

Shoalhaven
City Council

COMMUNITY REPORT

2014 - 2015



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Welcome to Shoalhaven City Council's Community Report which provides a snapshot of the work undertaken by Council during the 2014-15 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.

OUR COUNCIL

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 98,816 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.

MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS



Council is made up of a Mayor and twelve Councillors. The current Council members were elected in the 2012 Local Government elections.

Mayor



Councillor Joanna Gash (Independent)

Phone: (02) 4429 3250

Fax: (02) 4429 5250

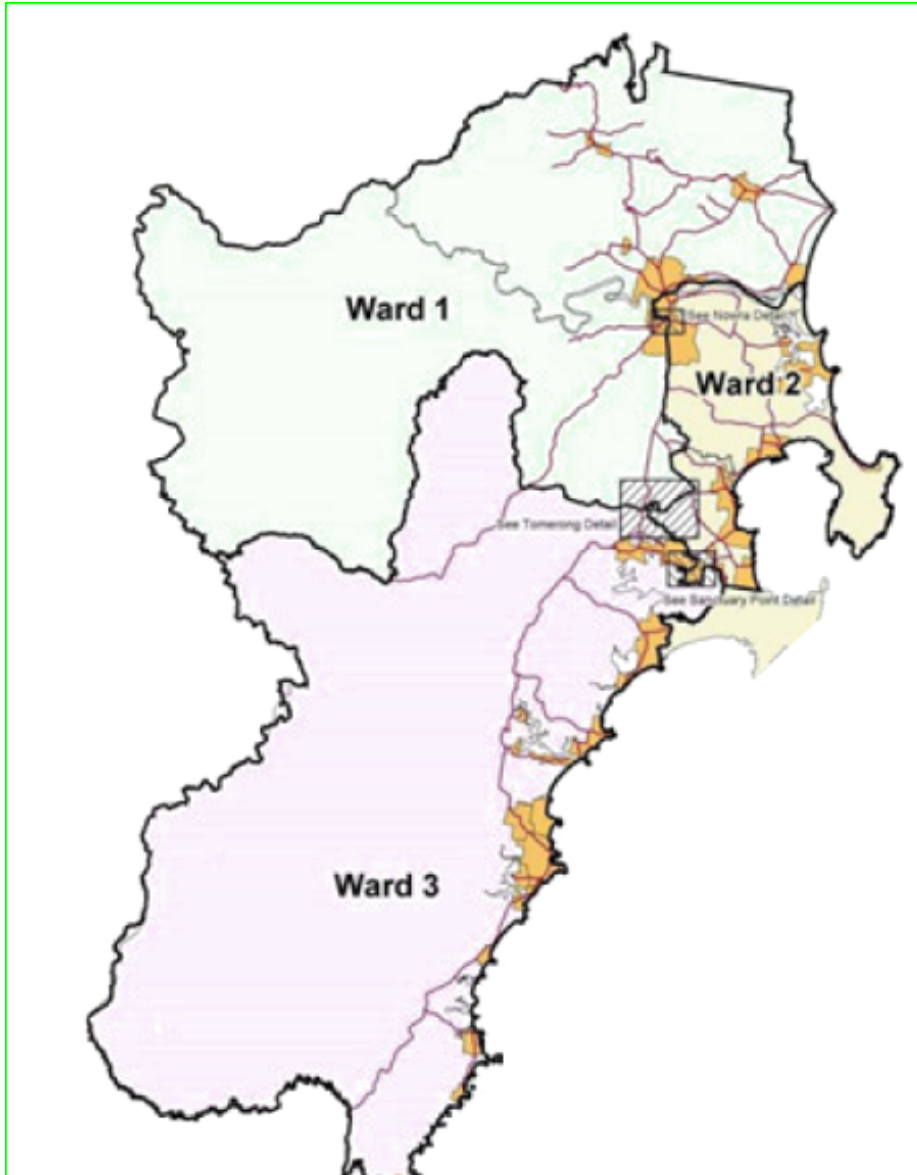
Mobile: 0427 160 172

Email: Jo.Gash@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.

The Wards

Shoalhaven City Council is divided into three Wards with four Councillors elected for each Ward. Set out below are the list of towns and villages that comprise each Ward.



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)

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Mobile: 0412 287 706

Email: andrew.guile@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor Lynnette Kearney (Independent)

Mobile: 0478 882 650

Email: Lynne.Kearney@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au

For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available



Councillor Jim McCrudden (Shoalhaven Independents Group)

Mobile: 0478 882 684

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor John Wells (Independent)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.

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)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor Clive Robertson (Independent)

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Councillor Jemma Tribe (Independent)

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Councillor Greg Watson (Shoalhaven Independents Group)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.

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)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor Amanda Findley (Greens)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor Mark Kitchener (Shoalhaven Independents Group)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.



Councillor Patricia White (Independent)

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For expenditure, Political Donation Declarations, Disclosures of Interest, History and Committee membership, details are available.

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.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Shoalhaven Community Strategic Plan (CSP) lays the ground work for taking our city towards 2023. With citizens and stakeholders contributing to the vision, objectives and strategies, the plan reflects community aspirations for the City.

Leading the City's planning hierarchy, the Community Strategic Plan identifies the community's aspirations and expectations for the future as well as identifying key objectives. This section addresses the key result areas (KRAs) from the CSP and how Council deliver on its key priorities.

People

As the area continues to evolve and grow in size, Council remains focused on providing services and facilities that enhance equity, social inclusion and cultural diversity while continuing to provide for and help create sustainable, resilient and engaged communities.

- Engage the Shoalhaven community in all we do
- A safe and caring community

Council launched a new and innovative program, Building Communities: One Handshake at a Time, to provide local residents with the tools and information to create safer communities within the local area.

The program has been created to assist in building relationships and effective communication at a grass roots level.

By focusing on the development of relationships between neighbours and other community members we are hoping to help our towns and villages become more sociable, connected and safer places to live.

Council's website provides local residents with access to a specially designed toolkit brimming with information and activities the community can implement to help people connect with one another.

The toolkit provides the community with details on community grants, neighbour day, staying safe, Council projects and the generation of good news stories.

While Council will take a lead role in the program it is hoped that continued community involvement will help to make the scheme a success.

Highlights

- The 2014 Community Survey demonstrated that 83 percent of local residents have a medium to high satisfaction level with Council.
- Large engagement process undertaken in the development of the Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan, a document designed to shape the Shoalhaven into a vibrant and active community over the next 15 years.
- Following a detailed engagement process, the current levels of service are maintained at Milton Library.
- Skate Parks are built at Manyana and Sanctuary Point following consultation with the community regarding the design and location of the new facilities.
- Council launches the 'In Conversation' series which has seen a number of well-known community development experts holding free local workshops.

Place

Council continues to place a strong emphasis on pursuing sustainable approaches to development and community living to ensure the long term viability of our pristine natural environment. This needs to be achieved in conjunction with ongoing infrastructure maintenance and renewal programs designed to meet the growing needs of the local community.

- Bring CBDs Alive and activate our waterfronts
- Build new road and footpath connections
- Showcase our unique environments

The Nowra Alive program was officially launched with a view to activating the Nowra CBD.

The program has seen Council work closely with the community and local businesses in unrolling a number of unique initiatives designed to bring colour and life back to the CBD.

Highlights of the program include the Thorough_Fair art project which saw the transformation of a previously disused laneway into an innovative arts hub.

The laneway has hosted a number of music and arts events including the 'Telling the stories of Nowra' evening which provided the community with an opportunity to celebrate the area's many diverse voices.

The Free Little Library and Little Yellow Piano placed in the Thorough_Fair have also been well received by the community and have added to the community feel of the laneway.

Egans Lane has seen a dramatic transformation under the Nowra Alive program through the construction of Jelly Bean Park.

Providing a colourful and bright meeting place within the CBD, Jelly Bean Park utilises mosaic patterns, lighting and bright colours to help activate this previously unused space.

Egans Lane was also the location for world renowned artist, Guido Van Helten's large mural depicting a fisherman attending to his nets.

Highlights

- Over \$700,000 in grant funding was secured through the NSW State Governments 'Rescuing our Waterway's program.
Council allocated the funds for dredging projects at Lake Conjola, Currumbene Creek and Sussex Inlet with extensive engagement undertaken with residents in these areas.
- The 'in principle' concept design for the Nowra Gateway Park was adopted allowing the commencement of community engagement on the project.
- NSW Minister for the Environment, Rob Stokes officially opened the biobanking site at Garrads Reserve, Narrawallee.
- The organisation received a Highly Commended honour in the Climate Change Adaptation Category at the Australian Coastal Awards.

- Work commenced on the St Georges Basin Village Green project providing an outdoor meeting space for local residents along with improved drainage and pedestrian links.

Prosperity

In order to support a growing, evolving community Council must build a sustainable, diverse and competitive economy linked to the area's unique characteristics and natural advantages.

- A destination for tourists, business and events
- Partner with industry, government and business
- Promote Shoalhaven's positives

Council launched a new look and fresh identity for the area through the unveiling of the Shoalhaven City Brand project.

The project saw a new logo and colour scheme rolled out on the City's billboards, websites, social media platforms and tourism collateral as well as the area's 160 town entry signs.

The new branding was created through the assistance of the local community following a series of focus groups, surveys and desktop research.

The desktop research and focus groups demonstrated an enormous level of community pride in the Shoalhaven with the new branding a direct reflection of that.

As part of this, the new brand identity for the Shoalhaven has been designed to capture the feel of our area's unspoilt natural environment, particularly both our pristine beaches and adjoining bushland.

Highlights

- The refurbished Mollymook Surf Club was opened following a \$1.4 million renovation which saw an upgrade of the member's area, installation of a commercial kitchen and new roof on the function hall.
- The organisation received \$1.8 million funding allocation from the Australian Government to undertake further works at the Albatross Aviation Technology Park. The funding enabled the automation of the aircraft gate operations and construction of a major drain network.
- Council shortlisted Derby Pty Ltd as the preferred proponent for the proposed development of the Egans Lane Precinct. Council had previously invited Expressions of Interest to develop Council owned land within the Egans Lane precinct with a view to developing a vibrant and activated town centre.
- Council has been successful in obtaining NSW State Government funding of \$3.5 million for local waterways/boat infrastructure.
- A new 23 metre walkway jetty was constructed at the Currarong Boat Ramp while a new fishing platform was built at a popular location adjacent to Bolong Road, Bolong.

Leadership

Council continues to focus on excellence in leadership, governance and community engagement to ensure the Shoalhaven remains a connected, sustainable and financially responsible City in which to reside.

- Transform the organisation to 'can do'
- Be excellent at customer service

Council continued to demonstrate a commitment to addressing the organisation's infrastructure backlog spending over \$31.8 million on the roads and transport.

Major road projects undertaken included Pyree Lane, Main Road Cambewarra, Worrigeer Road, Isa Road, Naval College Road and the completion of Quinns Lane.

The \$1.6 million Quinns Lane project saw the rebuilding of the road and pavement with lean mix concrete and asphalt.

Quinns Lane was one of three major road rehabilitation projects funded through Council's Special Rate Variation program.

The Special Rate Variation also allowed Council to undertake the following path projects -

- Berry Street, Nowra
- Matron Porter Drive, Narrawallee
- Tallyan Point Road, Basin View
- Idlewild Avenue, Sanctuary Point

Highlights

- The organisation's 'Fit for the Future' proposal was submitted to the NSW State Government. Council's submission demonstrated the organisation's long-term strategy to meet the Government's key financial benchmarks.
- Shoalhaven Water again performed at the upper end of the scale for a Local Government Water Utility in the National Performance Report.
- The Review of Environmental Factors for the organisation's Reclaimed Water Management Scheme (REMS) Stage 1B was put on exhibition.
- Council joined forces with the Southern Council's Group in launching the Regional Illegal Dumping program (RID) to combat the growing problem of waste left in the area's bushland.
- The organisation was successful in its tender for a block of land in Owen Street, Huskisson.

Governance

Council remains committed to the continuity of its core services to the community as well as the responsible maintenance and renewal of community assets and infrastructure. These services will continue to be made available through the assurance of ongoing financial sustainability.

- Deliver sustainable services
- Continuously improve and cut red tape
- Maintain our infrastructure
- Financial sustainability

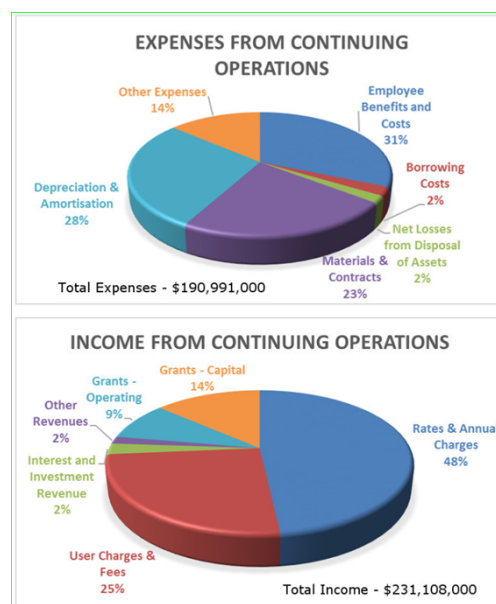
The 12 month Progress Report provided the community with some welcome news after Council again achieved an extremely positive final result for the 2014/15 financial year.

The report demonstrated an extremely positive final result for Council with the organisation achieving a cash surplus of \$473,000 in the General Fund.

In further positive news Council also achieved the Transformation Program savings of \$4.6 million.

Other highlights of the report included -

- Budget surplus for Shoalhaven Water Sewer Fund (\$6.5 million) and Water Fund (\$2.8 million).
- General Fund Capital Expenditure Revotes of \$2.34 million (based on clarified definitions).
- Assets and Works Group actual capital expenditure of \$44.8 million (including \$10.8m prior year carry forwards).



REGULATORY REPORTING

Section 428 (b) Local Government Act

DETAILS OF OVERSEAS VISITS

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

There were two (2) overseas trips undertaken by Councillors and staff during 2014/15.

Council's Economic Development Manager, Mr Greg Pullen, together with Mayor Joanna Gash and Deputy Mayor John Wells, travelled to Shanghai, China on 15 October 2014 to meet with architects for the Shaolin Temple project. The itinerary included the following visits:

- Council's sister city of Fuzhou to meet with government officials regarding tourism, agriculture and aged care in China.
- Zhengzhou Province, including meetings in Denfeng with the Shaolin Abbott regarding the Shaolin Temple project; and Fuyang a MoU of friendship was signed and a meeting with potential investors for the Shaolin Temple project.
- Beijing where the delegation attended a reception hosted by the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs to meet with investors regarding the Shaolin Temple and other projects.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor then returned to Australia. Council did not contribute to the costs of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for this trip, as each paid the costs arising from the travel.

Following the trip to China, the Economic Development Manager proceeded to Lisbon, Portugal on 25 October via Dubai. In Lisbon he met with the Ministry for Primary Industries (State of the Sea). The cities of Porto and Braga were visited where meetings were held with processors and researchers regarding stem cell research and product development.

Mr Pullen then travelled to Cascais, Portugal to meet with algae growers regarding production techniques. At this time he was joined by Councillor Allan Baptist and together they attended the Bio marine Business Convention 2014.

Council did not contribute to the costs for Councillor Baptist who met all costs for travel, accommodation and conference registration in Portugal.

FEES EXPENSES FACILITIES

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

The following Councillor fees were expended during the year 2014/2015:

- Mayoral Fees - \$39,110
- Councillor Fees - \$233,090

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 \$388,376.

(i) Provision of Facilities including dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$1,832
(ii) Cost of phone calls by Councillors	\$13,241
(iii) Councillor attendances at Conferences and Seminars	\$53,732
(iv) Training and skill Development	\$Nil
(v) Interstate Travelling Expenses	\$3,658
(vi) Overseas Expenses	\$Nil
(vii) Spouse/partner accompanying person expenses	\$105
(viii) Carer Expenses	\$1,347
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	\$15,978
Travelling Expenses	\$186,108
Mayoral Vehicle	\$Nil
Printing and Stationary/Office Expenses	\$1,314

Other Expenses

Council & Committee Meetings, Briefings, Meals & Sustenance \$28,499

Secretarial Support

\$82,561

Total \$388,376

MAJOR CONTRACTS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Section 217 Clause 1 (a2)

Contracts Awarded in 2014 – 2015 in excess of \$150,000

Description	Awarded to	DATE OF CONTRACT	\$ incl GST
Kids Korner Re-Roofing	Batmac Construction Pty Ltd	13/08/2014	\$412,089
Minor Mains Replacement Programme - Design Package 2D	Hisway Pty Ltd	04/09/2014	\$316,573
Management & Operation Bendalong Point Tourist Park	Simon & Kim Beauchamp	16/09/2014	>\$150,000
Supply & Delivery of Pavement Materials 2014/2015	SCE Recycling Pty Ltd	12/08/2014	>\$150,000
Minor Mains Replacement Programme - Package 2E	Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd	01/10/2014	\$685,141
Material Bitumen Spray Sealing of Pavements - Shoalhaven Area - 2014/2017	Downer EDI Works	07/10/2014	>\$150,000
Supply & Lay Asphaltic Concrete - Shoalhaven Area - 2014/2016	Fulton Hogan	16/09/2014	>\$150,000
Currarong Boat Launching Ramp Walkway Jetty	Ferncroft Rural & Landscape Pty Ltd	16/10/2014	\$155,697
Replacement of Sewerage Pumping Station Albany Street Berry	Murphy McCarthy & Associates Pty Ltd	31/10/2014	\$599,760
Ulladulla Headland Beachside Tourist Park Aquatic Splash Pad	Playrope Pty Ltd	22/09/2014	\$316,111
Longitudinal & Transverse Linemarking of Pavements - Shoalhaven Area - 2014/2015	Complete Linemarking Services Pty Ltd	26/11/2014	>\$150,000
Provision Services - Dredging Approvals/Dredging Works	Haskoning Australia Pty Ltd	14/01/2015	\$176,684
Minor Mains Replacement - Construction Package 3A	Hisway Pty Ltd	05/11/2014	\$1,055,657
Nowra CBD Maintenance	Shoalhaven City Council - Works & Services	16/12/2014	\$628,214

Management of Biosolids Land Application	Transpacific Organics Pty Ltd	16/12/2014	\$469,993
Minor Mains Replacement - Construction Package 3B	Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd	22/01/2015	\$560,661
Nowra & Bomaderry Sewage Treatment Plants - Upgrade - Early Tender Involvement	Haslin Geotech	04/02/2015	>\$150,000
	Monadelphous Engineering Pty		
	Downer Utilities Australia Pty Ltd		
	UGL Engineering Pty Ltd		
Northern Shoalhaven Indoor Sports Centre - Construction Manager	Zuaner Construction Pty Ltd	22/12/2014	\$1,061,500
Bolong Road, Bomaderry Shoulder Upgrade	Downer Infrastructure	18/02/2015	\$756,531
Supply of Bulk Diesel - West Nowra Landfill Site	Park Fuels	01/02/2015	>\$150000
Drainage & Embankment Stabilisation Rennies Beach Close/Dowling Street Ulladulla	Earthtec Pty Ltd	20/02/2015	\$216,146
Burrill Lake, Lions Park - New Public Amenities	Castlereagh Group Pty Ltd	13/04/2015	\$308,515
Construction Sanctuary Point Skate Park Facility	VFG Skate Parks Pty Ltd	17/03/2015	\$183,489
Construction Water Main - Bewong to Tomerong	Hisway Pty Ltd	17/03/2015	\$792,162
Nowra WasteWater Treatment Plant Access Road Upgrade	JBG Contractors Pty Ltd	17/03/2015	\$263,620
Minor Mains Replacement Programme - Design Package 3C	Hisway Pty Ltd	28/05/2015	\$544,378
Orion Beach Shared User Path	Brefni Excavation and Earthmoving Pty Ltd	01/06/2015	\$1,055,338
Annual Professional Beach Patrol/Lifeguarding Services - Shoalhaven	Surf Life Saving Services P/L	02/06/2015	\$1,398,749
Relining of Trunck Main 11 - Quinns Lane South Nowra	Interflow Pty Ltd	01/05/2015	\$979,564
Turpentine Road Upgrade Tomerong	Select Civil Pty Ltd	08/05/2015	\$2,741,008
Walsh Crescent & Hewlett Avenue Water Main Replacement	Murphy McCarthy & Associates Pty Ltd	27/04/2015	\$375,540
Garden & Timber Organics Shredding Service	Soilco Pty Ltd	25/06/2015	\$748,526

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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

During 2014 – 2015 the following expenses were incurred in relation to legal proceedings.

Type of Matter	Costs Paid	Costs Received	Outcome
Dangerous dogs – Dean Companion Animals Act	\$ 275 (only for this financial period – this matter incurred \$1045 total)	Nil	The court dismissed the dangerous dog order and instead placed Control Orders on the dog which stipulated the dog must not get out of its property, must undergo behaviour training etc.
Dog in prohibited area – Behrens Companion Animals Act	\$1392	Nil	Unknown
DWC- Wilson – Tree removal. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act	\$1320 \$2593.25 \$783.75 Total \$4697	All costs awarded to Council	Following her consideration of the relevant matters her honor awarded a fine of \$8,400 (she considered the offence warranted a penalty of \$12,000 reduced by 30% to \$8,400).
Elachi – Unauthorised works/clearing Chase Knight	Approximate total for all matters \$144,170.87	Unknown	Ongoing

Type of Matter	Costs Paid	Costs Received	Outcome
Farrell – Unauthorised Dwelling Casisea			
Rose	Approximate total \$1870.00	Unknown	Withdrawn
Hall – Sub Bendalong	Approximate total \$15537.80	Nil	Finalised
Public Liability – Personal Injury District Court	\$25,000 (insurance excess)	Nil	Settled prior to Hearing
Public Liability – Property Damage Local Court	\$10,100 (legal = 2,600; damages \$7,500)	Nil	Settled prior to Hearing
Public Liability – Personal Injury	\$25,000 (insurance excess)	Nil	Settled prior to Hearing

Costs relating to Workers Compensation

Type of Matter	Legal Costs Paid	Costs paid to claimant	Outcome
Work Injury Damages	\$40,800.00	\$425,000.00	Award for the applicant
Permanent Impairment Lump sum compensation	\$5,589.00	\$0	Award for the Respondent
Permanent Impairment Lump sum compensation	\$11,597.75	\$0	Award for the Respondent
Weekly payments backpay	\$7898.00	\$10,000	Award for both
Weekly payments backpay	\$5,589.00	\$0	Award for the Respondent
Total	\$71,473.75	\$435,000.00	

PRIVATE WORKS

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

Works at 26 Kallaroo Road, Erowal Bay for D Adamopoulos

To minimise flooding of residential areas around Kallaroo Road and Killarney Road, Erowal Bay, construction of an earthen bund adjacent and parallel to the southern embankment of the creek was needed.

In exchange for the completed bund, Council undertook the following work:

- a) Driveway modifications, including: concreting driveway; replacement of steel gate posts; and erection of a driveway retaining wall

- b) Boundary fence: Construct wire fence or 1m high colorbond fence on top of bund, where the bund straddles the property boundary and plant native plants on the bund

- c) Drainage in Kallaroo Road: Extend Council stormwater pipe along toe of bund in Kallaroo Road to western boundary of No.24 Kallaroo Road and grade toe of bund to stormwater system

- d) Creation of a drainage easement on the property to the extent impacted by the bund

The cost of these works - \$15,000

CONTRIBUTIONS DONATIONS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Section 217 Clause 1 (a5)

Council made grants, donations and subsidies totaling \$1,828,493.47 to local organisations and community groups in 2014/2015

Beneficiary	Amount \$
Shoalhaven Turf Club	\$7,000.00
Milton Ulladulla Business Chamber	\$7,500.00
Huskisson Chamber of Commerce	\$7,500.00
Rotary Club of Berry Gerringong	\$5,000.00
Elite Energy Pty Ltd	\$10,000.00
Various - Carols by Candlelight Events	\$3,500.00
Various Australia Day Events	\$18,624.00
Blessing of the Fleet Committee	\$10,000.00
White Sands Carnival Committee	\$2,000.00
Shoalhaven Community Transport	\$9,270.00
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 Alliance	\$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
Lake Conjola Lakecare Association	\$500.00
Orient Point Progress Association	\$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	\$25,005.46
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	\$7,284.50

Music Shoalhaven	\$ 859.00
Shoalhaven City Concert Band	\$1,902.25
Shoalhaven Family, Local & Cultural History Fair	\$ 584.00
Cancer Council Relay for Life Nowra	\$5,233.18
Cancer Council Relay for Life Milton	\$ 154.00
Sanctuary Point Community Pride	\$ 906.00
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
Bernie Regan Memorial Trust - \$1000 and Illawarra Institute of Sport - \$15,000	\$16,974.00
Shoalhaven Turf Club – Family Day Out	\$6,000.00
Albatross Annual Show and Shine	\$1,000.00
Albatross Musical Theatre Company	\$1000.00
Berry Showgirl competition winner	\$ 250.00
Berry Small Farm Field Days	\$1,000.00
Blessing of the Fleet Ulladulla	\$2,554.28
Burial Licence - young child	\$ 590.91
CCB Pride of Bomaderry	\$ 500.00
Digger Day activities & Charity Ball	\$5,000.00
Shoalhaven Excellence in vocational Education & Training Awards - 2015	\$ 500.00
	\$2,000.00
Illaroo Rd Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade	\$ 250.00

John Towey - Father Reily's Youth Off Streets Charity Bike Ride	\$ 500.00
Luke Stojanovic - Liverpool Brain Injury Unit	\$ 250.00
Milton Showgirl competition winner	\$3,000.00
Milton Ulladulla Driver Education Program	\$10,000.00
Mollymook Surf Lifesaving Surfboat Team - 100 year ANZAC Race	\$ 250.00
Nowra Showgirl competition winner	\$ 272.73
NSW Training Awards	\$ 100.00
Sanctuary Point Public School - Dream it Make it Festival	
Shoalhaven Women's Wellness Festival	\$ 500.00
Shoalhaven City Turf Club	\$1,962.43
Southern Stars	\$ 500.00
Vincentia High School - Enlighten Wellbeing Workshop	\$ 240.00
Blessing of the Fleet Ulladulla	\$5,506.00
Animal Welfare Shoalhaven	\$1,000.00
Shoalhaven City Pipes and Drums	\$6,000.00

Other Programs

Events Shoalhaven Board	\$100,000.00
Arts Board Programs	\$156,959.00
Holiday Haven Programs / Commercial	\$50,000.00
Aquatic Management Programs	\$30,000.00
Business Awards	\$35,000.00
Planning Service - Heritage Programs	\$9,854.00
Other Programs - Total	\$381,813.00

Subsidies provided to occupiers of Council assets

Community Groups (41)	\$500,000.00
Mens Sheds (5)	\$11,000.00

Rent free periods (2)	\$9,000.00
Golf Club (1)	\$65,000.00
Preschool/childcare/playgroups (16)	\$510,000.00
Sports Groups (4)	\$10,000.00
Meals on Wheels (5)	\$60,000.00
Telco's (Community/Gov) (14)	\$47,000.00
Subsidies provided to occupiers of Council assets - Total	\$1,212,000

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 \$234,680.47
TOTAL BUDGET \$1,828,493.47

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 2014/15.

COMPANIES IN WHICH COUNCIL HELD A CONTROLLING INTEREST

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

During 2014/15 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

PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES

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

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.

Southern Council's Group –The Southern Council's Group is a voluntary association of six Local Government Authorities (Bega Valley, Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollongong). The six member councils nominate their Mayor and another Councillor or General Manager to the Board of the SCG. Staff are employed by Kiama Council, the managing Council and a Secretariat office is maintained in Kiama. The SCG undertakes joint projects and advocacy on significant regional issues. The following staff groups from each of the member Council's meet regularly to discuss common issues and policy and achieve regional consistency wherever possible:

- General Managers
- Economic Development Managers
- Planners
- Human Resources
- Development Contributions Group
- Records Managers
- Asset and Finance Managers
- Procurement Managers
- Waste Managers and Waste Educators

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. Inception meetings are scheduled for October 2015 and key outcomes will be the development and delivery of 3 land owner education workshops, one demonstration site commencement and an advisory brochure on managing drainage without exposing acid soils. Council's Asset Management Plan is currently under review and will be another critical link in the project ensuring maintenance activity is aligned to remediation plans.

Health

Shoalhaven City Council Environmental Health Officers are part of the South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service 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.

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.

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 Natural Resources and Floodplain Management Committees. These 3 committees provide advice to Council in relation to the management of estuaries, natural areas floodplain and coast. The committees comprise community representatives, Council's representatives and representatives from the following state agencies: NSW DP&E, OEH, NPWS, SES, Department of Lands, Aboriginal Land Councils, Southern Rivers CMA and Road and Maritime Services.

Sydney University – Beaches Vulnerability

Council in partnership with Sydney University applied an innovative indicator-based, outranking approach, developed at the University of Sydney, to rank the vulnerability of 8 beaches according to their vulnerability to sea-level rise and associated processes of short- and long-term erosion. The approach is participatory, based on the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) 3-dimensional framework of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. It uses fuzzy logic and thresholds to characterise the relationship between aggregate and vulnerability indicators.

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

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

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.

WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

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

At Shoalhaven City Council, we are committed to building a corporate culture that understands and values diversity, where all employees can contribute meaningfully to strengthen Council's ability to connect with our community and develop as a progressive organisation.

Council pursues positive actions in its recruitment strategy to attract candidates to jobs in Council from a variety of cultural backgrounds and age groups and encourages gender diversity by offering family friendly practices to provide work life balance. Council is encouraging the use of social media to connect to and attract qualified candidates to positions in Council.

Council's workforce:

Females	52.1%
Females in Supervisory / Management	31.5%
Females in Senior Management	30.4%
Aboriginal/Torres Strait background	1.6%

In the last financial year of 2014/15, of the employees who took parental leave, **88%** returned to their jobs, resulting in retention of skills and corporate knowledge. Council was able to offer the majority of these employees with at least a further 12 months of flexible work arrangements to accommodate family and carer responsibilities. These flexibility arrangements included but were not limited to:- reduced work hours per day or week, compressed working hours/days, working from home, flexible start and finish times and / or purchased leave.

Council offers all employees work / life balance through work flexibility through the Variable Work Hours scheme and Rostered Day Off program and other policies such as Purchased leave and Phased retirement.

Council encourages the employment of young people by:

- participating in the Shoalhaven Careers Expo
- providing work experience placements for secondary students,
- providing internships for university students
- work experience placements as part of rehabilitation for people with disabilities.
- Acting as a Host employer for Apprentices and Trainees through a partnership with Hunter Valley Training Company.

Council is actively undertaking service reviews of the Learning and Development program which has included a redesign of the Induction program, introduction of e-learning, increase of and broadening of corporate training and the implementation of a leadership programme to support the change initiatives of Council's transformation

agenda. In 2015/16, the leadership programme will be broad based and include participation by middle and senior management and also some identified emerging leaders.

Council continues to operate within a management framework which comprises involvement of an active Consultative Committee whose membership includes employee representation from relevant unions and associations, women and younger employees. In addition, Council has a Women's Forum which meets on an as needs basis to assist with addressing issues raised by women in the workplace.

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 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 \$353 million dollars per annum which includes a number of commercial activities together with the range of activities indicated earlier.

Council employs over 864 staff on a permanent basis as well as casual/temporary staff as required, consultants and contractors.

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 - \$303,420 pa

Combined Directors - \$920,294 pa

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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

Council's projected 2014/15 Stormwater Management Programme was funded the following way: \$373,000 Council Revenue, \$1,030,000 from Additional rates Stormwater Levy. The actual result was \$446,286 from Council revenue, \$961,574 from Stormwater Levy and \$40,391 from Capital Contributions.

Council's projected 2014/15 Stormwater Management Program was funded the following way:

- \$373,000 – Council revenue
- \$1,030,000 – Additional rates Stormwater Levy

The actual result was:

- \$446,286 – Spent from Council revenue
- \$961,574 – Spent from additional rates Stormwater Levy
- \$40,391 – Spent from Capital Contributions

Council also carried forward into 2015/16 unspent funds on 3 projects that were not complete.

Project	Council Funds	Contributions Revenue	Stormwater Levy	Total
Stormwater Management Plan	\$16,467	\$0	\$0	\$16,467
St Andrews Way Coolangatta Stage 1	\$12,151	\$0	\$40,000	\$52,151
Woollamia Rd Woollamia	\$0	\$0	\$38,174	\$38,174
St Andrews Way Coolangatta Stage 2	\$0	\$0	\$2,235	\$2,235
Quinns Lane Drainage	\$41,738	\$0	\$0	\$41,738
Princess Street Drainage	\$0	\$40,391	\$100,000	\$140,391
Croobyar Road	\$636	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,636
Wayfarer Drive	\$0	\$0	\$38,678	\$38,678
Katela Avenue Bomaderry	\$5,260	\$0	\$0	\$5,260
St Georges Rd St Georges Basin	\$1,435	\$0	\$0	\$1,435
Cypress St North Bendalong	\$282	\$0	\$0	\$282
Mollymook Creek Stage 1 Millymk	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$120
Bannisters Head Rd Mollymook	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$120
Panorama Rd St Georges Basin	\$2,297	\$0	\$0	\$2,297
195 Kerry Street Sanct Pt	\$9,095	\$0	\$0	\$9,095
111 ElizabethDr Vincentia	\$0	\$0	\$27,089	\$27,089
61 Naval Pde Erowal Bay	\$6,367	\$0	\$0	\$6,367
Killarney Rd Erowal Bay	\$34,354	\$0	\$84,544	\$118,898
Bellevue St South Nowra	\$0	\$0	\$59,439	\$59,439
Dowling St Ulladulla	\$0	\$0	\$70,894	\$70,894
Macgibbon Pde OldErwIBay	\$24,781	\$0	\$0	\$24,781
Park Row Orient Point	\$20,448	\$0	\$194,460	\$214,908
Rennies Beach Ulladulla	\$147,491	\$0	\$250,000	\$397,491
Nowra Street Huskisson Drainage	\$0	\$0	\$16,061	\$16,061
Strategic Stormwater Catchment Analysis	\$13,787	\$0	\$0	\$13,787
Drainage Investigation	\$45,448	\$0	\$0	\$45,448
Greville Ave Sanctuary Point	\$64,008	\$0	\$0	\$64,008
	\$446,286	\$40,391	\$961,574	\$1,448,252

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 175 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 \$632,921 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. The SCC library has made available 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.

In addition funding provided by the Department of Housing is available to assist pet owners that live in community housing. 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 four 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 an extension of our winter off leash times on selected beaches which has now been implemented on all time restricted dog off leash areas. Council is currently trialling an off leash area at Narrawallee Beach. 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 2015		
INCOME		
Registrations	\$211,064	
Fines and Costs	\$209,570	
Other	\$46,837	\$467,471
EXPENDITURE		
Salaries	\$205,470	
On Costs	\$71,216	
Training and conferences	\$2,974	
Motor Vehicle Costs	\$68,121	
Pound Costs	\$235,810	
State Debt Recovery infringement processing fees	\$23,840	
Other Costs	\$25,490	\$632,921
Surplus / (Deficit)		(\$165,450)

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 2014 to June 2015:

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

	2014/2015
Abandoned	\$11,108.86
Postponed Abandoned	\$3,068.51
Pensioner Rebates	\$2,959,757.39
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$2,973,934.76

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 2014/15

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROGRESS

Council's projected 2014/15 Special Rate Variation Programme was funded the following way: \$2,352,900 from Additional rates Special Rate Variation. The actual result was \$637,437 from Council revenue, \$925,665 from carried forward Special Rate Variation and \$2,107,509 from current Special Rate Variation.

Council's projected 2014/15 Special Rate Variation Program was funded the following way:

- \$2,352,900 – Additional rates Special Rate Variation

The actual result was:

- \$637,437 – Spent from Council revenue
- \$925,665 – Spent from 13/14 Special Rates carried forward
- \$2,107,509 – Spent from 14/15 Special Rates

Council also carried forward into 2015/16 unspent funds on 4 projects that were not complete (a total of \$245,391).

Project	Council Funds	Special Rate Variation	Total
Currarong Rd	\$109,003	\$624,000	\$733,003
Lake Conjola Entrance Rd	\$216,499	\$220,890	\$437,389
Matron Porter Drive SUP	\$107,502	\$280,775	\$388,277
Main Rd Cambewarra	\$104,069	\$424,374	\$528,443
Quinns Ln South Nowra	\$0	\$546,170	\$546,170
Naval College Road	\$0	\$359,184	\$359,184
Idlewild Avenue footpath	\$42	\$83,602	\$83,644
Berry St (Emporium-Worrigee)Path	\$100,322	\$265,526	\$365,848
Tallyan Point Road	\$0	\$70,163	\$70,163
Currambene Street	\$0	\$158,490	\$158,490
	<u>\$637,437</u>	<u>\$3,033,174</u>	<u>\$3,670,611</u>

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, 2014 and 30th June 2015 (3) public interest disclosures were received by Council. Two (2) were upheld and the third was dealt with as a staff grievance.

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.

Private sector business	5	4	0	1	0	0	0	1
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	1

*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	1
Access applications (other than personal information)	14	7	0	2	0	0	0	1

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*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)	1
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	1

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	0
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)	19
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	4
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	5
Total	28

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	2	2
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	0	2

*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	2
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

SPECIAL RATE VARIATION PROGRESS

Council's projected 2014/15 Special Rate Variation Programme was funded the following way: \$2,352,900 from Additional rates Special Rate Variation. The actual result was \$637,437 from Council revenue, \$925,665 from carried forward Special Rate Variation and \$2,107,509 from current Special Rate Variation.

Council's projected 2014/15 Special Rate Variation Program was funded the following way:

- \$2,352,900 – Additional rates Special Rate Variation

The actual result was:

- \$637,437 – Spent from Council revenue
- \$925,665 – Spent from 13/14 Special Rates carried forward
- \$2,107,509 – Spent from 14/15 Special Rates

Council also carried forward into 2015/16 unspent funds on 4 projects that were not complete (a total of \$245,391).

Project	Council Funds	Special Rate Variation	Total
Currarong Rd	\$109,003	\$624,000	\$733,003
Lake Conjola Entrance Rd	\$216,499	\$220,890	\$437,389
Matron Porter Drive SUP	\$107,502	\$280,775	\$388,277
Main Rd Cambewarra	\$104,069	\$424,374	\$528,443
Quinns Ln South Nowra	\$0	\$546,170	\$546,170
Naval College Road	\$0	\$359,184	\$359,184
Idlewild Avenue footpath	\$42	\$83,602	\$83,644
Berry St (Emporium-Worrigee)Path	\$100,322	\$265,526	\$365,848
Tallyan Point Road	\$0	\$70,163	\$70,163
Currambene Street	\$0	\$158,490	\$158,490
	<u>\$637,437</u>	<u>\$3,033,174</u>	<u>\$3,670,611</u>

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS (FAG)

The Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) received by Shoalhaven City Council this financial year equated to \$11,378,617. Council has recently joined the national campaign to reinstate indexation to the FAG. Council recognises the importance of the FAG funding source in delivering vital local 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 \$6M reduction in Grant income for Shoalhaven City Council, adding pressure to Council's financial capacity. For 2015/16 alone, the reduction in FAG funding converts Council's cashflow result from a surplus of \$251K to a deficit of \$532K.

COUNCIL'S TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM

Over the past three years Council has acted to address its financial situation and the delivery of better services to support these initiatives through the commencement of the Transformation Program and the special rate variation. This has laid the foundation for an organisation that will be sustainable into the future and a city that will be vibrant and activated in line with the [Community Strategic Plan](#).

Taking Action: The Transformation Program

The 2012 TCorp report showing a 'negative' financial outlook for the future along with operational cost increases outstripping revenue growth, asset deterioration, failure with a backlog of over \$40M and growing community dissatisfaction has driven the need for action.

Council took immediate action under the Transformation Program to implement a staff freeze, undertake a restructure and establish project teams to deliver stronger governance, a culture of 'can do', increased efficiencies and effectiveness, better customer services, improved community engagement and financial sustainability.

This has delivered savings in the order of \$4.634m in 2014/15 as well as creating an organisation better aligned to achieving the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan as well as being in line with contemporary local government service delivery. Further savings are planned for next financial year as we progress with the transformation program.

In essence, Council acted early, made tough decisions, and as a result has placed the organisation in a better position to tackle the challenges that lay ahead.

More Action Needed

Whilst action has been taken, with the shifting focus of the Local Government sector to change from within, and the State Government's recently announced 'Fit for the Future' program, more action is needed to ensure Council continues to deliver financial savings and more efficient and targeted services.

The challenge for the sector as a whole is to manage an environment of reduced revenue and increasing demands for services. SCC also has the added challenge, in comparison to similar sized Councils in NSW, to manage more pools, more libraries, more sports fields and more assets that any other city with a rate revenue that is much less (37% of total income).

There is no one 'silver bullet'. To be '[Fit for the Future](#)' Council must ensure it builds on the foundation it has already laid and adheres to the continuous improvement it has embarked upon.

Shoalhaven City Council State of the Environment Summary Report 2014-2015

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

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.




ANNUAL STRATEGIC INDICATORS 2014-2015

KRA	Focus	Measure	Value 2014/15	Unit	Direction of Change	Comment
1-Peo	Use of Council's School of Arts and Arts Centre	Number of attendances at Arts Centre and Nowra School of Arts	9167	#		
1-Peo	Use of Council's community facilities	Community facilities usage - hours per quarter booked	432	#		
1-Peo	Use of Council's aquatic facilities	Number of attendances at Council's aquatic and leisure centres	554,414	#		
1-Peo	Use of the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre	Number of attendances at the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre	51731	#		
1-Peo	Use of Council's libraries	Number of attendances at Council's libraries	347635	#		
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of Bushcare Groups operating on Council-owned and managed land.	72	#		
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of Parkcare groups	42	#		
1-Peo	The level of volunteering	Number of Community Consultative Bodies	25	#		
1-Peo	The level of volunteering	Number Council Management Committees (Facilities)	15	#		
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number Council Management Committees (Sportsgrounds).	24	#		

1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of in-kind hours contributed by volunteer Bushcare Groups	8,412	Hrs		✘
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of individual volunteers involved in Bushcare	574	#		✘
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of volunteer hours contributed by volunteer Parkcare Groups	1690	Hrs		✘
1-Peo	Level of volunteering	Number of individual volunteers involved in Parkcare	337	#		✘
1-Peo	Use of Council's libraries	Number of virtual visits at Council's libraries	84511	#		✘
1-Peo	Use of Council's libraries	% items loaned on self-checkout machine	18	%		✔
1-Peo	Internet access	Number of public use PCs available	40	#		✔
1-Peo	Education and skill levels in the community	Residents aged over 15 have completed Year 12	30.5	%		▬
1-Peo	Education and skill levels in the community	Residents aged over 15 years with vocational qualification,	24	%		▬
1-Peo	Education and skill levels in the community	Residents aged over 15 years with a Diploma	7.4	%		▬









1-Peo	Education and skill levels in the community	Residents aged over 15 years with a Bachelor degree or higher	10.2	%		
1-Peo	The health of the community	Percentage of people when asked about their health said they had become healthier	25	%		
1-Peo	Use of public transport to work and school	Number of people who caught public transport to work	245	#		
1-Peo	Use of public transport to work and school	Shoalhaven's working population who caught public transport	0.7	%		
1-Peo	Shoalhaven population	Shoalhaven population	98,261	#		
1-Peo	Shoalhaven population	% increase in population	0.38	%		
2-Pla	Council's water and energy consumption	Total energy consumption	101,516	Gj		
2-Pla	Council's greenhouse gas emissions	Council greenhouse gas emissions per resident	489.4	kg		
2-Pla	Alternate energy (includes renewable and recoverable energy) generation	Total alternate energy generation by Council	5,264	MwHrs		
2-Pla	Greenhouse Gas emissions	Tonnes Greenhouse gas emissions for Council	48089	#		



2-Pla	Renewable energy generation capacity	Total available capacity of renewable energy generation by Council	152	kwh		✓
2-Pla	Council's water and energy consumption	Total water consumption	356,720	ML		✓
2-Pla	Length of roads	Sealed road	1426	Km		✓
2-Pla	Length of roads	Unsealed road	340	Km		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Number of kerb ramps constructed	36	#		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Current number of kerb ramps in the Shoalhaven	1347	#		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Number of bike rack locations installed	5	#		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Number of pedestrian safety facilities constructed	3	#		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Current number of pedestrian safety facilities	221	#		✓
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Number of bus stop improvements	1	#		✗
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Current number of bus shelters	182	#		✓











2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Current number of bus stop posts	542	#		
2-Pla	The length of cycle ways and footpaths	Current total Km of cycle ways and footpaths	214	Km		
2-Pla	The length of cycle ways and footpaths	Constructed cycleway and footpath per year	5.44	Km		
2-Pla	Percentage of waste diverted from landfill	% of waste diverted from landfill	31.7	%		
2-Pla	Green waste	Tonnes of green waste collected	10,428	Tonnes		
2-Pla	Road safety	Current number of roundabouts	71	#		
2-Pla	Road safety	Current number of traffic signals	19	#		
2-Pla	Accessibility to transport other than cars	Current number of bike rack locations	54	#		
2-Pla	Road safety	Number of road safety improvement projects completed	6	#		
2-Pla	Road safety	Number of roundabouts constructed during the year	2	#		
2-Pla	Trend of 16 community and corporate State of the Environment themes (12	Number of SoE indicators improved	8	#		

	Community Indicators, 4 Council Indicators)					
2-Pla	Trend of 16 community and corporate State of the Environment themes (12 Community Indicators, 4 Council Indicators)	Number of SoE Indicators that remained stable	3	#		
2-Pla	Trend of 16 community and corporate State of the Environment themes (12 Community Indicators, 4 Council Indicators)	Number of SoE Indicators worsened	4	#		
2-Pla	Trend of 16 community and corporate State of the Environment themes (12 Community Indicators, 4 Council Indicators)	Number of SoE targets	13	#		
2-Pla	Trend of 16 community and corporate State of the Environment themes (12 Community Indicators, 4 Council Indicators)	Number of SoE targets met	6	#		
2-Pla	Shoalhaven estuaries health rating	Number of sampled estuaries	22	#		
2-Pla	Shoalhaven estuaries health rating	Number of estuaries receiving a good or higher health rating	10	#		

2-Pla	Shoalhaven housing	Number of new dwellings approved (combined, dual occupancies, Secondary Dwellings and units/flats)	744	#		✓
2-Pla	Shoalhaven housing	% change in the number of new dwellings approved over last year	16	%		✓
2-Pla	Threatened plant and animal species	Number of threatened plant and animal species	227	#		✗
2-Pla	Residential water use	Annual average residential water consumption	147	Kl		—
3-Pro	New commercial construction and business investment	Value of Non-Residential Development Application approvals	63,435,211	\$		✗
3-Pro	New commercial construction and business investment	Value of part 3A Development Application approvals	370,752,610	\$		✓
3-Pro	Residential development approvals	Value of new residential development approvals	215,515,021	\$		✓
3-Pro	Development Applications received	Number of Development Applications received	2058	#		✓
3-Pro	Local economic activity, major capital infrastructure investment	Major capital infrastructure investment	356.4	\$m		✓
3-Pro	Labour force status	Number of people employed	35,317	#		✓

3-Pro	Labour force status	Unemployment rate	9.49	%		✓
3-Pro	Visitors to Shoalhaven	Number of domestic overnight, day and international visitors	2,700,000	#		✓
3-Pro	Spend by Visitors to Shoalhaven	Total economic impact of direct expenditure by all visitors to the Shoalhaven	697,000	,\$000		✓
3-Pro	Subdivision approvals	Value of new subdivision approvals (does not include applications involving building works)	1,622,000	\$		✓
3-Pro	Gross regional product	Gross regional product	4192	,\$M		✓
4-Lea	Timely responses to applications received from the community	Formal GIPA Act applications processed within legislative timeframe	91	%		✗
4-Lea	Timely responses to applications received from the community	Informal GIPA Act applications processed within 28 days	58	%		✗
4-Lea	Timely responses to complaints and requests received from the community	Correspondence items answered within 28 days	91.29	%		✗
4-Lea	Complaints about Council recorded by DLG	Percentage of complaints declined by DLG	100	%		✓
4-Lea	Complaints about Council recorded by DLG	Number of complaints received per 1000 residents	0.2	#		✓
4-Lea	Operating surplus (deficit)	Actual operating surplus or deficit, excluding capital grants and contributions	8,871	,\$000,		✓

4-Lea	Timely responses to applications received from the community	Formal GIPA Act applications received	34	#		
4-Lea	Timely responses to applications received from the community	Informal GIPA Act applications received	275	#		
4-Lea	Timely responses to complaints and requests received from the community	Correspondence items received	75170	#		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Percentage of indigenous staff in the workforce	1.8	%		
5-Gov	Asset sustainability	Infrastructure backlog (\$M) as % of total infrastructure assets (estimated at fair value)	2.0	%		
5-Gov	Asset sustainability	% difference in renewal cash-fund actual to required asset depreciation	40.0	%		
5-Gov	Compliance with the Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Guidelines through an annual independent audit	% compliance	100	%		
5-Gov	Use of Council's Website	Number of visitor sessions to SCC website	508,310	#		
5-Gov	Use of Council's Website	Number of page views on SCC website	1,398,047	#		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Percentage of female staff in the workforce	55.7	%		

5-Gov	Financial sustainability	Debt Service cover ratio	5.02	:1		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Percentage of women in management (supervisor & above roles)	32.8	%		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Percentage of workforce that are apprentices, trainees or cadets	5	%		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Staff total turnover against head count percentage	2.4	%		
5-Gov	Council workforce	Staff voluntary turnover percentage for 12 months to end of quarter	1.8	%		



Up on last year



Down on last year



No change



Direction unknown



Good result



More work required



Data not clear