



Town of
PORT HEDLAND

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Council Mission Statement

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

Table of Contents

TOWN PROFILE	2
MANAGEMENT AT 30 JUNE 2006	2
COUNCILLORS AT 30 JUNE 2005	3
MAYOR'S REPORT	5
MAYOR 6	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT	7
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	8
<i>Disability Services Plan</i>	9
<i>National Competition Policy Statement</i>	10
<i>Records Keeping Plan</i>	11
<i>Report on the Plan for the Future</i>	12
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (INCLUDING AUDITOR'S REPORT).....	13

TOWN PROFILE

Population	15,000 approximately
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 Bore fields
Length of Sealed Roads	168 km
Length of Unsealed Roads	481 km
Number of Electors	6,386
Number of Dwellings	4,807
Total Rates	\$8,354,507
Total Operating Revenue	\$25,035,979
Number of Elected Members	9
Number of Employees (FTE)	98

MANAGEMENT AT 30 JUNE 2006

Governance and Corporate Services

Chief Executive Officer	Chris Adams
Executive Assistant	Gaye Stephens
Manager Human Resources	Paul Hartley

Corporate Services

Director Corporate Services	Matthew Scott
Manager Finance	Stephen Carstairs
Manager Administration	Danielle Cowan

Engineering Services

Director Technical Services	Grant Logie
Manager Engineering Services	Vacant
Manager Airport	Rob Evans

Community and Regulatory Services

Director Community Services	Terry Sergent
Manager Aged and Disability Services	Kaye Richardson
Manager Library and Information Services	Pam Whiteford-Hey
Manager Community Development	John Cornelder
Manager Environmental Health Services	Darryle
Manager Planning Services	
Manager Building Services	Andy Taylor
Senior Ranger	

COUNCILLORS at 30 june 2005



Mayor Stan Martin
(Retiring 2007)



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



Cr Grant Bussell
(Retiring 2009)



Cr George Daccache
(Retiring 2007)



Cr Arthur Gear
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Jan Gillingham
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Des Pike
(Retiring 2007)



Cr Shane Sear
(Retiring 2009)



Cr Trona Young
(Resigned May '06)

MAYOR'S REPORT

The 2005/06 Financial Year was a year where the Council commenced the process of reaping the benefits of its consolidation efforts over the previous financial year. The year saw a higher level of stability both within the Council and Council staff which greatly assisted in the Council achieving many of its strategies and goals over the year.

After consecutive years of deficit budgets, the 2005/06 Financial Year was a year where Council adopted and managed a balanced budget. Tighter financial controls were put in place, which has resulted in overall savings to the community whilst still managing to achieve improvements in many areas of service delivery and facility provision. Some of the highlights during the year included:

Strategic Planning: The 2nd quarter of the Financial Year saw the commencement of the development of a consolidated, working strategic plan that is now being actively implemented by the Council. This plan was developed after consulting heavily with the community and makes commitments on strategies, actions and timelines that the Council intends on keeping.

Infrastructure Development: Over \$600,000 was spend on resealing roads with significant investment also going into footpath development, kerbing, airport runway resealing and drainage improvements as well as the finalisation of improvements to the HACC House and the Well Women's Centre. These developments are all assisting in improving the quality of life in Port Hedland.

Service Development: Additional services were added in 2005/06 including significant investment in litter collection in and around the Township. This investment is beginning to show results with noticeably cleaner streets. Other new services that were added included aerating the sports fields to make them softer and more user friendly, the employment of events coordinator to assist in developing community events and functions and the engagement of a research/grants officer to ensure that the Council and the community gets its 'fair share' of funding from various sources.

Partnerships: The Council developed strong working partnerships with major resource companies and many State Government Ministers and departments. These close working relationships have enabled each of the parties to understand the others aspirations with common ground being identified and key projects being worked on to achieve mutual goals.

Maintenance: The relative staffing stability across the organisation led to an increased capacity to effectively maintain and upgrade the quality of community infrastructure within the Town. This has led to marked improvements in the look of parks and playgrounds, verges and open space areas along with improvements in the Town's drainage systems.

In May 2006, Cr Trona Young submitted her resignation to Council as she was moving to Perth with her family. Council elected to not hold a special election and operate with only eight Councillors until the next election. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Deputy Mayor Arnold Carter, Cr George Daccache, Cr Trona Young, Cr Arthur Gear, Cr Des Pike, Cr Jan Gillingham, Cr Shane Sear and Cr Grant Bussell for their efforts over the financial year. Each of the Councillors put in numerous hours of thankless work for the Council and community during year.

The year also saw the commencement of the Town's new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Chris Adams. Chris took over from Mr Peter Struggnell in early August after Peter had been the

Acting CEO for the previous six months. Chris has developed a close working relationship with the Councillors and has recruited and developed an excellent, dedicated team of staff who are working hard to achieve the Council's Strategic Plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the staff of the Town of Port Hedland for all of their efforts over the 2005/06 year. I believe that we are heading in the right direction for the future and I am look forward to working closely with the staff, Councillors and the Port Hedland community to make Port Hedland a place where everybody enjoys the lifestyle and environment – a make Port Hedland a place where people want to call 'home'.

Stan Martin
MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

From an administrative perspective much of the first of the first half of the 2005/06 financial year was spent on recruitment of key staff and the development of plans, goals and strategies for the future. During the period three new Directors were appointed, Mr Matthew Scott (Director Corporate Services), Mr Grant Logie (Director of Engineering) and Mr Terry Sargent (Director Regulatory and Community Services). In addition to these appointments several other new staff members started with Council, replacing positions that had been vacant. I truly believe that we have an excellent staff team and know that we will achieve the plans that have been developed in conjunction with the Council and the community over the coming years.

The year saw the development of the 2006-2011 Town of Port Hedland Strategic Plan. Council adopted the plan in January 2006 after consultation had been held with the community via a comprehensive community survey, shopping centre displays, community workshops and requests for feedback via the media and mail-outs. The myriad of information that was received through the consultation process was analysed by Council and senior staff with the following six Key Result Areas being identified at the conclusion of the process:

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

Work has commenced on achieving the Goals and Strategies in each of these Key Result Areas with some of the highlights being:

Infrastructure Development

- ü Development of 5year programs for footpath development, road resealing, kerbing replacement, lighting and playground upgrades with the commencement of works on each of these programs.
- ü Significant upgrade works being undertaken at the Port Hedland International Airport including, lighting, fencing and resealing works
- ü The sealing and development of Finucane Island Boat Ramp Road and Bell Street after identifying these projects as key community concerns..
- ü Improvements in parks and gardens maintenance with particular focus on slashing of open areas and maintenance of grassed areas.

Community Pride

- ü Commencement of a new litter collection program with resources being specifically dedicated to this thankless and never-ending task.
- ü Operating highly successful community events including the Australia Day Community Day and the Welcome to Hedland Night as well as assisting with the development of other community events such as the Melbourne Cup Visit, Blackrock Stakes and Boodarie Bowls tournament.

Community Development

- ü The upgrade of facilities at the South Hedland Aquatic Centre including refurbished changerooms and the installation of an impressive new shade shelter over the main pool.
- ü The progression of the development of a new Community Safety and Crime Prevention plan.
- ü Commencement of reviews of the JD Hardie Centre, Courthouse Art Gallery, Port Hedland Visitor Centre and Matt Dann Theatre to ensure that the community gets the best possible services from these facilities at a reasonable cost to ratepayers.

Economic Development

- ü The progression of residential land release projects in both Pretty Pool and South Hedland.
- ü Improved quality and response times on planning, building and environmental health related matters.
- ü Development of partnership agreements with both BHP Billiton and Newcrest Mining.
- ü Successful partnering with Western Power (Port Hedland Underground Power Project), Water Corporation (Oval Reticulation Upgrades) and the Pilbara Development Commission (numerous Pilbara Fund and Port Hedland Enhancement Scheme Projects)

Environment

- ü Conducted a comprehensive review of the South Hedland Landfill Site with preliminary actions being implemented.
- ü Expansion of the non-potable water scheme to ensure that all of the Town's non-potable water is being re-used efficiently.

Governance

- ü Conducted the first annual Community Survey to benchmark the Council's performance against community expectations.
- ü The development of the Strategic Plan and the 5yr Financial Planning principals for Council.
- ü Commencement of regular communication with the public through quarterly newsletters, monthly Council page in the local newspaper and regular press releases.
- ü The development of improved internal systems including records management, occupational health and safety and information technology reliability.

While there has been significant progress made, there is a lot of additional of work that needs to be done to provide the services that this community wants, needs and deserves. I'd like to thank the Council and staff for their support over the 2005/06 year and look forward to working hard in 2006/07 and beyond to continually improve the Town of Port Hedland.

Chris Adams

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Disability Services Plan

The Disability Services Plan is regularly reviewed by all Departments of the Town of Port Hedland in order to ensure that the Town of Port Hedland continues to create a more enjoyable and liveable community for residents and has an ongoing positive impact on people with disabilities. Council also recognises and actively encourages the notion that a Disability Services Plan should eventually be phased out as it will be standard practice in all areas to be fully inclusive of the whole of the community, thus addressing the needs of disabled residents as a matter of course.

During 2005/06 a number of initiatives were implemented to improve the access for people with disabilities to Council Facilities, these included

Disability access ramp for Court House Gallery

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 2004/05 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.

The efficiency and effectiveness of the Town's Record Keeping Plan, together with the staff training program, will be reviewed regularly. To date there has been no review of the Record Keeping Plan, as it is still being implemented. A major review of the plan will take place every 5 years.

The Town plans to conduct a Record Management Training Program, which will include both existing and new employees. This program will cover, amongst other things, the role and responsibilities of employees with regards to compliance with the Town's Record Keeping Plan.

Report on the Plan for the Future

In February 2006, Council adopted its 2005/06 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 2005/06 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 regularly 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 2005/06 included:

- ü Development of a five year financial plan for major infrastructure upgrades and maintenance of Roads, Footpaths, Drainage, Lighting, Buildings, and Reserves.
- ü Upgrade of the South Hedland Aquatic Centre.
- ü Commencement of a Litter Collection Program.
- ü Operating a number of successful community events
- ü Upgrade of the Port Hedland International Airport Facilities
- ü Review of the operation of many Council facilities including JD Hardie Centre, Court House Gallery, Port Hedland Visitors Centre and Matt Dann Theatre.
- ü Development of a Five Year Planning Principals on matters such as Rates, Loans, Reserves, Operating Expenditure and Revenue

The 2006/07 Annual Budget, adopted by Council in July '06, has been heavily influenced by the "Plan for the Future", "Strategic Plan" and "Five Year Planning Principals". Major projects for 2006/07 include:

- ü Upgrading buildings and other facilities (\$2.3m)
- ü New equipment (\$1.7m)
- ü Waste services (\$1.3m)
- ü New & upgrading roads (\$1.2m)
- ü Airport Facilities (\$900k)
- ü Parks (\$900k)
- ü Footpaths (\$500k)
- ü Drains (\$200k)

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