



Annual Report 2008 / 2009

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MAYORAL MESSAGE

The past twelve months have been a very busy time. The new council worked very cohesively to gain improvements for its citizens.

Council's priorities for this past year have been to continue to be core services. While continuing to maintenance and rehabilitation the roads, water and sewer infrastructure, Council has utilised the Federal Government's Stimulus Package "Regional and Local Infrastructure Fund – Round 1" funding and Council's own funds to replace the old roof at the Grace Munro Centre, build disabled toilets, provide play ground equipment and a new nature park at Bundarra, repair the footbridge in Alma Park, complete stage 1 and 2 of the Uralla creek clean up, construct a new walking track through Alma Park and around Mount Mutton, replace the fence at the lookout at Mount Mutton, build a new walking track through the Glen to the toilets, continue to improve the swimming pool with new plumbing, water heating, shade cloth, install disabled toilets at the Memorial Hall, provide a unisex public disabled toilet at Kingstown and a new sealed car parking area at Kentucky. Other works that are nearing completion include the \$1.4 Million dollar Bridge at Maitland Point, stage 1 of Bundarra Road (Main Road 124) at the Pinnacles. The straightening of the road at the Pinnacles and the further work, to commence in this coming year on stage 2, will immeasurably improve the safety and convenience of this important road. Currently the road is not available to B Doubles, which adds many kilometres to the journey of this type of transport, particularly stock trucks wishing to access the Armidale Stock Saleyards. The opening of this section of MR 124 will benefit many primary producers in the western portion of the shire and beyond.

The Climate Consensus Project (C.C.P.) commenced with a deliberative democracy community forum held in October 2008 as part of a state wide project coordinated by Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC). Participants from that forum have since formed an active community focus group, the Community Climate Change Forum (U.C.C.C.F.), which empowers the Community giving the group strength, a voice and transparency in the decision making processes at our the level of local government.

This open and transparent process of discussion, deliberation, consensus and review, leads to action on climate change and sustainability issues and projects in our region. The C.C.P. has become a case study in local government participatory democracy and is providing Uralla with National exposure and recognition. This continuing project is open to all residents of the shire who have an opinion and a will to contribute. The members of the U.C.C.C.F are a vehicle for change in policy direction within Council. The group is to provide a workshop on participatory democracy at the Sustainable Living Expo (SLEX) in Armidale on Saturday 26 September 2009.

The Community Climate Change Forum is driven by the community members in partnership with Council's Environmental Committee under the acknowledgement that we are all in it together and the only way forward is to work with each other for the benefit of the whole Shire.

The primary aim of the project was to assist local and state government to understand and incorporate community opinions, values, priorities and expertise into their decision making; enabling decisions on climate change to be more reflective of community view, and giving the community a stronger voice in decision making processes. The secondary aim was to develop and nurture public participation in Council's long term environmental goals.

The challenge for the Uralla Shire Council was to take the wisdom of a committed group of locals and incorporate there recommendations into Council's planning processes, which we have.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

The 2008/2009 year for the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) started with four general purpose councils and a weeds county council. NESAC was made up of Armidale Dumaresq Council, Guyra Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council, Walcha Shire Council and the New England Weeds County Council. In late 2008 the General Manager of Guyra Shire Council as Alliance Portfolio of HR believed that issues of staff reporting and responsibilities within the shared services employees were not able to be managed. Together with the General Manager of Armidale Dumaresq and the Chief Finance / Information Officer of NESAC; they developed a concept of Business Units without advising the other portfolio General Managers and Councils. The original concept involved the transferring of staff to councils who would have responsibility for specific activities and functions.

The New England Strategic Alliance of Councils Charter expires on 30 September 2009 and needed to be renewed. It was therefore an opportune time to look at where the Alliance was successful and where it was not and what changes were needed to the Charter for the next five years.

The Department of Local Government carried out a Better Practice Review of NESAC during late 2008, culminating with a site visit from 18 to 25 February 2009. The site visit concluded with a debriefing session on the 25th February 2009 to the Mayors and General Managers of the Alliance, in this report they stated that amalgamations were off the agenda at this point in time and recommended a number of improvements they would like to see in the Alliance. Later that day, during its February Council meeting, Walcha Shire Council resolved to withdraw from the Alliance, leaving Armidale Dumaresq Council, Guyra Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council, and New England Weeds County Council as the Alliance. The General Managers of Armidale Dumaresq Council and Guyra Shire Council continued to push the ideology of business units resulting in the commissioning of the Finch Report. The Finch (Forsyth) report when analysed proved to contain incorrect misleading and skewed information, Uralla Council compiled our own response to the report. The principal recommendation of the Finch report was for a voluntary amalgamation; together with a fall back recommendation of a separate corporate structure to provide services to the three local authorities. Neither option was considered by the Uralla Shire Council Councillors and staff to be financially or socially beneficial for Uralla Residents.

At the Council meeting of 24th August 2009, after workshops and public surveys, Council decided not renew its membership of the Alliance from the 1st October 2009. The Uralla Shire council is committed to structural change and it sees Shared Services as the method of achieving this objective. The difference is that Council wishes to obtain these Shared (outsourced) Services for the most beneficial and cost effective source, be it from the public or private sector.

Note: The extent and depth of support Uralla Council has from its Community was demonstrated when the voluntary written surveys on do they wish to be amalgamated yes or no were compiled with 310 Votes only 6 were yes. The statistically based phone survey determined a 66.5% against a voluntary amalgamation and only 19.9% for such an amalgamation.

The 2009 Annual Report is our Council's report card on what was set out to achieve at the beginning of the year, as promised in the Management Plan, and the actual performance. The Review of the Strategic Objectives, Objectives and Performance Targets, Statement of Means and Performance Assessment of the 2008/2009 Management Plan is provide later in this meeting and a summary of the result of that review is on the following pages of my message.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Page		Achieving/ Achieved	Not Achieved	Total Outcomes
1	Governance	9	1	10
	Administration			
2	Corporate Support Services	15	5	20
4	Plant Services	9	1	10
	Public Order and Safety			
5	Fire Protection	1	1	2
5	Animal and Abandoned Articles Control	2	1	3
6	Emergency Services	2	1	3
	Health			
6	Inspection Services	4	0	4
7	Noxious Plant Control	1	0	1
	Community Services and Education			
7	Youth Services and Education	3	0	3
8	Aged Units	1	0	1
8	Aged Care Centres	5	0	5
9	Community Support Options Programs	4	0	4
9	Tablelands Community Transport	4	0	4
10	Community Centre	3	0	3
10	Bundarra Neighbour Aid Service	4	0	4
11	Other Community Services	1	0	1
	Housing and Community Amenities			
11	Urban and Rural Planning and Assessment	7	0	7
12	Garbage Collection and Disposal	5	1	6
13	Streetscape (Street Cleaning)	6	0	6
13	Urban Stormwater Drainage	7	1	8
14	Public Cemeteries	4	1	5
15	Environmental Control	5	0	5
16	Other Conveniences	3	0	3
	Water Supplies			
16	Uralla	5	0	5
17	Bundarra	2	0	2
18	Rural	3	0	3
	Sewerage Services			
18	Uralla	5	2	7
19	Bundarra	0	2	2
20	Rural	2	1	3
	Recreation and Culture			
20	Public Libraries	3	2	5
21	Public Halls	3	1	4
21	Swimming Facilities	5	3	8
	Recreation and Culture (Continued)			
22	Sporting Grounds and Facilities	1	0	1
23	Parks, Gardens and Reserves	3	0	3
23	Other Recreation and Culture	3	0	3

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Page		Achieving/ Achieved	Not Achieved	Total Outcomes
	Mining Manufacturing and Construction			
24	Quarries and Pits	1	1	2
	Transport and Communication			
24	Urban Roads	6	1	7
25	Sealed rural Roads	9	0	9
27	Unsealed rural Roads	5	1	6
28	Bridges	4	3	7
28	Footpaths	3	0	3
29	Parking Areas	1	1	2
29	Miscellaneous Transport	7	0	7
	Economic Affairs			
30	Camping and Caravan Areas	0	2	2
31	Tourism	5	0	5
31	Economic Development	6	1	7
32	Private Works	2	0	2
32	Other Business	3	0	3
		192	34	226

The Management Plan listed 230 outcomes to achieve the actions planned for the Council; however 4 outcomes were not achievable because of changes in Council's decisions. The aged units were deferred, no Gross pollutant Traps were funded and Council's change to defer the further sealing of roads affected two outcomes. There are 192 outcomes that have been assessed as Achieved, that is 85% (2008 - 75.5%).

The 34 outcomes (2008 – 57) that were not achieved are noted in the Outcome column in bold lettering. The most serious shortcomings 5 out of 20 outcomes (last year 10 out of 20) were in the Administration.

Governance (1)

This negative result was from the late preparation of minutes during the period July to November 2008, with a new Executive Assistant. The target of minutes being prepared within 5 working days was met from December 2008.

Administration (5)

The percentage of rate income of total income at 26.78% is down from the previous year's percentage of 29.06% (both short of the target of 30%). The investment strategy of Council changed following the Global Financial Crisis and surplus funds, other than those tied up in Forward Rate Notes and Collateralised Debt Obligations, were placed in safe term deposits, therefore the 1% above bank rate was not achieved although the average rate for the year achieved was an acceptable 5.72%. The collection of rates did not achieve the target of 97% achieving just 90.72%. The operation of the service delivery was compromised by the lack of agreed and signed Service Level Agreements between the N.E.S.A.C. Finance Team and the Uralla Shire Council.

Plant Services (1)

The requirement to have all graders achieve 1,500 hours is not achievable with one grader stationed permanently at Bundarra. The other two graders achieved the 1,500 hour target.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Fire Protection (1)

The Zone Commander of the NSW Fire Brigade did not attend Council for his annual presentation.

Animal and Abandoned Articles Control (1)

An abandoned vehicle in Bridge Street was not removed within the 3 working days of the complaint.

Emergency Services

No report on the DISPLAN made in March 2009.

Aged Units

Council deferred any action on the Retirement Village Units project as there was not sufficient interest received from prospective purchasers.

Garbage Collection and Disposal (2)

The performance target of 100 kgs of disposed garbage per head is unrealistic with disposal at 371 kgs per head and will need review to say 350 kgs per head. In addition, the amount of recycling at 85 kgs per head was easily achieved at 309 kgs and also should be revised upward to say 325 kgs per head. Both targets would then be realistic stretches for the Community. The recycling of material service is provided at Bundarra, in addition to Uralla and Invergowrie.

Urban Stormwater Drainage (1)

No additional gross pollutant trap were planned to be installed. The volumes of waste collected from the installed traps were not reported to Council.

Public Cemeteries (1)

No application for heritage funding of work at the old cemetery was compiled or lodged in 2008/2009 as no matching funds were provided in the budget.

Uralla Sewerage Services (2)

The report of current likelihood if expected upgrading requirements is awaiting the completion of the 10 year infrastructure plan. There was no sewer main construction during the year as replacement is on the basis of need until such time as an infrastructure replacement plan has been compiled.

Bundarra Sewerage Services (2)

No funding opportunities arose or were taken during the year.

Rural Waste Water (1)

45 of the targeted 100 inspections made. This target needs to be revised in future years to a more realistic number with 40 as the number.

Public Libraries (2)

The change in library access, reflected by all libraries in the Central Northern Libraries, is from books borrowed to computer access. The Uralla Library did not meet the target of 28,000 books borrowed nor was the ratio of 3.5:1 issues of stock achieved.

Public Halls (1)

The quarterly reports on the condition of the public halls have not been compiled and presented to Council.

Swimming Facilities (3)

The records of attendance, temperatures and its reporting to Manex were not completed for the 2008/2009 year. The data is yet to be collated.

Quarries and Pits (1)

There was no report to Council on volume of material won from its pits.

Urban Roads (1)

There was no work on the sealing of roads in Uralla and Bundarra urban areas this year in line with Council's changed strategic direction. The entry statement to be constructed at the northern approach to Uralla was not commenced in the 2008/2009 year and is a carry over re-vote of work in the 2009/2010 year.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Unsealed Rural Roads (1)

The report on council roads that had not been graded for more than 12 months had not been graded for eight months has not been produced.

Bridges (3)

There were no reports to Council on the number of bridges in poor condition, not painted for more than 10 years on both local and regional roads.

Parking Areas (1)

There was no report to Council on the usage of car park at the rear of the Central Business District.

Camping and Caravan Areas (2)

There was no report to Council on the operation of the lease in Uralla or the Park in Bundarra.

Economic Development (1)

The Bundarra Rural Transaction Centre Committee chose not to incorporate this year.

The 34 Not Achieved (15.0% of total) outcomes is a reduction from the 57 Not Achieved (24.8% of total) outcomes of the previous year, a 10% improvement.

The overall assessment for the Review of the 2008/2009 Uralla Shire Council's Management Plan for the year to 30 June 2009 is satisfactory.

The reputation of the Uralla Community for the depth and extent of its Community spirit continues to grow. This is reflected in the work of our service organisations and volunteers who continue to support the operations of Council for the benefit of the Community. We are a diverse Community that cares enough about each other that we want to share each other's interests and the collective objectives of the whole. Council continues to support local initiatives particularly those that have positive economic and tourist potential.

We continue to be a proud Community that faces the future with confidence in our ability to provide services and facilities for the residents of our Shire and District to enjoy.



Mark Dusting
MAYOR

Footnote: The information in this message was compiled from reports available in Council Business Papers.

1. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS
Section 428(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993

ATTACHMENT A

2. PERFORMANCE OF PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES
Section 428(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993

ATTACHMENT B

Legislative Context

Under s428 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council must prepare Annual Reports and which provide information on the performance of principal activities on its achievements with respect to the objectives and performance targets set out in its management plan for that year.

3. STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
Section 428(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clauses 218 to 226 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

ATTACHMENT C

Legislative Context

Amongst other items required by s428 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Annual Reports must contain a report as to the state of the environment in the area, and in particular in relation to the following environmental sectors:

- (i) land,
 - (ii) air,
 - (iii) water,
 - (iv) biodiversity,
 - (v) waste,
 - (vi) noise,
 - (vii) Aboriginal heritage,
 - (viii) non-Aboriginal heritage,
- with particular reference, with regard to each such environmental sector, to:
- (ix) management plans relating to the environment,
 - (x) special council projects relating to the environment,
 - (xi) the environmental impact of council activities.

State of Environment (SoE) Report Review

The current NESAC SoE Report addresses each of the eight environmental sectors outlined above (i – viii) and discusses specific environmental indicators within each sector, e.g. the chapter on water includes details of water quality, monitoring, consumption, environment protection license compliance, urban storm water activities, waterway management activities, etc. There is scope to include more detail regarding special Council projects and the environmental impact of Council activities.

State of Environment (SoE) Report Review (Continued)

The current reporting includes information on Council activities along with information from, or regarding, other sources, such as activities and/or projects of Southern New England Landcare, Rural Fire Service, Rural Lands Protection Board and Catchment Management Authorities.

The Department of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines encouraged councils to use the opportunity to identify environmental issues that are important to the community and that are within the Council's area of influence, so that the findings from the report can be used to inform Council's strategic planning and management programs. The NESAC SoE Report was reviewed in terms of its structure and content for issues outlined in the 2007/2008 Annual Report (page 7).

The submissions received were reviewed by Council's Environmental Committee and incorporated into the 2008-2009 Supplementary State of Environment Report

4. CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS *Section 428 (2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1993*

4.1 PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Public buildings and major facilities owned and/or managed by Council include:

- Council offices and chambers
- Works Depots
- Library and
- Tourist Information Centre
- Community Centres
- Aged Accommodation Facilities
- Properties owned and let commercially
- Aquatic Centre Facilities
- Buildings and facilities in recreational areas
- Public Toilets

The total estimated cost of bringing public buildings and major facilities to a satisfactory standard is \$122,000 (2008 - \$156,000) with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$87,000 (2008 - \$87,000) and actual building maintenance for 2008/2009 of \$98,748.50.

4.2 PUBLIC ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Council maintains 961kms of roads (534kms of unsealed and 427kms of sealed roads). There are 820kms of local roads (520kms unsealed) and 141kms of regional roads (14kms unsealed). It was estimated that the required funding for re-sheeting of the unsealed road network over a 40 year circle would be \$400,000 (13.4kms) per annum and re-sealing of the sealed road network over a fifteen year circle would be \$500,000 (28.5kms) per annum with normal maintenance of \$1,575,000 per annum for an annual total of \$2.5m.

4.2 PUBLIC ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE (Continued)

The total estimated cost of bringing public roads and associated structures to a satisfactory standard is \$2,820,000 (2008 - \$3,560,000) with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$2,148,000 (2008 - \$2,149,000) and an actual road, street and bridges maintenance for 2008/2009 of \$2,257,131.20.

4.3 WATER SUPPLY

Council operates two Water Supply Schemes, one each for the townships of Uralla and Bundarra. Water is sourced from Kentucky Creek Dam for Uralla and from a pumping station located on the Gwydir River for Bundarra. The Dam on Kentucky Creek is subject to blue-green algae and action has been taken to reduce the severity and incidences of algae blooms.

The total estimated cost of bringing water supply infrastructure to a satisfactory standard is \$161,000 (2008 - \$139,000) with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$81,000 (2008 - \$74,000) and actual expenditure on water infrastructure maintenance for 2008/2009 of \$99,695.26.

4.4 SEWERAGE SCHEME

Council operates one sewerage scheme being for the township of Uralla. Council is currently trialling the running of the aeration tank with variable speed motors to reduce energy usage and noise. This will be linked to a Dissolved Oxygen Meter to ensure correct aeration.

The total estimated cost of bringing sewerage scheme infrastructure to a satisfactory standard is \$72,000 (2008 - \$102,000) with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$36,000 (2008 - \$50,000) and the actual maintenance cost for 2008/2009 of \$29,628.50.

The sewer servicing of the township of Bundarra was the subject of a Public Works Department Investigation Report in 1989. This study offered a number of alternatives including a common effluent scheme. The current estimated costs of \$2.5 million make it unaffordable unless 100% capital funding is secured. Recent funding received through Border Rivers-Gwydir CMA has been available for residents to improve their septic tanks and absorption trenches.

4.5 DRAINAGE ASSETS

Although the Council's constructed drainage infrastructure is performing within reasonable expectations there are areas of the town of Uralla where the drainage system has been identified as being inadequate. A number of drainage lines have had Gross Pollutant traps installed to remove litter and gravels.

The overall performance of drainage infrastructure within Uralla is currently under review by Council staff and are subject to revaluation at 30 June 2010.

4.5 DRAINAGE ASSETS (Continued)

The total estimated cost of bringing the drainage network to a satisfactory standard is \$2,000 with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$2,000 and the actual maintenance cost for 2008/2009 of \$12,104.41.

5. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Section 428 (2)(e) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council has taken legal advice and action in respect to the losses incurred with the Global Financial Crisis and its effect upon financial instruments purchased on Council's behalf, under an alleged Individual Managed Portfolio by Lehman Brothers Australia (formerly Grange Securities).

Legal costs were incurred as a result of assistance requested in the following areas

*	Legal action – Investment recovery	32,041.26
*	Legal action – Debt recovery	4,575.80
*	Enforcement of Local Government regulations	993.00
*	Legal work – easement for water fund (Capital)	<u>1,992.45</u>
	Total	<u>\$39,532.51</u>

6. MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR FEES

Section 428 (2)(f) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217(1)(a1) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

The Council is constituted of nine Councillors and Council has adopted a Policy, reviewed and revised in October 2007, regarding the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Councillors. All fees and expenses are paid in accordance with that Policy.

The Mayoral allowance for 2008/2009 was set at \$13,000. An equipped office with telephone is provided for the Mayor adjacent to the Council Chambers. Councillors, including the Mayor, are paid an annual meeting fee of \$8,500, which is paid in advance in equal monthly (or part of a month) instalments regardless of whether or not meetings have been attended. Council subsidises the connection of Councillors to the internet and pays for expenses associated therewith. Stationary and secretarial support is available for the carrying out of authorised Council business.

In addition to the above fees, Council pays for all accommodation, meals and travelling costs for Councillors attending seminars and conferences outside the Council area, and reimburses Councillors for travelling expenses to attend Council meetings. The following expenses were paid during the reporting year:

*	Mayoral Allowance	\$ 12,999.96
*	Councillor's Fees	\$ 80,016.29
*	Member's Expenses, Delegations, Conferences, Travelling and email connections	\$ 17,978.46
*	Mayor's mobile phone	<u>\$ 1,000.17</u>
	Total	<u>\$111,994.88</u>

7. SENIOR STAFF CONTRACTS

Section 428 (2)(g) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217(1)(b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

The only staff member designated as a Senior Staff Member in accordance with the meaning of the Local Government Act 1993 is the General Manager. The remuneration package of the position at the end of the reporting period was \$145,500.00 compared to \$140,391.69 for the previous period. The General Manager is the sole Senior Staff member of Council and the remuneration package is as follows:

* Cash salary	94,640.00
* Salary Sacrifice:	
* Voluntary additional superannuation contribution	37,806.24
* Computer and professional subscriptions	<u>1,050.00</u>
* Sub-total	133,486.24
* Compulsory superannuation contribution	12,013.76
* Fringe benefits payable by Council on non-cash benefits	<u>0.00</u>
Total	<u>\$145,500.00</u>

The General Manager was re-appointed to the position of General Manager on 10 July 2008 with a four year contract to 10 July 2012.

8. MAJOR CONTRACTS AWARDED

Section 428 (2)(h) of the Local Government Act 1993

During the reporting period the following contracts were awarded:

* Waeger Bridges (339/08)	
Construction of Maitland Point Bridge	\$1,137,000.00
* W	
John Deere Grader	
* Northern Inland Regional Waste Group (074/09)	
Collection and disposal of used motor oils	
* Complant Pty Ltd (223/09)	
1 smooth drum self propelled roller	\$186,120.00
* J.T. Fosseys Trucks, Tamworth (223/09)	
2 Fuso FV51 Mitsubishi bogie drive tip trucks	\$337,710.00
* Campbell's Fuel (224/09)	
Supply of fuel and oils for 2 years	

Work carried out by Contractors during the reporting period either under contracts entered into in previous years, or for significant amounts, for services were:

* Campbell's Fuel	
Petroleum, distillate and oil	\$475,069.70
* Armidale and District Home Nursing	
Home help for Community Options Clients	\$438,212.32
* Boral Construction	
Supply and spray bitumen	\$400,267.37
* Home Care Service	
Domestic Assistance to Community Options clients	\$392,336.17
* Statecover Mutual	
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$180,116.38

8. MAJOR CONTRACTS AWARDED (Continued)

*	Inverell Aggregate, Aggregate supplies	\$134,601.90
*	EDI Downer Bitumen supplies	\$127,132.61
*	Tamworth Regional Council, Regional library services	\$82,202.10
*	Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance for Assets and Public Liability	\$68,452.45
*	Hamo's Sand and Gravel Supply of road-making materials	\$55,128.94
*	Ward Brothers Gravel royalties	\$21,430.31
*	Forsyths, Chartered Accountants, Audit services	\$17,500.00

9. BUSH FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION

Section 428 (2)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993

The responsibility for Bush Fire Hazard Reduction activities was passed to the NSW Rural Fire Service on 1 July 2001. This activity and other requirements of the Rural Fire Service Act 1997 are managed through a Service Level Agreement between the Uralla Shire Council and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

Council's general roadscape and recreational reserve maintenance activities also assisted in bushfire mitigation. During the year, orders were issued in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, requiring landowners to clean blocks and thereby suppress fire hazards.

10. MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

Section 428 (2)(j) of the Local Government Act 1993

The 2006 Census revealed that 88.8% of the population of the Shire was born in Australia. Of the 11.2% of the people living in Uralla Shire who were born overseas, the most common languages spoken at home other than English are German, Italian and Chinese. Uralla Shire Council does not have any specific services for people from non-English speaking backgrounds due to lack of demand for such services. Council's Social Plan has identified the need to develop a register of fluent non-English speakers who can be called upon to act as interpreters if needed.

The 2006 Census revealed that 5.8% of the Shire's population are of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Island origin. Council provides a number of services to our local Aboriginal community through its auspice of the Tablelands Community Support Options program.

10 MULTICULTURAL SERVICES (Continued)

To manage its Aboriginal services projects, Tablelands Community Support Options program employs an Aboriginal Case Manager and an Aboriginal Project Officer to deliver services for the aged, people with a disability and their carers in the four Local Government areas of Uralla, Walcha, Guyra and Armidale-Dumaresq. These services are:

1. Community Options Project – Aboriginal: A HACC funded Case Management program which targets the elderly, people with a disability and their carers who have high and complex needs are at risk of premature and inappropriate institutionalisation. Ten Aboriginal specific packages in the Local Government areas of Guyra, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Walcha are available.
2. Community Aged Care Packages – Aboriginal: Funding is received from the Australian Government to provide Community Aged Packages to the ATSI community in the New England area. Community Aged packages provide coordinated and flexible assistance to Aboriginal people aged 45 years plus to remain independent in their own homes. An extra 5 packages were received this year bringing the total number of packages available to the Aboriginal community in New England to twenty five.
3. Narwon Elders Group: This is a HACC funded program to provide a day respite group to the elders in the Aboriginal communities of the New England region.

Uralla Shire Council also auspices the Kamilaroi Aboriginal Respite Service in Tamworth with the Tablelands Community Support Options Manager providing support to this project with offices located in Tamworth, Inverell and Boggabilla. KADS provides federal and state programmes for Neighbour Aid, Elders Groups, Disability and Aged Respite, Home and Community Care, Commonwealth Aged Care Packages services to Boggabilla, Inverell, Tamworth, Quirindi, Walhollow (Carona) and Werris Creek.

ATTACHMENT D - (Annual Report of Tablelands Community Support Options for more details)

11. ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Section 428(2)(r) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217(1)(c) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005)

The 2006 Census indicates that 1,626 persons were less than 20 years of age. This represents 28.35% of the population. Council has identified that this group as having special needs within the community. Council contributes to the following activities, which are provided for the children of the community:

ACTIVITY	SUPPORT	TARGET AGE GROUP
Uralla Neighbourhood Centre	Promote physical activities and use of Council facilities Youth Week	5 to 19 – 22.3% of population
Library	Provision of facilities and activities	0 to 90 - 100% of population
Uralla Pre-School Inc.	Financial assistance	3 to 5 – 2.77% of population

11 ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN (Continued)

Skate Park	Provision and maintenance of facilities	5 to 19 22.3% of population
Sporting Complex	Provision and maintenance of facilities	5 to 19 22.3% of population

After several years when Youth Week activities were not organised in the council area the organisation of Youth Week was provided by the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre, with funding from the Uralla Shire Council and the Department of Community Services. Youth Week activities were arranged during Youth Week 28 March to 5 April 2009. The activities included sporting, trips and paintball events.

12. ACCESS AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES

Section 428 (2)(r) of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217(1)(d)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Council endeavours to ensure that all residents and ratepayers are aware of the services provided, their entitlement to information and their rights and obligations. Residents of the Shire who are not able to move within the community because of age, disability or remote locations within the Shire have been identified as requiring special consideration when accessing information from Council.

A Regional Social Plan, in conjunction with other member councils of the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) was prepared through the UNE Centre for Applied Research and Social Science (CARSS) commencing in December 2008 with a completion date of December 2009. The review included widespread Community consultation in the calendar year 2009.

Uralla Shire Council is the auspicing body for the Tablelands Community Transport program which is a rural non-profit volunteer based organisation providing various levels of transport services to transport disadvantaged passengers in the local government areas of Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra and Walcha.

Services include:

- * Fortnightly shopping bus runs to Armidale
- * Monthly outing for men with a disability
- * Monthly social outing for residents of McMaugh Gardens Aged Care facility
- * Transport to Safety service providing transport to Women's Refuges
- * Social outings for children with disabilities
- * Volunteer car driver scheme
- * Provision of an electric scooter available for hire through Crazy Clark's Store (based in Armidale)

ATTACHMENT E (Annual Report of Tablelands Community Transport for more details)

12 ACCESS AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Council has embarked on the following strategies, over and above the requirements of the Local Government Act, for communication with ratepayers to ensure that these target groups are not discriminated against in their access to information:

- Management Plans, Annual Financial Statements, Annual Reports, Business Papers for Council meetings and Minutes are available for inspection at seven locations within the Shire, the Council Office, Library, Visitors Information Centre, Bundarra General Store, Kentucky General Store, Kingstown General Store and Invergowrie General Store. These are also available, to residents and ratepayers, free of charge as required by the Act and all these documents are loaded on to Council's website <http://www.uralla.local-e.nsw.gov.au/>.
- Council Newsletter published monthly and distributed to every household in the Shire. Council includes inserts into the Council Newsletter for Community Groups.

13. PRIVATE WORKS

Section 428 (2)(k) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council makes the following charges for work carried out on private land.

Plant	Council adopts a standard schedule of hire charges for the use of plant on private land. The charge is on the basis of wet hire and is market competitive.
Additional Labour	Direct cost plus 25% for overheads.
Materials	Actual cost plus 12.5%.

The rates are reviewed annually during the preparation of the Annual Budget and advertised with the Schedule of Fees and Charges attached to the Management Plan. Council has not carried out any work on private property during the 2008/2009 year except where proper private works orders have been raised.

Council raised \$296,366.86 from direct expenditure of \$301,763.96 resulting in a gross deficit of \$69,901.72 after applying \$65,004.00 as recovery of administration.

14. CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS

Section 428 (2)(l) of the Local Government Act 1993

Contributions totalling \$2,960.46 were made to local community groups under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 as follows:

* Rotary Art Show Committee	\$ 305.46
* Uralla Central School	\$ 160.00
* St Josephs School	\$ 80.00
* Rocky River School	\$ 80.00
* Kingstown School	\$ 80.00
* Kentucky School	\$ 80.00
* Bundarra Central School	\$ 160.00
* Uralla Arts - Lantern Parade	\$1,500.00
* Australia Day Committee	<u>\$ 415.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,960.46</u>

14 CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS (Continued)

Uralla Shire Council provides local community groups with the use of a small shop, “*The Uralla Community Store*”, located in the main street from which to run fund-raising activities such as the sale of raffle tickets, produce, handicrafts and cake stalls. Applications are called for annually with one week per year being allocated to each group. The rent paid to the store owner in the 2008-2009 year was \$1,920.00.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Section 428 (2)(m) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council continues to develop staff resources through the provision of training and vocational interaction to ensure that staff have the necessary skills and experience to carry out their duties. Employees are encouraged to attend professional conferences and vocation related regional group meetings. Training through attendance or assistance with the following during the reporting period included:

- * Diploma in Community Services (Case Management)
- * Certificate III in Civil Construction, Horticulture, Aged Care, Integrated Care Management (to provide services to the frail and aged)
- * Building Surveying Accreditation
- * Water Treatment, Chainsaw operation and Chemical Spray operations
- * First Aid and Pool lifeguard update
- * Professional conferences, Industry training and Regional vocational group meetings

During the reporting period, Council expended costs of \$142,504.36 (including a wages and salaries component of \$70,874.57) on staff training.

16. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Section 428 (2)(n) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council had reviewed and adopted an EEO Management Plan in September 2000. The EEO Management Plan was extensively reviewed by the members of the Uralla Shire Council Equal Employment Opportunities Advisory Committee in six meetings from 10 August 2006 to 19 January 2007. The revised and updated E.E.O. Management Plan was adopted by Council at its meeting of Monday 26 February 2007 (Resolution 56/07). This plan was the basis for the Draft E.E.O. Management Plan prepared for the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils dated 20 September 2007.

At the meeting of the Uralla Shire Council Equal Employment Opportunities Advisory Committee held on 20 September 2007 the Committee recommended to Council, and these recommendations were adopted:

- That Council adopt the NESAC Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, and
- That Council agree with the concept of an umbrella Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan and that the Uralla Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee should work with the assimilation of the NESAC Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan and the Uralla Shire Council Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

16 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Continued)

A joint NESAC Equal Employment Opportunities Committee held its inaugural meeting on Thursday 13 December 2007. The first chairperson of the Committee was an Uralla Shire Council employee, Mrs Cheryl Cooper.

Recruitment and retention of staff is carried out in accordance with the Plan and positions are advertised both internally and externally.

Council adopted has a Policy of Succession Planning (adopted by Resolution 295/06 on 30 August 2006). This policy provides for the mentoring of existing employees to facilitate the transition of management and leadership of the Council, over time. The Policy is driven by the desire that future leaders come from within the organisation, where possible.

17. EXTERNAL BODIES THAT EXERCISE COUNCIL FUNCTIONS OR ACTIVITIES *Section 428 (2)(o) of the Local Government Act 1993*

During the reporting period the following bodies acted under delegation:

- Australia Day Celebration Management Committee
- Bundarra School of Arts Hall Management Committee
- Bundarra Rural Transaction Centre
- Uralla Events Management Committee

18. CONTROLLING INTEREST IN COMPANIES *Section 428 (2)(p) of the Local Government Act 1993*

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any Company during the reporting period.

19. PARTNERSHIPS, CO-OPERATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES *Section 428 (2)(q) of the Local Government Act 1993*

During the reporting period Council was involved in the following joint arrangements:

- * **Central Northern Libraries** - Regional agreement with other Councils for the provision of library services. Tamworth City Council manages the agreement.

ATTACHMENT F

- * **Resource Sharing** -.Uralla Shire Council is a member of the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) with the Councils of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Walcha and the New England Weeks Authority in an Alliance (New England Strategic Alliance of Councils – NESAC), which provides for an alternative local government model based on the delivery of selected services by means of a combination of shared services and voluntary joint cooperative arrangements whilst still maintaining local decision making capacity and service delivery.

20. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Section 428(2)(r) of the Local Government Act 1993

Section 428(2)(r) of the Local Government Act 1993 states “such other information as the regulations may require”.

In addition to the additional information provided in Sections 3, 6, 7, 11 and 12 above, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005 request additional information to be provided in Annual Reports. This information as well as additional information considered to be of interest is provided in the following sections.

21. OVERSEAS TRAVEL BY COUNCILLORS, COUNCIL STAFF OR OTHER PERSONS, WHILE REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL

Clause 217(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

No Councillor, Council staff or other persons travelled overseas while representing Council during the year 2008/2009.

22. CATEGORY 1 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

Clause 217(1)(d)(ii) and (iv)(viii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

The Uralla Shire Council has the following Category 1 Business Activities:

- ↳ Uralla Water Supply – for the town of Uralla.
- ↳ Uralla Sewerage Scheme – for the town of Uralla.

Detailed financial information regarding Business Activities are contained within the Special Purpose Financial Statements attached to this Report. The Water Supply Operation is Special Schedule 3 and the Sewerage Operation is Special Schedule 5.

Statement of Expenses, Revenues and Assets:

ACTIVITY	WATER SUPPLY OPERATION		SEWERAGE OPERATION	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s
Revenue excluding grants for acquisition of assets	668	701	551	488
Expenditure including depreciation	778	806	491	508
Surplus (Deficit)	(120)	(105)	60	(20)
Net Equity	17,627	17,167	8,019	7,767
Notional Return on Capital	(0.68%)	(0.61%)	0.75%	(0.25%)

Comparison of Performance

The combined (Uralla and Bundarra) deficit for reporting of the Water Supply operations performance was \$15,000 more than budgeted due principally to the unbudgeted loss, \$119,305.11 of the funds share of the loss on long term investment of \$283,378.00; offset by a return of \$80,834.00 for the funds share of the unexpected return of \$200,000 of the Federation Collateralised Debt Obligation.

Comparison of Performance (Continued)

The Sewer operation performance was \$80,000 due to the return of \$80,562.47 for the funds share of the unexpected return of \$200,000 of the Federation Collateralised Debt Obligation more than budgeted due principally to the unbudgeted loss. The loss of \$119,305.11 from the funds share of the loss on long term investment of \$283,378.00 was offset by \$153,188.61 lower depreciation following re-valuation and life of asset assessment.

The method of pricing of water services has been established so that there is no cross subsidy between General Fund and the Water and Sewer Funds. This has involved examining the basis for charging of Administration Charges from Corporate Services to the various Council Activities. The Water and Sewerage operations are the only Council Business Undertakings, as specifically provided for in the Guidelines; therefore Council has taken no specific action regarding implementation of competitive neutrality.

23. CATEGORY 2 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES;

Clause 217(1)(d)(i)(vi) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

McMaugh Gardens Aged Hostel
Private Works Contract Services

Statement of Expenses, Revenues and Assets:

ACTIVITY	PRIVATE WORKS		McMAUGH GARDENS AGED CARE	
	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s	Actual \$000s	Budget \$000s
Revenue excluding grants for acquisition of assets	296	250	1,940	1,809
Expenditure including depreciation	366	208	1,854	1,813
Surplus (Deficit)	(70)	42	86	(4)
Net Equity	n/a	n/a	3,649	3,445
Notional Return on Capital			2.36%	(0.12%)

24. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES

Clause 217(1)(d)(v) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Competitive neutrality policy aims to ensure that government businesses do not enjoy any competitive advantage over private companies as a result of their public ownership.

The New South Wales Government's response to the applying of competitive neutrality principles in the local government sector is to require businesses that have an annual gross operating income of more than \$2 million to adopt a corporatisation model and apply full cost attribution, while businesses below that income threshold must apply full cost attribution and make subsidies explicit.

The Uralla Shire Council has no business unit with a gross income of \$2 million or greater. Consequently only Council's water and sewerage operations are classified as Category 1 businesses.

**24 IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY PRINCIPLES
(Continued)**

The Uralla Shire Council has adopted the procedure of applying full cost attribution of administration and back office costs over all its principal activities and these costs are distributed to the Water and Sewer activities in the same manner and using the same cost drivers as other activities. An appropriate proportion of governance costs are also allocated to Water, Sewer, Domestic and other Waste operations. In addition; Water, Sewer, McMaugh Aged Care Centre and Domestic Waste are treated as separate funds and accounted within Council’s Annual Financial Statements within the Special Purpose Financial Statements, which are subject to audit. The Special Purpose Financial Reports include notes to the accounts on National Competition Policy (Note 1 paragraph 3) and Best Practice Management Disclosures – Water Supply (Note 2) and Sewerage (Note 3).

**25. COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY PRICING REQUIREMENTS IN RELATION TO
CATEGORY 1 BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

Clause 217(1)(d)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

As set out in the aforementioned Section 24, the Uralla Shire Council has been applied to each Category 1 business (Water and Sewerage operations) and also to the Category 2 businesses, McMaugh Gardens Aged Hostel and Private Works Contract Services.

26. COMPETITIVE COMPLAINTS HANDLING MECHANISM

Clause 217(1)(d)(vii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Council established a complaints handling procedure for competitive neutrality complaints and no complaints have been received in respect to competitive neutrality. Council is not aware of any situation that may give rise to a complaint being lodged.

Set out below are statistics regarding competitive neutrality complaints for the reporting period:

<u>Competitive Neutrality Complaints</u>	Total
Brought Forward From Previous Year	Nil
New Complaints Received	Nil
Total to be processed	Nil
Complaints Completed During Reporting Period	Nil
Unfinished And Carried Forward To Next Reporting Period	Nil

27. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Clause 217(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Comparison of Performance

	Actual	Budget
Revenue	\$27,175.93	\$24,738
Expenditure	\$29,535.65	\$33,403
Surplus(deficit)	(\$2,359.72)	(\$8,665)

Council has continued to implement strategies to achieve the objectives outlined in the 2007-2008 Management Plan in relation to the management of urban stormwater drainage. Council maintained its current level of routine maintenance of the existing stormwater drainage system (6.25km) at a cost of \$4,725.70 per km per annum. A number of drainage lines have had gross pollutant traps installed to assist in the removal of gravels and litter.

Consultation with relevant community groups and the Catchment Management Authority has been sought and the development of a Stormwater and Flood Management Plan and a Sub-Catchment Management Plan for Uralla Creek are currently in progress.

28. COMPLIANCE WITH COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATION
Reg cl 217(1)(f) and Companion Animals Act 1998

The Companion Animals Shelter situated off the New England Highway approximately 18km north of Uralla is open to the public for 22 hours each week serving both the Uralla and Armidale Dumaresq Local Government areas.
 In 2008-2009, Uralla Shire Council contributed \$25,863.39 to the running of this facility.

Pound Collection Data

	2008-2009
Number of animals housed	46
Number of animals reclaimed	28
Number of animals re-housed	5
Number of animals euthanized	13
Number of Companion Animal complaints	64

Companion Animal Complaints Received

Dogs - Barking	Dogs - Aggressive	Dogs – General	Notices Issued
29	14	21	5

29. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989 and REGULATION

Freedom of Information requests processed by Council for the 2008/2009 year were:

<u>FOI Requests</u>	Personal		Other		Total	
	2008/ 2009	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2007/ 2008
New (Including transferred in)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Brought forward	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total to be processed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Completed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Transferred out	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Withdrawn	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Processed	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unfinished (carried forward	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

30. PRIVACY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION ACT 1998

Council adopted its Privacy Management Plan in June 2000.

During the period July 2008 to June 2009, Council did not receive any requests for investigations into breaches under the PPIP Act 1998

31. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979

Shared Services for Planning Activities Within the New England Strategic Alliance (NESAC)

A Regulatory Directorate group with senior staff from all four Councils meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest and concern, opportunities for resource sharing and common procedures.

The GEAC “Pathway” computer system continues has been implemented across all four Alliance Councils, providing access to a common database and processing system for all development related applications, including applications lodgement, enquiries and processing by staff in any of the four Council areas.

The system has not been expanded to its full functionality to include other modules (such as common Council licensing tasks - food and on site waste water applications) and will not be implemented prior to the Uralla Shire Council not renewing its membership of the alliance from 1 November 2009.

A major focus of the Directorate in 2008/2009 has been the preparation of the NESAC wide regional planning strategy.

**32 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979
(Continued)**

Shared Services for Planning Activities Within the New England Strategic Alliance (NESAC) (Continued)

The Directorate was successful in an application for a grant through the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change in its “Local Adaptation Pathways Program” (LAPP). The grant, for \$55,000 including GST, was supplemented by Council and in kind funds to bring the project value to almost \$100,000. The project, which undertook a Climate Change Risk Awareness and Adaptation Planning process in relation to all Council operations, was completed in the 2008/2009 year and the results were included into the South New England State of the Environment Report 2008/2009 (note the Attachments A, B and M).

Regional Development Strategy and NESAC LEP(s)

Consultants (Worsley Parsons incorporating Planning Workshops Australia) appointed to prepare the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) continued to work on the preparation of a Regional Development Strategy for all four Local Government Areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla, Walcha and Guyra. This strategy, half funded by the NSW Department of Planning’s Planning Reform fund, is intended to review the planning and environmental situation across the Region, and inform a single LEP, or consistent LEPs for the Council areas within the Alliance. The resulting LEP(s) will replace the existing LEP(s) of the Alliance Councils.

The completion of this project will see local planning controls being incorporated into an LEP(s) based on the Standard LEP “template” which was introduced by the State Government in 2006 for all NSW Councils. This will, for example, result in standard land use and other definitions in planning instruments, as well as a reduction in the number and types of zoning provisions which councils can include in their LEPs.

Once the Strategy is finalised work will commence on preparing the LEP(s) for NESAC. The NESAC LEP(s) will not only be informed by the outcomes in the Regional Development Strategy, but also the recommendations of the Armidale Bulky Goods Retailing Development and Industrial Lands Study (see Armidale Bulky Goods Retailing and Industrial Lands Study).

**32. RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF
*Regulation 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005***

Pension Rebates granted during the 2008/2009 financial year:

General	\$93,823.25
Water	\$29,564.10
Sewer	\$22,476.60
Domestic Waste Management	\$16,549.31
Total	\$162,412.76

Note: Council receives a subsidy equivalent to 55% of the amount of Pension Rebates.

No further rates and charges were written off in 2008/2009.

ATTACHMENTS

NOTE: Attachments are available on the Uralla Shire Council Website if required:

www.uralla.nsw.gov.au

ATTACHMENT A

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A complete set of audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009 is attached.

ATTACHMENT B

COMPARISON OF PERFORMANCE TO TARGETS

This comparison of Council's actual performance of its principal activities during the year ended 30 June 2009 (measured in accordance with the criteria set out in the 2008/2009 Management Plan) with the Council's projected performance of those activities (as contained in the aforementioned Management Plan), together with statements of reasons for differences follow the Audited Financial Statements.

ATTACHMENT C

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

State of Environment Report 2008-2009

adopted by the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils.

ATTACHMENT D

Tablelands Community Support Options

Annual Report 2008-2009

ATTACHMENT E

Tablelands Community Transport

Annual Report 2008-2009

ATTACHMENT F

Central Northern Regional Libraries

Annual Report 2008-2009

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

ATTACHMENT A

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

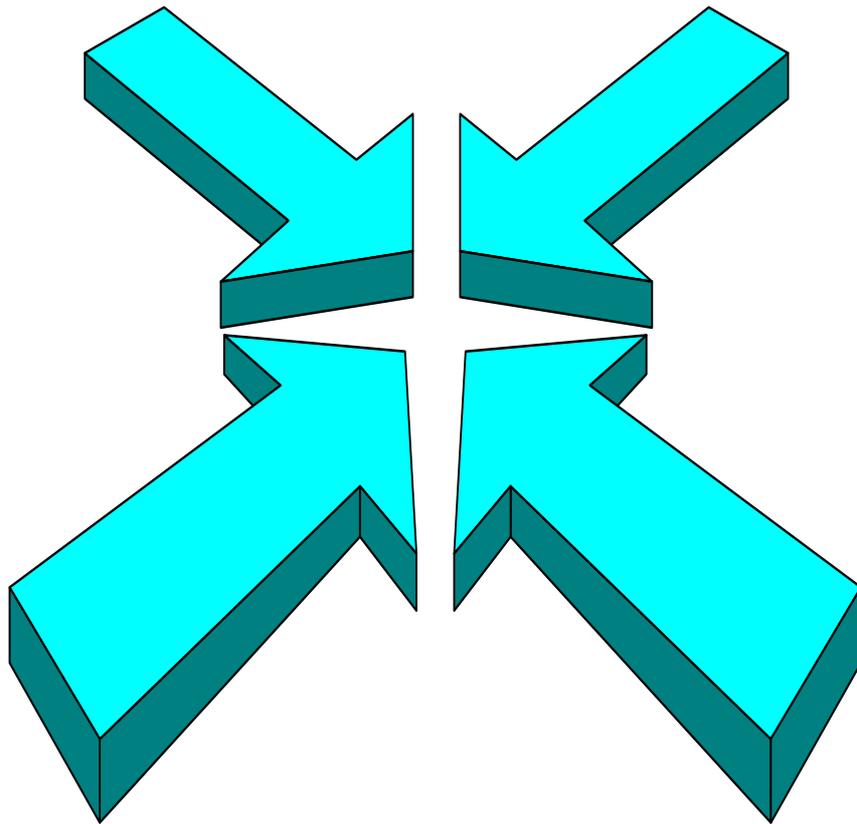
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ATTACHMENT B

COMPARISON OF PERFORMANCE TO TARGETS



2008/2009 MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW



Review of Strategic Objective, Objectives and Performance
Targets, Statement of Means and Performance Assessment

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009
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**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:
Service:
Strategic Objective:

1. Administration
1.1 Governance

To provide appropriate opportunity for residents to attend Council Meetings, to advertise its proposals openly, to ensure convenient access to its management plans and associated reports and to encourage the democratic process.

Principal Responsibility: Mayor and General Manager

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 2, 4

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Council meetings held monthly.	1. Meetings held monthly on the fourth Monday of the month.	1. Twelve meetings a year, one per month.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
2. Distribute Business Papers prior to meeting.	2. Reports for Business Paper close 10 working days prior to ordinary meeting.	2. Business Paper distributed 5 days prior to meeting.	PA	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
3. No more than two complaints received each quarter about inconvenient meeting times.	3. Council to set meeting times at times which suit residents.	3. No more than two complaints per quarter about inconvenient meeting times.	PA	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
4. Minutes of meeting prepared and distributed.	4. Preparation of the minutes given top priority following meeting.	4. Minutes prepared and distributed within 5 working days of meeting.	PA	Achieving	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
5. Council activities publicised.	5. Staff to prepare a one-page monthly <i>Newsletter</i> distributed to all postal addresses in the Shire.	5. (a) 12 issues per year of Council's <i>Newsletter</i> produced. (b) No more than 1 complaint per issue received.	NESAC Finance AA	Achieving Achieving	Achieving Achieving	Achieved Achieved
6. Improve the efficiency of communication to Councillors by meeting work related e-mail expenses and connecting Councillors to an ISP where relevant.	6. Funds in the budget and the current policy amended.	6. 6 Councillors using this e-mail facility.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity: 1. Administration
Service: 1.1 Governance (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
7. Comply with statutory requirements of the Local Government and other Acts.	7. Utilise the Strategic Tasks for Council's Checklist prepared by the Department of Local Government.	7. All items on the Strategic Tasks for Council's Checklist completed within statutory timeframes.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
8. Participate in the New England Strategic Alliance, develop best practice and utilise service delivery and co-operative arrangements for the provision of services.	8. Use of shared services.	8. New service delivery methods i) Implemented ii) Operating.	GM GM	Achieving Achieving	Achieving Achieving	Achieved Achieved

The Governance service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$435,046 (2007/2008 - \$441,852) recurrent expenditure and \$ Nil (2007/2008 – Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 1. Administration
Service: 1.2 Corporate Support Services

Strategic Objective: To provide the optimum level of staff and equipment to enable Council to operate as a corporate body in an efficient and cost effective manner so that Council is properly funded and professionally managed in accordance with appropriate Acts and Regulations for the good of all residents of the Shire.

Principal Responsibility: Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To consult widely in the preparation of Council's Management Plan.	1. Press releases, advertising in Newsletter, available at the public library and other convenient access points.	1. At least 5 copies of the Management Plan are distributed to individuals and organisations and 3 comments on Plan received	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To participate in the New England Strategic Alliance, develop best practice and utilise service delivery and co-operative arrangements for the provision of services	2. Shared Services for Finance, Revenue, Customer Services, Human Resources, I.T., Plant and Fleet and Works Operation.	2. New service delivery methods i) Implemented ii) Operating	GM/DES GM/DES	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

1. Administration (Continued)

Service:

1.2 Corporate Support Services (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
3. To ensure the individual rate burden on the Shire is reasonable.	3. Council to set rate levels each year.	3. Rate per capita (General Fund) in comparison to the Group 10 Councils in DLG Comparative Information is no higher than 6 th highest for residential, and 20 th highest for business.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. To ensure financial stability by ensuring that the ratio of rates revenue to total revenue does not fall below 30%.	4. Council to set rate levels each year.	4. Budgeted ratio achieved. (General Fund).	GM	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
5. Maintain a Strategic Alliance wide IT platform and joint shared software.	5. Strategic Alliance focus groups to implement recommended option.	5. VOIP system operating.	NESAC Finance	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. Have in place and operating a best practice management accounting reporting system.	6. Continued development of Council's management accounting format.	6. Monthly reports to users on 1 st working day and to Finance Committee on 2 nd Monday of month.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
7. Within Local Government guidelines and Council's policies invest funds to the best advantage of Council.	7. Utilise the Strategic Alliance capacity to achieve the highest rate or most suitable terms within Council's policy.	7. (a) Interest earned on investment for all funds to be \$266,000 for year.	NESAC Treasury	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		7. (b) Average return rate to be 1% higher than bank rate.	NESAC Treasury	Not Achieving	Not Achieving	Not Achieved
8. To assess the degree to which revenues are committed to the repayment of debt in the General Fund.	8. Analysis of Annual Financial Statements.	8. The underlying debt service ratio (not including debt redemption) to be less than 4%.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
9. To ensure the receipt of monies due to Council.	9. Strict and constant Debtor Control.	Ratio of over three months overdue amounts to be less than 10% of outstanding debtors.	NESAC Revenue	Not Achieving	Not Achieving	Not Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:
Service:

1. Administration (Continued)
1.2 Corporate Support Services (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
10 To maintain a high level of Rate Debtor collection to provide the funds to resource the Council's activities.	10. (a) To ensure that, as far as possible, all general rates are paid within the prescribed period by instituting a sound follow-up system.	10. (a) Report percentage of rates collected quarterly as a % of levy and total due. * First quarter 30% * Second quarter 53% * Third quarter 77% * Fourth quarter 97%.	NESAC Revenue	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
	(b) Maintain staff expertise and communications skills, through rates training and seminars.	(b) Two training session attended per annum.	NESAC Revenue	Achieved	Achieving	Achieved
11. Invest adequate resources into training staff to maintain necessary skill levels.	11. Develop Training Plan through Consultative Committee and allocate funds in Budget.	11. Percentage of staff training budget to salaries and wages costs to be no less than 2%.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
12. To continue to provide safe and comfortable working conditions at Uralla and Bundarra offices and Works Depots.	12. Provide an office/meal room at Bundarra Depot and upgrade existing toilets.	12. Works completed.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
13. To maintain effective control over stock on hand with minimal stock write-off.	13. (a) Ensure that a sound stock control system is being maintained with spot check conducted by nominated staff.	13. (a) Value of stock written off is less than \$5,000 per annum.	NESAC Works	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Ensure an adequate skill level is maintained by the supervising storemen.	(b) Storeman attends 1 training course or seminar per year.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:
Service:

1. Administration (Continued)
1.2 Corporate Support Services (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
14. To measure the extent to which Council's operations are labour intensive.	14. Information from Financial Statements.	14. Ratio of wages and salaries (including on-costs) is no greater than 45% of total expenses from ordinary activities.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
15. To lose no work days to industrial disputes.	15. Effective operation of the Consultative Committee.	15. Number of days lost.	NESAC HR	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
16. To maintain a low rate of occupational injuries.	16. Effective operation of the Safety Committee.	16. Workplace to be below 25 injuries per 100 workers.	NESAC HR	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Corporate Support (including Engineering and Depot) service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$2,344,524 (2007/2008 - \$2,445,540) recurrent expenditure and \$20,000 (2007/2008 - \$30,000) capital expenditure.

The net recurrent costs of Administration, after allowing for income of \$281,117, totalling \$1,151,450 (2007/2008 \$354,504 and total of \$1,670,735 7) are distributed over all other Principal Activities in proportion to the recurrent costs of those activities less debt servicing and depreciation per schedule attached at the end of Volume 4 Part B.

Principal Activity:

1. Administration

Service:

1.3 Plant Services

Strategic Objective

To own and operate a modern plant fleet, of appropriate size and composition, effectively and efficiently, in order to carry out the provision of services for the benefit of the Shire's residents.

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Works and Environmental Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 3, 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Staff	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure that equipment and vehicles are maintained in a serviceable condition at all times.	1. Maintain a Service Register of all major equipment and ensure that staff and skill levels are maintained to achieve full servicing.	1. Report number of major breakdowns/or accidents due to faulty plant.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:
Service:

1. Administration
1.3 Plant Services (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Staff	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
2. To ensure Council's operators and workshop staff are adequately skilled and appropriately licensed and have access to modern tools and equipment.	2. (a) Send staff to appropriate training courses which are to be included in Council's training plan.	2 (a) All staff with appropriate licences.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
	(b) Keep staff records of all licences needed and held.	(b) Records maintained up to date.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
	(c) Small plant and tools maintained.	(c) Small plant and tools up-dated.	DES	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Achieved
3. To achieve no less than 1000 operating hours per year for major plant items and 1500 operating hours for key machines such as graders.	3. (a) Start and finish crews on the job when working at sites more than 30km from the depot.	3. (a) All Graders operate for 1,500 hrs per annum.	DES	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
	(b) Review work practices to take advantage of good weather conditions.	(b) Report reasons for any plant items not meeting the targets hours.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(c) Work practices reviewed.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. To set plant hire rates which will cover plant operating costs.	4. Rates set by staff using historical records.	4. Profit on plant operation.	NESAC Works	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
5. Replace – Plant to be determined by the April Works Committee meeting.	5. By tender or quotation in conjunction with the Strategic Alliance.	5. Purchases completed by March 2009.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. Establish and adopt a five year Plant Replacement Program.	6. Plant utilisation and Service Register for data.	6. Five year Plan in place for Budget 2008/2009.	DES and NESAC Works	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Plant service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$Nil, after distribution of costs of \$1,375,000 (2007/2008 - \$Nil, after distribution of costs of \$1,469,660) net recurrent expenditure and \$786,000 (2007/2008 \$225,000) net capital expenditure.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity: 2. Public Order and Safety
Service: 2.1 Fire Protection
Strategic Objective: To provide effective, cost-efficient fire protection for the residents of Uralla Shire.
Principal Responsibility: Director of Works and Environmental Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To facilitate an effective Bush Fire protection through a mutually agreed Service Level Agreement with the Rural Fire Service.	1. Service Level Agreement with the Rural Fire Service and the DES.	1. SLA reviewed annually in November and reported to Council.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To facilitate an effective Urban Fire protection through a mutually agreed Service Level Agreement with the Board of Fire Commissioners.	2. Liaison with the Zone Commander of the NSW Fire Brigade.	2. Annual attendance and report to Council by the Zone Commander of the NSW Fire Brigade held.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

The Fire Protection service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$204,484 (2007/2008 -\$203,528) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 -\$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 2. Public Health and Safety
Service: 2.2 Animal and Abandoned Articles Control
Strategic Objective: To ensure the residents of Uralla Council are protected from animal nuisance and that safety and amenity is enhanced by removal of stock and abandoned articles from public areas
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To protect the residents of the Shire from animal nuisance and reduce number of associated complaints.	1. Provide adequate numbers of authorised impounding staff, through the Strategic Alliance, and provide an education program for animal owners.	1. The number of complaints per <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 registered dogs • 100 registered cats • other total complaints reduced by 5%. 	NESAC Rangers	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Provide an efficient and effective pound facility.	2. Regional dog and cat pound, shared services and local rangers.	2. Average cost of operating the joint facility per dogs and cats impounded less than prior year.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity: 2. Public Health and Safety
Service: 2.2 Animal and Abandoned Articles Control (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
3. To have abandoned articles and vehicles removed from public areas.	3. Shared Services rangers.	3. All complaints actioned within 3 working days.	MHBS	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

The Animal and Abandoned Articles Control service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$36,118 (2007/2008 - \$56,931) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 2. Public Order and Safety
Service: 2.3 Emergency Services

Strategic Objective: To provide a management structure for the efficient operation and coordination of Emergency Services, welfare support and rehabilitation in the event of an emergency occurring.
To aid in the protection of the community through cooperation with local policing authority.

Principal Responsibility: Director of Works and Environmental Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure currency of the DISPLAN.	1. Annual review of the joint DISPLAN with Armidale Dumaresq Council and bring Guyra and Walcha into the Plan.	1. Report to Council of currency of the DISPLAN by March 2009.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
2. To ensure an effective SES service is provided.	2. Appointment of SES Co-ordinator and appropriate accommodation.	2. The number of incidents attended by the SES reported to Council.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Ensure that the local Community Safety Committee is operating and effective.	3. Facilitate meetings of the Community Safety Committee.	3. Regular meetings of the Safety Committee held.	DES	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved

The Emergency Services are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$5,091 (2007/2008 - \$6,551) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

3. Health

Service:

3.1 Inspection Services

Strategic Objective:

To assist in the maintenance and improvement of the general overall health of all residents of, and visitors to, the Shire of Uralla.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure that effective Health Inspection services are conducted in accordance with the appropriate Acts, regulations and local policies that result in an annual improvement in premises that do not meet satisfactory standards.	1.	1				
	(a) MHBS to ensure that:	(a)	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
	(i) Health related inspections are conducted as required and	(i) MHBS to report on the number of complaints received.				
	(ii) that inspections are carried out following any complaint or request.	(ii) All inspections from complaints or requests are carried out immediately for food and within 2 working days for other complaints.	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) MHBS to ensure the issuing or serving of orders, where necessary.	(b) Orders issued promptly.	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
2. To ensure that inspections are carried out at less than full net cost to the general community and are partially on a "user pays" basis.	2. Set fees and charges in Annual Budget.	2. Fees for inspection services set to recover costs less 25% CSO.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Inspection Services are funded in the 2006/07 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$73,847 (2007/2008 - \$87,680) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

3. Health

Service:

3.2 Noxious Plant Control

Strategic Objective:

To contribute to the overall control of noxious weeds in the Council area to protect the natural environment

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 6

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To support membership of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Weeds) County Council at previous year's level plus rate pegging increase.	1. Pay contribution to NET(NW)CC.	1. Contribution made.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity: 3. Health
Service: 3.2 Noxious Plant Control (Continued)

The Noxious Weed Control service is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$65,592 (2007/2008 - \$58,000) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 4. Community Services and Education
Service: 4.1 Youth Services and Education

Strategic Objective: To support the providers of services aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the Shire’s youth, particularly where these services result in people continuing to live in the Shire or moving to the Shire.

Principal Responsibility: Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To meet all costs of transporting the Life Education Van into and around the Shire on its annual visit to the schools in the Shire.	1. Plant and works personnel to move Life Education van.	1. Van moved when requested.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To facilitate the provision of recreational and leisure opportunities and support programs for youth.	2. Financial assistance to private clubs and other organisations that provide services for youth.	2. Financial assistance provided.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To maintain Council’s education facilities.	3. Maintenance of the outside of the Uralla Pre-School building.	3. No work outstanding.	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved

The Youth Services and Education is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$11,834 (2007/2008 - \$59,551) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2.1. Aged and Disabled Services (Aged Units)

Strategic Objective:

To support the providers of services aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the Shire's aged and disabled people particularly where these services result in those people continuing to live in the Shire or the region.

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To continue to provide accommodation for the aged in self-contained units in Uralla at no net cost to the community.	1 (a) Renting of the four Hill Street Units.	1 (a) Rental income exceeds expenditure with a return on Capital invested.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To research the methods and funding sources to provide additional units in Hill Street.	(b) carry out improvements. 2. Review of funding sources and survey of potential residents.	(b) Work completed. 2. Plan for sale of units off plans prepared.	MHBS GM/MHBS	Deferred by Council	Deferred by Council	Deferred by Council

The Aged and Disabled Services (Aged Units) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$14,919 (2007/2008 - \$17,718) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2.2. Aged and Disabled Services (Aged Care Centres)

Strategic Objective:

(as above).

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To operate the McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre through an Advisory Committees of Council, with Council representation on the Committee.	1. Delegation under Section 355 of the Local Government Act, with Council representatives and GM to attend Committee meetings as necessary.	1. Meetings held, attended by NESAC Accountant and Council's representatives.	GM/ NESAC Finance	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
2. To operate the Grace Munro Centre Aged Care Facility through a management agreement with McLean Retirement Village.	2. Management agreement.	2. Grace Munro Centre operating at cost to council; debt servicing of \$49,536 and building operation costs of \$36,012.	GM	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2.2. Aged and Disabled Services (Aged Care Centres)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
3. To assist McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre by operating their accounts providing advice and other financial, administrative services to Management and the Committees so that they can operate as an autonomous viable unit.	3. Council administration staff to provide service (at a fee) and DCCS to advise Centre Manager as necessary.	3. (a) Administration charge made. (b) McMaugh Gardens management confirms satisfaction with advice and service.	GM McM Manager	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
4. To operate McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre as a viable autonomous unit	4. Centre Management and staff.	4. Centre operates with income in excess of expenditure.	McM Manager	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Aged and Disabled Services (Aged Care Centres) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$1,691,713 (2007/2008 - \$1,680,045) recurrent expenditure and \$54,000 (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2.3 Aged and Disabled Services (Community Support Options Programs)

Strategic Objective:

To support the providers of services aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the Shire's aged and disabled people particularly where these services result in those people continuing to live in the Shire or the region.

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To auspice the Tablelands Community Support Options Project, on a 100% grant funding basis through an Advisory Committee as a Committee of Council.	1. Two Advisory Committee with delegation under Section 355 of the LG Act. (i) Tablelands Community Support Options Advisory Committee, (ii) Kamilaroi Ageing and Disabilities Services Advisory Committee.	1. Meetings held.	TSCOP Manager	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2 3 Aged and Disabled Services (Community Support Options Programs) (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
2. To auspice the Tablelands Community Support Options Project and Kamilaroi Ageing and Disabilities Services on a 100% grant funding basis employing the staff, operating the project accounts and providing office accommodation.	2. Council staff and resources to operate accounts on a fee-for-service basis and rental for accommodation with the NESAC Finance Accountant advising the Project Manager on financial matters.	2. (a) Service fee charged quarterly.	TSCOP Manager	Annual charge	Annual charge	Achieved
		(b) Rental fee charged quarterly.	TSCOP Manager	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(c) Program income plus carry over exceeds expenditure.	TSCOP Manager	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Aged and Disabled Services (Community Options Programs) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$2,655,625 (2007/2008 - \$2,333,100) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2 4 Aged and Disabled Services (Tablelands Community Transport)

Strategic Objective:

(as above)

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To auspice the Tablelands Community Transport, on a 100% grant funding basis through an Advisory Committee.	1. Advisory Committee with delegation under Section 355 of the LG Act.	1. Meetings held.	TCT Manager	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
2. To auspice the Tablelands Community Transport, on a 100% grant funding basis employing the staff, operating the project accounts and providing office accommodation.	2. Council staff and resources to operate accounts on a fee-for-service basis and rental for accommodation with the DCCS advising the Project Manager on financial matters.	2. (a) Administration fee charged quarterly.	GM/ NESAC Finance	Annual charge	Annual charge	Achieved
		(b) Program income plus carry over exceeds expenditure.		Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(c) Rental fee charged quarterly.	NESAC Finance	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

The Aged and Disabled Services (Tablelands Community Transport) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$226,366 (2007/2008 - \$239,800) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 4. Community Services and Education
Service: 4.2 5 Aged and Disabled Services (Community Centre)
Strategic Objective: To support the providers of services aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the Shire’s aged and disabled people particularly where these services result in those people continuing to live in the Shire or the region.
Principal Responsibility: Director of Administration
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Operate the Community Centre in Uralla at minimal net cost to the community.	1. Set rents to cover operating costs.	1. Income plus 25% CSO exceeds the expenses.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	2. Maintain the building to a set maintenance schedule.	2. Works completed.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	3. Advertising the facilities to the Community through the Newsletter and other media.	3. Additional use of the Centre over the base year of 2005/2006.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Aged and Disabled Services (Community Centre) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$65,878 (2007/2008 - \$62,657) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 4. Community Services and Education
Service: 4.2 6 Aged and Disabled Services (Bundarra Neighbour Aid)
Strategic Objective: (as above).
Principal Responsibility: Director of Administration
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To auspice the Bundarra Neighbour Aid, on a 100% grant funding basis through an Advisory Committee as a Committee of Council.	1. Advisory Committee with delegation under Section 355 of the LG Act.	1. (a) Meetings held.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(b) Bundarra Neighbour Aid management confirms satisfaction with advice and service.	BNAS Manager	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2 6 Aged and Disabled Services (Bundarra Neighbour Aid)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
2. To auspice the Bundarra Neighbour Aid, on a 100% grant funding basis employing the staff, operating the project accounts and providing office accommodation.	2. Council staff and resources to operate accounts on a fee-for-service basis and rental for accommodation with NESAC Finance advising the Project Manager on financial matters.	2. (a) Service fee charged quarterly.	GM/ NESAC Finance	Annual charge	Annual charge	Achieved
		(b) Rental fee charged quarterly.	NESAC Finance	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

The Aged and Disabled Services (Bundarra Neighbour Aid) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$54,807 (2007/2008 -\$54,528) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

4. Community Services and Education

Service:

4.2 7 Aged and Disabled Services (Other Community Services)

Strategic Objective:

To support the providers of services aimed at enhancing the quality of life of the Shire's aged and disabled people particularly where these services result in those people continuing to live in the Shire or the region.

Principal Responsibility:

Director of Administration

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To monitor Mclean Village \$100,000 interest free loan to Council.	1. Interest free loan for 5 years with repayments, after two years from share of profits.	1. No loan repayments required.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

No individual budget item appear for this commitment of Council.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity:
Service:
Strategic Objective:

5. Housing and Community Amenities

5.1 Urban and Rural Planning and Development Assessment

To manage and control development and service provision within the Shire to ensure that it is balanced and environmentally sensitive, that the overall aesthetic value of the Shire is maintained and that services are provided to match the needs of the Shire’s residents.

To ensure that Council consciously adopts a fully ecologically sustainable development focus.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Community to be satisfied with land use control.	1. Consulting with the public on proposed amendments to planning instruments and major developments.	1. Report number and type of objections received from Shire residents to decisions of Council.	MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To ensure that DAs and land use enquiries are dealt with as expeditiously as possible.	2. (a) Utilising trained staff and having the DAU meet as required to deal with applications in an efficient manner.	2. (a) To meet the following process times: DAs.: less than 25 days Construction. Certificates: less than 15 days.	MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
			MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
			GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
			MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Review Council’s adopted Community Plan including the strategies for Minority groups, Disability Action Cultural Development, Community Safety and Health.	3. Social, Cultural and disability Action Plans undertaken on a Regional Basis through the Strategic Alliance.	3. Ongoing review in line with Council resolution 503/04 to keep the Plan under constant review.	MP	Achieving	Achieving	Achieving

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Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities (Continued)
Service: 5.1 Urban and Rural Planning and Development Assessment (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
4. A Regional Local Environmental Plan prepared through the Strategic Alliance to incorporate the Local Environmental Plan.	4 Consultants with funding provided in 2005/2006 of \$100,000 from DIPNR and \$25,000 from Council (matched by other councils in the Alliance).	4. Work program progressing within the timeline for completion by December 2009.	MP	Achieving	Achieving Not Assessed	Achieving

The Housing and Community Amenities (Urban and Rural Planning and Development Assessment) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$170,664 (2007/2008 - \$185,255) recurrent expenditure and \$9,000 (2007/2008 - \$9,000) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.2 Garbage Collection and Disposal Services

Strategic Objective: To provide an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible waste collection, recycling and/or disposal service, for all ratepayers of the Uralla Shire.

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure an efficient and effective waste collection service in Uralla, Bundarra and Invergowrie and for Walcha by contract.	1. By Council single person collection truck.	1. Number of complaints concerning missed collections less than 12 per quarter.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To ensure an efficient and effective weekly recycling service in Uralla and Invergowrie.	2. By Council day labour.	2. Mass of material recycled. Recyclables/head - 85kgs. Domestic waste/head – 100 kgs.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved
3. Operate the Uralla landfill site as a separate viable operation.	3. By Council day labour.	3. Landfill site operates within budget and maximises recycling income.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Comply with EPA Licence Conditions at Waste Disposal Tips.	4. By monitoring of operation at landfill site and manning the Bundarra landfill site.	4. Non compliance limited to 4 per year.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
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Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.2 Garbage Collection and Disposal Services

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
5. Prepare for the timely rehabilitation of all Council's landfill sites.	5. Bringing clay and suitable materials in from Council works.	5. All available material brought onto site and stockpiled.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Garbage Collection and Disposal) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$439,777 for collections and \$477,583 for landfill operations (2007/2008 - \$351,028 for collections and \$405,245 for landfill operations) recurrent expenditure and \$22,931 (2007/2008 - \$98,214) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.3 Streetscape (formerly called Street Cleaning)
Strategic Objective: To sweep and rinse gutters and empty street garbage bins to provide a clean and pleasant streetscape in Uralla and Bundarra towns.
Principal Responsibility: Director of Works and Environmental Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. In Uralla, (a) to sweep gutters on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. (b) empty bins daily in the CBD that is: Bridge Street, from the Coachwood and Cedar Hotel to the Tourist Information Centre, and in Hill Street from the Post Office to Bridge Street. (c) provide 25 hours per week of cleaning of the CBD, footpath, blisters and gutters.	1. (a) Council day labour - by hand.	1. (a) No more than 3 complaints per quarter about dirty gutters or overflowing or smelly bins.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
	(b) Council day labour - by hand.	(b) No missed collection days.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
	(c) Council day labour - by hand.	(c) no more than 1 complaint per quarter about dirty footpaths or untidy blisters.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
2. In Bundarra, to empty street bins on Mondays.	2. Council day labour - by hand.	2. (a) No days missed.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(b) No more than 1 complaint per quarter about overflowing or smelly bins.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

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Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.3 Streetscape (formerly called Street Cleaning)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
3. In Invergowrie, to slash public areas around Fire Shed.	3. Council day labour.	3. Cleared at least twice a year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Streetscapes) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$70,532 (2007/2008 - \$66,490) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.4 Urban Stormwater Drainage

Strategic Objective: To plan, design, construct and manage new and additional stormwater drainage systems and catchment areas, to collect, transport and discharge stormwater runoff effectively, efficiently and economically to reduce flooding, soil erosion, pollution and improve water quality.

Principal Responsibility: Director of Works and Environmental Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Continue current level of routine maintenance of existing storm water drainage system (5.6km).	1. Council day labour.	1. (a) No more than 1 complaint per quarter about drainage problems.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		(b) Cost of maintenance per km of existing stormwater pipe at \$982 per km per annum.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Improve quality of water flow at Shanahan's Bridge, Uralla Creek, and clean up of environmental weeds along the surrounding Uralla Creek.	2. Council day labour.	2. (a) Installation of gross pollutant trap.	DES	No traps scheduled for year.	No traps scheduled for year.	No traps scheduled for year.
		(b) Removal of environmental weeds and replanting with appropriate vegetation in defined area.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

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Principal Activity:
Service:

5. Housing and Community Amenities (Continued)
5.4 Urban Stormwater Drainage (continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
4. Monitor the effectiveness of gross pollution traps.	4. Council day labour.	4. Report to Council on the annual volume of gross pollutants recovered from traps	DES	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
5. Maintain the retention basins.	5. Council day labour.	5. maintenance completed within budget and retention basins clean.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. Plan for future stormwater management.	6. External consultant.	6. Stormwater and Flood Management Plan completed and presented to Council.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
7. Community consultation and involvement with Council Stormwater Management Projects and additional revenue for projects sourced.	7. Meeting between relevant community groups, Catchment Management Authority, General Manager Project Manager. Council to pursue any additional funding possibilities.	7. All opportunities for additional funding taken.	DES	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
		All offers of non-council assistance with stormwater management projects taken.	GM	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Urban Stormwater Drainage) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$33,403 (2007/2008 - \$32,520) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$26,125) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity:

5. Housing and Community Amenities

Service:

5.5 Public Cemeteries

Strategic Objective:

To provide cemetery facilities for the public, which are attractive, efficient, cost-effective and are adequately maintained and that preserve the history of the area.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 5

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To keep an accurate perpetual record of details of all interment.	1. Record all details on a permanent register.	1. No more than 3 enquiries per quarter that were not satisfied because of inadequate records, for records of interments after 1968.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieving	Achieved
2. To ensure that all cemeteries are adequately and attractively maintained.	2. (a) Ensure that regular inspections are carried out on all cemeteries.	2. (a) Number of complaints received in respect of maintenance of cemeteries and cemetery facilities.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieving	Achieving	Achieved
	(b) Repair any damage to fencing.	(b) Repairs completed.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(c) Seek heritage funding for the planned restoration of the old cemetery in Uralla.	(c) Heritage funding application lodged	GM	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
3. To aim that eventually all cemetery facilities and services are provided at no net direct cost to Council.	3. Set fees and charges to recover no less than 60% (2007/2008 60%) of operating costs. (representing 40% CSO).	3. Fees and charges at 60% or more of operating costs.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Public Cemeteries) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$37,709 (2007/2008 - \$36,029) recurrent expenditure and \$6,850 (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity:

5. Housing and Community Amenities

Service:

5.6 Environmental Control

Strategic Objective:

To implement programs aimed at protecting and enhancing the environment of the Shire to ensure the health and well being of its residents.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 2, 4, and 6

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Review and update the State of Environment Report annually and use it to identify specific environmental programs.	1. Strategic Alliance with in-house staff.	1. (a) Report completed.	MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
		(b) Programs identified in the SOE report incorporated into the 2008/2009 budget estimates.	MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Incorporate the Local Environmental Plan into a Regional Environmental Plan.	2. Strategic Alliance with in-house staff. (Refer to Section 5.1)	2. Agreement completed with Alliance.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To access appropriate Heritage advice and guidance.	3. Engage a Heritage Advisor.	3. Council and staff refer items to Heritage advisor.	MP	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Extend Council's Environmental Projects to improve the Gwydir River catchment within the Shire.	4. Council's Part Time Project Officer and Border Rivers Gwydir River CMA.	4. Grants obtained and project developed for Council's approval.	Project Officer	Achieved	Achieved g	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Environmental Control) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with \$6,910 for Heritage, \$65,811 for Environmental Projects plus \$22,230 for Environmental Monitoring within the Landfill Operation expenditure and \$7,500 for the State of Environment Report within Development Control Section 5.1) (2007/2008 - \$8,800 plus \$4,000) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity: 5. Housing and Community Amenities
Service: 5.7 Other Conveniences
Strategic Objective: To provide community amenities for the general convenience of residents of and visitors to the Shire.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 4

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Clean, maintain and repair public toilets to a satisfactory condition.	1. (a) Council day labour to clean and maintain facilities with at least one service weekday and once on weekends.	1. (a) No more than 6 complaints per quarter regarding unsatisfactory toilet conditions.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Random inspection of public toilets.	(b) Inspections find public privies to be well maintained.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To provide a community asset in the form of a taxi shelter and street store facilities.	2. Council providing funding for the renting of the street store from donation of \$8,100 by Governance.	2. Street stall used at least 12 weekends per quarter.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Housing and Community Amenities (Other Conveniences) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$51,801 for Public Privies and \$12,390 for Urban Facilities (2007/2008 - \$37,650 and \$2,350 respectively) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 6. Water Supplies
Service: 6.1 Uralla Water Supply
Strategic Objective: To provide safe, cost effective and affordable water supply facilities complying with statutory requirements, for the benefit of both present and future residents of the town of Uralla.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To comply with current drinking water guidelines and improve the quality of water delivered to the reticulation system by best practice methodology.	1. (a) Operate the Treatment Plant effectively and regularly test raw and treated water.	1. (a) No samples of treated water samples which do not comply with the Drinking Water Guidelines.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) DES to maintain staff skill levels to effectively carry out these duties.	(b) Water operator and back up operator have Level III training in plant operation.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

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Principal Activity:
Service:

6. Water Supplies
6.1 Uralla Water Supply (Continued)

2. Aim of an average annual residential consumption rate of not more than 200 Kl per connection.	2. User pays principles under best practice pricing to control consumption.	2. Report to Council on the annual water consumption per connection in June.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Provide water main to boundary of the Industrial development.	3. Council day labour.	3. Mains provided when development confirmed	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Progressively replace old mains on a planned basis.	4. Council day labour.	4. 100 metres of main replaced.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Water Supplies (Uralla) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$6329,096 (2007/2008 \$586,732) recurrent expenditure and \$194,500 (2007/2008 \$197,000) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:
Service:

6. Water Supplies
6.2 Bundarra Water Supply

Strategic Objective:

To provide safe, cost-effective and affordable water supply facilities complying with statutory requirements, for the benefit of both present and future residents of the village of Bundarra.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To comply with current drinking water guidelines and improve the quality of water delivered to the reticulation system by best practice methodology.	1. Operate the treatment plant effectively and regularly test raw and treated water.	1. No samples of treated water samples which do not comply with the Drinking Water Guidelines.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Aim of an average annual residential consumption rate of not more than 200 Kl per connection.	2. User pays principles under best practice pricing to control consumption.	2. Report to Council on the annual water consumption per connection in June.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Water Supplies (Bundarra) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$176,799 (2007/2008 - \$163,959) recurrent expenditure and \$20,250 (2007/2008 - \$20,250) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity: 6. Water Supply
Service: 6.3 Rural Water Supplies
Strategic Objective: To control water storage capacity on rural residential blocks, provide advice on water storage and quality to rural residents and to provide a water quality testing service
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure that rural residential dwellings have adequate available water supplies.	1. DES to apply the provisions of DCP No 2 in respect of quantities of water available to rural residential residents.	1. Report to management on the volume of water sold from Uralla and Bundarra water supplies.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To provide advice on the quality of water to rural residents and monitor the quality of that water.	2. (a) MHBS to provide a water testing service for rural residents on a fee for service basis.	2. Report to management on (a) The number of tests requested.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) MHBS to monitor and record requests for results of tests and from where the water was drawn.	(b) The number and percentage of tests that pass and do not pass.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Water Supplies (Rural) requires no separate funding through the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B).

Principal Activity: 7. Sewerage Services
Service: 7.1 Uralla Sewerage
Strategic Objective: To provide safe, cost-effective and affordable sewerage facilities complying with statutory requirements, for the benefit of both present and future residents of the village of Uralla, without creating significant pollution problems in the disposal of the wastewater.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To maintain a net debt ratio for the fund of less than 2%.	1. No new borrowings until at least 2010.	1. Net debt service ratio less than 2%.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

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Principal Activity:
Service:

7. Sewerage Services
7.1 Uralla Sewerage (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
2. To comply with the licensing requirements of the EPA in relation to quality of effluent discharged to Rocky Creek and noise levels on and near the site.	2. (a) Operate the plant effectively and regularly test effluent quality.	2. (a) No samples of treated effluent water samples which do not comply with EPA licence.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Monitor noise levels.	(b) Compliance with noise level limits.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To extend the hours of operation of the waste water treatment plant to give higher quality discharge	3. Hours extended during daylight saving days and aeration method modified to improve aeration and reduce noise.	3. Nitrate levels maintained below EPA limits	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Upgrade the sewer pipe system to cater for growth and increased flows.	4. Operate “black box” flow recorder in the pipe network to monitor flows and rainfall.	4. Report to Council of current likely expected upgrading requirements and timeframes each January.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
5. Provide sewer main to boundary of the Industrial development.	5. Council day labour.	5. Mains provided when development confirmed.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. To replace old mains on a planned progressive basis.	6. Council day labour.	6. 100 metres of main replaced.	DES	Needs basis only	Not achieved	Not achieved

The Sewer Services (Uralla) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$508,284 (2007/2008 - \$520,926) recurrent expenditure and \$62,480 (2007/2008 - \$230,000) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity:

7. Sewerage Services

Service:

7.2 Bundarra Sewerage

Strategic Objective:

To introduce a safe, cost-effective and affordable sewerage facilities complying with statutory requirements, for the benefit of both present and future residents of the village of Bundarra, without creating significant pollution problems in the disposal of wastewater.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. The community and Council have recognised the need to replace the septic tank and absorption trench method of disposing of wastewater, particularly south of the Gwydir River and that a sewerage/common effluent scheme may not be affordable for the residents of Bundarra based on current government subsidy rates of 50% of capital cost.	1. Council, on behalf of the community, continue to pursue the eligibility of such works for both Federal and State Government Funding by using the DPWS Report No SR 103 dated November 1989 in submissions and delegations to DEUAS, State and Federal Politicians.	1. All opportunities for funding taken, only when the community would have a water and sewer access charge of approximately that of the Uralla users 2008/2009 total of \$635.00.	GM	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Assessed
2. When funding has been achieved to proceed with the works in stages.	2. Responding to any written offer made.	2. All offers responded to in a timely manner.	GM/DES	Not Assessed	Not Assessed	Not Assessed

The Sewer Services (Bundarra) has no specific funding in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) at this time and all preliminary funding application costs are carried by the Governance and Corporate Support Services functions of Council.

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Principal Activity: 7. Sewerage Services
Service: 7.3 Rural Waste Water
Strategic Objective: To ensure that the health of rural residents and the quality of groundwater and surface waters is not threatened by wastewater disposal in areas where sewerage is not available.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, and 10

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure that installed aerated waste treatment plants are regularly serviced by qualified people.	1. DES to raise a register of dates of services to plants installed.	1. Register maintained and manufacturers advised when services are overdue.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Carry out necessary registration and inspection of Sewage Treatment Devices.	2. In-house staff.	2. (a) No less than 100 devices inspected per annum.	MHBS	Not Achieving	Not Achieving	Not Achieving
		2. (b) Register of the Number of devices maintained.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Sewer Services (Rural Waste Water) requires no separate funding through the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B).

Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture
Service: 8.1 Public Libraries – Uralla
Strategic Objective: To provide a service to assist and support the community's cultural, educational and recreational needs.
Principal Responsibility: Director of Administration
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To maintain the number of member borrowers at 1,490 or more (1,400 at Uralla and 90 at Bundarra) and the annual number of books borrowed at 28,000.	1. (a) Continue the opening hours of 30h/week in new Library.	1. (a) Library operating 30 hours per week.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	1. (b) Increase the type and number of books available.	1. (b) Number of member borrowers at or above 1,490.	Librarian	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	1. (c) Publicise access for member borrowers to use Armidale and Inverell Libraries.	1. (c) Books borrowed. * First quarter 5,000 * Second quarter 15,000 * Third quarter 22,000	Librarian			

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		* Fourth quarter 28,000		Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
Principal Activity:		8. Recreation and Culture				
Service:		8.1 Public Libraries – Uralla Continued)				
2. To increase the ratio of books borrowed to number of books in stock to 3.5:1 and to member borrowers to 19:1.	2. Librarian to use CNL to increase stock replacement rate, weed out unpopular material, and increase the number of popular categories of stock.	2. Annual Ratio of 3.5:1 for issues to stock and 19:1 for issues to members.	Librarian	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
3. To operate the new Library as a branch library of a regional library system.	3. Through Tamworth Regional Council until 30 June 2010.	3. New agreement with TRC formalised	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Recreation and Culture Services (Public Libraries) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$221,752 (2007/2008 - \$193,976) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture

Service: 8.2 Public Halls

Strategic Objective: To maintain the School of Arts Hall at Bundarra and the Uralla Memorial Hall as the centres of focus for the local community so that provision is made for recreational, educational, cultural and sporting activities.

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To ensure that the halls are adequately maintained and are available for public use at minimal net cost to the community.	1. (a) By delegation to Management Committees for Bundarra, by lease of Uralla Hall to Uralla Neighbourhood Centre and by Council staff.	1. (a) The halls are used for activities on at least 20 days per annum for the Uralla Hall and 10 days per year for the Bundarra School of Arts Hall.	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) MBHS to inspect the halls annually and report to Council.	(b) Report to management on the condition of the halls each quarter.	MHBS	Not Achieved	Not Achieved	Not Achieved
	(c) Halls to be provided at a CSO contribution of 90% plus depreciation.	(c) Income to be 70% of operating cost without depreciation.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Advertise the availability of the halls for hire and use at every possible occasion.	2. Newsletter and other media sources.	2. Increased use of the facilities with new users.	MHBS	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved

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The Recreation and Culture Services (Public Halls) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$29,436 (2007/2008 - \$29,919) recurrent expenditure and \$15,000 (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture

Service: 8.3 Swimming Facilities

Strategic Objective: To provide economical recreational and sporting water facilities for present and future residents of the Shire

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To provide an adequate number of appropriately trained staff to manage the Uralla Swimming Pool.	1. Manage the pool by Council day labour and to be open for 7 days per week.	1. Pool appropriately staffed for 7-day weeks during the pool season.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To aim that attendance at the Uralla Pool be 10,000 people in a good year.	2. Pool to operate 7-day weeks for a pool season of 20 weeks (17 weeks in 2007/2008).	2. Annual pool attendance to be no less than 10,000 when average temperature at 3.00 pm is more than 23 degrees.	MHBS	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
3. Ensure that at all times the water quality is within the Water Quality Guidelines.	3. Water tests to be carried out regularly and appropriate action taken to correct anomalies.	3. Chlorine levels and pH to be checked at least three times daily, bacteriological tests to be taken at least weekly and full chemical analysis every six weeks.	MHBS	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. While acknowledging that currently each pool user is subsidised at a rate of at least \$5.00 per attendance (on average) the community acknowledges that to increase pool entry fees to the maximum level is more than the market will bear without discouraging attendance.	4. All Season tickets to be discontinued and sale of books of multiples of 10 tickets at discounts per Revenue Policy (page 15) introduced.	4. (a) Report to Council in May 2009 of the cost per head of use of the CSO for the operation of the swimming pool.	GM	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
		(b) Report to Manex regularly, during the season, on attendance of ticket holders, early morning swimmers and gate payers.	GM	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
		(c) Report to Council in August regarding staffing or contract operation of the facility.	MHBS	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
				Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

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Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture
Service: 8.3 Swimming Facilities (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
5. Continue to upgrade and improve the facility and operation of the Uralla Swimming Pool Complex.	5. Recommendations from the Uralla Swimming Pool Advisory Committee and Council staff.	5. Report to Council on alternatives by March 2009 .	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
6. To determine a five year program for the funding and upgrading of a new aquatic centre complex.	6. Recommendations from the Uralla Swimming Pool Advisory Committee and Council staff.	6. Report to Council by November 2008 for inclusion in the forward capital budget considerations.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Recreation and Culture Services (Swimming Facilities) are funded in the Draft Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$98,425 (2007/2008 - \$100,330) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture
Service: 8.4 Sporting Grounds and Facilities
Strategic Objective: To provide suitable sporting facilities for the present and future residents of Uralla and the Shire.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To maintain the existing grounds, fields and facilities to the community's satisfaction.	1. Council day labour.	1. No more than 2 complaints per quarter received about unsatisfactory conditions.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Recreation and Culture Services (Sporting Grounds and Facilities) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$45,480 (2007/2008 - \$43,999) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$ Nil) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture
Service: 8.5 Parks, Gardens and Reserves
Strategic Objective: To maintain and improve parks, gardens and reserves and, over time, upgrade facilities for the benefit of all present and future users.
Principal Responsibility: Manager Works
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To maintain the existing parks, gardens and reserves to the community's satisfaction.	1. Council day labour and Landcare groups.	1. No more than 2 complaints per quarter received about unsatisfactory conditions.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieving	Achieving
2. Improve the amenities at Council's passive parks and gardens on a regular basis.	2. Provision of Shade and playground equipment.	2. Additional shade erected at Alma Park.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Continue the four stage development of the Mt Mutton Walking Trail.	3. Development of stage 2 of the program.	3. Work commenced on project.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Recreation and Culture Services (Sporting Grounds and Facilities) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$141,127 (2007/2008 - \$116,157) recurrent expenditure and \$15,000 (2007/2008 - \$13,000) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 8. Recreation and Culture
Service: 8.6 Other Recreation and Culture
Strategic Objective: To continue to develop cultural and historical activities to the benefit of the Shire's residents.
Principal Responsibility: Director Corporate and Community Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Encourage the continued work of the Uralla Arts Council in promoting cultural activities and concentrate on local activities.	1. Funding the employment of the Regional Arts Development Officer (RADO).	1. UAC continues and community activities resumed.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Encourage the continued operation of the Uralla Historical Society.	2. Continue to make the Thunderbolt Paintings available to the Society for display in McCrossin's Mill.	2. (a) Annual income from the display of the paintings. (b) UHS continues.	GM GM	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved

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The Recreation and Culture Services (Other Recreation and Culture) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$21,882 (2007/2008 - \$15,120) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 9. Mining, Manufacturing and Construction

Service: 9.1 Quarries and Pits

Strategic Objective: To manage, operate and control gravel pits and quarries in the Shire, in an economical and environmentally appropriate manner.

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 6, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To operate and access material from pits and quarries to support the Council's Works Program.	1. Council day labour and contract.	1. DES to report total volume of material won by Council from its pits.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
2. Ensure that use of sand and gravel won from gravel pits in the Shire is used for the benefit of Uralla Shire residents or, if used outside the Shire, road usage costs are charged.	2. Reconciling annually costs and charges imposed in development consents (Section 94 Contributions charges) relating to material used outside the Shire.	2. Income and expenditure from Section 94 charges reconciled quarterly.	GM	Annual Reconciliation	Achieved	Achieved

The Mining, Manufacturing and Construction Services are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$7,908 (2007/2008 - \$7,000) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications

Service: 10.1 Urban Roads

Strategic Objective: To manage, maintain and develop the system of urban roads in the Shire effectively and efficiently

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To seal all the streets in the Uralla village area by the Year 2010.	1. Plan the future sealing of the remaining unsealed roads in Uralla.	1. No sealing of urban roads in Uralla until 2009/2010.	DES	No work	No work	No work
2. To seal streets in Bundarra by the Year 2010.	2. Plan the future sealing of the remaining unsealed roads in Bundarra.	2. No sealing of urban roads in Bundarra until 2009/2010.	DES	No work	No work	No work

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3. To grade all unsealed roads on average once per year, efficiently and effectively.	3. Council day labour and Council's grading crews.	3. 1.4 kms of unsealed urban roads graded.	DES	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
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Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.1 Urban Roads (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
4. To reseal all sealed pavements on average once every 12 years.	4. (a) Program works to budget allocation.	4. (a) Budget allocation made up to 7.5% of sealed road length.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Work carried out by combination of Council day labour, contract and Strategic Alliance.	(b) 1,700 metres of road resealed this year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
5. To kerb and gutter all urban streets on a progressive basis.	5. (a) Program works to budget allocation.	5. (a) Kerb and Guttering program completed.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Council day labour and contract. (b) Ratepayer 50% contribution (\$45.00 per metre).					
6. To select and implement Creative Village Project Works.	6. (a) projects developed on the advice of the Creative village committee.	6. (a) Recommendations received from the Creative village committee.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Program works to budget allocation.	(b) Budget allocation made.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(c) Contract and Council day labour.	(c) First entry statement erected at northern end of Uralla.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Urban Roads) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$63,646 (2007/2008 - \$104,511) and \$18,616 kerb and gutter (2007/2008 - \$15,611) recurrent expenditure plus \$22,900 for Kerb and Guttering and \$10,000 for Creative Village Committee Projects (2007/2008 - \$30,000) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.2 Sealed Rural Roads
Strategic Objective: To manage, maintain and develop the system of sealed rural roads effectively and efficiently.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
A. Local Roads - [241.8km]						
1. To reseal all sealed pavements on average once every 12 years.	a) Program works to budget allocation.	1. (a) Budget allocation made up to 8.33% (20,150 metres) of sealed road length.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	b) Work carried out by combination of Council day labour, contract and Strategic Alliance.	(b) 20,150 metres of road resealed this year (at 12 years reseal).	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Mow road shoulders on average twice/year.	2. Combination of Council day labour and contract.	2. 320 kms of shoulder mowed twice per year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Grade ungrassed road shoulders on average once every two years.	3. Council's grading crews.	3. 100 kms of shoulder of un-sealed, ungrassed shoulder graded.	DES	Not required	Achieved	Achieved

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Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.2 Sealed Rural Roads (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
B <u>Regional Roads [127.4 km]</u>						
1. Maintain a reseal program based on a once every 12-year average resealing target.	1. a) RTA Block Grant. b) Work carried out by combination of Council day labour, contract and Strategic Alliance.	1. a) Block Grant received and Budget allocation made up to 7.5% (10,100 metres) of sealed road length. b) 10,100 metres of road resealed this year.	GM DES	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
2. Mow road shoulders on average twice/year.	2. Combination of Council day labour and contract.	2. 200 kms of shoulder mowed twice per year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Grade un-grassed road shoulders on average once every two years.	3. Council's grading crews.	3. 5 kms of shoulder of ungrassed shoulder graded.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Reconstruct 2.5 kilometres of the Thunderbolts Way - MR 73.	4. Combination of Council day labour and contract with funding of \$197,500 from the RTA REPAIR program, matched funds from FAGs funding plus \$76,000 3 x 3 funding.	4 Construction completed on time and within budget.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Rural Roads) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$1,459,118 (2007/2008 - \$1,635,400) recurrent expenditure and \$839,000 (2007/2008 - \$200,000) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity:
Service:
Strategic Objective:

10. Transport and Communications
10.3 Unsealed Rural Roads

To manage, maintain and develop the system of unsealed rural roads effectively and efficiently and only plan to seal them when economically justified

Principal Responsibility: **Director Engineering Services**

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result	
A Local Roads [525km]	1. To grade all roads on average of once per year and the busier collector roads at least twice per year, thereby grading 325km once per year and 200km twice per year being a total grading length of 730 km p.a.	1					
		a) Council's three grading crews assisted by its one construction grader, plus local contractors and Strategic Alliance.	1 (a) 725 kms of road graded in the year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
		(b) Crews to start and finish on the job whenever working at sites located greater than 30km from the depot.	(b) Report to Council twice per year on the roads that have not been graded for more than 12 months.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
2. Sealing of gravel roads which have traffic volumes (AADT) in excess of 150 vehicles per day and to determine priorities for such work based on * AADT * accident history, deferred until no earlier than 2009/1010.	2. Council's allocation for sealing converted to resheeting programs in 3 below.	2. No budget allocation for sealing in 2008/2009 (Council resolved to seal 900 metres of Retreat Road for maintenance reasons)	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	
3. To gravel resheet 20km of pavement every year.	3. Work carried out by combination of Council day labour, contract and Strategic Alliance.	3. 16 kms of road resheeted with gravel per year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	

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Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.3 Unsealed Rural Roads (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
B. Regional Roads [13.7 km] 1. To grade the roads on average of three times per year.	1. Funded by the RTA Block Grant (a) Council's three grading crews assisted by its one construction grader, plus local contractors and Strategic Alliance from time to time.	1. (a) 42 kms of road graded in the year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	(b) Crews to start and finish on the job whenever working at sites located greater than 30km from the depot.	(b) Report to Council twice per year on the roads that have not been graded for more than eight months.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Unsealed Rural Roads) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$1,325,615 (2007/2008 - \$1,007,150) recurrent expenditure and \$237,000 (2007/2008 - \$510,000) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.4 Bridges

Strategic Objective: To manage, maintain and develop the system of bridges effectively and efficiently for:
(A) Local Roads: 12 timber, two steel and 17 concrete and steel bridges and culverts.
(B) Regional Roads: 2 timber, one steel and 23 concrete and steel bridges and culverts.

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
A. Local Roads 1. Continue program of test boring timber bridges and replacing unserviceable components as necessary.	1. Council day labour.	1. Report to Council on the number of bridges assessed to be in poor condition.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

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2. Repaint all steel elements of bridges on average of once every ten years.	2. Council day labour.	2. Report to Council on the number of bridges not painted for more than 10 years.	DES			
				Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.4 Bridges (Continued)

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
3. Investigate means of funding the replacement of local wooden bridges	3. Utilise the annual reduction of outstanding loans in the General Fund (now \$224,910) to offset borrowings	3. Report to Council on options and procedure	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
B. <u>Regional Roads</u>						
1. Continue program of test boring timber bridges and replacing unserviceable components as necessary.	1. Council day labour.	1. Report to Council on the number of bridges assessed to be in poor condition.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Repaint all steel elements of bridges on average of once every ten years.	2. Council day labour.	2. Report to Council on the number of bridges not painted for more than 10 years.	DES	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
3. Prepare a timber replacement program for bridges on regional roads.	3. 50:50 funding from RTA deferred.	3. Program prepared ready for when funding resumes.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. Replace the timber bridge at Maitland Point with a concrete bridge.	3. Timber bridge program funding of 50% plus special grant of 25% and loan of 25%.	4. Bridge constructed on the condition that the Minister for Transport provides the special grant of 25%.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Bridges) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$469,179 (2007/2008 - \$295,350) recurrent expenditure and \$1,200,000 (2007/2008 - \$222,500) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.5 Footpaths
Strategic Objective: To manage, maintain and develop the system of footpaths in the urban centres in the Shire efficiently and effectively
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To maintain existing paved surfaces at their current levels.	1. Council day labour.	1. Number of complaints received on condition of paved surfaces.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To slash unpaved footpaths in Uralla, Bundarra, Kingstown and Kentucky regularly.	2. Council day labour.	2. Unpaved footpaths mowed three times per year.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. Construction of 200 metres of new concrete path per annum.	3. Council day labour and NESAC plant.	3. Work completed.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Footpaths) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$94,922 (2007/2008 - \$98,118) recurrent expenditure and \$15,000 (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications
Service: 10.6 Parking Areas
Strategic Objective: To maintain the off-street car park in Bridge Street, Uralla to the community's satisfaction and to encourage increased usage.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Have no complaints about the condition of the car park.	1. Council day labour maintenance.	1. Number of complaints received.	Technical Services Assistant	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. Increased patronage of the	2. Regular surveys	2. Report to Council on usage	DES			

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rear of CBD car park.		of rear car park.		Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
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The Transport and Communication Services (Parking Areas) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$17,646 (2007/2008 - \$29,430) recurrent expenditure and \$57,414 for loan repayments (2007/2008 - \$Nil).

Principal Activity: 10. Transport and Communications

Service: 10.7 Miscellaneous

Strategic Objective: To protect the road system from damage, enhance and beautify it, to provide safe road conditions and to provide suitable signposting.

Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Develop and extend the current street lighting system as development occurs in urban areas.	1. With funds provided by the Street lighting subsidy, developer contributions and Council provide additional streetlights when required. And work by Country Energy.	1. Approved additional streetlights installed when requested.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
2. To maintain road centreline markings where they are currently used and repaint other surface markings at least once per year.	2. With Council and RTA Block Grant funds maintain and provide by contract.	2. Programmed works undertaken	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To ensure all roads are adequately signposted with nameplates and that direction and warning signposting is adequate for the needs of road users.	3. Supplied by contract and erected by day labour with funds from the RTA Block Grant and Council.	3. a) Programmed works undertaken. b) Report to Council on the number of complaints about inadequate signposting quarterly.	DES Technical Services Assistant	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
4. To prevent unnecessary damage to road pavements caused by overloaded vehicles.	4. Retain membership of Mid-North Weight of Loads Group.	4. a) Membership retained. b) Report to management on the number of vehicles weighed and breaches	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

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5. To maintain and replace damaged and dead street trees within the urban areas of the Shire.	5. Council day labour.	issued	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
		5. Number of replaced trees reported to management.	DES	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

The Transport and Communication Services (Miscellaneous) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$102,671 (2007/2008 - \$145,181) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity:

11. Economic Affairs

Service:

11.1 Camping and Caravan Areas

Strategic Objective

To extend Alma Park by ensuring the removal, or relocation, of the Caravan Park and not to be directly involved in the provision of camping and caravan areas.

Principal Responsibility:

Director Corporate and Community Services

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, and 7

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. To work with the new lessees of the Caravan Park to develop a Tourist Park to at least two and a half star rating.	1. Work by Caravan Park lessees, supported by Council.	1. Report annually to Council in August on the operation of the lease.	GM	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved
2. To work with the managers of the Bundarra Caravan Park (Commercial Hotel licensees) to provide comfortable overnight facility.	2. Council workforce during week days and Commercial Hotel on weekends.	2. Report annually to Council in August on the operation of the park.	GM	Not achieved	Not achieved	Not achieved

Economic Affairs Services (Camping and Caravan Areas) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$10,299 (2007/2008 - \$8,885) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

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Principal Activity:
Service:
Strategic Objective:

11. Economic Affairs
11.2 Tourism and Social and Economic Development

To promote tourism and social and economic development services; which are efficient, cost effective and readily available so that the whole Shire community may benefit financially.

Principal Responsibility: **Director Corporate and Community Services**

GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, 7, and 8

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
A. Tourism						
1. To progressively increase the number of visitors to the Uralla Shire and number of internet hits to the Uralla Tourism website on tourism matters and to satisfy those enquiries.	1. Continue to engage a contractor on the basis of a 5 Day opening of the V.I.C to provide tourism services and fund the Monday opening with a Council employee.	1. (a) Monthly report to Council by Visitor Information Manager on visitor numbers. (b) Report to Council quarterly by the V.I.C. Manager.	GM Tourism Manager	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
2. Participate in Regional Tourism Organisations.	2. Financial contribution to NENWRTO (Big Sky Country), ART and regional projects and campaigns.	2. Numbers through the VIC stabilised and web site hits continue to grow.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
3. To provide financial support to Thunderbolt Country Fair	3. Financial contribution to Uralla Events Committee (Council's Section 355 Committee.	3. Payment made.	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
4. To provide hosting and general promotion of the Shire area.	4. Hosting visits and receptions for visitors	4. Functions held with positive outcomes	GM	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Economic Affairs Services (Tourism) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$95,712 (2007/2008 -\$123,685) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

**Principal Activity:
Service:**

**11. Economic Affairs
11.2 Tourism and Social and Economic Development (Continued)**

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
B. Economic Development						
1. To achieve new developments or expand existing developments in the Shire and the region.	1. The Council's Economic Development Officer supported by funding from the DSRD.	1. (a) Funding received. (b) Monthly reports by EDO to Council.	GM GM	Achieved Ceased from 14/11/2008	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
2. Uralla Shire Development Advisory Committee to advise Council on Development priorities	2. Section 355 Committee Raising of loan to purchase industrial land, as a 1 st priority, when the opportunity arises.	2. (a) Meetings held. (b) Industrial land purchase opportunity taken.	GM GM	Achieved No opportunities	Achieved Achieved	Achieved Achieved
3. Auspice a Rural Transaction Centre in Bundarra within the Top Store.	3. A Section 355 Committee funded by the Federal Government and operated by NECU with the view to incorporation.	3. (a) RTC operating at no net cost to the community. (b) RTC Committee has incorporated.	GM GM	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved	Achieved Not achieved
4. Operate TV retransmission facility in Uralla.	4. Council day labour.	4. Facility operating	NESAC Revenue	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Economic Affairs Services (Economic Development) is funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$137,833 (2007/2008 - \$139,898) Economic Development, \$6,781 (2007/2008 - \$3,290) Bundarra Rural Transaction Centre and \$11,464 (2007/2008 - \$12,230) TV Transmission facility recurrent expenditures plus \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$4,796) capital expenditure.

**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

Principal Activity: 11. Economic Affairs
Service: 11.3 Private Works
Strategic Objective: To carry out private works to assist local residents but without adversely affecting local private contractors.
Principal Responsibility: Director Engineering Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 3, 5, 7

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
1. Actively seek and carry out works in accordance with Competition Policy at a small profit.	1. Council day labour as and when requested.	1. a) Income exceeds the cost of operation.	DES	Achieving	Achieved	Achieved
	2. Advertise availability of the service through the Council Newsletter	b) Number of customers.	DES	Not Assessed	Achieved	Achieved

Economic Affairs Services (Private Works) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$207,739 (2007/2008 - \$242,400) recurrent expenditure; providing a surplus of \$42,261 (20.3%) and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

Principal Activity: 11. Economic Affairs
Service: 11.4 Other Business
Strategic Objective: To ensure a profit is returned on commercial ventures of an entrepreneurial nature.
Principal Responsibility: Director Corporate and Community Services
GOAL NUMBERS THIS ACTIVITY AIMS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING: 1, 5, and 7

Objectives and Performance Targets	Statement of Means	Performance Assessment	Responsible Officer.	Current Quarter	Year to date	Final Result
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**URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – VOLUME 4 PART A – 2008/2009**

<p>Old Court House Building</p> <p>1. To continue to rent the office and Court Room sections of the Courthouse building at prevailing commercial rates.</p>	<p>1. Leased to appropriate organisations servicing the community.</p>	<p>1. a) Rental at commercial rates. b) Income exceeds expenditure including depreciation.</p>	<p>GM GM</p>	<p>Achieved Achieved</p>	<p>Achieved Achieved</p>	<p>Achieved Achieved</p>
<p>Visitor Information Building</p> <p>2. To continue to rent the café portion of the VIC at prevailing commercial rates.</p>	<p>2. Leased at commercial rates adjusted for CSO activities, cleaning toilets.</p>	<p>2. a) Rental charged and up to date.</p>	<p>GM</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Achieved</p>	<p>Achieved</p>

Economic Affairs Services (Other Business) are funded in the 2008/2009 Budget Estimates of the Uralla Shire Council (Management Plan Vol 4 Part B) with an allocation of \$9,544 (2007/2008 - \$2,515) recurrent expenditure and \$Nil (2007/2008 - \$Nil) capital expenditure.

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

ATTACHMENT C

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2008-2009

Incorporating the local government areas of
Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report has been prepared in accordance with reporting requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the four local government areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha.

The 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report follows a similar format to the comprehensive Southern New England Tablelands Region State of the Environment Report completed in 2003-2004 and subsequent supplementary reports prepared for the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils. This Report provides up-dated data for environmental indicators identified for the eight key environmental sectors within the natural and built environment for the 2008-2009 reporting period, and examines trends in this data from the previous reporting period and since the 2003-2004 comprehensive State of the Environment Report.

A brief summary of the eight environmental sectors discussed in the Report is outlined below:

Land

Work has continued during 2008-2009 on the Draft New England Development Strategy which will guide future development in the region for the next 25 years and provide a planning context for the preparation of a single local environmental plan. In August 2008 the Draft Strategy was endorsed by the NSW Department of Planning, and following public exhibition, was adopted by all four Councils during April or May of 2009.

During 2008-2009 the NSW Rural Fire Service endorsed up-dated bush fire prone land maps for each of the Councils and prepared a New England Bush Fire Risk Management Plan applying across the region. Catchment Management Authorities operating in the region and Southern New England Landcare continue to be active in land management and conservation projects across the region.

Air and Climate Change

During 2008-2009 the four Councils of the Southern New England Region were involved in various projects with a focus towards climate change and its potential impacts on the local environment and its people. These projects include the Local Adaptation Pathway Project, Climate Consensus Project and development of a New England Sustainability Strategy.

Although air quality complaints have generally declined across the region during 2008-2009, wood smoke in Armidale City continues to be the main air pollution issue in the Region. Armidale Dumaresq Council has implemented a number of measures to address wood smoke, including continued financial assistance for installation of alternative heating and monitoring of air quality using a portable DustTrak™ Aerosol Monitor.

Home owners across the region have also taken advantage of various government rebates during 2008-2009 to improve the environmental performance of their

dwellings, such as rebates for installation of insulation, solar hot water systems and solar photovoltaic systems, including the successful Solar New England Project.

Water

Monitoring of Dumaresq Creek by Armidale Council has shown a slight improvement in water quality at testing locations over the period since 2005, while monitoring of the Apsley River by Walcha Council has found water quality during the current reporting period to be relatively consistent with previous recordings. Blue-green algae in Malpas Dam has continued to be a problem during 2008-2009, however its impact on potable water supplies has been off-set by Armidale Dumaresq Council's new ozonation BAC facility at the Water Treatment Plant.

Average water consumption per connection has generally declined across the region during 2008-2009, with only a slight increase being experienced at Uralla.

Uralla Shire Council has continued with implementation of projects under its Uralla Sub-Catchment Management Project during 2008-2009, while all Councils in the Region have continued to work with Catchment Management Authorities and Landcare to implement on-ground works to improve the health of waterways.

Biodiversity

The number of threatened flora and fauna species recorded in the Southern New England Region has increased since reporting of numbers commenced in 2006-2007, and the Region now contains six (6) endangered ecological communities as listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

The collection of timber from road reserves and travelling stock routes has again been identified as a significant concern to biodiversity across the region, along with the threat of invasive noxious weeds.

On a positive note, during the 2008-2009 it was announced that Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils had been successful in obtaining a grant of \$2 million from the NSW Environmental Trust for Urban Sustainability. This project, called HiCUB (previously known as Biodiversity in High Country) will occur over two and a half years and provide community education, monitoring and evaluation, technical studies and on-ground rehabilitation works across the Region.

Waste

All Councils are actively involved in the Northern Inland Regional Waste Group and have undertaken programs to encourage greater recycling and improve waste management efficiencies.

Since 2003-2004 recycling levels per capita have remained relatively stable across the region, with the exception of Uralla Shire Council which has seen distinct improvements in recycling levels since 2005-2006. Mixed results have been achieved in relation to the rate of domestic waste per capita since 2000-2001, with general improvements at Armidale and Walcha (i.e. low generation per capita) while slightly higher rates of domestic waste generation per capita have been reported in both Uralla and Guyra.

Work has continued on the planning phase of a new regional landfill during 2007-2008.

Noise

Barking dogs continued to be the major source of noise complaints across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009, again contributing to 71% of all noise complaints received by Councils.

All Councils have maintained accurate records of noise complaints received during the reporting period and continue to respond to complains as necessary.

Aboriginal Heritage

During 2008-2009, the Aboriginal Heritage Office (North Sydney) prepared an Aboriginal Site Management Report and Aboriginal Potential Areas Report for Armidale Dumaresq Council. These are significant documents that outline strategies and recommendations for Council staff to ensure that Aboriginal heritage is properly considered during the planning stage of development, legislative responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage management, criteria for assessing Aboriginal heritage potential and to assist in identify and defining areas of potential Aboriginal archaeological heritage.

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change advised that during 2008-2009, 23 sites were added to their Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) across the Southern New England Region.

Non-Aboriginal Heritage

All Councils continued to be involved in non-Aboriginal heritage projects during 2008-2009 including commencement of a community based heritage study in Uralla, continued preparation of a heritage study at Walcha, completion of a review of items identified in the former Dumaresq Shire Heritage Study by Armidale Dumaresq Council and implementation of recommendation .

All Councils have continued to provide advice to the community via their respective Heritage Advisors and continued operation of various museums across the Region.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING – OVERVIEW

The NSW *Local Government Act 1993* requires all Councils to produce a State of Environment Report as part of their annual reporting requirements. Comprehensive reports must be prepared for the year ending after election of councillors for the area. Local Government elections were held in September 2008, and as such, the four Councils of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha have agreed to prepare a regionally based comprehensive state of the environment report for 2008-2009.

State of the Environment reporting is intended to provide timely and accurate information on the condition of the local environment and an outline of activities and their resulting impacts on the environment of the region. The information contained in this State of the Environment Report should contribute to the management activities and decision making processes of Council across all sectors of activity, and enable planning to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.

1.2 ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The role of NSW local government in the implementation of ecologically sustainable development (ESD) principles has been formally recognised by incorporating the principles of ESD in the NSW *Local Government Act 1993* and by requiring councils to manage their regulatory and service functions in an ecologically sustainable manner (Department of Local Government, *Environmental Guidelines – State of Environment Reporting by Local Government* – December 1999).

Ecologically sustainable development means an approach to using, conserving and enhancing natural resources so that ecological processes, on which all life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, is improved (COAG, 1992).

State of the environment reporting is recognised as a key mechanism for identifying and evaluating sustainability issues for local government, assessing progress towards sustainability and informing the decision making process and management activities of Council.

The following State of the Environment Report includes data that examines the effectiveness of the Councils' environmental management strategies and allows the performance of those strategies to be reviewed to determine gaps in the planning, delivery and management of services.

1.3 REPORTING FRAMEWORK

1.3.1 Pressure – State – Response Model

The Southern New England State of the Environment Report adopts the pressure – state – response model consistent with Commonwealth, State and Territory reporting.

The pressure – state – response model is based on the concept of causality, i.e. human activities exert pressures on the environment which change its state, or condition. Society then responds to this change of state by developing and implementing policies and/or actions, which complete the cycle and influence the activities that exert pressure on the environment.

In the context of the Southern New England State of the Environment Report, the pressure – state – response model enables reporting on:

- the pressures that human activities place on the environment – positive or negative effects;
- the state or condition of the environment – identifying changes or trends in the environment, quantifying the impact of activities and the effectiveness of responses; and
- the response of councils, government agencies, business and the community to the pressures on, and state of, the environment.

It should be noted that the pressure – state – response model does have some shortcomings. The implied cycle of cause and effect is simplistic and often there is not clear evidence linking pressures with changes in environmental state. It is not always easy to categorise indicators, as they may reflect aspects of state, pressure or response, depending on the way the issue is approached. (Department of Local Government, *Environmental Guidelines – State of Environment Reporting by Local Government* – December 1999).

1.3.2 Environmental Themes

Section 428A(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires State of the Environment Reports to:

- (a) establish relevant environmental indicators for each environmental objective; and
- (b) report on, and update trends in, each such environmental indicator; and
- (c) identify all major environmental impacts (being events and activities that have a major impact on environmental objectives).

The 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report examines data and trends for various environmental indicators based on the following broad environmental themes:

- land
- air
- water
- biodiversity
- waste

- noise
- aboriginal heritage
- non-aboriginal heritage

These environmental themes are consistent with those that have been reported in previous state of environment reports for the region and allow for comparison of information collected since the last Comprehensive State of the Environment Report in 2004.

1.3.3 Environmental Indicators

The Pressure-State-Response model involves the measurement of a number of environmental conditions (indicators) to provide a picture of the environment. The criteria adopted in choosing these indicators is as follows:

- relevance - usefulness for users
- reliability - level of completeness, consistency, and accuracy of data
- timeliness - availability of data at a time suitable for reporting purposes
- sensitivity - able to show trends over time
- reproducible - well founded technically and able to take into account availability of resources
- policy linkage - linked to strategic goals
- utility - ability to be reproduced, over time, nationally and regionally.

The indicators identified in the Report are intended to be consistent with National, State and Regional indicators and be consistent over time. This intends to allow for monitoring results from national and state-based authorities to be included within the report (where relevant or available), ensure the report's relevance to national and state reporting processes and allow for environmental trends to be identified with greater reliability.

1.4 AIMS

The aims of the 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report are to:

- compile and present data on the current state of the environment for previously identified environmental indicators across the four local government areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha;
- identify trends and report on changes in the environment from previous reports;
- satisfy the reporting requirements of the Local Government Act 1993;
- identify new or emerging issues within the Region;
- provide a basis for informing future Council Management Plans.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report examines several environmental indicators grouped into eight key environmental themes, as outlined above.

Data for each of the environmental indicators has been obtained from the four Councils of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha, relevant State Government agencies, local community based organisations, local environmental groups and members of the public. Searches of the Internet were also conducted to collect relevant information.

Data gaps are identified within the report and are generally the result of an absence of any data, an inability of the relevant organisations to provide data within the period available, a lack of response or the relevant environmental indicator being a new or emerging issue. The response rate from several sources was lower in 2008-2009 than for previous years, which has resulted in a number of unexpected data gaps throughout the report.

Information presented in this report is generally defined by the boundaries of the respective local government areas. In some cases the local government boundaries do not correspond with Government agency boundaries (e.g. Catchment Management Authority boundaries) or other significant environmental areas. References are provided, where appropriate, to outline the relevance of information to the respective Council areas.

Where possible, data is presented to illustrate:

- the current state of the environment, with regard to particular environmental indicators, within each local government area during 2008-2009; and
- trends and changes that have occurred in relation to the respective environmental indicators within each local government area and across the broader region over time.

1.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES

Community consultation for the 2008-2009 Southern New England State of the Environment Report was undertaken by placing advertisements in locally circulating newspapers and Council newsletters, and notices on the Council's web site, inviting members of the public to make submissions for inclusion in the State of the Environment Report.

Letters were also written to key local community organisations and local environmental groups inviting their submissions. These community organisations and local environmental groups were also invited to provide details of any activities or projects they had undertaken during 2008-2009 in relation to the local environment or heritage, details of any environmental monitoring conducted during 2008-2009 and outlining and new or emerging issues affecting the local environment that they were aware of.

In addition to the above requests for community input, the four Councils have also participated in various projects during 2008-2009 which have involved consultation and workshops with community members, agency representatives and Council staff. These projects include the Local Adaptation Pathways Program, Nature

Conservation Council of NSW Climate Consensus Project and development of the New England Sustainability Strategy Foundation Report. Each of these projects have been instrumental in engaging with interested local participants and identifying issues which are likely to impact on the local environment into the future. Further details of these projects are outlined below.

1.6.1 Local Adaptation Pathways Program

The New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan project was funded by a grant from the Australian Government's Local Adaptation Pathways Program (LAPP) and by the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils through a cash and in-kind contribution. The Australian Government's LAPP was established to provide local government with resources to assist in assessing risks from climate change and developing an Adaptation Action Plan. The former New England Strategic Alliance of Councils was one of the first groups of Councils across Australia to prepare a coordinated regional strategy to respond to risks associated with climate change.

This project and development of the Action Plan, undertaken by consultants Sinclair Knight Merz, consisted of two stages, being:

- (1) identification of key risks to local government functions and service delivery associated with climate change (risk identification); and
- (2) identification of strategies which respond or adapt to risks associated with climate change (adaptation planning).

The Plan focuses on addressing extreme and high level risks resulting from climate change identified through the risk identification process. The Plan indicates that risks identified as extreme should have action taken to address these as a matter of priority, while high risks are less urgent but still require action to make the risk as low as reasonably achievable.

Risk Identification

The risk identification stage of the project involved a series of workshops with relevant Council staff across a range of disciplines based on a climate change scenario developed by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change for the New England region for 2050 and CSIRO climate change projections for the region. The climate change scenario suggests that the New England region is likely to become warmer, with more hot days and fewer cold nights. Increased rainfall is projected in spring, summer and autumn with reduced rainfall in winter.

The risk identification workshops identified, analysed and evaluated climate change risks based on the three themes of:

- planning and environment
- infrastructure and infrastructure services; and
- corporate and community services.

The extreme and high risks identified through the workshop sessions (being the focus of the Plan) are summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan Risk Assessment Summary – Extreme and High Risks

Themes	Sub-Themes	Risks	Risk Rating
Planning and Environment	Water	changes in water table impacts on quality and security of water supply	Extreme
		increased algal blooms in water supply	High
		reduction in non-reticulated water supply for rural / domestic use	High
		reduction in surface water available for agricultural use	High
	Waterways	reduced health of waterways due to sedimentation and eutrophication	Extreme
	Flooding	increased flooding in low lying developed areas and extension of flood range	High
	Ecosystems	loss of aquatic ecosystem services / values	High
	Biodiversity	loss of biodiversity	Extreme
	Weeds	increased weed infestation	Extreme
	Vegetation	loss of non-urban vegetation	Extreme
	Species Composition	change in species composition of local environment	Extreme
Bush Fire	increased bush fire risk due to settlements and infrastructure	High	
Infrastructure and Infrastructure Services	Dams	increased risk of dam failure	Extreme
	Bridges	reduced structure stability of timber bridges with heightened chance of failure	Extreme
	Pipes	increased cracking of pipes	High
	Buildings	increased noise complaints due to growth in air-conditioner use	High
		increased expenditure on up-grades to insulation / cooling systems and building storm water systems	High
	Roads	increased damage to road surfaces	High
		increased damage to unsealed roads	High
	Stormwater	inadequate stormwater infrastructure capacity resulting in larger floods	High
increased stormwater infiltration into sewerage system		High	
Corporate and Community Services	Agricultural Production	increased agricultural production pressure with negative environmental impacts	Extreme
	Air Transport	reduced reliability of air transport services	High
	Health	increased demand for mental health services	High
		increased potential for water borne diseases	High
		increased heat stress on staff and residents with potential for increased mortality	High
		increased storm related injury and death	High
	Economic Development	failure to identify and take advantage of emerging markets	High
		climate driven economic crisis	High
Infrastructure	reduced reliability of power supplies	High	

Adaptation Planning

Climate change adaptation planning is described as:

Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including autonomous and planned adaptation:

- *autonomous adaptation – adaptation that does not constitute a conscious response to climatic stimuli but is triggered by ecological changes in natural systems and by market or welfare changes in human systems – also referred to as spontaneous adaptation.*
- *planned adaptation – adaptation that is a result of deliberate policy decision, based on an awareness that conditions have changed or are about to change and that action is required to return to, maintain or achieve a desired state.*
- *Reactive adaptation – adaptation that takes place after impacts of change have been observed.*

(Australian Greenhouse Office, 2007)

Climate change adaptation planning is a method by which local government can respond to community concerns regarding climate change and to increase community awareness about climate change and community capacity to respond to climate change.

The climate change adaptation planning stage of the project (Stage 2) involved holding workshops with key Council officers and Councillors, representatives from other environmental agencies and the University of New England. The workshops involved discussing and developing actions which respond to the impacts / risks associated with climate change identified in stage one of the project.

The focus of the Action Plan is to guide actions which the member Councils can undertake to adapt to risks arising from projected climate change within the Southern New England region over the period to 2050. It is noted that a range of other agencies including the Australian and State Governments, the Northern Rivers, Border Rivers / Gwydir and Namoi Catchment Management Authorities, landcare agencies, the NSW Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services also have a role in planning for climate change adaptation.

Tables outlining the adaptation actions that were identified in Stage 2 of the project are included in Appendix A. The timeframe for commencement of actions are as follows:

- short term priority – commence within 1-2 years
- medium term priority – commence within 2-5 years
- long term priority – commence within 5-10 years

Finally, the Action Plan recognises that budgetary and resource constraints are potential barriers to its implementation. However, actions have been identified to focus on building on existing Council programs and initiatives to minimise the longer term cost and resource implication to Councils of projected climate change.

1.6.2 Climate Consensus Project

The Climate Consensus Project, coordinated by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and funded through the NSW Environmental Trust, is a sustainability education program which aimed to create an informed, active and engaged NSW community, working together to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and actively participate in climate change decision making (Nature Conservation Council of NSW, Community Feedback Report, 2009).

During October and November 2008, twelve local forums were conducted across NSW, including local forums in Armidale, Guyra and Uralla.

As part of the Climate Consensus Project local forums, participants identified community values, a vision of what conditions would be like in 20 to 50 years based on these values, and likely impacts (positive and negative) of climate change at a global, national, state and local level.

The potential local level impacts of climate change (positive and negative) that were identified at the forums are outlined below in Table 2.

Following the identification of community values, a vision and likely impacts of climate change, and with assistance from local experts and facilitators, community members at the forums also explored the key question – *how can we work together to respond to climate change ?*

Participants then developed a series of recommendations to the community, local and state governments. The recommendations for local government arising from the three local forums are included in Appendix B. Each of the Councils involved in the project have committed to considering the recommendations in future planning and decision making processes.



Figure 1: Participants at the Armidale Climate Consensus Forum – one of three local forums delivered across the New England Tablelands of NSW

Table 2: Potential Local Impacts of Climate Change identified at the Climate Consensus Program Local Forums in Armidale, Guyra and Uralla

Local Level Impacts	Forum where issue identified		
	ADC	GSC	USC
Positive			
potential driver for positive social change – enhance unification and communication of humans, generate local business, local knowledge and local ideas, increase use of renewable energy, better transportation, more social and green places, and promote self sufficiency.	✓	✓	✓
opportunity to lead by example and transform the area into an example of sustainability, through education and investment	✓		
warmer climate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - less frosts and heating requirements - longer growing period for agriculture, allowing increased food production opportunities 		✓	✓
“green technology” will bring industry, employment and better building practices		✓	✓
decentralisation will bring new people into the region with increased skills		✓	✓
increased land values			✓
create opportunities to educate for sustainable life and health			✓
Negative			
local population growth in response to sea level rise resulting in negative impact on water resources and cost of food.	✓	✓	
potential decrease in demand for certain areas and resulting decrease in land values	✓		
health and environmental challenges	✓	✓	
dryer climate (drought, higher temperatures) resulting in damage to environment through erosion, loss of native trees and established pasture.			✓
agriculture – decrease in fine wool production, less water available and increased fruit fly infestation			✓
negative state government control and intervention into local issues		✓	
variable and unpredictable weather and economic climate		✓	

1.6.3 New England Sustainability Strategy – Foundation Report (2009)

In August 2008 the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils launched an initiative to develop a sustainability strategy for the New England Region. A new consortium of professionals and organisations, nicknamed NESSiE (New England Sustainability Strategy Executive) were contracted to develop a whole of community New England Sustainability Strategy.

An initial step in developing the New England Sustainability Strategy was a Public Forum held on 22 September 2008 at the New England Regional Art Museum in Armidale. The Forum was attended by 110 delegates reflecting the broad cross section of the community.

After considering SWOC (strength, weakness, opportunities, challenges) Reports on areas of youth, social, environment, economic, government, Indigenous and global, a 100 year vision for the Region was developed and Working Groups were established to identify the priority issues and initiatives for action to achieve the 100 year vision. An illustration of the priorities and initiatives, which form the foundation of the action plan for the New England Sustainability Strategy, is shown below in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Priorities and Initiatives – New England Sustainability Strategy Foundation Report



A major objective for this first phase of work has been establishing agreement between key stakeholders, analysis of sustainability issues and opportunities, and establishing the necessary support and resources for the Strategy.

The four Councils of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha have made an application under the NSW Environmental Trust – City and Country Environment

Restoration Program for funding to complete the New England Sustainability Strategy. The aims of the projects will be to:

- (a) extend and complete the collaborative development of the New England Sustainability Strategy (NESS);
- (b) develop a replicable model for the integration of NESS, and other similar initiatives such as the Local Adaptation Pathways and Climate Consensus Projects, into local government planning, management and reporting systems; and,
- (c) finalise the governance structure for the New England Sustainability Strategy Executive (NESSiE).

An announcement on funding is expected in November 2009.

SECTION 2 – SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION PROFILE

2.1 SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION

For the purpose of this State of the Environment Report, the Southern New England Region is defined as the area covered by Armidale Dumaresq Council, Guyra Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council (formerly known as the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils or NESAC).

The Southern New England Region forms part of a larger land area better known as the Northern Tablelands of NSW or New England Tablelands of NSW.

Figure 3: Location of Southern New England Region in NSW

Source: NSW Department of Local Government



The Southern New England Region covers approximately 18,127 km², spanning distances of over 150km east to west and over 200km north to south. The Region has four main urban centres of Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, along with numerous villages and settlements, including Ben Lomond, Black Mountain, Bundarra, Ebor, Hillgrove, Kentucky, Kingstown, Llangothlin, Nowendoc, Tingha, Walcha Road, Wandsworth, Wollomombi, Wollun, Woolbrook and Yarrowitch.

Armidale is the main retail, commercial and educational centre within the Region, and is home to the University of New England, the New England TAFE College and three private boarding schools.

The Southern New England Region straddles the Great Diving Range and is part of the New England Tableland Bioregion comprising a stepped plateau of hills and plains with elevations between 600m and 1500m ASL. Rainfall, temperature and soils change with topography and vegetation is very diverse with a high degree of endemism (www.decc.nsw.gov.au). Eastern parts of the Region are home to areas of the Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves World Heritage Area.

The Southern New England Region also contains numerous rivers and tributaries, draining into the Clarence River, Namoi River, Gwydir River and Macleay River Catchments. These catchments are managed respectively by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Namoi Catchment Management Authority, Border Rivers-Gwydir Catchment Management Authority and Hunter – Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

Figure 4: Local Government and Catchment Management Authority Boundaries

Source: CMA NSW (Nov, 2004)



The Southern New England Region is also known for its high quality wool production and as a major production area for both lamb and beef cattle. Other significant industries in the area include forestry, mining and tourism.

Non-indigenous settlers first arrived in the Southern New England Region during the early 1800's, attracted by initial growth in agriculture and mining. Development onwards from this period has left many items of historical importance which exist alongside a rich Aboriginal culture in this unique natural environment.

2.2 POPULATION

The Southern New England Region has a population of 38,386 (ABS estimate at 30 June 2007). The Region experienced a declining population during the 15 year period from 1991 to 2006 (-7.6%), however latest figures suggest this trend may have halted.

Armidale is the main urban centre within the Region, having the largest population and being the principle focus for retail, commercial, education and research facilities. Armidale also has a distinctly different demographic characteristic to other settlements (such as age structure and mobility) due to the presence of the student population associated with the University of New England and boarding schools (Draft New England Development Strategy, 2008).

Table 3: Population Summary for Southern New England Region

LGA	1991	1996	2001	2006	2007*	2008*	Pop. %	Area (km ²)
ADC	26,071	25,198	24,807	24,533	24,819	25,228	64.3	4,235
GSC	4,927	4,474	4,475	4,402	4,436	4,435	11.5	4,395
USC	6,183	6,048	6,099	5,989	6,020	6,081	15.6	3,230
WC	3,711	3,363	3,307	3,327	3,306	3,276	8.6	6,267
Region Total	40,892	39,083	38,688	38,251	38,581	39,020	100	18,127

* estimated resident population at 30 June
(32180.Regional Population Growth, Australia, ABS, 2009)

2.3 CLIMATE

The climate of the Southern New England Region varies markedly between seasons and between locations throughout the Region. Topography is the most important factor that determines local rainfall, temperature and wind patterns. Altitude is closely related to maximum and minimum temperatures, with higher elevations experiencing longer periods between first and last frost and more extremes of cold during winter.

The Southern New England Region is dominated by cool, dry, west to south-westerly air supplied from the continental interior or from the southern oceans during winter, whereas summer months are predominantly easterly flows originating from the Tasman Sea. These airflows are then primarily responsible for the temperature and rainfall that is experienced in the region.

Airflows influence temperatures across the Region. Cold fronts that sweep across the region from the continental interior and southern oceans are responsible for the low temperatures that occur during the winter months, and conversely, the easterly airflow during summer months brings warmer conditions to the region.

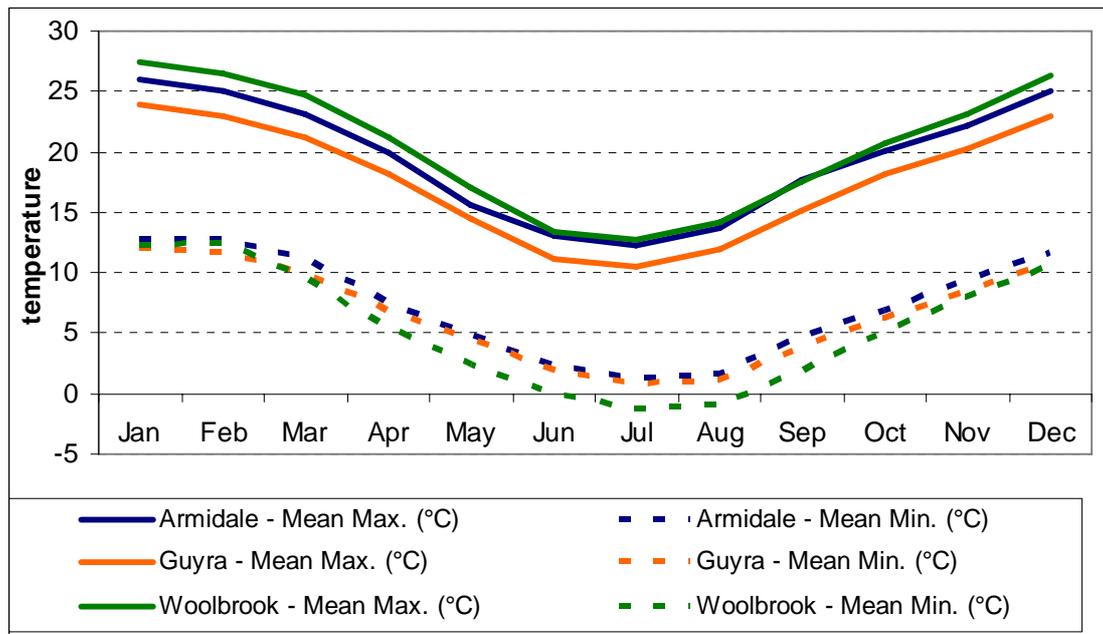
Average minimum and maximum temperatures experienced in the region during summer months range between 12°C and 27°C, whereas the average winter minimum and maximum temperatures are -1°C to 12°C. Frosts are common during the colder months, occurring on an average 100 days per year, the first of which

typically occur around Anzac Day (25th April). There are one to three months of the year with an average temperature greater than 18°C.

The Southern New England Region also lies within a zone of transition from the dominantly summer maximum rainfall areas of northern Australia to the dominantly winter maximum rainfall areas of the south. As such, the area is classified as having a maximum summer rainfall with numerous convectional thunderstorm events occurring as the cool maritime air flows from the east up onto the warmer escarpment causing atmospheric instability. Sixty to seventy percent of the total annual rainfall occurs during the summer months.

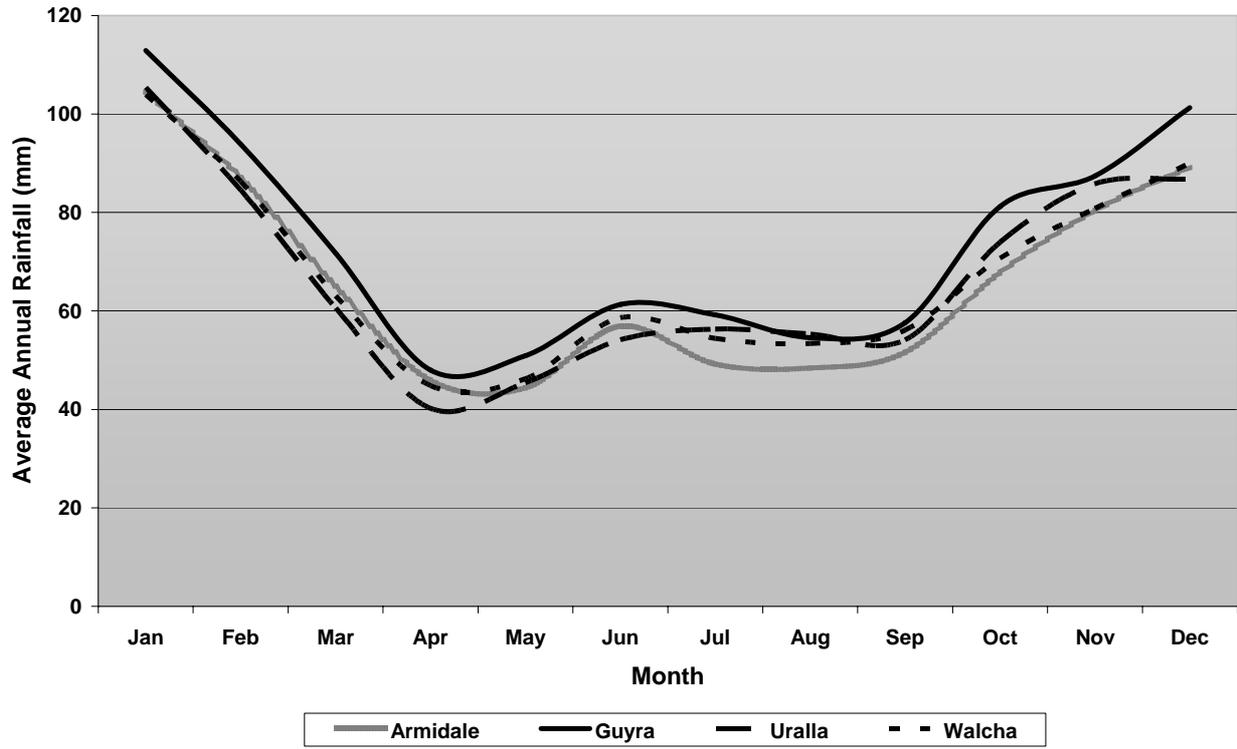
Higher rainfall peaks occur around the higher elevations toward the eastern edge of the escarpment and decrease toward the western areas of the region. Average annual rainfalls on the eastern edge of the region are in the order of 2000mm, decreasing to 700mm in the western region. Snow may often be associated with rainfall during the winter months, but is mainly confined to the higher regions along the eastern edge of the escarpment with an elevation generally in excess of 900m.

Figure 5: Average Temperatures – Southern New England Region
 Source: Bureau of Meteorology



Weather stations at Armidale (Airport), Guyra (Post Office) and Woolbrook (Danglemah Road).

Figure 6: Average Annual Rainfall – Southern New England Region
Source: Bureau of Meteorology



SECTION 3 – LAND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern New England Region comprises predominantly privately owned land (80%) with the majority used for agricultural grazing purposes. The main agricultural activities are wool and beef cattle production, while forestry also occurs in the east. Less than five per cent of agricultural land is under crops, and irrigated agriculture is minimal. The remaining 20% of land is publicly owned, with uses such as forestry, conservation and travelling stock routes.

3.2 CONDITION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The environmental indicators outlined below have been identified to assess and monitor the state, or condition of the environment with respect to land use and its management. This section provides up-dated data for the respective environmental indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends.

3.2.1 Land Use and Management – Rural

Agricultural Land Use

The stocking rate or carrying capacity of rural properties is a function of many factors including farm management techniques, seasonal variations and land capability. While stock carrying capacity is not necessarily an accurate indicator of soil health, it is included as an environmental indicator for rural land use because higher or increased stocking rates can indicate sustainable and appropriate land management techniques are being employed.

Table 4 shows the stocking rates and trends in carrying capacity for land within the Southern New England Region. Details prior to 2008-2009 are representative of the Armidale Rural Lands Protection Board (RLPB), which was replaced in January 2009 by New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA).

Table 4: Stock Numbers in the Southern New England Region

Stock	No. Head 02/03	No. Head 04/05	No. Head 05/06	No. Head 06/07	No. Head 07/08	No. Head 08/09
Beef Cattle	309,027	322,877	357,320	<< DATA GAP >> No details provided by RLPB or LHPA		
Dairy Cattle	1,140	4,253	1,719			
Sheep	2,180,364	1,990,247	1,904,483			
Horses	3,726	4,383	3,862			
Goats	8,507	10,444	8,879			
Deer	213	303	152			
Pig	8,228	6,306	484			
Region DSE / ha	3.9	3.9	4.0			

Drought

As noted above, the use of rural land and management techniques adopted in relation to rural land can be the result of many differing factors, including prevailing climatic conditions. With climate change scenarios predicting a generally warmer and dryer climate across the Region into the future (see Appendix I) it is likely that rural land use patterns and management techniques will also experience modifications to adapt to the changing environment.

Drought and the incident or prevalence of drought conditions has a particularly strong influence on rural land use. Included in Appendix C are a series of quarterly maps produced by the NSW Department of Primary Industries that show the areas of NSW that have been drought affected during 2008-2009. The maps show that varying parts of the Southern New England Region have been identified as being either “in drought” or “marginal” during the different seasons of the reporting year.

The drought maps in Appendix C are prepared from information provided by Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (formerly provided by RLPBs), rainfall details from the Bureau of Meteorology and reports from Department of Primary Industries regional staff.

Drought classification of an area takes into account the following factors:

- a review of historic rainfall records for the area;
- pasture availability;
- climatic events such as frosts; and
- seasonal factors such as pasture growing seasons.

Land Clearing

The Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (CMA) did not approve or refuse any applications to clear native vegetation during 2008-2009 and have recorded zero (0) hectares of vegetation clearing, which is consistent with data provided for 2007-2008. No incidents of land clearing were reported by Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA for 2008-2009.

<<DATA GAP>> No information was provided by Namoi CMA or Hunter-Central Rivers CMA regarding land clearing within the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009.

Property Vegetation Plans

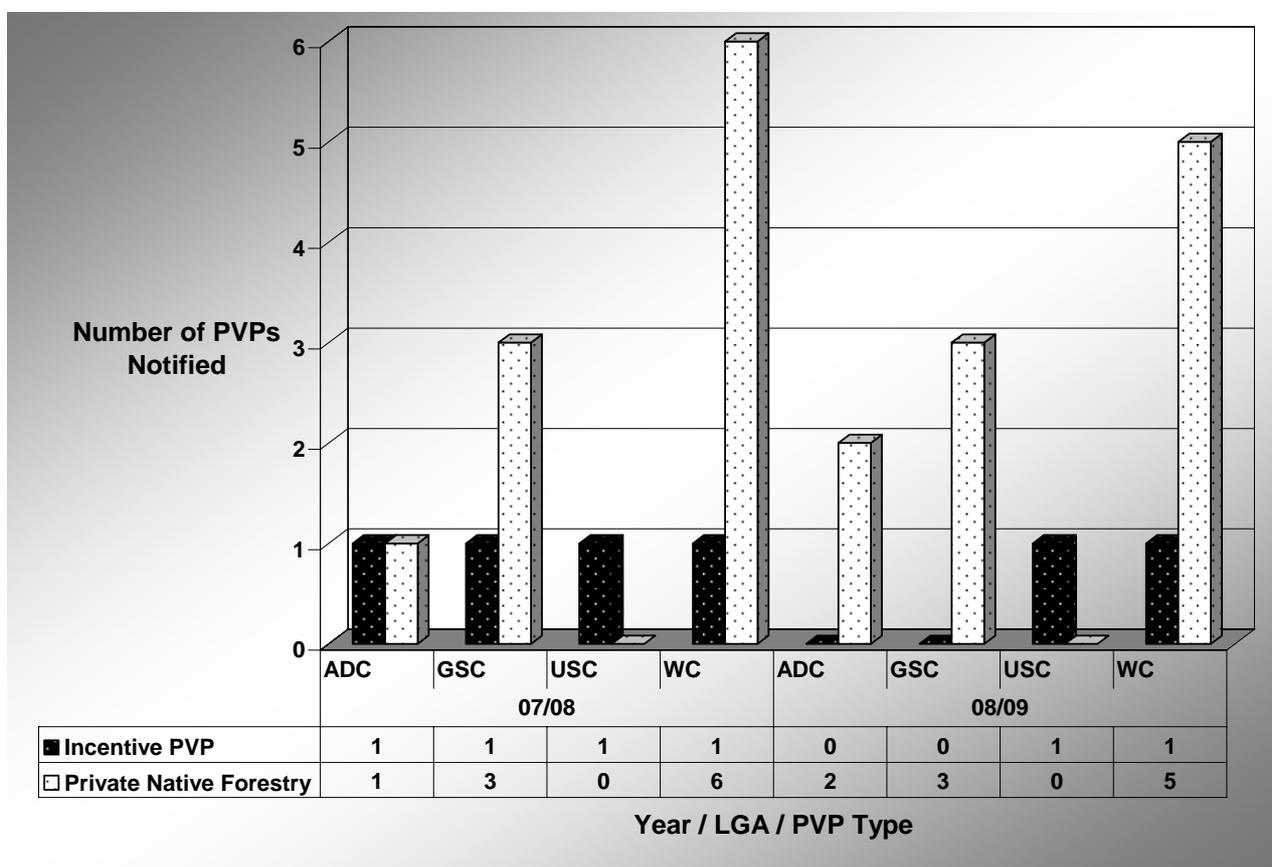
A Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a landholder and the local Catchment Management Authority, and may be obtained for a number of reasons, including:

- applying for native vegetation incentive funding
- to protect native vegetation for future generations
- to confirm that native vegetation on a property is regrowth, providing a landholder with assurance that they will not need future clearing approval
- to change the regrowth date of native vegetation to an earlier date, provided that proof can be supplied illustrating two previous clearing events associated with rotational farming
- to confirm whether existing rotational farming, grazing or cultivation practices meet the definitions of these in the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* so that clearing approval will not be required
- to obtain clearing approval, and to secure any offsets associated with that clearing.

Following changes to the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* on 1 August 2007, harvesting of timber for the purposes of Private Native Forestry (PNF) requires approval through a private native forestry property vegetation plan (PNF PVP) that ensures environmental outcomes are improved or maintained. A PNF PVP is a legally binding agreement between a landholder and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

The various Catchment Management Authorities operating within the Southern New England Region and the Department of Environment and Climate Change notify the Council when Property Vegetation Plans are approved under provisions of the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* within their local government area. The following Figure shows the number of Property Vegetation Plans that have been notified to the respective Councils during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Figure 7: Property Vegetation Plans (PVP) Notified to Councils within the Southern New England Region



Management of Travelling Stock Routes (TSR)

<<DATA GAP>> Information requested from the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board) regarding travelling stock route use and management, including total area (ha), frequency of use and number of stock using TSR has not been provided for 2007-2008 or 2008-2009.

3.2.2 Land Use and Management - Urban

The use and management of land for urban purposes has been identified as a form of pressure on land resources, particularly prime crop and pasture land. Armidale Dumaresq Council has developed a land monitor during 2008-2009 to track the release of new housing allotments for the purposes of monitoring demand and supply in connection with implementation of the Armidale Dumaresq LEP 2008. Details of the land monitoring will be available in future reports.

Development Approvals

Council development approvals statistics provide an indication of the level of construction activity in the respective local government areas and are included in this report to provide baseline data for future comparison. While the statistics do not directly show the level of pressure for expansion of the urban area into surrounding agricultural or semi-agricultural land, they should over time, provide an indication of development trends in the likely demand for new housing in the respective urban areas. The following information has been obtained from Local Development Performance Monitoring Reports published by the NSW Department of Planning.

Figure 8: Development Approval Summary Data – Armidale Dumaresq Council

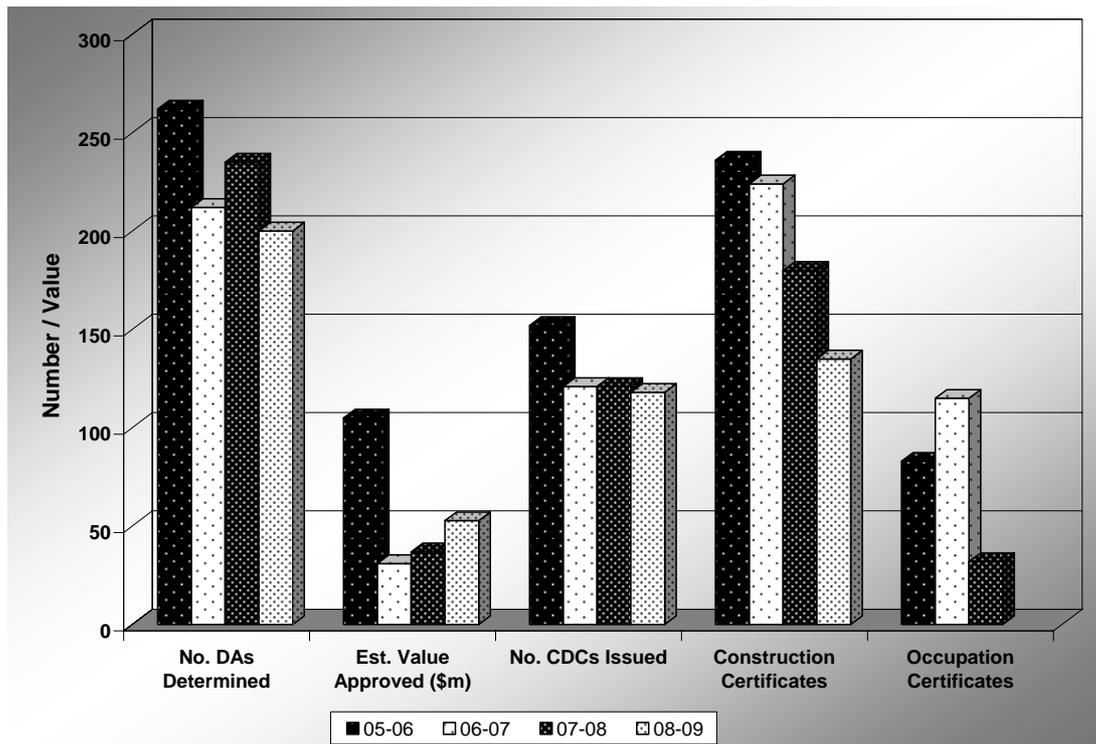


Figure 9: Development Approval Summary Data – Guyra Shire Council

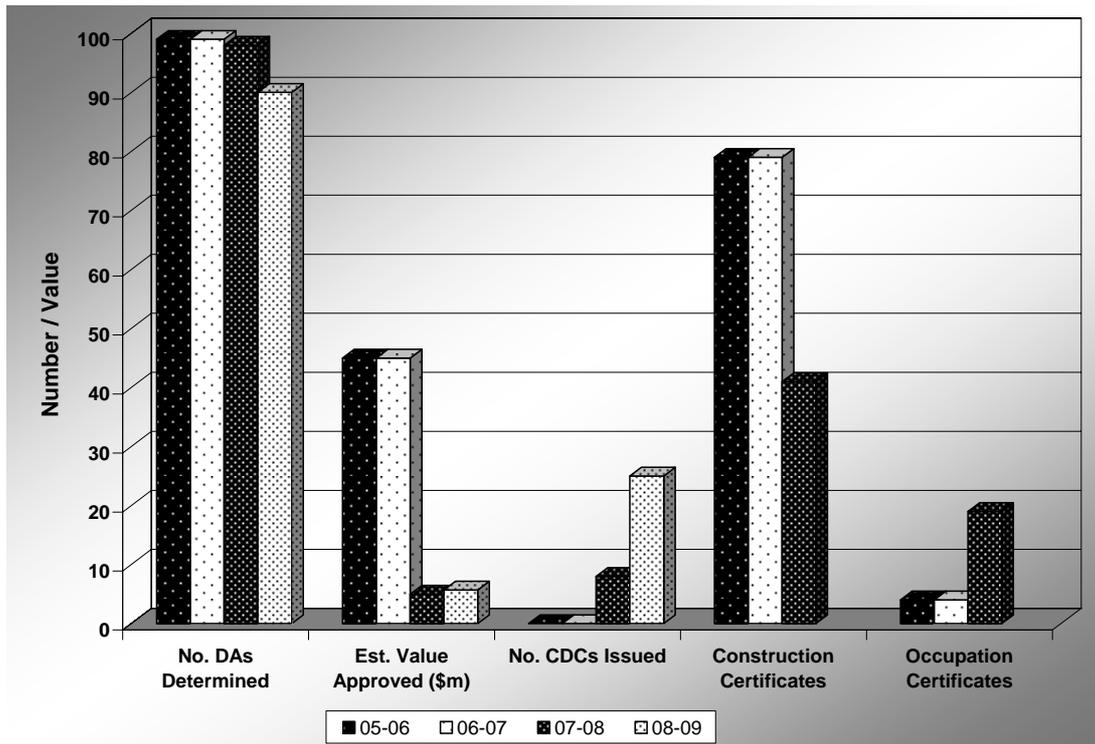


Figure 10: Development Approval Summary Data – Uralla Shire Council

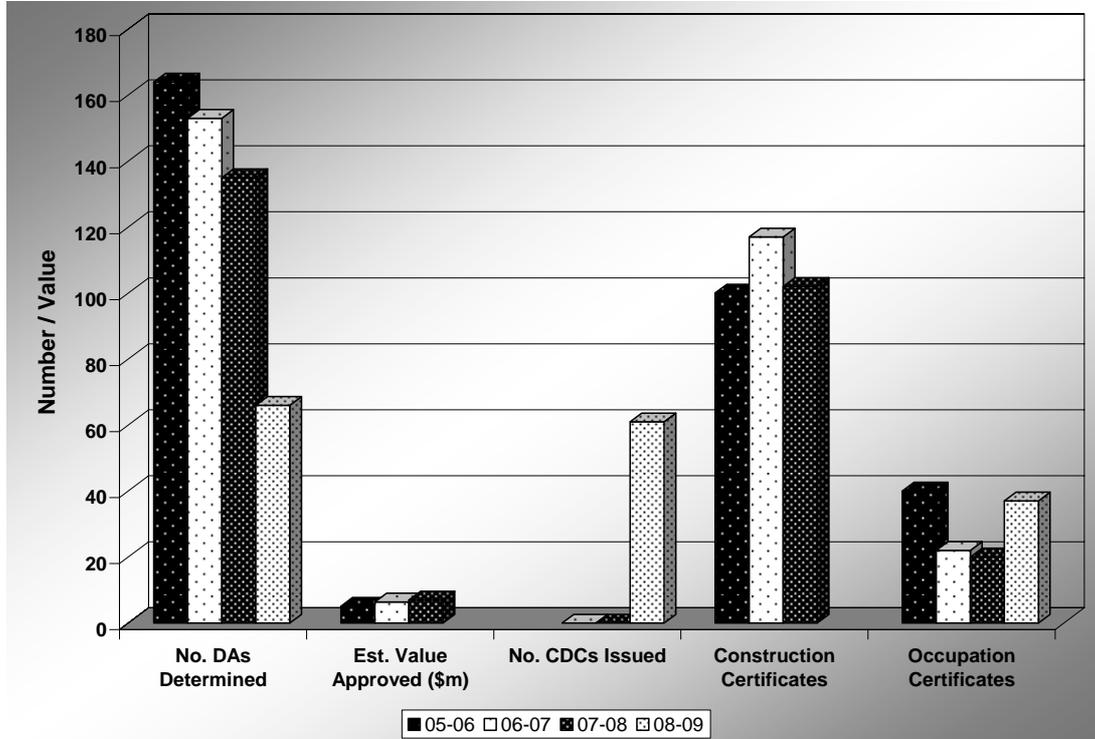
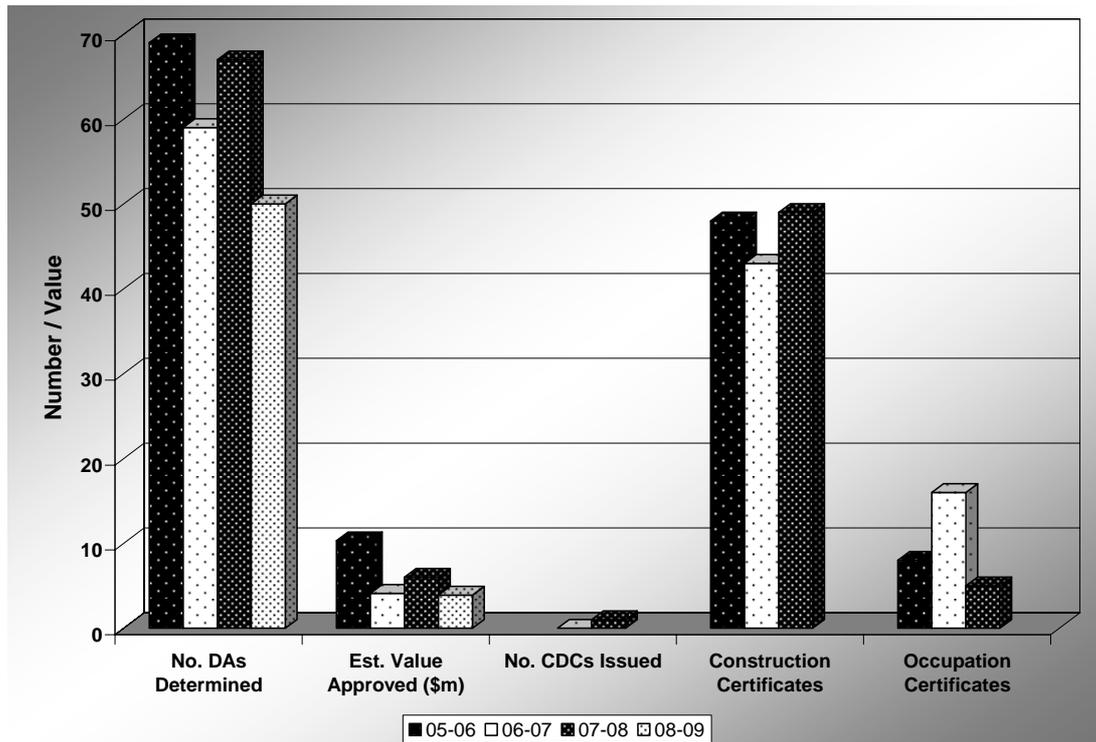


Figure 11: Development Approval Summary Data – Walcha Council



3.2.3 Bush Fire

Bush fires are recognised as a natural and recurring phenomenon that influence the environment and play a potentially significant role in the evolution and maintenance of both natural and cultural heritage values. Fires can also pose a significant threat to human life, property and the environment. Uncontrolled high intensity fires and a high frequency of fires have the greatest potential to harm the environment.

Bush fire management in rural areas of the Southern New England Region is carried out by the NSW Rural Fire Service – New England Zone (RFS). The National Parks and Wildlife Service and NSW Forests also carry out bushfire management on land under their control. Following is a brief summary of bush fire activity and management by the RFS in the New England Zone during 2008-2009. Comparative data for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 is outlined where available.

Incidents / Fires Attended

During 2008-2009 the RFS responded to 271 incidents of which 159 (59%) were classified as fire/explosion. This number of incidents is relatively similar to 2007-2008 when the RFS responded to 266 incidents of which 149 (56%) were classified as fire/explosion. In 2006-2007, 414 incidents were responded to, of which 279 (68%) were identified as fire/explosion. Some of the other incidents types contributing to the total number of incidents in 2008-2009 included false alarms (4), good intent calls (26), hazardous conditions (8) and motor vehicle accidents/rescue/emergency (69).

Area Burnt

The total area burnt by bushfires across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009 was approximately 3000ha, which is significantly lower than the 39,274ha burnt in 2007-2008.

Fire Permits

A total of 1213 fire permits were issued across the Southern New England Region during the 2008-2009 bush fire danger period, compared to 1219 in 2007-2008.

Hazard Reduction

Approximately 4900 hectares of land was subject to hazard reduction activities in 2008-2009.

Community Education

During 2008-2009 the RFS conducted 21 community education programs aimed at increasing community awareness and preparedness for bush fires. A similar number of programs were conducted in 2007-2008.

3.2.4 Extractive Industries

Resource Audit

In 2009, the NSW Department of Primary Industries issued local government area based Resource Audit Maps which outlined:

- identified resources – areas containing existing quarries, mines and/or identified resources;
- potential resources – areas containing potential mineral and/or extractive resources; and
- buffer zones.

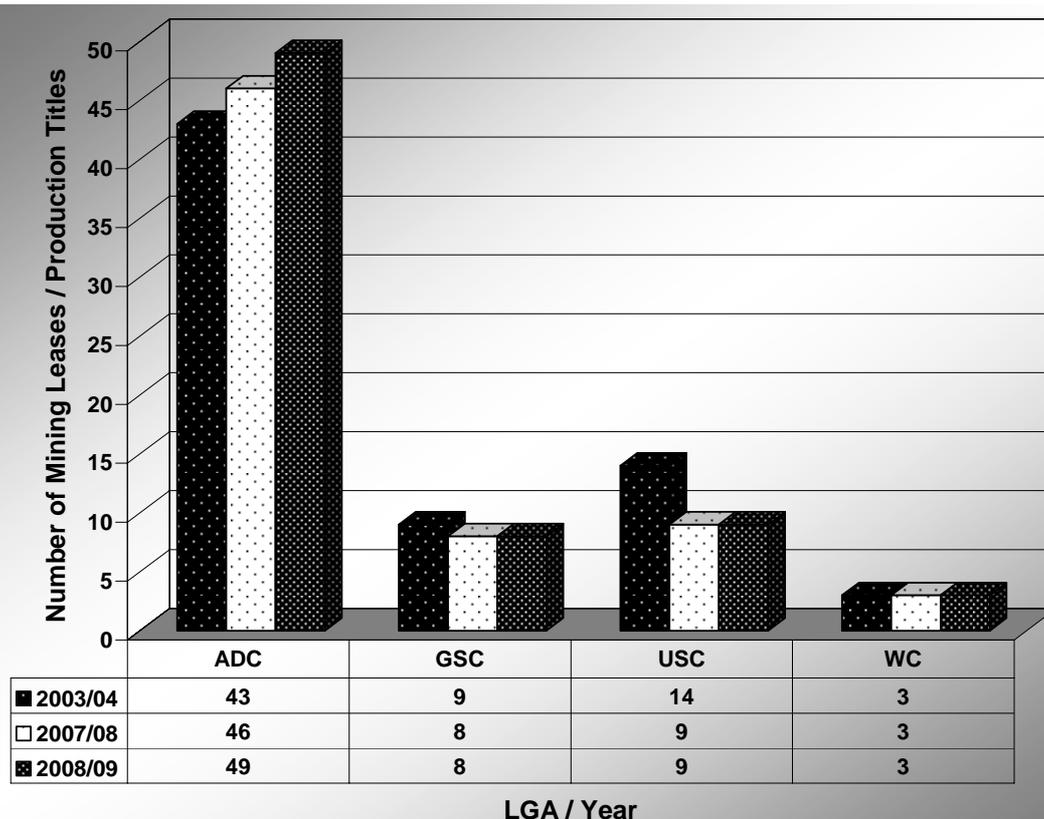
The maps provide a spatial summary of known and potential mineral resources in each local government area and are intended to guide future land use planning decisions. Copies of the maps for the Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha local government areas are contained respectively in Appendices D, E, F and G.

Mineral Claims, Mining Leases and Production Titles

Details of mining activity in the Southern New England Region has been provided by the NSW Department of Industry and Investment – Minerals and Energy Division for 2008-2009 in relation to 'production titles'. Information relating to mining activity provided for previous reports by the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources related to 'mining leases'. 'Production titles' cover a number of titles, one of which is a mining lease. Other types of titles potentially include dredging leases, gold leases, private mining leases, coal mining leases etc.

During 2008-2009 there were a total of 69 operational mining Production Titles across the Region, compared to 66 mining leases or mineral claims in operation during 2007-2008 and 69 in 2003-2004. Figure 12 below provides a summary of mining activity in terms of the number of active mining leases or production titles by local government area over this period.

Figure 12: Mining Leases and Production Titles



Of the 49 production titles active in the Armidale Dumaresq LGA during 2008-2009, 48 were held by Straits (Hillgrove) Gold Pty Ltd or Hillgrove Mining Pty Limited. Similarly in the Guyra LGA, all of the current production titles were held by Cluff Resources Pacific NL or Conrad Silver Mines Pty Ltd, and in Walcha LGA all current titles were held by O.T. Warden. Titles held in Uralla LGA were noticeably different in nature, with the 9 titles being held by 7 separate parties.

The total area covered by current Production Titles in the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009 was 2703.24 hectares compared to 2465.83 hectares in 2007-2008. No figures are available on the area covered by mineral claims or mining leases in previous years. While the total number of active leases or production titles has remained relatively consistent across the Southern New England Region since 2003-2004, the overall area subject to such leases has increased by approximately 10% over the last 12 months. Table 5 below shows the area covered by production titles in the Southern New England Region by local government area for 2008-2009.

Table 5: Area Covered by Mining Production Titles in 2008-2009

LGA	No. of Production Titles	Area Covered by Production Titles (hectares)
ADC	49	1694.89
GSC	8	590.55
USC	9	2.22
WC	3	361.13

Exploration Licences

A total of 43 exploration licenses were current across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009, compared to 41 in 2007-2008 and 19 in 2003-2004. All four local government areas have experienced an increase in the number of exploration licenses current in their respective areas since 2003-2004.

Table 6: Current Exploration Licences

Exploration Licences*	Armidale Dumaresq	Guyra	Uralla	Walcha
2003-2004	9	7	2	1
2007-2008	17 (4)	20 (5)	7 (5)	8 (2)
2008-2009	18 (8)	17 (6)	7 (4)	12 (3)

* Table 6 shows the total number of licenses located fully or partly in the respective local government areas, with the number of licenses that cross LGA boundaries shown in brackets

Exploration licenses issued under the Mining Act 1992 are issued for different mineral groups. In the Southern New England Region in 2008-2009, thirty-two (32) exploration licences related to Group 1 metallic minerals, three (3) related to Group 2 non-metallic minerals, five (5) related to Group 6 minerals, one (1) licence was for Group 1 and 6, and two (2) exploration licences were for Group 8 substances.

Following is a summary of the resources covered by the different groups of exploration licence.

Group 1 (Metallic minerals)

antimony, arsenic, bismuth, cadmium, caesium, chromite, cobalt, columbium, copper, galena, germanium, gold, indium, iron minerals, lead, lithium, manganese, mercury, molybdenite, nickel, niobium, platinum group minerals, platinum, rare earth , minerals, rubidium, scandium and its ores, selenium, silver, sulphur, tantalum, thorium, tin, tungsten and its ores, vanadium, zinc, zirconia

Group 2 (Non-metallic minerals)

agricultural lime, apatite, asbestos, barite, bauxite, beryllium minerals, borates, calcite, chert, chlorite, cryolite, diatomite, dimension stone, dolomite, emerald, emery, feldspathic materials, fluorite, garnet, graphite, gypsum, halite (including solar salt), limestone, magnesite, magnesium salts, marble, mica, mineral pigments, olivine, ores of silicon, peat, perlite, phosphates, potassium minerals, potassium salts, pyrophyllite, quartzite, reef quartz, serpentine, sillimanite-group minerals, sodium , alts, staurolite, strontium minerals, talc, topaz, vermiculite, wollastonite, zeolites

Group 6 (Corundum, diamond, ruby and sapphire)

corundum, diamond, ruby, sapphire ,

Group 8 (Geothermal substances)

geothermal substances

Extractive Industries

Table 7 shows the number of extractive industries / quarries registered in each of the Southern New England Region local government areas, which have remained relatively constant over the last three years.

Table 7: Number of Registered Quarries

LGA	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Armidale Dumaresq	16	16	16	16
Uralla	21	21	21	21
Walcha	28	27	27	27
Guyra	14	52	46	54

3.2.5 Contaminated Land

Number of Sites Subject to Notices or Orders

Table 8 lists sites within the Southern New England Region that are currently subject to notices relating to land contamination. The notices are issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (formerly Environment Protection Authority). No new notices were issued during 2008-2009.

Table 8: Current Notices for Contaminated Land

Source: Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

LGA	Site	Occupier	Notice Type	Issue Date
Uralla	Walcha Road, Uralla	Koppers Australia Pty Ltd	Remediation Order	September 1992
Armidale Dumaresq	Armidale Gas Works	Armidale Dumaresq Council	Note of existence of Voluntary Remediation Proposal	December 2002

Armidale Gasworks

Remediation of the Armidale Gas Works site commenced in 2005-2006 and was completed towards the end of that period. During 2006-2007, validation of the remediation work was carried out by an accredited site auditor and a site validation report was completed.

Since this time, the site has been the subject of on-going monitoring in accordance with a Post Construction Site Environmental Management Plan. A report on the monitoring results is to be provided to Armidale Dumaresq Council in late 2009, and results will be included in the 2009-2010 state of the environment report.

Identification / Remediation of Contaminated Sites

During 2008-2009, the two new sites were identified in Armidale as being potentially contaminated due to the presence of underground fuel storage tanks. During this same period, investigations commenced on one site relating to its former use as a timber treatment plant / storage area and three separate sites were investigated in relation to their former use as depots and/or existence of underground fuel storage tanks. Of the three sites investigated, all were identified as being suitable for

continuing industrial and/or commercial use. Due to the sensitive nature of details relating to potential site contamination, specific details of the properties involved are not included in this report.

3.2.6 Salinity

No specific details or mapping of areas affected by salinity or rising water tables are currently available for the Southern New England Region. However, it is recognised that parts of the Region are affected by salinity and that certain activities do contribute towards increased salinity. Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council have been involved in projects to address salinity issues within their respective areas, which are outlined below in Section 3.3.2.

3.3 ISSUES AND ACTIONS RELATING TO LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Impacts on Land Use and Management

Activities and issues that impact, or create pressure on land resources in the Southern New England Region have been identified in previous State of Environment Reports. These pressures are broadly identified as:

- use and management of rural land
- urban development
- drought
- weeds (see Part 6 – Biodiversity)
- bushfires
- extractive industries
- contaminated land

3.3.2 Council Actions

Each of the Councils in the Southern New England Region continue to implement responses to the issues and pressures outlined above in order to minimise existing and potential impacts on the environment of the Region. Following is a summary of the respective Council actions that were implemented during 2008-2009 in relation to land.

LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS – 2008-2009	
Rural / Urban Land	<p>All Councils</p> <p><i>New England Development Strategy and LEP(s)</i> In recent years, Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils have been participating in a project to prepare a Development Strategy and Local Environmental Plan (LEP)(s) for the 4 local government areas. The project is half funded by the NSW Department of Planning’s Planning Reform Fund. Consultants WorleyParsons (incorporating Planning Workshop) are preparing the Development Strategy and LEP(s). The Development Strategy will inform the provisions to be included in the LEP(s), which will be based on the Standard LEP ‘template’ introduced by the State Government in 2006 for all NSW Councils. The LEP(s) will replace the current plans applying to the 4 local government areas.</p>

<p>Rural / Urban Land (continued)</p>	<p>In August 2008 the Department of Planning endorsed the Draft New England Development Strategy (Draft Strategy) for public exhibition. The Draft Strategy was exhibited from 15 September to 27 October 2008. During the exhibition period several community meetings were held across the Region.</p> <p>A total of 55 submissions on the Draft Strategy were received. Consideration of the submissions resulted in some changes being made to the exhibited Draft Strategy. All of the Councils decided to adopt the Draft Strategy at their meetings in April or May 2009.</p> <p>The Councils also decided at their meetings in June 2009 to advise the Department of Planning that each Council supports preparation of a single LEP covering the 4 local government areas. Walcha Council also resolved to reserve the option to prepare a separate LEP. Preparation of a Draft regional LEP will continue during 2009-2010.</p>
<p>Bush Fire</p>	<p>Refer to Section 3.2.3 for activities undertaken by the Rural Fire Service during 2008-2009.</p> <p>All Councils</p> <p><i>Bush Fire Prone Land</i> Section 146 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> requires Councils to review their bush fire prone land maps at least every five years. During 2007-2008, a review of the four Council's bush fire prone land maps was commenced in consultation with the RFS New England Zone.</p> <p>Separate up-dated bush fire prone land maps for Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils were subsequently endorsed by the Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service during 2008-2009. The up-dated [current] bush fire prone land maps are available for viewing at the respective Councils.</p> <p><i>Bush Fire Risk Management Plan</i> In early 2008, the NSW Rural Fire Service New England Zone commenced preparation of a draft Bush Fire Risk Management Plan in consultation with Southern New England Councils and other key stakeholders, such as National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forests NSW and Department of Lands.</p> <p>Community consultation meetings were held in Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha in March 2008 and the draft plan was placed on public exhibition over January, February and March 2009. The draft plan was subsequently endorsed by the NSW Bush Fire Management Committee on 31 March 2009 and approved by the NSW Bushfire Coordinating Committee on 27 May 2009.</p> <p>The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is a strategic document that identifies community assets at risk and sets out a five-year program of coordinated multi-agency treatments to reduce the risk of bushfire to those assets.</p>

Extractive Industry	<p>All Councils Continue to operate their respective extractive industries (gravel quarries) in accordance with approval conditions</p>
Contaminated Land	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Armidale Dumaresq Council has commenced a project during 2008-2009 to identify potentially contaminated sites within the former Dumaresq Shire area and incorporate these into Council's existing Information System for Potentially Contaminated Land. It is anticipated that this project will be completed during 2009-2010.</p>
Salinity	<p>Uralla Shire Council Uralla Shire Council received funding of \$33,000 in 2007-2008 from Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA for a Point Source Salinity Project in Bundarra. The purpose of the project is to assist landholders to remediate their anaerobic septic tank systems where the systems had been inspected and found to operating unsatisfactorily. Implementation of this project commenced and continued during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Walcha Council In 2007-2008 it was reported that Walcha Council, in conjunction with the Northern Rivers CMA, Department of Environmental & Climate Change and Southern New England Landcare, were to be involved in a Salinity Strategy Enhancement Program. No further details of this project were available for this report.</p>

3.3.3 Community and Government Agency Actions

Border Rivers – Gwydir Catchment Management Authority

During 2008-2009 the Border Rivers – Gwydir Catchment Management Authority worked with landholders across the local government areas of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra and Uralla to complete a number of projects. The projects, outlined below, have been grouped together based on common activities and have delivered the following environmental outcomes:

- 118 hectares of native vegetation are being managed for conservation
- 40 hectares of new native vegetation have been established
- 3 kilometres of stream has been fenced to reduce river bank erosion and improve water quality
- 104 hectares of wetland has been protected through improved management;
- 180 hectares have benefited from improved management practices that improve the ability of landholders to withstand the impacts of drought and climate change;
- 410 hectares have been fenced so landholders can manage according to land capability, resulting in improvements in soil health; and
- Racecourse Lagoon at Uralla has been protected through a project that combines feral animal and weed removal, fencing and the erection of interpretive signs.

Additionally, the CMA has held five workshops addressing the issues of environmental education, river management, soil carbon, soils and groundcover, and property planning.

Southern New England Landcare / Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

Southern New England Landcare continue to be active in the Region in terms of land management and conservation projects. A summary of their activities across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009 are contained in Appendix H. The summary of activities in Appendix H includes projects undertaken and funded through the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.

SECTION 4 – AIR AND CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern New England Region generally experiences a high level of air quality and relatively low occurrences of atmospheric pollution, due mainly to limited urban development and the presence of few polluting industries. However despite this, isolated air quality issues do still exist, such as wood smoke pollution in Armidale, which are discussed below.

4.2 THE STATE OF AIR IN THE REGION

The following indicators have been established to monitor the state, or condition, of air and the atmosphere within the Southern New England Tablelands Region. This section provides an up-date on the indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends.

4.2.1 Environment Protection Licences

There are twelve (12) premises in the Southern New England Region that have environment protection licences issued under Section 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* with conditions relating to air discharge or air quality.

The following Table identifies the premises with licence conditions relating to air and any incidents of non-compliance with licence conditions for annual licence returns submitted during 2008-2009.

Table 9: Compliance with Environment Protection Licence Conditions Relating to Air Quality

Licence No.	Activity (Licensee)	Compliance with Licence Conditions
Armidale Dumaresq LGA		
5860	Waste Management Facility (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
1722	Sewage Treatment Plant (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
11319	Armidale Hospital (Hunter New England Health Service)	no longer in force
921	Hillgrove Mine (Straits (Hillgrove) Gold Pty Ltd)	complied
12481	Metz Quarry (Boral Resources)	complied

3556	Wardlaw Piggery (Ross Wardlaw)	computer problems / issues following power failures have resulted in an incomplete weather data set
Guyra LGA		
11792	Guyra Quarry (Inverell Aggregate Supplies)	complied
1671	Guyra Waste Water Treatment Plant (Guyra Shire Council)	complied
Uralla LGA		
5899	Landfill (Uralla Shire Council)	complied
1626	Uralla Sewage Treatment Plant (Uralla Shire Council)	complied
Walcha LGA		
6120	Waste Depot (Walcha Council)	complied
5572	Boral Timber Mill (Allen Taylor & Company Pty Ltd)	complied
2613	Walcha Sewage Treatment Plant (Walcha Council)	complied

There were no reported incidences of non-compliance with air quality conditions in relation to annual returns for environmental protection licences in force across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009. Details of all annual returns were not available for the 2007-2008 State of the Environment Report, however, subsequent searches have also found no reported incidences of non-compliance with licence conditions occurred during this period.

4.2.2 Complaints Register

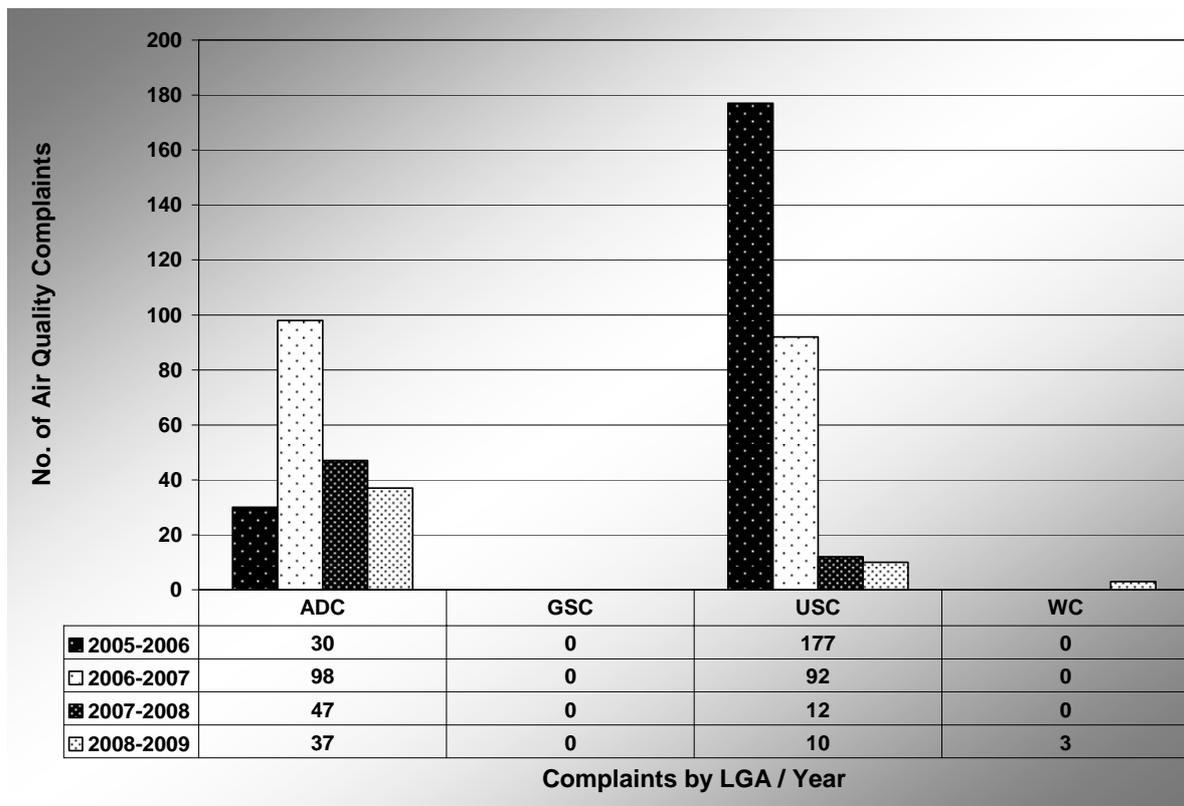
During 2008-2009 Armidale Dumaresq Council received thirty-seven (37) air quality complaints. Complaints regarding smoke from domestic wood heaters or odour were the source of most complaints, accounting for seventeen (17) complaints each, while three (3) complaints were received in relation to dust. The level of recorded complaints received in 2008-2009 is less than the previous two years as shown below in Figure 13 and Table 10.

Wood smoke pollution in Armidale continues to generate resident complaints, however, the overall number of complaints in recent years appears to be decreasing. Further details relating to wood smoke, including monitoring and actions undertaken by Council, are outlined below.

Guyra Shire Council has not received any complaints relating to air quality or air pollution over the past four (4) reporting periods. Walcha Council has only received three (3) dust complaints (2008-2009) over the same period.

Uralla Shire Council received nine (9) odour complaints and one (1) dust complaint during 2008-2009, which also represents a reduction in the level of resident complaints compared to previous years, as shown below.

Figure 13: Air Quality Complaints Received By Councils in the Southern New England Region



The following Table indicates the nature of complaints and the corresponding number of complaints that were received by the respective Councils over the last four (4) reporting periods.

Table 10: Number of Air Complaints by Type by LGA

	ADC				GSC	USC				WC	
	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	05-09	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	05-08	08-09
odour	30	3	9	17	nil	117	89	12	9	nil	-
smoke		95	31	17			3	-	-		-
dust		-	6	3			-	-	1		3
other		-	1*	-			-	-	-		-

*complaint related to asbestos

4.2.3 Transport

People within the Southern New England Region remain reliant on motor vehicles as the primary mode of transport due to factors such as distance between urban centres and limited public transport.

The number of registered vehicles in the Region continues to increase annually, as shown below in Figures 14 and 15. For the 12 month period to 30 June 2009, there were 983 more registered vehicles across the Region area than the previous 12 month period. The increase in registered vehicles during 2008-2009 is similar to the additional number of registered vehicles for the previous reporting period, which saw

an increase of 905 over 2007-2008. Although no figures on pollutants associated with or emitted by motor vehicles are available, the trend of increasing vehicle numbers suggests that resulting air pollution and emissions would also be increasing.

The data provided in Figures 14 and 15 are estimates based on the count of registered vehicles by postcode of the garaging address. Registered vehicle types include passenger vehicles, off-road passenger vehicles, people movers, small bus, bus, mobile home, motor cycle, scooter, light truck, heavy truck, prime mover, light plant, heavy plant, small trailer and trailers (NSW Roads and Traffic Authority, 2009).

Figure 14: Number of Registered Vehicles by LGA
 Source: NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

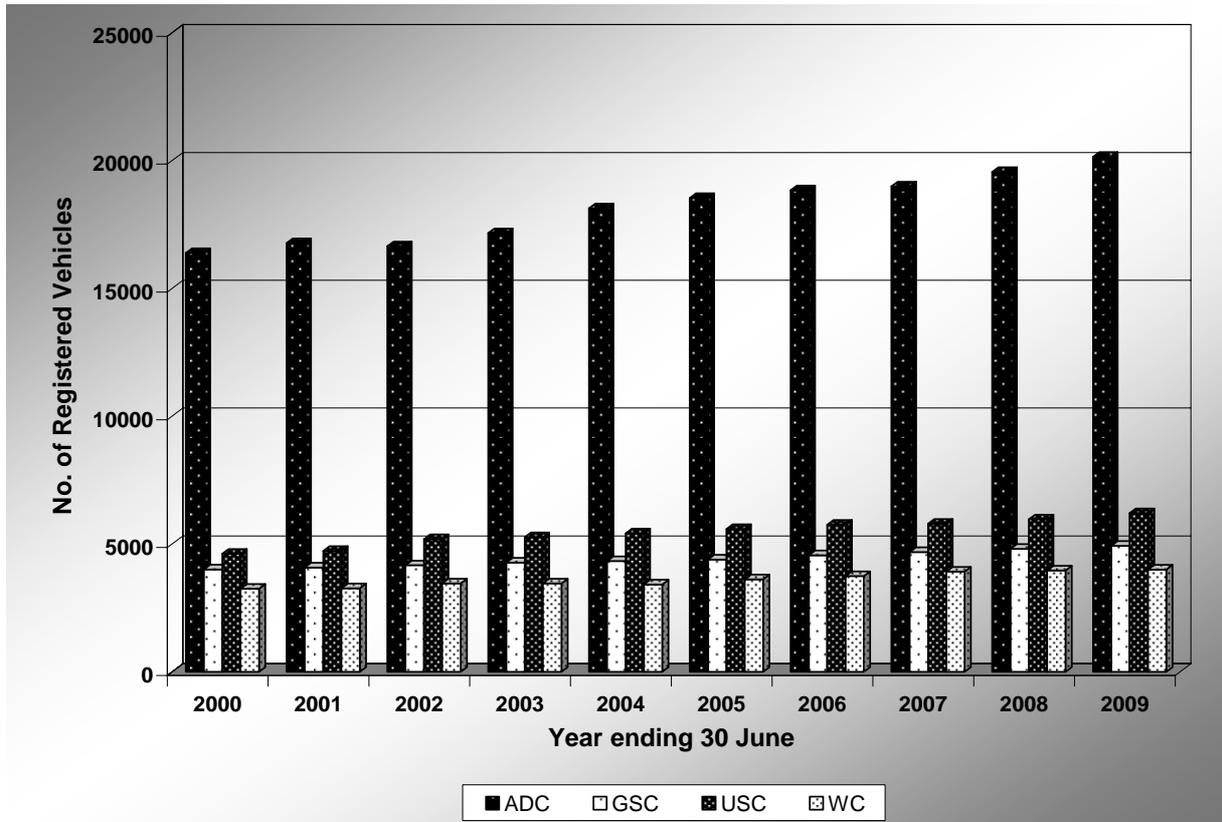
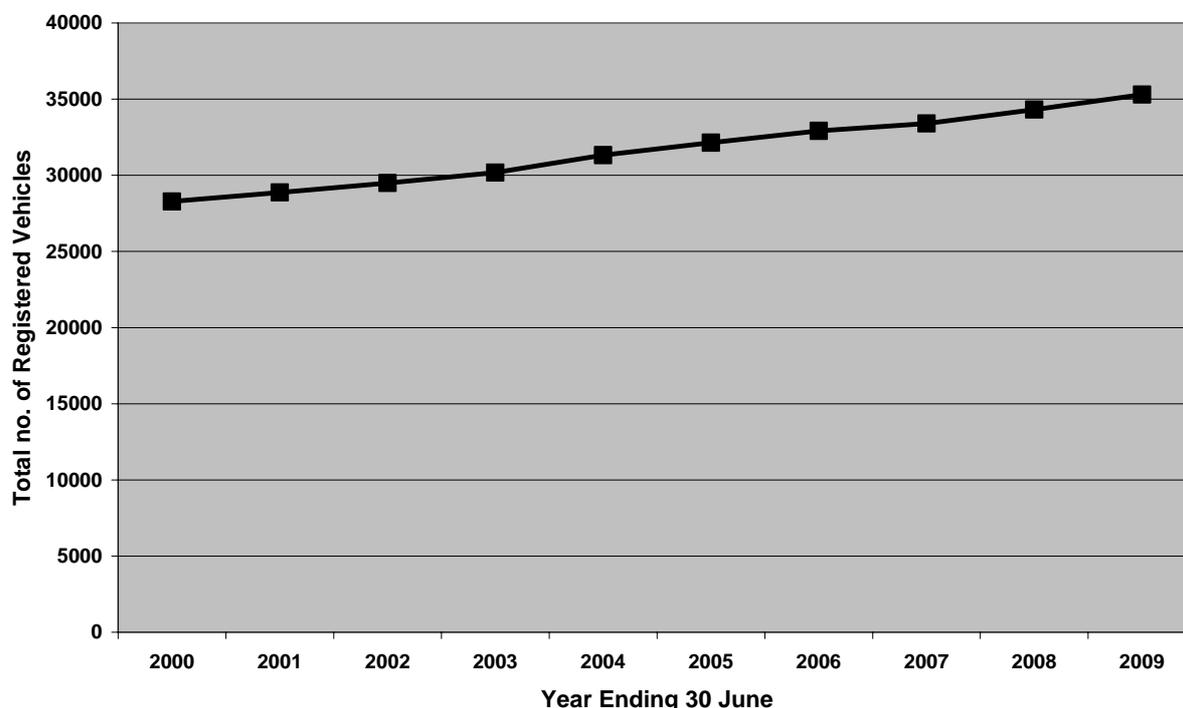


Figure 15: Total Number of Registered Vehicles Across Southern New England Region

Source: NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (www.rta.nsw.gov.au)



4.2.4 Road Sealing Program

Unsealed roads have the potential to contribute to air pollution through dust generated by vehicles using these roads. Council road sealing programs help to reduce dust generation. Table 11 outlines the number of kilometres of roads that have been sealed across the Southern New England Region by local government area from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009.

Table 11: Road Sealing (km) per LGA by Year

	ADC	GSC	USC	WC	Region (total km)
2005-2006					10.91
2006-2007	0.31	-	3.85	3.24	7.4
2007-2008	2.4	1.58	4.1	-	8.08
2008-2009	2.2	0.14	0.9	2.2	5.44

4.2.5 Air Quality Monitoring

Guyra Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Walcha Council did not undertake any air quality monitoring during the 2008-2009 reporting period. Other than an environmental audit of the Phoenix Foundry at Uralla during 2006-2007, no other air quality monitoring has been undertaken by the Councils during the 2006-2007 to 2008-2009 reporting periods.

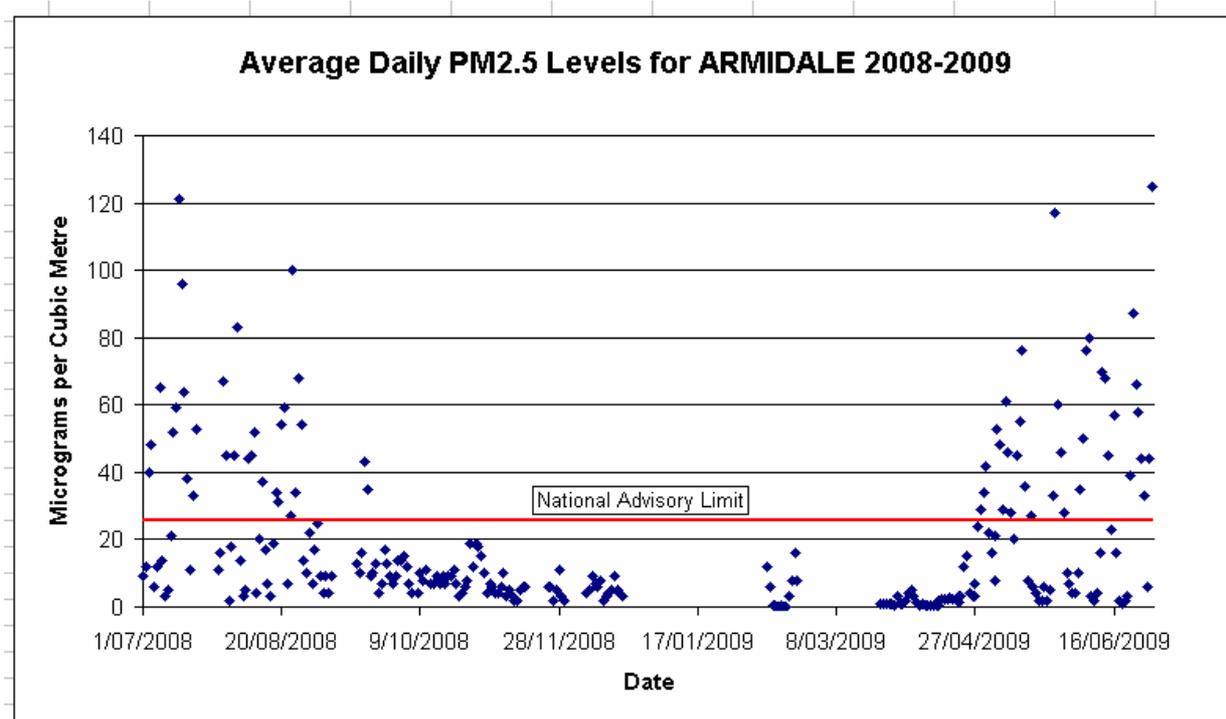
The absence of air quality monitoring by Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils is consistent with the relatively low number of complaints received by the Councils relating to air quality or air pollution issues.

Air quality monitoring has been undertaken by Armidale Dumaresq Council during 2008-2009 in relation to wood smoke pollution from domestic wood heaters. Further details relating specifically to wood smoke issues in Armidale are discussed below.

4.2.6 Monitoring of Wood Smoke in Armidale

Monitoring was undertaken by Armidale Dumaresq Council using a portable DustTrak™ Aerosol Monitor (model 8520) which samples air from Council's Civic Administration building roof every five minutes. The monitoring equipment samples for particulate matter measuring 2.5 micrometres. This represents the fine particles in the air most damaging to human health. Wood smoke is characterised by these 2.5 micrometre particles and is reported in micrograms per cubic metre (PM2.5 concentration).

Figure 16: Scattergram showing daily average measurements of concentration of 2.5 micrometre particles for the period July 2008 – June 2009 inclusive (micrograms per cubic metre)



The scattergram above indicates an expected rise in pollution concentrations over the winter months. However, it also shows considerable daily variances in levels. The levels exceed the National Advisory Limit for PM2.5 on the majority of winter days.

DustTrak™ monitoring results have so far only been collected for the 2008-2009 reporting year. Identifiable patterns and trends of air quality are not expected for several years.

4.2.7 Energy Consumption

Armidale Dumaresq Council

Armidale Dumaresq Council engaged the services of Planet Footprint Pty Ltd during 2008-2009 to provide reports on the performance of Council's operations in terms of energy and water usage.

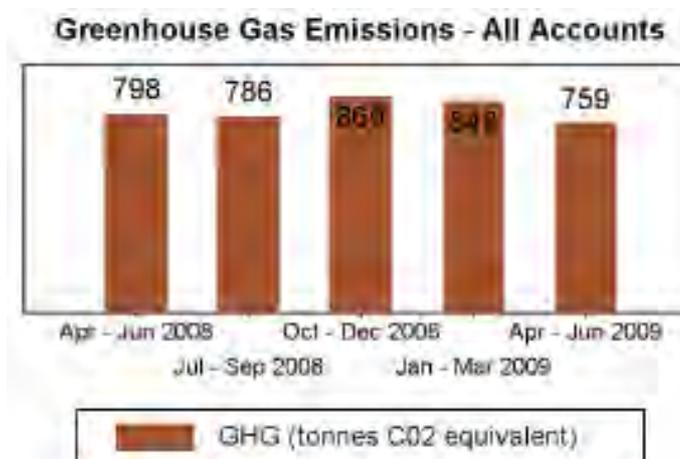
Energy reports from Planet Footprint Pty Ltd provide details of electricity usage for overall Council operations (excluding street lighting) and street lighting separately. The following Figures are taken from the Planet Footprint reports for 2008-2009 and provide a summary of energy use and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions for Armidale Dumaresq Council.

Figure 17: Armidale Dumaresq Council Electricity Consumption in 2008-2009 (excluding street lighting)



Total annual electricity consumption by Armidale Dumaresq Council (excluding street lighting) has increased from 2,913,000 kWh in 2007-2008 to 3,079,000 kWh in 2008-2009.

Figure 18: Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Armidale Dumaresq Council Electricity Consumption in 2008-2009 (excluding street lighting)



Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Armidale Dumaresq Council's electricity consumption has increased from 3088 tonnes CO2 equivalent in 2007-2008 to 3263 tonnes CO2 equivalent in 2008-2009.

It should be noted that amount shown for the April-June quarter in both the above Figures are 60% complete (i.e. 40% has been estimated).

Figure 19: Comparative Quarterly Energy Consumption for Street Lighting in Armidale Dumaresq LGA

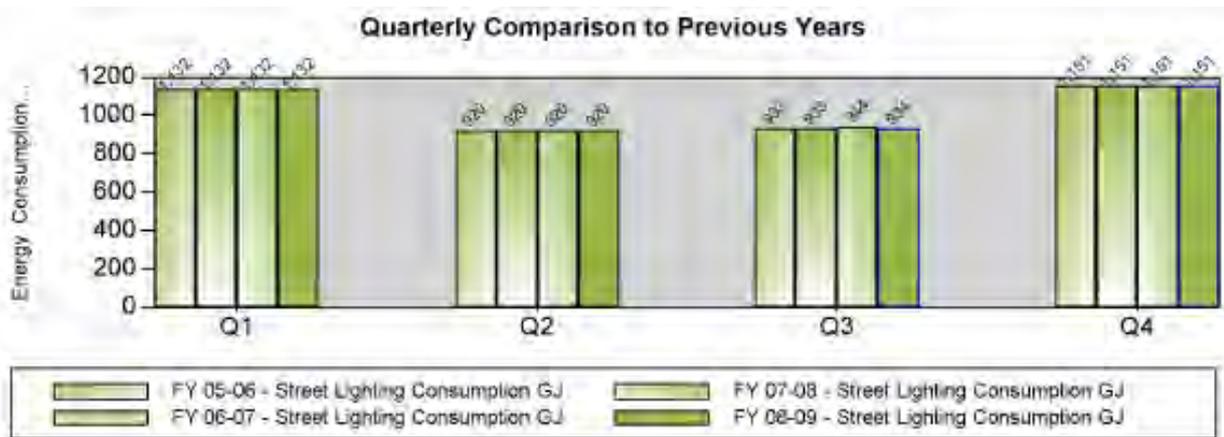
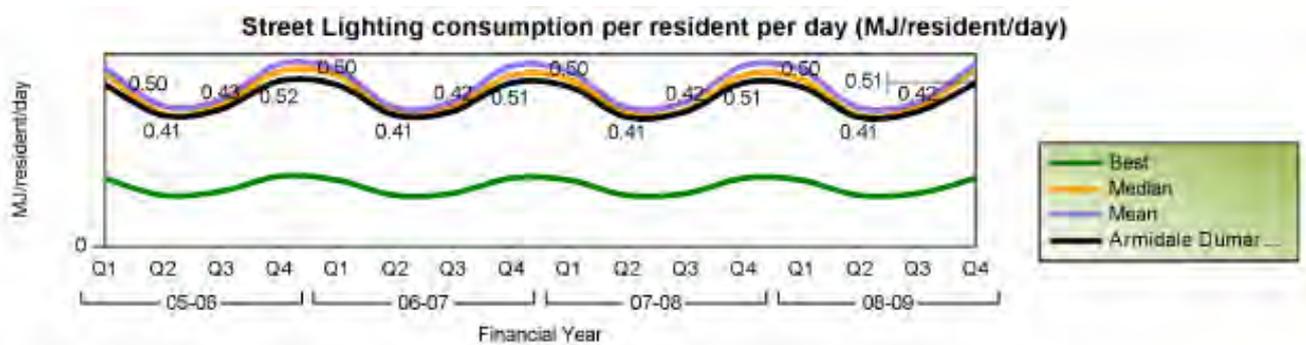


Figure 20: Street Lighting Energy Consumption - Comparative Data



Comparative data in Figure 20 shows Armidale Dumaresq Council's energy consumption for street lighting against 100 other Australian Councils that also subscribe to services of Planet Footprint Pty Ltd.

Guyra Shire Council

<< DATA GAP >> Council does not have any data available regarding its energy use.

Uralla Shire Council

Uralla Shire Council does not have data for previous years but is in the process of auditing its energy use for 2009-2010-2011.

Walcha Council

Walcha Council does not have definitive data for its energy use, but estimates its annual electricity usage to be in the order of 400MWh

4.2.8 Climate Change

Details regarding the forecast impacts of climate change have been developed by NSW government agencies and the University of NSW, and published by the NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change. A copy of the NSW Government's interim findings, including an assessment of regional biophysical impacts on El Nino / Southern Oscillation, fire, biodiversity, soils, floods and hydrological change are reproduced in Appendix I.

During 2008-2009 the four Councils of the Southern New England Region were involved in various projects with a focus towards climate change and its potential impacts on the local environment and its people. These projects include the Local Adaptation Pathway Project, Climate Consensus Project and development of a New England Sustainability Strategy. Further details relating to these projects are outlined in Section 1.6 of this Report.

4.3 AIR QUALITY ISSUES AND ACTIONS

4.3.1 Air Quality Issues

The primary issues and activities creating pressure on air quality and the atmosphere within the Southern New England Region are broadly identified as:

- particulate matter (e.g. wood smoke, bushfires, dust)
- odour
- greenhouse gas emissions

4.3.2 Issues Identified in Public Submissions

Sustainable Living Armidale (SLA) is a community based organisation that started in May 2007 and Transition Armidale (TA) was set up in March 2008. The two entities merged in August 2008 and operated as an unincorporated association until incorporation at an inaugural AGM in July 2009. Issues relating to transport and climate change that have been identified by SLA include:

Peak Oil

A primary focus for SLA is the issue of the impact of peak oil on this community and the urgent need for oil vulnerability planning, including the impact on food security and transport. SLA see the need for, and would welcome the opportunity to join with Council in addressing this issue and pursuing an energy descent action plan.

Climate Change

SLA appreciates that Council has undertaken studies to assess its vulnerabilities to this issue, and has been pro-active in some areas, however, SLA believes this is an issue that requires dedicated staff positions and a higher level of community engagement.

4.3.3 Council Actions to Address Air Quality Issues

The following section provides a summary of actions that were being implemented by each of the Councils during 2008-2009 in response to pressures identified in Part 4.3.1.

AIR QUALITY ACTIONS IN 2008-2009	
Particulate Matter	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> education campaigns to address wood smoke: <p>Education material (including best practise information for storage and burning, and an instructional DVD) given to households identified as being excessively smoky (via complaints/observations).</p> <p>Weekly publications in the Armidale News section of the local press of daily average PM2.5 concentrations provide the community with the most recent past week's air quality performance for the city.</p> <p>Council organised a stand and working display of wood heaters, wood and SmartBurn™ devices at the Autumn Festival. Council also presented a special presentation at Sustainable Living Expo on state and local government rebates and energy use, including home heating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wood fire replacement program: <p>12 solid fuel heaters replaced in conjunction with 2008-2009 rebate program (\$500 rebate for each wood heater removed). The vast majority of replacements were for gas heater and reverse cycle air-conditioning installations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> other actions to address wood smoke: <p>Council actively promoted the accreditation of local wood suppliers with the Australian Firewood Association.</p> <p>Council is an active financial and operational partner in the ARC Linkage Project with the University of New England which is investigating the effectiveness of the use of SmartBurn™ and community education in reducing wood smoke emissions.</p> <p>Regular convening of the Domestic Energy Working Party dealing with the wider issues of wood smoke and energy use in the home. This party makes recommendations for the General Meetings of Council, regarding policy, incentives and other measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> response to complaints <p>Of the total number of complaints (37), 60% were responded to within 24 hours, 14% were responded to within 48 hours and 26% took longer to respond to (up to 3 weeks due to resourcing/priority/risk).</p> <p>Each of these complaints triggered on-site inspection and assessment. Relevant parties were engaged verbally and the complaints were resolved (Note: some wood smoke complaints took some follow-up actions to address the immediate complaint).</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Odour</p>	<p>All Councils Council operations with environment protection licences are conducted to comply with licence conditions</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council response to complaints (as above)</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council In response to odour complaints, staff inspected all incidents and notified the purported source. No further action was needed in relation to these matters.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>	<p>All Councils Involvement in climate change related projects (see Section 1.6 for further details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Adaptation Pathway Project - Climate Consensus Project <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council continued its subscription to Planet Footprint for quarterly reports on water consumption and electricity usage.</p> <p><i>Armidale Sustainable Living Expo</i> The Armidale Sustainable Living Expo was again conducted in September 2008 and included tours showcasing a range of innovative and inspired buildings and gardens with a sustainable focus, the Sustainable Living Expo and community workshops.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council Council has installed a solar system to heat its Civic Centre.</p> <p>Council has State Government rebate Application forms available for collection from customer service staff and information on the rebates available to the public.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Uralla Shire Council has commenced a process of auditing its energy use for 2009-2010-2011.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council provide applications and assistance to residents to complete rebate applications.</p>

Transport	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council During 2008-2009 Armidale Dumaresq Council constructed approximately 850 metres of off-road shared pedestrian/bicycle path alongside Rockvale Road, Armidale. This was surfaced with asphaltic concrete (AC), which provides a smoother ride and greater longevity than a bitumen aggregate finish. The path was identified as a priority route within the Armidale Dumaresq Bicycle Strategy (2004). It completed the final 'missing link' of Armidale's principal bicycle route, which now provides a continuous 14 kilometre length of off-road shared bicycle/pedestrian path. This path links significant residential areas with the CBD, University of New England and the Armidale State Forest.</p> <p>Council's Bicycle Steering Committee considered options for a bicycle network in eastern Armidale to be constructed in conjunction with future residential development of the area. Following identification of preferred options / routes and endorsement by Council, the proposal was placed on public exhibition during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council 163 metres of new footpath was constructed along Guyra Rd, Tingha as part of Council's Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council's current policy for fleet vehicle change-over allows for preference for fuel efficient 4 cylinder vehicles or diesel fuelled for utilities and larger wagons.</p>
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4.3.4 Energy Saving Initiatives / Rebates

Various government initiatives have been in place during 2008-2009 allowing land holders the opportunity to obtain funding, usually in the form of rebates, to improve the environmental performance of buildings. Below is a brief outline of some of these initiatives.

New England Sustainability Strategy – Solar New England Project

The Solar New England Project was the first major initiative coming out of the New England Sustainability Strategy and was conducted during 2008-2009. The project was based on a proposal from AusEnergy to consider a community cluster solar installation project.

A 'community cluster' model means:

- "clusters" of solar systems are purchased and installed together to achieve large scale, highly affordable domestic solar power systems; and,
- "community" networks, organisations and professionals work together to promote the project by word of mouth and contribute key services making the end product to householders highly affordable.

The program was run to coincide with government solar power rebates available at the time of up to \$8,000. Installations are still being carried out and details of the final number of systems installed under the program will be available in future reports.

NSW Government's Climate Change Fund

The Residential Rebate Program is part of the NSW Government's Climate Change Fund, established to help people make their homes more water and energy efficient. It provides rebates for rainwater tanks, climate-friendly hot water systems and water-efficient washing machines. The ceiling insulation rebate, which was also part of the Program, finished on 30 June 2009 (www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

Hot Water System Rebates:

Water heating is the biggest energy user in NSW homes. By switching from an electric to a climate-friendly hot water system, you can save up to three tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year and \$300 on your energy bills. The rebate (up to \$1,200) is available for new gas, solar or heat pump hot water systems which replace an electric system (www.environment.nsw.gov.au).

The uptake of hot water system rebates across the Southern New England Region by local government area is shown below:

	ADC	GSC	USC	WC
No. of rebates to 30 June 2009	73	15	29	7

Ceiling Insulation Rebates:

The ceiling insulation rebate program started on 1 October 2007 and finished on 30 June 2009. The uptake of ceiling insulation rebates by local government area to 30 June 2009 is shown below

	ADC	GSC	USC	WC
No. of rebates to 30 June 2009	54	7	11	2

Details relating to rebates for rain water tanks and water efficient washing machines are outlined in Section 5.

Australian Government's Energy Efficient Homes Package

The Australian Government's Energy Efficient Homes Package, administered by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, aims to install ceiling insulation in many Australian homes and help up to 420,000 households install a solar hot water system.

The non-means tested package includes:

- ceiling insulation worth up to \$1,600 for Australian house holders, including owner-occupiers, landlords and tenants of currently uninsulated homes or homes with very little ceiling insulation; or
- a \$1,600 rebate for installing a solar hot water system or a \$1,000 rebate for installing a heat pump hot water system, to replace an electric storage hot water system.

Only one rebate can be claimed per address under the current program. <<DATA GAP>> No data is available on the uptake of rebates under this program.

Solar Homes and Communities Plan

The Solar Homes and Communities Plan started helping Australian homes and communities reduce their energy use, help the environment and save on energy bills in 2000. Since November 2007, the program has provided rebates of up to \$8,000 for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems.

Statistics provided by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts indicate that during 2008-2009, 78 solar systems were installed in Armidale Dumaresq, 5 in Guyra, 3 in Uralla and 1 in the Walcha local government area under the Solar Homes and Communities Plan.

4.3.5 Community Actions

Sustainable Living Armidale (SLA)

From July 2008 to June 2009, SLA held 11 monthly public forums with speakers or films related to various aspects of sustainability. Attendances varied from 20 to 85:

July	Energy, carbon trading and Council Waste Management plans for plastic bags
Aug	power point presentation on Transition Armidale
Sept	Film: End of Suburbia
Oct	Woodsmoke emissions
Nov	Permaculture
Dec	end of year picnic on verandah
Feb	accessing local food, Environmental Trust grant to NESAC, Solarshop on hot water; forthcoming farm open day
Mar	Food as Medicine; ideas for Autumn Festival SLA Float
April	Film: Blind Spot
May	Solar Hot water
June	Film: The Future Makers

Home-Grown Garden Tour (7-8 March)

Organised by Armidale Local Food (ALF). An estimated 250 people toured 10 local suburban productive gardens. The gardens presented a range of features including vegetable and fruit growing, chooks, bees, water use, energy use, composting, and preserving/drying.

Autumn Festival

SLA's float, featuring a carbon footprint and ideas for reducing carbon emissions, was awarded the Best Community float in the Autumn Festival Parade and was seen by a large crowd. There was also a stall with a display of a wide variety of locally grown food.

Participation in Sustainable Living Expo 2008

Monthly Information Stall in Mall Markets

Each month, the SLA stall featured a different aspect of sustainability e.g. solar hot water, bottled water, green loans, peak oil.

Submissions to State & Federal Government

SLA made a detailed submission to the Federal Government on their White Paper on "A Carbon Emissions Reduction Scheme" and a detailed submission to the NSW Government on their Proposed Feed-In Tariff for solar electricity.

SECTION 5 – WATER

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern New England Region straddles the watershed of the Great Dividing Range and includes parts of five major river catchments. The Clarence River, Macleay River and Manning River catchments drain to the east and the Gwydir River and Namoi River catchments drain to the west.

The main issues for surface water relate to influences on water quality and river health in the waterways that pass through urban centres or provide drinking water. These waterways include Dumaresq Creek, Uralla Creek, Gara River and the Apsley River.

5.2 THE CONDITION OF WATER IN THE REGION

The environmental indicators outlined below have been used in previous State of Environment Reports to assess and monitor the state, or condition of the environment with respect to water. Periodic monitoring of water quality is one of the main measures used for determining the state of water resources within the Southern New England Region. The following section provides up-dated data for the respective environmental indicators for 2008-2009, including a summary of key water quality monitoring results from testing undertaken by Councils for Dumaresq Creek, Malpas Dam and the Apsley River, and outlines any significant trends.

5.2.1 Water Quality Monitoring – Dumaresq Creek

Armidale Dumaresq Council continues to conduct water sampling of Dumaresq Creek within the Armidale urban area. Table 12 outlines a summary of water monitoring results for Dumaresq Creek from 2005 to 2008-2009. Compared to the period since 2005, water quality in Dumaresq Creek has improved slightly. Dissolved Oxygen levels are slightly higher on average and Thermotolerant Coliform counts were lower in 2008-2009 than in the preceding four years.

Table 12: Summary of Water Monitoring Results for Dumaresq Creek in Armidale

Site	Period	Average Recording During Time Period					
		Colour	Turbidity (NTU)	pH	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Temp (°C)	Thermotolerant coliforms cfu/100mls
Dumaresq Dam	Jan 05 – Jun 08	62.4	7.6	8.2	7.6	18.1	51.2
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	66.5	7.3	8.1	7.3	18.1	27.3
Niagara St crossing	Jan 05 – Jun 08	136.2	13.5	7.3	2.8	14.8	137.1
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	110.3	12.3	7.4	3.8	15.8	121.0
Upstream of Stephens Bridge	Jan 05 – Jun 08	126.0	10.6	7.6	4.5	15.9	180.8
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	104.8	7.2	7.7	5.1	15.2	135.5

Downstream of Stephens Bridge	Jan 05 – Jun 08	133.6	11.0	7.6	4.3	16.0	212.7
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	100.4	7.1	7.7	5.4	15.1	178.6
Taylor St crossing	Jan 05 – Jun 08	136.8	11.3	7.9	4.6	17.2	215.2
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	106.6	8.0	7.7	5.4	14.7	149.2
Cookes Rd crossing	Jan 05 – Jun 08	82.8	6.6	7.8	5.6	16.3	131.2
	Jul 08 – Jun 09	83.3	5.7	8.0	6.1	14.9	94.8

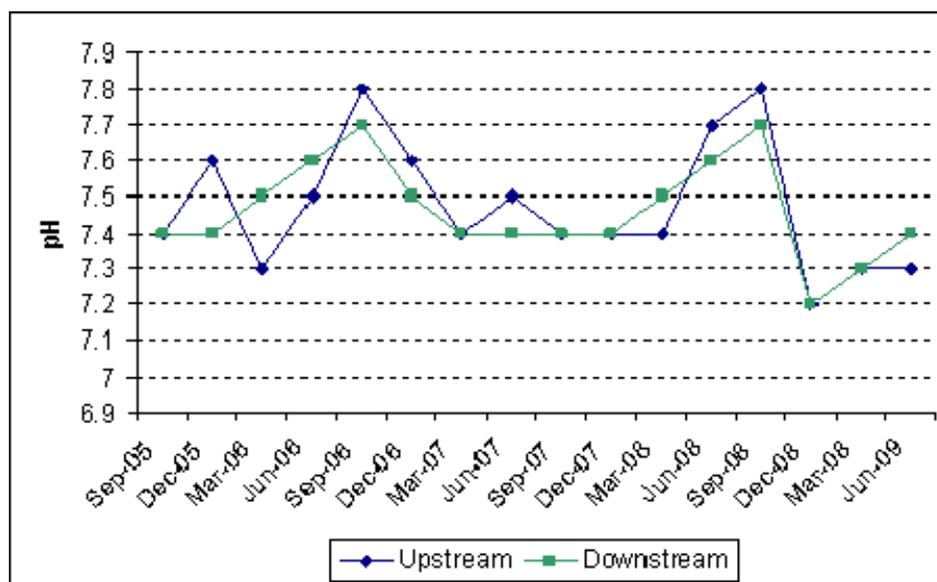
5.2.2 Water Quality Monitoring – Apsley River

Walcha Council undertakes quarterly water quality monitoring at two sites along the Apsley River. One site is located upstream and the other downstream of Walcha township in order to determine the type and level of pollution, if any, that may be generated from the Walcha urban area.

pH

Optimal pH levels for aquatic organisms should be maintained within the range of 6.5 to 8.2. The pH levels within the Apsley River, both up-stream and down-stream of Walcha have been consistently within this range for the last four reporting periods, as shown below in Figure 21.

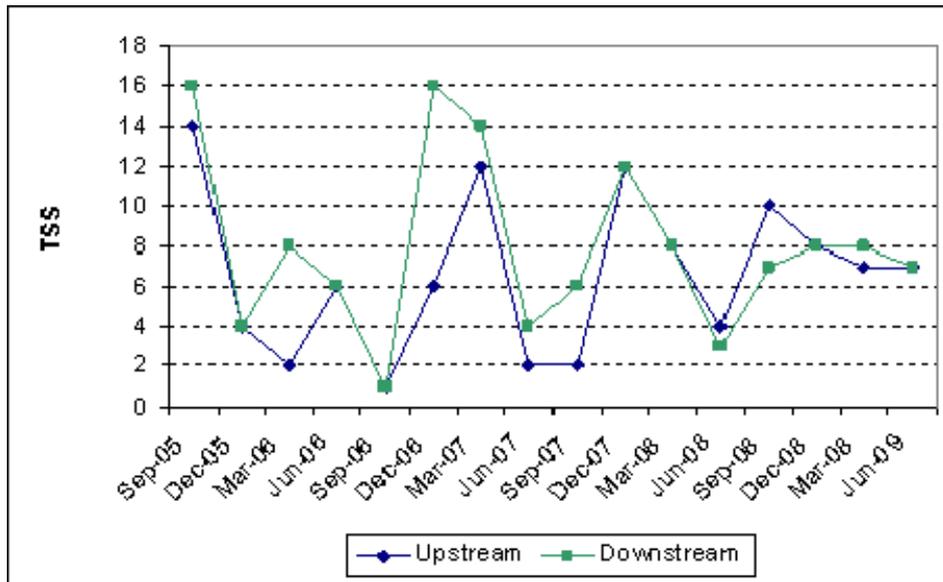
Figure 21: Apsley River pH levels



Total Suspended Solids

Total suspended solids (TSS) have remained at relatively low levels (below 20mg/l) for the reporting periods from 2005-2006 to 2008-2009. Samples up-stream and down-stream tend to follow a similar trend, however downstream measurements are generally slightly elevated. This may indicate that the Walcha urban area contributes to increased TSS levels in the Apsley River.

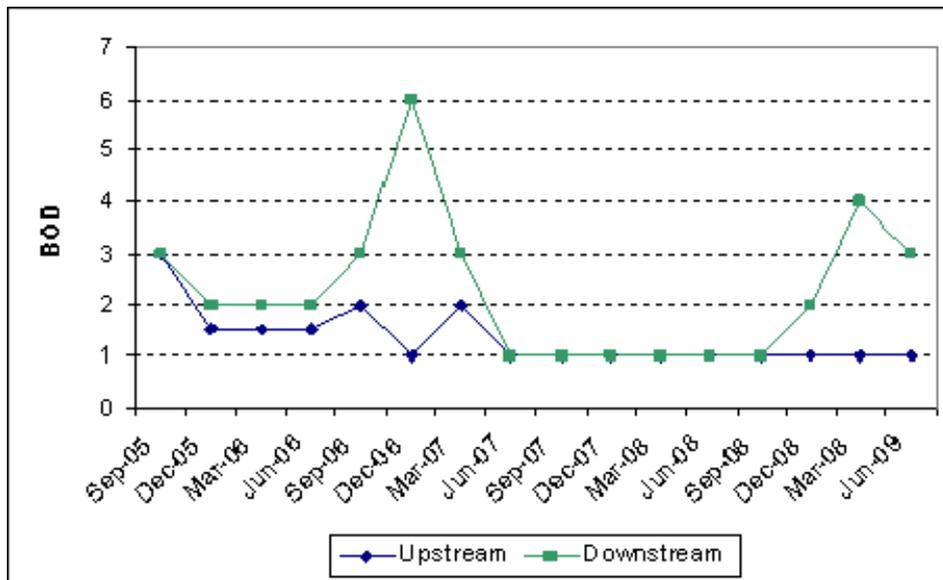
Figure 22: Apsley River Total Suspended Solid levels



Biological Oxygen Demand

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels (mg/l) in the Apsley River up-stream of Walcha have remained at consistently low levels during 2008-2009 indicating that the water is clean with very little biodegradable waste. BOD levels down-stream of Walcha spiked again during the summer months of 2008-2009, similarly to 2006-2007. While there is no correlating data to explain the spike, it is likely that Walcha does contribute to increased BOD levels down-stream of the township.

Figure 23: Apsley River Biological Oxygen Demand

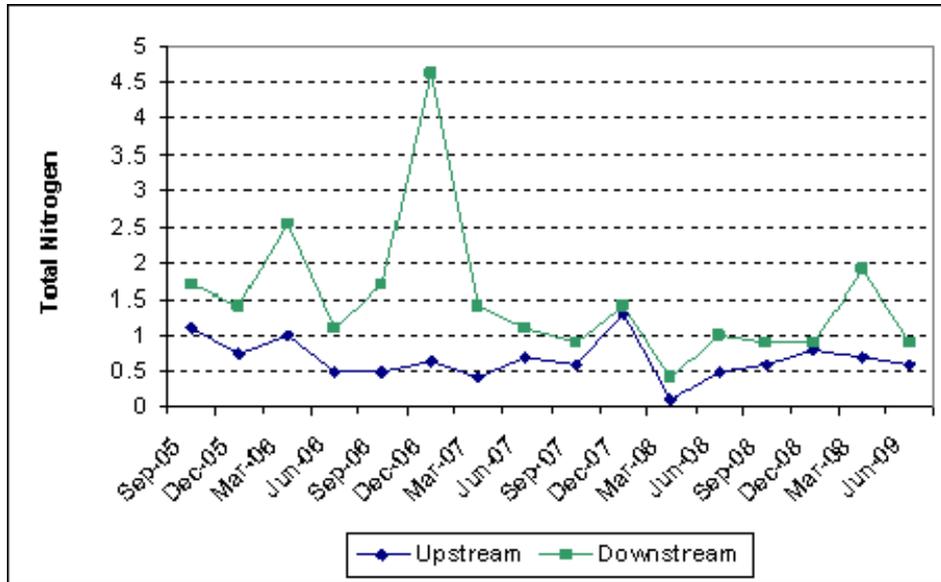


Total Nitrogen

Other than a peak in December 2007, total Nitrogen levels recorded in the Apsley River up-stream and down-stream of Walcha have remained at consistent levels. Similarly to previous years, downstream Total Nitrogen levels tend to be slightly

higher than upstream levels, suggesting that Walcha township may be contributing to increased nitrogen levels in the Apsley River.

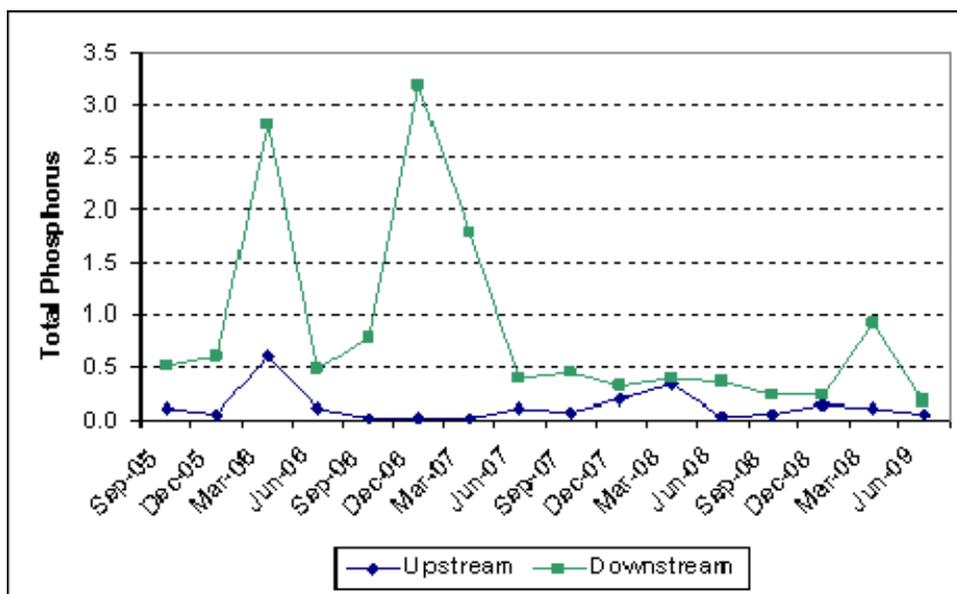
Figure 24: Apsley River Total Nitrogen levels



Phosphorus

Total Phosphorus levels in the Apsley River have followed a similar trend to other water quality measures outlined above by being higher down-stream of Walcha compared to up-stream levels, again suggesting that the township impacts on water quality within the river. Total Phosphorus levels down-stream of Walcha spiked during the 2008-2009 reporting period, as in previous years, to levels generally considered to be of concern, however returned closer to trend by the end of the reporting period.

Figure 25: Apsley River Phosphorus levels



5.2.3 Water Quality Monitoring – Malpas Dam

Armidale Dumaresq Council undertakes regular sampling of Malpas Dam which is the primary supply of potable water for Armidale. High levels of blue-green algae have been reported in Malpas Dam since 2006-2007 and continued during 2008-2009, dominated by *Anabaena circinalis* with a short bloom of *Microcystis* species appearing in the summer of 2008-2009. Toxicity testing during 2008-2009 showed no presence of toxins from the blue-green algae. Council has not attempted to apply algaecides to control the algae due to the high cost and also because Council's new ozonation BAC facility at the Water Treatment Plant is effective in removing taste and odour and in destroying algal toxins.

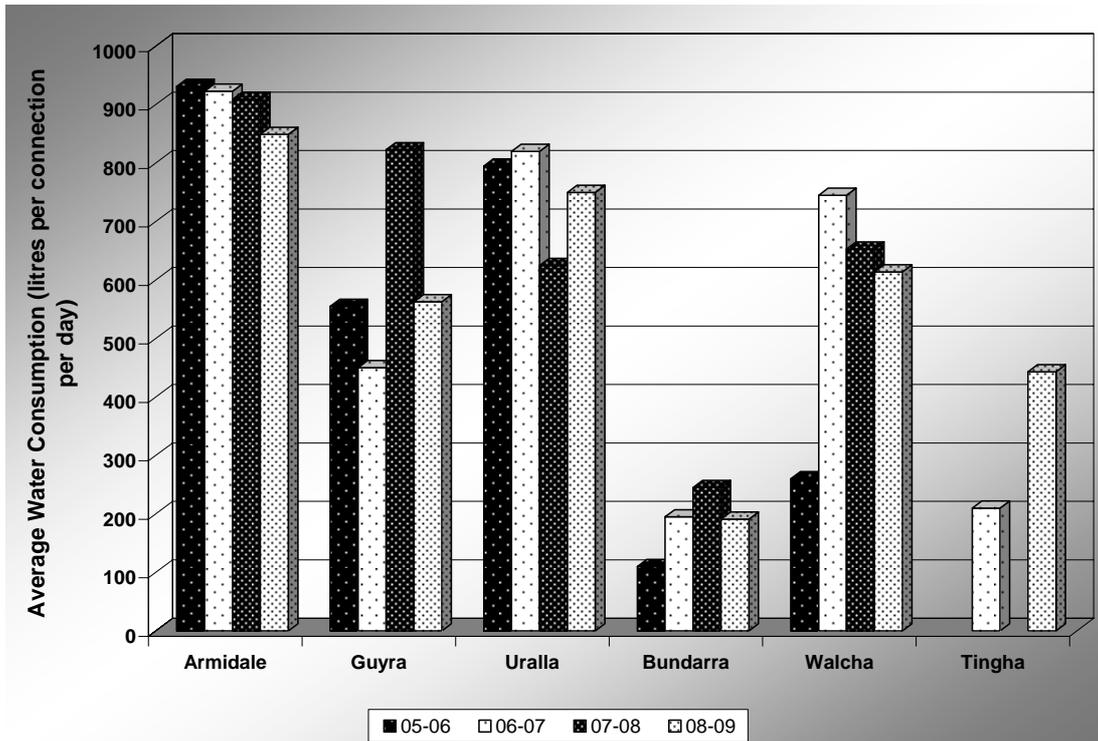
5.2.4 Water Consumption



The consumption of water within the urban environment provides an indication of water conservation and water management practices. It is estimated that the average Australian household uses 650 litres of water per day, with the main use being for watering the garden and other outside uses (35%), flushing toilets (20%, 5-10 litres per flush), showers/bathroom (20%, 200 litres per shower) and washing clothes (15%, 150 litres per load).

Figure 26 shows the average water consumption per connection per day for urban centres within the Southern New England Region. Average water consumption per connection per day has decreased from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009 in Armidale, Guyra, Walcha and Bundarra, while increasing slightly in Uralla.

Figure 26: Average Water Consumption in Southern New England Region Urban Areas



Note: Guyra figures exclude commercial uses such as the Guyra Tomato Farm, which is a large water consumer. Commercial use accounts for approximately 39% of total water consumption in Guyra.

5.2.5 Environment Protection Licences

There are sixteen (16) premises in the Southern New England Region that have environment protection licences issued under Section 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* with conditions relating to water.

The following Table outlines the premises with licence conditions relating to water and any incidents of non-compliance with licence conditions for annual licence returns submitted during 2008-2009.

Table 13: Environment Protection Licences - Water
Source: www.environment.nsw.gov.au

License Number	Activity / Licensee	Compliance with License Conditions
Armidale Dumaresq local government area		
1722	Sewage Treatment Plant (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
5860	Waste Management Facility (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
921	Hillgrove Gold Mine (Straits (Hillgrove) Gold Pty Ltd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exceedance of discharge volume / mass limit at EPL Point 6 (1 incident) • all analytes not determined from EPL Point 24 (1 incident) • all analytes not determined from EPL Point 8 (1 incident)
2821	Water Treatment Plant (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not taking required number of samples – no samples taken 24/12/08 for all tests • tests failing or not carried out due to equipment service or failure (8 incidents)
2251	Ebor Trout Hatchery (NSW Department of Primary Industries)	complied
10811	Armidale Saleyards (Armidale Livestock Selling Agents)	complied
5907	Armidale Aquatic Centre (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
3556	Wardlaw Piggery (Ross Wardlaw)	computer problems / issues following power failures have resulted in an incomplete weather data set
Guyra local government area		
5231	Malpas Dam (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied

1671	Guyra Waste Water Treatment Plant (Guyra Shire Council)	complied
Uralla local government area		
1629	Uralla Water Treatment Plant (Uralla Shire Council)	complied
1626	Uralla Sewage Treatment Plant (Uralla Shire Council)	high total nitrogen readings due to breakdown of operating systems (2 incidents)
Walcha local government area		
5572	Boral Timber Mill (Allen Taylor & Company Pty Ltd)	monitoring point 4 – no water at monitoring point to gather 6 month samples
2613	Sewage Treatment Works (Walcha Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring point 1 exceeded license concentration limits for pH & TSS. • exceeded license concentration limits for BOD.
6120	Walcha Waste Depot (Walcha Council)	complied
2508	Water Treatment Plant (Walcha Council)	complied

There was an overall increase in the number of non-compliance incidents across the Southern New England Region for environment protection licenses relating to water during 2008-2009 compared to previous years. However, similarly to 2007-2008, the majority of non-compliance incidents related to sampling methodology / conduct, rather than exceeding discharge limits.

5.3 WATER QUALITY ISSUES AND ACTIONS

5.3.1 Pressures on Water and Water Quality in the Environment

The issues and activities identified in previous State of Environment Reports as impacting on water and water quality within the Southern New England Region are:

- urban storm water pollution
- land and waterway management (e.g. riparian areas, point source pollution)
- industry, infrastructure and development
- management of potable water supplies (e.g. blue-green algae blooms, water treatment methods)
- water quantity
- availability of information and resources (lack of community education, specialist technical staff and funding)

The potential for climate change to impact on water and water quality has also been highlighted during 2008-2009 through projects such as Local Adaptation Pathway Program and Climate Consensus Project (see Part 1.6). The Local Adaptation Pathway Program identified the following extreme or high risks relating to water and water quality due to potential climate change in the Region:

- changes in water table – impacts on water quality
- increased algal bloom in water supply
- reduction in non-reticulated water supply for rural / domestic use

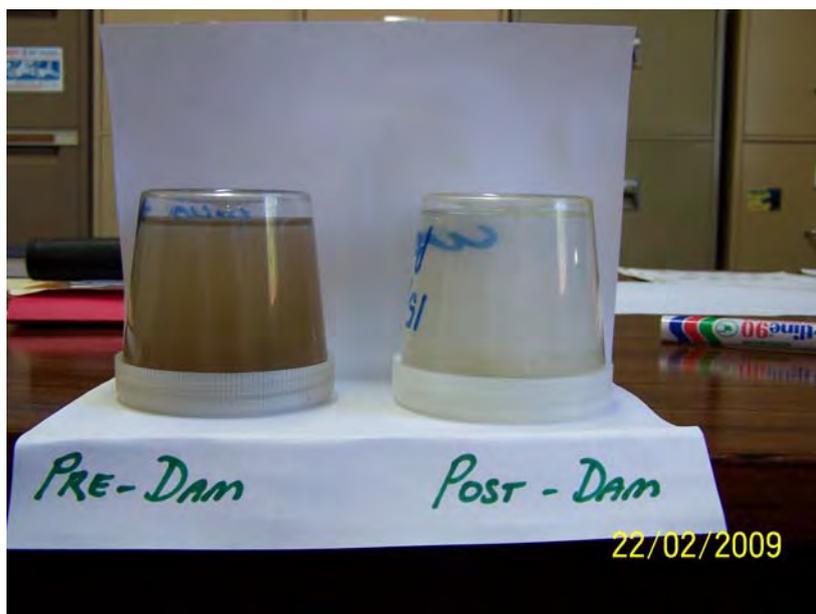
- reduction in surface water available for agricultural use
- reduced health of waterways due to sedimentation and eutrophication
- increased flooding in low lying developed areas and extension of flood range
- loss of aquatic ecosystem service / value
- increased risk of dam failure
- inadequate stormwater infrastructure capacity resulting in larger floods
- increased potential for water borne diseases

5.3.2 Council Actions

Each of the Southern New England Region Councils are involved with the management of water, particularly within the urban environment. The following Table provides a summary of the actions that were being implemented by the respective Councils during 2008-2009 in response to pressures identified above.

WATER ACTIONS 2008-2009	
Urban Storm Water	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Glass Street storm water drainage project valued at approximately \$400,000 to up-grade the capacity of storm water infrastructure to reduce the likelihood of flooding of properties in the area during high intensity storms.</p> <p>Council purchased a combination jetting and vacuum truck which has enabled more frequent cleaning of gross pollutant traps around the city.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council 218 metres of storm water infrastructure was upgraded in White Street, Guyra to eliminate minor flooding to residential allotments and roads in the area.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Aged stormwater pipes were replaced in the urban sub-catchment area of East Street, Uralla to alleviate sediment input into the waterway of Uralla Creek.</p> <p>Council plans to install two further gross pollutant traps in 2010-2011 under the Sub-Catchment Management Project, with further planning for installation of individual catchment baskets in the CBD zone to collect refuse at the point of source prior to discharge. Gross pollutant trap installation is not feasible on the stormwater drain outlets from the CBD into Uralla Creek as these outlets are situated too high from the creek bed and are located within the flood zone. Funding will be sourced to meet the costs of the catchment baskets through the HiCUB project.</p>

<p>Land and Waterway Management</p>	<p>All Councils Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils were successful in obtaining a grant of \$2 million from the NSW Environmental Trust for Urban Sustainability. This project, called HiCUB (previously known as Biodiversity in High Country) will occur over two and a half years and provide community education, monitoring and evaluation, technical studies and on-ground rehabilitation works across the Region, including riparian restoration works.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council See also Chapter 6 – biodiversity</p> <p>On-going work by Armidale Urban Rivercare Group (AURG) as part of their riparian restoration works on the urban reaches of Dumaresq Creek includes the removal of woody weeds and on-going control of introduced herbaceous plants such as Wormwood. An increase in support from Council, both financially and in-kind, has seen a corresponding increase in woody weed and herbaceous weed removal with two thirds of the creek passing through the CBD area now under maintenance control. Studies by UNE researcher Dr Darren Ryder on water quality has identified some hot spots that will receive additional efforts by both Council and AURG to remove in-stream willow roots currently causing stream blockages to restore environmental flows. These areas are also identified for tree planting.</p> <p>By request from New England Weeds Authority, the water level in Gara Dam was lowered during winter 2008 in an effort to kill off the Mexican Lily on the dam by exposing it to frosts. Frosts did kill off the surface vegetation but the succulent roots of the plants survived. Commissioned by the CMA, NEWA and Armidale Dumaresq Council, the University of New England are progressing a project to identify an environmentally safe means of eradicating the Mexican Water Lily.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council continued to work closely with Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA, Community Water Grants and Uralla Rivercare Group within the Uralla Sub-Catchment Management Project. Outcomes of on-going work included the completion of a large dam to hold sediment at the headwaters of Uralla Creek, weed removal, planting of native vegetation and maintenance works on Uralla Rivercare Group project sites. The photograph below shows water quality improvement in relation to sediment load during rainfall events pre-dam and post-dam.</p>
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The Uralla Sub-Catchment Management Project planning document provided recommendations for weed removal, willow control, sediment control and engineering designs from Soil Conservation Services for improvements in water quality and native habitat along the riparian zones within the Uralla urban zone. This project will continue to expand to provide a whole-of-shire plan for the waterways and will greatly contribute to water quality from the headwaters of the Gwydir River.

Council currently has an application for funding with NSW Environmental Trust to sample and collate results from the Kentucky Creek catchment area, which will lead to further sampling programs and appropriate remediation programs as required.

The Uralla Rivercare Group was supported by Council and Green Corps Team with removal of exotic weeds (privet, honeysuckle, blackberry, willow and mint weed) and planting of 800 native trees, shrubs and grasses on some of their project sites. Council also now provides maintenance support on some of the public land previously under the Rivercare Group's control.

Uralla Shire Council has also identified the need for comprehensive water sampling of Uralla Creek.

Walcha Council

The NAMOI Regional Organisation of Councils project, "Green is the New Black" received a grant of \$1,998,000 which will include some improvements in the riparian zone. A business Plan is currently being developed for the project.

Industry, Infrastructure and Development	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council In April 2009, Council adopted amendments to Development Control Plan 2007 which included the introduction of requirements / guidelines for on-site detention of storm water run-off and water sensitive urban design in Chapter B7 – Stormwater Drainage Code.</p> <p>Council has produced ‘Draft Guidelines for Revegetation of the Urban Reaches of Dumaresq Creek’ outlining the value that revegetation work and woody weed removal may have as contributing factors to increased water quality. These include re-establishment of environmental flows by removal of introduced in-stream woody vegetation and increased filtration of sports field and parkland run-off through areas of re-established native plants.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Data previously used from sampling taken of areas abutting Blackfellows Gully / Teatree Creek in the Invergowrie area led to the Development Control Plan being amended. Subsequently only allowing aerated septic tank systems or systems producing effluent by-product of a similar or higher standard.</p>
Management of Potable Water Supplies	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council has an adopted Demand Management Plan which includes an Inclining Block Tariff whereby higher water consumption is charged at higher unit rates. There has been a steady but slowing decline in raw water treated since 2003 and a downward trend in metered water usage of about 1-2% pa since 2002.</p> <p>In May 2009, Council commissioned its \$4.2 million Ozonation plant with Biologically Activated Carbon filters at the Armidale Water Treatment Plant. The use of ozone should eliminate use of Powdered Activated Carbon which will reduce sludge mass for disposal from the water treatment plant and be a more secure means of treating taste and odour problems and destroying any toxins released by blue-green algae.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Water use minimisation strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gradual conversion of Aged Care Facility, McMaugh Gardens, through changing showerheads from 20 litres to 9 litres per minute to occur. Other facilities (e.g. Aged care units) will also be converted. • adopting recommendations from the Climate Consensus Project (October 2008), including advising residents of sustainable living hints and practises through the provision of pamphlets and FACT sheets in places such as the town Libraries, Doctors surgeries, hairdressers salons and the like. Council’s monthly Newsletter will also be utilised for this purpose.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Management of Potable Water Supplies (continued)</p>	<p>Walcha Council Continued best practice pricing structure – cost per kl of water increased in accordance with supply costs. In conjunction with continued education and loss monitoring, consumption is down from 207 ML to 195 ML, or 6.2%.</p> <p>Walcha Council has implemented a reclamation and recycling system which will operate in 2009/10 and will be used for irrigation, truck washing purposes, roadwork and other non-potable water requirements. It is expected this will distinctly reduce the amount of potable water drawn from Council’s standpipe and other points in the reticulation network.</p> <p>Continued maintenance of infrastructure, including shut-off valve replacement to reduce leakage, changes to backwash cycles to reduce the amount of water used and to optimise the filter performance.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">On-site Waste Water Management Systems</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council 37 new systems were approved, installed and/or registered during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Council has a licensing system for on-site waste water management systems. Licences are issued upon installation / registration of on-site systems and expiry of licences is based on environmental ‘risk’ of the system.</p> <p>A program of inspections is based on risk (high risk –2 years, medium risk – 3 years and low risk – 5 years). Due to resourcing limitations in 2008-2009 inspections have been minimal, and have only been in relation to complaints, coinciding with food premises inspections or conveyancing enquiries.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council 8 new systems approved, installed and/or registered during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council 12 new systems approved, installed and/or registered during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Council inspects existing systems upon request when properties are being transferred.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pollution</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Ten (10) pollution incidents were detected during 2008-2009, comprising 3 petrochemical, 4 sewerage related, 2 paper delivery issues and 1 apparent poisoning event. Investigations were conducted for each incident with actions including verbal clean up notices and enquiry of process / procedures (with subsequent alteration).</p> <p>One (1) Penalty Infringement Notices was issued for polluting waterways during 2008-2009 in relation to metal parts coated with HD Powdercoat Stripper being washed down into the stormwater system, impacting / potentially impacting upon waters in Dumaresq Creek.</p>

5.3.3 Government Rebates

Rebates from the NSW Government Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water were available to households during 2008-2009 for installation of rain water tanks and water efficient washing machines.

Rain Water Tanks

Rebates of up to \$1500 for rainwater tanks connected to toilets and washing machines are available from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Statistics available from the Department on the rate of up-take of rebates for rain water tanks for the period from 1 July 2007 to the 30 June 2009 suggest that this scheme has been accessed widely across the Southern New England Region.

The number of rebates by local government area is shown below:

Armidale Dumaresq	96
Guyra	66
Uralla	124
Walcha	40

Washing Machine Rebates

Rebates of \$150 were available for buying a 4.5 star or higher WELS rated washing machine. According to the Department of Environment and Climate Change, a 4.5 star water efficient washing machine can save up to 100 litres per wash compared to an old top-loader washing machine. A family washing more than six loads a week would save up to 31,000 litres of water a year.

The number of rebates taken up across the Southern New England Region from 1 August 2008 (start of the rebate) to 30 June 2009 by local government area were:

Armidale Dumaresq	63
Guyra	10
Uralla	22
Walcha	9

5.3.4 Community / Agency Actions

Southern New England Landcare and Catchment Management Authorities

Section 3.3.3 and Appendix H provide an outline of the activities undertaken by Southern New England Landcare, Northern Rivers CMA and Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA across the Region during 2008-2009, many of which relate to riparian area restoration and improvement works.

SECTION 6 – BIODIVERSITY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern New England Region supports a unique biodiversity as a result of the varied topography, climate, soil type and land use. The Region contains two areas of international significance, being the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve (Guyra LGA) which is a RAMSAR site, and the Oxley Wild Rivers National Park (Armidale Dumaresq and Walcha LGA) which is a World Heritage Site.

The Southern New England Region of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha local government areas lies largely within the area defined as the New England Tableland Bioregion. A map of the New England Tableland Bioregion is contained in Appendix J. Following is a description of the bioregion from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2009)

The New England Tableland Bioregion has an area of 3,004,202 hectares of which 95.23% of the bioregion lies within NSW. The bioregion lies between the North Coast and Nandewar bioregions, extending north just into Queensland. In NSW, the bioregional boundary extends from north of Tenterfield to south of Walcha and includes the towns of Armidale and Guyra. The bioregion includes parts of the MacIntyre, Clarence, Gwydir, Macleay, Namoi and Manning River catchments.

Significant Flora

The New England Tableland Bioregion is botanically significant due to its high plant species diversity and high level of endemism. For instance, more than 70 species of Eucalyptus occur on the tablelands, about a third of which are endemic or near endemic to the bioregion. The New England Tableland Bioregion provides habitat for 68 species listed in the schedules of the TSC Act. Thirty of these species are listed as endangered, 39 are listed as vulnerable and one species, *Euphrasia arguta*, is considered extinct in the bioregion (NSW NPWS 2001).

Significant Fauna

The New England Tableland Bioregion supports a considerable proportion of the endangered regent honeyeater (*Xanthomyza phrygia*) population in woodland fragments. Numbers of grassland and ground-feeding insectivorous birds have declined in the bioregion, as have some temperate woodland and forest species, mainly due to changes caused by agriculture (eg. land clearing and habitat fragmentation), a trend which is likely to continue and has occurred across temperate Australia (Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002).

Ninety-two fauna species listed in the schedules of the TSC Act have been recorded in the New England Tablelands Bioregion (NSW NPWS 2001). Of these, 18 are listed as endangered, 72 are listed as vulnerable and a number of species are considered extinct in the bioregion.

Significant Wetlands

Little Llangothlin Lagoon is at the headwaters of the Oban River and much of the lagoon's catchment is within Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve. The lagoon is considered to be in good condition, although incurring pollution from nearby agricultural lands (Australian Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment 2002), and supports many waterbirds including ducks, ibis, egrets and even the white-breasted sea eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) along with vulnerable and rare species including the comb-crested jacana (*Irediparra gallinacea*) and the blue-billed duck (*Oxyura australis*) in times of drought (ANCA 1996).

The New England wetlands are representative of shallow, temporary upland lagoons and are considered to be in good condition, despite urban development at nearby Mother of Ducks lagoon. They have a fluctuating water regime, which is important for ecosystem function, and sometimes support the rare stonewort (*Charophyte*), *Nitella hookeri*.

The wetlands also provide important habitat for migratory birds and include parts of Little Llangothlin, Mother of Ducks and Dangars Lagoon Nature Reserve. Upland wetlands of the New England Tableland are now listed under the TSC Act as an endangered ecological community.

Round Mountain is in Cathedral Rock National Park and is a representative example of an upland swamp in the New England Tablelands. The swamp is dominated by sedge and like the other wetlands in this bioregion suffers from feral animals and exotic weeds, including blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2009).

6.2 THE STATE OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE REGION

Biodiversity in the Region is under pressure from a number of sources and generally declining biodiversity can result from threatening processes such as invasion and competition with weeds and feral animals, removal of habitat, fire, alterations to water flow and climate change.

The environmental indicators outlined below have been used in State of Environment Reporting to assess and monitor the state, or condition of the environment with respect to biodiversity. This section provides up-dated data for the respective environmental indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends.

6.2.1 National Parks

In 2006-2007 it was reported that there were 318,823 hectares of land protected under National Park Estate within the Southern New England Region. This included 38 National Parks and Wildlife Service reserves that comprise 18% of the entire Region.

<<DATA GAP>> No up-dated information has been provided by the National Parks and Wildlife Service for the 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 reporting period.

6.2.2 Wetlands

As outlined above, upland wetlands of the New England Tablelands are listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* as an endangered ecological community. There are more than 30 natural lagoons and swamp depressions on the

New England Tablelands between Uralla and Llangothlin with most being small features of 2-3 ha. They include one RAMSAR wetland and six nationally significant wetlands. There has been no known change in the number of upland wetlands since 2004 and no known investigation or reporting of their general condition within that time. Further details are outlined below under Section 6.3 on pressures affecting the condition of wetlands across the Region.

6.2.3 Flora and Fauna

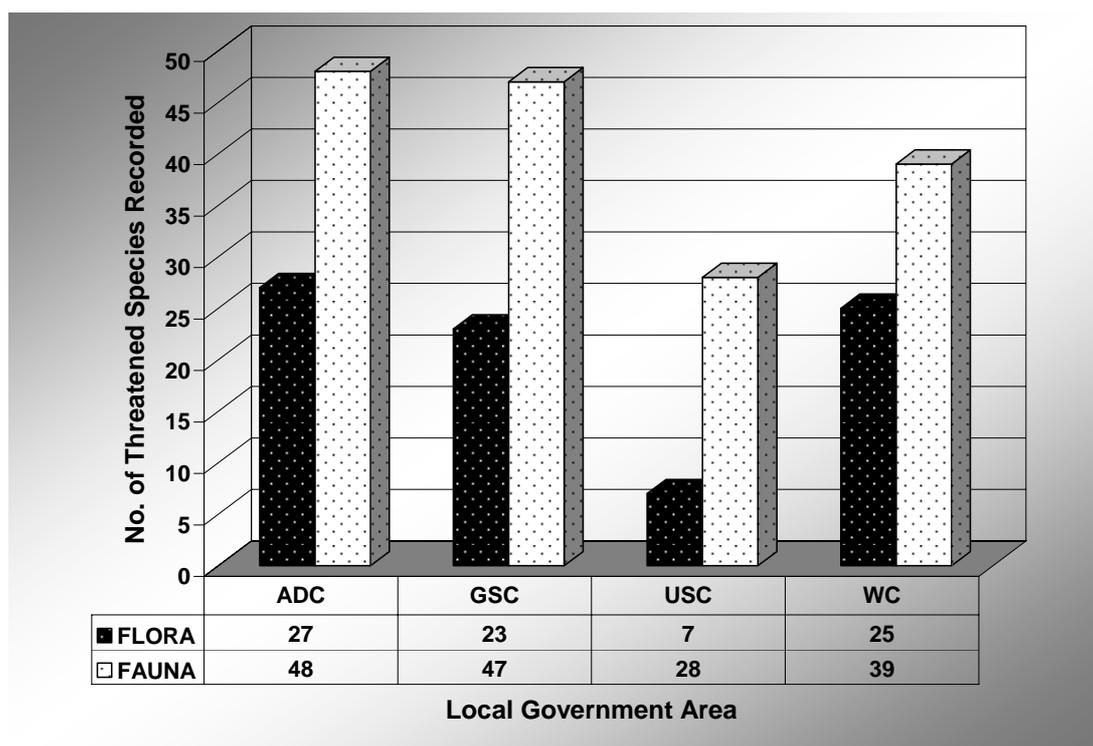
Threatened Species

The Atlas of NSW Wildlife lists threatened plant, mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian and invertebrate species that have been recorded or are known to occur in the region. Figure 27 shows the total number of species listed under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 that have been recorded on the Atlas of NSW Wildlife for the respective local government areas in the Southern New England Region, as at July 2009. A list of individual species (by local government area) and their status as recorded on the Atlas of NSW Wildlife is included in Appendix K.

Figure 27: Number of Recorded Threatened Species by LGA (July, 2009)

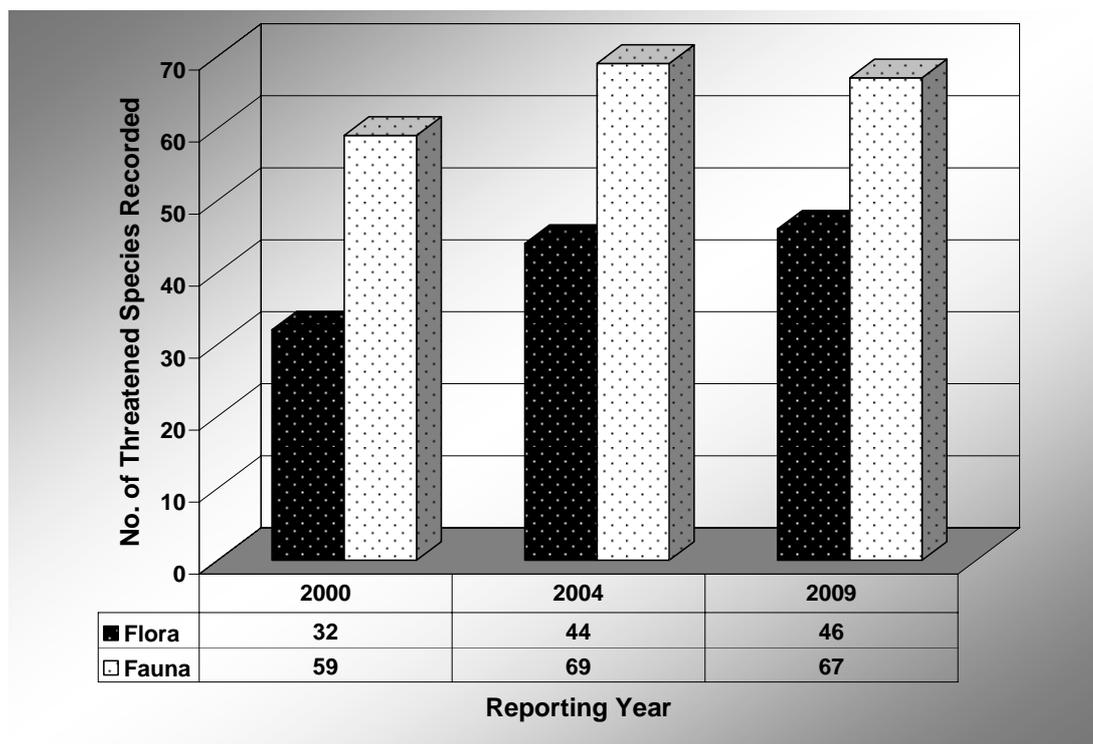
Source: Wildlife Atlas, National Parks and Wildlife Service, 2009.

(www.wildlifeatlas.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)



In 2006-2007 it was reported that there were 32 flora and 61 fauna species listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* within the Southern New England Region. In 2007-2008 (Sept. 2008) the National Parks and Wildlife Service Wildlife Atlas recorded a total of 46 flora and 61 fauna species for the Region. The number of recorded flora species has remained steady at 46 over 2008-2009 while the number of recorded threatened fauna species has risen to 67. Figure 28 below shows trends in the total number of recorded threatened flora and fauna species since 2000 across the Southern New England Region.

Figure 28: Total Number of Recorded Threatened Species Across Southern New England Region



Endangered Ecological Communities

An ecological community is described as a group of species that occur together in a particular area of the landscape. The survival of each species relies on complex interactions amongst all of the inhabitants of the ecological community, and consequently, the loss of any species may have detrimental flow-on effects for the ecological functioning of the whole community (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2009).

Endangered ecological communities are also listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. A search of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water’s Threatened Species web site (www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au) identified the following endangered ecological communities as occurring in the Region.

Table 14: Endangered Ecological Communities Occurring in the Southern New England Region

Scientific Name	Common Name	Geographic Region
White Box Yellow Box Blakely’s Red Gum Woodland	Box-Gum Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Armidale Plateau ▪ Glen Innes – Guyra Basalts ▪ Walcha Plateau ▪ Bundarra Downs – Part A (Uralla)
Montane Peatlands and Swamps of the New England Tablelands, NSW North Coast, Sydney Basin,	Montane Peatlands and Swamps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Armidale Plateau

South East Corner, South Eastern Highlands and Australian Alps		
New England Peppermint (<i>Eucalyptus nova-anglica</i>) Woodland on Basalts and Sediments in the New England Tableland Bioregion	New England Peppermint (<i>Eucalyptus nova-anglica</i>) Woodland on Basalts and Sediments in the New England Tableland Bioregion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Armidale Plateau ▪ Glen Innes – Guyra Basalts ▪ Walcha Plateau ▪ Bundarra Downs – Part A (Uralla)
Ribbon Gum, Mountain Gum, Snow Gum Grassy Forest / Woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion	Ribbon Gum, Mountain Gum, Snow Gum Grassy Forest / Woodland of the New England Tableland Bioregion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Armidale Plateau ▪ Glen Innes – Guyra Basalts
Upland Wetlands of the Drainage Divide of the New England Tableland Bioregion	Upland Wetlands of the Drainage Divide of the New England Tableland Bioregion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Armidale Plateau ▪ Glen Innes – Guyra Basalts ▪ Walcha Plateau ▪ Bundarra Downs – Part A (Uralla)
McKies Stringybark / Blackbutt Open Forest in the Nandewar and New England Tableland Bioregions	McKies Stringybark / Blackbutt Open Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Glen Innes – Guyra Basalts ▪ Bundarra Downs – Part A (Uralla)

6.2.4 Fisheries

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) is the agency with primary responsibility for conserving fishery resources. For the purpose of this State of Environment Report, the Department has provided advice on the number and type of threatened aquatic species that are known to occur in the Southern New England Region.

In 2004, three (3) threatened aquatic species were identified, being:

- Silver Perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*)
- Purple Spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*)
- Olive Perchlet (*Ambassis agassizii*)

Since this time, one (1) additional species, the River Snail (*Notopala sublineata*), has also been identified in the Region as a threatened aquatic species.

In 2007-2008, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) advised that there were 10 existing aquaculture developments in the Southern New England Region, with 8 located in the Guyra local government area, and 1 each in Armidale Dumaresq and Walcha LGAs. No changes were notified for 2008-2009.

6.2.5 Forestry

In 2006-2007 it was reported that the total area of forests owned and managed by Forests NSW in the Southern New England Region was 75,081 hectares, the majority of which comprised native forests. It was also reported that there are approximately 10,000 hectares of softwood plantation across the Region, consisting primarily of exotic *Pinus* species and six hardwood plantations covering approximately 3000 hectares.

<<DATA GAP>> No information was provided by the Department of Primary Industries (Forests NSW) for the 2007-2008 or 2008-2009 reporting period.

6.2.6 Feral Animals / Companion Animals

Feral Animals

Feral animal control within the Southern New England Region is largely undertaken by the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority (formerly Rural Lands Protection Board), National Parks and Wildlife Service and private land holders.

<<DATA GAP>> No information was provided by the New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority for feral animal control activities undertaken during 2007-2008 or 2008-2009.

It is understood that the National Parks and Wildlife Service are developing a pest management strategy to address the spread of Indian Myna birds throughout parts of the Region. No details regarding this strategy were provided for 2008-2009.

Companion Animals

Councils are responsible for the control of companion animals (e.g. cats and dogs) under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Table 14 outlines the number of stray animals impounded, surrendered, housed and/or destroyed for each LGA during 2008-2009.

Table 15: Companion Animal Control Across the Southern New England Region During 2008-2009

LGA	animal type	impounded or surrendered	released, sold or returned	housed for RSPCA	destroyed
ADC	dogs & cats	524	418	-	106
	stock	11	11	-	-
GSC	dogs & cats	59	24	-	35
	stock	55	55	-	-
USC	dogs & cats	46	28	5	13
	stock	-	-	-	-
WC	dogs & cats	38	10	-	28
	stock	-	-	-	-

6.2.7 Weeds

Invasive weeds are a serious threat to Australia's natural environment and can have a significant economic, environmental and social impact. Weeds can cause damage to natural landscapes, agricultural lands, waterways and coastal areas. They displace native species, contribute significantly to land degradation, and can reduce

farm and forest productivity. The potential for increased weed infestation as a result of anticipated climate change was identified as an extreme risk under the New England Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan prepared during 2008-2009 (see Section 1.6).

Weed control activities across the Southern New England Region are primarily undertaken by the New England Weeds Authority (NEWA).

Noxious Weeds

There are currently 85 weed species on the noxious weeds list for NSW, most of which are Class 1 and 2 weeds that are rarely found. 28 of the noxious weed species are known to occur in the Southern New England Region. There have been no new noxious weed declarations affecting the Region during 2008-2009 although Bridal Creeper has been reclassified as a Class 3 noxious weed and is starting to develop as an issue of concern, primarily in the Armidale urban area. The weeds which are most commonly dealt with by the New England Weeds Authority are African Lovegrass Serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass, Nodding Thistle, St Johns Wort, Blackberry, Sweet Briar and Privet.

The Noxious Weeds Act 1993 outlines 5 “control classes” of noxious weeds. The New England Weeds Authority has approved Management Plans for 15 Control Class 4 (CC4) noxious weeds, being:

African Lovegrass	Blackberry
Broom	Burr species
Chilean Needle Grass	Nodding Thistle
Pampas Grass	Paterson’s Curse
Privet	Rhus Tree
Saffron Thistle	Sweet Briar
Cylindropuntia species (e.g. rope pear)	Harrisa cactus species
Opuntia species (prickly pear)	

Control of CC4 noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 requires that:

“the growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local [council] control authority. Some CC4 plants cannot be sold, propagated or knowingly distributed.”

Weed Control Activities

Weed control activities conducted by NEWA during 2008-2009 are outlined below in Section 6.3.

6.3 BIODIVERSITY ISSUES AND ACTIONS

6.3.1 Pressure on Biodiversity

Activities and issues that impact, or create pressure on biodiversity in the Southern New England Region have been identified in previous State of Environment Reports. These pressures are broadly identified as:

- weeds
- feral animals
- removal and loss of habitat / vegetation

- bush fire
- low level of, and access to, knowledge and awareness
- disease and infection (e.g. mistletoe, Psittacine Circoviral (beak and feature disease that affects parrots), Amphibian chytrid fungus (kills frog populations) and *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (a fungus that causes dieback in trees))
- management of travelling stock routes (see Section 3 – Land)
- degradation of aquatic habitats and riparian areas

The potential for climate change to impact on biodiversity has also been highlighted during 2008-2009 through projects such as Local Adaptation Pathway Program and Climate Consensus Project (see Part 1.6). The Local Adaptation Pathway Program identified the following extreme or high risks due to potential climate change in the Region, all of which will impact on biodiversity.

- changes in water table – impacts on water quality
- increased algal bloom in water supply
- reduced health of waterways due to sedimentation and eutrophication
- loss of aquatic ecosystem service / value
- loss of biodiversity
- increased weed infestation
- loss of non-urban vegetation
- change in species composition of local environment

In addition, two wetland communities that occur in the Southern New England Region are listed as endangered ecological communities, as outlined above in Table 13. Details of key threats relating to these wetland communities are outlined below (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2009).

Montane Peatlands and Swamps of the New England Tableland are facing a high risk of becoming extinct in nature in New South Wales unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.

Threats to Montane Peatlands and Swamps can include:

- land clearing – losses estimated at about 20% in the Guyra district (Benson and Ashby 2000)
- clearing of catchments for pastures or plantations, and earthworks associated with road or track construction causing erosion, sedimentation or changes in hydrology (Whinam and Chilcott 2002)
- overgrazing causing changes in species composition, trampling by hooved animals (which may lead to erosion or drying in different parts of a peatland)
- digging and rooting by feral animals causing damage to vegetation and soils
- predation, habitat destruction, competition and disease transmission by feral animals
- high frequency fire which can alter species composition by favouring fire-tolerant sedges at the expense of woody plants that are slow to regenerate after fire (Keith 1996)
- pollution and eutrophication caused by run off or drift of fertilisers, pesticides, waste water, storm water and other pollutants from adjacent pastures and developed industrial or urban areas, resulting in the replacement of native peatland vegetation by exotic weeds
- climate change through the alteration of hydrological budgets (Hughes 2003).

Upland Wetlands of the Drainage Divide of the New England Tableland Bioregion are shallow-temporary to near-permanent wetlands naturally restricted to the higher altitudes (above about 900m) associated with the Great Dividing Range in northern NSW. It is estimated that over 70% of sites formerly occupied by the community have been lost through draining or damming since European settlement (Bell 2000; Benson and Ashby 2000; Brock et al. 1999) and most of the 55 remaining wetlands have been severely modified by change in water regime.

Major ongoing threats to Upland Wetlands of the Drainage Divide of the New England Tableland Bioregion of New South Wales are:

- alteration of water regimes to make these wetlands more predictably flooded or dry (Brock et al.1999)
- stock trampling and grazing can lead to invasion by introduced plants and animals and can also alter the community structure and its biodiversity

Only three Upland Wetlands are fully or partially within conservation reserves namely, Billy Bung and Little Llangothlin in the Little Llangothlin Nature Reserve and part of Mother of Ducks Lagoon in the Mother of Ducks Lagoon Nature Reserve.

6.3.2 Issues Identified by the Community

Collection of timber from road reserves

The issue of felling and/or collecting timber from road reserves for firewood has been raised in a public submission received from a rural landholder. The same issue, along with damage to and clearing of roadside trees by Shire staff during routine roadside maintenance program, has been raised by National Parks Association of NSW - Armidale Branch and Birds Australia – Northern NSW Groups. The primary concern is the impact on biodiversity and loss of habitat for threatened woodland birds.

This issue has been raised in previous State of the Environment Reports and involves other agencies and land managers in addition to Councils, such as Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) and Department of Lands in their management of travelling stock routes and reserves. As noted in Section 3, LHPA have not provided any information for the 2008-2009 State of the Environment Report and as such, any actions being undertaken by this agency are unreported.

Actions suggested by National Parks Association of NSW - Armidale Branch and Birds Australia – Northern NSW Groups include:

- recognition by all Councils that firewood collection on sensitive roadside and TSR ecosystems is unsustainable;
- measures are required to discourage wood heating in towns and villages for this reason rather than just for smoke reduction to reduce air pollution;
- renewed commitments to effective roadside environmental management plans by all Councils, such as:
 - instructing Council staff to avoid unnecessary felling of trees during routine road maintenance or reconstruction practices;
 - introducing education workshops for road maintenance staff on recognition of environmental values of roadside vegetation, and sustainable management of those values;

- re-survey roadsides in former Dumaresq Shire to update maps of significant roadside vegetation and associated management information and signage, then do similar surveys in the rest of the four council areas;
- contact Livestock Health and Pest Authority and seek a Memorandum of Understanding or collaboration in promoting and implementing the above measures.
- list ecological values and explain in Council notices to ratepayers that:
 - tree felling is illegal on all Crown land, roadsides and TSRs, and penalties apply for offences.
 - areas of significant roadside communities such as Mugga Ironbark and identified endangered ecological communities (EECs) in which all plants are protected and firewood collection is not permitted.

Invasive weeds

In their submission, National Parks Association of NSW - Armidale Branch notes increasing infestations of Coolatai grass on roadsides and continuing abundance of African Love Grass as a concern, and that Montpellier Broom is continuing to spread in some locations.

Weed control activities in the Southern New England Region are primarily undertaken by the New England Weeds Authority (NEWA) and an outline of their actions during 2008-2009 in relation to control of noxious weeds is included below in Section 6.3.3. It is also noted in the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan project (see Section 1.6) that increased weed infestation is identified as an extreme risk for the Region as a consequence of projected climate change, and consequently is identified as a short term priority for action.

Habitat Protection

Birds Australia – Northern NSW Groups have identified a breeding population of Regent Honeyeaters (endangered species) in Mugga Ironbark vegetation on Travelling Stock Routes (TSRs) and roadsides in the Uralla Shire. The Group has identified the need for specific attention to habitat management for this threatened species in the Region.

6.3.3 Council Actions

The following Table provides a summary of actions that were being implemented by each of the Councils during 2008-2009 in relation to biodiversity. A number of the actions outlined below also relate to other Sections of this Report, such as water and land management.

BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS 2008-2009	
Weeds (New England Weeds Authority)	Inspections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conducted 1775 private property inspections - conducted 38 inspections of specific sites including aquaria and pet shops, nurseries, other businesses (e.g. weekend markets), Department of Land property, National Parks / Nature Reserves, Australian Rail Track Corporation land New England Livestock Health and Pest Authority reserves

Weeds (New England Weeds Authority – NEWA) (continued)	<p>Weed Control Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 4000km of Southern New England Council roads treated for Blackberry, Sweet Briar, Serrated Tussock and St Johns Wort- special run for treatment of Coolatai Grass and African Lovegrass in Walcha LGA to deal with isolated infestations- Walcha parks treated for bindii eye and broadleaf weeds- roadside furniture (i.e. guide posts/guard rails) treated for all Councils- water storage areas / waste transfer stations / treatment plants treated for noxious weeds- Pesticides Notification plans are on all council websites and updated when required <p>Education Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- NEWA continues to work closely with Landcare and holds weed identification days at Landcare Field Days- weeds identification displays at Armidale Show, Wool Expo and Walcha Timber Expo- weeds identification day at Puddledock Hall- five Serrated Tussock roadside identification sites maintained in SDC area- local campaign, mainly in Armidale urban area, to raise community awareness of Bridal Creeper as a noxious weed <p>CMA Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- (ADC) heavy weed infestations targeted in the Kelly's Plains area. Weeds removed from site and Armidale Dumaresq Council assisted with waiving tip fees- funding of \$15,00 provided by Northern Rivers CMA for the University of New England to study the Mexican Water Lily plant and determine its reproductive mechanisms and a suitable herbicide to treat the infestations- developing a plan of management for future treatment and control of Mexicam Water Lily <p>Privet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- programmed survey carried out within Armidale City. 560 inspection reports sent to residents with Privet. Follow up inspections to be carried out in 2009-2010
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<p>Companion Animals</p>	<p>All Councils Refer to Section 7 – Noise for additional detail of actions undertaken by each of the Councils in relation to barking dog complaints.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Education activities were undertaken throughout the year with programs provided to Primary Schools through the State Government sponsored “Spot the Dog” package. The Animal Shelter also presents Kids and Dogs initiatives to nursing mother’s groups, ante natal classes, Family Day Care and Child Care centre groups and parents.</p> <p>The Animal Shelter fosters a volunteer group and participation in programs for disadvantaged and at risk youth groups throughout the year.</p> <p>The Animal Shelter maintains a website to assist with re-homing activities and liaises with local and State-wide animal welfare groups in attempts to find homes for abandoned and unclaimed animals.</p> <p>These activities have resulted in a continued high profile of animal management within the Region and a continued rise in the number of animals reclaimed or re-homed from the shelter. 2008-2009 was the first time on record that the number of re-homed animals outnumbered the number of euthanised animals with reclaimed animals also increasing.</p> <p>Walcha Council Owners of animals the subject of complaints to Council are engaged and educated on their responsibilities in relation to responsible pet ownership. This has resulted in a general decline in the incidence of re-offending or repeat complaints being received.</p>
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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Removal / Loss of Habitat and Vegetation</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council On-going weed control and small scale plantings within two urban bushland reserves, being Snow Gums and Manna Gums Reserves. A Job Link Work for the Dole team assisted with this work which began in 2006 and will be concluded in late 2009.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council has commenced a project to re-establish habitat for the Regent Honeyeater (<i>Xanthomyza Phrygia</i>) in Bundarra. Contact with Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA / DECC Liaison Officer has been established and advice sought. Weed removal and control has been undertaken in a dedicated Nature Park site, vegetation identified as Grass Box Woodland and appropriate species sought from local nurseries to complement the existing habitat. The new plants to enhance the existing habitat will be planted in the Spring of 2009.</p> <p>Walcha Council Walcha Council continued to implement its street tree planting program.</p> <p>Council also received a Koala Plan of Management and Weed Assessment on land adjoining a rural residential subdivision. Council has resolved to be involved in the Koala Management project and are now investigating options to reduce the infestation of weeds in the study area.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Information and Awareness</p>	<p>All Councils In 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 applications were made on behalf of the Southern New England Councils for funding under the NSW Government's Planning Reform Fund for an expert analysis of areas subject to potential development pressure in relation to their biodiversity and habitat qualities. Unfortunately none of the applications have been successful, however, opportunities for studies or strategies to assess biodiversity values, either on a regional or more specific scale, will continue to be investigated.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Information and Awareness (continued)</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council A remnant Endangered Ecological Community (Manna Gum Snow Gum grassy woodland) was identified on the road reserve of Glen Innes Road within the urban area adjacent to Presbyterian Ladies College. This small area (<2,500m²) supports an almost completely intact ground stratum with canopy mostly lost due to regular mowing. The site was beginning to erode considerably due to bare patches resulting from regular low mows by the College grounds staff. Outcomes from discussions with staff and the school Principal was that the school would cease regular mowing of the site and pass responsibility to Council to manage similarly to grassland areas with the Armidale Arboretum. The EEC extends well within the school grounds with mature canopy trees. It was suggested that the area be conserved and brought to the attention of the students studying land management conservation and that it could be a valuable teaching resource and site for revegetation. After initial concerns, the school has accepted Council's desire to manage the sloping road verge for conservation. Mowing is now undertaken once or twice per year only in October and April (advice from UNE Botany Department) to reduce dry sward build up that damages Kangaroo grass in the long term and to open groundcover to promote expansion of herbaceous plants. Funds for interpretive signage at the site was sought from Northern Rivers CMA but was not successful. Council's Civic and Recreation Services section plans to erect a small sign to advise the public of this asset and explain the irregular mowing frequency.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bush Fire</p>	<p>All Councils Continue to support the NSW Rural Fire Service (refer to Section 3 – Land for further details of RFS activities).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Aquatic Habits and Riparian Areas</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Financial (\$25,000) and in-kind assistance was provided to the Armidale Urban Rivercare Group (AURG) for their on-going work in the restoration of the urban reaches of Dumaresq Creek. In-kind assistance included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the completion of a guidance document entitled 'Draft Revegetation Guidelines for the Revegetation of the Urban Reaches of Dumaresq Creek. The document provides maps, cross-sections and comprehensive information to enable the group to plan, define the extent of works and execute revegetation works in a way that balances the sometimes competing requirements for land use on the creeklands e.g. the requirements for sporting fields, open recreation areas, existing European landscape management, environmental benefits, aesthetics, cost of maintenance and social issues. The document was researched and written in consultation with AURG, UNE research group (Dr Darren Ryder), Department of Lands and represents other community values and the requirements of a range of community group stakeholders. The document was accepted by Council, placed on public exhibition and will be reviewed in 12 months.

- other in-kind assistance included the supply of a work team and machinery to assist with ground preparation and weed control and the supply of up to 25m of mulch donated by the Council Waste Management Facility.

As a result of Council funding and in accordance with the guidance document, the AURG has pressed ahead with the added assistance of local contractors in the preparation of large areas for planting up to 12,000 trees in spring 2009. On National Tree Day (5-6 September) over 2000 native trees and shrubs were planted on prepared ground by community volunteers organised by the AURG. Six (6) truck loads of mulch were donated by Council.

See also Chapter 5 - Water

Uralla Shire Council

Uralla Council continued its environmental project titled "Uralla Sub-Catchment Management Program". This is a long-term project and involves planning and on-ground works for stormwater and urban run-off management, in-stream bank stabilisation and erosion control works, weed removal and weed control programs and native riparian revegetation within the riparian zones of Uralla and Rocky Creeks. The project commenced in 2007.

As part of the project, on-ground works were completed on the sediment control dam at the headwaters of Uralla Creek with highly noticeable improvement in rainfall event water quality. A Planet Ark sponsored Tree Planting Day was held on this project site involving 35 students and 3 teachers from Uralla Central School. Over 2,000 trees, shrubs and native grasses were planted on the site.

A site specific technical inspection report on the upper reaches of Uralla Creek was carried out by Soil Conservation Services (SCS) in support of the Sub-Catchment Plan created by Border Rivers – Gwydir CMA staff. This report has been used to guide weed removal works and to plan sediment control and in-stream bank stabilisation works on upper Uralla Creek. A quote for these works has been obtained and adopted by Council. The project works have been placed into future budgetary plans and funding opportunities are being sourced.

Riparian vegetation rehabilitation programs were conducted, also based on the Sub-Catchment Plan Document and the SCS report for this project, by a Greening Australia Green Corps Team that was sponsored by Southern New England Landcare, hosted and fully supported by Uralla Shire Council. The team removed exotic weeds from four Council owned sites along Uralla Creek and planted 800 native trees, shrubs and grasses on the riparian zone. The team also worked in a remote location on the Gwydir River to clear exotic weeds and build protective fencing around a recognised cultural heritage site.

The Uralla Sub-Catchment Project Plan also provides recommendations for willow tree and other exotic deciduous tree control on riparian zones. These recommendations have been adopted by Council.

Biodiversity in High Country (HiCUB)

In December 2008 it was announced that Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha Councils had been successful in obtaining a grant of \$2 million from the NSW Environmental Trust for Urban Sustainability. This project, called HiCUB (previously known as Biodiversity in High Country) will occur over two and a half years and provide community education, monitoring and evaluation, technical studies and on-ground rehabilitation works across the Region, including riparian restoration works.

The objectives of the project are to:

- improve the ecological health of urban riparian and bush lands, reduce weeds, increase in area and quality of native vegetation, erosion remediation and improved habitat linkages at landscape scale.
- improve the effectiveness of councils and community effort toward environmental rehabilitation through improved integration, collaboration and greater knowledge transfer between councils and stakeholders.
- monitor, evaluate and implement improvement in approaches to rehabilitation of urban areas
- increase long-term participation in urban ecosystem rehabilitation targeting community volunteerism and investment from private and government sources
- improve resource use efficiency - increase utilization of council mulch; increase uptake of rebates for rainwater tanks, and alternative energy technology; decrease nutrient load in town water supply.

6.3.4 Community / Agency Actions

Birds Australia – Northern NSW Group

Birds Australia – Northern NSW Group has monitored Mugga Ironbark patches on Travelling Stock Routes (TSRs) and roadsides near Torryburn and on the Bundarra Rd in Uralla Shire for the occurrence of Regent Honeyeaters (an endangered species). A breeding population was found along the Gwydir River near Torryburn and in the Gwydir Park Road TSR in November -December 2008. The Gwydir River and the Gwydir Park Road TSR are known core habitat where Regent Honeyeaters have bred in past years and are expected to do so again in 2009.

During 2008-2009 Birds Australia – Northern NSW Group also completed an approximately 2ha tree-planting project and signage in Gwydir Park Road TSR at Torryburn, partly funded by Boral as part of their environmental management plan for rehabilitating their licensed sand quarry on the Gwydir River.

Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc.

During 2008-2009 Citizens Wildlife Corridors Armidale Inc. completed the following projects:

- enclosed a 1.4km stretch of old growth woodland on Lyndon Rd, Blue Wren Rd, Arundel Drive North and an unnamed road reserves north of Armidale to protect it from damage by vehicular traffic. The project was assisted by a grant from Newcastle Permanent Building Society Ltd. Previously Crown Road Reserves, they were dedicated as public roads and will be closed and managed by Council as part of the Armidale Walking Track network. These road reserves support koala populations and locally threatened flora.
- issued a Final Report in March 2009 relating to a NSW Environmental Trust Grant for restoration of vegetation corridors in the Armidale area. A summary

of on-ground work achieved under the Grant is outlined below and a copy of the report is included in Appendix L.

- 3900m of fencing completed to protect plantings of native species by landholders on 13 properties. An additional 3600m of fencing (unfunded) was erected by landholders involved in the project.
- cooperation between neighbouring properties to create wider wildlife corridors and planting to benefit the wider area
- 8620 seedlings, locally grown and from local seed have been planted
- total of 26.39ha fenced and protected – most planted to local native species
- 6000m of wildlife corridor established
- 14.87ha of riparian land fenced and protected
- approximately 3000m of creek bank protected from stock damage

Ebor VillageLink - VillageView Project

A tree planting project under the 2006-2010 Action Plan has been completed with tree guards and planting being carried out. This project was funded and carried out by Armidale Dumaresq & Guyra Shire Councils, Ebor Progress Association Volunteers and Ebor Rural Fire Brigade Volunteers.

A riparian restoration project to fence a riparian zone, and conservation and recreation reserve is in progress and is due for completion in 2011. The project is being funded by a grant of \$88,250 under the NSW Environmental Trust

Successful negotiations with Livestock Health and Pest Authority and Department of Lands during 2007-2008 to establish a stock holding area at the south eastern entrance to the village.

SECTION 7 – WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Councils across the Southern New England Region continue to operate licensed solid waste landfill facilities, along with various rural transfer stations to service smaller settlements and rural communities. All of the Southern New England Councils are actively involved in recycling, working to reduce overall waste generation and improving waste management.

Armidale Dumaresq Council is working to develop a regional landfill facility that will have capacity to handle waste from across the Region. The planning stage of this proposal has continued during 2008-2009 with preparation of environmental assessment documentation.

7.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION

The environmental indicators outlined below have been used to assess and monitor the state, or condition of the environment with respect to waste, waste management and resource recovery over a number of years. This section provides up-dated data for the respective environmental indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines significant trends.

7.2.1 Waste Management Facilities

Each of the four (4) Councils in the Southern New England Region operate landfill facilities and/or transfer stations as part of their waste management operations. The location and type of facility for each local government area is outlined in the Table below.

Table 16: Waste Management Facilities in the Southern New England Region

LGA	Facility Type	Location
ADC	landfill and waste transfer station	Armidale
	waste transfer station	Tilbuster
	waste transfer station	Wollomombi
	waste transfer station	Ebor
	waste transfer station	Hillgrove
GSC	waste transfer station	Guyra
	landfill	Tingha
	landfill	Ben Lomond
USC	sanitary depot	Guyra
	landfill and recycling centre	Uralla
	landfill and recycling centre	Bundarra
	landfill	Kingstown
WC	landfill and recycling depot	Walcha
	landfill	Nowendoc
	landfill	Woolbrook

7.2.2 Waste Collection Services

Waste collection services were operated in each of the Southern New England Region Council areas during 2008-2009. The following Table shows the number and type of services operated by each Council during 2008-2009 and a comparison of total collection services operated from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009.

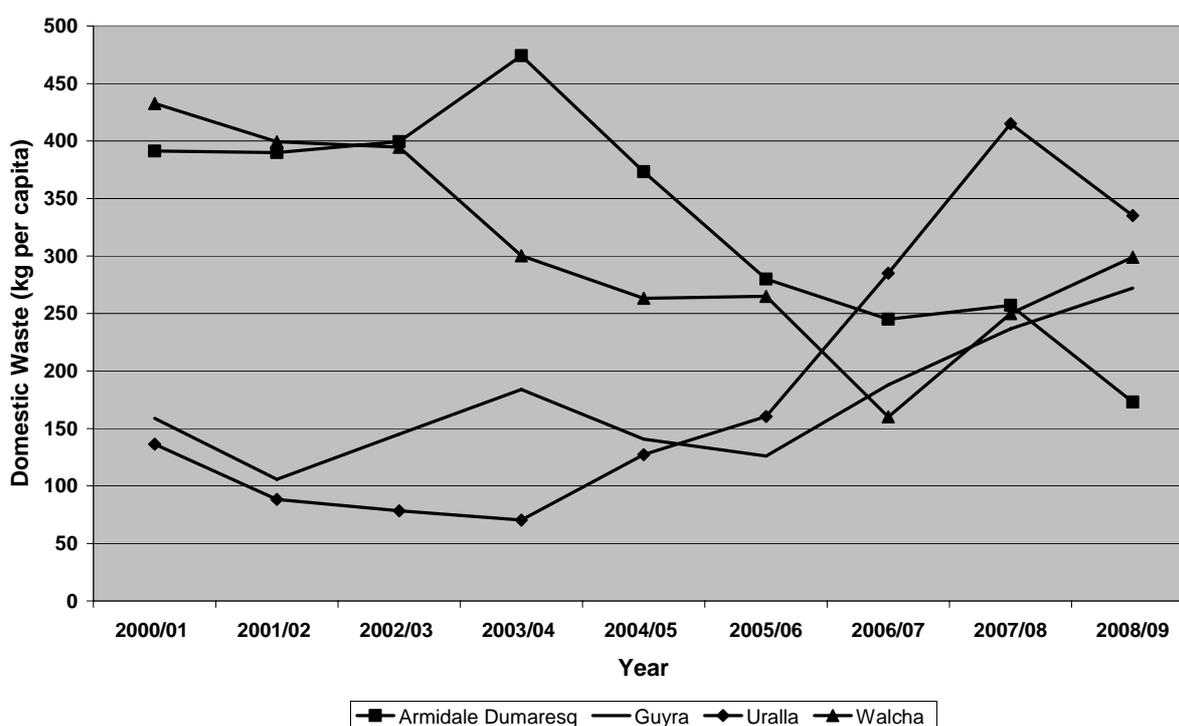
Table 17: Number and Types of Waste Collection Services by LGA

Number / Type of Waste Collection Service	ADC	GSC	USC	WC
domestic	8555	1017	1470	767
commercial	760	128	176	193
other		7	27	10
Total number of services in 2008-2009	9315	1152	1673	970
Total number of services in 2003-2004	7660	1266	1381	832

7.2.3 Waste Generation and Disposal

Domestic waste generation across the Southern New England Region is measured to allow comparisons over time for the amount of domestic waste generated per capita and the total amounts of domestic waste deposited to landfill. Figure 29 shows comparative data for domestic waste generated per capita for the four Southern New England Region Councils since 2000-2001. The longer term averages for domestic waste generation per capita for both Armidale and Walcha have fallen since 2000-2001, while Guyra and Uralla have both increased over the same period. Uralla did experience a decline in per capita waste generation during 2008-2009, however the current per capita average is still above 2000-2001 levels.

Figure 29: Domestic Waste per Capita (2000-2001 to 2008-2009)



The total amount of domestic waste deposited to landfill for each local government area during 2008-2009 was as follows:

- ADC 4376 tonnes* (14035 tonnes total waste deposited to landfill)
- GSC 1199 tonnes (1213 tonnes total waste deposited to landfill)
- USC 2011 tonnes (2865 tonnes total waste deposited to landfill)
- WC 980 tonnes

(* domestic waste collected by JR Richards collection service)

7.2.4 Recycling

Recyclable materials are measured in a similar way to domestic waste to allow comparisons between Councils over a number of years. Table 17 shows the total amount of recyclables collected by each Council during 2008-2009. Figures are not available to provide a comparison to the reported amount of recyclables being collected at the time of the last Comprehensive Report in 2003-2004. Table 18 shows an approximate breakdown of the types of recyclable materials collected during the current reporting period.

Table 18: Amount of Recyclables Collected (2008-2009)

LGA	Recyclables (tonnes)	Green Waste
ADC	12786	3740 tonnes
GSC	233	~ 800 tonnes
USC	1911	1450 tonnes
WC	485	~ 1000m ³

Table 19: Recyclables by Type in 2008-2009 (approximate % values)

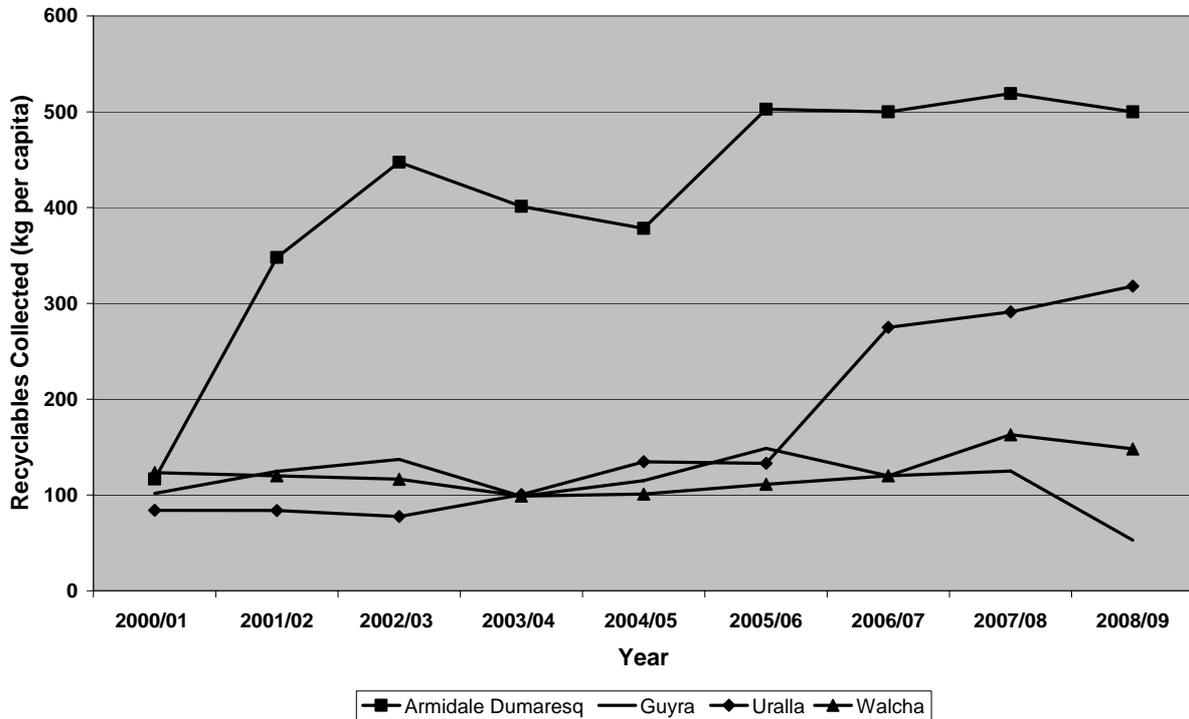
Recyclables	Approximate % of Material per LGA			
	ADC*	GSC	USC	WC
Metals	1.4		16	25
Paper/Cardboard	73.3	57	61	40
Glass	21	34	14	15
Plastics	4.3	5	8	10
Aluminium		4	0.3	
Batteries			0.7	
Other				10

(* ADC figures refer to materials collected by Council kerb side pick-up service and do not include other recyclable materials delivered to Council's waste management facility, such as 363.8 tonnes of metals)



Figure 30 shows comparative data of recyclables per capita for the four Southern New England Region Councils since 2000-2001.

Figure 30: Recyclables per Capita (2000-2001 to 2008-2009)



7.3 WASTE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Activities and issues that impact, or create pressure with respect to waste, waste management and resource recovery in the Southern New England Region are broadly identified as:

- domestic waste production
- levels of recycling
- operation of waste management facilities
- impact of waste on the environment
- pollution
- sewage

A significant waste management issue arising toward the end of the 2007-2008 reporting period was heightened community opposition to the proposed Regional Landfill east of Armidale, with concerns centred around the potential impact of the proposed facility on World Heritage listed sites further downstream. These concerns are being addressed in the Environmental Assessment and planning processes which continued during 2008-2009.

7.3.1 Council Actions

The following Table provides a summary of actions that were implemented by each of the Councils during 2008-2009 in response to pressures identified above.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE RECOVERY ACTIONS 2008-2009	
Domestic Waste Production	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Strategies aimed at waste minimisation included development of promotional material through NIRW group including personal ashtrays and car tidy bags, along with a TV advertisement encouraging landowners to clean up rubbish on their properties.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council staff are currently undertaking research in to the future viability of providing an automated recycling collection service using 240 litre wheelie bins and providing 120 litre bins for general waste</p> <p>Walcha Council Council's waste minimisation actions included continued contact with school groups and local media to encourage recycling, DrumMuster, waste reduction and other initiatives.</p> <p>Anecdotal evidence suggests a continued improvement in public usage of recycling facilities and tidy use of the landfill.</p>
Recycling	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council runs a second hand shop for used goods, processes green waste into mulch, processes concrete into two grades of crushed concrete, metal is collected and sold and wood waste is chipped for use at the landfill.</p> <p>In doing so, 100% of the green waste and concrete is processed and sold, and all wood waste is used as a cover material to reduce wind blown litter at the landfill.</p> <p>Through its Waste Management Committee, Council has commenced discussions with Armidale Recycling Services for potential implementation of a commercial and industrial recycling service, similar to the existing domestic service for Armidale residents.</p> <p>Council continues to collect and process electronic waste components (e-waste) with 81 tonnes processed for reuse or recycling during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Council collected 2882 drums for recycling through the Drum Muster program.</p> <p>Council has established sharps collection bins in Armidale</p> <p>Fluorescent bulb collection points have been established and operate at two local lighting shops.</p>

Recycling (continued)	<p>Uralla Shire Council Council is investigating viability of providing an automated recycling collection service using 240 litre wheelie bins and providing 120 litre wheelie bins for general waste</p> <p>Walcha Council Council collected 4040 drums through the Drum Muster program along with conducting education programs associated with Drum Muster.</p>
Landfill Operation	<p>All Councils Continued membership of the Northern Inland Regional Waste Group, which have been involved in projects concerning chemical collection, drum muster, green waste processing, concrete crushing, metal collection, battery collection, oil and paint collection, florescent lighting collection, Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), study for Long Swamp Road landfill, sharps disposal bins, true cost of landfill study, educational material and road signs to reduce litter.</p> <p>All Councils have benefited from membership of this regionally based group through improved bargaining power on contracts (e.g. metal sales, green waste mulching, etc.) and greater access to promotional and educational material.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Investigating options for alternative waste technology facility to stabilise residual waste and possibly compost organics.</p> <p>Rehabilitation of the former Tilbuster landfill was undertaken to meet Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water requirements</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council Sale of recyclable materials, including steel, aluminium, plastics and cardboard/paper.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council During 2007-2008 Uralla Shire Council commenced regulated open hours and staffing of the Bundarra landfill which has resulted in a general decrease in waste going to landfill and an increase in recycling from this facility.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council has conducted sale of recyclable materials, including green waste and cardboard/paper.</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Impact of Waste on the Environment</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council 85 Category 1 Trade waste inspections were completed during 2008-2009..</p> <p>8 incidents of non-compliance were detected, requiring re-inspection. All follow up inspections were satisfactory.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council undertakes quarterly monitoring of methane levels, water quality / quality assurance at its Uralla landfill. The landfill continues to operate in accordance within its environmental protection license requirements.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council undertakes monitoring of surface water, groundwater, leachate analyses in accordance with environmental protection license conditions. The landfill continues to operate in accordance within its environmental protection license requirements.</p> <p>Council conducted trade waste inspections during 2008-2009.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Pollution</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Received 16 pollution complaints related to waste in 2008-2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 56% of these were related to potential or actual pollution of waterways, with the remaining 44% being reports of rubbish on properties (i.e. not making use of regular Council collection services). - 78% of pollution of waterways incidents were investigated within 24 hours, with the remaining 22% investigated within 48 hours. For rubbish reports, 42% were investigated within 24 hours, 29% within 48 hours and the remaining 29% within one week. <p>As a result of investigations, Penalty Infringement Notices were issued for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pollution of Dumaresq Creek via diesel and oil wash down flowing into Council's roadside gutter from vehicle servicing premises. - pollution of Council's stormwater system via wash down of metal parts coated with toxic compounds at vehicle repair premises. - significant discharge of raw effluent into Council's roadside gutter and stormwater system by a plumber servicing blockage at residential premises (note: clean-up costs were awarded but no penalty issued). <p>Guyra Shire Council Six (6) separate incidents of rubbish found either in travelling stock route or road reserve. Where identification information was found within the rubbish, investigations were made to identify the alleged offender/s who were then questioned and depending on the circumstances, arrangements were made for waste to be removed and disposed of in the normal way. For non-identifiable waste, it was removed and disposed of at the appropriate landfill or transfer station.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council One (1) incident of illegal dumping was detected and a Penalty Infringement Notice was issued.</p>

Sewage	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council undertakes monitoring of ground water, surface water, surface and sub-surface soils at its Sewage Treatment Plant. Effluent and bio-solids are analysis before application to land.</p> <p>Council initiated analysis of a suspected leak from maturation ponds. Preliminary evidence suggests it is not likely to be effluent, but rather more likely to be groundwater.</p> <p>Approximately 50% of all effluent is reused in agriculture - cropping and pasture.</p> <p>Following a recent Infiltration Study of water entering the sewage system, Council initiated catchment investigations during high rainfall events to isolate catchments with inflow and infiltration problems.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council There were no incidents of non-compliance with environmental protection license conditions relating to Council's sewer treatment facility.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council detected one sewer overflow in the vicinity of Mt Mutton from a main sewer reticulation trunk line. Discharge was found to have occurred from a specific manhole. Infiltration by tree roots contributed towards blockages which resulted in the surcharge. Subsequent clean up works were undertaken within 24 hours, resulting in minimal pollution of adjacent water course.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council undertakes monitoring of its sewer treatment facility in relation to secondary effluent BOD, TSS, pH and tertiary effluent pH, oil & grease, BOD, TSS, TP, TN, conductivity, NH₃, Kjeldahl N, Nitrate & Nitrite, Chlorophyll-a and total coliforms.</p> <p>Results for 2008-2009 are similar to previous years with slightly reduced nutrient levels and more consistent BOD and TSS levels and generally higher Chlorophyll-a levels.</p>
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SECTION 8 – NOISE

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Noise pollution and issues associated with noise generation are generally not significant environmental problems across the Southern New England Region. A number of noise complaints are usually received by the respective Councils each year, but historically these tend to be isolated incidents or noise related to an identifiable point source. There has been no noticeable change to this situation during the 2008-2009 reporting year.

At present, there is no regular noise monitoring undertaken by any of the Councils or Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). Any monitoring that is carried out is usually in response to complaints or specific issues. Land use zoning within the four urban areas of Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, and consideration of potential noise generation during the development assessment process also helps to confine potentially noisy activities to suitable areas and aims to ensure appropriate operation of such activities. In addition, all Councils endeavour to respond promptly to noise complaints to minimise potential impacts on residents and the environment.

The predominant issue in the Southern New England Region with regard to noise pollution continues to be barking dogs.



8.2 NOISE IN THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGION

The following indicators have been established to monitor the state, or condition, of noise within the Southern New England Region. This section provides an up-date on the indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends.

8.2.1 Noise Monitoring

In many cases noise monitoring is undertaken by Council staff as a response to noise complaints and to determine if the noise is offensive. If the noise is considered to be offensive then actions are put in place to minimise any adverse impacts. Following are details of specific noise monitoring undertaken during 2008-2009.

Armidale Dumaresq Council

Monitoring of a refrigeration compressor at a local bottleshop was conducted over one evening to assess the decibel level of the compressor motor compared with normal background levels. The recorded data was never required to be analysed as simultaneous engagement with the premises owner resulted in a timer being installed on the motor to restrict operation times. This outcome has since proved satisfactory to both the complainant and the premises manager.

Noise monitoring was undertaken by ERM Australia in September 2008 following Councils requirement for Kleenheat Gas to provide an acoustic report for its depot. The request for an acoustic report was in response to ongoing noise being heard from the Kleenheat depot in the industrial estate by nearby residents. Council issued a Noise Control Notice to Kleenheat Gas to control noise emissions from the depot.

Guyra Shire Council

Guyra Shire Council has not undertaken any specific noise monitoring during 2006-2007 to 2008-2009. Council does however continue routine investigation and follow-up checks on noise complaints, generally from barking dogs.

Uralla Shire Council

Monitoring was undertaken as part of Council's standard operating procedure in response to noise complaints to establish if a complaint was valid. In most cases where a complaint was verified the occupier of the premises (noise source) was interviewed and a warning (verbal or in writing) issued. In some cases an Order was issued. None of the noise complaints received by Council resulted in Court action being required during 2008-2009.

Walcha Council

Walcha Council undertook noise monitoring during 2008-2009 in response to a complaint relating to a commercial operation. Notices were served on the occupier to install specific noise reducing equipment.

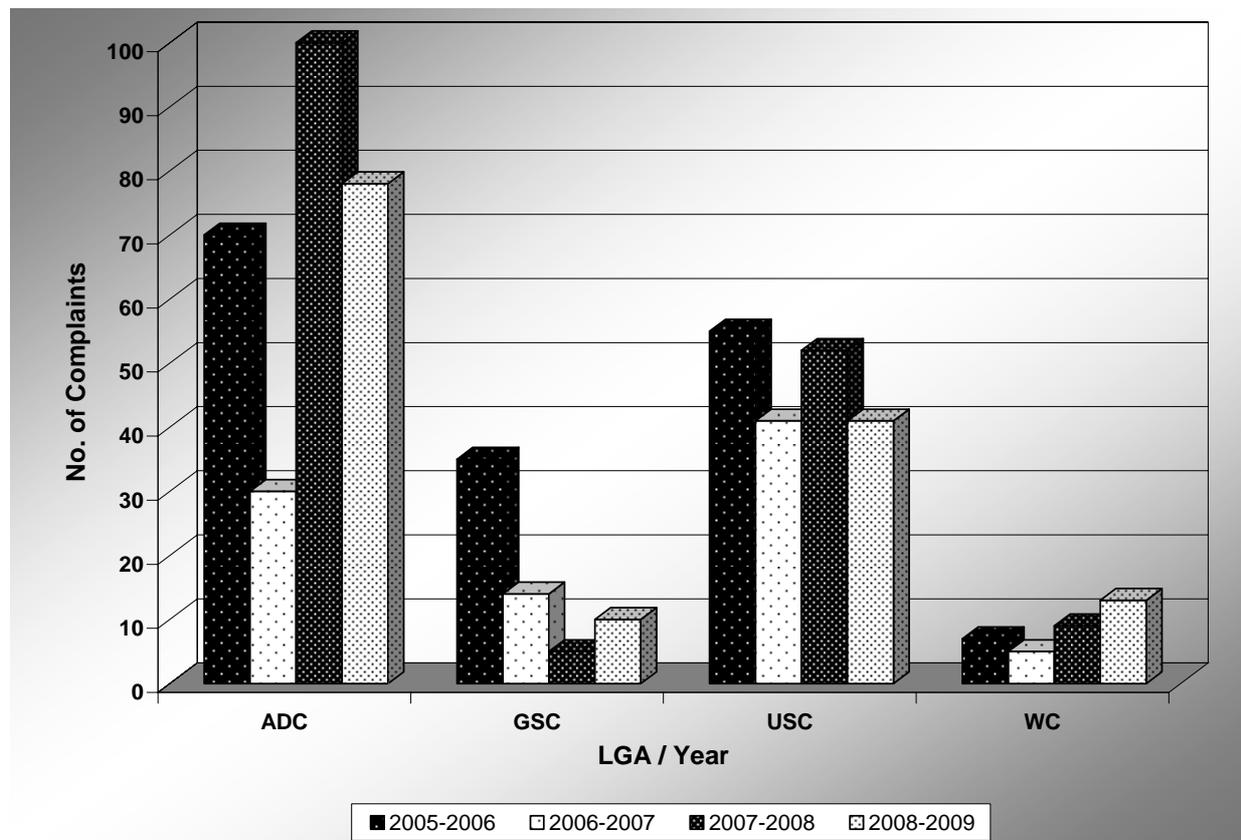
8.2.2 Noise Complaints

The total number of noise complaints received by Councils across the Southern New England Region over the last four (4) reporting periods has averaged at 141 complaints per year. In 2008-2009 a total of 142 complaints were received compared to 166 in 2007-2008, 90 in 2006-2007 and 167 in 2005-2006.

The number of noise complaints received by Armidale Dumaresq Council and Uralla Shire Council fell in 2008-2009 compared to 2007-2008, while Guyra Shire and Walcha Councils both experienced increased numbers of noise complaints over the same period, albeit for a generally low number of complaints in both cases.

Details relating to the number of complaints received by each Council and the trend in complaint levels over the last four reporting periods is shown below in Figure 31.

Figure 31: Noise Complaints Received by Councils Across the Southern New England Region

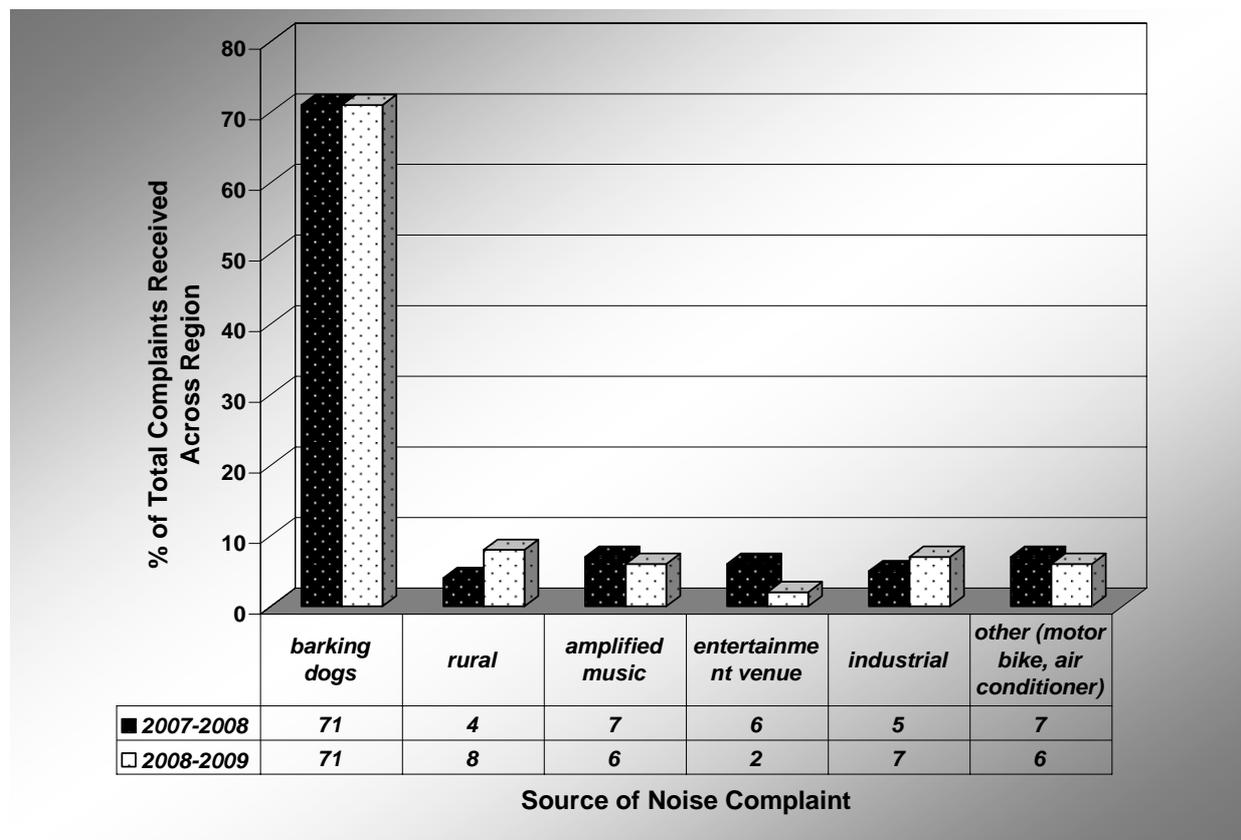


Across the Southern New England Region, the majority of noise complaints continue to come from barking dogs, remaining at 71% of all noise complaints. Both Armidale Dumaresq and Uralla Shire Councils experienced a reduction in the number of noise complaints from barking dogs in 2008-2009 compared to the previous reporting period (10 and 17 respectively), while Guyra Shire and Walcha Councils received an increased number of noise complaints relating to barking dogs over the same period (5 and 4 respectively). These figures correspond with trends in the overall number of complaints received across the Region, highlighting the issue of barking dogs as the major source of noise complaints within the Region.

Other noise complaints were received in relation to rural noise, amplified music, entertainment venues, industrial activity or other sources including refrigeration units and motor bikes. The overall number of complaints relating to these sources has remained relatively low for the last two reporting periods.

Figure 32 below shows the percentage (%) of total noise complaints by source received by the Councils across the Southern New England Region during 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Figure 32: Percentage of Total Noise Complaints by Source Across the Southern New England Region for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009



8.2.3 Environment Protection Licences

There are seven (7) premises in the Southern New England Region that have environment protection licences issued under Section 55 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* with conditions relating to noise. The following Table identifies the premises with noise licence conditions and any incidents of non-compliance with licence conditions for annual licence returns submitted during 2008-2009.

Table 20: Environment Protection Licences - Noise

Lic. No.	Activity / Licensee	Compliance with License Conditions
Armidale Dumaresq LGA		
5860	Waste Management Facility (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied
11319	Armidale Hospital (Hunter New England Health Service)	no longer in force
921	Hillgrove Mine (Straits (Hillgrove) Gold Pty Ltd)	1 incident of exceeding ambient noise criteria
12481	Metz Quarry (Boral Resources)	complied
12123	Armidale Airport Helicopter Activities (Armidale Dumaresq Council)	complied

Guyra LGA		
11792	Guyra Quarry (Inverell Aggregate Supplies)	complied
Uralla LGA		
5899	Landfill (Uralla Shire Council)	complied
Walcha LGA		
6120	Waste Depot (Walcha Council)	complied

8.3 NOISE ISSUES AND ACTIONS

8.3.1 Noise Sources

While noise is not considered to be a significant environmental issue within the Southern New England Region, the following sources and impacting activities have been broadly identified as those that create pressure on the environment in respect to noise:

- barking dogs
- transport (including airport and aircraft noise)
- industry
- waste management activities and facilities
- noise from rural activities
- urban noise (including loud music, air-conditioners, etc.)

No additional activities or noise related issues (pressures) have been identified during 2008-2009.

8.3.2 Response to Noise Issues

Councils' general response to noise issues can be categorised into the following areas:

- strategic land use planning
- on-site noise reduction techniques
- policies and guidelines developed by state and local government organisations
- maintenance of noise complaints register and protocols to deal with all serious noise complaints expeditiously.

The following Table provides a summary of actions that were being implemented by each of the Councils during 2008-2009 in response to noise related issues.

NOISE ACTIONS 2008-2009																	
Land Use Planning / Policies and Guidelines	<p>All Councils The Councils have continued with preparation of a regional based local environmental plan which will reinforce appropriate land use zoning and development controls for potential noise generating activities.</p> <p>Ensure assessment of potential noise generating activities and apply appropriate consent conditions, as required, when considering development applications.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council has identified a potential issue with respect to highway and airport noise and the regulation / enforcement of noise attenuation measures in new dwellings approved as Complying Development under <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i>. Negotiations to resolve this issue are on-going with the NSW Department of Planning.</p>																
Responding to Complaints	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council For noise complaints, other than those relating to barking dogs, an on-site inspection and assessment is firstly conducted. In all cases, relevant parties were engaged verbally and the complaints were resolved.</p> <p>The following Table shows a breakdown of noise complaint investigations in terms of type and response time for 2008-2009.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Noise Source</th> <th style="text-align: center;">< 24 hours</th> <th style="text-align: center;">< 48 hours</th> <th style="text-align: center;">> 72 hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amplified Music</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33% (all within three weeks)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industrial Noise</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50% (within one week)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td style="text-align: center;">25%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">75% (within one week)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Uralla Shire Council The following steps are following in responding to noise complaints:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) validate the complaint, determine where the noise is being generated and if it is 'offensive'. (ii) interview the occupier of the premises. (iii) advise complainant of outcome and request further information (evidence) if the offensive noise continues. Evidence would need to detail days/times and duration of the offensive noise. Upon receipt of the information an Order would be served. <p>Four (4) nuisance orders were issued for barking dogs during 2008-2009.</p> <p>Walcha Council A consultant was engaged to undertake noise monitoring for the complaint relating to a commercial premises.</p>	Noise Source	< 24 hours	< 48 hours	> 72 hours	Amplified Music	50%	17%	33% (all within three weeks)	Industrial Noise	50%	-	50% (within one week)	Other	25%	-	75% (within one week)
Noise Source	< 24 hours	< 48 hours	> 72 hours														
Amplified Music	50%	17%	33% (all within three weeks)														
Industrial Noise	50%	-	50% (within one week)														
Other	25%	-	75% (within one week)														

Barking Dogs	Armidale Dumaresq Council			
	Issue nuisance orders for dog related noise, hire out anti-barking collars and/or sell husher muzzles			
		2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
	issue nuisance order	18	15	1
	anti-barking collars	10	-	-
	Husher muzzels	16	-	11
	Guyra Shire Council			
	The main method of responding to complaints about barking dogs was firstly to make the owners aware of the issue. Nearly all barking cases occurred when the dog was left at the property unattended by the owner or carer. Council staff would liaise with the owners to educate them about behavioural methods and physical methods that were available to prevent nuisance in the future and also investigate the possibility of an outside source (neighbours dogs, pets, traffic, harassment, etc.) contributing to the issue. If after initial contact and discussion there is no improvement from the original complaints, seek compliance through notices to owner.			
	In the majority of cases, once the problem was identified the owner changed the scenario which caused the dog to bark and in one case the dog was relocated to a rural location away from neighbours.			
	Uralla Shire Council			
Rangers talk to dog owners firstly then issue a warning and advise methods of controlling barking. If called back to the same premises again then a nuisance order is actioned.				
Issuing of nuisance orders for dog related noise, hire out anti-barking collars and/or sell husher muzzles				
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	
issue nuisance order	3	5	4	
anti-barking collars	-	-	-	
Husher muzzels	11	-	8	
Walcha Council				
Complaints are actioned within 24 hours of the complaint being received and the action taken depends on the nature of the problem.				
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	
issue nuisance order	n/a	-	-	
anti-barking collars	n/a	-	3	
Husher muzzels	n/a	8	-	

SECTION 9 – ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

9.1 INTRODUCTION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are complex and diverse. Indigenous communities have kept their cultural heritage alive by passing their knowledge, arts, rituals and performances from one generation to another, speaking and teaching languages, protecting cultural materials, sacred and significant sites, and objects.

Aboriginal heritage includes places and items that are important to the local Aboriginal community. These are places or objects that people have a connection to, both physically and spiritually. Aboriginal heritage can include natural features such as creeks or mountains, ceremonial or story places or areas of more contemporary cultural significance such as Aboriginal missions or post contact sites.

Aboriginal places and objects are an important part of the rich heritage of NSW and should be protected for future generations due to their significance to Aboriginal communities and because of the links they provide to culture, the environment and knowledge.

9.2 THE STATE OF ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The extent of Aboriginal heritage can sometimes be difficult to ascertain due to sensitivities associated with identifying sites of significance. Within this context, the environmental indicators outlined below have been identified to assess and monitor the state, or condition of the environment with respect to Aboriginal Heritage. This section provides up-dated data for the respective environmental indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends.

9.2.1 Population

The 2006 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows that the Aboriginal population in the Southern New England Region at that time was 2,181. The total Indigenous population for the region has grown by 703 people (48%) since the 1991 Census. In addition to the growth in population, the percentage of the Aboriginal population has also increased across the Region, and at the 2006 Census made up 5.9% of the total population. The proportion of indigenous people living in the Southern New England Region at the 2006 Census was higher than the Australian proportion of 2.3% and the NSW proportion of 2.1% of the total population.

Table 21: Aboriginal Population Statistics

		ADC	GSC	USC	WC	TOTAL
1991 Census	Male Indigenous	419	171	76	76	742
	Female Indigenous	448	154	66	68	736
	Total Indigenous	867	325	142	144	1478
	Total Area Population	25271	4724	5881	3589	39553
	% of Pop. Indigenous	3.4	6.9	2.4	4.1	3.7
1996 Census	Male Indigenous	515	173	134	83	905
	Female Indigenous	559	165	132	77	933
	Total Indigenous	1074	338	266	160	1838
	Total Area Population	25003	4262	5871	3248	38546
	% of Pop. Indigenous	4.3	7.9	4.5	5	4.8
2001 Census	Male Indigenous	614	227	162	89	1092
	Female Indigenous	627	184	132	84	1027
	Total Indigenous	1241	411	294	173	2119
	Total Area Population	23920	4206	5739	3155	37234
	% of Pop. Indigenous	5.2	9.8	5.1	5.6	5.7
2006 Census	Male Indigenous	590	216	157	95	1058
	Female Indigenous	645	215	171	92	1123
	Total Indigenous	1235	431	328	187	2181
	Total Area Population	23927	4177	5649	3199	36952
	% of Pop. Indigenous	5.2	10.3	5.8	5.8	5.9

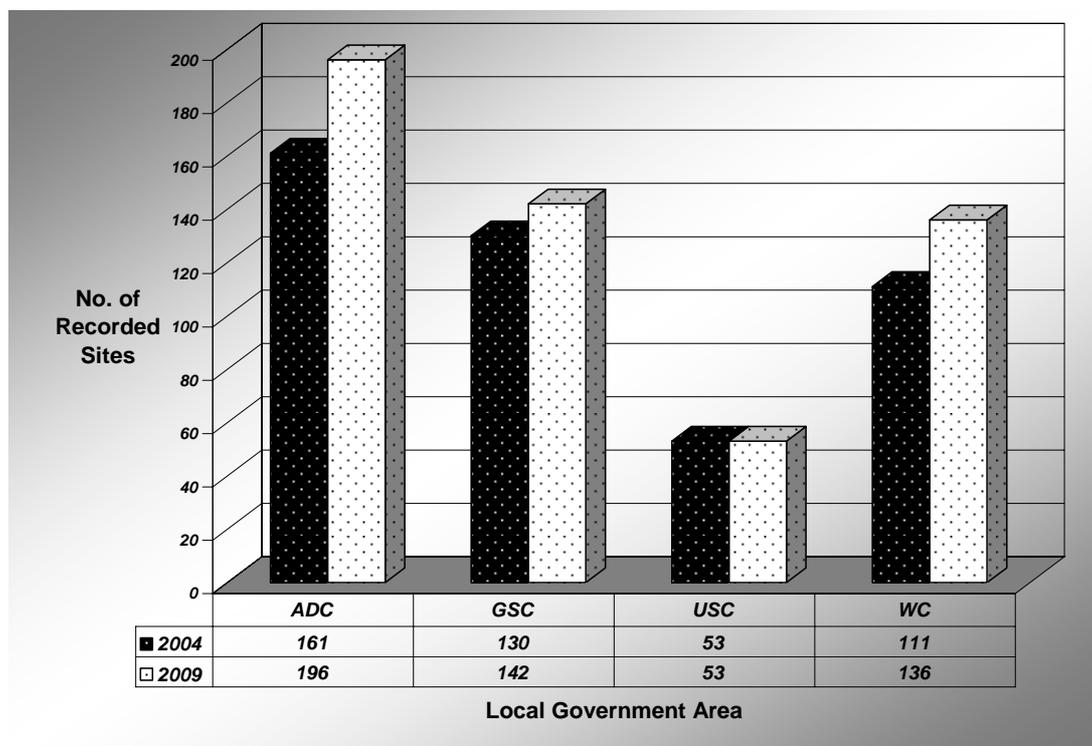
9.2.2 Number of Identified Aboriginal Sites

The Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) lists Aboriginal sites within NSW and records their location and any appropriate access restrictions to ensure their protection.

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change have advised that during 2008-2009, 23 sites were added to the AHIMS across the Southern New England Region, consisting of 17 sites in Armidale Dumaresq, 5 sites in Guyra Shire and 1 new site in the Walcha local government area. No new sites have been added in the Uralla Shire since 2004. Since the 2004 Southern New England Tablelands Region State of the Environment Report, a total of 72 new sites have been added to the AHIMS across the Region.

The following figure shows the number of recorded sites on the AHIMS in 2004 and 2009 by local government area.

Figure 33: Number of Sites Recorded on Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) in 2004 and 2009 by LGA
 (Source: NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change)



It should be noted that the AHIMS database only includes recorded sites. Large areas of NSW have not been subject to systematic survey or the recording of Aboriginal history. These areas may contain sites that are not listed on the Aboriginal Sites Register.

9.2.3 Number of Heritage Studies

In 2008-2009 the Aboriginal Heritage Office (North Sydney) prepared the following documents for Armidale Dumaresq Council:

Armidale Dumaresq Aboriginal Site Management Report 2008

The aims of this report are to:

- identify, access and re-record all known Aboriginal sites located in the Council area, where possible;
- provide a planning document for conserving Aboriginal cultural heritage values;
- provide a schedule for conservation works.

The report comprises management recommendations for existing and potential sites in the Armidale Dumaresq local government area. It provides information on the aims and objectives of the report, the Aboriginal Heritage Office, legislative responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage management, a brief Aboriginal history of the area, the number and type of Aboriginal sites recorded, criteria for assessing Aboriginal heritage potential and results of the current recording and monitoring program. There are 171 known sites recorded by the report within the Armidale Dumaresq local government area.

Armidale Dumaresq Aboriginal Potential Areas Report 2008

The purpose of this report is to identify and define areas of potential Aboriginal archaeological heritage located in Armidale Dumaresq. The report also provides strategies and recommendations for Council staff to ensure that Aboriginal heritage is properly considered during the planning stage of development – both private and Council activities. The report is a substantial first step toward potential area mapping. However, it should not be seen as an end result as unrecorded Aboriginal sites will continue to be identified and sites, site boundaries and potential area boundaries will continue to be refined as archaeological models improve and our understanding of Aboriginal heritage grows (Aboriginal Potential Areas Report 2008).

The Site Management Report and Potential Areas Report were presented to Armidale Dumaresq Council in 2008. Council is now working on implementation procedures, noting that the report findings and site identification information cannot be made public

The Aboriginal Heritage Office also completed a local Aboriginal History Project in Armidale with the assistance of the Armidale Elders Congress. The aim of the Project is to provide an insight into the Aboriginal history of Armidale.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal Heritage Office and Armidale Dumaresq Council continues until March 2010 with further training, survey work and community education programs to continue until then.

Walcha Council

Council has continued to prepare its Community Based Heritage Study that will incorporate Aboriginal Heritage. The Study is expected to be completed by December 2009.

9.2.4 Permits Issued Under National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) is responsible for approving and issuing permits under sections 87 and 90 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. An Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) is the statutory instrument that DECC issues under sections 87 and/or 90 to manage impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage objects and places.

Under section 87 of the Act, an AHIP is required if an Aboriginal object is to be disturbed or moved, or land is to be disturbed for the purposes of discovering an Aboriginal object. Under section 90 of the Act, an AHIP is required if an Aboriginal object or Aboriginal place is to be destroyed, damaged or defaced. Permits are required for work that could impact on Aboriginal heritage either positively or negatively.

During 2008-2009, one (1) Section 87 was received by DECC and one (1) Section 90 was issued for the Armidale Dumaresq local government area.

9.3 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ISSUES AND ACTIONS

9.3.1 Pressures Affecting Aboriginal Heritage

There are many issues and activities (pressures) affecting the preservation and management of Aboriginal Heritage, such as a limited understanding and knowledge of Aboriginal culture and heritage and limited knowledge regarding the location of significant sites.

Activities and issues that have been identified as potentially impacting or creating pressure on Aboriginal heritage in the Southern New England Region include:

- limited knowledge of Aboriginal sites and areas of significance
- loss of cultural heritage
- preservation of identified Aboriginal sites and artefacts
- understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people

9.3.2 Council Actions

The following section details the actions that were undertaken by the respective Councils during 2008-2009 in relation to Aboriginal heritage and in response to the pressures on Aboriginal Heritage within their local government area.

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACTIONS 2008-2009	
Limited Knowledge of Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Significance	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council During 2008-2009, Council became a full partner with the Aboriginal Heritage Office, North Sydney, alongside other metropolitan councils including Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Manly, Pittwater, Warringah and Willoughby. Armidale Dumaresq is the only regional Council invited to be part of the Partnership. The Partnership provides Council with expertise in identifying, preserving, and promoting local Aboriginal cultural heritage.</p> <p>In addition to the projects outlined in Section 9.2.3, the Aboriginal Heritage Office have been involved in an Aboriginal site survey (Scholes Street, Armidale), a schools education program and training of Council planning staff in use of the Site Management Plan and the Potential Sites Plan. Ten (10) staff attended Aboriginal Heritage training conducted by the Aboriginal Heritage Office.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council is continuing with its Community Heritage Study which incorporates Aboriginal Heritage. The study is expected to be completed by December 2009.</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Loss of Cultural Heritage</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council The Aboriginal Heritage Office has worked with the Armidale Elders Congress to complete a local Aboriginal History Project.</p> <p>Council has been involved in events to recognise and promote Aboriginal heritage within the area including NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, 1st anniversary of the Apology and work with the Gayinyaga Aboriginal Advisory Committee to identify the traditional owners of the area.</p> <p>Council is also working with the Gayinyaga Committee to establish Welcome Signs at the three entry points to Armidale.</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council Council participated in official functions to recognise NAIDOC Week</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Preservation of Identified Aboriginal Sites and Artefacts</p>	<p>All Councils Preparation of the New England Development Strategy and draft regional Standard Instrument local environmental plan has continued during 2008-2009 (see also Section 3.3.2)</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council The development of a Sites Management Plan and a Potential Sites Plan provides Council with a database of known local Aboriginal sacred and significant sites, and greater knowledge regarding the process of identification of new sites. This information will provide Council staff with detailed information about known local Aboriginal sites and will assist in the recognition, protection and preservation of these local sites.</p> <p>Walcha Council The Walcha Community Heritage Study will be used to inform future decisions on the management and preservation of identified sites of Aboriginal significance</p>

<p>Understanding Between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal People</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Council employs an Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer, who in addition to a number of other activities during 2008-2009 has negotiated with the Aboriginal Heritage Office for Armidale Dumaresq Council to become a member of the Partnership, facilitated the implementation of Council's Aboriginal Action Plan 2007-2011 and organised and hosted the 2008 Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference.</p> <p>Council strongly supports the Gayinyaga Aboriginal Advisory Committee, of which the Mayor is the Deputy Chair.</p> <p>Through it's Aboriginal Action Plan, Council supports celebrations like NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week that help highlight Aboriginal heritage and achievement.</p> <p>Council also hosted a celebration for the 1st anniversary of the Apology.</p> <p>Council supports the Gayinyaga Aboriginal Advisory Committee which meets monthly and provides a link between Council and the local Aboriginal community. Council also supports the Aboriginal Interagency, which meets bi-monthly.</p> <p>Walcha Council Council employs an Aboriginal and Torres Strait HACC worker who works with the aboriginal community.</p> <p>Regular meetings are held between Council and the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council</p>
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In addition to the activities outlined above, Armidale Dumaresq Council has also been involved with the following during 2008-2009:

- Council hosted the 2008 NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network Conference which is an annual conference held for Aboriginal workers employed in Local Government.
- Council participates in a School Based Traineeship which enables a young local Aboriginal Armidale High School student to work with the Council's Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for one day per week, and for one third of school holidays. The traineeship provides an opportunity for the participant to have first hand experience in the work place, and concludes with a Certificate in Administration, as well as their completed HSC.
- Council also supports Governance Training for members from the local Aboriginal community.
- implementation of the Armidale Dumaresq Council Aboriginal Action Plan 2007-2011.

SECTION 10 – NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE



10.1 INTRODUCTION

The Southern New England Tablelands region has an extensive and diverse non-aboriginal heritage. There is a strong awareness and appreciation of heritage in the region as reflected in the preparation of heritage studies, restoration of heritage buildings, design of new buildings in a manner sympathetic to surrounding heritage items, and public education and promotion of heritage.

10.2 THE STATE OF NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The following indicators have been reported and monitored in previous state of the environment reports for the Region to provide an indication as to the state or condition of non-aboriginal heritage in the Southern New England Region.

- number of heritage studies undertaken
- number of listed heritage sites
- level of funding obtained for heritage based projects
- number of Interim Heritage Orders issued.

Over recent years, additional measures of the state on non-Aboriginal heritage have been incorporated into supplementary state of environment reports. These indicators are:

- activities of Council's Heritage Advisor
- details of museum visitation

The following section provides an up-date on the indicators for 2008-2009 and outlines any significant trends over the period that the indicators have been reported.

10.2.1 Heritage Studies

Uralla Shire Council has commenced a community based Heritage Study which is expected to be completed in October 2009.

Walcha Council has continued preparation of a Community Based Heritage Study that commenced in 2005-2006 and is now expected to be completed by December 2009. The study is being undertaken in conjunction with the NSW Heritage Branch.

Armidale Dumaresq Council has completed a review of items identified in the former Dumaresq Shire Heritage Study with a recommendation that 15 items be included in Armidale Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan 2008 – Schedule 2 – Heritage Items.

Armidale Dumaresq Council has also completed an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study during 2008-2009 – refer to Section 9 for further details.

10.2.2 Heritage Items / Archaeological Sites

Local Heritage Items

Items of local heritage significance are listed in the local environmental plan of the respective Councils. None of the Council's local environmental plans were amended during 2008-2009 to include additional heritage items.

Armidale Dumaresq Council and Council's Heritage Advisor have completed an inspection and review of 44 potential additional items identified in a former Dumaresq Shire Heritage Study, with a recommendation that 15 be included as Heritage Items in the Armidale Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan 2008 – Schedule 2.

State Heritage Register

There are 27 items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register across the Southern New England Region. No new items were added to the Register in 2008-2009.

Archaeological Sites

A Draft (European) Archaeological Management Plan for Armidale was commenced by the University of New England in 2004, but has not yet been completed. The Plan has now been handed over the Council and its Heritage Advisor and is expected to be completed during 2009-2010. When completed, this Plan is expected to augment Local Environmental Plan provisions to safeguard and manage archaeological resources during the development process.

Conservation Management Plans

One conservation management plans was prepared during 2008-2009 for the Ursuline Convent at 131 Barney Street, Armidale.

10.2.3 Funding

The availability, or lack of, external funding for heritage projects has previously been identified as a significant issue affecting non-aboriginal heritage in the region. The level of funding that is provided for heritage projects gives an indication of the extent of government and community involvement in, and support for, the preservation of heritage items and values.

Funding for heritage projects is traditionally provided via various grant funding opportunities throughout the year. Details of funding received by Councils for heritage projects during 2008-2009 are outlined below in Section 10.3.2.

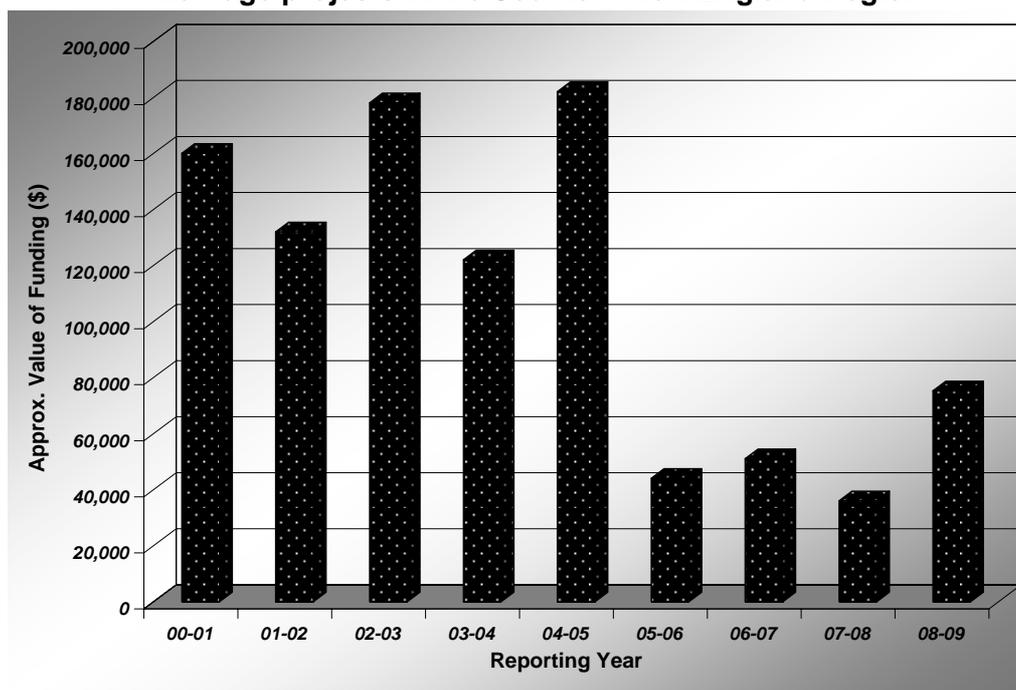
In April 2009, the NSW Planning Minister announced grants totalling \$3.4 million for successful projects under the \$5.3 million 2009-2011 NSW Heritage Grants program (www.heritage.nsw.gov.au). Projects within the Southern New England Region for which funding was announced include:

Table 22: Funding under NSW Heritage Grants Works Program 2009-2011

NSW Heritage Grants Works Program 2009-2011				
Community managed building works projects				
Project Name	Applicant	Purpose	LGA	Approved Funding
Newling Building (1928), Armidale, Year 5, Gymnasium Floor Replacement	Old Teachers College Armidale Inc	Replace the original flooring of the gymnasium of the 1928 former Teachers College at Armidale, now known as the Newling Building.	ADC	\$45,225
Privately-owned building works projects (commercial and residential)				
Project Name	Applicant	Purpose	LGA	Approved Funding
Former Stationmaster's Residence (c1880s), Armidale Conservation and Painting	Karin von Strokirch and Michael Smart	Undertake conservation works to the c.1880s former stationmaster's residence at Armidale, including exterior painting and the verandah.	ADC	\$30,000

Figure 34 shows the comparative value of known funding received for non-aboriginal heritage projects over the period from 2000-2001 to 2009-2010.

Figure 34: Monetary value of known grants received for non-Aboriginal heritage projects in the Southern New England Region



10.2.4 Interim Heritage Orders

No Interim Heritage Orders were issued across the Southern New England Region during 2008-2009. The issuing of Interim Heritage Orders is uncommon in the Region as no Orders have been made under s.25 of the *Heritage Act 1977* since August 2001 when delegation was granted to Councils by the then Minister for Urban Affairs and Planning.

10.2.5 Council Heritage Advisors

Table 22 provides an overview of activities undertaken by Heritage Advisors across the region during 2008-2009.

Table 23: 2008-2009 Council Heritage Advisor Activities

LGA	Site Visits	Heritage / Urban Design Advice	Pre-DA Advice	Advice to Council
ADC	25	35	5	35
GSC	4	0	0	2
USC	12	7	6	6
WC	0	0	0	0

10.2.6 Museum Visitation

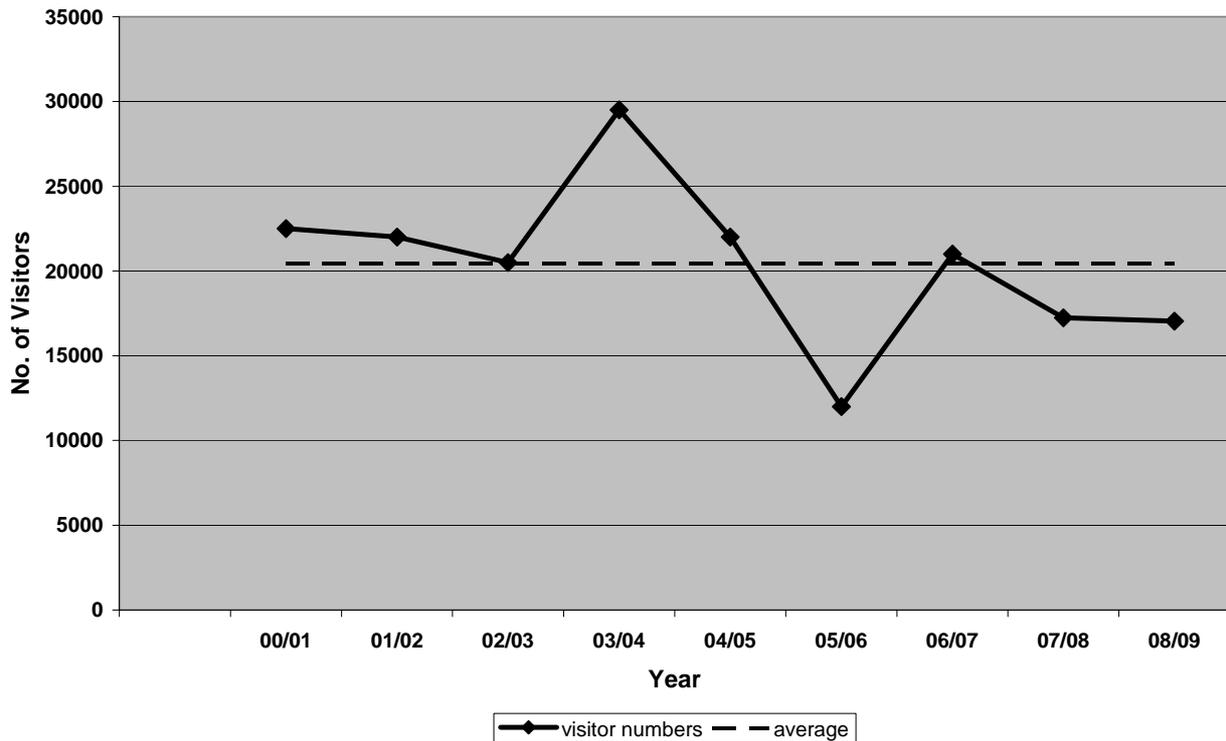
Visitor numbers to museums provide an indication of community interest in local history. Table 23 below shows a comparison of the reported number of annual visitors to various museums located in the Southern New England Region between 2003-2004 and 2008-2009. A similar trend of declining visitor numbers across all museums is evident over this period.

Table 24: Visitor Numbers to Museums in Southern New England Region

Museum	No. of visitors	
	2003-2004	2008-2009
ADC		
Armidale Folk Museum	9980	7858
Hillgrove Museum		1352
Armidale Bicentennial Railway Museum	~3500	1993
GSC		
Guyra Historical Museum	n/a	206
Wing Hing Long Emporium (Tingha)	2050	1670
USC		
McCrossin's Mill	5655	3985

Figure 35 shows that the annual total number of visitors to all museums (above) in the Region has also consistently declined since 2000-2001 despite a spike in visitors during 2003-2004. The total number of visitors to museums during 2008-2009 is also below the general average number of annual visitors recorded since 2000-2001 (approx. 20,800).

Figure 35: Total Number of Visitors to Museums in Southern New England Region



10.3 NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ISSUES AND ACTIONS

10.3.1 Pressures Affecting Non-Aboriginal Heritage

The issues and activities that broadly create pressure on non-aboriginal heritage items within the region are identified as:

- development (new development, urban consolidation, inappropriate redevelopment / restoration, impacts on streetscape)
- deterioration and damage
- community values and perception of heritage significance
- information management and loss of historical knowledge
- insufficient funding and difficulty in obtaining funding for heritage work

10.3.2 Council Actions

The following section details the actions being undertaken by the respective Councils in relation to non-Aboriginal heritage within their local government area during 2008-2009.

Armidale Dumaresq Council

Armidale Dumaresq Council’s overarching response to heritage matters has been the adoption in April 2008 of its Heritage Strategy 2008-2011. The Strategy, which is currently being implemented by Council, includes broad recommendations and a number of proposed actions to achieve these recommendations. Specific actions undertaken in response to the Strategy during 2008-2009 are included in the Table below.

NON-ABORIGINAL HERITAGE ACTIONS 2008-2009	
Development	<p>All Councils Preparation of the New England Development Strategy and draft regional local environmental plan has continued during 2008-2009 (see Section 3).</p> <p>Councils require conservation management plans to accompany development applications, where appropriate.</p> <p>Continue heritage advisory service via Council's respective Heritage Advisor, including advice to staff, pre-DA and general heritage advice to owners / intending applicants and comments on DAs affecting places of heritage significance.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Preparation of a draft up-dated heritage management development control plan.</p> <p>DA fees and charges waived where DAs for places of heritage significance would otherwise be exempt from the need for consent</p> <p>Council prepared a guideline for the installation of solar hot water systems on Heritage items and contributory buildings within the Heritage Conservation Areas in response to an increased number of public enquiries relating to Government rebates for installation of photovoltaic panels and solar hot water systems.</p> <p>As required, and in consultation with Heritage Branch Fire and Services / Access Advisory Panel, consider flexible approaches to building laws (where necessary) to ensure appropriate heritage conservation outcomes</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council A project for Council's Heritage Advisor to review classification of the Main Street precinct (Park St to King St) as a heritage conservation area for incorporation into a Regional LEP will be ongoing in 2009-2010.</p>
Deterioration and Damage	<p>All Councils Facilitate appropriate conservation outcomes via Heritage Advisory service</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council As required, promote and adhere to conservation management plans for major public buildings, especially those facing redevelopment</p> <p>Facilitate adaptive re-use of places of heritage significance, including use of conservation incentives clause in LEP, as required.</p> <p>Council proposes to prepare a brief Conservation Management Strategy for the Armidale Town Hall and the Armidale Folk Museum during 2009-2010.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council The McCrossins Mill kitchen has been refurbished to allow for ongoing fundraising to develop further restoration / conservation works.</p>

<p>Community Values and Perception of Heritage Significance</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Continue Council presence on local National Trust Committee (Saumarez)</p> <p>Provide opportunities for public access to local educational initiatives (e.g. McLeans Corner)</p> <p>Publicise and promote new listings and approved conservation management plans, as required.</p> <p>Review of Armidale Heritage Walk signage undertaken. New waypoint indicators to be funded in 2009-2010.</p> <p>Include media release regarding Local Heritage Fund in Mayoral column of Express newspaper</p> <p>Continue heritage promotion via free daily bus tour, self drive heritage trail and self guided walking tour</p> <p>Continue operation of Armidale Folk, Hillgrove and Bicentennial Railway Museums</p> <p>Guyra Shire Council Continue operation of Guyra Historical Museum and Wing Hing Long Store at Tingha</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Continued local heritage promotion through Tourism Officer at Visitor Information Centre</p> <p>A heritage walk and drive booklet was prepared and distributed</p> <p>Council is currently preparing a Conservation Management Plan to allow for conservation of the Pioneer Cemetery in Uralla. Also preparing a history of cemetery to add to cultural tourism.</p> <p>Council's Heritage Advisor has organised and promoted an excursion to the Kentucky Soldier Settlement community to view their world War II memorial plaques and historical display at the Memorial Hall – Kentucky South Village area, Wollun and the World War II Memorial Hall at Woolbrook. Council's Heritage Advisor is also involved in a program to identify the non-Anglo Saxon Celtic heritage throughout the Shire.</p> <p>In the Uralla Shire, a group called "Friends of the Phoenix Foundry" has formed to help protect, conserve and promote the site (State Heritage Item).</p> <p>Walcha Council Continue promotion of local heritage through Tourist Information Centre and Local History Centre.</p>
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<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Information Management and Loss of Historical Knowledge</p>	<p>Armidale Dumaresq Council All built heritage items in Armidale have been photographed and added to the Heritage Office web page.</p> <p>Expression of interest called from local tradespeople, suppliers and heritage consultants to be included in a local directory and draft directory compiled.</p> <p>Completed inspection and review of potential heritage items from former Dumaresq Shire Heritage Study. 15 additional items have been recommended for inclusion as Heritage Items in the Armidale Dumaresq Local Environmental Plan 2008 – Schedule 2.</p> <p>Continue to up-load ADC heritage inventory data onto the Heritage Branch web site and link via Council's web site</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Funding</p>	<p>All Councils Continue to fund and support part-time Heritage Advisor position.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council Commenced a small project grants fund – Local Heritage Fund. Three (3) projects were funded in 2008-2009, which was relatively disappointing. The Local Heritage Fund contributed \$2525 to these projects which had a combined value of \$12,641. Next year Council will try to target market the program to encourage more applications for funding.</p> <p>Capital funding of \$7,500 was secured for replacement of way markers, Urban Heritage Walk, Armidale, to be installed in 2009-2010.</p> <p>Uralla Shire Council Council has received funding of \$12,300 (1:1 funding basis) for its Heritage Advisory Service and Community based study</p>

SECTION 11 – COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLANS

11.1 ARMIDALE DUMARESQ COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Armidale Dumaresq Council's Management Plan for 2009-2012 was formally adopted at an Extraordinary Council meeting on the 16th June, 2009. The Management Plan provides details of the wide range of services to be delivered by Council and an indication of how these services will be provided to the community.

Strategic tasks and major operational tasks identified in the Management Plan that correspond to environmental sectors in this State of the Environment Report are summarised below:

Land Use and Management

- prepare Environmental Protection Plan for underground petroleum storage systems in accordance with regulations.
- prepare and submit a regionally based comprehensive State of the Environment Report 2008-2009 for Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra Shire, Uralla Shire and Walcha local government areas with the Department of Local Government by 30 November 2009.
- prepare draft Development Control Plans to support and in time to exhibit concurrently with the proposed Draft Regional LEP.

Air and Climate Change

- prepare a Climate Change Action Plan based on the outcomes of the Commonwealth funded Local Adaptation Pathways Program (LAPP) and NSW Nature Conservation Council Climate Consensus projects undertaken in 2008-2009
- investigate the feasibility of installing Grid connected Solar Panels at Puddledock, Dangarsleigh and Hillgrove Halls.
- continue to promote wood smoke reduction programs using allocated funding for rebates, program expenses and related administration.
- continue to sample local air quality and publish results in local print media and web site, in comparison with national air quality standards for fine particle emissions.
- continue developing the Sustainable Living Expo (SLEX) Live-Garden-Farm as an annual flagship event for Armidale.

Water

- preparation of a Stormwater Drainage Strategic Business Plan
- continue with the development of a program of Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices by installing two urban stormwater drainage systems to address the degradation of water quality in natural watercourses.
- prepare local guidelines for integrated water cycle management as this applies to development proposals
- review and update Council's On-Site Waste Water Policy to meet modern standards and most effectively meet the needs of plumbers and landholders

Biodiversity

- continue Schools' "Safe Pets Out There" (SPOT) program.

Waste

- complete an updated Solid Waste Strategic Business Plan.
- continue with the process to establish a new Regional Landfill by early 2011.
- in conjunction with the new landfill project, continue with the process to establish an alternative waste treatment facility for the stabilisation of mixed unsorted waste materials prior to landfilling and the composting of organic waste (garden waste and foodwaste).

Aboriginal Heritage

- coordinate the Gayinyaga Aboriginal Advisory Committee to ensure Council maintains a direct link with the local Aboriginal community and receives information regarding concerns raised and experienced by the local Aboriginal Community.
- work in partnership with Gayinyaga to coordinate community events to celebration NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week and Sorry Day.
- implement the recommendations outlined in Council's 2009 Social and Community Plan – Aboriginal Chapter.

Non-Aboriginal Heritage

- review compliance with Council's adopted Heritage Strategy with Heritage Advisor at end of each quarter.

11.2 GUYRA SHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Guyra Shire Management Plan 2009-2010 describes the strategic direction for Council and sets out Council's goals and objectives in each area of operation. Following are a number of major operational tasks identified in the Management Plan that correspond broadly to the environmental sectors discussed in this State of the Environment Report.

Land Use and Management

- to facilitate the necessary input of the New England Economic Development Committee and relevant stakeholders in to the development of the Regional Local Environmental Plan
- regularly review and update policies and development control plans
- prepare a development control plan for residential development
- annual audit of all extractive industries
- prepare management plans for Councils registered gravel pits to comply with Department of Primary Industry requirements

Air and Climate Change

- address the recommendations espoused in the 2007-2008 State of the Environment Report and as far as economically feasible develop projects to address these recommendations

Water

- develop a database for the recording of water samples
- active participation and value adding to the Malpas Catchment Committee to improve long term water quality flowing into the storage dams
- storm water drainage – identify key pollutants and likely sources
- identify key locations where effective storm water management processes can be implemented

Biodiversity

- develop a priority list for environmental works to take advantage of opportunistic grant opportunities
- develop an environmental education program in conjunction with CMAs

Waste

- continue to investigate the expansion of existing levels of recycling to address the increasing amount of packaging being used
- continue to investigate options for the disposal of waste in Tingha, Ben Lomond and Ebor villages
- continue to monitor illegal dumping and where the perpetrators can be identified, take appropriate legal action against them
- investigate the viability of providing a green waste pick up service
- undertake discussions with Armidale Dumaresq, Glen Innes and Inverell regarding the future of waste in the shire and region
- sewerage services – maintain compliance with license requirements from the Department of Environment and Climate Change
- continue program to reduce storm water infiltration into sewerage reticulation system
- continued reduction in wet weather flows through system monitoring, illegal connection identification and manhole and main sealing program

11.3 URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Uralla Shire Council adopted the Management Plan for 2009 - 2010 at its Meeting held on 29 June 2009. The purpose of the Management Plan is to inform the community about planned goals and activities of Council for the next financial year and future years.

At its Meeting in December 2008, Council also resolved to integrate local recommendations from the Climate Consensus Project, which was conducted by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW in conjunction with Uralla Shire Council, into the strategic planning process via the Management Plan including the State of the Environment Report and Social Plan. A copy of the Uralla local recommendations is included in Appendix M. Council's Environmental Committee will utilise its member's expertise and community liaison skills to work with the recommendations and monitor the progression of these outcomes.

Strategic objectives identified in the Management Plan that correspond broadly to the environmental sectors of the State of the Environment Report are outlined below:

Land Use and Management

- to facilitate an effective bush fire protection through a mutually agreed Service Level Agreement with the Rural Fire Service
- to manage and control development and service provision within the Shire to ensure that it is balanced and environmentally sensitive, that the overall aesthetic value of the Shire is maintained and that services are provided to match the needs of the Shire residents
- to ensure that Council consciously adopts a fully ecologically sustainable development focus
- to manage, operate and control gravel pits and quarries in the Shire in an economical and environmentally appropriate manner

Air and Climate Change

- to manage, maintain and develop the system of footpaths in the urban centres in the Shire efficiently and effectively.

Water

- to plan, design, construct and manage new and additional stormwater drainage systems and catchment areas, to collect, transport and discharge stormwater runoff effectively, efficiently and economically to reduce flooding, soil erosion, pollution and improve water quality
- to provide safe, cost effective and affordable water supply facilities complying with statutory requirements

Biodiversity

- to protect residents from animal nuisance and reduce the number of associated complaints
- to contribute to the overall control of noxious weeds in the Council area to protect the natural environment – support membership of the New England Tablelands (Noxious Weeds) County Council
- to implement programs aimed at protecting and enhancing the environment of the Shire to ensure health and well being of its residents

Waste

- to provide an efficient, cost effective and environmentally responsible waste collection, recycling and/or disposal service
- to provide safe, cost effective and affordable sewerage facilities complying with statutory requirements
- to ensure that the health of rural residents and the quality of groundwater and surface water is not threatened by wastewater disposal in areas where sewerage is not available.

Aboriginal Heritage

- to access appropriate heritage advice and guidance

Non-Aboriginal Heritage

- to access appropriate heritage advice and guidance
- to continue to develop cultural and heritage activities to the benefit of the Shire's residents

11.4 WALCHA COUNCIL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Walcha Council adopted its Management Plan 09/10-11/12 in June 2009 which outlines Council's proposed activities over the three (3) year period of the plan. Following is a summary of aims identified in the Management Plan and the means of achieving these aims that correspond to the environmental sectors outlined in this State of the Environment Report.

Land Use and Management

Fire Protection

- (*aim*) to develop an efficient and well equipped body of Bush Fire Brigades capable of adequately dealing with bush fire emergencies
- to be achieved by monitoring RFS service level agreement, undertaking adequate fuel management operations and developing a bush fire management plan.

Town Planning

- (*aim*) to promote and encourage the planned and orderly development of the Council area while protecting the environment for the overall well-being of the community
- to be achieved by:
 - preparing a Sub Regional Strategy (that will result in a draft LEP) in conjunction with the Strategic Alliance Councils and the Department of Planning.
 - establish development/building controls for development located in a flood plain area.
 - assisting, where possible, those landholders who have significant native tree cover on their properties, to manage this resource so that commercial harvesting will be permitted.
 - develop a Development Control Plan and register of sites to reduce the potential impact of contaminated land especially relating to changes in land use.

Natural Resources

- develop and maintain partnerships with Namoi, Northern Rivers and Hunter Catchment Management Authorities (CMA's)
- provide support to Landcare organisations seeking to improve Natural Resource Management.
- work with Namoi, Northern Rivers and Hunter CMA's, Landcare Groups and landowners to develop "on-ground" works that will assist management of our natural resources.
- continue to work with Namoi, Northern Rivers and Hunter CMA's in developing Catchment Action Plans. These plans are to be developed taking into consideration routine farming practices of the area

Quarries and Gravel Pits

- operating quarries in accordance with ecological sustainable principles and DECC guidelines.
- incorporate weeds control into the management of all quarries to minimise the spread of weeds
- undertake annual audits of all operating quarries

Air and Climate Change

Natural Resources

- support the Government's rebate programme
- consider joining the Sustainable Choice Program developed by the LG&SA (June 2009)
- facilitate educational programs where possible that can be directed towards our schools that increase the awareness of the impact increasing greenhouse gas production will cause, and how, as individuals we can reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.
- work with government instrumentalities in developing programs that will lead to a reduction in energy use for Council, business and the community

Parks, Gardens and Sporting Grounds

- to develop tourism walking trails to points of interest

Water

Natural Resources

- work in partnership with government instrumentalities to promote/educate the community on water issues including quality and usage

Water Supply

- developing an integrated water cycle management plan for Walcha
- developing a contribution plan for the provision of water services to new allotments
- carry out regular water sampling

Economic Activities – Commercial Activities

- investigate and pursue affordable options for effluent reuse and/or disposal

Biodiversity

Animal Control

- (*aim*) to develop and promote responsible ownership of domestic animals by providing an efficient service at a reasonable cost to the community
- to be achieved by:
 - promoting responsible pet ownership
 - reduction in number of complaints through education and surveillance
 - Council to maintain a record of all complaints lodged
 - continue to make available anti barking dog collars
 - continue a feral cat eradication program

Natural Resources

- work with Namoi, Northern Rivers and Hunter CMA's to identify Significant Roadside Vegetation within our local government area and identify grants that will assist with the management of these vegetation communities.
- continue to seek funding to undertake biodiversity studies (specifically in relation to the LEP)

Roads and Bridges

- carry out road works in accordance with ecologically sustainable principles
- maintain plant hygiene when operating/leaving a weed area
- plant operators able to identify various weeds

Waste

Waste Management and Recycling Services

- (*aim*) to provide an efficient waste management system and encourage the community to participate in maintaining a clean and hygienic environment.
- to be achieved by:

- providing a recycling collection services and “drop off” facility.
- completing an integrated business and management plan for waste disposal (June 2009)
- conducting a promotional campaign to increase the awareness and importance of recycling (June 2009)
- selling all recyclable material.
- continuing Council’s membership and active involvement of the Northern Inland Regional Waste Group
- introducing an equitable pricing structure for commercial recycling that reflects the actual cost of providing the service

Sewerage Scheme

- reviewing the business plan for the sewerage scheme
- preparing a detailed concept plan for the upgrading of the sewerage treatment plant including options for effluent reuse
- developing a contribution plan for the provision of sewerage services to new allotments
- carrying out monthly monitoring to ensure compliance with Department of Environment and Conservation licence conditions.

Aboriginal Heritage

- continuing to foster the relationship that exists between Council and the Aboriginal community.

Non-Aboriginal Heritage

- undertake a Cultural Heritage Study with the assistance of the NSW Heritage Office.

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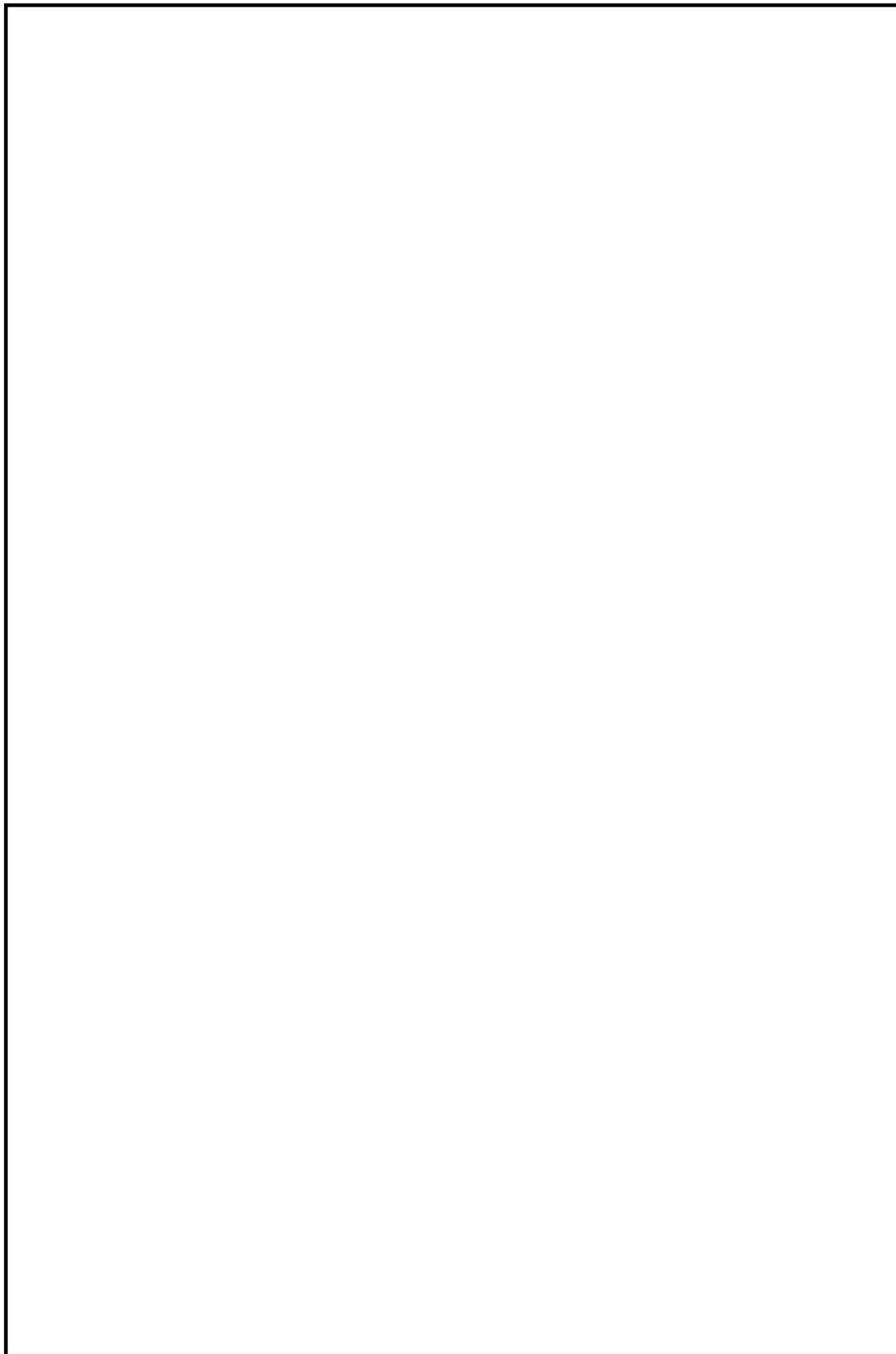
URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT ATTACHMENT C

**ATTACHMENTS TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
REGION STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
THAT ARE REVELANT TO THE URALLA SHIRE
COUNCIL AND INCLUDED ARE:**

A	Climate Change Action Plan – Risk Adaption Table
B	Climate Consensus Project Recommendations
C	Drought Affected Areas of NSW 2008-2009
F	Uralla Mineral Resources Audit Map
H	Southern New England Landcare Activities 2008-2009
I	Summary of Climate Change Impacts
J	New England Tablelands Bioregion Locality Map
K	Threatened Species Recorded in the Southern new England Region
M	Uralla Local Recommendations for Climate Consensus Project



APPENDIX A

Climate Change Action Plan Climate Change Risk Adaptation Table

■ Table 3 Climate Change Risk Adaptation Table – General

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
General	-	Consider climate change risks/impacts when preparing each Council's Community Strategic Plan and Operational Plan and develop a KPI metric for climate change performance.	Climate change impacts/risks identified through this project need to be taken into account when planning future development, provision of infrastructure and services. Community Strategic Plans, which guide future Council operations and investment decisions, and annual Operational Plans are appropriate planning processes to consider climate change impacts. Appendix C contains an extract from the Local Government Association of Queensland Incorporated (2007), Adapting to Climate Change, A Queensland Local Government Guide. For further information about proposed changes to the Community Strategic Plan and Resourcing Strategy see the NSW Government (2009) Department of Local Government's Planning and Reporting Guidelines for Local Government in NSW, Draft for Public Feedback.	Short term/ Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	
		Advocate to the NSW Department of Planning to consider climate change impacts when developing new and revised planning instruments, guidelines and practice notes.	Planning at a local and regional level is influenced by State planning policy and standard planning instruments, guidelines and practice notes. Many of these policies and guidelines need to be reviewed to assist regional planning to respond to climate change impacts.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning
		Prepare master plans/development plans, which take into account projected climate change, to guide long term use and development of areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Projected to experience significant future population growth. ■ Projected to be significantly impacted by climate change (i.e. flood prone areas). ■ With the potential to create significant environmental impacts under a climate changed future. 	Master plans/development plans may be required to guide future use and development in specific areas which are either particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (i.e. flood prone) or are identified for substantial future growth and development. In other cases the location of uses such as industries may cause significant environmental impacts on flood prone areas.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning
		Review land use policy and provisions of LEP and DCP as new climate change data becomes available.	LEP and DCP manage the location and type of land use and development across the region. Policies and provisions could be used to identify areas where certain uses are encouraged and areas where other uses are prohibited (including due to water shortage or other impacts associated with climate change).	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning
		Develop strategic alliances with other cities/ research and other institutions with a strong commitment to climate change adaptation.	Information sharing with institutions such as the University of New England and CSIRO will assist in ensuring up to date information to assist in responding to climate change. In addition, developing relationships with other municipalities within NSW or Australia will assist in sharing experiences about the effectiveness of climate change adaptation actions.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) University of New England Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
General	-	Consult local businesses, organisations and the community to understand level of awareness of climate change impacts and identify actions to assist them to adapt to climate change.	A series of climate change adaptation actions aim to increase community awareness of climate change impacts and identify actions to adapt to climate change. These actions could be coordinated into a single climate change adaptation education program.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Australian Government Department of Climate Change
		Develop a forum for ongoing community involvement in climate change adaptation.	A forum, building on the New England Climate Change Consensus Project, could be established to assist in engaging the community to adapt to climate change and monitor the effectiveness of this Action Plan from a community perspective.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
		Prepare an education and communications plan for climate change risk and adaptation actions.	An education and communications plan would assist in coordinating delivery of climate change and risk adaptation actions. The Plan could focus on educating the community and Council Officers and Councillors and in communicating the outcomes of the Action Plan and its implementation over time.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
		Continue to support the Sustainable Living Expo as a vehicle to raise awareness and stimulate action regarding climate change.	The New England Sustainable Living Expo is an important forum to increase community awareness about climate change risks and the need to plan for climate change adaptation. Ongoing support of this expo will assist delivery of climate change education programs.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
		Review State of Environment Reporting to include reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation actions.	The last regional State of Environment Report, which comprises a general environmental report card for the region, was prepared in November 2004. When updated this report should report on climate change impacts/risks as key issues.	Medium term/ Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	
		Consider climate change adaptation as part of each Council's Business Continuity Plans.	Business Continuity Plans plan to ensure long-term survivability and reinstatement of services following a disruptive event such as severe climatic events. These plans are currently being reviewed and could take into account risks associated with climate change.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	
		Report on the implementation of this Action Plan through each Councils Annual Report.	Each Council's Annual Report provides a forum to report on progress towards implementing this Action Plan.	Short term/ Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	

■ Table 4 Climate Change Risk Table – Planning and Environment

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased flooding in low lying developed areas and extension of flood range	High Risk	<p>Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water or other relevant agencies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review of current flood studies (prepared by former Department of Water Resources) ■ Funding for regional flood modelling ■ Funding for Preparation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans for all Councils (except Walcha). ■ Funding for Floodplain Risk Management Projects. ■ Increased stormwater levies for new development. ■ Review of Rural Floodplain Management Plans. 	<p>Councils have a lead responsibility for managing flood prone areas. The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water are responsible for providing advice on modelling, policy, planning and environmental considerations and community education.</p> <p>The NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water have provided substantial funding across NSW for flood investigations and flood protection works. Funding for a Flood Risk Management Plan has been allocated to Walcha Council. Some funding for floodplain risk management projects has been allocated to the Armidale Dumaresq Council.</p> <p>The existing flood study and flood modelling needs to be updated and used to assist preparation of Floodplain Risk Management Plans.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		<p>Review floodplain studies and modelling to identify flood risks to assist in planning for projected climate change.</p>	<p>Flood modelling data needs to be updated on a regular basis to support planning within flood affected areas, to advise the community about flood risks, to inform future investment in public and private infrastructure and to assist land use planning and decision making.</p> <p>Walcha Council prepared a flood study for the Walcha township in 2005. Armidale Dumaresq Council has prepared a Floodplain Management Study and Plan, and Armidale Flood Mitigation Study.</p> <p>Dam break studies have also been prepared for Dumaresq Dam and Malpas Dam, with a consequent risk assessment.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		<p>Prepare Floodplain Risk Management Plans and review floodplain management policies to plan for projected climate change and identify measures to mitigate impacts of flooding in high risk areas.</p>	<p>Walcha Council is currently preparing a Floodplain Risk Management Plan to determine the level of flood protection of the Walcha levees, the flood risks to people and property if the levees were overtopped, and possible ways of reducing these risks. The study will form the basis of investigations and advice, to residents and businesses of Walcha, the Council, SES and other relevant personnel, regarding the awareness, response and minimisation of the risks associated with flooding.</p> <p>Armidale Dumaresq Council prepared the Draft Armidale Interim Flood Plan and has also purchased flood prone land to prevent more intensive development of this land. Guyra and Uralla Councils do not have any specific floodplain management plans.</p> <p>Floodplain Risk Management Plans and floodplain management policies could also guide implementation of high priority actions in Catchment Action Plans for riparian management and be integrated with urban drainage planning.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water SES

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased flooding in low lying developed areas and extension of flood range	High Risk	Update Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan provisions for developing on flood prone land consistent with the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy and the principles of the Floodplain Development Manual, 2005.	LEP(s) and DCPs will be updated as new information on the projected impact of climate change on flood levels becomes available. Reviewed LEP and DCP policies should be consistent with the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy, the principles of the Floodplain Development Manual, 2005 and Ministerial Direction No. 15 – Flood Prone Land. These guidelines and policies aim to reduce the impact of flooding on individual owners and occupiers of flood prone property and to reduce private and public losses resulting from floods.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Department of Planning
		Provide on-going advice to community and raise community awareness about flood risks and preventative practices through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council websites. ▪ Sustainable Living Expo. ▪ New residents pack. ▪ Landcare initiatives. ▪ Development application process including pre application consultation and assessment of applications. 	Flood risk advisory services are important to provide information to the community about flood risks and flood mitigation measures including clearing gutters and drains and minimising hard surfaces. This is particularly important as part of the development assessment application process to ensure applicants are aware of flood risk and integrate flood mitigation measures into building design.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Landcare
		Prepare or review Urban Stormwater Management Plans to plan for increased volume of stormwater projected due to climate change.	Guyra and Armidale Dumaresq Councils have prepared an Urban Stormwater Management Plan to plan for upgrades in urban stormwater infrastructure while other Councils' do not currently have a strategy. Urban Stormwater Management Plans could outline mechanisms including staged upgrades to urban stormwater management system and encouraging on site water re-use and harvesting systems which act as mitigation works to cater for increased volumes of stormwater projected due to climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Catchment Management Authorities
		Implement Urban Stormwater Management Plan to upgrade critical stormwater infrastructure to provide for increased volumes of stormwater projected due to climate change	Implementing Urban Stormwater Management Plans requires a staged approach over time focussing on the most critical stormwater infrastructure required.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased bush fire risk to settlements and infrastructure	High Risk	<p>Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, NSW Rural Fire Service and NSW Department of Planning to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review State planning bush fire controls. Review allocation of resources from fire insurance levies. Obtain funding for bush fire mapping and to strengthen LEPs and DCPs in response to bush fire risks. Increase funding for Local Bush Fire Management Committees. Improve bush fire research and risk management in National Parks and State Forests. Obtain funding for community education and communication programs for bush fire risk. 	<p>Local planning controls are developed in accordance with State planning bushfire controls which require regular review and update particularly in response to relevant recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission On Black Saturday fires.</p> <p>Funding could also be sought for strengthen local planning provisions and to develop and deliver of increased community education and communication programs regarding climate change risks.</p> <p>Further advocacy should be undertaken to improve bushfire risk management and regularly review fire management strategies for National Parks and State Forests to ensure that bushfire risks are minimised.</p> <p>Local bush fire management committees established under the NSW Rural Fires Act coordinate fire management planning, prevention and suppression in local areas.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	<p>NSW Rural Fire Service</p> <p>SES</p>
		<p>Advocate to the NSW Rural Fire Service to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review bushfire prone land mapping taking into account long term projected climate change. Continue to review the <i>Planning for Bushfire Protection Guide</i> at least every two years. 	<p>Up to date, accurate bushfire risk modelling and mapping is required to identify bushfire risks and to inform local planning controls which identify and manage development in bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>NSW Rural Fire Service has a statutory obligation to protect life, property and the natural environment through fire suppression and fire prevention. The NSW Rural Fire Services Commissioner provides information to Councils to prepare maps identifying bush fire prone land, which is used to inform planning provisions.</p> <p>Planning for Bushfire Protection, A Guide for Councils, Planners, Fire Authorities and Developers, NSW Rural Fire Services 2006, contains guidelines for suitable defensible space, access considerations, vegetation management, on site emergency management arrangements, water supply provisions, site assessment for building construction requirements and planning framework for developments in rural and urban areas close to land likely to be affected by bush fire. These Guidelines are intended to be reviewed and updated as new research becomes available or at least every two years.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Rural Fire Service
		<p>Review bushfire management provisions in LEPs and DCPs taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term climate change projections. Any changes to State planning bush fire management provisions and Planning for Bushfire Protection Guide. Relevant recommendations from the Victorian Royal Commission On Black Saturday fires and Canberra Bushfires Enquiries. 	<p>All Councils' have recently upgraded bushfire mapping. However, local bushfire risk management provisions contained in LEPs and DCPs need to be reviewed regularly to respond to new data and modelling which identifies bushfire risk or risk management planning provisions and to any changes in State planning bushfire management provisions.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning
		<p>Work in partnership with the NSW Rural Fire Service and other relevant stakeholders to develop community education programs regarding increased fire risk and fire management in response to climate change.</p>	<p>A community education program could inform the community regarding risks associated with bushfire and bushfire management and inform future private investment and development in bushfire prone areas.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Rural Fire Service

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased bush fire risk to settlements and infrastructure	High Risk	Work in partnership with the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Peel District Emergency Management Committee and the SES to build Councils' capacity for planning and responding to bush fire.	Additional information sharing and working in collaboration is required to building councils' capacity to plan for and respond to bush fire risks.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment , Climate Change and Water NSW Rural Fire Service Peel District Emergency Management Committee Emergency Management NSW SES
		Work in collaboration with the Peel District Emergency Management Committee to review and implement the Peel District Disaster Plan every five years to ensure that it responds to increased risks associated with bush fire due to projected climate change.	Councils' within the New England Region are located within the Peel Emergency Management District. The Peel District Disaster Plan (Displan) needs to be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that it responds to increased fire risks associated with bush fire.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Peel District Emergency Management Committee Emergency Management NSW SES
Change in water table impacting on quality and security of water supply	Extreme Risk	Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly monitor changes in the water table and its impact on quality and security of water supply. Fully implement the NSW Salinity Strategy. Allocate increased resources to land management and education programs focus on salinity. 	Increased levels of salinity can impact rivers and aquifers and reduce long term quality and security of water supply. Full implementation of the NSW Salinity Strategy is required to take action to protect and manage native vegetation and ensure water is used efficiently and less water enters the groundwater table to reduce the impacts of salinity.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Advocate to the NSW Department of Planning to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare practice notes/guidelines in considering water table changes in land use planning decisions. 	Further guidance regarding the impacts of changing water tables would assist Councils' to plan for new use and development and to assess planning applications.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning
		Review planning provisions in LEPs and DCPs regarding the impact of land uses on the water table and the quality and security of water supply.	Planning provisions require regular updates in response to revised information to ensure security of the water supply. In the future regional and local environmental plans will be required to be consistent with the strategic objectives, targets and actions outlined in Catchment Management Plans.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities
		Contribute to the development of Catchment Management Plans by Catchment Management Authorities to guide salinity management actions.	Catchment Management Plans are intended to guide salinity management actions on a regional basis.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities
Reduction in surface water available for agricultural use	High Risk	Advocate to NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the frequency of monitoring surface water supplies. Provide regular updates about monitoring surface water supply to Council and the community. Consider reduced availability of surface water resulting from a 	Additional monitoring of surface water supplies to advice uses of water for agricultural purposes is required to enable landowners to plan for future climate change. Monitoring changes in availability of water resources would enable forward planning to change farming practices. Controls regarding water usage need to be reviewed over time to respond to any changes in the availability of water for agricultural and	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
		<p>climate changed future in preparing/revising water sharing plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen controls regarding water usage. 	other uses.			
Increased weed and pest infestation	Extreme Risk	<p>Advocate to NSW Industry and Investment for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing funding and support for NE Weeds Authority (NEWA) to ensure full implementation of the NEWA Weeds Program as part of delivery of NSW Invasive Species Plan. Development of best practice guidelines for roadside weed control programs. Funding for weed management on Council land targeting roadside weeds. 	<p>NSW Industry and Investment has prepared the NSW Invasive Species Plan and the Weeds Strategy to manage priority weeds and pests in key locations in NSW. NSW Industry and Investment are able to allocate grants for noxious weeds control and inspection programs on roadsides and on council lands to local Councils and other weed control authorities to help tackle weed issues.</p> <p>NEWA manages the NESAC Councils' weed management functions under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 with a key aim being to reduce the impact of weeds and other pests resulting in more profitable agricultural production and lower costs of control for land managers. It receives funding from NSW Industry and Investment and NESAC Councils.</p> <p>Weed Officers provide assistance regarding; weed identification and advice; weed management programs; educational material and weed identification and local area knowledge.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NEWA NSW Industry and Investment
		<p>Advocate to NSW Industry and Investment and Livestock Health and Pest Authorities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For full implementation of NSW Invasive Species Plan and feral animal control programs. Update pest animal survey 2004-2006 and the New England District Rural Lands Protection Boards Maps. Development of regional management plans for plant and animal pest species. <p>Additional resources for advice to assist the community in eradicating declared pests and for delivery of education programs</p>	<p>There is an increased risk of plant and animal pests under a climate change future and surveys have shown that while drought in neighbouring regions was thought to have caused significant reductions in the extent and associated impacts of many pest species, broad-scale reductions in animal populations were not apparent and some species even marginally increased their range.</p> <p>Full implementation of the NSW Invasive Species Plan and feral animal control programs are required to manage pests and the pest animal survey will ensure that pest populations are monitored.</p> <p>The Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (formerly Rural Lands Protection Boards), play a key role in pest management in safeguarding agricultural production from the biosecurity risks posed by disease and pests and managing stock movement and in providing identification and assistance with drought relief.</p> <p>Livestock Health and Pest Authorities (formerly RLPBs) help landholders by providing advice and assistance in eradicating declared pest species. We also work with private and government stakeholders to develop vertebrate pest management plans and cooperative management programs.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities Landcare NEWA
		<p>Prepare/review and implement pest management plans to manage pest species on Council administered land.</p>	<p>Under the <i>Rural Lands Protection Act 1998</i> all land managers in NSW, whether on public or private land, have an obligation to control declared pest species on their land.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Industry and Investment Landcare NEWA Livestock Health and Pest Authorities
		<p>Build capacity of Council land managers to recognise and manage pests on Council administered land to respond to increased occurrence of pests associated with climate change.</p>	<p>Additional training of Council Officers is required to ensure recognition of plant pest species and pest management techniques.</p>	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Industry and Investment Landcare NEWA

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased weed and pest infestation	Extreme Risk	Finalise Draft Regional Weed Strategy to ensure it takes into account increased risk and impact of weeds arising from climate change.	The Northern Inland Weeds Advisory Committee which includes the NEWA has prepared a draft NIWAC Regional Weed Strategy to manage noxious weeds. This Strategy could be modified to consider the increased risk and impact of weeds projected to occur as a result of climate change.	Medium term	NEWA	NESAC Landcare Catchment Management Authorities
		Build organisational capacity of NEWA to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver weed education programs and provide ongoing weed identification and management advice. Strengthen information sharing and relationships with landowners, the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Landcare and Councils to manage weeds within the region. 	Weeds Officers currently service the region and additional officers may be needed over time to respond to increased demand for weed advisory services within the region. NEWA has a key role in sharing information and developing effective relationships to assist land owners and Council to manage weeds.	Longer term	NEWA	NESAC Landcare Catchment Management Authorities
		Develop an education program for weed identification and management targeting residents, farmers and the nursery and garden industry.	An education program targeted to the New England region could build on delivering existing initiatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'NSW – No Space 4 Weeds' state-wide weed awareness program. 'Weedbusters'- an awareness program that works with the community to achieve sustainable land and water management, primarily through increased public involvement in weed management, education and awareness projects. 'Grow Me Instead Project' first initiated by the Nursery and Garden Industry of NSW & ACT ('NGINA') as a voluntary partnership with its member nurseries to encourage the removal from production and sale of plants known to be invasive in the natural environment. <p>These programs could identify target audiences including school age children, new residents, farmers and identify forums such as the Sustainable Living Exp and the New Residents Guide as methods to educate the community regarding weed identification and management.</p>	Medium term	NEWA	NESAC Landcare
Reduced health of waterways due to sedimentation and eutrophication	Extreme Risk	Prepare/review and implement Council stormwater management plans to reduce the impacts of sediment and diffuse sources of water pollution entering waterways under a climate changed future.	Stormwater management plans typically contain a range of strategies and actions to improve stormwater quality and may also consider methods to reduce and re-use the overall volume of stormwater (i.e. promoting water harvesting).	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Advocate to the Catchment Management Authorities to review Catchment Action Plan objectives, strategies and policies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce sediment entering catchment. Reduce impacts of nutrients entering systems. 	Catchment Management Action Plans contain a series of strategies and actions to manage use and development within catchments.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities
		Work in collaboration with the Catchment Management Authorities and Landcare to develop and implement an education program for land owners regarding the health of waterways.	Initiatives could include adding information about maintaining the health of waterways and about general land care in new resident's kits. Councils could also play a role in building on existing land management programs available through Landcare agencies and the CMA.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Reduced health of waterways due to sedimentation and eutrophication	Extreme Risk	Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and NSW Department of Planning for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Improved, regularly accessible data on vegetation and biodiversity. ■ Inclusion of riparian buffer zones in standard planning instruments. ■ Increased funding for the Northern Rivers CMA. 	There is a lack of comprehensive, publicly available data on vegetation and biodiversity and more widespread availability of this data would assist Councils and the community in responding to climate change risks. Additional planning provisions are required in standard planning instruments to manage riparian buffer zones and minimise impacts of flooding arising from climate change. All CMA's have experienced funding cuts and require additional funding to continue to plan for and respond to climate change risks.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Department of Planning Landcare Catchment Management Authorities NSW Industry and Investment
		Implement State planning controls for riparian buffers in LEP and DCPs.	Once strengthened, local Councils should implement State planning controls for riparian buffers in LEPs and DCPs to minimise impacts of flooding arising from climate change.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Catchment Management Authorities NSW Industry and Investment
Change in species composition of local urban environments	Extreme Risk	Review local street tree planting policy to ensure new and replacement tree species selection responds to projected climate change.	Street trees make a significant contribution towards the amenity of towns and it is important that species selection responds to impacts of climate change. This will ensure that trees survive over the longer term and are appropriate to the location in terms of minimising overall water use. Street tree species selected should be either indigenous or low water use species.	Short term/Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	
		Provide information to the community about tree and plant species suitable for a climate changed future.	Information could be provided to the community to encourage planting of tree and plant species suitable for a climate changed future.	Medium term	NESAC/ Councils	
Loss of aquatic ecosystem services/values	High Risk	Work collaboratively with the Catchment Management Authorities to monitor role of effluent disposal and diffuse sources of water pollution in affecting aquatic ecosystems.	Land based effluent treatment systems have the potential to affect aquatic ecosystems by leaching or discharging into aquatic ecosystems. This will involve on-going monitoring of waterways to detect volumes and sources of discharge and ensuring compliance with the Guidelines for Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Catchment Management Authorities NSW Industry and Investment
		Support and publicise initiatives to improve health of waterways and aquatic ecosystem services.	Increased community education is considered to be a fundamental method to improve health of waterways and aquatic ecosystem services.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Landcare Catchment Management Authorities NSW Industry and Investment

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Loss of biodiversity	Extreme risk	Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water and NSW Industry and Invest to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the NSW Biodiversity Strategy taking into account projected climate change impacts on biodiversity. Prepare regional/ localised studies which assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and identify "biodiversity hotspots" which require further intensive management in a climate changed future. Increase statutory controls to prevent biodiversity loss. 	The NSW Biodiversity Strategy requires regular updates to ensure that it takes into account the impacts of climate change on biodiversity. Consideration should also been given to identifying the regional impacts of climate change and appropriate actions to minimise loss of biodiversity. Increased statutory controls are required to prevent biodiversity loss as existing controls are not considered to be sufficient to respond to this extreme risk.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment , Climate Change and Water Catchment Management Authorities University of New England NSW Industry and Investment
		Review/develop planning policy and provisions in LEPs and DCPs for species migration corridors.	Species migration corridors require identification and protecting through local planning provisions.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Industry and Investment
		Apply for grants from the Environmental Trust to build capacity for Council staff and deliver community education programs regarding biodiversity loss.	The Environmental Trust has a specific role to encourage and support restoration and rehabilitation projects and promote environmental education. The Education and Research (major and minor categories) grants offer grants for education programs which could be accessed to build capacity regarding biodiversity management on Council land and delivery of education programs to the community.	Short term	NESAC Councils	Environmental Trust Landcare Catchment Management Authorities
Reduction in non-reticulated water supply for rural/domestic use	High risk	Advocate to the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) to review minimum requirements for water tank sizes to ensure adequate potable water supply taking into account projected climate change.	An adequate potable water supply, including adequate water storage, is required in non-reticulated areas.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Australian Building Codes Board NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Rural Fire Service
Increased agricultural production pressure with negative environmental impacts	Extreme risk	Advocate to the NSW Industry and Investment to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate increased resources to developing and implementing a community education program to raise awareness about improving efficiency of water use and utilising sustainable farming practices. Encourage winter feed production. Develop an incentive program to encourage organic and biodynamic agricultural production. 	Increased resources are required to raise community awareness about improving efficiency of water use and utilising sustainable farming practices including holistic management of rural properties, developing and implementing farm management plans using sustainable farming practices. NSW Industry and Investment are currently running sessions regarding long term viability planning, technical skills, diversifying into new crops and temporary water trading and leasing the farm and subdividing the property.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Industry and Investment Landcare
		Advocate to the Soil Conservation Service to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review land use capability mapping. 	Accurate, up to date land use capability mapping is required to identify the productive potential of agricultural land and to identify areas which should remain in agricultural production rather than be used for urban development.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Soil Conservation Service NSW Industry and Investment

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Actions	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased agricultural production pressure with negative environmental impacts	Extreme risk	Review land use policy and provisions of LEP and DCP in response to revised land capability mapping to ensure that the most productive land remains available for agricultural use.	Local planning provisions and controls should be updated when land capability mapping is available to ensure that the most productive land remains available for agricultural use and potential land use impacts are managed.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning NSW Industry and Investment
		Support and publicise initiatives for sustainable land management.	Council Officers may be able to provide an informal referral services to landowners to other agencies regarding sustainable land management practices.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Landcare NEWA Catchment Management Authorities

■ Table 5 Climate Change Risk Table – Corporate (including Health, Corporate Planning, Economic Development, Emergency Management)

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Climate driven economic crisis Failure to identify and take advantage of emerging markets.	High risk	Develop and implement a regional economic development strategy which includes strategies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Diversify the regional economic base. ■ Diversify agricultural activities including uses/crops which are less water intensive. ■ Help local businesses maintain their competitiveness in a climate changed world. 	A regional economic development strategy would provide an opportunity for strategic consideration of the impact of projected climate change on key land uses which underpin the region's economy. It would also provide a forum to develop strategies to diversify the region's economic base to ensure that the region's economy would not be able to be sustained in a climate change future.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Industry and Investment Northern Inland Regional Development Board – Area Consultative Committee
		Review each Councils investment policy to ensure diversified investments and reduce reliance on investments sensitive to the impacts of climate change.	Council investments which are sensitive to the impacts of climate change should be reviewed to ensure prudent financial management.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
Increased heat stress with potential for increased mortality	High risk	Prepare/review and implement Public Health Plan/s which includes an extreme heat strategy which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identification of refuge centres for extreme heat events. ■ Development of a 'buddy system' to monitor the elderly and other vulnerable groups. ■ Preventing sport on Council administered parks in high temperatures. ■ A community education/awareness program which raises awareness about the impacts of extreme heat projected due to climate change. 	Councils should develop/review Public Health Plan/s to outline action to prevent or minimise public health dangers, as well as to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing. While plans are not mandatory in NSW they could include an extreme heat strategy which would respond to risks associated with climate change. The strategy could include consideration of temporary safe places for people without adequate cooling or water to shelter during extreme heat events and to methods to monitor those groups most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The strategy could also include a community education/awareness program which raises awareness about the impacts of extreme heat.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Health
		Prepare/review and implement master plans for open space and recreational areas to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Adequate shade is provided in public areas including playgrounds and public swimming pools. ■ Water fountains are available at regular intervals. 	Master plans provide long term guidance for use and development of public parks and open space. Master plans should be prepared/reviewed to ensure that adequate shade and water is provided in public areas in response to climate change impacts.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
Increased injury and death - storms/hail	High risk	Advocate to the Australian Building Codes Board for higher building standards in the Building Code of Australia regarding wind loading and storm intensity and regular review of the eight climate zones which relate to building standards.	The Building Code of Australia (BCA) contains performance requirements and also the building solutions (prescribed building standards) which apply to building construction in high wind areas. The BCA contains State and Territory variations to address the various climatic conditions found throughout Australia. These building standards enable construction to respond to impacts associated with climate change and are continually updated and modified to reflect changing environmental conditions, community expectation and changes in building technology. A Council of Australian Government (COAG) report on protection from natural disasters made recommendations that priority be given to reviewing the BCA and standards in respect of mitigating the effects of natural hazards. This work is ongoing, in conjunction with several other organisations including Emergency Management Australia and Standards Australia.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Australian Building Codes Board SES

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased injury and death - storms/hail	High risk	Prepare/review and implement a Public Health Plan which includes a community awareness raising/ community education program regarding risks associated with storms and hail and preventative actions.	Public Health Plans, which sets the strategic direction for Councils to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the people of the municipality, are not mandatory in NSW. Preparation of a health plan could include development of a community awareness raising/education program to inform the community about risks associated with storms and hail which are projected to increase due to climate change.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Health
		Build capacity of existing health and community services to ensure they are able to cope with increased demand for services in extreme weather events including storms.	Increased occurrence of storms causing injury and death in a climate changed future will place increased demand on existing health and community services delivered by local and state government and other agencies. Work is required to build the capacity of health and community services to ensure that they are equipped to meet this increasing demand.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Health
Increased potential for water borne disease	High risk	Obtain or prepare a GIS map of surface and arterial water supply and catchments within the New England region.	A GIS map of surface and arterial water supply would show the location and quantity of water resources and assist in protection of water supplies and catchments, particularly open catchments where stock graze.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water Catchment Management Authorities
		Develop/ implement a Water Security Strategy and public health plan/s which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Review/ increased water monitoring program to detect and report algal blooms, water borne diseases and other potential contaminants. ■ Identification of methods to control diseases and disease vectors and improve alert systems for potential outbreaks. ■ Awareness/ education campaign including risks and impacts of water borne diseases and other potential contaminants. ■ Alternative water supply/emergency storage. ■ Enhance infectious disease and food safety programs. 	Development and implementation of a Water Security Strategy could assist in ensuring sufficient potable and agricultural water supply across the region and also to plan strategically to ensure reduction of risk of water borne diseases such as E. Coli, toxic algae, and viruses entering water supply catchments. Strategies to ensure safe water supplies would also be a fundamental issue within public health plans. The Water Security Strategy would outline water monitoring regimes detect changes in nutrient levels to detect and prevent algal blooms and community awareness and education campaigns. It would also include alternative water supply sources and storage in the advent of contamination of the region's principal water supply and storage.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Department of Health Catchment Management Authorities SES
		Investigate and implement upgraded water treatment solutions.	Some municipal water supplies within the region are currently treated using chemical or ozone treatment while other potable water supplies servicing small communities and individual properties remain untreated. In order to reduce the impacts of water borne diseases in the future, further consideration of water treatment solutions such as ozone treatment should be investigated.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Increased demand for mental health support	High risk	Advocate to the NSW Department of Community Services to review and increase capacity for mental health/ counselling services.	Impacts arising from climate change including increased heat and dryness and associated economic stress have the potential to impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and potential for loss of life. The type and capacity of mental health and counselling services offered may need to be reviewed over time in response to increased need for services due to the impacts of climate change.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Community Services

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased demand for mental health support	High risk	Develop, review and deliver programs which aim to improve community cohesion and reduce social isolation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community welcoming activities such as the new residents' morning tea. 	Further programs which aim to increase community cohesion and reduce social isolation will be required as preventative measures to address community well being in response to the impacts of climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	
		Provide information to the community regarding available community health and well-being services.	Accessible information regarding community health and well-being services is important to respond to increased demand arising from residents due to the impacts of climate change. This could include reviewing community directories which provide information services and reviewing material contained within the new resident's information packs. Increased coordination with the NSW Department of Community Services will also be required to ensure coordinated delivery of services and that hard to reach groups are accessed.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Community Services NSW Department of Health

■ Table 6 Climate Change Risk Table – Infrastructure

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased risk of dam failure	Extreme risk	Regular monitoring, surveillance and safety reviews of existing water supply dams within the New England region taking into account the projected long term impacts of climate change.	<p>Dams within the region are regularly inspected to ensure their safety. The <i>NSW Dam Safety Act 1978</i> requires all dam owners to arrange for regular monitoring and surveillance of their dams, regular review of the compliance of dams with current standards and preparation of dam safety emergency plans for dams where dam failure could cause loss of life.</p> <p>Dam Safety Surveillance typically obtains, collates and analyses data on the performance of a dam including structural adequacy and stability, leakage control, adequate flood capability, good operation, maintenance and emergency management practices, and regular surveillance and design reviews based on current standards.</p> <p>Safety Reviews may also be undertaken to identify remedial works, options for dam safety upgrading dams and to develop a remedial action program.</p> <p>Design reviews should also be carried out at regular intervals related to significant changes in technology and methodology (e.g. revised flood estimation procedures in Australian Rainfall and Runoff).</p> <p>The Malpas Dam Safety Study assessed the safety of the dam based on a 1 in 100 000 yr flood and considered the dam was safe under this scenario. Inspections for other dams within the region should consider the impact of increased flood intensity scenarios.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Dams Safety Committee
		Continue to implement recommendations of dam safety surveillance, safety reviews and design reviews for the region's water supply dams.	The recommended works outlined in the Malpas Dam Safety Study including construction of a new spillway have been implemented. Other dams within the region are regularly inspected and any maintenance works are also undertaken to ensure safety of dams.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Dams Safety Committee
		Prepare dam safety plans for all existing water supply dams within the New England region by 2012 and review these plans on a 5 yearly basis.	The NSW Dams Safety Committee is responsible for reviewing Dam Safety Plans and ensuring that dams comply with the Committee's current requirements and conform to current accepted national and international practices. These requirements are generally in line with the Australian National Committee on Large Dams (ANCOLD) publication " <i>Guidelines on Dam Safety Management</i> " updated in August 2003.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Dams Safety Committee
		Advocate to the NSW Dam Safety Committee to consider the long term impacts of climate change when reviewing the " <i>Guidelines on Dam Safety Management</i> " and dam safety emergency plans.	Considering the long term impacts of climate change including increased incidence of flooding, potential for increased ground movement is a key consideration when reviewing dam safety emergency management plans and guidelines on dam safety management.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water SES
		Advocacy to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water for funding for dam surveillance and capital works to upgrade dams.	Additional funding is required to monitor and upgrade dams in response to increased safety standards and requirements to respond to increased design life requirements arising from climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Reduced water supply	High risk	Develop a regional water strategy which responds to a climate changed future and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies the need for additional and/or alternative water supply and storage sources. Examines the feasibility of developing a water grid capable of transferring water across the New England region and water efficiency objectives and targets. Identifies the appropriateness of infrastructure in response to projected climate change. Identifies potential sources of water contamination and includes strategies to reduce contamination risks. Consider the need for additional or larger volume water supply dams in the future as part of broader consideration of the region's water supply needs. Considers long-term water allocation strategies. 	A regional water strategy could identify strategies to respond to projected climate change. The New England region is not currently experiencing a shortage of water. However, the availability of water supply may be reduced in the future as a result of climate change and the need for water conservation strategies and/or additional supply or storage capacity will need to be monitored. Careful consideration would need to be given to the impact of dams on the environment and longer term water allocation strategies during preparation of a regional water strategy.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Advocate to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water to seek funding to implement the regional water strategy.	Increased funding is required to implement a regional water strategy in response to climate change risks.	Medium term	Local Water Utility NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Develop/review a water efficiency and conservation program which identifies measures to improve efficiency of urban water use such as; water saving incentive programs; stormwater harvesting; community education; open space watering and showerhead exchange programs.	Best practice water conservation and demand management are essential for efficient management of a LWU water supply business and for efficient use of water resources. This should include a demand management program to monitor current and future demand, water saving measures and community education programs.	Short term	Local Water Utility	Councils NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Increased cracking of water supply pipes	High risk	Prepare and review strategic business plans and asset management plan/s for the piped water supply network every five years. Plans should consider the projected long term impacts of climate change and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed monitoring of pipe condition. Proposed maintenance and replacement of the network including; replacing pipes with pipes made of more resilient materials (appropriate to area) and improved construction techniques with improved bedding and backfill materials. 	Local Water Utilities prepare a strategic business plan which is the principal planning tool for its water supply and sewerage businesses. This plan typically includes asset management plan which comprises operation and maintenance plans and capital works plans. Asset management plans are typically prepared to outline the existing condition of infrastructure assets including water pipes and stormwater drains and recommend maintenance and asset renewal. These plans could be prepared and reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change and to consider construction techniques or materials in response to climate change impacts.	Short term	Local Water Utility	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Seek additional funding for implementation of asset management plans for capital and recurrent expenditure for the water supply network through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Council's Community Strategic Plan. Each Council's Operational Management Plan. Advocacy to the Department of Water and Energy for increased funding for asset management, monitoring, maintenance and replacement of the piped water supply network. 	Funding for capital and operational expenditure for water supply infrastructure is typically sought through Council's annual Operational Management Plan. In addition, the Community Strategic Plan could also outline the staging of capital expenditure required to upgrade infrastructure. Additional funding may be required to respond to climate change impacts and could be sought from the Department of Water and Energy.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased cracking of water supply pipes	High risk	Implement asset management plans for the water supply network.	Asset management plans typically outline maintenance and capital works required to upgrade water infrastructure over time. Implementation of these plans is a key component of planning for climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Increased stormwater infiltration into sewerage system	High risk	Prepare and review strategic business plans and asset management plan/s for the sewerage network every five years. Plans should consider the projected long term impacts of climate change and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed monitoring of stormwater infiltration and pipe condition. Proposed maintenance and replacement of the network including replacing pipes with pipes made of more resilient materials (appropriate to area) and improved construction techniques with improved bedding and backfill materials. 	Local Water Utilities prepare a strategic business plan which is the principal planning tool for its water supply and sewerage businesses. This plan typically includes asset management plan which comprises operation and maintenance plans and capital works plans. Asset management plans are typically prepared to outline the existing condition of infrastructure assets including water pipes and stormwater drains and recommend maintenance and asset renewal. These plans could be prepared and reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change and to consider construction techniques or materials in response to climate change impacts.	Short term	Local Water Utility	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Seek additional funding for implementation of asset management plans for capital and recurrent expenditure for the sewerage network through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Council's Community Strategic Plan. Each Council's Operational Management Plan. Advocacy to the Department of Water and Energy for increased funding for asset management, monitoring, maintenance and replacement of the sewerage system works. 	Funding for capital and operational expenditure for water supply infrastructure is typically sought through Council's annual Operational Management Plan. In addition, the Community Strategic Plan could also outline the staging of capital expenditure required to upgrade infrastructure. Additional funding may be required to respond to climate change impacts and could be sought from the Department of Water and Energy.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Implement asset management plans for the sewerage network.	Asset management plans typically outline maintenance and capital works required to upgrade water infrastructure over time. Implementation of these plans is a key component of planning for climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Update infrastructure design standards for stormwater.	Council infrastructure design standards require regular updating in response to climate change to ensure that materials and designs respond to climate change risks. These standards should also take into account any new data arising from any updates to rainfall and runoff data/ studies.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	
		Monitor system performance of reticulated sewerage infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewerage treatment plant/s. Performance of sewerage infrastructure in preventing infiltration (including lid selection, seals in access chambers and lids). Responding to complaints about illegal connections to the sewerage system. 	Monitoring performance of reticulated sewerage infrastructure is fundamental to preventing increased stormwater infiltration into the sewerage system which could arise through climate change. Key elements of infrastructure which require specific monitoring include sewerage treatment plants and performance of infrastructure. Responding to complaints will also assist in monitoring and remedying illegal connections to the sewerage system.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Inadequate stormwater infrastructure capacity resulting in larger floods	High risk	Prepare and review asset management plan/s for the stormwater network and stormwater management plan/s every five years. Plans should consider the projected long term impacts of climate change and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed monitoring of pipe condition. Staged extensions to the pipe stormwater network, duplication of stormwater system and targeting high risk areas. Proposed maintenance and replacement of the network including replacing pipes with pipes made of more resilient materials (appropriate to area) and improved construction techniques with improved bedding and backfill materials. Options for increased stormwater harvesting for use as recycled water. Diffuse source water pollution management principles. 	Asset management plans are typically prepared to outline the existing condition of infrastructure assets including water pipes and stormwater drains and recommend maintenance and asset renewal. These plans could be prepared and reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change and to consider construction techniques or materials in response to climate change impacts.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW Industry and Investment
		Seek additional funding for preparation and implementation of asset management plans for capital and recurrent expenditure for the stormwater network through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Council's Community Strategic Plan. Each Council's Operational Management Plan. Advocacy to the Department of Water and Energy for increased funding for asset management, monitoring, maintenance and replacement and new stormwater drainage works. Advocacy to Department of Water and Energy for increased drainage charge for property protection. 	Funding for capital and operational expenditure for water supply infrastructure is typically sought through Council's annual Operational Management Plan. In addition, the Community Strategic Plan could also outline the staging of capital expenditure required to upgrade infrastructure. Additional funding may be required to respond to climate change impacts and could be sought from the Department of Water and Energy.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Implement asset management plans for the stormwater network and stormwater management plan.	Asset management plans typically outline maintenance and capital works required to upgrade water infrastructure over time. Implementation of these plans is a key component of planning for climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Prepare designs for new infrastructure which take into account changes in rainfall and runoff data/ studies.	Designs for new stormwater infrastructure should take into account climate change projections and the design standards should reflect the most recent rainfall and run off data/studies for the region.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Increased damage to sealed and unsealed road surfaces Reduced structural stability of timber bridges with heightened chance of failure	High risk Extreme risk	Prepare and review road asset management plan/s every five years. Plans should consider the projected long term impacts of climate change and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased frequency of road surface and bridge condition inspections. Increased scheduled maintenance of sealed and unsealed roads including provision for increased surface maintenance. Increased scheduled bridge repair, strengthening and replacement including consideration of removing or relocating bridge placement 	Asset management plans are typically prepared to outline the existing condition of infrastructure assets including roads and bridges and recommend maintenance and asset renewal. These plans could be prepared and reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change and to consider construction techniques or materials in response to climate change impacts. Asset management plans should specifically consider the frequency of road surface and bridge condition inspections with a view of inspections being at 1-3 year intervals. They should also consider road and bridge maintenance and repair frequency and procedures for emergency repairs.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Roads and Traffic Authority NSW SES

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
<p>Increased damage to sealed and unsealed road surfaces</p> <p>Reduced structural stability of timber bridges with heightened chance of failure</p>	<p>Extreme risk</p>	<p>and materials with those more suited to anticipated conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of revised service and design standards for bridges including consideration of overtoppable bridges and removal of some bridges. Emergency repairs to road surface and bridges. 	<p>Consideration should be given to revised service and design standards for bridges including whether some bridges should be removed over time and the implications for residents if this should occur. Additional consideration should also be given to bridge design standards including overtoppable bridges that can withstand additional water projected to occur as a result of climate change.</p>			
		<p>Seek additional funding for implementation of works identified in asset management plans for capital and recurrent expenditure for local roads administered by Councils through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Council's Community Strategic Plan. Each Council's Operational Management Plan. Funding applications to the Roads and Traffic Authority NSW (RTA). Funding applications to Australian Government roading programs. 	<p>Local Councils have responsibility for funding, determining priorities and carrying out works on local roads provided for local circulation and access.</p> <p>Roads and Traffic Authority NSW has responsibility for funding state roads (including freeways, highways and important main roads) and also administers funding programs for: regional roads (routes serving an intermediate function between the main arterial road network and local roads). Funding is available for roadworks on regional roads through the Block Grant Agreement (general road program for regional roads), the REPAIR program (for larger rehabilitation and development projects including pavement rehabilitation, road widening, bridge repairs and replacement and initial sealing) and the Regional Roads Timber Bridge Partnership (replacement of timber bridges). RTA funding is also available for reimbursement to Councils of costs incurred by damage in declared natural disasters and roads managed by State Forests or the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.</p> <p>Australian funding is also available for roads as part of the Australian Financial Assistance Grants, Roads to Recovery and AusLink Strategic Regional Projects.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
		<p>Advocate to the RTA for increased funding and resources, including changes in methodology for funding allocation, for asset management planning, monitoring, capital works, road maintenance and repair to the regional and local road network and bridges.</p>	<p>Funding for roads requires places a significant drain on each Councils financial resources. Advocating for additional funding for roads in response and amendments to funding criteria, to the projected impacts of climate change will assist Councils' to address this short fall.</p>	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
		<p>Prepare designs for new road infrastructure which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Takes into account changes in rainfall and runoff data/ studies. Consider the most appropriate designs, materials and construction methods for road and bridge construction and maintenance including road drainage and bridge strengthening. 	<p>New roads and bridges design will require consideration of current rainfall and run off data/studies and consideration of the design life of road assets. Further consideration will be required of the most appropriate designs, materials and construction methods to ensure these assets withstand the impacts of climate change.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
		<p>Update road design standards.</p>	<p>Council road infrastructure design standards require regular updating in response to climate change to ensure that materials and designs respond to climate change risks.</p>	Short term	NESAC/Councils	
		<p>Increased expenditure on upgrades to insulation/ cooling systems and building storm water systems</p> <p>Noise impacts from increase in number of cooling systems</p>	<p>High risk</p>	<p>Prepare and review whole of life asset management plan/s every five years for all Council buildings. Plans should consider the projected long term impacts of climate change and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of ESD features which showcase best practice in climate sensitive building design for public buildings. Consideration of changes to construction materials and methods. Consider retrofitting insulation/ cooling systems to minimise cost. Maintenance and operational costs. 	<p>Asset management plans are typically prepared to outline the existing condition of infrastructure assets including Council buildings and recommend maintenance and asset renewal. These plans could be prepared and reviewed to take into account the impacts of climate change and to consider construction techniques or materials in response to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Plans should specifically consider ESD features including passive heating and cooling, appropriate solar orientation, consideration of energy efficiency in operating buildings and use of recycled materials and water and seek to reduce the impacts of higher operating costs resulting from climate change (i.e. increased electricity usage)</p>	Short term

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Increased expenditure on upgrades to insulation/cooling systems and building storm water systems Noise impacts from increase in number of cooling systems	High risk	Design new/upgraded Council administered buildings to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecologically sustainable design features which consider the impacts of projected climate change including passive heating and cooling, solar or wind generated energy and appropriate solar orientation and recycled water. Use appropriate designs to minimise lifecycle costs and maximise building performance. 	Designs for new Council buildings should take into account climate change projections and the design should take into account ESD principles. Overall building design should minimise lifecycle costs and maximise building performance.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	
		Prepare and deliver an education campaign to the community about the need to reduce the noise impacts of air conditioners and heat pumps on neighbouring properties in the late evening and early morning.	Clause 52 of the NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 requires that a person must not cause or permit an air conditioner or heat pump water heater to be used on residential premises in such a manner that it emits noise that can be heard within a habitable room in any other residential premises (regardless of whether any door or window to that room is open): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) before 8 am or after 10 pm on any Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, or (b) before 7 am or after 10 pm on any other day. Further education of the community and developers is required to manage the amenity impacts of air conditioners and heat pumps and to encourage placement of new infrastructure in locations away from habitable rooms of neighbouring dwellings.	Longer term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
		Encourage developers to design buildings to avoid the need for heat pumps and air conditioners.	Council Officers could encourage homeowners and developers to include design features in new buildings to take advantage of passive heating or cooling opportunities.	Short term/Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Planning Australian Building Codes Board
		Advocate to Government to continue to consider innovative and climate change responsive legislation to improve the performance of buildings and to indicate energy and water efficiency of existing buildings as part of the conveyancing process.	Governments can legislate for minimum standards in building design (eg. the NSW BASIX system for water and energy efficiency)	Short term/Ongoing	NESAC/Councils	Australian Building Codes Board
Reduced reliability of power supply	High risk	Investigate options for alternative energy generation (including generators and solar power) to essential Council and community infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals, water and sewerage infrastructure and aged care facilities. 	Reduced availability of power supply including increased occurrences of black outs may result from increased storms and bushfires. Provision of alternative energy generation including backup power supply is costly and not typically provided for all uses. Hospitals, water and sewerage infrastructure and aged care facilities have been identified as essential infrastructure which requires an ongoing power supply.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Emergency Management NSW NSW Industry and Invest SES
		Advocate to electricity supply companies to develop emergency response plans which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise reinstatement of electricity following black outs for all essential services including hospitals, water and sewerage infrastructure and aged care facilities. Respond to risks associated with bushfires. 	Outages in power supply have the greatest impact on vulnerable groups and critical physical infrastructure which services the community. Consideration should be given by power companies to prioritise reinstatement of electricity following black outs to essential services including hospitals, water and sewerage infrastructure and aged care facilities.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Electricity supply companies Emergency Management NSW SES

Climate Change Risk/Impact	Risk Classification	Action	Reason for Action	Priority	Lead Agency	Other Contributors
Reduced reliability of power supply	High risk	Develop an education program to encourage energy efficiency and increased ESD features in building design to reduce reliance on power supply.	Councils could work in collaboration with the Department of Water and Energy, NSW Department of Planning and the electricity supply companies to develop and deliver an education program to encourage energy efficiency and increased ESD features in building design to reduce reliance on power supply. This would develop capacity of the community to adapt buildings in response to projected climate change.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Electricity supply companies NSW Industry and Invest NSW Department of Planning
Reduced reliability of air transport services	Extreme risk	Investigate options to improve reliability of regional air transport services, taking into account climate change projections, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the cost and benefits of options to lengthen the Armidale Regional Airport runway. Discuss options with airlines to use alternative, fuel efficient aircraft. 	Air transport services from Armidale Regional Airport are currently affected during high temperatures in summer months as planes have either had to reduce their overall weight or have been delayed from take off as they require a longer runway for takeoff in high temperatures. Options to address this issue such as investigating options to lengthen the runway or use alternative plans require further investigation to ensure that air transport services are reliable in the future. This may involve reservation of land for future land purchase.	Short term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Transport Infrastructure
		Advocate to the NSW Transport and Infrastructure to develop a funding program for capital works at regional airports including the Armidale Airport.	The NSW Department of Transport and Infrastructure has advised that no State Government funding is currently available for capital works in regional airports. Other state Government and territories provide funding for regional and remote airports and air services.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	NSW Department of Transport and Infrastructure
		Investigate availability of Australian Government funding for capital works at the Armidale Airport including extension of the airport runway.	The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government advised that a range of grants available for regional Australia and for infrastructure projects could be investigated to determine whether funding for a runway extension is available.	Medium term	NESAC/Councils	Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

APPENDIX B

Climate Consensus Project Recommendations

APPENDIX B

CLIMATE CONSENSUS PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS (Armidale Dumaresq Council, Guyra Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council and Nature Conservation Council of NSW, 2008)

**ARMIDALE
CLIMATE CONSENSUS FORUM**
23 - 25 October 2008



Overarching Recommendations:

In order to work together to respond to climate change, we need:

- alternative measures of our progress to replace only economic measures;
- to consider lifecycle auditing of our use and disposal of resources;
- to incorporate the management of the consequences of climate change in all future council planning and activities; and
- for all levels of government to allocate resources to mitigation and adaptation initiatives and integrate similar projects to ensure the best use of funding and resources.

Recommendations for Local Government:

(* recommendation also relevant to State and/or Federal governments)

ENERGY

Reduce energy consumption and, in particular, reduce reliance on fossil fuels by substituting renewable energy sources; conserve all energy.

- interest free loans for the purchase and installation of approved facilities and goods*
- bulk purchase of solar hot water services and photovoltaic cells by local and state governments*
- construct pilot community wind and solar power generators by and for ADC
- establish infrastructure for the above and for the use and distribution for bio-diesel*
- support research and development on all of the above*
- no new coal fired power stations - existing ones to be phased out*
- no new coal mines* (Note: One dissenting voice)

FOOD

Promote local production while aiming for self sufficiency. Encourage organic principles and ethical animal treatment. Improve soil health and biodiversity.

- create website links to local producers and local suppliers
- develop regular farmers' markets
- assist with community gardens, greenhouses and bush tucker initiatives
- promote social change through programs such as environmental care farming, ethics, growing trees and vegetables, composting, recycling and worm farming*
- support alternative food sources; for example, kangaroo meat production and development of bush tucker industry
- promote the education of farmers (encourage them to work with local farming groups, CMAs)*

COMMUNITY

Facilitate the transition to a community that is environmentally and socially aware and responsible, providing the grassroots foundation for positive social change.

- promote grassroots awareness of climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, etc at a community level to create and facilitate community discussion on the issue through council publications, workshops and community involvement
- form state and local-level eco-partnerships with Chinese regions and/or communities to promote engagement, understanding, technological and expertise transfer and mutual benefits of emission reduction relating to climate change*
- develop strategies to challenge the anthropocentric views of society, the world and the environment through education, values and entertainment*
- establish community, state, federal prizes for positive work on environmental issues and spreading environmental awareness, particularly in relation to climate change*
- develop socially responsible visions and all decisions to be made with that vision in mind*
- conduct an audit on the skill set of the community
- continue to promote local events that encourage widespread participation and awareness of sustainable practices

WATER

Ensure Armidale's use of water is both environmentally and economically sustainable, securing the future of the community and the diversity of the ecosystem

- develop an alternative, non chemical method of purifying the water supply
- conduct a feasibility study of using algae as a bio fuel*
- develop a policy to make more effective use of grey water and stormwater

TRANSPORT

Promote low / zero emission transport

- promote low to zero emission transport corridors and town planning to support it
- public transport to phase out fossil fuels for public transport, have smaller buses using regenerative braking
- better route planning for public transport with community consultation
- community bike system and bike racks
- plug-ins for electric bikes in the mall and at work
- designate "green" car spaces next to disabled car spaces for hybrid cars
- commercial fleets to be low / zero emission*
- develop the use of bio diesel from things such as salt tolerant plants, woody weeds and mustard*

BIODIVERSITY

Promote, protect and enhance biodiversity

- plant appropriate species (native if possible and not invasive species)
- change from chemical control to using mulching and other bio-control methods (implement these and support research and planning)

WASTE

Develop and implement a full waste utilization system which segregates rubbish to be segregated into two streams: recyclable and organic to eliminate the amount of waste and the need for land-fill. Process sewage for full nutrient cycling.

- fully utilise existing nutrient-rich waters currently not captured
- expand existing irrigation farm system
- develop mulch, compost, worm farms, methane production for organic waste stream
- continue recycling program
- improve waste segregation
- include commercial waste into recycling programs
- education into consumer waste segregation
- food scrap collection bins
- wheelie bins for recyclable products
- reduce the production of waste (e.g. by reducing unnecessary packaging and moving towards biodegradable packaging where required)*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Invest today in infrastructure and the structure of services to save costs to the community tomorrow

- design aesthetically pleasing, green buildings, subdivisions and streetscapes (creative architecture)



Recommendations for Local Government

Overarching Statements:

- on climate change, act on a transparent and ethical basis on behalf of the people rather than business and political affiliations.
- “The decision is more important than the politics”

The following recommendations are not in order of priority.

POLICY

- Council to invite further consultations and reviews through focus groups and advise the participants in Climate Consensus Project of the opportunity to contribute.
- recognise local climate change brings about impacts on social, economic and physical levels
- Council to recognise their local neighbourhood / village / rural responsibility to implement change, and where possible facilitate the community to be engaged in that change

RAIL SERVICES - TRANSPORT

- Council to actively lobby for reintroduction of rail services
- look into regular bus service between Guyra & other centres
- Council can become a rallying point/Coordinator for people wishing to share car transport – possibly internet based
- support and encourage pedestrian and bike travel through footpaths, bike paths, bike racks at bus stops.

PARKS & GARDENS

- remove weed species along railway line (*pyracantha*)
- assessing suitability of current and future plantings to be able to survive a hotter climate
- plant trees along walkways and bike tracks to encourage more use
- support rehabilitation and restoration of Mother of Ducks lagoon

FOOD / LOCAL PRODUCE / SUSTAINABILITY

- create Farmers Market
- Lamb & Potato site (Rotary Park) is appropriate venue
- encourage households to produce their vegetables and fruit
- excess could come to a Farmers Market
- Farmers Market would have as much local food as possible

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- all residents have access to Broadband, which is upgraded regularly
- use online services (e.g. on line video and teleconferencing) to reduce transport needs

ENERGY

- investigate the feasibility of generating power for Council's operations as well as for community use
- encourage or find ways to get households to join together for bulk purchase (e.g. solar)
- review car fleet and plant, e.g. share cars and purchase more fuel efficient (hybrids, electric cars)
- encourage Guyra to become a model for self sustainable community
- NESAC – support fulfilment of its documented objectives of self sufficiency and sustainability
- Wind Farms:
 - assess this issue to ensure a balanced development
 - independent assessment of net benefit long term with other power generation options

HEALTH

- improve local access to specialist health services (video consultation etc)
- encourage younger families for demographic mix and balance of community
- ensure the Council and HACC service keeps up to date with the community's needs in the face of climate change

EDUCATION

- promote good home and school education on issues of pollution, power saving methods, self sufficiency
- incorporate Climate Change issues in all Council's decisions
- ensure local library is well resourced in Climate Change literature and references with a focus on resources for self help and local action
- encourage street plantings and tree preservation across the Shire
- promote Climate Change strategies through its newsletter and the paper
- initiate an Environmental Award for children – recognition of effort
- recognition of local achievements in response to climate change issues

WATER

- develop strategic response to Run off - phosphates, algal bloom issues
- assess, protect and expand our water reserves in the face of predicted increased storm events and depletion of groundwater reserves
- encourage domestic tanks – adds to total water storage and allows greater self sufficiency
- work towards redundancy of systems. This will increase resilience of community to cope with predicted and unpredicted events
- encourage water recycling, continue to investigate stormwater management.

SELF SUFFICIENT TOWN PLANNING: HOUSEHOLDS, BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- GSC has a role of education, assistance and accessing grant funding for improving energy efficiency of households:
 - a) renewable stand-alone power for rural households
 - b) towns & villages grid interactive, solar etc
 - c) solar hot water
 - d) make Guyra available to trial new alternatives as a testing ground
 - e) encourage household renovations re: insulation, passive solar, structural strength for extreme weather
 - f) educate for daily household energy efficiency, e.g. efficient lighting
 - g) education for change, e.g. economic assessment of cost benefit of options
 - h) BASIX – Council provide link to energy assessments on their website
 - i) retain the village atmosphere, culture and landscape. Discourage large housing developments with no high density development

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Council maintain viability of emergency services to meet all future needs

WEEDS & PESTS / AGRICULTURE / LAND MANAGEMENT

- eradicate noxious weeds in Shire owned lands
- focus on eradication of cats, rabbits, bad birds (e.g. starlings), foxes
- encourage natural regeneration
- look into working with Citizens Wildlife Corridors (Kath Wray, Armidale coordinator)
- encourage riparian repair throughout the Shire
- incorporate efficient and on-going maintenance and care of Council's planted projects.
- educate on-ground staff to care effectively for their plants through best management practices.



Mitigation Actions for Local Government:

We all agree and recommend that Uralla Shire Council (USC) volunteers to be a Lighthouse model of local mitigation & adaptability to Climate Change.

ENERGY

- USC harnesses the enthusiasm and drive in the local community to progress any of the issues raised in this document
- create a Mission Statement for our community articulating our goals to be a carbon neutral community
- Uralla Council undertake an audit to establish the carbon footprint of both the USC and the Shire (council leadership)
- Uralla Shire needs to become a carbon sink, increase biomass (e.g. tree planting, increased native pasture retention etc)
- establish with the community an Energy Task group, via a Business Feasibility Study to establish which renewable energy sources (e.g. wind, solar, waste, burning of methane from waste (to reduce greenhouse effect by 87%), biomass or geothermal) are the most viable for community power production
- target replacement of electric hot water systems
- create a highly visible demonstration council building (e.g.: install photovoltaic cells)
- Council support bulk purchase of renewable systems for homes
- lobby State government to expand the solar schools program
- promote and support genuine 'Green Power', and expand the availability to all energy users (e.g. Schools and businesses)
- simplify the rebate system for domestic renewable energy products (i.e. supplier receives subsidies following installation rather than the consumer)
- USC to lobby for legislation to provide fair returns for feed-in tariff
- USC to lobby for all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies to be removed and the savings used to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency programs

TRANSPORT

- ensure streetscapes are shaded and more conducive to pedestrian & cycle use
- limit vegetation clearing by power authorities along streetscapes (while ensuring safety is maintained)
- lobby State Government to maintain and improve existing rail infrastructure
- Councils engage with major freight users re: road/rail ratio
- lobby State Government to improve/expand passenger rail system
- invest in Research & Development of alternative fuels for vehicle fleets (e.g. hydrogen vehicles, electric cars +recharge points)
- buses: investigate current services with the aim to better coordinate and promote timetables
- establish cycle ways within and between communities
- reduce the need for goods transportation – increase local production & marketing within the Shire

ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT

- install water tanks to save the energy from transporting water
- encourage and implement water use efficiency and recycling to conserve water for feeding into environment
- manage native vegetation at a landscape level & revegetate using multi-purpose tree species. Continue to rehabilitate and revegetate waterways and riparian zones
- manage riparian zone vegetation to restrict weed growth
- create an avenue of funding to Councils to support projects with Landcare, CMAs and other NRM Bodies (create synergy between initiatives)
- create an opportunity for locals to re-purchase items from the Waste Management Centre
- identify appropriate waste disposal for existing and new waste sources created by new technologies (e.g. light bulbs containing mercury and batteries)
- enable legislative powers for Local Government to set and enforce appropriate energy efficiency and sustainability criteria covering local building and commercial development codes for their region, to strengthen and improve energy efficiency, sustainability and health criteria for buildings

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- start education for sustainability at a very early age and continue lifetime learning
- community education via shopfront – provide materials, displays, information, working models on display - must be interactive and accessible
- develop a Communication Strategy to inform businesses and residences on matters relating to environmental values. Place information sheets in doctor's surgeries, hair dressers etc on sustainability practices
- explore the funding opportunities from DECC under the "Green Precinct Fund" through State and Federal avenues.
- Council based education and leading by example
- Council explore ways of reducing emissions from fleet
- create a Council calendar to notify community of events and give tips on sustainable living in that calendar
- create community vegetable gardens - local community responsibility with council support
- create wider footpaths in new developments and along the main street to facilitate safe and more pedestrian and cycle journeys
- encourage community groups to engage with sustainability issues and link with likeminded groups
- involve community in planting appropriate trees in town and maintaining their health

ADAPTATION ACTIONS FOR LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

All Participants recommend that both Local and State Governments:

- adopt the following Slogan: Be prepared, be adaptable, be conducive to change, be flexible, be open-minded;
- have the foresight and will to act, to put the planning and thought into understanding the risks and carry out the actions required to cope with the predicted changes in climate; and

- recognise that we need to be adaptable in our response as information and technology becomes available.

In addition, Participants recommend that the following issues be addressed in the creation and adoption of a climate risk management strategy:

- health issues
- adapting lifestyles to changing conditions
- population change – increase, mobility & changing vocational emphasis
- agriculture – adapting farm strategies
- environment – bush fire strategies, storm and tempest
- insurance issues
- food
- water reservoirs
- alternatives to scarce resources
- building & design
- adaptation education
- local industries – tourism, sustainability industries
- transport

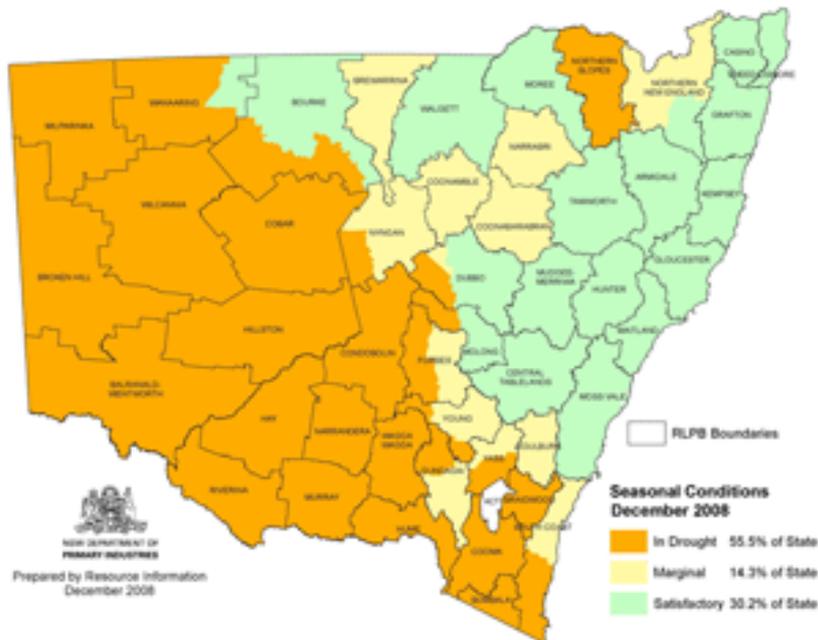
APPENDIX C

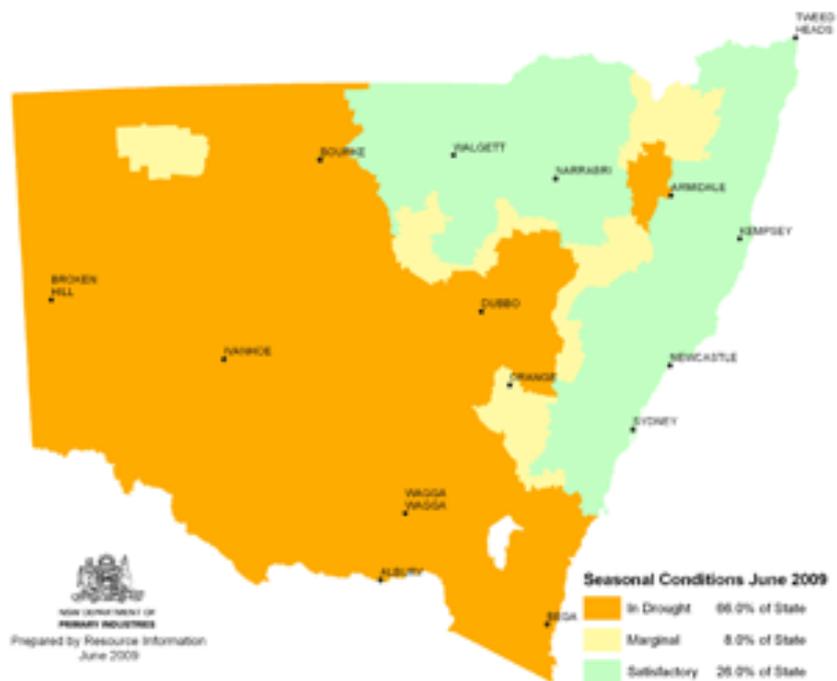
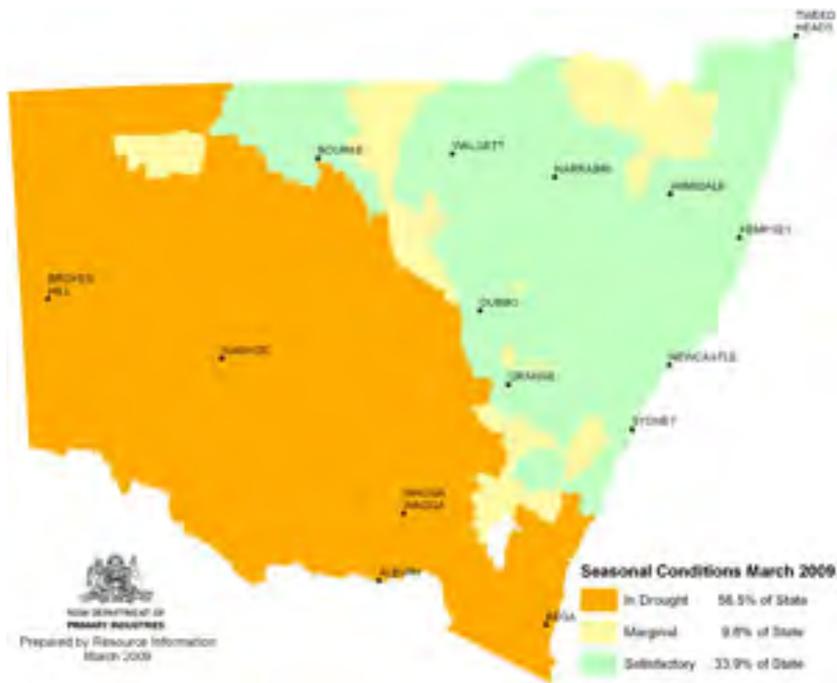
Drought Affected Areas of New South Wales 2008-2009

APPENDIX C

NSW DROUGHT DECLARATIONS FOR 2008-2009

Source: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture





APPENDIX F

Uralla Mineral Resource Audit Map

Mineral Resource Audit of Uralla Shire

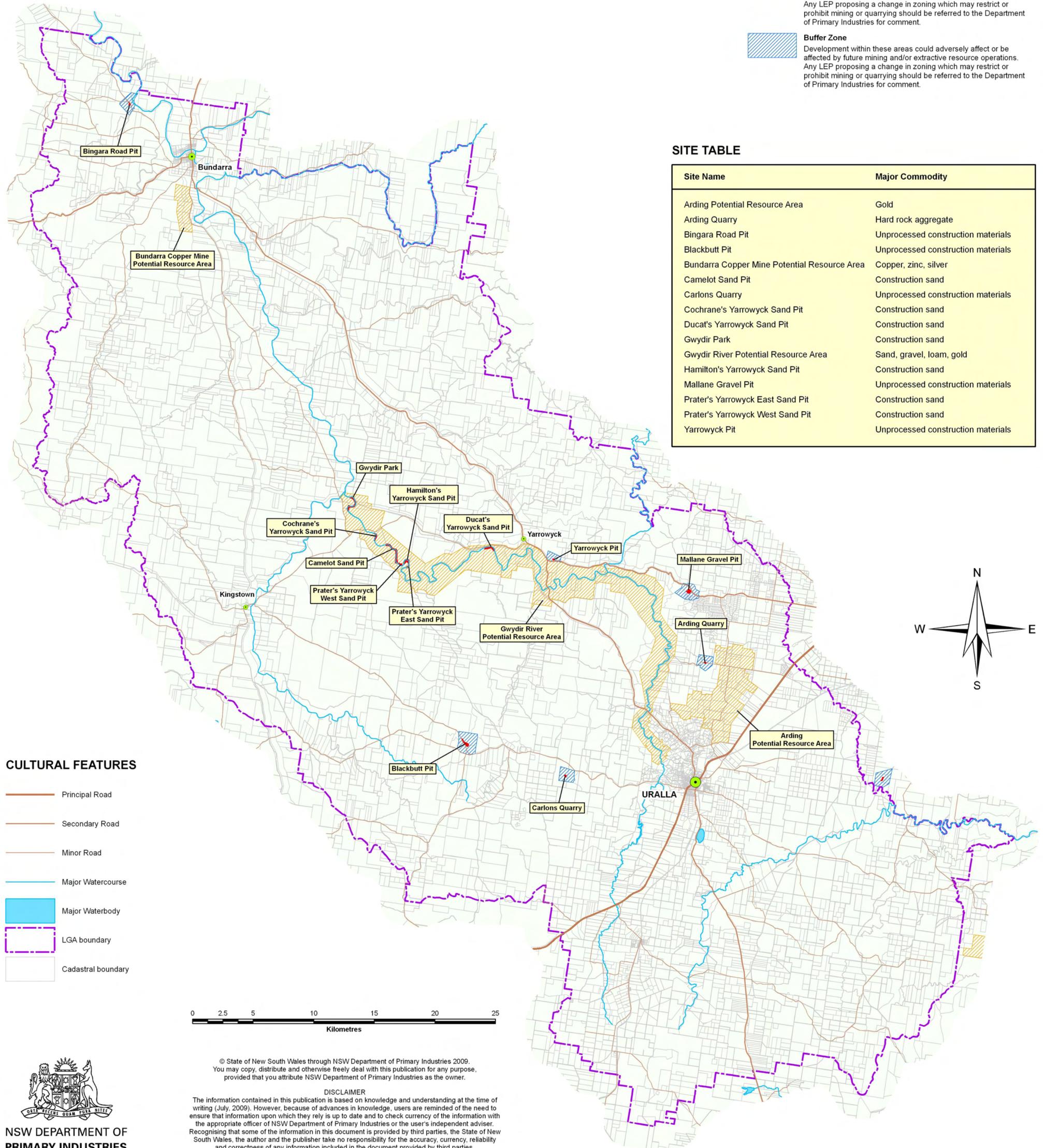
July, 2009

RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION

- Identified Resource - areas containing existing quarries, mines, and/or identified resources**
The Department of Primary Industries would object to any proposed change in zoning which may prohibit mining or quarrying in these areas.
- Potential Resource - areas containing potential mineral and/or extractive resources**
Development within these areas could adversely affect or be affected by future mining and/or extractive resource operations. Any LEP proposing a change in zoning which may restrict or prohibit mining or quarrying should be referred to the Department of Primary Industries for comment.
- Buffer Zone**
Development within these areas could adversely affect or be affected by future mining and/or extractive resource operations. Any LEP proposing a change in zoning which may restrict or prohibit mining or quarrying should be referred to the Department of Primary Industries for comment.

SITE TABLE

Site Name	Major Commodity
Arding Potential Resource Area	Gold
Arding Quarry	Hard rock aggregate
Bingara Road Pit	Unprocessed construction materials
Blackbutt Pit	Unprocessed construction materials
Bundarra Copper Mine Potential Resource Area	Copper, zinc, silver
Camelot Sand Pit	Construction sand
Carlons Quarry	Unprocessed construction materials
Cochrane's Yarrowyck Sand Pit	Construction sand
Ducat's Yarrowyck Sand Pit	Construction sand
Gwydir Park	Construction sand
Gwydir River Potential Resource Area	Sand, gravel, loam, gold
Hamilton's Yarrowyck Sand Pit	Construction sand
Mallane Gravel Pit	Unprocessed construction materials
Prater's Yarrowyck East Sand Pit	Construction sand
Prater's Yarrowyck West Sand Pit	Construction sand
Yarrowyck Pit	Unprocessed construction materials



CULTURAL FEATURES

- Principal Road
- Secondary Road
- Minor Road
- Major Watercourse
- Major Waterbody
- LGA boundary
- Cadastral boundary



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DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July, 2009). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser. Recognising that some of the information in this document is provided by third parties, the State of New South Wales, the author and the publisher take no responsibility for the accuracy, currency, reliability and correctness of any information included in the document provided by third parties.



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

APPENDIX H

Southern New England Landcare Activities for 2008-2009

Southern New England Landcare activities in the NESAC Area for the year 2008/2009

On ground outputs on private land (figures are in addition to amounts reported to NESAC by NRCMA)

CMA Area	Area of native remnant vegetation on grazing properties fenced and managed for conservation	Area of native revegetation work	Length of stream fenced and managed for improved riparian condition	Area of erosion remediation work
Border Rivers-Gwydir	23 ha	21 ha	6.2 km	0 ha
Northern Rivers	0 ha	17.5 ha	1 km	81 ha
Namoi	0 ha	0 ha	0 km	0 ha
Total across NESAC area	23 ha	38.5 ha	7.2 km	81 ha

Summary Table of community capacity building in natural resource management in the NESAC area

OUTCOME <i>(Insert from contract schedule 1)</i>	COMMENT <i>(Describe the level of success, the results of any outcome evaluations conducted and any problems found in achieving the desired outcomes)</i>
Increase community awareness of NRM issues and the role of the NRCMA, BRGCMA and Australian Government in NRM	Our presence along with CMA and Aust government information displayed at: 22 awareness raising events and 4 offices 1500 estimated recipients 6 editions x 800 recipients of network newsletter and a further 3 editions x 450 recipients of Malpas newsletter 10% estimated increase in Newsletter readership 44 media appearances
Community attitudes to NRM issues influenced	The following observations serve to indicate the projects influence on community attitudes to NRM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A growing number of expressions of interest for on-ground work relating whole-farm change in landuse (rotational grazing and engineered woodlands) • Attendance at NRM events by landholders that have not previously engaged with Landcare or the CMAs • Over 400 payed Landcare member families (payment id optional, services provided paid and non paid members is equal) • 135 school children enthusiastically involved in frog dreaming youth conference
Increased community skills and knowledge of NRM issues and practices	125 people attended training in NRM, (524 person days, 16 events (1 to 4 days duration).
Increased community involvement,	Highlights of our work with local government include:

collaboration and partnerships in NRM

1. The Sustainable Living Expo (SLEX) that incorporated the Soils Heath Forum (phase 3), a series of seminars coordinated by the CSO, attracting around 500 participants. The SLEX collaboration allowing the CSO coordinated events to benefit from the broad, TV, radio and newspaper advertising of SLEX to attract a different audience of land managers, previously outside the Landcare network.
2. The Sustainable Farms Tour (part of SLEX), a bus tour of 3 properties highlighting different aspects of sustainable grazing.
3. Involvement with stakeholder coordination and writing the funding bid to the Environmental Trust's Urban Sustainability Program that resulted in securing \$2,000,000 for the LGAs in our area to improve urban biodiversity, water quality and waste management.
4. Our work as a member of the New England Sustainability Strategy consortium (NESSie). This is an Armidale Dumaresq Council Project, covering the New England Strategic Alliance of Council (NESAC) and funded by DECC. Our role was to contact key informant and group interviews to identify key environmental issues for the sustainability of the NESAC region and help convene a high profile public forum of 120 people. Other members of NESSie did the same for other areas of sustainability, social, economic, youth etc. New partnerships were developed and awareness of the CMAs and Landcare was increased.
5. CSO facilitation of the Pine Forest stakeholder group as resulted in a community plan for the pine forest that includes NRM outcomes with broad stakeholder agreement.
6. Collaboration with the NESAC's database manager has enabled us to redesign our data management.

New Community NRM Data Management System

The CSOs are 80% along the path of defining a new data management system for NRM activities in the region. With the help of in-kind support from NESAC and a database software company (Salesforce). The new system will enable us to:

1. Standardised data management for all NRM projects in our area
2. Capture all work contributing to CAP targets
3. Track community NRM educational needs and potential for engagement in on-ground works
4. Quickly produce reports based on critical output and outcome data for a given CMA or LGA area
5. Promote the achievements of community NRM in our region to secure future government and corporate funding
6. Share this system for adoption by other community NRM organisations

	<p>Frog Dreaming Schools conference</p> <p>This was a 2 day joint venture between SNEL and DECC that developed partnerships with a number of schools and sponsoring businesses. A 2-day youth conference was held, with over 135 school children. The conference utilised kids teaching kids methodology, with yr11 students mentoring year 5 and 6 students. Students developed a personal connection to environmental issues and increased understating and knowledge of environmental issues.</p>
Increased financial opportunities for community to undertake NRM	\$2,086,839 in funding for NRM was secured for the project area.

Community capacity building in Natural Resource Management in the NESAC area

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
<p>Awareness raising events Eg field days</p>	<p>CSO lead: SLEX sustainable farms bus tour (33) SLEX Education Festival (60) SLEX Soil Health Seminars (500) Green Corps Launch (60) Frog Dreaming youth conf (135 x 2) Guyra Office Launch (12) Green Corps Graduation (22) Balala Brushgrove Birds Field day (35)</p> <p>CSO assisted: Wetland Field day (20) Bimbivale Field day (40) Enmore soils Field day (16) Wollun Soil day (17) Fox dinners (25) Kentucky weeds field day (24) Healthy Farmers Healthy Farms (1) Maartin Stapper Field Day (23) Guyra Wetlands Field Day (10) Belfield Farm Open Day (61) Regional Solar Project Launch (45) Landcare Adventure (14) Engineered Woodlands Field Day (70) DPI Soil carbon myth busters (20)</p>
<p>Written Products Brochures, newsletters, posters, factsheets etc</p>	<p>10 publications Landchat 6 editions Wallun Salinity Flier Landcare network brochure Frog Dreaming T-shirts Frog Dreaming conference bags Frog dreaming promotions for schools Info pack for SLEX bus tour</p>

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
Displays Displays for shows, community events etc	3 displays SLEX 2 day event (3000) Wollomombi community party (55) Wool Expo 3 day event (4000) Guyra Show

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
Media Publicity media interviews/media releases publicised	Printed newspaper articles Kentucky weed FD (1) Frog dreaming (1) SLEX soil health forums and farm tour (5) Landcare Awards local finalists (2) Dumaresq Creek working bee (1) Fox (4) Narwan Village rehab (1) ET Urban sustainability proj (2) Solar NE project (2) Staaper day (3) Malpas BBQ (1) Farm Open Day (1) Landcare Adventure (1) Pine Forest (1) NRM at wool expo (3) Malpas Plan Review (5) Landcare Awards open (3) Radio announcements ABC announcements for events ABC Farm Open Day Feature Interview with Prof Wal Whaley ARM FM interview with Schools CSO about Frog Dreaming ABC interviews at Frog Dreaming event Fox bait pickups Interview Ben Lomond Landcare TV Ad SLEX soil health forums and farm tour Other 2 finalists in National Landcare Awards, national billboard and www promotion Print from other projects CSO assisted Land Water and Wool (1) Wetland Funding (3) Erosion (1) BRG group projects (1) Serrated Tussock regional meeting (1)

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
Printed Information Dissemination	5 different documents displayed 400 estimated recipients At office and events and off-site displays listed above
Training Events Skills and training events implemented	For land managers, CSO lead Envirofund reporting workshop (5) GreenCorps: Tree Planting Techniques (10), Weed recognition and control techniques (10), Chemical Safety (10) Aquatic Weed Control (8), Cultural Heritage Management (8), Uralla Local History (8), Nursery Routines (8). For land managers, CSO assisted Namoi LWW monitoring workshop Landscan River health training 2 day BFA Road Show BRGCMA Soil Carbon workshop AIMS workshop Guyra (12) Biodynamic 2 day workshop (14) Water watch training (15) For regional NRM staff, CSO lead Facilitation training stage 1&2 (17) Book keeping for NRM orgs (4) Database design for NRM orgs (6) Placestories 1&2 (20) Qualdata (15)
Landcare community access points	4 – Landcare office spaces at Walcha, Guyra, Uralla and Armidale Dumaresq Councils

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
<p>New networks and partnerships established and maintained</p>	<p>New partnership arrangements a) Same CMA contractors as previous years, so not so many new arrangements - AIMS linked to UNE for the AIMS field day, 2008 Green corps team linked with USC for BRG sub-catch plan and tribal tracks, AIMS and Kate Boyd linked to new individuals on SLEX farm tour, AIMS and Armidale Tree Group linked to audience at SLEX forums and expo, 12 new landholders linked to on-ground CMA projects lead by SNEL. b) Indigenous community (involved AEPO and DECC) - Frog Dreaming, also Narwan village project c) NESAC - NE Sustainability Strategy and ET Urban Sustainability Program ADC and others - SLEX partner group DECC and others - Informal regional group for climate change action plan UNE – production of new soil extension tools, NE Sustainability Strategy, facilitation training TAFE – partner in design and delivery of Saturday sustainability workshops Sustainable Living Armidale – joint field day held and assistance with incorporation d) Other – a dedicated schools CSO (0.14EFT) resulted in collaborative partnerships being developed with NPWS and Schools to host the highly successful Frog Dreaming Conference.</p>
<p>Governance tools</p>	<p>New database tables and fields defined Landholder EOI process Review and development of Landcare Network policies Production of Annual report for Landcare Network</p>
<p>Organisational Reviews Meetings with CMA/contractors undertaken to identify CCB needs</p>	<p>2 formal (and weekly informal) meetings with Stacey Winckel to review progress of CCB project NRCMA Southern area mtg attended x4 NRCMA CSO gathering attended</p>

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
<p>Community Groups or Projects assisted</p>	<p>Stakeholder groups engaged Aberfoyle Landcare group 1 mtg SNELCC 4 mtgs Hobby farmers on SLEX farm tour Sustainable Living Armidale – SWOC and Belfield Field Day Pine forest (29 stakeholder groups) 5 mtgs Ben Lomond Landcare and hall committee 3 mtgs CFOC application (12 partners) TAFE – sustainability workshops Rural Green House Gas Research Centre – Farm Carbon Audit CSIRO - Farm Carbon Audit UNE social science – regional carbon bank project NESSie partners Rockvale Landcare group 1 mtg – River Reach planning Malpas Catchment Action Plan review (14) Schools – Frog dreaming and Worm swags project</p> <p>Existing partnership coordinated DECC - salinity team, biodiversity team and soil team NRCMA NRS project UNE – 2 Ag EX student teams, strategic planning with Julian Prior Fox groups - dinners, Armidale &Walcha Dung Beetle Express committee NENW Network Chairs 2 mtgs NEWA – serrated tussock DPI – soil health, weeds, grazing management</p> <p>Project applications Lambing Gully Reach based Charleston Willows (Tilbuster ponds) Reach based Wollomombi River Reach based Bakers Creek River Reach based Sarah River Reach Based Caring for our Country ET Urban Sustainability Program with NESAC Farming Futures Climate Change research (4 groups) 19 site EOIs for BRG group projects 15 site EOIs for NR erosion project Farm Carbon Audit Submitted to DECC</p> <p>Site visits</p>
	<p>DECC salinity team at Blaxland (3) Points field, Acaire, Charleston willows and lambing gully for reachbased (4). LWW2 and other OG projects (26)</p>

Output Description	<i>Quantity and details</i>
No. and amount of funding secured for CMA projects	<p>Secured 3 NR reach base plans, Wollomombi River, Bakers Creek and Charleston Willows (Tilbuster Ponds) (in-kind from NRCMA) 1 reach based implementation, Lambing Gully (\$ 29,815.00) BR-G River Health Training (\$2000) BRG Fencing Incentives Project - materials and \$3700 manangement fee. Others?</p> <p>Rejected Namoi CMA education grant (Note: amount is low due to less fundung available from CMAs)</p>
No. and amount of funding secured for other Government projects	<p>Secured: ET Urban Sustainability Program for NESAC (CSO facilitated) \$2,000,000 GVEOH administration grant (\$3600.00) Small equipment grant (\$12,224.00)</p> <p>Pending: Farm Carbon Audit submission to DECC Environmental Trust x3</p> <p>Rejected: Farming Futures Research program Sarah River Reach based (NR in-kind) C4OC Round 1 Application Farm Ready – Dung Beetle</p>
No. and amount of funding secured for Bush Recovery projects	NA
No. and amount of funding secured for non-government projects	<p>Secured: Malpas \$24000 NE Sustainability Strategy \$2000 Fox funding for Winter 08 \$8000 Qantas – Lower Apsley \$10000 Work for the Dole subsidy Uralla Rivercare \$2156 ArcGIS and SalesForce commercial software secured as part of the companies' community programs' in kind value \$18000 NE Credit Union sponsorship \$3500 'Frog Dreaming' sponsorship \$3359</p> <p>Pending: Ian Potter Foundation Engineered Woodlands \$190000</p>

APPENDIX I

Summary of Climate Change Impacts



Summary of Climate Change Impacts New England/North West NSW Region



NSW Climate Change Action Plan



New South Wales
Government

Department of **Environment & Climate Change** NSW



Projected regional climatic changes by 2050

NSW government agencies and the University of NSW have been developing climate change forecasts for the NSW State Plan regions. These pages present the interim findings. In summary, a moderate decrease in winter rainfall and a slight to moderate increase in rainfall in other seasons is projected for this region. Due to increased temperatures, drier conditions are projected, particularly in winter and spring.

A hotter climate

Days are projected to be hotter over all seasons, with the greatest warming in winter and spring (2 to 3°C).

Nights are also projected to be warmer, with mean minimum temperatures projected to increase by 2 to 3°C in the east of the region, and slightly less in the west. Frosts are likely to be fewer.

Increased rainfall in all seasons except winter

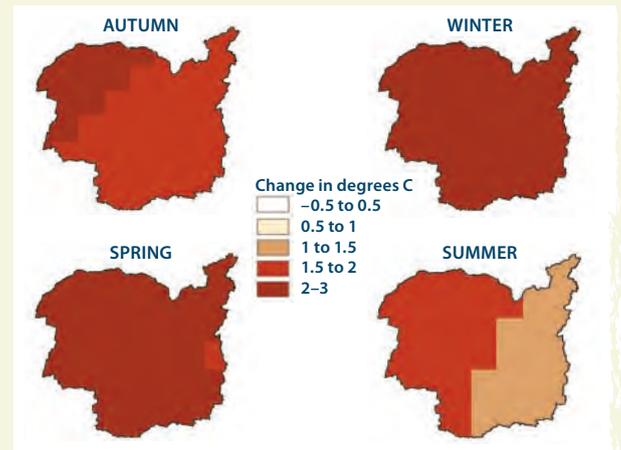
Rainfall is projected to increase in spring, summer and autumn by 5–20%, but decrease in winter by 5–20%, with the greatest decrease in the west of the region.

Drier conditions in all seasons except summer

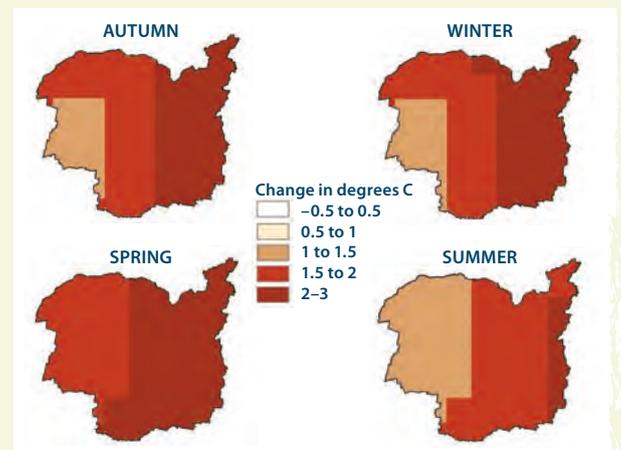
An increase in evaporation is projected to create drier conditions, and winter and spring are projected to be the driest. In summer, net water balance is projected to remain similar to current conditions.



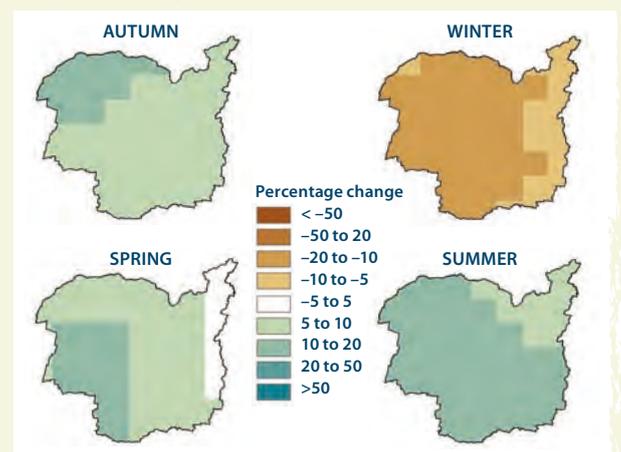
Projected change in mean maximum temperature by season



Projected change in mean minimum temperature by season



Projected change in seasonal rainfall



Assessment of regional biophysical impacts

Characteristics of the region

The New England/North West Region comprises an area in north-western NSW, extending from Glen Innes and Armidale on the New England Tablelands in the north-east, to Inverell and Tamworth in the centre and then to Moree and Narrabri on the north-western plains. The region is highly diverse, incorporating a wide range of altitudinal and latitudinal gradients, climatic conditions and land uses. The tablelands have a temperate climate with warm summers and cool winters. The far north-west of the area is hot and semi-arid while much of the centre of the region is sub-humid.

Broadly the region can be divided into the tablelands, slopes and plains. The plains include the broad alluvial or riverine plains of the main rivers. The landscape of the region varies from high inland tablelands and slopes, to the broad floodplains of flowing rivers, including the Namoi, Gwydir and Macintyre rivers.

The rivers have formed several significant wetlands. These wetlands support a high diversity of flora and fauna that are dependent on varying regimes of wetting and drying. Major floodplain wetlands in the region include the Gwydir wetlands and Goran Lake.

Land uses vary widely, with grazing and horticulture dominating land use in the tablelands; cropping and rotational grazing in the slopes and plains; and significant, important areas of irrigation occurring on the extensive riverine plains.

There are many national parks located along the escarpment. The large parks further to the west include parts of Pilliga, Mount Kaputar and Torrington national parks, however most national parks in the region are small and scattered, and many ecosystems are not represented in these areas.

The New England/North West Region has a moderate annual average rainfall overall (700 mm) with the highest rainfall in the New England Tablelands and the lowest in the west of the region. The rainfall is summer dominated, and comparatively uniformly distributed for the rest of the seasons. The runoff for the region is highest on the tablelands, and the seasonal runoff pattern is similar to the rainfall pattern.

El Niño Southern Oscillation

The pattern of the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle is expected to continue but with higher temperatures than currently experienced. El Niño years are likely to continue to be drier than average and become hotter. La Niña years are likely to continue to be wetter than average and also become warmer. In El Niño events, water stress is expected to be more intense due to higher temperatures. During La Niña years storms with heavy downpours are expected to be more frequent.

Fire

The frequency of very high or extreme fire-risk days is predicted to increase across NSW. Increases in temperature, evaporation and high fire-risk days are likely to increase fire frequency and intensity across the region. The fire season is likely to be extended as a result of warmer temperatures.

Biodiversity

Higher temperatures and drier conditions are very likely to have a major impact on biodiversity. Higher altitude forests west of the tablelands such as Mount Kaputar and the Liverpool Ranges are likely to undergo major contractions both eastward and upward in response to higher temperatures. Climate change is likely to place additional pressures on those ecological communities that are already stressed due to fragmentation and may be less resilient to disturbances. Specialised communities that are naturally very limited in distribution are likely to be at risk of degradation or loss. Fauna are likely to be affected by habitat loss, long hot spells and reduction in key habitat resources such as hollow bearing trees and nectar. Increased fire frequencies are likely to lead to widespread changes across many ecosystems.

Soils

Reduced vegetation cover, caused by poorer growing conditions, is very likely to leave some soils vulnerable to increased erosion. The risk of erosion is likely to be exacerbated by increased rainfall in summer and autumn, but is likely to be reduced on the plains in spring. Gully erosion on the slopes and plains is likely to increase in summer with increased runoff. Wind erosion is likely to increase in the drier areas and the management of sodic surface soils is likely to be

more difficult on the plains. Vulnerable areas include some surface soils on the plains, and gullies on the slopes and plains. Acidification hazard is likely to be slightly reduced. Salinity hazard is likely to change, but the degree of change will vary with the characteristics of local catchments.

Floods

Despite the potential for drier conditions for much of the year due to increased evaporation, flood-producing rainfall events are likely to increase in frequency and intensity. Whether these changes lead to an increase in flood levels depends upon the existing catchment conditions (e.g. moisture levels in soils) and the water levels in the major storages at the time of actual events.

Hydrological change

Overall, there will more likely than not be a slight increase in runoff.

- In summer, there is very likely to be a major increase in runoff depths (with estimates ranging from +7 to +20%), and a major increase in the magnitude of high flows. Current levels of low flows are likely to occur slightly less frequently.
- In autumn, there will more likely than not be a minor increase in runoff depths (with estimates ranging from -16% to +24%) and a slight increase in the magnitude of high flows. Current levels of low flows will more likely than not occur slightly more frequently.

- In winter, there is likely to be a major decrease in runoff (with estimates ranging from -29% to +11%) and a moderate decrease in the magnitude of high flows. Current levels of low flows are likely to occur moderately more frequently.
- In spring, there is likely to be a major decrease in runoff (estimates ranging from -23% to +6%) and a moderate decrease in the magnitude of high flows. Current levels of low flows will more likely than not occur slightly more frequently.

The consequences of the changed catchment runoff for streamflow and consumptive water users will clearly depend on what part of the reported range of change is realised, as well as the influence of water infrastructure. If the drier end of the range were realised, towns with smaller water supplies would need to consider that there may be inflow reductions of 10–20% during drier periods.

More information

For more information contact:

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Email: info@environment.nsw.gov.au

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/climatechange/actionplan.htm

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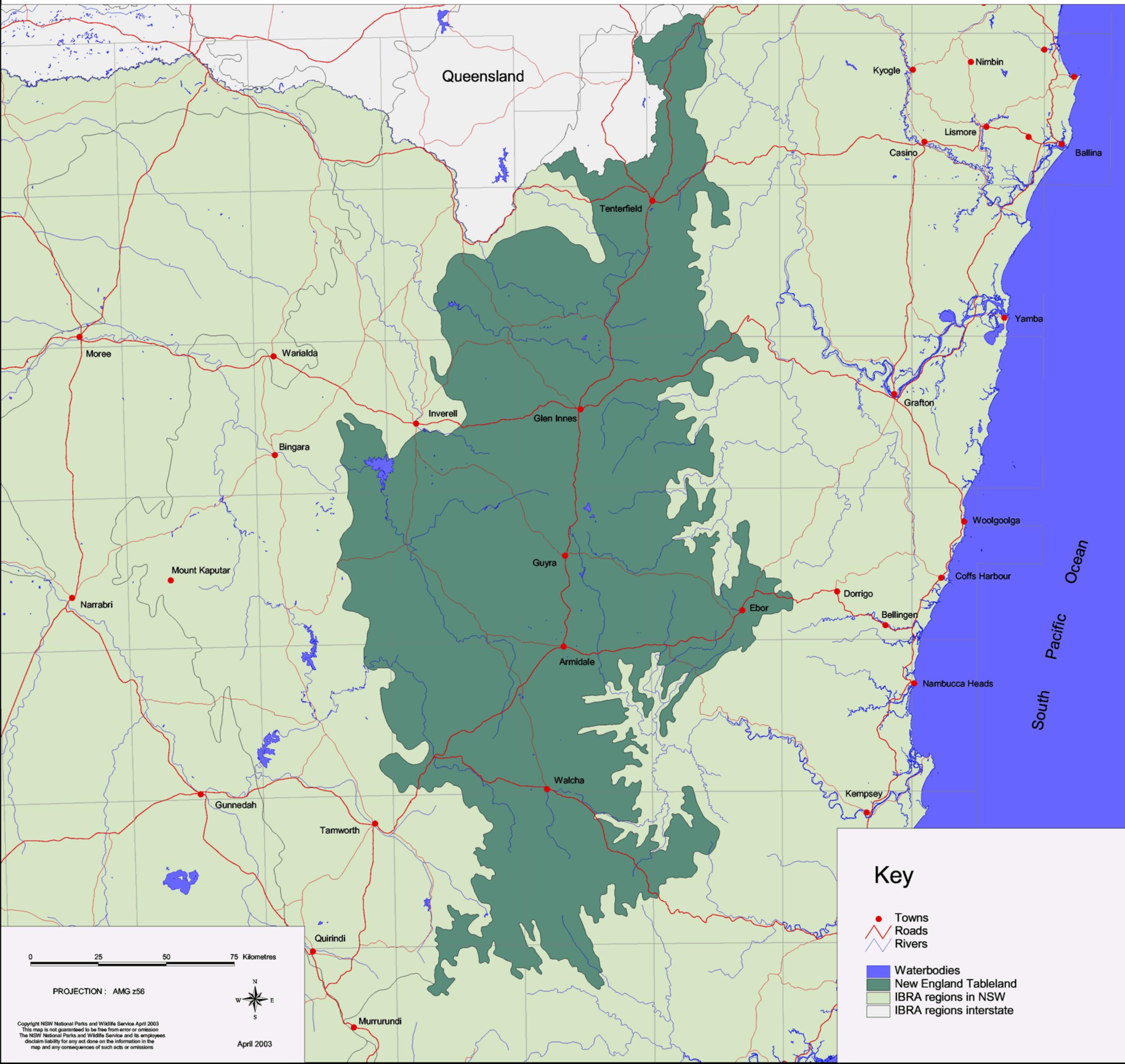
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APPENDIX J

New England Tableland Bioregion Locality Map

New England Tableland Biogeographic Region (IBRA) - Location



Key

- Towns
- Roads
- Rivers
- Waterbodies
- New England Tableland
- IBRA regions in NSW
- IBRA regions interstate

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April 2003

APPENDIX K

Threatened Species Recorded in the Southern New England Region

APPENDIX K

THREATENED SPECIES RECORDED ON THE ATLAS OF NSW WILDLIFE

www.wildlifeatlas.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

The flora and fauna species identified in the Tables below are listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and were recorded on the Atlas of NSW Wildlife as at July 2009. The species are listed with a legal status of either vulnerable [V], endangered [E1], endangered population [E2], critically endangered [E4A] or presumed extinct [E4]. Recordings of species that have been added to the list since compilation of the NESAC State of Environment Report 2007-2008 are shown within ().

Threatened Flora Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	ADC	GSC	USC	WC
<i>Cynanchum elegans</i>	White-flowered Wax Plant	E1	•			•
<i>Marsdenia longiloba</i>	Slender Marsdenia	E1	•			
<i>Tylophora woollsii</i>	Cryptic Forest Twiner	E1	•			
<i>Picris evae</i>	Hawkweed	V	•			
<i>Rutidosis heterogama</i>	Heath Wrinklewort	V		•		
<i>Lepidium hyssopifolium</i>	Aromatic Peppercress	E1	•		•	
<i>Callitris oblonga</i>	Pygmy Cypress Pine	V	•			•
<i>Callitris oblonga</i> subsp. <i>parva</i>		V	•	•		•
<i>Aldrovanda vesiculosa</i>	Waterwheel Plant	E1		•		
<i>Gaultheria viridicarpa</i>	Green Waxberry	V	•			
<i>Styphelia perileuca</i>	Montane Green Five-corners	V		•		
<i>Bertya ingramii</i>	Narrow-leaved Bertya	E1	•		•	•
<i>Monotaxis macrophylla</i>	Large-leafed Monotaxis	E1		•		
<i>Swainsona sericea</i>	Silky Swainson-pea	V		•		
<i>Senna acclinis</i>	Rainforest Cassia	E1	•			•
<i>Gentiana wissmannii</i>	New England Gentian	V	•	•		
<i>Haloragis exalata</i>		V	•			•
<i>Haloragis exalata</i> subsp. <i>velutina</i>	Tall Velvet Sea-berry	V	•			•
<i>Prostanthera cineolifera</i>	Singleton Mint Bush	V				•

<i>Eucalyptus approximans</i>	Barren Mountain Mallee	V	•			
<i>Eucalyptus camphora</i> subsp. <i>relicta</i>	Warra Broad-leaved Sally	E1		•		•
<i>Eucalyptus magnificata</i>	Northern Blue Box	E1	•		•	•
<i>Eucalyptus mckieana</i>	McKie's Stringybark	V		•	•	
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	V	•	•	•	•
<i>Eucalyptus rubida</i> subsp. <i>barbigerorum</i>	Blackbutt Candlebark	V	•	•		•
<i>Homoranthus prolixus</i>	Granite Homoranthus	V		•		
<i>Chiloglottis anaticeps</i>	Bird Orchid	E1	•	•		•
<i>Chiloglottis platyptera</i>	Barrington Tops Ant Orchid	V		•		•
<i>Diuris pedunculata</i>	Small Snake Orchid	E1	•	•	•	•
<i>Pterostylis elegans</i>	Elegant Greenhood	V				•
<i>Pterostylis metcalfei</i>	Metcalf's Greenhood	E1	•	•		
<i>Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii</i>	Ravine Orchid	V				•
<i>Sarcochilus hartmannii</i>	Hartman's Sarcochilus	V				•
<i>Dichanthium setosum</i>	Bluegrass	V	•	•		
<i>Grevillea beadleana</i>	Beadle's Grevillea	E1	•	•		
<i>Grevillea scortechinii</i> subsp. <i>sarmentosa</i>	Backwater Grevillea	V		•		
<i>Grevillea guthrieana</i>	Guthrie's Grevillea	E1	•			•
<i>Hakea fraseri</i>	Gorge Hakea	V	•		•	•
<i>Triflorensia cameronii</i>		E1				•
<i>Boronia granitica</i>	Granite Boronia	V		•		
<i>Zieria floydii</i>	Floyd's Zieria	E1		•		
<i>Thesium australe</i>	Austral Toadflax	V	•	•		•
<i>Euphrasia arguta</i>		E4	•			•
<i>Euphrasia ciliolata</i>	Polblue Eyebright	V				•
<i>Tasmania glaucifolia</i>	Fragrant Pepperbush	V	•	•		
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>		E1				•

Threatened Fauna Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	ADC	GSC	USC	WC
<i>Litoria aurea</i>	Green and Golden Bell Frog	E1		(•)	•	
<i>Litoria booroolongensis</i>	Booroolong Frog	E1	•	(•)		
<i>Litoria castanea</i>	Yellow-spotted Tree frog	E1	•	•		
<i>Litoria daviesae</i>	Davies' Tree Frog	V				•
<i>Litoria piperata</i>	Peppered Frog	V	•	•		
<i>Litoria subglandulosa</i>	Glandular Frog	V	•	•		
<i>Adelotus brevis</i>	Tusked Frog	E2				•
<i>Mixophyes balbus</i>	Stuttering Frog	E1	•	•		•
<i>Philoria sphagnicolus</i>	Sphagnum Frog	V	•			•
<i>Pseudophryne australis</i>	Red-crowned Toadlet	V	(•)			
<i>Pyrrholaemus saggitatus</i>	Speckled Warbler	V	•	•	•	•
<i>Lophoictinia isura</i>	Square-tailed Kite	V	•	•	•	
<i>Atrichornis rufescens</i>	Rufous Scrub-bird	V	•			•
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed Duck	V		•	•	
<i>Stictonetta naevosa</i>	Freckled Duck	V			•	
<i>Anseranas semipalmata</i>	Magpie Goose	V		•	•	
<i>Calyptorhynchus lathami</i>	Glossy Black-Cockatoo	V	•	•		•
<i>Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus</i>	Black-necked Stork	E1	•		•	
<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>	Brown Treecreeper	V	•	•	•	•
<i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i>	Brown Treecreeper (eastern subspecies)	V			(•)	(•)
<i>Ptilinopus magnificus</i>	Wompoo Fruit-Dove	V	•	•		•
<i>Ptilinopus regina</i>	Rose-crowned Fruit Dove	V		(•)		
<i>Stagonopleura guttata</i>	Diamond Firetail	V	•	•	•	•
<i>Grus rubicunda</i>	Brolga	V		•		
<i>Irediparra gallinacea</i>	Comb-crested Jacana	V		•		
<i>Grantiella picta</i>	Painted Honeyeater	V	•	•	•	
<i>Melithreptus gularis gularis</i>	Black-chinned Honeyeater (eastern	V	•	•	•	(•)

	subspecies)					
Xanthomyza phrygia	Regent Honeyeater	E1	•	•	•	•
Pachycephala olivacea	Olive Whistler	V	•			•
Melanodryas cucullata	Hooded Robin	V	•	•	•	•
Melanodryas cucullata cucullata	Hooded Robin (south-eastern form)	V			(•)	
Glossopsitta pusilla	Little Lorikeet	V	(•)	(•)	(•)	(•)
Pomatostomus temporalis temporalis	Grey-crowned Babbler (eastern subspecies)	V		•	•	
Lathamus discolor	Swift Parrot	E1	•	•	•	
Neophema pulchella	Turquoise Parrot	V	•	•	•	•
Rostratula benghalensis australis	Painted Snipe (Australian subspecies)	E1		•	•	
Ninox connivens	Barking Owl	V	•	•	•	
Ninox strenua	Powerful Owl	V	•	•	•	•
Turnix melanogaster	Black-breasted Button-quail	E4A				•
Tyto novaehollandiae	Masked Owl	V	•	•		•
Tyto tenebricosa	Sooty Owl	V	•	(•)		•
Cercartetus nanus	Eastern Pygmy-possum	V	•	•		
Dasyurus maculatus	Spotted-tailed Quoll	V	•	•	•	•
Phascogale tapoatafa	Brush-tailed Phascogale	V	•			•
Saccolaimus flaviventris	Yellow-bellied Sheath-tail-bat	V	•	•		
Macropus parma	Parma Wallaby	V	•			•
Petrogale penicillata	Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby	E1	•	•	•	•
Thylogale stigmatica	Red-legged Pademelon	V	•			
Pseudomys oralis	Hastings River Mouse	V	•			•
Petaurus australis	Yellow-bellied Glider	V	•	•		•
Petaurus norfolcensis	Squirrel Glider	V	•	•	•	•
Phascolarctos cinereus	Koala	V	•	•	•	•
Aepyprymnus rufescens	Rufous Bettong	V	•	•		•
Potorous tridactylus	Long-nosed Potoroo	V	•			•
Pteropus poliocephalus	Grey-headed Flying-fox	V	•	•	•	•

Chalinolobus nigrogriseus	Hoary Wattled Bat	V	•			
Chalinolobus picatus	Little Pied Bat	V	•	•		
Falsistrellus tasmaniensis	Eastern False Pipistrelle	V	•	•		•
Kerivoula papuensis	Golden-tipped Bat	V				•
Miniopterus australis	Little Bentwing-bat	V	•	•		•
Miniopterus schreibersii oceanensis	Eastern Bentwing-bat	V	•	•		•
Myotis adversus	Large-footed Myotis	V	•			•
Scoteanax rueppellii	Greater Broad-nosed Bat	V	•	•		•
Vespadelus troughtoni	Eastern Cave Bat	V		(•)		
Elseva belli	Bell's Turtle	V			•	
Hoplocephalus stephensii	Stephens' Banded Snake	V		•		•
Underwoodisaurus sphyrurus	Border Thick-tailed Gecko	V		•		

APPENDIX M

Uralla Local Recommendations from Climate Consensus Project

APPENDIX M

**URALLA LOCAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
CLIMATE CONSENSUS PROJECT**

LOCAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS - PRIORITY MITIGATION

ID No	CCP Recommendation	Council Action
E1	Mitigation Plans - Energy We all agree and recommend Uralla Shire Council volunteer to be a Lighthouse model of local mitigation and adaptability to Climate Change	Refer to Council's adopted Management Plan, Volume 1 (page 2) The Council's Charter - Principle 5 "to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development"
E2	USC harnesses the enthusiasm and drive in the local community to progress any of the issues raised in this document	Refer to Council's adopted Management Plan, Volume 1 (pg 2) The Council's Charter - Principle 8 "to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and coordination of local government"
E3	Create a Mission Statement for our community articulating our goals to be a carbon neutral community	Recommend that: When Council's Management Plan is reviewed, the "Mission Statement" be amended to incorporate the wording "carbon neutral community" as an additional aim.
E4	Uralla Council undertake an audit to establish the carbon footprint of both the USC and the Shire (council leadership)	Recommend that: Council incorporate this recommendation as a goal linked to a specific Climate change Section in the 2009 comprehensive State of the Environment Report. Once listed, an annual report will be undertaken.
E5	Uralla Shire needs to become a carbon sink, increase biomass (eg. tree planting, increased native pasture retention etc)	Recommend that: Council be proactive regarding implementation of these actions as adopted in the Management Plan and State of the Environment Report.
E6	Establish with the community an Energy Task group, via a Business Feasibility Study to establish which renewable	Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee list this recommendation on its Watching Brief to work with the community regarding the establishment

	energy sources (eg. wind, solar, waste, burning of methane from waste (to reduce greenhouse effect by 87%), biomass or geothermal) are the most viable for community power production	of an Energy Task Group.
E7	Target replacement of electric hot water system	Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee investigate and report on the most appropriate course of action to facilitate, eg; investigate parallel rebates with State and/or Federal Government.
E8	Create a highly visible demonstration council building (eg: install photovoltaic cells)	Recommend that: Council investigate the purchase and installation of Solar Panels onto highly visible building/s e.g. Library, VIC, Council Chambers and inform residents on the project via Council Newsletters and Uralla Wordsworth.
E9	Council support bulk purchase of renewable systems for homes	Note that: An initiative from the New England Sustainability Strategy (Appendix 2) to cluster purchase premium solar power systems at 1/3rd the usual price is attached to this Report. Support requested from Council includes endorsement of the Solar New England Region Project by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint promotion of the Project (media, email) • hosting a public meeting • facilitating contact with local tradespeople interested in the installation work and training/accreditation Recommend that: Council refer this recommendation to the Environmental Committee to ascertain the most appropriate course of action to take, e.g. investigate parallel rebates with State Government and/or Federal Government.
j	Lobby state government to expand the solar schools program	Recommend that: Council write to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hon. Verity Firth, Member of NSW Legislative Assembly, Member for Balmain, Minister for Education and

		<p>Training and Minister for Women;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Michael Coutts-Trotter, Director General of Education and Training, NSW; • The Hon. Julia Gillard, Deputy Prime Minister; Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations; Minister for Education; Minister for Social Inclusion, seeking an expansion of the existing program to encompass all schools across the State.
E11	Promote and support genuine 'Green Power', and expand the availability to all energy users (eg. Schools and businesses)	<p>Recommend that: Council refer the recommendation to the Environmental Committee to investigate and ascertain "Genuine" Green Power providers and report back to Council.</p> <p>Council then raise the matter through the B division of the Local Government & Shires Association and write to the State Government to promote and support genuine Green Power and expand the availability to all energy users throughout the Community.</p>
E12	Simplify the rebate system for domestic renewable energy products (ie. Supplier receives subsidies following installation rather than the consumer)	<p>Recommend that: Council refer this recommendation to the Environmental Committee to ascertain the most appropriate course of action to take, i.e. investigate rebates with State Government and/or Federal Government to locate appropriate contact.</p> <p>Council then write to the State Government to request direct payment to supplier following satisfactory installation of the product. This course of action negates the community member needing to have the additional funds up front.</p>
E13	USC to lobby for legislation to provide fair returns for feed-in tariff	<p>Recommend that: Council write to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Hon. Tony Windsor MP, Member for New England commending his Private Members Bill to Federal Parliament • the Hon. Nathan Rees, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Toongabbie, Premier and Minister for the Arts, commending his upcoming initiative on feed in tariffs.
E14	USC to lobby for all direct	Recommend that:

	and indirect fossil fuel subsidies to be removed and the savings used to fund renewable energy and energy efficiency programs	<p>Council write to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator for South Australia; and the Hon. Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Member for Kingsford Smith <p>promoting and supporting this community recommendation.</p>
C15	Ensure streetscapes are shaded and more conducive to pedestrian & cycle use	<p>Recommend that:</p> <p>Council's Environmental Committee investigate what upgrading is required to the existing streetscapes and forward appropriate recommendation to the Director of Engineering Services and flag these issues to the Consultants currently reviewing the Social Plan.</p>
C16	Limit vegetation clearing by power authorities along streetscapes (while ensuring safety is maintained)	<p>Recommend that:</p> <p>Council's Environmental Committee liaises with and forms a working relationship with representatives from the Power authorities to establish protocols for vegetation clearing along/adjacent to streetscapes. Once established, these protocols will be monitored by Council Staff and Power Authorities jointly.</p>
T17	Transport - Rail Lobby State Government to maintain and improve existing rail infrastructure	<p>Recommend that:</p> <p>Council write to the SRA detailing the concerns raised in Recommendations T17, T18, T19. Council contact Glen Innes Severn</p> <p>Council to discuss the rail issues and raise the issue through the New England Local Government & Shires Association B Division.</p> <p>Council support Alliance (NESAC) initiatives for reestablishment of the previous rail network which operated across Southern New England Tablelands.</p> <p>Councils Environmental committee investigate new and/or alternative energy sources for railway stock.</p>
T18	Councils engage with major freight users re: road/rail ratio	
T19	Lobby State Government to Improve/expand passenger rail system	
T20	Transport – Vehicle Invest in Research and Development of alternative fuels for vehicle fleets (e.g. hydrogen vehicles, electric	<p>Recommend that:</p> <p>Council's Environmental Committee add this recommendation to its Watching Brief acknowledging that by doing so USC commences an investment strategy (in-kind)</p>

	cars and recharge points)	<p>and confirm support for Research & Development of alternative fuels.</p> <p>Council support the evolution to green and fuel efficient vehicles.</p>
T21	<p>Transport - Buses: Investigate current services with the aim to better coordinate and promote timetables.</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council Survey the community to establish the most appropriate times for bus services and speak with the Bus companies about the provision of these services to the community.</p> <p>Council link this recommendation with T17, T18, T19 to investigate rail shuttle service availability.</p>
T22	<p>Transport – Bicycles Establish cycle ways within and between communities</p>	<p>Note that: Councils Manager of Planning and Development Engineer are currently reviewing subdivision standards for the purpose of the drafting of a new subdivision code. Included in this review are appropriate footpath widths, ramp access, bike use, skateboard use etc.</p> <p>Recommend that: Council write to Armidale Dumaresq Council seeking information regarding their "Cycle Committee" recommendations for possible duplication in Uralla LGA.</p> <p>Council's Director of Engineering Services to investigate the feasibility of upgrading existing infrastructure and all avenues of funding available, then provide a report for Council's consideration for inclusion in the 2009-2010 Draft Budget.</p>
T23	<p>Reduce the need for goods transportation – increase local production & marketing within the Shire</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee investigate the "Transition Town" (see web link http://transitiontowns.org/) concept adopted by Armidale Dumaresq Council.</p> <p>Council support any potential opportunities to increase local production and marketing leading to a reduction in goods transportation.</p>
W24	<p>Water Install water tanks to save the energy from transporting water</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee investigate creating a rebate scheme for installation of water tanks to existing dwellings.</p>

<p>W25</p>	<p>Encourage and implement water use efficiency and recycling to conserve water for feeding into environment</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council undertake an audit regarding the amount of water used in all facets of it's operations.</p> <p>Council encourage the use of grey water storage tanks in conjunction with On-site Waste Treatment Devices (anaerobic type) with either existing or new approvals.</p> <p>Councils Environmental Project Officer to commence and then continue to provide regular community updates regarding water usage and recycling tips via the Newsletter.</p>
<p>LM26</p>	<p>Land Use and Management</p> <p>Manage native vegetation at a landscape level and revegetate using multi-purpose tree species.</p> <p>Continue to rehabilitate and revegetate waterways and riparian zones.</p> <p>Manage riparian zone vegetation to restrict weed growth.</p>	<p>Refer to Council's Charter - Item 5 "to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development</p> <p>Refer to "State of Environment Report"</p> <p>Recommend that: Council incorporate the NIWAC protocols in "Management of Roadside Vegetation – a Management plan for reducing the spread of roadside weeds" and its Standard Operating Procedures for managing the spread of weeds on roadsides, clean down procedures, inspection procedures and wash down bay specifications.</p> <p>Council incorporate NEWA protocols being developed by the NESAC Works Directorate.</p>
<p>LM27</p>	<p>Create an avenue of funding to Councils to support projects with Landcare, CMAs and other NRM Bodies (create synergy between initiatives)</p>	<p>Note that: Council's Environmental Levy can be used for environmental projects in conjunction with Landcare, Catchment Management Authorities and Natural Resource Management (NRM) bodies and will continue to raise these funds.</p> <p>Recommend that: Council continue to liaise with State and Regional Bodies and organisations (DECC, DPI, DWE, CMAs, SNELCC etc) to source and secure funding allocations for projects.</p>

LM28	Landfill Create an opportunity for locals to re-purchase items from the waste management centre	Recommend that: Council's Environment Committee adds this recommendation to its Watching Brief to investigate construction of an "Op Shop" at Uralla and Bundarra Landfills.
LM29	Identify appropriate waste disposal for existing and new waste sources created by new technologies (eg. Light bulbs containing mercury and batteries)	Recommend that: Council, through its membership of Northern Inland Regional Waste (NIRW), ensure staff is kept informed regarding the latest recommended disposal methods for waste generated by new technology.
U30	Urban Development Enable legislative powers for Local Government to set and enforce appropriate energy efficiency and sustainability criteria covering local building and commercial development codes for their region, to strengthen and improve energy efficiency, sustainability and health criteria for buildings	Recommend that: Council make submissions to the Department of Planning regarding BASIC requirements. These should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a strengthening of energy efficiency standards appropriate to local area; • strengthening of sustainability criteria for local area buildings; • strengthening of sustainability criteria for local area commercial development codes; • strengthening of health criteria in local area building codes covering natural light, external shade & shelter, passive solar design (for increased warmth) Council endorse Manager of Planning to review DCPs to incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability criteria.
ED31	Education Start education for sustainability at a very early age and continue lifetime learning	Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee add this recommendation to its Watching Brief to investigate early learning education recycling in Shire schools (provision of bins, information, Councillor visits and discussion with children) NIRW Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigate with NIRW Education Officer to develop program for Uralla Shire • investigate Education trailer available to visit Shire schools investigate Education trailer availability from CMAs.
Ed32	Community Education via	Recommend that:

	<p>Shopfront Provide materials, displays, information, working models on display - must be interactive and accessible</p>	<p>Council institute an ongoing education program by providing materials, displays, information and working models. Larger, more interactive displays would be set up in the Library Foyer while general information would always be available in Councils offices. Displays will be sourced and monitored by Council's Environmental Project Officer.</p>
ED33	<p>Develop a Communication strategy to inform businesses and residences on matters relating to environmental values. Place information sheets in doctor's surgeries, hair dressers etc. on sustainability practices</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council's Environmental Committee investigate and formulate an Environmental Communication Policy. The policies' key strategies will encompass the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information sheets on environmental values and sustainability practices (these would be left at surgeries, hairdressers etc) • environmental and sustainability information articles prepared for Council newsletter and the Uralla Wordsworth
ED34	<p>Explore the funding opportunities from DECC under the "Green Precinct Fund" through State and Federal avenues.</p>	<p>Note that: A joint funding submission via Expression of Interest (EOI) between NESAC & UNE was prepared by Uralla's Environmental Project Officer and Dr Susen Smith, UNE School of Education. The submission covers a 2.5 year project to promote water health and energy wealth and is titled WHEW.</p> <p>UNE Project component covers investigation into water health and Catchment health issues, community education, policy and legislation of water health issues.</p> <p>NESAC project components of the funding submission covers two separate projects:</p> <p>(a) Value of Rural Water Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Council regions working with UNE on water sampling (data/results/conclusions) at strategic points over the 2.5 year period for baseline data collection. • significant community education to up-skill and educate the plumbing industry, suppliers and associated professional businesses such as Real Estate Agents, Developers, Architects, Designers etc on Best Management Practises, on-site environmental legislation considerations,

		<p>latest product ranges, sharing of information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significant community education targeted towards rural landholders with on-site waste treatment devices and their responsibilities toward their immediate and greater environment concentrated project across the NESAC region to inspect on-site waste treatment devices in rural high risk areas and medium risk areas assist landholders to remediate their systems if necessary. • the production of an education DVD, created in a humorous vein, to inform and educate the general community on the value and necessity of good water health from the headwaters the 5 major river catchments of the NESAC region. <p>(b) Armidale Dumaresq Council Micro Hydro Project – installation of a turbine to harness the power of the hydraulic head in the water treatment plant at Malpas Dam.</p> <p>Budget - combined UNE & NESAC Total value of project is \$2,386,509 Total funding requested \$1,121,686 Total contributory funding (in-kind) \$536,679, Total contributory funding (monetary) \$728,144.</p> <p>NESAC Budget – 4 Councils Rural Water Health Total value of project \$513,588 Total funding requested \$343,144 Total contributory funding (In-kind covers waged officers) \$170,444 Total contributory funding (monetary) \$NIL</p> <p>NESAC Budget - Micro-Hydro Project (ADC) Total value of project \$350,000 Total funding requested \$175,000 Total contributory funding \$175,000</p>
<p>USC 35</p>	<p>Uralla Shire Council Council explore ways of reducing emissions from fleet</p>	<p>Note that: Council vehicle purchases are factoring in the inclusion of energy and fuel saving vehicles into the fleet with each new purchase.</p> <p>Recommend that: Council's Works Committee facilitates an internal audit on the vehicle fleet and report</p>

		back to Council via Committee's Minutes.
USC 36	Create a Council calendar to notify community of events and give tips on sustainable living in that calendar	<p>Recommend that: Council refer this recommendation to the Environmental Committee to investigate the production of a bi-annual calendar to advise the community of pre-planned events, and recommend updates be placed into the Council Newsletter.</p>
USC 37	Create Community vegetable gardens - local community responsibility with council support	<p>Note that: Council's Manager of Health & Building Services will investigate current community and school use of the site.</p> <p>Recommend that: Council invite Expressions of Interest from the community. This invitation will encompass the following - explore the project, set usage guidelines to conform with zoning regulations (e.g. confirm produce consumed and not sold, etc.), source volunteer key community members to manage the site, educate the community about the project, etc.</p> <p>Council allocate Community Land – Part Rotary Park (vacant land beside swimming pool) to this project. Lot 1 Section 27 DP 759022, open space, Crown Land, area 8087m² with small area initially set aside and if project is taken up by the community to increase the size to approximately 5,000m²</p> <p>Public toilets on-site – investigate solar panels to provide power to the amenities block</p> <p>Council fence the land with rural type fencing.</p> <p>Parking is available adjacent to the site Street access available from the northern and the southern ends of the lot.</p> <p>Expressions of Interest to be referred to Environmental Committee for assessment and report to Council.</p> <p>Review the project annually.</p>
USC 38	Create wider footpaths in new developments and along the main street to facilitate	Refer to Councils Adopted Management Plan Section 10.5

	safe and more pedestrian and cycle journeys	<p>Note that: Councils Manager of Planning and Development Engineer are currently reviewing subdivision standards for the purpose of the drafting of a new subdivision code. Included in this review are appropriate footpath widths, ramp access, bike use, skateboard use etc.</p> <p>Recommend that: Council endorse Director of Engineering Services and Manager of Planning to formulate specifications to include this recommendation.</p>
USC 39	Involve community in planting appropriate trees in town and maintaining their health	<p>Recommend that: Council, while mindful that street trees have a defined life which require management and regular replacement, plant and maintain appropriate trees within its parks and street verges in consultation with its community.</p>

LOCAL LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS - PRIORITY ADAPTATION

USC 40	<p>Statement: We all agree that Council adopt the following Slogan regarding climate change:</p> <p>“Be prepared, be adaptable, be conducive to change, be flexible, be open-minded”</p> <p>All participants agree that our Council must have the foresight and will to act; to put the planning and thought into understanding the risks; and to then carry out the actions required to cope with the predicted changes in climate.</p> <p>All Participants agree that our Council recognise that we need to be adaptable in our response as information and technology becomes available.</p>	<p>Recommend that: Council modifies the values expressed in Volume 1 of the Management Plan by incorporating “openness and adaptability with flexibility which enables change”.</p> <p>Note that: The New England Strategic Alliance of councils is undertaking a climate change risk assessment under the Australian Government’s Local Adaptation Pathway Program (LAPP).</p> <p>The objective of this project is to identify and assess the key risks that climate change poses to the achievement of local government objectives in the New England region of NSW and identify appropriate risk management and adaptation strategies.</p>
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	<p>In this assessment we believe these are some of the issues that will need to be addressed in the creation and adoption of a climate risk management strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• health issues• adapting lifestyles to changing conditions• population change - increase, mobility and• changing vocational emphasis• environment• agriculture - adapting farm strategies• bush fire strategies• insurance issues• storm and tempest• food• water reservoirs• alternatives to scarce resources• building and design• adaptation education• local industries• tourism• sustainability industries• transport	
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URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009**

**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
ATTACHMENT C**

**ATTACHMENTS TO SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
REGION STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
THAT ARE NOT REVELANT TO THE URALLA SHIRE
COUNCIL AND ARE NOT INCLUDED ARE:**

D	Armidale Dumaresq Mineral Resources Audit Map
E	Guyra Mineral Resources Audit Map
G	Walcha Mineral Resources Audit Map
L	Citizens Wildlife Corridors (Armidale) Report to NSW Environmental Trust

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

ATTACHMENT D

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

THE CHOICE TO LIVE AT HOME



TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2009



- **Tablelands Community Options Project**
- **Tablelands Community Aged Care Packages**
- **Tablelands Rural and Remote Respite Service**
- **Tablelands Respite for Carers of People with Dementia**
- **Aboriginal Elders Group**

Funded by the Australian and State governments to provide services to people who are aged, people with a disability and their carers who live in the Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq, Walcha, Uralla Guyra and Tamworth Local Government Areas.



MISSION STATEMENT

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS specialises in case management, care planning, brokerage and advocacy. So, except where particular funding requires otherwise, Tablelands Community Support Options will give priority to people whose case management and support planning needs are the greatest.

MISSION STATEMENT

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS support the right of Frail Aged, People with a Disability and their Carers to have the choice to remain in their own homes with quality support to maintain and enhance their individual life style.

PHILOSOPHY

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS believes in:

- ♦ The right of people to make choices about their own lives;
- ♦ The right of people to be treated with dignity, respect, privacy and confidentiality;
- ♦ The right of people to be valued as individuals;
- ♦ The right of people to access service on a non-discriminatory basis;
- ♦ The right of the community to accountable and responsive services.

AIM

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS aims to assist people who wish to live in their own homes and who have needs resulting from their age, their disability or because they care for someone who is aged or has a disability.





TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

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TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Chairperson's Report 2008/2009 Year

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's report for Tablelands Community Support Options service for the 2008/2009 year. A wide range of support services has been provided to the communities across the Tablelands region, together with a range of training for staff and attendance by the Programme Manager and other staff members at various meetings of partner and network service providers.

I extend sincere thanks to the members of the Advisory committee for their diligent attendance at the committee meetings during the year; for their continued interest in, and commitment to, the welfare and support of the communities in the Tablelands; their willingness to consider and discuss new possibilities for provision of service in a changing providers' landscape; and for their support for the Uralla Shire Council in its auspice of this programme. It is our desire and responsibility to maintain representation on the Advisory Committee from across the service area of the Tablelands region with delegates from the Councils, the communities, and other Service Providers with whom Tablelands Community Support Options partners in the provision of support programmes. It is therefore with regret that we have had to accept the resignations of Mrs. Cynthia Ford, Mrs. Wendy Gribble, and Mrs. Gail Smith from the Committee during the year. We extend to them our sincere appreciation for their service on the Advisory Committee over recent years, and we wish them well in the future. In the new year we will be looking to appoint new representatives to the committee, and want to revert to an earlier practice of holding the meetings of the Advisory Committees for both Tablelands Community Support Options and Tablelands Community Transport on the same day as this is much more efficient for representatives who are attending.

Sincere thanks are also due to Uralla Shire Council for its support of the programme, in particular to Mr. Tom O'Connor, General Manager, and Mrs. Jane Michie, Director of Administrative Services. To the programme Manager, Mrs. Jan Roads and all staff members, I extend sincere thanks on behalf of the Council, the Advisory Committee and the Tablelands communities for your continued dedication and professional service.

Committee member Mrs. Shirley Davidson was nominated for, and received, the Community Nanga Mai Award. Congratulations Shirley for well-deserved of your service to your community. Mrs. Davidson also gave the "Welcome to Country" at the official opening of the MPS in Walcha.

Transport to and from treatment centres for renal patients continues to be a matter of concern. Although treatment options are improving which benefit some patients, the need for renal transport is a health responsibility which continues to fall through the cracks. Transport for patients requiring cancer treatments is another major concern. This matter of appropriate and affordable health transport options has been taken forward from discussions in the Advisory committee to the local Member Richard Torbay and Tony Windsor and continues to be "on watch" on the committee's agenda. It has been recognised in the committee's discussions that it is not appropriate to expect unqualified volunteer drivers to provide such transport, and it continues to be an area of real concern in the area of provision of health services.

An on-site review was undertaken by DADHC at the end of September 2008. The review included all HACC services which are auspiced by Uralla Shire Council. The reviewers talked with Council representatives, the Advisory Committee Chair, programme manager, staff in all outlets, and clients. The report from the Review was pleasing. An action plan is to be undertaken on identified issues. What is required is the incorporation into written reporting and operational policies of the planning and monitoring processes which are a normal part of TCSO operation, but have not been recorded. The Kamilaroi Aged and Disability Services programme continues under the management of Tablelands Community Support Options and the auspice of the Uralla Shire Council. KADS was included in the DADHC review. The report on KADS services was generally favourable. The review team was quite impressed with the development in the KADS service in the past two years. An action plan is in place following review.

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

TCSO programme components include specific funding for mainstream and Aboriginal clients through the Community Aged Care Packages and the Community Options program which is a case management service, a respite service for younger people with a disability under Rural and Respite program and respite for carers of people with dementia, as well as the Elders Day Centre program. Client numbers for all programmes have remained at full capacity through the year, with the total number of clients being supported at any one time ranging from 184 and 195.

The Episodic Case Management Pilot concluded in late 2008. No extra funding was forthcoming for the DVA Case Management pilot programme, so all clients had been discharged from that programme by September 2008. Mrs. Roads and the Advisory Committee express their concern at the Governmental practice of initiating pilot programmes for which no continuing funding is made available. Closure of the pilot programme is forced at the expiry of the funding leaving the programme clients with the experience of receiving support which is then withdrawn. In many of these instances, it would have been better if the new or additional support had not been provided in the first place.

During the year the Manager undertook some joint funding applications with COP project providers in (Guyra) and Glen Innes. This is a proactive approach involving providers in neighbouring areas joining together as a consortium in an effort to be successful in obtaining available small grants. It is also a way of keeping their profiles in front of the Department given the numerous competitors now in the sector. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed and formally signed between NCC and NRCC to enable submissions for funding as a larger service. TCSO was also approached by Clarence Valley Community options to partner with them in a submission for funding to provide Early Start Diagnosis Support Programmes to cover the New England, Far North Coast, and Mid North Coast, with TCSO to provide the service in the New England area.

Tablelands Community Support Options was selected to take part in a pilot of the Draft Community Care Common Standards by the Commonwealth. Although there was more work involved that was first indicated some positives have come out of it. An Improvement Plan and Risk Management Plan have been drawn up and will be helpful management tools although it is apparent that the future direction of the standards would change and new standards would create more onerous administration for organisations. TCSO intends to be more proactive so it can be ready to meet any new standards.

The above joint ventures and Common Standards across services has led to continuing discussion in the Advisory Committee about the feasibility of having "Workshop/Networking" days within the regional Community Service organisation network to create common Policy and Practice Standards. The Manager of TCSO suggests that this could be a useful activity to enable service providers to develop policies and standards which are common to all providers rather than organisations independently on the same matters.

On the social side the 2008 Christmas luncheon was most enjoyable, and an Easter theme luncheon on 30 March 2009 was very successful and enjoyed by all, while success in obtaining grant funding to line the shed and to install shelving and a roller door so that equipment being stored can be kept safe and clean has been welcomed by manager and staff.

The TCSO Manager and staff have regularly attended meetings and training throughout the year, including Dementia training and forum in Tamworth and conference in Coffs Harbour, Care Planning training, COP and CACP regional meetings, and Community Care meetings in the region. New requirements which came into force requiring the keeping of driver's logs and diary system have been incorporated into TCSO operations.

Please accept my sincere good wishes for a very happy Christmas, a safe and enjoyable holiday period, and a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Isabel Strutt.

Councillor – Chairperson.

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Managers Report.

The increasingly competitive nature of the community-based service sector is posing new challenges for Tablelands Community Support Options as a regional service provider.

TCSO now provide services in a large area of the New England covering a Communities such as Quirindi,, Barraba , Dungowen, Niangla as well as our traditional areas of Guyra, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Walcha. The new CACP packages were filled in a very short time frame thanks to the dedication and hard work of staff. We continue to work in close partnership with the Kamalaroi Aged and Disability Services which is also auspiced by Uralla Shire council who provides services across the New England

We are stepping through this evolution from a small to a medium organisation, yet still attempting to maintain our culture. Over the past 17 years of my involvement with this organisation I have seen it become a well respected service provider. Our commitment to employing staff that work towards our mission is replicated in their work practices.

TCSO aims to continue working in partnership with communities by being dynamic, responsive and proactive

We will get there by:

- ? working respectfully with our clients and their families.
- ? making sure the systems, the training, the programs, qualifications and the administration is robust enough for us to stay in this business that we are good at.
- ? ensuring that qualified and dedicated practitioners want to work for TCSO
- ? developing and maintaining partnerships that add value to our work, that allow us to do things we would otherwise struggle with, because it is not our area of expertise or local knowledge or facilities.
- by ensuring that whatever we do is done within a framework of quality service

By establishing realistic, measurable and achievable future directions and goals means TCSO can enhance and reinforce what it does best – service provision. The commitment and dedication of the Staff, the support provided by Uralla Shire Council shall ensure that TCSO continues to be predictable, accountable and a reliable service of choice.

I would like to thank the staff for dedication to their clients, the Advisory Committee and Uralla Shire Council, with special mention of Ms Mitchie for their advice, and support they all have given to me over the year.

JAN ROADS.

MANAGER

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

The three year Strategic Plan which sets out our vision for the future, key objectives and highlights areas of priority and implementation strategies has been developed for the project and approved in 2007–08 by the Staff, Advisory Committee and Council.

TARGETS ACHIEVED

1. To improve efficiency & effectiveness of the organisation's Management & Administration Systems.

- Systems are continually modified to meet the Council's, DADHC and DoHA procedures and reporting requirements.
- Staff are active members on Council's Consultative Committee
- Staff have attended conferences and training on topics pertinent to their positions with a Case manager working towards their Diploma in Case Management.
- Minuted Staff and Team meetings are held fortnightly and Case Managers meetings weekly.
- With increased funding received, extra staff were employed to ensure quality services continued

2. To continually improve Access & Equity of the organisation's target group.

- Priority given to applicants for services in the small communities
- Aboriginal staff promoted their services in all communities
- Press releases on services available have been made during Carers, and Dementia week
- Information distributed at Expos, information days and presentations made at meetings
- Service statistics are collected, provided to the committee and used to ensure geographical equity in region

3. To actively participate and support changes in the community care sector to achieve positive out comes for consumers whilst ensuring effective use of resources.

- Staff members are committed members of a wide range of cross sectoral initiatives and working groups. Meetings attended include all Community Care meetings in the catchment area, HACC Inc, Dementia Advisory Group, Regional CACP Meetings.
- Staff have received information on The Way Forward updates, COAG reforms, IMPACT and the Access Point Demonstration project and implemented appropriate changes to work practices.
- A consortium was formed of the three Council auspiced COP programs in New England which submitted an unsuccessful Expressions of Interest for respite funding respite .
- A grant for funding to assist a client to live independently in the community was successfully

4. To actively work towards enhancing networks with all other organisations to improve quality of services for consumers.

- All staff regularly attend Community Care and Interagency meetings in region
- Case conferences have been initiated and facilitated for complex care clients
- Networking with other Community Care services including ACAT's, Carer Respite Centres, Disability services and the Home Care Service of NSW continue to be strengthened
- Staff have provided input and support to other services planning days.

5. Quality of project's performance is reviewed regularly.

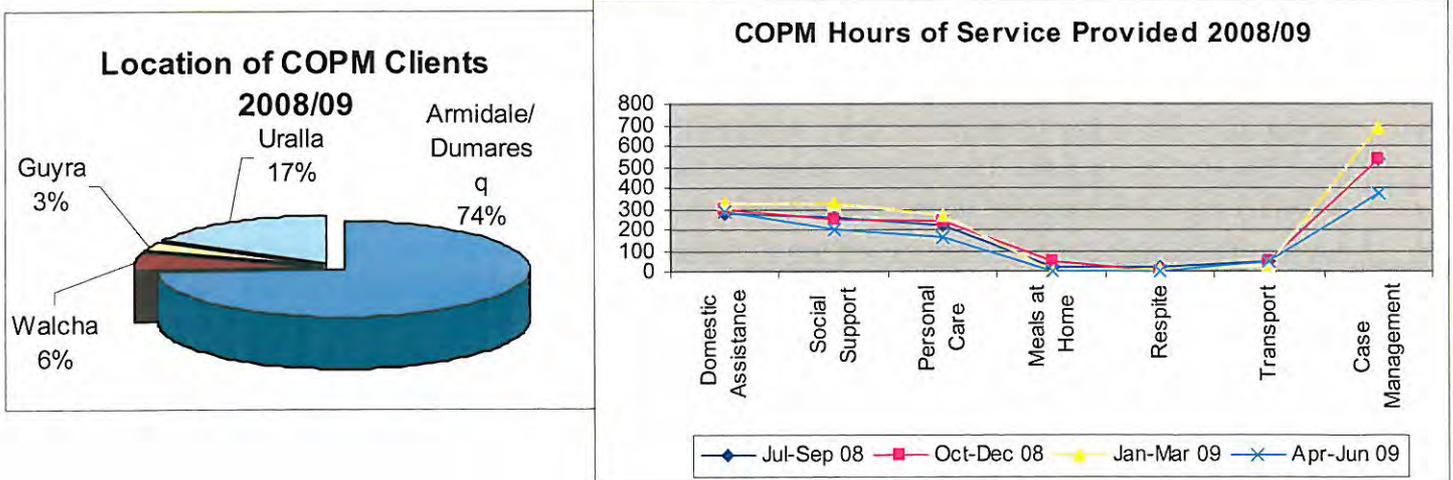
- Dept. of Health and Ageing conducted a full audit of Tablelands Community Support Options and strategies are being developed to meet new requirements.
- Clients were surveyed and Focus meetings held to assess satisfaction with service provision
- Regular meetings are held with all Contractors to discuss ongoing services to clients.

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Community Options Project— Mainstream Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$235 526.00
Interest Income	\$3 481.00
Client Income	\$8 493.00
Sundry Income	\$72.00
Total Income	\$259 184.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$116 330.00
Client Services	\$111 900.00
Administration Expenses	\$31 916.00
COP.M ASSETS	\$951.00
Total Expenditure	\$261 097.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$259 184.00
Less Expenditure	\$261 097.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$1913.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.



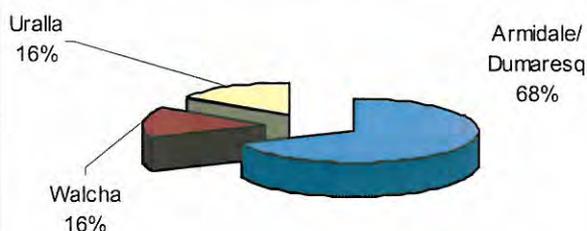
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Community Options Project— Aboriginal Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

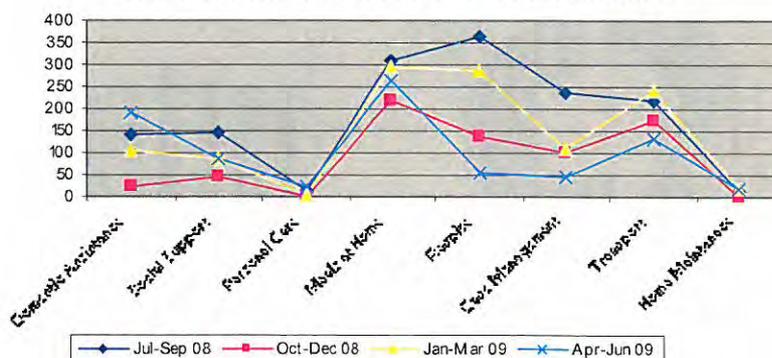
Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$108 346.00
Interest Income	\$1668.00
Client Income	\$474.00
07/08 Enhancement carried forward	\$2 033.00
Total Income	\$112 521.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$56 172.00
Client Services	\$33 419.00
Administration Expenses	\$18 200.00
Total Expenditure	\$107 791.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$112 521.00
Less Expenditure	\$107 791.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4 730.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.

Location of COPA Clients 2008-2009



COPA Hours of Service Provided 2008/09



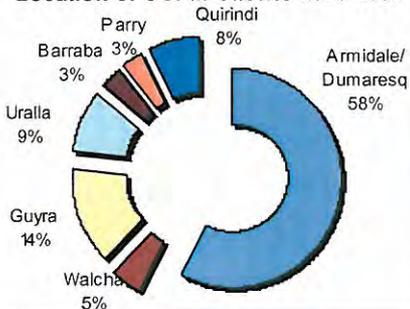
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Community Aged Care Packages—Mainstream Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

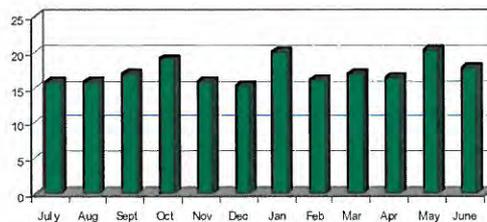
Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$725 103.00
Client Income	\$86 121.00
Interest Income	\$12 554.00
Total Income	\$823 778.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$215 311.00
Client Services	\$474 455.00
Administration Expenses	\$109 952.00
CACP M Assets	\$949.00
Total Expenditure	\$800 667.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$823 778.00
Less Expenditure	\$800 667.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$23 111.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.

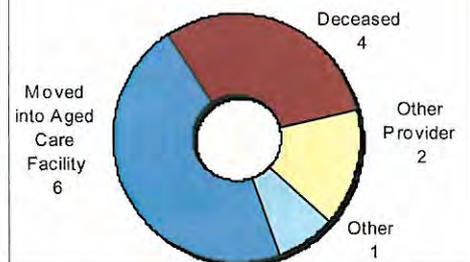
Location of CCPM Clients 2008-2009



CCPM Clients' average hours of service provided monthly 2008/09



CCPM Program Exiting Reasons 2008-2009

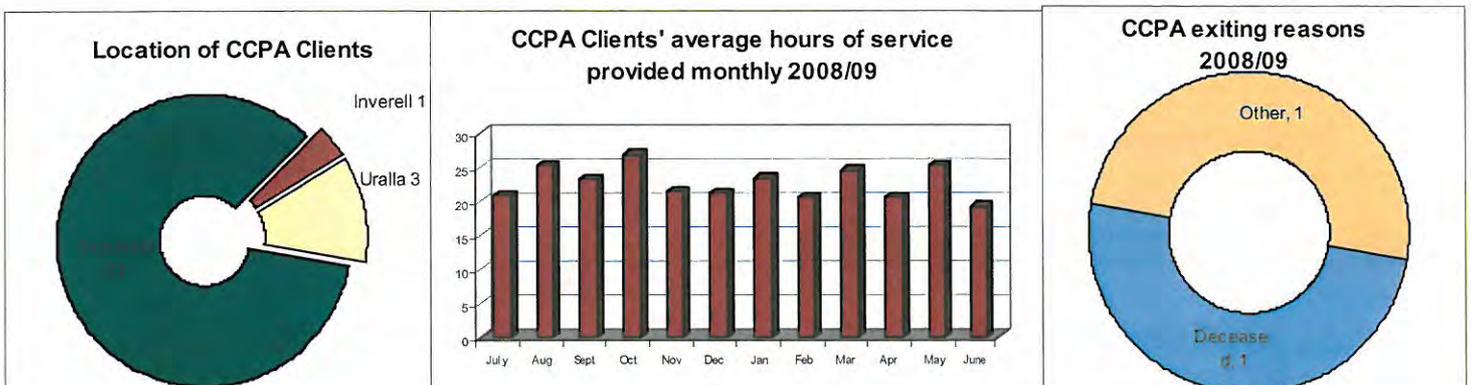


TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Community Aged Care Packages—Aboriginal Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$313 015.00
Client Income	\$3 155.00
Interest Income	\$6 820.00
Total Income	\$322 990.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$56 441.00
Client Services	\$207 273.00
Administration Services	\$42 930.00
Total Expenditure	\$306 644.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$322 990.00
Less Expenditure	\$306 644.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$16 146.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.



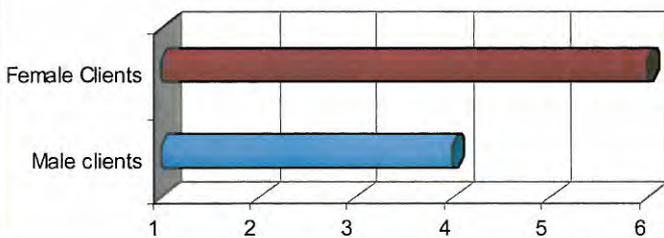
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Rural & Remote Respite Service Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

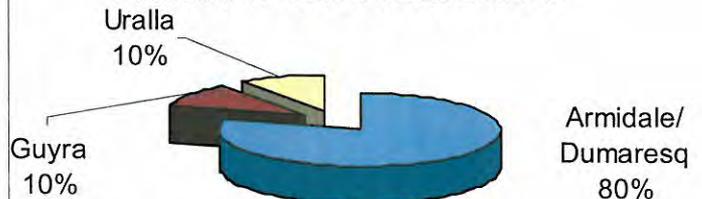
Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$61 204.00
Client Income	\$380.00
Interest Income	\$1 425.00
Total Income	\$63 009.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$32 689.00
Client Services	24 635.00
Administration Expenses	\$7 340.00
Total Expenditure	\$64 664.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$63 009.00
Less Expenditure	\$64 664.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$1 655.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.

Rural & Remote Respite Services



Location of R&R Clients 2008/09



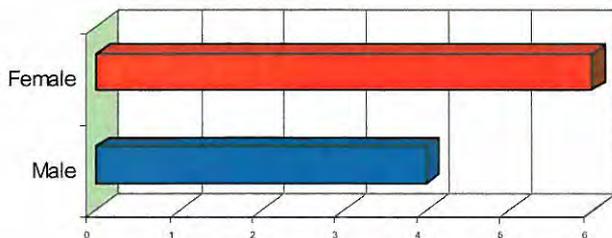
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Respite for Carers of People with Dementia Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

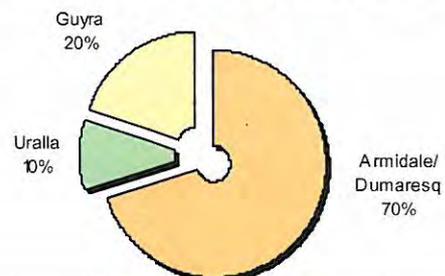
Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$64 649.00
Client Income	\$4 586.00
Interest Income	\$1 179.00
07/08 carried forward	\$4 456.00
Total Income	\$74 870.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$22 809.00
Client Services	\$42 485.00
Administration Expenses	\$9 796.00
Total Expenditure	\$75 090.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$74 870.00
Less Expenditure	\$75 090.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	-\$220.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.

DEMR Services Clients 2008-2009



Location of DEMR program clients



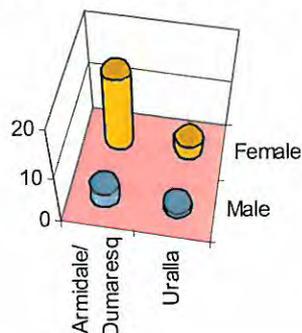
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPTIONS

Elders Group Income & Expenditure Statement 1 July 2008—30 June 2009

Income	Actual Income
Grant Income	\$60 773.00
Client Income	\$1 024.00
Interest Income	\$975.00
Elders week funds	\$500.00
07/08 Enhancement carried forward	\$6 140.00
08/09 Enhancement to be carried forward	\$1 647.00
Total Income	\$71 059.00
Expenditure	Actual Expenditure
Staff Expenses	\$36 173.00
Client Services	\$20 810.00
Elders Week Expenses	\$506.00
Administration Expenses	\$9 066.00
Elders Asset	\$949.00
Total Expenditure	\$67 393.00
Reconciliation	
Total Income	\$71 059.00
Less Expenditure	\$67 393.00
	\$3 666.00
Less enhancement carried forward	-\$1 647.00
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2 019.00

Please note: These figures are based on Uralla Shire Council's financial statements. These figures have not yet been finalised and may differ from the final figures upon completion of the audited financial statements.

Location of Elders Clients 2008-2009



URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

ATTACHMENT E

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009



Celebrating 20 years of service (1989-2009)
Alleviating transport disadvantage in a sustainable way

*Auspiced by Uralla Shire Council
Servicing Armidale, Uralla, Walcha and Guyra*

*Funded by the Australian Government, NSW Ageing, Disability and Home Care
& NSW Transport and Infrastructure*

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Our Organisational Values are:

HONESTY

ACCOUNTABILITY *Efficiency and effectiveness of resource allocation*

COMMITMENT *to a best practice learning organisation*

EQUITY *in access to services within available resources*

EMPOWERMENT *Passengers are offered choice of services within resources*

SUSTAINABILITY



A message from Cr Isabel Strutt, Chairperson of the Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee

It is my pleasure to present the Chairperson's 2008/2009 Annual Report for Tablelands Community Transport.

Provision of accessible, flexible and appropriate transport options to those members of the communities of the Uralla, Walcha, Armidale/Dumaresq, and Guyra Shires who are transport disadvantaged, is the function and challenge of Tablelands Community Transport. The provision of relevant, well-targeted Community Transport requires a constant watchfulness on the part of the Manager of the programme, the staff, volunteers, and Advisory Committee to recognise new and emerging areas of transport disadvantage which need to be addressed. Management strategies need to be constantly reviewed so that the programme can operate with a flexibility that will maximise the use of resources, both financial and human, to best meet the transport needs that are recognised, and to best use the financial grants on which the programme runs, while at the same time adhering to Ministry of Transport (now NSW Transport and Infrastructure) criteria, maintaining best practice standards and cost-effectiveness.

Tablelands Community Transport is a great combination of various abilities coming together to provide an important community service. The commitment and diligence of volunteer drivers, the Manager of the programme Ms Margaret Anderson, Council support staff, and the members of the Advisory Committee is what makes this service possible. On behalf of the communities which Tablelands Community Transport and the Uralla Shire Council serve, I extend sincere thanks to Ms Margaret Anderson, Ms Linda Maynard (Service Administrator), Mr Roland Bennett and drivers, volunteers, members of the Advisory Committee, Mr Tom O'Connor, General Manager of the Uralla Shire Council, Mrs Jane Michie, Director of Administrative Services, and other Council support staff.

The service continues to utilise a mix of volunteer drivers and cars, TCT-owned wheel-chair accessible vehicle, taxi services, and brokered bus services to deliver the most appropriate service to customers. A detailed report of services provided and statistics regarding passenger numbers, kilometres travelled etc. is included in separate sections of the comprehensive TCT Annual Report presented today.

Services provided through the year included the fortnightly door-to-door Uralla shopping bus run to Armidale, which continues to be well patronised; runs three days a week in Armidale to the Dementia Respite programme; a partnership with the Benevolent Society to provide transport for people with mental health problems living independently in the community to attend group counselling; transport for carers from Tamworth and Armidale to Carers' Retreat at Yarrandoo; monthly Aboriginal Elders activity; and the regular "Older Blokes Bus" service, which has been defined as a best practice model. The Transport to Safety project has continued and a TCT Sub-Committee was formed early this year to assist with monitoring the operation and usefulness of the project.

Youth transport services for young people from Walcha, Uralla, and Guyra, were provided via the YABBY bus, in the form of two trips in the Christmas school holiday period to Green Valley Farm on consecutive Mondays. A survey will be undertaken through the schools to determine whether there is enough interest to do a Green Valley trip in 2010, and the Manager is also looking at the possibility of a partnership with the Uralla Neighbourhood Centre to provide transport for youth activities. Transport to Lake Keepit was also provided for three young people from Armidale for Canteen Assist.

This year has also seen the introduction to Armidale of the \$2.50 Red, or Pensioner Excursion Ticket. The ticket is available to eligible Uralla and Armidale passengers allowing all day usage of Edwards buses. It is really good to see this programme extending beyond Sydney!

A thoroughly enjoyable Christmas party was held for volunteers and staff at the Top Pub last December, and a Volunteers Lunch on 7 April this year was another very enjoyable occasion where all volunteers could be thanked for giving their time and hard work to benefit their communities, and was also a very fitting opportunity to recognise the long and diligent service given by Mrs Cynthia Williams through TCT to her community of Guyra and to the Advisory Committee. Dr Neil Argent (UNE) also retired from the Advisory Committee after a number of years of service, and Mrs Gail Smith (Children with Disabilities Co-ordinator) also retired. The Committee also sincerely thanks, and recognises the hard work of Mr Gerard and Mrs Tini Oude-Avenhuis, who have retired during the year. The Advisory Committee has welcomed an enthusiastic Councillor Paul Harmer who is the Armidale Dumaresq Council representative on the Committee and brings a strong interest in youth issues. We are also very glad to welcome Mr Michael Sivaraman (The Benevolent Society), Mr Doug Cutmore (Guyra Aboriginal Lands Council) and Mrs Gloria Kiehne who have all recently joined the Advisory Committee.

A DADHC Integrated Monitoring Framework Review was carried out on TCT in May 2009. This Review places a heavy workload on staff both in preparing the detailed written responses required, and then in spending time in interviews with the Departmental staff who carry out the review. It was an excellent outcome for TCT and everyone involved with this community service that a 100% outcome was obtained. TCT is the only service in NSW to receive this outcome consecutively. A Ministry of Transport Local and Community Transport Survey was completed in November/December 2008. The manager was appointed to the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee into the service review of community transport.

Volunteer driver Mr Keith Kiehne was nominated for the NSW Volunteer of the Year Award, and TCT itself was awarded a Certificate during 2009 Seniors Week recognising its service to Armidale Seniors. A flow-on for TCT was an interview on Prime TV, and an article in the Focus magazine. During the year the Advisory Committee has adopted the Spare Capacity Policy, and has reviewed the Volunteer Exit Policy, Privacy and Confidentiality Policy, and Prioritising Requests for Assistance Policy. A new Policy has been developed for Transporting Nursing Home Respite Passengers in Volunteers' Cars.

TCT volunteers, staff and Manager represented TCT at a Carers' Expo in Armidale in October 2008, and attended the International Women's Day Lunch in Uralla in March 2009. A comprehensive programme of training has continued during the year with the Manager, staff members, and volunteers attending training programmes which have included Alzheimer's Understanding Dementia; Accredited Mental Health First Aid; Healthy Relationships; Cultural Diversity; DADHC Financial Training and Community Care Co-Ordination; Health and Safety; Managing Challenging Behaviours; Building Resilience; Older Parent Carers and People with Disabilities. Other training has included Risk Assessment; Safe Operating Procedures; Bus Driver Competency Training; a Driver Manual Handling Training Course, and a Volunteer Driver Research – New England Transport Forum Learning Group.

The New England Transport Forums, Australian Learning Communities Conference, Regional HACC Forum, and Counselling and Social Work Research Conference at the UNE were further activities which were undertaken, with the manager giving presentations about her Volunteer Research Study.

I express again my sincere thanks and recognition to everyone involved in serving the community through Tablelands Community Transport. 2008/2009 has been another year of hard work and good service. 2009/2010 will produce its own challenges but I feel sure that we will all be willing to address these and to find innovative answers. Please accept my very good wishes for the 2009/2010 year.

**Isabel Strutt – Councillor
Chairperson**



Manager, Margaret Anderson, reflects on 20 Years of Serving the Tablelands Communities

In 1988 a small steering group convened under Dumaresq Council with the view of trying to address the transport needs of people with disabilities and older frail residents in being able to access local services within the Armidale and Dumaresq shires. Concern was also expressed about the social isolation of people in areas of public transport and geographical disadvantage across the tablelands. It is in these circumstances of transport disadvantage that **Community Transport** is vitally needed to complement other forms of transport. Funding was originally secured for services by the former Dumaresq Council under Don Tydd with Michael McGrath appointed as the first manager. A management committee was established with representation from Dumaresq and Armidale Councils. The first two volunteers Marjorie Robertson and John Martin took up their roles as bus assistants and celebrate their 20 years of service. The office was originally based in the Dumaresq Council office, Armidale and then relocated to Hughes House, Armidale to be co-located with other community services. Mrs Kelcey Taylor was the manager (1990-1996) and is credited with establishing an active volunteer program with over 80 volunteers. Kelcey secured a 22 seater Toyota Coaster and the program was on the door to door road of service delivery. A Walcha to Armidale run was set up with the TCT bus and then brokered to the McPherson bus for a weekly Walcha to Armidale access run. **Cr Peter Kemper**, Deputy Mayor, Uralla Shire Council was appointed Chairperson and effectively held the reigns (1994-2004) providing the manager of Tablelands Community Transport with a solid foundation of professional policy and planning support. Seventeen individual passengers were registered with the service in the first year. Today there have been 1676 registered passengers who have accessed services; this suggests a growth average of 160 new clients every year.

The first paid drivers were Bill Vale and Greg Widders. Lindsay Tasker then provided continuity in the role 1994 to 2000 with support from Kerry Barrett and Warren McGrath (with wives Margaret and Pat as the bus assistants). Jamie Ford, Mark Jones, Ian Robertson, Cathy Matheson and now **Roland Bernett** have performed the role of paid driver. **Mr Keith Kiehne** a volunteer driver has been our relief driver each time there has been a change over the past ten years. Volunteer car drivers have supplemented the paid driving role and provided transport for the particularly frail older passenger to medical and health appointments, and for people with dementia, strokes and multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's.

TCT lobbied for three years for a two wheelchair vehicle and secured a modified Chrysler Voyager to assist people with disabilities. **Mr Garry Kiehne**, our administrative volunteer, has provided the team with training in how to secure wheelchairs in the vehicle and also how to use a GPS and mobile phones.

In 1996 an industrial issue saw the program auspice transfer to Oxley Community Transport, Tamworth. Mrs Robyn Smith, Oxley services' manager oversteered the service from Tamworth ably assisted in Armidale by Ms Angela Hoskins as TCT relief manager during that year as a new auspice was identified.

1998 saw Uralla Shire Council successful in its bid to auspice the program on behalf of the Tablelands communities of Walcha, Guyra, Uralla and Armidale/Dumaresq. The committee drew volunteer representative's from the four local shires. Map 1.0 shows the 18,000 square kilometres covered by the Tablelands Community Transport service. The TCT staff work closely with the HACC Coordinators" in Guyra and Walcha, and are actively engaged in interagency meetings with health and community service staff working in aged care, indigenous organisations and disability programs.



Map: Courtesy of Armidale Dumaresq Council 2009 (permission from Mr S Burns, General Manager November 25th 2009)

Margaret Anderson (1999-2009) was appointed manager with full operational responsibility for the TCT service establishing a sound platform of policy and procedures that ensured full compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements, guaranteeing 100% against National HACC Standards in 2001. The manager strongly recommended the changing of the management committee to an advisory committee to be consistent with the funding contract. The office relocated to the Old Court House, Uralla in 2000. As part of a review of service delivery, Margaret removed over 50 volunteers and developed the Integrated Transport Model that placed a focus on business partnerships with local bus operators and taxi operators. This was a highly efficient and effective sustainability strategy that supported local employers and saw the best use of the organisations limited resources. Margaret convened the Aboriginal Health Transport Interest Group in 2002 with Margo Roland, HNEAHS and Ken McIntosh, DADHC, to provide an intersectoral opportunity to improve access to transport for Aboriginal people and to generate a collaborative approach to service delivery for indigenous people. In 2003 a 25 seater Nissan Civilian was purchased from our own reserve funds.

Funding was received from Hunter New England Health (HNEAHS) in 2000 and a bus service was established for the remote Aboriginal community of Tingha. Health related transport services were brokered in partnership with Walcha and Guyra HACC Services. This is where the volunteer drivers have demonstrated exemplary performance, providing the important link between towns for specialist medical appointments. TCT moved to a brokerage model with HNEAHS in 2007.

Margaret was a foundation member of the New England North West Regional Access Committee that strives to ensure improvements in access to information, services and buildings. The committee lobbies and advocates on behalf of the range of people with disabilities. Margaret has been a management committee member of New England HACC Development for the past six years, the organisation provides the professional development support for all volunteers and staff employed in the HACC funded projects. Margaret was awarded a Churchill fellowship to the UK and USA in 2003 with Hon Richard Torbay, MP, and former USC Mayor Brian Eichorn as strong referees. She graduated in 2004 with an MBA with some sponsorship by Uralla Shire Council. 2008 Margaret was appointed to the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee to review community transport in NSW. She was invited by the St James Ethics Institute to assist with development of a three day compulsory workshop for intending participants in the 18 month Vincent Fairfax Ethical Leaders program.

TCT was nominated for several Prime Minister Excellence in Community Partnerships Awards (1999-2006). Since 2002 TCT has broadened out access to several special needs groups, particularly people with dementia, Aboriginal elders, people experiencing mental health needs, youth, people with debilitating physical health, Carers & older men. A small highly trained team of Volunteers still play an important role in the organisations' delivery of services, particularly to people with special needs. At the service annual planning day in 2008, Tablelands Community Transport developed an Ethical Framework for the delivery of services in consultation with the tablelands communities, service providers, passengers and committee members.

Service Administrators over the years included Margaret Wilcher, Kathryn Scott, Sue Law, Ann Schofield and Cheryl Cooper. In 2002 Natalie Murray, a local aboriginal girl, was engaged part-time as an administrative assistant and was awarded a fully sponsored Volunteer Australia Diploma in Volunteer Management, in doing so was the first aboriginal to commence that study programme. In 2003 Donita Baylis, a local Uralla lass, brought a breath of fresh air into the organisation with her happy disposition and enthusiasm. Donita undertook a risk management assessment of all clients' residents in Uralla. The appointment of **Ms Linda Maynard (2005-2009)** was warmly welcomed with her wealth of computerised administrative skills and excellent work ethic. Linda was nominated as Armidale Service Administrator of the Year in 2007 and has often acted TCT manager. **Cr Isabel Strutt Chairperson (2004-2009)**, presiding over the committee with efficiency. Isabel was recognised at the 20th birthday celebration for her five years of continuous service in this role.

This annual report identifies those members of the various communities who have participated on the TCTAC committee, as volunteer bus assistants or drivers over the past 20 years. On behalf of the communities, thank you for the generosity of your time in assisting the staff in planning and delivering services that are highly contextualised in a sound policy framework that satisfies all legislative and regulatory requirements in addressing transport disadvantage across the Tablelands.

TCT – Safe, Accessible, Sustainable

20th Birthday Celebrations



Above: Guests at 20th Birthday Celebrations enjoying the McCrossin's Mill courtyard
Below: Shows the launch of TCT's website.



Mr Len Townsend, Anaiwan Aboriginal Corporation, standing next to the new TCT banner, gave the Welcome to Country message



Cr Isabel Strutt, Chairperson of Advisory Committee with Carolyn Mason, State Manager Local and Community Transport, NSW Transport and Infrastructure, who presented special certificates to volunteers for 10 years and 20 years service.



Display of past 20 years of memorabilia. Marjorie Robertson (centre) received a certificate for 20 years as a volunteer.



Staff and volunteers dressed as a Traveller for the party. Above Margaret as a green „Wicked“ manager and Linda as a „ho, ho, ho, and a bottle o' rum sailor“.

Volunteers and Committee Members receiving certificates at the 20th Birthday Celebrations



Philosophy of Tablelands Community Transport

Tablelands Community Transport is a rural non-profit volunteer based organization administered under NSW Transport and Infrastructure. It is auspice under Uralla Shire Council to provide various levels of transport services to the local government areas of Walcha, Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra. The area covered is 18,000 square kilometres and services a population of some 65,000. Funding is received under Community Transport Program (NSW Transport and Infrastructure), Home and Community Care (HACC) Program (Commonwealth and State governments). A brokerage arrangement operates under the Transport for Health Program, Hunter New England Area Health Service with brokerage arrangements with Tablelands Community Support Options (TCSO), Glen Innes Severn Council and New England Community Care. Transport is organised for high needs clients and/or their carers. The Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee came into effect in July 2000 with volunteer, Aboriginal, community, university and local government representation from across the Tablelands. Volunteer/consumer representatives serve a two-year term so that many may have the opportunity to participate. The advisory committee assist in the development and review of policies and setting the strategic direction for the service. The manager is delegated authority for the day-to-day operation of the service. Being auspice under Uralla Shire Council means that there are a number of requirements that need to be met under the Local Government Act as opposed to the Associations Incorporation Act.

All community transport services within NSW operate under relevant statutes, the National HACC Service Standards, the Public Passenger Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Privacy Legislation. Tablelands Community Transport has numerous management policies and a team member orientation handbook that are reviewed annually. Transport services across New South Wales were monitored and reviewed under the VALIDATION process. This service was awarded 100% against the national Home and Community Care Standards in 2001. This monitoring process has now been developed into the Integrated Framework Monitoring process. TCT was reviewed in May 2009 and „fully met“ all Standards.

Tablelands Community Transport is a member of the NSW Community Transport Organisation, the Australian Association of Gerontology and Volunteering Australia. TCT has had long established business partnerships with Hubbard’s Hire (Armidale) and McRae’s (Uralla), Armidale Radio Taxis and Uralla Taxi Services. **Northern Marketing (Caltex)** provides a monthly petrol sponsorship that enables the service to provide services such as occasional outings for Ningana Dementia residential facility and training opportunities for volunteers.

TCT offers Bruno the electric scooter service for use of shoppers in the Armidale CBD. This service transferred from K-Mart to Bi-Lo and now resides with Crazy Clarks. We are grateful to the team at Crazy Clarks and also acknowledge Acacia Medical for prompt servicing of the scooter. The Walcha based scooter was relocated to Bundarra Neighbour Aid.

Service Aims

The service aims to provide in a sustainable way and within budget, accessible transport options for eligible passengers across the Tablelands, both individually and groups, in an effort to alleviate transport disadvantages and increase mobility in a sustainable way.

Contact Details

LOCATION: The office is located in the Old Court House, 9 Hill Street, Uralla.

POSTAL ADDRESS: PO Box 20, URALLA NSW 2358

TELEPHONE: (02) 6778 4089

Manager's mobile: 0447 604 953

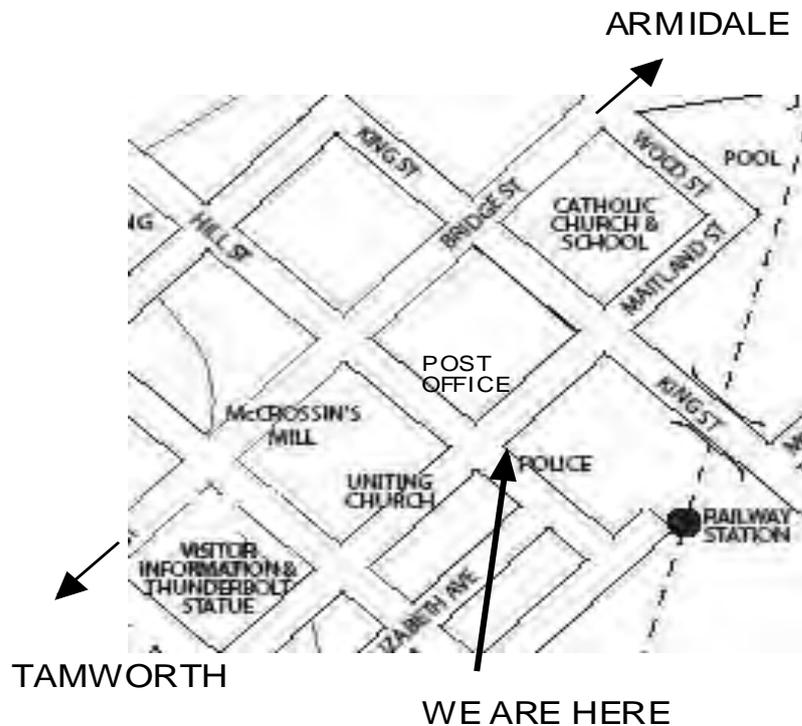
Driver's mobile: 0417 473 628

Office mobile 0409 996 522

FACSIMILE: (02) 6778 5089

EMAIL: tct07@bigpond.com

WEBSITE: www.tablelandscommunitytransport.com.au



Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee

NAME	ORGANISATION	MEMBERSHIP
Cr Isabel Strutt	Uralla Shire Council (Chairperson)	2004-2009
Mr Bob Furze	Guyra Shire Council	1994-2009
Mr Gerry Moran	Walcha Council	1997-2009
Dr Neil Argent	University of New England	2002-2008 (retired)
Mrs Cynthia Williams	Guyra community Representative	1997-November 2008 (retired)
Mrs Gail Smith	Care for Children with Disabilities	2004-April 2009 (retired)
Mrs Marjorie Robertson	Armidale TCT Volunteer (1989-2009)	2001-2005 then 2006- 2009
Mrs Tini Avenhuis	Armidale TCT Volunteer (2002-2009)	2005-2008 (retired)
Cr Bev Robol	Armidale Dumaresq Council	2006-2008 (retired)
Cr Paul Harmer	Armidale Dumaresq Council	2008-2009
Mr Michael Sivaraman	The Benevolent Society	(2000-2005) and June 2009
Mrs Gloria Kiehne	Armidale TCT Volunteer (1999-2009)	January 2009
Mr Doug Cutmore	Guyra Lands Council	June 2009
Ms Margaret Anderson	TCT Manager	1999-2009; Minute Secretary (1999-2005; 2007-2009)

Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee Activity – July 2008-June 2009

<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>General Meetings</i>		<i>*Transport to Safety Subcommittee</i>		<i>Volunteer's Christmas Party</i>	<i>Volunteer Lunch</i>
	<i>Scheduled</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Scheduled</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Attended</i>	<i>Attended</i>
Cr Isabel Strutt (Chairperson)	5	4	2	1	1	
Mr Gerry Moran (Walcha)	5	3				
Mr Bob Furze (Guyra)	5	5			1	
Mrs Marjorie Robertson (volunteer/consumer)	5	5			1	1
Mrs Tini Avenhuis (Volunteer)	Retired					
Mrs Gloria Kiehne (Volunteer)	2	2			1	1
Mrs Cynthia Williams (Guyra)	Retired					
Mr Michael Sivaraman (Armidale)	2	2				
Mr Doug Cutmore (Guyra)	1	1				
Cr Paul Harmer (Armidale)	4	4	2	2		
Ms Margaret Anderson (Mgr)	4	4	2	2	1	1

*Ex-Officio: Ms Mary Devine (NENW Regional Transport) and Ms Sabine Altman (NSW Police Regional Domestic Violence Coordinator)

Employees

Manager (full time)	Margaret Anderson, M.B.A.; B. Ed. (Art); Dip Soc. Sci. (May 1999 to present)
Service Administrator (part time 15 hrs/week)	Linda Maynard, B.A. Secretarial Studies (February 2005 to present) Acting Manager (6 November 2007 to 18 December 2008)
Bus Driver	Roland Bernett, B.Sc., PhD. (June 2009-present) (part time 8-15 hours per week) Cathy Matheson (November 2007 to February 2009) (part time 15 hrs/week)
Relief Bus Driver (Volunteer)	Keith Kiehne (2000-2009)
Volunteer Office Assistant	Garry Kiehne (taxi vouchers)



Vehicles

FLEET: 1 project vehicle (Activan – 2 wheelchair places)

NETWORK TYPE: Partial Bus Brokerage, Volunteer car driving scheme, taxi voucher subsidies

SOFTWARE PROGRAMS: TRIPS A6 linked with TMA Central; Microsoft Office 2007 XP

DISABILITY ACCESS: People with disabilities are provided \$5 lifting vouchers and referred to Armidale Taxis, or transported in the TCT car (two wheelchair seated vehicle acquired August 2007).

Community Partnerships

CRAZY CLARKS: Administers the electric scooter since October 2007, which has served passengers from across the Tablelands who experience permanent or temporary mobility difficulty in accessing services. We are grateful for this business assistance.

ARMIDALE RADIO TAXI: Working collaboratively with TCT in the 50% taxi voucher subsidy scheme since 1990 and with the Maxi Taxi service for people with disabilities.

URALLA TAXI SERVICE: Working collaboratively with TCT in the 50% taxi voucher subsidy scheme since 1990.

NORTHERN MARKETING: Provides a petrol sponsorship to TCT since 1993.

McRAE'S BUS PTY LTD: Weekly bus run - Uralla to Armidale. Also the bus for the Walcha run.

HUNTER NEW ENGLAND AREA HEALTH SERVICE: Brokerage arrangement for health transport.

WALCHA COUNCIL / WALCHA HACC: Provides bus and drivers for the fortnightly Walcha to Armidale Access Bus.

We thank our business partners over the past twenty years.

We note particularly **NORTHERN MARKETING:** which became **CALTEX** and now **Northern Marketing** which has provides a petrol sponsorship to TCT since 1993. This generous donation has totalled \$19,200 in subsidised petrol over 16 years.

2009 Volunteer Acknowledgements

Tablelands Community Transport recognises the wonderful contribution made by our volunteers and the Advisory Committee. We also pay tribute to our community partnership organisations: McRae's (Uralla), Hubbard's Hire (Armidale), Armidale Radio Taxis, Uralla Taxi Service, Northern Marketing, Crazy Clarks, Acacia Medical Service and the other community and health based organisations that we work with. We particularly acknowledge staff and services at Kent and Hughes House, Armidale. We also acknowledge the HACC Coordinators of Walcha and Guyra for addressing transport disadvantage within their local communities.

Current Tablelands Community Transport Volunteers

Garry Kiehne, Armidale (2003-2009)

Gloria Kiehne, Armidale (1999-2009)

Keith Kiehne, Armidale (1999-2009)

John Martin, Armidale (1989-2009)

Leslie Lee, Armidale (May 2005-2009)

Ahmad Rida, Armidale (2008) Retired

Marjorie Robertson, Armidale (1989-2009)

Gail Smith, Armidale (TCTAC 2004-2009) Retired

Tini Oude-Avenhuis, Saumarez (2002-2009)

Retired

Gerhardus Oude-Avenhuis, Saumarez (02-09)

Retired

Trevor Mabbott (March 2009)

TCTAC

Cr Paul Harmer (2008-2009)

Michael Sivaraman (2000-2006, June 2009)

Dr Neil Argent (2002-2008) Retired

Uralla HACC: Catherine Mead - Coordinator

Cr Isabel Strutt, Uralla (2004-2009)

Dawn Bicknell, Uralla (1999-2009)

Alan Bicknell, Uralla (1999-2009)

Tony Egan, Uralla (December 2006 – 2009)

Roland Bernett, Uralla (February 2008-June 2009)

In Partnership with Walcha HACC and Guyra HACC for Health Related Transport (including volunteers participating in Public Passenger Authority Training):

Walcha HACC: Wendy Gribble – Coordinator

Davina Young, Walcha HACC Driver

Ralph Barillaro, Walcha HACC Relief Driver

Gerry Moran, Walcha Council (1997-2009)

Guyra HACC: Wendy Warner/Sally Burey

Carolyn Palmer, Guyra

Stuart Broad, Guyra

Lee Martin, Guyra

Ray Hickman, Guyra

Cynthia Williams (TCTAC community representative, retired November 2009)

Bob Furze, Guyra Council (TCTAC 1994-2009)

Doug Cutmore (June 2009)

Volunteer of the Year Award Garry Kiehne 2008/2009

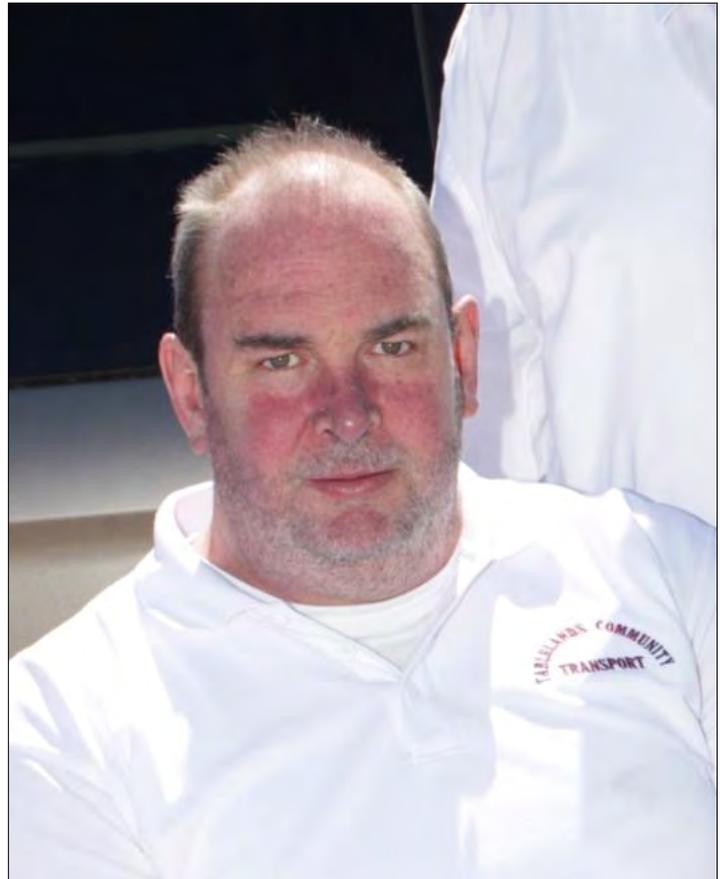
Garry Kiehne has been volunteering with TCT for six years. Garry has been preparing the taxi vouchers for the Service Administrator for entering into the TRIPS system. This involves checking over 500 taxi vouchers against the taxi account, creating bundles of ten and costing them. Garry's work saves the Service Administrator considerable hours each month by providing this service.

Garry has a technical bent, and has provided staff and volunteer team members with mobile phone and GPS training.

Garry has also kindly let the team use him in his wheelchair in learning how to apply wheelchair restraints in the project vehicle.

Garry also assists the manager with review of proposed legislative changes and surveys about mobility and accessibility such as the Australian Disability Parking Scheme, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and the Australian Human Rights Commission DRAFT Guidelines for accessing compliance of bus stops with the National Disability Standards for accessible public transport (2002).

We are most grateful for Garry's generosity of time. **CONGRATULATIONS!**



“Smile Garry, you’re a star!”

Past Tablelands Community Transport Volunteers

Management Committee (June 1998 to June 2000)

Alison Schultz, Depart. of Ageing and Disability
Arch Turnbull, Armidale Radio Taxis
Bob Furze, Guyra Shire Council
Cynthia Williams, Guyra Service Provider
Dawn Hamel, Walcha Service Provider
Dorothy Russell, Dumaresq Shire Council
Eric Kelly Aboriginal Medical Service
Gail Smith, Armidale Service Provider
Gerry Moran, Walcha Shire Council
Jan Roads, Uralla Service Provider

Joanne Hoffman, Guyra Service Provider
Mary Devine, Armidale Service Provider
Mr Boney, Aboriginal Representative
Peter Kemper, Uralla Shire Council
Robert Knight, Armidale Radio Taxis
Sue Reardon, Walcha Service Provider
Wendy Gribble, Walcha Service Provider

Advisory Committee (1 July 2000 to present)

Betty McCann, Armidale Consumer
Bob Furze, Guyra Shire Council
Brian Kelly, Armidale Dumaresq Council
Catherine Scott, Volunteer Rep, Guyra
Cr Bev Robol, Armidale Dumaresq Council
Cr Brian Kelly, Armidale Dumaresq Council
Cr Isabel Strutt, Uralla Shire Council
Cr Paul Harmer, Armidale Dumaresq Council
Cynthia Williams, Guyra Community Rep.
Gail Smith, Care for Children with Disabilities
Gerry Moran, Walcha Council
Gloria Kiehne, Armidale Volunteer
Graeme Miller, Depart. of Ageing and Disability
Greg Gambetta, Aust. Quadraplegic Assoc.
Jeff Clutterbuck, Armidale Radio Taxi Co-op

John Martin, Armidale Volunteer
Katherine Stephens, Consumer Representative
Lyne Larkins, Walcha Volunteer
Marjorie Robertson, Armidale
Volunteer/Consumer
Michael Sivaraman, Aboriginal Medical
Service/Mental Health Advocate
Neil Argent, University of New England
Pat Dixon, Aboriginal Medical Service
Perlita West, Walcha Volunteer
Peter Kemper, Uralla Shire Council
Richard Bury, Guyra Shire Council
Steve Austin, Armidale Disability Access
Steve Creagan, Armidale Radio Taxi Co-op
Tini Avenhuis, Armidale Volunteer

Volunteers (1998 to present)

Adrian Jackson, Guyra
Ahmad Rida, Armidale
Alan Bicknell, Uralla
Alexander Brattoni, Uralla
Angela Francis, Uralla
Ann Jones, Armidale
Anna Schofield, Uralla
Anna, Guyra
Aubrey Levingston, Walcha (passed away
October 2004)
Barbara McMillan, Armidale
Barry Voysey, Armidale
Bill Strutt, Uralla
Bob Furze, Guyra Council
Brad Landrigan, Armidale
Brett Higgins, Armidale
Brit Charles, Armidale
Brooke Hancock, Bundarra

Caroline Atkins, Guyra
Carolyn Palmer, Guyra
Catherine Matheson, Uralla
Chris Barnden, Armidale
Christopher Gentle, Guyra
Colin Northy, Uralla (passed away 2009)
Damian Flynn, Armidale
Davina Young, Walcha HACC Driver
Dawn Bicknell, Uralla
Denise Froome, Walcha
Donita Baylis, Uralla
Dorothy Fisher, Uralla
Doug Cutmore, Guyra
Doug Lake, Guyra
Earle Page College, UNE
Elizabeth Macdonald, Armidale
Ferdie Foetchel, Guyra
Garry Kiehne, Armidale

Gene Tickle, Walcha
 Gerhardus Oude-Avenhuis, Saumarez
 Gloria Kiehne, Armidale
 Graham Partridge, Walcha
 Graham Wesley, Guyra
 Greg Cambetta, Armidale
 Gwen, Armidale
 Ian A"Beckett, Armidale
 Jamie Ford, admin assistant/car and bus driver
 Jean Vickery, Guyra
 Jennifer Drewitt, Armidale
 Jenny Wood, Walcha
 Jim Parsons, Armidale
 John Barwick, Armidale
 John Hoskins, Uralla
 John Jackson, Guyra
 John Martin, Armidale
 John McMaugh, Armidale
 Judy De Jong, Armidale
 Katherine Scott, Guyra
 Katherine Snell, Armidale
 Keith Dawson, Dumaresq
 Keith Kiehne, Armidale
 Kelcey Taylor, Armidale
 Kelvin McMillan, Dumaresq
 Kerry Barrett, Armidale bus driver
 Kevin Ramsay, Armidale
 Lee Martin, Guyra
 Leslie Lee, Armidale
 Loreen Morris, Walcha
 Luke Brattoni, Uralla
 Lyne Larkins, Walcha
 Margaret Barrett, Armidale
 Margaret Lee, Armidale
 Margaret Matthews, Armidale
 Margaret Wilcher, Armidale
 Marilyn Larkins, Walcha
 Marjorie Robertson, Armidale

Mary McClure, Armidale
 Mary McGlenaghan, Armidale
 Max Hendebo, Guyra
 Max Holstein, Walcha
 Merv Scholes, Armidale (passed away 2000)
 Naomi, Guyra
 Olive Bourke, Armidale
 Pam Boyd, Walcha
 Pat McGrath, Armidale
 Patrick Horneman, Armidale
 Perlita West, Walcha
 Peter Higgins, uralla
 Peter Plunkett-Cole, Dumaresq
 Peter Sendall, Walcha
 Phillip Russell, Tamworth
 Ray Hickman, Guyra
 Ray Martin, Guyra
 Ray Miller, Uralla
 Roland Bennett, Uralla
 Ron Lockyer, Guyra
 Sally Russell, Tamworth
 Sasha Brussel, Armidale
 Sharon Redmond, Armidale
 Steve Creaghan, Armidale
 Steven Breeze, Armidale
 Stewart John, Armidale
 Stuart Broad, Guyra
 Sue Reardon, Walcha
 Tini Oude-Avenhuis, Saumarez
 Tony Egan, Uralla
 Trevor Coit, Armidale
 Trevor Knight, Armidale
 Trevor Mabbott, Armidale
 Valarie Davis, Walcha
 Vernon Russell, Tamworth
 Warren McGrath, Armidale
 Wendy Nano, Armidale
 Yvonne Schlenert, Walcha

Volunteers of the Year 1999 to 2009

1999-2000 **John Martin**, Armidale Volunteer
 2000-2001 **Keith and Gloria Kiehne**, Armidale Volunteers
 2001-2002 **Katherine Scott**, Guyra Volunteer
 2002-2003 **Dr Neil Argent**, Armidale Representative on TCTAC
 2003-2004 **Dawn and Alan Bicknall**, Uralla Volunteers
 2004-2005 **Marjorie Robertson**, Armidale Volunteer
 2005-2006 **Cynthia Williams**, OAM, Guyra Shire Council Representative on TCTAC
 2006-2007 **Leslie Lee**, Armidale Volunteer
 2007-2008 **Keith Kiehne**, Armidale Volunteer
 2008-2009 **Garry Kiehne**, Armidale Volunteer

Summary of Services Offered

MONDAY	McMaugh Gardens	Monthly
	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
TUESDAY	Volunteer car driver scheme	As Required
	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	Aboriginal Elders – Social Activity	1 st & 5 th Tues of month
	Social Seniors – Kent House	2 nd & 4 th Tues of month
	Older Blokes Bus – travelling the New England region	3 rd Tues of month
	Walcha to Armidale Shopping bus (brokered to Walcha HACC)	Fortnightly
	Counselling	Weekly
	Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
WEDNESDAY	Volunteer car driver scheme	As Required
	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	Armidale Shopping bus	Weekly
	Dementia respite – Jacaranda room	Weekly
	NESRC Pottery	First and Third Wednesdays
	Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
THURSDAY	Volunteer car driver scheme	As Required
	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	Invergowrie to Armidale)	Fortnightly
	Social Seniors (plus concert afternoon 4 th Thursday)	1 st /2 nd /3 rd Thurs of month
	Dementia respite – Jacaranda room	Weekly
	Uralla to Armidale McRae's Shopping bus	Fortnightly
	Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
FRIDAY	Volunteer car driver scheme	As Required
	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	ASCA House	Weekly
	New England Stroke Recovery Club	1 st & 3 rd Friday of month
	Dementia Respite	Weekly
	Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
SATURDAY/ SUNDAY	Armidale / Uralla taxi voucher subsidy scheme	Daily
	Bruno Electric Scooter at Crazy Clarks	Daily
	Splinter Group – Men's Woodworking Group	Weekly
OTHER	Dementia Awareness Week	September 2008
	Carers Expo	October 2008
	Aged Expo	March 2009
	Older Parent Carers Forum	May 2009
	Senior Citizen's Week	Yearly

New Service Delivery and Business Partnerships

Business Partnerships

1. Memorandum of Understanding signed off with McRae's Buss Hire for the Uralla to Armidale Access door to door bus. Service changed from weekly to fortnightly. Community partnership with McRae's Bus and TCT Manager can drive the off pension weeks.
2. Memorandum of Understanding with Walcha Council. Walcha to Armidale Access Bus provided as a fortnightly door to door bus service by Walcha HACC Service.

Carer Program

3. Yarandoo Carer Respite (Tamworth and Tablelands)

Community Partnerships

4. McMaugh Gardens local trips
5. Friday Summervale to Uralla (HACC Brokerage non-recurrent funding)
6. Electric Scooter – Bundarra Neighbour Aid
7. The Benevolent Society – Volunteer driver programme for people experiencing mental illness to counseling.
8. Community partnership with Kent House for Senior's Week 2009
9. Armidale Dementia Respite – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Youth

10. YABBY Bus – School holiday activities
11. Youth Week– Sponsorship of Uralla Neighbourhood Centre bus to Echidna Gully

Regional Project

12. Transport to Safety Taxi Voucher Program – TCT managers the regional project of taxi vouchers for women and children to access women's refuges.

Brokerage & New Services

13. Splinter Group on Saturdays – Uralla to Armidale
14. Kentucky to Uralla, monthly (or as needed) on Thursdays

Achievements: July 2008 to June 2009

Service Delivery and Office Achievements

- Mobility Map – work in progress – A community partnership with Spinal Cord Injuries (Greg Gambetta) – Tablelands Transport and Uralla Shire Council
- Keith and Gloria Kiehne, Armidale Senior Citizens Award – Senior Citizens Week & New England Regional Volunteer Finalists

Submissions

- Successful – HACC Brokerage Funding for Walcha to Uralla Bus Run
- Successful – YABBY Bus for youth holiday activities
- Successful – Transport to Safety Taxi Vouchers Scheme – woman and children to escape domestic violence

Presentations

- UNE Postgraduate Research Conference July 2008 – Manager gives a presentation about policy review process of the New England Transport Forum (NETF) Learning Group
- UNE Social Work and Counselling Conference February 2009 – Manager gives presentation about the Action Research Project with volunteers and managers of Community Transport services in the New England
- Australian Learning Communities Conference – Manager gives presentation about Action Research Project

Visits

- Marilyn Leeds, Ministry of Transport, Visited office on 21 and 22 May to facilitate the Integrated Monitoring Framework (IMF).
- Gail Mendoza, Converge International - Uralla Shire Council's Employee Assistance Program, occasionally visits office.

Special Events

7 July	NAIDOC Week – UNE Flag Raising
21 October	Carers Expo, Armidale Town Hall
31 October	Regional Volunteer Awards, Tamworth – Keith Kiehne finalist
5 November	Mark Butler, CT Manager Inverell, facilitated Action Research with TCT Volunteers
6 November	Community Care Co-ordination, DADHC, Armidale
24-28 November	Ministry of Transport Survey
22 December	Volunteer Christmas Party
12 February	Division of General Practice, Alzheimer's Consultation with Hon. Richard Torbay and CEO Alzheimer's
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCT Features in Focus Magazine • Armidale Volunteer Expo • Aged Expo, Armidale Bowling Club and Guyra Seniors Ball
May	Older parent Carer's Forum
May 2009	IMF Process – TCT fully met all criteria

Training Calendar 2008-2009

Date	Venue	Training	Attendees
8/7/2008	USC Chambers	Harassment Training	Margaret Anderson, Cathy Matheson, Linda Maynard
22/7/2008	TCT Office	TCT Information Session	Irene Geddes facilitated by Linda Maynard
12/8/2008	TCT Office	Induction to vehicle and office procedure	Roland Bennett facilitated by Linda Maynard
26/8/2008	Armidale	HACC Orientation	Roland Bennett facilitated by NEHACC
2/9/2008	USC Depot	Vehicle Orientation	Roland Bennett and Linda Maynard – facilitated by Mick Adams
16/9/2008	USC Depot	Vehicle Orientation	Cathy Matheson – facilitated by Mick Adams
16/9/2008	Kempsey Motor Inn	DADHC Financial Management Level 2	Margaret Anderson
17/9/2008	Dixon Centre	Adult mental health First Aid Course	Roland Bennett and Linda Maynard
19/9/2008	ADC, Armidale	Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behaviour	Margaret Anderson
25/9/2008	ADC, Swimming Pool Training Room	Grievance Officer Training	Margaret Anderson
1/10/2008	Uralla Community Centre	Cultural Diversity	Keith and Gloria Kiehne
14, 21, 28/10 4/11	Armidale Women's Centre	Healthy Relationships	Cathy Matheson
10/2/2009	Various client premises, Uralla	Risk Assessment	Cathy Matheson and Linda Maynard
24/2/2009	Whitebull Hotel	Safe Operating Procedures – Wheelchair Restraints	Margaret, Linda, Roland, Gloria, Keith, Garry, Tony
26/2/2009	Armidale Volunteer Referral Centre	General Information	Gloria Kiehne and John Martin
27/2/2009	Kent House Armidale	TCTAC	Margaret Anderson, Cr Isabel Strutt, Gloria Kiehne
11/3/2009	Tamworth	Working with Carers	Margaret Anderson

Date	Venue	Training	Attendees
	Community Centre	(DADHC)	
31/3/2009	Business Enterprise Centre – Hanna’s Arcade	Health and Safety Workshop	Roland Bernett, Gloria Kiehne
31/3/2009	TCT Office	Planning Training for Resilience	Margaret Anderson, Linda Maynard, Gail Mendoza
6/4/2009	Guyra	TCTAC	Margaret Anderson, Gloria Kiehne, Marjorie Robertson
7/4/2009	Whitebull Hotel	Building Resilience Training	All staff and all volunteers – facilitated by Gail Mendoza
6/5/2009	Boggabri HACC	New England Transport Forum	Margaret Anderson
11/5/2009	Armidale	Understanding Dementia	Roland Bernett and Marjorie Robertson
15/5/2009	Tamworth	Managing Challenging Behaviour	Linda Maynard and Roland Bernett
21/5/2009	Armidale	Older parent Carers Forum	Gloria and Keith Kiehne, Leslie Lee and Marjorie Robertson
28/5/2009	Tamworth	New England Regional HACC Forum	Margaret Anderson
13/5/2009	Armidale	ABS Information	Manager
20/5/2009	Uralla	Self Assessment of Office for IMF	Margaret Anderson, Roland Bernett, Linda Maynard
16/6/2009	TCT Office	Public Passenger Authority	Roland Bernett, Ray Martin (Guyra), Eileen Bartholomew (Walcha)
30/6/2009	TCT Office	Public Passenger Authority	Roland Bernett, Ray Martin (Guyra), Eileen Bartholomew (Walcha)
30/6/2009	Tamworth Community Centre	MDS Workshops	Margaret Anderson and Linda Maynard

Committee Involvement / Meeting Processes

Ongoing Committees

1. ACROD Regional meeting, attended once a year. Bingara – Manager
2. Armidale Access Awards Organising Committee – Manager
3. Armidale Access Committee, monthly, Armidale – Manager
4. Armidale DADHC Consultation annual – Manager
5. Carers Meeting, once a year. Armidale – Manager
6. Community Care, monthly, Armidale – Manager
7. DADHC Planning Consultation, Armidale – Manager
8. Dementia Awareness Planning Day, annual, Armidale – Manager
9. Dementia Network Advisory Committee, quarterly, Armidale – Manager
10. Disability Interagency, monthly, Armidale – Manager
11. Enabling New England Aged and Disability EXPO, monthly Armidale – Manager
12. Hunter New England Health NGO Consultation, twice yearly – Manager
13. International Day for People with Disabilities – Manager
14. Kent House Annual Planning Day, annual, Armidale – Manager
15. Meals on Wheels Planning Day, annual, Armidale – Manager
16. New England HACC Development Inc Management Committee, bimonthly, Armidale – Manager
17. New England HACC Development Planning Day, annual, Armidale – Manager
18. New England Regional HACC Forum, twice yearly, Bingara/Tamworth – Manager
19. New England Transport Forum, quarterly, around the region – Manager
20. NSW CTO representative on the NSW Cancer Council Transport Research Project, Sydney and quarterly teleconferencing – Manager
21. Social Seniors Planning Day, annual – Manager
22. Staff Meetings – All Staff
23. Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee, bimonthly, Uralla/Armidale – Manager/Service Administrator
24. Tablelands Community Transport Planning Day – Manager/Service Administrator/Driver
25. TCT Volunteer team meetings bimonthly to quarterly, Armidale – Manager/Service Administrator/Driver
26. Team Meetings – All Staff and volunteers
27. Transport Working Troup – Armidale – Quarterly – Manager
28. Uralla Shire Council Consultative Committee bi monthly, Uralla – Manager
29. Volunteer Centre Planning Day, annual, Armidale – Manager

New Committees

30. Armidale Mental Health Forum – Bi-monthly – Manager
31. New England North West Regional Access Committee, Quarterly – Manager

Other Meetings

32. Armidale Senior Citizens Week Organising Committee – Gloria Kiehne
33. Kent House Users Meeting – Gloria Kiehne

Meetings July 2008 to June 2009

	Meeting	Scheduled	Attended		
			Manager	Service Administrator	Volunteer (Gloria Kiehne)
1.	Tablelands Community Transport Advisory Committee (TCTAC)	5	5	-	2
2.	TCTAC Transport to Safety Subcommittee	2	2	-	
3.	TCT Volunteer Team Meeting	10	6	9	
4.	Transport Working Group	4	2	3	
5.	New England Regional Transport Forum	4	4	-	
6.	Ministry of Transport Advisory Committee – Review of Community Transport	3	3		
7.	New England North West Regional Access Group	4	2	-	
8.	SLEX – Sustainable Transport Working Group	2	1	-	
9.	New England HACC Management Committee	5	3	-	
10.	New England Division of General Practice Dementia Working Group	4	3	-	
11.	Disability Interagency	10	6	2	
12.	Community Care	10	8		
13.	Armidale Senior Citizen Week Organising Committee	3			3
14.	Kent House User Group	3			2

Operating Data

Service Statistics	July 2008 – June 2009	July 2007 – June 2008	July 2006 – June 2007	July 2005 – June 2006	July 2004 – June 2005	July 2003 – June 2004
Total Passengers	634	732	642	693	713	
Commendations	I, J	G, H	B	F,A	A, E	A, C
Passenger No- Shows (*=estimate)	9*	11		27	21	24
Unmet trip requests	35 on list referred to 2 Homecare 14 HNEAHS 2 DVA 17 taxi voucher waiting list	3 Fri Dem. 36 HRT (referred) 4 Renal 3 chemo. 55 TV waiting list 7 referred to other agency 4 DVA	23 on list from July 2005 issued Feb 2006 22 on TV waiting list Feb 2006 and issued TV June 2006	12 referred 2 to TCSO and 9 tr HNEAHS 1 CF denied	43	13
Total Passenger Trips: HACC, CT, HRT	12,721	12,861	12,077	12,498	14,803	21,596
HACC Funding % of total trips	(9,848) 80%	77.5%	74.45%	67.0%	77%	61%
CTP Funding % of total trips	(2,440) 19%	22%	22.82%	28%	13%	19%
HRT Funding/HNEAHS Brokerage % of total trips	(94) 0.74%	0.5%	2.73%	2.75%	11%	20%
GP/Specialist Medical Appointments	307 (2.4%)	334 (65 HNEAH)	228	150	1,877	7,235
Shopping	7,191 (56.5%)	7,161	6,525	6,210	7,283	7,700
Social	3,123 (24.5%)	3,967	3,687	4,363	4,925	5,459
Day Centre	1,702(13.4%)	359	4	91	85	121
Other + includes other type health appoint.	393+ (3.2%)	1,040	1,095	988	633	911
Number of Accidents/Incidents	3 workers comp	vi, vii	v	Iii, iv	Iii	2i
Verbal Complaints	21	6		11	14	12
Written Complaints	2	3		1	1	3
New Referrals	191	207		178	110	
Last CIARR Number as 30 June	1622	1454	1335	1187		
Passengers with Disabilities	45 (7.10%)	74 (10.11%)		61 (9%)		
Aboriginal Passengers	29 (4.6%)	61 (8.33%)				

Key:

- A. Prime Ministers Award for Excellence in Community Partnerships Nominations
- B. Northern Inland Business Awards Nomination
- C. Churchill Fellowship
- D. National HACC (Home and Community Care) Standards Validation –“fully met”
- E. Manager graduates with an M.B.A. (partly sponsored by Uralla Shire Council)
- F. Nomination in the Community Services Category of the Uralla Rotary Club Awards
- G. Service Administrator nominated for Service Provider of the Year (Armidale)
- H. Community Relations Commission – Volunteer of the Year – Keith & Gloria Kiehne
- I. Manager invited (with 10 others from around Australia) to develop the 3 day ethics program for the St James Ethics Centre (Vincent Fairfax Ethical Leaders Award)
- J. TCT achieves “fully met” on all Integrated Monitoring Framework (IMF) Criteria
 - i. no injury, minor damage to bus only
 - ii. manager sustains an electric shock from a faulty broadband panel
 - iii. service administrators car window is damaged by UCS mower – window replaced at USC expense
 - iv. volunteer reverses project car into gutter – minimal damage(NRMA)
 - v. Walcha client fell off bus.
 - vi. Hubbard’s Bus Hire damage made by unknown person during hiring
 - vii. Project Car – parked at doctor’s surgery scraped by another car

Data Collection for Services Provided

2008 – 2009

Mode of Travel Passenger Trips

Funding Program	Private Operator or STA bus	Brokerage Bus	Project Owned Bus	w/chair Project Owned Car	Volunteer Car	Taxi	Other	Total
HACC	0	1316	0	1034	1875	5586	37	9,848
CTP	0	699	0	157	126	1458	0	2,440
AAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HRT	0	0	0	5	82	7	0	94
DVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	143	0	6	115	75	0	339
	0	2,158	0	1,202	2,198	7,126	37	12,721

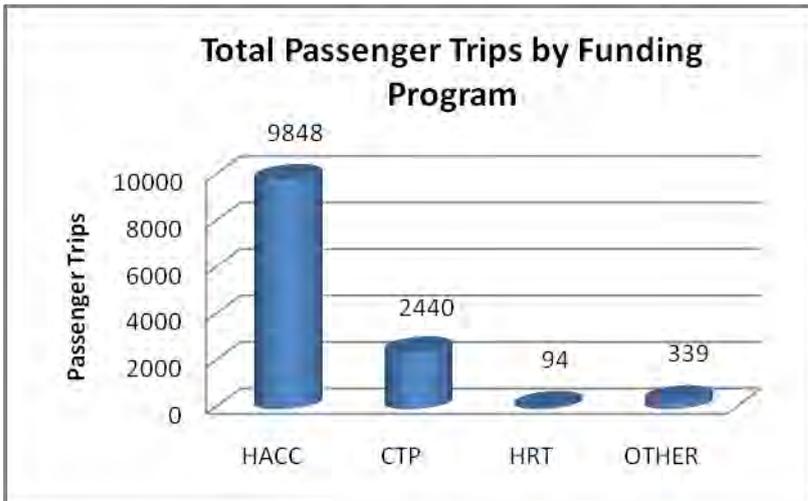
Service Type Passenger Trips

Funding Program	Day Care	Social or Recreation	Shopping or Access	Hospital or Medical	GP's or Specialist	Other	Total
HACC	1,640	2,510	5,150	10	167	371	9,848
CTP	42	365	1,960	12	37	24	2,440
AAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HRT	0	4	6	41	35	8	94
DVA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	(Dementia) 244	20	75	0	0		339
	1,702	3,123	7,191	63	239	403	Total 12,721

Estimated Total Number of Individual People Carried 634

Total Kilometres Travelled to Provide Service 91,739

Trips Charts

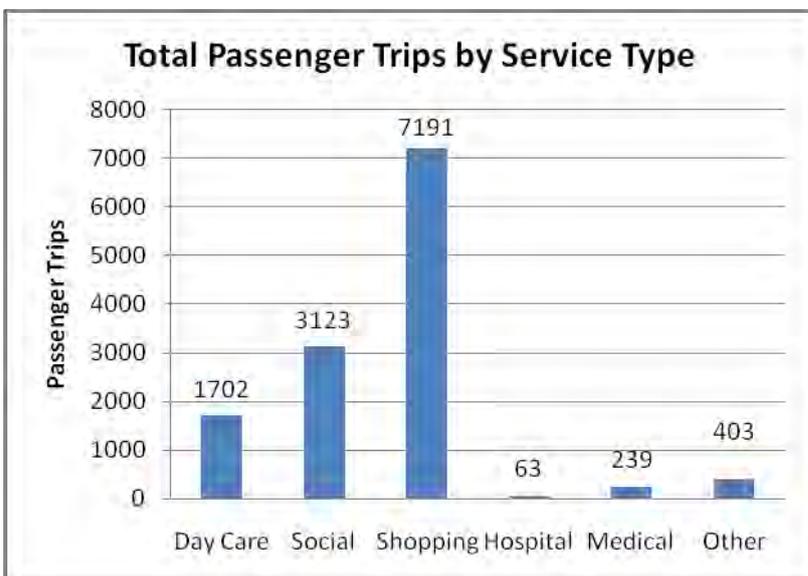
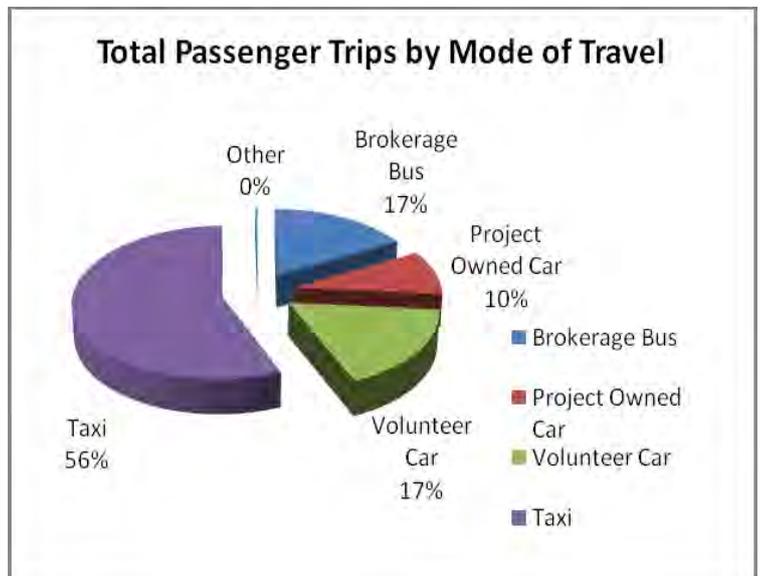


Percentage of Total Trips

HACC	77.42%
CTP	19.18%
HRT	0.74%
OTHER	<u>2.66%</u>
	100.00%

Total Number of Trips 12,721

Brokerage Bus	16.96%
Project Owned Car	9.45%
Volunteer Car	17.28%
Taxi	56.02%
Other	<u>0.29%</u>
	100.00%

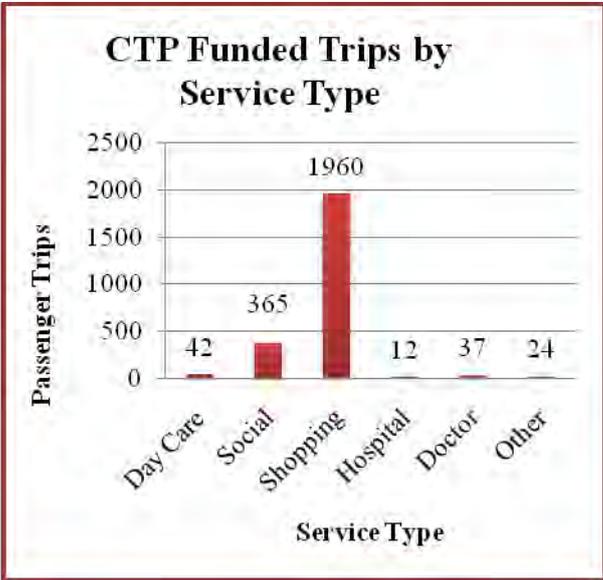
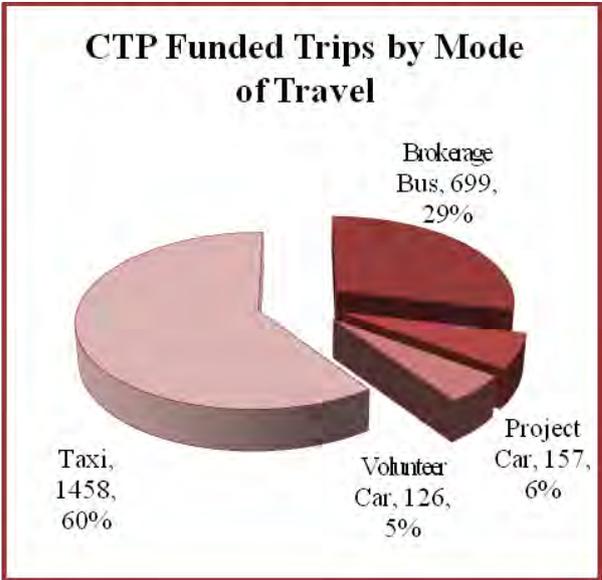
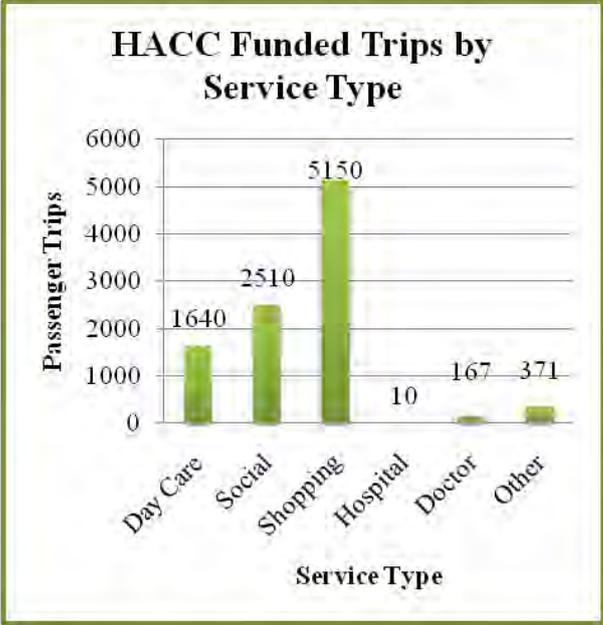
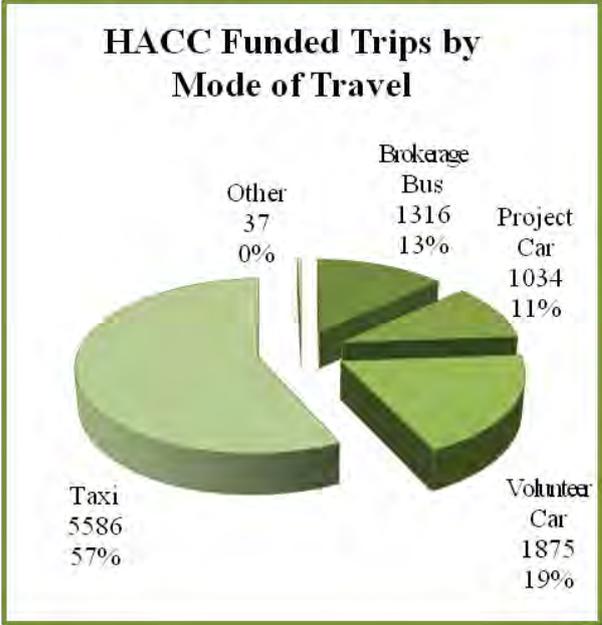


Service Type % Breakdown

Day Care	13.38%
Social	24.55%
Shopping	56.53%
Hospital	0.50%
Doctor	1.88%
Other	<u>3.17%</u>
	100.00%

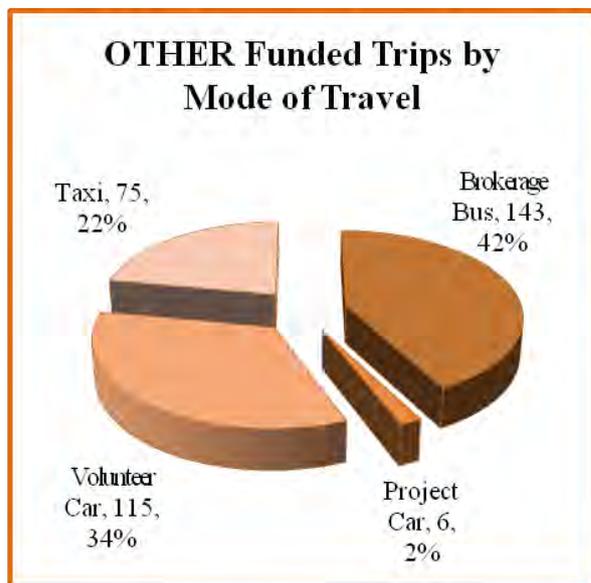
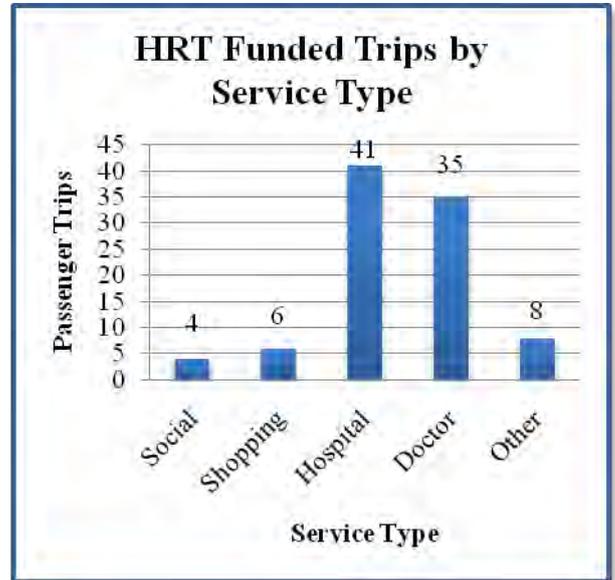
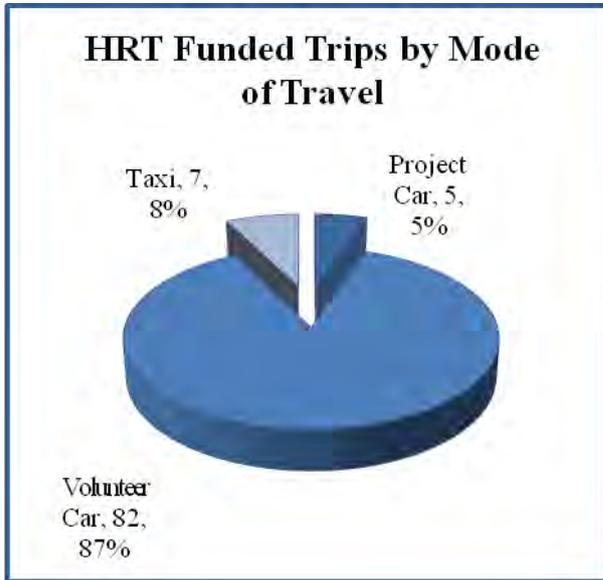
**Break up of Mode of Travel
for each Funding Type**

**Break up of Service Type
for each Funding Type**



**Break up of Mode of Travel
for each Funding Type
(continued)**

**Break up of Service Type
for each Funding Type
(continued)**



Financial Statements 2008-2009



Council Chambers and
Administration Centre:
32 SALISBURY STREET,
PO BOX 106,
URALLA NSW 2358

Tel: (02) 6778 4606
Fax: (02) 6778 5073
Email: council@uralla.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.uralla.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 55 868 272 018

In reply, please quote:
TO:JM U07/110

29 October 2009

Acquittals Officer
Ministry of Transport
Local and Community Transport
Locked Mail Bag 5085
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir

**Financial Statements for HACC and CTP Programs
Managed by Tablelands Community Transport**

Please find attached the financial statements for the HACC and CTP programs managed by Tablelands Community Transport.

Please note that oncosts for Annual Leave, Sick Leave, Superannuation and Long Service Leave are applied to staff salaries and held by Uralla Shire Council to ensure adequate provision for employee entitlements and the Workers Compensation premium, therefore no further provision is shown in the balance sheet of the acquittals.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom O'Connor", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tom O'Connor
General Manager

Encl:

A large, faint, stylized version of the Uralla Shire Council logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page. It features the word "URALLA" in a bold, sans-serif font, with a decorative flourish above it.

**AUDIT CERTIFICATE FOR USE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
HEALTH AGENCIES OR STATUTORY AUTHORITIES**

I have examined the attached Financial Statements, and supporting schedules, of:

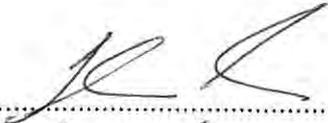
(Name of Funded Organisation) URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

.....

for the Year Ended 30 June 2009

In my opinion the accompanying Financial Statements are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 30 June 2009 and the results of the operation of the project for the year then ended.

Funds provided by the Ministry of Transport have been expended in accordance with the conditions of the Funding Agreement.

Date 29/10/2009 Signature 
Name Thomas J. O'Leary
Position General Manager

NOTE: This certificate is not required if an independent auditor has been engaged and their Statement by Auditor is provided.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROJECT

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT COVER SHEET

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2009

FUNDED ORGANISATION'S NAME: URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL
TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
.....

CONTACT NAME: MARGARET ANDERSON

POSTAL ADDRESS PO BOX 20
URALLA NSW 2358

PHONE NUMBER: (02) 6778 4089

FAX NUMBER: (02) 6778 5089

E-MAIL ADDRESS: tct@bigpond.com

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL - TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

for the Year ended 30 June 2009

LAST YEAR	ITEM	THIS YEAR	BUDGET
	1.0 INCOME		
	1.1 Grant - Recurrent Funding:		
\$175,919.00	HACC	\$180,816.00	\$178,536.00
\$26,831.00	CTP	\$27,716.00	\$26,830.00
	AAS		
\$13,598.00	1.2 Income from Passengers and Groups		
\$1,850.00	1.3 Interest from Money on Deposit	\$5,092.00	\$3,000.00
	1.4 Membership Subscriptions		
	1.5 Other (Itemise)		
	Health		
	DVA		
	Diesel Fuel Rebates		
	SSSTS		
	Bus Hire	\$4,930.00	\$7,000.00
	Donations		
	Fund Raising		
	Unexpended MOT - Transport to Safety		\$11,100.00
\$551.00	Sundry	\$3,900.00	\$3,000.00
	CAR	\$11,867.00	\$8,000.00
<u>\$218,749.00</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$234,321.00</u>	<u>\$237,466.00</u>

		THIS YEAR	BUDGET
	2.0 EXPENDITURE		
\$119,022.00	2.1 Salaries / Wages (from Schedule 1)	\$108,671.00	\$124,129.00
	2.2 Payments to Associated Persons (Schedule 2)		
	2.3 Workers' Compensation Insurance Premiums	\$0.00	
	2.4 Employer Contribution to Superannuation		
	2.5 Service Costs		
\$9,363.00	Vehicle Running Costs (incl Insurance)	\$9,248.00	\$5,935.00
\$20,107.00	Bus Hiring Expenses	\$19,154.10	\$12,000.00
\$24,079.00	Taxi Hiring Expenses	\$21,628.00	\$31,000.00
\$13,774.00	Volunteer Reimbursements	\$14,475.07	\$3,314.00
	Management Committee Expenses		

<u>\$232,053.00</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>\$212,320.46</u>	<u>\$224,466.00</u>
<u>-\$13,304.00</u>	3.0 OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$22,000.54</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
	4.0 OTHER INCOME		
\$4,692.00	4.1 Grant - HACC Non-Recurrent Funding	\$8,000.00	
	4.2 Regional Transport Coordinator Funding		
	4.3 Profit on Sale of Assets		
	4.4 Insurance Recovery (specify)		
		
	4.5 Other (Itemise)		
\$4,117.00	Health Related Travel		
<u>\$8,809.00</u>	TOTAL OTHER INCOME	<u>\$8,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	5.0 OTHER EXPENDITURE		
\$13,164.00	5.1 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets	\$18,769.94	\$13,000.00
	5.2 Provision for Employee Entitlements		
	5.3 Loss on Sale of Assets		
\$49,241.00	5.4 Vehicle/Major Equipment Purchase		
	5.5 Other Brokerage Innovation	\$2,254.00	
	Yabby Bus Youth Activities	\$2,260.00	
	Transport to Safety	\$845.00	
<u>\$62,405.00</u>	TOTAL OTHER EXPENDITURE	<u>\$24,128.94</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
<u>-\$66,900.00</u>	6.0 SURPLUS BEFORE APPROPRIATION	<u>\$5,871.60</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	less Transfers to Asset Replacement Reserve		
	* Motor Vehicles		
	* Other (Itemise)		
		
		
		
\$49,241.00	plus Transfers from Asset Replacement Reserve		
	7.0 RETAINED EARNINGS - ADDITION		
<u>-\$17,659.00</u>	(REDUCTION) TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>\$5,871.60</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL - TABLELANDS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2009

LAST YEAR	ITEM	THIS YEAR
	CURRENT ASSETS	
	Cash on Hand	
	Cash at Bank and Other Financial Institutions	
	Bank / Institution Account Type	
56049	Investment Funds	80709
	
	
200	Petty Cash Float	200
	Prepayments (Itemise)	
	
	
	Debtors (Accounts Receivable)	
	GST Receivable	
	Other (Itemise)	
	
	
<u>56249</u>	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>80909</u>
	NON-CURRENT ASSETS	
108746	Property, Plant and Equipment at Cost less	89958
	Accumulated Depreciation	
	Other (Itemise)	
	
	
<u>108746</u>	TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>89958</u>
<u>164995</u>	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>170867</u>

ADEQUACY OF CASH RESERVES CHECK

56049	Cash Assets	\$80,709
	Less Reserves Required for:	
	Employee Entitlements (from Balance Sheet)	
35812	Vehicle Replacement (from Budget Vehicle Replacement Provision Planner)	\$48,822
	Other (Itemise)	
	
	
20227	UNCOMMITTED CASH (1)	<u>\$31,887</u>

Note: (1) If this figure is negative then the total cash reserves being held are not adequate and strategies will be required to be developed and implemented to redress the situation. If it is significantly larger than \$0 then an explanation will be required as to why grant income is not being fully committed to service delivery.

SCHEDULE 4 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REGISTER

Reg or Serial No.	Description	Date of Purchase	Original Cost	Date of Disposal	Depreciation Rate	Opening Written Down Value	Depreciation this Financial Year	Closing Written Down Value
2459	Victory 4 wheel Scooter	22/09/2004	3500.00		20%	861.00	700.00	161.00
2460	Victory 4 wheel Scooter	22/09/2004	3500.00		20%	861.00	700.00	161.00
2461	Superprint 4425 TTY	6/10/2004	1154.00		20%	292.77	230.80	61.97
2482	Samsung 710V 17" Monitor	9/03/2005	324.89		0%	-		-
2483	HP DX6120 Computer	9/03/2005	1440.03		0%			-
1663	Desk with left return	31/10/1998	650.00		7%	166.16	43.33	122.83
1664	Desk with right return	31/10/1998	650.00		0%	0	0	-
1665	Steel Cabinet	31/10/1998	400.00		7%	102.18	26.67	75.51
1666	Shelves	31/10/1998	300.00		7%	76.67	20	56.67
1667	Backhealth Office Chair	31/10/1998	300.00		7%	96.67	20	76.67
1668	Client Chairs	31/10/1998	300.00		7%	96.67	20	76.67
1674	4 Drawer Filing Cabinet	31/10/1998	375.00		7%	102.83	25	77.83
2075	Office Chair	5/02/2002	295.45		7%	189.66	19.7	169.96
2076	Standard Desk	15/02/2002	479.70		7%	275.99	31.98	244.01
2077	Hutch with 4 Cupboards	15/02/2002	431.80		7%	277.20	28.79	248.41
2364	Mobile Pedestal Cabinet	14/04/2004	210.00		7%	165.05	14.00	151.05
2365	Overhead Hutch	14/04/2004	590.00		7%	463.71	39.33	424.38
2366	Desk with left return	14/04/2004	689.09		7%	541.88	45.94	495.94
	SUBTOTAL		15589.96			4569.44	1965.54	2603.90

CERTIFICATION: This Schedule is certified by the Chairperson (or equivalent) and Treasurer of the Project's Board/Management Committee/Equivalent

POSITION
General Manager
Director

NAME
Thomas T. O'Connell
JANE MICHIE

SIGNATURE
[Signature]
Jane Michie

DATE
29/10/09
25/10/09

URALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2009

ATTACHMENT F

CENTRAL NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARIES



central northern
regional library

Contents

Vision Statement & List of Delegates	Overleaf
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LGA/Branch Library Reports-	Pages LGA1– LGA10
CNRL Annual Statistics	Pages S1-S13
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Reservations	S2
Membership	S3
Loans by Collection/ Branch	S4-S6
Stock by Collection/ Branch	S7-S9
Acquisitions, Donations & Withdrawals	S10
New Items	S11
Stock Turnover	S12
Public Access Computer Bookings	S13
Staff List	Appendix 1

CNRL Vision Statement

Central Northern Regional Library assists member councils to develop branch libraries as lively hubs of activity that not only foster lifelong learning, literacy and intellectual recreation, but serve as gathering places in our increasingly diverse communities– (March 2006)

CNRL Mission Statement

*By being tuned into the communities we serve and supportive of each others efforts, Central Northern Regional Library will foster highly responsive, relevant and cohesive library service
(March 2006)*

Participating Councils

Liverpool Plains Shire Council

Narrabri Shire Council

Tamworth Regional Council

Uralla Shire Council

Walcha Council

Library Delegate

Cr Colleen Wills

Cr Ron Lowder

Cr Helen Tickle

Cr Karen Dusting

Cr Bill Heazlett (Mayor)
(CNRL Chairman)

Central Northern Regional Library 2008-09

New Library Building for Werris Creek

This year the Werris Creek Library moved from Coronation Street into a new, larger, purpose built library in the main street. The new building has plenty of natural light and open space. New shelving is on wheels and able to be moved to open up the space for performances, presentations and meetings.

The official opening took place on February 25th 2009 and was attended by 90 guests including Leanne Perry from the State Library of NSW, Peter Draper, Member for Tamworth, LPSC Councillors and Council Executive staff. The opening was well attended by community members and the programme included several items from the Signal Singers.

Liverpool Plains Shire Council received a \$200,000 Library Development Grant to assist with the building of this new library.

New Logo for CNRL:

The new CNRL logo has been applied to the new plastic membership cards, signage on the CNRL van, branding on the CNRL website and CNRL publications.



Systems and Technology:

- An upgrade for the library management system took place in September/October 2008 .The upgrade included new acquisitions and cataloguing modules. This required significant testing and redesign of workflows for this area. The OPAC website was also upgraded at this time and staff were required to learn new skills in order to be able to update the website.
- In October all Gunnedah data was removed from the CNRL Spydus library management system.
- New CNRL circulation PCs were installed at all branches in 2008.
- Pharos PC booking software was installed at Narrabri and Werris Creek Branches this year .
- Crystal Reports software is now in use and Stephanie Mills and Eric Elsley have had training in use of the software .
- 89,176 public access Internet bookings were made at CNRL libraries in 2008-09
- Tamworth Regional Council installed a **Wireless Internet Hotspot** at the City Library in May 2008 . There were over 160 bookings in the first month
- Use of the CNRL website has skyrocketed in 2008-09. There were 391,216 web hits (a **328%** increase on the previous year)

Information and Reader Services:

- **Database Searches** increased by **71 %** for 2008-09 . There were **30,389** searches compared to 17,712 in the previous year
- **Inter Library Loans 2009**

Quirindi	96
Werris Creek	29
Total Liverpool Plains	125
Boggabri	0
Narrabri	324
Wee Waa	57
Total Narrabri Shire	381
Barraba	18
Kootingal	123
Manilla	57
Nundle	49
South Tamworth	418
Tamworth	1203
Total Tamworth	1868
Uralla	244
Walcha	14
Total	2632

Book Groups— CNRL supported 18 Book Groups during 2008-09 . Eleven were co-ordinated by library

staff and seven were independent groups .

- **In Depth Research Requests** received via the request module totalled 80 in 2008-09

Circulation::

LGA	Stock per Capita	Loans per Capita
Liverpool Plains	2.0	3.3
Narrabri	1.5	4.2
Tamworth	1.4	4.3
Uralla	1.6	2.8
Walcha	1.7	3.5

- Loans across the region have fallen by 6.3% in 2008-09. It is possible that some loan data may have been lost with the Gunnedah purge however monthly loans have been consistently lower compared to the same month in the previous year
- Total reservations for the region equalled 45,235

Deliveries and stock exchange :

- Following the withdrawal of Gunnedah Shire Council from the regional library service a reassessment of the delivery route took place. Narrabri and Boggabri branches, previously serviced by private courier, were brought into the weekly delivery and bump along exchanges

Staff Development:

- **PLC - 2008 Conference—The Power of Place**—This conference was hosted in Tamworth and presented an excellent opportunity for CNRL branch staff . Nearly all staff attended this conference .
- **Regional Training Days** - Three regional training days were held in 2008-09.
- **Leading From Any Position** - (State Library of NSW) Attended by Marian Bennett (Tamworth) Donna Garrad, (Walcha) and Jenny Campbell (Narrabri)
- **LIAC Forum**—(State Library of NSW) Attended by Kate Nalder (Tamworth)
- **Drug Information @ your Library Forum**— (State Library of NSW) Attended by Kate Nalder
- **SPUN Conference**— Attended by Eric Elsley
- **Shanachie Tour**—Information session about libraries in the US . This was held at the State Library of NSW and was attended by Marilyn Deeks (LPSC) & the Library Services Manager .
- **Dreamweaver**—Web design software—Training attended by Kim Collins
- **Crystal Reports** - Training attended by Eric Elsley & Stephanie Mills
- **PLC Symposium—Parkes**—Attended by the Library Services Manager , Kate Nalder , Cr Bill Heazlett, Donna Garrad , Jenny Campbell , Cr Colleen Wills, Marcela Krasny and Marilyn Deeks

Colin Mills Scholarship:

The winner of the 2009 Colin Mills Scholarship was announced at the PLC Symposium at Parkes . The scholarship is worth \$8000 and is provided to assist country library staff to undertake study projects overseas . The winner in 2009 was **Jenny Campbell from Narrabri Shire** . Jenny was awarded the scholarship to travel to Canada to study the RISE (Rural Information Services Initiative) and the Working Together Project . She will present a paper about her findings at the 2010 PLC Conference in Wagga.

Promotion :

- **Author talks** ; Author talks during the year have included Don Tate, Debra Adelaide, Bronwyn Parry-Debra Abela , Fiona Higgins and Jennifer Stackhouse .
- **CWA Country of Study**—A web site with links to information about Egypt was constructed to assist CWA members with their study. The Wanthella CWA group attended an information session and morning tea in Tamworth. CNRL staff also presented information sessions at Quirindi, Werris Creek, Narrabri, Bellata and Wee Waa..

Children's Services :

- **Book Week 2008** was celebrated throughout the region 16th-22nd August. The picture book 'Pearl Barley and Charlie Parsley' written and illustrated by Aaron Blabey was selected by Youth & Branch Services Librarian from the Shortlist for use during class visits or pre school storytimes around the region during Book Week. Ideas for activities and games were used during the school visits to support the theme '**Fuel Your Mind**'. Posters were purchased and sent to all branches in the region. A Regional Book Week competition was also distributed to Branch staff. Winners of the competition received quality Australian children's books for prizes specially selected by Youth & Branch Services Librarian.
- **National Simultaneous Storytime 2009** was held on 27th May during **Library & Information Week**. This event is now held annually in May to highlight the importance of reading and literacy. The book chosen this year by The Australian Library and Information Association was called '**Pete the Sheep**' written by popular children's author Jacki French and illustrated by Bruce Whatley. All CNRL branches were sent a copy of the book and posters for promoting and presenting the storytime at their library. Quirindi Library diligently took the sheep theme on board and arranged for some lambs to be at the library for the storytime.
- **Stephenie Meyer – Twilight**: This has been the most popular children's series since Harry Potter! Multiple copies of the popular book Twilight were purchased and distributed around the region and proved to be extremely popular with adults as well as teenagers. CNRL staff presented a Stephenie Meyer book group to teenagers at Tamworth and Quirindi libraries in January and March 2009.
- **April School Holiday Activities**: Children's services staff prepared and offered to present 'Pencil and Paper Games for Children' suitable for ages 5-11 years around the region during April school holidays. Quirindi Library, Werris Creek Library , South Tamworth and Tamworth Libraries successfully hosted this event with children enjoying fun word and number games, maps and mazes. Narrabri hosted the Pencil and Paper games at a later date.
- **Nintendo Wii**: Tamworth Regional Council installed Nintendo Wii's in five branch libraries in June 2009 .
- **Volunteer Storytimes**: Werris Creek and Quirindi are presenting pre school storytimes at their library and are now using CNRL storytime packages. Uralla and Walcha are sent packages as requested. Due

- to demand of the packages Children's services staff have prepared a number of new packages to boost the collection. New themes include Food, Maisy Mouse, Clouds, Circus and Toys.
- **Summer Reading Club:** Summer Reading Club is held during December and January school holidays. This event is a national reading program produced by the Australian Library and Information Association. Reading Club kits are provided free of charge by CNRL to each LGA and sent to branches from Children's Services. Printouts of registration forms, reading records and activity booklets for different age groups were also provided and sent to all branches.

Tamworth - 2008 PLC Conference Host

Tamworth hosted the Public Libraries NSW—Country Conference at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre from July 29th to 1st August 2008. A partnership with the Tamworth Regional Gallery meant that a children's author/artwork exhibition was able to be hosted concurrently with the library conference and provided an inspiring venue for the welcome function. Graeme Bases' original artwork for the Waterhole was on exhibition

The conference attracted over 300 delegates from across the State. The conference theme "The Power of Place" included presentations on innovative library buildings, the concept of libraries as a third place, and presentations about successful converged facilities. Speakers included Dr Marian Koren (Netherlands), Chrystie Hill (USA) and Bill McNaught (New Zealand)

The conference proved both a professional and financial success. \$25,000 in conference profit was handed over to the PLC at the conclusion of the event

What's Coming in 2009 /10

- Further introduction of Web 2.0 features to engage user participation on the CNRL website
- Learning 2.1—an online training program from the State Library of New South Wales
- Kevin Henneh— Rethink Reinvent Rejuvenate Workshop for CNRL branch staff
- Downloadable MP3 talking books
- MP3 @ your library marketing plan for CNRL
- Expanded author program to branch libraries
- 2010 to 2015 - CNRL Management Plan

Concluding Comments:

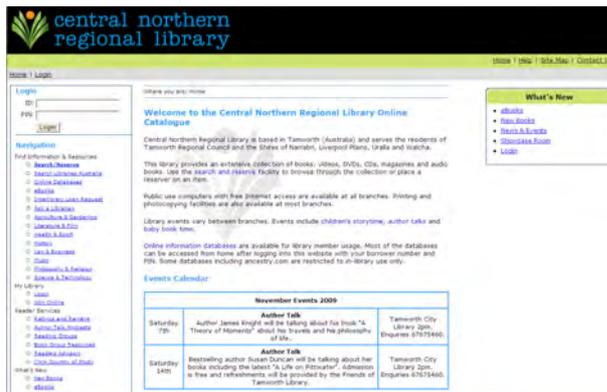
This year has seen some marked changes in library user patterns in the CNRL region. Website and database use has grown dramatically while loans have slightly reduced. Online resource and information delivery has many advantages including timeliness, reduced physical handling, equal opportunity for remote users, multiple simultaneous use of resources, cost effectiveness, consistency and currency. CNRL branch libraries continue to have high visitation rates and program attendance indicating that although our communities have enthusiastically taken up the use of web based services they also continue to see libraries as community gathering places and venues for interaction and activity

Kay Delahunt—Library Services Manager



central northern regional library

On line Branch 2008-09 Website Snapshot



Website visits	391,216
Reservations from the web	13,064
Renewals over the web	5275
Database searches	30,389
CNRL members with a PIN	17939
Book reviews on web catalogue	43

- There has been a **328%** increase in website visits in 2008-09

www.cnl.nsw.gov.au

Liverpool Plains Shire Branch Libraries 2008-09

- **Liverpool Plains Shire Area:** 5121 sq kms
- **Population :** 7880 estimated resident population
- **Service Points:** 2 Branch Libraries & 1 public service outlet
- **Open Hours:**

Quirindi Branch Library	39 hours per week
Werris Creek Branch Library	26 hours per week
Premer	4 hours
- **Number of Public Access PCs:**

Quirindi Library	4
Werris Creek Branch Library	3
Premer	2

Liverpool Plains Shire loans per capita	3.3
Liverpool Plains Shire stock per capita	1.7
Liverpool Plains Shire stock turnover	2.0

Quirindi Library Snapshot 2008-09

- A contemporary literature book group continued to meet at the Quirindi Library in 2008-09
- CNRL staff presented a CWA Country of Study "Egypt" Information Day at the Quirindi Library
- A Law Week presentation on *Wills and Power of Attorney* was delivered by solicitor, John Boag 14 people attended the session at Quirindi Library .



Quirindi Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	30062	26657
Membership	2072	2337
Computerised loans	19786	17540
Stock	10147	7034
New Stock	613	842
Reservations	1225	1221
Public Access Computer Bookings	5786	4036

- A "Twilight" themed teen event was hosted for teenagers
- Regular preschool storytimes continued throughout 2008-09
- Quirindi Library participated in National Simultaneous Storytime and the Summer Reading Club
- Paper and Pencil school Holiday games were attended by 30 children .

Werris Creek Library Snapshot 2008-09

2007-08 has been an exciting year for Werris Creek Library . In February 2009 the library was moved from Coronation Street into a new , larger, purpose built library in the main street . The new building has plenty of natural light and open space . New shelving is on wheels and able to be moved to open up the space for performances, presentations and meetings . Library usage in Werris Creek increased dramatically after the new building opened .

- The Werris Creek Library official opening took place on February 25th 2009 and was attended by 90 guests including Leanne Perry from the State Library of NSW , Peter Draper, Member for Tamworth , LPSC Councillors and Council Executive staff . The opening was well attended by community members and the programme included several items from the Signal Singers.



- A new book group has been formed in Werris Creek since the opening of the new library . The group is co-ordinated by Librarian , Marilyn Deeks
- CNRL staff presented a CWA Country of Study “Egypt” Information Day at the Werris Creek Library
- A Law Week presentation on *Wills and Power of Attorney* was delivered by solicitor, John Boag 10 people attended the session at Werris Creek

Werris Creek Library Visits	2007-08 No electronic visitor counter	2008-09 No electronic visitor counter
Membership	596	779
Computerised loans	8418	9470
Stock	7047	6258
New Stock	354	653
Reservations	717	1137
Public Access Computer Bookings	266	728



- HACC hosted a health expo in the library with a display , free blood pressure checks and distribution of health information in the form of pamphlets
- Library Lovers Day was celebrated in great style at Werris Creek . Donated books were beautifully gift wrapped and given out in the main street as “**blind dates**” for Valentines day.
- Librarian , Marilyn Deeks, was guest speaker at the CWA Country of Study Luncheon .

- Whitehaven Coal provided \$3500 in sponsorship to the Werris Creek Library in June 2009
- Volunteer presented preschool storytimes are presented every Wednesday during school term . CNRL staff provided the group of volunteers with training. and CNRL storytime kits are used for the program
- LPSC Mayor, Cr Ian Lobsey presented Simultaneous Storytime at Werris Creek Library . 120 children listened to him read *Pete the Sheep* by Jackie French



LPSC Library Staff

Quirindi Branch Library Ms. Marcela Krasney
Mrs M Muirson

Werris Creek Branch Library
Ms Marilyn Deeks B Ed (UNE)

Premier Public Service Outlet-
Ms. Robyn Douglass

Narrabri Shire Branch Libraries 2008-09

- **Narrabri Shire Area:** 13065 sq km (GIS map info 13.10.2005)
- **Population :** 13507 estimated resident population
- **Service Points:** 3 branch libraries
- **Open Hours:**

Narrabri Library	40 hours per week
Boggabri Branch Library	10 hours per week
Wee Waa Branch Library	20 hours per week
- **Number of Public Access PCS:**

Narrabri Library	8	Loans per capita	4.2
Boggabri Branch library	2	Stock per capita	1.5
Wee Waa branch Library	4	Stock turnover	2.7

Narrabri Library 2008-09 Snapshot

- Over 2600 children visited the Narrabri Library in the 168 school visits during the year. Narrabri Library is located adjacent to the Narrabri Public School and infants classes visit the library regularly
- 84 preschool storytimes have been presented at Narrabri throughout the year . Narrabri has commenced using the themed CNRL storytime kits .
- Talk like a Pirate Day had 102 participants this year
- Knitters Group meets monthly in the library
- Two contemporary literature book groups have continued to meet monthly at Narrabri Library
- Authors Fiona Higgins and Don Tate have given talks at Narrabri Library during the year
- CNRL staff presented a CWA Country of Study



Narrabri Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	51800	64774
Membership	4383	4864
Computerised loans	48457	44874
Stock	16409	13159
New Stock	1308	1823
Reservations	8706	9585
Public Access Computer Bookings	11864	13130

- “Eygpt” information session at Narrabri and Bellata
- Storytime for Oldies—Frail elderly enjoy short readings in serial form at the Narrabri Library
- Telstra Museum travelling interactive exhibition spent a morning in Narrabri Library
- School Holiday activities were held at Narrabri Library with a variety of programs each school holidays

- Two puppet shows performed by Narrabri Library staff were attended by 72 children at Narrabri Library .
- Children's Bookweek was celebrated with a colouring competition. Prizes were handed out at assembly at each of the Narrabri primary schools.
- Baby Book Time sessions were introduced at Narrabri this year. CNRL staff presented one session and Narrabri staff presented a further two sessions .



- Reading to your grandchildren @ Narrabri 25th March 2009 - Children's Book Council , NSW judge , Wendy Smith , visited Narrabri to present this session.

Boggabri Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	2809	2414
Membership	308	336
Computerised loans	3706	4181
Stock	2758	2337
New Stock	189	273
Reservations	464	249
Public Access Computer Bookings	302	358

Boggabri Library Snapshot 2008-09

- Boggabri Book Group continue to meet monthly at the library
- Boggabri participated in the Children's Book Week Colouring Competition
- Boggabri Library delivers home library service to 4 clients.

Wee Waa Library Snapshot 08-09

- Two contemporary literature book groups meet monthly at Wee Waa Library
- CNRL staff presented a CWA Country of Study "Egypt" information day at Wee Waa Library
- Wee Waa participated in the Children's Bookweek Colouring Competition
- Wee Waa Library delivers home library service to 2 clients and has one seniors assist client

Wee Waa Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	10165	10101
Membership	661	732
Computerised loans	7252	7054
Stock	6350	5156
New Stock	335	391
Reservations	1193	1365
Public Access Computer Bookings	3225	3557



Narrabri Shire Library Staff:

Narrabri Shire Library	Ms Jenny Campbell <i>Librarian</i>
	Janelle Van Bommel April Sawicki Margot Dunnett
Boggabri Branch Library	Mrs Helen Gilham
Wee Waa Branch Library	Mrs Margaret Trindall

Tamworth Regional Council Libraries 2008-09

Tamworth Regional Council Area: 9653.25 sq km

- **Population :** 57182 estimated resident population
- **Service Points:** 6 Branch Libraries
- **Open Hours:**

Tamworth City Library	49 Hours per week
Barraba Branch Library	9 Hours per week
Kootingal Branch Library	17 Hours per week
Manilla Branch Library	25 Hours per week
Nundle Branch Library	12.5 Hours per week
South Tamworth Branch Library	38

Hours per week

- **No of Public Access PCS:**

Tamworth City Library	22
Barraba Branch Library	4
Kootingal Branch Library	4
Manilla Branch Library	4
Nundle Branch Library	3
South Tamworth Branch Library	6

TRC loans per capita	4.3
TRC stock per capita	1.4
TRC stock turnover	3.2

Tamworth Library Snapshot 2008-09



- Country Music Week 2009 storytimes featured Jay Collie, Carter and Carter, Charlene and Crystal, The Harmonators, Victoria Baillie and Slim Newton.
- Author talks were hosted with Don Tate, Debra Adelaide, Bronwyn Parry, Debra Abela, Fiona Higgins and Jennifer Stackhouse
- Several Tamworth book groups meet at and/or are using the regional book group kits.
- Regular home library service is provided for 57 Tamworth residents.
- Newcastle Permanent Building Society provided sponsorship for the Baby Book Time Program and provided Tamworth City Library with a collection of Baby Book Time kits
- Tamworth City Library hosted the 2008 Public Libraries NSW Conference at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Convention Centre.

- Tamworth City Library Open Hours were changed in November 2008. Earlier morning opening and earlier closing during the week with extended hours on Saturdays. Saturday usage increased by 76% following the introduction of extended Saturday open times

Tamworth Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	139802	144001
Membership	16662	18182
Computerised loans	160521	147203
Stock	44658	43338
New Stock	5656	5608
Reservations	9050	7757
Public Access Computer Bookings	45509	48410

- A Stephanie Meyer "Twilight" teenage event was held in March and two Nintendo Wii introduced in May
- A **Locked in the Library** event for teens was held during Youth Week
- 5400 people attended children's events at TRC libraries in 2008-09. Up 17% on the previous year

- A wireless Internet hotspot , two Nintendo Wii and a flat screen TV were installed at the City Library in 2008-09

South Tamworth Library Snapshot 2008-09

<i>South Tamworth library</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>
<i>Library Visits</i>	<i>40641</i>	<i>39118</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>4033</i>	<i>4333</i>
<i>Computerised loans</i>	<i>49625</i>	<i>52381</i>
<i>Stock</i>	<i>12484</i>	<i>13320</i>
<i>New Stock</i>	<i>1600</i>	<i>1527</i>
<i>Reservations</i>	<i>2151</i>	<i>2972</i>
<i>Public Access Computer Bookings</i>	<i>5389</i>	<i>8051</i>

- Preschool storytimes have been held at South Tamworth during term on Wednesdays
- A refugee storytime and display was held at South Tamworth Library to celebrate Refugee Week.
- Three school visits to South Tamworth Library this year
- South Tamworth Library hosted Paper & Pencil holiday activities

Barraba Library Snapshot 08-09

- Barraba Library delivers home library service to 4 residents
- A Nintendo Wii was introduced to Barraba Library in June 2009
- Paper and pencil school holiday activities were held at Barraba

<i>Barraba Library</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>
<i>Library Visits</i>	<i>12058</i>	<i>15972</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>850</i>	<i>903</i>
<i>Computerised loans</i>	<i>11769</i>	<i>11522</i>
<i>Stock</i>	<i>6428</i>	<i>6161</i>
<i>New Stock</i>	<i>490</i>	<i>293</i>
<i>Reservations</i>	<i>1033</i>	<i>792</i>
<i>Public Access Computer Bookings</i>	<i>1182</i>	<i>1103</i>

Manilla Library Snapshot 2008-09

- Storytimes are presented at Manilla by trained volunteers from the Manilla **Born to Read** Group
- Manilla library is part of a joint library/ TRC customer services centre . The library continues to be staffed for 25 hours per week however designated library hours have been rearranged to allow all day opening for the facility (previously the customer services component closed during lunch hour)

<i>Manilla Library</i>	<i>2007-08</i>	<i>2008-09</i>
<i>Library Visits</i>	<i>14742</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>1229</i>	<i>1407</i>
<i>Computerised loans</i>	<i>18008</i>	<i>14246</i>
<i>Stock</i>	<i>4902</i>	<i>5081</i>
<i>New Stock</i>	<i>803</i>	<i>550</i>
<i>Reservations</i>	<i>4153</i>	<i>2506</i>
<i>Public Access Computer Bookings</i>	<i>2490</i>	<i>3194</i>

- A Nintendo Wii was introduced to the Manilla facility in June 2009
- Manilla Library hosts a Book Group “ **Manilla Book Lovers Club**”
- Manilla Library participated in Country Music activities, Libray lovers promotion, Australia day , Chinese New Year Festival, Easter activities , Seniors Week , Earth Hour, Dr Seuss' Birthday , International Butterfly Day and World Water Day

Kootingal Library Snapshot 2008-09

- Kootingal branch open hours changed in November 2009 . The library is still open the same number of hours but the spread of hours has changed . The branch library is now open for part of the day every day Monday to Saturday . The trial Tuesday morning opening for Moonbi House residents has remained in the new open times.
- Home library service was extended to Kootingal residents in 2009

Kootingal Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	11562	11026
Membership	1007	1078
Computerised loans	17704	14038
Stock	7765	5871
New Stock	699	635
Reservations	1495	984
Public Access Computer Bookings	841	1026



- Preschool storytimes have been presented by trained volunteers weekly during school term .
- A Nintendo Wii was introduced to Kootingal Library in June 2009
- Kootingal Library received new shelving and a picture book "train" in 2009
- Kootingal Library has one Book Group
- Kootingal Library participated in Summer Reading Club

Nundle Library Snapshot 2008-09

- Library staff presented simultaneous storytime
- A Nintendo Wii was introduced to Nundle Library in June 2009
- A contemporary literature book group continues to be resourced and co-ordinated by library staff in Nundle.
- Nundle participated in the summer reading program
- A special Chinese storytime was presented at the annual **Go for Gold** Chinese Festival
- A one off storytime was held at the swimming pool in January

Nundle Library	2007-08	2008-09
Library Visits	9211	8281
Membership	302	329
Computerised loans	6674	6543
Stock	3990	3678
New Stock	405	401
Reservations	1076	598
Public Access Computer Bookings	1067	1030

TRC Libraries Staff

See appendix

Uralla Shire Council Library 2008-09



Uralla Shire Council Area: 3215 sq km

Population 6081 estimated resident population

Service Points: 1 Branch Library
1 Public Service Outlet

Open Hours: Uralla 30 Hours per week
(includes Sunday hours)

Bundarra 4 Hours per week

Number of Public Access PCS: 7

Uralla Library Snapshot 2008-09

Children's Activities:

- Regular storytimes have been held on Tuesdays during school term at Uralla Library in 2008-09.
- Uralla conducted a *Summer Reading Program* in January 2009
- Children's Book Week was also celebrated at Uralla with a colouring competition
- A Teddy Bears Picnic was held in October 2008
- A Treasure Box Craft Day was held at Uralla Library in November 2008
- Special Christmas Storytime was held at Uralla Library

Uralla Library	2007-08	2008-9
Library Visits	21053	16785
Membership	1733	1864
Computerised loans	18647	16751
Stock	9946	9843
New Stock	1177	926
Reservations	2489	2345
Public Access Computer Bookings	4306	4013
Loans per capita	3.1	2.8
Stock per capita	1.7	1.6
Stock turnover	1.9	1.7

Events :

- Exhibitions by two photographers were held during the Thunderbolt Festival in October 2008
- Uralla Library participated in the *Get off Your Arts* festival

Housebound Service:

- Deliveries have been made to six housebound borrowers and a seniors assist service provided for about 20 more borrowers.

Uralla Staff

Uralla Library Ms Judy Cozens Librarian

Bundarra (Public Service Outlet) Mrs Joy Rutledge

Walcha Branch Library 2008-09

- **Walcha Council Area:** 4992 sq km
- **Population :** 3276 estimated resident population
- **Service Points:** 1 Library
- **Open Hours:** 15 hours per week
- **Number of Public Access PCS:** 3



Walcha Library Snapshot 2008-09

Walcha Library	2007-08	2008-09	
Library Visits	5045	2825	The Walcha Contemporary Literature Book Group continued to meet at the library in 2008-09
Membership	1025	1099	Walcha Library held a Valentines Day Library Lovers Competition with 22 people participating
Computerised loans	12673	11379	Walcha library staff continue to select and process books and audio items for the fortnightly Quota Home Book Service and Elizabeth Cross Wing at Walcha MPS
Stock	6046	5571	Library resources have continued to be supplied to the Riverview Aged Hostel
New Stock	365	550	Use of the Public Access Computers at Walcha has increased in 2008-09
Reservations	1090	651	
Public Access Computer Bookings	484	540	
Loans per capita	3.8	3.5	
Stock per capita	1.8	1.7	
Stock turnover	2.1	2.0	

Walcha Library has successfully engaged the community with the library website and has the highest proportion of reservations placed over the web in the CNRL region

The library collection at Walcha received a boost of 200 new DVDs in May 2009. This was in response to the closure of the only commercial video outlet in the town.

Children's Activities at Walcha Library have included two preschool storytimes, participation in the CNRL Children's Bookweek Competition and 12 children participated in the Summer Reading Programme.

Walcha Staff

Walcha Library Ms Donna Garrad (Manager)

Ms Julie Hoy (casual)
Mrs Belinda Colwell (casual)
Mrs Joy Finlayson (Casual)

Volunteers Mrs Judy Ireland
Mrs Elva Cross

Central Northern Regional Library

Summary

Computerised Loans by Branch/ LGA 2008-09

<u>Branch/LGA</u>	<u>2008-09</u>
Quirindi Library	17540
Werris Creek Branch Library	9470
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	27010
Narrabri Library	44874
Boggabri Branch Library	4181
Wee Waa Branch Library	7054
Narrabri Shire Total	56109
Tamworth City Library	147203
South Tamworth Branch Library	52381
Barraba Branch Library	11522
Manilla Branch Library	14246
Kootingal Branch Library	14038
Nundle Branch Library	6543
Tamworth Regional Council Total	245933
Uralla Library (Shire Total)	16751
Walcha Library (Shire Total)	11379
Webpage	5223
CNRL Total	362405

Central Northern Regional Library

Reservations 2007/08 and 2008/09

	2007/08	2008/09
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>		
Quirindi Library	1225	1221
Werris Creek Branch Library	717	1137
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	1942	2358
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>		
Narrabri Library	8706	9585
Boggabri Branch Library	464	249
Wee Waa Branch Library	1193	1365
Narrabri Shire Total	10363	11199
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>		
Tamworth City Library	9050	7757
South Tamworth Branch Library	2151	2972
Barraba Branch Library	1033	792
Manilla Branch Library	4153	2506
Kootingal Branch Library	1495	984
Nundle Branch Library	1076	598
Tamworth Regional Council Total	18958	15609
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>		
Uralla Library (Total)	2489	2354
<i>Walcha Council</i>		
Walcha Library (Total)	1090	651
Web (Total)	13134	13064
CNRL Total	47976	45235

Central Northern Regional Library—Membership as at 30.06.2009

Branch	Adult Member	House Bound	Institution	Child Member (0 - 17)	Totals as at 30.06.2009	Previous Year Total	Estimated Resident Population at 30/06/2008
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>							
Quirindi	1702	1	14	620	2337	2072	
Werris Creek	505	0	2	272	779	596	
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	2207	1	16	892	3116	2668	7880
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>							
Narrabri Library	3057	17	11	1779	4864	4383	
Boggabri Branch Library	242	0	2	92	336	308	
Wee Waa Branch Library	464	4	6	258	732	661	
Narrabri Shire Total	3763	21	19	2129	5932	5352	13507
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>							
Tamworth City Library	14083	74	81	3944	18182	16621	
South Tamworth Branch Library	2884	20	3	1426	4333	4033	
Barraba Branch Library	625	32	5	241	903	850	
Manilla Branch Library	964	16	2	425	1407	1229	
Kootingal Branch Library	701	13	5	359	1078	1007	
Nundle Branch Library	264	2	3	60	329	302	
Tamworth Regional Council Total	19521	157	99	6455	26232	24042	57182
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>							
Uralla Library (Total)	1207	50	5	604	1866	1733	6081
<i>Walcha Council</i>							
Walcha Library (Total)	781	6	3	309	1099	1025	3276
GRAND TOTAL	27479	235	142	10389	38245	34820	87926

Central Northern Regional Library

Book Loan Statistics 2008-2009									
Branch	Adult		Young Adult Fiction	Children's		Picture Book	BOOK TOTAL		
	Non Fiction	Fiction		Non Fiction	Fiction		Book	Picture Book	TOTAL
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>									
Quirindi Library	2197	8096	284	83	932	1987			13579
Werris Creek Branch Library	1392	4303	247	128	388	493			6951
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	3589	12399	531	211	1320	2480			20530
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>									
Narrabri Library	4913	19433	606	880	3186	5124			34142
Boggabri Branch Library	393	2147	72	51	159	272			3094
Wee Waa Branch Library	655	3202	112	76	631	536			5212
Narrabri Shire Total	5961	24782	790	1007	3976	5932			42448
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>									
Tamworth City Library	31239	42042	3778	3185	9966	15508			105718
South Tamworth Branch Library	4765	21904	629	1049	2764	4765			35876
Barraba Branch Library	864	5439	98	170	372	837			7780
Manilla Branch Library	2156	5500	247	316	648	1259			10126
Kootingal Branch Library	1278	5042	137	287	654	1499			8897
Nundle Branch Library	670	2448	37	108	150	685			4098
Tamworth Regional Council Total	40972	82375	4926	5115	14554	24553			172495
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>									
Uralla Library (Total)	2587	6050	271	368	883	1072			11231
<i>Walcha Council</i>									
Walcha Library (Total)	1265	5409	59	52	392	949			8126
<i>Web</i>									
Web	1398	1271	161	217	515	708			4270
GRAND TOTAL	55772	132286	6738	6970	21640	35694			259100

Central Northern Regional Library

Audio-Video Loan Statistics

Branch	Junior Music	Junior Spoken Word	Junior Tape/Text	Children's VD/DVD	Children TOTAL	Adult Music	Spoken Word	Adult VD/DVD	Adult TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire</i>										
Quirindi Library	6	35	13	109	163	205	558	212	975	1138
Werris Creek Branch Library	5	13	0	210	228	296	298	599	1193	1421
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	11	48	13	319	391	501	856	811	2168	2559
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>										
Narrabri Library	19	132	12	383	546	530	1154	474	2158	2704
Boggabri Branch Library	0	4	0	45	49	61	21	52	134	183
Wee Waa Branch Library	1	14	1	131	147	78	163	47	288	435
Narrabri Shire Total	20	150	13	559	742	669	1338	573	2580	3322
<i>Tamworth Regional</i>										
Tamworth City Library	81	894	206	693	1874	3685	4539	2974	11198	13072
South Tamworth Branch Library	12	145	22	332	511	1121	837	817	2775	3286
Barraba Branch Library	2	44	37	104	187	98	171	150	419	606
Manilla Branch Library	5	54	14	83	156	258	290	272	820	976
Kootingal Branch Library	8	34	8	206	256	187	268	101	556	812
Nundle Branch Library	0	10	7	51	68	86	383	80	549	617
Tamworth Regional Council Total	108	1181	294	1469	3052	5435	6488	4394	16317	19369
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>										
Uralla Library (Total)	7	47	2	168	224	555	500	129	1184	1408
<i>Walcha Council</i>										
Walcha Library (Total)	0	22	2	131	155	94	528	276	898	1053
<i>Web</i>										
Web	4	33	8	75	120	107	118	72	297	417
GRAND TOTAL	150	1481	332	2721	4684	7361	9828	6255	23444	28128

Central Northern Regional Library

Special Collections : Loan Statistics 2008-09

Branch	Magazines	Reference	Junior Large	Large Print	Language	Other	Total	GRAND TOTAL
								ALL LOANS
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>								
Quirindi Library	386	0	0	2379	0	58	2823	17540
Werris Creek Branch Library	65	0	1	1016	0	16	1098	9470
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	451	0	1	3395	0	74	3921	27010
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>								
Narrabri Library	1261	0	0	6351	1	415	8028	44874
Boggabri Branch Library	300	3	0	601	0	0	904	4181
Wee Waa Branch Library	499	0	0	792	1	115	1407	7054
Narrabri Shire Total	2060	3	0	7744	2	530	10339	56109
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>								
Tamworth City Library	7962	6	16	18621	12	1796	28413	147203
South Tamworth Branch Library	3625	0	1	9356	2	235	13219	52381
Barraba Branch Library	672	3	0	2450	0	11	3136	11522
Manilla Branch Library	140	1	0	2928	0	75	3144	14246
Kootingal Branch Library	695	1	2	3533		98	4329	14038
Nundle Branch Library	391	0	0	1393	0	44	1828	6543
Tamworth Regional Council Total	13485	11	19	38281	14	2259	54069	245933
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>								
Uralla Library (Total)	550	0	3	3399	2	158	4112	16751
<i>Walcha Council</i>								
Walcha Library (Total)	63	0	0	2132	0	5	2200	11379
<i>Web</i>								
Web	235	0	1	298	1	1	536	5223
GRAND TOTAL	16844	14	24	55249	19	3027	75177	362405

Central Northern Regional Library– Library Stock (Books) as 30.06.2009

Library Stock: as at 30.6.2009 BOOKS

Branch	Adult Non Fiction	Adult Fiction	Young Adult Fiction	Children's Non-Fiction	Children's Fiction	Picture Books	Book Total 2009	Book Total 2008
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>								
Quirindi Library	1738	2096	175	406	647	557	5619	7827
Werris Creek Branch Library	984	2670	123	332	441	437	4987	5417
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	2722	4766	298	738	1088	994	10606	13244
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>								
Narrabri Library	2846	4197	360	584	917	865	9769	12678
Boggabri Branch Library	493	687	68	115	181	182	1726	2083
Wee Waa Branch Library	680	2317	118	113	352	309	3889	4991
Narrabri Shire Total	4019	7201	546	812	1450	1356	15384	19752
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>								
Tamworth City Library	17936	8063	853	2331	2158	1977	33318	34175
South Tamworth Branch Library	2436	3986	470	636	1183	843	9554	8920
Barraba Branch Library	720	2578	201	301	481	271	4552	4687
Manilla Branch Library	756	1895	159	272	378	366	3826	3758
Kootingal Branch Library	1262	1684	116	312	432	379	4185	5722
Nundle Branch Library	639	944	96	166	289	243	2377	2525
Tamworth Regional Council Total	23749	19150	1895	4018	4921	4079	57812	59787
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>								
Uralla Library (Total)	2190	3202	337	342	921	746	7738	7910
<i>Walcha Council</i>								
Walcha Library (Total)	1239	1726	71	206	387	368	3997	4496
GRAND TOTAL	33919	36045	3147	6116	8767	7543	95537	105189

Central Northern Regional Library—Library Stock—Audio Visual as at 30.06.2009

Library Stock: as at 30.6.2009

Non Book Materials												
Branch	Junior		Children's		Children's		Adult		Adult		Total Non-Book 2009	Total Non-Book 2008
	Spoken Word	Music	Tape/Text	Video/DVD	Total Non-Book	Spoken Word	a-Book/Tactile	Video /DVD	Music	Total Non-Book		
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>												
Quirindi Library	34	5	2	41	82	118	0	66	235	419	501	644
Werris Creek Branch Library	13	8	3	45	69	96	0	140	188	424	493	515
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	47	13	5	86	151	214	0	206	423	843	994	1159
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>												
Narrabri Library	67	7	3	60	137	219	0	272	444	935	1072	1049
Boggabri Branch Library	12	1	0	20	33	20	0	115	0	135	168	138
Wee Waa Branch Library	7	2	0	30	39	60	0	26	112	198	237	229
Narrabri Shire Total	86	10	3	110	209	299	0	413	556	1268	1477	1416
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>												
Tamworth City Library	100	13	16	126	255	726	104	787	1055	2672	2927	1873
South Tamworth Branch Library	31	4	7	64	106	287	0	230	264	781	887	776
Barraba Branch Library	29	4	15	36	84	99	0	105	121	325	409	400
Manilla Branch Library	13	5	5	21	44	47	0	83	120	250	294	270
Kootingal Branch Library	25	3	2	31	61	194	0	67	211	472	533	533
Nundle Branch Library	21	1	10	20	52	83	0	57	101	241	293	308
Tamworth Regional Council Total	219	30	55	298	602	1436	104	1329	1872	4741	5343	4160
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>												
Uralla Library (Total)	27	5	2	41	75	167	0	128	234	529	604	574
<i>Walcha Council</i>												
Walcha Library (Total)	28	1	1	52	82	160	0	231	147	538	620	468
GRAND TOTAL	407	59	66	587	1119	2276	104	2307	3232	7919	9038	7777

Central Northern Regional Library- Library Stock (Special Collections) as at 30.06.2009

Library Stock as at 30.06.2009

Special Collections Items									
Branch	Catalogued Magazines	Reference	Junior Large Print	Adult Large Print	Language	Special Colln Total	TOTAL STOCK 2009	Previous Year Total	
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>									
Quirindi Library	287	114	0	512	1	914	7034		10147
Werris Creek Branch Library	229	92	0	457	0	778	6258		7047
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	516	206	0	969	1	1692	13292		17194
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>									
Narrabri Library	877	237	2	1202	0	2318	13159		16406
Boggabri Branch Library	209	24	0	210	0	443	2337		2758
Wee Waa Branch Library	595	45	0	390	0	1030	5156		6350
Narrabri Shire Total	1681	306	2	1802	0	3791	20652		25514
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>									
Tamworth City Library	3371	1481	6	2268	17	7143	43388		44658
South Tamworth Branch Library	1364	112	1	1401	1	2879	13320		12484
Barraba Branch Library	639	114	1	446	0	1200	6161		6428
Manilla Branch Library	355	110	0	496	0	961	5081		4902
Kootingal Branch Library	306	79	1	767	0	1153	5871		7765
Nundle Branch Library	504	77	0	427	0	1008	3678		3990
Tamworth Regional Council Total	6539	1973	9	5805	18	14344	77499		80227
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>									
Uralla Library (Total)	196	124	0	1178	3	1501	9843		9946
<i>Walcha Council</i>									
Walcha Library (Total)	231	183	0	540	0	954	5571		6046
GRAND TOTAL	9163	2792	11	10294	22	22282	126857		138927

Central Northern Regional Library Acquisitions, Donations & Withdrawals 2008-09

2008-2009 Acquisitions, Donations and Withdrawals

Books	Acquisitions 2007/2008	Acquisitions 2008/2009	Donations 2007/2008	Donations 2008/2009	Withdrawals 2007/2008	Withdrawals 2008/2009
Adult Non-Fiction	3370	3506	1239	1113	1550	5010
Adult Fiction/ PBK/Mags	6736	5694	1334	1353	4510	9597
Young Adult Fiction	463	448	3	15	428	1313
Children's Non-Fiction	701	243	8	15	237	1200
Children's Fiction	704	977	22	0	474	1799
Picture Books/ Easies	1600	900	0	44	937	1944
Total Books	13574	11768	2606	2540	8136	20863
Other Material						
CD's /CD-ROMs	252	369	18	25	65	107
Spoken Word	336	443	0	17	332	428
Videos/DVD's	54	992	184	214	167	406
Total Other Material	642	1804	202	256	564	941
Reference	162	34	0	214	141	337
Large Print	1131	866	0	0	616	2799
GRAND TOTAL	15509	14472	2808	3010	9457	24940

New Items Acquired for CNRL Branches 2008-2009

New Items Acquired for CNL Branches

2008-2009

Quirindi Library	842
Werris Creek Branch Library	653
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	1495
Narrabri Library	1823
Boggabri Branch Library	273
Wee Waa Branch Library	391
Narrabri Shire Total	2487
Tamworth City Library	5608
South Tamworth Branch Library	1527
Barraba Branch Library	293
Manilla Branch Library	550
Kootingal Branch Library	635
Nundle Branch Library	401
Tamworth Regional Council Total	9014
Uralla Library (Shire Total)	926
Walcha Library (LGA Total)	550
CNRL Total	14472

Central Northern Regional Library

Library Stock Turnover as at 30.6.2009

Branch	Stock	Issues	Turnover
<i>Liverpool Plains Shire Council</i>			
Quirindi Library	7034	17540	2.49
Werris Creek Branch Library	6258	9470	1.51
Liverpool Plains Shire Total	13292	27010	2.03
<i>Narrabri Shire Council</i>			
Narrabri Library	13159	44874	3.41
Boggabri Branch Library	2337	4181	1.79
Wee Waa Branch Library	5156	7054	1.37
Narrabri Shire Total	20652	56109	2.72
<i>Tamworth Regional Council</i>			
Tamworth City Library	43388	147203	3.39
South Tamworth Branch Library	13320	52381	3.93
Barraba Branch Library	6161	11522	1.87
Manilla Branch Library	5081	14246	2.80
Kootingal Branch Library	5871	14038	2.39
Nundle Branch Library	3678	6543	1.78
Tamworth Regional Council Total	77499	245933	3.17
<i>Uralla Shire Council</i>			
Uralla Library (Total)	9843	16751	1.70
<i>Walcha Council</i>			
Walcha Library (Total)	5571	11379	2.04
GRAND TOTAL	126857	357182	2.82

Central Northern Regional Library

Public Access Computer Bookings

Branch	No.of PC's Previous Year	No.of PC's 2008/2009	Bookings Previous Year	Bookings 2008/2009	Bookings % Change
Quirindi Library	5	5	5786	4036	-30.25%
Werris Creek Library	2	3	266	728	173.68%
LPSC Total	7	8	6052	4764	-21.28%
Narrabri Library	9	9	11864	13130	10.67%
Boggabri Library	2	2	302	358	18.54%
Wee Waa Library	4	4	3225	3557	10.29%
Narrabri Total	15	15	15391	17045	10.75%
Tamworth Library	22	22	45509	48410	6.37%
South Tamworth Li- brary	6	6	5389	8051	49.40%
Barraba Library	4	4	1182	1103	-6.68%
Manilla Library	4	4	2490	3194	28.27%
Kootingal Library	4	4	841	1026	22.00%
Nundle Library	3	3	1067	1030	-3.47%
TRC Total	43	43	56478	62814	11.22%
Uralla Library	9	9	4306	4013	-6.80%
Walcha Library	3	3	484	540	11.57%
GRAND TOTAL	77	78	82711	89176	7.82%

The following staff provide services to CNRL and /or Tamworth Regional Council Libraries :

CNRL Executive Officer : Patrick O'Connor—Manager Cultural & Community Services - Tamworth Regional Council

Library Services Manager: Kay Delahunt- BA . Grad Dip Lib. AALIA

Information & Readers Services Team	Regional Resources Team	Technology & Circulation Team	Youth & Branch Services Team
Team Leader Kate Nalder— <i>Assoc Dip App Sc</i>	Team Leader Pamela Langridge - <i>B Gen Stud Grad Dip Lib & Inf</i>	Team Leader Marian Bennett— <i>Dip IT Dip Library & Information Services</i>	Team Leader Narelle Lightfoot <i>Assoc Dip App Sc</i>
Wendy Millar BA (Lib Sc) Stephanie Mills Dip. IT Ass. Degree of Arts Ass. Degree of Science- Library Technology	Ruth Fermor Christine Maher <i>Assoc Dip App Sc</i>	VACANT Kim Collins (part time)	Katie McPherson <i>Kerrie Shaw—Dip Library & information Services</i> Kootingal Branch
Megan Pitt BA Grad Dip Lib Sc Leona Thomsen Dip T		Sandra Collins (part time) Eric Elsley— <i>Dip IT</i> Lorraine Watton	<i>Yvonne Archer & Renai Fletcher</i> Manilla Branch <i>job share</i> Shirley Davis & Gae Sipple Nundle Branch <i>job share</i> Kaye Sawyer Barraba Branch

Casual Librarians :

Annabel Ashworth
 Veronica Strudwick
 Wendy Smith

Other:

Melissa Le Brocq
 Noel Skewes (Regional Courier)

Casual Library Assistants

Cathy Hanly
 Jamie Johnston
 Jayne O'Hare
 Sue Southwell
 Beth Turner

Staff

Staff

Staff

Staff

Staff