimable through a NSW Government grant; \$45m in private development and over 300 employment positions.
- Improved road works at South Nowra Freight Corridor (Flinders Rd); Gerringong to Toolijooa (\$232m); Toolijooa to Berry (\$580m) – in construction; Berry to Bomaderry (\$230m) – advanced in design; South Nowra (\$62m); Lake Burrill Bridge – (\$58m) – under construction and Termeil Creek realignment (\$12m).

- Successful funding for National Stronger Regions: Mind the Gap – joint project with the University of Wollongong funded to build “mental health” research facility at Shoalhaven Campus (\$1.2m) and Motor Sports Complex funded as submitted by Motorcycling NSW (\$9.5m)
- Council received in 2015/16 a total grant funding of \$36.812m.

1.5. Leadership

Council continues to embrace ethical principles and governance guidelines in serving the community. We are working closely with other state and federal agencies and increasing community consultation and partnerships to ensure Council’s actions and decisions are transparent, financially sustainable and trustworthy.

We are developing a constructive workplace culture that is resilient and responsive to change and maintains a focus on quality customer service, compliance, asset management, project delivery and cost efficiency. Council continues to monitor and develop excellent customer service, whilst reducing red tape.

Highlights

- Significant achievements from the transformation taskforce program including budget savings, improvement in workplace culture and focus on customer service, community engagement, cutting retape with a “can do approach”.
- Council has undertaken a total review of all services. Changes to improve Council responsiveness to community needs include: Customer service centre established to provide a one stop shop for all Council enquiries; ongoing review of software systems and online services to provide additional online resources including a new E recruitment system.
- A waste review has been undertaken to assess the waste provision for our community.
- Council engaged with our community about the State Government Merger proposal with Kiama and prepared a detailed submission to address failings of the proposal. Council was successful in winning the case and was one of the Council’s in NSW that was not merged.
- Digital library services were reviewed and developed to increase online services on offer aiming to be a 24/7 digital library to customers.

1.6. Governance

Council continually reviews all service programs for best value, efficiency and effectiveness reducing red tape, operational cost savings, increasing service levels, maintaining infrastructure and financial sustainability.

Highlights

- The planning phase advanced for development of a Resource Recovery Park at West Nowra.
- REMS Stage 1B design completed and tenders were called for the upgrade of Nowra and Bomaderry Sewerage Treatment Plants.
- Construction commenced on the \$10m remediation of the Porters Creek Dam wall.
- Ongoing support for trainee programs involving Certificate II and Certificate III in Water Industry Operations. A number of successful

trainees gained full time employment with Shoalhaven Water as a result of the traineeship.

- Introduction of customer e business interaction initiatives with MyPost, BPay View, Dial Before You Dig online, SmartPayit smartphone APP.
- Launch of a new Shoalhaven Water website.
- Installation of 11 Water Filling Stations across the City.
- Sussex Inlet Aquatic Centre \$120K heating system was upgraded.
- Successful Black Spot funding of \$11.7m was obtained for 25 road projects.

2. Our Council

2.1. Introduction

Shoalhaven is approximately 160 kilometres from Sydney on the South Coast of NSW.

Stretching from Berry and Kangaroo Valley in the north to Durras in the south, the City of Shoalhaven takes in a host of diverse places, people and environments. It is a special place combining a unique character with a spectacular natural environment, growing population and bustling economy.

Nowra/Bomaderry is the major centre of the Shoalhaven, located on the banks of the Shoalhaven River. This area provides administrative, commercial and other high order services for the City.

The other major centres include Milton/Ulladulla in the south as well as the group of towns and settlements that make up the Bay and Basin area. As one of the largest coastal Local Government Areas in the State, Shoalhaven City Council covers 4660 square kilometres and is approximately 120km long and 80km wide as the crow flies.

Remarkably, 70 percent of the Shoalhaven is National Park, State Forest or vacant Crown land, with 19 major water catchments including rivers, bays, lakes and major creeks.

The area's natural beauty is captured, in part, by the distinct characteristics of the City's protected areas which include Jervis Bay and the Morton, Conjola and Murramarang National Parks.

The area is also home to a range of pristine un-spoilt lakes, rivers, beaches and mountain ranges.

Shoalhaven City provides its 99,740 permanent residents with a range of lifestyle options, recreational activities and work opportunities.

The City and its community will continue to grow, change and develop over time. It is important that the distinct character of the Shoalhaven and the environmental values that make the area such an attractive place, are retained to ensure the best possible city and community for present and future generations.

Shoalhaven City Council has crafted, in collaboration with the community, a vision for the Shoalhaven in 2023:

We will work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live work, stay and play; where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle.

A clear sense of how we can retain the values and character of the City, while meeting the needs of future growth, will enable Council to ensure that we create a better future for the residents, businesses and visitors of our City.

2.2. Mayor & Councillors

Mayor

Councillor Joanna Gash (Independent)

Ward 1

Berry, Bomaderry, Budgong, Burrier, Cambewarra, Coolangatta, Falls Creek, Kangaroo Valley, Meroo Meadow, North Nowra, Nowra Hill, Shoalhaven Heads and Tapitallee. Parts of Nowra, South Nowra and Tomerong.

**Councillor
Andrew Guile**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Lynnette Kearney**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Jim McCrudden**
(Shoalhaven
Independents Group)

**Councillor
John Wells**
(Independent)

Ward 2

Callala Bay, Callala Beach, Comerong Island, Culburra Beach, Currarong, Erowal Bay, Greenwell Point, Huskisson, Hyams Beach, Myola, Old Erowal Bay, Orient Point, Terara, Vincentia, Woollamia and Worrigea. Parts of Nowra, Sanctuary Point, South Nowra and Tomerong.

**Councillor
Karen Anstiss**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Clive Robertson**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Jemma Tribe**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Greg Watson**
(Shoalhaven
Independents Group)

Ward 3

Basin View, Bawley Point, Bendalong, Berrara, Burrill Lake, Cudmirrah, Depot Beach, Dolphin Point, Durras North, Fishermans Paradise, Kings Point, Kioloa, Lake Conjola, Lake Tabourie, Manyana, Milton, Narrawallee, St Georges Basin, Sussex Inlet, Ulladulla and Wandandian.

**Councillor
Allan Baptist OAM**
(Independent)

**Councillor
Amanda Findley**
(Greens)

**Councillor
Mark Kitchener**
(Shoalhaven
Independents Group)

**Councillor
Patricia
White** (Independent)

2.3. Council Senior Staff

Russ Pigg - General Manager

The General Manager is responsible for the day to day management and the efficient and effective operation of the organisation, including implementing Council strategies, policies decisions and assisting the Council with the development and implementation of the Community Strategic Plan.

Tim Fletcher - Director - Planning & Development Services Group

The Planning & Development Services Group are responsible for Strategic Planning, Building, Development, Subdivisions, Environmental Services and Ranger Services.

Ben Stewart – Director Assets & Works Group

The Assets and Works Group role is to manage Council's assets by planning, arranging construction and determining their maintenance requirements. In addition the functions of Emergency Management are with the Assets & Works Group.

Craig Milburn - Director - Corporate & Community Services

The Corporate & Community Services Group provide corporate support to the organisation and an extensive range of customer service, community, recreation, cultural and planning services.

Carmel Krogh - Director - Shoalhaven Water Group

The Shoalhaven Water Group is responsible for all aspects of water and sewerage services in the City area including planning, design, construction and operations.

3. Corporate Governance

3.1. Details of Overseas Visits

Local Government (General Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1(a))

Council is obliged to report on all overseas visits taken by staff in the name of Council and in conducting Council related business.

There were two (2) overseas trips undertaken by staff during 2015/16. The Economic Development Manager, Greg Pullen, undertook a trip to the USA in October 2015. The prime purpose of the trip was to attend BioMarine 2015 business convention in Wilmington North Carolina (12th to 14th October 2015) and seek the expansion of Blue BioTech Shoalhaven by developing new industry leads and new business partnerships. BioMarine 2015 proved to be very successful with many business opportunities for Shoalhaven Blue BioTech members. Shoalhaven Blue BioTech presented at this conference and is a respected and active member of this international business community.

Whilst in North Carolina, prior to the BioMarine convention, the opportunity was taken to investigate other business related activities such as:

- The economic impact of the motor sports support industry sector in North Carolina, especially around Charlotte;
- Technical vocational training for staff in the automotive, motorcycling and marine sectors that are provided by private training providers;
- Retention of professional employees in a regional area and the development of these personnel by employers; and
- Agenda of a regional Business Chamber and its work in the policy and advocacy areas.

After BioMarine 2015 the Economic Development Manager travelled home via New York where he met with the Australian Trade Commission. Items that were discussed included economic opportunities in:

- Aquatic biotechnology;
- Defence & defence support industries including UAVs; and
- Vocational training for technology industries in Australia.

The Economic Development Manager also provided the Australian Trade Commission with an overview of the Shoalhaven and its business opportunities. The Australian Trade Commission is now aware of our local opportunities and will make referrals where appropriate.

Council's Unit Manager - Arts and Culture, Bronwyn Coulston, travelled to Auckland, New Zealand on 15th May 2016 to attend a 3 day conference jointly hosted by Museums Australia and Museums Aotearoa - the professional bodies for museums and galleries in both Australia and New Zealand. A bursary was awarded to Mrs Coulston to cover the costs of conference registration and accommodation. Council funded the costs of the air travel.

The conference afforded Mrs Coulston with opportunities to hear from international leaders in the field, meet with colleagues who manage similar sized regional cultural organisations, and learn from case studies in a range of key areas including, collection management, community projects and engagement, exhibition development and participatory models of curation.

3.2. Fees Expenses & Facilities

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Section 217 Clause 1 (a1)

The following Councillor fees were expended during the year 2015/2016:

- Mayoral Fees - **\$40,090**
- Councillor Fees - **\$238,030**

The total costs associated with Council expenses and facilities including travel, allowances, expenses, computers, communication and other associated costs for Council and Committee meetings amounts to \$657,116.

(i) Provision of Facilities including dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$3,461
(ii) Cost of phone calls by Councillors	\$14,595
(iii) Councillor attendances at Conferences and Seminars	\$51,243
(iv) Training and skill Development	\$Nil
(v) Interstate Travelling Expenses	\$5,119
(vi) Overseas Expenses	\$Nil
(vii) Spouse/partner accompanying person expenses	\$Nil
(viii) Carer Expenses	\$774
Committee Sitting Fees	\$Nil

Council at its meeting on 28 June 2011 (Min 11.674) resolved to disclose the following additional information to that prescribed in the Local Government (General) Regulation in the Annual report:

Legal Costs	\$Nil
Subsistence and out of pocket expenses	\$10,256
Travelling Expenses	\$161,642
Mayoral Vehicle	\$Nil
Printing and Stationary/Office Expenses	\$1,314
Other Expenses	
Council & Committee Meetings, Briefings, Meals & Sustenance	\$50,027
Secretarial Support	\$79,349
Total	\$657,116

3.3. Major Contracts

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a2)
Contracts awarded in 2015 – 2016 in excess of **\$150,000**

Description of works	Awarded to	Contract Value
Fuel and Registration	CALTEX AUSTRALIA PETROLEUM P/L	\$2,295,915
SMC Marine Pty Ltd	Upgrade Huskisson Wharf	\$1,573,000.00
Yarrowonga Manufactured Homes Pty Ltd	Manufacture and Installation of six (6) Relocatable Cabins	\$779,424.17
UEA Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - Construction Package 3E	\$521,442.24
Hisway Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - Construction Package 3F	\$349,057.50
Riteq Pty Ltd	Corporate Time and Attendance System	\$201,022.80
Leed Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd	Porters Creek Dam upgrade works	\$6,534,000.00
Select Civil Pty Ltd	TM19 Water Main Replacement North Bendalong and Manyana	\$500,181.00

Shoalhaven Excavations & Plant Hire Pty Ltd	Chisholm Street Road Upgrade	\$424,097.30
UEA Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - Construction Package 3G	\$345,972.00
Real Aussie Sheds	Design, approvals and construction of the Community Recycling Centres	\$168,520.00
Civil Bridge & Wharf	Jacobs Drive Sussex Inlet - Bridge Replacement	\$627,000.00
Lynch Civil Contractors Pty Ltd	Construction of SPS19 Bayswood Estate, Vincentia	\$251,454.50
Arcadis Australia Pacific Pty Ltd	EIS and DA - Existing Landfill Extension	\$368,859.79
Liebherr-Australia Pty Ltd	Supply new tracked loader for Council's recycling and waste facilities	\$462,660.00
Batmac Constructions	Cremator supply and construction	\$1,342,085.94
Select Civil Pty Ltd	Turpentine Road Upgrade Stage 3	\$2,353,640.63
Momentum Built P/L	West Nowra Rural Fire Station	\$1,432,777.76
Hisway Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - Construction Package 4A	\$299,106.00
Ferncroft Rural and Landscape Management	Roundabouts North and Shoalhaven Streets, Nowra	\$141,735.00
Sharpe Bros (Aust) Pty Ltd	Illaroo Road, Tapitallee - Pavement Widening	\$382,641.46
TCL Constructions Pty Ltd	Shoalhaven Equestrian Centre of Excellence - Stage 1 Construction	\$467,933.40
Maloma Technologies Pty Ltd	Management and Operation of Huskisson White Sands Holiday Park	\$426,800.00
Hisway Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - construction Package 4B	\$558,156.50
Stefanutti Construction Pty Ltd	Blackspot Construction of Road Shoulders, The Springs Road, Swanhaven	\$487,671.80
TCL Constructions Pty Ltd	Construction of Boat Ramp and Carpark - Sanctuary Point	\$613,985.90
Stefanutti Construction Pty Ltd	Blackspot Construction of Road Shoulders, Sussex Inlet Road	\$937,723.60

Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd	Milton-Ulladulla Sewer Trunk Main	\$4,370,534.30
Robert & Erin Bell	Management and operation of the Currarong Beachside Holiday Park	\$431,200.00
Druce DP Pty Ltd	Albatross Aviation Technology park Taxiway	\$1,009,521.81
Pipe Replacement Solutions Pty Ltd	Minor Mains Replacement Panel - Construction Package 4C	\$333,296.00
Uniplan Group	Manufacture and Installation of Seven (7) cabins and two (2) ensuites at Holiday Haven Tourist Parks	\$754,809.00
Hawkins Civil Constructions Pty Ltd	Jerberra Estate Infrastructure works	\$1,738,043.61

3.4. Legal Proceedings

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a3)

During 2015 – 2016 the following expenses were incurred in relation to legal proceedings.

Type of Matter	Costs Paid	Costs Received	Outcome
	Solicitor \$3,312.71		
Adamson v Council Land and Environment Court – 16/10367 Class 1 Appeal	Barrister Nil Other \$3,131.20 Total \$6,443.91	Nil	Appeal discontinued by applicant. Notice of discontinuance filed on 9 June 2016.
	Solicitor \$6,116.88		
Camberlee Investments v Council Land and Environment Court – Class 1 Appeal	Barrister Nil Other Nil Total \$6,116.88	Nil	Ongoing.
	Solicitor \$35,313.85		
Charbel Elachi v Council Court of Appeal – 165003 of 2015	Barrister \$34,897.50 Other Nil Total \$70,211.35	\$80,000	Judgment in favour of Council. Costs awarded in favour of Council.
	Solicitor \$52,283.03 Nil		

Type of Matter	Costs Paid	Costs Received	Outcome
<i>Houghton v SCC Land and Environment Court -</i>	Barrister \$9,900.00		Judgment against Council. Each party to pay their own costs.
	Other \$18,080.00		
	Total \$80,263.03		
<i>Morton v SCC Land and Environment Court – 16/10099</i>	Solicitor Nil		Judgment in favour of Council including an award for costs.
	Barrister \$5,038.00	Nil	
	Other Nil		
Total \$5,038.00			
<i>Council v Farrell, Jerrinja Aboriginal Land Council Class 4 – Land and Environment Court</i>	Solicitor \$6,121.80		
	Barrister \$1,298.00	Nil	
	Other \$716.10		
Total \$8,135.90			
<i>Council v Wilson Class 5 – Land and Environment Court 50625 of 2014</i>	Solicitor \$5,658.95		Judgment plus costs awarded on 5 June 2015 in favour of Council.
	Barrister \$12,320.00	\$25,000	
	Other		
Total \$17,978.95			
<i>Council v Stanton Local Court of NSW</i>	Solicitor \$17,320.29		Ongoing.
	Barrister Nil	Nil	
	Other Nil		
Total \$17,320.29			
<i>Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc et al v Ban of America National Association et al US Bankruptcy Court – Proceedings 10-03457</i>	Solicitor \$16,599.41	Nil	Settlement

3.5. Private Works

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a4)

There were no private works undertaken by Council during 2015 - 2016

3.6. Contributions & Donations

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Section 217 Clause 1 (a5)
Council made grants, donations and subsidies totaling \$1,989,195.14 to local organisations and community groups in 2015/2016.

Beneficiary	Amount \$
Shoalhaven Turf Club	\$7,500.00
Milton Ulladulla Business Chamber	\$7,500.00
Huskisson Chamber of Commerce	\$7,500.00
Rotary Club of Berry Gerringong	\$7,500.00
Shoalhaven Mental Health Fellowship	\$1,000.00
Various - Carols by Candlelight Events	\$6,000.00
Lions Club of Bomaderry – Carols in the Park	\$1,925.00
Various Australia Day Events	\$28,076.00
Blessing of the Fleet Committee	\$13,847.00
White Sands Carnival Committee	\$2,000.00
Shoalhaven Community Transport	\$9,550.00
Wildlife Rescue South Coast Inc.	\$2,470.00
Ulladulla RSPCA	\$1,000.00
Nowra RSPCA	\$1,000.00
Basin Villagers Forum	\$500.00
Bawley Point / Kioloa Progress Association	\$500.00
Berry Forum	\$500.00
Budgong Community Group	\$500.00
Callala Bay Progress Association	\$500.00
Callala Beach Progress Association	\$500.00
Cambewarra Residents & Ratepayers Association	\$500.00

Culburra Beach Progress Association	\$500.00
Currarong Progress Association	\$500.00
Greenwell Point - Get to the Point Program	\$500.00
Huskisson / Woollamia Community Voice	\$500.00
Hyams Beach Villagers Association	\$125.00
Lake Conjola Lakecare Association	\$500.00
Orient Point Progress Association	\$500.00
Pride of Bomaderry	\$500.00
Red Head Villages Association	\$500.00
Shoalhaven Heads Community Forum	\$500.00
Sussex Inlet & Districts Community Forum	\$500.00
Tabourie Lake Residents & Ratepayers Association	\$500.00
Tomerong Community Forum	\$500.00
Ulladulla & Districts Community Forum	\$500.00
Vincentia Residents & Ratepayers Association	\$500.00
Wandandian Progress Association	\$500.00
Shoalhaven City Council - Property & Public Halls - A&W	\$24,965.73
Bomaderry High School	\$100.00
Nowra Christian Community School	\$100.00
Milton Shoalhaven Anglican School	\$100.00
Nowra Anglican College	\$100.00
Nowra Technology High School	\$100.00
Shoalhaven High School	\$100.00
St Johns High School	\$100.00

Ulladulla High School	\$100.00
Vincentia High School	\$100.00
Albatross Music Company	\$8,925.00
Music Shoalhaven	\$740.00
Shoalhaven City Concert Band	\$1,540.00
Cancer Council Relay for Life Nowra	\$5,317.27
Cancer Council Relay for Life Milton	\$1,331.82
Sanctuary Point Community Pride	\$453.00
Shoalhaven Women's Wellness Festival	\$500.00
Bravehearts Inc Education	\$5,000.00
Kids Korner	\$3,800.00
Sussex Inlet CTC	\$5,672.73
Berry & District Garden Club Inc.	\$100.00
Friends of Callala - Seniors Group	\$1,215.00
Budawang Public School	\$8,000.00
Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter	\$5,000.00
Illawarra Institute of Sport	\$15,000.00
Shoalhaven Turf Club – Family Day Out	\$6,000.00
Danni Foundation	\$131.00
St Michael's Catholic Church Missionaries of Charity	\$4,747.50
Flagstaff Shoalhaven	\$500.00
Bomaderry Public School	\$100.00
Nowra High School	\$500.00
Rotary Club of Berry - Berry Small Farm Field Days	\$1,500.00

Berry RSL Sub-Branch	\$350.00
Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club – Harbourfeast	\$10,000.00
Milton Ulladulla Driver Education Program	\$3,000.00
Mollymook Surf Life Saving Club	\$5,000.00
Sussex Inlet Surf Life Saving Club	\$5,000.00
Nowra Culburra Surf Life Saving Club	\$5,000.00
Shoalhaven Heads Surf Life Saving Club	\$5,000.00
Australian Aerial Patrol	\$10,000.00
Waratah Re-enactment Committee	\$5,000.00
Milton Ulladulla Entertainers	\$2,500.00
Tabourie Museum	\$6,500.00
Kangaroo Valley Pioneer Museum	\$2,000.00
Berry Historical Society Museum	\$2,000.00
Shoalhaven Historical Society Museum	\$2,000.00
Shoalhaven City Eisteddfod	\$6,386.00
Fellowship of Australian Writers, Shoalhaven Branch	\$1,500.00
Shoalhaven Youth Orchestra	\$8,070.00
Rotary Club of Berry - Berry Celtic Festival	\$2,000.00
Manjushri Buddhist Centre Inc.	\$985.45
Milton Ulladulla Rotary Club – Business Chamber Awards	\$2,000.00
Jerinja Local Aboriginal Land Council	\$10,000.00
Holiday Time – Slow Down – Kids Around	\$2,000.00
Kidgeeridge Music Festival	\$1,863.64

Other Programs

Amount \$

Events - Tourism	\$100,000.00
Cultural Activities (Jervis Bay Maritime Museum & Shoalhaven Arts Board Grants)	\$150,000.00
Holiday Haven Programs / Commercial	\$50,000.00
Business Awards	\$35,000.00
Planning Service - Heritage Programs	\$13,708.00
Other Programs - Total	\$348,708.00
Subsidies provided to occupiers of Council assets	Amount \$
Community Groups (41)	\$586,000.00
Mens Sheds (5)	\$13,900.00
Golf Club (1)	\$65,000.00
Preschool/childcare/playgroups (16)	\$561,000.00
Sports Groups (4)	\$10,500.00
Meals on Wheels (5)	\$49,000.00
Telco's (Community/Gov) (14)	\$47,000.00
Subsidies provided to occupiers of Council assets - Total	\$1,332,400.00
Note: the above subsidies is a conservative estimate and does not take into account R & M, building insurance, water usage expensed not recovered	
Total Donations Budget - Total	\$308,087.14
TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,989,195.14

3.7. External Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Section 217 Clause 1 (a6)

There were no external organisations to which Council has given any delegation during 2015 – 2016.

3.8. Companies in Which Council held a Controlling Interest

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 Section 217 Clause 1 (a7)

During 2015 - 2016 Shoalhaven City Council held a controlling interest in "Southern Water Services Pty Ltd." This company was established by

Council to develop its commercial interest in recognition of the National Competition Policy and to operate on a commercially viable basis.

3.9. Partnerships, Cooperatives & Joint Ventures

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a8)

Council continues to work with a number of organisations and where needed develop partnerships, cooperatives and joint ventures.

Water Services

During 2014/15 Shoalhaven City Council participated as a member of the NSW Water Directorate, an associate member of the Water Services Association of Australia (WSAA), and as a corporate member of the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Water Aid Australia.

Local Government Internal Auditors Network (LGIAN)

Involves Internal Auditors from various Councils in NSW as well as other professional bodies.

Heritage Local Assistance Fund

Heritage Advisory Service and Council's Heritage Strategy are collaborative partnerships with the State Government Department of Environment and Heritage to promote cultural heritage in the Shoalhaven. A part-time Heritage Advisor is employed by Council with the assistance of State Government funds to provide free heritage and urban design advice upon appointment and small dollar for dollar monetary grants to assist owners of heritage items and to assist community groups carry out conservation works and small educative projects. A Heritage Strategy for the Shoalhaven is also prepared on a triennial basis and milestones are submitted to State Government through its annual report.

Sea Level Rise

The 2009, NSW Government [Sea Level Rise Policy](#) required that Council consider, as a minimum, 40cm sea level rise by 2050 and 90cm rise by 2100. This policy has now been repealed by the State Government which now encourages each Council to adopt their own sea level rise projections. In response, Council in partnership with Eurobodalla Council engaged expert consultants to develop a [South Coast Regional Sea Level Rise Policy and Planning Framework](#). This document was not fully adopted by Council however part of it together with submissions from the Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change and a civil engineer were used by Councillors to adopt the following sea level rise projections on 10 February 2015, 100mm for 2030; 230mm for 2050 and 350mm for 2100. Referring to table 10 on page 55 of the [South Coast Regional Sea Level Rise Policy and Planning Framework](#) these numbers correspond to the sea level rise projections associated with RCP6.0 (mid-range greenhouse gas emissions scenario).

A visual summary and explanation of the figures can be viewed [here](#)

Shoalhaven Floodplain Agricultural Drainage Remediation Assessment

Council's 2014-2015 Estuary Management Program included a successful application for \$50,000 to undertake a Stage 1 public education and demonstration site establishment for Council's agricultural drainage network. Water Research Laboratory (WRL) had completed the strategic review of the

drainage network and developed remediation options and priority for the 39 drainage catchments.

WRL and Local Land Services (LLS) were awarded the Stage 1 Remediation Action Plan project due to experience in landowner engagement and the technical knowledge of acid sulphate soil management. and owner education workshops have taken place, one demonstration site is in progress and an advisory brochure on managing drainage without exposing acid soils has been developed and distributed.

Health

Shoalhaven City Council Environmental Health Officers are part of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and Local Government Liaison Group.

NSW Food Authority

Council is part of the NSW Food Regulation Partnership which with other local government areas and the NSW Food Authority work together towards safer food. Council's Environmental Health Officers are part of the Illawarra Regional Food Surveillance Group.

Various Schools

A number of primary schools benefited from Council staff delivering modules on sustainability, planning and environmental management. Examples include:

- Mentoring students weekly from Vincentia High School.
- Conservation sessions with Sussex Inlet, Huskisson, Tomarong, Jervis Bay, Vincentia, St Georges Basin Primary schools
- Tree planting with St Georges Basin Primary
- Educational sessions with year 11 at Nowra High students
- Threatened Species Day competition for all Shoalhaven primary schools

Environmental Services also ran a series of educational sessions for over 400 students from Trinity Grammar at their new field station in Woollamia. The students learnt about water quality, threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

Threatened Species Day Competition

In partnership with the Nowra Wildlife Park, Council ran its annual Threatened Species Day Competition with primary schools across the City. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of the plight of threatened species. Over \$1000 worth of prizes go to local schools as part of this educational initiative.

Verifying vegetation across the city

In partnership with OEH staff undertook 80+ vegetation plots across the City of Shoalhaven which will feed into improving the NSW Vegetation Information System. This is the system the state government uses for land use planning.

Improving the Resilience of vulnerable communities

In partnership with Griffith University and the Ministry of Police Council supported a series of workshops with the community of Sussex Inlet to develop a Strategic Action Plan to increase the communities ability to bounce back after natural hazards.

Bay and Basin Community Resources - Larmer Ave, Sanctuary Point

We have assisted the local community, facilitated through Bay and Basin Community Resources, to develop a plan for council owned land on Larmer Ave.

National Tree Day

Council staff organized a series of mass tree plantings with local primary schools on Council reserves across the City.

Coastal, Estuary and Floodplain Management Programs

These programs are collaborative partnerships with the State Government, particularly the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). These programs are guided by Council's Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committee. The committee provides advice to Council in relation to the management of estuaries, natural areas floodplain and coast. The committee comprises community representatives, Council's representatives and representatives from the following state agencies: NSW DP&E, OEH, NPWS, SES, Department of Lands, Aboriginal Land Councils, LLS and Road and Maritime Services.

University of Wollongong – Estuaries research

Council is a partner in the following estuaries research projects undertaken by University of Wollongong:

1. Coastal wetlands are our valuable carbon sinks vulnerable?
2. Spatial and temporal modelling of sediment and carbon sources and sinks in estuaries.
3. A modelling perspective on the sediment yield for the Shoalhaven River.

Council's Regional Weeds Action Program (WAP 1520)

Council partners the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Land Services (LLS) and other Council' within the south east NSW region, which ranges from Wollongong City in the north, to Yass Valley and Queanbeyan Palerang Regional Council in the west and Bega Valley in the south to control and manage weeds. As part of this partnership a regional 5 year action plan has been developed.

Council has transitioned into phase 2 of the program.

Milestones for 2016/2017 include:

- (a) meeting milestones agreed in WAP 1520
- (b) capture of Biosecurity Information System data
- (c) preparing for the introduction of the Biosecurity Act 2015 in May 2017

Coastal Council Property Group (CCPG)

Council's Business & Property Section (Property Unit) is continuing its role as a member of the Coastal Council Property Group (CCPG) which meets quarterly at different venues throughout Sydney and the NSW South Coast. The CCPG consist of approximately 34 members from 12 NSW Councils. The meetings are held with the view to discussing relevant property issues arising from within their respective Councils that may be applicable to other Councils. Issues also relating to Local Government property dealings including legislative changes are discussed whilst undertaking invaluable networking.

Milton Historic Society

The Business & Property Section (Bereavement Services) is assisting the Milton Historic Society with maps of the Sandridge Cemetery to aid in their ability to provide information to the public at the Information Centre, Ulladulla on a weekly basis. Expanding this type of support to established groups to increase interaction is a good way to build relationships and at the same time manage expectations.

Berry and District Garden Club

There have been discussions with the Berry and District Garden Club regarding their interest in rehabilitation of the grounds in the historic section of Berry General Cemetery. This has now been referred to the new Berry CCB for consideration by the Berry and District Garden Club.

South Coast Co-operative Libraries

The South Coast Co-operative Libraries is a co-operative comprising the three local government areas of Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Kiama. Eurobodalla and Kiama outsource their purchasing, cataloguing and processing of the majority of their book and non-book materials to Shoalhaven. The primary role of the Co-operative Library is to set budget estimates for the partner book and non-book resources and to apply for joint grants where appropriate

3.10. Workforce Diversity

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Section 217 Clause 1 (a9)

Council is committed to the developing an equitable and diverse workforce which is representative of our community and the region as a whole. This commitment is based on the need to ensure that our organisation complies with equal opportunity legislative requirements. More importantly, Council aims to provide a working environment where all employees are welcomed, valued and differences are respected.

The focus of activities relating to workforce Equity and Diversity have focussed on minimising barriers. Activities engaged in during 2015/16 include:

Council's recruitment strategy includes positive actions to attract candidates to jobs in Council from a variety of cultural backgrounds and age groups and encourages gender diversity by offering workplace benefits that promote a work life balance.

An increased use of Social media is impacting on attracting suitably qualified candidates to positions in Council.

Implementation of an electronic recruitment system enables the capture of data in relation to disability, age and ethnic background including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands.

Council's offering of flexible work programmes including flexible work arrangements post parental leave, transition to retirement, rostered days off and variable working hours support further the ability of staff to maintain a work / life balance.

Council has introduced a "Welcome to country" by indigenous staff to open Induction for new starters.

Council has conducted various awareness and training programmes to management and staff on the following topics:

- Mental Health First Aid and Workplace Psychological Health Essentials
- RU OK day

Council has incorporated elements of the Breastfeeding Friendly Workplace programme by dedicating a fully equipped room to employees to continue breastfeeding upon return to work from parental leave.

Council is actively working to develop employment related initiatives for inclusion within its Disability Inclusion Plan Council has participated in Careers Expos at University of Wollongong, Shoalhaven and St John the Evangelist High school's and continues to actively offer work experience placements for local high school students.

Council continues its partnership with Hunter Valley Training Corporation hosting an increasing number of trainees in civil construction , water operations and administration,

Council continues to provide internship opportunities to students studying in various disciplines at Universities across NSW as well as an international internship programme.

Council's workforce demographics

Employees in age group 15-34 years	19.4%
Employees in age group 55+ years	27.8%
Females	35.4%
Females in Supervisory / Management	33.3%
Females in Senior Management	30.4%
Aboriginal/Torres Strait background	1.8%

3.11. Senior Staff Remuneration Package

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (b) and (c)

Shoalhaven City Council is a multi-purpose Council administering traditional local government activities as well as other major activities such as the

provision of water and sewerage services, tourism and industrial development.

The total assets of the City under administration is around \$2.5 billion which would place the City, in asset value terms, among the top 10 percent of organisations within Australia.

Council's expenditure (*including depreciation*) is around \$200 million dollars per annum which includes a number of commercial activities together with the range of activities indicated earlier.

Council employs 904 staff on a full time equivalent basis including casual/temporary/fixed term staff as required.

Council administers approximately 99 Acts of Parliament and associated regulations and needs professional staff that have a wide ranging appreciation of the legal requirements associated with a complex government instrumentality.

Council's activities link strongly to other Government agencies, particularly at the State level, which requires sensitive handling where State Government changes the political emphasis from time to time.

The total amount of money payable for salary, fringe benefits, vehicle and other on-costs for Council's senior staff including the General Manager and 4 Group Directors is summarised as follows:

- General Manager - **\$324,333 pa**
- Combined Directors - **\$977,223 pa**

3.12. Stormwater Management Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (e)

Council's projected 2015/16 Stormwater Management Program was funded the following way:

- **\$416,000** - Council revenue
- **\$1,030,000** - Additional rates Stormwater Levy
- The actual result was:
 - **\$351,956** - Spent from Council revenue
 - **\$205,453** - Spent from prior year rates Stormwater Levy
 - **\$1,079,807** - Spent from current year rates Stormwater Levy
 - **\$8,896** - Spent from Capital Contributions

Council also carried forward into 2016/17 unspent funds on 9 projects that were not complete (total of **\$360,962**).

Project	Council Funds	Contributions Revenue	Stormwater Levy	Total
Woollamia Rd Woollamia	\$25,112		\$177,818	\$202,930
St Andrews Way Coolangatta Stage 2	\$23,124		\$124,641	\$147,765
Princess Street Drainage	\$0	\$8,896	\$19,247	\$28,143
Dowling St Ulladulla	\$0		\$30,106	\$30,106

Katela Avenue Bomaderry	\$14,740		\$80,000	\$94,740
St Georges Rd St Georges Basin	\$18,565		\$8,800	\$27,365
Cypress St North Bendalong	\$9,718		\$40,000	\$49,718
River Rd Lake Tabourie	\$20,000		\$100,000	\$120,000
Canal Improvements Sussex Inlt	\$53,000		\$250,000	\$303,000
Mollymook Creek Stage 1	\$20,000		\$80,000	\$100,000
Bannisters Head Rd Mollymook	\$9,880		\$30,000	\$39,880
Burrill St North Ulladulla	\$10,000		\$40,000	\$50,000
Chisholm St Callala Bay	\$40,000		\$40,000	\$80,000
The Park Dr Sanctuary Pt	\$10,000		\$52,075	\$62,075
Old Berrara Rd Sussex Inlet	\$20,000		\$50,000	\$70,000
Drainage Elizabeth Dr (198)	\$10,000		\$30,000	\$40,000
Greville Ave Sanctuary Point	\$7,000		\$8,000	\$15,000
Culburra drainage	\$55		\$15,945	\$16,000
Quinns Lane Drainage	\$60,762		\$75,629	\$136,391
Park Row Orient Point	\$0		\$33,000	\$33,000
Totals	\$351,956	\$8,896	\$1,285,260	\$1,646,112

3.13. Companion Animals Act

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (f)
Statement of activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation including information on:

Lodgement of Pound data collection returns with the department

The information contained in this section of the Annual Report is reported to the Office of Local Government (OLG) in accordance with their guidelines.

Lodgement of Data relating to dog attacks with the department

Dog Attacks reported to OLG via OLG reporting system as incidents occurred. During the reporting period there were 176 dog attacks reported to the OLG as occurring within Shoalhaven City Council (SCC).

Only dog attacks reported to Council are included in this figure.

Amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management activities
SCC has spent a total of \$662,781 in respect of companion animal management and related activities during the course of the reporting period.

Companion animal community education programs carried out

SCC is hoping that the OLG companion animal brochures will become available again as this is what Council was using along with Council information such as media releases, correspondence to pet owners, and one on one education via the telephone and face to face by animal management officers and administration staff. Council has an educational cat brochure available to the public. The SCC library has made available books, e-books, DVD's and CD's to compliment the resources noted in the brochures to help pet owners with a variety of dog and cat issues.

Strategies Council has in place to promote and assist the desexing of dogs and cats

Owners of non-desexed pets who come to the attention of Council as a result of enforcement programs and/or the lifetime registration mail-outs are encouraged to take advantage of the discounted registration fee for desexed animals.

Telephone calls received from the general public requesting discount desexing are referred on to the RSPCA, Nowra or Ulladulla branches who, at times, offer this service to eligible pet owners. The National Desexing Network (NDN) is also available to provide a list of vet clinics who offer discount desexing via the NDN. A couple of clinics in the Shoalhaven participate with NDN.

Strategies to comply with Section 64 (Companion Animals Act) to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals

Council's Pound is managed by the RSPCA who have complimentary strategies in this regard. The euthanasia rate has dropped considerably in the last five years due to the commitment of the new manager of the facility. RSPCA also has dedicated vehicles to transfer animals to other shelters to improve rehoming opportunities.

Ranger Services promotes desexing and highlights the euthanasia problem during routine telephone enquiries about animal matters especially registration costs and during the enforcement process.

Off-Leash Areas provided in the Council area

SCC understands that it is necessary for our communities' dog owners to have access to suitable exercise and play facilities. The Access Area for Dogs Policy is developed by the Social and Infrastructure Planning Unit in consultation with the community and government agencies. Council undertook an extensive review of the policy in 2012/13 and continues to review sites as community requests are made. The policy became effective 17 February 2015. Council has undertaken a review of dog signage in consultation with the community to develop a more consistent and user friendly signage which is currently being rolled out across the LGA. Council trialled a restricted timed off leash area at Narrawallee Beach which has now been implemented. Council's policy is available by contacting Council's customer service line or via Council's website.

Where applicable, signs are posted indicating off leash times and areas. All remaining public areas where dogs are available to access, they must be on leash at all times.

<http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/My-Property/Pet-ownership/Off-leash-areas>
<http://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/displaydoc.aspx?record=POL15/9>

Detailed financial information on the use of companion animals fund money for management and control of companion animals in the area.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for Companion Animals for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

INCOME	
Registrations	\$199,893
Fines and Costs	\$266,057
Other	\$44,578
Total	\$510,528
EXPENDITURE	
Salaries	\$230,067
On Costs	\$72,203
Training and conferences	\$2,745
Motor Vehicle Costs	\$72,526
Pound Costs	\$237,785
State Debt Recovery infringement processing fees	\$17,440
Other Costs	\$30,015
Total	\$662,781
Surplus / (Deficit)	(152,253)

3.14. Rates & Charges Written Off

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Reg 132

The following is a summary of rates and charges written off during the period July 2015 to June 2016:

Abandoned rates and charges are determined under various sections of the Local Government Act 1993 which include:

Write Off Type	Amount
-----------------------	---------------

Abandoned	\$20,249.73
Postponed Abandoned	\$4,366.81
Pensioner Rebates	\$2,981,867.26
Total	\$3,006,483.80

- Section 564(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, which states Council may abandon interest charges on ratepayers who make periodical payments of their rates and charges to Council.
- Section 567 of the Local Government act 1993, which enables Council to abandon interest on rate accounts whereby in Council's opinion, the person is unable to pay the accrued interest "for reasons beyond the person's control" or payment of the accrued interest would cause the person hardship.
- Section 595 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to write off postponed rates and charges which have accrued for more than five years.
- Section 583 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires Council to write off rates, charges and interest for an eligible pensioner who is entitled to a pensioner rebate.

NOTE: abandonments do not include sale of land properties held in June 2015 - 2016

3.15. Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994

The Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994 (PID Act) requires that Council report annually on its obligations under the Act. This report is made in accordance with Sections 31 and 6E of the PID Act, and Clause 4 of the associated regulations.

The PID Act encourages and facilitates the disclosure, by public officials, of:

- Corrupt conduct
- Maladministration
- Serious and substantial waste of public money
- A breach of the Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009
- A breach of pecuniary interest obligations under the Local Government Act, 1993.

The Act sets out a comprehensive framework for protecting public officials who disclose wrongdoing and provides clear pathways for those wanting to make disclosures.

Council's internal reporting policy contains the procedures relating to the lodgement, receipt, assessment and handling of public interest disclosures. The General Manager, Council's Public Officer/ Internal Auditor and Ranger Services Manager are designated disclosures officers and may receive and deal with reports made under the Act.

Council's internal reporting policy and other information about the Act has been made available to staff through Council's intranet, staff bulletins, notice boards, briefing sessions and staff induction sessions. Designated PID disclosures officers have attended public interest disclosures training provided by the NSW Ombudsman and general PID training sessions have also been held for staff.

In the reporting period 1st July, 2015 and 30th June 2016 no public interest disclosures were received by Council.

The New South Wales Ombudsman has been given the role of overseeing the Act and this includes promotion of public awareness, the issuing of guidelines, and the monitoring and reporting of agency compliance with the Act.

Enquiries in regard to the Public Interest Disclosures Act can be directed to Council's Public Officer or the Public Interest Disclosures Unit, NSW Ombudsman.

3.16. Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009

Under section 7 of the GIPA Act, agencies must review their programs for the release of government information to identify the kinds of information that can be made publicly available. This review must be undertaken at least once every 12 months.

Council's Program for the proactive release of information involves the review of all access applications to ascertain if there is certain information that is continually being requested and if so deciding if that information can be placed on Council's website. As a result of this review, Council has not released any further information proactively.

Council has actively sought to place information on its website identified as being readily available (having regard to its format etc) for viewing by the public. Council, as a practice, gives consideration to public access availability of all new projects, initiatives and developments.

Whilst Council reviews its decision about proactively releasing information on an annual basis, it will also release information proactively as and when required.

Number of access applications received - Clause 7(b)

- During the reporting period, our agency received a total of 32 formal access applications.
- Of those 32 applications, one was refused in full.
- 1 Internal Review was conducted.
- We attach the schedule 2 tables with the relevant statistics about the applications received and the decisions made during the reporting year.

1. Statistical information about access applications - Clause 7(d) and Schedule 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	4
Members of the public (other)	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	3

*More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	7
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

*A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual). The total number of decisions in Table B should be the same as Table A

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act

	Number of times consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and, if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of the Act

	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	1
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	26
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	2
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	4
Total	32

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	1	1
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0

Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1

*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendation to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made.

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	1

3.17. Special Rate Variation Progress

Council's projected 2015 - 2016 Special Rate Variation Program was funded the following way:

- **\$2,423,000** – Additional rates Special Rate Variation

The actual result was:

- **\$542,044** – Spent from Council revenue
- **\$245,391** – Spent from 14/15 Special Rates carried forward
- **\$2,344,741** – Spent from 15/16 Special Rates


















Council also carried forward into 2016/17 unspent funds on 1 project that was not complete (a total of **\$78,259**).





Project	Council Funds	Contributions Revenue	Special Rate Variation	Total
Quinns Lane South Nowra	\$63,894	\$0	\$53,830	\$117,724
Naval College Road	\$148,152	\$0	\$288,816	\$436,968
Currambene St Huskisson	\$59,725	\$0	\$141,510	\$201,235
Matron Porter Drive Shared User Path	\$18,783	\$445,000	\$210,000	\$673,783
Tallyan Point Road	\$1,187	\$0	\$6,235	\$7,422
Golf Ave Mollymook	\$62,519	\$0	\$400,000	\$462,519
Camden St Ulladulla	\$18,734	\$0	\$800,000	\$818,734

Round The Bay Walk Callala Bay	\$0	\$0	\$54,741	\$54,741
Orion Beach Walk	\$247,308	\$337,500	\$635,000	\$1,219,808
Totals	\$620,303	\$782,500	\$2,590,132	\$3,992,935








3.18. State of the Environment Summary Report

3.19. Performance of the Local Government Area ("Community")






		Aboriginal Heritage
		Air
	-	Biodiversity
		Land Quality
		Land Use Planning
		Noise
		Non Aboriginal Heritage
		Solid Waste
		Waste Water

		Water Quality
		Water Use

Performance of Council Operations ("Corporate")

	-	Energy
		Fleet
		Greenhouse
		Water Use

Key

			Denotes whether performance has remained the same, improved or worsened since the previous years for the issue.
		Denotes whether target performance has been achieved or otherwise for issues where targets have been set.	

Some issues have not been rated due to lack of trend data.

View Full Report

[State of the Environment Summary Report 2015-2016 \(5.2MB\)](#)

3.20. Financial Assistance Grants

The financial Assistance Grants (FAG) received by Shoalhaven City council this financial year equated to \$11,341,383. Council is part of the national campaign to reinstate indexation to the FAG. Council recognises the importance of the FAG funding source in delivering vital infrastructure and services to the local government area.

Due to the fact that FAG are not keeping pace with community demand, Councils are continually being asked to do more with less, which thereby affects Council's ability to provide efficient and effective infrastructure, effectively disadvantaging the community financially.

The reductions in FAG funding due to the indexation freeze over the coming year's results in over \$6 million reduction in Grant income for Shoalhaven City Council, adding pressure to Council's financial capacity. For 2015 - 2016 along, the cumulative reduction in FAG funding was approximately \$783k.

4. About this Report

The Shoalhaven City Council's Community Report provides a snapshot of the work undertaken by Council during the 2015 - 2016 financial year.

The Shoalhaven is a pristine and spectacular destination located on the NSW South Coast only two hours south of Sydney.

Through achievement of the Community Strategic Plan objectives Council is working to make the Shoalhaven an even better place to live, work, stay and play.

4.1. IPR Framework

