



ETHERIDGE SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009



... a part of the GULF SAVANNAH REGION





ETHERIDGE SHIRE

.....a part of the Gulf Savannah Region.

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Welcome to Etheridge Shire Council's Annual Report



Welcome to the Etheridge Shire Council's Annual Report for 2008/09. This report has been compiled to provide a snapshot of Council's performance for the past 12 months – what we achieved, for whom and why. The report also aims to provide readers with an indication of how well Council and the Community of Etheridge are moving towards the future.

Council's agenda is shaped directly from the Corporate Plan which is Council's road map. It clearly sets the direction for our journey and focuses our organisation on the ultimate destination.

The plan explains the strategic planning framework Council has used to translate the Community's vision into action. It sets strategic priorities and objectives and builds in measurable checks and balances to gauge success along the way. These objectives are translated into "on the ground" action by operational plans and budgets annually. How effectively Council performs against each priority will appear within the Annual Report.

The process also ensures Council takes a good look at the way it conducts its business, encouraging continuous improvement and cost effectiveness. It puts in place an agenda of change necessary for success.

This report has been produced to provide an accurate record of what Council achieved over the past 12 months to meet community expectations and also to celebrate Council's achievements.

The Annual Report is the major accountability tool in Council's corporate governance framework providing non financial and financial information to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of our operations.



Corporate Strategic Objectives

Mission Statement

*“Enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors through –
The provision of services and infrastructure;
Influencing and supporting sustainable growth and prosperity.”*

Vision Statement

“A Shire comprised of a stronger, growing community”

Values

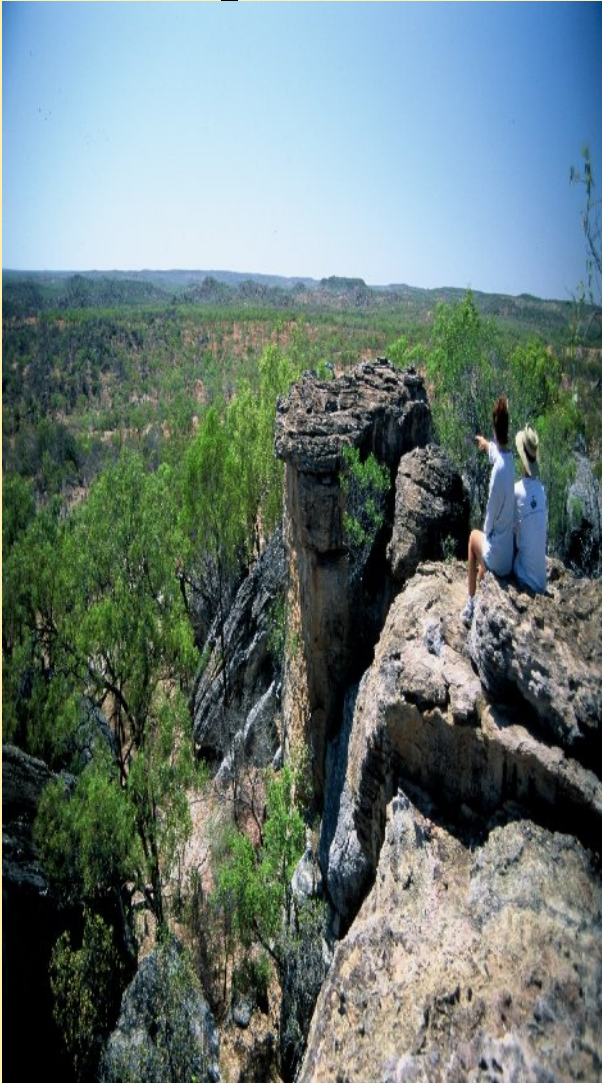
In all its dealings Council acknowledges that the achievement of quality services and facilities requires a united team approach by our elected representatives and our workforce.

Respect:	For the views, values and aspirations of all individuals and organisations within the Community.
Integrity & Accountability:	In all areas of Council operations
Excellence:	In individual and collective delivery of Council's services
Affordability & Sustainability:	In the development and delivery of Council's services
Investment in Employees:	Through employee training, employee involvement and strategic human resource planning which is aimed at preparing employees to meet current and future challenges.





About Etheridge Shire



The Etheridge Shire In the heart of the Gulf Savannah...

The early history of the Etheridge Shire is synonymous with famous explorers such as Leichhardt (1844-45), Gregory (1855-56), McKinlay (1862) and Jardine (1864), all of whom traversed the area seeking minerals, timber and good pastoral land.

History also records that in 1869 a young geologist named Richard Daintree explored the area around 41 Mile Creek and the Gilbert and Copperfield rivers, revealing the presence of payable gold. May 1870 saw the establishment of the community of Etheridge, along the banks of the Etheridge River. In November of the same year, this new settlement became known as Georgetown, named after the first gold commissioner in the region, Howard St. George.

The Etheridge Shire covers approximately 40,000 square kilometres of Queensland's Gulf Savannah Region.

It lies over a vast formation of ancient pre-Cambrian rock that is rich in mineral and semi-precious stones and is a Mecca for amateur prospectors.

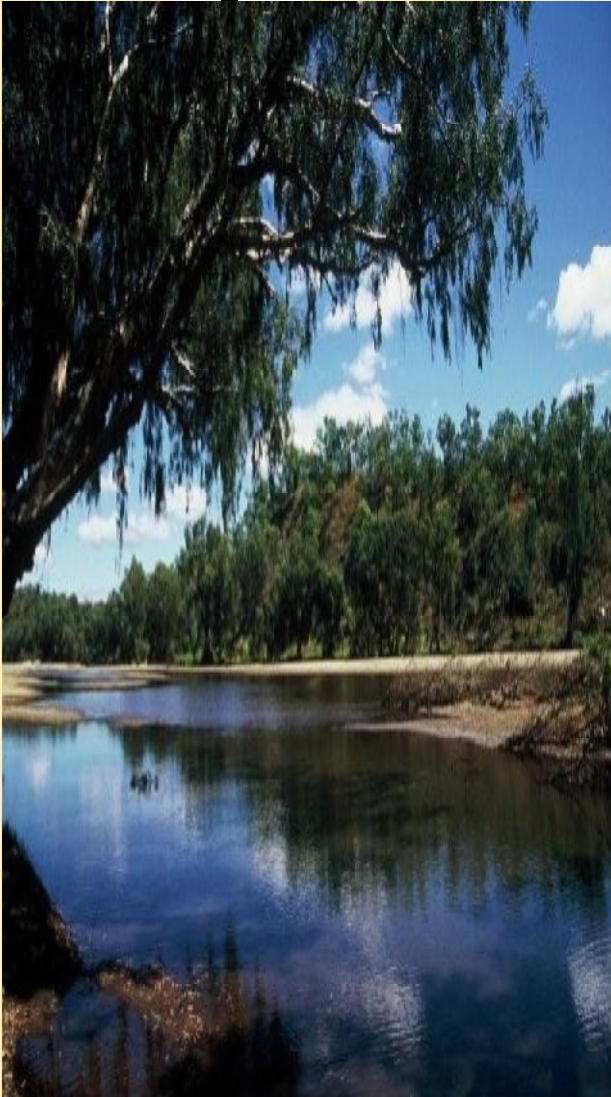
The Eastern part of the Shire sits on the edge of the immense Undara Lava fields caused by ancient volcanic eruptions in the McBride Plateau some 190,000 years ago. Undara is an Aboriginal term for a 'Long Way'.

The surrounding country is flat wooded savannah grasslands with isolated hills. The whole region is highly regarded by bird watchers; the varied ecosystems providing an ideal habitat for an unusually high number and variety of wading, migratory and resident wood/grassland birds.

The main industries and pastoralism (annual production of approximately \$43M), mining and services (particularly those relating to tourism, which is our most rapidly growing industry).



About Etheridge Shire



Shire Population

Etheridge Shire had an estimated population of 936 in 2007. Projections prepared by Department of Local Government indicate that by 2010 the expected population of Etheridge Shire will be between 980 and 1,030 people.

GEORGETOWN

Situated west of the Newcastle Range, Georgetown owes its existence to the gold that was found in the 1870's. Today it acts as the administration location for the Etheridge Shire Council; it's a lovely country town with an abundance of historic remnants from pioneer times.

There are many interesting historical features in Georgetown, from the restored Shire Hall in St George Street (built in 1908 and restored in 1998), Savannah House, the restored ex-clerk of the Courts dwelling in the same street, the Masonic Temple, the Catholic Church (established in 1913), and the cemetery.

Another picturesque mining relic is found 20km west of the town, the Cumberland Chimney which is all that stands of the gold crushing plant.

The Council owned public swimming pool is open all year round in daylight hours and can be accessed by both residents and tourists free of charge.

Georgetown is also home to the Ted Elliot Mineral Collection which was founded by the Etheridge Shire Council in early 2003. The collection is the work of one man and houses over 4500 mineral specimens. The centre also is an accredited yellow Information centre.

For the gold prospector, Flat Creek Station is less than an hour from town, although it is still advisable to check with the Mining Registrar at the Georgetown Court House or at the TerrEstrial Centre for information regarding regulations and licensing requirements for fossicking.

The Etheridge Heritage Park has been developed in the centre of town and has a free electric BBQ amongst shaded trees with a modern public toilet block including a baby change station. There is also a signed walk around the town which is the 'Georgetown River Walk', this walk is ideal to unwind or to take in our local flora and fauna and native bird life.



About Etheridge Shire



EINASLEIGH

The township of Einasleigh, originally named Copperfield, was laid out in 1900 by the mining warden on a new township reserve established near the Einasleigh Company's copper mine. Although the company had been formed only in the previous year, already two hotels, a store, a billiard room, and butcher and baker shops were being built and funds were being collected for a school.

The town briefly became the largest population centre in the shire during construction of the Chillagoe Company's Etheridge Railway in the years 1907-10. After the closure of the mine in the 1920s, however, the township almost disappeared and was saved from extinction only by its location on the railway.

Found by Richard Daintree in 1866, the Einasleigh copper deposit was one of the earliest mineral discoveries in north Queensland. It was initially too remote to develop and was abandoned and virtually forgotten after Daintree's death.

The Chillagoe Company rediscovered the Einasleigh shaft when exploring the area and began developing it in 1900 through its subsidiary, the Einasleigh Copper Mines Company. A small blast furnace was erected for smelting in 1902, but until the opening of the Etheridge Railway in 1910 operations proved uneconomical because of high transport costs. The mine closed when the Chillagoe Smelters were shut down in 1914.

Acquired by the Queensland Government in 1919 as part of the assets of the Chillagoe Company, it returned to full production the following year, supplying the reopened Chillagoe Smelters. As the Einasleigh State Mine, it finally closed in 1922 as a result of depleted ore reserves and a post-war drop in the world copper price.

Einasleigh sits on the Eastern edge of the Newcastle Range, on the banks of the Copperfield River. Einasleigh is on the old Chillagoe to Forsayth railway. Once a Copper mining town, it is set among some unusual scenery with flat top hills that rise out of the grasslands.



About Etheridge Shire



FORSAYTH

Forsayth lies at the end of the old Chillagoe to Forsayth railway, which was originally built to transport gold bearing ore from the Etheridge Goldfield to the crushing batteries of Chillagoe.

Historically rich, Forsayth is one of the few remaining towns of a large number which existed on the Etheridge Goldfields at the turn of the century. Gold nuggets are still found today by amateur prospectors using metal detectors.

Located south of Forsayth is Agate Creek, surrounded by towering sandstone walls, lies the mineral reserve which is set aside for agate fossickers. With rich colours and exceptional quality this area is considered to have some of the best specimens obtainable.

Agate Creek is not just for the prospector but for those interested in archaeology, geology, early European history, flora and fauna, photography and native bird life.

Also south of Forsayth is the well renowned Cobbold Gorge, this unique gorge is hidden away within the rugged sandstone formations of North Queensland. What makes Cobbold Unique from other gorges? This is an amazingly narrow gorge, closing to a sheer two meters in some sections, with magnificent thirty meter cliffs on either side. The gorge itself has a length of six kilometres and consists of many waterholes and rock falls, fortunately there is only 500 meters accessible by flat bottom boat.

OAK PARK/ KIDSTON

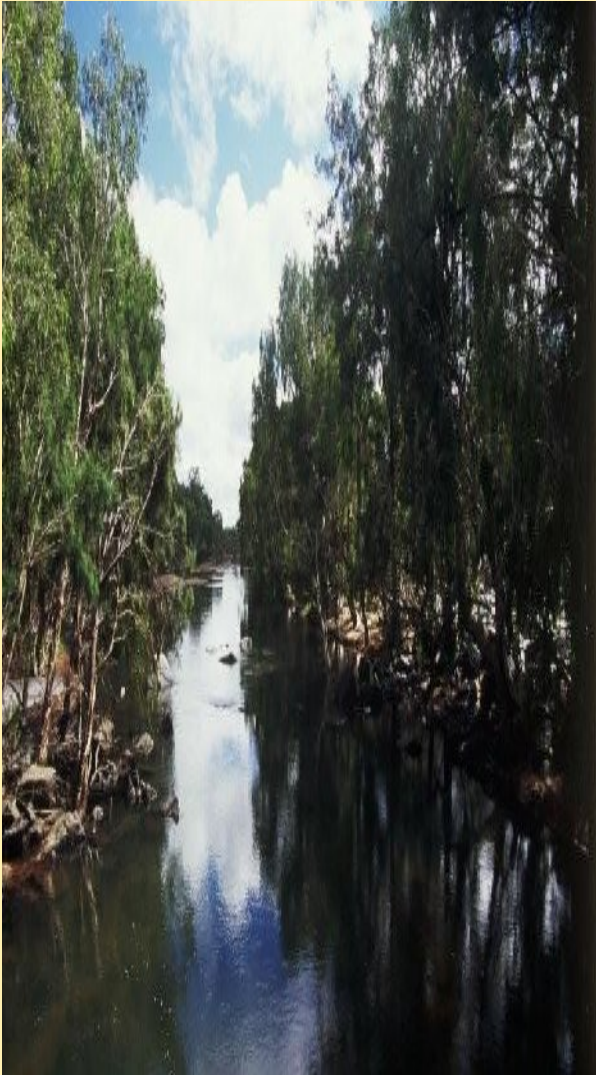
The community of Oak Park centres on the Oak Part Amateur Picnic Race Club which was formed in 1904. Facilities at Oak Park include private camping grounds, hot and cold showers, race track and a tennis court.

Located 64 kilometres South of the Lynd Junction, the Oak Park Community is a very close knit community accustomed to working together to host the Oak Park Picnic Races, a Melbourne Cup Luncheon, Christmas Party and monthly community social events.

Various training events and meetings are also held at Oak Park.



About Etheridge Shire



MT.SURPRISE

Ezra Firth took up Mount Surprise sheep run in 1861. Firth converted to cattle after selling his sheep profitably on the new Palmer River Goldfield in 1873. When the Etheridge Railway was built from Almaden to Forsayth in 1910, the Queensland Government resumed a section of the property for Mount Surprise Township. In the same year the Junction Creek telegraph office, built in 1871, was moved to the town.

Mount Surprise developed as an important cattle trucking and telegraph centre for the western section of the Tablelands. The town's importance was reduced as railway traffic from the mining and cattle industries declined in the 1930s. Reconditioning of the railway in 1951 and construction of the Gulf Development Road in the 1960s revitalized Mount Surprise as a livestock trucking centre and, more recently, a tourist stop.

The Mount Surprise Hotel was one of two erected opposite the railway station about 1910 when Mount Surprise was established as a cattle trucking siding on the new Etheridge Railway.

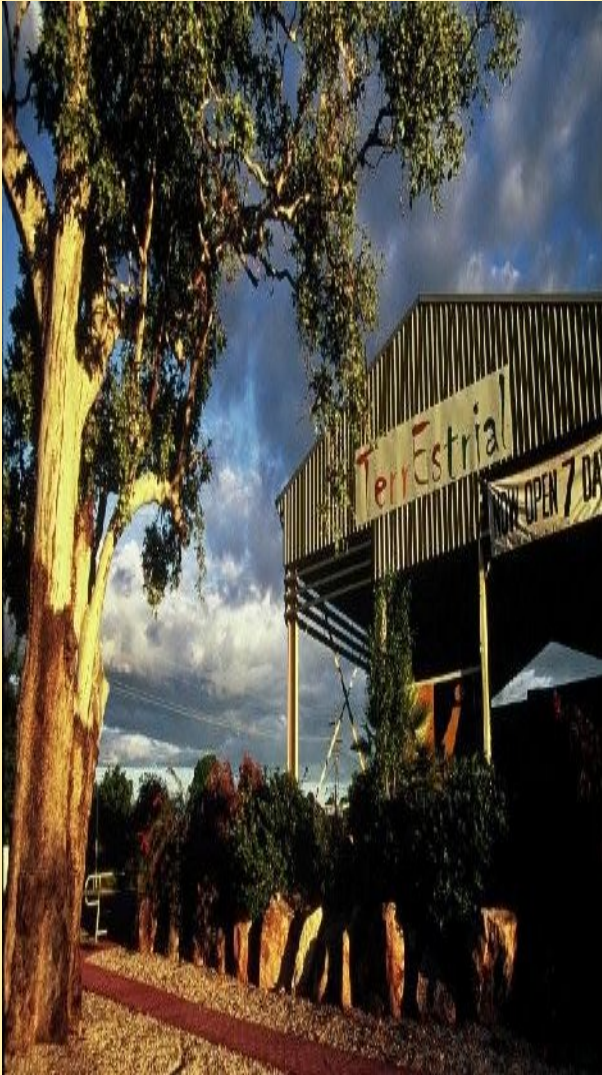
It is the first town within the Gulf Savannah region encountered by visitors travelling from the east. The settlement lives up to its name with a range of adventures including tours to the nearby geological wonders such as the Undara Lava Tubes and fossicking expeditions to O'Brien's Creek.

The Undara Lava field which was caused by ancient volcanic eruptions in the McBride Plateau is now a thriving tourist destination.

For the professional rock hound or amateur collector Mount Surprise also has O'Brien's Creek a mere 37km north west of town. Established in 1995 by the Department of Mines and Energy with the help of the landholder and the Etheridge Shire Council it is now a renowned fossicking area.



Message from our Mayor



It is with pleasure that I advise the residents and ratepayers of Etheridge Shire Council that Council's operations, for the year ended 30th June 2009 have been in line with the goals set in the Corporate Plan and the provisions of the Operational Plan set for the 2008/2009 year.

The past year has seen some outstanding achievements in a time of great change and challenging times for local government in Queensland.

Our boundaries here in Etheridge remained unchanged through the Local Government Reform process, and while Etheridge didn't have to face the amalgamation issues of many other Councils in our region, we nevertheless have had our own challenges throughout the year such as:

- Major flooding and destruction of shire roads and infrastructure;
- Loss of key management staff;
- Introduction of new state legislation that will have an impact on local government such as:
 - New Local Government Act & Local Government Regulations;
 - Dogs & Cats Legislation;
 - Changes to the Integrated Planning Act
 - More emphasis on long term planning documents (Asset Management, Financial Planning, Community Planning)

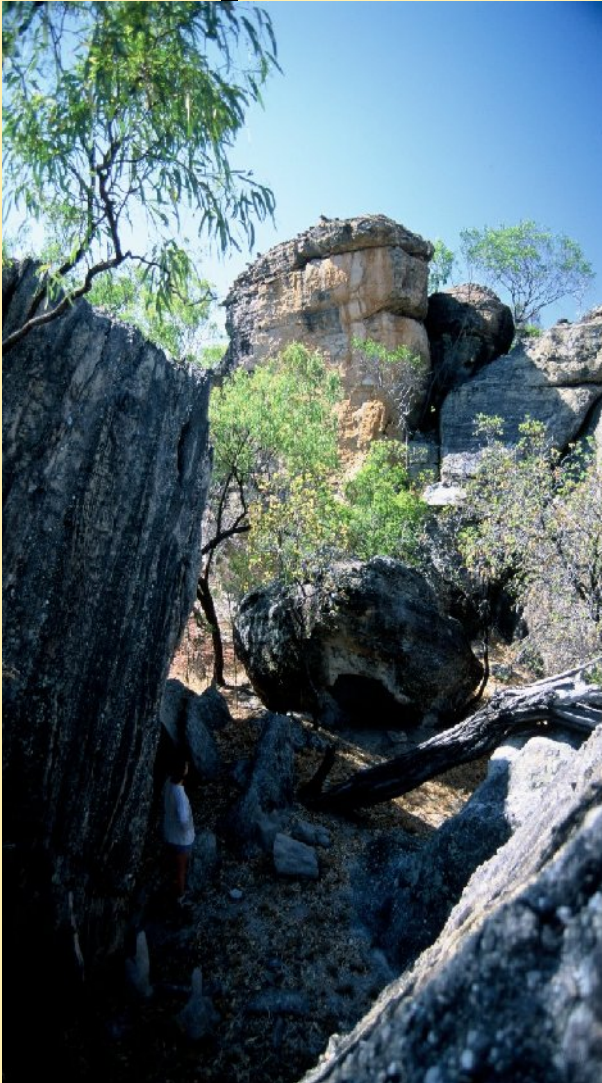
One of the key ingredients and requirements embedded within the new Local Government Act, is for Council to undertake more Community Consultation when deciding on major decisions regarding infrastructure projects.

Shire residents would now hopefully have seen and felt the benefits of the new road construction method employed across the Shire. These methods along with sophisticated road maintenance programs have brought the quality of our roads to an unprecedented standard. It has been this Council's goal to spend ratepayer's money as wisely and intelligently as possible and I believe we are delivering our promise of value for money.

We are working collaboratively with other Councils in the Gulf Savannah Region to achieve a consistent approach to obtaining additional revenue from the State and Federal Governments for the need for extraordinary maintenance work on particular shire roads which are being affected year in from flood damage.



Message from our Mayor



Council has been working extremely hard to ensure that those affected roads are rehabilitated to a better standard to ensure that any effects from floods have minimal impacts to our shire road network in the future.

Etheridge Shire Council was successful in its funding submission to the Federal Government under the Community Infrastructure Program for the Einasleigh River Bridge. This upgrade to the Einasleigh River Bridge is the single largest infrastructure project that Etheridge Shire Council has taken on to project manage.

The benefits of this project will be enjoyed by current and future generations within Etheridge Shire and also our neighbouring gulf communities. This project was supported by our Gulf Savannah Shires.

On land related issues, Council is still in the process of developing approximately 40 residential allotments within Georgetown, approximately 13 rural residential allotments in Mt Surprise, and 5 residential allotments in Forsyth. Further land opportunities for our various communities are being investigated.

On closing, Local Government is continually being exposed to pressure to provide assistance and services which were previously the responsibility of State and Federal Government Departments. This is of course placing an increasing pressure on Councils finances and resources. Council has also been asked to participate at an unprecedented level in regional management issues to ensure that future access to vital resources such as water and development opportunities are available in the Shire. I am confident that we will have a great future and with the continual involvement of Council in planning and development on a regional basis, the area can look forward to an increase in development, population and wealth.

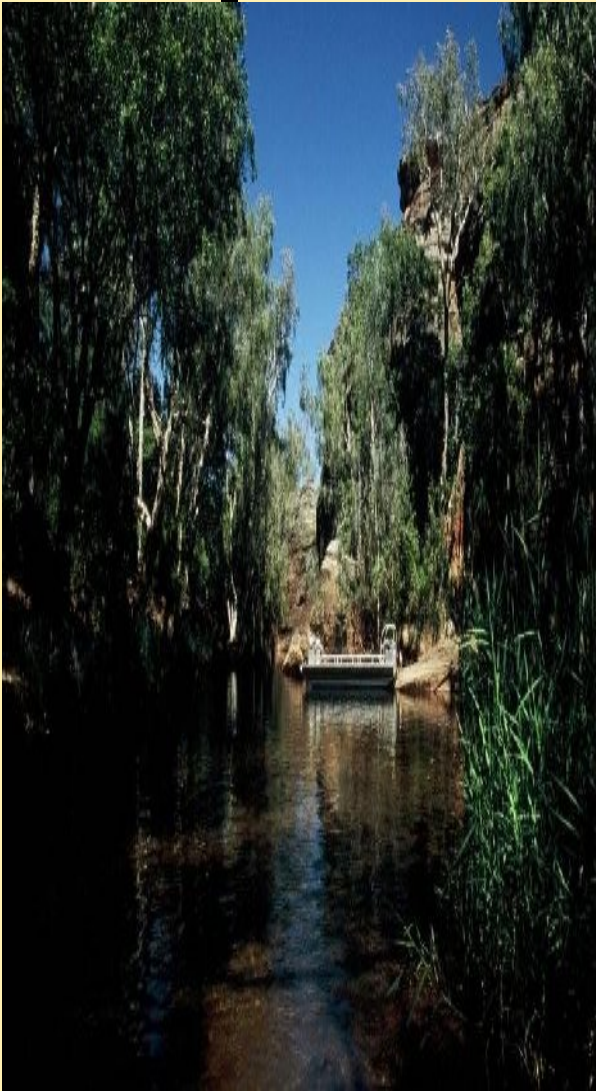
Since being elected Mayor of Etheridge Shire on March 15, 2008, I have been impressed by the professionalism of Council and its staff. Within this organisation is a strong commitment to serve our communities, effectively protect our natural environment and see our towns move forward responsibly. On behalf of the Councillors and myself, I sincerely convey our thanks to all members of Council's staff for the achievements made to ensure that our goals were met.

The next 12 months will provide unique challenges for Council as we battle with such things as inflationary effects, regulatory changes and world economic and social changes.

Warren Devlin
MAYOR



Message from our CEO



It is with pleasure that I provide this summary of Councils 2008/2009 operations.

With the continuing growth of both the Shire and its expanding role as a catalyst for economic development within the Gulf Savannah Region, the 2008/2009 financial year has seen Council working solidly to meet a myriad of diverse challenges. These challenges have included an increase in the area of major infrastructure provisions, planning and development, and the readiness of the new Local Government Act. In addition Council has had to continue to face a number of challenges during the financial year including;

- *Increased responsibilities as a result of State & Federal Government legislation without financial support;*
- *Decreased financial assistance grants from the Federal Government;*
- *The loss of key management staff over the past 12 months*

The Income Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th June 2009 reflects an accumulated surplus for the year of approximately \$ 2.092 million compared with last years actual of \$0.162 million. The variation has been contributed to the following:

Council has received its first instalment of \$4.50 million from the Federal Government for the Einsleigh Bridge which has been recorded within the Income Statement and furthermore Council also received a prepayment on its Financial Assistance Grant of \$0.927 million as part of the Federal Governments plan to continue to stimulate the economy. This has also been shown within the Income Statement.

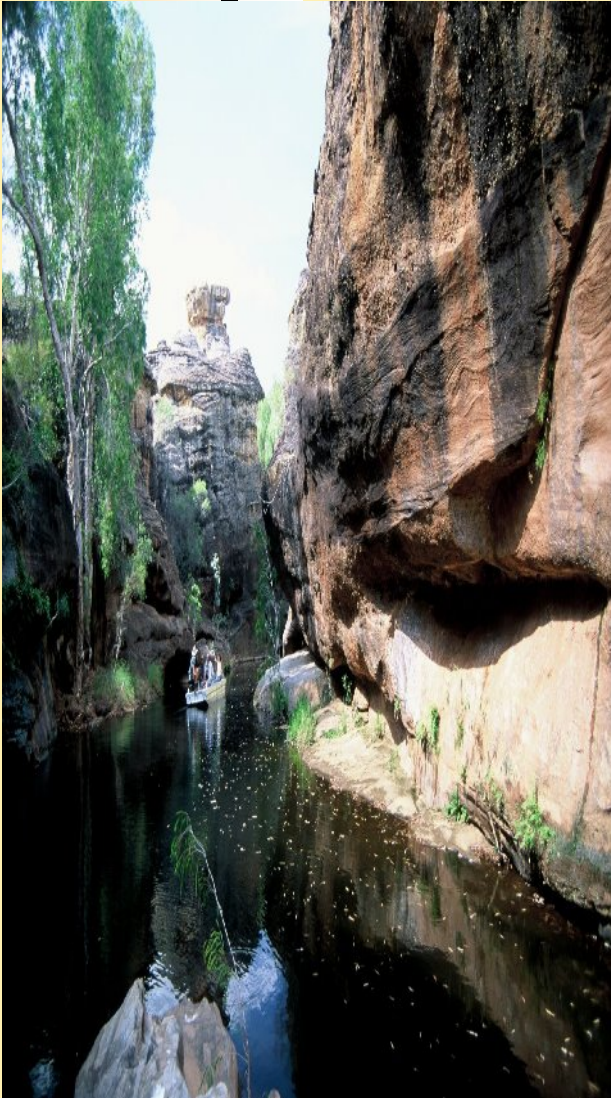
Council continued to maintain a satisfactory financial position with depreciation fully funded in respect of buildings, houses, roads and infrastructure Assets

Council will need to be aware and mindful of the results of the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) – Financial Sustainability Review conducted on Council as part of the defunct Size, Shape & Sustainability process. This review highlighted that Council must continue to ensure a disciplined approach to planning, risk management and financial management. Failure to manage these risks especially if large capital expenditure or maintenance costs increase will place pressure on Councils financial position moving forward.

Council needs to continue to work towards eliminating the forecast operating deficits. Continuous deficits will affect Councils financial flexibility and could potentially transfer a liability to future ratepayers.



Message from our CEO



Council and staff must work together moving forward to:-

1. Ensure a balanced or surplus operating position in all years;
2. Develop management strategies to monitor risks associated with Councils large capital works programs;
3. Review the appropriateness of the depreciation expense assumptions and methodology; and
4. Conduct financial sustainability reviews as part of Councils regular review process.

Council's achievements in regards to its Corporate and Operational Plans have been delivered in accordance with Councils desire to provide quality services to the community whilst maintaining a realistic approach to the cost of providing such services. Once again some goals and projects have been delayed due to external issues beyond the control of Council.

Over the past year Council and Senior Management have been committed to systematically reviewing our performance, practices and processes to continually improve the way we operate and to ensure adequate controls exist to mitigate risks, with the emphasis on compliance, economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

There is no denying that the impact of the extractive industries is having a flow on effect across all industries in relation to staffing levels. This is more prevalent within the civil construction industry, where skill shortages are becoming extreme, for Council to attract and retain a good quality workforce. We experienced a small number of changes in senior management positions over the past 12 months which impacted upon the operations of the Engineering and the Corporate and Community Services programs.

I am pleased to advise that Council has appointed a new Director of Corporate & Community Services and Director of Engineering Services both of whom will take up their positions within August 2009.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all staff for their contribution to our results and wish to extend my appreciation to the Mayor and Councillors for their assistance and cooperation and indeed the community of Etheridge for their support and confidence over the last year.

Les Edmiston
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Meet our Councillors



Mayor
Cr Warren Devlin
St. George Street
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871



Deputy Mayor
Cr Neil Butler
Low Street
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871



Cr George Ryan
Ballynure Station
KIDSTON QLD 4871



Cr Noeline Gross
Crampton Road
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871



Cr Warren Bethel
Feralview Station
GEORGETOWN QLD 4871

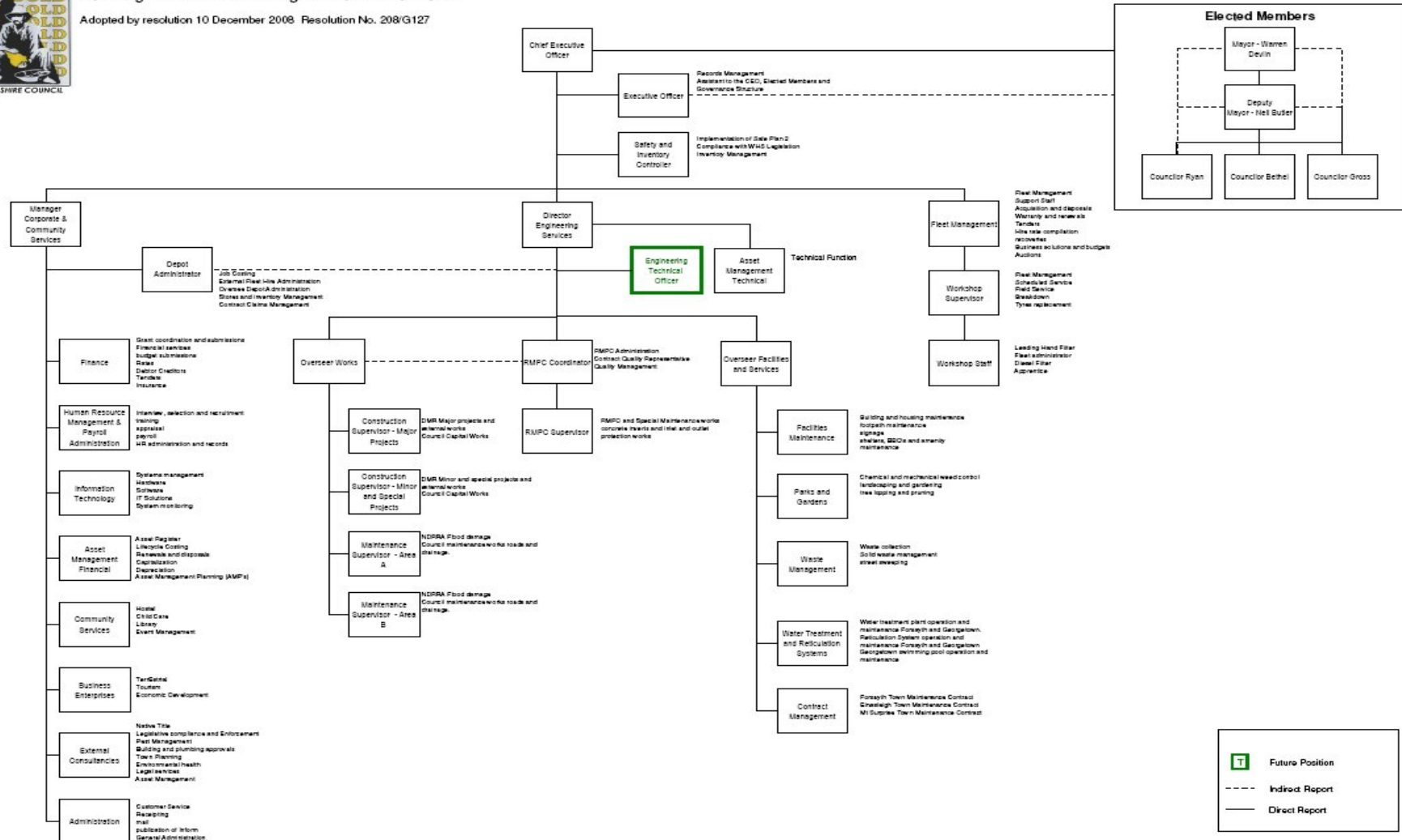


Structure - Organisational



Etheridge Shire Council - Organisational Structure

Adopted by resolution 10 December 2008 Resolution No. 208/G127





Community Financial Report



This Community Financial Report is produced annually as part of Council's Annual Report to provide members of the community, customers, business partners and employees with a better understanding of Council's financial performance and position over the last financial year. The report uses plain language and pictorial aids such as graphs and tables to give all interested readers and stakeholders an easy to follow walk through of the financial statements for the past financial year.

The table below illustrates that during the 2008-09 financial year, Etheridge Shire Council met or bettered all financial targets established to maintain the financial health of the organisation. In summary, Council performed strongly in its ability to generate cash from day to day operations, meeting all financial commitments in the financial year and keeping debt to manageable levels. Council has maintained sufficient cash to pay bills as and when they fall due and kept loans to manageable levels.

This was achieved while maintaining the ongoing investment in community infrastructure and services.

Financial Health Indicator	Target	Actual Performance
Level of dependence on rate revenue	10%	7.4%
Ability to pay our bills—current ratio	> 1.1	3.79
Cash Balance	\$1.80M - \$2.00M	\$8.011M
Sustainability ratio	> 1	2.46



Community Financial Report

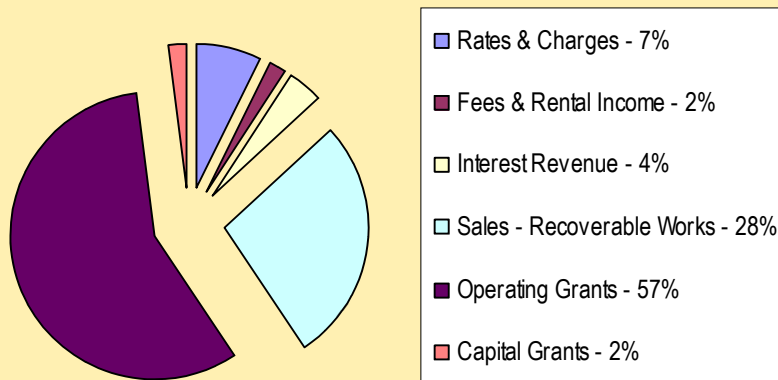
Below is a series of tables and graphs that illustrate Council's major sources of revenue and expenses in addition to the value of Council's assets and liabilities. Comparisons are made between the 2008-09 and 2007-08 financial years.

Information at a glance

	2008-09 \$ million	2007-08 \$ million
Total revenue	24.019	10.422
Total operating (day to day)	23.517	10.250
Total expenses	21.926	10.260
Loan interest cost	0.031	0.032
Net increase in assets	22.586	23.192

See Financial Statement page __ for more information

What were the major sources on income to Council? (Income Statement)



Total Income received throughout the year was \$24.019m. In comparison to the 2007-08 financial year, revenue increased from \$10.422m, a 57.81% increase.

Rates and utilities income comprised \$1.755m, which equates to 7% of total revenue. The major source of rate income include general rates, and charges for water, water consumption, waste management and garbage. Total fees and charges decreased from \$0.414m in 2007-08 to \$0.413m in 2008-09 which makes up 2% of the total revenue in 2008-09.

Council earned \$0.937m or 4% of total revenue from interest on investments and overdue rates during the financial year, which is a small decrease from the previous year.

Council received \$13.782m or 57% of its total revenue from Operating Grants and Subsidies, which is an increase of 66.3% compared to the previous year.

What expenses did Council have to meet? (Income Statement)

Etheridge Shire Council's expenses for the 2008-09 financial year totalled \$21.926m, an increase of 53.2% from the previous years' expense total of \$10.260m. The increase in expenses is in line with the increase in revenue for Council. Council had a significant increase in its material and services which is due to Council's various Auslink projects and also Flood damage rehabilitation works.

The largest expense Council had to meet were payment to suppliers for materials and services (72.6% of total costs), employee costs (19.6% of total costs) and depreciation of its assets (7.5% of total costs).

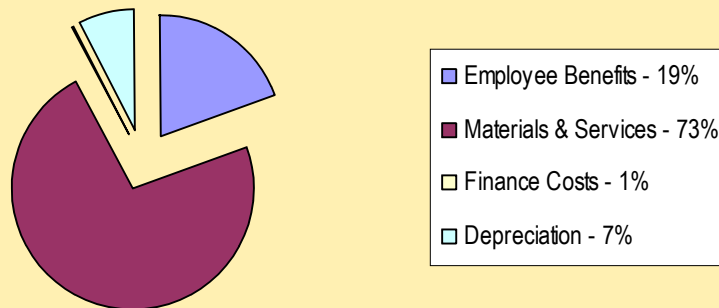


Community Financial Report

Payments to suppliers for the provision of materials and services for 2008-09 were \$15.934m - a 65.4% increase from the \$5.511m spent in 2007-08. Material and services costs is a very large category of expenses and includes consultancy, contractor, and materials used in meeting all activities in the operational plan for the community.

Employee costs totalled \$4.310m - a 24.2% from the \$3.264m spent in 2007-08. This expenditure includes wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, superannuation and councillor allowances. The increase from the previous year has been contributed to the increase in staff numbers required to undertake the large amount of construction work which is being undertaken by Council and also implementing Council's new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

Depreciation on all Council assets increased from \$1.448m in the previous year to \$1.647m in 2008-09. Depreciation is the estimated run-down in the value of assets usually due to wear and tear or becoming out of date technically. The depreciation charge of \$1.647m represents only 1.4% of Council's non-current assets.



What is the value of the community's assets in Council's care?

How much does Council owe for loans?

(Balance Sheet)

	2008-09 \$ million	2007-08 \$ million
Total assets	137.492	114.905
Total liabilities	9.600	1.189
Cash held	19.537	13.945
Loan borrowings	3.153	0.456

The value of all assets controlled by Council totalled \$137.492m at 30 June 2009. This figure is broken down between current assets of \$23.516m (17.1%) and non-current assets of \$113.976m (82.9%).

Current assets are those that are readily available to meet expenses and include mainly cash and amounts owed from customers. Cash assets were \$19.537m and receivables \$3.455m at the end of the 2008-09 financial year. Council's cash assets includes funds received for various Auslink projects and also incorporates funds received in advance for the Einasleigh River Bridge Project.

Council's property plant and equipment assets of \$112.523m include land, buildings, roads, bridges and drainage, water, plant, equipment and other infrastructure assets.

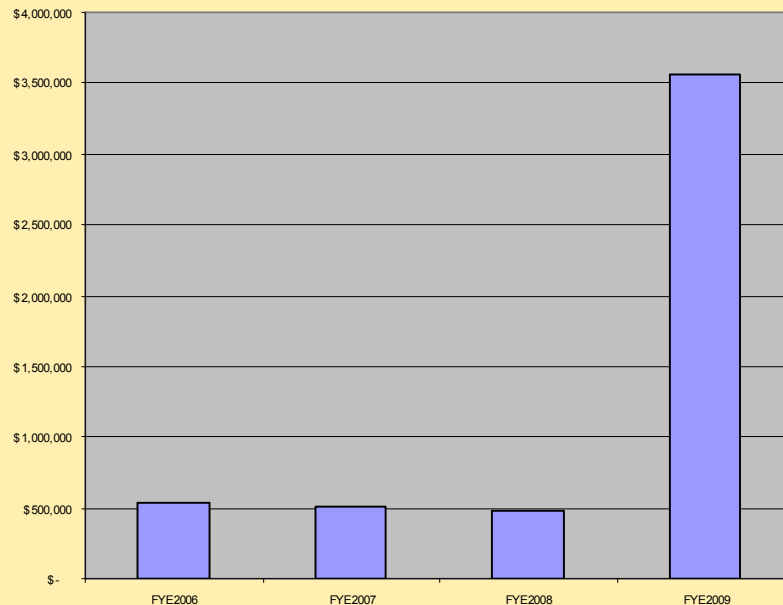
Liabilities or amounts owing at 30 June 2009 totalled \$9.600m, \$6.203m of which is due for payment during 2009-10, and \$3.396m payable after that. Council's debt as at 30 June 2009 totalled \$3.559m which is an increase of \$3.072m or 86.3%. The increase in debt was for Council to purchase additional plant.



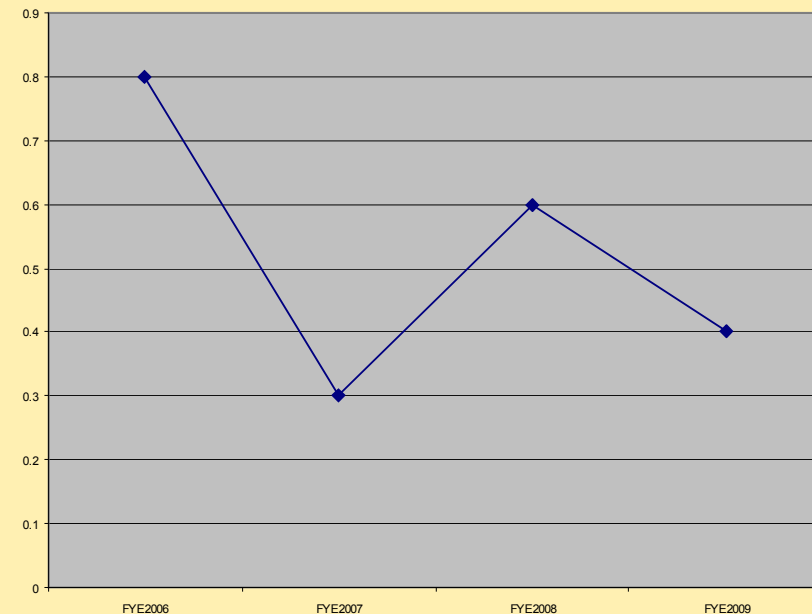
Community Financial Report

The largest single debt that Council owed at 30 June 2009 was to Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC), the state government owned lending agency from which most local governments and state authorities source funding to finance their large scale infrastructure projects or other asset acquisitions. At the end of the financial year Council owed QTC a total \$3.559m.

The graph below illustrates the level of Council debt to QTC over the past four years. In 2008-09 Council borrowed a further \$3.1m in new loans to fund major plant purchases. Council also meet all of its interest and redemption payments during the 2008-09 financial year.



Ability to meet debt vs operating revenue



In 2008-09, 0.4% of operating revenue is being spent repaying interest and principal on its borrowings. However, this figure is distorted due to the key fact, that the new loan was only drawn down during the month of June 2009. Therefore, if we assumed that the loan was drawn as 1 July 2008 and the level of operating revenue was as shown as at 30 June 2009, it would reveal that 2.6% of operating would be spent repaying interest and principal on its borrowings.



Community Financial Report

What were the major sources of cash in and cash out?

(Statement of Cash Flows)

The table below outlines the main monies received by Council and cash payments made by Council between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009.

	2008-09 \$ million	2007-08 \$ million
Net cash received from operations (excluding interest revenue & borrowing costs)	5.829	2.677
Payments for construction of essential services including roadworks, water, and other infrastructure assets	4.060	1.706
New loans taken out	3.130	0
Repayment of debt	0.057	0.026

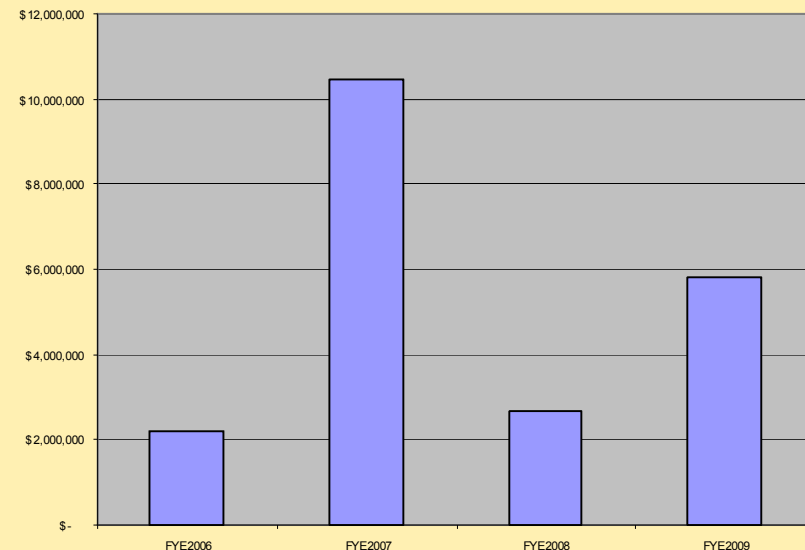
The cash flow statement is summarised into three activities:

- * Operating activities - are normal day to day functions of Council. These include receipts of rates, fees & charges and operating grants offset by payments for employees' costs, materials & services and interest costs.
- * Investing activities - include payments for the purchase and construction of property, plant and equipment and proceeds for the sale of surplus assets.
- * Financing activities - are repayments of principal on Council's loans, as well as the inflows from new loans drawn down in the year.

Council started the 2008-09 financial year with \$13.945m total cash in the bank and ended the year with \$19.537m, exceeding the target for cash held and equivalent cash capacity in months.

To maintain its strong financial position on behalf of the community, Council must make enough cash from its day to day operations to fund purchases of property, plant and equipment, repay interest and principal payments on loans, and leave enough in reserve for future requirements. The graph below shows the level of net cash Council has been generating from normal day to day operations over the past four years.

Net cash from operations



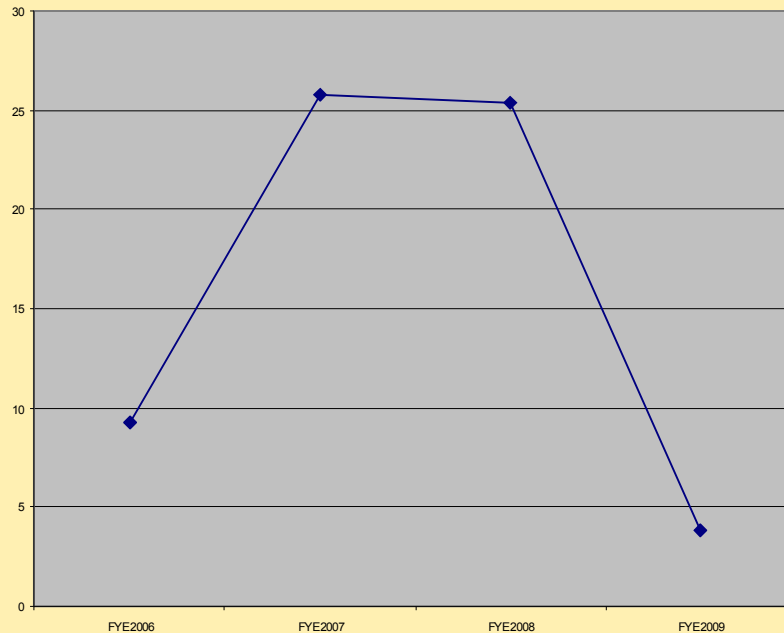


Community Financial Report

An essential requirement for any business including Council is its ability to pay its bills as and when they fall due. A good benchmark for measuring this capacity is called the current asset ratio which is the ratio of current assets to current liabilities.

The following diagram illustrates that the ratio is greater than one and therefore positive.

Ability to pay bills in 12 months



Summary

During the 2008-09 financial year, Etheridge Shire Council once again delivered a large program of operational and capital works to the work. Council achieved this result while still outperforming three of the four key financial performance indicators.

Council continued to meet all financial commitments and keep debt at manageable levels. Council continued to generate sufficient cash from its day to day operations in order to meet its financial commitments throughout the financial year.

Your Council is in a moderate to strong financial position to deliver the planned program of projects and services throughout the 2009-10 financial year.



Key Statistics

Key Statistics - 2 year trend

	2008-2009 \$ million	2007-2008 \$ million
Rate Revenue (net)	1.755	1.066
Interest Received	0.937	1.001
Operating Revenue	23.517	10.250
Capital Revenue	0.494	0.251
Operating Surplus	2.092	0.162
Total Assets (WDV)	112.523	98.250
Shire Capital	27.284	26.301
Total Liabilities	9.600	1.189
Total Equity	127.891	113.715
Reserves	13.152	13.066
Unimproved Capital Value	109.394	109.394
Premises connected to water	257	254
Number of refuse services	227	224
Number of rateable properties	538	535



Key Statistics

Population Statistics

- * The preliminary estimated resident population of Etheridge Shire Council at 30 June 2008 was 932 people.
- * Projections prepared by the State Government indicate that by 2016 the expected population of Etheridge Shire Council will be between 760 and 980 people. By 2031 this is expected to change to between 730 to 1,190 people.
- * The median age of Etheridge Shire Council's population is projected to increase by 15 years from a median age of 39 years in 2006 up to a median age of 54 years in 2031.

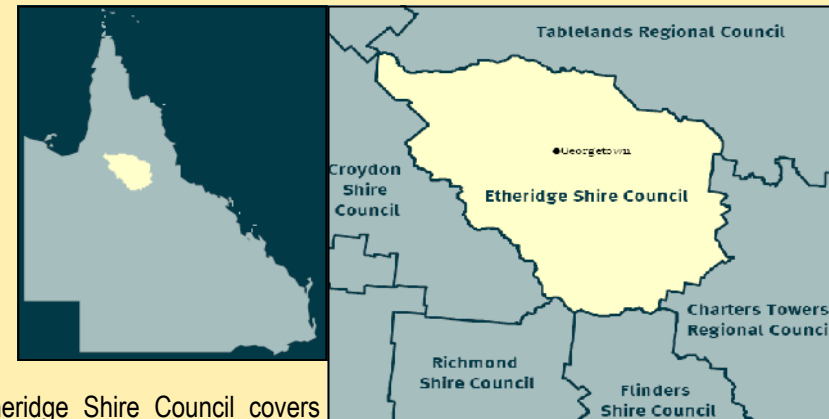
Population Trends

Year at 30 June	Est. Resident Population
2002	995
2003	965
2004	922
2005	911
2006	900
2007	937
2008	932

Population Projections

	Projected Population		
	Low	Medium	High
2011	813	876	929
2016	767	883	970
2021	747	900	1,026
2026	741	929	1,098
2031	737	968	1,184

Etheridge Shire Council - Regional Profile



Etheridge Shire Council covers part of Queensland's outback Gulf Savannah region and is bordered by Tablelands & Charters Towers Regional Council's, Flinders, Richmond, Croydon & Carpentaria Shire Councils.

Main Industries:

- * Mining
- * Agriculture (beef, small crops)
- * Tourism

Main Townships:

Georgetown Mt Surpsie
 Forsayth Einasleigh
 Kidston Oak Park

Area	39,039 (sq km)
Average Annual Rainfall	819.2 mm
Average Annual Daily Maximum Temp	32.6 C
Average Annual Daily Minimum Temp	18.4C



Corporate Governance



General Meetings of Council

The General Meeting of Council is responsible for managing the business of Council. Council must ensure decision making that supports the achievement of the community vision and the corporate plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and other legislation.

The Local Government Act requires elected members to declare any material personal interests, in matters before Council and to remove themselves from any discussions or decision making on that matter. For a Councillor to have a material personal interest there must be an expectation of personal benefit gain or loss for the Councillor or an associate. A register listing Councillors material personal interests is maintained.

Councillors Code of Conduct

It is so important the Community has confidence in its Council and Councillors. The Local Government Act 1993 sets out specific rules Councillors must follow to ensure transparency and accountability, particularly in relation to receiving gifts and conflicts of interest.

Consultation with the community showed that people want repercussions for Councillors who behave inappropriately during the day-to-day business of Council.

Amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 which were passed into law on 31 May 2005 provided a regulatory framework for the adoption and enforcement of Councillor Codes of Conduct in Queensland.

Etheridge Shire Council has adopted the Councillor Code of Conduct in accordance with the procedures set down in the Act and further that Councils existing Code of Conduct was rescinded.

The Code provides Councillors with a frame of reference about their roles, obligations and acceptable behavioural standards.

The following statistics are required to be reported in accordance with the requirements of Section 534(1)(n) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the Councillors Code of Conduct and Section 501E(1)(j) of the Act for General Complaints.



Corporate Governance

During 2008/2009 financial year;

- i. There were no breaches of the Local Government's Code of Conduct committed by Council;
- ii. No names need to be reported as none of the Councillors breached the code;
- iii. There were no complaints about alleged code of conduct breaches by Councillors that were referred to the conduct review panel during the year;
- iv. There were no recommendations made by the conduct review panel;
- v. There were no complaints resolved under the Local Governments General Complaints process during the year and there were no complaints that related to an alleged breach by a Councillor under the Local Government's Code of Conduct;
- vi. There were no complaints made to the ombudsman during the year about decisions made by the Council in relation to enforcement of its Code of Conduct

Remuneration to Councillors

Council resolved on 22 January 2009 in accordance with S.236A of the Local Government Act 1993 to provide remuneration to the Mayor and Councillors in accordance with the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Report.

Council also resolved on 22 January 2009 to adopt the Transitional Expenses Reimbursement Policy for Local Government Councillors as developed by the Department of Local Government.

Councillors Meeting Attendance and Remuneration—2008/09

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Remuneration
Cr Warren Devlin	27	\$58,110.57
Cr Neil Butler	21	\$24,000.36
Cr Noeline Gross	24	\$16,569.93
Cr Warren Bethel	24	\$20,441.45
Cr George Ryan	21	\$37,554.62

Employee Code of Conduct

The Employee Code of Conduct assists Council in maintaining public trust and confidence in the integrity and professionalism of its employees by ensuring all employees maintain and enhance Councils reputation.

Employees are required to display the personal and professional behaviours that could be reasonably expected from persons holding positions that serve the community. More specifically, it requires employees to perform professional duties with care, skill, fairness and diligence. Employees are required to engage in ethical conduct, treat all others with courtesy, respect and with due regard to the rights of others.

The Code of Conduct is taken into account in the development and preparation of Councils Policies and guidelines. All new employees are provided with training regarding their obligations under the Code of Conduct. Any alleged breaches of the code are investigated in accordance with Councils guidelines.



Corporate Governance

Minimum Rate

Council proposes therefore to levy differential rates and to ensure that the rate burden is distributed in similar fashion to the pattern in recent years. It will continue to gather data and to consider this information in order to further refine this process. In this regard, Council uses Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) as determined by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to distribute the rate burden, this being consistent across the shire, in all rate categories.

In order to ensure that different classes of landholder make an equitable contribution and to recover some of the costs associated with maintaining separate land records, Council will adopt a minimum rate for each class of differential rate.

Special Rates & Charges

Waste Management Charges

A Special Waste Management Charge shall be applied for the provision of waste management services in the urban areas of the Towns of Forsayth (Rate Group 3), Einasleigh (Rate Group 2) and Mt Surprise (Rate Group 5) as follows:-

- a. Council will levy a Waste Management Charge on the owner of each parcel of occupied land or occupied structure within the area of the Towns of Forsayth, Einasleigh and Mt Surprise. Such special charges will be levied equally on all such occupied parcels or occupied structures.
- b. Council considers that the occupied land contained within the areas defined above receives an equal special benefit from access to the waste management facilities. Council also considers that the benefit is shared equally by all occupied parcels of land and occupied structures regardless of the value of such land.

- c. The costs incurred in the operation and maintenance of all of the waste management functions of the Towns of Forsayth, Einasleigh and Mt Surprise will be substantially funded by these cleansing charges however Council may determine to subsidise the service in view of the high costs of this service provision and the undue hardship that may result if full cost recovery was sought from the service charges.

Waste Management Charge - \$109.18

Utility Charges – Water Services – Georgetown

A utility charge will be applied for the supply of water services to the town of Georgetown (Rate Group 4) and any surrounding properties in the Rural Rate Group 6 which are connected to the town water supply system.

Water Charges shall be applied on a user pays basis utilising a Two Part Tariff System comprising a Water Base Access Charge Georgetown plus a Water Consumption Charge Georgetown for each kilolitre (1000 litres) of water used.

Whilst the aim of the charges will generally be to achieve full cost recovery, Council may decide not the set charges to achieve full cost recovery due to the following 2 factors.

- a. The poor economies of scale associated with small water supply systems and the resultant costs to consumers should full costing be applied; and



Corporate Governance

- b. As some of the Water Infrastructure has been fully funded from SCAP grants, it is expected that under current Government policy grants of approximately 80% of replacement cost will be available when this infrastructure requires replacement. Therefore it would be inappropriate for ratepayers to fund the replacement of this funded water infrastructure for which grants are expected to be available. The remaining 20% of the infrastructure will be funded from other revenue sources at the time the infrastructure requires replacement.

It is the view of Council that it is equitable for all properties within the water areas to contribute to the fixed costs of the water supply operation by way of the Access Charge, while the Consumption Charge for all water consumed conforms to user pays principles.

The Access Charge for each separately connected parcel of land within the water area (including Council owned or controlled land) shall be based upon the size of the service connection to such land. Such charges will be based on a base charge per unit with a standard 20mm service connection equating to 20 units. The Schedule of units applicable to different size meters shall be, unless exempted or reduced by Council resolution.

Water Consumption Charge Georgetown

Because of the generally reduced level of use of water facilities by Religious, Charitable and Community Organisations, such organisations shall be levied 50% of the Annual Access Charge applicable. Water Consumption Charges however will not attract any subsidy. The approved Religious, Charitable and Community Organisations in Georgetown are The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cairns, The Corporation of the Synod of the Carpentaria Diocese, The Queensland Country Women's Association and the William Wallace Lodge No 64 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Queensland.

Properties with more than one service connection shall be required to pay the applicable Access Charge for each such connection.

Where, in the opinion of the Director of Engineering Services, a larger than normally required water meter is fitted in order to allow for adequate pressure at a premises because of the substandard nature of the mains at that location, then the Chief Executive Officer may reduce the base access charges applicable for the connection down to the base access charge applicable to the next lowest category meter. (for example; a 50mm connection could be reduced to a 40mm connection).

An Unconnected Water Base Access Charge Georgetown shall apply to each unconnected parcel of land within the water area not currently connected to the reticulation system where Council is able to provide a connection. As the ongoing costs of providing the capacity for connection to each unconnected site is not considered to be the same as for a connected site (as there is no meter maintenance involved) the

Unconnected Access Charge shall be equivalent to one half the Access Charge for a 20mm Service Connection. In setting the charges at the time of establishing a Council budget each year the following principles shall be used:-

Access Charge to be based on the anticipated ongoing costs of providing, maintaining and improving the reservoir and reticulation system.

Consumption Charge to be based on anticipated recurrent short term costs incurred in the maintenance and operations of pumping and treatment systems (including water quality testing).



Corporate Governance

Council may determine to charge a lesser charge for the first 700 kilolitres per 6 month billing cycle and fund any resultant shortfall from a mix of General Revenue Grants in recognition of the poor economies of scale applicable to providing water to townships in the region and the hardship that would result in seeking full cost recovery for these services. Water use of more than 700 kilolitres per 6 months will be charged at a higher rate per kilolitre to ensure that fuller cost recovery is achieved for amounts considered as excessive.

Utility Charges – Water Services - Forsayth

A utility charge will be applied for the supply of water services to the town of Forsayth (Rate Group 3) and any surrounding properties in the Rural Rate Group 6 which are connected to the town water supply system. Water Charges shall be applied on a user pays basis utilising a Two Part Tariff System comprising a Water Access Charge Forsayth plus a Water Consumption Charge Forsayth for each kilolitre (1000 litres) of water used. Whilst the aim of the charges will be to achieve full cost recovery Council will vary this at budget time bearing in mind the poor economy of scale associated with small water supply systems and the resultant costs to consumers should full costing be applied.

It is the view of Council that it is equitable for all properties within the water areas to contribute to the fixed costs of the water supply operation by way of the Access Charge, while the Consumption Charge for all water consumed conforms with user pays principles.

The Access Charge for each separately connected parcel of land within the water area (Including Council owned or controlled land) shall be based upon the size of the service connection to such land. Such charges will be based on a base charge per unit with a standard 20mm service connection equating to 20 units.

The Schedule of units applicable to different size meters shall be, unless exempted or reduced by Council resolution.

Water Consumption Charge Forsayth

Because of the generally reduced level of use of water facilities by Religious, Charitable and Community Organisations, such organisations shall be levied 50% of the Access Charge applicable. Water Consumption Charges will not attract any rebate. The approved Religious, Charitable and Community Organisations in Forsayth are The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cairns, The Corporation of the Synod of the Carpentaria Diocese and The Queensland Country Women's Association.

Properties with more than one service connection shall be required to pay the applicable Access Charge for each such connection.

Where, in the opinion of the Director of Engineering Services, a larger than normally required water meter is fitted in order to allow for adequate pressure at a premises because of the substandard nature of the mains at that location, then the Chief Executive Officer may reduce the base charges applicable at that connection down to the base charge applicable to the next lowest category meter. (for eg a 50mm connection could be reduced to a 40mm connection).

An Unconnected Access Charge Forsayth shall apply to each unconnected parcel of land within the water area not currently connected to the reticulation system where Council is able to provide a connection. As the ongoing costs of providing the capacity for connection to each unconnected site is not considered to be the same as for a connected site (as there is no meter maintenance involved) the Unconnected Access Charge shall be equivalent to one half the Access Charge for a 20mm Service Connection.



Corporate Governance

Utility Charge – Cleansing - Georgetown

Council will levy a Cleansing Charge Georgetown on the owner of each parcel of **occupied land or occupied structure** within the area of the Town of Georgetown and on such other lands outside of the Town of Georgetown where a collection service is supplied by Council. Council shall supply each such parcel of occupied land or occupied structure with a separate 240 litre mobile bin for collection purposes.

Annual charges for the collection of each 240 litre bin will be based on the frequency of collection of such bin and the number of such bins collected in the normal course of rubbish collection.

Rubbish collection frequency for bins shall be once per week.

Where a service is provided for part of the year it shall be levied on a pro-rata basis calculated in minimum stops of three months of the applicable charge. Where a service is discontinued during the year the levy shall be credited on a pro-rata basis calculated in maximum stops of one month of the applicable charge. The period for calculating any such credit or refund shall commence from the date of receipt of written advice by Council of the cessation of such use or occupation of the land or structure.

The costs incurred in the operation and maintenance of all of the waste management functions of the town of Georgetown (including rubbish collection activities) will be substantially funded by these cleansing charges however Council may determine to subsidise the service in view of the high costs of this service provision and the undue hardship that may result if full cost recovery was sought from the service charges.

Interest

Interest on arrears will be calculated at the maximum rate applicable as set by the Local Government Act 1993 (currently 11%), shall be applied on all overdue rates and charges including water consumption levies. Interest shall be applied and be payable from and including the day after rates and charges become due, i.e. from the day after the close of the discount period for rate notices. Interest on water consumption charges shall be applied to such charges unpaid after the 30 day period allowed for payment on the notice has expired.

Rebates and Concessions

Council will allow 15% discount on the general rates, utility charge - cleansing, water utility charges, provided that full payment of both the current year's levies and any prior years levies (arrears) is received by Council on or before the due date for discount specified on the rate notice.

No Prompt Payment Discount is applicable to the following Charges:

- a) Special Waste Management Charge
- b) Water Consumption Charges-Georgetown and Forsayth

Council Pensioner Remissions

Council will allow a remission of 50% of the total of General Rates, Cleansing Utility Charges, Water Utility Annual Access Charges, Special Charges Waste Management and Special Charges to qualifying pensioners only subject to a maximum remission of two and one half times the maximum State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy allowable in the year.

Currently the maximum State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy is \$180 per annum so the comparative maximum Council Pensioner Remission is \$450 per annum.



Corporate Governance

Other matters concerning Rates and Charges

Collection of Outstanding Rates and Charges

Council requires payment of rates and charges within the specified period and it is Council's policy to actively pursue the collection of outstanding rates and charges, subject to the exercise of due concern for financial hardship that some members of the community may face from time to time.

To this end Council has established administrative procedures that allow payment of rates by instalments and for the selection of various options including legal action for the recovery of debts.

Payments in Advance

Payments in advance by way of lump sum or instalments will be accepted. Interest is not payable on any credit balances held.

New Development - Funding of Associated Physical and Social Infrastructure Costs

Council does not encounter major or significant land developments in the Shire area on a frequent enough basis to warrant the establishment of a detailed developer contribution policy. Any new land development will be considered on its merits as and when it occurs and in accordance with relevant legislation at that time.

Operating Capability Outcomes

Council has a strong demand for improved infrastructure in the Shire and in order to finance this infrastructure, needs to increase its operating capability. Council will therefore seek to maintain its operating expenses at a level that allows it to achieve an excess of income over expenses in order to increase its operating capability.

Depreciation and Non Cash Expenses

Council will fully fund depreciation by a combination of rates and charges and the allocation of part of the General Purpose Grants received by Council with the exception of depreciation relating to Water Supply Infrastructure which has been constructed with 100% SCAP grants.

The reason for not funding depreciation on these assets is that Council expects that grants totalling approximately 80% of the replacement value of the infrastructure will be available at the time the infrastructure requires replacement.

This expectation is based on the assumption that State Government will continue its present policy of providing approximately 80% of grants funding towards the provision of Water Infrastructure in rural and remote regions. Therefore it would be inappropriate to fund the full replacement cost of these SCAP funded assets out of rates or General Purpose Grants. Other non cash expenses such as provisions for employee entitlements will be fully funded at the time that they become due and payable.

Provisions

Council's accounts show due provision for leave and employment entitlements. The funds necessary to satisfy future needs are held as part of investments.



Corporate Governance

Borrowing Policy Borrowing Strategies

To minimise the amount of debt, all new borrowing will be restricted to funding projects which are

- a. unusual by nature of their large size, infrequency of occurrence of long term benefits.
- b. will generate a cash flow to create a cash stream to contribute to repayment of the interest and principal.

To minimise the amount of debt, borrowing for general road works, plant and equipment and other minor capital works will be used only where such works cannot be reasonably funded from existing reserves or other operational surpluses.

To minimise the ongoing cost of debt Council will continue to utilise the services of Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) for managing existing debt and financing any new borrowing.

To utilise the benefits of Council's borrowing capacity, whilst minimising the resultant debt servicing costs, extensions of Rural Electrification Schemes or similar such schemes, when Council enters into such schemes, will be financed by borrowing for a maximum five to seven year period to allow repayments via Special Rates on benefited properties to be spread over that period. Such borrowing will be carried out of an individual debt pool for such project with Queensland Treasury Corporation.

To minimise the annual cost of debt servicing new borrowing will be taken out for the maximum allowable term allowable by Queensland Treasury for the class of asset for which the funds are borrowed, provided that the period of the loan is not

to exceed the estimated life of the asset.

When seeking long-term funding for the construction of infrastructure assets, Council will, wherever possible, avail itself of its own internal reserves (where such utilisation would not cause any financial impediment to the Reserves' requirements). Where internal reserves are utilised the following is to apply:

- Interest will be payable to the reserve at the existing ten (10) year loan borrowing interest rate at the time of borrowing, on the reducing balance of the amount borrowed.
- Principal repayments will be made (together with interest) on a half yearly basis on 31 December and 30 June each year.
- The annual principal repayments will be the equivalent of one-tenth of the original principal amount borrowed.
- Repayments of the outstanding balances may be made at any time during the 10 year period when funds are made available for such purposes. The repayments will be at the face value of the outstanding amount.

Proposed Borrowings for 2008-09 and following four financial years

A new loan for \$3,100,000 will be drawn down in 2008/2009 for the purpose of purchasing additional Fleet and Plant.

An additional loan maybe required for the 2009/2010 year for a further 2,900,000. This loan maybe either external or internal and the interest would be consistent with QTC borrowing rates. Council's liquidity will be fixed at \$1 million in its' reserves and no loan can be included that would reduce this amount.



Corporate Governance



Existing Borrowings

Details of Council's existing borrowings, including the purpose of the loans, the sum originally borrowed, the outstanding balance and the period over which it is planned to repay the borrowings are shown in the table below:

Purpose	Original Drawdown	Amount Owing (30 June 2009)	Expected Remaining Loan Term (30 June 2009)
Depot Improvements	\$500,000 30 June 1999 20 year term	\$327,500	16.50 years
Forsyth Water Treatment Plant	\$150,000 20 October 2005 12 year term	\$134,588	9.48 years



Registers and Documents

Register	Comments
Personal Interest of Councillors	Records certain financial and other personal interests of Councillors. Available on written request. Councillors affected must be notified by Chief Executive Officer
Personal Interest of Councillors related persons	Restricted access – Councillors
Personal Interests of Chief Executive Officer and certain other senior staff.	Restricted access – Councillors and limited range of others permitted by law.
Minutes of Council Meetings	Available to any person ten days after the Council Meeting.
Delegation of Authority to Mayor or Chief Executive Officer	Available to any person.
Corporate and Operational Plans	Available to any person.
Budget	Available to any person.
Statements of Accounts	Available to any person.
Annual Report	Available to any person.
Road Register	Available to any person.
General Charges	Available to any person.
Delegations of Authority made by Chief Executive Officer.	Available to any person.
Land Record	Available to any person. A fee is required except for a person's own land or adjoining blocks.
Local laws and Local Law Policies	Available to any person.
Town Planning and planning documents – as prescribed under the Integrated Planning Act 1993 (and the earlier Act)	The <i>Integrated Planning Act 1993</i> requires a local government to make a comprehensive range of documents available for inspection and (generally) for purchase. These documents are described in Section 5.7 of the Act.
Code of Conduct for Councillors	Available to any person.
Pest Management Plan	Available to any person.
Stock Route Network Management Plan	Available to any person.



Reportable Issues



Issues required to be reported on by the Local Government Finance Standards 2005

1. Purchasing Policy

Council has in place a purchasing policy to comply with the amendments set out in Section 481 of the Local Government Act 1993. Council has undertaken a number of reviews of this policy since its inception and changes to the Local Government Act 1993.

Council's purchasing policy outlines different procedures to be followed in the purchase of goods.

1. Items less than \$1,000 value;
2. Items from \$1,001 to \$5,000 value;
3. Items from \$5,001 to \$15,000 in value;
4. Items from \$15,001 to \$150,000 in value;
4. Items in excess of \$150,001 in value; and
5. Exemptions apply in accordance with Section 486 of the Local Government Act 1993.



Reportable Issues

2. Internal Audit and Audit Committee

Council passed a resolution in February 2005 (Resolution No. 205/G27) to appoint an Internal Auditor pursuant to Section 6 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

Council passed a resolution in February 2005 (Resolution No. 205/G05) to establish an Audit Committee pursuant to Section 7 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

3. National Competition Policy

Activities to which the Code of Competitive Conduct applies.

A "business activity" of a Local Government is divided into two categories:

a) Roads business activity means.

i) The construction or maintenance of State controlled roads for which the Local Government submits an offer to carry out work in response to a tender invitation other than through a sole supplier arrangement; or

ii) Submission of a competitive tender for construction or road maintenance on the Local Government's roads which the Local Government has put out to tender, or called for by another Local Government.

b) Business activity means.

i) Trading in goods and services to clients in competition with the private sector; or

ii) Submission of a competitive tender in the Local Government's own tendering process in competition with others for the provision of goods and services to itself.

Excluded activities are (a) library services, (b) an activity or part thereof prescribed by legislation.

These business activities are referred to as type 3 activities.

Local Governments may elect to apply a Code of Competitive Conduct (CCC) to their identified business activities. This requires the application of full cost pricing, identifying the cost of community service obligations (CSO) and eliminating the advantages and disadvantages of public ownership within that activity. The application of the CCC to the roads business activity is compulsory.

The Council has resolved not to apply the CCC to the following activities.

- Plant Hire
- Waste Services
- Road Services
- Water Services

4. Land and Roads prescribed not to have a value

Etheridge Shire Council has control of:

1. 6,689 hectares of reserve land under the Land Act 1994. (Includes Reserves for Parks, Recreation, Water Supply, Rubbish Disposal and Local Government Purposes); and
2. 1,797.1 km of Roads. This land does not have a value in the financial statements.



Reportable Issues

5. Principles of Financial Management

To comply with statutory requirements outlined in the Local Government Finance Standard 2005, Council continually takes into consideration the five principles of financial management while at the same time bearing in mind the financial constraints imposed by local economic conditions which are a result of long term drought, commodity prices and the restricted capacity of ratepayers to meet any additional financial commitment.

The financial result for year ending 30 June 2009 and the Auditors Report reflect the effectiveness of the operation of internal control.

The depreciation of non current assets and the amount of funded depreciation demonstrates Council's awareness of the need to have regard for the equity between people presently living in the area and between different generations. Council's corporate and operations plans set out their aims and objectives which together with the implementation of strategic management results in Council becoming very conscious of the importance of ensuring that every effort is made to achieve efficient, effective and proper management of the Local Government in the interests of all people living in the area, and the planning for those who will live in the area in the future.

Additional Matters Required for Reporting under the Local Government Finance Standard 2005—(Section 24)

Amendments to the Local Government Finance Standard 2005 were introduced as at 1 July 2005.

Section 24 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005 states –
 “A Local Government's annual report for a financial year starting on or after 1 July 2006 must contain”

- i. The details for overseas travel undertaken during the financial year by a Councillor or Employee of the Local Government.
- ii. A summary of its expenditure for the financial year, for each of the following –
 - a. Services rendered by a consultant, summarized by reference to categories of service;
 - b. Entertainment or Hospitality Services;
 - c. Advertising;
 - d. Grants to Community Organisations

The following information is provided below to satisfy the requirements under Section 24(1)(a) &(b) of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

Overseas Travel

During the 2008 - 2009 financial year there was no overseas travel undertaken by a Councillor and or an Employee of Etheridge Shire Council for business purposes.

Services Rendered by a Consultant

Consultants engaged by Etheridge Shire Council during the 2008 - 2009 financial year are detailed below pursuant to Section 24 (b)(i):

Departmental Function of Council	Amount Expended - 2008/09
Corporate & Community Services	\$168,636
Engineering Services	\$82,596
Total	\$251,232



Reportable Issues

Entertainment or Hospitality Services

The definition of Entertainment or Hospitality Services in the Local Government Finance Standard 2005 is not intended to be an exclusive definition. Merely to ensure certain items are included.

For the purpose of this reporting requirement the following will be regarded as entertainment or hospitality where the cost is borne by Council.

- i. The provision of food or drink other than as a commercial transaction for full payment;
- ii. The provision of a performance other than as a commercial transaction for full payment;
- iii. Attendance by a councillor or employee of the local government at a function as part of the councillor's or employee's official duties or obligations as a councillor or employee of the Council.

For the 2008 - 2009 financial year, Council spent a total of **\$ 4,198.73** on Entertainment and or Hospitality in accordance with Councils Policy and the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

Advertising

Council's Policy on "Advertising Expenditure" is in accordance with the requirements under Section 10 of the Local Government Finance Standard 2005.

Council may incur expenditure for advertising only if –

- the advertising is for providing information or education to the public;
- the information or education is provided in the public interest; and
- the advertising falls into one of the categories set out below.

Acceptable uses of the Council money for advertising are:

- i. To advise the public of a new or continuing service or facility

- ii. provided by the Council;
- ii. To advise the public about changes to an existing service or facility provided by the Council;
- iii. To increase the use of a service or facility provided by the Council on a commercial basis with a view to profit;
- iv. To change the behaviour of people in the Council's area for the benefit of all or some of the community or to achieve the objectives of the Council;
- v. To advise the public of the time, place and content of scheduled meetings of the Council;
- vi. To advise the public of the decisions made by the Council at its meetings;
- vii. To request comment on proposed policies or activities of the Council; and
- viii. To advertise matters required by legislation to be advertised.

During the 2008 - 2009 financial year, Etheridge Shire Council expensed a total of **\$ 32,155.11** on advertising.

Grants to Community Organisations

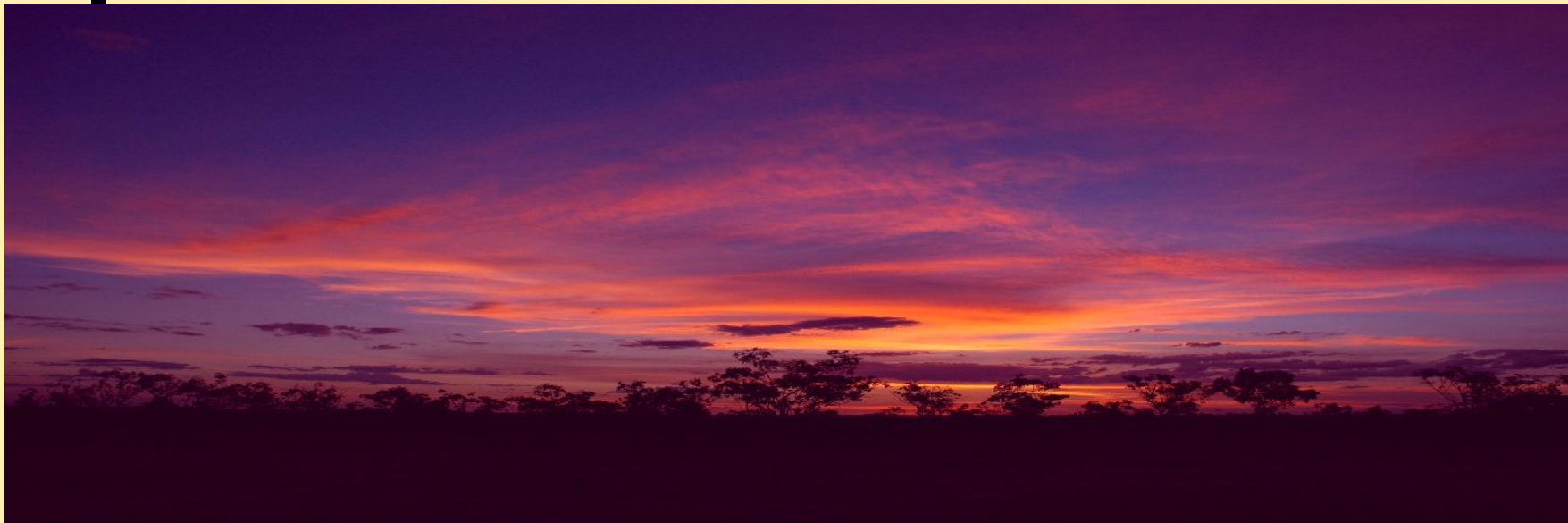
During the 2008 - 2009 financial year, Council did not implement this policy within its Community Services Section.

Council provides Community Assistance through other mediums such as –

- Community Assistance Donations;
- Concessions to Community Groups through Rating



Operational Plan



Assessment of Operations and Performance in implementing Corporate and Operational Plans

Throughout the year the Chief Executive Officer undertakes an evaluation of activities and presents a written report to Council on the progress towards the implementation of the Corporate and Operational Plans. The Operational Plan for the year 2008 - 2009 was completed and adopted by resolution of Council in June 2008. The review of the Operational Plan was completed and adopted by Council in June 2009. In addition, the Corporate Plan has been systematically reviewed and it is reflective of current circumstances.

The following table highlights the achievements for the 2008 - 2009 financial year, with Council utilising the following tools to demonstrate Council's achievement:



= Completed



= Commenced and carried forward to 2009 - 2010



= Did not commence



Operational Plan



1. Roads - *Ongoing improvements to services and standards* Objectives

1. Improve our capacity and increase our contractual work
2. Increase revenue and profitability
3. Strengthen partnerships with Main Roads, DOTARS and industry stakeholders
4. Seal the road from Georgetown to the Lynd
5. Continue to source funding for strategic roads

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Kennedy Development (Lynd-Hughenden) gravel re-sheet	Safer better roads. Oak Park turn off to grid 6 Chainage 39.52 to 73.04 – 33.52 km	Contract incomplete, standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes:	
Gregory Development gravel re-sheet	Safer better roads ND Creek to concrete causeway Chainage 3.93 to 9.1 – 5.17kms Concrete floodway to Stump Camp Creek Chainage 14.7 to 18.3 – 3.6kms Seal Grid 9 to Einasleigh River 72.08 to 76.65 – 4.57kms	Contract complete, standards met, budget not exceeded Notes: Claim to be submitted with QA documentation May 09	



Operational Plan

Gulf Development Road	Safer better roads Brifen Wire Fence structure 17.215 to 17.4 – 1.8kms erected on Newcastle Road	Contract incomplete, standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes: Fence installed. Schedule of rates for further work completed. Estimated completion June 09	
	Junction Creek to Quartzblow Creek , approx 6.9km – Widening of single lane sections & improvement of select dual lane areas	Contract incomplete, standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes: Main Roads Rehabilitation Project, final seal to be applied	
	Georgetown to Mistletoe turn-off	Contract incomplete. Commencing June 09	
RPC 53/99A/9 Kennedy Development	Hann Highway 8km sealing between Oasis and Lynd	Contract incomplete, standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes:	
RMPC	Safer better roads Ongoing maintenance of existing state roads.	Contract is over 2 years which finishes in June 2010. Standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes:	
Roads to Recovery	Safer better roads Construct and Seal Branch Ck to Forsayth 32.7 to 39.54 Kms - 6.8km sealed	Contract complete, standards met, budget not exceeded Notes:	
DMR Flood Damage	Safer better roads Repair Monsoonal Flood Damage Jan 2008, refer to NDRRA Application	Standards to be met, budget not exceeded Notes:	



Operational Plan

Auslink Savannah Way	Safer better roads	Contract in place with Carpentaria Shire	
	Carpentaria Shire sealing sections of Savannah Way	Notes: Project to be completed in 09-10 fiscal year.	
	Sealing double lane Junction Creek Bridge to O'Briens Creek intersection, 9.2km. Chainage 82.95 – 92.15 kms.	Works Completed Notes: Completed, standards met.	
	Sealing double lane Gilbert River and Forest Hills intersection. Chainage 80.97-89.27 Kms. 8.33 Kms.	Works Completed Notes: Works completed by Croydon Shire Council	
Council Roads Roads Maintenance	Safer better roads Road Maintenance, Based on intervention level	Standards met, budget not exceeded Notes: Includes gravel management	
Council Roads Flood Mitigation	Safer better roads Flood Mitigation – drainage maintenance (inlets and outlets)	Standards meet, budget not exceeded Notes:	
Council Roads Flood Damage	Safer better roads NDRRA Flood damage 2008	Standards meet, budget not exceeded Notes: Completed	
Council Roads Flood Damage	Safer better roads NDRRA Flood damage 2009	Standards meet, budget not exceeded Notes: Commenced	
Fleet Management	Health and safety standards met Fit for purpose reliable equipment giving capacity to undertake road works	Fleet management review Fleet management plan (10 year renewal plan) implemented, reduced downtime, increase in successful contracts	



Operational Plan






2. Economic Development - *Build the economic capacity of the Shire* Objectives

1. Develop industrial zones in the Shire
2. Promote Georgetown as a regional hub
3. Secure adequate land for future development
4. Progress the potential of the Gilbert River agricultural precinct

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Industrial precinct	Increased capacity for commercial activity	Road-train ring road completed Weigh Bridge facilities installed Increase in commercial development	
Residential subdivision	Shire growth More land available for residential development	Land purchased Residential division surveyed Develop internal infrastructure – roads, phone, drainage, water Residential sales Notes: pending final NRW documentation (some delays)	
Rural residential subdivision	Shire growth More land available for residential development	Land purchased Rural Residential division surveyed Develop internal infrastructure – roads, phone, drainage, water Rural Residential sales Notes: pending final NRW documentation (some delays)	



Operational Plan

<p>Investigate further land purchase and sales in Georgetown, Einasleigh, Forsayth and Mt Surprise</p>	<p>Shire growth More land available for residential development</p>	<p>Identify potential parcels for purchase Range of applications lodged and negotiated with NRW Note: depends on finalisation of ILUA 2 Meeting held with Town Planners, Ausnorth, NRW and Solicitors to identify vacant land for purchase.</p>	
<p>Promote Etheridge Shire</p>	<p>Greater awareness of Etheridge Shire</p>	<p>Country week Completed Famils from visitor information centres around North and Far North Queensland supported to promote the Shire. Completed</p>	
<p>Investigate potential for Gilbert River Dam</p>	<p>Future rural development</p>	<p>Increased awareness of Gilbert River rural potential. Study/investigation by NRW on the potential of the Gilbert River Agricultural precinct. Public consultation with the Gilbert River Residents. Gary Grey parliamentary secretary visited the Gilbert River Agricultural precinct.</p>	



Operational Plan












3. Water - Improve supply and infrastructure Objectives

1. Develop infrastructure appropriate to the Shire's water needs
2. Investigate water supply for Einasleigh relating to Copperfield dam
3. Move towards full cost recovery of supply of water
4. Reduce water use to ensure containment of costs and continuity of supply

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Maintain and monitor Georgetown pumps and water quantity & quality.	Town wells & pumps maintained. Water maintained at a safe drinking level. (one of the 3 pumps replaced)	Adequate supply. The plan is to replace a pump, recondition it and have it ready to change over the next year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintain water service connections	Town water connections adequate	All new and existing developments/ households with proper and timely connections & maintain existing connections.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water treatment Operations	Smooth operations	Operations – insurance, electricity ect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgetown W T Plant Repairs & Maintenance	Water treatment plant maintenance, Water tests show water quality meets standards.	Repairs and maintenance Adequate chemicals, safe running. Timely repairs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgetown Water Mains Repairs & Maintenance	Adequate water pressure, prompt repairs to breaks or leaks, maintain water mains,	Maintain mains, hydrants, valves, pits & markers etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan

Extension of mains to Gulf Development Road	New subdivisions serviced, La Tara mains replaced	New mains completed Notes: New infrastructure in for weigh bridge and rural developments (west)	
Maintain & monitor Forsyth water quantity & quality	Good water quantity & quality	Regular checking of water & reservoir	
Dam maintenance	Water supply maintained	Adequate supply Maintain dam Notes: Check levels, clean foot valve, maintain fence.	
Maintain water service connections	Town water connections adequate	All new and existing developments/ households with proper and timely connections & maintain existing connections	
Loan interest	Repay loan against water treatment plant (original loan \$150,000)	Loan repayments made to QTC.	
Forsyth WTP repairs	Maintain water treatment plant. Water tests show water meets standards.	Repairs & maintenance Adequate chemicals, safe running. Timely repairs.	
Forsyth water treatment operations	Smooth operations	Operations – Insurance, electricity ect	
Water reticulation monitoring system	Planning for automatic and immediate water treatment advice	Plan complete – budget prepared for implementation	
Forsyth water treatment plant	Good water quality	Additional priority works for Water Treatment Plant completed Safety standards met	



Operational Plan



4. Staff Management and Training - *Improve capacity and efficiency* Objectives

1. Review organization to ensure it is adequate to achieving plan
2. Develop a culture of training
3. Improve recruitment strategies to entice staff to the shire

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Health and safety	Staff operate in a safe work place	Implementation of safe plan 2 Safety consultant to train the WHSO and assist in the implementation of SAFEPLAN 2. Selection and training of Workplace, Health and Safety Reps.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Organisational structure	Efficient and effective corporate structure that is capable of delivering high quality local government service provision	Independent evaluation (WHK Greenwood) Review and implementation of new contracts and positions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff training	Staff with enhanced capacity	Staff capacity increased (safety, HR, Water Treatment, LG Management). Staff have appropriate qualifications for job. Improved efficiencies and production rates. Diploma of Business Human Resources and Certificate IV in Workplace Training & Assessment. WHSO Certificate. Diploma Local Government Administration.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Performance Management	Organisational efficiencies	Performance appraisals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan

Housing operations	Houses well maintained	Regular maintenance and inspections Insurance Pest control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Housing, repairs and maintenance	Appropriate housing attracts quality staff	Improved recruitment Houses well maintained Repairs as soon as possible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff Moral	Organisational efficiencies	Moral improved Good productivity Workforce increased by 30% to accommodate increased work projections.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan






5. Planning - *Improve community ownership and strategic nature of our business* Objectives

1. Improve management information systems
2. Ensure strategic asset planning complements the Shire's service provision
3. Ensure appropriate level of disaster preparedness within the Shire
4. Ensure the Shire's planning scheme is relevant and compliments economic development
5. Promote community involvement in developing local action plans

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
IPA	Better land use planning	Changed planning scheme to account for new subdivisions and development in the Shire	
Corporate Plan	Corporate Plan reflects strategic direction set by Shire residents	Community consultation Second round of consultation meeting to be held during the evening hours.	
Priority Infrastructure Plans	Compliance with State Government requirements	Exemption sort. Standard will be lodged if unsuccessful.	
Operational Plan	Operational reviewed and prepared for 2009-2010	Operational plan drafted	
Asset Management Plan	Effective asset management Meet all legislative reporting	Asset management plan prepared (AMP, SLLMP) Improved water, roads, housing, infrastructure and plant assets financial efficiencies Notes: not adequately budgeted (new rules – SAMP, TMP, CSS, SLLMP, DMP, around \$150,000) Shepherd Services to implement Asset Management Plan	



Operational Plan

Disaster Management Plan	Effective disaster management Protection of life and assets in disaster situations	Disaster Management Plan approved as draft. Etheridge Shire Council Disaster Management Plan. Inventory of resources available for disaster recovery	
Quality System	Improve the system of performance reviews Continuous improvement to procedures	Performance reviews documented and available Consistent measures for team performance available Internal audits completed	
Information/ systems management	Organisational efficiencies, proactive rather than reactive approaches to management	Improved efficiencies Information technology adequate for council works Upgrade Accounting Software. PCS bought out by Civica.	



Operational Plan



6. Building Partnerships/ Lobbying - *Improve opportunistic relationships and advocacy for local issues* Objectives

1. Attract more funding, investment and services into the Shire
2. Building partnerships with adjoining and other Shires

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Fleet & Plant Management	Service level agreement between Etheridge Shire Council and Banana Shire Council regarding the upper level management of fleet.	Improved Fleet & Plant Services/Maintenance. Improved control of Purchases and Disposals of Fleet & Plant and increased profit and loss. Better monitoring of Plant Revenue & Expenses. Improved Management. Training of locals to implement new programmes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RPC, Flood Damage, Rural Road Maintenance RMPC	Building partnerships between Etheridge Shire Council and Main Roads	Improved efficiencies for Roadworks. Ability to perform more major roadworks within the Shire and surrounding Shires.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regional Road Groups.	9 Shires included, managing the state funding. Infrastructure delivery projects/resource sharing.	The utilization of other Shires to assist in managing larger projects and producing better efficiencies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hann Highway Action Group	Working with the Flinders Shire Council.	Alliance of Shires to actively seek funding to improve road corridors in the region.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan



7. Community Infrastructure - *Improve facilities and gardens for community use* Objectives

1. Improve community infrastructure to meet changing community needs and aspirations
2. Deliver infrastructure solutions to compliment grants and planning for town improvement reserves
3. Ongoing review of sport and recreation infrastructure
4. Develop and maintain the potential of the Shire's parks and gardens
5. Implement streetscape in the CBD area of Georgetown

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
TV rebroadcasting operations	Residents have access to TV Coverage	Channels 7, ABC, SBS and Imparja available Notes: Have to convert to digital by 2012, needs to be up and running by 2010 (estimated costs \$100,000)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radio repeater	Residents have access to radio broadcast	JJJ available in Georgetown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halls – repairs and maintenance	Halls well maintained	Maintain Halls, repairs, painting etc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halls - operating	To provide a facility suitable for Shire functions.	Operating Costs associated with Halls processed regularly.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mt Surprise community centre operations	To provide a community centre to Mt Surprise	Operating costs associated with centre processed regularly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mt Surprise community centre repairs and maintenance	Community centre well maintained	Decks resealed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Halls – furniture and equipment	Adequate equipment and furniture	Maintain and replaced furniture as needed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Savannah House operations	To provide a quality facility to business requiring office space.	Operating costs associated with building processed regularly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan

Savannah House repairs & maintenance	Savannah House well maintained	Air-conditioning to server room installed Shelving installed to stores	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forsyth library operations	To provide service to the community and shire	Operating costs associated with library processed regularly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forsyth library maintenance	Forsyth Library Well maintained	Entry ramp resealed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Financial assistance to community groups	Provide active support to community organisations which seek funding opportunities	comprehensive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Town improvement fund	Provide opportunities for individual communities to select desirable local improvements	Community satisfaction with results	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks repairs and maintenance	Parks & Gardens well maintained	Repair coppers logs, signs, reseal, repaint park furniture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks operating	Operating costs	On-going of associated costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swimming pool operating	Operating costs	On-going of associated costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swimming pool repairs and maintenance	Safe Pool, Well maintained	Repair pool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swimming pool – upgrade to improve ergonomics and safety aspects of the facility.	Seek funding to recondition the Georgetown Swimming pool	Recondition the Georgetown swimming pool to a safe and functional; standard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Training Centre for SES – grant income	Suitable Training facility for educating volunteers.	Facility constructed to standard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan

Einaleigh Medical Centre	New Medical Centre for Einaleigh and surrounding districts	Medical Centre operating efficiently.	
Road Entry Signs	Ease of identification of streets, roads and other significant sites.	Ability to identify roads, routes and places	
Mt Surprise Open Earth Drain	Improve Drainage in Mt Surprise in an otherwise flood prone area.	Improved Drainage	
Georgetown Airstrip repairs and maintenance	Well maintained building	Building repaired and repainted	
Other Airstrip repairs and maintenance	Well maintained	Maintain – Slashing etc	
Town street maintenance	Safe, tidy streets	Inspections, repairs and maintenance	
Street lighting	Safe & adequate lighting	Enough lighting	
Vacant land and reserve maintenance	Safe, tidy and clean properties	Inspections, Maintenance	
Public toilets – operations and maintenance	Clean amenities for public use	Regular cleaning, repairs and maintenance	
Kidston new toilets	1. Secure funding for the project. 2. Construction phase	Achieve funding – Dec 08 Construct June 09	
Einaleigh Common	Continuing rehabilitation of land to provide consistent and quality agistment	Fences and water points complete Audit of standing feed shows improvement Satisfaction of customers	



Operational Plan



8. Waste Management - *Minimise waste impacts and meet legal requirements* Objectives

1. Consider new waste management solutions
2. Provide the necessary waste management infrastructure for travelling public

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Collection and disposal	Reliable & Efficient Service	Enhanced security (reduce fires) Transfer station strategies	
Tip maintenance	New Dump site	Find position, prepare ready for when existing dump expires	
Tip maintenance	Safe, tidy	Maintain excess garbage and green waste, backfill pits regularly, plan for future pits	
Tip maintenance	Safe, tidy	Maintain excess garbage and green waste, backfill pits regularly, plan for future pits	
Tip maintenance	Safe, tidy	Maintain excess garbage and green waste, backfill pits regularly, plan for future pits	



Operational Plan



9. TerrEstrial - Showcase our Shire Objectives

1. Ensure that Terrestrial continues to develop as the Shire's major driver of tourism growth

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Develop a new Shire Brochure.	Better promotion of the Shire	Increases in revenue and profit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase in stock Souvenirs.	Promotion of the Shire. Customer satisfaction for purchase of souvenirs.	Increases in revenue and profit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Replace one Casual employee with a permanent staff member	Qualified staff to Relieve Manager. Operation improvements. Better Customer Service. Employing locals in permanent roles.	Increase in Sales due to better customer service. Relieving the Office of Clerical works eg. Cemetery register. Expanding Tourist Information.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>





Operational Plan



10. Early Childhood Education - *Improve services and standards* Objectives

1. Maintain the childcare services that are currently operating in Georgetown
2. Supporting the development of a Shire wide early education strategy via identification of appropriate delivery organisations

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Operating	<p>Create a learning environment which assists with their development of Social Skills, Communication, Thinking/Problem Solving, Motor Skills, Early Literacy & Numeracy, Understanding environments, Art/Aesthetics & Music.</p> <p>Provide Respite for Mothers.</p>	<p>Children are better equipped to attend prep.</p> <p>Better social skills.</p> <p>Learn routines.</p> <p>Mothers are assisted with Respite.</p> <p>Advertising for a new Director Child Care full time to investigate the possibility of a full time day care centre. This will also assist with the growth of the community.</p>	
Repairs and maintenance	<p>Health and safety standards met</p> <p>Safe and clean environment for children</p>	<p>Floor coverings replaced</p> <p>Shade cloth repaired</p> <p>Sand pit repaired</p> <p>Health and safety inspections</p>	



Operational Plan



11. Hostel - *Help remote families access schooling* Objectives

1. Plan for the continuity of the hostel services beyond the current management contract

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Repairs and maintenance	Safe and comfortable boarding environment for children. Meet safety standards	Kitchen facilities upgraded Air-conditioning upgraded Health and safety inspections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
House parents contract	New contract must be in place during 2009	Extension of existing parents contract or new contractors recruited Subsidy = Fees & Deficit Review. Meeting arranged with House parents to discuss Contract.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operate – staff, meals, cleaning etc	Healthy Meals, Safe Environment with caring House parents who provide a home away from home.	Regular hostel students who are healthy, happy and educated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
General purpose grant	Utilise Grant in the most effective way for everyday lifestyle.	Programs updated and equipment purchased to maintain necessary standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>




Operational Plan



12. Cemetery - *Maintain cemeteries* Objectives

1. Develop a management system for cemeteries

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Maintain cemeteries	To provide quality information to the general public regarding historical records for the Etheridge Shire	Updated Cemetery Register and associated maps and grave markings. Set up in TerrEstrial Centre. Staff Training in Cemetery Register.	



Operational Plan



13. Pest Management - *Reduce and prevent pest occurrence* Objectives

1. Implement pest management plan
2. Work in partnership with NGRMG to achieve our statutory responsibility with regard to pest management

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Provide a 1080 baits treatment service and provide an outlet for Factory prepared baits.	Compliance with Pest Animal Control	Number of properties participating	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conduct Parthenium Weed Containment Line program	Prevention of the major seed body of Parthenium Weed establishing in the Gulf Catchments	Mapped areas of weeds treated, adjusted to show reduced extent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Map the locations of GRT in the Shire	Identify infested areas and predict likely direction of spread.	Infestations mapped and maintained current	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continue the development of the Gilbert River Catchment's Rehabilitation Plan	Prepare a treatment plan to address weed control issues across the shire. Research techniques for the aerial ignition of Rubber Vine in periods of nil to low fire danger	Shire weeds mapping updated and ground truthed. Funding application submitted for research. TWRC and RVMG enlisted as partners/supporters.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Provide advice and support on Rural Land Issues to Shire landholders	Assist in compliance with the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, and Etheridge Shire Pest Management Plan	Landholders in compliance with regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan



14. Environmental health - *Ensure compliance* Objectives

1. To be compliant with all relevant legislation

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Status
Health salaries	Regular inspections by qualified consultants to provide licensed premises within the Shire.	Consultant – inspections under environmental health legislation (food licensing, fuel storage etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental health expenses	Annual reviews conducted of licensed Premises with fees and charges processed. Smooth transfers of licences when required.	Covers fees and charges Annual Licensing Certificates. Training is offered in Food Safe Practices.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nuisance Management	Grant to monitor Nuisance Management within the Shire.	Information collected and recorded matches community needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Operational Plan



15. Community development - *Happy healthy communities* Objectives

1. Build capacity and cohesiveness within our community
2. Facilitate community engagement/ participation

2008-2009 Activity/ Project	Outcome	Measure	Timeline
Advertisements to inform residents, community meetings when funding initiatives are received.	Opportunities for community groups to access grant funding.	Grants awarded to community groups after assistance from Council staff.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surveys.	Views of the community are gathered.	Community meetings, routinely held to discuss local issues.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Annual Community consultation meetings.	Continue to develop community improvement program.	Town Improvement grants continue.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Etheridge Shire Council Audited Financial Statements



Etheridge Shire Council presents the financial statements for the period ending

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009