



The 1999/2000 Alice Springs Town Council Annual Report

Purpose of this Report

This report highlights the achievements and activities of the Alice Springs Town Council and includes the Financial Statements for the financial year ending 30 June 2000.

The Council's performance is reported under the six strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan:

1. Governance
2. Community Services
3. Unique Natural & Cultural Environment
4. Economic Development
5. Infrastructure
6. Organisational Development

The sections of the report are numbered according to the layout of the Strategic Plan.

While this report is primarily produced to satisfy statutory requirements, the report provides an overview for residents, clients, staff, the Department of Local Government and other interested parties.

Cover photo: Highlights of the Sea of Fire celebrations welcoming the Olympic flame to Alice Springs in June 2000. Torchbearer, Zac Thompson lights the Community Cauldron at ANZAC Oval to start the Sea of Fire witnessed by an estimated 15,000 people. The Town Council took the major role in producing the event which was the first community celebration in the Australian leg of the Torch Relay. © Barry Skipsey

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

VISION

Looking to the future, the Alice Springs Town Council envisages:

A diversity of people proud to live in a vibrant and progressive town, supported by quality services, a strong and sustainable economy, and a built infrastructure reflective of the town's unique environment.

MISSION

The Alice Springs Town Council will:

Provide strong leadership on social, economic and environmental issues impacting on the town.

Guarantee democratic decision-making processes.

Ensure the provision of quality services.

Support business and community development.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As the new Mayor, elected in the last month of the financial year I would foremost like to pay tribute to the outgoing Mayor Andy McNeill.

Andy retired at the election after eight years of guiding the town as Mayor. I served as an Alderman under him for six years and I hope I can emulate his achievements.

The challenge the new Council faces with four Aldermen, including myself, continuing from the previous Council is to have a smooth transition and to provide the leadership at the local government level that the community expects.

The 1999/2000 period provided the chance for Alice Springs residents to showcase the town. In March Queen Elizabeth II's visit showed the enthusiasm and friendliness of Alice Springs. The huge community celebration to welcome the Olympic Torch to Alice Springs in June was the first in Australia, and one of my first public events as Mayor. It was a fantastic event in that so many residents contributed to the organisation and entertainment, despite the cold night. I was very proud to be part of such a giving community that contributed to the success of the Olympic events that followed.

The Council also assisted charities arranging a family New Year's Eve party at ANZAC Oval to see in the year 2000.

From Christmas to Easter, exceptional rains tested the resilience of Alice Springs. Over several months Council staff managed evacuations, the opening and closing of river causeways, clearing away debris and extra mowing of street verges, ovals and parks.

Maintenance and management of the town's infrastructure remained a priority of the Council. Highlights included upgrading of the town pool, an agreement for the YMCA to manage the pool, the refurbishment of the Alice Springs Child Care Centre, the upgrading of Albrecht Oval and the partnership with residents groups in developing the Gosse and Grant Street parks.

The Northern Territory Government's The Face of Alice in Ten Project has brought Council, Northern Territory Government agencies and the community together to work on a number of projects which will improve the

quality of life, the economy and built and natural infrastructure of the Alice Springs community. We look forward to continuing and building upon this positive relationship.

Council has completed the year in a sound financial position. With a slowing in population growth Council's revenue base from traditional sources (rates and Government grants) remains relatively static. We must continue to seek out new revenue raising opportunities and implement further efficiency measures into work practices.

I thank the Aldermen of the previous and current Council, Council staff and members of advisory committees for their commitment to a better future for Alice Springs.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Fran Erlich'.

Fran Erlich
Mayor

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE



In opening I would like to express my thanks to the outgoing eighth Alice Springs Council and wish all retiring Elected Members the best for the future. I welcome the seven new Elected Members and I look forward to working together to advance local government in Alice Springs.

I would also like to commend the enormous efforts of staff throughout the year. We faced many challenges and had many achievements, some of which I have outlined below. Indeed, I am pleased to present to the community an account of the achievements of the Council over the 1999-2000 financial year.

In 1998 Council launched its Strategic Directions-Beyond 2000 document. This is the third Annual Report based on that Plan.

The plan highlighted the need for a number of management plans to guide the Council for the future. Completing these plans and installing new technology based management systems to assist in better managing Council's operations, and training staff in their use was the key focus for the year.

The community can be confident that best value principles will be pursued in the management, maintenance and renewal of community assets such as roads, footpaths, sporting facilities and buildings with the introduction of an asset management system.

Higher levels of participation in sport and recreational activity and opportunities to attract major events will be encouraged with the development of a Sports Facilities Management Model. It will also help us to work with user groups and the Northern Territory Government to ensure that our facilities are maintained at appropriate levels.

Rigorous environmental requirements under the Northern Territory Waste Management and Pollution Control Act (1998) and changing community expectations will be met at the Landfill. This follows the development of a Landfill Management Plan which has a stronger emphasis on waste reduction, recycling and sound management practices.

After many years of rapid development the town now has many parks and open spaces which are valued by the community. A new open space plan will guide their

continued management. Some rationalisation of open space, following community consultation, may be required considering the level of resources needed for their upkeep.

The Council's finances can now be well managed and monitored with the completion of the implementation of the Authority Financial Management System. Similarly, the installation of the Virtua Library Management System is allowing better management of library and information resources as well as access to the catalogue of resource material in all Northern Territory public libraries.

The resolution of alcohol issues was a major focus for many sectors of the community throughout the year. Council assisted with administering a grant for a major community survey which resulted in the report "Dollars Made from Broken Spirits". This study, together with further consultation will assist the Council to develop its role in this area.

The "Quality of Life in Alice Springs" report recognises the social and economic problems faced by some in our community and provides a basis for action to improve the life chances of disadvantaged individuals and the strengthening of community support structures through community development programs.

Building on the publication of "Alice Springs Economic Profile" in the previous year, the Council published four issues of Advancing Alice Springs Newsletter and supported new business initiatives through economic grants. Council's effort was acknowledged by winning the overall award of the "Better Practices in Local Government Awards 2000".

These achievements are considerable and as stated previously all staff are to be commended for their efforts. I sincerely thank them and look forward to continuing to implement the management plans and systems to both enhance the quality of life in Alice Springs and to improve Council's operations.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nick Scarvelis'.

Nick Scarvelis
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

THE ELECTED COUNCIL

Local Government elections were held on 27 May 2000 so the financial year spanned the Eighth and Ninth Alice Springs Town Councils. The first formal meeting of the Ninth Council took place on 26 June 2000.

The Eighth Alice Springs Town Council Term completed 27 May 2000.

Mayor Andy McNeill

Retired in April 1992 as an Assistant Commissioner in the Northern Territory Police Service

Service In Local Government

Elected Mayor in May 1992
Re-elected Mayor in May 1996
Retired May 2000

Tony Alicastro

Manager of Rosario & Antonio Food Processing Factory

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1992
Re-elected in May 1996
Retired May 2000

Meredith Campbell

Journalist, public relations consultant, marriage celebrant

Service In Local Government

Elected in March 1997
Retired May 2000

Fran Erlich

Teacher at St Philip's College

Service In Local Government

Elected in August 1994
Re-elected in May 1996
Deputy Mayor May 1998 – May 1999
Elected Mayor May 2000

Geoff Harris

Executive Officer of Mental Health Association of Central Australia

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1996
Retired May 2000

Susan Jefford

Self-employed - Down To Earth Counselling Services

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1996
Re elected May 2000

David Koch

Businessman

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1996
Re-elected in May 2000

Geoff Miers

Lecturer / Consultant in Horticulture

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1992
Re-elected in May 1996
Deputy Mayor May 1996 – May 1998
Retired May 2000

Russell Naismith

A Chief Prison Officer for Northern Territory Correctional Services

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1996
Re-elected May 2000

June Noble

Retired in June 1999

after being Teacher In Charge at Rona Glynn Pre-School

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1992
Re-elected in May 1996
Deputy Mayor May 1999 to May 2000
Retired May 2000

Les Smith

Self-employed

Service In Local Government

Elected in May 1996
Retired May 2000

THE ELECTED COUNCIL

The Ninth Alice Springs Town Council elected 27 May 2000



Back Row: CEO Nick Scarvelis, Alderman Geoffrey Bell, Alderman Bob Corby, Mayor Fran Erlich, Deputy Mayor Russell Naismith, Alderman Michael Jones.

Front Row: Alderman Samih Habib, Alderman Raelene Beale, Alderman Susan Jefford, Alderman Jenny Mostran, Alderman David Koch, Alderman Annette Smith.

Mayor Fran Erlich

Teacher at St Philip's College

Deputy Mayor Russell Naismith

A Chief Prison Officer for Northern Territory Correctional Services

Raelene Beale

Self-employed - Human Resource Consultant

Geoffrey Bell

Accountant/Executive Officer Alice Springs Gaol

Bob Corby

Executive Officer with the Department of the Chief Minister

Samih Habib

Businessman / developer

Susan Jefford

Self-employed - Down To Earth Counselling Services

Michael Jones

Electorate Officer

David Koch

Businessman

Jenny Mostran

Businesswoman

Annette Smith

Consumer Liaison and Communications Officer for the Central Australian Division of General Practice

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT 26 JUNE 2000

Elected Members represent the Council in many different forums. This is to ensure that the Council has an opportunity to advocate on behalf of the community, to provide relevant information relating to its functions and to receive advice.

Council Standing Committees

Finance and Management Committee

Chairman Alderman Koch
Deputy Chairman Alderman Bell

Planning, Environment & Infrastructure Committee

Chairman Alderman Naismith
Deputy Chairman Alderman Smith

Economic and Community Development Committee

Chairman Alderman Mostran
Deputy Chairman Alderman Bell

Representation on outside committees

Australia Day Committee

Alderman Naismith
Alderman Jones
(Alternate Member)

Araluen Advisory Committee

Alderman Beale
Alderman Corby
(Alternate Member)

Central Australia

Honda Masters Games Committee

Mayor Fran Erlich

Central Australian Tourism Industry Association

Mayor Fran Erlich
Alderman Beale
(Alternate Member)

Local Government Association NT

(Mayor plus 1 other)
Alderman Mostran
Alderman Naismith
(Alternate Member)

Development Consent Authority

Alderman Jefford
Alderman Mostran
Alderman Koch
(Alternate Member)

Road Safety Council

Alderman Naismith
Alderman Habib
(Alternate Member)

Alice Alcohol Representative Committee

Alderman Habib
Alderman Smith
(Alternate Member)

Access Advisory Committee

Alderman Smith
Alderman Corby
(Alternate Member)

Waste Management Advisory Committee

Alderman Corby
Alderman Jefford
(Alternate Member)

Sports Facilities Advisory Committee

Alderman Jones

Central Australian

Regional Development Committee

Alderman Mostran
Alderman Beale
(Alternate Member)

Youth Advisory Committee

Alderman Bell

Culture and Environment Advisory Committee

Alderman Smith

Alice in Ten Todd and Charles River Committee

Alderman Smith
Alderman Habib
(Alternate Member)

Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee

Alderman Smith

Alice in Ten Built Environment Committee

Alderman Beale

Alice in Ten Arid Zone Environment Committee

Mayor Fran Erlich
Alderman Koch
(Alternate Member)

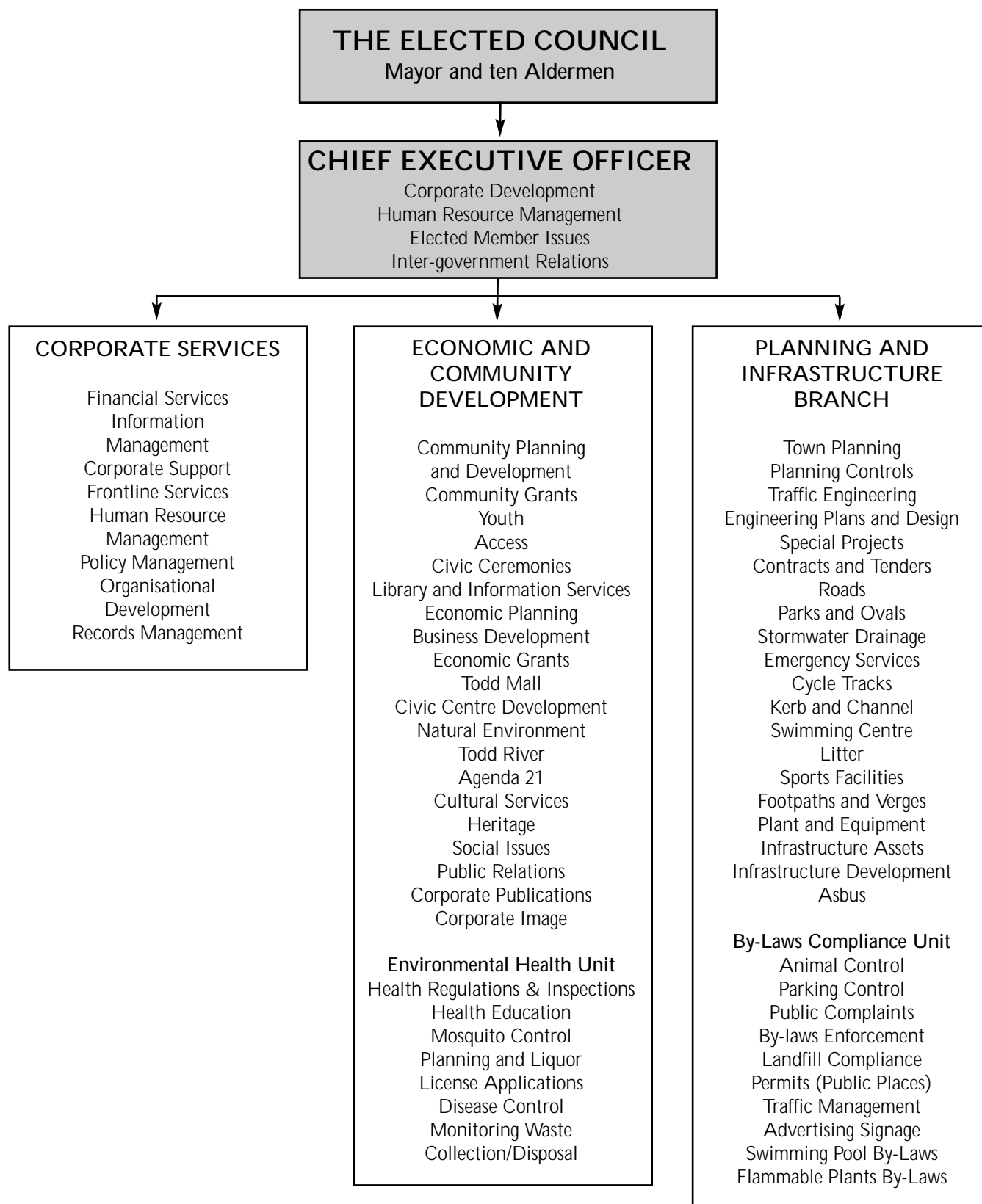
Alice in Ten Convention Centre Committee

Alderman Jones

Todd and Charles River Trustee Committee

Alderman Koch
Alderman Smith
Alderman Naismith
Alderman Habib

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



1. GOVERNANCE

GOAL: A community governed in a way that enables it to be involved in decision-making that impacts on it.

This year the Council aimed to improve governance by increasing community participation in decision-making and policy development, improving leadership and accountability, and ensuring a sound policy and planning framework.

In the lead up to the Local Government elections held in May 2000, the Mayor Andy McNeill and five of the Elected Members who had served, in many cases, for two terms on the Council announced their retirement. In addition, a number of senior and long-serving Corporate Services' staff from the communications, finance and corporate policy areas left the organisation to pursue their careers elsewhere. The Council extends its heartfelt gratitude for the significant contribution made by these former Elected Members and staff.

In June 2000 the Ninth Alice Springs Council was sworn in with some seven Elected Members commencing their first term in office.

Staff turnover impacted in several of the strategy areas. For example, the review of the Council's policies and communications strategies was carried forward into the next financial year.

The Council had six strategies to improve the processes of Governance. Progress achieved in these strategies is described below.

1.1 Policies and Procedures

The policies of the Council guide the actions of the staff in carrying out their roles. To assist them to do this, policy management was improved by the:

- Completion of a delegation schedule to ensure all staff have a clear understanding of their authority.
- Development of an electronic-format policy manual so that all staff with computers have access to Council's policies on the Intranet.
- Ongoing review of Council's policies, with completion planned for next year.

Operational policies and procedures were reviewed for a number of areas of the Council to ensure accountable management of resources. Some of these areas included:

- Library membership, resource lending and use of the public-access Internet policies.
- Rating of properties and the deferment of the payment of rates policy.

1.2 Council and Community Communication

The Council places great importance on good communication with the community so that the citizens can be involved in the decision-making process. Initiatives included the:

- Publication of both the Council's Annual Report and Annual Plan in user friendly formats.
- Preparation of the first draft of a communications plan, with completion now due in 2001. This plan will include strategies for promoting the Council, the development of a corporate image for the Council and branch promotional plans.
- Promotion of Council's services at important events in Alice Springs, i.e., Alice Springs Show, Central Australian Expo, We Care Week and the Kick Start Youth Expo.
- Appointment of Quoin Technology to continue to develop the Internet site to ensure that the Council can easily manage the input of information. The evaluation phase of the current site was completed with full redevelopment expected by March 2001.

1.3 Community Involvement in Governance

The Council encourages community participation in governance to ensure decisions are relevant to community needs. This is done through the Council's advisory committees and through public consultations. In addition, the Elected Members themselves are members of a number of community-based committees. A public question time was also introduced for 15 minutes prior to Council meetings.

Comprehensive community surveys and consultations resulted in a number of major reports that will assist the Council to make decisions. These include:

- The Quality of Life in Alice Springs
- Planning and Management of Alice Springs Open Space Resources
- Landfill Management Plan and Waste Reduction Plan
- Access Policy and Action Plan for Alice Springs Town Council
- The adoption of a structure for the development of facility agreements with sporting bodies.

The Council's Advisory Committees - Waste Management, Sports Facilities, Access, Economic Development and Youth, all actively contributed to these surveys and the Council thanks the members for their considerable input.

1. GOVERNANCE

An information kit was collated to assist those standing for the local government elections in May 2000. It is intended that this kit will be extended to encourage greater involvement in Council's decision-making processes in 2001.

Civic Activities

Throughout the year, the Council hosted and supported a number of civic activities that encouraged community participation including:

- The Mayor conferred citizenship on a total of 62 people, more than twice the number of the previous year.
- The visit of Queen Elizabeth II in March 2000. The Mayor guided a "Meet the People" walk in Todd Mall.
- The first in Australia of the community celebrations for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Torch Relay in June 2000.
- The heralding in of the new Millennium at ANZAC Oval on New Year's Eve together with several charitable organisations.

1.4 Management of the Council's Business

The Council's Strategic Directions Beyond 2000 provided direction for the Council. To achieve its goals, the Council developed an Annual Plan and Budget to guide it throughout the year.

Throughout the year there has been:

- Emphasis on timely reporting by officers to Council.
- Development of stage one of a register of Council decisions, to facilitate quick access by inquirers. This will be completed in 2001.
- A range of Council forums to assist policy development by Elected Members on difficult issues, i.e., mandatory sentencing and alcohol availability.

Some of the major external factors impacting upon the Council which it addressed included the:

- Introduction of the Northern Territory's Face of Alice in 10 Years Projects.
- Requirements of the Northern Territory Waste Management and Pollution Control Act.
- Review of the Northern Territory Planning Act.
- The introduction of the Federal Government's Tax Reform Package, i.e., Goods and Services Tax.
- Review of the Alice Springs Land Use Structure Plan.

1.5 Elected Member Development

Training and development for Elected Members is offered to help to improve the effectiveness of Aldermen. As local government elections were to be held in May 2000, the emphasis for the year was on providing an orientation session for newly Elected Members in June, followed by further workshops in July 2000.

1.6 Partnerships with Government

The Council places great importance on its relationships with the Federal and Northern Territory Governments, and their agencies. To develop a partnership-based approach, initiatives adopted by the Council included:

- Meetings between the Mayor and Chief Minister, senior staff and heads of Government Departments.
- Involvement of both Elected Members and Officers in the Face of Alice in 10 Years Projects which has resulted in a number of collaborative projects including a Central Area Master Plan and Transit Centre Study and remedial works in the Todd River.
- Representations to governments through involvement with the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) on issues such as the Planning Consent process, the Local Government Reform Agenda and the Northern Territory Local Government electoral system.
- Although not successful in receiving financial support yet, the Council completed a business plan and tabled a proposal for the redevelopment of the Council's Administration Area as a community hub, coach terminal, tourism focal point and commercial centre.

The Council expressed its concerns about Local Government's limited role in the planning consent process. However Council successfully collaborated with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment on a range of issues during the year. These included the development of a drainage plan for Emily Hills and a brief to guide development of a masterplan for the central business district.



Mayor Andy McNeill accompanying Queen Elizabeth II through Todd Mall in March 2000. © Steve Strike

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

GOAL: Alice Springs is an energetic, vibrant and welcoming town with a community proud to contribute to its own well being.

Our standard of living depends on maintaining a variety of community services provided by the Council as well as supporting initiatives of importance to our community's development.

Throughout the year the Council focussed on a number of key areas including alcohol and related harm and social issues, furthering the relationship with the Northern Territory Library and Information Services, developing an access plan and providing youth with a number of grants to assist in their development. With heavy rains throughout the year, mosquito monitoring has been a priority with more possible breeding sites identified. As well the Council continued its litter patrols in conjunction with Correctional Services. The role that the Council plays in these diverse programs and services is essential for enhancing the community's quality of life.

The Council aims to deliver these services efficiently and effectively by tailoring programs to the community's needs identified through consultation and planning.

2.1 Community Development

Initiatives, which have a community development approach to social issues included:

Community Planning

The Council's Community Planner produced a comprehensive community needs analysis of Alice Springs in January 2000. The report "The Quality of Life in Alice Springs" was an analysis of the community for the purpose of policy development and planning with specific reference to local government. The report is available in the library and is for sale.

An extensive random survey of the community was undertaken which included interviewing over 470 households and over 30 community groups.

The Access Advisory Committee with the support of officers developed the Access Policy and Action Plan adopted by the Council in November 1999. The plan examines:

- Legislated access requirements
- The access needs of the Alice Springs population
- Goals and actions needed to improve access, including disability access, in four areas:
 - Physical
 - Communication
 - Information
 - Attitudes

The plan will be monitored annually with the assistance of the Access Advisory Committee to see what goals have been achieved.

Partnerships and Alliances

Partnerships with government and community groups involved in community services were maintained. Programs developed through collaborations included:

- The Department of Museums and Arts on the Araluen Access Grants Program.
- The Department of Education, and the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs on the Youth Expo.
- Territory Health Services on Environmental Health Programs.

Alcohol Issues

Council officers provided executive assistance to the Alice Alcohol Representative Committee a community-based committee set up to represent the community in addressing alcohol-related harms. The committee commissioned consultants to survey community opinion on alcohol issues and to develop proposals for managing alcohol-related issues in Alice Springs.

The consultants randomly surveyed over 400 Alice Springs households and conducted a series of public consultations on the issues. The report, "Dollars Made from Broken Spirits" with recommendations from the consultants is available from the Council or the Library.

Reconciliation

Council officers worked closely with Aboriginal service organisations to improve working relations particularly in the areas of environmental health and animal control. Representatives of Aboriginal organisations are members of the Youth and Economic Development Advisory Committees.

Actions towards reconciliation included:

- Negotiations with Tangentyere Council to develop a Memorandum of Understanding and a closer working relationship.
- In Reconciliation Week in May 2000 the Council flew the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags and Mayor Fran Erlich was one of the keynote speakers at a Reconciliation Week symbolic walk across Stott Terrace Bridge.
- In 1999 Radio Triple J, in association with ATSIC and Urban Theatre Projects, held a series of hip-hop workshops in Alice Springs. This culminated in concerts and live radio performances throughout NAIDOC Week in July 1999. Over 1,000 young people had contact with the project. The Council supported this project with a grant of \$3,500.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES



Children from the 'Friday Nite Live' Program of the Christian Community Centre say thanks for a sound system and filing cabinet bought with a Community Assistant Grant.

Community Grants

As part of assisting the community to be active in its own development, the Council provides financial assistance for community based activities through community grants.

Over the year the Council allocated:

- \$20,157 to 22 incorporated community organisations in Community Support Grants.
- \$16,200 to four organisations in Community Development Grants.
- \$10,000 to eight organisations in Community Assistance Grants.
- \$32,000 through the Araluen Community Access Grants to 23 community organisations enabling recipients to use the exhibition and theatre spaces of the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment.

In addition the Council supported the Town Band with \$3000.

Youth

The Council receives advice from the youth of the town through its Youth Advisory Committee.

In 1999 the Council provided \$6,400 for a skateboard ramp for town youth after extensive consultations. The Council also sponsored a berth for an Alice Springs teenager on Australia's sail training ship "Young Endeavour".

The fourth annual Youth Expo, was held at Centralian College on 9 and 10 September 1999. A total of 38 exhibitors participated, ten less than the previous year. It is estimated that 1000 students and adults attended over the two days and evening of the event. Council sponsored the Expo with a grant of \$15,000 but decided not to continue as a major sponsor and convenor of the event in 2000.

As the reporting year closed Council was reviewing the

structure and effectiveness of the Youth Advisory Committee.

Library Community Education and Information

The Community Education and Information Team developed and implemented the library's annual promotions plan, presented a business resources information display for Central Australian Expo, and ran children's holiday programs. The team also provided Internet training on library computers for members of the community including special sessions for women and youth.

During the year the Community Information Centre developed a computer-based Community Information Directory listing a range of community services and organisations. In addition, a community calendar of events was posted on the Alice Springs Internet site and sent to government bodies and community interest groups, the media and the tourist association.

Staff in the Library's Children's and Youth Services section promoted children's literacy through regular story telling and reading programs. As well as a weekly program for



Access to CD ROMs attracts young library users.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

children, staff organised a range of quality library programs for the children, youth and parents of Alice Springs.

All programs were well attended:

- Regular story times were attended by over 1000 children and their parents
- Holiday programs were attended by over 1000 children
- Over 500 children attended special events which included:
 - A bedtime story reading session, "The Word Spider" for Children's Book Week
 - Story telling and singing on a Saturday morning in NAIDOC Week
 - The Christmas party
 - Science Week activities
 - Yamba's visit for Territory Day

2.2 Community Services

The Council provides a range of services that enhance the lifestyle of citizens. The following profile the performance over the year of the Council's Community Services.

Library and Information Services

In July 1999 the library implemented a new library management system "Virtua" which is networked under the Northern Territory Library and Information Service.

The advantages to the public of the system are the availability of:

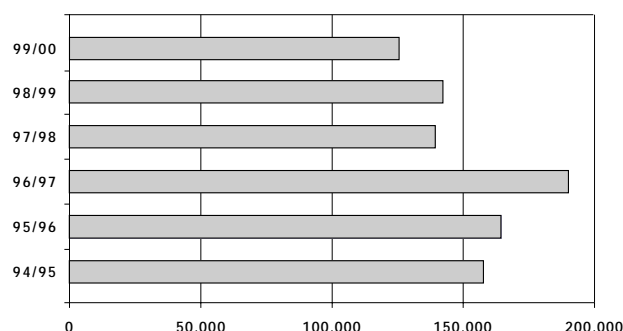
- Windows' functionality
- A web-page design catalogue
- Fully integrated status information on stock availability
- Ordering information on screen and the same system available throughout all libraries in the Northern Territory.

Full implementation of the new system started in February 2000 with reporting under the Network Core Services performance indicators.

Other developments in the Library included:

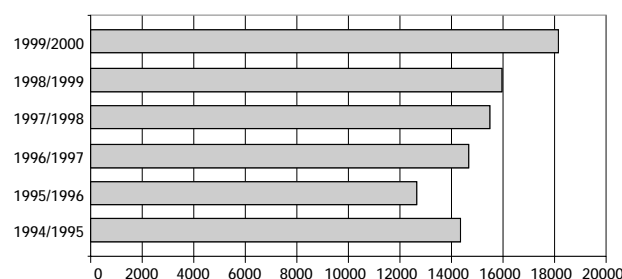
- Preparation of a Library Needs Analysis began following the receipt of a Development Grant of \$10,000 from the Northern Territory Library and Information Service. A second phase which was also funded will be completed in 2001.
- The Library's circulation desk was redesigned and rebuilt to provide one-stop access to services and to allow better interaction between staff and clients. The desk was completed in March 2000.
- In May 2000 the Library introduced free Internet access for Library members.
- A Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service trainee worked with library staff from August to November 1999.

LIBRARY LOANS



The fall in loans is due to reduced operating hours and the closure of the library during the construction of the new circulation desk.

LIBRARY MEMBERS



By-laws Compliance Unit

The Council's By-laws Officers administer a range of by-laws relating to the use of public places, including parking and illegal camping, administer animal welfare legislation and animal control by-laws and provide education on a range of issues. Important tasks include enforcing by-laws relating to Todd Mall, littering and parking in the central business district.

Achievements included:

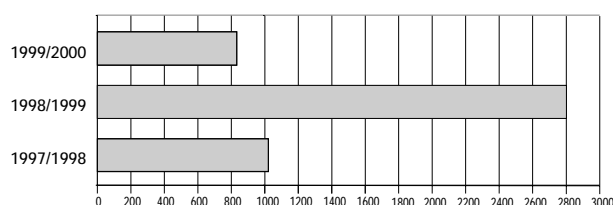
- Officers handled over 1500 complaints mainly relating to unregistered and unrestrained domestic dogs.
- By-laws Officers worked closely with Tangentyere Wardens in combined patrols of the Todd and Charles Rivers and other areas of town to reduce the number of illegal campers. Officers co-operate with Tangentyere staff on a range of issues including control of dogs.
- The unit changed its name during the year from Statutory and Regulatory Services to By-laws Compliance to signify a change in emphasis to a more community service and education oriented unit. At the same time officers changed from brown uniforms, often confused by the public with police and ranger uniforms, to friendlier blue uniforms.
- During the year the unit took over responsibility for Swimming Pool and Flammable Plants By-laws from the Environmental Health Unit. The By-laws

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Compliance Unit was also delegated to issue permits for the consumption of alcohol in public places.

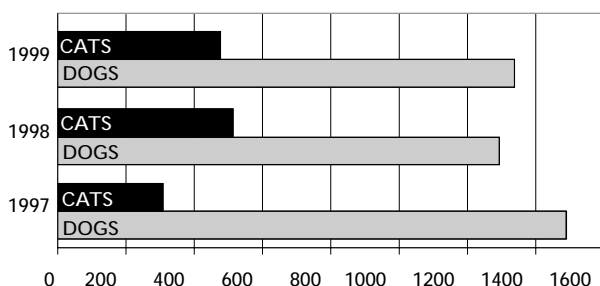
- The updating of the dog registration database via a door knock of households continued into this reporting period. The survey gives officers a better chance of contacting owners of lost dogs and of identifying strays. The survey and associated publicity resulted in 400 more dogs being registered than in 97/98 and provided an increase in revenue to fund the work of the Unit.
- Voluntary cat registration was introduced in 2000 for desexed animals to ensure lost pets can be returned.

PARKING INFRINGEMENT NOTICES ISSUED

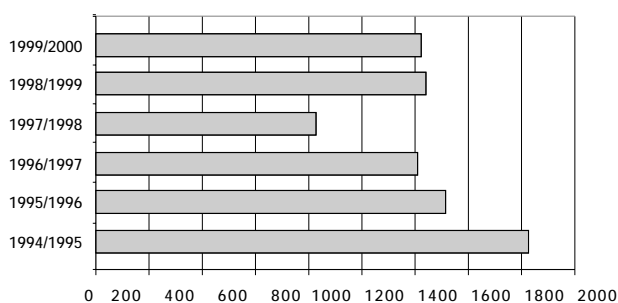


Due to staff shortages officers concentrated on animal control at the expense of parking inspections.

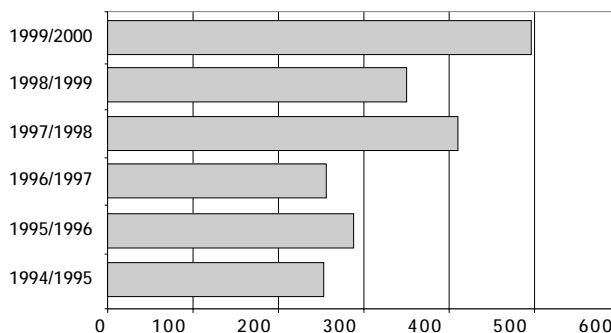
DOGS AND CATS TAKEN TO THE POUND



DOG REGISTRATIONS - ANNUAL



DOG REGISTRATIONS - LIFETIME



Environmental Health Services

Despite staff shortages throughout the year, the units two Environmental Health Officers conducted a total of 699 health inspections.

Exceptional rains during the year created good conditions for mosquito breeding resulting in extensive fogging operations at the Ilparpa Swamp to control numbers. Mosquito traps continued to be set to assess adult numbers, while larval surveys were carried out regularly to ascertain breeding areas. The potentially disease-carrying Culex Annulirostris Mosquito was recorded in high numbers and sentinel chickens at the CSIRO in Alice Springs registered the presence of Ross River Virus and Murray Valley Encephalitis.

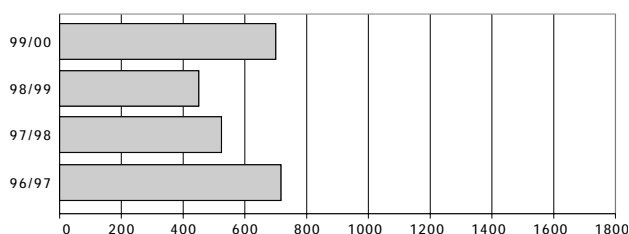
A technical officer was employed during the year for conducting mosquito surveys, freeing the Unit's two Environmental Health Officers to continue with other duties.

The Environmental Health Unit worked with a number of other public organisations to ensure public health standards are maintained. Throughout the 1999/2000-year, work with other organisations included:

- Providing workshops on the new national food standards for 140 staff of food handling businesses.
- Promoting the Food Safe Program and Healthy Choices Awards in conjunction with Territory Health Services.
- Inspecting sub-standard housing with the Department of Housing & Local Government.
- Receiving advice on fire safety issues in accommodation houses and places of public entertainment from the Northern Territory Fire Service.
- Inspecting licensed premises with the Northern Territory Liquor Commission.
- Monitoring illegal trading in town camps in conjunction with Aboriginal organisations.
- Collaborating with Tangentyere Council on public health issues.
- Controlling mosquitoes with the assistance of the Power & Water Authority and Medical Entomology.

2. COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEALTH INSPECTIONS



The Manager of Environmental Health, Ingo Steppat inspecting a restaurant kitchen.

Asbus

The public bus service, Asbus, was delivered by a private company within the parameters determined by the Northern Territory Government subsidy administered by the Council. The contract with the private operator was extended in the year to include the collection of data that will be used in developing a new contract.

Four new bus-stop shelters were built with two placed on Gap Road one near Old Timers Nursing Home and one on Hartley Street. A shelter on Spearwood Road was moved approximately 300 metres to a more convenient position. A bus route was extended during the year to include Latz Crescent.

Cemeteries

Council staff continued to provide a caring and convenient burial service, and to maintain a high quality in presentation of the cemetery. During the year, there were 89 burials managed with the efficiency and sensitivity that is expected of this service.

Maintenance and minor works carried out on Alice Springs' three cemeteries during the year included:

- Continuing the restoration of the Pioneer Cemetery including the provision of walking paths, restoration of existing headstones, reinstatement of fences around grave plots and levelling the site to alleviate drainage problems.
- Landscaping and fencing the northern boundary of the Memorial Cemetery as well as installing fencing around the security block/store room and repairing vandalised headstones.

- General provision of maintenance and up-keep to all three cemeteries.

Litter Control

The Correctional Services Community Support Program has assisted the Council's constant campaign against litter. The work of prisoners would be valued roughly at \$100,000 were it performed by paid staff. Prisoner crews can be seen regularly on litter patrol in the Todd and Charles Rivers.

Council staff operating the waste-compactor truck emptied around 60 bins daily in the CBD, in addition to the weekly emptying of bins provided at parks and ovals.

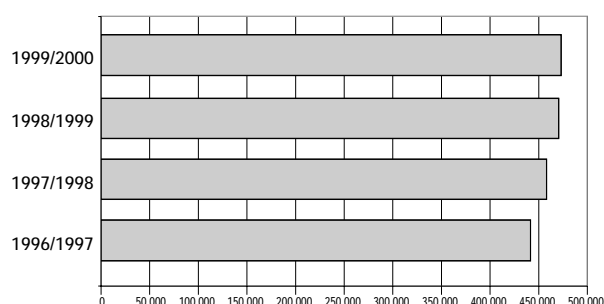
Street Cleaning & Sweeping

Council staff swept roads, carparks and stormwater pits on average every three weeks with the Council's two mechanical street sweepers.

Waste Collection

The Council's waste collection contractors have maintained high service standards and competitive costs. The Council has an efficient and effective kerbside collection service.

240 LITRE WHEELIE BIN COLLECTIONS



Public Conveniences

Maintaining clean public toilets in Alice Springs requires constant attention. During the year the Council staff continued their annual program of:

- Internal and external painting of all ablution blocks.
- Regular maintenance in response to vandalism.
- Upgrading toilet systems with push button air activated devices that reduce water consumption and are more resistant to vandalism.
- Cleaning of ablution blocks up to four times a day where necessary.

Grant Administration

The Council administered grants on behalf of various community organisations within the town, the most notable being Riding For The Disabled, \$25,000.

3. UNIQUE NATURAL & CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: The unique natural and cultural environment contributes to and underpins sustainable development in Alice Springs.

The unique natural and cultural environment of Alice Springs presents the Council with some of its greatest challenges and opportunities. The Council recognises that like many other communities the people of Alice Springs are willing to manage their impact on the environment to ensure a sustainable quality of life for both present and future generations.

Finding 'green' solutions to waste management including more environmentally sustainable landfill operations and the promotion of waste minimisation principles and recycling were a focus for the year. The Council was successful in gaining funding from the National Heritage Trust and this supported the appointment of an Environment Officer in August 1999 as well as several environment projects.

The Olympic Torch Relay, which brought together and involved many sectors of the community, provided a major focus for showcasing our cultural diversity.

The achievements of a number of strategies are listed below.

3.1 Cultural Activities

Elected Members and staff participated in a range of committees with both government and community stakeholders concerned with the quality of life and the environment:

- Waste Management Advisory Committee
- Alice in Ten Built Environment Committee
- Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee
- Araluen Advisory Committee
- Alice in Ten Arid Zone Environment Committee
- Todd and Charles River Trustee Committee
- Culture and Environment Advisory Committee (currently in abeyance)

Arts and Culture

Through grant programs detailed under the Community Services goal the Council supported various performing arts and cultural activities.

The major commitment to arts and cultural events during the year was Council's support of the Olympic Torch Relay community celebration. A three day festival "Keep the Spirit Alive" was the first such community celebration in Australia and a chance to showcase the arts and culture of Alice Springs before the international media.

The festival included, school sporting events and performances, the arrival of the Olympic flame at Alice Springs Airport, a series of runners carrying it through street

parades to ANZAC Oval for the welcome in a production called the Sea of Fire.

Community involvement included:

- A welcome by Arrernte Elders at Heavitree Gap.
- Multicultural performances along the course of the Torch relay.
- The Sea of Fire performance at ANZAC Oval featuring over 140 Alice Springs children and 100 adults forming the Gigantic Town Choir backed by over 60 musicians

Service clubs, community groups, business and government all contributed to the success of the festival. Thousands of people witnessed the torch relay and the main event, the "Sea of Fire".

Commissioning Public Art

No works were commissioned and funding for this area was reallocated.



Our Arid Zone climate and landscapes, as well as Alice Springs and Central Australia's unique blend of cultures, influences all the Council's programs and makes our town unique

3. UNIQUE NATURAL & CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

3.2 Community Education

The Culture and Environment Strategy and Plan identifies community awareness packages to be addressed such as:

- Landcare management issues
- Waste reduction such as recycling and waste minimisation for householders.
- Weed education and awareness. The Environment Officer is working on a Northern Territory weed strategy and a local weed control booklet.

We Care Week activities supported community education in these areas.



The Council works with community government to support landcare initiatives.

3.3 Support of Business Initiatives

Council officers have been active in assisting with the establishment of several business initiatives that will contribute to the economy whilst ensuring the protection of the environment. The Council initiated a study on waste reduction which identified business opportunities for recycling in Alice Springs and ways to reduce waste going to the Landfill. This will ultimately extend the life of the current Landfill site.

3.4 Local Community Involvement

The Council looks for ways to support and encourage the community in protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural and built environments.

- The Council received a grant of \$131,000 over two years from the Natural Heritage Trust for a native vegetation management program. Half the grant was used to employ the Council's Environment Officer.
- We Care Week held in September 1999 supported a range of community initiated projects. These projects included bush regeneration, water monitoring and tree planting by school groups. A range of public workshops covered waste minimisation, open space planning, and compost making. Other events during the week involved threatened plants and animals, paper recycling and kerbside exchange.

3.5 Environmentally Sound Development of Infrastructure

Council is developing a landfill management plan to provide a service including waste minimisation, recycling and better environmental control. The Landfill will be developed to comply with the requirements of the Northern Territory Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998.

During the year the contract of the private operators of the Landfill expired and the Council took over operations in March 2000. New measures will be implemented to monitor the origin, volume and type of waste going into the Landfill. It is currently estimated that 34,000 tonnes of waste enter the Landfill per year. Development continued of plans to introduce a more equitable user pays system for waste disposal.

Council developed a report 'Planning and Management of Alice Springs Open Space Resources' providing strategic directions for the evaluation and development of existing and future parks and open spaces. It forms the basis of further action plans for shade, landscaping of verges and parks, protection of remnant vegetation and the rationalisation or acquisition of parks.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Alice Springs has a diverse, sustainable and growing economy.

The economic development of Alice Springs is supported by the plans and activities of the Council in partnership with other government sectors and their agencies.

A major achievement for the year was the winning of the overall award in the "Northern Territory Better Practice in Local Government Awards 2000". The award was in recognition of the Council's work in publishing the Economic Profile of Alice Springs, producing four issues of the Advancing Alice Springs Newsletter which featured economic performance indicators and the development of the Alice Springs website www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au.

Recognition must also go to the work of the Economic Development Advisory Committee for assisting and advising the Council on economic development matters.



Mayor Fran Erlich accepting the overall award in the "Northern Territory Better Practice in Local Government Awards 2000" from the Minister for Local Government Lorraine Braham.

4.1 Economic Planning

Over the year the Council, in partnership with the Economic Development Advisory Committee and the business sector, developed close working relationships which contributed to:

- The development of performance indicators for various industry sectors.
- The development of the Advancing Alice Springs Newsletter, to keep the community informed of changes in the economy and any opportunities as they arise.

4.2 Business Development

The Council's Economic Development Grants were used to stimulate the diversity and growth of the town's economic base. The following new business developments were supported with Economic Development Grants in the 1999/2000 financial year:

- \$20,000 was approved in July 1999 for a light industrial business, Centre Chroming.
- \$20,000 was approved in October 1999 for a tourism venture, the Alice Springs Reptile Centre.

Council officers assisted other small businesses to develop business plans and applications for these grants.

The Council's new Policy Guidelines and Fee Schedule for

Todd Mall was designed to encourage increased activity in the mall. The reduced permit fees seek to alleviate the financial burden on traders who operate alfresco dining, stalls or displays in the mall.

4.3 Promotion of Economic Development

One of the Council's economic strategies is to develop and implement a plan that markets and promotes opportunities for new business initiatives, and promotes Alice Springs locally, nationally and globally.

- The Council sponsored, Alice Springs Internet site, www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au provides business, tourist, historical and event information plus links.
- The Advancing Alice Springs Newsletter launched in April 1999 is the Council's promotional tool for economic development. During the financial year it was produced quarterly featuring new business initiatives and indicators of performance.
- The Council provided \$3,000 sponsorship to Central Australian Expo '99 to support the promotion of businesses in Alice Springs. The Council's exhibit, designed in conjunction with the Masters Games unit of the Department of Sport and Recreation, featured the economic implications for the local economy of sports tourism, local sporting participation and sports infrastructure development and maintenance.
- The Todd Mall Traders were supported through television advertisements on Imparja TV funded by the promotions rates levy on properties between Hartley Street, Wills Terrace, Leichhardt Terrace and Stott Terrace.

4.4 Infrastructure that Supports the Economy

The Council's infrastructure plays an important role in underpinning and encouraging economic development. A number of initiatives have been undertaken this year.

- The redesign of roadways in the light industrial area along Smith Street has set new standards for commercial strip developments.
- Through the Alice in Ten project Council contributed to the development of a brief for a masterplan for the Mall and CBD. Maintenance work, including the painting of trellises and support structures for the sails, rejuvenated the CBD.
- A software based total asset management system was introduced to ensure that the Council manages its infrastructure to achieve a balance between development, maintenance and renewal.
- The development of the Leichhardt Terrace tourist coach parking area was completed with landscaping.

The Council receives detailed monthly reports on development proposals from the Northern Territory Government's Development Consent Authority.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: Alice Springs has well-planned, developed and maintained infrastructure that meets the social, cultural and economic needs of the community.

The Council is now directing its emphasis in infrastructure management to maintenance and renewal. With a current infrastructure portfolio of over \$140m in relatively new assets there is now a greater need to put into place policies and procedures that will ensure efficient and effective maintenance of these valuable community resources.

The Planning and Infrastructure Branch is implementing "total asset management" best practices as a means of ensuring that our current infrastructure remains appropriate to the community's needs and is maintained in the most efficient and cost effective way.

In consolidating the recent restructure of the Planning and Infrastructure Branch an extensive training program has been developed in association with Centralian College. The aim is to develop a more responsive, efficient, flexible and multiskilled workforce.

Infrastructure operations responded to extra demands on staff caused by continuing heavy rains from Christmas to Easter 2000. The Council played a major role during flood emergencies using its staff, equipment and resources extensively. The rains meant staff were opening and closing riverbed causeways, clearing debris, repairing roadways and accelerating mowing and maintenance programs to cope with the faster vegetation growth.

Strategies and Achievements

5.1 Facilities and Infrastructure Development

- A computerised asset management system was purchased to allow the integration of asset details and their ongoing maintenance plans.
- All Council's built assets were surveyed from October to November 1999 and entered onto the asset information database BAMS (Built Asset Management System).
- Estimated costs of repairs and maintenance required for each built asset were developed using the survey information and the BAMS system.
- From January and February 2000 all Council owned roads were surveyed and entered on the TAMS (Total Asset Management System). Management plans were built into the system by consultants. These plans were then used to direct the annual resealing of selected Council owned roads.
- Implementation of the computer based Microsoft Project means that all project management can be monitored and evaluated. All computer-scheduled projects can now be monitored on a monthly basis with information displaying, for example, the percentage of work completed on a project. This gives a better picture of performance over the financial year.

5.2 Managing Assets

- As part of Council's role in providing and maintaining the infrastructure of four privately run childcare centres, design began of a new building for the Gap Neighbourhood Community Child Care Centre. The Council acted as project managers, co-ordinating design, documentation and site services. Staff will supervise construction. The Commonwealth Government has provided a grant of \$883,826 for the project.
- The redevelopment of the Alice Springs Childcare Centre in Bath Street involving a redesign and rebuild of the facility over three years was completed in November 1999. The staff and children who were relocated during the project were able to reoccupy the Bath Street premises in November. The project cost \$468,943.
- Council officers have been involved in developing concept plans for the redevelopment of former Commonwealth railway land abutting the Council's Smith Street and Ghan Road. The area will add to the redevelopment of adjoining former railway land known as the Western Precinct. Together these developments are a major extension of new commercial and light industrial land adjacent to the central business district of Alice Springs. The Smith Street frontage design process has set standards for future development of light industrial areas in Alice Springs.
- Council developed a school drop off and pick up zone in a high traffic area outside Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School. The project called Kiss'n'go involved special signage and pamphlets to promote and explain the concept to parents. The zone started operating in early 2000 and has resulted in safer and faster transfers.
- Council officers investigated problems with speeding traffic in Links Road by installing speed monitoring and vehicle counting devices. A plan for diverting through traffic using traffic islands was prepared with the installation planned for the next financial year.
- Council reviewed the management and maintenance programs of the Alice Springs Garden Cemetery examining its long-term future and ways of making it more suited to an arid zone environment.
- In conjunction with the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee, Council developed a framework for agreements between the Council and individual sporting organisations for the use and management of sporting facilities. Negotiations with sporting organisations will continue into the new financial year.

The Council is the custodian of over 280 artworks held in the Alice Springs Art Collection. The artworks were donated by community groups and individuals. They are

5. INFRASTRUCTURE

valued at over \$1.2 million and are housed at the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment under a contract signed last financial year.

Management of these assets through the year included:

- A conservation project worth \$20,000 was begun on works in the collection by Albert Namatjira, his artistic mentor Rex Battarbee and the Hermannsburg School.
- Work continued on developing an asset management plan for the works in conjunction with the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment.

5.3 Implement Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgrade Programs

Capital works completed included:

- Fencing and landscaping of Albrecht Oval and the development of the turf wicket.
- Sealing of the dirt lane-way adjacent to Ross Park School to eliminate the problem of dust generated by traffic.
- Landscaping of the Leichhardt Terrace bus parking area surrounds.
- Continuation of a five-year program of replacing inappropriate roadway grates on side-entry drainage pits to remove the danger of bicycle wheels getting caught in them.

Other Achievements included:

- New or upgraded Cycle Tracks were constructed in Head Street and Traeger Avenue.
- Kerbs, channels, parks, reserves and verges all required extra maintenance due to heavy rains from January to April causing extra vegetation growth and local flooding depositing debris.
- Four new bus shelters were constructed as part of the Council's management of the ASBUS public transport contract.
- Work commenced on a fire hazard reduction program for storm water drains in the Todd River. The drains were widened and the sides flattened to allow them to be mowed to reduce the fire danger from long grass.
- Council upgraded facilities at the Council owned Swimming Centre and negotiated a trial period of management of the facility by the YMCA.
- Council instigated in conjunction with the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment and the Department of Transport and Works a study of the drainage requirements of the Emily Hills rural residential area.



The Council spends over half a million dollars each year maintaining sporting ovals.

6. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: Excellence achieved in the management of Council's financial, technological and human resources.

The aim for this goal was to continue to work towards excellence in managing and administering local government services. Improvements in leadership skills, customer service skills and management processes were targeted as key activities for the year.

Council faced a number of challenges including the restructuring of both Planning and Infrastructure Services and Corporate Services to allow staff to better utilise their skills and improve their capacity by multi-skilling. The implementation of the Library Management System, "Virtua", as well as the completion of the implementation of the "Authority" Financial Management System and the need for finance staff to be fully conversant with Goods and Services Tax (GST) requirements and Year 2000 compliance measures added an extra load to day to day work.

Staff are to be complimented on their level of commitment and dedication throughout the implementation of the new systems in what proved to be a difficult time for all.

The Organisational Development Goal has a number of strategies and the achievements of these strategies are described below.

6.1 Provide Strong Leadership

To achieve excellence in management the Council places great emphasis on enhancing performance and leadership skills of staff. Initiatives this year included:

- The restructure of Corporate Services and Planning and Infrastructure Services to implement better management practices.
- A management workshop in April that identified the need for improved communications between staff and more devolution of authority to managers and relevant staff.
- New reporting procedures for the By Laws Compliance and Environmental Health Service Units.

6.2 Customer Service

The Council is developing a strong customer service focus for all of its operations. During 1999/2000 the following improvements were made:

- The operations of the front counter staff were reviewed resulting in frontline staff being better prepared to quickly resolve customer inquiries.
- The development of a customer action request database now enables continuous monitoring of requests.

- Infrastructure Operations instituted a 'Quick Response' process to respond to work generated from outside the organisation to ensure requests are evaluated by supervisors within 24 hours, prioritised and the response monitored.

6.3 Continuous Improvement

The Council is working towards adopting a continuous improvement approach to the delivery of services. The review of programs is now a feature of management. Some of the reviews and their outcomes were:

- The Library adopted Network Core Services Performance Indicators with the implementation of their new Library Management System, Virtua.
- A landfill and waste management plan was developed to institute national best practice operations.
- New management arrangements commenced for the swimming centre while a Memorandum of Understanding with the YMCA was being developed for the new financial year.

6.4 Management Tools

Information Technology

A stable and effective computer network now supports the pursuit of excellence in management and administrative performance. There were a number of highlights for the year including:

- Implementation of additional functions of the "Authority" Local Government Financial Management System which was made GST compliant.
- Asset management software was introduced for the scheduling and monitoring of maintenance programs.
- A comprehensive audit of the Council's computer system ensured Y2K compliance.
- The development of the Community Website continued and the Intranet system was made available to staff.
- The Library introduced the "Virtua" catalogue system which uses Internet technology to connect to the Northern Territory Public Library Information Service's catalogues.

The need for further information technology training of staff is recognised and will be addressed in the Council's training program.

6. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organisational Communications

Effective communication throughout the organisation is recognised by the Council as a vital management tool. Changes made to improve communication processes during the year included:

- The development of the staff Intranet.
- Regular staff meetings at management and branch levels.
- Training in the use of computer-based communication systems.

A comprehensive Communications Plan was commenced with completion due in 2001. Its implementation will develop a positive corporate image and improve the quality of the communication processes used by the Council.

Financial Management

The need for reliable financial information to support management and Elected Member decision-making was a priority for the Council during the year. Initiatives included the:

- Completion of the implementation of the "Authority" Financial Management System which has resulted in improvements in financial reports provided to the Council and staff.
- Training and development of staff to ensure a smooth transition with the introduction of the GST.
- Introduction of monthly rather than quarterly reviews of Council's budget position.

The Council has also maintained its standards of service delivery in the areas of rating, insurance and cash management.

Human Resource Management

This year was the first year of operation with the Council's new Human Resource Policies. This enabled the following activities to be undertaken:

- Comprehensive staff performance appraisals took place resulting in the identification of staff training needs.
- A review of job descriptions for all staff in the organisation was completed.

Council continued the upgrading of the skills of Planning and Infrastructure Branch staff, which began last financial year with a review of all positions and a skills audit of all staff. This year's achievements in providing a better skilled workforce included:

- Eight staff enrolling for a Workplace Assessors Course to be completed in the next reporting year. The graduates will assist the training of their co-workers and other local government staff from other councils.

This will help create a continuous-learning and training environment and a more flexible team-based operation.

- Adoption of the Local Government National Competencies and Training Package giving Council staff new opportunities to improve their skills and career paths.
- The value of the new training packages was recognised by the Northern Territory Education and Training Authority with an Innovative Program Funding Grant of \$100,000. This grant will cover the cost of training for the Council's Infrastructure Operations Department for the first year.
- Negotiations began with Centralian College to develop a training partnership offering courses to the Council's staff and to other Local Governments in Central Australia.

Planning

The use of project management at the operational level of the Council has ensured a strong link between service outcomes and the Council's Strategic Directions. Annual Plans developed in consultation with staff and Elected Members provide the basis for more detailed plans in operational areas. Plans developed over the year included:

- Information Technology Plan
- Project Management Plan
- Infrastructure Operational Plan
- Economic and Community Development Plans
- Environmental Health Services Operational Plan
- By-laws Compliance Unit Operational Plan.
- Information Services Operational Plan

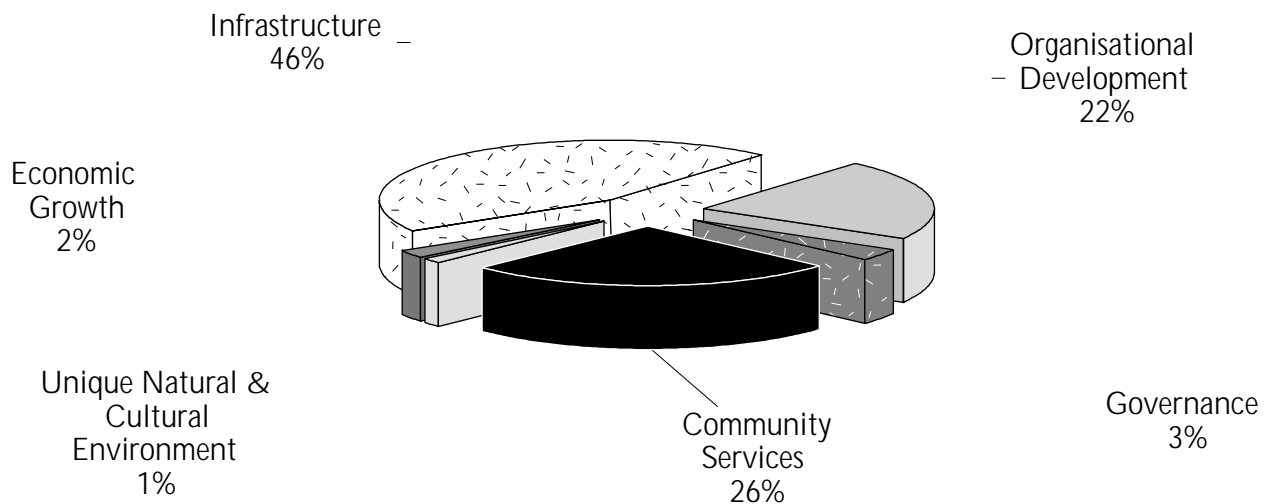
1999/2000

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Expenditure 1999 - 2000



Allocations of expenditure to goals as percentages are shown in the graph above. It should be noted that that allocations are not representative of the importance that the Council places on each goal. Expenditure on infrastructure is naturally more expensive than expenditure on other goals. What is important to the Council is the achievement of all of its stated outcomes.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

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OFFICER'S STATEMENT

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

I, Nicholas Scarvelis, CEO/Town Clerk of the Municipality of Alice Springs certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the annual statements of account for the year ending 30 June 2000 have been properly drawn up in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act 1993 (as amended), and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, 1991, (as amended), so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Council's affairs and the result for the year. The statements are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council.



N. Scarvelis
CEO/TOWN CLERK

Laid before the Council at the Meeting held on 30 October 2000

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

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Touche
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INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Scope

We have audited the financial report of Alice Springs Town Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2000 as set out on pages 4 to 29. The Council Clerk is responsible for the financial report. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Council.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian auditing standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly, in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit opinion

In our opinion:

- the prescribed accounting, other records, accounting manual and registers required to be kept by the Council have been properly kept;
- the receipt, expenditure and investment of monies and the acquisition and disposal of assets by the Council during the year have been in accordance with the prescribed requirements;
- the financial statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the prescribed requirements and are in agreement with the accounts and records; and
- the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2000;
- the Council has complied with the provisions under the Act in respect of the conduct of its financial affairs; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
David Cloke

D J CLOKE
PARTNER

Alice Springs 31st October 2000

The liability of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu is limited by, and to the extent of, the Accountants' Scheme under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW)

OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

	Note		2000		1999
		\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUES					
Rates – levied	4	8,361,020		7,969,685	
User Charges		1,883,920		2,187,253	
Interest		260,066		239,953	
Other		36,045		64,116	
			10,541,051		10,461,007
<hr/>					
Government Grants provided for:	5				
Specific Purposes		2,310,897		2,327,536	
Other Purposes		905,231		897,165	
		3,216,128		3,224,701	
<hr/>					
Other Grants and Contributions	5	238,093		218,847	
			3,454,221		3,443,548
Surplus on disposal of assets	6		94,579		13,124
TOTAL REVENUE			14,089,851		13,917,679
<hr/>					
LESS EXPENDITURE					
Employee costs		4,895,016		4,923,260	
Materials and Operational Costs		5,864,206		5,597,487	
Interest on long term loans		238,113		302,929	
Depreciation	7	2,601,793		2,610,643	
Other	8	117,363		117,800	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			13,716,491		13,552,119
<hr/>					
SURPLUS ON OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR			373,360		365,560
BEFORE ABNORMAL ITEMS					
Less - Abnormal Items	9		(96,000)		(113,000)
Surplus on Operations			277,360		252,560
Add/(Less) – Revaluation of Assets	1(g)				–
Add Accumulated Funds previous year			12,258,015		12,114,427
Adjustment to Accumulated Funds	10		(32,612)		(11,573)
<hr/>					
Transfers from Reserves	10		450,594		56,388
LESS: Transfers to Reserves	10		(259,595)		(153,787)
<hr/>					
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT YEAR END			12,693,762		12,258,015
<hr/>					

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2000

	Note		2000		1999
		\$	\$	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank and on Hand		3,678,183		3,302,649	
Receivables	11	161,114		127,103	
Prepayments		21,801		7,530	
Stores, Materials and Loose Tools		106,117		118,859	
Accrued Income		103,086		41,984	
			4,070,301		3,598,125
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors and Provisions	12	1,084,211		1,176,807	
Accrued Expenses		180,789		136,289	
Trust Deposits	13	132,147		133,525	
Term Loans	17	626,532		515,385	
			2,023,679		1,962,006
NET CURRENT ASSETS			2,046,622		1,636,119
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Fixed Assets	14	134,280,258		134,935,166	
Deferred Asset	16	7,995		17,011	
Receivables	11	97,749		151,564	
			134,386,002		135,103,741
LESS NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Term Loans	17	715,298		1,303,822	
Provisions	12	384,134		347,594	
			1,099,432		1,651,416
NET NON-CURRENT ASSETS			133,286,570		133,452,325
TOTAL NET ASSETS			135,333,192		135,088,444
MUNICIPAL EQUITY					
Specific Purpose Reserves	10	122,639,430		122,830,429	
Accumulated Funds	10	12,693,762		12,258,015	
TOTAL EQUITY			135,333,192		135,088,444

MOVEMENTS IN COUNCIL EQUITY ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

		2000		1999
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purpose Funds				
Balance at start of reporting period		12,258,015		12,114,427
Balance from Revenue Statement	277,360		252,560	
Adjustment to Accumulated Funds	(32,612)		(11,573)	
Transfers from Reserves	450,594		56,388	
Transfers to Reserves	(259,595)		(153,787)	
		435,747		143,588
Accumulated General Purpose Funds		12,693,762		12,258,015
Specific Purpose Reserves				
Asset Replacement Reserve	750,000		500,000	
Developer Contributions Reserve	367,746		510,889	
Sports Facilities Contributions Reserve	449,534		469,157	
Economic Development Reserve	–		178,233	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	121,072,150		121,072,150	
CBD Toilet Reserve	–		100,000	
Total Specific Purpose Reserve Funds		122,639,430		122,830,429
TOTAL COUNCIL EQUITY		135,333,192		135,088,444

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

	Note	2000	1999
		\$	\$
Cash flows from Operating Activities			
Payments:			
Employee Costs	(4,829,633)	(4,814,698)	
Materials and Operational Costs	(5,932,708)	(5,621,492)	
Interest on long term loans	(244,078)	(302,929)	
Other	(149,975)	(100,787)	
Total Payments		(11,156,394)	(10,839,906)
Receipts:			
Rates levied	8,378,003	7,839,108	
User Charges	1,846,840	2,159,944	
Interest	263,733	239,953	
Other	36,045	30,158	
		10,524,621	10,269,163
Grant Income			
Government Grants - Recurrent Purposes	2,933,655	2,767,607	
Other Grants and Contributions	238,093	218,847	
		3,171,758	2,986,454
Net Cash generated from Operating Activities	18	2,539,985	2,415,711
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of Plant and Equipment	(2,143,391)	(3,471,084)	
Proceeds from sale of Plant and Equipment	291,085	226,310	
Net Cash used in investing activities		(1,852,306)	(3,244,774)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Grant Income			
Government Grants - Capital Purposes	231,232	457,094	
Loans advanced/ (repaid)	(543,377)	(449,840)	
Net cash from Financing Activities		(312,145)	7,254
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		375,534	(821,809)
Cash at the beginning of the reporting period		3,302,649	4,124,458
Cash at end of reporting period	19	3,678,183	3,302,649

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- (a) The Local Government reporting entity.

All funds through which the Council controls resources to carry out its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

In the process of reporting on the local government entity as a single unit, all transactions and balances between those funds (for example, loans and transfers between funds) have been eliminated.

- (b) Basis of Accounting

This financial report has been prepared as a general purpose financial report to comply with the Northern Territory Local Government (accounting) Regulations 1991, including amendments and applicable Accounting Standards. It has been prepared on the accrual basis under the convention of historical cost accounting except for certain non-current assets which are carried at valuation as described below. The accounting policies adopted for the reporting period are consistent with those of the previous reporting period. Disclosure of certain comparative figures have been amended to conform with current year figures.

- (c) Depreciation of non-current assets

All non-current assets comprising plant, equipment, and office furniture and equipment assets that have a value in excess of \$2,000 and which have a limited useful life, are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis using a fixed annual amount calculated on the estimated residual value and useful life of the asset

The following estimated useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| • Buildings | 30 - 100 Years |
| • Plant & Equipment | 2 - 10 Years |
| • Furniture & Office Equipment | 5 Years |
| • Roads | 100 Years |
| • Storm-water Drainage | 100 Years |

- (d) Employee entitlements

Employee entitlements are accrued on a pro rata basis for annual leave and long service leave in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Such accruals are assessed as at each reporting date, having regard to current rates of pay and other factors including period of service.

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the contribution the Council makes to the superannuation plan that provides benefits to its employees.

- (e) Investments

Investments are valued at cost. Interest revenues are recognised as they accrue.

- (f) Rates, Grants, Donations and Other Contributions

Rates, grants, donations and other contributions are recognised as revenues when the local government obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions. Control over assets acquired from rates is obtained at the commencement of the rating period or, where earlier, upon receipt of the rates. Control over granted assets is normally obtained upon their receipt or upon prior notification that a grant has been secured

Non received contributions over which the local government entity has control are recognised as receivables. In respect of uncollected rates, provision is made for amounts considered uncollectable.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the nature of and amounts and amounts pertaining to those undischarged conditions are disclosed in Note 5. That note also discloses the amount of contributions recognised as revenues in a previous reporting period which were obtained in respect of the local government's operations for the current reporting period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(g) Asset revaluation.

The revaluation of roads and storm water drains was performed in 1998 in accordance with a valuation by the Director Planning & Infrastructure. The valuation has been performed on the basis of estimated current market replacement cost.

The revaluation of freehold land was performed in 1998 in accordance with an independent valuation by the Valuer General of the Northern Territory. The valuation has been performed on the basis of current market buying values. The valuation was made in accordance with a policy of revaluation every 3 years.

(h) Financial Instruments

Other than disclosed in note 11(a), the Council does not have any significant credit risk exposure to any single counter-party. Trade debtors and creditors do not bear interest and are expected to be settled within 12 months. The interest rates on rates debtors, bank and loan balances are disclosed in the relevant notes. There is no material difference between the carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities and their respective net fair values.

(i) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to inventory on hand using average cost.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2(a).

OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Total operating revenues and expenses for the reporting period were as follows:

	2000 \$	1999 \$
REVENUE		
Proceeds from disposal of plant and equipment	291,085	226,310
Operating Revenues	13,995,272	13,904,555
	<u>14,286,357</u>	<u>14,130,865</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Book value Plant and Equipment sold	196,506	213,186
Other Expenses	13,716,491	13,552,119
	<u>13,912,997</u>	<u>13,765,305</u>
SURPLUS ON OPERATIONS BEFORE ABNORMAL ITEMS	<u><u>373,360</u></u>	<u><u>365,560</u></u>

NOTE 2(b).

FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2000

Revenues, expenses and assets before abnormal items have been attributed to the following functions
Details of those are set out in Note 2(c)

	Governance	Community Services	Unique Natural & Cultural Environment	Economic Growth	Infrastructure	Organisational Development	Total 2000	Total 1999
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
EXPENSES	502,377	3,657,969	205,334	354,753	6,411,549	2,584,509	13,716,491	13,822,376
REVENUES								
Grants	905,231	1,374,268	67,050	-	974,172	133,500	3,454,221	3,392,451
Rates	-	-	-	461,734	-	7,899,286	8,361,020	7,969,685
Other	2,235	1,716,102	-	5,482	199,269	351,522	2,274,610	2,825,800
Total Revenue	907,466	3,090,370	67,050	467,216	1,173,441	8,384,308	14,089,851	14,187,936
Net change in Assets Resulting from Operations							373,360	365,560
Total Assets							138,456,303	138,701,866

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 2(c).

EXPLANATION OF COMPONENTS OF FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities relating to the Council's functional components reported on in Note 2(b) are as follows:

GOVERNANCE

- Elected Members
- Inter-Government Relations
- Civics
- Policy Development/Management
- Public Relations/Corporate Image

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Community Development
- Community Development - Library
- Community Development – Social Issues
- Community Services - Library
- Community Services - Community Assistance

UNIQUE NATURAL & CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Cultural Development
- Community Involvement & Education
- Unique Environment
- Sustainable Development

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Development
- Projects
- Promotion
- CBD Infrastructure Enhancement
- Town Planning

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Standards
- Infrastructure Plan
- Maintenance & Upgrade Program - Transport
- Maintenance & Upgrade Program – Plant & Vehicles
- Maintenance & Upgrade Program – Town Beautification
- Maintenance & Upgrade Program – Council Buildings
- Maintenance & Upgrade Program – Council Owned Facilities

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Corporate Management
- Management Systems - Technology
- Management Systems - Information
- Management Systems - Communication
- Financial Services
- Human Resource Management
- Customer Service
- Quality Assurance

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 3. BUDGET COMPARISON 2000 ADOPTED ESTIMATES TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURE & INCOMES

	Actual Note (a) \$	Adopted Estimate \$	Variance \$	Variance %	Note
EXPENDITURE					
Governance	500,579	601,221	100,642	17%	(b)
Community Services	3,838,206	3,613,397	(224,809)	-6%	(c)
Unique Environment	203,884	139,268	(64,616)	-46%	(d)
Economic Growth	333,202	484,480	151,278	31%	(e)
Infrastructure	6,621,662	7,265,980	644,318	9%	(f)
Organisational Development	3,231,370	2,868,373	(362,997)	-13%	(g)
	14,728,903	14,972,719	243,816	2%	
INCOME					
Governance	907,466	900,000	(7,466)	-1%	(b)
Community Services	3,090,370	2,853,420	(236,950)	-8%	
Unique Environment	67,050	161,000	93,950	58%	(d)
Economic Growth	467,216	467,064	(152)	0	(e)
Infrastructure	2,097,629	2,132,810	35,181	30%	(f)
Organisational Development	8,484,308	8,248,602	(235,706)	-3%	(g)
	15,114,039	14,762,896	351,143	2%	

- (a) Actual expenditure and income and Adopted Estimates shown in this Note are inclusive of operational and capital expenditure and income, reserve appropriations, costs recovered, loan redemption and transfers to reserve funds, and excludes depreciation.

Council was required to make significant changes to its Budget to compensate for the cash deficit incurred in the 1998/99 financial year. This resulted in reductions in many programs in particular plant & equipment purchases and other capital projects.

The Note 3 comparison compares the final result with Councils Adopted Estimates. Council has through its monthly Budget Review process adopted many variations to ensure that the overall financial position has remained in line with the original estimates. These include transfers of salary votes to more accurately reflect the allocation of staff time to programs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 3. BUDGET COMPARISON 2000 ADOPTED ESTIMATES TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURE & INCOMES

	Additional \$	Savings \$	Explanation
b) Governance			
Public Relations / Corporate Image		52,000	Review not conducted.
Elected Members		70,000	Savings in election expenses and members travelling.
Policy Management	25,000		Additional expenditure Advisory Committees, salary transfer.
General Revenue Grant		5,000	Additional Grant received.
c) Community Services			
Community Needs Analysis	12,000		Salary transfer.
Olympic Torch Relay	122,000		Increased costs of conducting Torch Relay celebrations.
Olympic Torch Relay		47,000	Additional grants & contributions towards Torch Relay.
Kick Start program	15,000		Carry over grant.
Cultural Mapping		32,000	Project not carried out.
Youth Services	18,000		Grant received in prior year.
Alcohol Issues/Survey	76,000		Alcohol Issues Survey costs not provided for in original Budget.
Alcohol Issues/Survey		72,000	Additional Grants & contributions received towards Alcohol Survey.
National Corridors of Green	21,000		Unexpended Grant from prior year.
Toilet Cleaning	25,000		Additional toilet cleaning costs.
Cemetery Income		13,000	Additional income.
ASBUS		36,000	Additional income.
ASBUS		75,000	Saving in operational costs.
Street Sweeping		17,000	Saving in program.
By Laws Enforcement	22,000		Additional salary costs.
Litter Control		31,000	Saving in program.
Waste Collection/Disposal		183,000	Additional income, see note Waste Minimisation.
Waste Collection/Disposal	13,000		Increased collection costs due to additional services offset by income.
Health Services	67,000		All costs now shown under this function.
Health Services	35,000		Reduced Grant due to one position being vacant for majority of year.
Parking Fines	23,000		Reduced income due to challenge to validity of fines.
Library Services	29,000		Additional library salaries.
Library Services		48,000	Special Purpose Grants received.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Additional	Savings	Explanation
d) Unique Natural & Cultural Environment	\$	\$	
Arts Project		26,000	Project not carried out.
Community Involvement	34,000		We Care Week & Open Space strategy.
Natural Heritage Trust	21,000		Expenditure of part NHT funding.
Natural Heritage Trust		65,000	Grant received.
Dump	56,000		Additional cost of Landfill Studies to comply with environmental requirements.
Waste Minimisation	161,000		Income not received offset by additional income waste disposal.
e) Economic Growth			
Grants		30,000	Reduction in Grants paid by Council
Development Plan		9,000	Plan not carried out.
Promotions		80,000	Promotions not conducted.
Lighting		10,000	Savings in lighting costs.
Economic Benefits Study		15,000	Study not conducted.
Litter Bins		10,000	Bins not replaced.
f) Infrastructure			
5 Year Maintenance Plan	56,000		Salary not included in original budget, transferred from other areas.
Cycle tracks maintenance		16,000	Savings in program.
Footpath maintenance		15,000	Savings in program.
Laneways Lighting		15,000	Work not carried out, revote required.
Laneways maintenance	11,000		Additional work carried out on laneways.
Laneway Income		11,000	Transfer of funds held in reserve and sale of laneways to adjoining owners.
Hearne Place Carpark improvements		20,000	Work not carried out.
Sealed roads maintenance		189,000	Program achieved with significant savings, labour component redistributed.
Roads Income		24,000	Transfer of construction deposits / Grants for flood damage in prior years.
Street Lighting Capital projects		20,000	Work not carried out.
Street Lighting charges	71,000		Additional charges due to review of lights by PAWA.
Unsealed Roads		15,000	Savings in program.
Verges		33,000	Savings in program.
Plant Capital Purchases		428,000	Program significantly reduced to fund 1998/99 deficit.
Plant running expenses	66,000		Additional cost offset by savings in workshop operations.
Plant income		30,000	Increased plant usage.
Transfer from reserves		150,000	Transfer to finance purchase of Traxcavator for landfill operations.
Sale of plant	334,000		Reduced income from sales due to reduction in plant replacement program.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Additional	Savings	Explanation
f) Infrastructure Cont.	\$	\$	
Contributions to plant		\$11,000	Contribution by sporting group to purchase of equipment.
Minor plant purchases		\$27,000	Program reduced.
Street Trees		\$85,000	Program revised.
Town Beautification		\$21,000	Program revised.
Alice Springs Child Care Centre	\$256,000	\$171,000	Centre completed, carry over from 1998/99. Additional cost met by Council.
Gap Child Care Centre	\$30,000		Construction of centre commenced.
Gap Child Care Centre		\$27,000	Reimbursement of construction costs.
Workshop Operations		\$88,000	Costs allocated to plant running expenses.
Store	\$30,000		Additional operations cost.
Civic Centre alterations	\$53,000		Alterations to work areas.
Civic Centre Operations		\$61,000	Savings in operational costs.
Civic Centre Maintenance		\$43,000	Savings in maintenance costs, grounds maintenance charged to CBD.
Child Care Centre Maintenance		\$30,000	Savings due mainly to construction of new centres.
Sports Facilities Capital Projects		\$243,000	Projects not funded by Grants or not completed during year.
Sports Facilities Grants	\$131,000		Shortfall in Grant funding.
Sports Facilities Maintenance		\$95,000	Savings in maintenance costs including water consumption due to rains.
Gap Road Drainage		\$20,000	Work not carried out.
Mercorella Drainage	\$31,000		High priority drainage work completed.
Drainage Maintenance	\$59,000		Additional drainage maintenance required due to floods.
Emily Hills Drainage Study	\$39,000		Drainage Study required prior to development partially funded by others.
Drainage Contributions		\$26,000	Contributions to drainage study.
Parks Maintenance	\$104,000		Maintenance costs for Civic Centre charged against CBD.
Pool Capital Expenditure	\$73,000		Urgent capital upgrade and purchase of electronic timing equipment.
Pool Contributions		\$45,000	Contribution to electronic timing equipment.
Pool Operations	\$127,000	\$124,000	Operations conducted by YMCA, revenue receipt by YMCA.
Pool Maintenance		\$20,000	Savings in grounds & building maintenance.
Cemetery		\$13,000	Savings due to upgrade works being delayed.
Public Conveniences Maintenance	\$22,000		Additional toilet maintenance and upgrading.
Dump Rehabilitation		\$25,000	Work not required.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	Additional	Savings	Explanation
	\$	\$	
g) Organisational Development			
Engineering Support	40,000		Cost of additional Engineering Support.
Computer Equipment Purchases		20,000	Savings in equipment purchases.
Hardware Income		100,000	Transfer to finance Total Asset Management System.
Software Development & Support	40,000		Additional software purchases and support.
ISDN Link		10,000	Costs less than anticipated.
Y2K Compliance		11,000	No major issues encountered.
Bank Fees	20,000		Additional merchant fees due to higher volume of payments by credit card.
Financial Consultancy	11,000		Cost of Review of 1998/99 Financial Result.
Financial Management	55,000		Temporary staffing to assist in implementation of GST and Budget.
Interest on Investments		40,000	Additional interest on investments.
Grant		45,000	Grant for redevelopment of Financial Reporting Systems.
Insurance		33,000	Costs not provided for in original budget.
Rating & Valuations	190,000		Legal fees for collection, and rates write off on PBI's.
Legal Fees Income		20,000	Additional income contra to above.
Interest on Outstanding Rates	20,000		Reduced interest income due to higher collections.
Rates		66,000	Additional rate income.
Purchasing	10,000		Additional purchasing costs.
Human Resources		58,000	Savings in recruitment, training & administration costs.
Customer Service	42,000		Additional costs reception, executive assistance and records management.
Planning		10,000	Quality Assurance project not completed.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4. RATES

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
(a) Rates Levied		
General Rates		
General Rates Levied	7,899,286	7,523,188
Local Rates		
Town Centre Improvement	428,436	406,090
Todd Mall Promotion	33,298	31,258
Rate Income	8,361,020	-
Hearne Place Car Park	9,016	8,587
Gillen Footpath	-	562
Total Rates Levied	8,370,036	7,969,685
LESS: Rates Remitted	72,928	109,360
	8,297,108	7,860,325
ADD: Penalty for late payment	41,809	45,142
Recoverable Legal Costs	31,117	16,333
Total Net Rates Levied	8,370,034	7,921,800
(b) Rate Arrears		
Arrears at beginning of year	575,409	492,717
Total Net Rates levied for year	8,370,034	7,921,800
LESS: Cash collections	8,378,003	7,839,108
Total Arrears at end of year	567,440	575,409
LESS: Rates deferred (refer Note 11)	97,749	151,564
Current Rate Arrears at End of year	469,691	423,845

Interest at 13.95% per annum is levied on overdue rates.

Note: Hearne Place rates are not included as income in the Operating Statement for the year to 30 June 2000 as the amount is applied directly against the Deferred Asset – Hearne Place Development.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 5(a).

GOVERNMENT GRANTS PROVIDED AND USED FOR THE YEAR

Grants which were received during the reporting period and which were obtained on the condition that they be expended on Specific Purposes were:

	2000 B/F	Provided	Used	1999 B/F	Provided	Used
Community Assets						
AS Child Care Centre	94,517	174,700	269,217		150,300	55,783
Environment						
Benchmarking Consultancy				20,000		20,000
Waste Recycling	4,719			4,719		
We Care Week		2,000			4,000	4,000
NHT Projects		64,900	21,874			
Health						
Health Devolution	47,773	130,819	178,592	47,773	191,092	191,092
Healthy Choices		25,000	1,188			
Human Services						
Riding for the Disabled		29,500	29,500		15,000	15,000
Community Info Centre		32,000	32,000		32,000	32,000
Youth Services	19,000		19,000	26,200	19,000	26,200
Alcohol Survey		62,000	62,000			
Recreation						
Sporting Facilities (DSR)	44,991			44,991		
Traeger Park Mounds	4,845		4,845		35,500	30,655
Traeger Park Security	14,500				14,500	
Anzac Oval Lights	6,800		6,800	6,800		
Greening Subsidy	10,860		10,860	17,500		6,640
Library Operation		465,541	465,541		484,215	484,215
Library Acquisitions					12,450	12,450
Library Needs Analysis		5,000			5,000	5,000
Library Indexing Advocate		20,000	4,677			
Library Thesaurus		22,615				
Rugby Facilities				45,375		45,375
Albrecht Oval - Turf Wicket	340		340	340		
Traeger Park Carpark		20,000				
Rhonda Diano Oval Shade		5,000				
Flynn Oval Shade		5,000	140			
Olympic Torch Relay Mini		1,400	1,400			
Olympic Torch Relay		31,500	31,500			
Transportation						
ASBUS Operation		514,623	514,623		479,730	479,730
Road Grant		646,919	646,919		640,405	640,405
Natural Disaster 1996 Flood		7,380	7,380			
LATM Grant					14,344	14,344
Undoolya/Winnecke LATM	7,336		1,612		60,000	52,664
Undoolya/Lindsay R/about					90,000	90,000
Leichhardt Terrace Enhance	77,498		77,498		80,000	2,502
Unallocated						
Finance Reporting (DLG)		45,000				
NT Grants Commission		905,231	905,231		897,165	897,165
	333,179	3,216,128	3,292,737	213,698	3,224,701	3,105,220

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 5(b).

OTHER GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND USED FOR THE YEAR

Other Grants and Contributions which were received during the reporting period and which were obtained on the condition that they be expended on specific purposes were:

	2000			1999		
	B/F	Provided	Used	B/F	Provided	Used
Environment						
AS Collection					15,000	15,000
Graffiti Removal					10,000	10,000
Health						
Mosquito Control	1,935	1,921	2,125	1,935	1,816	1,816
Human Services						
Pioneer Cemetery	3,383			14,303	800	11,720
Recreation						
Araluen Special Projects				11,573		11,573
Sports Facility Development	469,157	37,827	57,450	392,091	38,606	5,000
Unallocated						
Pensioner Concessions		88,500	88,500		80,342	80,342
Construction deposits	510,889		143,143	478,983	72,283	40,377
Torch Relay Contributions		32,350	32,350			
Roller Contribution		11,197	11,197			
Timing Equipment		40,385	40,385			
Tidy Town Award		150	150			
River Drainage Improvement		12,000				
Emily Hills Drainage Study		8,763	8,763			
Emily Hills Drainage Study		5,000	5,000			
	985,364	238,093	389,063	898,885	218,847	175,828
TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	1,318,543	3,454,221	3,681,800	1,112,583	3,443,548	3,281,048

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 5(c).

GRANTS UNEXPENDED

Grants and Contributions which were recognised as revenues during the reporting period and which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specific purposes but had not been applied in that manner as at the reporting date were:

Government Grants	2000 \$	1999 \$
Community Assets		
Alice Springs Child Care Centre		94,517
Environment		
Waste Recycling	4,719	4,719
We Care Week	2,000	
Natural Heritage Trust	43,026	
Health		
Health Devolution		47,773
Healthy Choices	23,812	
Human Services		
Youth Services		19,000
Recreation		
Sporting Facilities	44,991	44,991
Traeger Park Mounds		4,845
Traeger Park Security	14,500	14,500
Anzac Oval		6,800
Greening Subsidy		10,860
Library Needs Analysis	5,000	
Library Indexing Advocate	15,323	
Library Thesaurus	22,615	
Albrecht Oval – Turf Wicket		340
Traeger Park Carpark	20,000	
Rhonda Diano Oval Shade	5,000	
Flynn Oval Shade	4,860	
Undoolya/Winnecke LATM	5,724	7,336
Leichhardt Terrace Urban Enhancements		77,498
River Drainage Improvements	12,000	
Finance Reporting (DLG)	45,000	
	<u>268,570</u>	<u>333,179</u>
Other Grants and Contributions		
Health		
Mosquito Control	1,731	1,935
Human Services		
Pioneer Cemetery	3,383	3,383
Recreation		
Araluen Special Projects		
Sports Facility Development	449,534	469,157
Unallocated		
Construction Deposits	367,746	510,888
	<u>822,394</u>	<u>985,363</u>
TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS	<u>1,090,964</u>	<u>1,318,542</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 6. DISPOSAL OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Proceeds from Sales	291,085	226,310
LESS: Book value of assets sold	196,506	213,186
Surplus/(deficit) on disposals	<u>94,579</u>	<u>13,124</u>

NOTE 7. DEPRECIATION

Depreciation expense for the reporting period was charged in respect of:

Buildings	117,013	157,860
Plant and Equipment	565,056	555,851
Furniture and office equipment	109,726	96,626
Other Infrastructure	246,091	254,001
Roads	1,197,775	1,180,466
Stormwater Drainage	366,132	365,839
	<u>2,601,793</u>	<u>2,610,643</u>

NOTE 8. OTHER EXPENSES

Other Expenses for the reporting period included:

Auditor's fees	13,345	12,500
Elected Members fees	104,018	105,300
	<u>117,363</u>	<u>117,800</u>

NOTE 9. ABNORMAL ITEM

Abnormal item recorded in 1999 represents:-

A further increase in the Provision for Doubtful Debts by \$113,000 to \$510,000 to provide for the write-off of rates levied on Town Camps following the withdrawal of Council's appeal.

A provision of \$100,000 has also been made for the payment of the defendant's legal fees following withdrawal of the appeal.

Abnormal item recorded in 2000 represents:-

A further increase in the Provision for Doubtful Debts by \$30,000 to \$540,000 to provide for the write-off of rates levied. This is in addition to the \$100,000 set aside for legal fees.

A loss of \$66,000 arising from the termination of operating leases over computer equipment

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 10. RESERVES SUMMARY

	SPECIFIC RESERVES							TOTAL
	Accumulated Funds	Assett Replacement	Sports Facility	Developer Contributions	CBD Toilet Contn	Assett Revaluation Reserve	Economic Development Reserve	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	12,258,015	500,000	469,157	510,889	100,000	121,072,150	178,233	135,088,444
Adjustment to Accumulated Funds Refunds	(32,612)							(32,612)
Suplus for Period	277,360							347,360
Transfers	190,999	250,000	(19,623)	(143,143)	(100,000)		(178,233)	0
CLOSING BALANCE	12,763,762	750,000	449,534	367,746	–	121,072,150	–	135,403,192

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 11. RECEIVABLES

	2000 \$	1999 \$
Current		
Rates Outstanding (Refer Note 4)	469,691	423,845
LESS: Provision for doubtful debts (a)	540,000	510,000
	(70,309)	(86,155)
Garbage Charges Outstanding	99,093	97,945
Sundry Debtors accounts outstanding	132,330	115,313
	231,423	213,258
Total current	161,114	127,103
Non-Current		
Rates deferred (b)	97,749	151,564
Total Receivables	258,863	278,667

(a) Provision for Doubtful Debts

A provision of \$540,000 has been made for doubtful rate debts. The Council has accepted a decision by the courts that Town Camps are not rateable and it is not possible to determine at this stage the total amount of rates to be refunded and other fees to be charged to the Council. The Council has taken a prudent approach to this matter in these accounts.

(b) Rates Deferred

Where land is zoned and re-valued as R2 R3 B1 B3 or SU pursuant to the Alice Springs Town Plan, but is used and occupied for single residential purposes, application may be made for deferral of that portion of the rates levied which equates to the difference between rates as levied and those rates which would have been levied had the zoning of the subject land been consistent with the use of the land. Should the land use change, or should there be a sale, a transfer of the land or other change in circumstances, the deferments granted during the previous five (5) years will become immediately repayable. Rates deferred longer than 5 years are written off. The Council's policy No. 49 relates.

	2000 \$	1999 \$
Rates deferred at beginning of year	151,564	132,904
Rates deferred during current reporting period	40,184	29,271
Deferrals written off	(40,403)	(22,833)
Deferrals made due and adjustments	(53,596)	12,222
Total Rates deferred at end of year	97,749	151,564

NOTE 12. CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

	2000 \$	1999 \$
Current		
Creditors	421,992	474,503
Provision for Legal fees	100,000	100,000
Provision for Annual Leave	484,481	525,471
Provision for Long Service Leave	77,738	76,833
	1,084,211	1,176,807
Non - current		
Provision for Long Service Leave	384,134	347,594
Total Creditors and Provisions	1,468,345	1,524,401

Recognition of the provision for Long Service Leave has altered from last year to more accurately reflect the status of the current versus non-current provisions. This change does not alter the overall provision for Long Service Leave.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 13. TRUST DEPOSITS

The council operates a Trust Fund in accordance with Sections 157 and 159 of the Local Government Act.

Details of the amounts and purposes of monies held in trust are set out in Schedule 1 to these Notes. Trust deposits represent refundable deposits held by the Council.

NOTE 14. SUMMARY OF FIXED ASSETS

		2000	1999	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land				
at independent valuation of current market buying values as at 30 June 1998	16,641,100	16,641,100	16,641,100	16,641,100
Buildings				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	2,796,477		1,970,473	
at independent valuation of deprival values as at 30 June 1996	11,410,960		11,410,960	
	<u>14,207,437</u>		<u>13,381,433</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	539,635	13,667,802	422,622	12,958,811
Major Plant				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	2,945,465		2,168,673	
at independent valuation of deprival values as at 30 June 1996	593,406		981,121	
	<u>3,538,871</u>		<u>3,149,794</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	1,244,328	2,294,543	983,015	2,166,779
Furniture & Equipment				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	297,329		134,656	
at independent valuation of deprival values as at 30 June 1996	407,280		407,280	
	<u>704,609</u>		<u>541,936</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	367,660	336,949	257,934	284,002
Roads				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	1,451,548		1,363,808	
at Council's valuation of current market replacement cost as at 30 June 1998	61,772,012		61,772,012	
	<u>63,223,560</u>		<u>63,135,820</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	2,378,241	60,845,319	1,180,466	61,955,354
Drainage Works				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	113,900		82,860	
at Council's valuation of current market replacement cost as at 30 June 1998	36,530,340		36,530,340	
	<u>36,644,240</u>		<u>36,530,340</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	731,971	35,912,269	365,839	36,247,361
Other Community Infrastructure				
at cost (acquired after 30 June 1996)	2,892,453		2,745,845	
at independent valuation of deprival values as at 30 June 1996	2,530,531		2,530,531	
	<u>5,422,984</u>		<u>5,276,376</u>	
less: accumulated depreciation	840,708	4,582,276	594,617	4,681,759
		<u>134,280,258</u>		<u>134,935,166</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 15. COMMITMENTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
At the reporting date, the Council had entered into contracts for the following capital expenditure:		
- Infrastructure	-	320,000
- Plant and Equipment	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>320,000</u>

These expenditures are due for payment within one year.

NOTE 16. DEFERRED ASSETS

Hearne Place Car Park Development.

Expenditure incurred in 1987/88 for redevelopment of Hearne Place has been deferred to take account of the Council's Policy to recover such redevelopment costs from an annual Hearne Place Local Rate levied on parcels of land which adjoin the Hearne Place Car Park. The value of Local Rates raised for 1999/2000 for this purpose was \$9,016.

Development Cost	92,870	92,870
Less Local Rates prior years	(75,859)	(67,272)
Less Local Rate revenue current year	(9,016)	(8,587)
Balance at 30th June	<u>7,995</u>	<u>17,011</u>

NOTE 17. TERM LOANS

Loans at commencement of year	1,819,207	2,269,047
New Loan	66,000	
LESS: Principal repayments	(543,377)	(449,840)
Balance at reporting date	<u>1,341,830</u>	<u>1,819,207</u>
Loan Liability		
- Current	626,532	515,385
- Non - Current	715,298	1,303,822
	<u>1,341,830</u>	<u>1,819,207</u>

For details of Long Term Loans refer to Schedule 2 to these notes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 18. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO OPERATING RESULT

		2000		1999
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating Result		277,360		252,560
Decrease(Increase) in Accrued Income	(61,102)		(24,401)	
Decrease(Increase) in Inventory	12,742		29,709	
Decrease(Increase) in Receivables	(64,011)		(160,536)	
Decrease(Increase) in non-current Receivables	53,813		(18,660)	
(Decrease)Increase in Provision for Doubtful Debts	30,000		113,000	
(Decrease)Increase in Creditors and Provisions	(92,596)		(9,220)	
(Decrease)Increase in Accrued Expenses	44,500		(16,521)	
Decrease(Increase) in Prepayments	(14,269)		5,256	
(Decrease)Increase in Amounts Received In Advance	—		—	
Depreciation	2,601,793		2,610,643	
(Profit)Deficit on Sale of Assets	(28,579)		(13,124)	
(Decrease)Increase in Trust Deposits	(33,990)		11,753	
(Increase)Decrease in Deferred Asset	9,016		8,587	
Government Grants Capital	(231,232)		(457,094)	
Increase (Decrease) in Non-Current Provisions	36,540	2,262,625	83,759	2,163,151
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>2,539,985</u>		<u>2,415,711</u>

NOTE 19. RECONCILIATION OF CASH

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Council considers cash to include cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Cash	3,678,183	3,302,649
	<u>3,678,183</u>	<u>3,302,649</u>

Money Market Investments earned interest at 6.0% on average during the year.

NOTE 20. TAX STATUS

The activities of the Council are exempt from Taxation excepting for Fringe Benefits Tax on benefits provided to Employees.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 21. LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2000 \$	1999 \$
(a) Rentals charged to operating result	167,869	160,503
(b) At the reporting date the Council had the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases (these obligations are not recognised as liabilities).		
Not longer than one year	160,692	163,015
Longer than one year and not longer than two year	123,167	115,984
Longer than two years and not longer than five years	83,416	133,440
Longer than five years	–	
Minimum lease payments	367,275	412,439

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 1 TRUST FUND & RESERVES

		Balance 30/6/1999 \$	Receipts \$	Council Contribution \$	Payments \$	Balance 30/6/2000 \$
RESERVES						
Asset Replacement Reserve	9312	500,000	500,000	–	250,000	750,000
CBD Toilet Reserve	9313	100,000	–	–	100,000	–
Economic Development Reserve	9314	178,233	–	–	178,233	–
Developer Contributions for Works	9317	510,889	–	–	143,143	367,746
Sports Facilities Development Reserve	9316	469,157	37,827	–	57,450	449,534
Asset Revaluation Reserve	9318	121,072,150	–	–	–	121,072,150
		122,830,429	537,827	–	728,826	122,639,430
TRUST DEPOSITS						
Cleaning Deposits	9442	2,640	2,240	–	850	4,030
Equipment Security	9443	2,395	3,330	–	1,270	4,455
Contract Retention & Security	9444	74,935	22,334	–	29,375	67,894
Miscellaneous	9446	25,376	8,676	–	768	33,284
Grants for Administration by Council	9441	28,179	46,749	–	52,444	22,484
		133,525	83,329	–	84,707	132,147

SCHEDULES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 2 LONG TERM LOANS

Purpose of Loan		Interest Rate % (Per annum)	Date Received	Loan Term (Years)	Frequency of Repayments	Amount of Loan \$	Balance Loan 1/7/1999	Balance Loan 30/6/2000
Consolidated Loan Civil Works 33		14.50	1/6/90	12	Six - Monthly	3,686,062	1,597,057	1,176,056
Road, Oval, Building Construction	34	12.73	30/6/91	10	Six - Monthly	519,000	160,129	84,999
Road Con Traffic Lights	36	10.23	18/6/92	10	Six - Monthly	155,000	62,021	42,767
Computer Equipment	38	8.219	23/9/99	2	Monthly	66,000	-	38,008
							1,819,207	1,341,830

Note: Loan #33 has a maturity date of 30/11/2002, it is Council's intention to repay the balance of \$135,000 on 31/05/2002 to finalise the loan.