



Annual Report 2007 / 2008

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MAYORAL MESSAGE

The past twelve months has been a year of further consolidation on the foundation set in the previous eighteen months. The team that represented the Uralla Community for the four and a half years up until the Council Election of 13 September 2008 worked cohesively towards developing a better future for the Uralla Shire Council and its citizens. This task has now been taken over by the new Council, consisting of four continuing and five new Councillors.

Council's priority for this past year has continued to be core services and it has concentrated upon the maintenance and rehabilitation of our infrastructure, whilst recovering the Working capital position for the General Fund. The shortfall in working capital in the General Fund was first disclosed in the financial statements for the year 2005/2006 when the working capital for the McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre was separated from the General Fund for the first time. The audit report to the accounts showed a working capital shortfall in the General Fund at 30 June 2006 of \$1.135M. Council took immediate steps to change its direction, restricting expenditure in the balance of year 2006/2007 and budgeting for surpluses for the years 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 of \$592,571 and \$232,555 respectively.

The financial year 2006/2007 provided an improvement in the General Fund working deficit of \$240K from \$1,135K to \$895K from a balanced budget. Since then there has been a steady recovery with the General Fund Working Capital deficit being reduced by a further \$192K to \$703K at 30 June 2007 and by \$487K to \$216K at 30 June 2008. The planned budget surplus for the year to 30 June 2009 is \$232,555, and if achieved, will return the General Fund Working Capital to a small surplus.

The improvement in the Council's Working Capital ratio, 0.64:1 to 1.24:1, has been after increasing internal restrictions for future works and employee entitlements from \$623,896 to \$1,021,387 and allowing for the possible loss on investments in Collateralised Debt Obligations (CDOs) and Forward Rate Notes (FRNs) of \$731,122.

Council had \$1,850,000 in face value of CDOs and FRNs which had an estimated value of \$1,118,878 at 30 June 2008. In the current financial year (2008/2009) Council has had one CDO valued at \$8,000 at 30 June 2008 returned for its full face value of \$200,000. The situation with regards to the possible return of the principal of other CDOs is still unclear; however Council is taking all reasonable steps to have the funds returned. Nonetheless it appears that the credit crisis will have a direct cost to the Uralla Shire Council of no less than \$450,000 and an unknown cost through the reduction in interest rates and increases in material costs caused by the reduction in the value of the Australian Dollar.

The \$244,000 net operating surplus for the year to 30 June 2008 means that Council is fully funding its depreciation of \$1,838,000. The capital program of \$1,459,000, representing 1.5% of the total fixed assets of the Council, maintains the condition of Council's assets.

The 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 2007/2008 Management Plan was reviewed by Council at its meeting of 15 December 2008 and a summary of the result of that review is on the following pages of my message.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

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

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Page		Achieved	Not Achieved	Total Outcomes
	Transport and Communication			
24	Urban Roads	7	2	9
25	Sealed Rural Roads	8	1	9
27	Unsealed Rural Roads	4	3	7
28	Bridges	5	1	6
28	Footpaths	2	0	2
29	Parking Areas	1	1	2
29	Miscellaneous Transport	7	1	8
	Economic Affairs			
30	Camping and Caravan Areas	0	2	2
31	Tourism	5	0	5
31	Economic Development	5	2	7
32	Private Works	2	0	2
32	Other Business	3	0	3
		176	57	233

The Management Plan listed 233 outcomes to achieve the actions planned for the Council. There were 176 outcomes that have been assessed as Achieved (or 75.5%). The 57 outcomes that were not achieved are noted in the Outcome column in bold lettering in ATTACHMENT A.

Governance (2)

These negative results were caused by the late completion of the Annual Financial Statements, bank reconciliation delays and rate collections.

Administration (10)

The most serious shortcomings 10 out of 20 outcomes were in Administration.

Staff training, excluding salaries, was 0.26% well short of the 2%, including salaries, target; the ratio of wages and salaries to other costs at 47% exceeded the target of 45% and the underlying debt service ratio of 4.36% was slightly higher than the target of 4.0%. The rate ratio set at 30% may need revision, in future years, as the additional grants and other income that Council receives, particularly in Community Services area that are more akin to service charges has reduced the rate percentage to 26%.

Plant Services (2)

The 5 year plan was not in place by 30 June 2008. 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.

Fire Protection (1)

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

Emergency Services (1)

No report on the DISPLAN made in March 2008.

Aged Units (1)

Advertisements for Retirement Village Units did not solicit sufficient agreements for the project to proceed.

McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Centre (1)

The Centre did not operate at a surplus of income. A careful watch of expenditure in 2008/2009 is required. As well, a review of the Council's administration charge of 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 is necessary.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Tablelands Community Support Options, Tablelands Community Transport and Bundarra Neighbour Aid Services (1 each)

The administration charge to Community Services listed above was made only once (annual) instead of the scheduled quarterly because of changes in and lack of communication with the finance team.

Urban and Rural Planning and Assessment (1)

The completion of the joint NESAC Regional Local Environmental Plan has been delayed until end of 2009 / early 2010 because of changes to Planning Laws, SEPPs and rules outside the control of the Consultants and Council staff.

Garbage Collection and Disposal (2)

The performance target of 100kgs of disposed garbage per head is unrealistic with disposal at 410kgs per head and will need review to say 400kgs per head. In addition, the amount of recycling at 85kgs per head was easily achieved at 295kgs and also should be revised upward to say 300kgs per head. Both targets would then be realistic stretches for the Community.

During the year there was no suitable clay material available from construction sites to be stockpiled for use in covering the landfill.

Urban Stormwater Drainage (2)

The proposed additional gross pollutant trap was not installed and the volumes of waste collected from the installed traps were not reported to Council.

Public Cemeteries (1)

An application for heritage funding of work at the old cemetery was not compiled and lodged.

Environmental Control (2)

As with previous years, the suggestions from the State of the Environment Report (November 2007) was not incorporated into the 2008/2009 Management Plan. As referred above in Urban and Rural Planning and Assessment the Regional LEP has not been completed.

Other Conveniences (1)

No work carried out on the taxi shelter.

Uralla Water Supply (3)

One water sample did not comply with Drinking Water Guidelines during the year. There was no report to Council on volume of water consumed. The target of 100 metres of main construction was not achieved with only 30 metres being constructed.

Bundarra Water Supply (2)

One water sample did not comply with Drinking Water Guidelines during the year. There was no report to Council on volume of water consumed.

Uralla Sewerage Services (1)

There was no sewer main construction during the year.

Bundarra Sewerage Services (2)

No funding opportunities arose or were taken during the year.

Rural Waste Water (1)

40 of the targeted 100 inspections made. This target needs to be revised in future years to a more realistic number with 40 as the targeted 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 with 18,647 nor did the ratio of 3.1:1 issues of stock meet the target of 3.5:1.

MAYORAL MESSAGE (Continued)

Parks and Reserves (1)

No funding was provided nor work carried out on stage 2 of the Mt Mutton Walking Trail.

Quarries and Pits (1)

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

Urban Roads (2)

There was no sealing of roads in Bundarra this year in line with Council's changed strategic direction and the Bundarra Entry Statements have been commenced but not completed.

The Creative Village project, of one entry statement at the northern entry to town, was not completed as the design and materials was not finalised by the Committee.

Sealed Rural Roads (1)

Sixteen of the twenty kilometres of resealing planned completed.

Unsealed Rural Roads (3)

There was no sealing of rural roads this year in line with Council's changed strategic direction.

Two reports, one on Council roads that had not been graded for more than 12 months and the other on regional roads that had not been graded for eight months, had not been produced.

Bridges (1)

There was no report to Council on the number of bridges not painted for more than 10 years.

Parking Areas (1)

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

Miscellaneous Transport (1)

Line marking of road centrelines is a bi-annual programme and this year is a non line marking year.

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 (2)

No opportunity arose for the purchase of Industrial land.

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

The overall assessment for the Review of the 2007/2008 Uralla Shire Council's Management Plan for the year to 30 June 2008 is therefore just 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.

With the likely future implementation of the Department of Local Government's integrated planning and reporting system; the Department is encouraging Councils, when preparing the 2008-2009 Comprehensive SoE Report, "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".

With the above information in mind, it is intended that the NESAC SoE Report be reviewed in terms of its structure and content. In this regard, staff who contribute to the SoE Report have been asked to consider the following:

- how could the SoE report be developed to benefit or assist in your work?
- what are the issues that should be reported on?
- what data do you contribute to the SoE – is it meaningful, does it reflect measures or objectives in the Management Plan, is the data already collected or reported in another format?
- is the data useful in identifying levels of service, achievements, deficiencies, emerging issues and impacts on the environment (positive and negative)? Are these being reported?
- are responses, actions and projects that address environmental impacts being properly recorded and reported (e.g. case studies of high profile projects)?
- how are ecologically sustainable development principles being incorporated into Council activities and is this identified in the data provided for the SoE Report?
- how is information recorded and retrieved? Is it easy to access or could it be collected in a different way?

These submissions will be reviewed by Council's Environmental Committee prior to being incorporated into the 2008-2009 comprehensive 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
- Tourist Information Centre
- Community Centres
- Aged Accommodation Facilities
- Properties owned and let commercially
- Aquatic Centre Facilities
- Buildings and facilities in recreational areas
- Public Toilets

In accordance with the Department of Local Government requirements, Council buildings were re-valued during 2007/2008.

The total estimated cost of bringing public buildings and major facilities to a satisfactory standard is \$156,000 with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$87,000.

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.

The total estimated cost of bringing public roads and associated structures to a satisfactory standard is \$3,560,000 with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$2,149,000.

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 \$139,000 with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$74,000.

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 \$102,000 with an estimated annual maintenance expense of \$50,000.

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.

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.

5. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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

Council instituted one legal action during the reporting period. This action was to obtain an Apprehended Violence Order to protect a staff member who was subject to an attack by an irate resident over a noise complaint.

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

*	Enforcement of Local Government regulations	180.00
*	Legal action	4,256.00
*	Legal opinions	<u>5,837.06</u>
	Total	<u>\$11,173.06</u>

The action in respect to the Apprehended Violence Order was successful; however the staff member subsequently retired and left the district removing the need for any further action.

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 2007/2008 was set at \$12,000. 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 \$7,500, which is paid in equal monthly 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	\$12,000.00
* Councillor's Fees	\$67,500.00
* Expenses associated with Delegations, Conferences:	\$ 1,743.62
* Travelling and email connections	\$12,579.58
* Mayor's mobile phone	<u>\$ 447.41</u>
Total	<u>\$94,270.61</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 \$140,947.01 compared to \$158,624.75 for the previous period. The General Manager is the sole Senior Staff member of Council and the remuneration package is as follows:

* Cash salary	92,979.00
* Salary Sacrifice:	
* Voluntary additional superannuation contribution	30,832.94
* Computer and professional subscriptions	<u>4,982.56</u>
* Sub-total	128,794.50
* Compulsory superannuation contribution	11,597.19
* Fringe benefits payable by Council on non-cash benefits	<u>0.00</u>
Total	<u>\$140,391.69</u>

The Director of Corporate and Community Services was 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:

*	Forsyths, Chartered Accountants, audit services 2007/2008 to 2012/2013 commencing at	\$17,500.00
*	Tamworth Regional Council, regional library services 2007/2008 to 2010/2011 commencing at	\$42,556.27

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	\$ 340,697.82
*	Home Care Service Domestic Assistance to Community Options clients	\$ 332,655.40
*	Armidale & District Home Nursing Home help for Community Options Clients	\$328,845.49
*	Boral Construction Supply and spray bitumen	\$319,687.08
*	Statecover Mutual Workers Compensation Insurance	\$180,450.28
*	Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance for Assets and Public Liability	\$151,960.49
*	Inverell Aggregate, Aggregate supplies	\$124,583.92
*	EDI Downer Bitumen supplies	\$111,412.46
*	Hamo's Sand and Gravel Supply of road-making materials	\$62,020.61
*	Ward Brothers Gravel royalties	\$53,220.04

9. BUSH FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION
Section 428 (2)(i1) 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.

Council received \$7,500 funding from the Rural Fire Service to undertake bushfire hazard reduction activities and these were expended primarily at the Uralla Landfill Facility.

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. To manage its Aboriginal services projects, this 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 continues to auspice the Kamilaroi Aboriginal Respite Service in Tamworth with the Tablelands Community Support Options Manager providing support to this project. KADS has offices located in Tamworth, Inverell and Boggabilla.

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
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 5 to 13 April 2008.

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.

Council adopted a Community Social Plan in November 2004. This plan was reviewed by the Department of Local Government, which indicated a number of shortcomings within the plan.

12. ACCESS AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES (Continued)

A Regional Social Plan, in conjunction with other member councils of the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) will be 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 will include widespread Community consultation in the year 2009.

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:

- Business Papers for Council meetings 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.
- Council Newsletter published monthly and distributed to every household in the Shire.

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)

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%.

13. PRIVATE WORKS (Continued)

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 2007/2008 year except where proper private works orders have been raised.

14. CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS

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

Contributions totalling \$2,025.00 were made to local community groups under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 as follows:

* Rotary Art Show Committee	\$ 770.00
* 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
* Bundarra Tourism & Development Committee	\$ 170.00
* Australia Day Committee	<u>\$ 445.00</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,025.00</u>

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 2007-08 year was \$1,189.00.

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. The Salary Administration System and Council’s staff Structure have been reviewed.

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:

- * Master of Business Administration (Professional Accounting) (1)
- * Diploma in Community Services (Case Management) (2)
- * Certificate III Civil Construction (9 in progress)
- * Certificate III Horticulture (1 in progress).
- * Certificate III in Aged Care (3)
- * Environmental Health and Building Surveying (1)
- * Integrated Care Management (to provide services to the frail and aged)

15. HUMAN RESOURCE ACTIVITIES (continued)

- * Water Treatment (2).
- * First Aid (6)
- * Pool lifeguard update (2)
- * Chainsaw operation (6)
- * Chemical Spray operations (3)
- * OH&S Committee course (3)
- * Professional conferences.
- * Industry training groups.
- * Regional vocational group meetings.(6)

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

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.

During the balance of the year the NESAC Equal Employment Opportunities Committee held meetings on Thursday 3 April 2008 and Thursday 5 June 2008.

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

16. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Continued)

Council adopted a Policy of Succession Planning on 30 August 2006 (Resolution 295/06). 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.

Succession Planning is not about targeting particular individuals. It is about building capacity and capability of groups of people, who can then collectively compete on merit for promotion. It aims to overcome the common current experience where younger people leave the organisation after about five years of service. At the same time, Council believes that it is good personnel practice, good for the economy and valuable for the organisation to work with its senior executives and long term employees who are planning on transitioning to retirement.

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 has joined 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	671	620	532	438
Expenditure including depreciation	1,008	751	749	521
Surplus (Deficit)	(337)	(131)	(217)	(83)
Net Equity	17,272	16,432	7,787	7,434
Notional Return on Capital	(1.95%)	(0.80%)	(2.78%)	(1.11%)

Comparison of Performance

The combined (Uralla and Bundarra) deficit for reporting of the Water Supply operations performance was \$206,000 more than budgeted due to the unexpected estimated loss on long term investment of \$328,000 offset by a reduction of \$101,000 in depreciation cost following revaluation and re-evaluation of useful life of the assets and an increase of \$48,000 in the interest received over the estimates.

Comparison of Performance (Continued)

The Sewer operation performance was \$134,000 more than budgeted due to the unexpected estimated loss on long term investment of \$327,000 plus additional employee costs of \$30,000 and materials and contracts of \$17,000 offset by a reduction of \$145,000 in depreciation cost following revaluation and re-evaluation of useful life of the assets and an increase of \$53,000 in the interest received and \$35,000 access charges over the estimates..

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)ivii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

McMaugh Gardens Aged Hostel
Private Works Contract Services

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.

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

	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$26,125	\$23,312.50
Expenditure	\$32,520	\$20,018.07
Surplus(deficit)	(\$6,395)	\$3,294.43

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 (5.6km) at a cost of \$982 per km per annum and replaced 50 metres of stormwater drain to improve flows in East Street Uralla. A number of drainage lines have had gross pollutant traps installed to assist in the removal of gravels and litter.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES (continued)

A project to improve the quality of water flows in Uralla Creek in the vicinity of Shanahan's Bridge was undertaken with environmental weeds removed and the area replanted with appropriate native vegetation with the assistance of Greencorps.

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 2007-2008, Uralla Shire Council contributed \$20,111 to the running of this facility.

Pound Collection Data

	2007-08
Number of animals housed	38
Number of animals reclaimed	7
Number of animals re-housed	14
Number of animals euthanised	17
Number of Companion Animal complaints	71

Companion Animal Complaints Received

Dogs - Barking	Dogs - Aggressive	Dogs - General	Notices Issued
34	11	26	8

29. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1989 and REGULATION

Freedom of Information requests processed by Council for the 2007/2008 year were:

<u>FOI Requests</u>	Personal		Other		Total	
	2007/ 2008	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2006/ 2007
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 2007 to June 2008, 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 monthly to discuss issues of common interest and concern, opportunities for resource sharing and common procedures.

The new GEAC "Pathway" computer system continues to be 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 is still being expanded to its full functionality and now includes other modules including common Council licensing task such as food and on site waste water applications.

The new systems links with electronic mapping including cadastral information and planning controls and constraints for individual properties. In future, it is also anticipated that the new software will allow a range of on line functions to be available to the community including application lodgement and enquiry, as well as some automatically generated certificates.

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

A major focus of the Directorate in 2007/2008 has been the preparation of the NESAC wide regional planning strategy.

Also in early 2008, 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, is to be supplemented by Council and in kind funds to bring the project value to almost \$100,000.

This grant will enable Councils to jointly undertake a Climate Change Risk Awareness and Adaptation Planning process in relation to all Council operations. The project is expected to be completed in the 2008/2009 year.

In the same period, Council also expects to complete, along with its NESAC partners, a Community Consultative Program on Climate Change under the auspices of the NSW Nature Conservation Council. This will in turn provide feedback from people living in our region into the LAPP project and also the NSW Climate Summit which is scheduled for early 2009.

Regional Development Strategy and NESAC LEP(s)

Consultants 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.

Completion of the Draft Regional Development Strategy during 2007-2008 was dependant of resolving the issue of appropriate minimum lot sizes for subdivisions in rural areas. In August 2007, the State Government released the Central West Rural Land Inquiry which considered the issue of rural development and made recommendations relevant to regional areas in NSW. This led to the State Government introducing a State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) for Rural Lands in May 2008 which provided requirements and guidelines for determining minimum lot sizes for subdivision of rural land.

The Draft Regional Development Strategy was completed following the release of the Rural Lands SEPP. On 1 July 2008, the consultants will present the Draft Regional Development Strategy to all four Councils in NESAC with a view to seeking their endorsement for public exhibition of the document.

Regional Development Strategy and NESSAC LEP(s) (Continued)

When 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).

Review of Council's Bush Fire Prone Land Map

Under NSW legislation introduced in 2002, Council's are required to have Bushfire Prone Land (BPL) maps to use for planning and development control. The maps must be certified by the Commissioner of the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). Councils are required to review their BPL maps every 5 years and submit any proposed changes to the Commissioner for certification.

The RFS provided Council with a certified BPL map on 26 August 2003. During 2007-2008 the required review of the map was undertaken by Council in accordance with the BPL mapping guidelines provided by the RFS. The review involved comparing current bushfire mapping with vegetation distribution utilizing satellite imagery to identify possible anomalies. Following preparation of a draft map, ground truthing of the mapping was undertaken with the RFS (New England Zone) and mainly focused on land on the periphery of Armidale.

The revised BPL map will be submitted to the RFS in July 2008, seeking certification of the map by the NSW Commissioner of the RFS.

Development Control – Applications Processing

In 2007-2008 some 148 Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates were determined for the Uralla Local Government area, pursuant the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

The estimated value of work for applications approved in 2007-2008, excluding requests to modify existing consents, was approximately \$7 Million. This represented an increase of \$0.6 Million in comparison to the equivalent figure for 2006-2007.

Since 2006-07, councils have been supplying the Department of Planning with detailed information on each Development Application and s96 modification determined by council, and on each Complying Development Certificate issued by council or private certifiers. This information has been compiled into Local Development Performance Monitoring 2007-2008 report released 3 November 2008.

Uralla Shire is part of the reported Western Division and has been placed in Group 10 along with Blaney, Cobar, Forbes, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir, Lachlan, Narromine, Oberon, Walgett and Wellington Shires. This grouping has been based upon population figures released from the Bureau of Statistic as at 30 June 2007.

Development Control – Applications Processing (Continued)

Attached are some collated statistics relating to Uralla Shire from the Local Development Performance Monitoring 2007-2008 report (November 2008) issued by the Department of Planning. Collated are all of the Western Region Group 10 Councils and the State Average for information only.

Number and Estimated Cost of Development Applications Approved

	No Da's Determined			No s96		Total Estimated Approved		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	164	153	135	4	13	\$5.1m	\$6.4m	\$7m
State Group Average	n/a	170	127	10	13	n/a	\$22.5m	\$14m

Percentage of Development Type Approved

	% Alterations & Additions		% Single New Dwellings		% Commercial/ Retail/Office	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	n/a	57	n/a	22	n/a	0
State Group Average	n/a	32	n/a	19	n/a	8

Number of Complying Development Applications Approved

	No CDCs Issued			Issued by Council		Issued by Private Certifier		Total Estimated Value	
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0m	\$0m
State Group Average	n/a	34	30	n/a	28	n/a	2	\$0.9m	\$1m

Development Application Determination Times

	Mean Gross		Mean Net		Median Gross			Median Net			S96 Mean Gross	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	33	22	9	22	18	21	17	17	1	17	n/a	19
State Group Average	52	59	37	42	n/a	30	28	n/a	24	24	n/a	77
NSW	76	74	50	46	n/a	43	43	n/a	31	30	n/a	58

Development Control – Applications Processing (Continued)

Staff Allocated to Development Assessment

	DA Staff		Average DAs / Staff Member		% Change from Previous Year		DA's Determined	
	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	2	2	77	67.5	-53	-11.8	153	135
State Group Average	3	2	55	n/a	n/a	n/a	132	127
NSW	22773	1195	4	68.9	n/a	n/a	86287	82404

Construction and Occupation Certificates Issued

	Construction Certificates			Occupation Certificates		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Uralla	100	117	102	40	22	20
State Group Average	97	96	90	39	60	47

Planning Appeals and Related Legal Costs

There were no appeals against Council's Planning decisions in 2007/2008.

Applications and Activity

During the year, Council determined 34 new applications for on-site waste systems and undertook 28 inspections of premises involved in food preparation and sales, as well as various businesses regulated under the Public Health Act.

2008 Armidale Dumaresq & Uralla Heritage and Urban Design Awards

The 2008 Armidale Dumaresq and Uralla Heritage and Urban Design Awards Evening was held on Saturday 29 March 2008.

The winners and highly commended entries were:

Category 1 – Residential

65 Mann Street, "Opawa" Renovations/selves
Owner: Mr & Mrs Cooke

160 Faulkner Street, "Uloola" Additions/Magoffin and Deakin Architects
Owner: Mr Bain and Prof Sedgley

98 Mossman Street, Additions/Restoration/ Mahalath Halperin Architect/
Owner: Kerry Carrington and Russell Hogg

133 Dangar Street, "Aran House" Renovations/Richard Rowe Architect
Owner: Mr & Mrs Spring

2008 Armidale Dumaresq & Uralla Heritage and Urban Design Awards (Continued)

Category 2 – Non-residential

208 Beardy Street, “Old State Bank” Additions/ Magoffin and Deakin Architects
Owner: First National Real Estate

Category 3 – Landscaping

No awards in this category.

Special Award for Heritage Volunteer Work

Kilcoy Cemetery – Mary Finlayson – Conservation Work

Category 4 – Colour Schemes

164 Beardy Street “Old CBA Bank” KR & MI Love
Owner: J Barbato

Category 5 – Infill/Urban Design

15 Solomon Ave New Home/ Mahalath Halperin Architect
Owner: Mr & Mrs D Young

113 Dangar Street “NECU House” Offices/Hill Lockart Architects
Owner: Hook and Torbay Family Trust

Category 6 – Conservation Projects

University of New England 2351 four Conservation Management Plans.
Facilities Management University of New England
John Carr Architects/ Lee Scott historian
Owner: University of New England

Category 7 – Photographic Competition

Craig Flemming: Three dimensional aerial image mounted on canvas of broadcast House.
Jacqueline Weir: Series of black and white images various Uralla and Armidale images.
Lorraine Rigby: Colour image of Legacy House.

Enforcement in Relation to Unlawful Environmental Activity

Environmental matters addressed by Council during the year have included:

- Three occurrences of illegal display of signage.
- Condition of dilapidated buildings in Uralla and Bundarra. The sites were subsequently cleaned up.
- Illegal occupation of sheds for residential purposes.
- Four offences resulting in penalty notices in relation to littering and illegal deposition of waste.

32. RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

Regulation 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005

Pension Rebates granted during the 2007/2008 financial year:

General	\$112,734.44
Water	\$28,142.22
Sewer	\$21,373.49
Total	\$162,250.15

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

No further rates and charges were written off in 2007/2008.

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 2008 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 2008 (measured in accordance with the criteria set out in the 2006/2007 to 2007/2008 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 2007-2008

adopted by the New England Strategic Alliance of Councils.

ATTACHMENT D

Tablelands Community Support Options Annual Report 2007-2008

ATTACHMENT E

Tablelands Community Transport Annual Report 2007-2008

ATTACHMENT F

Central Northern Regional Libraries Annual Report 2007-2008