

The 2000/2001 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 2001.

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 Growth**
- 5. Infrastructure**
- 6. Organisational Development**

The sections of the report are numbered according to the layout of the goals in the Annual 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.

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Vision

A diversity of people proud to live in a clean, safe, 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

Working with the local community to achieve a quality lifestyle for all

Values

A Quality Service for the Alice Springs Community

- **Teamwork**
Working together to achieve common goals.
- **Honesty and Accountability**
Open and transparent governance and work practices.
- **Communication**
Open and effective communication that clearly promotes understanding, recognition and participation.
- **Quality**
Continual improvement of the quality of our services.
- **Responsive Service**
Providing timely, useful and friendly service.
- **Respect**
Respecting each other's differences with tolerance, friendliness and humour.
- **Satisfaction**
An enjoyable and productive workplace.

Pride in Our Town





Mayor's Message

The Ninth Council, elected just a month before this financial year, has achieved a smooth transition to office and has been able to provide the local government leadership expected by the community.

One of our first decisions was to maintain rates at their previous level rather than raising them. Over the year the Council has been able to properly assess the programs in place and evaluate the Council resources required to meet the needs of the community while enhancing the town's quality of life.

We have devoted additional resources to areas needing more attention such as combating litter, providing shade in public places and ensuring that we have a vibrant central business district.

The Council, Northern Territory Government agencies and the community are working together on a number of projects that will improve the quality of life, the economy, and the built and natural environment of Alice Springs. We look forward to continuing and building upon this positive relationship.

The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Tangentyere Council and the Town Council was a step forward for community relations in Alice Springs. Working together, is what "tangentyere" means in the Arrernte language and that is what the partnership is all about. While it is a cooperative attitude that will make this agreement work, it is the outcomes that will change people's lives.

We will work to create opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged members of the community. The agreement names specific areas that the councils will work on such as youth development, employment, training, environmental health, substance abuse, animal management, public transport, waste management, storm water drainage and flood control. I thank the community, Aldermen, Council staff and members of advisory committees for their commitment to a better future for Alice Springs.

Fran Erlich
Mayor



Chief Executive Officer's Message

This annual report covers the first full year in office of the Ninth Alice Springs Town Council elected in May 2000.

During this time Council reviewed the previous strategic plan and adopted a new plan with an even stronger focus on quality of life issues and dealing with fundamental issues like litter and improving the visual amenity of the town.

The Council oversaw the implementation of stage two of the Waste Management Strategy which included the introduction of a user pays system at the Landfill.

Council introduced a program to provide much needed shade in our parks. This will be done over several years as part of a program to revitalise our parks and reserves.

The relationship with Tangentyere has resulted in a range of projects being developed such as the Todd River Couch Reduction Project, the Town Camp Roads Upgrade and the Greenwaste Project which will commence in the next financial year. These projects will improve our quality of life while providing Tangentyere workers with opportunities for training and further employment.

The provision of infrastructure such as roads, sporting facilities and parks is now being coordinated through upgraded asset management software systems that also allow for better reporting on the progress of projects.

The Council has continued to support a range of community activities through grants and in kind support for events such as the Alice Springs Show, the Masters Games, Finke Desert Race and many others. A highlight was the West Indies team playing on Traeger Park Oval, the only pitch in the Northern Territory rated for international cricket.

The negotiation of the Council's new Enterprise Agreement with staff will result in significant changes to work practices and allows for more flexible rostering of staff. It means that services such as litter patrols and street sweeping can be provided across more hours each day.

Much work has gone into the development of Council's new website and corporate image which will be launched later this year.

I commend the enormous efforts of Elected Members and staff throughout the year. We faced many challenges and had many achievements which are outlined in this report.

Nick Scarvelis
Chief Executive Officer



The Elected Council



Back row: CEO Nick Scarvelis, Alderman Geoffrey Bell, Alderman Bob Corby, Mayor Fran Erlich, Alderman 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.

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Committee Representatives at 30 June 2001

Council Standing Committees

Finance and Management Committee

Chairman Alderman Koch

Alternate Chairman Alderman Jones

Planning, Environment & Infrastructure Committee

Chairman Alderman Naismith

Alternate Chairman Alderman Jones

Economic and Community Development Committee

Chairman Alderman Smith

Alternate Chairman Alderman Jones

Council representation on other committees

Access Advisory Committee

Alderman Smith

Alice in Ten Arid Zone Environment Committee

Mayor Erlich

Alice in Ten Built Environment Committee

Alderman Beale

Alice in Ten Convention Centre Committee

Alderman Koch

Mayor Erlich

(Alternate Member)

Alice in Ten Mining Committee

Alderman Koch

Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee

Alderman Smith

Alice in Ten Alice / Ayres Rock Synergy Committee

Alderman Naismith

Alice in Ten Todd and Charles River Committee

Alderman Bell

Alice Alcohol Representative Committee

Alderman Habib

Araluen Advisory Committee

Alderman Beale

Australia Day Committee

Alderman Naismith

Central Australian Masters Games Committee

Mayor Erlich

Central Australian Tourism Industry Association

Mayor Erlich

Alderman Beale

(Alternate Member)

Cemetery Committee

Alderman Corby

Alderman Habib

Alderman Bell

Central Australian Regional Development Committee

Alderman Mostran

Community Grants Sub-committee

Alderman Mostran

Alderman Naismith

Development Consent Authority

Alderman Jefford

Alderman Mostran

Alderman Koch

(Alternate Member)

Local Government Association NT

(Mayor plus 1 other)

Alderman Mostran

Alderman Naismith

(Alternate Member)

National Heritage Trust Selection Committee

Alderman Koch

Open Space Reference Group

Alderman Beale

Alderman Habib

Alderman Mostran

Road Safety Council

Alderman Habib

Sports Facilities Advisory Committee

Alderman Jones

Swimming Pool Advisory Committee

Mayor Erlich

Alderman Beale

Tangentyere Steering Committee

Alderman Beale

Tidy Town Committee

Mayor Erlich

Alderman Jones

Todd and Charles River Trustee Committee

Alderman Bell

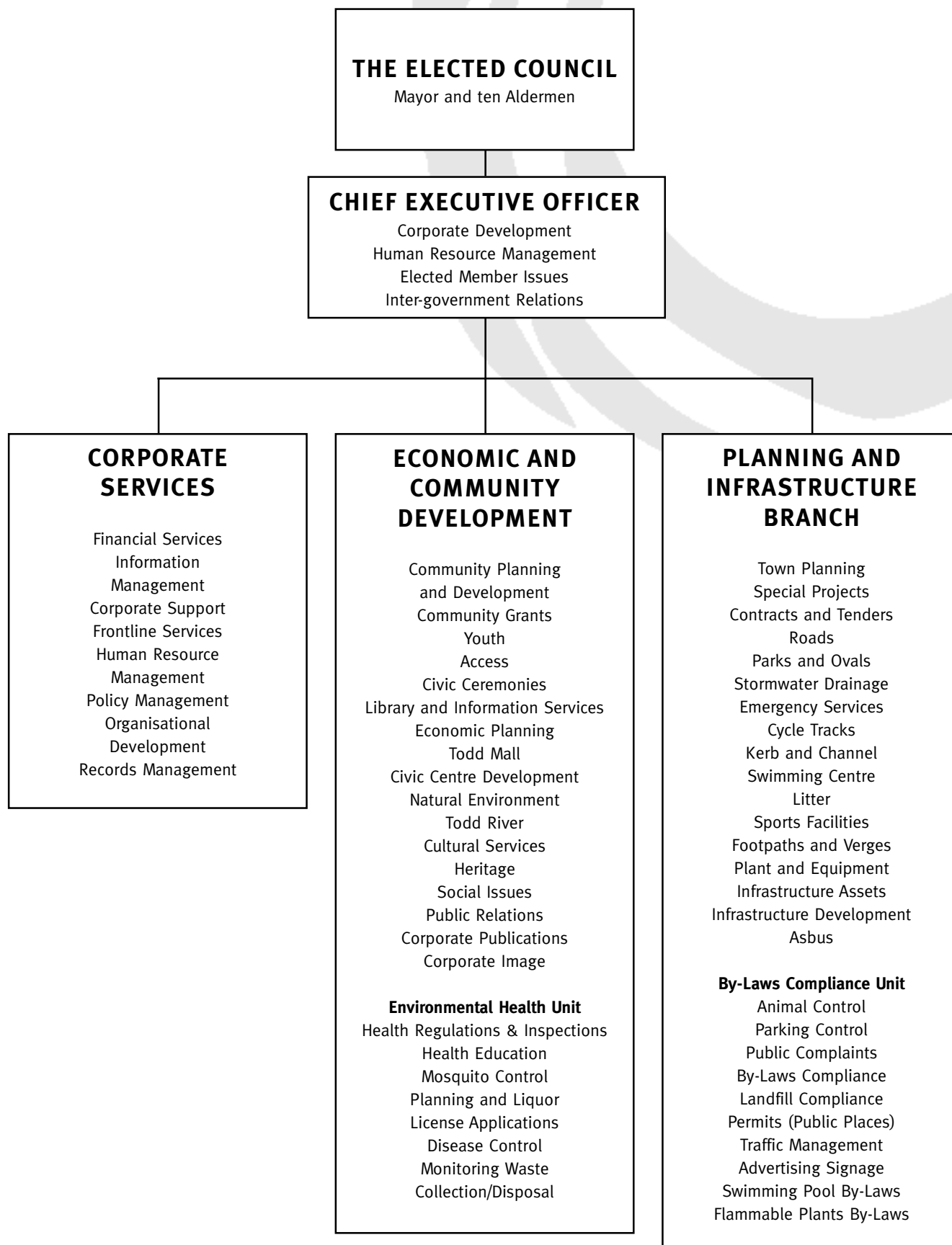
Alderman Smith

Waste Management Advisory Committee

Alderman Corby



Organisational Structure



The Council's Goals

The Council's Annual plan is divided into six goals:

1. Governance Goal:

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

2. Community Services Goal:

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

3. Unique Natural and Cultural Environment Goal:

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

4. Economic Growth Goal:

Alice Springs has a diverse, sustainable and growing economy.

5. Infrastructure Goal:

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

6. Organisational Development Goal:

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

These goals are not mutually exclusive so a project such as the Waste Management Strategy crosses all six goals in demonstrating good governance, in affecting the community service at the landfill, in reducing waste it benefits our unique natural and cultural environment, in creating new business opportunities it helps economic growth, it is a major infrastructure project and it is part of the Council's organisational development.

Therefore this report on the performance of the Council's 2000/2001 Annual Plan features some projects in a different context across several relevant goal areas.



1. Governance

Goal:

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

The Ninth Alice Springs Council took office in June 2000 following elections in May.

The Council has improved governance by increasing community participation in decision-making and policy development, improving leadership and accountability, and ensuring a sound policy and planning framework.

1.1 Policies and Procedures

The policies of the Council guide the actions of the staff in carrying out their roles in serving the community.

To assist them to do this, policy management was improved by the:

- Overhaul of financial management practices to ensure better, more comprehensive reporting on financial activities for the elected members and staff.
- The development of the Memorandum of Understanding with Tangentyere Council provides a framework for policies relating to a range of joint projects the Councils work on together.
- Ongoing review of Council's policies, with completion planned for next year.
- The adoption of policies for the management and landscaping of verges.
- The development of policies for the management of parks and open space under Council control.
- The adoption of and implementation of a Landfill Management Plan and a Waste Reduction Strategy that has resulted in major changes to how waste is disposed of and charged for at the Landfill.
- The publication of a new 12 page Council newspaper giving an overview of Council activities in a user friendly format.
- The introduction of an opportunity for the public to meet the elected members at 6.30 pm before Council meetings.
- The better promotion of the regular Council meetings and the public question time before them to encourage more residents to attend.
- The preparation of a communications plan including strategies for promoting Council initiatives.
- The commencement of a new corporate image for the Council.
- The promotion of Council's services at important events such as Alice Springs Show, Central Australian Expo and the Alice Environment Fair.
- The commencement of the redevelopment of the Internet site to give the community access to a wider range of information about the town and Council services. It links people on the web locally, nationally and internationally to web pages describing the attractions, culture and history of Alice Springs and Central Australia.
- The updating of printed information sheets on Council functions and roles such as animal controls, landfill management and recycling.
- The changes at the landfill involved major advertising campaigns to inform the public about free passes for residents and charges for commercial users.

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:

- Review of the operations and staffing of the By-Laws Unit resulting in a greater emphasis on litter patrols and better resourcing of animal management and river camping patrols.
- Review of the policy for the deferment of the payment of rates in cases of financial hardship.
- Review of the Environmental Health Unit.
- Review of the needs of Library users.

1.2 Council and Community Communication

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



Tangentyere Treasurer Geoff Shaw and President Eli Rubuntja with Council CEO Nick Scarvelis and Mayor Fran Erlich signing an agreement in February 2001 for the Town Council to manage the reconstruction and maintenance of Aboriginal Housing Association (town camp) roads around Alice Springs.

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.

Community consultations resulted in a number of reports to assist the decision making process. These include:

- 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 development of a structure for introducing facility agreements with sporting bodies.

The Council's Waste Management, Sports Facilities and Access Advisory Committees have been very active and played a major role in advancing projects and agendas in their portfolio areas.

The Council received delegations and petitions on a number of issues including the future of Council parks, the flying of the Aboriginal Flag outside the Council and support for a gay and lesbian festival.

Civic Activities

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

- The Masters Games
- The Mayor conferring citizenship on a total of 67 people, an increase of five over the previous year
- The visit of crew members of the HMAS Arunta for the Henley-on-Todd and other engagements
- The celebration of the Council's 30th anniversary
- The visit of the West Indies Cricket team
- Receptions for visiting dignitaries.



Alice Springs benefits in having sporting facilities of a consistently high standard across a great range of sports. In November 2000 the West Indies team put on a fine display of cricket at Traeger Park on the only international standard pitch in the NT.

1.4 Management of the Council Business

The Council's Strategic Directions Beyond 2000 provided direction for the Council and formed the basis of a new strategic plan developed in workshops from October 2000.

Initiatives in managing the Council's business included:

- The introduction of monthly progress reports on the Council's works program.
- A range of Council forums to assist policy development by Elected Members on complex issues such as alcohol availability and park management.

A total of 373 reports were submitted to the Council's three Standing Committees for their consideration during the year.

These reports included:

- 135 to the Finance Management Committee
- 120 to the Planning, Environment and Infrastructure Committee
- 118 reports to the Economic and Community Development Committee
- In addition the Council received monthly Mayoral and CEO reports.

1.5 Elected Member Development

Following local government elections in May 2000, a series of briefings on the different Council program areas extended into this reporting year for the new Elected Members.

Budget and financial briefings were a special focus at the start of the year in preparation for the rates declaration. Special workshops were held during the year on strategies to deal with the issues of litter, communications and alcohol.

A two-day strategic planning workshop was held in October and development of the plan continued over the next six months.

1.6 Partnerships with Government and other agencies

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, the Local Government Minister, the Minister for Central Australia, senior staff and heads of Government Departments.
- Involvement of both Elected Members and Officers in the Alice in Ten Project which has resulted in a number of collaborative projects including a Central Area Masterplan and the Todd River Couch Reduction Program. The Council, Government, and

other representative groups regularly meet as members of Alice in Ten project committees. The overall project is another way of maintaining cooperation at the territory and local government levels and focusing on issues concerning the community.

- 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.

Options for the redevelopment of the Council's buildings and site were explored and a decision is expected in the next financial year.

The Commonwealth Government provided almost \$900,000 for the new Gap Community Childcare Centre building in a major upgrade for childcare in Alice Springs. After lobbying by the Council, the Commonwealth agreed that the existing building could become part of the Gap Youth Centre.

In another major capital works project for the town the Council will upgrade the streetscape and landscape the riverside at the northern end of Leichhardt Terrace next year with a Commonwealth "Roads to Recovery" grant of \$600,000.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Town Council and Tangentyere Council resulted in joint projects which are creating employment and training opportunities for some of the most disadvantaged in the community. These projects include the Todd River Couch Reduction Program, the upgrading of Town Camp roads and the development of an organic waste recycling service. The projects have attracted NT and Federal Government funding of \$1.2 million.

The three-year Todd River Couch Reduction Program is a joint project of the Council, the Department of Lands Planning and Environment, Tangentyere Council and other stakeholders. The Council will contribute \$41,000 to the project this year and provide on the job training for Tangentyere work crews.

The Council was successful in winning a \$777,000 project to restore and upgrade Town Camp roads under an agreement with Tangentyere Council. The project is funded by the Commonwealth Government and will result in significant employment and training opportunities.

The Council received significant support from the NT Government in a range of other joint projects such as the Emily Hills Drainage project, the public transport service Asbus, the development of verge policies and the provision of better lighting in public areas to improve public safety.

The Council also attracted NT government funding of \$70,000 to support the development of community parks.

The Council advocated on behalf of the community on important issues such as alcohol misuse, litter and the development of a youth skate park.

2. Community Services

Goal:

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

Throughout the year the Council focused on a number of key areas including alcohol related harm and social issues, litter, developing an access plan and providing youth with a number of grants to assist in their development.

Mosquito monitoring and control was a priority of the Environmental Health Unit in February and March following heavy rains.

In response to community concerns the Council upgraded its response to litter with education and enforcement programs and built better partnerships with business to reduce the problem.

2.1 Community Development

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

Community Partnerships and Advocacy

Council contributed to policies and projects to improve the town's quality of life through involvement in the Alice in Ten Project which brings together government and stakeholder representatives on a range of quality of life issues.

In July 2000 a local survey of attitudes to alcohol misuse prepared for the community-based Alice Springs Alcohol Issues Forum was presented to the Licensing Commission and released for public comment and debate.

After considerable community input, the elected members developed a position paper detailing a multi agency approach to address harms from the misuse of alcohol. Council representatives on the Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee also worked on solutions to the alcohol issue through discussions with stakeholder groups.

As a result the Council was successful in receiving \$29,500 from the NT Government to develop alcohol awareness advertising in conjunction with the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA). These were under development with assistance from CAAMA at the end of the reporting year.

In addition to the employment and civic works outcomes of the Memorandum of Understanding with Tangentyere Council, the partnership is also focusing on ways to better deal with public transport issues, dog management on town camps, environmental health, litter and illegal

camping.

A footpath construction training program with Arrernte Council in 1997/98 has resulted in Arrernte Council CDEP winning the Council footpath contracts in the years since then.

To support the networking of community groups in Alice Springs, substantial resources were put into developing an extensive Internet public access databases of organisations and contacts. Council staff also prepared webpages on a range of community resources.

Access

Council adopted an Access Policy and Action Plan in November 1999.

Initiatives to improve access in Alice Springs during the year included:

- A Library Access Needs Survey resulting in a new access ramp at the circulation desk, new doors to the Alice Collection and purchase of a walking frame and lightweight shopping trolley for disabled users.
- The commissioning of new disability-access compliant buses to replace the Asbus fleet. The buses have a low floor level and an extending ramp for wheelchair access.
- The planning of a mobility map of the CBD showing features including footpaths that are awkwardly steep for wheelchairs. Infrastructure staff began a survey of CBD footpaths for the map to be produced in the next financial year.

Youth

Council worked with the YMCA Xtreme Sports Committee and youth on a plan for a skate park next to the swimming pool complex. The Council supported a series of workshops attended by stakeholders, including skaters and parents, about the role of the park and its feasibility. In addition to a Council grant, funding for the park is being sourced from the Northern Territory Government and ATSIC.

The Council assisted an Alice Springs teenager to sail on the Young Endeavour Youth Sail Training Ship and also assisted two Arrernte Youth to sail on HMAS Arunta as part of the ship's youth program.

Provision was made in the community website for the addition of youth web pages to provide Alice Springs youth with a forum for their views. The site will be designed



by local students to allow for a wide range of youth interests.

Two trainees were employed in the By-Laws Unit and the Library.



A weekend of workshops about a new skate park in June 2001 was organised by the YMCA Xtreme Sports Youth Advisory Committee with Council support.

Council Grants Assisting the Community

The Council's Community Grants provide support for a range of community projects.

There are four types of grants:

- Community Support Grants of up to \$750 are offered twice a year
- Community Assistance Grants of up to \$1500 offered year round
- Community Development Grants of up to \$5000 offered year round
- Araluen Community Access Grants of up to \$2000 offered year round.

As part of assisting the community to be active in its own development the Council allocated:

- \$12,227 to 17 incorporated community organisations in Community Support Grants.
- \$3,300 to two organisations in Community Development Grants.
- \$4,900 to five organisations in Community Assistance Grants.
- \$32,000 to 28 community organisations in Araluen Community Access Grants enabling recipients to use the exhibition and theatre spaces of the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment.

The Council also supported the Alice Springs Town Band with a grant of \$3000.

Supporting Major Events

The Council supports a range of community events such as the Alice Springs Show, the Central Australian Expo,

the Masters Games, the Henley on Todd Regatta, the Finke Desert Race, the Corkwood Festival, the Territorian Dinner and visits by the crew of the HMAS Arunta through grants and/or in-kind support.

The Council allocated over \$35,000 for the Master's Games in October on top of the ongoing expenditure on Council's sporting facilities. The event was estimated to have generated \$4.5 million worth of economic activity according to a report by Ernst and Young.

To help create a bi-annual Alice Springs Festival, the Council gave a seed grant of \$10,000 towards the employment of a coordinator. The Mayor represented the Council on the organising committee of the festival, which was to be held in September 2001.

Council assisted in the planning for the Yeperenye Federation Festival, to be held in September 2001, through the Government Coordination Committee and other meetings. The Council also pledged substantial in kind assistance for the event.

Reconciliation

To promote reconciliation the Aboriginal Flag is now flown each day next to the Council flag.

The Mayor gave speeches at the Reconciliation Day and the National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration rallies held on the Town Council lawns.

Council is creating a strong working relationship with and better understanding between it and Indigenous people through:

- Joint projects with Tangentyere Council
- The Grog Stop Project with CAAMA
- The Footpath Contract with Arrernte Council
- Meetings between Elected Members and Native Title Holders and representatives of Tangentyere and Arrernte Councils.

Library Community Education and Information

The Community Education and Information Team implemented the library's annual promotions plan, presented regular Children's Storytime sessions and ran the Children's Holiday Programs. A large mascot for the library was under development at the end of the year as part of the promotion plan.

The team provided Internet and Email training on library computers for members of the community including special sessions for women. Twelve sessions were held per fortnight over six months with four people in each session.

The Community Information Centre continued development of the computer-based Community Information Directory listing a range of community services and organisations. It and the community calendar of events were also posted on the Alice Springs Internet site.

Tours of the Alice Spring Collection, featuring the history of Central Australia, were conducted as part of Heritage Week activities.

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 children, staff organised a range of quality library programs for the children 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:
- Story telling and singing on a Saturday morning in NAIDOC Week
- The Christmas party
- Science Week activities with the CSIRO
- Yamba's visit for Territory Day
- Support for the Nestle Young Writers Competition.



A foam mountain created by the Fire Service is a popular part of the Library's Summer Holiday Program. The program aims to encourage literacy and stimulate young minds by providing a wide range of themed activities including outdoor games and excursions.

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

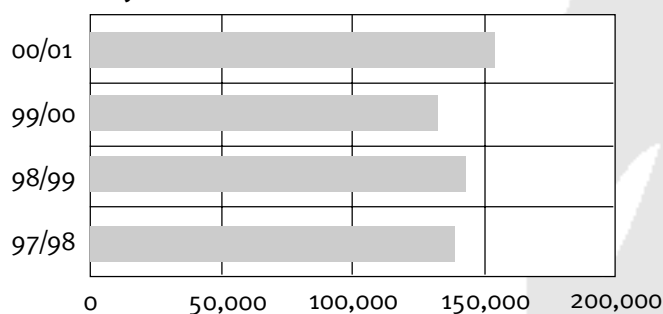
To ensure Library services continue to be relevant to the community the Library has:

- Reviewed the operations of the Community Information Centre to give prompt and accurate information to the community.
- Completed part one of the Library's Collection Development Policy.
- Commissioned a five-year Strategic Plan for its services following a \$30,000 grant from the Northern Territory Library and Information Service (NTLIS). The Strategic Plan will examine options for the development of the Library in terms of how the service should be delivered, staff, material and infrastructure needs, regional needs and funding.
- Completed a Library Needs Analysis with a Development Grant of \$10,000 from the Northern Territory Library and Information Service. The study included a round of public consultations in September 2000 on what the community wants from the Library.

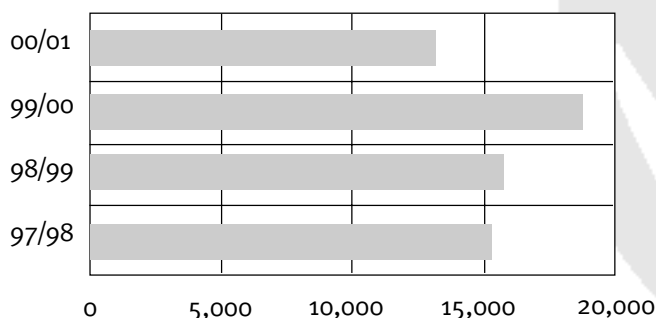
During the year the Library has developed its service through:

- Adding four new Internet access computers taking to eight the number available to clients.
- Making more information available through the Council Internet site.
- Developing the database of articles in early editions of the Centralian Advocate. The project funded by the Council and a Federation Grant has resulted in articles from the paper's first edition in 1947 to 1951 being indexed. It provides the community with an invaluable tool for historical research on the town.
- Widening the range of resources available in non-book form through spending \$6000 on spoken word tapes, \$7,400 on the music collection and \$3000 on videos.
- Development of database to help desk staff answer common questions.
- Speeding up weekly mail outs to clients through the purchase of a letter-folding machine.
- Streamlining the system for notifying clients of overdue items.
- Staff training in Verbal Judo to give them strategies in handling difficult clients.
- Improving the turn around time for interlibrary loans.
- Purchase of items suggested by clients.
- Improving disabled access to the library, as detailed previously under Access.
- Improved comfort of clients through an upgrade of the airconditioning system.

Library Loans



Library Membership



The membership fall is due to the deletion of members who had been inactive for many years.

Childcare Facilities

As part of its services to support families the Council provides and maintains the facilities at four privately-run childcare centres in Alice Springs.

Building projects at the child care centres have been project managed by the Council's Planning and Infrastructure Branch who have coordinated the design, documentation and construction phases.

Achievements during the year included:

- A new building for the Gap Community Child Care Centre, on a site donated by the Council, was 50% completed at year's end. The Commonwealth provided almost \$900,000 for the building designed by Tangentyere Design. The centre will be able to commence operations in November 2001.
- A major facelift for the Braitling Neighbourhood Child Care Centre was planned and a submission from the Council to the Commonwealth Government for \$325,000 to cover the work was awaiting approval.
- A licensing survey of the Eastside Neighbourhood Child Care Centre was completed and Territory Health Services provided \$10,000 to fund necessary improvements. A Commonwealth grant for the upgrade of the centre's kitchen was also finalised.

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:

- A greater focus on litter with an officer being rostered each weekday to deal with litter education and enforcement.
- 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 cooperated with Tangentyere staff on a range of issues including controlling the numbers of stray dogs. The largest operation during the year, carried out in March, resulted in 79 unregistered sick dogs being put down as they were unsuitable for rehoming by the RSPCA.
- The appointment of a new By-Laws Manager, a new By-Laws Officer and a trainee.
- A very popular display at the Central Australian Expo on dog handling.
- A continuing public education campaign on animal control through appearances on Yamba's Playtime on Imparja TV and visits to schools.
- 635 parking infringement notices were issued.
- 1407 annual dog registrations.
- 315 lifetime dog registrations.

Traffic Management

New pedestrian safety measures in Gap Road were completed with a Commonwealth Black Spot Road grant of \$150,000. Four new refuge style crossings along Gap Road and a new school crossing near Traeger Avenue were installed.

An angled slow point was successfully trialed at the southern intersection of The Links and Hillside Gardens to address community concerns about speeding traffic.

Environmental Health Services

The Environmental Health Unit performs a range of functions involved in maintaining the community's public health. These include mosquito monitoring and control, inspections and issuing permits required under the Public Health Act and regulations, health education, advice on planning applications, liquor license applications and disease control.

The Unit's Environmental Health Officers regularly inspect eating houses, barber shops, hairdressers, boarding houses, commercial accommodation and food vending vehicles for compliance with Health Regulations. Officers issue permits required under the Food Act to businesses and people preparing food for the public.



The Environmental Health Unit's Phillip Ah Chee and Fiona Smith readying the Mosquito Fogger for action.

The Council undertook an extensive review of the service during the year as the basis for renegotiating a new service agreement with Territory Health Services.

With the introduction of new national food safety standards the Unit conducted a series of training courses for people in the industry to make them aware of the new requirements. The legislation applies to any food prepared for sale, whether in a commercial kitchen or at home.

Council officers also worked with individual organisations through the free Food Safe Training Program. The program, developed by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health, ensures businesses have systems in place to keep the food they serve hygienic, in accordance with the new legislation. The course was completed by 124 food handlers during the year and four businesses achieved Food Safe accreditation for their premises.

The unit also promoted the NT Healthy Choices annual award, an accreditation scheme that recognises the role that licensed premises can play in promoting healthier foods, quitting smoking and moderating alcohol intake.

Three licensed premises in Alice Springs earned the award during the year by completing a series of steps outlined in a booklet available from the Council's Environmental Health Unit. The award process includes completion of the Food Safe course.

Mosquito control is a core function of the Council's Environmental Health Unit and includes setting mosquito traps weekly and larval surveys throughout town to monitor mosquito numbers.

Once the number of potentially disease-carrying adult mosquitoes caught in the traps exceeds the threshold determined by Territory Health Services, the Environmental Health Unit begins fogging the Ilparpa swamp area and treating other breeding spots with insecticide. Regular fogging of the swamp was carried out from February to March using a new fogging machine purchased during

the year. Additional mosquito monitoring was conducted during this time following notification from the Communicable Diseases Department of the Territory Health Service that Murray Valley Encephalitis was detected in local sentinel chickens.

The Council is continuing to work with the Power and Water Authority to address the mosquito breeding problems in Ilparpa Swamp adjacent to the sewerage treatment plant.

The Unit conducted a public awareness campaign about the dangers of mosquito bites. It also urged residents to deny mosquitoes any breeding sites and emphasised the dangers of stagnant swimming pools. The Unit also worked



The Council has doubled the amount of litter picked up in suburban areas with the introduction of litter patrols on quad bikes.

with Tangentyere Council on environmental health issues and assisted with workshops on issues such as litter, waste water and dog health.

Litter Strategy

Litter is a major problem of concern to Council and the community. As a response to community concern, Council developed a comprehensive Litter Strategy during the year covering prevention, education, clean up and compliance.

Council sought assistance from the community in reducing litter throughout town and the Mayor and CEO met with businesses to promote the strategy.

The Council reviewed the placement of bins and type of bins needed to ensure people can find one if they want to.

Daily patrols by By-Laws Officers focusing on litter across town were introduced to enforce the anti-litter message. Other Council staff also assisted by requesting people to pick up litter they dropped, in particular around the Council lawns.

More resources went into the Council's litter clean up patrols. New litter patrols by staff riding quad bikes doubled the amount picked up in suburban areas.

By Laws Officers were talking to people about litter and handing out plastic garbage bags to groups during their river patrols as a means of promoting the responsible disposal of litter.

The Council developed further strategies to overcome the litter problem and illegal dumping in the bush with the NT Government and other stakeholders through the Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee.

The Council funded the Arid Lands Environment Centre to conduct a container deposit trial at the Alice Springs Show to demonstrate how the scheme could help in reducing litter throughout the town.

Asbus

The public bus service, Asbus, is contracted to a private company Buslink, which operated the service within the parameters determined by the Northern Territory Government subsidy administered by the Council.

Council commenced a review of the Asbus routes during the year based on results from the Community Needs Analysis.

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 85 burials, four less than the previous year.

Staff carried out general maintenance and minor works on Alice Springs' three cemeteries during the year.

The Council formed a special Cemetery Sub-Committee in August 2000 to review plans for the Alice Springs Garden Cemetery. It considered the future landscaping and management of the cemetery and was overseeing development of a masterplan for the cemetery at the year's end.

Street Cleaning & Sweeping

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

Todd Mall was looking fresher each morning by the end of the year. A new McDonald Johnston 605LT Street-Sweeper Truck entered Council service in April 2001. Due to superior performance of the new sweeper and a doubling of the number of times a week the Todd Mall is mechanically swept, there is a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the Mall.

Waste Collection

The Council's waste collection contractors, Wastemaster, have maintained high service standards and competitive costs. They provide an efficient and effective weekly kerbside collection service in the urban areas, completing

471,588 individual collections over the year.

Rural residents south of Heavitree Gap were surveyed about the introduction of a kerbside collection service in June 2000. The majority of respondents rejected the service and rural residents continued to make their own arrangements for waste disposal.

Waste Disposal

This year has seen the implementation of the main features of the Landfill Management Plan and a Waste Reduction Strategy developed in the previous year.

Steps in the process included:

- Identifying environmental problems at the site.
- Developing a system of environmental management and monitoring.
- Listing materials that are inappropriate for tipface disposal and developing alternative disposal methods.
- Developing best practice guidelines for Landfill operations.
- Developing a waste minimisation strategy.
- Developing the Landfill as a recycling hub and controlling stormwater run off from the site.

The installation of a weighbridge at the Landfill during the year enabled the Council to introduce a user pays system for commercial users and to make proper assessments of the volumes of and type of waste entering the system.

A tender for a tip shop recycling service was won by the Bowerbird Enterprises Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of the Arid Lands Environment Centre. At year's end after six months operation the enterprise was very successful.

Acquisition of a Landfill Licence required under NT Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1988 has not been achieved. Final steps in gaining the licence, involving collection of a range of data, should be completed in the next financial year.

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.
- Cleaning of ablution blocks up to four times a day where necessary.

Grant Administration

The Council administered grants on behalf of various unincorporated community organisations within the town.

3. Unique Natural and 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 and recycling were a focus for the year.

Funding from the Natural Heritage Trust for environmental initiatives also supported the employment of the Environment Officer who has contributed to a range of Council programs.

The achievements of a number of strategies are listed below.

3.1 Advocacy

Through the range of Alice in Ten Committees and other forums Council was able to contribute to the development of policies and projects to improve our natural and cultural environments.

The Council managed projects during the year on the protection of remnant native vegetation in Alice Springs and for assisting community plantings of native species in our parks. These were funded through a \$140,000 grant over two years from the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage Trust.



A working bee organised by residents to clear weeds at Gosse Street Community Park. The park has also benefited from Conservation Volunteers Australia planting trees, spreading mulch and working with young BMX'ers to create a BMX track.

Funding under the Natural Heritage Trust provided for:

- Native vegetation management and conservation at Dixon Road, Gosse Street and Kurrajong Parks.
- A new irrigation system at Kurrajong Community park.
- In conjunction with Council's Environment Officer, Elected Members and staff, the development of a policy on providing shade for our parks and public spaces and work towards developing a policy on maintaining and upgrading our road verges.

Cultural Activities

As detailed under the Community Services Goal, the Council supported a range of local cultural activities through the Araluen Access Grants. It also sponsored public events with grants and in kind support.

The Alice Springs Festival and the Yeperenye Federation Festival both to be held in September 2001 were major new initiatives the Council was committed to supporting. They will provide local artists with new opportunities to show case their talents.

3.2 Community Education and Involvement

Council was involved in a number of initiatives to encourage community involvement in and better understanding of environmental issues facing our community.

These included:

- Support for the Cool Communities Program through the participation in the project steering committee. The project aims to help households reduce their energy usage and production of greenhouse gases.
- Providing community education on services such as recycling and water conservation through community workshops, the development of printed information sheets and media advertising and interviews.
- The Council contributed to development of a brochure on flood precautions and a map of bicycle paths.
- In conjunction with changes to the Alice Springs Landfill such as the introduction of the Bowerbird Tip Shop, the Council conducted a public awareness campaign about waste minimisation and the introduction of charges for commercial dumping. These were featured at public events such as the Alice Environment Fair in Weedbuster Week and at the Alice Springs Show.
- The development of guidelines for volunteer



coordination agencies, such as the Australian Conservation Volunteers, when working with community groups and community-managed parks.

- Two public weed identification workshops.
- A "weed swap" at the Alice Environment fair in October.
- Development of a weed identification booklet with financial support from Normandy Mines and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Cities for Climate Protection Program

The Council is working to assess the town's green house emissions through the Cities for Climate Protection Program. The first milestone in the project, estimating greenhouse emissions will be achieved in the next reporting year. The second milestone is to identify opportunities to reduce emissions. Council examined environmental and quality of life issues in a series of workshops in 2000 about the Local Agenda 21 program.

Alice in Ten Desert Knowledge Project

The Desert Knowledge Project to develop the skills and know-how associated with living in an arid zone environment. The Desert Knowledge Consortium, which includes the Council, government, business and indigenous contributors, has developed a number of projects.

3.3 Support for Business Initiatives

To help develop environmentally sustainable businesses during the year the Council has:

- Entered into a joint venture with Tangentyere Council for processing green waste into commercial mulch. The project has attracted a \$315,000 Commonwealth grant from Environment Australia.
- The Council's restructure of the Landfill has created business opportunities for recycling, tipface recovery of items.
- The Council investigated a project to plan future tourist investment and business development in the region. The Tourism Futures Project is a joint project with the CSIRO, Northern Territory Government and the Central Australian Tourism Industry Association (CATIA). The project will analyse tourism trends and model how tourism and other businesses might develop in Central Australia.

3.4 Alice in Ten Todd and Charles River Committee

The Todd River Couch Reduction Project is a partnership coordinated through the committee and funded by stakeholder groups represented on it.

The project is collaboratively run by Tangentyere Council and the Town Council. It provides training and employment opportunities while protecting the river's natural environment.

Native Title

Native Title Holders have been involved in consultations over:

- The Todd River Couch Reduction Project
- The riverside landscaping in the Leichhardt Terrace upgrade plan
- The widening of the Schwarz Crescent Causeway.

Open Space Plan

As part of the Open Space Plan new shade shelters for our parks were under design at the year's end. New shade guidelines developed as part of the Council's Shade Policy for local conditions will guide the design and placement of the shelters.

The Council also developed a community consultation plan for involving the community in the future of our parks. A round of precinct meetings in the new year will seek the community's views on the priorities for our open spaces.



The new Bowerbird Tip Shop across from the Landfill Weighbridge is open from 10 am to 4 pm seven days a week.

3.5 Waste Reduction

During the year the Council introduced the following initiatives to reduce the waste stream:

- Implementation of a user pays system for commercial clients of the Landfill
- Development of a Tip Shop and tip face salvaging service in partnership with the Arid Lands Environment Centre.
- Progress towards establishing a greenwaste business with Tangentyere Council.
- Community education on recycling and promotion of its benefits.

4. Economic Growth

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 spheres of government 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 featuring economic performance indicators and the development of the Alice Springs website www.alicesprings.nt.gov.au.

The Council reprioritised its economic growth focus during the year with its main efforts now being directed through Alice in Ten Projects, the Central Australian Tourism Industry Association, the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce and the Central Australian Regional Development Committee. The Committees bring together government, business and community stakeholders concerned with regional economic development.

4.1 Economic Planning

The Council helped to establish the Central Australian Regional Development Committee (CARD) and provided input to the development of the Committee's business plan.

This Council is working in conjunction with the range of Alice in Ten Committees and others also concerned with aspects of economic growth in our region.

These include:

- The Alice in Ten Desert Knowledge Committee
- The Alice in Ten Alice / Ayres Rock Synergy Development Committee
- The Alice in Ten Convention Centre and Destination Committee
- The Alice in Ten Mining Service Centre Committee
- The Alice in Ten Built Environment Committee
- The Alice in Ten Quality of Life Committee
- The Alice in Ten Event Destination Committee.

Council contributed financial and in kind support for a range of community events such as the Masters Games with the effect of stimulating economic activity.



A Tangentyere Council worker poisoning couch as part of the three-year Todd River Couch Reduction Program, a joint project of the Town Council, Tangentyere Council and the NT Government.

4.2 Supporting Employment and Local Skills Development

As outlined under Community Services, the relationship with Tangentyere Council has resulted in major training and employment opportunities for participants of the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) working on several projects. The Todd River Couch Reduction Program, the Town Camps Roads Program and the Organic Recycling Project resulting from the partnership have a strong focus on skills transfer and training.

To stimulate new businesses the Council also supported the steering committee for a feasibility study of a business incubator project. The study was coordinated by the Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce.

4.3 Promotion of Economic Development

Council's actions to promote economic development included:

- The Community Website developed by the Council with community assistance. The site features extensive links to business activities. The redeveloped site is due to go online in the next financial year.
- A presentation folder for use by the Council and other organisations promoting the town was under development at the end of the year.
- The Todd Mall Traders Map was revamped. The map is a useful tool for tourists and was distributed to Todd Mall traders and visitors such as participants in the Masters Games.
- Council supported the Chamber of Commerce's Central Australian Expo with a \$4000 grant and a

display about the Council's role.

- Businesses in Todd Mall were promoted through television advertising funded by the Mall Promotions Levy. The Council also facilitated two Thursday night late trading and Mall Markets on the two Thursdays before Christmas 2000.



The Council display at the Chamber of Commerce's Central Australian Expo.

4.4 Town Planning

The Council contributed to the development of a Central Area Masterplan through the Alice in Ten Built Environment Committee with a financial contribution of \$30,000.

Council also developed plans for a major upgrade of the northern end of Leichhardt Terrace.

The Council is able to comment on town planning issues when considering the monthly reports on development proposals from the Northern Territory Government's Development Consent Authority. This ensures that Elected Members remain informed of development in the town and that community concerns are reflected in officer reports and presentations to the Authority.

5. Infrastructure

Goal:

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

Council continued to provide a high level of service to the Community through its generous provisions of sporting facilities, a quality road network, childcare facilities, public toilets, parks and reserves to name a few.

The impressively designed, state of the art Gap Childcare and Community Centre commenced construction this year and is expected to be completed in November 2001.

A new weighbridge at the Landfill marked a significant change in the charging system and operations at the Landfill. The weighbridge has facilitated the introduction of a fairer user pays system for waste disposal in Alice Springs. It also provides a means of recording valuable information on the quantities and types of waste entering the Landfill. This information will be used in monitoring the impact on waste reduction initiatives being undertaken by Council.

5.1 Asset Management Development

To ensure more effective management of the community resources the development of the software-based total asset management system has continued during the year.

The Council has successfully introduced the following software to support asset management:

- Built Asset Management System (BAMS)
- Total Asset Management System (TAMS)
- Datum Total Information Management System (DTIMS)
- Mapinfo
- Microsoft Project.

Staff have added more detail to the asset register about the condition and location of Council buildings, roads, plant, equipment, drainage and signs.

A system for ordering new work projects was designed and implemented as well as a system for scheduling and monitoring work force operations using the Microsoft Project program.

The Council also introduced a system of five-year rolling plans for maintaining and developing facilities and infrastructure. In the reporting year Council endorsed five-year plans for roads, the swimming pool, buildings, footpaths and cycle tracks.

Sports Facilities Agreements

As a result of a comprehensive review of the management

of Councils sports facilities by the Sports Facilities Advisory Committee a standardised facility lease agreement has been developed. The agreement for each facility covers obligations and service standard expectations. All sporting bodies using a Council facility will be required to enter into a lease with the Council. Completion of the project is awaiting the appointment of a Sport and Recreation Officer expected in the new financial year.



Council staff graduating from the Centralian College Workplace Assessors Course. Trevor Packham, Henry Fenton, Justin Harrison, Dave Perry, Brian Mellor, Fred Dougherty, Jan Bennett and Mark Bartholomuesz with the Mayor.

Training for Infrastructure Staff

To achieve a better skilled, more efficient outside workforce the Council has:

- Given Council staff new opportunities to improve their skills and career paths through training accredited under the Local Government National Competencies and Training Package.
- Signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in July with Centralian College as the provider of the Local Government National Competencies and Training Package. The agreement establishes a training partnership to be known as the Regional Local Government Training Consortium offering courses for local government staff from the southern NT. The Council will provide trained workplace assessors and some on the job training at Council facilities for staff from remote councils. The College will plan, deliver and oversee all training and assessment of the courses.
- Employed a Workplace English, Language and Literacy (WELL) Coordinator to assist council staff with their studies.



Alice Springs Art Collection

As custodian for the community of over 310 art works, the Council is funding the ongoing conservation and documentation of the collection. During the year conservation work was performed on works by Albert Namatjira and his mentor Rex Battabee. The Alice Springs Art Collection is housed at the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment and various works are included in exhibitions there while others require conservation work before they can be put on display.



An Arrernte Council footpath crew from left Dan Kelly, Mario Guiseppe in bobcat, Daniel Kenafake and Calvin Bloomfield. Arrernte Council crews have been building new concrete paths in Alice Springs for the Council for the last four years.

5.2 Implementing the Capital Works Program

A highlight of this year's capital works program is the new Gap Neighbourhood Centre complex mentioned under Child Care in the Community Services Goal. The project progressed according to budget and will open in the new financial year.

Council vehicles, plant and equipment were replaced as required by tender on a schedule balancing capital cost against asset depreciation.

The Footpath Construction Program under contract to

Arrernte Council operated on a revised schedule with some work to be completed in the next financial year. Upgrades of sporting facilities, part of the Council's commitment to providing first class sporting venues, have included:

- The kiosk serving softball and junior baseball at Jim McConville Oval was redone with a total makeover of the kitchen including new tiles, shelving and a kitchen sink. The Council also extended the storage room and built new paths for better, wet weather use of the area.
- The kiosk serving cricketers at Rhonda Diano Oval now has a larger storage room and the roof at the kiosk window was extended by a metre to provide more shade for customers.
- Improved car parking inside Traeger Park.
- Providing more seating for spectators at Flynn Oval and at the Ross Park Netball Courts.

5.3 Implement Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgrade Programs

Achievements included:

- Extra maintenance was carried out on kerbs, channels, parks, reserves and verges due to heavy rains from January to April causing extra vegetation growth and local flooding depositing debris.
- A fire hazard reduction program in the Todd River was completed. Storm water drains were widened and the sides flattened to allow them to be mowed to reduce the fire danger from long grass. Access to the river by fire tenders was also improved.
- Council upgraded facilities at the Council owned Swimming Centre and signed a management agreement with the YMCA.
- A study of the drainage requirements of the Emily Hills rural area was completed. Council accepted its recommendations as the basis for an innovative sheet flow drainage system for a new residential development in the area.
- A detailed inspection of Council owned assets formed the basis for a program of required maintenance works. The works were then prioritised using an agreed standard methodology.
- Road resealing work costing \$250,000 was successfully completed on Council roads during the year. The DTIMS program was used for prioritising road works. This system assesses the condition of the roads and can forecast the annual budgets for ten years needed to ensure that the assets are maintained in good condition.
- A quick response plan for dealing with community complaints was developed and a register of complaints and actions taken was established.
- Service standards were maintained on a range of projects during the year as outlined in the Community Services section of this report.

6. Organisational Development

Goal:

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

6.1 Management and Leadership

To improve communications in the Council more regular meetings between senior staff and managers are now being held as well as more branch and unit meetings.

Unit and branch meetings also assist in involving staff in planning and decision making.

Staff participated in a range of conferences and seminars locally and interstate. Staff also attended courses and seminars related to the latest developments in the Authority accounting software that Council introduced two years ago.

As part of the Council's program of continuous development the new Council conducted an extensive review of the Strategic Plan in October 2000. This resulted in changes to the Council's vision, mission statements and goals. In the new strategic planning process the Council made a commitment to addressing litter problems and a greater role in town and regional development. It also set as a priority the sourcing of funds for major projects.

A new Management Plan devised to support the revised Strategic Plan included:

- Fortnightly meetings of the managers group to plan and deal with Council-wide issues.
- Changes to the chart of accounts used to report financial information related to the goal areas.

6.2 Performance Standards

The renegotiation of the Council's Enterprise Agreement, which expired in November 2000, resulted in significant changes to work practices allowing more flexible rostering of staff, a program of continuous improvement and a progressive workplace culture.

A service agreement with the Territory Health Service covering the operations of the Environmental Health Unit was being negotiated at the end of the reporting year.

Staff initiated a range of customer service projects focussed on service issues such as community consultation and organisational communications.

6.3. Information Technology

Achievements in the Council's Information Technology (IT) management included:

- The installation and implementation of hardware and software systems at the Landfill Weighbridge to manage new waste management charges.

- Maintenance of the Authority Software package and upgrades as new modules of the package were introduced.
- Provision of a timely help desk service for staff.
- Replacement of the two major network servers.

6.4 Electronic Communications

The upgrade of the Community Website resulted in significant training requirements, technical monitoring and purchases of new software such as Dreamweaver, Acrobat Distiller and Adobe desktop publishing programs. Staff were trained in preparing information for the Website and were provided with continuous technical support by the IT Section.

The IT Section also upgraded staff skills in the use of E-mail and electronic messaging through a series of workshops and the posting of email tips in the FAQ section of the Outlook program's public folders.

6.5 Financial Reporting

The Financial Management Project involving a major review of the Council's financial reporting issues resulted in:

- A better understanding of the financial reporting needs of users including Elected Members and staff.
- A new Chart of Accounts based on the Authority package allowing for linking of new master accounts, sub-accounts and activity codes.
- More flexible options being available for reporting.

6.6 Human Resources

In the human resources area during the year the Council:

- Renegotiated the Enterprise Agreement allowing for a 3% salary increase each year for three years, new disciplinary procedures and more flexible rostering.
- Reviewed job descriptions for most employees.
- Continued development of an induction manual.
- Regularly recruited new staff to address the high rate of personnel turnover.
- Performed annual performance reviews of staff.
- Developed appropriate training packages for staff.

2000/2001
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

2000/2001
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

**ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001
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ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001
OFFICER'S STATEMENT

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 2001 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 **26th November 2001**

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**Deloitte
Touche
Tohmatsu**

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 2001 as set out on pages 3 to 26. 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.

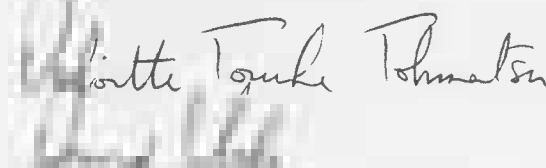
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit opinion

In our opinion:

- a) The prescribed accounting, other records, accounting manual and registers required to be kept by the Council have been properly kept;
- b) 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;
- c) The financial statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the prescribed requirements and are in agreement with the accounts and records; and
- d) The financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Council and the results for the year ended 30 June 2001;
- e) The Council has complied with the provisions under the Act in respect of the conduct of its financial affairs; and
- f) The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU
REGISTERED ACCOUNTANTS



D J CLOKE
PARTNER

Alice Springs

22nd

November 2001

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

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	\$	2001 \$	\$	2000 \$
REVENUES					
Rates - levied	4	8,488,696		8,361,020	
User Charges		2,250,356		1,883,920	
Interest		332,978		260,066	
Other		35,522		36,045	
			11,107,552		10,541,051
Government grants for:	5				
Specific Purposes		2,430,564		2,310,897	
Other Purposes		927,123		905,231	
		3,357,687		3,216,128	
Other grants & contributions	5	140,936		238,094	
			3,498,623		3,454,222
Surplus on disposal of assets	6		46,141		94,579
TOTAL REVENUE			14,652,316		14,089,851
LESS EXPENDITURE					
Employee Costs		5,237,267		4,895,016	
Materials & Operational Costs		4,886,618		5,864,206	
Interest on long term loans		160,566		238,113	
Depreciation	7	2,844,545		2,601,793	
Other	8	120,955		117,363	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			13,249,951		13,716,491
SURPLUS ON OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR			1,402,365		373,360
BEFORE ABNORMAL ITEMS					
Less - Abnormal Items	9				(96,000)
Surplus on Operations			1,402,365		277,360
Add/(Less) Revaluation of Assets	1(g)		2,770,565		-
Add Accumulated Funds previous year			12,693,762		12,258,015
Adjustment to Accumulated Funds					(32,612)
Transfers from reserves	10		32,970		450,594
LESS: Transfers to reserves	10		(2,928,047)		(259,595)
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AT YEAR END			13,971,615		12,693,762

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	\$	2001 \$	\$	2000 \$
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at Bank and on hand		5,633,089		3,678,183	
Receivables	11	463,757		161,114	
Prepayments		22,820		21,801	
Stores, Materials and Loose Tools		98,651		106,117	
Accrued Income		76,700		103,086	
			6,295,017		4,070,301
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors and Provisions	12	1,064,382		1,084,211	
Accrued Expenses		209,084		180,789	
Trust Deposits	13	171,055		132,147	
Term Loans	17	585,838		626,532	
			2,030,359		2,023,679
NET CURRENT ASSETS			4,264,658		2,046,622
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Fixed Assets	14	135,665,032		134,280,258	
Deferred Assets	16	-		7,995	
Receivables	11	94,019		97,749	
			135,759,051		134,386,002
LESS NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Term Loans	17	134,775		715,298	
Provisions	12	382,812		384,134	
			517,587		1,099,432
NET NON-CURRENT ASSETS			135,241,464		133,286,570
TOTAL NET ASSETS					
			139,506,122		135,333,192
MUNICIPAL EQUITY					
Specific Purpose Reserves	10	125,534,507		122,639,430	
Accumulated Funds	10	13,971,615		12,693,762	
TOTAL EQUITY			139,506,122		135,333,192

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL
MOVEMENTS IN COUNCIL EQUITY ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

		2001		2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purpose Funds				
Balance at start of reporting period		12,693,762		12,258,015
Balance from Revenue Statement	1,402,365		277,360	
Revaluation of Assets	2,770,565		-	
Adjustment to Accumulated Funds	-		(32,612)	
Transfers from Reserves	32,970		450,594	
Transfers to Reserves	(2,928,047)		(259,595)	
		1,277,853		435,747
Accumulated General Purpose Funds		13,971,615		12,693,762
Specific Purpose Reserves				
Asset Replacement Reserve	750,000		750,000	
Developer Contributions Reserve	367,746		367,746	
Sports Facilities Contributions Reserve	509,046		449,534	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	123,842,715		121,072,150	
Swimming Pool Development Reserve	65,000			
Total Specific Purpose Reserve Funds		125,534,507		122,639,430
TOTAL COUNCIL EQUITY		139,506,122		135,333,192

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	2001	2000
		\$	\$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
<u>Payments</u>			
Employee Costs	(5,217,954)	(4,829,633)	
Materials and Operational Costs	(5,539,235)	(5,932,708)	
Interest on long term loans	(160,566)	(244,078)	
Other	(537,037)	(149,975)	
Total Payments		(11,454,792)	(11,156,394)
<u>Receipts</u>			
Rates levied	8,774,774	8,378,003	
User charges	1,362,272	1,846,840	
Receipts from Customers	756,559		
GST paid to Authorities	300,150		
Interest	332,978	263,733	
Other	318,359	36,045	
Total Receipts		11,845,092	10,524,621
Grant Income			
Government Grants - Recurrent Purposes	2,544,257	2,933,665	
Other Grants and Contributions	52,133	238,093	
Total Grants		2,596,390	3,171,758
Net Cash generated from Operating Activities	18	2,986,690	2,539,985
Cash Flows From Investing Activities			
Purchase of Plant and Equipment	(1,501,317)	(2,143,391)	
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment	88,704	291,085	
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		(1,412,613)	(1,852,306)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities			
Government Grants - Capital Purposes	1,002,046	231,232	
Loans Advanced/ (Repaid)	(621,217)	(543,377)	
Net Cash from Financing Activities		380,829	(312,145)
Net Increase (Decrease) In Cash Held		1,954,906	375,534
Cash At Beginning Of Reporting Period		3,678,183	3,302,649
Cash At End of Reporting Period		5,633,089	3,678,183



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

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. 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 uncollectible.

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 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.

(g) Asset revaluation

Freehold land is valued on the basis of current market buying values. The revalued amount is in accordance with a valuation by the Valuer General of the Northern Territory. The last triennial valuation of all municipal land was carried out in 2000.

Roads and storm water drains are valued on the basis of estimated current market replacement cost. The revalued amount is in accordance with a valuation by the Director Planning & Infrastructure. The valuation has been performed .

Buildings, Major plant, furniture and equipment and other community infrastructure are valued on the basis of deprival values. The revalued amount is in accordance with an independent valuation by the Australian Valuation Office.

The Art Collection is valued on the basis of current market values. The revalued amount is in accordance with an independent valuation in 2000 by Accredited Valuer William Mora.

(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.

(j) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST. Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables. Operating receipts and payables in the statement of cashflows are stated inclusive of GST.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

NOTE 2(a) OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES

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

	2001 \$	2000 \$
REVENUE		
Proceeds from disposal of plant and equipment	88,704	291,085
Operating Revenues	14,606,175	13,995,272
	<u>14,694,879</u>	<u>14,286,357</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Book value Plant and Equipment sold	42,564	196,506
Other Expenses	13,249,951	13,716,491
	<u>13,292,515</u>	<u>13,912,997</u>
SURPLUS ON OPERATIONS BEFORE ABNORMAL ITEMS	<u>1,402,364</u>	<u>373,360</u>



Financial Statements

NOTE 2(b)
**FUNCTIONS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001**

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 2001	Total 2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
EXPENSES	509,850	3,250,625	171,214	285,327	6,506,270	2,526,665	13,249,951	13,716,491
REVENUES								
Grants	927,123	1,232,473	74800	-	1,096,787	167,440	3,498,623	3,454,221
Rates	-	-	-	474,000	1,021	8,013,675	8,488,696	8,361,020
Other	(1,768)	1,466,388	468	8,849	798,562	392,498	2,664,997	2,274,610
Total Revenue	925,355	2,698,861	75,268	482,849	1,896,370	8,573,613	14,652,316	14,089,851
Net change in Assets Resulting from Operations							1,402,365	373,360
Total Assets'							142,054,068	138,456,303

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

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

NOTE 3 BUDGET COMPARISON 2001 ADOPTED ESTIMATES TO ACTUAL EXPENDITURE & INCOME

	Actual Note (a) \$	Adopted Estimate \$	Variance \$	Variance %
EXPENDITURE				
Governance	505,162	555,361	(50,199)	-9%
Community Services	3,556,599	3,905,123	(348,524)	-9%
Unique Environment	169,764	229,903	(60,139)	-26%
Economic Growth	263,748	321,751	(58,003)	-18%
Infrastructure	5,815,323	7,944,242	(2,128,919)	-27%
Organisational Development	3,076,287	3,257,394	(181,107)	-6%
	\$ 13,386,883	\$ 16,213,774	\$ (2,826,891)	-17%
INCOME				
Governance	927,123	900,000	27,123	3%
Community Services	3,062,016	3,076,850	(14,834)	0%
Unique Environment	75,268	71,800	3,468	5%
Economic Growth	482,929	469,806	13,123	3%
Infrastructure	2,309,463	3,328,984	(1,019,521)	-31%
Organisational Development	8,621,719	8,366,792	254,927	3%
	\$ 15,478,518	\$ 16,214,232	\$ (735,714)	-5%
(Surplus) Deficit	(2,091,635)	\$ (458)	\$ (2,091,177)	

- (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.

The Note 3 comparison compares the final result with Councils Adopted Estimates. Council has through its monthly Budget Review process adopted many variations

Works in progress (44%) were the most significant part of the surplus. They consist of works committed or commenced but incomplete as at the 30 June 2001. One important example was the annual purchase of plant because the Council required a review of its requirements, resulting in a three year plant replacement program being prepared. Other examples included corporate image and footpaths, cycle tracks and oval maintenance.

The Council has had a strong commitment to obtaining extra funding from outside sources. Additional grants received during the year accounted for 19% of the surplus. Grants are unpredictable because applications are made throughout the year and notification of successful applications can occur at any time.



The Council was also successful in obtaining additional income. This represented 14% of the surplus and was attributed to several factors. There was the introduction of user pays fees at the Landfill for the first time after adoption of the Estimates, and the recovery of significant amounts of outstanding and postponed rates. Additional interest income was also received from a higher bank balance, caused by delayed plant purchases, funds on hand for works in progress, and extra grant income received.

Savings accounted for 13% of the surplus. There were savings attributed to reduced costs of operations, deferment of vehicle purchases for Environmental Health pending signing of a new service agreement with Territory Health Services, and reduced reliance on external consultants.

Reduced expenditure on salaries and wages contributed to 10% of the surplus. This was caused by significant vacancies in both indoor and outdoor staff.

Summary of Surplus

Work In Progress / Funds allocated to ongoing projects	920,000
Additional Grants not in Adopted Estimates	397,000
Additional Income Generated	293,000
Savings	272,000
Reduced expenditure on salaries and wages	209,000
	2,091,000

NOTE 4. RATES

	2001 \$	2000 \$
(a) Rates Levied		
<u>General Rates</u>		
General Rates Levied	8,014,696	7,899,286
<u>Local Rates</u>		
Town Centre Improvement	439,291	428,436
Todd Mall Promotion	34,709	33,298
Rate Income	8,488,696	8,361,020
Hearne Place Car Park	7,995	9,016
Total Rates Levied	8,496,691	8,370,036
LESS: Rates Remitted	-	(72,928)
	8,496,691	8,297,108
ADD: Penalty for late payment	27,498	41,809
Recoverable Legal Costs	18,027	31,117
Total Net Rates Levied	8,542,216	8,370,034
(b) Rate Arrears		
Arrears at beginning of year	567,440	575,409
Total Net Rates levied for year	8,542,216	8,370,034
LESS: Cash collections	(8,828,294)	(8,378,003)
Total Arrears at end of year	281,362	567,440
LESS: Rates deferred (refer Note 11)	(94,019)	(97,749)
Current Rate Arrears at End of year	187,343	469,691

Interest at 16.4% per annum is levied on overdue rates.(2000: 13.95%)

Note: Hearne Place rates are not included as income in the Operating Statement for the year to 30 June 2001 as the amount is applied directly against the Deferred Asset - Hearne Place Development.



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:

	2001 B/F	Provided	Used	Remaining	2000 B/F	Provided	Used
Community Assets							
AS Child Care Centre	-	-	-	-	94,517	174,700	269,217
Environment							
Waste Recycling	4,719	-	-	4,719	4,719	-	-
We Care Week	2,000	6,000	8,000	-	-	2,000	-
Natural Heritage Trust	43,026	66,800	34,090	75,736	-	64,900	21,874
Cities For Climate Protection	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	-
Health							
Health Devolution	-	197,353	197,353	-	47,773	130,819	178,592
Healthy Choices	23,812	-	23,812	-	-	25,000	1,188
Human Services							
Riding for the Disabled	-	25,000	21,466	3,534	-	29,500	29,500
Community Info Centre	-	32,000	32,000	-	-	32,000	32,000
Grog Stop	-	29,500	5,000	24,500	-	-	-
Centenary of Federation	-	2,727	-	2,727	-	-	-
Youth Services	-	-	-	-	19,000	-	19,000
Alcohol Survey	-	-	-	-	-	62,000	62,000
Recreation							
Library Operation	-	433,862	433,862	-	-	465,541	465,541
Library Needs Analysis	5,000	5,345	5,345	5,000	-	5,000	-
Library Indexing Advocate	15,323	-	15,323	-	-	20,000	4,677
Library Thesaurus	22,615	-	3,008	19,607	-	22,615	-
Library 5 Year Strategic Plan	-	30,250	-	30,250	-	-	-
Sporting Facilities (DSR)	44,991	-	-	44,991	44,991	-	-
Traeger Park Mounds	-	-	-	-	4,845	-	4,845
Traeger Park Security	14,500	-	-	14,500	14,500	-	-
Anzac Oval Lights	-	-	-	-	6,800	-	6,800
Greening Subsidy	-	-	-	-	10,860	-	10,860
Albrecht Oval - Turf Wicket	-	-	-	-	340	-	340
Traeger Park Car park	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Rhonda Diano Oval Shade	5,000	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-
Flynn Oval Shade	4,860	-	4,140	720	-	5,000	140
2000 Sports Facility	-	50,000	16,000	34,000	-	-	-
Olympic Torch Relay Mini Olympics	-	-	-	-	-	1,400	1,400
Olympic Torch Relay	-	-	-	-	-	31,500	31,500
Kurragong Park Enhancements	-	49,159	-	49,159	-	-	-
Transportation							
ASBUS Operation	-	471,045	471,045	-	-	514,623	514,623
Road Grant	-	644,007	644,007	-	-	646,919	646,919
Natural Disaster 1996 Flood	-	-	-	-	-	7,380	7,380
LATM Grant	-	16,115	16,115	-	-	-	-
Undoolya/Winnecke LATM	5,724	-	-	5,724	7,336	-	1,612
Leichhardt Terrace Enhancement	-	-	-	-	77,498	-	77,498
Gap Road Black Spot	-	149,727	149,727	-	-	-	-
Roads to Recovery	-	84,538	2,846	81,692	-	-	-
NT Safe	-	8,500	-	8,500	-	-	-
Unallocated							
Finance Reporting (DLG)	45,000	-	23,081	21,919	-	45,000	-
NT Grants Commission	-	927,123	927,123	-	-	905,231	905,231
Couch Reduction	-	48,000	48,000	-	-	-	-
WELS Coordinator	-	43,636	-	43,636	-	-	-
Memorandum of Understanding	-	35,000	35,000	-	-	-	-
	256,570	3,357,687	3,136,343	477,914	333,179	3,216,128	3,292,737

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:

	2001 B/F	Provided	Used	Remaining	2000 B/F	Provided	Used
Health							
Mosquito Control	1,731	5,390	7,121	-	1,935	1,921	2,125
Human Services							
Pioneer Cemetery	3,383	-	-	3,383	3,383	-	-
Recreation							
Sports Facility Development					469,157	37,827	57,450
Transport							
Town Camp Roads Maintenance	-	45,455	33,452	12,003	-	-	-
Unallocated							
Pensioner Concessions	-	88,803	88,803	-	-	88,500	88,500
Construction deposits					510,889	-	143,143
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 Improvements LPE	12,000	1,288	13,288	-	-	12,000	-
Emily Hills Drainage Study	-	-	-	-	-	8,763	8,763
Emily Hills Drainage Study	-	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
	17,114	140,936	142,664	15,386	985,364	238,093	389,063
TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	273,684	3,498,623	3,279,007	493,300	1,318,543	3,454,221	3,681,800

NOTE 6. DISPOSAL OF PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2001 \$	2000 \$
Proceeds from Sales	88,704	291,085
LESS: Book value of assets sold	(42,563)	(196,506)
Surplus/(deficit) on disposals	<u>46,141</u>	<u>94,579</u>

NOTE 7. DEPRECIATION

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

Buildings	214,543	117,013
Plant and Equipment	627,607	565,056
Furniture and office equipment	131,108	109,726
Roads	1,204,841	1,197,775
Stormwater Drainage	366,442	366,132
Other Infrastructure	300,004	246,091
	<u>2,844,545</u>	<u>2,601,793</u>

NOTE 8. OTHER EXPENSES

Other Expenses for the reporting period included:

Auditor's fees	15,655	13,345
Elected Members fees	105,300	104,018
	<u>120,955</u>	<u>117,363</u>

NOTE 9. ABNORMAL ITEM

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.

NOTE 10. RESERVES SUMMARY

	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	ASSET REPLACEMENT	SPORTS FACILITY	SPECIFIC RESERVES		SWIMMING POOL DEVELOPMENT	TOTAL
				DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS	ASSET REVALUATION		
Opening Period	12,693,762	750,000	449,534	367,746	121,072,150	-	135,333,192
							-
Surplus For Period	1,402,365	-	-	-	-	-	1,402,365
Asset Revaluation	2,770,565	-	-	-	-		2,770,565
Transfers	(2,895,077)	-	59,512	-	2,770,565	65,000	-
CLOSING BALANCE	13,971,615	750,000	509,046	367,746	123,842,715	65,000	139,506,122



Note 11. RECEIVABLES

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Rates Outstanding (Refer note 4)	187,343	469,691
LESS: Provision for doubtful debts (a)	(58,424)	(540,000)
	<u>128,919</u>	<u>(70,309)</u>
Garbage Charges Outstanding	32,282	99,093
Sundry Debtors accounts outstanding	322,556	132,330
LESS: Provision for doubtful debts (a)	(20,000)	-
Total Current	<u>463,757</u>	<u>161,114</u>
<u>Non-current</u>		
Rates deferred (b)	94,019	97,749
Total Receivables	<u>557,776</u>	<u>258,863</u>

(a) Provision for Doubtful Debts

The Public Benevolent Institution status of a number of organisations is yet to be determined 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 deferrals 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.

	2001 \$	2000 \$
Rates deferred at beginning of year	97,749	151,564
Rates deferred during reporting period	21,212	40,184
Deferrals written off	(13,610)	(40,403)
Deferrals made due and adjustments	(11,332)	(53,596)
Total Rates deferred at end of year	<u>94,019</u>	<u>97,749</u>

NOTE 12. CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

	2001 \$	2000 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Creditors	502,042	421,992
Provision for Legal Fees	-	100,000
Provision for Annual Leave	496,060	484,481
Provision for Long Service Leave	66,280	77,738
	<u>1,064,382</u>	<u>1,084,211</u>
<u>Non-current</u>		
Provision for Long Service Leave	382,812	384,134
Total Creditors and Provisions	<u>1,447,194</u>	<u>1,468,345</u>

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

	Land	Buildings	Major Plant	Furniture & Equipment	Roads	Drainage Works	Other Community Infrastructure	Art Collection	Total
Balance at start of Year	16,641,100	14,207,437	3,512,871	652,109	63,223,560	36,644,240	5,422,984	78,130	140,382,431
Additions		504,036	458,648	43,628	169,701	44,280	281,394		1,501,687
Disposals			(149,423)						(149,423)
Revaluation	1,300,000							1,470,565	2,770,565
Balance At end of Year	17,941,100	14,711,473	3,822,096	695,737	63,393,261	36,688,520	5,704,378	1,548,695	144,505,260
Accumulated Depreciation									
Balance at start of Year		539,635	1,244,328	367,660	2,378,241	731,971	840,708		6,102,543
Additions		214,543	627,607	131,108	1,204,841	366,442	300,004		2,844,545
Disposals			(106,860)						(106,860)
Balance At end of Year		754,178	1,765,075	498,768	3,583,082	1,098,413	1,140,712		8,840,228
Net book Value									
Balance at start of Year	16,641,100	13,667,802	2,268,543	284,449	62,382,852	34,265,999	4,691,013	78,130	134,279,888
Balance At end of Year	17,941,100	13,957,295	2,057,021	196,969	59,810,179	35,590,107	4,563,666	1,548,695	135,665,032

NOTE 15. COMMITMENTS FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

	2001 \$	2000 \$
At the reporting date, the Council had entered into contracts for the following capital expenditure:		
Infrastructure	45,000	-
Plant and Equipment	317,910	-
	<u>362,910</u>	<u>-</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 \$7,995

Development Cost	92,870	92,870
Less Local Rates Prior Years	(84,875)	(75,859)
Less Local Rate revenue current year	(7,995)	(9,016)
Balance as at 30th June	<u>-</u>	<u>7,995</u>

NOTE 17. TERM LOANS

Loans at commencement of year	1,341,830	1,819,207
New Loan		66,000
LESS: Principal repayments	(621,217)	(543,377)
Balance at reporting date	<u>720,613</u>	<u>1,341,830</u>
Loan liability		
- Current	585,838	626,532
- Non-current	134,775	715,298
	<u>720,613</u>	<u>1,341,830</u>

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

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

		2001		2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Operating Result		1,402,365		277,360
Depreciation	2,844,545		2,601,793	
(Profit)Deficit on Sale of Assets	(46,141)		(28,579)	
Government Grants Capital	(1,002,046)		(231,232)	
(Decrease) Increase in Provision for Doubtful Debts	(461,576)		30,000	
Decrease (Increase) in Receivables	118,394		(64,011)	
Decrease (Increase) in non-current Receivables	3,730		53,813	
Decrease (Increase) in Prepayments	(1,019)		(14,269)	
Decrease (Increase) in Inventory	7,466		12,742	
Decrease (Increase) in Accrued Income	66,925		(61,102)	
(Decrease) Increase in Amounts Received In Advance	0		-	
(Decrease) Increase in Creditors and Provisions	(19,829)		(92,596)	
(Decrease) Increase in Accrued Expenses	28,295		44,500	
(Decrease) Increase in Trust Deposits	38,908		(33,990)	
(Increase) Decrease in Deferred Asset	7,995		9,016	
Increase (Decrease) in Non-Current Provisions	(1,322)	1,584,325	36,540	(97,632)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>2,986,690</u>		<u>179,728</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:

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Cash on Hand and in Banks	5,633,089	3,678,183
	<u>5,633,089</u>	<u>3,678,183</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 Income Taxation

NOTE 21. LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2001 \$	2000 \$
(a) Rentals charged to operating result	145,367	167,869
(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	123,541	160,692
Longer than one year and not longer than two years	81,626	123,167
Longer than two years and not longer than five years	61,836	83,416
Minimum lease payments	<u>267,003</u>	<u>367,275</u>



SCHEDULE 1
TRUST FUND & RESERVES

	Balance 30/06/00	Receipts	Council Contribution	Payments	Balance 30/06/01
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
RESERVES					
Asset Replacement Reserve	750,000	-	-	-	750,000
Developer Contributions for Works	367,746	-	-	-	367,746
Sports Facilities Development Reserve	449,534	47,482	45,000	32,970	509,046
Asset Revaluation Reserve	121,072,150	-	2,770,565	-	123,842,715
Swimming Pool Development Reserve	-	-	65,000	-	65,000
	<u>122,639,430</u>	<u>47,482</u>	<u>2,880,565</u>	<u>32,970</u>	<u>125,534,507</u>

TRUST DEPOSITS					
Cleaning Deposits	4,030	2,880	-	3,720	3,190
Equipment Security	4,455	2,270	-	3,320	3,405
Contract Retention & Security	67,894	35,608	-	25,067	78,435
Miscellaneous	33,284	3,214	-	2,999	33,499
Grants for Administration by Council	22,484	68,184	-	38,142	52,526
	<u>132,147</u>	<u>112,156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,248</u>	<u>171,055</u>

SCHEDULE 2

LONG TERM LOANS

Purpose of Loan	Interest Rate % (Per Annum)	Date Received	Loan Term (Years)	Frequency of Repayments	Amount of Loan \$	Balance of Loan 30/06/00 \$	Balance of Loan 30/06/01 \$
Consolidated Loan Civil Works	14.50	1/06/90	13	Six-monthly	3,686,062	1,176,056	691,797
Road, Oval, Building Construction	12.73	30/06/91	10	Six-monthly	519,000	84,999	-
Road Construction, Traffic Lights	10.23	18/06/92	10	Six-monthly	155,000	42,767	21,494
Computer Equipment	8.219	23/09/99	2	Monthly	66,000	38,008	7,322
						1,341,830	720,613