



LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL 2016/17

ANNUAL REPORT



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LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL
Preserving the Past, Enhancing the Future

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OUR MAYOR & GENERAL MANAGER

It gives Council great pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2016/17.

In many ways the 16/17 year was focused on fresh starts. A new Council was elected in September and sworn into office in October 2016, bringing in 4 new councillors to join the 5 who were returned by the electorate. The mix is an excellent combination of experience and rejuvenation which makes for a strong governing body.

Significant effort was put in by all during an accelerated induction programme and training schedule which helped to bring everyone up to speed with the complex business of running a Council and making good decisions. By the end of the 16/17 year it was clear that Leeton Shire has a crop of very committed and constructive Councillors who have developed clear expectations for the next 4 years with strong focus on accountability.

Early in the term Council supported the community to review the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which was endorsed in December 2016. This is a key document, which sets out clearly our collective community aspirations, has strongly influenced the direction of Council's Delivery Program for its 4 year term of office. With a fresh CSP and a Delivery Program adopted in early 2017, Council also reorganised its staffing structure to ensure the workforce is best placed to deliver on the desired outcomes. Two new senior management roles were introduced to oversee two refreshed directorates, being Corporate and Community and Environment and Engineering. There has also been further investment in Human Resources as Council seeks to grow its pool of talent from within, as well as in IT which will help to drive greater efficiency and effectiveness at the operational level.

From extensive community consultation undertaken during the year, it was clear that residents and ratepayers are looking for a refurbished pool and regional swimming centre, an enhanced CBD, a revitalised Roxy Theatre, and reinvigorated towns and villages. Planning for these 'refreshes' was a strong focus in 16/17 which will put the Shire in a good position to leverage grant funding and do detailed design in the next financial year.

A new era for renewable energy commenced during the year too with the launch of the 99kw solar farm at the Leeton Sewer Treatment Plant which has substantially reduced operating costs.

Through its advocacy Council successfully influenced government to include Vance Estate in the roll out of NBN services - a most pleasing result for local business and industry. Throughout the year meetings were held with our local, state and federal members to verse them up on Leeton's contribution economically and what support is needed to enable Leeton Shire to improve and grow. We let them know that workforce, housing, energy costs and freight efficiencies will be crucial to our ongoing success. We know they have listened and heard - Council's next focus will be on getting active support and greater investment delivered across the Shire over the next 12 months.

With the required refreshing and reorganising of the organisation largely completed in the 2016/17 year, the 3 years remaining in this term of Council will be focused strongly on delivery and achieving results for the residents and ratepayers of Leeton Shire. While we have strong cash reserves and operate in a fiscally responsible manner, long term financial sustainability will remain a challenge due to an infrastructure backlog that has yet to be fully addressed if we are to remain Fit For the Future and a stand alone Council. Those discussions will continue in earnest next year.

Our sincere thanks to the councillors (both former and current) and staff for their ongoing commitment to delivering results for the residents and ratepayers of Leeton Shire. The task can be enormously challenging at times but with drive, resilience and a culture of innovation and continual improvement, we are certainly making very good headway. Thanks too to our community that has shown itself to be very active and engaged over the year. Your voice is important and we trust you have a good sense that Council continues to listen and respond.

Yours Sincerely



Paul Maytom
Mayor



Jackie Kruger
General Manager



OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors - 10 September 2016 to 30 June 2017



CR PAUL MAYTOM
Mayor
First elected September 1987



CR GEORGE WESTON
Deputy Mayor
First elected September 1995



CR SANDRA NARDI
First elected September 2016



CR PETER DAVIDSON
First elected February 2010



CR PAUL SMITH
First elected September 2016



CR TONY RENEKER
First elected September 2016



CR MICHAEL KIDD
First elected September 2004



CR TONY CICCIA
First elected September 2016



CR TRACEY MORRIS
First elected September 2012

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors - 10 September 2016 to 30 June 2017

Attendance at Council Meetings - 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Councillor	Available Meetings	Meetings Attended
	Ordinary	Ordinary
Cr Maytom	12	12
Cr Weston	12	10
Cr Nardi	10	9
Cr Davidson	12	11
Cr Smith	10	10
Cr Reneker	10	10
Cr Kidd	12	10
Cr Ciccia	10	10
Cr Morris	12	11
*Cr Doig	2	2
*Cr Dowling	2	2
*Cr O'Callaghan	2	2
*Cr Valenzisi	2	2

*Outgoing Councillors at September 2017 Elections



CR GREG O'CALLAGHAN
September 2008 — September 2016



CR STEVE DOWLING
September 2012—September 2016



CR EMERSON DOIG
September 2008 - September 2016



CR TRACEY VALENZISI
September 2008—September 2016

OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors - 10 September 2016 to 30 June 2017

Councillor Representation on Committees from October 2016 - June 2017

Section 355 Committees:

Whitton Court House and Historical Museum:

Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Smith (alternate)

Yanco Community Hall:

Cr Nardi and Cr Kidd (alternate)

Leeton Men's Shed:

Cr Maytom and Cr Morris (alternate)

Light Up Leeton Committee:

Cr Nardi, Cr Davidson and Cr Weston (alternate)

Whitton Community Hall:

Cr Smith, and Cr Maytom (alternate)

Murrami Community Hall:

Cr Ciccio and Cr Davidson (alternate)

SunRice Festival Committee:

Cr George Weston and Cr Reneker (alternate)

Bidgee Classic Committee:

Cr Smith and Cr Reneker (alternate)

Advisory Committees:

Leeton Tree Management Group:

Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Peter Davidson (alternate)

Roxy Community Theatre Group:

Cr Michael Kidd, Cr Tracey Morris
and Cr Nardi (alternate)

Leeton Traffic Committee:

Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Ciccio (alternate)

Yanco Town Improvement Committee:

Cr Nardi and Cr Maytom (alternate)

Internal Audit Committee

Cr Morris and Cr Reneker

Visitor Information Services Committee

Cr Maytom, Cr Davidson and Cr Weston (alternate)

Leeton Shire Heritage Group:

Cr George Weston and Cr Ciccio (alternate),

Leeton Crime Prevention Group:

Cr Paul Maytom, Cr George Weston and
Cr Morris (alternate)

Whitton Town Improvement Committee:

Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Smith (alternate)

Wamoon Town Improvement

Cr Ciccio and Cr Maytom (alternate)

Central Business District

Cr Weston, Cr Morris, Cr Davidson and Cr Maytom

Action Groups:

Leeton Tidy Towns:

Cr Michael Kidd and Cr Peter Davidson (alternate),

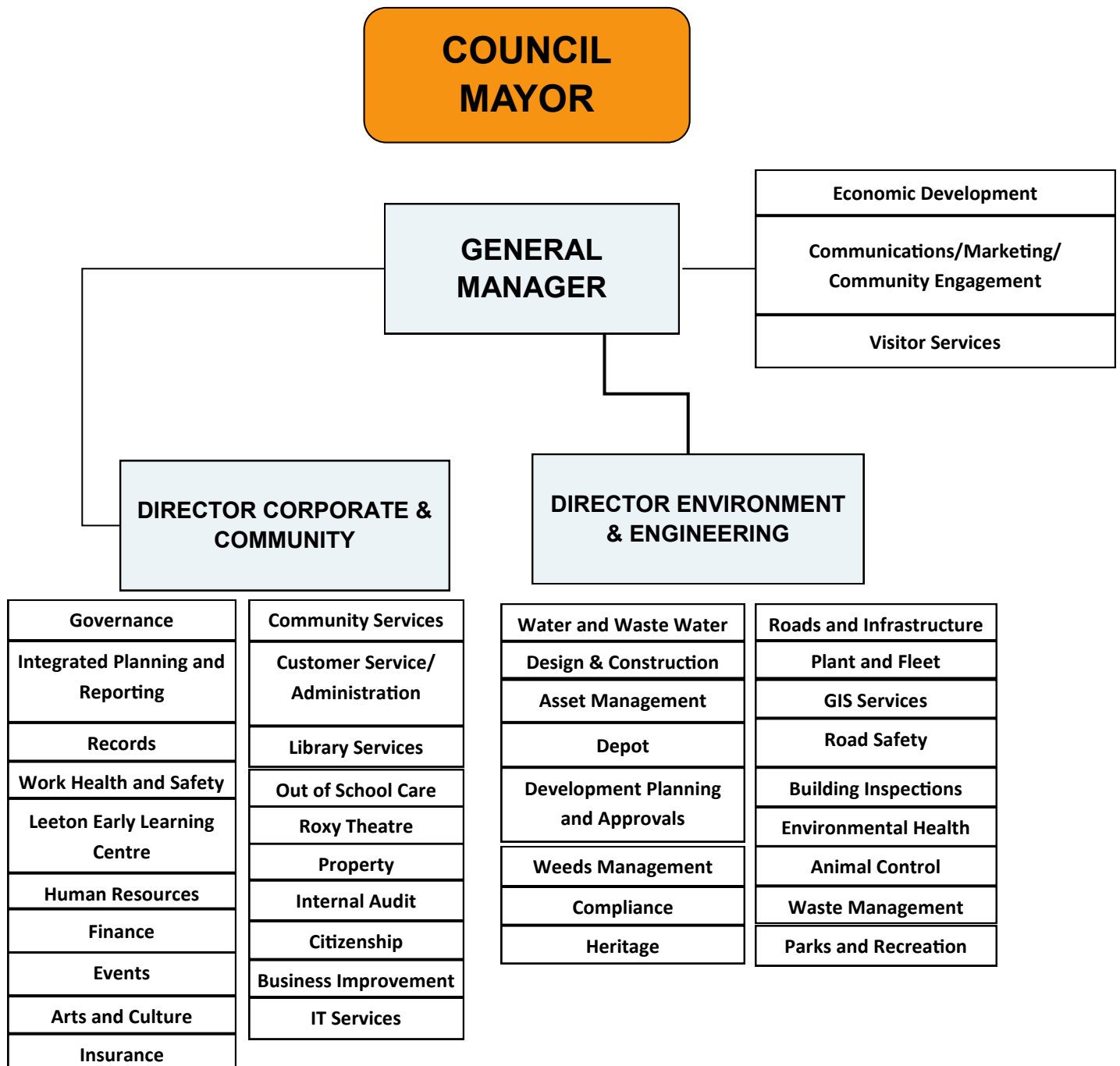
Leeton Australia Day Group:

Cr George Weston, Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Reneker

Leeton Youth Committee

Cr George Weston and Cr Nardi (alternate),

OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



OUR DRIVERS

OUR COMMUNITY VISION

That Leeton Shire is the Centre of Excellence within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, fostering world best practices in all its endeavours, ensuring the people of Leeton Shire enjoy a rich and diverse lifestyle in harmony with our unique environment.

OUR COUNCIL MISSION

Through representative government provide community leadership that drives the delivery of equitable and accessible services and facilities; environmentally responsible growth and development; and consistent and unbiased regulatory functions.

OUR STAFF MISSION

To be proudly trusted by the Councillors and the Community to deliver for them the very best outcomes in the most effective manner whilst enjoying a harmonious workplace that values and rewards its workforce for service excellence.

OUR COUNCIL VALUES

Our strategic decisions and day-to-day activities are guided by the values of:

- Trust;
- Respect;
- Integrity;
- Communication;
- Collaboration; and
- Innovation

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

We work in partnership with our community, including:

- residents, ratepayers and visitors;
- businesses and investors;
- community groups, clubs, organisations;
- government agencies;
- other local governments; and
- regional organisations.

OUR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC GOALS

Caring for Our Health and Wellbeing

- Ensure that access to quality health services maintained.
- Seek local access to education that encompasses the whole of the community and pursue increases in training and workplace learning opportunities to encourage our youth to remain as local residents.
- Support and promote the community's unique culture and artistic capacity and encourage participation and communication across all groups.
- Provision of premier standard facilities and areas for the community to access and enjoy an interesting variation of activities including physical, scholarly and passive recreation.
- Build our community capacity to ensure strong and healthy involvement in community life with social networking opportunities that are accessible to all.
- Keeping our community safe through clever planning, effective law and order initiatives and education.

Building Our Business and Local Jobs

- Encourage economic and industrial development with diversity that builds upon our vitality to create a dynamic presence that is attractive to outside interest.
- Increase and develop opportunities for tourism to encourage growth in visitation and enhanced economic strength.
- Have sufficient support measures in place to enhance the economic value and breadth of the community including skill development and transport options.

Strengthening Our

- Strong leadership and direction from the broader community's thoughts is open and transparent.
- Effective management and administration that the community's interests are

COMMUNITY

*That Leeton
Centre of Excellence
Murrumbidgee
fostering work
in all its endeavours
the people
enjoy a rich
lifestyle in his
unique environment*

COMMUNITY'S VISION

Leeton Shire be the pre-eminence within the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, world best practices in water use, ensuring the success of Leeton Shire through a rich and diverse environment in harmony with our natural environment.

Enhancing & Preserving Our Natural Assets

- Striving for sustainable use of our water resources that is balanced between social, economic and environmental needs relative to us.
- Encourage maintenance of a healthy environment through effective waste management, pollution reduction measures and energy efficiencies.
- Enhance and promote the various natural assets in our community for appreciation by future generations.
- Carry out activities that support the protection of the environment through areas that are complimentary to the interests and wellbeing of the community.

Developing Our Built Environment

- Plan effectively for new infrastructure needs to remove duplication as well as ensure appropriate and efficient maintenance and management practices of our public infrastructure to ensure use to effective full potential.
- Road maintenance and development that is undertaken effectively across the entire Shire with due consideration to current and future traffic flows and needs
- Provide and maintain infrastructure options that encourage physical activity and support and enhance community life in a variety of ways that are well maintained and applicable to our needs.
- Effective building and planning strategies, and management practices that reflect an awareness of current environmental considerations in line with sound building practises and future development potential.

Leadership Direction

From a Council that is diverse which reflects the community with projection of a balanced profile that

Administration of Council's resources to ensure the future is met and sustainable into the future.

MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

Leeton Shire Council is an elected body responsible for the effective management of the Leeton Local Government area. With its community base, Council is the most accessible level of government to the people it represents.

While Australia's local, state and federal authorities each have their own administrative responsibilities, many of these are shared between the three tiers of government. Roles, responsibilities and rules for local government are outlined under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*.

Section 428 (2) of *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to include in its Annual Report for that year, a report outlining the achievements in implementing its Delivery Program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.

During 2016/2017, quarterly performance reviews of Council's 2013-2017 Delivery Program were undertaken and presented to Council. The final progress report for 2016/2017 as well as the End of Term Report 2012 - 2016 were presented to Council at its Ordinary Council meeting held on 23 August 2017.





2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 2016

- NAIDOC Week celebrations included Flag Raising ceremony and a Family fun day was held.
- NSW Pennant Bowls Tournament bringing many bowlers to town for the event.
- Leeton Visitor Information Centre nominated as a finalist in the 2016 Regional Tourism Awards (Visitor Information Services category).
- Leeton Shire Council recognised for its commitment to hosting Australian citizenship ceremonies and welcoming new citizens into the local community.
- Retirement Celebrations held for Council's Water & Waste Water Superintendent Mick Doolin after 36 years of service.
- The NSW Government announced it will invest \$43million over four years in the way regional areas attract visitors, including the creation of six new Destination Networks throughout NSW.
- 3 Variable Speed Drives were installed to assist in controlling motor speed of irrigation pumps and protect the infrastructure in the ground at Leeton Cemetery, Waipakaru Park and Blackwood Street Pump Station.
- Council's GIS Assets Coordinator Tom Steele was featured in the July edition of LG Focus magazine.
- RAMROC meeting was held to discuss the size of Joint Organisation (JO) Boundaries.
- Retirement Celebrations held for Council's Engineering Services Manager Colin Mellor after 46 years of service.

AUGUST 2016

- Completed Town Pool carpark upgrade & kerb and gutter works.
- Works on Payten Road Rehabilitation were undertaken.
- The Climate Technologies Leeton Eisteddfod was held at the Leeton Roxy Community Theatre throughout August, showcasing the talents of participants from the local area and across New South Wales. Highlights include the music section, singing, drama, ballet and highland dancing.
- Local Government Week was held in the first week of August with the "Free Microchipping Day" once again proving a success with 50+ animals microchipped.
- LED lighting installed at the Council Office.
- Council's End of Term Report 2012-2016 was tabled at the August Ordinary Council Meeting.
- Leeton Library were successful in obtaining funding from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal for the establishment of a Lego Club.
- A Community Transport survey was conducted with over 100 responses from the community.
- Council 2016-2020 nominations closed with 15 nominations for the 9 positions available.
- Financial Assistance Grant allocations were announced with Leeton Shire Council being granted \$3,839,722 which was an increase on the previous year.
- TV Program "Sunrise" was broadcast from various locations in Leeton.
- Boom Gates installed at Leeton Shire Council Depot.

SEPTEMBER 2016

- Road Rehabilitation works were undertaken on sections of Young Road
- The Leeton Roxy Community Theatre played host to comedian Arj Barker and his stand-up comedy show 'Get in my Head'.
- The annual Bike Week event saw participants take a ride around town to raise awareness of bike safety. Afterward the participants enjoyed a BBQ lunch and a ride around the "Bike Training Facility".
- Book Week saw children's author R.A. Spratt perform at the Roxy Theatre.
- Have Your Say pre-consultation commenced for the Community Strategic Plan.
- The Local Government Act was passed through State Parliament. Changes include: Councillors being sworn in with an oath, Mayor term being two years, annual reports being audited by the Auditor General's Office and compulsory internal audit.
- Retirement Celebrations held for Council's HR Manager Dom Del Guzzo after 40+ years of service.
- Compactus system installed in the Family History room at the Leeton Library.
- Narrandera and Leeton Shire Council received \$40,000 from the State Government Innovation fund to further explore shared services.
- 5 Leeton Shire Council staff competed in the Rural Management Challenge.
- Round 1 of the Community Strengthening Grants opened.
- Community engagement commenced for the Disability Inclusion Plan.
- Community Tree Planting Day was held at the Fivebough Wetlands.

2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2016

- Completed Road Rehabilitation on Payten Road.
- Commenced heavy patching program on Irrigation Way.
- Tapas Cheese & Wine Night at Pages on Pine as part of Taste Riverina Festival.
- The inaugural Chill & Grill was held as part of the Taste Riverina Food Festival, hundreds of locals and visitors to Mountford Park to enjoy the local food and wine! Celebrity Chef Paul West was a hit for the crowds, cooking up some local delights on the stage.
- Commenced the Wamoon Sewerage Project with assistance from Restart NSW.
- The Local Government NSW Annual Conference was held in Wollongong with both the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and General Manager attending.
- Retirement Celebrations held for Council's Traffic Facilities Assistant Stewart Ramsay after 27 years of service.
- A Public Meeting was held in Whitton regarding the Community Strategic Plan review.
- The State Government announced that \$1.5million had been allocated towards the sewer scheme for Wamoon.
- The "Leeton Library Lego Room" was launched.
- A joint effort between Leeton Shire Council & Rotary Club of Leeton saw Grant funding for improved street lighting for Gossamer Park was approved.
- Draft Community Strategic Plan went out for public consultation.

NOVEMBER 2016

- Road Rehabilitation Works undertaken on sections of Mt Harris Road.
- Road Rehabilitation and drainage works commenced on Merungle Hill Road.
- Shared Cycle way construction commenced along Cherry Ave.
- The Leeton Town Band drew hundreds of visiting band members to participate in their Outback Band Spectacular. Over 200 performers graced the Roxy Theatre stage for their Mass Band Production, which is always a highlight for their event.
- Free workshops on organic recycling were held at the Leeton Visitor Information Centre and conducted by regional horticulturalist and ABC gardening expert Ricky Smith.
- Leeton Shire Men's Shed was successful in obtaining grant funding from the Australian Men's Shed Association to contribute to their solar panel project.
- Council was successful in its application for grant funding through the NSW Government War Memorials Grants Program for the Yanco Memorial Hall roof repair.
- The Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program was held for high school children coordinated by Council Road Safety Officer.
- Council purchased a drone device to help with inspections of council assets.

DECEMBER 2016

- The Light Up Leeton Christmas & Community Carnival saw hundreds of locals head to Mountford Park to kick off the Festive Season for Leeton Shire. The committee worked tirelessly to decorate the CBD to ensure the Christmas Spirit was well and truly in Leeton.
- A morning tea for Leeton Shire Council volunteers was held at the Leeton Visitor Information Centre.
- The Disability Inclusion Action Plan surveys were opened.



2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2017

- RMS project worth over \$1.2million—realignment of McCauley Road intersection on Irrigation Way commenced.
- The Australia Day Celebrations were well supported in Leeton Shire, starting with community breakfasts in the townships of Leeton and Yanco. The awards ceremony in Mountford Park saw many locals come together and celebrate what's great about this country. The Australia Day Pool Party was also a hit, where many local families come to cool off and relax for the afternoon.
- Built and commissioned the 99.7MW Solar Power Plant at the Leeton Sewerage Treatment Plant.
- A Murray Darling Basin Authority "Pop Up Shop" Session was held at the Roxy Theatre.
- International Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day was celebrated at the Leeton Library.

FEBRUARY 2017

- Upgrade conducted on a section of Houghton Road.
- Completed the second stage of road Rehabilitation works on Mt Harris Road.
- A section of Road Rehabilitation works were completed along Contour Road.
- World Wetlands Day was celebrated with "Birds and Brekky at Fivebough" and "Stormboy" showing at the Roxy Theatre.
- Relining of town sewer system was completed.
- Council Organisational Restructure was presented to the February Ordinary Council Meeting.
- Bunnings presented the Leeton early Learning Centre with a "Buddy Bench" for the children.
- A "Pop Up Library" was erected at Yanco Agricultural Institute.
- The new Leeton Visitor guide was launched.

MARCH 2017

- Road Rehabilitation works commenced on a section of Fivebough Road.
- The Blackspot funded project - intersection of Muntenpen St and Palm Ave was completed.
- The Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition attracted anglers from all over NSW to participate in their annual event. One of the event highlights was on the Saturday where thousands of fingerlings were released into the Murrumbidgee River to assist with the re-stock of the river system.
- Leeton Shire Council and Leeton Tourism websites went live after upgrades.
- Training Sessions were held for councillors on IPR, Financial Planning & Code of Meeting Practice as part of their induction.
- Leeton was launched as a "Free Cuppa Town". A campaign implemented through Roads and Maritime Services.
- Council joined Planet Ark in "Closing the Loop" to recycle the cartridges used within our operations.
- The library display "Everyone Belongs" celebrated Harmony Day.



2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2017

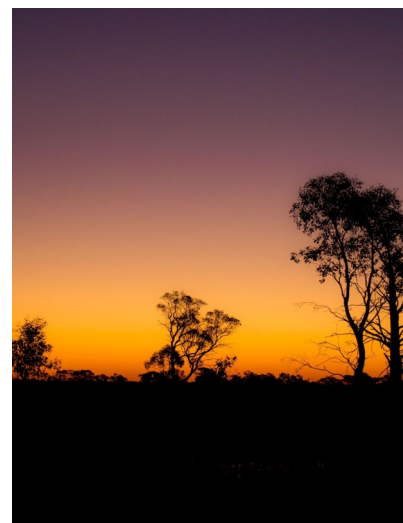
- New play equipment was installed at Gossamer Park.
- Turnstile access was installed at the Leeton Pool Kiosk.
- Penny Paniz Memorial Art Exhibition at the Leeton Multipurpose Centre.
- Dozens of Hot Air Balloons graced the skies of Leeton with the good weather conditions over the Easter Weekend.
- The Riverina Skate Championships were well supported on Easter Saturday, which saw skaters of all skill levels participating in the event at the Leeton Skate Park.
- The ANZAC Day Celebrations were well supported by the Leeton Community. Hundreds of local schools and organisations took part in the ANZAC Day March, which saw even more local residents line the main street of Leeton to watch and pay their respects.
- Carp-a-thon was held at Gogeldrie Weir with hundreds of anglers participating.
- The solar plant at the Leeton Sewer Treatment Plant was officially launched.

MAY 2017

- Irrigation installed to medians from the Stadium in Palm Ave to Rotary Park.
- BBQ installed at Leeton Oval Complex near the Stadium.
- The Leeton Roxy Theatre hosted the live theatre production of Diary of a Wombat, which saw approximately 600 local school students come along and meet 'Mothball' the Wombat. The students were very intrigued by the performance and didn't hesitate to get involved.
- Commenced investigation to uninterrupted water supply during an extended MI shut down period.
- Leeton Library participated in National Simultaneous Story Time with other libraries, schools and families all around Australia.

JUNE 2017

- A new "Whirlwind" swing was installed at Graham Park.
- New town entrance signs were erected at Whitton.
- The construction of the Memorial Wall at the Leeton cemetery was completed.
- Refurbished Parkview Reservoir inside and out.
- Water & Waste Water staff completed more than 100 Trade Waste Inspections.
- Managed an uninterrupted water supply during an extended MI shutdown period.
- The Leeton Library turned 70 years old and held a celebrative afternoon tea.



OUR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

During 2016/17 the following engagement activities were undertaken.

Have Your Say About Weeds

Exhibition period: 1 July 2016 to 22 July 2016

Overview: The way problem weeds get managed is changing.

In 2017 the Biosecurity Act 2015 replaced the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and the current declaration list of noxious weeds will be null and void. A Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (RSWMP) will be developed for each region, ours by the Riverina Regional Weeds Committee (RWC).

Leeton Shire Council sought feedback via a short 3-question survey from ratepayers and residents regarding weed species that they feel are of significance within the Leeton Shire for inclusion in the new Regional Priority Weed List which is managed by the Riverina Regional Weeds Committee.

Engagement activities: Council conducted a short survey via it's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website, uploaded the list of priority weeds to the Council website for the duration of the consultation period as well as placed hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

DRAFT Plan of Management for Gogeldrie Weir Caravan Park

Exhibition period: 25 August 2016 to 30 September 2016.

Overview: The new DRAFT plan provides direction as to the use of Gogeldrie Weir. Some of the key features of the Plan are:

- Land covered by the Plan
- Permitted users
- Existing users
- Licensing and Leasing of Gogeldrie Weir and;
- Other development activities that may be carried out on the Land

DRAFT Plan of Management for Gogeldrie Weir Caravan Park

Engagement activities: Council placed a weekly advertisement in three editions of the "Council News" feature that appears in *The Irrigator*, uploaded the Policy to the Council website for the duration of the consultation period as well as placed hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: October 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting

DRAFT Contaminated Lands Management Policy

Exhibition period: 2 August 2016 to 2 September 2016.

Overview: The early identification of contaminated sites, the consideration of land contamination issues and informing the public on matters such as Section 149 planning certificates are all key focus points of the DRAFT policy.

This Policy will assist Council in ensuring that land is in a suitable condition for its use so that public health and environmental risks are appropriately managed.

Engagement activities: 11 short discussion forums were created via the Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website in which no feedback was received. Council also placed a weekly advertisement in three editions of the "Council News" feature that appears in *The Irrigator*, uploaded the Policy to the Council website for the duration of the consultation period as well as placed hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: October 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting

"Leeton On The Go" Community Strategic Plan

Exhibition period: 19 October 2016 to 30 November 2016.

Overview: As a community we need to have a 10-year plan to ensure that we have a bright future.

The DRAFT Leeton Community Strategic Plan (CSP), "Leeton on The Go", is made up of 6 key themes which are supported by 19 strategies to help us achieve our aspirations.

The Plan will send a series of important messages to Council, Government, Non-Government Organisations and Community Groups about where our community would like to see valuable resources such as time, energy and money directed over the coming years in order to ensure our long-term wellbeing.

Engagement activities: Council conducted six face-to-face workshops with key stakeholders to individually discuss the six key themes in detail and obtain constructive feedback. Six short surveys were also conducted via Council's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website. Hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: December 2016 Ordinary Council Meeting

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993;

New and/or changes to existing strategies, policies & plans are required to be on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days.

This is to ensure any submissions received from the community are considered prior to endorsement or adoption by Council.

OUR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

During 2016/17 the following engagement activities were undertaken.

Leeton Shire Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Exhibition period: 14 December 2016 to 27 January 2017.

Overview: Leeton Shire Council developed a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which sets out the actions Council will take to improve the inclusion of people living with disabilities in the local community.

Whilst development of the plan is required under legislation Council is committed to developing the best plan we can to improve the lives of our residents.

Engagement activities: Short surveys tailored for Council staff, residents and the local business community (with a focus on the Leeton CBD area) were placed on Council's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website and made available in hardcopy at local businesses in the Leeton CBD.

Council's Manager Library, Culture and Community also held face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders including local disability support groups to obtain their direct feedback.

Hardcopies were also available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: May 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting

Proposed New Fees at Leeton Golf Course

Exhibition period: 15 December 2016 to 27 January 2017.

Overview: At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 14 December 2016 Leeton Shire Council resolved to place the following new draft fees (proposed to be implemented in March 2017) on public exhibition:

1) 15 months membership for the price of 12- Any new member joining after the 1 April be allowed to pay yearly membership which gives them membership for April May June of that year and the next full financial year.

2) Membership fee for past members rejoining the course:

- One year lapse – 25% discount on cost of fees

- Two year lapse – 50% discount on cost of fees

(Note: Past Pensioner Members eligible however past full members who are now sports members not eligible)

3) Fee for any full member playing in age bracket 18-29 – ½ cost = \$227.50

4) Upgrading from a sports member to a full member in the last three months of the financial year for \$20

Engagement activities: Council placed a weekly advertisement in two editions of the "Council News" feature that appears in *The Irrigator*, provided residents with the opportunity to provide their comments via the "Guest Book" tool on Council's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website. Hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Leeton CBD Enhancement Project– DRAFT Concept Plans

Exhibition period: 16 January 2017 to 10 February 2017.

Overview: Over the past 12 months the Leeton CBD Enhancement Committee has consulted widely on community priorities for the CBD.

The feedback was collated and a landscape architect and urban designer contracted to develop a series of concept plans for the Leeton CBD Enhancement.

Engagement activities: The designer also made himself available at a "Pop Up Stall" in the Leeton CBD to discuss the concept plans with local business houses and residents.

Feedback received was submitted to the CBD Enhancement Committee as well as the Council, Leeton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Leeton Family & Local History Society Inc, Leeton Tidy Towns Committee and Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Lands Council all of whom are represented on this Committee.

A detailed survey was designed via Council's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website designed to gain feedback on the concept plans for the CBD and surrounding areas.

Alternatively, for those who are time poor, a short "tick and flick survey" was designed to get an understanding of what the community sees as the "priority projects" for the Leeton CBD Enhancement Project.



OUR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

During 2016/17 the following engagement activities were undertaken.

Leeton Shire Business Retention, Attraction and Expansion Survey

Exhibition period: 15 March 2017 to 10 April 2017.

Overview: Council undertook a Business Retention, Attraction and Expansion Economic Development Program with assistance from the NSW Department of Industry's Murray Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program Energise Enterprise Fund.

The program's deliverables will identify challenges and opportunities within our local economy, and in response, develop strategies that strengthen and diversify business opportunities in our Shire.

This Program enables Council to engage with local businesses to understand patterns or trends in relation to barriers and strengths relevant to business retention and expansion. Armed with that knowledge we will be well placed to develop strategies that harness identified opportunities or address any issues that have been holding us back.

The completion of a business prospectus which will be used to attract new business from outside of the Shire and grow new business from within is also a key outcome of this project.

Leeton Shire Council engaged the services of Lynsey Reilly Communications to assist with the delivery of the project, in collaboration with Council staff.

Engagement activities: Lynsey Reilly Communications developed an online survey which was uploaded to Council's Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website and the link to the survey distributed to our local business directory email database with the support of Lynsey Reilly Communications and Council's Communications and Marketing Coordinator.

Re-Establishment of Alcohol Free Zones/Alcohol Prohibition Area

Exhibition period: 3 May 2017 to 5 June 2017.

Overview: Council resolved at its April meeting to notify its intention to re-establish alcohol free zones in the Leeton and Yanco central business areas and add the Leeton Skate Park as an Alcohol Prohibition Area. Its intention being to combat public drinking and its associated crime.

Engagement activities: Placed a weekly advertisement in two editions of the "Council News" feature that appears in *The Irrigator*, uploaded the Plan to the Council website for the duration of the consultation period, conducted a consultation via the Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website as well as placed hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: June 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting

Lyrics, Landscapes and Lintels Project

Exhibition period: 10 May 2017 to 5 June 2017

Overview: An exciting project aimed at celebrating local heritage through public art is being developed by Council.

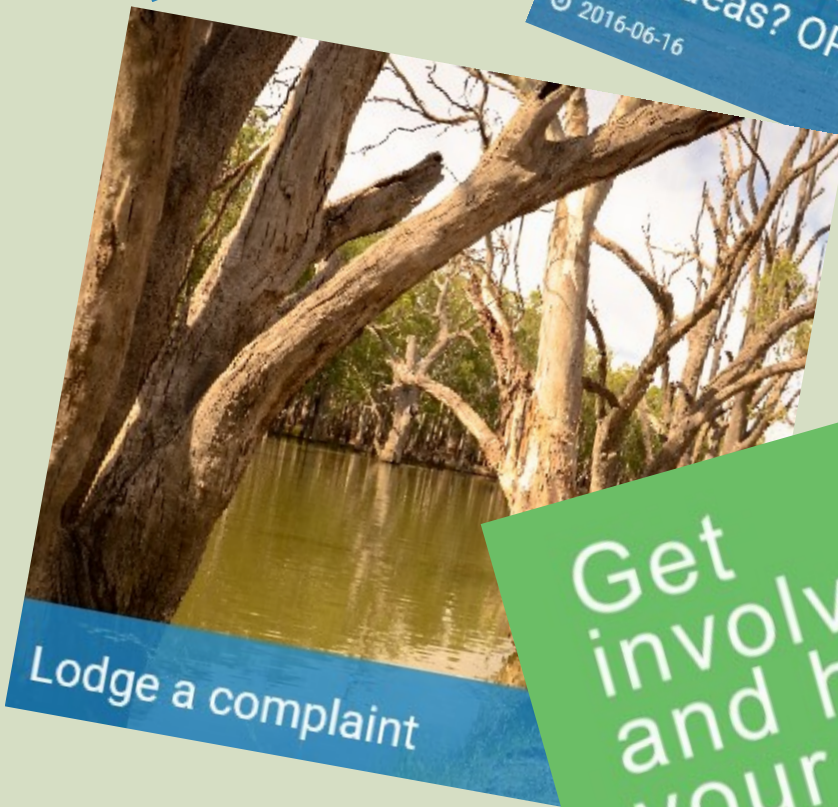
Called Lyrics, Landscapes and Lintels, five civic art heritage stations will be commissioned and constructed in Yanco (1), Whitton (1) and Leeton (3). The project is being funded through a NSW Heritage Near Me Activation Grant.

Engagement activities: Council was keen to hear via a short survey what important heritage stories residents believe need to be told through the artworks. The intention of the artworks is to generate visitor interest to the artwork where stories will then be communicated through interpretative signage.

Engagement activities: Placed a weekly advertisement in two editions of the "Council News" feature that appears in *The Irrigator*, uploaded the Plan to the Council website for the duration of the consultation period, conducted a consultation via the Have Your Say Leeton community engagement website as well as placed hardcopies which were available for the general public to read at the Leeton Shire Council Office, Leeton Library, Whitton Post Office, Yanco Post Office and Murrumbidgee Post Office.

Adopted: June 2017 Ordinary Council Meeting





STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Rates and Charges Written Off

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 132

The amount of rates written off in the period under review related to the following:

Total Pensioner Concession 2016/17	\$346,619.05
LESS: Subsidy Reimbursement	(\$190,640.45)
Amount Written off by Council	\$155,978.60
Postponed Rates and Charges	\$ 1,382.30
Sale of land for rates	NIL
Rates debts abandoned	NIL
Special Rate Rebates	\$53,919.35
Concessions	NIL
Total	<u>\$211,280.25</u>

Councillor Expenses

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a1)

The total amount of money expended during the 2016/17 year on mayoral fees and councillor fees was \$154,415.47. The breakdown of these payments is provided in the table below:

Mayoral Allowance (Excl Councillor Fee)	24,630.00
Councillor Fees (x 9)	99,908.00
Travel	2,562.84
cl217 (1) (a1)(i) Office Equipment	3,167.76
cl217 (1) (a1)(ii) Telecommunications	6,631.19
cl217 (1) (a1)(iii) Conferences	8,714.67
cl217 (1) (a1)(iv) Training	6,255.58
cl217 (1) (a1)(v) Interstate	NIL
cl217 (1) (a1)(vi) Overseas	NIL
cl217 (1) (a1)(vii) Spouse	2,545.43
cl217 (1) (a1)(viii) Childcare	NIL
Total	<u>154,415.47</u>

Payments were made in accordance with Council's Policy for the *Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to Mayor and Councillors* adopted on 27 August 2014, Council Resolution 14/214.

Companies Controlled by Council

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies during 2016/2017.

Remuneration - General Manager

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(b)

Council employed one (1) General Manager as classified by the Local Government Act 1993 at a total remuneration of \$219,844.71 including salaries, private use of a Council car and employers' superannuation contribution.

Period - 1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017:

(i) the total of the value of the salary components of their packages	\$200,700.51
(ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to them that do not form part of the salary components of their packages	NIL
(iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor	\$19,144.20
(iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package	NIL
(v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	NIL
Total	<u>\$219,844.71</u>

State of the Environment

Local Government Act 1993 S428A

Detailed information on the environment can be found in Council's quarterly updates on "Enhancing and Preserving Our Natural Assets". However, highlights for the 2016-17 year are:

- Completion of Stage 3 water efficiency project for Parks & Gardens
- Transfer of 301.4 megalitres of recycled water from the Sewerage Treatment Plant to Fivebough Wetlands
- Increased recycling collections across the LGA
- Planting of 218 trees
- Decline in mosquitos trapped through monitoring program
- Work commenced on traditional owners heritage project
- Return/rehoming of 87% of impounded dogs
- Successful advocacy for translucent flows review
- Hosting of Regional Engagement Officer for MDBA

STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Works Carried out on Private Land

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a4)

During the year ending 30 June 2017 Council made no resolutions under Section 67 of the Local Government Act to subsidise work carried out on private land.

Joint Ventures/Partnerships

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a8)

Council did not participate in any corporation, partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or other body during 2016/2017.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements

Local Government Act 1993 Section 54P

No environmental upgrade agreements have been entered into in accordance with any requirements imposed under S406.

Contracts Awarded

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a2)

Details of each contract awarded in the 2016/17 year for amounts greater than \$150,000, include:

Contract	Awarded To	GST Inclusive
Supply of quarry materials—DGB and DGS Material and Roadbase	Milbrae Quarries	\$864,000
Spray Sealing Works	Downer EDI	\$631,000
Water Truck	Vendor Panel	\$210,000
Grader	Vendor Panel	\$330,000
Total		\$2,035,000

Section 94 and Section 64 Contributions

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Local Government Act 1993

During the 2016/17 Financial Year, Council collected \$175,994 towards its Section 94/Section 64 contributions. Of these funds, \$133,079 were expended to meet costs associated with shared cycleways, light installations, Petersham Road culverts, bus shelters, upgrades to Palm Avenue and drainage in accordance with Council's adopted plans. Residual funds were set aside for future works on the Golf Club Estate Park development and the expansion of raw water storage (dam).

Stormwater Management Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(e)

During 2016/2017 Council levied a stormwater management charge of \$25.00 on eligible residential properties and eligible properties in the business rating category. A total of \$88,896 was raised through the charges. Some of the funds were used to fund Council's Flood Study. This Flood Study included the capturing of flood data and the hydrological analysis that will allow for the determination of inundation areas and declared flood zones within the Leeton Local Government Area. This levy will also fund any future capital work requirements that could come out of the Flood Study results.

Other works included this year that were funded from the stormwater levy funds were upgrades to several stormwater pump stations, and infilling and piping of minor drainage channels in the Petersham Road Precinct area to allow safer verge areas around intersection treatments. Improvements were also made to the stormwater drainage in Wamoon & Palm Ave.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 Section 93G(5)

Council did not have any planning agreements in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 in place in 2016/17.

Coastal Protection Services

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(e1)

The requirement to report on coastal protection services does not apply as Leeton Shire Council did not levy an annual charge for coastal protection services.

Overseas Visits

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a)

Council's Event Coordinator Alison Egan undertook a 5 day research tour in February 2017 of the Napier Art Deco Festival in Napier, New Zealand.

The purpose of this tour was to source ideas and establish relationships that will help to relaunch the Leeton Art Deco Festival in 2019.

The cost of the research tour was funded from Council's existing budget allocations. Council approved the research tour at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 18 January 2017.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Contributions and Donations

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a5)

Under Council's Community Grants Program is made available annually for community projects. In 2016/17 funding was provided to the following groups:

Community Strengthening Grants	Funds
Lions Club of Leeton	\$3,000
Leeton Harness Racing Club	\$1,000
Inner Wheel Club of Leeton Inc	\$390
Rotary Club of Leeton	\$1,500
Leeton Family & Local History Society	\$1,400
Leeton Community Christmas Party	\$200
The Salvation Army (NSW)	\$250
Leeton Eisteddfod	\$1,500
Brilliant & Resilient	\$400
Yanco Wamoon Football Club	\$2,000
Leeton U3A	\$1,500
Sporting Shooters Association	\$1,860
Total	\$15,000

Funding was provided in the form of sporting donations to the following:

Recipient	Funds
S Quinlivan	\$100
J Quinlivan	\$100
Total	\$200

In addition to the Community Grants Program, Council allocates funding to various organisations and community groups that make annual requests, In 2016/17 Leeton Shire Council made the following contributions:

Organisation / Community Group	Funds
TAFE—Leeton Campus	\$250.00
Yanco Agricultural High School	\$100.00
Leeton High School	\$100.00
St Francis College	\$100.00
MET School	\$100.00
Gralee School	\$75.00
Whitton/Murrumbidgee Public School	\$75.00
Parkview Public School	\$60.00
Yanco Public School	\$75.00
Wamoon Public School	\$75.00
St Joseph's Primary School	\$75.00
Leeton Public School	\$75.00
Leeton & Narrandera Vets Week	\$500.00
Technical & Further Education	\$150.00
Leeton Show Society	\$500.00
Yanco Lions Club	\$500.00
Leeton Town Band—Insurance	\$1685.80
Leeton Town Band	\$3,000.00
Leeton Racecourse—Fixed Water Charge	\$2,311.68
Total	\$9,807.48

Capital Works Projects

Capital Expenditure Guidelines

Council undertook major capital works during 2016/2017 totalling \$7,602,000. Some of the major projects were as follows:

Project	Funds
Buildings	\$176,000
Plant and Equipment	\$1,318,000
Roads, Bridges and Footpaths	\$83,000
Stormwater Drainage	\$83,000
Sewerage Network	\$959,000
Parks & Recreation Assets	\$297,000
Water Supply Network	\$810,000
TOTAL	\$3,726,000

Special Rate Variations

Local Government Act 1993 Section 508

Council did not have any special rate variations in accordance with Section 508 of the Local Government Act 1993 in place in 2016/17.



STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Companion Animals Act 1998 and Regulation 2008

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(f)

Statement on activities for 2016/17 relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation:

- **Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Division**

The pound data collection return for 2016/17 was lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG).

- **Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the Division**

The required data relating to dog attacks within the Leeton Shire Council area was lodged with the OLG.

- **Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities**

Monies received from the Companion Animals Fund were expended on the provision of companion animal management and control services as detailed below. A total of \$300,723.00 in funding was spent on Companion Animal management and related activities.

Payments to OLG from fees collected: \$18,209.00

Fund monies returned from OLG: \$10,198.00

- **Companion animal community education programs carried out**

Community education programs were undertaken throughout the year by way of media releases, reports to Council, Councillor Briefing Sessions, educational material distribution and ongoing education provided by Council's Ranger Services.

Council conducts an ongoing subsidised micro chipping program which allows members of the public to have their companion animals micro chipped at a substantially reduced rate \$28 for one dog or \$20 for more than one dog. Rangers attend dog owners' homes Monday to Saturday to carry out microchip implantation.

Over two hundred dogs have been micro chipped annually. Council also carried out an annual microchip day in conjunction with Local Government Week in August on which animals are microchipped for FREE. 63 animals were microchipped on that day.

- **Strategies Council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of dogs and cats**

Council defers the registration of cats and dogs for owners who wish to have their pets de-sexed until after the animals are de-sexed in order for the owners to receive the benefit of the lower de-sexed registration rate.

- **Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under Section 64 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals**

Council has rehoming agreements with RADAR and Riverina Animals Rescue and Council gives the animals to approved rehoming agencies at no cost. Council also microchips any animal going to a rescue organisation at no cost.

Council does not charge any fees for animals adopted from the pound by members of the public apart from registration fees and provides free microchipping.

Council's website has pictures of impounded dogs and cats which is constantly updated in order that the owners may claim the dogs or that they may be rehomed.

- **Off leash areas provided in the Council area**

An off leash area was provided throughout the reporting period at the former caravan park site in Brobenah Road.

Legal Proceedings

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a3)

In 2016/2017, Council was involved in legal proceedings for the recovery of unpaid rates, water usage charges and other debts.

2016/2017 Rates and Charges	Status	Cost / Number
Cost of Recovery		\$32,444.26
Number of Clients referred to Debt Collection Agency	Ongoing	686
Number of Summonses Issued	Ongoing	40

2016/2017 Water Charges	Status	Cost / Number
Cost of Recovery		0
Number of Clients referred to Debt Collection Agency	Ongoing	0
Number of Summonses Issued	Ongoing	0

STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 S125(1) and Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 Clause 7A and Schedule 2

Access to public information

Council is required to prepare an annual report on activities undertaken during the financial year relevant to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009* (GIPA). The report is provided to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of the Information Commissioner and is available for download from Council's website. A summary of the key points contained in the GIPA Annual Report is below.

Leeton Shire Council received no formal access and one (1) informal access application for the reporting year. There were no access applications received by Leeton Shire Council during the reporting year that were refused because the disclosure was for information referred to in Schedule 1 of GIPA. All access applications were decided within the statutory timeframe of 20 days.

Public Interest Disclosure

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 Section 31 and Regulation 2011 Clause 4

Council is required to have a Public Interest Disclosures Policy under section 6D of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act, 1994* (the PID Act). Council's Policy must have procedures for receiving, assessing and dealing with public interest disclosures, having regard to the Ombudsman's guidelines in formulation of the policy for the purposes of the Act. Our policy conforms to Council's Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Workplace Harassment Policy and Workplace Grievance Procedure Policy.

The intention of the PID Act is to provide protection for staff members reporting genuine concerns regarding corruption, maladministration, substantial waste of public money or government information contraventions. Penalties can be imposed on anyone who takes detrimental action on an individual substantially in reprisal for that person making a public interest disclosure. Under Clause 4 (1) of the *Public Disclosures Regulation, 2011*, Council must include the following information in its Annual Report:

Public Interest Disclosures in 2016/2017	Total
Number of public officials who made PIDs	0
Number of PIDs received	0
Number of PIDs finalised	0

Equal Employment Opportunities

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Clause 217(1)(a9)

Leeton Shire Council ('the Council') aims to provide an environment where employees and others in the workplace are treated fairly and with respect, and are free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and bullying.

Flexible Working Arrangements

Council has a Flexible Working Arrangements in place which provides the opportunity for flexibility in handling work and family responsibilities. Council utilises its Consultative Committee as a consulting mechanism with employees during the development of Human Resources policies and will be offering flexible working as part of the recruitment process for all new positions.

Service for Carers

NSW Carers (Recognition) Act, 2010 Section 8(2)

Leeton Shire Council has provided the following Home and Community Care services in relation to providing information, support and advocacy for people who care for family members with a disability, chronic illness or are frail aged.

These services are:

- *Meals on Wheels
- *Home Modifications
- Community Transport
- *Social Support Services

Council also provides home delivery of library material for those unable to attend the Leeton Library.

*These services were transferred to Temora Shire Council by novated lease on 1 October 2016

Fisheries Management Act, 1994

Recovery and Threat Abatement Plan Section 220ZT

Council is not identified in any recovery and threat abatement plan under the Fisheries Management Act, 1994.

STATUTORY INFORMATION

This section of the Annual Report contains legislative information Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

External Bodies that exercise functions delegated by Council

Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217(1)(a6)

Name	Function
Rural Fire Service	Oversees the delivery of a Rural Fire Service within the local government area and the discharge of Council's obligations under the Rural Fires Act 1997 and Local Government Act 1993.
State Emergency Services	Oversees the delivery of the State Emergency Service within the Leeton Shire and the discharge of Council's obligations under the State Emergency Service Act, 1989.

Companies in which Council held the controlling interest

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

Council held no controlling interest in any company for the 12 month period ending 30 June 2017.

Cooperatives, Trusts and Partnerships

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

The following section describes the cooperatives, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) to which Council was a party during 2016/17.

Name	Function
Country Mayor's Association	A Lobby Group on behalf of the concerns of major rural centres within New South Wales, the Country Mayor's Association is a forum to discuss like issues and make representations to other levels of government.
Leeton Local Emergency Management Committee	This Committee is responsible for an all agencies comprehensive approach to emergency planning in the Leeton Shire local government area. Emergency Services and agencies having functional responsibilities are members of the Committee.
Leeton / Narrandera Aerodrome Management Committee	This Committee is responsible for policy formulation and setting of guidelines for management matters at the Narrandera / Leeton Airport.
Leeton / Narrandera Community Transport	This service provides a flexible, door to door community transport service to groups and individuals. Transport is provided locally and to regional centres such as Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Albury, using one of the service owned vehicles. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are also available.
Leeton Local Traffic Committee	This Committee exists primarily as a technical review committee which advises Council on some matters. The Committee is made up of representatives from Council, NSW Police and the Roads and Maritime Authority.
MIA Zone Bush Fire Committee	This Committee is responsible to advise the State Bushfire Coordination Committee on bushfire prevention in the Leeton Shire local government area, promote the coordination of policies, practices and strategies relating to bushfire management, prepare a Bushfire Management Area Plan and oversee its implementation.
Murray Darling Association Region 9	A group that represents local government and community views on the major natural resource management issues of the Murray-Darling Basin and to influence the policies of governments as they relate to conservation and sustainable development within the Basin.



COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Section 355 Committees of Council as at 30 June 2017 are:

- Whitton Court House and Historical Museum Group
- Whitton Community Hall Group
- Yanco Community Hall Group
- Murrambi Community Hall Group
- Leeton Men's Shed
- SunRice Festival Committee
- Light Up Leeton Committee
- Bidgee Classic Committee

Advisory Committees of Council as at 30 June 2017 are:

- Leeton Tree Management Advisory Group
- Leeton Shire Heritage Group
- Roxy Community Theatre Group
- Leeton Traffic Committee
- Whitton Town Improvement Committee
- Community Grant Funding Committee
- Yanco Town Improvement Committee
- Internal Audit Committee
- Central Business District Working Group
- Visitor Services Information Committee

Action Groups of Council as at 30 June 2017 are:

- Leeton Tidy Towns
- Leeton Youth Committee
- Leeton Australia Day Group



2016/17 financial summary

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare financial statements that reflect its financial performance for the reporting period. The following is a summary of the key financial results for 2016/17. Council's full Financial Statements are included as Annexure 1 to this Annual Report.

Key financial results

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions for the year ended 30 June 2017 was a surplus of \$4.985M compared with a surplus of \$3.985M for the year ended 30 June 2016. The key differences between the two financial years were as a result of:

- Advance payment of 50% of 2017/18 Financial Assistance Grant \$1,981,000.
- Natural Disaster (Flood Damage) Grant of \$500,000 following heavy rainfalls in July, August & September 2016
- Contributions to water main extension \$402,000
- Additional user charges of \$894,000 for works on contract on State Roads on behalf of Roads & Maritimes Services.

Cash and investments

Council's total cash and investments as at 30 June 2017 were \$38.34M. Not all of these funds are available for discretionary use, as the amount includes items that are externally or internally restricted in their use.

Council is holding \$22.33M of funds that are externally restricted in their use.

This amount includes unexpended loans, deposits/bonds, unexpended grants as well as water, sewerage, and domestic waste cash and investments.

Council is also holding a further \$14.65M in funds that are internally restricted by Council in their use.

These are amounts set aside for purposes such as future asset replacement and accrued employee leave entitlements.

Some of the key restrictions as at 30 June 2017 were as follows:

- Plant and vehicle replacement \$1.45M
- Infrastructure replacement \$3.23M
- Swimming Pool Renewal \$994K
- Employee Leave Entitlements \$2.11M

2016/17 Summary	2016-17 (\$'000)
Income statement	
Total income from continuing operations	31,319
Total expenses from continuing operations	25,209
Net operating result from continuing operations	6,110
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	4,985
Balance sheet	
Total current assets	28,844
Total non-current assets	215,734
Total current liabilities	4,733
Total non-current liabilities	2,024
Total equity	237,821

2016/17 AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Consolidated funds

Operating Performance ratio: This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue. Council's ratio was 16.15% which is well above the industry benchmark of greater than 0%. This was principally due to additional grant and fees and interest on investments..

Own Source Operating Revenue ratio: This ratio measures fiscal flexibility and the degree of reliance that Council has on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. Council's own source revenue ratio of 69.01% continues to be well above the industry benchmark of 60%.

Unrestricted current ratio: The Unrestricted Current Ratio is used to assess the adequacy of working capital and its ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council. It is a measure of Council's ability to meet its financial obligations, in particular, its immediate ability to repay its short-term (current) debts. Council's consolidated Unrestricted Current Ratio is 4.52. This is a better result than the industry standard of a minimum of 1.5.

Debt service cover ratio: The Debt Service Cover Ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt, including interest, principal and lease payments. These debts occur from loans borrowed by Council for the purpose of providing facilities and infrastructure improvements that Council views as essential to its effective operation. Council's debt service ratio is 28.26 (times) which is considered to be well above the industry benchmark of 2 (times).

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage: This percentage is used to assess the impact of uncollected rates and charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. Council's current outstanding percentage is 3.06%, which is well below the industry standard of 10% for rural councils. The low percentage outstanding reflects the efficiency and effort of Council's debt collection policies.

Cash Expense Cover ratio: This ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without any additional cash inflow. Council's ratio of 20.73 months is well above the industry benchmark of 3 months. Council has a strong cash ratio that supports its ongoing liquidity and working capital requirements.

General fund

Unrestricted current ratio: Council's General Fund Unrestricted Current Ratio is 4.52 (times). Council's General Fund is in a strong position to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Debt service cover ratio: Debts occur from loans borrowed by Council for the purpose of funding renewal of the existing network facilities and new infrastructure that Council views as essential to its effective operation. Council's General Fund debt service ratio is 28.26 (times) which is well above the industry benchmark of 2 (times) and indicates that council has adequate revenue to cover the principal repayments and borrowing costs.

Water fund

Unrestricted current ratio: Council's Water Fund Unrestricted Current Ratio is 4724.26 (times). Council's Water Fund is in a strong position to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Debt service cover ratio: Debts occur from loans borrowed by Council for the purpose of funding renewal of the existing network facilities and new infrastructure that Council views as essential to its effective operation. Council's Water Fund has not incurred any current debt.

Sewer fund

Unrestricted current ratio: Council's Sewer Fund has no liabilities in place and therefore this fund has no ratio.

Debt service cover ratio: Council's Sewer Fund does not have any debt therefore does not have a ratio.



UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Each year, individual Local Governments across NSW are required to present a set of Audited Financial Statements to their Council and Community.

Leeton Shire Council's Financial Statements are attached to this report as **Annexure 1**.

What you will find in the statements

The Financial Statements set out the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2017. The format of the Financial Statements is standard across all NSW Councils and complies with both the accounting and reporting requirements of Australian Accounting Standards and requirements of the Office of Local Government.

About the Councillor/Management statement

The Financial Statements must be certified by Senior staff as "presenting fairly" the Council's financial results for the year, and are required to be adopted by Council - ensuring both responsibility for and ownership of the Financial Statements.

About the primary Financial Statements

The Financial Statements incorporate five "primary" financial statements:

1. **An income statement** - A summary of Council's financial performance for the year, listing all income and expenses. This Statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.
2. **A statement of comprehensive income** - Primarily records changes in the fair values of Council's Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment.
3. **A balance sheet** - A 30 June snapshot of Council's Financial Position including its Assets and Liabilities.
4. **A statement of changes in equity** - The overall change for the year (in dollars) of Council's "net wealth".
5. **A statement of cash flows** - Indicates where Council's cash came from and where it was spent. This Statement also displays Council's original adopted budget to provide a comparison between what was projected and what actually occurred.

About the notes to the Financial Statements

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide greater detail and additional information on the five Primary Financial Statements.

About the auditor's reports

Council's Financial Statements are required to be audited by external accountants (that generally specialise in Local Government). In NSW, the Auditor provides two audit reports:

- an opinion on whether the Financial Statements present fairly the Council's financial performance and position; and
- their observations on the conduct of the Audit including the Council's financial performance and financial position.

These reports are included at the back of the Financial Statements.

Who uses the Financial Statements?

The Financial Statements are publicly available documents and must be presented at a Council meeting between seven days and five weeks after the date of the Audit Report.

Submissions from the public can be made to Council up to seven days subsequent to the public presentation of the Financial Statements.

Council is also required to forward an audited set of Financial Statements to the Office of Local Government.

