The Flinders Ranges Council



ANNUAL REPORT 2007 / 2008

Council Office:

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VISION

To assist in creating a thriving community with a good, healthy lifestyle, living environment and secure future.

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the well-being of the community by maintaining and improving the quality of life in The Flinders Ranges Council area.

The Council will -

- Lead and represent the community
- Manage community resources efficiently and effectively
- Value the participation and contribution of individuals and groups in the community
- Support and encourage individual enterprise
- Provide infrastructure, services and facilities to meet the reasonable needs and aspirations of the community and contribute to a safe, healthy environment for residents and visitors
- Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment.

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COUNCIL PROFILE

Area 4 198 square kilometres

Population 1 818 (ABS estimated)

Sealed Roads 17 kilometres

Unsealed Roads 1 244 kilometres

Number of Rateable Properties 1 565
Rate Revenue \$ 1110 071
Total Expenditure \$ 3822 105

Local Industries -

Pastoral, mixed farming, tourism, general light industry.

Major Tourist Attractions –

The beautiful Flinders Ranges Pichi Richi Railway.

Council -

The Council consists of a Mayor and eight Councillors with each Member representing the whole community. Council elections are controlled by the State Electoral Office and conducted by postal ballot. The next periodic election is scheduled to be held in November 2010.

Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month and meetings, open to the public, commence at 6.45 p.m.

Elected Members –

Mayor Max McHugh

Deputy Mayor John Shute

Councillors Barry Lovegrove

Gary Lucas Modris Ozolins Wayne Schuttloffel Peter Slattery Garry Thompson

Elector Representation –

Number of Electors 1 623

Representation Rate 1:180

Comparative of other Councils of a similar size –

 Cleve
 1:203

 Elliston
 1:160

 Orroroo/Carrieton
 1:112

 Kimba
 1:149.

Elected Members' Allowances –

Allowances are determined in accordance with the Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Variation Regulations 2006.

Allowances paid are -

Mayor	\$ 8 000.00
Deputy Mayor	\$ 2 500.00
Elected Member	\$ 2 000.00.

In accordance with the Local Government (Members Allowances and Benefits) Regulations 1999 members are reimbursed for prescribed out-of-pocket expenses incurred while representing Council on official duties.

Allowances are reviewed annually as prescribed.

Senior Executive -

Three (3) Senior Executives are employed on a negotiated contract basis. The contracts do not provide bonuses, but pay for the rental of a private home telephone, reimbursement of work related call costs made from that telephone, and the use of a Council provided motor vehicle for business and private use.

MAYOR'S REPORT

There were many successful events staged in The Flinders Ranges Council area in the year which brought many visitors to our towns. Some these were – Quorn Show, Hawker Art Exhibition, Probus Club Rally, opening of the new dormitory at Colebrook Home, Quorn Christmas Pageant and Party, Australia Day Celebrations in both Hawker and Quorn with Mrs. Bev Pratt the recipient of the Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award, Probus Club's 10th Birthday celebrations, Colebrook Home launch of Ms. Clara Johnson's (nee Brady) book 'The Spirit Prevails', Council's Seniors Christmas Party, ANZAC Day services in Hawker and Quorn, Pichi Richi Marathon, Quorn and Hawker Races and of course the Pichi Richi Railway which continues to give all its passengers a taste of history. All events were well attended and would not have had such success if it was not for the volunteers who continue to work tirelessly for their communities. Many thanks must go to these volunteers for their support and assistance.

The Powell Gardens is another attraction for tourists and locals as the hard working volunteers of this group continue to improve and beautify the area. My congratulations to the group.

Council's Shared Services Committee, together with the District Councils of Peterborough, Orroroo – Carrieton and Mount Remarkable continued to work to achieve great cost savings across our Council area. Services currently shared include development services, environmental health services, audit committee and community car and bus services, and further ideas are being developed.

With a grant of \$1.95 million from the Local Government Association of South Australia Disaster Fund the Council has almost completed the repairs to roads and infrastructure damaged by the January 2007 floods.

The Flinders Ranges Council is running very well and is in quite a good financial position. Thanks to the excellent economic management by the Chief Executive Officer and staff.

My thanks and congratulations to the Chief Executive Officer and staff on completing another year of successful achievement.

The Mayoress and I are very aware of the poor seasonal conditions and we wish you well in the future as we all continue to live our lives in this wonderful part of Australia.

Max McHugh.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chief Executive Officer

Council received total grant payments of \$1.95 million to assist in restoration works caused by severe flooding in January 2007. The restoration works were nearly complete at the end of the year in review, and Council's workforce supported by contractors is to be congratulated on the scope and scale of the works undertaken.

The year in review saw the finalisation of the conversion of the Development Plan to the modular format prepared by Planning SA. The new format provides a more user friendly document to set out Council's obligations under the Development Act, 1993, and the new mapping provides for ready identification of property boundaries and other cadastral information. An earlier decision by Council to participate in the conversion program as a trial activity resulted in the new Development Plan being prepared in a very cost effective manner. Following Ministerial approval the new Development Plan took effect on 20 December 2007.

During the year Council participated in the State Government project to prepare Regional Land Use Frameworks for the far north and mid north of the State. The Frameworks, which will be released for public consultation, will guide the State Government's land use 'Planning Strategy for South Australia'. The influence the Frameworks and other announced changes to the development assessment process will have on Council's planning roles are yet to be determined.

Council continued to address the legislative changes introduced as a result of the inquiry into the financial sustainability of Local Government. The Financial Report for 2007 – 2008 is prepared in accordance with the prescribed regulations and work continues on the preparation of an asset management plan and long term financial management plan as required by the legislated changes. Implementing the new formats and recognising the goals and objectives of the State Strategic Plan on the Council are a significant impost on the small administrative team. The cost of complying with State directives is a significant cost to Council and the ratepayer.

Council continued to participate in the shared services approach to cost effective solutions to compliance obligations with the Mount Remarkable, Peterborough and Orroroo – Carrieton District Councils. Three (3) of the Councils have finalised arrangements to satisfy the legal requirement for the creation of an Audit Committee. The Audit Committees will share external and internal personnel and operate under similar terms of reference for efficiency and effectiveness. The proposal by the four Councils to create a Regional Development Assessment Panel is still awaiting a decision by the Minister for Urban Development and Planning.

Council became a stakeholder in the preparation of a Regional Integrated Tourism Strategy for the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA. The intent of the Strategy is to increase visitor numbers and duration of stay and to identify opportunities for the infrastructure and services required to increase the length of stay for visitors. Council continued its membership and funding support for the Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourism (FROSAT) organisation, and provided funding to the Pichi Richi Railway Preservation Society Incorporated to support its marketing and promotional activities. The financial support of those bodies and the continued funding of the Visitor Information Centre are strategic investments in a significant economic driver of the local economy. The Regional Integrated Tourism Strategy, the Mountains of Memory project, strategic partnerships with local and regional organisations and the recognition of the Flinders Ranges under the Australian Government's National Landscapes should help drive growth in a sustainable visitor industry.

Council again enjoyed another year without serious injury or significant lost time in the workforce. Council and its employees have an obligation to provide a safe work and work safe environment that does not place the employee or the public at the risk of harm or injury. The proactive approach to the management of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare programs and activities by Council and its employees contributes to the provision of a safe work environment and reduction of risks and hazards. Council again achieved a very good result in the annual Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare audit. Council's ongoing investment in training to ensure all employees maintain the appropriate accreditation or qualifications is part of the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare process.

During the year a number of changes occurred in Council's workforce. Patsy Reynolds was farewelled after twenty – nine years of service to Council. Patsy started as a junior clerk and left as the Finance Manager. Council welcomed Colin Davies in the new role of Finance and Administration Manager. The outdoor workforce lost Abby Brackley and Daryl McCarthy and gained Peter Hancock and Nigel Owens. The Development Control Officer Frank Endemann resigned from the position that provides services to the four (4) Councils named above. The review year also saw the appointment of the inaugural Grants / Administration Officer, Lorna Daw. The position was created on a casual basis to match available funding and it is hoped that the position can be increased to a full time position to bolster the administrative capacity of the organisation.

The achievements of the year and the sound financial position of Council is the result of co – operation and application to reaching the goals and objectives of the Strategic Management Plan, good planning in the use of resources, and sound financial management and treasury control Thank you to the Elected Members and staff who have made solid contributions to the sound position of Council.

Lee Connors.

Works Manager

Council's Works Section has had an extremely busy year with the inclusion of flood repairs from the January 2007 flood, *Roads to Recovery* as well as Council's usual Specific Maintenance Projects, and general maintenance.

The January 2007 floods, particularly in the Cradock and Hawker areas, were one in a hundred year floods and caused huge damage to the road infrastructure and completely removing some roads. Council was fortunate in obtaining a grant from the South Australian Local Government Disaster Fund of \$1,952,986 without which Council would not have been able to reinstate the roads to their original condition.

The problem was then, how does Council with a Construction workforce of six employees achieve this work? With the help of contractors, extra hours work from Council employees, a couple of casual employees and at times taking the Town group away from their usual maintenance work, most of the projects were completed on time and within budget.

Works achieved in the reporting period –

Flood Repair

Complete rebuild	14	kilometres
Resheeted	58	kilometres
Creek crossings repaired	69	
Culverts repaired	11	
Grader repaired washouts	368	kilometres
Graded damaged roads	213	kilometres.

Roads to Recovery

Complete reconstruction and sealing of Second Street, Quorn, (East Terrace to Sixth Street), with an inverted drainage design. Also kerbing and footpath construction were completed on this section.

Council Specific Road Projects

Rural Roads

Resheeting 6.6 kilometres

Urban Roads

Resheeting 1.7 kilometres

Bitumen Reseals 10,424 square metres

Footpaths

Reconstructed 600 metres

Major Plant Purchases

Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader Dual Cab Utility

Some of the Major Works Expenditure –

Specific Works Projects	\$278 000
Refuse (including collection)	\$217 000
Swimming Pools	\$152 000
Parks, Gardens and Reserves	\$128 000
Fuel	\$124 000
Patrol Grading	\$ 92 000
Plant Repairs	\$ 88 000
CWMS (STED) schemes	\$ 76 000
Footpath Maintenance/Cleaning	\$ 74 000
Town Sealed Roads	\$ 71 000
Halls	\$ 62 000
Depot Maintenance	\$ 55 000
Public Conveniences	\$ 48 000
Cemeteries	\$ 37 000
Plant Registration	\$ 35 000
Airports	\$ 28 000
Street Lighting	\$ 25 000
Signs	\$ 16 000
Dog and Cat Control	\$ 15 000

I would like to thank all staff involved in achieving the abnormal workload for the year; it was a team effort by all employees.

David Smith.

Development Officer

Development applications totalled sixty – nine during the reporting period consisting of seven new dwellings, with the remainder being minor development including additions to dwellings and verandahs and garages.

Council's new Development Plan has been applied since 20 December 2007 and the new format allows information to be more easily obtained.

Frank Endemann.

Environmental Health Officer

Businesses which have been inspected over the last twelve months have included –

- Food outlets
- Hotels and motels
- Swimming pools
- Hospitals
- School canteens
- Caravan Parks
- Sporting Group facilities
- Council facilities.

No orders have been issued and most premises continue to upgrade and are of a good standard.

Keith Simmonds.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Public Participation -

Council Meetings are open to the public and residents are invited to attend meetings to obtain a better understanding of the workings of Council.

Deputations and presentations to Council can occur subject to a written request being made to Council and addressed to the Mayor.

Petitions can also be presented to Council on any issue that is within Council jurisdiction.

Access to Council Documents -

The following documents are available for public inspection at the Council office.

- > Agenda and Minutes
- > Strategic Plan
- Policy Manual
- Budget Statement
- > Annual Report
- > Annual Financial Statement
- > Development Plan
- > Development Application Register
- > Assessment Book
- ➤ Register of Members Allowances and Benefits
- Register of Employees Salaries, Wages and Benefits.

Copies of the above are available for a small charge.

Other Information Requests –

Requests for other information will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information provisions of the Local Government Act.

An application and search fee will be required to be lodged with any application for information under Freedom of Information legislation.

Any request for information should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, The Flinders Ranges Council, P.O. Box 43, Quorn S.A. 5433. Any application made on the correct form will be dealt within the statutory period required under the Freedom of Information Act.

Council Certificates –

For the 2007 / 2008 financial year there were no certificates pursuant to Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act, 1999 issued by Council that restricted access to any document. Council believes that in only very special circumstances where there is a legal requirement, should access to documents be restricted.

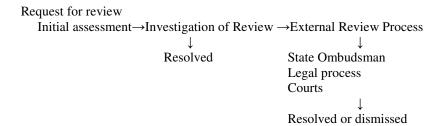
Public Consultation –

The Flinders Ranges Council has adopted a Public Consultation Policy in accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Act, 1999. The steps to be taken in implementing the Consultation and Decision Making processes are outlined below –

Research and develop strategies
Undertake consultation process
Feedback about topic via submissions
Council decision making
Communicate decisions to stakeholders

Internal Review of Council Decisions –

Council is committed to open, accountable and responsive decision making, facilitated by effective communication and consultation between Council and the community. The following demonstrates the review processes available to the applicant for a review of Council decisions –



Amendment of Council Records -

A member of the public may gain access to Council documents to make amendments concerning their personal affairs by making a request under the Local Government Act. A member of the public may then request a correction to any information about themselves that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out-of-date. To gain access to these Council records, a member of the public must complete a Freedom of Information request application as indicated above outlining the records that they wish to inspect.

Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government -

Pursuant to the Government Business Enterprises (Competition) Act 1996 Council has no report to make as no activities were conducted in Category 1 or 2 activities during the 2007 / 2008 financial year.

Council does not operate any business activity subject to the application of Policy principles, and no By-laws were enacted in the year in review.

Public Access to Council Documents -

During 2007 / 2008 Council applied the provisions of Section 90(2) of the Local Government Act, 1999 on one occasion.

The Confidentiality provision was applied for the purpose of discussing a staff matter [Section 90(3)(a)].

Council did not use the provisions of Section 91(7) of the Local Government Act, 1999 during the year.

Competitive Tender and Local Purchasing –

Council 's Policy Number 12 – Competitive Tendering, Contracting, Purchase, Sale and Disposal of Land and Other Assets has been applied in the purchase of capital goods and works. Wherever possible the use of local suppliers for the purchase of materials is given due attention as the consideration of post sales support and service is an important consideration in the acquisition of assets.

Training and Development Opportunities for Elected Members –

Training appropriate to the legislative and governance roles and functions of Elected Members is provided by the Local Government Association of South Australia and associated training providers and is available for Members able and willing to participate.

Management Plan -

Council has adopted a Community Land Management Plan in accordance with Section 196 of the Local Government Act, 1999. The Management Plan guides Council in the utilisation of community land and buildings.

Auditor's Remuneration -

Cobiac and Chapman were paid the sum of four thousand, four hundred dollars (\$4 400.00) for the 2006 / 2007 annual audit of Council's financial statement. No other remuneration was paid to the auditors, and no other service provided.

Internal Review of Council Actions –

No applications were made pursuant to Section 270(8) of the Local Government Act, 1999 for a review of Council actions.

Decision Making Structure -

All decisions are the property of the Council. The Committees appointed by Council have advisory functions only, and Council officers are empowered to act in accordance with delegations made by Council pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1999 and associated legislation.

STAFF

Administration –

Chief Executive Officer : Lee Connors

Finance Manager : Patsy Reynolds / Colin Davies

Executive Assistant : Julie Campbell Administration Officer : Chris Bowden

Operations -

Works Manager : David Smith
Works Supervisor : Lee Braddy
Works Clerk / General Inspector : Lynne Ward
Team Leader : Robin Ward

Plant Operators/General Hands : Abby Brackley / Peter Hancock

Darryl McCarthy / Nigel Owens

Victor Clark Mark Finlay

Colin Freebairn / John Deer

: David Jackson: Ian Press: Peter Slee

Contract Staff -

Development Officer : Frank Endemann Environmental Health Officer : Keith Simmonds Planning Consultant : Robert Hart

Legal Advisors : Norman Waterhouse Lawyers

Senior Officers -

The Chief Executive Officer is entitled to be paid as a level 3 officer in accordance with the Senior Officers Award. Council has resolved that he be paid level 5, first year, to compensate for time worked outside normal office hours. In addition, Council has also resolved to meet the cost of rental for the telephone and cost of membership of Local Government Managers Australia.

The Works Manager has fifty percent of his telephone rental and the cost of any work related calls reimbursed.

OTHER

Registers -

Members Register of Interest

Staff Register of Interest

Members Allowances and Benefits

Staff Allowances and Benefits

Campaign Donations (elected members)

Asset Register:

Infrastructure

Office Equipment

Small Plant

Other

Signs

Grids

Development Approvals

Loans

Licences / Leases.

Governance and Community Development -

Council has continued its interaction with the Central Local Government Region and participated in the regional activities of that organisation Mayor McHugh is Vice President of the Region and a member of the Executive Committee.

During the year Council completed a funding agreement with other stakeholders to fund Flinders Ranges and Outback South Australia Tourism (FROSAT) for a two – year period. The completion of the agreement ensures that funding support from State and Local Governments will provide continuity to FROSAT for the development of longer term promotional opportunities.

Distribution of Information –

Council continues to communicate with its residents by regular distribution of reports and newsletters and placement of information notices in local newspapers. Council's website is beginning to further enhance the distribution of information.

2008 Australia Day Awards -

'Citizen of the Year' award was accepted by Mrs. Bev Pratt and no other awards were made for other categories for 2008.

Certificates of Recognition : Mrs. Pat McCourt

Father Adrian Head Ms. Janice McInnis

: Mr. Derek Lehmann.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

Council Committees –

Development Assessment Committee

Policy Review Committee

Enterprise Bargaining Committee

Hawker War Memorial Swimming Pool Management Committee

Quorn and Districts War Memorial Swimming Pool Management Committee.

Council Delegates -

Council Members, staff and residents represent Council on the following committees:

Central Local Government Region of South Australia

Flinders Ranges and Outback SA Tourist Association

Flinders Ranges Council Bushfire Prevention Committee

Flinders Ranges Tourist Association Incorporated

Grasshopper Community Reference Group

Hawker Airport Emergency Committee

Hawker Area School Governing Council

Hawker Community Development Board

Hawker Country Fire Service

Hawker School / Community Library Board

Hawker Community Sporting Centre

Local Government Association of South Australia

Local Government Finance Association of South Australia

Natural Disaster and Flood Mitigation Working Group

Northern Passenger Transport Network

Quorn Agricultural Show Society

Quorn Country Fire Service

Quorn Health Services

Ouorn Hospital Primary Health Care Committee

Ouorn Mercury Newspaper

Quorn State Emergency Services

Quorn School / Community Library Board

Quorn Youth Centre

Quorn Local History Group

Town Entrance Committee

Wirreanda Cottages.

Policies and Codes of Conduct -

The Local Government Act requires Councils to have in place certain policies and codes of conduct. Listed below are the various policies or codes of conduct either required by the Local Government Act or agreed to by Council -

Governance

G001	Amalgamations
G002	Camping
G003	Code of Conduct – Elected Members and Staff
G004	Constitutional Recognition
G005	Consultation
G006	Bargaining Fees – Non–union Employees
G007	Development Application Fees
G008	Development Application Fees – Heritage Building
G009	Eastern Standard Time
G010	Elected Members Allowance and Support
G011	Election Signs in Public Places
G012	Emu Farming
G013	Filming
G014	Flinders and Pastoral Rural Counselling and Information
	Service Incorporated, The
G015	Flying the Flag
G016	Gene Technology
G017	LGMA Diaries
G018	Internal Review of Council Decisions Procedure
G019	Minimum Rating
G020	Septic Tank Application and Fees
G021	Service Awards
G022	Tourism
G023	Weed Control
G024	Works Contract
G025	Statutory Code of Practice, Access to Council Meetings,
	Council Committees and Council Documents
G026	Making of Orders
G027	Closure of Surveyed Roads
G028	Election – Resignation of Members
G029	Risk Management
G030	Risk Management Register
G031	Members Training and Development
G032	Safe Environment
G033	Section 41 Committees – Terms of Reference
G034	Council Audit Committee – Terms of Reference

Infrastructure - Roads

I001	Access Roads – Grading
I002	Council Property
I003	Cross – Over
I004	Directional Signs – Tourism
I005	Fences, Construction of – Rural Land
I006	Footpath Trees:
	a. Widening of Footpaths
	b. Planting of Footpath Trees
	c. Street Tree Removal
	d. Planting Under Powerlines
I007	Grids
I008	Roadside Native Vegetation Management Plan
I009	Rural Roadside Planting of Trees, Guidelines
I010	Rubble Pits:
	a. Weed Control
	b. Royalty
	c. Search For
I011	Street Sweeping
I012	Trenches:
	a. Digging of
	b. Electrical Supply
	c. Road Excavations

Management

Assets - Plant and Equipment

MA001	Administration Vehicle
MA002	Airconditioning of Heavy Vehicles
MA003	Country Fire Service – Utilisation of Council Plant
MA004	Machinery – Service Clubs

Compliance

MC001 Council Agenda:
a. Closure

b. Correspondence

Finance

MF001 Bank Overdraft
MF002 Competitive Tendering, Contracting, Purchase, Sale and Disposal of Land and Other Assets
MF003 Asset Accounting and Depreciation

Human Resources - Personnel

MH001	Clothing Issue – Office Staff
MH002	Clothing Issue – Outside Employees
MH003	Country Fire Service – Council Employees
MH004	Email / Internet Connection
MH005	Employee Grievances
MH006	Equal Employment Opportunities
MH007	Influenza Vaccination
MH008	Leave – Employees
MH009	Living Away – From – Home Allowance
MH010	Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Statement
MH011	Recruitment
MH012	Sexual Harassment
MH013	Works Manager's Telephone

Property

MP001	Cemetery Lease
MP002	Circus
MP003	Country fire Service Shed (Quorn) – near Bowling Club
MP004	Hawker Dam:
	a. Pumping
	b. Pumping to Private Property
	c. Standpipe
MP005	Hire of Council Properties and Equipment
MP006	Information Bays
MP007	Police Hill Agistment
MP008	Pressure Cleaner (Hawker Works Depot)
MP009	Quorn Standpipe

Any of the policies or codes of conduct can be viewed at the Quorn Council Office, Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. or at the website www.flindersrangescouncil.sa.gov.au

Delegations –

1 (DOO1

The Chief Executive Officer and other officers have the delegated authority from Council to make decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters. The delegations are included in the Policy Manual and reviewed annually by Council.

Council can not delegate to staff various functions as outlined in Section 44(3)(a) and (k) of the Local Government Act 1999.

Delegations are -

Local Government Act, 1999 : Lee Connors

Development Act, 1993 : Lee Connors

Frank Endemann

Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995 : Lee Connors

David Smith Robin Ward Lynne Ward

Environment Protection Act, 1993 : Lee Connors

David Smith

Fire and Emergency Services Act : Mark Finlay

Public and Environmental Health

Act, 1987 : Keith Simmonds

Impounding Act, 1920 : Lee Connors

David SmithRobin Ward

Food Act, 1985 : Keith Simmonds

Expiation of Offences Act, 1996 : Lee Connors

Land and Business (Sale and

Conveyancing) Act, 1994 : Lee Connors

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2007 - 2008