



Beautesert Shire  
*A region of many colours*

# Annual Report

05/06

# Our Annual Report

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## Our Theme

As the Shire enters a period of unprecedented growth, the need to 'plan for the future' has never been more important. This year's Annual Report theme 'sustainable growth' reflects Council's responsibility for planning for and managing growth in the Shire. The Annual Report's front cover format conveys a feeling of a modern, progressive Council, while the young person represents "a face of the future of the Shire" – a person who will ultimately benefit from the strong planning framework being developed through the Whole of Shire Planning process and other strategic initiatives.

We trust you will enjoy reading this year's report.

## Our Report

Beaudesert Shire Council is committed to the principle of transparent and accountable government. To demonstrate this commitment Council has prepared this report to provide the community with detailed and meaningful information about our financial and non-financial performance. It is our report back to the community on how well the organisation has progressed the strategic priorities as outlined in the 2005-2009 Corporate Plan.

Council has again included a Corporate Performance Scorecard (see page 28). The aim of the scorecard is to provide readers with a quick overview on how the organisation is tracking on delivering its key promises in the Corporate Plan.

This report is aimed to further open the lines of communication between Council and the community. We take pride in providing the public with timely, meaningful and accurate information about our performance.

## Your feedback is valued

We value your feedback on this year's Annual Report. As part of our commitment to improving our reporting standards your views on this document can be voiced in the following ways:

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**Phone:** Mr Nick O'Connor  
Manager Corporate Governance  
(07) 5540 5305

**Written:** Beaudesert Shire Council  
PO Box 25  
Beaudesert QLD 4285 or

Fill in the feedback form in the back of this report.

## Acknowledgements

A number of photos have been supplied by the Beaudesert Camera Club's PhotoTrek Photo Competition.

# Our Highlights

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## Social

- Commenced construction of the Beaudesert Arts and Cultural Centre
- Finalised service agreement with Lead On Beaudesert
- Completed First State Interest Checks and public consultation for draft Planning Scheme
- Commissioned Shire traffic and transport study
- Developed 10 year program for footpath capital
- Completed another stage of the programmed upgrade of Teviot Road
- Reconstructed Dunn Bridge and associated approach roads
- Completed planning and design of the South Maclean Weir

## Economic

- Won award at the national Public Relations Institute of Australia awards for Hidden Oasis Tourism Marketing Campaign
- Completed and implemented the Equine Industry Development Strategy
- Positioned Bromelton as a major industrial, logistics and multi-modal distribution area
- Developed and implemented the Economic Development Strategy
- Appointed a Liaison Officer and attracted more than \$1m in grant funding for the Shire.

## Environmental

- Issued first Voluntary Conservation Covenant
- Opened new Rathdowney Waste Transfer Station
- Finalist in 2006 Queensland Arbor Day Awards for Community Environmental Assistance Grants project
- Released six plant species guides for the whole of the Shire
- Published Horse Management on Small Properties booklet

## Governance

- Commenced Enterprise Review of Council
- Won Commendation Award at The Institute of Internal Auditors 2005 Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards for the 2004/05 Annual Report
- Developed General Complaints Process
- Implemented new International Financial Reporting Standards
- Introduced new Code of Conduct for Councillors
- Completed investigation phase for review of core corporate information systems

# Our Vision, Mission & Values

## Corporate Plan 2005-2009

### Organisation Vision

Beautesert Shire Council will be recognised as a united, proactive and modern organisation:

- Promoting employment and Shire development
- Responding to community expectations
- Supporting a balanced lifestyle
- Maintaining a safe work environment
- Supporting staff development and aspirations
- "A great place to work and do business"

This provides the strategic direction for Council to achieve the Vision for the Shire.

### Vision for the Shire

A proud, vibrant and prosperous community – living, working and playing locally, celebrating our diversity, natural assets and talents.

### Mission Statement

Working with the community to:

- Provide effective and affordable facilities and services
- Manage and protect our environmental assets
- Encourage growth through responsible development
- Foster community achievement

### Values

The way we achieve our Vision and our Mission is as important as the achievements themselves. Fundamental to success for Council are our core values.

We will:

- Treat everyone with fairness and respect
- Work together to provide the best possible service
- Be open to new ideas

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# Mayor's Message

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## Planning for the Future

Beaundesert Shire is changing. We farewelled our long-time Chief Executive Officer Greg Day and welcomed our new CEO, Alastair Dawson, who brings a wealth of difference to our Shire with his background of public relations.

We have achieved a lot over the past 12 months but the year ahead will be even more remarkable, as the new CEO works with the Councillors with "fresh eyes" to mould this organisation into one that can deliver services to our residents and manage the population growth we are expecting over the next decade.

Councillors have well and truly settled in and are now half way through the four-year term. We will deliver some big projects over the next 12 months, including the new Beaundesert Arts and Cultural Centre and the innovative Hidden Oasis marketing campaign, and make progress on our Whole of Shire Planning process.

The drought continues. Water supply remains one of our biggest priorities. We have successfully lobbied on a number of fronts, working with the community to win State Government support

for an off-stream storage facility at Bromelton and overturning plans for a dam at Rathdowney. We are working in partnership with other local governments on uniform water restrictions. A pipeline is soon to be constructed, coming into the north of our Shire from Wivenhoe, as part of the State water grid. At the same time, Council has introduced a number of water saving initiatives such as waterless toilets and more use of recycled water as we become well and truly a very water conscious community. Our residents have been magnificent by cooperating with the water restrictions necessary in this long-lasting drought. Well done all!

Overall, I am proud of the eight Councillors and 500 staff and the things we have achieved together during 2005/06. It's wonderful to work with a united Council. I continue to enjoy my role as Mayor, with the many challenges and opportunities for the Beaundesert Shire. One of my passions is for all of

our children to have the opportunity to work in our Shire, instead of moving elsewhere for jobs, as so many in the past have had to do. The Whole of Shire Planning process will help deliver on this by defining employment opportunities at Bromelton, Beaundesert, Yarrabilba, Flagstone and other areas.

We have a strategic role to play in the region's future. We intend to focus on four goals – lifestyle, environment, services and jobs – as we plan for growth in the Beaundesert Shire, Queensland's Hidden Oasis.

God Bless and Keep Smiling

Cr Joy Drescher  
Mayor

## Our Future Direction

Over the past 12 months Beaudesert Shire Council has undertaken a considerable amount of work toward planning for healthy growth throughout the region. Whilst the planning has not been without its challenges, it is fair to say that we are making significant progress toward planning a strong and optimistic future for our Council and for the region as a whole.

The end of the 2005/06 financial year was marked by the departure of long serving Chief Executive Officer Greg Day and the commencement of a new era under a new Chief Executive Officer.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to Greg for his long serving leadership of this region over more than 16 years and for the ease with which he has enabled the transition between CEO's to be made.

Among the challenges which Council has struggled to come to terms with, the most telling has been the shortage of staff, due to the ongoing population boom across Queensland. This has significantly hampered the organisation's ability to adequately plan for growth as well as deal with the continuing demand for new developments across the region. Council, whilst working diligently to try to put together a whole of shire plan, has struggled with its inability to attract additional resources due to high demand elsewhere and our limited capacity to meet the increased cost of recruitment in the State.

As we enter a new financial year, Council has embarked on an aggressive recruitment campaign to improve our planning and development resources for the future. Only time will tell if our strategies are successful, but the course of action we embark on is critical if we are to become a strongly customer focused

organisation over the next couple of years. A restructuring of the organisation, to improve service, reduce red tape and support stronger community development will also be a key feature of the way forward for Council.

If the past year has been tough, the next couple of years will be even tougher for Council as we seek to improve our service delivery and, by focusing on our core values, become an organisation known for delivering results. This will unquestionably be a defining period for Council and we are all determined that it will be a period where our reputation for delivering positive outcomes for our community will be recognized. I acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of Councillors and staff in meeting the task which lies ahead of us.

Alastair Dawson  
Chief Executive Officer

# Shire Snapshot

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## Hidden Oasis

Beaudesert Shire is a hidden oasis south of Brisbane and west of the Gold Coast.

Take an easy drive to discover the relaxing pace of the Beaudesert Shire.

You will find rainforests, mountains, art and craft, markets, wineries and bed and breakfasts. Stay overnight at a campsite or a five star resort. Watch a hanglider soar overhead, walk through lush rainforests or ride a horse. Or simply sit back and relax with a glass of locally made red and a plate of locally made cheese as the jazz tunes resonate through the country air.

Find out more about our Shire at [www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com](http://www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com) or [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au).



### Facts

Population	65,000
Area	2854 sq km
Rateable Properties	25,102
Establishment	1949
Number of Divisions	8
Council Budget	\$86m

## Main Towns and Centres

Beaudesert, Canungra, Rathdowney, Tamborine Mountain, Kooralbyn, Jimboomba and Logan Village.

## Key Industries

Tourism, equine, wineries, agriculture and home-based businesses.

### PROJECTED POPULATION (\*)

2011	76,239
2016	88,329
2021	101,480

### PROJECTED HOUSEHOLDS (\*)

2006	22,500
2011	27,000

### HISTORICAL POPULATION (\*)

1991	36,306
1996	47,558
2001	53,240

(\*) Source: Planning Information and Forecast Unit (PIFU) March 2006



## History in Focus

Beaudesert Shire has a vast and colourful history that covers 2,854 sq km of picturesque countryside, dotted with historical towns and villages. Each major centre in the Shire has its own unique flavour and history. This year's Annual Report features the history of one of these centres, Jimboomba, one of the fastest-growing towns in the Shire.

The town of Jimboomba was originally a sheep station named "Gimboomba".

The first licence for the run of Gimboomba was issued to Thomas Dowse on 15 August, 1845. In 1850 the station was in the possession of Robert Rowland, a publican of Sydney from whom Andrew Inglis Henderson bought it on 21 February, complete with homestead, men's huts, woolshed, yards, stores and 4,411 sheep.

For some years Gimboomba was known as a sheep run station, however, was later stocked with beef cattle. In 1908 James Henderson (A I Henderson's son) entered into the new venture of dairying. Gimboomba was developed into three large dairy farms under the shared-farming system, with a total herd of 400 cows.

Up until 1931 the cream was sent to the Beaudesert Butter Factory and the milk was fed to store pigs. In that same year, the farmers commenced sending whole milk to Brisbane, receiving 7d per gallon.

In 1936 James Henderson died and Gimboomba was subdivided and sold,

with the exception of the homestead block of 500 acres. The original homestead built of cedar, pitted with timber on the estate, still stands today.

The homestead was also a "changing station" for the coach horses in the days when mail travelled by stage coach from Brisbane to the border. There was a hotel on either side of the Logan River, at the site of the present concrete bridge built in 1947.

Today our Shire is home to 65,000 people who choose a range of lifestyles in rural, semi-rural, urban and village settings.

We are fortunate to be located a convenient distance from Brisbane and the Gold Coast, yet retain so much open space and be surrounded by World Heritage listed wilderness areas, ancient rainforests and spectacular rugged mountain ranges. The challenge for Council now is to work with the community to manage our growth and preserve our unique way of life.

Information on the history of each township can be found on [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au). Visitors may discover more by calling in to one of the Historical Societies located at Beaudesert, Rathdowney and Tamborine Mountain.

Beaudesert Shire has so many little townships and villages, with an

abundance of history, that not all parts of the Shire can be included in this feature.

Council will endeavour to feature the history of different townships or villages each year. If you have any wonderful tales about the Shire's history, Council would be pleased to incorporate your story in future publications. Please contact Council's Communications Department.

Our Shire is steeped in fascinating history. Come and discover it.

# Our Councillors

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The Mayor and all eight divisional Councillors are members of Council's three standing committees: Finance and Executive, Planning and Development, and Community Services.

## Mayor Cr Joy Drescher

Joy, who has lived in Beaudesert for 37 years, was a Councillor from 1979 to 1985 and from 1988 to 1991, and Mayor from 1997 to 2000. She was re-elected in March 2004 and is now serving her third year in her second term as Mayor.

Joy believes a Mayor must be people-friendly, aware of the community's needs and encourage unity within Council. Her ambition is for all Councillors and staff to be honestly able to say, "I'm from the Council and I'm here to help you".

### Official Council Memberships:

- Chair - Audit Committee (Beaudesert Shire Council)
- Council of Mayors (SEQ)
- Council of Mayors (SEQ) Regional Plan Working Group
- Deputy Chair - Southern Regional Organisation of Councils (SouthROC)
- Deputy Chair - SouthROC Regional Plan Working Group
- SouthROC Regional Road Group (RRG)
- Ministerial Regional Community Forum SEQ South Region
- Chair - Southern Implementation Group of the Moreton Bay
- Waterways and Catchments Partnership (MBWCP)
- Rural Futures Committee
- Community Futures Taskforce
- Cunningham Rail Link Committee
- Border Integrated Transport Plan Transport Advisory Group
- Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area – Joint Local Government Committee (MLNBSA)
- MLNBSA Steering Committee
- Poultry Industry Taskforce

Ph: 5540 5102  
Email: joy.d@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division One Cr Peter Tilney

Peter was elected as Division One Councillor in 2004 and served as Finance and Executive Chair until September 2005. Peter holds a degree in agricultural science and before joining Council he ran a successful fertiliser business.

### Key interests:

Township beautification, arts, business.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Water Resource Plan Community Reference Group

Ph: 5540 5401  
Email: peter.t@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division Two Cr Virginia West

Virginia, registered nurse and former medical sales rep based in Canungra, was elected as the Division Two Councillor in 2004.

**Key interests:** Tourism, equestrian, community groups, schools, rural and water issues.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Southern Implementation Group of the Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership (MBWCP)
- Water Advisory Committee
- South East Queensland Pest Advisory Forum
- Central Eastern Rainforest Reserves of Australia (CERRA)

Ph: 5540 5402  
Mobile: 0407 630 052  
Email: virginia.w@bsc.qld.gov.au

# Our Councillors

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## Division Three Cr Dave Cockburn

Dave, former businessman and long-time Tamrookum resident, was elected as the Division Three Councillor in 2004. Dave has served as Planning and Development Committee Chair since December 2005 and prior to this chaired the Finance and Executive Committee for three months.

**Key interests:** Tourism, equestrian, community groups, schools, rural and water issues.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Chair Planning and Development Committee
- Audit Committee (Beaudesert Shire Council)
- Southern Implementation Group of the Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership (MBWCP)
- Logan and Albert Rivers Catchment Association
- Water Advisory Committee
- Boonah Beaudesert Ipswich Joint Tourism Committee
- Summerland Way Promotional Committee
- Cunningham Rail Link Committee

Ph: 5540 5403  
Mobile: 0428 570 741  
Email: dave.c@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division Four Cr Hajnal Ban

Hajnal, a barrister based in Greenbank, was elected to Council in 2004 and served as Planning and Development Committee Chair until December 2005.

**Key interests:** Planning, working with local community groups to improve infrastructure.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Southern Regional Organisation of Councils (SouthROC)
- Oxley Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area – Joint Local Government Committee (MLNBSA)

Ph: 5540 5404      Mobile: 0403 188 514      Email: hajnal.b@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division Five Cr John Fronis

John, a former barber, TAFE teacher and small businessman based in Jimboomba, was elected to Council in 2004 and has served as Community Services Committee Chair since December 2005.

**Key interests:** Youth, tourism, working with the community and developers to enhance shopping, business and sporting facilities in Jimboomba and Flagstone.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Chair Community Services Committee
- Audit Committee (Beaudesert Shire Council)
- Boonah Beaudesert Ipswich Joint Tourism Committee
- Logan-Beaudesert Crimestopper Committee

Ph: 5540 5405  
Mobile: 0414 347 169  
Email: john.f@bsc.qld.gov.au

# Our Councillors

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## Division Six Cr Bob Bricknell

Bob, based in Chambers Flat, was elected to Council in 2004. He has worked in a range of small businesses, from industrial to childcare, and volunteers for a number of charitable organisations. He also holds a degree in Social Science, Diploma of Applied Science, is a qualified counsellor and JP (Qual).

**Key interests:** Chair RADF, Lifeline phone counsellor, Camp Quality supervisor, tourism, maintaining and improving the semi-rural environment of the Shire, and addressing the concerns of residents.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Rural Health Advisory Council
- Brisbane Tourism Regional Advisory Committee
- Cunningham Rail Link Committee
- Chair RADF

Ph: 5540 5406  
Mobile: 0428 971 121  
Email: bob.b@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division Seven Cr Vanessa Bull

Vanessa, based on Tamborine Mountain, was elected to Council in 1997 and re-elected in 2000 and 2004. She is now Deputy Mayor.

**Key interests:** Working with Council and community groups to maintain Tamborine Mountain's ambience but provide infrastructure for the growing population, tourism industry and business.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Natural Resource Management SEQ (NRM SEQ)
- Water Advisory Committee

Ph: 5540 5407      Mobile: 0412 649 301      Email: vanessa.b@bsc.qld.gov.au

## Division Eight Cr Don Petersen

Don was first elected in 1994 and re-elected in 1997, 2000 and 2004. He has chaired Council's Finance and Executive Committee since December 2005 and prior to this chaired the Community Services Committee. He formerly spent 18 years with Telecom, four years with the JET (Jobs, Education and Training) Program and a short stint with the Department of Family Services.

**Key interests:** Community facilities, youth activities including skate parks, preservation of lifestyle, developing professionalism of Council.

### Official Council Memberships:

- Chair Finance and Executive Committee
- Audit Committee (Beaudesert Shire Council)
- Council of Mayors (SEQ)
- LGAQ Environment Reference Group
- Mt Lindsay/North Beaudesert Study Area – Joint Local Government Committee (MLNBSA)
- Chair Beaudesert Shire Traffic Advisory Committee
- Chair Greenbank Joint Venture

Ph: 5540 5408  
Mobile: 0412 120 210  
Email: don.p@bsc.qld.gov.au

# Our Organisational Structure

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## Council

### Chief Executive Officer

- Manager Corporate Governance

### Director Corporate Services

- Manager Financial Management
- Manager Information Services
- Manager Customer Services
- Manager Library Services
- Manager Media & Promotions
- Manager Human Resources

### Director Infrastructure Services

- Manager Shire Operations
- Manager Water & Sewerage
- Manager Design
- Manager Facility Services

### Director Strategy and Development

- Manager Planning & Development
- Manager Community Health & Compliance
- Manager Economic & Community Development
- Manager Environmental Activities
- Project Director Whole of Shire Planning



# Our Leadership Team

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## Chief Executive Officer Greg Day (Retired)

This year saw the retirement of Greg Day after 16 years as Council's most senior officer. He started with Council in 1970 as a rates clerk and was appointed Shire Clerk in August, 1990. His title later changed to Chief Executive Officer in 1994, with the advent of the Local Government Act 1993.

Greg made many significant contributions to the Shire during his career with Council and this year in particular saw the foundations set for the Whole of Shire Planning process, the announcement of the Size, Shape and Sustainability review, the inaugural Hidden Oasis campaign and the commencement of the Beaudesert Arts and Cultural Centre. His knowledge of the local government sector and especially Beaudesert Shire was valued greatly during his time at the helm of the organisation.

## Chief Executive Officer Alastair Dawson

Alastair commenced with Council in June 2006, taking over as Chief Executive Officer at a very exciting period in the Shire's development. He is a "people person" with significant experience in local government and general management. He started his career in local government in Queensland, in customer service, marketing and business development roles. As former CEO of Victorian Farmers Federation, Alastair is no stranger to the political challenge of leading an organisation and managing large projects.

Alastair has recently announced a new set of core values for the organisation and a realignment of the organisational structure. These new values will form the basis of the way Council will work, and create a culture to improve Council's output and become a results-driven and customer-focused organisation. The new staff alignment retains the three existing Departments but strengthens the key areas of engineering and planning.

Alastair believes that these changes will help position Council to both deliver on our Corporate Plan promises and meet the challenges being driven by the population growth in South East Queensland.

The Office of the Mayor and CEO provides support for the elected members of Council and also comprises the areas of Corporate Governance and Internal Audit.

# Our Leadership Team

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## Director Infrastructure Services Tony Martini

Tony joined Council in March 2005, and continues to oversee record capital works programs and major water supply issues in the midst of the ongoing drought. He has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering, a Graduate Diploma in Municipal Engineering and is studying towards a Master of Business Administration with extensive experience in both the private and public sectors.

Under Tony's direction a number of significant projects have come to fruition and will continue to be his focus for the coming year. These projects include the construction of the South Maclean Weir and the Beaudesert Arts and Cultural Centre. His role covers Shire operations, design, fleet, facilities, and water and sewerage.

## Director Corporate Services Craig Barke

Craig was appointed Director Corporate Services in June 2006, after two years with Council as Finance Manager. He has a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration, is a member of the Australian Society of CPAs and is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified). He has extensive work experience as a senior manager in public and private sectors both in Australia and the UK.

This year Craig is project sponsor for the BOB Project, a significant venture responsible for the replacement of Council's core corporate systems with integrated, state-of-the-art information systems. His role also covers finance, information services, customer service, libraries, human resources, media and promotions, tourism and property administration.

## Director Strategy and Development Barry Omundson

Barry joined Council in February 2005 with vast experience including senior commercial roles in publicly listed organisations. He has qualifications in engineering and is studying a Master of Business Administration at QUT. Barry started as Council was preparing to launch its Whole of Shire Planning process, finalising its IPA-compliant Planning Scheme and liaising with major developers over investment opportunities at Bromelton, Yarrabilba and Flagstone.

He oversees planning, strategy, environmental health, economic and community development, building, waste and animal management. Barry is responsible for the formation and chairing of a number of structure plan land owner groups to facilitate local growth management strategies.

# Our Managers

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Acting Manager  
Water and Sewerage  
**Mario Brischetto**

Manager  
Economic and  
Community Development  
**Nick McGuire**

Manager  
Design  
**Stewart Wall**

Manager  
Community Health  
and Compliance  
**Randall Deans**

Manager  
Shire Operations  
**Peter Weallans**

Manager  
Environmental Activities  
**Michael Bond**

Manager  
Facility Services  
**Gary Williams**

Manager  
Planning and Development  
**Murray Thompson**

# Our Managers

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Manager  
Library Services  
**Robyn Dobbs**

Manager  
Human Resources  
**Christine Fraser**

Manager  
Information Services  
**Craig Houseman**

Manager  
Media and Promotions  
**Deanie Carbon**

Acting Manager  
Customer Services  
**Robyn O'Shannessy**

Acting Manager  
Financial Management  
**Andrew Hewitt**

Manager  
Corporate Governance  
**Nick O'Connor**

Project Director  
Whole of Shire Planning  
**Graeme Rogers**

# Whole of Shire Planning

## Planning to Reflect our Shared Vision

As one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, planning for our future is the most critical issue facing our community.

Whole of Shire Planning process (WOSP) is Council's overarching planning initiative for managing the population and industrial growth anticipated in the Beaudesert Shire following the release of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. The Plan envisages significant urban communities at Beaudesert, Flagstone and Yarrabilba, and significant employment growth at Bromelton, based on its role as an 'inland port' with significant associated industry and related uses.

Council is focused on building a brighter, more prosperous future for our community by ensuring WOSP receives the time and resources it needs to determine the shape of the Shire's urban and rural future and the infrastructure needs and desired standards of service delivery for the next 20 years and beyond.

In June 2005 Council approved the WOSP budget of \$4 million over three years. WOSP is currently resourced with six internal staff and a team of external consultants providing specialist advice on the many aspects being considered by Council and required by the State.

A key element of WOSP is gaining input from the community through consultation and visioning. As with many

of the significant projects in South East Queensland, in its consultation Council had to consider the associated planning processes being conducted in the Shire by the State. The Office of Urban Management (OUM) commenced a study of the Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area (MLNBSA) early in 2005 with associated community consultation. This study area, although predominantly northern Beaudesert Shire, also included a portion of Logan City and Gold Coast City, with input from representatives and residents of the three local governments.

The WOSP process is taking into account the results of the OUM process and complementary WOSP community consultation conducted in remaining centres of the Shire. The surveys and workshops provided significant agreement from the community on what is considered most important in the future Shire. Further consultation with communities throughout the Shire will occur as WOSP progresses.

Community feedback identified four factors - lifestyle, environment, services and jobs – as being very high on the list. Water was also a key issue for residents.

Even though there will be new cities created in our Shire over the next 20 to 50 years, the Regional Plan and WOSP will ensure that 90 percent of the Shire remains unaltered so it retains its rural character and continues in rural production, or as regional landscape area or rural residential areas.

The urban sprawl of other areas of South East Queensland will not be part of our Shire's future. Preserving the precious aspects of our lifestyle and environment are significant guiding principles for the WOSP outcomes.

The new and existing communities of Beaudesert Shire can look forward to unique cities and towns with very high environmental values that provide convenient city services and jobs for the whole Shire.

The emergence of Bromelton as a major industrial/logistics/warehousing/distribution area and possible inland port makes our Shire's future quite unique with a significant employment hub. Council's WOSP team is conducting a joint investigation of Bromelton with the OUM.

While Bromelton is expected to be the future 'engine room' for the new Shire, enterprise precincts and employment will also be provided in each of our new cities and growing towns.



# Whole of Shire Planning

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The WOSP team has had an intense focus on the availability of water for both the existing rural and residential communities and future cities. By supporting the efforts of community groups, the team has successfully made representations for State funds to construct an off-stream storage facility to capture flood flows from the Logan River at Bromelton. The State has also confirmed the construction of Wyaralong Dam and the Cedar Grove Weir. Council will also have access to the southern regional water pipeline, part of the State water grid. These initiatives have been paramount in advancing a secure future for the new Shire.

Under the South East Queensland Regional Plan, our Shire will play a major role in accommodating predicted population and industrial growth over the next 20 years, but it is Council's intention to preserve the natural beauty and character of our area through the WOSP process.

The WOSP team, together with the OUM, the Department of Main Roads and Queensland Transport, is examining the impacts of the extra jobs, people and homes. This is so we know how and where to provide - and how to fund - the transport, water, sewerage, parks, swimming pools, libraries and other infrastructure and community services that present and future residents will need.

WOSP will also be planning the future shape of Jimboomba, Logan Village, Tamborine Mountain, Canungra and our rural villages. Each community will have input into the process. Each community has its own sensitivities and hearing from the community in each location is a vital aspect of the planning process.

WOSP will produce a local growth management strategy, structure plans for major development areas, local plans for smaller towns and villages, priority infrastructure plans, future works programmes, financial plans and necessary amendments to the planning scheme.

Council has also prepared a new draft Planning Scheme to meet its obligations under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. This timeframe means that the draft Scheme has been prepared ahead of the WOSP outcomes, so it basically reflects the policy directions in the current planning scheme. It was released for community feedback between 30 November, 2005 and 17 March, 2006 – with 637 submissions received. These submissions have been considered by Council and the amended Scheme resubmitted to the State for the mandatory second State interests check. This document has been drafted to provide the framework for future amendments that will be needed to deliver the outcomes of the WOSP process.

Council is committed to the ongoing planning for the whole of the Shire necessary to ensure that the community's shared vision is reflected in the future development of the area.

Our Shire, Our Home, Our Future...

# Corporate Governance

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Ensuring good governance practices are adopted and implemented is fundamental to the operation of local government. Corporate governance is the framework that controls the organisational environment to maximise Council's capacity to achieve its objectives. Excellence in corporate governance is evident in organisations committed to practices underpinned by accountability, transparency, probity and financial responsibility.

## Governance Principles

In 2005 CPA Australia released its Excellence in Governance for Local Government manual. Developed in consultation with the Local Government sector throughout Australia, the manual was designed to help Councils develop and implement key governance practices. This section of the Annual Report has been structured around the four governance principles and addresses the indicators for achieving excellence as articulated in the CPA Australia document. It is essentially a self-assessment of Council's corporate health.

## 1 Culture and Vision

Local governments with a commitment to best practice corporate governance have a positive culture that promotes openness and honesty, in which questioning is encouraged and accountability is clear.

A positive culture is important as it results in better decision-making. High calibre people will want to work for such an organisation and stand for election. Problems will be anticipated and averted, while innovation and creative thinking is encouraged. Ethical and conduct issues will be recognised and addressed. Other elements which underpin a positive culture include effective management structures and practices, good communication, learning and feedback, ethical behaviour and codes of conduct and effective induction programs.

## Open and Honest Communication

Although forums have been created to encourage communication, Council is yet to fully realise the benefits of developing a culture underpinned by open and honest communication. With the introduction of a new CEO and a new set of core values driven by principles of accountability and 'open and frank' discussion it is anticipated that major gains will be realised against this indicator in the coming year.

Under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 for the disclosure

and amendment of information, Council received 28 FOI applications in 2005/06, had one on hand from the previous year and 26 of these were finalised. Two of the applications went to Internal Review.

## Management Accountability

Organisations should ensure they have efficient and effective management structures that reflect their goals and needs with management practices that reinforce accountability and nurture staff capacity to perform their jobs. Council's management comprises appointed staff, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), three directors, who oversee Council's three departments and managers, who head functional areas. The aims of management are articulated throughout the organisation and their accountability is embedded in Council's Planning and Performance Cycle.

There are primarily two management forums in Council. The Leadership Group comprises the CEO and Directors, while the Combined Management Team also includes Managers of all sections. The intent of these forums is to facilitate a professional, strategic and coordinated approach to the management of the organisation, improve communication and establish a cohesive approach to major policy proposals.

## Communication Policy

Council has a number of policies which relate to external communication. Also as part of the Customer Contact Charter, Council formally adopted the General Complaints Process (GCP) in February 2006. The process outlines three stages of complaint, which allows for review of initial complaints and if necessary a review by an external body. For further information on this process please refer to the 2006 Customer Contact Charter which is available at the three Customer Service Centres and on Council's website [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) under 'Publications'.

## Codes of Ethics

Council this year formally adopted a new Code of Conduct for Councillors. The new code provides a framework for acceptable councillor conduct and is based on the principles of: integrity of local government; primacy of the public interest; independence of action by Councillors; appropriate use of information by Councillors; transparency and scrutiny; and appropriate use of entitlements. For the first time, the code of conduct provides for a range of penalties to be imposed on a Councillor should an alleged breach of the code be substantiated. It provides a yardstick by which the performance of councillors can be judged in respect to impartiality, honesty and integrity. Council did not receive any complaints for alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct in the 2005/06 year.

Meanwhile Council employees must abide by the Code of Conduct for Employees.

The Code is based on the five ethics principles of the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, namely respect for the law and the system of government; respect for persons; integrity; diligence; and economy and efficiency. Breach of the Code of Conduct by an employee may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the relevant Council policy. A review of the Code is planned for 2006/07.

## Induction Programs

Induction programs are conducted throughout the year for new staff. These programs reinforce Council's core values and introduce staff to the Corporate Plan to ensure that they are all aware of Council's vision and strategic direction.

## Owning the Corporate Plan

Ensuring that all stakeholders understand and own the vision and strategic direction was an element in the preparation of Council's 2005-2009 Corporate Plan. Workshops were held to help councillors and staff set the strategic direction for the organisation for the next four years. During the development of the new plan, the community's input was requested and subsequently integrated into the final document. Feedback was sought via a "Shirewide" survey and newspaper advertisements. The Plan was launched in April 2005 and copies provided to residents and staff to encourage ownership by Councillors, staff and the community.

Gaining understanding and acceptance of the Plan has been a challenge for

the organisation. In a bid to ensure it is used more in the day-to-day decision making process, and hence increasing its relevance to staff and Councillors, Council's new CEO, in partnership with elected members and management is reviewing the Corporate Plan. This review will result in a more focused and relevant Plan to better guide the development of annual operational plans and budgets.

# Corporate Governance

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## 2 Roles and Relationships

The Council comprises elected members as well as appointed staff. Ensuring there is clarity of roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Councillors and staff is vital to ensuring good governance within an organisation. It creates an environment where good communication, systems and processes can flourish. It is vital that time is spent to ensure roles are codified and accepted, this can be achieved through targeted training programs and staff and Councillor induction initiatives.

### Roles of Mayor, Council and Councillors

The Council's decision-making authority is exercised by the Council as a whole, and not by the Mayor or Councillors individually. As the democratically elected representatives of their constituents, the Mayor and Councillors are ultimately accountable to the people, and the interests of the local community take precedence. Today's Mayors and Councillors are expected to approach their role in a more strategic way than in times past. The Councillors' role is to represent the public interest; contribute to deciding appropriate facilities, services and enterprises; take part in corporate planning processes and formulation of policies and goals; and participate in making decisions for achieving these goals and implementing the policies.

The Mayor not only provides direction to the Council in terms of setting policies, budget priorities, visions and strategies, but also serves an important leadership role for the local community. The Mayor's position is that of a Councillor, with additional functions such as presiding at, and ensuring orderly conduct of, meetings at which they are present; ensuring the carrying out of the Council's decisions; and ensuring appropriate representation at civic or ceremonial functions.

### Roles of CEO and Administration

The primary role of the CEO is to implement Council's policies and decisions, manage the day-to-day affairs, organise the presentation of reports to Council, and coordinate the activities of all employees of the local government. The role of other employees is to assist the CEO to implement Council's policies and decisions. Under the Local Government Act 1993, employees are ultimately accountable to the CEO. They must act with integrity and in a way that shows a proper concern for the public interest.

Council's leadership team – CEO and Directors – has primary responsibility for ensuring that Council's structure, resources and values align so as to implement Council's strategic and operational direction. Managers have a direct role to ensure the efficient delivery of agreed outcomes, manage

and motivate performance, capitalise on opportunities for organisational improvement, promote good communication and cooperation, and maintain an environment that reflects the core values to which Council is committed.

Council's new CEO has shown, in practice, his commitment to the core values of openness, accountability, fairness, equity and good communication. In turn these values are being adopted throughout Council's administration and management.

The CEO has developed a new structure and set of values for Council after consultation with Councillors, the leadership group and staff across the organisation. This communication process is essential to establish an understanding and agreement about the different roles within the organization.

The CEO communicated that his primary goal is to lead the organisation to become one that is results-driven, values its staff and delivers services to the community. The CEO has placed an emphasis on the importance of a successful partnership between Councillors, management and staff to achieve these new values.

## Key Relationships

Council's induction programs for elected members and staff outline the roles and responsibilities of both branches of the organisation. It articulates the need for the separation of powers to ensure that appropriate checks and balances are in place to alleviate the perception and opportunity for misconduct.

Excellence in governance at a local government level is dependant on effective relationships between Councillors and the administration, promoting cooperation and effectively dealing with any problems or tensions as they arise. Council has clearly defined guidelines detailing Councillors' access to its 496 full-time equivalent staff, as well as a policy relating to appropriate levels of interaction between Councillors and staff when dealing with planning applications.

## 3 Decision-Making and Management

Local governments with effective decision-making and risk management processes, robust financial management systems and effective delegations in place, actively promote transparency and accountability.

This is important as it increases the likelihood that decisions will be in the best interests of the entire shire and that they are owned by all councillors. It will provide appropriate stewardship of community resources and ensure that all of council receives timely and relevant financial advice and information. It also ensures that all decisions made under delegation are appropriate and officers are suitably empowered and accountable.

### Decision-Making Operational Planning

The Operational Plan is an annual action plan developed to realise Council's Corporate Plan goals. It identifies the officers responsible for carrying out each action and specifies the timeframe for completion and key performance indicators against which Council's success will be measured. Officers record the progress made toward their actions on a quarterly basis for review and discussion with Council. The Operational Plan must be adopted in enough time to allow preparation and adoption of a budget for the same year consistent with the Plan.

Corporate Governance staff strive to continually improve Council's planning, reporting and performance measurement processes. Significant work is being undertaken to better align Council's Corporate Plan, Operational Plan and Budget – the key elements of Council's planning and reporting cycle. The improved framework will provide greater clarity of direction, ensure that Council's Budget reflects carefully determined priorities, and allow improved monitoring of Council's performance against its strategic and operational objectives.

### Decision-Making Process

Council has a number of forums to deal with issues which arise during the year but are not covered by existing strategies and policies. Matters of operational significance are actioned through the Leadership Group. Strategic issues are submitted through Council's committee structure and decisions are made at the Ordinary Meeting.

Councillor briefings are regularly provided through the committee structure or as a separate process for significant projects. This ensures that they have all the information they need to aid effective decision-making.



# Corporate Governance

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Well-chaired meetings facilitate good decision-making. Council has local laws and policies in place that clearly detail meeting procedures. These procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure Council maintains effective decision-making processes. Generally all Council committee meetings are open to the public. Community based Ordinary Meetings were introduced in 2005/06 to encourage further participation by community members and two were conducted this year at Flagstone and Kooralbyn. These were well received and were followed by a community forum for members of the public to address Council.

The administration encourages the timely implementation of Council decisions. Action items are issued to responsible officers immediately following the Ordinary Meeting. These items are monitored to ensure that decisions are implemented within three business days.

Councillors generally provide public support for most Council decisions. However, there have been some key issues where there has been a divergence of opinion and on occasion Councillors have their dissent recorded in public minutes or feel obligated to inform their constituents.

## Financial Management Financial Planning

Council has a five-year financial plan which is reviewed annually and adopted each year as part of the Annual Budget process. It reflects the future direction of the organisation with linkages to Council's Corporate Plan and feedback received from Councillors. The Corporate Plan is prepared in consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

Council's WOSP process is the overarching planning initiative for managing the population and industrial growth anticipated in the Beaudesert Shire for the next 20 years and beyond. WOSP will include financial plans to fully cost the infrastructure needs and desired standards of service delivery recommended by Council. A key element to WOSP is input from the community through consultation and visioning.

The Annual Budget is prepared each year in the context of the financial plan. The Budget process entails consultation with management and the executive across the organisation and five days of briefings with Councillors covering both the process and content. This ensures that Councillors not only understand the budget but have ownership of it. If there are to be any significant budget inclusions that will impact on the community (such as the Commercial and Industrial Ratings Review) Council designs specific consultation programs to ensure relevant stakeholders across the community are fully informed.

Council has not embedded formal community consultation into the financial planning processes but is integrated informally via feedback received on the Corporate Plan and from Councillors. Full integration of financial and corporate planning is currently under review and Council is developing a framework to ensure the linkages between these activities are fully embedded across the organisation.

## Financial Reports

Monthly financial reports are provided to Council, the format of which is currently under review and modifications will shortly be implemented.

The annual financial statements are presented to Council in August and a briefing provided at the Finance and Executive Committee to ensure a basic understanding of the content. A Community Financial Report is also included in the Annual Report in a form that is readily understood by the community.

Generally few surprises are contained in the annual financial statements. Internal audit review control systems throughout the year and staff work closely with the external auditors during the audit process to ensure they are aware of any issues that may arise. These are included in the monthly financial reports to ensure that Council is fully briefed about any potential anomalies.

## Finance Team

Staffing structures, roles and responsibilities for financial management staff are clearly defined across the organisation and embedded in individual position descriptions along with the prerequisite skills, qualifications and experience required for each position. The financial coordinators meet monthly and all staff are required to complete an annual performance and development plan, further clarifying roles and expectations.

The Director Corporate Services is the most senior officer with direct responsibility for financial management in Council and is a member of the Leadership Group.

## Risk Management

Risk management is the process by which the impediments to an organisation achieving its objectives at all levels are professionally managed. A control environment is created by identifying, analysing, assessing, treating, monitoring and reviewing the strategic and operational risks. Creating a strong, integrated risk management framework is an integral element of achieving good governance. Council has a Risk Management Policy, Framework and Charter. These are supported by a cross-departmental Risk Management Team, and Corporate and Operational Risk Registers. These are all currently being reviewed to ensure their relevance in the ever changing environment.

## Delegations

Council delegates authority to the CEO to act on a range of specific matters. Where appropriate the CEO then on-delegates these powers and others at his disposal, to relevant officers across the organisation. This ensures that they are appropriately empowered to enable them to fully undertake the duties pursuant to their roles. Best practice dictates that to ensure the currency of the delegations, they should be reviewed by Council during its current term. This has been identified as an initiative in the 2006/07 Operational Plan and should be finalised this year.

## 4 Accountability

Managers and councillors of a local government need to be held responsible for its performance, as fundamentally council exists to govern for and on behalf of the local community. Embedding accountability across its systems and processes is central to achieving excellence in governance.

Accountability is important as it ensures that the public interest is upheld by both councillors and staff. Risk management systems protect community assets. Performance management systems ensure that there is open accountability for councillors and staff as well as embedding performance as a priority on both the organisation's and individual's agendas. Audit processes provide assurance to stakeholders. Proactive consultation and engagement supports good decision-making.

## Performance Management

Council continues to investigate ways to improve its performance management and review processes. At a staff member level Council has the Individual Development Program, an annual performance and development planning process. The plans identify each employee's position in the context of Council's strategic and operational priorities, engaging them in Council's vision for the Shire and placing Council in the best possible position to realise its objectives. A similar process is in place for managers and executives.

# Corporate Governance

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These programs are under review in 2006/07 and Council will implement new systems to allow better integration between organisational planning and those used to monitor individual performance and will better reflect the Council's strategic direction and goals for all staff.

As part of the Planning and Performance Cycle, and to meet statutory compliance, the CEO provides quarterly performance reports to Council assessing progress towards the implementation of its corporate and operational plans. Corporate Governance staff are reviewing this process and implementing ongoing improvements to increase the robustness and accountability of these reports.

Council also publishes an Annual Report each year to provide the community with detailed and meaningful information about its financial and non-financial performance. It reports on how well the organisation has progressed the strategic priorities as outlined in its Corporate Plan. This year Council won a Commendation Award at the Institute of Internal Auditors 2005 Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards for the 2004/05 Annual Report.

The CEO's Performance Review Committee, chaired by the Mayor, has been established to set an annual performance plan and undertake an annual review process for the CEO. This assists both Council and the CEO to be clear on Council's expectations of the CEO's performance and provides a forum for constructive feedback.

## Audit

Council has established an audit committee which consists of the Mayor as chair, and the three chairs of Council's Standing Committees. An external representative, who must be a qualified auditor, is also a member of the Committee, imparting neutrality and independence to the process. This membership is consistent with the relevant statutes and regulations but does not fully reflect best practice, which recommends that the Mayor is not chair and that this role is in fact filled by an independent member of the committee.

Council provides full cooperation and support to internal and external audits, to ensure best practice in financial and governance areas is achieved. Both internal and external auditors attend Council's quarterly Audit Committee meetings. The CEO and all directors, including the Director Corporate Services (the CFO) attend the meetings and are available to the committee for advice and comment. Internal Audit operates under a Charter which is aligned with the Internal Audit Policy, and is approved by the Audit Committee and formally adopted by Council.

External audit areas of focus during the year included Council's implementation of the Australian Equivalents to the International Financial Reporting Standards (AeIFRS). The Financial Statement included with this Report was also subject to review by the Queensland Audit Office.

Council's Internal Auditor reviewed grants and subsidies, licensing and compliance, BOB Project, business continuity planning, payroll and HR system, tendering, contract administration, water infrastructure maintenance, site security, purchasing cards and reimbursement procedures, and waste management work procedures during the year. The implementation of recommendations arising out of these reviews, and those items outstanding from previous reviews, were monitored by the Audit Committee.

As a result of these achievements, significant progress has been made towards delivering the objectives of the Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2004-2006. Planning, in conjunction with the Risk Management System, is currently underway to identify areas of significant concern for inclusion on the new Strategic Internal Audit Plan to be developed early in 2007.

## Consultation

Another indicator of good governance is the existence of a comprehensive consultation and engagement policy and framework. This supports good decision-making by ensuring that councillors are aware of the views of those who will be affected by their decisions. A consultation plan should also be included in the developmental stage of major activities and projects.

Council does not currently have such a policy and approaches consultation in a more ad hoc manner addressing projects and initiatives as they arise.

# Our Planning and Performance Cycle

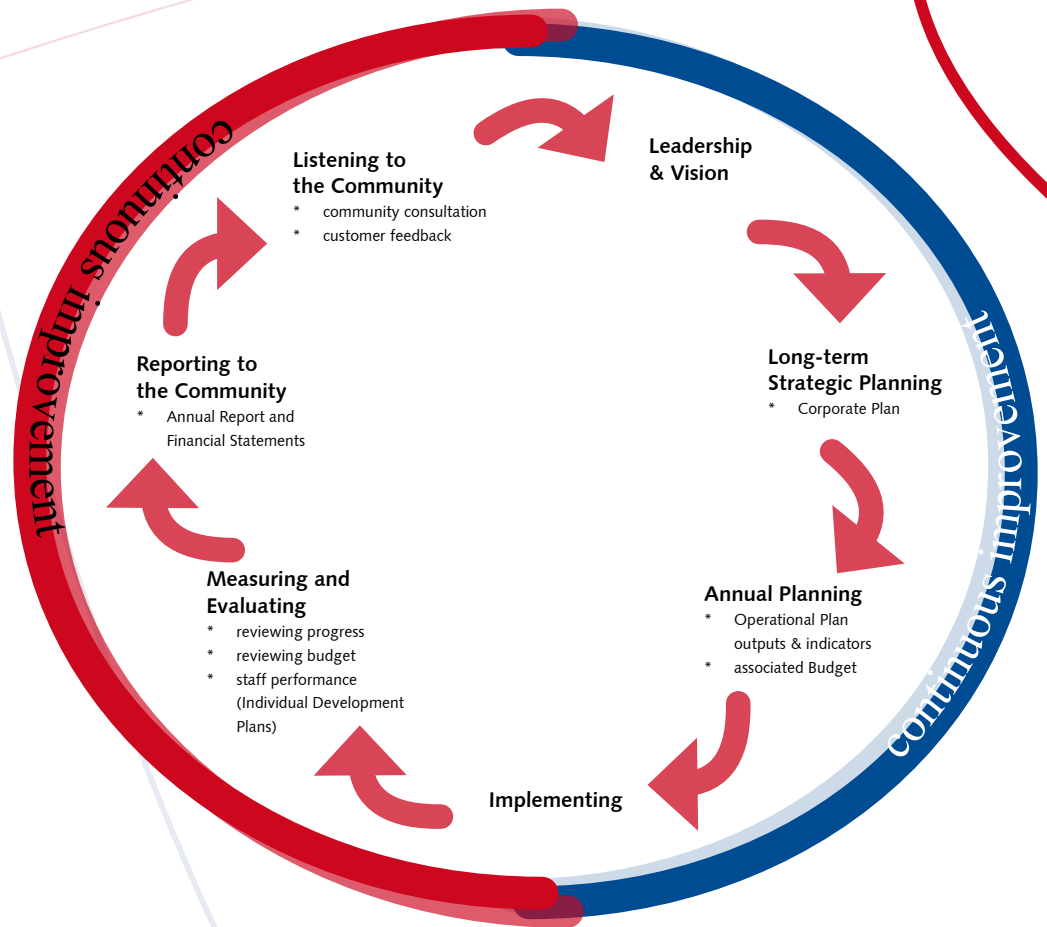
## Planning and Performance Measurement

Current Planning and Performance Measurement tools used by Council are the Corporate Plan 2005-2009, the annual Operational Plan and Budget, quarterly Operational Plan and Budget reviews, monthly financial reports and the Annual Report.

The change in organisational culture heralded by the new Chief Executive Officer will have significant ramifications to the way Beaudesert Shire Council undertakes its Corporate Planning and Performance Measurement.

In order to develop a culture that achieves Council's goal of being a results-driven and customer-focused organisation, 2006/07 will see the review of the 2005-2009 Corporate Plan; the implementation of a Corporate Governance Framework and Integrated Planning Framework; and the establishment of a new performance management system.

These tools will be combined to improve the way Council plans for what needs to be achieved by the organisation, how and when things are to be achieved and how we measure the efficiency and effectiveness of what is achieved.



# Our Corporate Performance Scorecard

## How are we going?

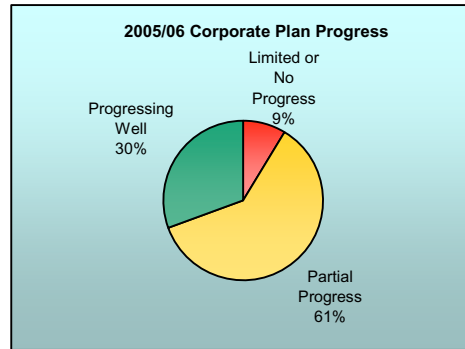
This is our first progress report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2005-2009.

2005/06 was the first year of the implementation of Council's Corporate Plan 2005-2009. Hence Council is in the early stages of realising these objectives.

The Corporate Plan identifies eight Key Result Areas that collectively aim to achieve Council's vision for the Shire of fostering a proud, vibrant and prosperous community. To achieve the objectives, and hence the vision, the Corporate Plan outlines key goals and strategies to be developed and/or implemented during the life of the plan.

The Corporate Performance Scorecard presented on the following pages is Council's report on how well it is progressing towards the achievement of the Corporate Plan goals. More detailed information about Council's performance under the Corporate Plan is contained in the remainder of this Annual Report.

A summary of our progress on implementing Corporate Objectives is found below:



## Timeframe

Each of the Goals is shown to be either:

**Discrete** ●  
The Goal has a defined completion date within the term of the Plan; or

**Ongoing** ➔  
The Goal has no defined completion date and is to be implemented on an ongoing basis, beyond the term of the Plan.

## Status

A summary of our progress on implementing corporate objectives is found below.

Council's progress toward implementing each Goal is shown with one of the following indicators:

- Red  
Limited or no progress to date
- Amber  
Partially progressing
- Green  
Progressing well/Completed

To determine which indicators best reflected our performance against each goal, we:

- considered all objective measures of our performance, as obtained through our reporting structure; and
- balanced this internal view with the perspective that a member of the community and other relevant stakeholders could be expected to take.

The result is an open and honest assessment of our performance.

Key Result Area	Goal	Implementation Timeframe	Status
<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Council recognises its key role in both encouraging growth of existing business activity and attracting new business and investment.	To support our existing business activities and base expansion on these	➔	■
	To maximise trade by Shire business and residents within the Shire and beyond to larger markets	➔	■
	To promote the Shire as a place to live, visit, invest, establish/relocate business and do business	➔	■
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Council is committed to working with the community to responsibly manage our unique environment for future generations.	To safeguard the natural assets of the Shire	➔	■
	To optimise energy conservation throughout the Shire	➔	■
	To ensure responsible and capable ecological management	➔	■
	To ensure contemporary waste management	➔	■
<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>			
Council is committed to long term strategies to achieve sustainability, balance and certainty for our existing and future community.	To develop, communicate and implement an integrated Shire land use and planning program	●	■
	To provide a range of social environments to maintain and enhance the lifestyles of our diverse communities	➔	■
	To develop effective regional partnerships and alliances to optimise our influence in the region and obtain mutual benefit	➔	■
<b>COUNCIL OPERATION AND CULTURE</b>			
Council is committed to making the organisation a "great place to work and do business".	To achieve a clear and common focus and intent shared by Councillors, Management and Staff	➔	■
	To develop an organisational culture driven by core values	➔	■
	To identify, develop and implement effective policies, quality processes, systems, procedures and training in all key areas to deliver high quality service	➔	■



SHIRE PROFILE AND APPEARANCE			
Raise the profile and enhance the image of the Shire so our community takes pride in the Shire and all it has to offer.	Develop a brand and image for the Shire	●	■
	Raise the profile of the Shire	➔	■
	To enhance the overall appearance of the Shire in both urban and rural areas	➔	■
COMMUNITY NEEDS			
Council recognises that it has a key role in identifying and responding to the needs of our community.	To identify and provide a balanced response to the range of services and facilities reasonably required to support the aspirations of our diverse community	➔	■
	To ensure safe, healthy human environments	➔	■
KEY INFRASTRUCTURE - WATER			
Council is committed to identifying and responding to the sustainable water requirements of our growing community.	To ensure the equitable and sustainable supply of water within the Shire to meet reasonable levels of demand	➔	■
	To ensure the community is aware of water conservation practices	➔	■
KEY INFRASTRUCTURE - TRANSPORT			
Council is committed to identifying and responding to the transport needs of our growing community.	To preserve and maintain existing transport infrastructure such as roads, bridges and footpaths throughout the Shire	➔	■
	To develop an all mode transport network plan	➔	■
	To develop a transport plan for the growing urban areas in the Shire, defining needs of all users	●	■

# Our Corporate Objectives

## Achieving our Corporate Objectives

The following section of the Annual Report provides detailed information on activities and initiatives undertaken in 2005/06 by Council as it strives to meet its corporate objectives. These initiatives are reported against each of the eight goals identified in the 2005-2009 Corporate Plan and a case study is included, highlighting one special achievement for each goal. Council's goals and objectives are:

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### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council recognises its key role in both encouraging growth of existing business activity and attracting new business and investment.

### KEY INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSPORT

Council is committed to identifying and responding to the transport needs of our growing community.

### STRATEGIC PLANING

Council is committed to long tem strategies to achieve sustainability, balance and certainty for our existing and future community.

### COMMUNITY NEEDS

Council recognises that it has a key role in identifying and responding to the needs of our community.

### KEY INFRASTRUCTURE WATER

Council is committed to identifying and responding to the sustainable water requirements of our growing community.

### SHIRE PROFILE AND APPEARANCE

Raise the profile and enhance the image of the Shire so our community takes pride in the Shire and all it has to offer.

### ENVIRONMENT

Council is committed to working with the community to responsibly manage our unique environment for future generations.

### COUNCIL OPERATION AND CULTURE

Council is committed to making the organisation a "great place to work and do business".

# Economic Development

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'Council recognises its key role in both encouraging growth of existing business activity and attracting new business and investment.'

# Economic Development

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## Realising Opportunities

Beaundesert Shire is poised to embark on an exciting development phase driven by substantial population growth and the establishment of a major transport and distribution hub. It is critical to the success of the region that the economic benefits resulting from this development are managed and supported so that ensuing opportunities are capitalised upon.

To reap the benefits from this development for the Shire, Council has adopted the following three goals:-

- 1 Support our existing business activities and base expansion on these.
- 2 Maximise trade by Shire business and residents within the Shire and beyond to larger markets.
- 3 Promote the Shire as a place to live, visit, invest, establish/relocate business and do business.

There have been numerous achievements against this objective, the most significant of which include:

- The completion of the Economic Development Strategy
- Delivery of targeted business events, seminars and workshops
- The completion of the Equine Industry Development Strategy and the establishment of the Queensland Horse Industry Group
- The appointment of a Liaison Officer who has attracted more than \$1m in grant funding for the Shire.

## Economic Development Strategy

This year in consultation with the business community, Council completed an Economic Development Strategy. The strategy provided a vision and strategic direction for economic development within the Shire. This is the first time since 1993 that the Shire has had a strategy of this nature, and it is a living document that will be added to and modified over time.

The report identified 11 major industry sectors for the region, contained profiles of the sectors, and provided information about why they are currently and will continue to drive the local economy. A large focus of this strategy was the establishment of industry networks that allow local businesses to work together to not only grow their own businesses, but assist in developing the industry and Shire as a whole.

The 11 major industry sectors identified in the strategy are:

- Primary Industries
- Equine Industry
- Manufacturing
- Sustainable Industries
- Tourism and Creative Industries
- Transport and Distribution
- Education and Training
- Knowledge Industries and professional services
- Building and Construction and Related Services
- Retail and Services
- Home Based Businesses

The Investment Attraction Strategy finalised in April 2005, complemented the strategic direction set in the Economic Development Strategy. The combination of these strategies positioned the Shire to proactively shape new business investment and to develop Beaundesert Shire as a strategic business and industry location in South East Queensland.

## Industry Networks

A key part of supporting business expansion and development, identified in these strategies, was the establishment of industry groups and/or clusters. The groups network 'like' businesses so they can work together to develop the industry, their own businesses and in the process raise the profile of the Shire. A range of industry related activities were held throughout the year to support the development of these groups. To date the activities focused primarily on the Equine, Environment, Food, and Home Based Business sectors.

There was also a range of small business networks that met on a regular basis with a guest speaker who presented a topic relevant to business development. Each of these programs had a business development focus. This process also helped businesses identify and target specific local and export markets.

## Equine Industry Development Strategy

The Beaudesert – Gold Coast Equine Industry Development Strategy recognised the considerable size of the region's Equine Industry and its existing significant economic impact on the Beaudesert Shire. With effective strategic planning the industry will provide a strong base for expansion of businesses and employment opportunities in the Shire.

The strategic plan will build on the capability of the emerging Equine Industry and provide a clear focus for the direction of the industry. The implementation of a number of short and long term projects have enabled growth and development within the Equine Industry, as well as attracting other horse related industries and businesses to the Shire.

The strategy was developed with funding from the Department of Transport and Regional Services and Gold Coast City Council with the cooperation of the Department of State Development and Innovation and highlighted a number of projects for the development of the local Equine Industry.

One of the significant outcomes of this strategy was the establishment of the Queensland Horse Industry Group.

## Developing Businesses

There have been a variety of business development programs implemented throughout 2005/06. These programs were aimed at developing local business

capabilities and as a result broaden the economic base of the Shire and make the region a more attractive environment for investment.

Some of the initiatives undertaken during the year included:

- Monthly workshops to allow businesses to learn in an interactive environment about core business development and management issues.
- Horse forums designed specifically for the equine sector, to provide people and businesses with the skills to manage horses and horse properties.
- Development of an Economic and Community Development Database that allows upcoming initiatives and opportunities to be communicated to the broader community.
- Appointment of a Liaison Officer to raise the profile of Shire needs, building closer relationships with community and industry groups, and attract funding to the Shire.
- The development of marketing material designed to showcase the Shire's business capabilities.

## Regulation Reduction

Council was also involved in the Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund (RRIF) initiative. It aims to foster the growth and sustainability of small business, particularly home based business, by removing or streamlining local government related regulation, red tape and compliance impediments. It is currently being implemented and is due for completion in early 2007.

RRIF has been instigated at a South East Queensland level, and Beaudesert is one of the councils that is proactively involved in the process. The two key components to this initiative are:

- Development Process Online – interactive publication of Council's Planning Scheme; allowing Development Applications to be tracked; and providing an online assessment tool for certain applications.
- Toolbox – this is a regional, web based knowledge management system used by Environmental Health professionals. The intent is to develop a component on our website to allow users to view relevant information about assessment requirements, online training programs and specific information kits.

## Capacity Building

The Community Capacity Building Program encompassed workshops delivered to non-profit or volunteer based organisations to provide them with the knowledge to embed sound business and management principles into their community organisation. These workshops were designed to build the capacity of the organisation and develop the skills of the people managing them. Workshops were delivered throughout the course of the year which focused on topics such as: business planning; development of funds and resources; developing networks within communities; planning and programming events; marketing; and planning for funding applications.



# Riding a Winner

It's 5.30am and the sun is rising over the escarpment, shedding light into the stables at Canungra. Equine body worker Kaleen Faul and her team at Wadham Park thoroughbred complex have four horses in the aquawalker, offering them gentle exercise to strengthen injured limbs.

The aquawalker is a circular pool with compartments for up to six horses. The water offers resistance training and the rubber base is easy on the horses' legs, bringing them back into condition for the racetrack or competition arena.

The facilities at Wadham Park include a new equine rehabilitation centre and state-of-the-art horse hospital, creating work for several vets, veterinary nurses and administration staff. It offers orthopaedic surgery, general surgery and general horse care. It is equipped with the latest diagnostic equipment and an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine, the first of its kind in Australia.

Such facilities are just an example of the investment in the equine industry in this region.

At the Magic Millions thoroughbred sales on the Gold Coast in 2005, about 7 percent of the \$52.4m horses traded came from the Beaudesert Shire, representing \$3.7m in sales.

As a result of the sales, Wadham Park provided agistment and quarantine for 90 horses for one to two months prior to the horses being exported to China, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines and New Zealand. Trade delegations also showed an interest in local horses and may return later in the year for the possible purchase of more horses for export.

To support these efforts, the Beaudesert-Gold Coast Equine Industry Development Strategy is working to create more jobs, generate more wealth and promote our region as an attractive place to invest and do business. The strategy is jointly funded by Beaudesert Shire Council, the Department of Transport and Regional Services (Regional Partnerships Program) and Gold Coast City Council. It was developed during the year with input from people in the Shire involved in equine interests.

Council staff are working with relevant stakeholders to implement key initiatives from the Equine Industry Development Strategy and to date an equine business cluster has been formed; a new equine website is being developed; and a series of horse industry forums have been held, with guest speakers on topics ranging from saddles to shoes to managing horses on small properties.

The Beaudesert Shire Equine Sports Facility Plan is also being finalised. This will identify, analyse and document the present and future developmental needs and facilities for equine sports at a local, regional and state level across the Beaudesert region.

Whether for business or recreation, the Shire offers an ideal climate and plenty of space for raising horses for anything from the racing industry to pony riding. To find out more, contact Council's Office of Economic and Community Development on 5540 5314.

# Environment

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'Council is committed to working with the community to responsibly manage our unique environment for future generations.'

# Environment

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## Responsible Management

As we commence a period of unprecedented residential and industrial growth in the Shire, the need to balance the economic and social gains derived from the growth with ecological sustainable development principles is paramount.

As custodians of the natural environment, Council has adopted the following strategic goals to assist in the preservation and management the natural environment:

- 1 To safeguard the natural assets of the Shire
- 2 To optimise energy conservation throughout the Shire
- 3 To ensure responsible and capable ecological management
- 4 To ensure contemporary waste management.

In achieving the goals above, Council has delivered the following significant achievements:

- Opened new Rathdowney Waste Transfer Station
- Finalist in 2006 Arbor Day Awards for Community Environmental Assistance Grants project
- Released six plant species guides for the whole of the Shire
- Developed a Horse Management on Small properties booklet
- Issued its first Voluntary Conservation Covenant

## Partnering the Community

Hundreds of people attended the highly successful World Environment Day activities which focused on promoting environmentally sustainable practices. Council provided ratepayers with 300 "Sustainability Packs" containing a water efficient shower head, two compact fluorescent light globes and free native trees. Ratepayers received their packs in reusable 'green' shopping bags which were sponsored by local supermarkets. The Sustainability Pack initiative will help Council achieve its Milestone 2 goals as part of the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP). This Program aims to reduce both Council and Community greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of 5 milestones.

Council in partnership with the Logan Albert Conservation Association invited schools within the Shire to participate in the Logan Albert Conservation Association Creative Arts Challenge for the Environment "Be energy smart – let's cool global warming" Poster Competition as part of World Environment Day celebrations. The aim of this competition was to involve the community in the CCP program and encourage students to think about and support sustainability and energy efficient practices. The winning entries in this section will be featured on the front and back cover of Council's CCP Local Action Plan. Council also partnered local schools to celebrate National Tree Day by providing about 600 native plants to schools and community groups.

## Educating the Community

New education material was developed aimed at informing landholders about the natural resources of the Shire and to promote Council programs. A highlight of this initiative was production of Plant Species Guides for six areas within the Shire.

The guides provided useful information on vegetation types and plant species endemic to the area, geological history and soil type, and biodiversity threats and solutions. Significant flora, appropriate plant use and explanations on habitat value were also the focus of the guides.

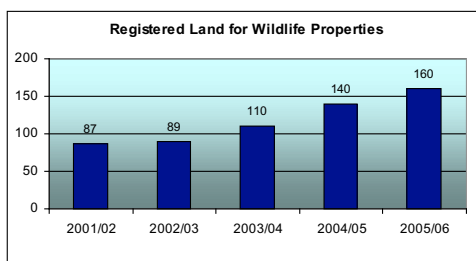
The Common Plants of Beaudesert Shire booklet was reprinted this year in time for World Environment Day and other interpretive display material has been developed. Another popular publication was the Horse Management on Small Properties Booklet, which was followed up with associated workshops to help landholders manage their properties for environmental outcomes. These workshops helped ratepayers keep pasture on their properties, and manage manure, waterways, fences, shelters and biodiversity areas.

## Protecting the Environment

Council adopted the Voluntary Conservation Agreements Program (VCAP) in 2004. The Program includes Land for Wildlife and Voluntary Conservation Covenants.

Council actively promoted the conservation of biodiversity and good land management through the Land for Wildlife program. Council continued to receive strong interest in this program and has 160 property owners registered, conserving an area of approximately 5,200 ha. Landholders receive free technical information, a quarterly regional newsletter and Land for Wildlife sign. Further to this landholders may be invited to apply for the Voluntary Conservation Covenant Program if their property was identified as having very high conservation values.

The first Voluntary Conservation Covenant was negotiated with Donald and Joan Champney at Bluff Road Cedarvale for over 1.481 ha of Veresdale Scrub. Council is currently processing a further five voluntary conservation covenants which are expected to be finalised in the 2006/07 financial year.



## Funding our Commitment

A pool of \$50,000 was provided to community groups in two separate funding rounds as part of the Community Environmental Assistance Grants (CEAG) Program. The first round saw the allocation of \$32,140 to six separate projects for environmental restoration work on Council land. Further supplementary funding has been obtained from other institutions by these same groups to value add to current CEAG projects. The second round saw the allocation of the remaining funds to projects including Spotted-tailed Quolls and bird surveying and for privet removal in Council reserves.

The Catchment Management unit has worked with the regional National Heritage Trust body this year to deliver incentive nights at four locations across the Shire. These nights included identifying sources of funding and technical experience to be delivered to ratepayers within the Shire. Over 300 people attended the information nights at Kerry, Rathdowney, Beaudesert and Beechmont, with a number of attendees signing up for further help or to access funds. Over \$190,000 is being delivered to landholders in the Shire to address their property management needs.

## Responsible and Capable Ecological Management

Staff provided advice to the Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership through several subgroups of the partnership including:

- Ecological Health Monitoring program
- Southern Implementation Group
- Management Action Tracking Database Steering Committee
- Load Based Monitoring Advisory Committee
- Logan-Albert Rivers Task Force.

Council also hosted the Healthy Waterways Report Card Launch for 2005 at Samuel and Agnes Smith Park at Logan Village.

## Optimising Energy Conservation

In 2002, Council joined the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP), a global initiative that enables local councils to reduce the emissions that cause global warming and air pollution. The CCP program is a collaboration between the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the Australian Greenhouse Office and the Department of Environment and Heritage.

This year Council worked towards Milestone 3, which involved the development of the Local Action Plan. This identified actions that Council would undertake to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set in Milestone 2.

These goals were two-fold: A Corporate Goal of 20% reduction on 2000 levels by 2012 and a Community Goal of 10% reduction on 1993 levels by 2012.

Council developed a number of funding initiatives that will help Council and the community achieve these targets. These include the purchase of 'Green' power, energy efficient promotion and energy education package. Further refinement of the Local Action Plan in consultation with Council's Local Action Working Group will commence soon.

## Local Environmental Initiatives

In a positive move for catchments in the Shire, a Catchment Management Officer was employed whose role was to source data from various regional and local networks to develop a schools based education kit containing local catchment and natural resource information.

To date several case studies and fact sheets have been drafted and will be available to the general public in 2006-2007. Activity kits such as "Web of Life", "Wetlands Detective" and "Bug Watch" have been developed during the year and were used at the Local Government Information Day and the Breakfast at the Wetlands in Spring Mountains Reserve.

These activity kits will progressively be used across the Shire at various community, Council and school events on request.

## Contemporary Waste Management

Following a concerted public education recycling initiative, residents of Beaudesert Shire collected 1,739 tonnes of recyclables during the year. The quantity of plastic, aluminium and paper/cardboard collected increased from the previous year; whereas the quantity of glass and metal (tin cans) decreased.

An audit of domestic waste collected kerbside was carried out in May to determine the volume and composition of materials placed in the garbage and recycling sections of domestic wheelie bins. The results indicated that there was plenty of scope to continue the education program to ensure more household rubbish was recycled.

Waste transfer facilities in the Shire provided residents with the ability to recycle additional materials, such as scrap metal, greenwaste and motor oil. The quantity of greenwaste, oil, cardboard and glass collected at Council's transfer stations increased over previous years. This indicated that residents were separating out more recyclables before disposing of waste in transfer station bins than in previous years. This was good news for Council and the environment, as recycling saves

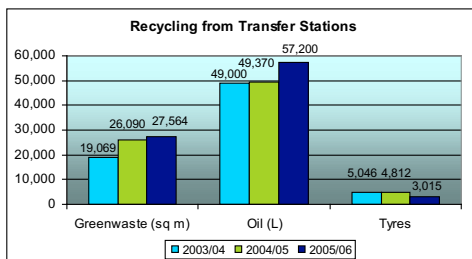
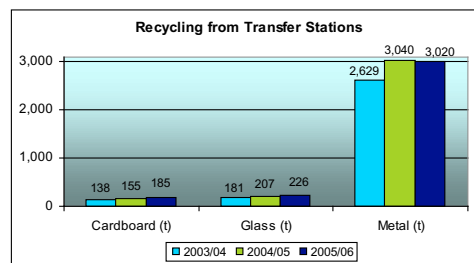
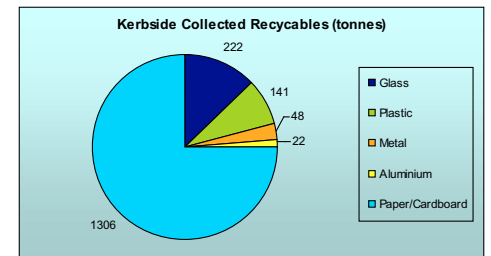
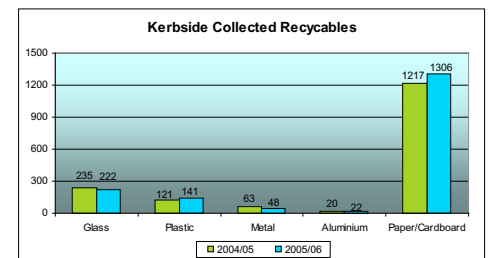
on valuable landfill space and reduces the use of natural resources.

Several new types of material have been added to the range that can be dropped off for recycling at Council's transfer stations. These are:

- Metal computer cases, DVDs and video recorders – the metal cases can be placed in the scrap metal piles for pick up and recycling into new metal products.
- Used printer cartridges can be dropped into specially labelled wheelie bins at the sites. The cartridges are refilled for reuse or recycled into new cartridges.
- Empty oil containers can be placed in specially labelled wheelie bins at the sites. The plastic is recycled into new plastic products.
- Concrete is being collected for crushing. Keeping concrete out of transfer station bins lowers the weight of bins, reduces the use of landfill space and allows the crushed material to be used, instead of road-base, within the Bromelton landfill.

A new waste transfer station was recently constructed at Rathdowney. This modern transfer station replaced the unstaffed facility that previously serviced the waste disposal needs of residents of Rathdowney and its surrounds. The upgrade of waste disposal services in this area represents one of the recommendations of the "Review of Beaudesert Shire Council's Waste Facility Network" endorsed by Council in 2004.

The new transfer station demonstrates Council's commitment to deliver contemporary waste management through the implementation of recycling initiatives and will provide a level of waste services that is environmentally responsible.





# Environmental Champions

For the Champney family, the forest on their land holds many memories. Their property in Bluff Rd, Cedarvale contains some of the last remaining biologically significant Veresdale Scrub to be found in the Shire.

A significant portion of the Shire was once covered in this Scrub but today, only about 4ha of it remains and almost 1½ha of this can be found intact on Don and Joan Champney's land.

Their property has 74 native plant species including the endangered rainforest tree *Pouteria eerwah* (Shiny-leaved Coondoo) which was presumed extinct up until the 1980's.

The area is one of the most biologically significant bushland remnants in the Shire. The Veresdale Scrub once stretched from Cedarvale to just north of Beaudesert at Waters Creek, possibly covering an area of up to 7000ha. Over the years, the land has been cleared for timber, agriculture and development, leaving only a few small remnants and isolated trees along road reserves and paddocks.

So it was truly a milestone for the environment in December 2005 when Council signed its first Voluntary Conservation Agreement with the Champneys to protect the vegetation.

The Voluntary Conservation Covenant is a voluntary but legally binding agreement with Council. A statutory covenant is applied over the conservation area of the property to ensure conservation in perpetuity. Landholders are provided with a management plan to help conserve the ecological values contained within the covenant area. In return, the landowner also gets a rates rebate on the portion of the land protected by the covenant.

As Joan said, "Don's ambition has been to protect this valuable little patch of scrub on our property and to make sure it is never cleared. When we heard about Council's covenant it was the perfect opportunity for us to achieve this vision."

This is an innovative way for Council to work in partnership with landowners in the Shire to protect the area's natural biodiversity for future generations.

The creation of a covenant has sparked interest from the wider community. The Logan Albert Conservation Association, the local conservation group, has regular field trip days to the property to help remove any environmental weeds that may be trying to invade the area. Council has also facilitated the collection and propagation of local native plant species, in partnership with Greening Australia Queensland, so that local provenance plant material can be used to support local conservation efforts.

As the world accepts its responsibility to protect and preserve the environment for future generations, Council and residents from across Beaudesert Shire are doing what they can to assist with this endeavour. There is much about this Shire that is of ecological value and one feature of particular significance is the Veresdale Scrub.

Council continues to work with landowners across the Shire to implement further conservation initiatives. If you would like more information on these programs contact Council's Coordinator Natural Resources on 5540 5248.

# Strategic Planning

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'Council is committed to long term strategies to achieve sustainability, balance and certainty for our existing and future community.'

# Strategic Planning

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## A Shared Vision

The predicted growth patterns for Beaudesert Shire are extraordinary. In 2006, the population will exceed 64,600 (double the 1991 figure) and in another 20 years, it is expected to reach almost 106,000. The impact of this growth will be far-reaching and underscores the importance of Council's focus on planning for increased services, additional infrastructure, and implementation of measures to protect the lifestyle and natural environment for existing residents and future generations.

To ensure that the Shire is fully prepared to cope with this unprecedented growth and in order to realise its full potential in a sustainable and balanced manner, Council has committed to the following goals:

- 1 To develop, communicate and implement an integrated Shire land use and planning program
- 2 To provide a range of social environments to maintain and enhance the lifestyles of our diverse communities
- 3 To develop effective regional partnerships and alliances to optimise our influence in the region and obtain mutual benefit.

Council's commitment to this objective has resulted in significant achievements this year, some of which included:

- Participation in the Office of Urban Management's Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area investigation in November 2005
- Completed Shire-wide Aerial Laser Survey
- Commissioned Traffic and Transport Study in conjunction with Department Main Roads
- Positioned Bromelton as a major industrial, logistics and multi-modal distribution area
- Advanced draft Planning Scheme through First State Interest Checks and Public Notification.

## Whole of Shire Planning

WOSP is Council's overarching planning initiative for managing the Shire's anticipated residential and industrial growth. The Project realised significant milestones throughout 2005/06, some of which are outlined in further detail throughout this section. Other achievements of note include:

- A joint Beaudesert Shire Council and Department of Main Roads Traffic and Transport Study, due for completion in late 2006, to inform the development of an Integrated Local Transport Plan for the Shire.
- A Shire-wide Aerial Laser Survey, completed in August 2006, to provide greater accuracy with new contour information to 0.25 of a metre and other valuable information. The survey greatly enhanced Council's GIS and mapping services and ensures greater detail is available for the Shire Wide and Local Area Study Reports.

## Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area

The State Government released its Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area report as a draft amendment to the South East Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP). Councillors and staff worked with the Office of Urban Management, the Gold Coast City Council and Logan City Council to identify the development opportunities for the investigation area. These were then balanced against the need to create jobs and to protect lifestyles and the environment.

## New Planning Scheme

The draft Beaudesert Planning Scheme identified a strategic framework based on a vision for the Shire of a proud, vibrant and prosperous community – living, working and playing locally, celebrating our diversity, natural assets and talents. This new Scheme will enable Council to better manage planning issues arising from the rapid population growth occurring in the Beaudesert Shire and South East Queensland.

The draft Scheme provides a framework for managing development in a way that:

- Seeks to achieve ecological sustainability; and
- Identifies the outcomes sought for development in Beaudesert Shire.

In 2005/06 the new Planning Scheme was submitted for the first round of State Interest Checks and displayed for Statutory Public Notification involving exhibition of the Scheme for public comment and feedback.

A total of 637 submissions were received during this phase. These were reviewed and analysed with final amendments planned to be presented to Council in August 2006. The Scheme is currently in its second round of State Interest Checks, for the State Government's final review and approval, and is expected to be finalised in early 2007.

The completion of the draft Scheme is currently on a tight timeframe to meet the legislative requirements of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 and will manage development within our Shire in the short-term only, while Council awaits the finalisation of the WOSP studies.

When WOSP is finalised in early 2008, the Scheme's policies and provisions will be reviewed, amended and updated as necessary. This is in order to address longer term planning needs and to better provide for the effective and orderly management of growth in our Shire.

## Preferred Pattern of Development

Significant investigation is continuing for the next major deliverable for WOSP, which is the Preferred Pattern of Development or urban development sequence. This will determine the timing and location of new population growth. It will assist to ensure that development is sensibly sequenced and the infrastructure to support community needs is provided in a timely and cost efficient manner. The Preferred Pattern of Development or urban development sequence will form part of the Local Growth Management Strategy.

## Bromelton

Council also significantly advanced Bromelton as a major industrial, logistics and multi-modal distribution area in 2005/06. Following Council's submission on the SEQRP, there was substantial recognition from the State Government. This confirmed Bromelton as a major South East Queensland employment and enterprise area. Land around Bromelton was included in the SEQRP as an expanded investigation area and recently an off-stream water storage facility in Bromelton was announced. This further confirmed Bromelton as the Shire's "Engine Room" and as a potential regional industrial and logistics centre and inland port.

# Strategic Planning

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## Natural Environment

A number of initiatives were progressed to ensure the ongoing protection of the Shire's natural assets as part of the Council's strategic planning function. These initiatives will ensure that the anticipated growth and development occurs in a sustainable manner and that our unique environment is responsibly managed for future generations.

Both the SEQRP and the new Beaudesert Planning Scheme are focused on protecting our natural environment in the Shire. This will be achieved by the classifying of substantial tracts of land as Open Space/Recreational and Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area. Council's proposed Regional Biodiversity Corridor (Wildlife Corridor), east to west across the north of the Shire through Munruben wetlands, is a significant initiative in planning for our future.

An extensive review is currently in progress of parkland, open space, sport and recreation facilities. This will form part of the input to the development of Sport, Recreation and Parkland Performance Criteria as part of WOSP.

## Cultural Heritage

The Indigenous Cultural Management Policy was adopted by Council in March 2006. This policy clearly articulates Council's support for the diverse cultural community that exists within the Shire and encourages the growth and protection of the Shire's cultural and heritage values. Council recognises the importance of indigenous cultural heritage objects and sites to the local Aboriginal and broader community, and is committed to protecting and preserving these areas when undertaking Council operations.

This fundamental principle is embraced by Council and adhering to the policy will ensure that actions would be undertaken in accordance with Council's Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management Manual. Adherence to this policy will guarantee that these areas are appropriately managed and that Council complies with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

The Indigenous Cultural Heritage Management Manual was developed and implemented to execute this policy. The Manual provides Council staff with easy-to-follow procedures to deal with cultural heritage objects or sites that may be affected by Council operations. In these circumstances Council has a responsibility to manage cultural heritage sites to avoid or mitigate damage to these important areas.

Undertaking operations in accordance with the Manual will ensure that this occurs in strict compliance with the Act. The Manual attempts to complement Council's current operational and design procedures to ensure a high standard of Aboriginal cultural heritage management by the most effective and efficient means possible.

## Regional Participation

Council has maintained its commitment to involvement in the regional planning agenda and initiatives through Councillor and staff representation on various regional networks and working parties.

Issues addressed by these groups included transport, communications, infrastructure and facilities, water and waste management, economic development, environmental management, public health and urban and non-urban development. This representation ensured that the Shire's interests and needs were advanced in the regional forum.

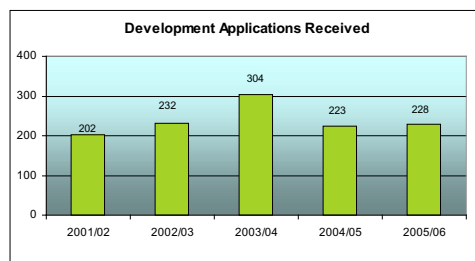
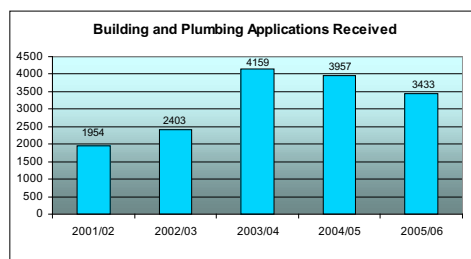
## Development

Development within the Beaudesert Shire as a result of approvals of applications has begun to change the face of townships across the Shire. This is particularly noticeable in Beaudesert where a Woolworths Supermarket was constructed and associated speciality shops and a new tavern are proposed.

Approval was granted for the redevelopment of the Jimboomba Junction shops which would include a Coles supermarket and speciality shops. The development will also comprise substantial off street and underground car parking. Jimboomba continued to attract commercial investment with the new owners of the Woolworths complex proposing redevelopment, while interest has also been expressed in developing the associated land.

Other development of interest is the continued opportunity for home based businesses to be established, together with tourist accommodation and home stay businesses. Development applications for the year totalled 228 while 3,433 building and plumbing applications were received. Over the past year, Council has received more than 76 subdivision applications for land development. This resulted in approvals for 410 new lots.

High levels of applications continued to place considerable pressure on Council's staff. Attempts to recruit extra staff have proven difficult as the development industry continued to struggle with the surge in activity and the demand remains in all sectors for trained professional staff.





# Bromelton on Track

A decision by three of Australia's leading industrialists to buy land at Bromelton, in the Beaudesert Shire, has shone the spotlight on the region's future.

The potential for Bromelton is being investigated as part of Council's Whole of Shire Planning process (WOSP), and has been incorporated into Council's new draft Beaudesert Planning Scheme.

The Bromelton site is ideally located, on the existing interstate rail line which already carries large volumes of goods between Brisbane and southern cities.

The industrialists, Council and State Government regard the site as a future industrial and logistics centre, serving freight handling for Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne to and from the Port of Brisbane.

Council has been intensely promoting the opportunities at Bromelton, meeting in Beaudesert with the Federal Roads Minister Jim Lloyd, and making representations to other high-ranking officials from the State and Federal Governments to highlight the importance of the area and the need for infrastructure funding.

As a result, the Office of Urban Management and Council are currently conducting a joint study of Bromelton's potential as a very significant employment hub.

The development of Bromelton as a major industrial, logistics and multi-modal distribution hub offers many significant opportunities for the Shire, Queensland and Australia.

It will provide thousands of potential jobs in the Shire over the next 10 to 20 years and beyond. It offers a convenient industrial and logistics site with gently sloping land near the interstate railway and close to the proposed Wyaralong Dam.

There will be an opportunity to turn the Summerland Way into a major transport route from Sydney through Grafton/Coffs Harbour to the Port of Brisbane. It will make a freight terminal site available within minutes of the proposed road corridors linking Ipswich to the Pacific Motorway.

It will provide a facility close to the efficient Port of Brisbane, which ships 23 million tonnes of goods per year and is Australia's closest port-of-call to Asia's markets – closer than ports at Sydney and Melbourne. It is also a critical opportunity to improve Australia's cost competitiveness and shipping turnaround times, given that worldwide shipping costs have increased five-fold with the increased demand by Chinese exporters.

From a strategic planning viewpoint, Council is investing in Bromelton as a future winner.

To find out more about Bromelton and other Shire planning initiatives see Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) under Planning.

# Council Operation and Culture

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'Council is committed to making the organisation a  
"great place to work and do business".'

# Council Operation and Culture

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## Organisational Change

It is vital to the future of Beaudesert Shire as it confronts the challenges resulting from rapid growth that Council continues to develop as an organisation. It needs to develop effective and efficient systems and processes; and increase its attractiveness as an employer as it strives to create a culture that improves Council's output and enables the organisation to become results-driven and customer-focused. High calibre staff and quality systems are necessary to underpin the expansion to ensure that it is planned and managed successfully.

To guarantee success in this endeavour Council has developed the following organisational goals:

- 1 To achieve a clear and common focus and intent shared by Councillors, Management and Staff
- 2 To develop an organisational culture driven by core values
- 3 To identify, develop and implement effective policies, quality processes, systems, procedures and training in all key areas to deliver high quality service.

Council achieved many significant milestones throughout 2005/06. Some of these were:

- 92 percent of residents highly satisfied with Council's customer service
- Developed 2005-2009 Corporate Plan
- Commenced Size, Shape and Sustainability Review to boost Council's efficiency and sustainability
- Won Commendation Award at the Institute of Internal Auditors 2005 Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards for the 2004/05 Annual Report
- Completed Stage 1 of the BOB Project – to identify and implement integrated, state-of-the-art corporate information systems to replace its existing core systems
- Developed a General Complaints Process to improve the way Council deals with customer concerns;
- Successfully implemented new International Financial Reporting Standards
- Introduced new Code of Conduct for Councillors.

## Size, Shape and Sustainability (SSS)

During 2005/06 a review of Council was commenced, aimed at boosting efficiency and assessing its organisational capacity to govern, plan and deliver a sustainable future for the Shire.

SSS is a positive, proactive approach by Council to ensure its operations are structured appropriately to meet future urban and industrial growth. SSS will identify ways that Council can be more efficient and improve service delivery to ratepayers and other key stakeholders. It also looks to improve overall efficiency and sustainability by identifying:

- New revenue streams
- Opportunities for sharing services and resources with neighbouring local governments.

Information gathering, staff workshops and an initial analysis has finalised the first phase of SSS. The next stage will see Council undertake an Enterprise Review to assess strategic and operational capability, and target specific areas of identified vulnerabilities and strengths for detailed evaluation.

## Continuous Improvements

This year the Engineering Design team implemented a formalised project management approach to the production of design documentation. This was to provide ongoing, strategic improvements to the work processes and coordination with other sections of Council. The team has also completed an increased annual design program in order to ensure that detailed plans and documentation are available well ahead of the construction program. In a major coup, this has resulted in the design program being completed and available up to 12 months ahead to provide for adequate construction scheduling and works planning. These projects have been successful but will require ongoing management attention to embed the new approaches into the business environment.

Council's Planning and Development section focused on ensuring delivery of approvals in a timely manner. While Council still struggles to meet statutory timeframes due to acute resource issues, there is a strong focus on the processes required by the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* and associated legislation. These processes are reviewed in an ongoing manner to ensure that they are sound, robust and produce a result for the applicant. To address resource issues Council has undertaken external review of the Planning and Building and Plumbing functions. The aim was to identify strategies for Council to competitively attract staff and improve its development assessment service.

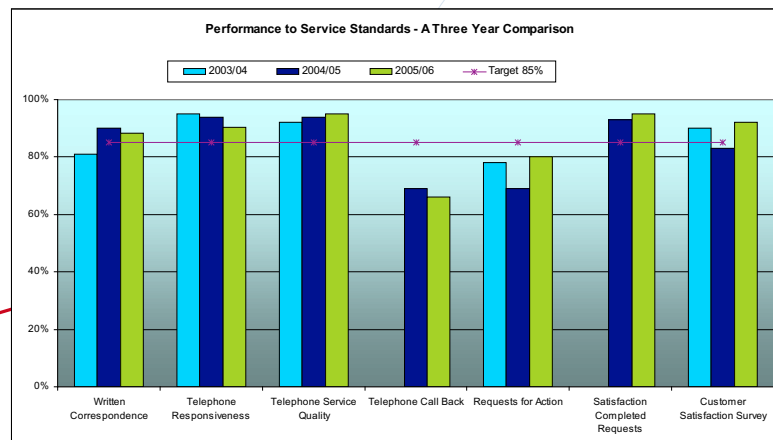
## Customer Contact Charter

Council places a high value and commitment to deliver quality services to its community members, and as a result adopted the Customer Contact Charter. This is updated annually and specifies eight service delivery standards considered vital to improve communications with customers and focus on the provision of outstanding service delivery. These standards can be viewed in the Charter which is available at the three Customer Service Centres and on Council's website [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) under 'Publications'. This Charter also represents an opportunity to provide support mechanisms to foster an environment of continuous improvement.

Council's performance against the service standards is depicted in the figure below. The goal is to meet an 85 percent target on service delivery in these areas and the results demonstrate that staff are meeting and exceeding these standards in most instances.

## Customer Satisfaction

The 2005/06 Annual Customer Service Satisfaction Survey identified that 92 percent of participants were highly satisfied on the whole with the customer service provided by Council. Council aims to meet an overall customer service satisfaction rating of six or better as measured in the Annual Survey (where one is extremely dissatisfied and 10 is exceptionally satisfied). The survey also highlighted areas for improvement to Council's customer service, which gives Council officers an opportunity to develop and implement process, procedure and service delivery initiatives.



# Council Operation and Culture

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## Customer Relations

The Customer Relationship Management System (CRMS) has been purpose built to manage customer requests, compliments, suggestions, Council's General Complaints Process and Call Back module. The 'requests for action' service factor for 2005/06 was 79 percent. This included 13,981 requests for service, with 11,101 of these responded to within the service standard. This was an increase of 2,880 requests compared to the previous financial year. Additionally, 95 percent of customers surveyed stated that their request in 2005/06 was completed satisfactorily.

The Customer Service Induction Program was delivered monthly to new staff in Council. This program places great emphasis on the best methods to achieve the desired customer-focused culture. It also reinforces Council's core values to: treat everyone with fairness and respect; work together to provide the best possible service, and be open to new ideas.

## Council Website

In a Shire the size of Beaudesert, a quick and easy way is needed to keep up with what's happening. Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) provided Internet users with convenient access to information about the Shire and Council's activities 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site was regularly updated to add Council news, meeting minutes, job vacancies and new publications, so that customers can find what they are looking for. Among the most popular pages this year were those on community groups, Council services, events and job vacancies.

The number of visitors to the website continues to increase each year, reaching more than 890,000 separate page views, which represented 260,000 visitor sessions in 2005/06. This means that the number of page views has more than doubled from last year's 440,000 views. As the demand for information in electronic format continued to grow, Council completed an upgrade to the technology that supports the website to cater for future requirements. It also plans to review and upgrade the content and capability of the site next year to maximise the benefits of new information systems.

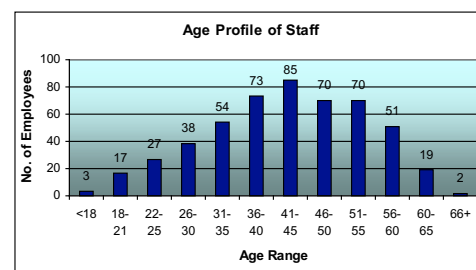
In the future, Council is looking to provide more interactive services through the Internet, such as online tracking of licences and Development Applications. The potential for provision of these e-business services is possible by the implementation of new technologically advanced corporate information systems and involvement in the Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund initiative.

## Council Staff

Council is confronted with the issues facing an aging workforce. The graph below indicates more than a quarter of Council's workforce are over 50. It is anticipated that during the next five years a significant number of staff will retire. A number of strategies including succession planning are being engaged to address the anticipated departures.

Council continued to face the challenge of recruiting and retaining high calibre staff to enable it to realise its vision and community promises. To build capacity Council developed and implemented alternative staffing strategies to resolve the shortage of skilled staff. This included programs such as "growing our own". This is an initiative to support professional, technical and operational employees with a view to succession planning.

One example of this strategy was seen in the Development Engineering team. It involved the establishment of a training position. Council provided support for an employee to undertake appropriate part-time tertiary studies while they continued to work full-time. This strategy has not resolved the skills shortage in the short-term but has achieved a reduction in the team's backlog.



## Training and Development

To provide employees with the opportunity for professional and personal development and the recognition of skills already gained in the workplace, 68 staff have undertaken traineeships. These attract Federal government funding and are conducted at no cost to Council. Traineeships have occurred in areas of rural operations, road construction and maintenance, business administration and mechanical engineering.

Council also received funding through the State Government Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative. This aims to give people at risk of long-term unemployment an opportunity to develop vital work and life skills. Seven trainees have undertaken work and study with Council. A further eight places have been allocated for early 2007 under this initiative.

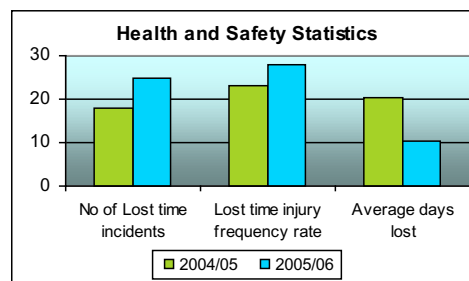
Nine employees are currently undertaking tertiary studies with Council. This program is designed to offer staff the opportunity to pursue personal development and will assist Council to overcome the skills shortages being experienced in staff recruitment. More focus is being placed on the development of existing employees to cover skills gaps.

## Induction Program

Induction programs were conducted for 42 new employees throughout the year. The induction program helps new employees adjust to the organisation by providing information on topics from "how to complete a timesheet" to "Council's purchasing policy".

## Health and Safety

Council has increased its efforts to provide a safe working environment for its employees. An external audit showed that 90 percent of staff rated workplace health and safety in Council as good or better. Council intends to increase its efforts to ensure that staff are not exposed to preventable injuries. Council also recruited an additional Health and Safety Officer during the year to assist with the implementation of Safe Plan. As illustrated in the table below Council has had more workplace claims in 2005/06 but these were of a lesser severity than the prior year.



## Information Services

Information Services provided support to over 300 Council officers across the Information Technology, Geographical Information Systems and Records functions. In 2005/06 it strived to improve overall processes, consolidate and cleanse data, and update the Microsoft platforms. This was necessary to support the anticipated change in 2006/07 to the core corporate systems.

This year Council endorsed the Information Security Policy (A0019) which

improved controls and standards over all information security within Council. This policy aligned Council with State Government and Australian standards in the area of information security.

Improvements to recordkeeping compliance were fundamental to the changes made in 2005/06. These were necessary to progress Council towards improvements in underlying procedures. Self registration of documents was one key project implemented. It allows officers across Council to record and store their own files into the recordkeeping system. This project was vital to ensure that Council met both its recordkeeping responsibilities and legislative requirements.

The Geographical Information Systems team improved the quality of the data in the mapping application. This was achieved through an 18-month program to update 'spot height' and contour data. It is scheduled for completion in 2006/07.

A major project was commenced in 2005/06 to replace Council's core information systems. The first stage of the BOB Project entailed significant project planning, a tender process and systems evaluation. The next stage will see Council implement the systems. This key project will provide Council with a fully integrated solution that is both technologically advanced and enables the utilisation of relational database technology. This is essential for Council to provide best practice strategies and improved community access to services. The new systems will offer better customer service outcomes, fully compliant reporting, increased flexibility and availability of information.



# Council Operation and Culture

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## Financial Management

Council successfully implemented the Australian Equivalent International Financial Reporting Standards (AeIFRS) into Council's annual Financial Statements. This was in line with the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) guidelines.

Throughout 2005/06 Council achieved many significant financial milestones. One highlight was the effective management of asset revaluations. Performance targets for ratings were also achieved with Rate Arrears at 30 June, 2006 only being three percent and target dates for the issue of invoices met. More than 90 percent of Accounts Payable payments were made by EFT, while outstanding debtors of greater than 90 days were maintained at a manageable level. In a bid to foster local business development Council sought to partner the local business community through a cooperative purchasing agreement. Local businesses were provided with a list of regular Council purchases and were encouraged to submit competitive quotations for the supply of these goods and services.

Refer to page 78 Our Financial Reports, for detailed finance information including the Community Financial Report.

## Communication

Awareness of Council activities and programs were delivered via various initiatives throughout 2005/06 to enhance communication with both the community and Council staff. These included:

- Seasonal editions of 20-page 'Shirelife' newsletter sent to 25,000 households
- Council website updated
- WOSP newsletters sent out to 25,000 households
- Monthly staff newsletter produced
- Press releases and Councillor columns published in local media
- Councillors appeared weekly on community radio.

## Corporate Governance

Council's Corporate Governance unit coordinated the following key business activities during the year:

- Corporate and Operational Planning
- Risk Management
- Internal Audit
- Performance Management
- Delegations and Policies
- Local Laws
- Freedom of Information
- Ombudsman investigations
- Crime and Misconduct Commission Liaison
- Reporting
- Codes of Conduct
- Complaint Management

Despite significant staffing changes throughout the year, the Corporate Governance Section achieved a number of milestones. Council won an Award of Commendation at The Institute of Internal Auditors 2005 Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards for the production of its 2004/05 Annual Report. These awards recognise excellence in the quality of information in Annual Reports of Queensland's public sector entities.

Council launched the 2005-2009 Corporate Plan setting Council's strategic direction for the next four years. A new Code of Conduct for Councillors which included behavioural standards was adopted and the General Complaints Process was also introduced.

As internal and external governance expectations continue to increase, Council will continue to meet existing challenges and embrace new ones. Refer to page 20 Corporate Governance for further information.

# Council Operation and Culture

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## Our Future

Alastair Dawson commenced as Chief Executive Officer in June 2006. This change in leadership heralds a new direction for Council as it embarks on cultural change to assist in the realisation of its ambition to become results-driven and customer-focused. This shift will be assisted by a structural realignment and the introduction of new workplace values.

The new culture will position Council to ensure it is both capable of fulfilling the community promises made in its Corporate Plan and able to face the challenges ahead as it deals with the predicted growth in the Shire.

It is essential that Council adequately resources key areas of the organisation to ensure it has the ability to meet customer expectations. This is critical in coming years as it contends with both population and developmental growth. Also crucial to the success of the Shire is developing Council's attractiveness as an employer. This will ensure that it can compete in the marketplace to recruit and retain high quality employees and sustain the change in organisational culture.

It is estimated that as at 30 June, 2006 Beaudesert Shire Council had 0.76 employees per 100 capita of population. This is an overall drop of 3 percent since 2000 despite the corresponding 26 percent increase in population.

No of Employees per 100 capita - Regional Comparison*					
Local Government	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	% Change (1999-2003)
Logan	0.49	0.51	0.53	0.42	- 14%
Gold Coast	0.62	0.56	0.56	0.63	+ 2%
Ipswich	0.63	0.82	0.81	0.76	+20%
Beaudesert	0.78	0.74	0.71	0.72	- 7%
Boonah	1.20	1.22	1.20	1.17	- 3%

No of Employees per 100 capita - Local Government Group Comparison**					
Local Government	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	% Change (1999-2003)
Beaudesert	0.78	0.74	0.71	0.72	- 7%
Noosa	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.88	+ 2%
Thuringowa	0.57	0.56	0.61	0.55	- 4%

Population Growth - Regional Comparison**					
Local Government	1999/00	2002/03	% Change (1999-2003)	2005/06	% Change (1999-2006)
Logan	165,200	171,500	4%	176,600	7%
Gold Coast	394,700	456,000	16%	505,000	28%
Ipswich	124,600	131,900	6%	141,000	13%
Beaudesert	51,200	57,600	13%	64,600	26%
Boonah	8,300	8,500	2%	8,500	2%

Population Growth - Australian Classification of Local Government Group Comparison***					
Local Government	1999/00	2002/03	% Change (1999-2003)	2005/06	% Change (1999-2006)
Beaudesert	51,200	57,600	13%	64,600	26%
Noosa	41,100	46,500	13%	50,900	24%
Thuringowa	49,300	56,000	14%	60,600	23%

\*SOURCE: Queensland Local Government Comparative Information 2002-03

\*\*SOURCE: Planning Information and Forecast Unit – Population and Housing Fact Sheets (March 2006)

# Local Government Group Comparison is in accordance with the Australian Classification of Local Government Group

# BOB

## Integrates Council

Have you ever contacted Council and been frustrated that one person has not been able to solve your problem or provide you with all the information that you need? How many times have you thought you updated information with Council only to realise that the old information is still being used by other sections of Council? How often are you irritated that in this technological age you cannot pay your rates or update your animal registrations on-line?

Council's BOB Project is an exciting new venture that will see the implementation of new integrated business information systems across Council. These systems should help ease much of the frustration and duplication currently experienced with Council systems and processes.

From October 2006, Council will replace its core business systems to deliver enhanced customer service, ensure fully compliant reporting mechanisms and increase flexibility and availability of information to staff and the public.

Through the implementation of these new state-of-the-art systems the community can expect to receive many direct benefits as well. Council will be able to provide higher quality services through improved workflows and procedures, and will then be able to offer the community various e-Business opportunities.

Council expects to be able to provide more timely information by customer service officers at your first point of contact, as well as being able to offer estimated time frames. It is anticipated that these new systems will be able to provide comprehensive information in

relation to an issue due to the linking of information between modules. It is hoped that this integration will also reduce waiting and response times for processing of customer requests.

Once these systems are installed, Council is expecting to be able to maximise its return on investment by capitalizing on various e-Business opportunities. These services should include: electronic lodgment of Development Applications, property search certificates and FOI applications; online submission of customer requests and general enquiries; payment of rates and dog registrations; and direct interfacing with some State and Federal Government systems.

After 12-months of investigation and liaison with other councils, Council reached a milestone in its BOB Project by announcing it would purchase products from Technology One and ESRI Australia, subject to an acceptable contractual agreement. The Technology One solution is highly regarded internationally and uses the Microsoft ".net" functionality. It will consolidate several software systems used throughout Council.

More than 100 Councils, including nine in South East Queensland, have installed the Technology One solution. It is one of the largest and most successful software development companies in Australia, with a strong commitment to ongoing research and development at its Brisbane headquarters, including maintaining compliance with Queensland laws.

ESRI Australia is one of the world's leading suppliers of geographic information systems (GIS), providing

best practice standards and a solution that offers mapping and spatial data dissemination at the highest level. The ESRI GIS product also offers excellent integration with the Technology One solution.

This project is an example of innovation within Council with all directorates working together to identify the constructs of the software and the aspirations for compliance with changes in state government legislation. The project is scheduled for completion by late 2007. Thanks to the efforts of the Project Team and Steering Committee and with Council support, the new systems will allow the realisation of many business benefits including e-Business opportunities for the community.

# Shire Profile and Appearance

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'Raise the profile and enhance the image of the Shire so our community takes pride in the Shire and all it has to offer.'

# Shire Profile and Appearance

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## Shire Spotlight

To ensure that Beaudesert Shire reaches its potential and achieves the maximum benefits from South East Queensland's population growth it is important that the Shire is seen as an attractive place to live and invest. Council needs to continue to spotlight the unique charms of the Shire and ensure that its appearance and facilities are developed and maintained to a high standard.

To assist Council in achieving this objective the following goals have been set:

- Develop a brand and image for the Shire
- Raise the profile of the Shire
- To enhance the overall appearance of the Shire in both urban and rural areas.

There have been a number of important achievements this year for this objective, the most significant of which include:

- Hidden Oasis tourism marketing campaign awarded commendation at the Public Relations Institute of Australia National Awards
- Hidden Oasis website won silver at international design awards
- Council implemented a new tree policy.

## A Hidden Oasis Revealed

In October 2005, following on from the Tourism Marketing Strategy adopted last year, Council launched its innovative Hidden Oasis tourism marketing campaign aimed at putting the Shire on the map.

The campaign was a joint marketing effort with Beaudesert Country Tourism, Tamborine Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Beaudesert Times, Kooralbyn Resort and marketing firm Adepot. It features the rainforests, camping areas, five star resorts, wineries and people of Beaudesert Shire, tempting residents an hour away in Brisbane and the Gold Coast to getaway for a short break. Information on the Shire can be found on the website at [www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com](http://www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com), where accommodation can be booked directly on-line, or by phoning 1300 881 164.

Council was rewarded for its innovation with a commended Golden Target Award in the consumer marketing category at the Public Relations Institute of Australia national conference. The campaign also won gold at the state Public Relations Institute of Queensland award in Brisbane. The television ad was named one of the best 13 produced in Queensland last year and the tourism website won silver in an international design award.

As part of the Marketing Strategy, two tourist magazines were produced for distribution through Visitor Information Centres (VIC). The Shire's information centres continue to be popular and Council will enhance its support with the appointment of a VIC Coordinator later in 2006.

## Promoting Tourism

To ensure the continued development of the Shire's tourism industry and to support its marketing campaign, the immediate priorities for Council's Tourism Officer include tourism development projects such as erecting Hidden Oasis maps and signs, working with local visitor information centres, and promoting the website and the central information phone-line. The Tourism Officer is working with local operators to realise the immense benefit to the local economy that visitors to the Beaudesert Shire can bring.

# Shire Profile and Appearance Feature

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## Community Events

Council implemented the Community Events Grant program in 2005. This converted the Major Events Program into a competitive funding round, open to all community groups hosting local events.

New grants were provided to a vast range of community groups for both new and well-established local events. These ranged from the Rathdowney Heritage Festival to Springtime on the Mountain.

Some other events included:

- Beaudesert Country and Horse Festival - a 10-day event in its 10<sup>th</sup> year which attracted horse lovers from around Australia and overseas to the Shire each June;
- Kooralbyn One Day Event - involving 250 competitors in dressage, cross country and show jumping;
- Canungra Festival of the Arts - carrying over from the 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations with arts, crafts, music, food and wine;
- The Beaudesert Cup - horse races which attracted a huge crowd of local residents and visitors;
- Canungra Hang Gliding Classic and Canungra Paragliding Cup;
- A Family Fun Day hosted by Beaucare and Beaudesert Shire Interagency during 2006 National Families Week;
- Jimboomba Country Fair run by Emmaus Primary School; and
- The launch of the Tiles for Trees project by Tamborine Mountain Landcare.

As well as supporting the above events Council also organised Australia Day festivities, handover of Zamia Theatre and Regional Arts Development Fund Expos. Council hosted citizenship ceremonies on Australian Citizenship Day in September 2005, at Logan Village and Beaudesert on Australia Day and in Jubilee Park during the Country and Horse Festival in June for new citizens and their guests.

## Shire Appearance

A tender was awarded for the Granger Road overpass 'Welcome to the Shire' sign and construction is now underway. Three information signs are being installed on Tamborine Mountain and at Tamborine, with advertising support from the tourism industry and funding from the Department of Main Roads. Council is currently working with tourism operators and Main Roads to also install directional signage on Tamborine Mountain.

Council's nursery supplied over 10,000 trees to ratepayers during community free tree giveaway events in an effort to "green up" the Shire. Council developed and adopted a new tree policy to improve public safety and promote, preserve and enhance the heritage, landscape and environmental values of Council's tree assets. This policy was relevant only to trees on Council-managed land and was implemented to assist in the integrated Shire land use and planning program. Various lists of suitable trees for specific locations and situations were approved by Council. This work was complemented

by the species guides produced by Council's Environmental Activities section (see page 38 Environment for details).

This year Council implemented a performance management system for the public toilet cleaning contract, which has improved the appearance and functionality of public toilets across the Shire. Council has also conducted its annual Kerbside Cleanup and helped facilitate the Shire's contribution to Clean-up Australia Day and National Tree Day.



# Proud of Our Hidden Oasis

Meet the volunteers from Rathdowney Information Centre. They are in the thick of the Beaudesert Shire, Queensland's Hidden Oasis campaign, wearing new shirts and giving out new brochures to help visitors discover the natural beauty of the Shire.

The campaign, which won a commended Golden Target Award in the Public Relations Institute of Australia national awards, included the Shire's very first TV ad, two coffee table style magazines, a tourism website and signage.

The campaign is a partnership between Council, Beaudesert Country Tourism, the Tamborine Mountain Chamber of Commerce, Kooralbyn Resort and Beaudesert Times – a prime example of Council working in partnership with the community to boost the economy and promote pride in our surrounds. The task is made easier by the calibre of the local tourism activities on offer.

For instance, Lillydale Host Farm, at nearby Mt Barney, offers a four and a half star tourist facility with a chance to work on the farm, ride a horse or simply relax. "When we first conceived the idea of turning the family grazing property

into a host farm, I remember being told we were mad and it would never work," says Pam Hardgrave. But the hard work has paid off. The business won the Chairman's Award for Excellence at the 2005 Queensland Tourism Awards -- recognition normally reserved for the State's big tourism operations.

Other award winning attractions across the Shire include the Songbirds restaurant on Tamborine Mountain which took out the 2006 restaurant of the year award for all of Queensland! And the Tamborine Mountain Distillery, with its hand-painted bottles filled with liqueurs made from locally grown fruit, has a long-list of international awards.

You're invited to explore the Shire. Ride a horse, visit one of eight wineries, abseil Mt Barney, feast on hearty meals, fresh damper or scrumptious fine cuisine, or relax on the verandah. Camp under the stars or stay in quality accommodation.

Visit Yellow Pinch Reserve – at the gateway to Mt Barney. It's recently been upgraded by Council and conservation groups under an environmental grant program. Or visit the Rathdowney Heritage Festival in April.

If you're looking to explore the Shire in coming months or have family and friends heading to Queensland, see the website at [www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com](http://www.queenslandshiddenoasis.com) for holiday/weekend/weekday getaway ideas.

# Community Needs

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'Council recognises that it has a key role in identifying and responding to the needs of our community.'

# Community Needs

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## Responding to Expectations

South East Queensland's unique lifestyle, strong economic growth and diverse natural environments have made one of the most sought after places to live in Australia. Beaudesert Shire will continue to attract a considerable share of this population growth. The Shire has a vision of being a proud, vibrant and prosperous community – living, working and playing locally, celebrating our diversity, natural assets and talents. To realise this vision it is critical that Council reacts to this population growth by identifying and responding to the needs of the community.

To meet the Community's needs, Council has adopted the following goals:

- 1 To identify and provide a balanced response to the range of services and facilities reasonably required to support the aspirations of our diverse community
- 2 To ensure safe, healthy human environments.

Substantial progress was made in 2005/06 towards meeting this objective. The most significant achievements include:

- Commenced construction of the Beaudesert Arts and Cultural Centre
- Redesigned the front counter of the Beaudesert Administration Building to provide a more pleasant customer service area and to improve security
- Established the Economic and Community Development branch
- Finalised Lead On Beaudesert service agreement
- Chosen by State Library to form part of the Heritage Outreach Program
- Joint patrols instigated with the Queensland Police to control the illegal riding of motorbikes on Council and Crown land
- First Food Hygiene Training Program developed and delivered in the Shire.

## Arts and Cultural Centre

After much planning and consultation, work has started on converting the Beaudesert Shire Hall into an arts and cultural facility.

With the assistance of State and Federal Government funds Council will expand, upgrade and fit-out the existing Shire Hall into a facility that can cater for exhibitions, displays, workshops and performances, while continuing to serve as a community hall. It will provide a place for the Shire's extensive creative arts industry to show their talents and exhibit their crafts, as well as allow the many home-based artists to progress from hobbyists to business people.

The facility's location will capitalise on the increasing number of tourists to the area, creating more business opportunities for the Beaudesert community and increasing employment and economic opportunities to ensure the growth of the town. Next time you drive past the Shire hall, have a look as great things are happening.

## Supporting the Arts

The purpose of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is to partner with local artists to support the development of the arts and cultural community within the Shire. This is achieved through the funding of specific projects and is a key component of the Shire's arts and cultural policy and strategy. In 2005/06, \$37,000 was allocated to the RADF program which comprised \$20,000 from Council and \$17,000 from Arts Queensland.

A total of 34 applications were received, seeking combined funds of \$116,594 as a contribution towards activities with a combined value of \$483,308. The Committee and Council approved 21 applications either in full or in part.

Projects funded include:

- Eden Brewis (Sneak Preview Film Festival)
- Kathleen Procter (Recording & Producing a CD)
- Alan Ball (Blacksmith Conference held in USA)
- Zoe Ann Fields (McGregor Summer School)
- Beaudesert Potters (Mould Making Workshop)
- Chelsi Foscett (Website Design Course)
- Azra Spiros ("Who Dunnit" Book of Creative Works of Local People)
- Tamborine Mountain Writers Group (Collection of Creative Writing)
- Beaudesert Bush Bards (Poetry Workshop)
- Vicki Ewart (In the Bin Film Festival)
- Canungra Art & Culture Group (Six Numerous Projects)
- Elizabeth Flynn (Regional & Metropolitan Tour)
- Regional Touring Opera (Developing an opera production)
- Kristine Kelly (McGregor Summer School)
- Rory O'Connor (Book of Aboriginal History in the Shire)
- Rory O'Connor (Tourism Study – Drumley Pilgrimage)

## Sport and Recreation

The Master Planning process has commenced for the Tamborine Mountain District Sport and Recreation Complex to be situated on Council's land at Long Road, North Tamborine. Draft layout options were drawn up following consultation with stakeholder groups and a public meeting is planned in October 2006 to present these options for comment. The aim is to design an integrated community club facility that promotes use by multiple community groups. The Master Plan is intended to be a 20-year vision, implemented in stages as groups and Council obtain the necessary funds.

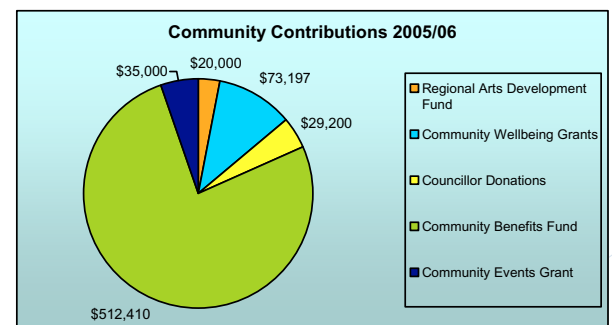
Council commissioned a study into the future sporting needs of the north of the Shire which led to the adoption of the Jimboomba Park Master Plan. This Plan mapped out uses for the land to cater for the identified sporting needs and made provision for a country club. A Community Impact Statement found the proposal would provide a significant net benefit to the local area. The future country club will be funded by Queensland Lions Soccer Club which will operate the venue on a day-to-day

basis, under the overall direction of the Country Club Committee. The committee will retain profits, with the Queensland Lions receiving lease payments and a management fee. During the year, the club signed on members in an effort to show community support for the project and boost its application for a liquor license, material change of use for the land and approvals from the State Government. To facilitate construction of the Country Club, Council is assisting with the relocation of four sporting groups to Glenlogan Park in Jimboomba. Discussions with the Queensland Lions are continuing.

Throughout the year negotiations also continued for the purchase of sporting land at Willis Park in Beaudesert.

## Community Contributions

In 2005/06 Council contributed \$669,807 directly to community groups via a number of different community funding schemes as illustrated in the graph below. These contributions were provided throughout the Shire and helped Council partner the community to achieve its objective of responding to the needs of our community.



# Community Needs

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## Community Development

Council strengthened its focus on community development in 2005/06. This was demonstrated by the merger of the Economic Development and Community Wellbeing teams creating the new Economic and Community Development branch. One significant focus of the branch is the administration of the Community Wellbeing Grant Program. This program provides assistance to local community groups and organisations to enable them to make positive contributions to the quality of life in Beaudesert Shire.

The Grants Scheme continued in its second year of operation in 2005/06 and 24 applications were considered. The funding requests totalled \$141,114. To maximise the community benefit from distribution of the grants, 23 projects were funded - six received full funding and 17 partial funding - totalling \$73,197 in assistance. These funds were complemented by cooperative funding and in-kind support in addition to the amount provided by Council. This meant that the projects achieved an aggregate value of \$369,720 in funding for the community.

Some of the projects funded include:

- Beaudesert & District Day Respite Care Centre/Beaucare (Seniors Wellbeing Program)
- Beaudesert Shire Youth Interagency Network (Christmas Holiday Activity Program)
- Beaudesert State High School Indigenous Education Unit (Coping for the Future)
- Canungra Uniting Church (CYP Children Youth Parents)
- Centacare St Mary's Community (Beaudesert & Jimboomba Transport Options Guide and Home Services Directory)
- Emmaus College Parents and Friends Association (Outdoor Multifunctional Sunsmart Venue)
- Flagstone Community Support Group (Community Harmony in Flagstone)
- Tamborine Mountain Community Care Association (Technological equipment to facilitate staff/volunteer training and Community Education Program)
- Volunteering Logan River Valley Inc (Establishment of an office base for Beaudesert volunteering and community services)
- Yugambeh Museum Language and Heritage (Yanbalilla Mununjali – Going walking in Mununjali country)
- Canungra State School (Canungra Creek "R&R" Project - Revegetation and Regeneration)

## Lead On Beaudesert

As a sign of Council's commitment to meeting the community's needs, Council achieved a significant milestone this year with the signing of a service level agreement with Lead On. The objective of Lead On is to create a program that finds ways of engaging, informing and connecting young people to the business and broader community. Lead On does this through the development and implementation of projects that assist young people in developing skills, confidence, self esteem, establishing mentor networks and connections. Council recognised the importance of this initiative to the Shire, and the development of young people in the region. As a result towards the end of 2005/06 Council developed a Service Agreement that resulted in the allocation of \$15,000 for Lead On in 2006/07 for the implementation of linked projects. This Service Agreement has strong connections to the Economic and Community Development work program and as a result relevant officers are also providing in-kind support in the implementation of these projects.

## Library Initiatives

In 2005/06 Council has taken an important step in the provision of library services and facilities for the community. Council has ordered a Mobile Library which will provide services in areas of our community currently not provided with static services. The mobile library will serve both rural and growth areas in the Shire and reach more residents than currently provided for.

The membership of the library service continues to grow, particularly in the northern region of the Shire. In 2005/06 the Library loaned a total of 410,491 publications with adult fiction representing 33 percent of total loans. The library service provided a range of activities for members with more than 3,500 members participating in these activities which included craft, story telling, origami and how to search genealogical records. This year saw activities offered at Greenbank, Logan Village and Canungra libraries for the first time. During the year 10,617 items were added to the library collection, and a microfilm/microfiche reader and printer was provided to enable members to access and print Australian Births, Deaths and Marriage data.

## Heritage Outreach Project

In a bid to share the Shire's rich and diverse history the Library Service took part in the Heritage Outreach Services Project. This project helped libraries preserve their local photographic records, sharing them with the rest of the nation. Historical photos of local places and people were sourced and saved for the future, enriching the amount of local historical information available through the library. Beaudesert Shire provided 80 images to the State Library. These images will become available through Picture Queensland and later Picture Australia providing a foundation for a digital collection and preservation of images of historical interest and importance to the Shire.

## Environmental Health

Council's Environmental Health staff control 482 licences, approvals and registrations under various legislation and Local Laws. The introduction of licensing exemptions for various low risk food businesses under the *Food Act 2006* resulted in a decrease of 22 percent in total licence numbers from the previous year. The staff conducted 305 inspections of licensed premises in accordance with the risk based ALARMS licensing system.

A number of school and community based immunisation clinics were conducted by Council including the Indigenous Flu and Pneumococcal Clinic and the School Immunisation Program in May and June 2006 with the following results:

- 29 Influenza vaccinations
- 10 Pneumococcal vaccinations
- 415 Year 8's received their first Hepatitis B shot.

Monthly static clinics were also held on the third Tuesday of each month. These continued to provide a free vaccination service to members of the public. The program also enabled Council staff to receive vaccinations if it was a requirement of their job.

Council conducted mosquito management activities in accordance with the *Health Act 1937*. An adult mosquito surveillance program was conducted for the first time in Beaudesert Shire from October 2005-April 2006, in conjunction with continued larval monitoring conducted following rain. The program involved fortnightly trapping and identification of mosquitos in primary breeding areas at New Beith, Jimboomba and Munruben. The information was used to monitor levels of breeding, and the effectiveness of control measures, such as larvicide application. Larvicide applications to control larval breeding occurred five times between December 2005 and March 2006.



# Community Needs

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## Pest and Animal Services

The realignment of staff within the Community Health and Compliance Branch brought Animal Management and Land Protection Officers together to form a new operational unit, Pest and Animal Services.

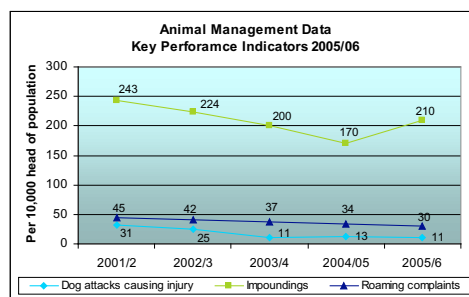
The introduction of the Pest Management Plan and the continuing operation of the Animal Management Strategy has resulted in improved response times for complaints, and an increasing focus on combined education programs for declared weed and animal management issues.

The Animal Management Education Partnership saw Animal Management Officers attend six schools in the Shire in conjunction with the PetPEP program organised by the Australian Veterinary Association. This program provided animal related education to primary school children up to Year 3.

The Animal Management Strategy continued to deliver results with a further decline in the number of reported incidents of roaming dogs and a reduction in the number of impounded animals. Dog registrations for the Shire declined from 13,119 in 2004/05 to 10,717 in 2005/06 despite the ever increasing population.

The 2005/06 Approved Systematic Inspection Program was undertaken from January to June and focused on unregistered dogs and property inspections for prescribed fencing. In excess of 500 unregistered dogs were located and registered with over 2000 properties inspected.

The Animal Management Unit released a DVD on responsible dog and cat ownership during the year. This was available free of charge with each new dog registration at a Council Customer Service Centre.



## Food Hygiene Training

In November 2005 Council conducted a food safety training course as part of Food Safety Week. The objectives of the Course were to assist food businesses to meet the skills and knowledge requirements of the Food Safety Standards and support Council's strategy of "Educate then Regulate". The course was aimed at all food handlers including junior chefs, kitchen hands, wait staff, volunteer workers and community organisations. Topics presented included food hazards, personal hygiene and food handling controls. Eight food handlers attended the course. Council intends to hold another training course in November 2006.

## Land Protection

The Land Protection Unit continued to conduct the annual Pest Survey Program and focused on the detection and identification of declared pest plants throughout the Shire. Working in conjunction with the Pest Management Plan, officers have inspected over 14,000 individual parcels of land for compliance with the *Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.

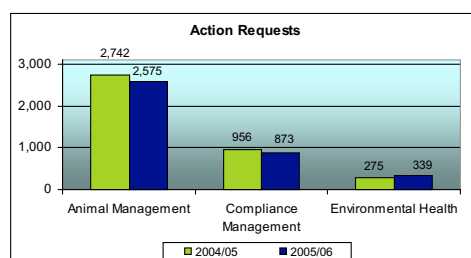
Land Protection Officers attended a number of training days and information sessions including the South East Queensland and NSW Weeds Forum and participated in World Environment Day. Another successful initiative was the Parthenium display and field trip organised in conjunction with Ipswich City Council and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water.

## Compliance Management

The Compliance Management staff administered approximately 580 licenses and permits under Council's Local Laws. Licensable activities include rental accommodation, advertisement signage, caravan and campgrounds, extractive industries, commercial kennels, film production, temporary events, home based businesses and business on public places.

Environmental Health and Compliance Management staff responded to 1,212 requests for action (RFA) during the reporting period - this was down slightly on the previous year. The requests for action (RFA) generally related to allegations of breaches of various State legislation and local law. In 2005/06 RFAs were primary associated with the following issues:

- Environmental nuisance and pollution events including air, noise, water and waste (315)
- Development/Town Planning compliance (197)
- Licensed premises (109)
- Mosquito breeding (24)
- Overgrown/unsightly premises (544)
- Food hygiene and licensing (23).



# Sculpting a Career

Many people who see sculptors at work expect them to use traditional hand tools, says Cedar Creek artist Antone Bruinsma. "They are surprised we use electric machines on the sandstone. But you wouldn't expect your dentist to use a hand drill," he said.

Antone has carved out a new look for Beaudesert's Brisbane Street with two new sculptures, representing the growth of the township and its future prosperity. The sculptures, funded by the Regional Arts Development Fund, are a new talking point for the Shire.

Creating a hub for arts and culture in the township of Beaudesert moves one step closer with Council awarding the tender for transforming its Shire Hall into an Arts and Cultural Centre and artists like Antone are looking forward to its opening in February 2007.

The Centre will create exhibition and workshop space for the Shire's arts industry, which has so much potential, and offer an entertainment venue for professional and amateur events. The Hall will be largely left intact, with improved air conditioning, insulation, acoustics, lighting and retractable seating.

The feasibility study found that the redevelopment would reinforce the hall, Council Chambers and Administration as a focal point for Beaudesert township. Having space for expansion at the rear of the site, by shifting the Council workshop to nearby land, offered a chance to "master plan" an overall "civic precinct".

The study included focus groups with residents, a survey with schools, community and art groups, a workshop with Councillors and site reviews by architects.

Council's newly appointed arts and cultural coordinator Bronwyn Davies said it was her ambition for the new arts and cultural centre to offer projects which reached out into the community and offered wide public participation and professional development.

"An arts and cultural centre is more than just a passive hall for hire. We see this building as playing a more active role in the community as the start of a cultural trail for our residents and our visitors," Ms Davies said. "Our Shire hall has a great history and has been used by so many different groups in the past. We want to make it hum, with lots of activity, bringing our town centre even more alive."

# Key Infrastructure - Water

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'Council is committed to identifying and responding to the sustainable water requirements of our growing community.'

# Key Infrastructure - Water

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## Sustainable Services

The rapid growth being experienced in Beaudesert Shire means that planning for future demand and providing sustainable water and sewerage infrastructure is of critical importance. To contend with both the anticipated population and industrial expansion the delivery and maintenance of these services will be a significant focus for Council in the coming years.

To ensure the Shire is prepared for this growth and has adequate water and sewerage services now and into the future, Council has developed the following Water Infrastructure goals:

- 1 To ensure the equitable and sustainable supply of water within the Shire to meet reasonable levels of demand.
- 2 To ensure the community is aware of water conservation practices.

Progress has been made this year in planning for the water and sewerage infrastructure required to meet this future demand.

Significant achievements include:

- Completed planning and design of South Maclean Weir
- Development of a strategic position paper for the Shire's future water and sewerage needs
- Development of Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructure Guidelines
- Encouraged water conservation practices.

## South Maclean Weir

Planning was completed for a \$3.42m weir to supply water to more than 12,000 people in the north of the Shire. The new 4m high weir will be built just downstream of the temporary weir that was originally built across the river in the 1990s. The increased population and recent erosion along the river bank highlighted the need for a new weir to service the Shire for at least the next 50 years. Construction will commence mid-2006.

## Infrastructure Planning

A strategic position paper is being drafted to identify the Shire's water and sewerage needs for the next 20 to 50 years. The report focused on sustainable water supply, usage levels and demand management. Other planning for the region's future water supply is being undertaken in partnership with the State Government and other South East Queensland councils.

Future infrastructure includes the Wyalong Dam to be built on the border of the Beaudesert and Boonah Shires, an offstream water storage facility at Bromelton, and the Southern Regional Water Pipeline to follow the Pub Lane and Chambers Flat Road alignment and cross the Logan River just north of Logan Village. Council's involvement in these projects will be significant in coming years.

Plans for an offstream water storage facility for Canungra were announced in March 2006 and Council is negotiating to acquire land. This will enable additional water to be harvested during high flow periods from Canungra Creek and supplied to users when flows in the creek are low.

## Infrastructure Guidelines

Council has developed Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructure Guidelines that provide new standards for the design and construction of water and sewerage infrastructure. They are based on the National Water Supply and Sewerage Codes and contain Council's specific requirements that differ from, or require clarification of, those given in the national codes. These will ensure a consistent Australian-wide approach to the design of services particularly for developers and consultants. The draft Guidelines are open for public comment until the end of October 2006. They can be used as a guide for the design of infrastructure in the interim and will be mandatory from 1 January, 2007.

## Water Conservation

Beaudesert Shire moved to level 3 water restrictions on 13 June, 2006 after being on Level 2 for the majority of 2005/06. Level 3 restrictions included a total ban on hosing on weekdays, with watering restricted to use of buckets only. Council also considered a range of rebates for introduction in the new financial year. Council continued education initiatives arising from the Waterwise program.

# Key Infrastructure - Water

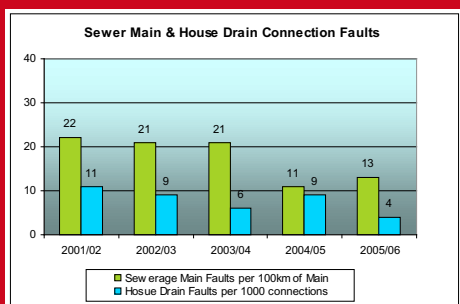
## Maintenance and Upgrade

As part of the 2005/06 Capital Works Program, Council:

- Renewal of the Kooralbyn Water Treatment Plant
- Commenced a program to replace the ageing water mains in Beaudesert township
- Acquired land for a new reservoir facility near Mundoolun Estate
- Upgraded the capacity of pumps at the South Maclean water treatment plant.

Council regularly monitored and reported actual water and sewerage service delivery against Strategic Asset Management Plan key performance indicators.

## Water Supply and Sewerage



The number of sewer faults in the past two years continues to be reduced compared to prior years. This supports the view that the lack of significant improvement in previous years was due to increased ground movement due to the dry weather. For house drainage faults significant improvement has been seen in the past year with the majority of issues still attributable to the intrusion of tree roots.

Council's sewerage assets continue to grow each year with sewer connections increasing from 2,958 in 2004/05 to 2,998 in 2005/06 and sewerage mains rising to 121km in 2005/06. The performance of Council's six sewerage treatment plants is satisfactory and they continue to record high compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency licence.

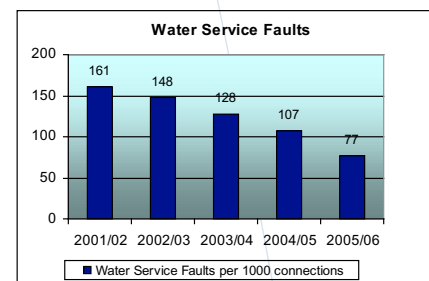
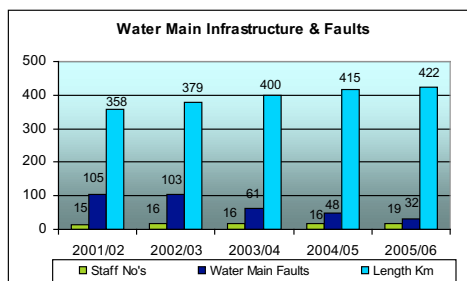
Water Supply	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Water Connections	6,598	6,877	7,558	8,023	8,444
Water Mains (km)	358	379	400	415	422
Water from Treatment Plants (ML)	2,620	2,191*	2,052**	2,747***	2,046****
Standpipe Output (ML)	166	211	427	389	167

\* Including 94ML from Logan Water through the Granger Road Connection  
 \*\* Including 69ML from Logan Water through the Granger Road Connection  
 \*\*\* Including OML from Logan Water through the Granger Road Connection  
 \*\*\*\* Including 0.04ML from Logan Water through the Granger Road Connection

Drinking Water Quality#	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
E. Coli	99.6	99.8	100.0
Total coliforms	99.6	99.4	99.0
Chemical / Physical Parameters	97.0	98.0	95.0
Water Quality Complaints (per 1000connections/year)	8.0	6.1	5.5

#% compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

The reduction in the number of water main and service faults has been achieved despite the significant increase in the overall number of connections.





# Supplying Future Generations

As South East Queensland experiences its worst drought in more than 100 years, and residents and businesses face even further water restrictions, Councils have been working together to shore up water supplies for the future.

In the Beaudesert Shire, Council is constructing a new weir at South Maclean to replace the former weir which was severely damaged in January 2004. The new weir will provide treated water for households in the north of the Shire and standpipe users.

The tender for the construction of the weir was awarded this financial year to Abergeldie Constructions Pty Ltd for \$2.97m. Construction was due to start in August 2006 with a timetable of 21 weeks.

The new weir is located slightly downstream of the former weir. It is on the west side of the Mt Lindesay Highway, north of the Shell Service Station and opposite Council's water treatment plant. In an ecologically friendly move, its design includes a ladder to allow fish to travel through the weir.

The increasing population in the north of the Shire and erosion along the river bank prompted Council to build the weir, with part-funding from the State Government. A reliable weir on the Logan River is important for the security of water supply in the lower Logan water service area.

This is one of several initiatives for Council in its strategy to provide for reliable water, efficiently and sustainably for the Shire's 65,000 residents. While the majority of householders are self-sufficient with their own water tanks, about 20,000 people rely on Council to provide treated water. Some residents are on mains water, some on trickle feed and others rely on treated water from standpipes.

Council is a signatory to the Regional Drought Strategy, signed by Mayors in south east Queensland in May 2005. This Strategy commits to a number of initiatives to help the region deal with the drought, including projects such as continuing the technical and feasibility investigations to firm up longer-term water supply options are central to the Strategy.

Councils also promise to responsibly manage the existing water supplies to ensure maximum efficient use and to provide information to all residents so that everyone can contribute to effective water use.

As well they commit to the introduction of uniform mandatory restrictions across the region if the drought continues and to work with commerce and industry so that they too, will embrace water saving measures while safeguarding business and employment. Councils agree to work together to reduce long term trends in water consumption as part of implementing a sustainable future for South East Queensland.

For further information on water initiatives see Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) under Council Information - Water.

# Key Infrastructure - Transport

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'Council is committed to identifying and responding to the transport needs of our growing community.'

# Key Infrastructure - Transport

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## Enhancing our Network

Council recognises that a commitment to planning, delivering and maintaining key transport infrastructure is vital in facilitating the anticipated commercial, industrial and residential growth in the Shire.

To ensure the Shire's transport network is fully prepared to deal with this anticipated growth, Council has committed to the following strategic goals:

- To preserve and maintain existing transport infrastructure such as roads, bridges and footpaths throughout the Shire
- To develop an all mode transport network plan
- To develop a transport plan for the growing urban areas in the Shire, defining needs of all users.

Council reached some significant milestones this year in providing for the Shire's growing transport needs. These included:

- Developed the 10 Year Program for Footpath Capital
- Completed another stage of the programmed upgrade of Teviot Road;
- Reconstructed Dunn Bridge and associated approach roads; and
- Completed the Alpine Terrace Footpath.

## Planning for the Future

Council is aware of the need to improve transport options for our residents to overcome social isolation and provide safety for pedestrians. As a member of the Beaudesert Shire Community Transport Network, Council is currently considering the allocation of funds to hire a transport development worker in a joint funding arrangement with the State Government.

This year the State Government released the Mt Lindesay/North Beaudesert Study Area (MLNBSA) report and a draft amendment to the South East Queensland Regional Plan. Council and its staff worked with the Office of Urban Management, the Gold Coast City Council and Logan City Council in the identification of development opportunities for the investigation area.

As part of the WOSP process, Council has commissioned a Traffic and Transport Study in conjunction with the Department of Main Roads which is due for completion in late 2006. Following on from the MLNBSA report Queensland Transport will complete both a sub-regional transport study and a rail study of potential commuter rail to Flagstone. These studies will all inform the development of an Integrated Local Transport Plan for the Shire.

## Capital Works Program

A significant component of Council's record \$30.03m capital works budget in 2005/06 was the Roads and Bridges Capital Works Program. This is part of a push to improve footpaths and roads around the Shire, with more than \$13.9m allocated to general roadworks. Out of Council's allocation, \$4.7m was for maintenance and more than \$9.2m for capital roadworks. The capital works budget for this year included further work on Teviot Road and a roundabout on the corner of Bartle Road and Normandie Court, Tamborine Mountain. In conjunction with this, Council has adopted a 10-year capital plan for footpaths in the Shire. Council delivered 92 percent of this program through the use of the Day Labour workforce and external contractors.

## Significant Projects

There were a number of significant projects undertaken to maintain the existing and develop new road network infrastructure.

Funds expended included the following projects:

- Dunn Bridge and associated approach roads were reconstructed to significantly improve safety, load capacity and flood immunity (\$1.8m)
- Tamborine Mountain drainage projects - Witherby Crescent, Eagles Retreat Place, Contour Road, Paradise Drive (\$168,000)

# Key Infrastructure - Transport

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- Teviot Road network construction from Glynton Road to Flagstone Bridge (\$1.3m)
- Miller Road rehabilitation (\$558,000)
- Bartle Road roundabout (\$710,000).

## Road Maintenance

One of Council's core functions is to maintain existing transport infrastructure throughout the Shire such as roads, bridges and footpaths.

Council undertakes regular inspections of its road network as a basis for determining short term maintenance programs as well as longer term preventative maintenance and rehabilitation programs. On a triennial basis Council engages pavement management consultants to undertake a detailed condition review of the Shire road network. The next review will be undertaken in 2006/07.

Council regularly reviews the extent of the Budget funds required to maintain the road network. The review involves the establishment of intervention levels, which together with the data from the forthcoming pavement condition review, will enable Council to determine its Road Maintenance Needs Assessment for the 2007/08 Budget.

This process is essential to preserve and maintain existing transport infrastructure assets throughout the Shire. In the meantime, the roadworks program included the rehabilitation of Chambers Flat Road to widen and strengthen the road to improve safety and durability. At Logan Village, Miller Road has been widened to an 8m wide bitumen seal from Fryar Road to Hamilton Road. In Jimboomba, Teviot Road has been upgraded in several stages north to Payne Road. Council's Bridge Rehabilitation Strategy continues with more than \$2.1m allocated to works on various bridges across the Shire.

## 10 Year Footpath Program

Council has identified the need to develop and implement strategies which aid non-motorised transport opportunities such as walking, throughout the Shire. The 10 Year Program for Footpath Capital was adopted by Council in February 2006 and outlined the priorities for footpath reconstruction over the next decade. This program allowed Council to strategically plan footpath development across the Shire. Significant footpath projects with expenditure in 2005/06 included:

- Gallery Walk footpaths (\$180,000)
- Alpine Terrace footpaths (\$340,000)
- RSL Monument and Doughty Park pedestrian facilities (\$117,000)
- Canungra Hotel to Showgrounds (\$143,000)
- Tubber Street (\$113,000)
- Newbeith Road footbridges (\$157,000)
- Curtis Road footbridge (\$132,000).

Munruben residents have been taking a stroll through their neighbourhood since an upgraded walking loop was finished. The concrete pathway winds between Conway Court and Palmerston Court, and Cardwell Court and Bellenden Close. On Tamborine Mountain, a planned investment in footpaths over the past few years now makes it accessible for residents to walk from the post office at North Tamborine to the post office some 10km away in Eagle Heights safely by footpath. In Greenbank, two new footbridges have been installed to allow school children to walk safely across creeks – rather than deviating on to the road – to and from school.

## Council Cabs

Council Cabs, a new transport initiative for seniors and pensioners in the Beaudesert and Jimboomba areas was launched this year. This gave housebound residents the chance to catch a Yellow Cab to and from their local shopping centre one day a week for a reduced rate. The program was a joint initiative of Council, Queensland Department of Transport, Yellow Cab Co, Centacare and Jimboomba Community Care Association. The service was not continued after the six-month trial, due to lack of patronage and difficulties with the telephone booking service.

# Honouring Locals

A farmer's love for the Shire was recalled in March 2006 with the opening of the new \$1.6m Dunn Bridge at Gleneagle.

The bridge is part of a strategic program to load limit, repair or replace the Shire's 120 ageing timber bridges and upgrade our transport network. Dunn Bridge over Allan Creek was one of those identified as needing replacement. From October 2005, contractors worked on Council's behalf to build a new bridge and demolish the old one.

At the official bridge opening, Keith Dunn and his brothers (pictured) paid tribute to his late father, Scots-born Tom Dunn who came here by ship as a baby in 1911 and his family settled at Woodhill.

He married in 1936 and bought land in Dunn Road in 1939 to start a dairy stud. He showed his Ayrshire cattle for many years. His biography tells how the cattle had very big horns and he became pretty good at jumping fences to get away from them. He took the cows to the Brisbane Exhibition in 1958 and, while reaching to get a bale of hay from a rack, he was gored in the stomach, requiring stitches. His cows won ribbons while he was in hospital. A set of horns now adorn his gravesite at Woodhill.

Mr Dunn became involved in artificial breeding with Fresians in 1961 to service dairy breeds in the Beaudesert district. It was a huge success, improving production by 100 percent. He wrote, "We used

to milk about 100 head using the same amount of land. Cows in the old days gave us about two gallons of milk a day. Now they are giving us about five gallons, which is mainly due to the influence of artificial insemination, improved nutrition thanks to irrigated pastures and grain feeding."

He served on the board of the Logan and Albert Dairy Cooperative from 1962 at a time when the brass piping in the factory for carrying milk and cream was converted to stainless steel, a huge trolley was installed to handle butter from the churn and a superannuation scheme was started for the employees. Later, a casein plant was also installed. It was a turning point for local dairy farmers, signifying a time when the factory could accept milk any time of the day. Later on, stainless steel bulk road tankers replaced the old milk cans.

Today, the bridge bearing his name marks a step forward for the Shire's future and is a reminder of our early agricultural history.

Council continues to replace aging timber bridges across the Shire as part of the ongoing Bridge Capital Program. This forms part of one of Council's core functions to maintain and upgrade the road network as a key element of the Shire's transport infrastructure. The Bridge Capital Program through improved structures and load limits for bridges, benefits the Shire's business operators and residents by placing fewer restrictions on commercial activities.

If you require information on road initiatives throughout the Shire visit Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au) under Road News.

# Our Council

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'A united, proactive and modern organisation.'



# Financial Report

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## Community Financial Report 2005/06

This section contains the Community Financial Report for 2005/06 required to be published in Council's Annual Report under the provisions of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

This Report is a brief summary of the information contained in Council's annual financial statements. It gives an overview of the three main financial statements as at June 30, 2006. The audited Financial Statements for 2005/2006 are contained in the attached CD. They are also available from Council or can be accessed on Council's website [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au). This year's financial statements were prepared in accordance with Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AEIFRS) for the first time. Due to this introduction of the new standards some comparatives for 2004/05 may have changed from last year's Community Financial Report.

The three main financial statements show that Council continues to maintain its sound financial position as in past years. Council has a continuing trend of achieving a small deficit or surplus for the year – in this case, a small operating surplus for 2005/06.

Council's Community Equity continues to grow due mainly to an increase in donated infrastructure from developers and the continuing revaluation of our infrastructure assets such as roads and water assets. Coupled with maintaining an adequate cash reserve, it places Council on a solid financial base to meet the pressures of a growing Shire. Analysis of Council's cash flow shows an improving cash position due to a small increase in inflows and lower expenditure on capital assets in the 2005/06 year. A combined analysis of the 2005/06 Financial Statements places Council in a healthy financial state with an ability to meet the continuing financial pressures of the future.

## Income Statement

This statement details the revenues and expenses of Council and discloses the increase or decrease in operating capacity over the financial year.

Income Statement for the years ended 30 June 2002 to 2006					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>What Council earned</b>					
Net Rates Income	27,179	29,111	30,408	33,569	35,526
Total Income**	42,917	45,220	50,348	58,675	60,703
<b>Less: What Council spent</b>					
Total Expenses	43,762	44,221	50,871	56,423*	60,408
<b>Net Result for period</b>	<b>(845)</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>(523)</b>	<b>2,252*</b>	<b>295</b>

\* Comparatives may have changed from 2004/05 Financial Statements due to AEIFRS requirements.  
\*\*Total income also includes capital grants, developer's cash contributions and contributed assets.

The Net Result for Period of \$295,284 is about \$2m less than last financial year due to:

- An increase in depreciation expense due to the increasing size and value of Council's asset base
- An increase in employee benefits due to increased staff numbers and salary increases
- Increased interest costs due to the AEIFRS accounting treatment of rehabilitating Council's old landfill sites and increased borrowing levels
- A decrease in fees and charges revenue due to slower development activity.

These were offset by:

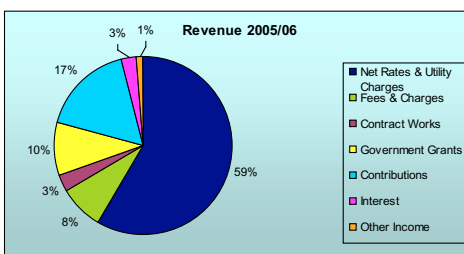
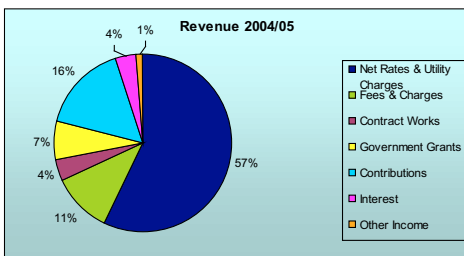
- Increases in rates and utility charges revenue due to both growth and an annual rate increase
- An increase in government grants
- Increased developer contributed assets (recognised as income in accordance with the accounting standards).

## Council's Income

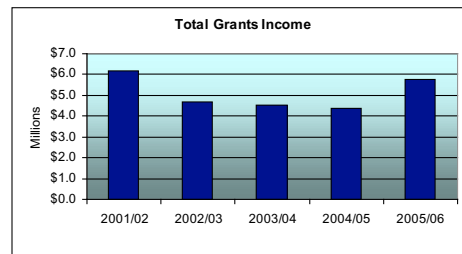
The following charts reflect Council's revenue sources. The major impacts on total income in 2005/06 were:

- An increase in developer contributed assets to \$6m from \$4.9m
- A 20 percent decrease in fees and charges due to slower development activity
- An increase in rates and utility charges revenue of \$1.96m
- Increased government grants of \$1.4m
- Decrease in interest income due to the introduction of half yearly rating in 2005/06.

The increase in total income again this year reflects both the growth and development activity within the Shire, albeit slower than last year's record income growth.

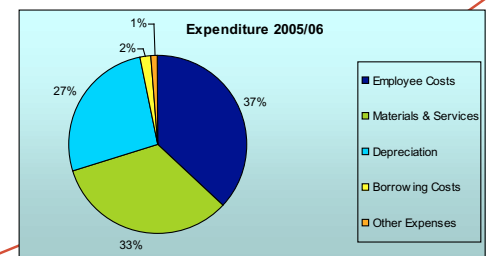
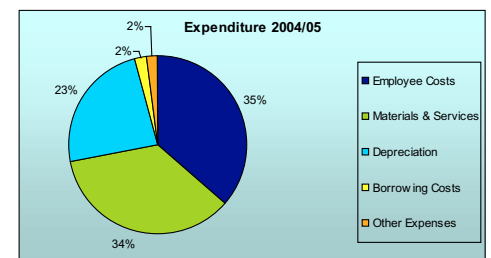


Contrary to the trend of the past four years, Council's total grant income increased in 2005/06 due to increases in the Roads to Recovery Funding, Financial Assistance Grant and Roads and Drainage Grant and hiring of a grant liaison officer.



## Council's Spending

Council's expenditure patterns have remained relatively stable over the past few years as indicated in the charts below. Council's overall result has been impacted by an increase in depreciation of 19 percent due to the increasing size and value of Council's asset base and a 10 percent increase in employee-related expenditure due to increased staff numbers and salary increases, \$840,000 worth of capital write-offs, a 19 percent increase in debt servicing costs due to a higher level of borrowings and the accounting treatment of a number of items under the new accounting standards (AEIFRS).



# Financial Report

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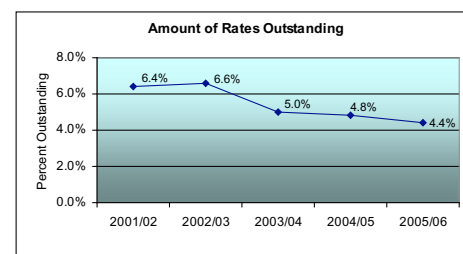
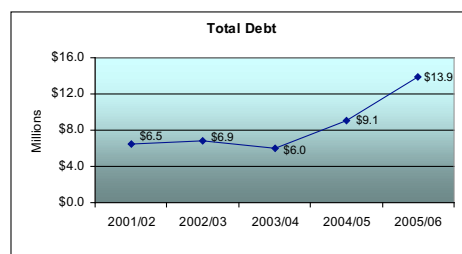
## Our Financial Position

This Statement details Council's net accumulated financial worth at the end of each financial year and is broken down into Council's assets and liabilities. Both assets and liabilities are expressed as current or non-current. Current means that an asset could be converted to cash within the next 12 months, e.g. investments, money owed to Council by ratepayers, etc. A current liability is one that is expected to be paid by Council in the next 12 months, e.g. one year's loan repayments, payment of accrued annual leave to staff, and so forth.

Council's net worth has increased each year over the past five years; especially the non-current assets. This is mainly due to the revaluation and construction of Council's infrastructure assets such as the road network, water and sewerage systems, land and other assets. In 2005/06, there was an increase in Council's loan liability, a decrease in debtors due to good financial management, an increase in creditors due to an increase in works and a significant increase in provisions that is attributable to the AEIFRS accounting treatment for the ongoing and future rehabilitation of Council's landfill sites. The trends in Council's loan liability and rates outstanding are indicated on the following graphs.

Balance Sheet for the years ended 30 June 2002 to 2006					
	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>What Council owns</b>					
Current assets	24,480	25,200	26,834	29,647	29,444
Non-current assets	273,447	324,201	336,406	410,198	439,053
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>297,927</b>	<b>349,401</b>	<b>363,240</b>	<b>439,745</b>	<b>468,497</b>
<b>Less: What Council owes</b>					
Current liabilities	4,875	4,879	4,797	4,755	9,426
Non-current liabilities	8,220	8,632	8,032	18,470	21,001
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>13,095</b>	<b>13,511</b>	<b>12,829</b>	<b>23,225</b>	<b>30,427</b>
<b>Net Community Equity</b>	<b>284,832</b>	<b>335,890</b>	<b>350,411</b>	<b>416,520</b>	<b>438,070</b>

\* Comparatives may have changed from 2004/5 Financial Statements due to AEIFRS requirements.



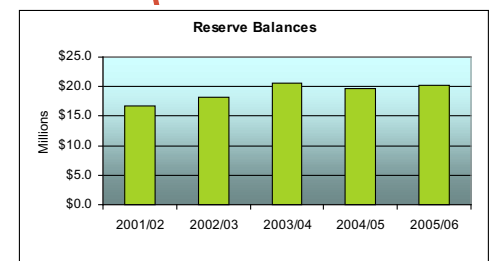
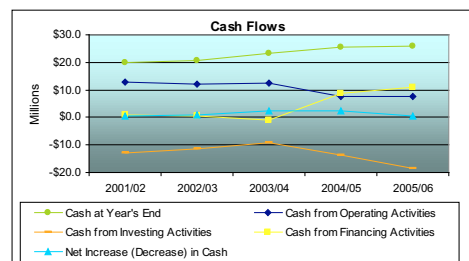
## Statement of Cash Flows

This Statement summarises Council's cash receipts and payments for the financial year and provides the overall cash position of Council as at June 30, 2006. It identifies the cash inflows and outflows for the year by separating Council's activities between operating, investing and financing. Operating activities include the normal transactions of conducting Council's day-to-day business while investing activities includes the purchase and sale of assets. Financing activities includes the receipt of grants, subsidies, contributions and loan monies and the repayment of debt. The following table gives a brief overview of the statement of cash flows.

Council's cash position had improved slightly by \$380,000 as at June 30, 2006. Council also has a range of Reserves that are detailed in Note 27 of the Annual Financial Statements. These reserves are held for specific purposes such as future capital expenditure on roads, water, sewer and waste infrastructure. A portion of these capital reserves can only be expended on the purpose for which they were provided such as developer contributions for roads, parks, water and sewerage and also grants provided for a specific purpose. The following graphs map the trends in both Council's cash flows and the level of reserves.

Statement of Cash Flows for the years ended 30 June 2002 to 2006					
	2002	2003	2004	2005*	2006
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Opening Cash Balance</b>	<b>19,183</b>	<b>19,875</b>	<b>20,823</b>	<b>23,216</b>	<b>25,534</b>
Cash Flows from operating activities	12,718	12,017	12,495	7,494	7,701
Cash flows from investing activities (includes purchase and sale of assets)	(12,777)	(11,413)	(9,291)	(13,757)	(18,405)
Cash flows from financing activities (includes grants, subsidies, contributions and net borrowings)	751	344	(811)	8,581	11,082
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash held</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,318</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Cash at 30 June 2005</b>	<b>19,875</b>	<b>20,823</b>	<b>23,216</b>	<b>25,534</b>	<b>25,912</b>

\* Comparatives may have changed from 2004/5 Financial Statements due to AEIFRS requirements.



# Financial Report

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## Key Financial Ratios

Council's financial ratios can be used to assess Council's financial position at a glance. For instance, the Revenue Ratio shows what percentage of Council's income is derived from rates and utility charges, i.e. the higher the percentage the more income derived from rates and utility charges. The Working Capital ratio indicates Council's capacity to meet its current commitments. In this instance, Council has the capacity to meet its current liabilities one and a half times over. This has changed significantly from last year due to the accounting treatment of Council's liability to rehabilitate the old landfills in the Shire.

## Future Directions

Council is facing the challenges of a growing Shire that is now more focussed on providing the necessary infrastructure due to the release of the Government's South East Queensland Regional Plan and Council's commitment to its own Whole of Shire Planning process (WOSP). Where the Regional Plan has earmarked those areas for residential and industrial growth, WOSP is determining the infrastructure needs of these growth areas and what financial resources will be required from both Council and developers to fund this expansion. This comes on top of the existing challenges to Council in funding and maintaining the present infrastructure for present and future generations. Council aims to maintain its sound financial basis through the prudent use of rate funds, available grants and subsidies, and the wise use of reserves and loan borrowings, where necessary.

### Key Financial Ratios for 2001/02 – 2005/06

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05*	2005/06
<b>1. Revenue Ratio</b> Ratio of Council's dependence on net rates and utility charges as a percentage of total operating income.	71.2%	70.2%	68.7%	69.9%	73.6%
<b>2. Working Capital Ratio</b> Ratio of unrestricted current assets available to meet current liabilities (can we meet our commitments in the short term).	3.8:1	4:1	4.1:1	3.8:1	1.5:2
<b>3. Rates Arrears Ratio</b> Rates accounts outstanding as a percentage of net rates and charges income.	6.4%	6.6%	5%	4.76%	4.35%
<b>4. Debt Servicing Ratio</b> Ratio of total operating income that is used to service loan repayments including principle and interest.	2.5%	2.7%	2.8%	3.7%	4.6%
<b>5. Capital Expenditure Ratio</b> Ratio of capital expenditure to depreciation expense for the year i.e. is Council spending enough on capital expenditure to replace, or add to, existing assets.	128.7%	119.7%	81.4%	110.1%	123.1%

\* Comparatives may have changed from 2004/5 Financial Statements due to AEIFRS requirements.

# Council Information

This section provides information regarding Council required to be published in Council's Annual Report under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and some additional information regarding its operations.

## Council Meetings

The Council consists of the Mayor and eight divisional Councillors who are charged with the responsibility of developing policy, setting the strategic direction and vision for the Shire, and representing the interests of the community. Decisions of Council are finalised at Council's Ordinary Meetings which are generally held every three weeks on a Tuesday. To ensure effective, ongoing communication and provide an opportunity for greater community involvement, Council took two of its Ordinary Meetings out into the community this year to Flagstone and Kooralbyn. It is Council's intention to continue to take its Ordinary Meeting to the Shire community.

Council's three Standing Committees were formed to streamline Council business. Each Committee meets the week prior to the Ordinary Meeting and makes recommendations to Council on issues that come under their jurisdiction. In 2004, Terms of Reference were developed for each Standing Committee that clearly defines their scope, limitations

and responsibilities. A copy of these Terms of Reference can be accessed under the meeting section on Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au). All Councillors are appointed to each of the Standing Committees.

Finance and Executive Committee meets on Mondays and considers financial matters, staff appointments, training, industrial matters, tourism, research and economic development. Planning and Development Committee meets on Tuesdays and considers subdivision and town planning matters. Community Services Committee meets on Wednesdays and considers matters pertaining to health and general matters such as water and sewerage, declared plants, social welfare, Council facilities and industrial development.

Meeting dates are advertised monthly in the local newspaper and are also posted on Council's website and the public noticeboard outside the Council Administration Building. Council Meetings are open to the public, however, particular agenda items may be closed to the public because they are of a sensitive nature. Gallery agendas are posted on the website on the Friday prior to the meeting. The Minutes of Ordinary and Committee Meetings are available for inspection at Council's Customer Service Centres and Shire libraries, as well as on Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au/council\\_information/minutes/MeetingsMinutes](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au/council_information/minutes/MeetingsMinutes).

The following table details Councillor attendance at Council's Ordinary and Committee Meetings for 2005/06.

Councillors' Meeting Attendance				
COUNCILLOR	ORDINARY (18)	FINANCE AND EXECUTIVE (16)	PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (16)	COMMUNITY SERVICES (16)
Cr Joy Drescher	18	16	16	15
Cr Peter Tilney	17	16	15	15
Cr Virginia West	18	16	16	16
Cr Dave Cockburn	18	16	16	15
Cr Hajnal Ban	18	16	16	16
Cr John Fronis	18	16	16	16
Cr Bob Bricknell	18	15	15	14
Cr Vanessa Bull	18	16	16	15
Cr Don Petersen	17	16	16	15



# Council Information

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## Councillors' Remuneration and Superannuation

The following table and accompanying notes provide details of Councillors' remuneration received throughout the year, in accordance with the Councillor Remuneration Resolution passed on 8 June 2004 and the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The remuneration is paid for the performance of duties as a Councillor of Local Government, including attendance at Council meetings, Committee meetings, meetings concerning local government and community matters, deputations, inspections, conferences, training and educational seminars in relation to duties as Councillors.

Councillors' Remuneration					
Division	Councillor	Base Salary	Home Office Allowance	Total Salary	Superannuation
Mayor	Joy Drescher	\$84,387.68	\$5,404.31	\$89,791.99	\$10,589.10
1	Peter Tilney	\$57,229.63	\$5,404.31	\$62,633.94	\$7,411.74
2	Virginia West	\$54,053.73	\$5,404.31	\$59,458.04	\$7,013.82
3	Dave Cockburn	\$59,523.65	\$5,404.31	\$64,927.96	\$7,428.06
4	Hajnal Ban	\$57,362.39	\$5,404.31	\$62,766.70	\$7,411.74
5	John Fronis	\$57,664.94	\$5,404.31	\$63,069.25	\$7,428.06
6	Bob Bricknell	\$54,053.73	\$5,404.31	\$59,458.04	\$7,013.82
7 (Deputy Mayor)	Vanessa Bull	\$62,594.52	\$5,404.31	\$67,998.83	\$8,022.48
8	Don Petersen	\$60,947.19	\$5,404.31	\$66,351.50	\$7,825.98
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$547,817.46</b>	<b>\$48,638.79</b>	<b>\$596,456.25</b>	<b>\$70,144.80</b>

The base salaries as shown are based on fixed percentages of the remuneration paid to Members of the Qld Legislative Assembly in 2005/06 (as may be varied throughout the year) as follows: Mayor – 71.71%; Deputy Mayor – 52.12%; Committee Chair – 51.37%; Councillor – 45.24%. Any variations to the remuneration paid to Members of the Qld Legislative Assembly are applicable to the Home Office Allowance also.

No additional remuneration is payable for sick leave, annual leave or any other benefits otherwise applicable to employees, other than superannuation. All Councillors are entitled to superannuation benefits on the same terms as Local Government employees.

The Mayor is entitled to full and unrestricted use of a vehicle (up to six cylinder Fairmont/Berlina or equivalent). All other Councillors are entitled to full and unrestricted use of a vehicle (up to six cylinder base range Falcon/Commodore or equivalent). Should a Councillor choose to select a vehicle other than mentioned above, the Councillor shall bear the additional cost to Council of the vehicle and associated extras over and above a six cylinder base range sedan.

All Councillors have full and unrestricted use of a Council notebook computer, software, internet access, laser printer, facsimile machine, digital camera and personal data assistant/digital recorder. The Mayor is provided with a mobile phone including connection fee, rental, service and business related call charges. All equipment is of a similar standard to that supplied to Council officers.

Council provides registration, travel, accommodation and sustenance expenses to Members as necessary to attend conferences authorised by Council. Provision of, or reimbursement of, sustenance expenses is limited to a maximum of \$30.00 per meal where the provision of the meal is not included in the conference package. Total conference expenses are limited to \$6,500.00 per annum for the Mayor and \$5,000.00 per annum for other Councillors.

This section provides information required to be published in Council's Annual Report under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993.

## Council's policy on rating (s534(1)(e))

As a local government entity, Council aims to raise enough revenue to allow it to continue to operate now and on an ongoing basis.

Rates form a large percentage of Council's overall revenue.

Council's policies on making and levying rates and charges, granting rebates and concessions, and recovering unpaid rates and charges in 2005/06 are contained in the Revenue Policy (F0010). This Policy aims to ensure that all ratepayers are treated in a fair and equitable manner and that there is a consistent approach to the recovery of rates and charges.

## General Rates and other Charges

Council's rating strategy was adopted after due consideration of the following factors:

- the functions and initiatives outlined in Council's Corporate and Operational Plans
- Council's statutory obligations
- community needs and expectations
- equity issues and the ability to pay
- anticipated change in the price of goods and services used by Council
- the recoupment of costs where possible on a user pays principle
- the partial recoupment of costs where subsidisation of services is applied.

Rather than applying one level of General Rate to annual valuations issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, Council levies differential General Rates to achieve an equitable distribution of the rate burden across the whole Shire. In order to provide a level of service commensurate with residents' expectations in conjunction with ongoing programs, Council considers that the lands defined in the rating categories should be required to contribute to the Shire's revenue in the following proportions:

Category 1	rateable vacant and occupied residential and rural residential properties – 75 to 85 percent
Category 2	rateable commercial, industrial and other properties – 1 to 10 percent
Category 3	other rateable land – 10 to 20 percent.

The rates in the dollar applied to the categories for 2005/06 were set at a level sufficient to balance the budget after considering:

- the seven factors listed above
- revenue that can reasonably be achieved from direct user charges, grants, subsidies and other sources
- the cost of maintaining existing facilities and necessary services
- the need for additional facilities and services
- the capacity of the community to pay.

There are no set limitations on increases/decreases in rates and charges, however it is Council's intention that increases be minimal and reflect the mix of available income and the community's expectations.

The Minimum General Levy recognises the value of a minimum level of service offered by Council for all parcels of rateable land. It does not apply to pump sites and dip sites that are valued separately from the balance of the holding or held separately by Trustees.

# Legislative Information

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For 2005/06, Council also set the following charges, which apply at a fixed rate per assessment:

- Separate Charge – Roads
- Separate Charge – Environmental Compliance
- Separate Charge – Waste Facilities
- Special Charge – Rural Fire Brigades (levied on rateable properties, whether vacant or occupied, only in participating Rural Fire Brigade areas)
- Utility Charges – Sewerage/Garbage collection/Water charge and Water Consumption charge (levied on all rateable land in areas of the Shire where the service exists and/or is capable of being charged in compliance with relevant legislation).

## Discounts and Rebates

Council allows a 6 percent discount on the General Rate for prompt payment of rates.

As part of Council's commitment to preserving the environment, it provides a concession on the General Rate to owners of land who enter into a Voluntary Conservation Covenant and/or a Voluntary Conservation Agreement of 50 percent, 75 percent or 100 percent of the General Rate attributable to the Conservation Area, depending on the level of the land's significance for conservation.

Council gives exemption from the General Rate, Separate Charge – Roads, Separate Charge – Environmental Compliance and Separate Charge – Waste Facilities to:

- numerous community service organisations as listed in the Revenue Statement
- sporting groups and associations on Council owned and controlled land that do not have a liquor licence.

Council gives exemption from the Separate Charge – Roads, Separate Charge – Environmental Compliance and Separate Charge – Waste Facilities to:

- Dip sites, pump sites, etc. held separately from the balance of holdings or held separately by trustees.

Council gives exemption from the water, sewerage and garbage collection charges to Beaudesert Historical Society/Information Centre, Tamborine Mountain Historical Society, Jimboomba Community Care Centre, Tamborine Mountain Community Care Centre and Community Centres.

## Council's policy on borrowing (s7 Local Government Finance Standards 1994)

Debt funding is considered for all major capital expenditure projects during Budget deliberations and Council's policies on borrowings are contained in the Policy Regulating Council Borrowings (F0009).

Borrowings are anticipated to be as per Council's resolution, to fund projects including the provision of a new library in Beaudesert, construction of a Cultural Centre, Administration Building extension,

Water and Sewerage capital works and General capital works as follows:

2005/06	\$6,940,000 to be repaid over ten (10) years.
2006/07	\$12,000,000 to be repaid over ten (10) years.
2007/08	\$7,600,000 to be repaid over ten (10) years.

The source of all of the above funds is Queensland Treasury Corporation.

Current General Fund debt is contained in three pools managed by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. This debt consists of:

3 Year Debt Pool	\$3,534,860 (actual book debt as at 31 March, 2005)
9 Year Debt Pool	\$ 818,618 (actual book debt as at 31 March, 2005)
15 Year Debt Pool	\$ 731,616 (actual book debt as at 31 March, 2005)

## Special Charges (s534(a)(i))

Council levies one Special Charge for Rural Fire Brigades as provided for under the Local Government Act 1993 section 971. The charge is levied on rateable properties only in participating Rural Fire Brigade areas. There is no differentiation made between occupied or vacant properties. 97% of funds raised are returned to the area from which they were raised after \$10,000 has been deducted, for holding for an emergency within Council's Trust Fund. Funds are used for equipment and operations. Council retains 3% as an Administration Fee.

Further information about Council's rating strategy is contained in the Community Financial Report starting on page 61 of this document.

## Cooperation between local governments (s534(1)(a)(ii))

No services or facilities were supplied to Council under cooperative arrangements or contracts entered into with other local governments under the *Local Government Act 1993* section 59.

## Changes to tender specifications (s534(1)(b))

Council did not change any specifications after inviting tenders, and accordingly did not invite tenderers to change their tender as permitted under the *Local Government Act 1993* section 488.

## Short listing after calling for expressions of interest (s534(1)(c))

Council did not make any resolutions to invite expressions of interest before inviting tenders pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* section 489.

## Resolutions about Remuneration (s534(1)(f))

Council did not make any resolutions during the year about remuneration for Councillors or Committee members.

## Equal Opportunity in Employment (s534(1)(i))

The Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy (P0009) adopted in 1996 is a demonstration of Council's commitment to the principle that all employees and potential employees have the right to equality of employment and fair treatment in employment. The policy identifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people of non-English speaking background, people with a disability and women as groups for whom employment outcomes are to be improved. The EEO Policy is implemented through all of Council's recruitment and staff management practices, and staff training is provided to promote the Policy and engender recognition of and respect for the social and cultural backgrounds of all staff and customers. The implementation of the EEO Policy ensures that the best people are recruited and promoted, and that their working environment is free of

## Council Registers Open to Inspection (s534(1)(d))

- Register of material personal interests (Councillors).
- Register of delegated authorities.
- Register of development applications under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.
- Register of decision notices and negotiated decision notices under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.
- Register of town planning consents.
- Register of non-conforming and fettered uses.
- Register of town planning rezonings.
- Register of dog registrations.
- Registers of regulatory and non-regulatory fees and charges.
- Register of health licences.
- Register of licences and approvals under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- Register of burials (Council cemeteries only).
- Register of impounded animals.
- Register of impounded items.
- Register of Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws.
- Register of Policies.
- Register of NCP Business Activities.
- Register of Service Providers.
- Register of Tenders and Contracts.
- Register of Notices Issued under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.
- Register of Notices Issued under the *Building Act 1975*.
- Roads Register.
- Register of Land Records (accessible by owners, occupiers and adjoining owners).

# Legislative Information

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## Particulars required by the Local Government Finance Standards 2005 (s534(1)(k))

The Council of the Shire of Beaudesert has control of:

- 3086 hectares of reserves under the *Land Act 1994* (including approximately 177 hectares leased to sporting and community groups and approximately 170 hectares let for agistment).
- 334.7km of roads that are not owned by the council.

This land does not have a value for the council's financial statements.

- No cross subsidies, pertaining to either of Council's Water Supply or Sewerage Services, have been identified.
- Council undertook the following community service obligations for relevant business activities during the year.

Activities	Description	Cost
Water	Revenue concessions, concessional charges and uneconomic services	\$1,631,998
Sewerage	Revenue concessions and uneconomic services	296,027
Waste Management	Revenue concessions and uneconomic refuse tips	767,996
Swimming Pool	Sporting contributions	266,255

## Appointment of shareholder's delegates on LGOCs (s534(1)(l))

Council is not a shareholder in a Local Government Owned Corporation and therefore did not appoint any delegates.

## Activities of accredited business entities (s534(1)(m))

Council did not have any business entities accredited under Part 4 of the *Local Government Act 1993* section 832.

## Summary of complaints about competitive neutrality (s534(1)(m))

In accordance with the requirements of the National Competition Policy reforms, Council has in place a process for dealing with complaints made under the National Competition Policy process. Council did not receive any complaints about competitive neutrality during the year.

## Councillors' Code of Conduct (s534(1)(n))

Council did not record any breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct during the year.

## Building certification business (s763A(2))

Council undertook a building certification business pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* section 763A during the year.

## General Complaints Process (s534(1)(n)(v))

The General Complaints Process was implemented according to legislative requirement on March 1, 2006. No complaints entered the General Complaints Process between March 1 and June 30, 2006.

## National Competition Policy (s768)

National Competition Policy reforms continue to be implemented with Council having received a range of staggered incentive payments from the Queensland Competition Authority. Council has applied the Code of Competitive Conduct to a number of business activities including:

- Water & Sewerage Services
- Waste Management
- Roads
- Building Services
- Workshop & Fleet
- Sport & Recreation

Full Cost Pricing Statement for these activities were included in the 2005/06 budget that identified tax equivalents and return on assets.

## Commercial Business Units (s581(3))

Council did not have any Commercial Business Units pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1993* section 571.



# Management Certificate

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**BEAUDESERT SHIRE COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended 30 June 2006

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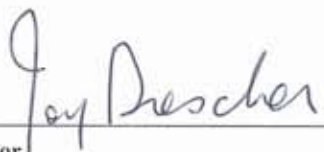
## **MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE**

For the year ended 30 June 2006

This general purpose financial report has been prepared pursuant to Section 532 of the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government Finance Standards 2005 ( the Standard ) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with Section 48 of the Standard we certify -

- (i) the Local Government considers the relevant recording and reporting procedures have been complied with in the preparation of the financial statements: and
- (ii) the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006 and supporting notes presents the Council's income, equity, balance sheet and cash flows as required by the *Local Government Act 1993*.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Date: 10 August 2006

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10 August 2006



# Auditor's Report

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## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Mayor of Beaudesert Shire Council

### Scope

#### *The Financial Report*

The financial report of Beaudesert Shire Council consists of the Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes of Equity and Cash Flow Statement, notes to and forming part of the financial report and certificates given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer for the year ended 30 June 2006.

#### *Council's Responsibility*

The Council is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report, the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

#### *Audit Approach*

As required by law, an independent audit was conducted in accordance with *QAC Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards, to enable me to provide an independent opinion whether in all material respects the financial report is presented fairly, in accordance with the prescribed requirements.

#### Audit procedures included -

- examining information on a test/sample basis to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report;
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Council;
- obtaining written confirmation regarding the material representations made in conjunction with the audit; and
- reviewing the overall presentation of information in the financial report.

### Independence

The *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and QAO authorised auditors.

The Auditor-General is the auditor of all public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament.

The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised.

The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

# Auditor's Report

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## Audit Opinion

In accordance with s.532 of the *Local Government Act 1993* I have audited the Council's financial report, and -

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion -
  - (i) the prescribed requirements in respect of the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
  - (ii) the financial report has been drawn up so as to present a true and fair view in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards of the transactions of the Beaudesert Shire Council for the financial year 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.



Stephen G Stavrou  
(As Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland)

Brisbane, 29 September 2006

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# Feedback Form

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The Annual Report is an important document because it is the primary tool Council uses to report to the community on its operational and strategic performance.

Council invites your feedback on this Report, so that we may continue to improve our Annual Reporting standards.

1. Are you a: (Tick the appropriate box)

- Ratepayer/Resident of the Beaudesert Shire
- Business Owner/Operator
- Community Group
- Beaudesert Shire Council Employee
- Professional Body
- Government Authority (Local / State / Federal)

2. What information most interests you in an Annual Report?

*Place a 1 against your main interest and if you wish, a 2 against a secondary area of interest.*

- Finance
- Social/Community
- Planning
- Economic Development
- Council Accountability

3. Following on from Question 2, how effective was the information in:

*The area you marked with a 1?*

Very Ineffective    1   2   3   4   5    Very Effective

*The area you marked with a 2 (if applicable)?*

Very Ineffective    1   2   3   4   5    Very Effective

For questions 4 to 7 please indicate your level of agreement with each statement by circling the relevant number in the scale provided for each question.

4. The Annual Report was easy to read.

Strongly Disagree    1   2   3   4   5    Strongly Agree

5. The layout of the Annual Report was functional and logical.

Strongly Disagree    1   2   3   4   5    Strongly Agree

6. The Community Financial Report (page 78) clearly explained Council's financial position.

Strongly Disagree    1   2   3   4   5    Strongly Agree

7. How could we improve the Annual Report to better meet your needs?

.....

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.....

.....

8. What is your preferred way to access Annual Reports?

- To receive a printed and bound copy
- To receive an electronic copy on CD-Rom
- To view/download from Council's website at [www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au).

9. If you wish to be placed on Council's Annual Report mailing list each year, please provide your details. Alternatively, you may register by calling (07) 5540 5111.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Please send:

- A printed and bound copy
- An electronic copy on CD-Rom

10. Generally, how do you prefer to hear about Council news and issues?

*Tick your preferred option/s.*

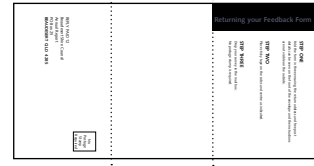
- Mail-outs
- Local media
- Council's website ([www.bsc.qld.gov.au](http://www.bsc.qld.gov.au))
- Emails
- Community briefings

**RETURNING THIS SURVEY**

Turn over for directions on returning your feedback form.

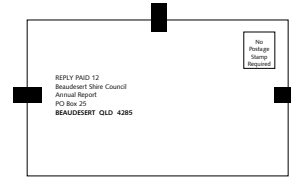
### STEP ONE

Fold the form in three ensuring the return address and free post details can be seen on the front of the envelope and the instructions are not visible on the outside.



### STEP TWO

Place sticky tape on the sides and centre as indicated.



### STEP THREE

Drop your survey in the mail box.  
No postage stamp is required.

REPLY PAID 12  
Beaudesert Shire Council  
Annual Report  
PO Box 25  
BEAUDESERT QLD 4285

No  
Postage  
Stamp  
Required

# Council Contact Details

## Beaudesert Shire Council

PO Box 25  
Beaudesert QLD 4285  
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www.bsc.qld.gov.au

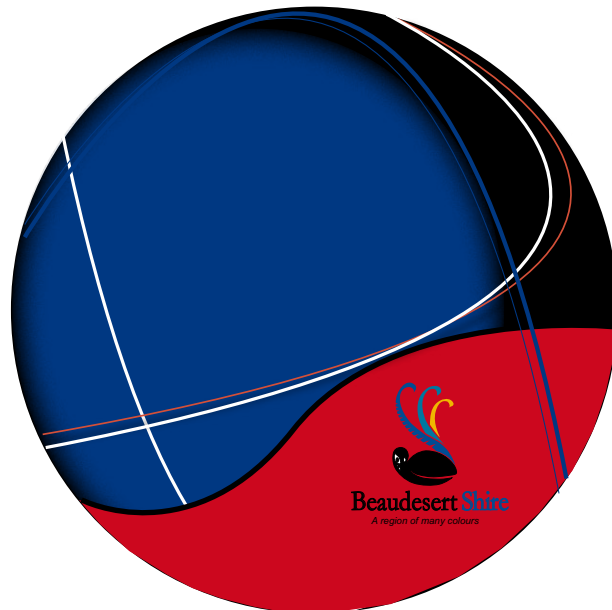
Fax: 5540 5103  
Toll free number 1300 360 555

## Council Customer Service Centres

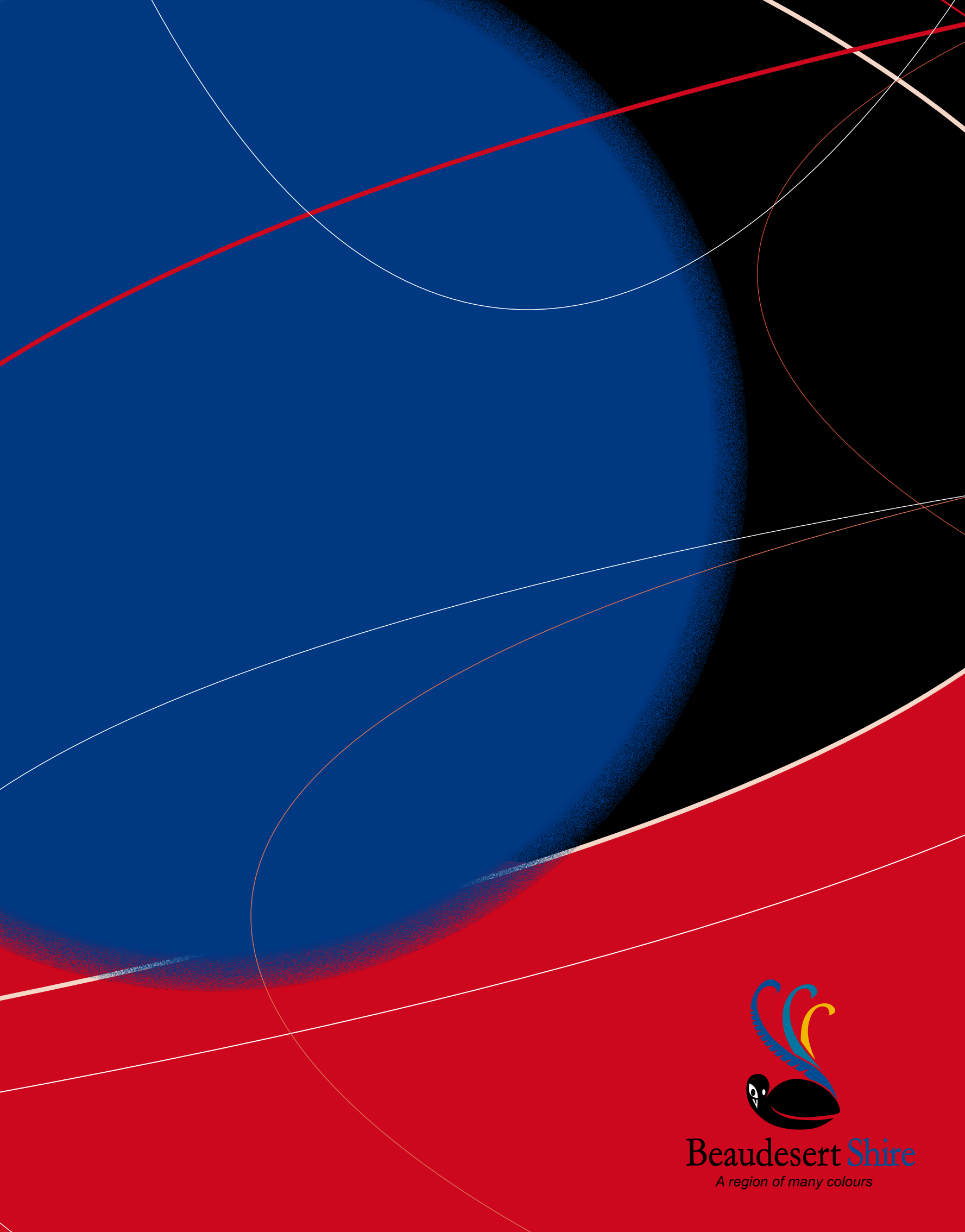
Beaudesert (Council building)  
82 Brisbane Street  
PH: (07) 5540 5111  
Monday to Friday - 8am to 4.45pm

Jimboomba (library)  
18-22 Honora Street  
PH: (07) 5540 5111  
Monday to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm

Tamborine Mountain (library)  
Cnr Main Street and Yuulong Road  
Ph: (07) 5540 5111  
Monday to Friday - 9am to 4.30pm







Beaudesert Shire  
*A region of many colours*