



Town of
PORT HEDLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Council Mission Statement

To enhance our social, environmental and economic well-being by providing leadership and working in partnership with the Community.

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COUNCILLORS 2006/2007



Mayor Stan R Martin
(Retiring 2007)



**Deputy Mayor
Arnold A Carter**
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Grant D Bussell
(Retiring 2009)



Cr George J Daccache
(Retiring 2007)



Cr Arthur A Gear
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Jan M Gillingham
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Des R Pike
(Retiring 2007)



Cr Shane F Sear
(Retiring 2009)

TOWN PROFILE

Population	18,000
Area	11,844 square kilometres
Distance from Perth (km)	1,776 km via NW Coastal Hwy 1,647 km via Great Northern Highway
Electricity Supply	Western Power
Water Supply	De Grey River and Yule River Borefields
Length of Sealed Roads	173 km
Length of Unsealed Roads	646 km
Number of Electors	5,621
Number of Dwellings	5,324
Total Rates Levied	\$8,889,659
Total Operating Revenue	\$32,955,282
Number of Elected Members	9
Number of Employees	156

MANAGEMENT AT 30 JUNE 2007

Governance and Corporate Services

Chief Executive Officer	Chris Adams
Executive Assistant	Gaye Stephens

Corporate Services

Director Corporate Services	Matthew Scott
Manager Finance	Stephen Carstairs
Manager Corporate Support	Cheryl Crick

Engineering Services

Director Technical Services	Grant Logie
Manager Engineering Services	Russell Dyer
Manager Airport	Eleanor Whiteley

Community and Regulatory Services

Director Community and Regulatory Services	Terry Sergent
Manager Library and Information Services	Pam Whiteford-Hey
Manager Community and Economic Development	Vacant
Manager Environmental Health Services	Darryal Eastwell
Manager Planning Services	Richard Bairstow
Manager Building Services	Andy Taylor
Ranger Co-ordinator	Peter Wilden

MAYOR'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the Council's 2006/07 Annual Report. The 2006/07 Financial year saw a significant progress by the Town of Port Hedland in a variety of areas. Capital expenditure undertaken by the Town saw significant growth and improvement in the Town's asset base and continued focus on service delivery resulted in higher quality services being provided to Town residents. As the 2006/07 Annual Financial Statements demonstrate, financially the Council is operating well and we continue to sustainably grow and develop our municipal service base. Community feedback indicates that the Town is improving, but the Councillors and staff recognise that we need to do more to meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Throughout 2006/07 particular focus was placed on developing and enhancing partnerships between the Town, the State Government and key industry stakeholders. We have developed an excellent working relationship with many State Government departments, which is beginning to have positive impacts on the Town through increased understanding of the Town's issues and a corresponding increase in Government investment. A range of government initiatives is scheduled to come to fruition over the coming years including land releases, hotel developments and significant improvements to schools, roads and town amenity. In addition to government partnerships, the Town has worked closely with BHP Billiton Iron Ore and Newcrest to see where the Town's aims and objectives align with their sustainability goals. Through these discussions we have identified numerous projects where we have been able to work together to achieve outcomes that are good for the Town and are good for the companies. We look forward to continuing our close liaison with all of the Town's industry stakeholders to progressively improve the Town of Port Hedland.

The value of the partnerships with Government and industry should not be underestimated. The Town must continue to work with the State Government, Federal Government and key industry stakeholders to collectively develop quality services and infrastructure for the Town. By working together we will achieve a town that is the envy of other towns in the State.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Councillors of the Town of Port Hedland for their tireless efforts throughout 2006/07. Being a Councillor can be a thankless task for which there is often unwarranted criticism and few accolades. While debate in Council on issues was commonplace, the 2006/07 Council team worked together to deliver what it felt were the best outcomes for the Town with the resources and information that it had available to it. I personally thank my Deputy Mayor, Arnold Carter and the team of Councillors, Cr George Daccache, Cr Arthur Gear, Cr Des Pike, Cr Jan Gillingham, Cr Shane Sear and Cr Grant Bussell for their support and contribution to the Council throughout 2006/07.

I'd also like to thank the Council staff for their contribution throughout the year. Council staff has managed ever-increasing workloads in trying conditions and have managed to deliver an excellent result for the Town. I believe that the Town is lucky to have an outstanding staff team that is lead by a top quality management group. The Town will continue to prosper if the Council can continue to attract and retain dedicated staff like those that we currently have.

While 2006/07 has been one of exceptional growth, I fully expect the developments of the previous financial year to be overshadowed by a series of exciting projects that will be undertaken over the coming years. The current exponential expansion in mineral exportation creates a series of opportunities and challenges for the Town. I look forward to working closely with all stakeholders over the coming years to harness the opportunities that the resources boom offers and am sure that working together we will make the Town of Port Hedland a place where everybody enjoys the lifestyle and natural environment – a place that everyone wants to call home.

Cr Stan R Martin
MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The 2006/07 Financial Year was a year where previous work undertaken on system development, structures and external advocacy came to fruition with a significant number of new projects being delivered. Our ability to attract and retain quality staff at all levels of the organisation throughout the financial year meant that traction could be gained on a number of projects.

A focus on partnership development with both the State Government and key industry players presented opportunities to achieve tangible, on-ground results. The Town continued to focus its efforts on the implementation of its Strategic Plan with significant gains being made in each of the Council's key result areas. Highlights in each area include:

Infrastructure Development

- § Implementation of the Port Hedland Underground Power Project in partnership with Horizon Power and the Office of Energy.
- § Working in partnership with the Pilbara Development Commission to develop and implement a range of Port Hedland Enhancement Scheme Projects including park upgrades, heritage trail development, streetscape enhancement projects and others.
- § Continued implementation of Council's five-year construction programs in the areas of footpaths, kerbing, playgrounds and walkway/street lighting. Local residents are increasingly noticing the implementation of these programs, with positive feedback being received.
- § Upgrades to road infrastructure at Yandeyarra Road, Buttweid Road, Wedgefield intersections and the Port Hedland Speedway access road.
- § Airport upgrades including apron lighting, fencing upgrades and terminal improvements
- § Improvement in maintenance levels for roads and parks through increased focus on delivering operational efficiencies using existing resources.

Community Pride

- § Management and development of a range of new community events.
- § Increased focus and resource commitment to the challenging issue of litter reduction.
- § Working with the Department of Housing and Work's (DHW) South Hedland New Living Project on a range of community based initiatives to develop an improved sense of ownership and pride in the Town.
- § Progressive implementation of townscape improvements at the Port Hedland Central Business District (CBD).

Community Development

- § Re-commenced direct Council management of the JD Hardie centre which has seen a drastic increase in the patronage levels – particularly by young people. Consultation commenced on the development of this facility into a more youth specific facility.

- § Development and implementation of the Town's Sports Facility Audit. Significant upgrades were undertaken at many of the Town Multi-user sports facilities using BHP Billiton/TOPH partnership funding.
- § Successfully managed the transition of the Mirtanya Maya Aged Care facility to the new State Government operated Karlarra facility.
- § Implemented a comprehensive mosquito management program.
- § Worked with partners to upgrade infrastructure at the Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery and the Port Hedland Visitor Centre.

Economic Development

- § Significant progress on the development of the Town's Land Use Master Plan – a 15-20 year plan for the use and development of land within the district.
- § Progress the development and release of additional residential land (Pretty Pool and South Hedland) and Wedgefield in-fill industrial blocks.
- § Highly successful sustainability partnership arrangements with both BHP Billiton Iron Ore and Newcrest Mining that are seeing additional revenue coming to the Town to achieve projects that are of benefit to all involved.
- § Management of massive growth in the areas of building and planning applications with applications continuing to processed in a timely, efficient manner.

Environment

- § Implemented a range of initiatives at the South Hedland Landfill Site to improve compliance and reduce waste to landfill.
- § Worked with the Pilbara Regional Council to develop the Regional Waste Management Plan. The implementation of this plan should result in significant improvements the areas of recycling and waste management.
- § Commenced regular monitoring and reporting on the Town's usage of natural resources.

Governance

- § In addition to continuing to measure community satisfaction through the Town's Annual community survey, a variety of other consultation methods were undertaken including shopping centre displays, direct mail outs and community forums.
- § Continued regular communication with the public through quarterly newsletters, monthly Council page in the local newspaper and regular press releases.
- § Progressive development of financial and Local Government compliance requirements which led to the Town being a finalist in the Local Government Financial Management Awards and a much improved 'report card' from the Department of Local Government on compliance matters.

While community feedback indicates a higher level of satisfaction with the quality of services and facilities being offered by the Town, significant work needs to be done to develop the Town to the level that the community wants, needs and deserves. Progress is being made but Council will need to continue to focus of developing partnerships with Government and industry stakeholders to achieve community aspirations as Council can not achieve the results on its own. On a positive note, these stakeholders are all eager to work with Council.

The Town has recruited an excellent staff team who are working diligently to make a positive impact on the community. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their support and assistance throughout the year.

The Town Council's reputation is improving and I am convinced that continued commitment by our elected members, combined with dedicated efforts on behalf of the Town staff, will lead to marked improvements to the Town in 2007/08 and beyond.

Chris Adams
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DISABILITY SERVICES PLAN

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan is regularly reviewed by all Departments of the Town of Port Hedland in order to ensure the Town continues to create a more enjoyable and liveable community for residents and ensures that people with disabilities and their families and carers have the same rights as other people to access services within the community. To that end Council maintains a working relationship with the Disability Services Commission, Dept of Health and other stakeholders to address the needs of disabled residents and ensure they have the same opportunities and choices as every other resident.

During 2006/07 a number of initiatives were implemented, including:

1. Improved services and access for people with disabilities to Council Facilities
2. A general agreement was reached with the Dept of Health to assume responsibility for Home and Community Care (HACC) services, which should enable an improved level of service and ensure the current cap on service provision, is raised. The transfer of responsibility is planned to occur without disruption to service, maintaining the existing staff and premises. The transition is scheduled for completion within the 2007/08 financial year.
3. Design of the Civic Centre foyer and customer service area has been completed to assist access for people with limited mobility to Gratwick Hall and customer service counters; due for implementation in the 2007/08 financial year.
4. commenced construction of a disabled access ramp to the Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery; to be completed in 2007/08.

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY STATEMENT

The Principals of the National Competition Policy requires local government authorities to market test activities, which generate user income in excess of \$200,000.

The objective of competitive neutrality is to introduce measures, which effectively remove any net competitive advantages arising simply as result of government ownership of a business entity.

The activity requiring scrutiny in this regard for the Town of Port Hedland, and is not a public monopoly, is that of private works on private property; however during 2006/07 no individual private works project exceeded \$200,000.

The Town provides quotations or submits tenders in order to win private works. This process ensures the activity of private works is open to competitive market testing.

In relation to structural review of public monopolies, the Town of Port Hedland discloses the following:

- § Structural review principles have not been applied to any activities during the reporting period.
- § Structural review principles have not been considered for any activities during the reporting period.

As no structural reform has been applied to any activities the review requirements of principle SR.3 of clause 7 of the Competition Policy Statement have not been undertaken.

For all other activities within the Town, opportunities are continually being examined in order to generate efficiency improvements. This must be balanced with the type and level of service provision and statutory and other regulatory measures the Town is bound to implement.

RECORDS KEEPING PLAN

The State Records Act 2000 required all local government authorities to produce a Records Keeping Plan, endorsed by State Records Commission by 7 March 2004. The State Records Commission approved the Town's Records Management Plan in November 2004.

A review of the Town's Record Keeping Plan was undertaken in September 2007 and submitted to the State Records Commission for approval. As of February 2008, approval of the plan is still pending. The Town plans to undertake regular minor reviews of the Record Keeping Plan with the next major review planned for 2012 in accordance with the State Records Act 2000.

The Town currently instructs both existing employees, through on the job training and new employees, through a record keeping induction program, on their record keeping responsibilities to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities with regard to compliance with the Town's Record Keeping Plan.

REPORT ON THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

In February 2006, Council adopted its '5 Year Strategic Plan' as the Town of Port Hedland's 'Plan for the Future'. The "Plan for the Future" replaced the previous need for a Principle Activity Plan, due to amendments of the Local Government Act 1995.

In the 5 year Strategic Plan, the Council focused on the following key result areas:

- § Infrastructure
- § Community Pride
- § Community Development
- § Economic Development
- § Environment
- § Governance

Various goals and strategies were developed for each of these key result areas, which were reviewed annually by management and Council, to ensure each was achievable within current resources.

Though a lot of the "Plan for the Future" is still being implemented, major milestones for 2006/07 included:

- § Development a comprehensive road maintenance and road development program that identifies Council's priorities and program for the next 10 years
- § Development of a Land Use Masterplan with significant community contribution
- § Implementation of a comprehensive Staff Performance review process.
- § Complete review of all Council Policies
- § Actively participating in numerous community events including Clean Up Australia Day, Australia Day Welcome to Hedland Night, Black Rock Stakes, Picnic in the Park events held.

The 2007/08 Annual Budget, adopted by Council in July 2007, was heavily influenced by the 'Plan for the Future', and the 'Strategic Plan'. Major projects for 2007/08 include:

- § Upgrading buildings and other facilities
- § New equipment (\$2.090m)
- § New & upgrading Council Buildings (\$4.549m)
- § New & upgrading roads (\$5.272m)
- § Airport Facilities (\$1.005m)
- § Parks (\$6.384m)
- § Footpaths (\$1.795 m)
- § Drains (\$0.390 m)

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