

Annual Report



Statutory Report
2006 - 2007

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Statutory Reporting

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (a)

Financial Statements

All figures are in thousands of dollars. Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ended 30 June 2007:

Principal activities	2005/2006			2006/2007		
	Expenses	Revenues	Operating Results	Expenses	Revenues	Operating Results
Executive Management	1,618	118	(1,500)	1,784	57	(1,727)
Corporate Services	8,102	1,607	(6,495)	8,913	1,775	(7,138)
Community Development	35,873	20,290	(15,583)	39,767	21,899	(17,868)
City Services	78,866	22,687	(56,179)	86,280	26,830	(59,450)
Strategic Planning & Development	19,749	10,316	(9,433)	20,303	10,927	(9,376)
Governance	4,004		(4,004)	3,970		(3,970)
General purpose revenues		97,707	97,707		103,048	103,048
Total	148,212	157,725	4,513	161,017	164,563	3,519

Assets acquired from 1/7/2006 – 30/6/2007 and held at 30/6/2007:

	2005/2006		2006/2007	
	At cost acquired during year	Assets held at period end	At cost acquired during year	Assets held at period end
Executive Management	8	98	9	95
Corporate Services	927	136,795	644	157,589
Community Development	10,669	237,851	4,963	251,064
City Services	15,445	1,123,774	18,541	1,104,581
Strategic Planning & Development	3,677	9,806	1,922	11,537
Governance	1	28	15	55
Total	30,727	1,508,352	26,094	1,524,921

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 132

Rates and charges written off

During the period, Council wrote off the following rates and charges:

	2005/2006	2006/2007
Pensioner Write-offs	1,518,326	1,453,898
Postponed Rates and Charges	32,848	28,652
Written Off as a Result of Rounding Down	13	6
Changes in Category	83,040	91,211
Write Off Debtors	0	18,268
Section 600*	177,106	158,250
Total	1,811,334	1,750,285

LGA 1993 - Section 428 (2) (b)

Performance of Principal Activities

The 2006/2007 Management Plan sets out strategies to achieve Council's Strategic Direction and establishes Key Performance Indicators for each Service Unit. Council reviews progress towards achievement of the targets set within the Management Plan on a quarterly basis. The June 2007 Quarterly Management Plan Review (the review) is attached.

A full report on progress towards the five objectives is contained in the section titled Council's Strategic Direction of the review. At the end of the June quarter 55% of the 2006/2007 actions were completed and 35% were in progress.

92% of key performance indicators had met their target and 8% were below target. The review details the indicators not met and the reason for non-achievement.

A summary of Council's financial performance is included in the review. This has information on operational performance and delivery of Council's major projects and major asset preservation programs. Full details of Council's overall financial performance for the year are included in the annual financial statements.

LGA 1993 - Section 428 (2) (c)

State of the Environment Report

Councils are required to prepare an annual State of the Environment (SOE) report under the provisions of the NSW Local Government Act 1993. These reports must cover a range of environmental issues (called "sectors" in the Act). SOE reports provide a description of the current conditions and the pressures created by human activity in these sectors. The report also describes actions taken to address environmental problems and future plans.

The Local Government Act dictates the report must also provide information on environmental conditions and trends through the use of "indicators". An indicator is "an aspect of the natural world or built environment that can be monitored to provide information on environmental conditions and trends". It can be difficult to find the right information to create meaningful indicators for some sectors. The SOE report attempts to provide clear statements about indicators and their trends, or, at least, identify gaps in available information.

Much of the information has been summarised for this document. Contact points are given in each section if more detail is required, and links are provided for internet browsing.

The SOE report (attachment 2) covers the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (d)

Infrastructure

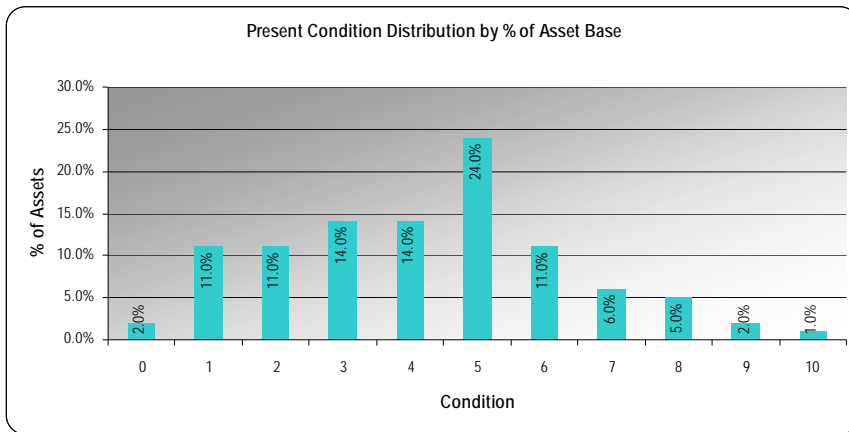
Condition of public works

During the 2006/2007 financial year a complete review was undertaken of all Council's infrastructure assets. The review identified all public assets, their condition, suitable intervention levels, costs to upgrade infrastructure above this intervention level, asset renewal values and the required maintenance costs to maintain assets at an acceptable level.

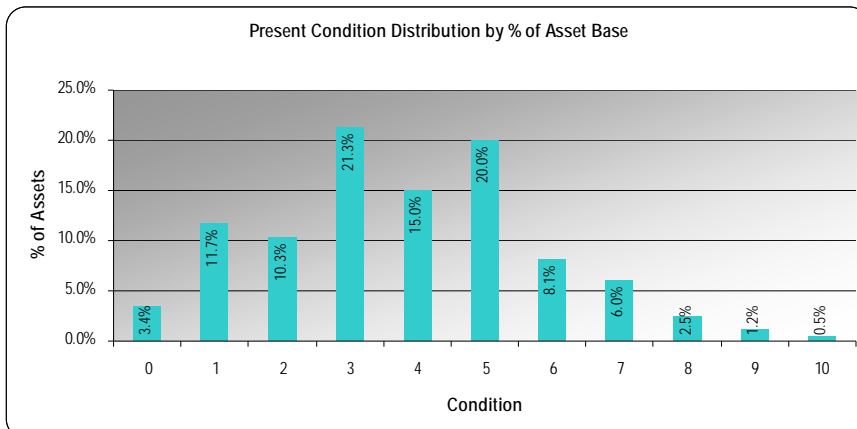
The summary graphs show the condition of each major asset class. The review set a standard scale for asset condition ranging from 0 (new) to 10 (Failed).

The major assets have been grouped into roads, stormwater drainage, building and structures, natural and recreation assets. Also included is an overall asset condition rating for all infrastructure.

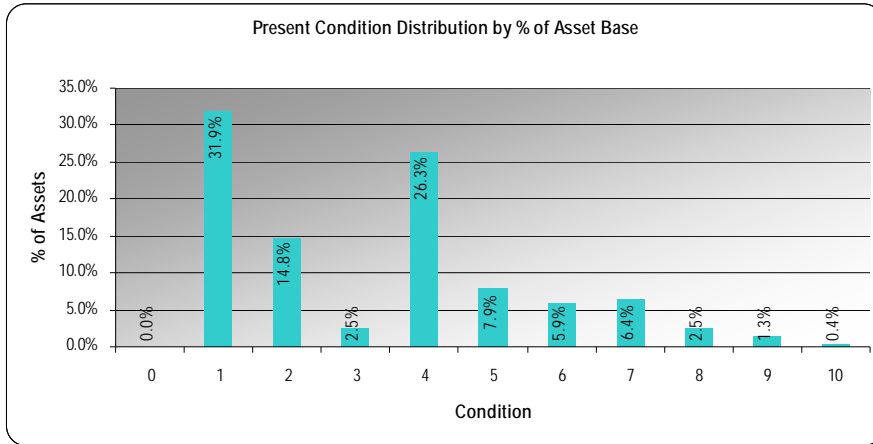
Condition rating of all Public Works or Assets



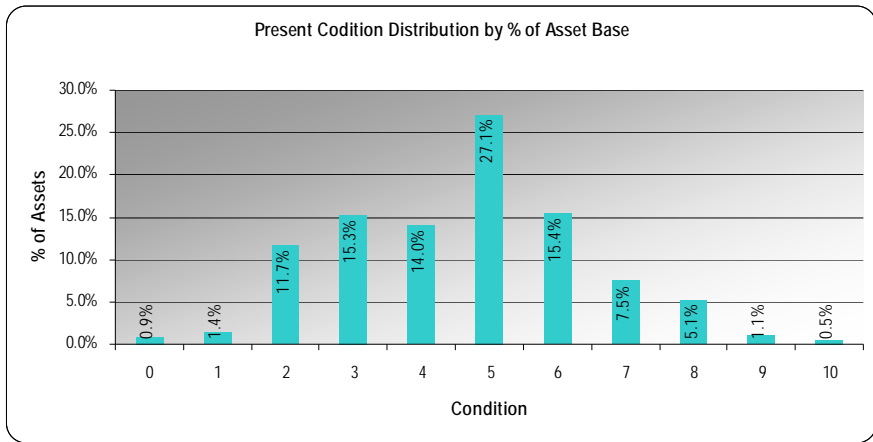
Condition rating of Roads



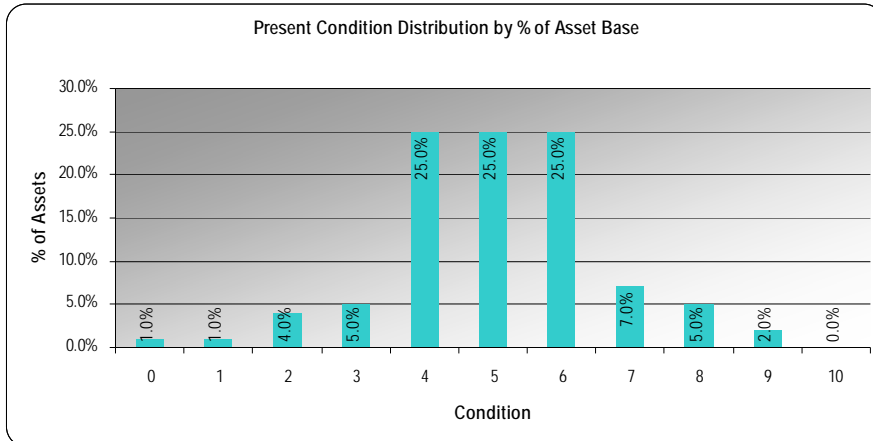
Condition rating of Stormwater Drainage



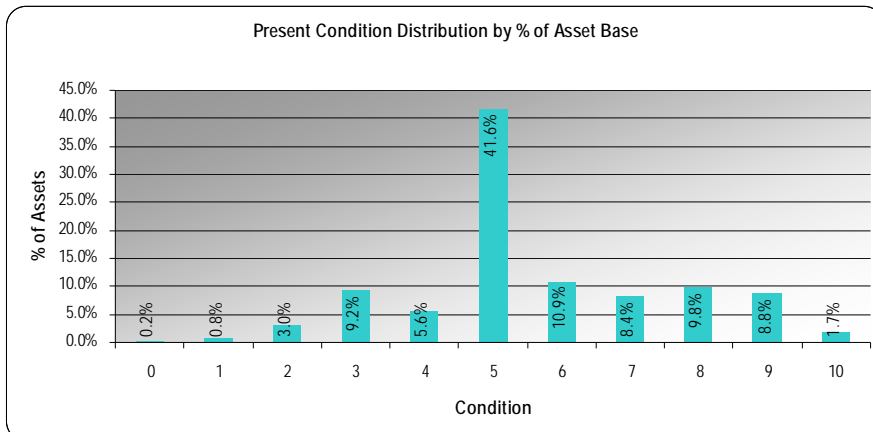
Condition rating of Buildings and Structures



Condition rating of Recreation



Condition rating of Natural Assets



Summary of Assets in the Newcastle Local Government Area

Asset Class	Asset Type	Number	Length (km)	Area (m2)	Estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard \$'000	Required Annual Maintenance Expense \$'000	Current Annual Maintenance \$'000
Buildings & Structures						22,100	
	Buildings	583			67,801		10,298
	Retaining Walls		14		376		60
	River Walls		6		3,600		38
Roads						11,500	
	Pavement			7,170,512	13,217		4,677
	Footpath			1,505,882	4,959		1,639
	Kerb and gutter		1,131		1,357		463
	Bridges and culverts	241			483		87
Drainage Works						4,800	
	Pits	17,164			217		250
	Pipes and culverts		451		32,831		890
Parks & Sporting Grounds	Parks	130			395	2,900	3,209
Natural Assets						3,600	
	Street Trees	70,000			1,630		1,812
	Creeks		56		6,370		247
Total Classes	Total All Assets				133,236	44,900	23,670

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (e)

Legal Proceedings

The following matters were lodged in the courts during the 2006/2007 financial year:

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
City Strategy- Property is now with Corporate services	Stephanie and Andrew Etwell	Supreme court proceeding taken by Etwell's seeking easement over Community Land.	Completed, Etwell's were successful but in accordance with the Conveyancing Act where ordered to pay Council's legal costs.	\$13,002.34
Community Development	Soundworld Pty Ltd	Local Court Debt recovery for unpaid rental fees	Completed, matter settled, confidential terms of settlement	\$7,713.56
Human Resources	Dismissal of Corporate Services employee	IRC proceedings	Completed, matter settled, confidential terms of settlement	\$6,458.62
	Telstra Corp v NCC Class 1 Application for DA refusal 05/0559 51 Karoola Road Lambton	Class 1 L&EC	Consent orders hearing, appeal upheld, application granted.	\$40,830.26
	Anthony Mackay 135 University Drive, New Lambton Refusal of DA 06/1416 for alterations and additions to an existing dwelling	Class 1 L&EC	Complete. Judgement in favour of Council.	\$48,732.25
	Owners Corporation 28 Stevenson Place v Anderson and Newcastle Council DA 97/0048	Class 4 L&EC	Settled, work done relates to follow up of settlement arrangement, including potential amendment to Management Plan.	\$14,738.26
	Rebecca Westcombe 4/67 Nesca Pde The Hill - Landslip	Class 4 L&EC	Matter adjourned until 21 September 2007.	\$17,511.23
	Winwood David; McGee Marilyn - DA 02/2426	Class 4 L&EC	Council awarded costs of \$41,557.70. Subject of separate cost recovery action	\$2,512.41
	Pepperwood Ridge 164-168 Lake Road, deemed refusal DA to erect serviced self care housing	Class 1 L&EC	Notice of Motion for Amended Plans to be heard 15 October 2007.	\$86,553.98

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	HV Pharmaceuticals (Formerly Rose) 121 Union Street Cooks Hill - DA 05/1190 Defence of appeal against deemed refusal	Class 1 L&EC	Appeal proceedings against deemed refusal of development application was discontinued after the Applicant modified its development application, and Council granted conditional consent to the modified DA. Costs issue still in dispute.	\$7,836.82
	Young v NCC: 34 Helen Street Merewether Class 1 Appeal to LEC	Class 1 L&EC	Consent orders entered - development approved subject to grant of drainage easement.	\$86,407.91
	Van New International Pty Ltd v NCC Newcastle Post Office - DA 05/1258	Class 1 L&EC	Judgement against Council - Appeal proceedings against conditional consent granted by Council to a development application to establish a hotel. The conditions that were the subject of the appeal restricted the hours of operation of the Hotel and imposed acoustic restrictions. The Court upheld the appeal and granted conditional consent that inter alia provided for the extended trading hours sought by the Applicant with some additional control measures, and imposed in a different way the acoustic standards sought by Council. No costs order.	\$82,680.24
	Riverflag 15 Murray Dwyer Circuit Mayfield West Deemed refusal of 96 Application for approved development to incorporate drive- thru.	Class 1 L&EC	Proceedings discontinued by the applicant.	\$15,642.81
	Newcastle Grammar School. 62 Newcomen Street & 14-16 Tyrell St The Hill DA 05/0018	Class 1 L&EC	Appeal upheld on conditions favourable to the Council.	\$9381.2

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	Leaway Pty Limited - Newcastle Transfer Station - DA consent 00/1738	Class 4 L&EC	Judgement in favour of Council.	\$5,411.5
	Malcolm Proctor/Pepperwood Ridge/Hunter Valley Care 102 Lake Road Wallsend - Land Clearing	Class 5 L&EC	In favour of Council - Criminal proceedings in the Land and Environment Court determined by conviction of Pepperwood Ridge Pty Ltd, which was fined \$68,000 and ordered to pay Councils costs (which were agreed at \$160,000).	\$1,847.8
	Pace Farm No 2	Class 5 L&EC	Judgement in favour of Council.	\$53,326.9
	Thai Melichard restaurant- Food matter: Boolua	Prosecution, Local Court	Judgement in favour of Council - Criminal proceedings in the Local Court for breaches of the Food Act. Judgment in favour of Council, with Defendant convicted and ordered to pay fines and costs exceeding \$14,000.	\$5,937.9
	Bromwich- Appeal of decision for 2nd PIN 7624748295- expose article without approval	Appeal, District Court	Appeal to the District Court against conviction and sentence imposed by the Local Court. Appeal withdrawn by consent with no order as to costs in the appeal proceedings (as nominal work undertaken for Council not charged to Council)	Nil
	Michael Creamy - Dangerous dog straying and not complying with control requirements	Prosecution, Local Court	Judgement in favour of Council - Criminal proceedings under the Companion Animals Act. Defendant convicted of 3 offences and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling \$1,665.	\$938.63
	Victoria TANGELO- dog offences, court elect	Prosecution, Local Court	Judgement in favour of Council - Mrs Tangelo found guilty and fines \$100 per PIN (3) & \$67 court cost.	Nil
	Martina KLEIN- Deposit litter from vehicle	Prosecution, Local Court	Matter withdrawn.	Nil

Group	Name of Matter	Type of Proceeding	Status	Costs and Expenses
	Susan Woodward and dog called Sarah. 33 Martindale Road Wallsend Appeal on dangerous dog declaration issued by NCC	Appeal, Local Court	Council came to an agreement with the applicant on the terms of a consent order. The order was approved by Court.	Nil
	NCC v Grant John Rooke	Prosecution, Local Court	Judgement in favour of Council - Section 10 issued.	Nil
	SCANLON- court order seeking destruction of dog "Cheiko"	Prosecution and appeal, Local Court	Judgement in favour of Council - Criminal proceedings in the Local Court for breaches of the Companion Animals Act, and civil proceedings being an appeal against Council's refusal to revoke two dangerous dog declarations. Both proceedings were resolved in favour of Council. The Defendant was convicted, ordered to pay fines and costs totalling \$2301, and an order for the destruction of the subject dog was made. The civil proceedings were dismissed, the result having the effect of upholding the dangerous dog declarations that Council had made in respect of two other dogs owned by the Defendant.	\$12,077.56
	Hamilton RSL Club Ltd 21 Chaucer Street Hamilton Ongoing noise-mechanical plant noise	Class 1 L&EC	Consent orders. Works now completed by the Hamilton RSL.	\$18,942.44

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (f)

Elected Representatives Fees and Expenses

Council's current policy on the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to the Lord Mayor and Councillors is attached (Appendix A). No Councillors travelled overseas in undertaking their duties during the Financial Year.

Total Council expenditure on fees and expenses for the financial year 2006/2007 was as follows:

	\$		\$	
	2005/2006		2006/2007	
Lord Mayoral Allowance		58,765		61,115
Councillors Fees		262,110		272,545
Councillors Expenses and Facilities				
<i>Lord Mayor's Office</i>				
• Salaries (Secretary/Clerical Staff /Personal Assistants)	133,608		126,208	
• Travel Expenses and Vehicle Expenses	13,272		13,030	
• Conference/Seminars/Training	3,202		1,175	
• Printing & Stationery	12,470		10,125	
• Miscellaneous Expenses	12,447		11,970	
• Purchase Souvenirs	5,244		7,668	
<i>Councillors Expenses</i>				
• Conferences/Seminars	35,908		9,620	
• Interstate Conferences/Seminars			3,090	
• Facsimile/Mobile Phone/Pager Charges	28,417		30,185	
• Miscellaneous Expenses – Professional Services / Printing & Stationery/Courier Deliveries	19,426		26,777	
• Councillors Room Expenses	1,089		885	
<i>Meeting Expenses</i>				
• Travel	9,669		7,681	
• Meals	41,143		38,966	
• Room Hire	2,156	318,051	824	288,204
		\$638,926		\$621,864

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (g)

Senior Staff employed

As at 30 June 2007, Council employed a total of six senior staff (one General Manager and five Group Managers).

Details of the total amount of money payable inclusive of salary, performance payments and superannuation in respect of the employment of senior staff during the financial year are shown below.

Year	Salary	Bonus/ Performance or Other	Superannuation	Non Cash Benefits	Fringe Benefits Tax	Total
2006/2007	681,326	Nil	352,259	56,600	47,790	\$1,137,975
2005/2006						\$1,143,782

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (h)

Contracts Awarded in Excess of \$150,000

Council awarded the following contracts in the 2006/2007 financial year:

Contractor	Contract	Contract Price (\$)	Total Amount Paid (\$)
Frontier Software P/L	Payroll & Human Resources Software	\$176,941.00	\$176,941.00
Marine & Civil Maintenance P/L	Newcastle Ocean Baths Refurbishment including a Cathodic Protection System	\$2,979,738.30	\$1,998,817.77
Francis Jones Morehen Thorp Architects	Newcastle Regional Museum Design & Document Redevelopment	\$309,435.00	NIL
Bellingham Marine P/L	Construct Pontoon & Associated Works at Stockton	\$301,763.00	\$307,088.10
Neumann Contractors P/L	Excavation and Lining of Cell 6 - SWMC	\$3,475,102.40	\$3,359,757.96
Trio Site Services P/L	Works Depot Mechanical Workshop Re-Roofing Works	\$153,175.00	\$157,925.62
BIS Cleanaway	Kerbside Residential Bulk Waste Collection Service (3 years)	\$2,541,000.00	\$242,100.00
RHT Australia P/L	Supply 7 New Garbage Trucks	\$2,138,381.00	\$2,138,381.00
Labourco Council Services P/L	Provision of Outdoor Labour Persons (2 year period)	\$2,500,000.00*	\$1,204,657.09
Department of Lands	Hunter River Bank Hexham Stabilisation Works	\$382,500.00	\$153,000.00
Smorgon Steel Recycling P/L	Waste Recovery Services at SWMC (Income payable to council - 3 yrs)	-\$241,560.00	-\$20,130.00
RTA Hunter Road Services	Installation of Traffic Signals at Minmi Road Maryland	\$211,412.30	\$9,275.00
Michael Graham Plumbing P/L	Sunnyside St Mayfield Watermain Replacement	\$193,864.00	\$155,091.20
Caltex Energy	Supply B20 Biodiesel Fuel (2 years)	\$1,000,000.00*	\$75,595.87
Aqua Assets P/L	CCTV Inspections of Underground Stormwater Conduits (2 years)	\$180,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Supply of Ready Mixed Concrete (2 years)	\$1,278,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Asphaltic Concrete Road Surfacing Services (2 years)	\$440,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Supply of Road Base & Sub Base Materials (2 years)	\$488,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Sprayed Bituminous Road Surfacing Services (2 years)	\$850,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Road Pavement Rejuvenation Services (2 years)	\$1,000,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Road Pavement Repair Services (2 years)	\$7,800,000.00*	NIL**
Various	Hire of Plant, Trucks & Small Plant & Equipment (2 years)	\$2,602,000.00*	NIL**
Price Waterhouse Coopers	External Financial Audit Services (6 year period)	\$378,000.00*	NIL**
Reino International	Supply & Install Parking Meters to Newcastle Hill Precinct	\$293,241.96	NIL**
Shell Australia P/L	Supply Unleaded & Distillate Fuels (3 years)	\$5,700,000.00*	\$1,786,948.87

Contractor	Contract	Contract Price (\$)	Total Amount Paid (\$)
National Plant & Equipment P/L	Hire of Heavy Plant at SWMC (3 years)	\$1,183,824.00	NIL**
Gilbert & Roach	Supply 4 x 4500gvm Cab Chassis with 2 Tonne Tipping Bodies	\$288,694.00	NIL**
GCM Enviro P/L	Supply & Deliver One Landfill Compactor for SWMC	\$1,060,950.00	\$1,060,950.00
Data#3 Limited	MS Software Licensing Agreement	\$238,271.76	NIL**

* Estimated value based on historical expenditure

** NIL = contracts awarded during the 2006/2007 financial year, services to be provided in 2007/2008

In addition, Council paid over \$150,000 to the following suppliers:

Name of Supplier	Amount (\$)	Service/Product
Active Hire Group	171,170.80	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Aqua Assets P/L	188,476.27	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Australian Tourist Park Management P/L	292,010.67	Tourist park management
Australian Pavement Maintenance Systems P/L	274,551.86	Road pavement services
Australia Post	432,421.17	Postal services
Baker & Taylor	264,265.51	Supply library books
Bellingham Marine Australia P/L	307,088.10	Construction of pontoon & assoc works
J Blackwood & Son Inc	209,665.68	Supply of hardware
Boral Construction Materials (NSW)	4,847,271.83	Road pavement services
Bolans Tree Service	159,579.50	Tree lopping & pruning
Brian Hilton Motor Group	262,083.88	Supply motor vehicles
CHS Australia P/L	362,404.92	Supply parking meters
Cleanaway a Division of Transpacific Limited	575,098.05	Contract waste services
CMG Concrete P/L	155,928.52	Supply ready mixed concrete
CFC Holdings P/L t/a CEA Construction Equipment Australia	195,416.07	Supply three new backhoes
Coates Hire Operations P/L	205,273.53	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Computer Systems (Australia) P/L	305,652.84	Supply computer equipment
Corporate Express Australia Ltd	727,601.49	Supply stationery & MS software licensing
Crest Restoration Services P/L	397,473.97	Building works – various
Daimler Chrysler	666,071.16	Supply of trucks
Department of Lands	199,488.96	River embankment stabilisation works
Denis Veitch & Associates P/L	416,109.21	Debt recovery services
D & P Fencing Contractors	230,223.29	Supply & install guardrail
SIRSIDynix P/L	174,479.89	Library software supply & maintenance
Emeco International P/L	406,788.22	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Energy Australia	3,267,578.60	Electricity accounts
Enigma Communications P/L	153,575.04	Marketing & promotion services
Environmental Protection Authority	4,585,158.10	Waste levy
Gilbert & Roach	389,255.14	Supply of trucks
Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	1,555,439.76	Membership fees
Hunter Electrical Services	176,363.00	Electrical services
Hunter Councils Inc.	174,968.55	Membership fees
Hunter Tech Services P/L	231,391.67	Building works – various
Carsplus Australia P/L	253,084.35	Supply motor vehicles
Ian Rich Asphalt P/L	329,741.50	Casual hire of plant & equipment
The James Bennett Group	377,144.90	Supply library books
J.A.G.Power & Data Solutions P/L	383,005.57	Electrical services
Jardine Lloyd Thompson P/L	534,892.24	Insurance premiums
Jones & Grey Electrical P/L	206,204.72	Electrical services

Name of Supplier	Amount (\$)	Service/Product
John Fairfax Publications P/L	278,017.81	Newspaper advertising
John Deere Limited	209,791.35	Supply mowers & spare parts
Kentan Machinery P/L	247,840.94	Supply tractors & spare parts
Labourco Newcastle P/L	1,204,657.09	Hire of outdoor labour persons
Lahey Constructions P/L	152,622.21	Construct Wallsend District Library
Lane Safety Systems P/L	159,660.00	Assist in OHS systems development
Lear & Smith P/L	214,925.56	Supply electrical materials
Local Government Superannuation Scheme P/L (Pool A)	4,187,868.88	Remit employee deductions
Local Government Superannuation Scheme P/L (Pool B)	3,052,595.91	Remit employee deductions
Long Service Payments Corporation	760,377.53	Remit Payments
Marine & Civil Maintenance P/L	1,998,817.77	Restoration works at Newcastle Ocean Baths
Mack Trucks Australia P/L	193,951.26	Supply trucks
Michael Graham Plumbing P/L	155,091.20	Watermain replacement in residential street
Neumann Contractors P/L	4,226,031.38	Civil works - Summerhill waste management centre
The Newcastle Alliance Inc	174,075.00	CityCentre Management Services
Newcastle Toyota	770,388.08	Supply motor vehicles
N I B Health Funds Ltd	250,211.90	Remittance of employee deductions
N S W Fire Brigades	2,410,973.00	Annual contributions
Nuturf P/L	169,969.25	Supply herbicides / weedicides
OSR NSW Treasury State Debt Recovery Office	538,628.20	Parking infringement processing
Otis Elevator Company P/L	377,168.62	Refurbishment of various passenger lifts
Planning NSW - Plan First Fee	235,249.00	Remit Plan First State Gov. Levy
Premier Concrete (NSW) P/L	264,345.70	Supply ready mixed concrete
Queens Wharf (Holdings) P/L t/as Blue Star Catering	157,268.60	Contract catering services
Regal Motors Newcastle	227,448.91	Supply motor vehicles
Road Management Solutions (A division of Road Signs & Marking Supplies P/L)	169,511.68	Supply road / traffic signs
RSPCA - Newcastle	207,047.32	Animal impounding services
Roads & Traffic Authority	275,640.00	Installation of traffic signals - various sites
Scott Hoadley's Earthmoving P/L	201,844.00	Casual hire of plant & equipment
Shell Company of Australia Ltd	1,786,948.87	Supply of fuels
SNP Security	838,188.46	Security & cash in transit services
Sparke Helmore Lawyers	641,301.80	Legal services
Statewide Mutual	2,003,088.42	Insurance premiums
Squiz P/L	167,750.00	Website content management system replacement / licensing
Busymart Building Supplies Pty Ltd T/A Sunbow Roofing	239,743.40	Re-roofing various buildings
RHT Australia P/L	1,856,044.00	Supply new garbage trucks
Telstra	926,178.02	Telephone services
Thiess Services P/L	2,739,591.39	Collection of residential recyclables
Todaytech IT Solutions	236,585.84	Supply desktop computers
Trio Site Services P/L	157,925.62	Asbestos removal works
United Services Union	248,493.23	Remit employee deductions
Waratah Professional Tree Care	329,720.00	Tree lopping & pruning
Wengold P/L	578,253.00	Manufacture work site caravans
Tyco Australia P/L t/a Wormald Fire Systems	165,876.57	Fire protection services – various

LGA 1993, Section 428 (2) (i1)

Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

Current Situation

The Newcastle Local Government Area (LGA) encompasses urban bushland remnants that belong to the following broad vegetation types; eucalypt forest, freshwater and saltwater wetlands and coastal scrub. Land management agencies have the responsibility to manage bush fire risks that occur on their land. Plans have been developed by the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for the control of fire in the Hexham Swamp, Kooragang Island Swamp and Glenrock Recreation Area. Normal dangers to property exist and no record of fire paths are available. Topography of all bushland remnants within the Newcastle LGA could be described as average and wildfire is deemed a threat to be confined to urban bushland reserves within the LGA.

Issues

There are many social, economic and ecological issues raised by the expansion of urban developments into bushland areas. A particularly contentious issue is the management of fire in these areas.

There exists the potential risk for loss of life and property from wildfire wherever people choose to live in or adjacent to bushland areas. To alleviate this risk, NCC employs several strategies to effectively coordinate bush fire mitigation for the protection of life, property and the environment within the LGA.

Indicators

The relative chance or probability of fires starting is determined by the presence or absence of causative agents. The degree of risk in an area is assessed by studying the probable frequency of fire, the many ways in which fires may start, and the behaviour of fire within a particular area. Council officers undertake regular hazard assessments and co-ordinate fire mitigation activities in bushland reserves within the Newcastle LGA.

Actions

As a member of the Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee, NCC works closely with the NSW Fire Brigade and the NPWS. Together these groups have developed a District Bushfire Management Plan of Operations and a Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

This process is a requirement of the Rural Fires Act 1997 and the plans have been prepared in accordance with the legislation as well as the guidelines and procedures of the Coordinating Committee.

The aim of the Newcastle District Bush Fire Management Committee – Plan of Operation, is to detail requirements for coordinated fire management practices for the protection of life and property, community assets and values, natural and cultural heritage and to decrease the severity and intensity of wildfires.

The Newcastle Bush Fire Risk Management Plan identifies the level of risk posed by bush fires to community and environmental assets and establishes strategies, which the responsible land managers will implement to manage the bush fire risks identified.

Activities are then carried out to prevent the potential spread of wildfire from a reserve into the surrounding residential area into the reserve. These activities also aim to contribute to the overall protection of indigenous plant species known to occur within a reserve.

Hazard reduction is a key management activity for NCC in the management of wildlife. The intent of the Hazard Reduction Program is to identify areas of potential fire risk and to co-ordinate fire management practices.

Control burns are carried out in conjunction with NSW Fire Brigade. The main objective of burning for fire protection is to reduce fuel levels during mild weather conditions and thereby reduce the intensity and damage of any subsequent wildfire burning under hot, windy conditions that may be experienced during the fire season that extends from October to March. During the 2006/2007 financial year control burns were undertaken at one bushland site with the total area burned being five hectares. Seven bushland sites with the total area to be burned being 46.5 hectares is scheduled for 2007/2008.

Council also utilises non fire-based processes of hazard reduction and fuel reduction. This involves the clearing of ground fuels by mechanical means. During the 2006/2007 financial year major hazard reduction activities were carried out on thirty eight (38) bushland sites identified as high priority (Table 1). The area cleared being 20 hectares. While regular maintenance was undertaken of fire mitigation works on 41 bushland sites.

Future Direction

NCC is responding to the strategic direction set by the Newcastle Bush Fire Risk Management Plan through operational works being coordinated by Council's Community Greening team. These works include undertaking hazard assessment, preparing bush fire management strategies and developing asset protection zones. Council's Strategic Planning and Development group continue to assess development applications that require asset protection zones and issuing Section 66 hazard notices.

For Further Information

For further information about the Hazard Reduction Program call Council's Bushcare Officer at the Community Greening Centre, March Street Kotara on 02 4904 3306, or the Executive Officer of the Newcastle Bush Fire Management Committee, C/- New South Wales Fire Brigades, 44 Union Street Newcastle.

LGA 1993 - Section 428 (2) (j)

Multicultural and Linguistic Programs

Newcastle Region Art Gallery

- **NAIDOC Week 2007** The gallery collaborated with the Guraki committee to provide a week of film making workshops for Aboriginal youth, with a special screening of the short films produced at the gallery.
- **People with Disabilities Week** The gallery provided a program of guided tours and workshops for people with disabilities.
- **Seniors Week** Volunteer Gallery Guides hosted a lunch for seniors held at the gallery and then conducted guided tours of the exhibitions on display.
- **International Women's Day Event** The gallery hosted a lecture by artist and teacher Margaret McBride who discussed a number of women artists who were active in Newcastle in the 1950s and 1960s.
- **Exhibitions** The gallery has shown seven exhibitions of work by Aboriginal artists.
- **Acquisitions** 12 works by Aboriginal artists have come into the collection through purchase or bequest during the past financial year including five prints by Destiny Deacon, an installation and work on paper by Jonathan Jones and five cibachrome prints by Darren Siwes.
- **Workshops** With sponsorship from Australian and Decorative and Fine Arts Society, the gallery provided art workshops for children from schools in the Hunter designated as disadvantaged by the Education Department. Individual schools who were approached nominated deserving students for two full days of art activity.

Newcastle Region Library

- **Harmony Week 2007** The library celebrated Harmony Week by launching a new Community Language Collection consisting of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction in Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Greek and Italian. These languages were purchased as a result of community demand.

- **Reconciliation Week 2007** The Family Pictures exhibition focusing on the connection with family and place was undertaken to acknowledge the 1967 referendum which was a defining event in our nation's history and the first stage of the reconciliation movement in Australia. Photographic portraits of Aboriginal Elders from the local area were taken by Aboriginal photographer Mervin Bishop and an exhibition was launched during Reconciliation Week in May 2007. The project was a partnership with Newcastle Region Library, Awabakal Elders and NCC's Guraki Committee. The photographs and life stories of the Awabakal Elders will be added to the Local Studies collection of Newcastle Region Library as a record and reference for future generations.

Other activities

- **Australia Day** In 2006/2007 the Australia Day Committee extended the involvement of the Ethnic Communities Council in integrating their Fiesta Event into Australia Day activities. Fiesta will again be included in the 2008 Australia Day celebrations.
- **African Youth Projects** A series of music and arts workshops were undertaken with African young people from St Francis Xavier, San Clementé and St Pius X High Schools. Staff at the Loft Youth Venue mentored students from Merewether High School in organising and presenting African Awareness Day at Merewether High. In partnership with Tantrum Theatre, the Loft facilitated the involvement of 15 African young people in this performance including music and dance workshops which contributed to the production. In partnership with the Family Action Centre and the University of Newcastle, the Loft facilitated the development of a project combining sport and the arts.
- **The Loft - Past Present Future 4** A major arts workshop and celebration of Aboriginal youth culture in partnership with the local Aboriginal community.
- **Human Services** In March 2006 an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Cultural Awareness workshop was facilitated by Human Services for Newcastle Interagency members. Evaluations from the 27 participants were very positive; an outcome has been that local organisations are now more aware of ATSI issues, individual and group achievements and have established stronger links with ATSI services.
- **Water Safety Education Program for African Refugees** This program was delivered in the 2006/2007 swimming season to increase the understanding of basic water safety principles within the local African refugee population, particularly among the African youth who are the most likely to use the swimming pools and beaches, and are most at risk. The primary goal was to prevent drowning or immersion incidents within the African youth population. A secondary goal was to increase their participation in aquatic activities and achieve greater community integration (given the importance of aquatic activities in Newcastle). The pilot program was delivered by NCC Lifeguards and instructors from Hunter Surf Lifesaving with coordination assistance from local High schools and the Migrant Resource Centre.

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (k)

Works carried out on private land

No work was carried out on private land during the 2006/2007 financial period

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (l)

Donations made under section 356

Council has made the following donations under Section 356 (all figures are rounded to the nearest dollar)

Organisation/Event	2005/2006 Amount	2006/2007 Amount
AH & I Association	3,308	6,284
Allience Community Assistance Program	0	6,000
Anxiety Disorders Alliance	1,240	0
Australia Day Celebrations	40,666	47,565
Australian Facetors Guild	1,500	0
Carols By Candlelight	5,000	5,000

Organisation/Event	2005/2006 Amount	2006/2007 Amount
Cathedral Music Festival	10,000	0
Citycare Newcastle	0	3,000
CONDA Awards	8,000	8,000
Cultures in Action – Cultural STOMP	718	4,896
Dept of School Education – Star Struck	7,000	7,000
Disability Network	0	2,000
Emerging Artist Prize	1,500	0
Ex-Service Ceremonials	23,468	16,235
Festival of Sport	5,000	5,000
Fiesta	20,000	15,000
Free Use of Mobile Stage	31,226	28,972
Hall Rental – Various	93,099	82,025
Hunter District Cycling Club	0	3,000
Hunter Hurricanes Water Polo	12,003	2,367
Hunter Institute of Technology	3,000	0
Hunter Region Botanic Gardens	10,000	10,000
Hunter SLSA	10,000	10,000
Hunter Star Foundation	10,000	0
Hunter United Diving Academy	0	3,000
Hunter Valley Research Foundation	20,000	20,000
Hunter Volunteer Centre	2,500	0
Hunter Writers	8,000	8,000
Independent Musos Network – Blues Festival	0	3,000
Islington Business District Incorporated	11,529	10,815
Life Activities	0	12,000
Lions Club Warners Bay	5,000	5,000
Mattara – Festival of Newcastle	33,421	27,668
Migrant Resource Centre	4,750	0
National Park Croquet Club	0	1,000
National Young Writers Festival	15,000	15,000
New Lambton Chamber of Commerce	672	2,300
Newcastle & District Tennis Association	0	5,450
Newcastle Community Arts Centre	0	2,400
Newcastle Film Festival	8,000	0
Newcastle Historic Reserve Trust	0	7,000
Newcastle Junior Cricket Association	0	12,000
Newcastle Maritime Festival	30,000	20,000
Newcastle Music Week	0	5,359
Newcastle Show	3,308	0
Newcastle World Duathlon	0	15,000
Performing Arts	0	5,000
Rainbow Visions	1,500	4,900
Red Cross – Pakistan Earthquake	5,000	0
Road Closures	9,576	13,111
Samaritans Foundation	3,000	3,200
Shoot Out	10,000	10,000
Shortland Wetlands	10,000	10,000
Stockton Historical Society	8,738	0
Surfest	20,000	20,000
TAFE Music Week	1,818	0
Tantrum Theatre	12,000	2,000
Technical Aid to the Disabled	5,278	0
Triathlon Australia	0	5,000

Organisation/Event	2005/2006 Amount	2006/2007 Amount
Vocal	0	2,000
Woodberry Co-Operative Creation Out of the Blue	0	6,000
Total	\$525,818	\$518,547

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (m)

Human Resource Activities

During the 2006/2007 financial year, the following projects / activities were undertaken in the Human Resources Management Unit (HRMU)

Human Resources (HR) General

A survey of HR services was completed in March 2007. Feedback was sought from Group Managers, Managers and Coordinators. Based on the feedback, a restructure of the HR unit was approved by the General Manager. The aim of the change process initiated was to:

1. Better align the HR unit to the needs of a changing organisation
2. Provide a greater focus and resource level to the OHS Project
3. Improve the level of responsiveness of the HR service
4. Ensure that HR activities provide a “value add” and an “enabling” service to the organisation
5. Review key functions of the HR service to ensure that they meet Best Practice requirements

Significant success to date has been achieved through this process, with a continued focus on improving the HR unit over the next 12-18 months to ensure the changes are sustained which deliver measurable outcomes.

Occupational Health & Safety

NewSAFE Behavioural Program

In 2006/2007 NewSAFE has shown a considerable improvement in workplace observations indicating a 50% increase over the 12 month period.

NewSAFE promotes open communication and problem solving amongst all levels of Council and due to this, a number of SafeMates proposed a safety initiative aimed at re-engineering a number of our fleet vehicles. Due to this initiative, NCC was a finalist in the NSW WorkCover Safety Awards.

NewSAFE has also been involved in a number of networking events including Reinforcement Behavioural Safety National Conference where NCC presented a paper and two SafeMates were finalists for the Alex Jancewiz Award for OH&S Excellence.

Other successful initiatives by the SafeMates include significant improvements to NCC’s plant and equipment which has reduced potential safety hazards.

OH&S Project

Phase one of the OH&S Consolidation Project was completed in February 2007. This involved development of 21 systems procedures and supporting OH&S documentation. Prior to implementing the new OH&S Management System, in May 2007, WorkCover conducted a full systems compliance audit and issued NCC with a significant number of non-conformances and advised NCC that they would be audited again within 12 months.

Phase two of the project has started and it is envisaged NCC will be ready for the WorkCover audit in April/May 2008.

OH&S

There have been significant improvements in OH&S statistics over the past 12 months and a significant increase in hazard reporting across NCC. There has been an elevation of OH&S priorities across Council and the appointment of an OH&S Manager has emphasised that commitment by the Strategic Management Team.

Over the 12 months a large number of audits have been conducted including internal audits of NCC designated groups focusing on our high risk activities, RTA Single Invitation Contract and NCC Self Insurers OH&S management system audits and suppliers/contractor audits.

The OH&S Committee has been actively involved in completing workplace inspections across all sections of NCC and these have provided valuable information for managers in highlighting hazards in their particular workplaces.

Resourcing & Development

Learning & Development

Competency Review: All positions Salary Point 1 to Salary Point 6 have been reviewed to ensure competency models are consistent with position descriptions. Managers are required to review the content of competency models via the assessment and Performance Development System process to ensure currency of model.

The competency process has been reviewed and minor adjustments ensure consistency of application to all sections of Council when competency assessments are carried out. Work is currently being undertaken to develop OH&S competency models are developed for all positions Salary Point 7 and above.

The Learning & Development review has started and is still in an information gathering and research phase. The purpose of the review is to gain a clearer understanding of how the L&D budgets are being used and if Council is receiving the best return for training dollar expenditure. Early indications suggest HRMU needs to take a greater role in the administration of all training expenditure.

OH&S training is under constant review to ensure training initiatives are current and appropriate. Recent changes to structure have facilitated a need to objectively assess the value of what has been provided in recent years – this process will now be ongoing.

There has been a large amount of OH&S Training conducted this year with over 114 OH&S specific courses being conducted across NCC operations. The majority of this training has been targeted at our outdoor workforce and overall for the year the number of training courses has been reduced by 20% from the previous year.

People Resourcing

On completion of the recruitment review in March 2007, a new position HR Coordinator People Resourcing was established to meet the needs of the organisation. The new incumbent has significant experience in “best practice” recruitment having worked for both private and government organisations in Australia and abroad. The primary role of the coordinator is to:

- implement strategies aimed at streamlining processes and procedures to meet labour shortages
- deliver effective and efficient recruitment strategies to meet the short and long term capability needs of the organisation from a people resourcing perspective.

Remuneration & Engagement

The 2007 Salary Review for employees in Salary Point 7 to 24 was conducted between July and September. The review was based on employee performance over the period 2006/2007 against defined criteria.

A review of the job evaluation process has taken place in response to feedback from both management and staff. A draft job evaluation policy and procedure has been developed and is in the consultative stage. The system used to evaluate roles will continue to be Mercer CED Job Evaluation. The changes recommended will ensure greater consistency and more timely responses.

Internal communications continues to be a focus for the organisation. A number of projects are under way including a review of internal communication and induction.

LGA 1993 - Section 428 (2) (n)

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan Implementation

The following activities have been undertaken in accordance with Council's EEO Management Plan 2005-2008;

- Introduction to Equity, Diversity and Respect training sessions continued to be conducted every two months for new staff. This included training for new Managers, Supervisors, Coordinators and Team Leaders.
- The EEO Panel continues to meet on a bimonthly basis to review actions within the EEO Management Plan.
- Seven new "Workplace Contact Officers" received training and will support staff in workplace issues. Workplace Contact Officer meetings are held every three months.
- Harmony Day was celebrated with a multi-cultural breakfast. Again, orange ribbons were issued to staff and an awareness program communicated across Council.
- Aboriginal Cultural Awareness training continues to be conducted every two months.
- The Newcastle disAbility Employment Advisory Group has been established through Council's Human Services Unit. This group will bring awareness about the benefits of employing disabled people.
- Council's Language Aides Register has been updated to include new languages to assist Council staff to communicate with the local community.
- An EEO page on Council's intranet *Novopulse* has been developed and is updated monthly to provide staff with progress reports.
- An Ethnic Affairs Policy Statement (EAPS) has been developed and is currently on public exhibition.

LGA 1993 - Section 428 (2) (o)

External Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council

Council delegated functions to the following external bodies:

Body	Function
City East Precinct Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Newcastle's City East.
Darby Street Precinct Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Darby Street
City West Precinct Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Hunter Street West area and Civic area
Hamilton Business District Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Hamilton
Mayfield Business District committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Mayfield
Wallsend Town Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Wallsend
New Lambton Mainstreet Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of New Lambton
S355 BBC Housing Management and Development Committee	To aid the revitalisation of Newcastle through demonstration housing projects.
City East Precinct Committee	To advise on, promote and encourage the physical enhancement and business development of Newcastle's City East.
Adamstown Park Outer Grounds Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities

Body	Function
Adamstown Park Oval Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Beresfield/Tarro Parks Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Elernmore Vale Reserve Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Federal Park Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Heaton-Birmingham Gardens Parks Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Hexham Park Local Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Kotara Parks Local Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Myambalah Crescent Oval and Local Parks Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
New Lambton Ovals Board	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Stevenson Parks Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Stockton Parks Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities

Body	Function
Tuxford Park Local Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Waratah Park Oval Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities
Wickham Park Oval Committee	The objects of the Park Committee shall be the care, control and management (subject to Newcastle City Council and the Ordinances) of their designated sportsgrounds and associated facilities

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (p)

Companies in which Council held a controlling interest

Council held no controlling interests in companies during 2006/2007

LGA 1993 – Section 428 (2) (q)

Partnerships, Cooperatives or other joint ventures to which Council was a party

Newcastle Region Art Gallery

The gallery is one of eleven regional art galleries with a partnership arrangement with the National Gallery of Australia, giving us access to prestigious travelling exhibitions.

In 2006 the gallery also established successful partnerships with The National Gallery of Victoria, Bendigo Art Gallery and The National Library in Australia, the International Centre for Photography in New York and Britain's National Portrait Gallery, enabling the borrowing of important works and exhibitions.

Other joint ventures included:

- Partnership with the Sydney Writers' Festival which involved some of Australia's most famous poets including Les Murray creating work in response to key works in the collection and a weekend of readings at the Gallery.
- Partnership with the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Newcastle to present a monthly concert series.
- Partnership with Workers Educational Association (WEA) to present a weekly series of Art Appreciation lectures at the Gallery.
- Partnership with Hunter Institute of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) to provide a day long workshop as part of their workshop week program.
- Partnership with School of Fine Art at the University of Newcastle to provide a venue for lectures in Australian Art at the Gallery.
- Partnership with organisers of This is Not Art festival to provide a venue for activities for the festival.
- Partnership with Rainbow Visions Newcastle to present a lecture by an appropriate artist as part of the festival.

Newcastle Regional Museum

A joint partnership with Museums Australia Hunter Chapter, the Newcastle Regional Museum, Newcastle Region Library, Newcastle Region Art Gallery and the University of Newcastle successfully bid for the Museums Australia National Conference 2009 (MA 2009).

The museum worked with Newcastle TAFE Design to create a logo competition for the MA 2009.

A new collaborative project with the University of Newcastle Art Department began celebrating and commemorating the museum at its present Newcastle West project which will continue during the museum's redevelopment.

The museum collaborated with the Department of the Environment and a variety of Hunter Region Councils to host the 2007 Waste as Art exhibition.

Newcastle Regional Library

NCC participates with the Shires of Port Stephens, Gloucester and Dungog for the delivery of public library services to the region. The Shires purchase a range of administrative, computer and cataloguing services from NCC under the terms of a regional library agreement. The agreement was reviewed and a Newcastle & Hunter Co-operative Library Agreement developed. All registered library users in the region have access via a union catalogue to the joint holdings of the libraries of the member councils.

Newcastle Region Library has developed a number of partnerships which have enabled the library to offer a diverse range of programs to the community. These partnerships include:

- The Ten Minutes a Day program and Wacky Wombat program are early literacy programs for parents and babies and children under five. The program is a partnership with the Newcastle Permanent Building Society.
- The Sydney Writers Festival program was held during May with well known authors involved in 'Kids Night Out' and Joanne Harris presented to an adult audience.
- The About Face exhibition which portrayed famous Novocastrians was developed with the Newcastle Herald. The Herald also became a media partner for the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition providing free advertising for the duration of the exhibition.
- A number of small bookshops and publishers provided visiting authors to the library. These authors were promoted as part of an author visit program. 1233 ABC Newcastle provided advertising as a media partner for the author program.
- The University of Newcastle presented two exhibitions in the Lovett Gallery, including the Mark Twain exhibition which will also tour to New York.
- The Library offered a HSC program in partnership with Tantrum Theatre.

Loft Youth Venue

In addition to partnerships mentioned under the previous section on Multicultural and Linguistic Programs the Loft undertook the following partnerships:

- Newcastle Maritime Museum - Development of an oral/video history documentary about the State Dockyard involving ex dockyard workers and local youth video artists
- ACON/OCTAPOD - Big Queer Nation Radio Project recorded the oral histories of local Hunter gay and lesbian citizens
- Hunter Water - Development of a major aerosol art mural for the Charlestown Water tower.
- Arts Upper Hunter, Artstart Festival - Management of the Lower Hunter component of the Hunter Artstart Festival
- Hunter Institute of TAFE - TAFE music production program students provide sound production for some gigs at the Loft
- Mayfield Mainstreet and the Mayfield community - staff from the Loft facilitated the consultation process with local young people and skaters to develop a design for the Mayfield skate park.

Civic Precinct

Programming the Civic Precinct's annual live performance season INSPIRATIONS involves working with both federal and state arts funding bodies to assist with touring funding, and directly with international, national and local live performance producers to create opportunities to present to Newcastle audiences a diverse program of live performances. Local productions where the Civic Precinct entered into presentation and marketing partnerships included Stray Dog's Theatre Co's *Dante's Dream*, Shakespeare Et Al's *Rural Reflections* and Imaginary Friends *Trouble for Grubble in the Enchanted Forrest*. National performing arts joint ventures included Queensland Ballet's *The Nutcracker* and Bangarra Dance Theatre's *True Stories*. The International joint presentation was with Andrew McKinnon Presents and Living Arts New York and their production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

Arts NSW and the Australia Council's Playing Australia Fund brought major Australian company's to Newcastle including Bell Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Patch Theatre Company's *Who Sank the Boat*, OzOpera's *Carmen* and Circus Oz's *Defying Gravity* and many other productions.

Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships was involved in the following joint ventures and partnerships:

- Council, the Newcastle Alliance, the Honeysuckle Development Corporation and the Ministry for the Arts jointly funded the Livesites Program. This partnership has created a dynamic cultural events program for public places in Newcastle's city centre. Over 120 free, diverse, challenging and popular events were staged in Wheeler Place, Civic Park, and the Newcastle Mall and in various locations across Honeysuckle.
- The Newcastle Licensing Accord is a joint venture of Council, Licensed premises, Newcastle and Waratah Local Area Police Commands and state government agencies. Council coordinates the activities of the Accord, which are aimed at minimising the risk of harm from excessive consumption of alcohol.
- Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Council and the Newcastle Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) have jointly purchased a mobile van that is used to deliver the PCYC Mobile Van Hot Spot Program. The van includes computer games, DVDs, internet access and sporting equipment and is used in a large number of locations across the Newcastle and Lake Macquarie local government areas as a tool for police and Council to engage with young people in a positive manner.
- Council coordinated the annual Waste as Art community art competition and exhibition in partnership with the Department of Environment and Conservation and Maitland, Cessnock, Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie Councils. The competition, which aims to promote waste as a resource, attracted a record number of entries and visits to the exhibition space at the Newcastle Regional Museum.
- Partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice on coastal rehabilitation projects at Dixon Park and Newcastle Beach.
- Partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia's Green Reserve program and the Newcastle Port Corporation to deliver a dune restoration project at Nobby's Beach.
- Partnership with community organisations to extend the program of Events in Spring. Initiatives included joint programming, marketing, and promotion, coordination of approvals and provision of infrastructure. Events that participated in this project include; Mattara, This is Not Art, NSW Hill climb Championship, Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club Racing, National Maritime Festival, Rainbow Visions, Music Week, Darby Street Fair and YNOT.
- Environmental Achievement Awards are a partnership between NCC, Hunter Water, Harris Wheeler and Hunter Region Landcare Network. The partners provide financial sponsorship of this annual event; participate in peer review and judging panels.
- 53rd Annual Newcastle Combined Schools ANZAC Service is a partnership with the Newcastle ex-service community, Department of Education & Training Hunter/Central Coast, Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle, Newcastle Grammar School, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Australian War Memorial and the Newcastle Permanent Building Society to present a celebration of ANZAC Day that is unique of its kind in Australia. School students are tutored and mentored in the management and presentation of an ANZAC ceremony designed specifically for a student audience. The service was held on Tuesday 3 April 2007 at Civic Theatre Newcastle.
- Newcastle Ex-Service Ceremonies are a partnership with ten Newcastle ex-service organisations to produce a quality series of 12 annual ex-service commemorations that are held at ceremonial sites in the Newcastle CBD and Foreshore areas.
- The annual **Clean Up Australia Day** is organised locally as a joint effort between Lake Macquarie City Council and Newcastle City Council. 500 residents cleaned up at 23 sites across the Newcastle LGA. Throughout the year, Council also works with event organisers to reduce and manage waste better, making events like Cultural Stomp litter-free and reinforcing the reduce and recycle message to the community.

Human Services

Family Day Care entered into an Agreement with Samaritans Foundation to provide Early Intervention services under the DoCS three year 'Brighter Futures Program' initiative.

Family Day Care (FDC) in partnership with nine Hunter/New England FDC Schemes engaged a marketing firm to develop a marketing strategy 'Five Star Family Day Care', this initiative has been very successful to date resulting in an additional fifty children in care for Newcastle since it was launched in January.

Family Day Care was successful in receiving funding from the Workplace English Literacy and Language (WELL) program. TAFE will deliver the training modules. It is anticipated that up to 44 carers from Newcastle and Western Newcastle FDC will participate in this accredited training opportunity over the next twelve months

Strategic Planning & Development

The TogetherTODAY partnership was formalised through an interim Memorandum of Understanding that terminated on the 30 June 2007. TogetherTODAY was built on work and commitment of the Solar Newcastle partnership that was unsuccessful in its bid for \$15M Commonwealth Government Solar Cities funding.

TogetherTODAY is a Hunter business and community environment initiative. It was launched on 16 April 2007 along with NCC's ClimateCam® Billboard in Wheeler Place. TogetherTODAY is about showing people how to use energy and water more efficiently in their schools, homes and businesses and the ClimateCam® Billboard measures the combined efforts of our community.

The foundation members, from across our entire community include Newcastle City Council, NBN, one80 digitalpost, Coal & Allied managed by Rio Tinto Coal Australia, Macquarie Generation, EnergyAustralia, CSIRO, Hunter Water, Port Waratah Coal Services, University of Newcastle, NSW Department of Education and Training, TAFE NSW Hunter-Institute and the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The partnership is working toward the establishment of a not-for-profit entity.

Other partnerships held include,

- Shareholder and Guarantor of Hunter Councils. Janet Dore, NCC General Manager, is a board member. Hunter Councils is used for outsourcing records storage.
- Newcastle Airport Limited is a joint venture and Janet Dore is a board member.
- NSW Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme – Statewide is a joint venture and Eddie Stewart, NCC Risk & Administrative Services Manager is board member. The scheme insures the public liability, professional indemnity and property insurance exposures of Council
- Hunter Integrated Resources (HIR) is a joint venture and Janet Dore is Company Secretary and a Director; John Tate, Lord Mayor is a Director. HIR allows for waste processing.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (a)

Details of overseas visits undertaken by persons while representing Council

Person	Place / Purpose	Duration	Cost to Council
Janet Dore	Australian Institute of Company Directors Conference, Beijing, China (registration fee only)	3 days	\$2,750
Gavin Fry	Australasia Science & Technology Exhibitors Network, Otago Museum Dunedin, New Zealand	4 days	\$1,630
Michael McMahon	Study Tour OCE Office Automation Research Centre, Venlo, Netherlands	5 days	\$1954.39
Michael McMahon	XVII World Congress of Accountants Istanbul	4 days	\$4616.25

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (b)

Remuneration Packages for senior staff

Details of the total remuneration for each senior staff member employed during 2006/2007 is as follows:

Position	Total
General Manager	\$254,313
Group Manager, Corporate Services	\$183,164
Group Manager, City Services and Presentation	\$179,098
Group Manager, Community Development	\$179,015
Group Manager, Development and Environment	\$179,322
Group Manager, City Strategy (1 July 2006 - 6 March 2007)	\$115,273
2006/2007 Total	\$1,090,185
2005/2006 Total	\$1,092,655

LG (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (c)

Activities undertaken by the Council to Develop and Promote Services and Programs that Provide for Needs of Children

Newcastle Region Art Gallery

At the Newcastle Region Art Gallery guided tours and exhibition related workshops were held for children and youth groups. These included:

- 144 workshops
- 582 guided tours
- 140 schools and
- 13500 students

Special educational programs of interest to children and young people included:

Children's Workshops

- Employing locally based artists in studio practise workshops, from casting workshops to digital camera manipulation, in the Art Gallery Pavilion. During the year, 32 workshops were held with 300 participants. As well as these user pays workshops, schools often opt for a hands-on workshop to supplement a guided tour. This produced a further 60 workshops involving 650 students.
- These booked workshops were supplemented by artNRG, the annual program of weekend workshops sponsored by the Newcastle Permanent Foundation. This program which finished in November 2006 involved free drop in art making sessions on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Catering mainly for 4 to 9 year olds, the sessions attracted on average 60 people per weekend.

Teacher Training and Development

- Took place with a series of seminars for art teachers and student forums which involved high school and tertiary students involved from the Hunter Region

Community Events

- **Westfest** – The gallery was once again involved in subsidising Westfest activities for the 12-15 year old age group.

Exhibition Program

- The gallery exhibited *Artexpress*, the annual exhibition of works by students for the 2006 HSC. Another addition to the program focusing particularly on the interests of teenagers and youth was the interactive new media exhibition, *Experimenta Vanishing Point*.

Civic Precinct

The Civic Precinct Newcastle (CPN) venues present a program of live performances for primary and secondary aged children. There were 14 performances targeted at the primary age group, these were attended by 6,090 children. There were 28 performances targeting the secondary age group which were attended by 11,398 children

Live performances included:

Macbeth (Bell Shakespeare Co.),
Billy and the Garbage Monsters (Shakespeare Et Al),
Grubble – A Dragons Tale (Footlice Theatre Co.),
Jewells Showcase (Jewells Primary School),
Cirque De Newie (Newcastle Secondary School),
ANZAC Day School Service,
Who Sank the Boat (Patch Theatre Co.),
Richard III (Flying Teapot),
San Clemente School Concert (San Clemente Catholic School), and,
Hunter Primary and Secondary Schools Drama Festival.

In November 2006, the Civic Precinct employed a Marketing & Ticket Sales Co-ordinator to generate group ticket sales from schools and organisations providing holiday care for children. This effort was assisted by Arts NSW's ConnectEd scheme which provides ticket and transport subsidies combined with Civic Precinct venues offering attractive group ticket prices and organisational support for teachers and carers.

Group tickets sold from November 2006 to June 2007 totalled 3,105 and included:

- 176 for Angela and Penny's Holiday
- 116 for QLD Ballet's Nutcracker
- 207 for Billy and the Garbage Monsters
- 45 for Phobia
- 1,068 for Trouble for Grubble
- 1,499 for Macbeth

Community Partnerships

- Council's Coast & Estuary Support Officer coordinated the annual **Coastcare Summer Festival** with activities for children aged 5 – 15 and their parents. Activities included guided bush walks, rock platform walks, guest speaker nights, snorkelling and mangrove walks. Over 700 people took part in the activities over the 2 week period.
- The Community Partnerships team provided a range of **environmental education** services to schools. These include environmental and waste audits, tours of waste and recycling facilities, competitions and support to facilitate school participation in Clean Up Australia Day and speakers visiting schools to give talks on issues such as catchment management, coastal biodiversity and coastal management, recycling and litter for all ages, from pre-school to year 12.
- Council coordinated a number of puppet making workshops for children. Under the guidance of local artist Ken O'Regan, the children found creative ways to make puppets from plastic bags. The workshops highlight the damage plastic bags do to the environment and encourage children to utilise bags made from alternative materials.
- Whilst not specifically targeting at children the **Creeks Alive Water Bug Surveys** continually received high attendance by children and their families.

Newcastle Region Library

The Library hosted a number of book clubs, exhibitions, author visits, storytimes, Children's Book Week activities, Summer Reading and the National Simultaneous Storytime.

Highlights for the 2006/2007 year included:

- Over 3,000 children visited Newcastle Region Library during Book Week 2007.
- Sydney Writers Festival Event in Newcastle included Kids Night Out.
- Over 3,500 infants and children attending various storytime and baby book time sessions.
- Conducting school visits for 1,730 students.
- More than 2,400 children participating in school holiday and summer reading programs.

Loft Youth Venue

NCC supported a range of youth cultural development activities including festivals and events and a youth venue. The youth venue is now operating at its purpose-renovated heritage building in the Newcastle CBD.

The programs offered by the Loft aim to develop young people's skills as the organisers and managers of their own activities and events.

The Loft provides resources, mentoring and space for a diverse range of activities and events including Inzine (a publication for local young writers), a visual arts program, an aerosol art program, and a comprehensive and diverse music program including all-ages gigs. Internet access, artists-in-residence, school holiday programs and a volunteers program are also provided. Recent initiatives include the establishment of Newcastle's first youth radio station and a partnership with the TAFE Music program.

The Loft is increasing its outreach activities including a weekly after-school program at Wallsend District Library and holiday programs across the LGA.

Highlights of the 2006/2007 year included:

- 13,756 young people actively participating in Loft programs.
- A further 22,417 young people accessed Loft activities via promotional activities.
- A total of 48 bands used the Loft for rehearsals and a total of 94 bands performed at Loft gigs.
- The Loft undertook a total of 19 partnerships with community and government organisations.

Human Services

Council continues to sponsor two Family Day Care Schemes and one Long Day Care Centre to offer affordable options for quality childcare in the city. In 2006/2007 there were 774 children registered with these services from 625 families.

The Family Day Care schemes have achieved Quality Assurance accredited under The Family Day Care Association and the childcare centre is currently accredited until 2008 with high levels achieved in all areas.

The annual Westfest school holiday program for 12 to 15 year olds held during the July school holidays continues to prove popular. Council contracted 11 local providers to stage a total of 55 free events which 878 young people attended. This is an increase of 9.4% participation rate from July 2005.

Community Facilities

Council provided a number of facilities from which children's services and programs are offered to the community. These include eight purpose-built childcare centres in addition to the community facilities which are used for vacation care, playgroups, early childhood health, family support programs, out of school hours care and recreational activities.

Council also maintained a range of recreational areas and sporting venues for use by children in structured and unstructured activities.

Youth Council

Council provided funding for the operation of the Newcastle Youth Council which offers an opportunity for young people to reflect the interests of their peers and raise awareness of issues affecting youth.

Youth Week

Council allocated funding for activities during Youth Week to promote a positive image of young people and an opportunity for open discussion on relevant issues. Youth Week 2007 saw 17 events provided by several community based organisations, the Loft Youth Venue and Youth Council.

The Youth Council planned, promoted, supported and staged events during Youth Week. The 2007 event included the Young Writers, Composers and Multi Media Artists Competition – 'Technology - how it influences my life' attracting 55 entries.

The Youth Forum hosted by the Newcastle Youth Council held at The Loft allowed for discussion, networking and communication between young people, local government and youth organisations. This year's theme was 'Launch Yourself and Make Changes' and asked participants what they are passionate about and what they want to change. After lunch the session focussed on how to get their ideas or passions out there; how to present them and how to apply for funding.

Facilities Management

Annual School's Water Safety Education Program

Council's professional lifeguards give presentations to approx 50 Newcastle LGA primary schools reaching over 11,000 students, teachers and groups with special needs.

The program has national accreditation from AustSwim and provides children and teachers with essential information directed at ensuring children's safety around water at beaches, pools, rivers, dams and around the home. The program is delivered through the following mediums - lectures, educational DVDs, brochures and activity booklets and handouts.

Museum

The exhibitions and public programs presented by the Newcastle Regional Museum are child and family centred. Specific programs aimed at children of a range of ages in 2006/2007 were:

- Curation, child focused material and on-site education programs for the major exhibition *Games People Play*, including a special section for preschool visitors.
- Promotion and staging of special events for travelling exhibitions *Intech*, *CO2 Dragsters*, *Robo Cup* and *Waste as Art* which had direct relevance to families and children.
- Holiday programs in the form of Science Shows which included the development of 4 new shows, under the umbrella of "Science in Action" and the provision of games activities during one of the holiday periods.

The following numbers of children took advantage of formal education programs:

	2005/2006	2006/2007
Preschool	406	123
Primary	8,794	1,120
Secondary	2,233	312
Child Recreation	1,380	0

Child and family activities are also centred on the Supernova Science Centre, which incorporates the section Mininova specifically aimed at early childhood.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (d) (i)

Programs undertaken to promote services and access to services for residents and other users of services

- **Disability Action Plan, 2005-2010** lodged with the Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission
- Aged and Disability Services partnered with the Disability Network Hunter to provide a day of activities for **International Day of People with a disAbility** in December 2006.
- The **disAbility Employment Advisory Group** resourced by Council's Community Worker for Aged and Disability Services has developed a partnership between business and employer groups to improve employment outcomes for people with a disability within Council and in the wider community.
- Facilitation of a working party by the Community Worker Aged and Disability Services on the **Positive Ageing Strategy Hunter** (Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care) has resulted in increased collaboration across the Hunter to develop strategies to improve housing options for older people.
- The **Access Advisory Committee** offers an opportunity for people with a range of disabilities to provide valuable advice to Council on a range of access issues and continues to be resourced by Council's Community Worker for Aged and Disability Services.
- Council continues to allocate funds for installation of kerb ramps throughout the city.
- The online **Community Directory** was officially launched at Wallsend Library on 5 December 2006. The **Library** provides services for people with a print disability including large print and talking books on cassette and compact disc – mainly fiction and popular non-fiction subjects. The Library is also currently trialling the Audio Read Navigator, a portable handheld device for people with a vision impairment which reads books aloud.
- A **Home Library Service** is provided for residents of the LGA who are unable to access the Library due to age, illness or disability. Nursing homes and retirement villages in the LGA can arrange a regular bulk loan of library material for their residents.
- Adaptive technology is provided so that people with a disability can access information and convert it into a format suitable for their needs. Zoom text and jaws software is available on one public access computer in each Library branch. Wallsend District Library also has a dedicated computer for patrons with a print disability which has a scanner linked to Kurtzweil software and a magnifier reader. Most of the library's computers have the Windows 2000 Operating System that provides some accessibility functionality's including Magnifier, Narrator and On-Screen Keyboard.
- Council facilities based at localities across the city are used to provide a range of programs for all sectors from families with young children to older residents.
- Council continued to support Seniors Week with assistance to the Seniors Week Advisory Panel and sponsorship towards events.
- Human Services staff works in collaboration with state government departments including participation with the Area Assistance Scheme (AAS).

The following projects covering Newcastle LGA were funded in 2006:

- **Empower Families with Education** will provide parents and primary carers of children with disabilities aged 0-18 yrs with the management skills, leadership skills and education to enable them to become involved in the development and implementation of activities and events specific to improving the life outcomes of their special needs children, their siblings and their family unit while promoting inclusion in the local community.
- **Family and Community Restorative and Recovery** to establish an educational and support program for families and significant others of participants in long-term drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.
- **Hunter Women's Health Service** to set up a bulk-billing women's medical service at the Hunter Women's Centre (HWC). This project will improve health outcomes for women, particularly those who are marginalised, disadvantaged, have a disability or who suffer effects of domestic violence, depression, sexual assault in childhood or adulthood.
- **Fig Tree Community Garden** will facilitate a skill and business development program for youth at risk and people of low socio-economic backgrounds. The project will provide hands-on training, skill development and opportunities for business development and employment in industries relating to community gardens.

Council also works in close cooperation with the community sector to ensure that a broad range of services and programs are available for residents in the city. The Human Services section facilitates the **Community Development Support Expenditure Scheme** (CDSE) in partnership with 13 local participating registered clubs. The 2006/2007 CDSE Category 1 funds of \$520,393 was allocated to 48 community organisations specifically for community welfare and social services, community development projects, community health services and employment assistance activities.

Community Forums established in ten areas in the City continue to provide a vehicle for improved information flow between Council and residents. Issues discussed at meetings are varied and have provided an opportunity for residents to input into Council decision making processes. The Forums also are a vehicle to provide information sessions to residents so that they are better informed about available services from Council.

Council operates under a Consultation Policy, which promotes a pro-active approach for equitable access and encourages all sections of the community to participate in Council decision making processes.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (d) (ii)

Category 1 Business Activities

Waste Management Disposal Services

This provides disposal facilities for domestic, commercial and industrial waste streams, construction and demolition waste separation, greenwaste stockpiling and processing together with the operation of a small vehicle receipt centre and on site resource recovery and recycling operation.

Waste Management Collection Services

This business operation provides for a weekly domestic and commercial waste collection service, weekly 'drop-off' centres for the collection of small quantities of greenwaste, a quarterly kerbside greenwaste collection service together with servicing of street, park and beach litter bins.

Civic Precinct

The Civic Precinct Newcastle operates three main venues; City Hall, Civic Theatre and Playhouse. The Precinct manages two distinct types of business activity;

1. meetings, conferences and functions drawing income from facility hire fees, food and beverage sales and event services, and
2. hosting and presenting cultural, social and community events and live performances that require an audience and where income is generated from ticket sales and/or facility hire fees.

The Civic Precinct provides community based and not-for-profit organisations support through discount facility hire fees plus it presents a programme of performing arts featuring original local, Australian and international productions on offer through subscription and single ticket sales. Annually, over 800 meetings and functions are booked while over 355 ticketed live performances are presented.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (d) (iii)

Category 2 Business Activities

Beresfield Child Care Centre

This 60 place Child Care Centre is in its 26th year of operation. Income is derived from fees with a small subsidy from the State Government. The budget is structured on a break-even basis.

Off Street Parking

Approximately 1900 paid parking spaces are provided in three multi deck parking stations and several at-grade car parks located throughout the Newcastle CBD, and operated by Business Management. The fees are set annually having regard to market forces and the objectives outlined in Council's adopted Parking Strategy and Business Plan.

Commercial Properties

Council owns four properties for 'Investment Purposes' and these are managed by the Property Management element within Business Management along with many other leased properties owned for public purposes. Leases are negotiated and rentals assessed on a commercial basis with independent valuation and commercial advice obtained wherever necessary to ensure appropriate market returns are achieved.

Newcastle's Stockton Beach Tourist Park

The tourist park is located on Crown Land adjacent to Stockton Beach with Council the appointed Trust Manager under the Crown Land Act. The tourist park is operated under a contract management arrangement overseen by Business Management. The tourist park has approximately 250 sites comprising powered and unpowered caravan and tent sites, cabins and static holiday van sites. Fees are set annually having regard to market forces and industry trends and the operation and development of the facility is fully self funded.

Beresfield Golf Course

The course is located adjacent to the western boundary of the city and provides an 11 hole public facility which includes public amenities, an unlicensed club room and a Golf Pro Shop. Fees are set annually having regard to the course's business plan and its positioning in the market place. A Golf Professional operates the course under contract management and Council staff carry out greenkeeping and grounds maintenance for the facility.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (d) (iv)

Expenses, Revenues & Assets for Category 1 Activities

	Revenues	Expenses	Assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Collection	10,937	9,360	2,544
Disposal	14,512	13,281	11,453
Civic Precinct	2,207	3,651	76

LG (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (d) (v)

Implementation of Competitive Neutrality Principles

Council at its meeting of 17 November 1998 adopted the categorisation of business activities reported under Clause 31 (1)(d)(ii) & (iii). In doing so, Council considered a report on each business activity under the headings of:

- General
- Objectives of the Service
- Community/Public Benefit
- Cost
- Scale
- Revenue Raising
- Competition
- Conclusion

A financial model has been developed to satisfy all corporatisation requirements including full cost attribution for the two Category 1 Waste Management businesses.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (d) (vi)

Competitive Neutrality Pricing Requirements in Relation to Category 1 Business Activities

Council's Category 1 businesses have full cost attribution to satisfy competitive neutrality requirements.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause (1) (d) (vii)

Complaints handling mechanism for competitive neutrality complaints

Council adopted a Complaints Handling Procedures Policy on 17 November 1998, incorporating a complaints handling system for competitive neutrality issues.

Council's Electronic Document Management System records, tracks and reports on all public verbal and written requests or complaints.

LG (General) Regulation 1999 2005 - Clause 217 (1) (d) (viii)

Actual vs Projected Performance for Category 1 Activities

Service Element	Performance Standards			Comments
	Measures	2006/2007 Target	2006/2007 Actual	
Site Operations	Compaction density of landfill	0.75t/m ³	0.762 t/m ³	Target achieved.
	Waste diverted from landfill	18.0%	17.8%	Target not achieved. Ability to achieve the target was influenced by changes to the Section 88 Waste Levy which now discourages source separation of building waste. Receipt of large quantities of contaminated soil was also a factor.
Waste Collection	Reduce the number of missed services	Average of 155 per month	158 average per month	Target not achieved. Result excludes data for June 07 due to large number of requests as a result of the Flood/storm emergency.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (d) (ix)

Summary of competitive neutrality complaints

There have been no competitive neutrality complaints made against Council during 2006/2007.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1) (e)

Stormwater Management Services

No levy generated 2006/2007 Financial Year.

LG (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(f)

Companion Animals

1. Statement on Activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation, including information on:

a) Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the department.	Completed
b) Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the department.	Completed – total 43 forms dog attack forms sent to DLG
c) Amount of funding spent relating to companion animal management and activities.	\$ 756,242.00
d) Companion animal community education programs carried out.	Nil funding allocated within 2006/07 budget.
e) Strategies Council has in place to promote and assist the desexing of dogs and cats	Companion Animal Management Plan outlines actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the benefits of desexing, this occurs at Impounding and / or informal discussions with owners • Information packs forwarded to owners when their animal is microchipped. • All rehomed animals are desexed prior to sale through RSCPA
f) Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under Section 64 (Companion Animals Act) to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals	All unclaimed animals are sold to RSPCA for assessment for rehoming.
g) Off leash areas provided in the Council area	Total 17 including one leash free area with dog agility equipment
h) Detailed financial information on the use of companion animals fund money for management and control of companion animals in the area.	Completed – see table below

Activity	Expense \$
Feral Cat Management	2,156.00
Cat complaints / pick up / surrender	32,973.00
Dog Attack complaints / management	74,912.00
Dog Barking complaints / management	57,927.00
Dogs Defecating in public place	12,922.00
Dogs held by public / straying / patrols	224,014.00
Leash Free area patrols / management	35,090.00
Aggressive Bird Management	4,434.00
Impound Facility	241,743.00
Registration / Chipping	45,071.00
Companion Animal Procedures / Management	25,000.00
Total Cost	\$756,242.00

2. Council Seizure Activity

	Seized			Returned to Owner			Transferred to Council's Facility		
	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total
Total	120	768	888	1		1	119	768	887

3. Animals in and Arriving at Council's Facility

	Start of Month Animals in Council's Facility			From Seizure Activities			Dumped			Surrendered by Owners		
	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total
Total	13	167	180	119	768	887	2	367	369	0	17	17

4. Animals in and Arriving at Council's Facility

Released to Owners			Euthanased			Sold			Released to Orgs for Rehoming			Died at Council's Facility			Stolen from Council's Facility			Escaped from Council's Facility		
Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total	Cats	Dogs	Total
11	657	668	89	261	350	24	244	268	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Freedom of Information Act 1989

Freedom of Information Statistical Return

Period: Financial Year ended 30 June 2007

NIL RETURNS

	2005/2006	2006/2007
Are all figures in SECTION A "nil"?	No	No
Is the figure for SECTION C "nil"?	Yes	Yes
Are all figures in SECTION E "nil"?	Yes	Yes
Is the figure for SECTION F "nil"?	Yes	Yes
Are all figures in SECTION L "nil"?	Yes	Yes

If you answered "Yes for these five questions this is a nil return.

Is this a "NIL" return? No

Contact details for queries relating to this return:

Name: Ben Davis- FOI Co-ordinator

Telephone: (02) 4974 2471

SECTION A - Numbers of new FOI requests - Information relating to numbers of new FOI requests received, those processed and those incomplete from the previous period.

FOI Requests	Personal		Other		Total	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
A1 New (including transferred in)	19	8	22	28	41	36
A2 Brought forward	2	Nil	3	2	5	2
A3 Total to be processed	22	8	24	30	46	38
A4 Completed	21	7	23	20	44	27
A5 Transferred out	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
A6 Withdrawn	Nil	1	Nil	7	Nil	8
A7 Total processed	21	8	23	27	44	35
A8 Unfinished	0	Nil	2	3	2	3

SECTION B - What happened to completed requests?

FOI Requests	Personal		Other	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
B1 Granted in full	13	3	12	10
B2 Granted in part	8	4	10	10
B3 Refused	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
B4 Deferred	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B5 Completed	21	7	23	20

SECTION C - Ministerial Certificates Issued

	2005/2006	2006/2007
C1 Ministerial Certificates issued	Nil	Nil

SECTION D - Formal Consultation

	2005/2006	2006/2007
D1 Number of requests requiring formal consultation	23	13

SECTION E - Amendment of personal records

Result of Amendment Request	2005/2006	2006/2007
E1 Result of amendment – agreed	Nil	Nil
E2 Result of amendment – refused	Nil	Nil
E3 Total	Nil	Nil

SECTION F - Notation of personal records

	2005/2006	2006/2007
F1 Number of requests for notation	Nil	Nil

SECTION G - FOI Requests granted in part or refused

Basis of Disallowing or Restricting Access	Personal		Other	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
G1 Application incomplete - S19	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G2 Deposit not paid - S22	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G3 Diversion of resources - S25(1)(a1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G4 Exempt - S25(1)(a)	8	4	10	10
G5 Otherwise available - S25(1)(b),(c) & (d)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G6 Documents not held - S28(1)(b)	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
G7 Deemed refused over 21 days - S24(2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G8 Released to medical practitioner - S31(4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G9 Totals	8	4	11	10

SECTION H - Costs and fees of requests processed during the period

	Assessed Costs		FOI Fees Received	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
H1 All completed requests	3795.00	3000.00	2078.00	2280.00

SECTION I - Discounts allowed

Type of Discount Allowed	Personal		Other	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
I1 Public interest	Nil	Nil	1	1
I2 Financial hardship – Pensioner/child	2	Nil	2	Nil
I3 Financial hardship – Non-profit organisation	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
I4 Totals	4	Nil	2	1
I5 Significant correction of personal records	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION J - Days to process

Elapsed Time	Personal		Other	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
J1 0 – 21 days	10	4	12	10
J2 22 - 35 days	9	3	7	10
J3 Over 35 days	2	Nil	4	Nil
J4 Totals	21	7	23	20

SECTION K - Processing Time

Elapsed Time	Personal		Other	
	2005/2006	2006/2007	2005/2006	2006/2007
K1 0 - 10 hours	21	7	20	19
K2 11 - 20 hours	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
K3 21 - 40 hours	Nil	Nil	1	1
K4 Over 40 hours	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
K5 Totals	21	7	23	20

SECTION L - Reviews and Appeals

Reviews and Appeals		2005/2006	2006/2007
L1	Number of internal reviews finalised	Nil	Nil
L2	Number of Ombudsman reviews finalised	Nil	Nil
L3	Number of District Court appeals finalised	Nil	Nil

Details of Internal Review Results

Basis of Internal Review	Personal		Other	
	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied
L4 Access refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L5 Deferred	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L6 Exempt matter	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L7 Unreasonable charges	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L8 Charge unreasonably incurred	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L9 Amendment refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
L10 Totals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 - Section 33(3)

Statement of Action Taken and Statistical Details of Reviews Conducted under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act

The Act prescribes that Council may hold personal information concerning yourself for a lawful purpose that is directly related to an activity or function of Council and is necessary for that purpose.

Any information held by Council is required to carry out Council's lawful and proper functions and to keep you informed on issues before Council, should the need arise. All such use will be in accordance with this Act, its associated Management Plan and code.

If you want to access your personal information held by Council you are welcome to request such information by contacting Council's Privacy Contact Officer.

Newcastle City Council did not have any Part 5 reviews as per Section 33(3)(b) of this Act during the 12 month period to 30 June 2007.

Newcastle City Council has adopted the Model Management Plan as developed by the Department of Local Government.

Council, with Hunter Councils, developed uniform processes and documents for the implementation of the provisions of the Act across member councils.

These documents can be accessed on Council's website at www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 – Section 93G (5)

Planning Agreements

No planning agreements were undertaken by Council in the 2006/2007 Financial Year.

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSE REGISTER 2006/2007 - PAYMENTS MADE TO 30 JUNE 2007

	GENERAL				CONFERENCE / SEMINARS / ENTERTAINMENT				TOTALS	
	Member's Fees (including Lord Mayoral Allowance)	Vehicle Expense (including use of Council Cars)	Mobile Phone / Fax / Telephone	Internet & Computer expenses	Registration Costs	Travelling Expenses	Accommodation	Other / Miscellaneous	Total 2006/2007 Expenditure	Cumulative Total Expenditure term of Council Starting April 2004
TATE John	82,080.00	241.73	4,125.94	22.30	-	-	-	-	86,469.97	273,553.95
ARNOLD Cassandra	20,965.00	-	1,445.23	479.40	731.82	-	435.00	-	24,056.45	75,448.31
BUMAN Aaron	20,965.00	-	4,144.47	-	68.25	-	-	-	25,177.72	73,855.28
EADE Marilyn	20,965.00	342.03	1,750.80	479.40	1,653.64	38.45	861.37	118.64	26,209.33	87,480.41
GAUDRY Barbara	20,965.00	132.35	1,925.19	493.40	192.73	-	-	-	23,708.67	76,562.02
HORNERY Sonia	20,965.00	1,025.92	1,908.51	479.40	367.28	-	-	-	24,746.11	79,066.47
JACKSON Gwen	20,965.00	497.56	1,085.94	664.36	-	-	-	-	23,212.86	75,451.26
McKENZIE Ian	20,965.00	566.84	* (204.19)	-	380.00	134.20	1,045.44	219.36	23,106.65	74,562.04
O'NEILL Helene	20,965.00	-	938.82	479.40	-	-	-	-	22,383.22	69,066.03
OSBORNE Michael	20,965.00	146.27	* 1,430.21	609.77	765.91	-	315.00	-	24,232.16	78,176.89
PARSONS Keith	20,965.00	1,385.63	1,799.45	479.40	1,090.91	976.67	668.50	358.19	27,723.75	97,375.66
SCOBIE Paul	20,965.00	736.39	1,046.33	599.20	-	-	-	-	23,346.92	73,085.85
SCULLY Barry	20,965.00	2,373.21	1,313.19	143.75	258.19	-	-	-	25,053.34	78,160.97
Actual Year to Date	333,660.00	7,447.93	22,709.89	4,929.78	Actual Year to Date			10,679.55	379,427.15	1,211,845.15
Total Budget Allocation	333,660.00	14,000.00	18,000.00	4,500.00	Total Budget Allocation			30,000.00	400,160.00	1,247,348.99
Budget Year to Date	333,660.00	14,000.00	18,000.00	4,500.00	Budget Year to Date			30,000.00	400,160.00	1,247,348.99
Variation	-	6,552.07	(4,709.89)	(429.78)	Variation			19,320.45	20,732.85	35,503.84

* CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY COUNCILLORS TOWARD EXPENSES - SEE PAGE 3

COUNCIL CHAMBERS & COUNCILLORS' ROOM - CITY HALL

	Council Chambers Rent	Meeting Expenses - Room Hire	Meeting Expenses - Meals	Phones	Fax	Councillor's Room Expenses	Total 2006/2007 Expenditure	Cumulative Total Expenditure term of Council Starting April 2004
Total Budget Allocation	44,606.00	6,150.00	41,000.00	740.00	200.00	4,000.00	96,696.00	305,046.00
Actual Year to Date	42,890.00	823.80	38,965.80	782.62	233.29	885.48	84,580.99	294,435.39
Budget Year to Date	44,606.00	6,150.00	41,000.00	740.00	200.00	4,000.00	96,696.00	305,046.00
Variation	1,716.00	5,326.20	2,034.20	(42.62)	(33.29)	3,114.52	12,115.01	10,610.61

** GST NOT INCLUDED IN REGISTER **

DAYS REPRESENTING COUNCIL - AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

	TATE John	ARNOLD Cassandra	BUMAN Aaron	EADE Marilyn	GAUDRY Barbara	HORNERY Sonia	JACKSON Gwen	McKENZIE Ian	ONEILL Helene	OSBORNE Michael	PARSONS Keith	SCOBIE Paul	SCULLY Barry	TOTAL
Meetings														
Council	26	24	22	26	21	20	25	19	25	25	25	21	26	305
Committee	68	56	42	67	52	61	72	43	71	48	66	53	75	774

Conference/Seminar/Entertainment Paid in Current Budget 2006/2007	Location	Date													
Future Local Government Conference	Melbourne	31-May-06										2			2
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Lunch	Newcastle	14-Jul-06				1								1	2
Marsdens Conference	Bankstown	14-Jul-06									1				1
Hunter Region Economic Update Breakfast	Newcastle	21-Jul-06			1										1
* Association of Mining Related Councils	Gunnedah	28-Jul-06				1									1
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Lunch	Newcastle	01-Sep-06					1								1
UDIA Hunter Chapter Panel Meeting	Newcastle	19-Sep-06									1				1
LGA Conference 2006	Blue Mountains	28-Oct-06		4		4			4		4	4			20
Wellbeing Watch Lunch HVRF	Newcastle	13-Sep-06						1	1						2
Hunter Region Economic Update Breakfast	Newcastle	27-Oct-06			1										1
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Lunch	Newcastle	30-Oct-06						1							1
National General Assembly	Canberra	07-Nov-06				4									4
* Association of Mining Related Councils	Condoblin	10-Nov-06										1			1
Hunter Business Chamber Luncheon	New Lambton	14-Nov-06						1							1
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Lunch	Newcastle	16-Nov-06													0
LGA Climate Change	Sydney	27-Nov-06										1			1
Newcastle Business Club Luncheon	Newcastle	12-Dec-06									1				1
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Forum	Newcastle	12-Dec-06						1						1	2
Newcastle Law Society 2007 Opening Term	Newcastle	31-Jan-07										1			1
* Association of Mining Related Councils	Gloucester	08-Feb-07										1			1
Ncle Bus Club Luncheon Cr Tate guest speaker	Newcastle	20-Feb-07				1	1	1				1		1	5
Property Council Hunter Forum: Ncle City Plan	Newcastle	26-Feb-07												1	1
Ncle Bus Club Luncheon on Climate Change	Newcastle	27-Feb-07										1			1
Property Council of Aust - Hunter Forum	Newcastle	09-Mar-07							1			1			3
Bushfire in a Heating World	North Sydney	31-May-07							2						2
* Association of Mining Related Councils	Narrabri	10-May-07										2			2
* Hunter Councils Meeting	Scone	24-May-07										2			2
* Attended as Elected Representative															
TOTAL CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR			0	4	2	10	3	6	0	8	0	5	19	0	4

THIS REGISTER IS BASED ON PAYMENTS MADE BY COUNCIL

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY COUNCILLORS TOWARD EXPENSES - AS AT 30 JUNE 2007

Contribution Towards	Councillor	Amount
IT Contribution - July 2006	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - August 2006	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - September 2006	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - October 2006	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - November 2006	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - December 2006	Cr I McKenzie	13.00
IT Contribution - January 2007	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - February 2007	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - March 2007	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - April 2007	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - May 2007	Cr I McKenzie	48.00
IT Contribution - June 2007	Cr I McKenzie	100.41
Telephone contribution 2005/2006	Cr M Osborne	122.21
Telephone contribution 2006/2007	Cr M Osborne	109.18
	Actual Year to Date	\$ 824.80