

Statutory  
Annual Report  
2005 - 2006



## Important

This document contains important information about Rockdale City Council. If you do not understand, please visit Council's Customer Service Centre at 2 Bryant Street Rockdale, Monday – Friday from 8.30am – 4.30pm. Council Staff will be happy to arrange interpreter services for you.

You may also contact Telephone Interpreter Services on 131 450 and ask them to ring Rockdale City Council on 9562 1666 on your behalf.

### Arabic

هام:

تحتوي هذه الوثيقة على معلومات هامة عن بلدية روكدايل. إذا لم تكن قادراً على فهمها، يرجى زيارة مركز خدمة زبائن البلدية على العنوان التالي: 2 Bryant Street في روكدايل من الإثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة ٨،٣٠ صباحاً و ٤،٣٠ مساءً، حيث سيقوم موظفو البلدية بتأمين مترجم لك بكل سرور.

كما يمكنك الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية على الرقم 131 450 والطلب منهم الاتصال ببلدية روكدايل على الرقم 9562 1666 نيابةً عنك.

### Italian

Importante:

Questo documento contiene importanti informazioni sul Comune di Rockdale City. Se avete difficoltà a comprenderne il contenuto, recatevi presso il Customer Service Centre del Comune a 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale dal lunedì al venerdì dalle ore 8.30 alle 16.30. Il personale del Comune sarà ben lieto di procurarvi un servizio interpreti.

Potete anche chiamare il Servizio telefonico interpreti (TIS) al numero 131 450 chiedendo che telefoni per vostro conto al Comune di Rockdale City al numero 9562 1666.

### Chinese

重要消息

本文件載有關於 Rockdale 市政府的重要資訊，如果您有不明之處，請於星期一至星期五，上午 8 時 30 分至下午 4 時 30 分，前來位於 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale，市政府的顧客服務中心。市政府的職員會很樂意為您安排傳譯員的服務。

您也可以聯絡電話傳譯服務處，電話 131 450，並請他們代您致電 9562 1666 給 Rockdale 市政府。

### Macedonian

Важно:

Ова документ содржи важни информации за Rockdale City Council (Градската општина на Rockdale). Ако не го разбирате, ве молиме, посетете го општинскиот Customer Service Centre (Центар за услуги на клиенти), кој се наоѓа на 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, од понеделник до петок, од 8.30 наутро до 4.30 попладне. Вработените во општината со задоволство ќе ви организираат да користите преведувач.

Исто така, можете да телефонирате во Telephone Interpreter Services (Служба за преведување по телефон) на 131 450, и да ги замолите во ваше име да се јават во Градската општина на Rockdale на 9562 1666.

### Greek

Σημαντικό:

Αυτό το έγγραφο περιέχει σημαντικές πληροφορίες για τη Δημαρχία Rockdale City Council. Αν δεν τις καταλαβαίνετε, παρακαλείσθε να επισκεφτείτε το Κέντρο Εξυπηρέτησης Πελατών [Customer Service Centre] του Δήμου στο 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, Δευτέρα - Παρασκευή από 8.30πμ - 4.30μμ. Το Προσωπικό του Δήμου θα χαρεί να κανονίσει υπηρεσίες διερμηνέων για σας.

Μπορείτε επίσης να επικοινωνήσετε με τις Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων [Telephone Interpreter Services] στο 131 450 και να τους ζητήσετε να τηλεφωνήσουν στο Rockdale City Council στο 9562 1666 για λογαριασμό σας.

### Spanish

Importante:

Este documento contiene información importante sobre el Rockdale City Council (Municipio de Rockdale). Si no la entiende, le rogamos concurrir al Centro de Servicio al Cliente del Municipio, ubicado en 2 Bryant Street, Rockdale, atención de lunes a Viernes, de 8:30 am a 4:30 pm. El personal del municipio se complacerá en obtener los servicios de un intérprete para usted.

Puede asimismo llamar al Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes al 131 450 y pedirles que llamen de su parte al Rockdale City Council, teléfono 9562 1666.

## Caring for the Environment

— In the interest of protecting and preserving our environment, Rockdale City Council uses Nordset paper for all of its pre-printed paper requirements.

Nordset has been awarded the Nordic Swan label for environmentally friendly pulp and paper manufacturing. It is manufactured with fibre obtained from sustainable plantation forest, it is oxygen bleached, Totally Chlorine Free (TCF), dioxin and acid free. Nordset can be recycled and is biodegradable.

## Table of Contents

Mayor's Message	Page 1
General Manager's Message	Page 2
City Profile	Page 3
Making Rockdale a Better City	Page 5
Councillors	Page 6
Our Executive	Page 7
Highlights & Achievements	Page 8
Performance of Principal Activities	Page 11
Providing a Healthy, Safe & Accessible Lifestyle	Page 11
Protecting the Natural Environment	Page 14
Building a Liveable City	Page 16
Providing Quality Recreation Opportunities	Page 19
Providing Reliable Transport & Safe Roads	Page 21
Facilitating Economic Prosperity	Page 23
State of the Environment Report	Page 24
Land	Page 25
Air	Page 26
Water	Page 27
Biodiversity	Page 28
Waste	Page 29
Noise	Page 30
Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal Heritage	Page 30
Management Plans relating to the Environment	Page 30
Special Council Projects relating to the Environment & the Environmental Impact of Council Activities	Page 31
Threatened Species Conservation Act	Page 31
Conditions of Public Works	Page 31
Road Network	Page 31
Footpaths	Page 32
Bridges	Page 32
Drainage Network	Page 32
Council Buildings	Page 33
Legal Proceedings	Page 34
Elected Members	Page 36

Senior Staff	Page 36
Major Contracts Awarded	Page 37
Bush Fire Reduction Activities	Page 37
Multicultural Services	Page 37
Private Works	Page 38
Contributions & Grants	Page 39
Human Resource Activities	Page 40
Implementation of Equal Employment Opportunity Plan	Page 41
Regulations	Page 42
Freedom of Information Act	Page 44
Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998	Page 46
Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1976	Page 46
Audited Financial Reports	Page 46
Income Statement	Page 47
Balance Sheet	Page 48
Auditors Report	Page 48
Principal Activities	Page 54
Assets Acquired	Page 55
Assets Disposed	Page 55
Special Variations	Page 56

## Mayor's Message

*It gives me great pleasure to introduce Rockdale City Council's Annual Report for 2005-06.*

*Last year a vision for the next two decades was launched for the City. Destinations Rockdale is a tremendously exciting project designed to revitalise the already vibrant heart of our City.*

*Under the plans Brighton Le Sands will become a destination of choice. The already commanding position of Botany Bay will be enhanced with new leisure facilities including a new pier and marina.*

*Rockdale Town Centre will become a vibrant place of shopping, eating and living with a fantastic new food and retail complex above the City's biggest transport hub.*

*Bay Street will be transformed into a proud boulevard connecting the two suburbs with a new civic centre and sporting facilities. The plans are at an early stage and, inevitably, designs will be revised. But our challenge is to make the project a reality and ensure the City's residents are fully involved.*

*Also, in the last year, we saw some great initiatives, such as the Your Space Your Place project giving the City of Rockdale's kids access to modern playground facilities, the achievement of Council in reaching major environmental milestones, the growing success of the new Wolli Creek neighbourhood and the fantastic achievement in making the whole City a safer place.*

*I would like to extend my personal thanks to Deputy Mayor Councillor Moselmann, my fellow Councillors and Council's staff for their commitment and achievements throughout 2005-06. Over the next year we will build upon these successes and continue to make Rockdale a better place to live, work and play.*



Councillor Bill Saravinovski  
Mayor



## General Manager's Message



*At Rockdale City Council everything we do is based around six core objectives. These are our principal activities and they are something that all of our staff are working towards.*

*The Principles Activities are to:*

- *Promote a Healthy & Accessible lifestyle*
- *Protect the Natural Environment,*
- *Build a Liveable City*
- *Provide Quality Recreation Opportunities*
- *Develop Reliable Transport & Safe Roads*
- *Facilitate Economic Prosperity.*

*All six of these goals leads our overall vision - to make Rockdale a better City.*

*Several key projects have occurred this year to help us in this quest, not the least of which is the Destinations Rockdale revitalisation strategy of which much is said within this report. But the City has been getting better in many other ways also - increases in Library stock to suit the needs of a multilingual residents; major improvement works to our beaches; graffiti clean up as part of our Safer City Program; more frequent and engaging communication to residents; initiatives to facilitate economic prosperity in our town centres and environmental workshops for kids to name but a few.*

*Much of the success of Council, however, is down to our staff and the projects they have been working on behind the scenes. Projects which aren't necessary high profile but without them progress elsewhere would not be made. This year we introduced a comprehensive asset management system enabling us to see detailed information about what we own. We became the first Council to get a four star rating in the Every Drop Counts water management scheme for our work in ensuring, on a day to day basis, we extract less and less water from Sydney's main supply. We held a successful team based analysis program where units used the Australian Business Excellence Framework model to evaluate their achievements. Meanwhile, another team successfully reached the Quality Assurance milestone of ISO 9001:2000.*

*This Annual Report is a comprehensive look at Council's activities for our stakeholders and community. I hope it gives you an insight into Council and the City we proudly serve.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Watson'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

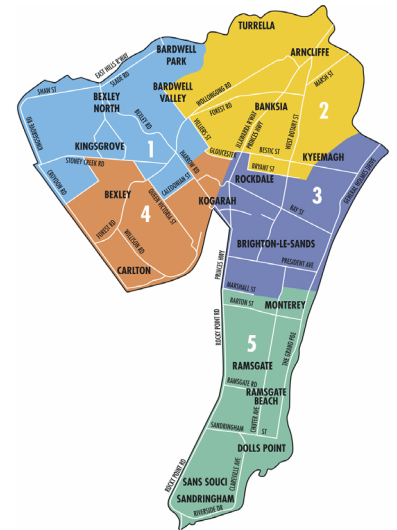
Chris Watson  
General Manager



## City Profile

The City of Rockdale offers something for everyone - from thriving town centres to the tranquility of stunning beaches. All are ideally located, with highways and rail services passing through the City, Sydney Airport next door, and Sydney's central business district only 12 kms away.

Our suburbs include Arncliffe, Banksia, Bardwell Park, Bardwell Valley, Bexley, Bexley North, Brighton Le Sands, Carlton (part), Dolls Point, Kingsgrove (part), Kogarah (part), Kyeemagh, Monterey, Ramsgate (part), Ramsgate Beach (part), Rockdale, Sandringham, Sans Souci (part), Turrella and Wolli Creek.



Retail and finance are the two biggest industries in the City, followed by education, health and community services, recreation, hospitality and manufacturing.

Many people's favourite part of the City is the spectacular Lady Robinsons Beach. Recently upgraded by Council it provides a perfect spot to slow down. The beach, and Cooks Park behind it, often plays host to major City events.

The Rockdale wetlands, which form a thin ribbon from the Cooks to Georges Rivers, provide important habitats for a variety of animal and plant species. The City of Rockdale also has expanses of bushland including Bardwell Valley and Hawthorne Street Natural Area housing hundreds of different plants and animal species, including many that are endangered.

Beautiful Tempe House in Wolli Creek is a good place to glimpse into our past, as is Lydham Hall in Bexley. This home from the 1860s boasts one of Sydney's finest collections of antique furniture and china.

## History

The City's position, on the shores of Botany Bay, place it right at the centre of the birth of modern Australia. But it's history goes back further, to the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the Gameygal tribe who would have spoken the Darug language. To them Botany Bay would have been called 'Ka-May'.

In 1770, Captain James Cook sailed the HMS Endeavour into the bay and discovered the mysterious continent of 'Terra Australis Incognita'. Endeavour Street in Sans Souci, according to tradition, points towards the spot where Endeavour anchored.

In 1804, Hannah Laycock moved to the area naming her new property 'King's Grove Farm'. Arncliffe and Bexley began as farming villages, while in the late 1800's larger homes began to be built by wealthy people close to the beach. In 1871 the municipality of West Botany came into being which, in 1888, became the municipality of Rockdale. 12 years later and Bexley municipality merged with Rockdale as increasing numbers moved to the area, thanks to the coming of the Illawarra railway.

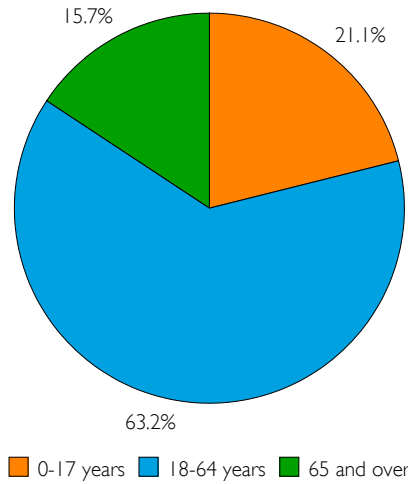
The most significant growth occurred in the post war years and the City became a popular area for migrant families to settle. In more recent years tourism around the beach areas and high density housing in previously industrial areas, such as Wolli Creek, has fuelled the expansion of the City - now the largest Council in the St George region. Rockdale's elevation to a City in 1995 cemented it's position as a major hub in southern Sydney.

## People

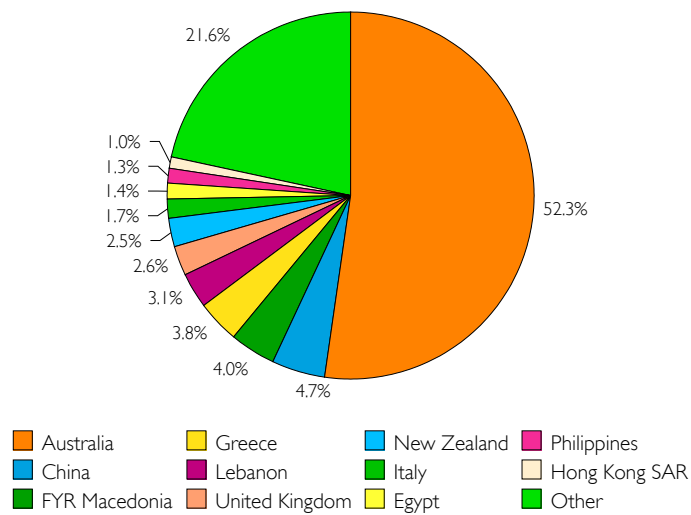
The City of Rockdale has a diverse population with people of all ages and many nationalities. Below are graphs illustrating who we are and where we come from. All figures are from 2001 unless specified.

**Our population (2005): 95,341**

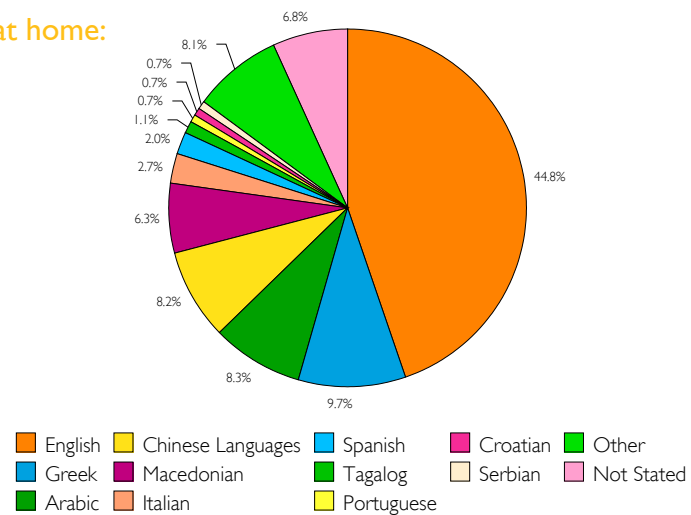
### Our ages:



### Where we were born:



### What languages do we speak at home:





# Making Rockdale a Better City

*Our statement of intent is our aim for the City of Rockdale. In all the services provided to our community we strive for excellence. This is the benchmark for individual, team and organisation performance.*

## Our Intent

'Making Rockdale A Better City'

## Our Values

Our values are the underlying attitudes that influence our decisions and actions. They define the relationships with our community, customers, suppliers and employees.

There are three core values that we aspire to every day as we make decisions that will make Rockdale a better City:

- Pride in our City
- Responding to community needs
- Working together

The challenge for Council is to turn these values into reality. This can be achieved only through a conscious effort on behalf of all involved, to implement these values in their everyday activities.

## Our Reality

- We must see the big picture
- Without teamwork we will fail
- Indecisiveness will drive our clients away.

## Councillors

Councillors who are elected to represent the community are:

### First Ward



Councillor Angelo Anestis



Councillor Yvonne Bellamy

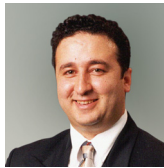


Councillor Peter Poulos

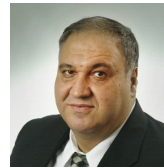
### Second Ward



Councillor Jan Brennan

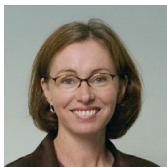


Councillor Shaoquett Moselmane



Councillor Michael Nagi

### Third Ward



Councillor Lesa de Leau



Councillor Gary Green



Councillor Bill Saravinovski

### Fourth Ward



Councillor John Ajaka



Councillor Joe Awada



Councillor Liz Barlow

### Fifth Ward



Councillor John Flowers



Councillor Angela Koutoulas



Councillor Georgina Soukoulis

### Mayor

Councillor Bill Saravinovski - September 2006 to September 2007

Councillor Shaoquett Moselmane - September 2005 to September 2006

Councillor John Flowers - April 2004 to September 2005

### Deputy Mayor

Councillor Shaoquett Moselmane - September 2006 to September 2007

Councillor Bill Saravinovski - September 2005 to September 2006

Councillor Shaoquett Moselmane - April 2004 to September 2005

## Our Executive

### Mr Chris Watson - General Manager

*BSc (Engineering) FIE Aust*

Has worked at Rockdale City Council since 1991. Previously Director of City Services, he was appointed as General Manager in August 2003. He has had over 30 years experience in local government, particularly in the area of engineering. Previously held the position of National President at the Australian Institute of Public Works Engineering for two years.

Overall responsible for the operation of Council.



### Mr John Logue - Director of Governance

*MM*

Has worked for Rockdale City Council for 13 years. Previously worked at Wollongong City Council and Campbelltown City Council. Extensive experience in administration, corporate support, finance and local government law.

Responsible for Corporate Governance, Mayor and Councillor support, legal advice and the Sister City program. The department was previously called Corporate Development.



### Mr Greg Smith - Director of City Services

*MBA (General Management)*

Appointed in September 2004. Previously the General Manager at Yass Valley City Council, he also held a Director's position at Goulburn City Council. He has had over 20 years experience in local government and the electricity industry.

Responsible for all units accountable to the departments of Community Services, Operations and Technical Services.



### Director - Planning & Development

This position has been vacant since late September 2005. Since then other managers have been sharing the position's responsibilities.

## Highlights & Achievements

### *How Council is making Rockdale a better city*

This is a brief summary of some of Council's key highlights in 2005-2006 listed under our six Principle Activities.

#### Promoting a Healthy, Safe & Accessible Lifestyle for the Community

- ↳ The Safer City Program, which brings Council and the community together to improve safety in the area, has reaped rewards. Over 30,000 m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti has been removed from buildings and grants of more than \$60,000 have been given to a number of community based safety projects. In addition, a series of Community Safety Audits have taken place across the City and CCTV cameras have been installed and are operating in Brighton Le Sands.
- ↳ Council has been involved in a number of festivals and community events this year including the Queen's Baton relay for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, the community inclusive Harmony Day event, the inaugural Rockdale Cultural Festival, Waitangi Day celebrations, St George Fun Run and the Eid Festival.
- ↳ The award winning Rockdale Meals Service revamped its menu to cater for the City's diverse community with new dishes inspired by the flavours of China, Germany, Spain, Samoa, and the Arabic World.
- ↳ The Multicultural Health Ageing Forum, in partnership with local community agencies, raised awareness of the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle for the elderly.
- ↳ Council's community newsletter - was increased from a bimonthly to monthly publication.

#### Protecting the Natural Environment

- ↳ Council reached milestone five in the Cities for Climate Change Program which aims to reduce greenhouse gases emitted through the everyday activities of local government. Council has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 37,000 tonnes since 1999 meaning the 2010 target of reducing emissions by 20% from a decade ago is well on track.
- ↳ Council commenced a waste reduction campaign distributing 24,000 brochures to assist residents improve recycling activities. 9,841 tonnes of rubbish was recycled in 2005-2006 of which 5,905 tonnes was paper and cardboard. The amount of paper and cardboard recycled alone means Council has spared the equivalent of 76,759 trees from the chop, 14,761 barrels of oil needed to make the paper and stopped 1010 tonnes of greenhouse gas from escaping into the atmosphere.
- ↳ Rockdale became the first Council to achieve four stars in the Sydney Water Every Drop Counts business program, recognising the work done to use water more efficiently in the organisation.
- ↳ Council established best practice Environmental Guidelines which are now included in all Council purchasing.
- ↳ Council staff and volunteers planted 300 trees as part of National Tree Day.
- ↳ Council staff trialled a program to reduce dependency on fertilisers and pesticides in the City's parks
- ↳ The schools environmental education program continues to be a success with 13 local primary schools participating in the Drain is Just for Rain program. Council

also worked closely with other local governments in the St George region organising events including a Sustainable Living Expo and Eco Living and Eco Renovator workshops.

- ↗ A gross pollutant trap was installed to improve the water quality of Scarborough Pond and the Alfred Street drains.

## A Liveable City

- ↗ The community was presented with Destinations Rockdale - a 20 year vision for ground breaking development in the City. The project aims to revitalise the centres of Rockdale and Brighton Le Sands with an architecturally stunning pier into Botany Bay, a new market area, civic centre and shopping facilities.
- ↗ The once industrial area of Wolli Creek continues to grow into a thriving new suburb popular with city commuters. Council has applied to the State Government to have the remaining land rezoned from industrial to commercial and residential use to allow the neighbourhood to continue to grow.
- ↗ The Residential Amenity Improvement Strategy was introduced which enables Council to scrutinise new developments against a checklist of criteria designed to ensure new homes are practical and liveable for residents.
- ↗ Rockdale became one of the first Council's in NSW to introduce an online tracking service for Development Applications, Construction Certificates, Complying Development and Subdivision Certificates. Residents and interested parties can check the progress of these through Council's web site

## Providing Quality Recreational Opportunities

- ↗ School children can now receive homework help in Arncliffe from a real live tutor via the internet. The aim of each session is to increase the students understanding of concepts and confidence in the subject.
- ↗ Rockdale Library launched a collection of over 1,000 Chinese DVDs and VCDs to cater for one of the City's largest communities. The collection has now been extended to both Bexley North and Arncliffe Libraries.
- ↗ Lady Robinsons Beach received a \$7.9 m overhaul with 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand dredged from Taylor Bay and placed back on the beach. Five rock groynes were also built to keep the sand in its place. The beach now boasts four extra kilometers of sand for people to enjoy and up to 20 metres more beach at high tide.
- ↗ Major renovation work was carried out to the Rockdale Women's Netball courts to improve the playing quality of the fields.
- ↗ The Your Place Your Space Project involved over 200 children being consulted about plans to spend almost \$500,000 on new playground equipment in the City's parks, an exercise which led to Council being highly commended in the 2006 Local Government Multicultural Communication Awards.

## Developing Reliable Roads & Safe Transport

- ↗ Council was successful in receiving funding from the Roads and Traffic Authority of \$64,000 to improve dangerous traffic intersections.
- ↗ A Local Area Traffic Management Plan was developed for Bardwell Park looking at traffic problems for the whole area. The plan considered traffic accident history, traffic and speed counts and canvassed resident's views.

- ↳ June saw the launch of an innovative scheme where Council staff stuck 'Slow Down on My Street' stickers on wheelie bins on rubbish collection days reminding drivers of their responsibility to be careful on local streets. 'Slow Down in My Street' was one measure identified in Council's five year Road Safety Strategic Plan.
- ↳ A wombat crossing was introduced in Bexley to replace the less effective zebra crossing. Wombat crossings physically force the car to slow down on approach through the use of small bumps and rumble strips in the road.
- ↳ Council continued to work closely with the RTA and Police to improve Road Safety e.g. banner program at intersections of concern throughout the City.
- ↳ Council developed a road safety strategic plan for 2006-2011.
- ↳ A Maintenance Management System was developed and is being used to prepare 2006-2007 roads maintenance schedules

### Facilitating Economic Prosperity

- ↳ Council played a major role in making Rockdale Town Centre a Christmas shopping destination of choice by erecting a Christmas tree in King Street, encouraging traders to decorate their shops and creating a catalogue of discounts at local shops. A tree lighting ceremony with carol singers and Santa Claus was a great success.
- ↳ Council held several events in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce and other organisations to help City firms grow and flourish. These included networking breakfast meetings and presentations to small business expos.
- ↳ Rockdale successfully led a consortium of 38 Councils to receive \$6.1 million from the State to streamline local planning and regulation compliance for small businesses.
- ↳ The St George Employment and Economic Study was completed and submitted to Department of Planning for endorsement.



## Performance of Principal Activities

### Section 428(2)(b)

The following section highlights some of Council's key achievements grouped under each of our six principal activities. There is also a table under each principal activity which displays a comparison between Council's projected performance (intended outcome) and actual performance (actual achievements).

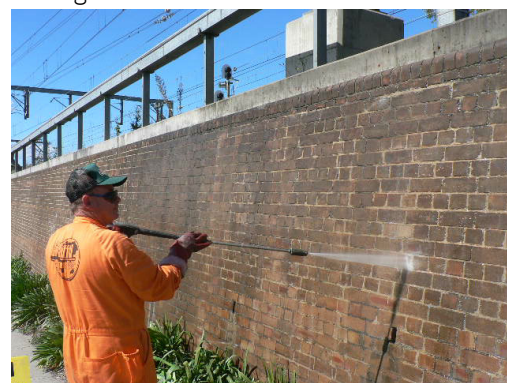
### Providing a Healthy, Safe & Accessible Lifestyle

*Community harmony and acceptance of our diversity are important facets of our City. Residents have indicated that community safety is strongly valued. In 2005-2006 Council worked with local community groups and government departments to plan services to meet community needs.*

#### Safe City. Safe Community.

Council's Safer City Program has brought real rewards to City residents during the last year. The program helps the community to take a role in making their area safe whilst Council improves the physical environment by reducing the opportunities for crime. A special rate levy of 3% funds this initiative which began in the 2004-05 financial year.

One way we have allocated the funds is the removal of graffiti. In 2005-06, 35,107m<sup>2</sup> of graffiti was removed from private, commercial and Council buildings.



The Safer City Program also allocated \$65,207 of grants to fund a number of community based safety projects being implemented by: Marian Villa Women's Refuge, Migrant Resource Centre and the Al Zahra Muslim Women's Association. These organisations will now set up local programs to implement crime prevention and safety strategies aimed at the target groups they assist.

Meanwhile, a series of Community Safety Audits took place in Town Centres and parks across the City with the aim of identifying problem areas and improving the safety of the physical space. In addition, the new CCTV facility developed this year is being used to monitor the Brighton Le Sands beach and surrounding areas. Already footage from the cameras and the work of NSW police officers in the control room have helped solve a range of crimes and discourage antisocial behaviour.

#### Meals on Wheels menu goes global

Rockdale Meals Service presented client's with a tasty new menu in 2005-2006 when Council launched a range of dishes for the City's diverse community.

Together with fellow St George Councils, Kogarah and Hurstville, Rockdale presented meal users with a fresh Cosmopolitan Cuisine Service. The new dishes cater for clients with wide cultural tastes with meal choices inspired by the flavours of Germany, Spain, China, Samoa, and the Arabic World.

Rockdale Meals Service already provides a wide variety of tastes. The new cosmopolitan menu allows for meals to be more authentic, enjoyable and tasty.

In addition Rockdale Meals Service was honoured with an award at the National Meals on Wheels Conference in September 2005. The award was presented in recognition of new microwave cooking classes organised in conjunction with St George Frozen Foods.

## Commonwealth Games Baton Relay leads year of Events



Council was one of just two southern Sydney Councils to host the Queen's Baton relay on its way to the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Residents in their hundreds welcomed Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG, 2006 NSW State Finalist for Australian of the Year, as he carried the Queen's Baton onto stage during the Australia Day celebrations at Peter Depena Reserve.

The Queen's Baton relay was just one of 35 events that Council organised for residents during 2005-06. Other highlights included Harmony Day - a community inclusive event featuring a drumming workshops, art and craft activities and a barbecue - and the inaugural Rockdale Cultural Festival, a vibrant event held in Arncliffe.

Council's events aim to build a sense of community and enhance the lifestyle for residents of the City of Rockdale. Many events were developed by the local community with assistance from Council including Waitangi Day celebrations, the St George Fun Run and Eid Festival.

Intended Outcome	Actual Achievements
The community is safer.	The initial graffiti removal in all Town Centres was completed two months ahead of schedule.
	The Safer City Grants of \$65,207 were allocated to enable community initiatives to improve safety in the City.
	Audit of Council assets for vandalism held in Bicentennial Park
	Safety site audits were conducted at Moate Avenue car park & Scarborough Park & lighting awaits competition in Brighton & Rockdale Town Centre.
	Community Safety audits were conducted at Arncliffe & Rockdale Town Centres.
	Work has progressed by the three Councils to develop the St George Disaster Plan.
Opportunities exist that meet the diverse needs of the community.	A community park, childcare centre & neighbourhood shops suitable for young people included in the Bonar Street Master Plan.
	Your Place Your Space community consultation conducted to assess needs for playground equipment improvements.
	A collection of Chinese DVDs & VCDs added to the Libraries.
	Council Community Grants Program allocated \$50,000 to 20 community organisations in the City.
	A successful International Women's Day breakfast for local women (supported by the NSW Office of Women).
	Convening of the Community Development Expenditure Scheme (Club funding) with over \$700,000 of funding submissions received.

Intended Outcome	Actual Achievements
	<p>Assistance with the funding submission &amp; the delivery of the Positive Identity of Arabic Muslim Women Project run by the St George Lebanese Joint Committee.</p> <p>Multicultural Health Ageing Forum conducted in partnership with local community agencies to raise awareness of the elderly people in leading a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Rockdale Meals Service successfully completed an on site Integrated Monitoring Framework review conducted by Department of Ageing, Disability &amp; Home Care.</p> <p>Rockdale Meals Service obtained a contract with Illawarra Ethnic Community Council to supply meals on a monthly basis.</p>
Compliance with Public & Environmental Health Standards.	In addition to regular inspections, health officers now visit food outlets that are only open at night to increase the level of compliance with acceptable standards.
Events that enhance the quality of the Community's life.	<p>A fire works display was held on Botany Bay at Brighton Le Sands for New Year.</p> <p>A successful Australia Day event was held which included a festival in Bay Street, Brighton Le Sands, a citizenship ceremony &amp; the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay in Peter Depena Reserve.</p> <p>Rockdale Cultural Festival in Arncliffe held in May 2006.</p>
The community is inclusive & harmonious.	<p>A display of local history material in Rockdale Library was held in March celebrating the diversity of our City.</p> <p>Assistance with the application of the St George Youth Service in acquiring the Public Benevolent Institution Status.</p> <p>Organised the Portraits of Harmony project which involved collaboration between three Councils in St George region.</p> <p>Harmony Day activities were well attended.</p>
The community has improved access to information.	<p>More customer friendly &amp; useful web site.</p> <p>Community newsletter increases from a bimonthly publication to a monthly.</p> <p>Results of 2005-06 Community Survey presented to Council.</p> <p>Organised 'How to make Complaints' project in partnership with the Ombudsman Office.</p>

## Protecting the Natural Environment



*Within our City's boundaries lie significant environmental features, including the Rockdale Wetlands, Botany Bay foreshores and remnants of bush land. It is Council's aim to protect and enhance the natural features of the City. In 2005-2006 Council looked at reducing the environmental impact of its own services while letting the community know how they can do their bit.*

### Council Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Council reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 21,000 tonnes this year taking our total reduction to 37,000 tonnes since 1999. This success has meant Council has now reached milestone five in the Cities for Climate Change Program (CCP). The program's aim is to reduce greenhouse gases emitted through the everyday activities of local governments.

This achievement involved analysing the amount of harmful gases produced through Council and community activities and comparing this to figures from 1995. The results showed that Council is on track to meet the 2010 target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% from a decade ago. In November 2005 Council progressed to the CCP Plus stage of the program.

Another environmental success story occurred in May 2006 when Rockdale became the first Council in NSW to reach milestone three of the CCP Plus Greenhouse Purchasing Project. Council developed an action plan detailing how it would measure the environmental friendliness of its buying policies. So, if Council buys some computers it can now tell how energy efficient they are. And Council now knows if bitumen produced for the City's roads is manufactured in a way that avoids unnecessary emissions. The focus is now on implementing the action plan.

### Every Drop Counts

Council won a clutch of awards during the year including a first for any Council when it achieved four stars in the Sydney Water Every Drop Counts business program. The accolade recognises the work Council has done to use water more efficiently. This includes a tank beneath Council's administration building that captures rainwater and then reuses it around the building - removing the need to draw from precious water supplies. Council also completed an action plan which, over three years, will see further water conservation measures introduced. It's one step to achieving the ultimate rating of five stars.

### Learning About Sustainability

In order to keep the environment healthy we all have to do our bit, and Council has been busy ensuring the local community is up to speed on sustainability issues.

Numerous environmental education events were held for both old and young residents including the much loved wetland tour, a bike ride along our beautiful coastline and children's library activities such as a visit from Oceanworld Manly and an environmental show called 'Stormwater Spies'. Hundreds of residents attended these events making them a huge success.

The schools environmental education program continues to be a success with 13 local primary schools participating in the Drain is Just for Rain program. Alongside this, our Waste and Cleansing team has been busy teaching school children about worms - more specifically how these squimy creatures can be put together in a 'farm' and then used to turn organic waste into top quality compost, sparing a whole heap of rubbish from landfill in the process.



Council also worked closely with other Council's in the St George area pooling resources to organise events such as a Sustainable Living Expo and Eco Living and Eco Renovator workshops.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Living in accordance with sustainability principles.	Commenced preparation of a Biodiversity Strategy for the City. Phase 1 is complete & a draft has been received for Phase 2.
	A contractor has been engaged to assist with the Proposal for an Energy & Water Performance Contract.
	Established best practice Environmental Guidelines which are now included in all Council tenders.
Less waste - generated, collected and disposed of.	Council started a waste reduction campaign distributing 24,000 brochures to assist residents improve recycling activities.
	Reviewed our strategy for waste collection, disposal & recycling including options for the domestic waster service.
Improved City Environment.	Successfully gained a grant to instal a fishway in Wollie Creek.
	Worked with Canterbury Council, Hurstville Council & Wollie Creek Preservation Society to develop grant applications for the Cooks River Foreshore Improvement Program.
Cleaner air & waterways.	A gross pollutant trap installed to improve the water quality of Scarborough Pond & the Alfred Street drains
	In celebration of World Wetlands Day in February 2006, Council was recognised for their excellent work of raising public awareness of the significance & benefits of wetlands.
	Investigated complaints in relation to air & odour emissions from commercial & industrial premises
Protection & enhancement of bushland & wetland areas.	Council facilitates monthly meetings for Bushland Volunteers - residents, a Natural Heritage Trust representative & staff.
	Council has reviewed the signage in the wetlands area.
Environmentally aware & responsible community.	Visited schools to teach good environmental practices & help with the development of projects for community water grants.
	The results of last year's regional energy survey were published in the Community Newsletter.
	The following community education activities were undertaken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Green Home Biodiversity Workshop held in Ramsgate in conjunction with Kogarah Council &amp; Hurstville Council</li> <li>▪ Energy efficient light bulb &amp; water efficient showered giveaway</li> <li>▪ Tour of Rockdale Wetlands corridor</li> <li>▪ School holiday environmental education sessions at the Town Hall &amp; libraries</li> <li>▪ Australia Day bike ride.</li> </ul>
Enhanced natural resources.	Council Parks staff trialling programs to reduce our dependency on fertilizers & pesticides in our parks.



## Building a Liveable City

*The City of Rockdale is a desirable location close to Sydney Airport and the CBD. As a result the City is experiencing an increased demand for housing and employment. New people with new expectations are moving to the area and it's Council's task to balance these needs. We aim to make Rockdale a more liveable City by improving the quality of new developments and embarking on a master plan to make the City of Rockdale a destination of choice.*

### Destinations Rockdale



Destinations Rockdale - a 20 year project that aims to revitalise the centres of Rockdale and Brighton Le Sands and turn Bay Street into a grand boulevard to the beach was launched.

Highlights include Dome Markets which will straddle Rockdale railway station and become a place for the community to wind down and relax under a stunning glass roof.

In Brighton Le Sands the aim is to create a new marina and a stunning modern pier to make this the City's number one leisure destination. A new civic centre, sporting facilities, housing and measures to decrease traffic on The Grand Parade are also on the list of long term aims.

Council received positive responses from residents when the plan was revealed, with particular excitement expressed over the potential new Brighton Pier. Work now continues in refining plans and presenting them to State Government.

### Improving New Homes

The demand for new homes continues to rise but, in some developments, the quality of dwellings has fallen short of expectations. For example, ceilings are lower and balconies sizes have been cut to squeeze in as many dwellings as possible into new developments. In 2005-2006, Council introduced the Residential Amenity Improvement Strategy. It's aim - making new homes more liveable.

Council will now also assess all developments against this new criteria which includes the size of new apartments or houses, whether or not balconies can actually be used and ensuring corridors are wide enough for two to pass easily. Council wants all new residences in the City of Rockdale to be great homes.

### Tracking Applications Online

Rockdale was one of the first Council's in NSW to introduce an online application tracking service allowing residents to check the progress of Development Applications, Construction Certificates, Complying Development and Subdivision Certificates lodged through Council's web site. Information available includes the status of the application, actions taken and the final decision when made.

The system allows residents to check their applications when it is convenient to them. Signs are that this online service is helpful with hundreds of hits reported.



## Wolli Creek Renaissance

Work continued in earnest on plans to turn Wolli Creek - once the industrial precinct of North Amcliffe - into a thriving new residential neighbourhood.

Wolli Creek's proximity to Sydney Airport and its great transport links to central Sydney have already made it popular with young commuters who are enjoying the highly urban living experience to be found in the new suburb. Work to clean up and modernise other parts of Wolli Creek was delayed waiting for State Government approval of the rezoning of remaining areas.

Now we look forward to Wolli Creek's streets alive with trees, shops and cafes to serve the new population.



Once completed Wolli Creek should become one of our Sydney's most sought after suburbs with over 7,000 residents enjoying its mix of natural beauty, good urban design, historical features and convenient location.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Managing the agreed City Vision for the future.	Presentation of the Destination Rockdale concept to Council & Community.
Quality design and development.	Work commenced preparing an Aircraft Noise Strategy for the processing of development & rezoning applications relating to lands which are affected by aircraft noise.
	Urban Design Study for Princes Highway has been completed
Positive City Image.	Preliminary design for Ramsgate Shopping Centre has commenced.
Appropriately located land uses.	To ensure appropriately located land use rezoning applications for three major development sites within the City have commenced.
	Work continued on an amendment of the Section 94 Plan to incorporate the Bonar St redevelopment precinct & Brighton Foreshore improvements.
	Several submissions were made & meetings were held with the Department of Planning supporting the 18 draft rezoning applications Council has made to the department.
	Attendance at sub regional meetings with neighbouring Councils to commence the process of preparing sub regional plans in accordance with the State Government's Metropolitan Strategy.
	The Airport Major Development Plan was assessed & reported to Council in February. A submission was then made to the Sydney Airport Corporation Limited..
Conservation of our heritage.	Council prepared a draft LEP to give statutory protection to the properties identified in Stage 5 of the Heritage review & placed on public exhibition over December & January.
	A display of local history material in Rockdale Library was held in March celebrating the diversity of our City.
Appropriate infrastructure to support all forms of access.	A Corporate Asset Management Framework has been adopted for the management of Council's \$1 billion community assets.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Sustainability.	Continue to incorporate Ecologically Sustainable Design principles in all decision making.
Less risk of flooding.	Work continued on Spring Street Drain Piped Drainage & Overland Flow Report to assess impact of overland flows in the Spring Street Catchment & protect future development.
	Work continued on preliminary construction of The Strand Levee, designed to protect low level properties from floodwaters.
	Council amplified outlet from Waradiel Creek to reduce flooding impacts in Dolls Point.
Aware and responsible community (value diversity of city).	Community engagement strategy & policy developed to allow community input.
	Implementation of development applications tracking on the web using Infomaster technology.
	Increased publication of Rockdale Review - Council's community newsletter from bimonthly to monthly.

## Providing Quality Recreation Opportunities

*Council is working towards providing opportunities for recreation to all our residents - from a walk in a renewed park, library stock in native languages or improvements to sporting facilities and playgrounds. 2005-2006 saw some great new projects completed to benefit everyone in the City of Rockdale.*

### Online homework help for school kids

Schoolchildren can now receive homework help in Arncliffe from a real live tutor via the internet. Many children in Arncliffe come from families where English is not a first language. This means they might not be able to ask their parents for help with their studies.

The free service, introduced in February 2006, allows students in years 4 to 12 to receive expert help from a live tutor via the Internet either by logging on at Arncliffe Library or through Council's web site. The tutor works through the questions and problems with the students using an interactive white board. The aim of each session is to increase the students understanding of concepts and confidence in the subject rather than simply providing answers.

Comments received so far show students are more confident in their work and are able to finish more assignments.

### Pick up a Chinese DVD

To coincide with the Chinese Moon Festival in September 2005 Rockdale Library launched a collection of over 1,000 Chinese DVDs and VCDs. Chinese speaking adult and junior borrowers can pick up a range of titles which cover subjects such as cookery, health, music, parenting and travel. The collection has proved a great success and has now been extended to both Bexley North and Arncliffe Libraries with new titles added all the time.



### Making the beach even better

The award winning Lady Robinsons Beach received a \$7.9 m overhaul in 2005-2006, the aim being to ensure the golden sands, much of which had disappeared back into the sea, were returned to the beach.

Due to tidal movements, sand had been washed back into the Bay leaving parts of the beach almost non-existent. The revamp saw 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand dredged from Taylor Bay and placed back, where it belongs, on the beach. Five rock groynes were then built along the beach to keep the sand in its place. The popular Lady Robinsons Beach now boasts four extra kilometers of sand for people to enjoy and up to 20 meters more beach at high tide.

6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of seagrass, disturbed during the dredging of Taylor Bay, was replanted as the vegetation is an important natural habitat for many species of fish. Lady Robinsons Beach also won it's third consecutive Keep Australian Beautiful Clean Beach Challenge award.

## Your Space Your Place



Over 200 of the City's most vocal residents put Council in it's place in February 2006 as children were invited to tell us what they wanted from their ideal playground. 229 children and 83 parents cast their eyes over plans to spend a grant worth almost \$500,000 on new equipment as part of the Your Space, Your Place initiative. Mums and Dads were keen on more shade, while kids wanted flying foxes and rope structures to clamber on.

The project came about after an analysis of Council's existing playgrounds which looked at the age of play equipment, the wear and tear on equipment and how busy the park was. The comments from little ones and big ones alike were then used to refine the project's plans and inform the design work. By the end of June 2006 all the new playgrounds had been designed and equipment bought ready to install. The first new playground - at Tonbridge Street Reserve - opened in spring 2006.

Council was highly commended in the 2006 Local Government Multicultural Communication Awards for its children's consultation with children on the project.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Opportunities exist to meet the diverse needs of the community.	The Draft of the Regional Recreation Study (commissioned as a joint venture by the three St George Councils) has been received for review.
	A review of the total library collection was carried out.
	Approval & grant funds have been received for the installation of playground equipment at four parks within the city.
	Major renovation work was carried out to the Rockdale Women's Netball courts to improve the playing quality of the fields.
	Your Place Your Space community consultation conducted to access communities needs for playgroups equipment improvements.
	The Library launched the Online Homework Help at Amcliffe Library in February 2006.
	Assisted Kingsgrove High with the pouring of the picnic shelter concrete slabs.

## Providing Reliable Transport & Safe Roads

*Traffic is the number one detriment to our residents' quality of life. City of Rockdale's position - on a main artery from the south to central Sydney - means it is particularly affected by the sheer number of vehicles. In 2005-2006 Council introduced a number of measures to reduce cars on local streets. It is essential, however, that investment is made in public transport and roads to ensure everyone can travel around and through the City of Rockdale with ease.*



### Targeting Traffic Trouble Spots

Council worked on improving dangerous traffic intersections to make roads safer. An intersection is labelled dangerous where there has been three car crashes involving injuries over the previous five years.

Council was successful in receiving funding from the Roads and Traffic Authority of \$64,000 to improve the traffic black spots at the intersections of Chapel Street and Cairo Street in Rockdale and Wollongong Road and Broe Avenue in Arncliffe. Improved intersections often include the installation of parking and lighting, raised crossings, medians and pavement markers.

Previously Council has worked at minimising traffic trouble spots along Bestic Street, Wollongong Road, Chuter Avenue and the front of St George Girls High School and Harrow Road as part of the same program.

### Looking at the Whole Area

Sometimes traffic problems can be solved by fixing one hot spot, but often a more holistic approach is needed. That's where Local Area Traffic Management Plans (LATM) come in. By taking a look at traffic problems for whole areas rather than just one intersection Council can ensure congestion doesn't simply move from one street to another.

Council developed a LATM for Bardwell Park looking at traffic accident history, traffic and speed counts and by canvassing resident's views. Suggested improvements included a new style of intersection between Devon Street and Slade Road, a new roundabout and extra road safety markings. Council hopes to develop the LATMs for Arncliffe and Bexley soon.

### Slow Down in My Street

June saw the launch of an innovative scheme targeting speeding drivers in residential neighbourhoods.

The 'Slow Down in My Street' campaign used rubbish collection day as a method to improve road safety with Council employees placing speed reminder stickers on wheelie bins. Drivers seeing the stickers would continually be reminded of their responsibility to slow down on local streets.



Slow Down in My Street was one of a number of measures identified in Council's five year Road Safety Strategic Plan. This campaign will be beneficial to children who often play around, and frequently cross, small residential roads.

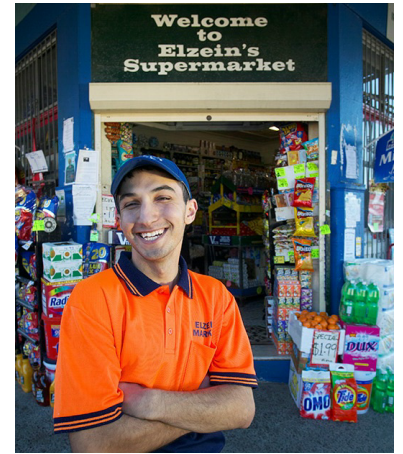
In another attempt to keep kids safe a wombat crossing was introduced in Bexley. After lobbying by teachers and students at Bexley North Public School the new style crossing was installed to replace the less effective zebra crossing. Used extensively throughout Sydney, wombat crossings physically force the car to slow down on approach through the use of small bumps and rumble strips in the road. The device ensures cars slow down to between 20 - 40 kms per hour on approach, which is great news for the kids of Bexley.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Efficient movement of people within and through the City.	Draft Transport DCP prepared.
	Maintenance Management System developed & being used to prepare 2006/07 roads maintenance schedules.
Safe, effective transport networks.	Continued to work closely with the RTA & Police to improve Road Safety eg banner program at intersections of concern throughout the city.
	Developed road safety strategic plan 2006-2011.
	Implemented strategies related to Speed Campaign - 'Slow Down in My Street'.
Appropriate Car Parking throughout the City.	Council has developed & implemented a program with defined service levels for car parks.



## Facilitating Economic Prosperity

*Successful businesses, new jobs and fresh investment are keys to the economic success of our City. Council is working in conjunction with the government and the private sector to realise these goals. Our Town Centres and new suburbs, meanwhile, are being revamped to make them more inviting places to live, work and spend.*



### Christmas Cheer Local Shopkeepers

The run up to Christmas is the busiest times of the year for shopkeepers. To help Rockdale Town Centre remain crowded with shoppers last Christmas Council organised a number of festive events to bring people into the heart of the City. An illuminated Christmas tree was erected in King Street with the Mayor officially turning on the lights accompanied by carol singers and none other than Santa Claus himself. Mr Claus then visited Rockdale on several more occasions handing out lollies and small presents and having his picture taken with some of our smallest residents. The centre of Brighton Le Sands also benefited from festive decorations.

Meanwhile, local traders were encouraged to decorate their shops to get into the Christmas spirit and a catalogue was launched by Council and the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce, giving City residents the chance to get discounts at local shops.

### Working with Local Businesses

Council wants the City of Rockdale to be a vibrant place for businesses to succeed. To achieve this aim we work with local Chambers of Commerce and other organisations to help City businesses grow and flourish. The Business Enterprise Centre (BEC) is one of these organisations. Funded by the State Government to facilitate economic growth, Council works with BEC organising events of interest for local business people.

Last year these events included networking breakfast meetings where local business people could meet one another and hear a talk on helpful topics, such a web marketing. These events were especially useful to people who work from home who otherwise find it difficult to meet others in their field. Council also gave a presentation to BEC's Small Business Expo on a new online resource allowing them to access in depth local statistics. These statistics would be useful for local businesses to profile customers.

Council also has close relationships with local Chambers of Commerce. In Rockdale we gave dollar for dollar funding to local shopkeepers to improve their shopfronts, in



Bexley we provided support for their annual Street Fair and late in 2005 we answered a call from the Brighton Le Sands Chamber to help rebuild the centre's reputation. The Mayor organised a friendly touch football match between local celebrities and community members to reinforce that the centre is a safe place to take your family.

## Easing the Burden on Business

Council successfully led a consortium of 38 Councils to receive \$6.1 million from the State to streamline local planning and regulation compliance for small businesses.

Rockdale Council has taken the lead on the Local ePlanning Blueprint - a project which it is hoped will bring great benefits to small businesses in the area. The project involves developing an easy to use online system for small businesses which will provide information on local planning controls, putting all the information in one place and removing the need to go to Council or wait to have documents posted. Other aims it is hoped the program will bring include the ability to track applications via the web, and access to local planning codes applicable to small businesses.

Once complete the major benefit for small businesses will be the amount of time saved by centralising and streamlining information online. It is estimated that small businesses will save \$6m over two years and countless work hours. This will give people more time to spend on what's important - growing their business. In 2006-2007 Rockdale Council will continue work on the Local ePlanning Blueprint in order to roll out the scheme as soon as possible.

Intended Outcomes	Achievements
Appropriate viable Business and Job growth.	Council was a joint sponsor with Hurstville & Kogarah Councils for the St George Small Business Expo.
	Council continues to support the Rockdale & Brighton Le Sands Chamber of Commerce.
	Council continued to work with small business & support the Business Enterprise Centre.
	St George Employment & Economic Study was completed & submitted to Department of Planning for endorsement.
Enhanced Tourism.	Council has adopted a new program of events to promote & attract people to our city.
	Council resolved to commence on the next stage of Destinations Rockdale, to continue further investigation & refine the details of the vision.
Attraction of Investments in the City.	Council reaffirmed to support the Cooks Cove Project.
	Participated in the Property Council's Expo where Council presented Destinations Rockdale, Wollie Creek & Cooks Cove.

# State of the Environment Report

## Section 428(2)(c)

*Council produces a State of the Environment Report each year, covering seven environmental sectors in detail. The report identifies the current state of each environmental sector, the pressures upon it and Council's responses. Following is a summary of that report.*

### Land

The majority of land within the City of Rockdale is used for residential purposes, although there are a number of important industrial and commercial precincts and areas of open space. Over the period 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006, 707 Development Applications and 304 Construction Certificates were determined. This is a decrease of 315 Development Applications and 154 Construction Certificates from last year which has continued a significant downward trend. In addition, Complying Development certificates have remained steady with 32 being lodged during the reporting period.

Towards the beginning of the financial year, Council released its vision for the main commercial areas in the eastern part of the city. The plan proposes to formally link Rockdale with Brighton Le Sands via a tree lined boulevard along Bay Street.

Features of this vision include the establishment of a new civic administration centre and central library; new entertainment complex; a new indoor swimming pool and hydrotherapy facility; as well as a new central park designed to provide open space for visitors and workers alike in the Rockdale Town Centre. Other features in Rockdale include a glass dome structure incorporating the railway station, a cinema complex, food retailing and cafes.



In Brighton Le Sands, the plan proposes another hotel to complement the existing one, a marina, a pier with exhibition and entertainment space, a swimming enclosure and facilities to take advantage of the attributes of the bay side. Another main feature of the proposal is the removal of traffic congestion from the Grand Parade via the construction of an alternate roadway along the existing F6 corridor. This will allow residents greater access to and enjoyment of Botany Bay.

Community consultation was undertaken as part of the process and the project generally received support. Consultants have been engaged to develop the plans into statutory planning instruments that can facilitate implementation of the vision.

During the year, discussions on the Cooks Cove development proposal also came to the fore. The Sydney Regional Environmental Plan was gazetted in 2004 to facilitate the proposal which includes a 20 hectare trade and technology park on the Kogarah Golf Course site, relocation of the golf course, construction of a new club house, and relocation of sporting fields.

In accordance with State Government requirements, Council committed to prepare a new city plan within the next two years. Some background work has commenced however the majority of this project will take place over the next two years. Work on sub regional plans commenced in conjunction with neighbouring Councils which is aimed at accommodating additional population targets set by the NSW Department of Planning.

Work also continued on the Wolli Creek redevelopment plan, the Bonar Street redevelopment precinct and various smaller spot rezoning in order to accommodate individual development proposals.

In February 2006 Council made a submission to the Department of Planning outlining that Council does not support the development of the proposed desalination plant as the proposal is not consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Although the desalination plant plans has been removed from the State Government's current agenda, Council will be monitoring any change to this decision.

## Air

Air quality continues to be a significant local, regional and global environmental problem. Pressures on Sydney's air quality remain largely unchanged, with the main sources of air pollution being industry, commercial and residential activities and motor vehicles.

In 2000 Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah Councils developed a Regional Air Quality Management Plan (RAQMP) to improve air quality across the region. The RAQMP integrates the activities of the St George Councils into a comprehensive plan focusing on five core areas: energy efficiency, land use and transport planning, vegetation management, source controls, education, information and public participation. This plan continues to provide a focus for Council action to improve air quality.

Council completed Milestone 5 of the Cities for Climate Protection Program in 2005 which involves completing a inventory of Council's emissions and re prioritising actions for greenhouse gas reduction. A number of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions were implemented in conjunction with the achievement of Milestone 5 including the installation of energy efficient lights in Council's Administration building, an energy efficient light bulb and water efficient shower head giveaway to the community, continued paper recycling and diversion of organic waste.

Council also progressed to the CCP Plus component of the Cities for Climate Protection Program following completion of Milestone 5 in 2005. Council joined the Greenhouse Purchasing Project which aims to accelerate the achievement of greenhouse gas reductions and improve purchasing for the achievement of more sustainable outcomes. Milestone 3 of this program was achieved in June 2006 which involved the completion of a gap analysis, setting greenhouse purchasing goals and developing an action plan.

In addition, working with the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, Council has been involved in the development of regional strategies to decrease greenhouse gases. Over the last year the Regional Greenhouse Plan was reviewed and updated and priority actions identified. A number of grant applications were submitted in order to allow implementation of priority actions.

Council reconvened the Energy Advisory Team to address energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission issues in the City of Rockdale. This team is an internal interdisciplinary team consisting of staff from a range of backgrounds including environmental planning, engineering, supply and operations.

## Water

Council continues to focus on the protection and management of our local waterways, improving water quality, and conserving and reusing water.

Over the reporting period Council undertook a number of educational programs to increase the community's knowledge about stormwater pollution. Council continued its successful Primary Schools Environmental Education Program. Lessons for Year 1 and Year 5 classes were conducted at primary schools in the area using display posters and a stormwater catchment model.



Environmental education booklets and calico bags with a stormwater pollution message were provided to each student as part of the school visits. Consultation with local schools resulted in a review of the current program. This will be manifested by continuing the current program for year 2 students, but developing a new program for year 5 students to better target this age group. Implementation of this program will commence in 2006-07.

A water conservation Eco Living Workshop was held to coincide with World Environment Day. A display was placed in Council's Customer Service Centre to celebrate National Water Week. At the St George Migrant Information Day Council had a stormwater education display and resources such as postcards and calico bags in a range of community languages were given to people attending the event.

Council has also continued to reduce water pollution through engineering solutions by installing gross pollutant traps at pollution hot spots throughout the City. Council has also participated in cleanup projects, including the Cooks River Environment Workers (CREW) program. The CREW program involves a team of periodic detainees removing litter from the foreshores of the Cooks River and Muddy Creek.

Council continued to play an active role in the Georges River Combined Councils Committee (GRCCC). The GRCCC manages the Riverkeeper Program, which has been working with periodic detainees to clean up the Georges River and its catchment.

The internal water management team consisting of staff from a range of backgrounds including environmental health, environmental planning, engineering and operations continue to meet quarterly to address water quality and conservation issues in the City of Rockdale. The Team is also working with other agencies such as the Department of Environment and Conservation and Sydney Water.

During the year, the University of NSW completed a study of the sediments in Bicentennial Park Ponds which indicated high metal levels which are believed to be mainly conveyed to the ponds from the surrounding streets. In June Council serviced and re commissioned the two mixers in the northern and southern ponds and initially started them at very low speeds to ensure that a temperature inversion problem did not occur, preventing large fish kills, hydrogen sulphide emissions and turbid water. Dissolved oxygen levels in the water column are being continuously monitored however, at this stage there is very little improvement in the lower levels. It is hoped improvements will become obvious in early Spring.

The Manly Hydraulics Laboratory completed a tidal survey of the Scarborough Park ponds to determine the extent of the tidal influence into the upper reaches of the ponds. The survey has revealed that the tidal influence is negligible at Barton Street and would have virtually no impact upstream. Council is considering undertaking further studies in 2006-07 to further model tidal flows in the ponds. Council has also completed the maintenance dredging of the 5 x 900 mm diameter pipe culverts



under Barton Street which were 75 to 90% blocked with sediment. This has improved flows through the ponds from the upper reaches to the outlet at Tonbridge Street.

Rockdale, in partnership with Marrickville, Kogarah and Canterbury Councils, developed the RiverScience program, an ecological monitoring program for the Cooks River. The program provides a cost effective means by which governing bodies and members of the community can track the long term ecological health of the river as well as provide information that can inform restoration and rehabilitation along the river. Traditional physicochemical water testing programs, which are prohibitively expensive, essentially provide human health based information rather than ecological information and there is little commitment by Councils to this type of monitoring. As part of this program, a consultant was engaged to undertake a thorough literature search for all scientific documents relating to the Cooks River. The ecological monitoring study is continuing and will be completed in 2006-07.

Council developed a project in conjunction with Canterbury Council and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority to design and construct a fishway on the Turrella Weir to enhance the passage of native fish across the weir. This project will be completed in 2006-07.

Throughout 2005-06, Council continued its expanded focus on water conservation, undertaking community education and implementing water conservation measures in its own practices. Council continued its membership of Sydney Water's 'Every Drop Counts' program for businesses. Council's top water using properties have been identified and audited to explore options for reducing water use. An assessment of Council's water management has also been undertaken as part of the Program. In May, 2006 Council participated in a diagnostic review of its water management practices. The result of the review was that Council was given a 4 star rating (out of a possible 5 stars). An action plan has been developed to help Council progress to a 5 star rating. As required by the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, Council submitted a Water Savings Action plan in June 2004 which identified and audited the top water using properties. As a result, potential opportunities for further water savings at each of these sites have been identified.

## Biodiversity

The City of Rockdale has several bushland and wetland areas, which provide important habitat for flora and fauna communities. All of these areas are degraded to some extent due to rubbish dumping, improper disposal of garden waste, weeds, feral animal invasion and water pollution. Council continues to manage areas of remnant bushland and assists National Trust bush regenerators and volunteer groups in weed management and replanting areas such as Bardwell Valley.



In 2006, Council held two tours of the Rockdale Wetlands Corridor. Over 30 members of the community attended the tours, which were led by local naturalist Arthur White. The tours visited many sites throughout the wetlands corridor, which stretches from Arncliffe to Dolls Point. Residents viewed constructed wetlands, natural wetlands, and saw the contrast between well managed and poorly managed wetlands.

In January, Council held numerous coastal awareness activities which aimed to highlight the importance of protecting the environment and habitat of our coastal areas. In March, a biodiversity Eco Living Workshop was held in conjunction with



Hurstville and Kogarah Councils to educate the community about protecting and enhancing native plants and animals in the area.

Throughout 2005-06, Council participated in the Planting the Seed project with Marrickville and Canterbury Councils which aims to identify and track the known sources of seed and plant stock across the three Council areas, as well as ensuring that there are sufficient seed and plants available to meet local demand.

Council constructed an observation platform at Broadford Street Reserve in Bardwell Valley to improve the amenity of the area and increase the opportunity for viewing native birds. In addition, planting work was undertaken to compliment the area.

In July 2005, Council commissioned a biodiversity strategy for the City. This study aims to identify the biodiversity within the city, avoid loss, mitigate against adverse impacts and compensate for unavoidable losses to biodiversity.

## Waste

During 2005-06, Council's collected 45,600 tonnes of material. Of this 27% was diverted from landfill via a commingled recycling service and a green waste collection service including Council's kerb side mulch back service. This diversion rate may increase to approximately 46% if a green waste collection service was introduced.

Council have begun preliminary discussions with Kogarah and Hurstville Councils regarding a St George Regional Council Waste Contract. The combined Councils have collectively agreed to participate in a program which explores any benefits that may arise from a joint regional waste collection contract. By combining the collection services of the three Councils, a number of potential benefits could be achieved.

Council is presently investigating new technologies that have the capacity to treat all organic material. With the investigation and implementation of this new technology or Alternative Waste Technology, it is hoped to divert more than 60% of Councils total waste from landfill. Furthermore, there has been an increased recognition that waste should be managed in ways that challenge traditional methods of treatment and disposal. Good waste management is absolutely essential for the protection of the environment including the protection of public health and that of natural resources, as well as providing business and industry opportunities.

During 2005-06, Council prepared a Draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy. The strategy includes 15 individual waste management programs each one containing objectives, issues, best practices and an action matrix for implementation.

Council also won a series of awards during including the Sydney Region 'Keep Australia Beautiful Council Clean Beach Challenge' where Lady Robinsons Beach won the Waste Management and Litter Reduction categories. Council also won the state and national awards for the Litter Reduction category.

Waste education is an important component of waste management. Council ran a number of waste education programs in 2005-06 including:

- Earth Works Courses - educating local residents about waste avoidance, reuse and recycling.
- Clean Up Australia Day, March - 21 school, business and community clean up sites were registered in the City of Rockdale, a substantial increase from previous years.
- A waste workshop held for all residents as part of a series of Eco Living Workshops.
- Conducted tours of the Visy Recycling Facility for residents for World Environment Day.



## Noise



Road traffic continues to be a significant source of noise within the City of Rockdale, as the City is a major transport thoroughfare to and from the Sydney CBD, Sydney Airport and Port Botany Shipping Terminal.

Aircraft movement remains a significant source of noise in the City of Rockdale. The continued increase in residential density in the City has resulted in more people potentially effected by aircraft noise.

The Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) 'Industrial Noise Policy' continues to assist Council with the assessment of noise from commercial and industrial sources. The DEC's 'Noise Guide for Local Government' published in June 2004 also assists Council with the management of noise from these sources and includes guidance for the management of domestic noise sources and replaces the Environment Protection Authority's 'Environmental Noise Control Manual'.

Council's Environmental Health Officers and Regulation Inspectors continue to regularly respond to requests to investigate complaints about noises of various kinds. Common domestic noise complaints include noise sources such as barking dogs and noise from other animal and birds, air conditioners, intruder alarms and loud music. Complaints about noise such as the playing of music emanating from inside residences to other residences are tending to increase due to the closer proximity of newly constructed homes. The increase in the number of air conditioners being installed has added to noise complaints received by Council. Other less common complaints relate to commercial activities such as working in contravention of approved hours of development consent and excessively noisy equipment.

## Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal Heritage

Urban development and human activities continue to place pressure on Rockdale's heritage items, including significant buildings, parks, reserves, rocky outcrops, former quarries and landscape features.

A review of specific categories of items identified in the 1991 Rockdale Heritage Study continued during the reporting period. Stage 5 of the Review, which examined Victorian era properties and churches, is complete and has been forwarded to the Department of Planning for gazettal.

## Management Plans relating to the Environment

Council has a number of Management Plans relating to the environment. The main document outlining Council's environmental commitments is the Rockdale City Council Environment Plan. The Environment Plan was developed and adopted by Council in 2003. The Environment Plan is a continually evolving strategic plan for protecting and enhancing our environment, serving as a blueprint for the City to move towards sustainable development.

Implementation of the Environment Plan is the responsibility of all units of Council. The actions contained in the Plan are incorporated into Council's Management Plan. Progress on actions is reported in the State of the Environment Report.

## Special Council Projects relating to the Environment & the Environmental Impact of Council Activities

Council is continuing to improve its own environmental performance with ongoing environmental training for staff, internal newsletters and electronic bulletins. Environmental content has been added to Council's induction program to ensure that all new staff are aware of their environmental responsibilities.

Council's Operations Unit has an Environmental Management System which is accredited under ISO 14001. This involves maintaining a detailed environmental management plan, a register of environmental impacts, regular auditing of procedures and a commitment to continual improvement. To maintain this accreditation, Council undergoes regular audits by an independent auditor to assess the quality of the Environmental Management System. Environmental auditing of operational staff continues, ensuring that procedures are followed and environmental practices are regularly reviewed. Council's Environmental Management System ensures we are aiming to continually improve our environmental practices.



Council's Environment Policy applies to all staff and recognises our responsibilities to ensure the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development are considered in all actions. The Environment Policy establishes a platform for addressing environmental issues and integrating environmental responsibility into all aspects of Council's work.

## Threatened Species Conservation Act *Section 70(2)*

Council is referred to in the Recovery Plan for *Acacia Pubescens*. This is a small wattle that is found in our City on the Bardwell Valley Golf Course.

Under this Act the National Park and Wildlife Service liaises with Council to ensure that Plans of Management are prepared and implemented and that the plans include actions to protect sites of *Acacia Pubescens*.

Council has developed the Bardwell Valley Plan of Management and is reviewing it to ensure that it includes the appropriate actions to protect the relevant sites identified.

## Conditions of Public Works *Section 428(2)(d)*

### Road Network

Council maintains 270 km of pavement, 482 km of footpath, 523 km of kerb / gutter, 13 kms of cycleway, 87 roundabouts, 8 kms of retaining walls, and 39 bridges / culverts. The condition of the road inventory was reassessed in 2004 and these assets are in good to satisfactory condition. Council's road network has a replacement value of \$246 million and a net book value of \$187 million. The present value of the road network is 76% of the replacement value. The estimate cost to bring the road network to a satisfactory standard as at June 2006 is \$2.6 million.

The ongoing annual expense of maintaining the road network at a satisfactory standard is \$3.2 million. Council's maintenance program, in respect of works that maintain or extend the remaining useful life of these assets, was \$2.5 million representing a maintenance shortfall of \$737,000 in 2005-2006.

Council records detailed segment information about its road network in a Pavement Management System. The objective is to analyse each pavement section and devise a rehabilitation strategy to maintain the assets at the optimal level within resources.

## Footpaths



Council has 482 km of footpath with the majority being concrete; however, 2 km is asphalt, 3 km is pavers and 98 km unpaved footpaths. It will cost approximately \$9.5 million to pave the remaining footpaths.

A number of factors are used to determine priorities for new footpath work. These include land use, road hierarchy, traffic volume, demographic and resident requests.

Streets with a high level of vehicular and pedestrian traffic (particularly the elderly and parents with strollers), near railway stations, schools, shopping centres and industrial areas are given the highest priority.

Footpaths are rated on their ability to provide a safe pedestrian passage. Defects such as steps, cracking and other hazards are rated for severity and extent. Root damage by trees is also assessed.

## Bridges

Most of the bridges and culverts are in satisfactory condition and will continue to perform with minor repair work.

## Drainage Network

Council's drainage assets include 3,909 pits, 89 km pipe network and 6 kms of open channel. These assets are in a fair to good condition.

The drainage system comprises a minor and major system which are actively maintained and improved. Drainage networks are analysed on a catchment basis to systematically assess points under capacity. The major system conveys flows in overland flow paths, trunk drains, creeks and flood ways. The minor system connects run off in kerbs and gutters, the adjacent road surface and in underground pipes.

Council's drainage system has a replacement value of \$50 million and a net book value of \$28 million. The present value of the drainage system is 56% of the replacement value. The estimate cost to bring the drainage system to a satisfactory standard as at 30 June 2006 is \$4.3 million.

The ongoing annual expense of maintaining the drainage network at a satisfactory standard is \$713 thousand. Council's program of maintenance for this year in respect of works that maintain or extend the remaining useful life of these assets was \$1.5 million representing a maintenance surplus of \$849 thousand per annum.

Council uses a Drainage Management System to determine maintenance issues and work schedules for its drainage assets. First priority is given to pipes, kerbs and gutters and the repair or replacement of failed or worn out facilities. The second priority is augmentation in situations where flows enter private property. This may involve new pits and pipeline and improvements to surface flow paths. The third level of priority is to extend piped drainage services to areas not currently serviced.

This program is designed to monitor Council's assets at a level of service acceptable to the community. As property development continues, stormwater run off increases. To control this trend, new developments are required to limit site run off to amounts that are no greater than under existing conditions. The on site detention policy will prevent heavy overloading of the drainage network and is seen as a key strategy in the management of stormwater flooding.

## Council Buildings

Council buildings were assessed to consider current maintenance requirements and their suitability in regard to current community needs. Most of the buildings are in good to satisfactory condition. The estimated cost to bring these building assets to a satisfactory standard is \$3.8 million. Council needs \$842 thousand per annum order to maintain these assets at their current level, and spent \$1.3 million in rehabilitating these assets this year.

Property	Condition	2005-06 Budget	2005-06 Actual Costs
Rockdale Administration Centre	Good	\$400,153	\$325,712
Town Hall & Council Chambers	Good	\$189,062	\$179,021
Amcliffe Community Centre	Good	\$42,647	\$38,372
Lydham Hall	Good	\$5,322	\$6,296
Rockdale Community Centre	Good	\$9,567	\$1,102
Syd Frost Hall	Good	\$7,018	\$7,278
Kingsgrove / Bexley North Community Centre	Good	\$21,298	\$12,915
Moate Avenue Community Centre	Good	\$21,501	\$19,621
Bexley Multi Purpose Centre	Good	\$26,051	\$38,885
Rockdale Library	Good	\$22,903	\$56,132
Branch Libraries	Good	\$99,218	\$92,295
State Emergency Service	Good	\$12,828	\$20,090
Preschool Kindergartens	Good	\$15,214	\$11,148
Early Childhood Centres	Good	\$8,450	\$29,144
Rockdale Meals on Wheels	Satisfactory	\$24,690	\$24,485
Senior Citizens Centres	Good	\$57,567	\$45,296
Rockdale Community Aid	Good	\$4,357	\$4,847
Women's Rest Centres	Good	\$6,795	\$11,860
Public Toilets	Good	\$24,792	\$33,584
Rental Properties	Satisfactory	\$25,289	\$30,222
Old St David's Church	Good	\$5,078	\$3,318
Bexley Depot, Store & Training Complex	Good	\$215,977	\$317,275
Bexley Pool Complex - Building	Good	\$21,136	\$13,560
The Boulevard Car Parking Station	Good	\$7,475	\$6,815
17/19 Bay Street, Rockdale	Fair	\$9,445	\$7,282
Sans Souci Institute Hall	Satisfactory	\$5,230	\$3,059
Other (toilet blocks, public shelters etc.)	Satisfactory	\$9,548	\$3,893
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,298,611</b>	<b>\$1,343,507</b>

## Legal Proceedings

### Section 428(2)(e)

#### Summary of Court Costs

Court	Expenditure	Fines / Costs awarded to Council
Land & Environment Court	\$73,490	\$6,750 (62 Hollywood Street)
		\$640 (59 Fleet Street)
Court of Appeal	\$0	\$0
Local Court		
Health & Regulations	\$2,502	\$920

#### Land & Environment Court Actions - Planning & Development

Name	Address	Issues	Status	Decision Outcome	Cost to date	State of Proceedings
Rougalas	62 Hollywood Street, Monterey	Class 4 Non-compliance with development consent	No further action	Awarded costs to Council	\$12,235	Won
Milano Investments	140 The Grand Parade, Monterey	Class 1 Appeal - mixed use development	Proceedings commenced	Ongoing	\$32,539	Ongoing
		Court experts witness costs			\$2,000	
Nanevski	2 Meriel Street, Sans Souci	Appeal to S.96 to amend conditions of consent	No further action	Appeal is upheld in part	\$8,701	Won
		Consultant's costs			\$2,631	
Drawtech Group P/L	33-37 Solander Street, Monterey	Class 1 Appeal to Council's Refusal	No further action	Appeal is upheld. The Court granted Deferred Commencement consent	\$5,759	Lost
Wu	344 Rocky Point Road, Ramsgate	Class 4 - unauthorised use of the premises as Brothels	No further action	Appeal was refused by the Land & Environment Court	\$9,625	Won

Class 1 matters are generally those appeals by an applicant against a Council decision to refuse an application or to vary a Condition of Approval

Class 4 matters are generally actions instigated in the Court by Council to stop illegal building works, illegal uses or non-compliance with Conditions of Consent.



## Local Court Actions - Regulations

Name	Issues	Status	Decision outcome	Costs 05-06	State of proceedings
Simanjuntak	Transport Waste	No further action	Dismissed	Solicitors - \$220	Dismissed
Cvetkovic	Disobey No Parking Sign	No further action	Fine \$70	Solicitors - \$165	Won
Lozada	Stop on across driveway other access to / from land	No further action	Dismissed Section 10 - Professional Costs Awarded \$75	Professional - \$82.50	Dismissed
Nikolaou	Disobey No Parking Sign	No further action	Dismissed - Section 10 Professional Costs - \$150 Court Costs - \$65	Solicitors - \$165	Dismissed
Klages	Stop on / across driveway	No further action	Dismissed - Section 10	Solicitors - \$165	Dismissed
Nobrega	Deposit Litter from Vehicle	No further action	Fine - \$200 Court Costs - \$65	Solicitors - \$165	Won
Crawford	Dog not under effective control	No further action	Fine \$300 Court Costs \$65 Solicitors Costs Awarded \$150	Solicitors - \$385	Won
Toube	Stop in Bus Zone	No further action	Fine \$50 Court Costs \$65 - Professional Costs \$70	Solicitors - \$550	Won
Ward	Not parallel park near roadside	No further action	Fine \$50 - Court Costs \$65, Professional Costs Awarded \$150	Professional Costs - \$275	Won
Baker	Disobey No Stopping Sign	No further action	Fine \$155	Solicitors - \$137.50	Won
Mazurani	Disobey No Standing Sign	No further action	Dismissed - Section 10	Solicitors - \$192.50	Dismissed

Section 10 of the Crowns Act is an offence proved but matter dismissed. No penalty is imposed by the Magistrate.

## Elected Members

### Section 428(2)(f)

The fees paid to the Mayor and the Councillors are within the limit set by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal and are paid on a monthly basis. Councillors are also paid for the additional expenses they incur in discharging their responsibilities to the community of the City of Rockdale.

In the 2005-06 financial year, the fees and expenses provided under Council's Expenses and Facilities Policy were as follows:

<b>Allowances</b>	
Mayoral Fees	\$26,886
Councillor Fees	\$214,153
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$241,039</b>
<b>Other expenses</b>	
Fax & telephone expenses	\$25,075
Computer & Internet expenses	\$74,321
Stationery expenses	\$11,862
Conferences & Seminars	\$61,813
Travelling Expenses	\$5,106
Mayoral Vehicle expenses	\$4,401
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$182,578</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$423,617</b>

## Senior Staff

### Section 428(2)(g)

Council employed four senior staff as defined by the Local Government Act. The figures shown here are as at 30 June 2006 and represent the total remuneration package including base salary, superannuation, the non cash benefit for the private use of a motor vehicle and the fringe benefits tax payable as a result of the vehicles.

	<b>Total Remuneration Package</b>
General Manager	\$238,000
Director - City Services	\$175,000
Director - Planning & Development	\$155,000
Director - Governance	\$150,000
<b>Total amount payable in respect of employment</b>	<b>\$718,000</b>

These figures take into account Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - 217(1)(b).

Although the reported figures include the cost of all four senior positions, the position of Director Planning & Development was vacant from 28 September 2005.

## Major Contracts Awarded

### Section 428(2)(h)

Contracts exceeding \$150,000 awarded in the year were:

Name of Contractor	Contract for provision of	Contract Value
Modern Electric	Electrical services (5 year contract)	\$1,385,820
Sydney Civil	Kerb & Gutter constructions & repairs (5 year contract)	\$1,494,020
Awada Civil	Kerb & Gutter constructions & repairs (5 year contract)	\$1,455,060
Project Architecture	Architectural & design services (2 year contract)	\$447,900
Treesect	Tree Services (5 year contract)	\$356,990
NEO Group	Concept visions & retail advice (2 year contract)	\$280,390
Fleming, Saad & Associates	IT Management Services (2 year contract)	\$254,800
Nycon Electronic Services	Electrical services (5 year contract)	\$227,510
Planning Workshop Australia	Assessment of the Cooks Cove DA's	\$188,580
St George Animal Rescue	Animal collection services (5 year contract)	\$151,520

## Bush Fire Reduction Activities

### Section 428 (2) (il)

The City of Rockdale does not have a Rural Fire Service operation so there is no requirement for Council to have a bush fire management plan.

## Multicultural Services

### Section 428(2)(j)

The results of the 2001 Census indicated that the City of Rockdale has a high percentage of residents who were born overseas. Approximately 40% of our residents were born overseas and 35% in predominantly non English speaking countries - mainly China, FYR Macedonia, Greece and Lebanon.

In acknowledgement of the increase in the level of residents who migrate to the City of Rockdale from overseas, Council has prepared its first Cultural Diversity Plan which is an expansion of the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement. This plan will ensure all residents regardless of their racial, religious and cultural backgrounds, enjoy equal access to Council services and facilities,

The key strategies outlined in the Cultural Diversity Plan include:

- Ensure all information produced by Council is accessible to all members of the community so that people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are informed and have understanding of Council's roles and responsibilities.

- Ensure all staff are equipped with the skills to work with and provide services to all members of the community, and particularly people from the CALD backgrounds.
- Ensure Council recognises, supports and celebrates cultural diversity within the City of Rockdale.
- Ensure Council consults, liaises and responds effectively to issues raised by its culturally diverse community.
- Ensure Council policies are equitable, enable access to all culturally diverse groups and promote community harmony and diversity.



During 2005-06 Council initiated and sponsored a number of projects and events to promote cultural diversity and community harmony, namely, Community Harmony Week activities; Positive Identity of Muslim Women Conference and the Cultural Awareness Training workshop for Council staff.

Council continued to expand its multicultural library services through the introduction of the Chinese and Arabic DVDs and the promotion of the talking books in different community languages.

According to the 2001 Census, there were 402 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in the City of Rockdale. Council participated in meetings of local Aboriginal networks and rendered support to the development of relevant community services for the local Aboriginal communities.

## Private Works

### *Section 428(2)(k)*

Council did not undertake any private works recoverable activities in 2005-06.

## Contributions & Grants

### Section 428(2)(l)

Council made contributions and grants totalling \$264,679 under Section 356 of the Local Government Act

Mayoress Fund	\$22,500
St George Hospital	\$5,000
Rockdale Municipal Orchestra & Opera	\$73,148
Rockdale & Regal Musical Societies	\$67,876
Rockdale Community Aid	\$33,146
Brighton Beach Festival Subsidy	\$3,000
Carlton School of Arts	\$4,059
Shopfront Theatre	\$5,760
Rockdale City Council Social Club	\$1,978
St George Eisteddfod	\$1,000
J Griffiths	\$500
Moorefield Girls High	\$150
Delaney	\$200
Australian Chinese Community Association	\$1,500
Bexley Playgroup	\$1,000
Bexley North Public School	\$3,000
CO AS IT	\$1,000
Hebees	\$2,000
Learning Links	\$1,862
Macedonian Orthodox Community of Sydney	\$2,000
Macedonian Women's Association	\$2,000
Macedonian Australian Welfare Association	\$2,000
NBC Community Radio Brich	\$1,000
St George Migrant Resource Centre	\$6,000
Rockdale Adult Learning Centre	\$2,000
Rockdale Community Mental Health	\$3,000
Rockdale Community Services	\$3,000
Rockdale Senior Citizen Centre	\$3,000
San Souci Community Pre School	\$3,000
Shopfront theatre for Young People	\$3,000
St George Backstop	\$3,000
St George Lebanese Joint Committee	\$3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$264,679</b>

## Human Resource Activities

### Section 428(2)(m)

During the year the Human Resources Unit continued to progress a number of new initiatives derived from the 2004 to 2007 Human Resource Strategy.

This strategy addresses a number of important short and long term initiatives. It primarily focuses on youth employment, improvements in Council's OH&S systems and practices, staff development in customer service and cultural diversity, the attraction and retention strategies for planning staff, and consolidating Council's employee Well Being Program.

2005-06 saw Council awarded top 25 status nationally across all public, private and not for profit companies for its Work / Life Balance initiatives in the 2006 The Way Ahead Benchmarking Study. This award is a significant recognition for Council's progress to achieving 'Employer of Choice' status. The award recognises Council's Well Being Program through its flexible work policies, OH&S practices, Health Awareness programs and employee assistance and support programs, all of which are focused on the attraction, retention and well being of staff. Rockdale Council was the only NSW Council awarded this recognition in 2006.

As in previous years Council internally facilitated its leadership program with some 15 staff attending the program from the different layers of management within the organisation, with 50 staff, in total, now having completed the Leadership Program.

In regard to staff development, the early part of the year saw the completion of the customer service and cultural diversity training, with the later half of the year focusing on the roll out of bullying and harassment awareness training. The Learning and Development Program also addressed Council's OH&S legislative requirements of having all pertinent staff gaining White Card Accreditation, and specific technical and managerial skills.

The year also consolidated the partnership with the Illawarra Institute of TAFE who provide training support to Council's Traineeship Program within Council. Council employed six new trainees in its Operations Unit who are gaining a variety of skills and experiences that will culminate in being awarded the Certificate III in Local Government Works qualification. The traineeship initiative combined with the Local Government Graduate program are major focuses of Council in providing employment opportunities for youth, that also addresses Council's ageing workforce and ensuring the sustainability of services.

Council's Graduate Program continues to gain momentum with graduate numbers increasing and a specific mentoring program established for their support.

One of the major focuses of the Human Resources Unit during the 2005-06 year was the continuation of the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Quality Project. The HR Unit is the primary driver leading the organisation to its readiness in attaining Council's vision of achieving OH&S Quality Certification to the AS 4801 quality standards. Through the integration of the OH&S project requirements into Council's team based performance management system, Council was able to make significant progress in preparing itself for the quality certification external audit process tentatively programmed for April 2007.

The OH&S quality systems improvement project has already reaped benefits to Council through the improving safety trends and in its accident and incident rates. Although the number of workers compensation claims received is similar to past years the severity of accidents and incidents have reduced resulting in declining time lost due to these work related injuries and in a reduction in associated costs. This trend has now been experienced over a three year period and the trend has delivered a significant reduction in Council's total cost for workers compensation.



However, due to external forces unfortunately this experience has not translated into premium reductions to date.

During 2005-06 workplace industrial relations remained harmonious. The introduction of the Federal Governments WorkChoices legislation from March 2006 provided some minor challenges, with Council required review its industrial agreements, policies and practices to ensure compliance with the new legislation. Council adopted a status quo approach to the legislation by choosing to adopt the Local Government (State) Award 2004 as its Notional Agreement under the WorkChoices legislation and to enter into Referral Agreements with the pertinent workplace unions for the resolution of industrial disputes through the NSW Industrial Relations Commission for a period of 12 months.

## Implementation of Equal Employment Opportunity Plan *Section 428(2)(n)*

The annual review of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan was undertaken with the current plan being progressed in line with Council's Human Resources Strategy.

The current plan continues the successes of past plans and consolidates the EEO Contact Officer Network concept, which focuses on providing additional support to staff in EEO awareness, cultural diversity and grievance handling.

2005-06 saw:

- EEO Awareness and Cultural Diversity training delivered.
- Recruitment & Selection policies and procedures reviewed and Staff Selection training delivered.
- Staff educated in regard to the Prevention and Elimination of Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy.
- EEO Contact Officer Refresher training delivered.

The Draft EEO Plan for 2007 to 2010 period has been developed and is currently before the Staff Consultative Committee for their input and endorsement.

## Regulations

### Stormwater Levy

#### Clause 217 (1) (e)

Council did not have a stormwater levy in 2005-06.

### Overseas Visits

#### Clause 217 (1)(a)

There were no overseas visits undertaken in 2005-06.

### Activities for Children

#### Clause 217 (1)(c)

According to the 2001 Census, there were 15,540 children under 15 years of age living in the City of Rockdale. Council continued to provide a range of services and assistance to cater for the developmental, cultural and special needs of the children. These include:



- Provision of Council owned premises for community based organisations to run the long day care centre; pre schools and the occasional child care centre
  - Provision of accommodation facilities to the Area Health Service to run early childhood centres
  - Contribution to the maintenance costs of the child care centres operating on Council land
  - Provision of grant subsidy for different out of school hour program and playgroups
  - The Annual Children's Book Week Activities organised by the Library Service
  - Granting rate subsidy to the Shopfront Theatre for Young People based at Carlton
- 
- Launch of the resource booklet 'Information on Starting School' – a joint venture between Rockdale City Council and Families First
  - Resource and support the St George Youth Service, a local peak youth organisation which provides support to young people and their families.
  - Primary School Environmental Program, educating children on a wide range of environmental issues.

### Access and Equity of Services to All

#### Clause 217(1)(d)(i)

Council has continued to undertake a range of initiatives and actions to ensure all residents have equal access to Council services and facilities. These include the following:

- The review and update of Council's Cultural Diversity Plan formerly known as the Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement
- The continuation of the Language Aide Assistance Program

- The availability of a wide range of multilingual books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and daily newspapers, large print and talking books in Council Libraries
- The introduction of three tier structure for the hire of Council owned facilities
- The introduction of two fee structure for the use of Council's community bus
- Hearing loops available in Council chambers and conference rooms

## Category 1 & 2 Business Activities

### *Clause 217(1)(d)(ii, iii, iv, vi, viii)*

Council has no category 1 or 2 business activities.

## Principles of Competitive Neutrality

### *Clause 217(1)(d)(v)*

Council has adopted a strategy supporting the principles of the National Competition Policy to implement the principles of competitive neutrality.

## Competitive Neutrality Complaints

### *Clause 217(1)(d)(vii, ix)*

A complaints handling mechanism is included in Council's current complements and complaints policy and procedure. Complaints in regards to Council's handling of competitive neutrality can be isolated in this process, for reporting purposes and can be handled appropriately.

The complaint mechanism is promoted to the community via Council's web site and Customer Service Centre.

There have been no complaints under this policy in this reported year.

## Stormwater Management

### *Clause 217(1)(e)*

There was no annual charge for storm water management service in 2005-06.

## Freedom of Information Act & Regulation Section 68 (10)

*FOI protects individual rights and makes government more open, accountable and transparent.*

The Freedom Of Information (FOI) Act creates a legally enforceable right for every person to obtain access to the documents of Council other than exempt documents and those subject to restrictions as specified in the Act. Sections of the Local Government Act (1993) also provides a means for the community to access Council information.

Access to Council information and documents allows a more open, accountable and transparent government, improves decision making and promotes public participation in policy development.

Most requests for information received by Council are handled under section 12 of the Local Government Act. Requests received under FOI are generally for documents used in consideration for all areas of Council decision making and policy development and are more likely to only exist at Council.

57 new FOI applications were received in the reporting year. One application was carried forward from the last year making a total of 58 applications to be processed. Of these, two requests have either been withdrawn or transferred out leaving a total of 56 applications which were dealt with.

43 applications were granted in full, 11 applications were granted in part and two were refused because the documents requested were exempt under the Act or were not available. 49 applications were processed within the 21 day time period legislated (S18(3) FOI Act), and as many of Council's files are held off-site and need to be recalled, this is an excellent result.

The processing of requests for access to information under Freedom of Information is the responsibility of Council's Document Management Coordinator and his team. A strong customer focus and quality processes in this team have enabled these good results.

### FOI statistical report - 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
<b>Section A - Number of new FOI requests</b>			
A1 - New	194	67	57
A2 - Brought forward	3	3	1
A3 - Total to be processed	197	70	58
A4 - Completed	189	66	56
A5 - Transferred Out	1	1	1
A6 - Withdrawn	4	2	1
A7 - Total processed	194	69	58
A8 - Unfinished (carried forward)	3	1	0
<b>Section B - What happened to new requests?</b>			
B1 - Granted in full	162	54	43
B2 - Granted in part	9	9	11
B3 - Refused	18	3	2
B4 - Deferred	-	-	-
B5 - Completed	189	66	56
<b>Section C - Ministerial certificates</b>			

	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
CI - Ministerial certificates issued	-	-	-
<b>Section D - Formal consultations</b>			
DI - Requests requiring formal consultation	-	-	-
<b>Section E - Amendment of personal record</b>			
<b>Section F - Notation of personal records</b>			
<b>Section G - FOI requests granted in part or refused</b>			
Basis of disallowing or restricting access			
G1 - Section 19 (incomplete / wrongly directed)	-	-	1
G2 - Section 22 (deposit not paid)	-	-	0
G3 - Section 22 (unreasonable diversion of resource)	-	-	0
G4 - Section 25 (1) (a) (exempt)	9	8	7
G5 - Section 25 (1) (b), (c), (d) (otherwise available)		-	-
G6 - Section 25 (1) (e) (documents older than 5 years)	18	4	5
G7 - Section 24 (2) - deemed refused, over 45 days	-	-	-
G8 - Totals	27	12	13
<b>Section H - Costs and fees of requests processed</b>			
H1 - All completed requests assessed costs	\$30,560	\$13,650	\$16,695
FOI Fees	\$7,628	\$5,858	\$3,265
<b>Section I - Discounts allowed (type of discount)</b>			
I1 - Public Interest	-	2	-
I2 - Financial hardship - pensioner / child	1	-	-
I3 - Financial hardship - non-profit organisation	-	-	-
I4 - Totals	1	2	-
I5 - Significant correction of personal records	-	-	-
<b>Section J - Days to process (elapsed time)</b>			
J1 - 0-30 days	181	64	55
J2 - 31-45 days	6	1	1
J3 - Over 45 days	2	1	-
J4 - Totals	189	66	56
<b>Section K - Processing time (processing hours)</b>			
K1 - 0-10 hours	187	63	56
K2 - 11-20 hours	2	3	-
K3 - 21-40 hours	-	-	-
K4 - Over 40 hours	-	-	-
K5 - Totals	189	66	56
<b>Section L - Reviews and appeals</b>			
L1 - Number of internal reviews finalised	-	2	-
L2 - Number of Ombudsman reviews finalised	-	1	-
L3 - Number of District Court appeals finalised	-	-	-

## **Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998**

### ***Section 33***

No applications were received in the reporting year for information under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (PIPPA).

Council continues to acknowledge the importance of Privacy and we strive to uphold the Information Protection Principles (IPPs), as stated in the Act, in all our transactions. Please ask to see a copy of our brochure 'Privacy Statement - How we deal with personal information' for more information.

## **Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1976**

### ***Section 93G(5)***

There were no planning agreements in effect for the year 2005-06 in regards to Section 93G(5).



# Audited Financial Reports

## Section 428(2)(a)

### Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2006

Budget 2005-06 (\$'000)		Actual 2005-06 (\$'000)	Actual 2004-05 (\$'000)
	<b>Income from continuing operations</b>		
37,233	Rates & annual charges	37,515	36,220
5,350	User charges & fees	5,382	5,153
1,831	Interest & investment revenue	4,378	3,059
2,255	Other revenues	1,795	1,643
3,934	Grants & contributions provided for operating purposes	4,629	4,429
4,557	Grants & contributions provided for capital purposes	3,343	5,575
25	Other income - Net gain from the sale of assets	2,095	71
<b>55,185</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>59,137</b>	<b>56,150</b>
	<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>		
22,112	Employee benefits & on costs	22,110	20,014
445	Borrowing costs	425	494
12,032	Materials & contracts	13,069	11,733
7,516	Depreciation & amortisation	7,966	7,677
8,454	Other expenses	10,051	9,373
50,559	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	53,621	49,291
<b>4,626</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>6,859</b>
<b>69</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants &amp; contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>1,284</b>

## Balance Sheet

As at 30 June 2006

	Actual 2006 (\$'000)	Actual 2005 (\$'000)
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & cash equivalents	24,477	24,263
Investments	27,105	24,612
Receivables	5,801	4,576
Inventories	70	62
Other	402	644
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>57,855</b>	<b>54,157</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
Receivables	102	164
Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment	879,367	877,625
Intangible assets	2,012	1,754
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>881,481</b>	<b>879,543</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>939,336</b>	<b>933,700</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Payables	4,828	5,624
Interest bearing liabilities	2,096	919
Provisions	7,904	7,323
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>14,828</b>	<b>13,866</b>
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>		
Interest bearing liabilities	4,824	5,821
Provisions	950	795
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>	<b>5,774</b>	<b>6,616</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>20,602</b>	<b>20,482</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>918,734</b>	<b>913,218</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained earnings	918,734	913,218
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>918,734</b>	<b>913,218</b>

## Auditors Report



PricewaterhouseCoopers  
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**Rockdale City Council**  
**Independent Audit Report to the Council**  
**(Sections 417(2) – report on the general purpose financial reports)**

### Scope

We have audited the financial reports of **Rockdale City Council** for the financial year ended 30 June 2006 as set out on pages 1 to 57. The financial reports consist of the general purpose financial reports and Council's statement in the approved form as required by Section 413(2)(a) of the Local Government Act, 1993. Our audit responsibility does not extend to the Original Budget figures disclosed in the Income Statement, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes 2(a) and 16 to the financial statements nor the attached Special Schedules. The Council is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the Council.

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

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

### Audit opinion

In our opinion:

- a) The Council's accounting records have been kept in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993 Chapter 13, Part 3, Division 2.
- b) The Council's financial reports
  - i. Have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Division;
  - ii. are consistent with the Council's accounting records;
  - iii. present fairly the Council's financial position and the results of its operations; and
  - iv. are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards.
- c) All information relevant to the conduct of the audit has been obtained.
- d) There are no material deficiencies in the accounting records or financial reports that have come to light during the course of the audit.

  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Chartered Accountants

JA Gordon  
Sydney 2006, 16 October.

Liability is limited by the Accountant's Scheme under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW)



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The Mayor  
Councillor Bill Saravinovski  
Rockdale City Council  
DX 25308  
ROCKDALE

Dear Councillor Saravinovski,

**REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF THE AUDIT FOR  
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006 - SECTION 417(3)**

---

We have completed our audit of the financial reports of Rockdale City Council for the year ended 30 June 2006, in accordance with Section 415 of the Local Government Act, 1993.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial reports are free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial reports, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial reports are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) as well as statutory requirements so as to prevent a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position, the result of its operations and its cash flows.

Flowing from our audit there are a number of comments we wish to raise concerning the trends in Council's finances. These are set out below.

Liability is limited by the Accountant's Scheme under the Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW)

### Operating Result

Council's operating surplus fell from \$6.9M to \$5.5M during the period under review. The main reason for this reduction was:

- a reduction in capital grants and contributions (down \$2.2M).

### Cash Position

Council's overall cash position increased from \$49M to \$52M during the period under review. The following table highlights the composition of cash.

	<b>6/06</b>	<b>6/05</b>
	<b>\$M</b>	<b>\$M</b>
Externally Restricted	32.7	32.1
Internally Restricted	16.8	13.7
Unrestricted	2.0	3.0
	<u>51.5</u>	<u>48.8</u>

The increase in externally restricted cash is mainly the result of higher Section 94 Contributions held at year end.

### Working Capital

Council's net current assets increased from \$40M to \$43M during the period under review.

The value of net current assets needs to be adjusted in order to establish Council's available working capital.

	<b>6/06</b>	<b>6/05</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Net Current Assets	43,027	40,291
Less		
External Restrictions	32,749	32,096
Internal Restrictions	16,826	13,735
	<u>(6,548)</u>	<u>(5,540)</u>
Add		
Current Liabilities to be funded from other sources	11,475	9,600
<b>Available Working Capital</b>	<u>4,927</u>	<u>4,060</u>

The effective unrestricted or available working capital upon which Council could build its 2006/07 budget was \$4.9m.

### Performance Indicators

The financial reports disclose a number of indicators in Note 13 and these are detailed below.

	6/06	6/05
	%	%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	345	323
Debt Service Ratio	2.7	6.1
Rate Coverage Ratio	63	64
Rates Outstanding Ratio	5.5	4.9

The unrestricted current ratio increased and remains well above the industry benchmark of 100%.

The debt service ratio fell and remained significantly better than the industry benchmark of 10%.

The rate coverage ratio remained relatively stable at 63% of total revenue.

The rates outstanding ratio increased and is now above the accepted industry benchmark of 5%.

Council's financial position is considered to be sound and stable. All indicators stand better than accepted industry benchmarks except the rates outstanding ratio which should not be allowed to increase further.

### General

The books of accounts and records inspected by us have been kept in an accurate and conscientious manner. We thank the General Manager and his staff for the co-operation and courtesy extended to us during the course of our audit.

Yours faithfully,



**PricewaterhouseCoopers**

**J A Gordon**  
**Partner**  
**Sydney**

*16 October 2006 .*



COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKDALE  
**GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
for the year ending 30 June 2006

**STATEMENT BY COUNCILLORS AND MANAGEMENT  
MADE PURSUANT TO SECTION 413(2)(C)  
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993 (as amended)**

The attached General Purpose Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with:

- The Local Government Act 1993 (as amended) and the Regulations made thereunder
- The Australian Accounting Standards and professional pronouncements
- The Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

To the best of our knowledge and belief, this Report:

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year, and
- accords with Council's accounting and other records.

We are not aware of any matter that would render the reports false or misleading in any way.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 16 August 2006.



Councillor Moselmane  
**MAYOR**



Councillor Saravinovski  
**COUNCILLOR**



Chris Watson  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



Maureen Morrison  
**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING  
OFFICER**

## Principal Activities

	Revenues (\$'000)			Expenditures (\$'000)			Operating result (\$'000)			Grants included in revenues (\$'000)		Total assets held (\$'000)	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	2006	2005	2006	2005
	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005	2006	2006	2005				
<b>GM's Office</b>													
▪ Executive Management	0	0	0	423	485	453	-423	-485	-453				
▪ Governance	0	0	0	790	791	846	-790	-791	-846				
▪ Communications	0	0	0	498	514	502	-498	-514	-502				
▪ Human Resources & Risk Mgt	0	0	0	784	779	311	-784	-779	-311				
▪ Strategy	0	0	0	961	1,086	271	-961	-1,086	-271				
▪ Business Services	1,545	1,514	1,418	5,075	6,800	6,486	-3,530	-5,287	-5,068				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>8,531</b>	<b>10,455</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>-6,986</b>	<b>-8,942</b>	<b>-7,451</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,670</b>	<b>7,717</b>
<b>City Services</b>													
▪ Management	0	0	0	267	299	234	-267	-299	-234				
▪ Community Services	1,081	1,084	1,086	5,573	6,537	4,984	-4,493	-5,453	-3,899				
▪ Technical Services	182	294	348	1,831	2,002	1,619	-1,649	-1,707	-1,271				
▪ Operations	1,311	1,625	1,370	11,742	11,729	10,877	-10,430	-10,104	-9,507				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>2,804</b>	<b>19,413</b>	<b>20,567</b>	<b>17,714</b>	<b>-16,839</b>	<b>-17,563</b>	<b>-14,911</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>580,305</b>	<b>569,993</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Development</b>													
▪ Planning	38	39	115	1,085	1,099	1,224	-1,047	-1,060	-1,110				
▪ Development	2,355	2,862	2,479	3,559	3,540	4,008	-1,204	-677	1,529				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,393</b>	<b>2,901</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>4,639</b>	<b>5,232</b>	<b>-2,251</b>	<b>-1,737</b>	<b>-2,639</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>2,396</b>	<b>2,112</b>
<b>Fixed Costs</b>													
▪ Interest on Loans	16	12	16	445	420	451	-429	-408	-434				
▪ Statutory Levies	235	244	261	2,250	2,331	2,163	-2,015	-2,087	-1,902				
▪ Infrastructure depreciation	0	0	0	5,522	5,607	5,522	-5,522	-5,607	-5,522				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>8,217</b>	<b>8,358</b>	<b>8,136</b>	<b>-7,966</b>	<b>-8,102</b>	<b>-7,858</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>342,956</b>	<b>343,367</b>
<b>Waste Management</b>	<b>9,251</b>	<b>9,513</b>	<b>9,517</b>	<b>9,509</b>	<b>9,397</b>	<b>9,130</b>	<b>-258</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>2,832</b>	<b>3,003</b>
<b>Local Area Programs</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-87</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>General Purpose Income</b>													
▪ General Rates	27,033	27,481	26,254	0	0	0	27,033	27,481	26,253				
▪ Special Rates	1,227	1,249	1,200	0	0	0	1,227	1,249	1,200				
▪ Interest on Overdue Rates	76	120	94	0	0	0	76	120	94				
▪ Ex Gratia Contributions	1,537	393	410	0	0	0	1,537	393	410				
▪ General Purpose Grants	2,764	2,893	2,823	0	0	0	2,764	2,893	2,823				
▪ Interest on Investments	1,756	4,258	2,934	0	0	0	1,756	4,258	2,934				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,393</b>	<b>36,394</b>	<b>33,715</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,393</b>	<b>36,394</b>	<b>33,714</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>2,823</b>	<b>1,177</b>	<b>7,508</b>
<b>Capital Purpose Revenues</b>													
▪ Grants & Contributions	772	1,134	1,363	0	0	0	772	1,134	1,363				
▪ Section 94 Contributions	3,785	2,209	4,212	0	0	0	3,785	2,209	4,212				
▪ Profit on Sale	25	2,095	71	0	0	0	25	2,095	71				
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,582</b>	<b>5,438</b>	<b>5,646</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,582</b>	<b>5,438</b>	<b>5,646</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,185</b>	<b>59,138</b>	<b>56,151</b>	<b>50,560</b>	<b>53,622</b>	<b>49,291</b>	<b>4,625</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>6,859</b>	<b>5,706</b>	<b>5,273</b>	<b>939,336</b>	<b>933,700</b>

## Assets Acquired

Capital Works Program	Estimate 2005-06	Actual 2005-06
Resheeting & Road works Projects	\$925,600	\$945,958
Traffic Devices Projects	\$467,477	\$482,368
Drainage, Stormwater & Pollution Control Projects	\$1,329,614	\$1,335,155
Footpath & Cycleway Projects	\$283,090	\$251,525
City Amenity Projects (bus seats, shelters, pylons & artwork)	\$40,000	\$42,505
Building Rehabilitation Projects	\$288,361	\$393,287
Beachfront & River Improvements Projects	\$381,944	\$416,724
Parks Development Projects	\$871,789	\$533,074
Computer & Office Equipment Replacement Program	\$1,520,200	\$1,068,627
Fleet & Plant Replacement Program	\$1,503,500	\$1,458,234
Library Resources Program	\$359,410	\$358,706
Shopping Centre Improvements Program	\$457,000	\$119,815
Wolli Creek Suburb Redevelopment Projects	\$246,700	\$276,329
Property Acquisitions	\$4,516,890	\$4,486,068
Supplementary Program	\$279,973	\$323,234
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,471,588</b>	<b>\$12,491,609</b>

## Assets Disposed

Sale of Assets	Comments	Actual 2005-06
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
Sedans / Station Wagons & Utilities	Change over of vehicles after three years or 60,000 km in accordance with Council's policy.	\$517,941
<b>Plant &amp; Equipment</b>		
Operational Plant & Equipment	Replaced due to condition of plant, technological changes, or surplus to Council's current requirements.	\$123,589
<b>Property Assets</b>		
Land	Compulsory acquired for M5 east	\$3,864,968
<b>Total Assets Disposed</b>		<b>\$4,506,498</b>

## Special Variations

Council received a special variation on its rates levy in 2005-06 relating to its Safer City Program, details of which are recorded earlier in this report.

Below is a report detailing the how much funding each specific project received from the special rates levy.

Operating Statement for Graffiti, Community Safety & Vandalism - June 2006					
Expenditure	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Actual YTD	Amount Remaining	% Spent
Park & Building Audits	\$256,390	\$256,390	\$258,460	\$2,070	100.81%
Administration Expenses & Staffing	\$245,620	\$245,620	\$178,231	\$-67,389	72.56%
Graffiti Removal	\$274,440	\$519,360	\$644,742	\$125,382	124.14%
Community Safety Grants Program	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$65,207	\$15,207	130.41%
CCTV Monitoring	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$119,525	\$94,525	478.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>851,450</b>	<b>1,096,370</b>	<b>1,266,165</b>	<b>169,795</b>	<b>115.49%</b>

