



2009-2010

ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The Coorong District Council area will be recognised for its cohesive community, prosperous economy and unique and highly valued environment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Business Plan sets out Council's proposed services, programs and projects for 2009/2010. Council aims to provide effective and efficient services for the community and to continue progress towards the longer term objectives of The Coorong District Council as set out in the Strategic Management Plan 2008 – 2012, which was adopted by Council in June 2008. The Coorong District Council Strategic Management Plan 2008-2012 describes what Council believes must happen during the next 5 years to ensure that the District is developed according to community expectations and to provide a platform to become a 'Sustainable Region'.

A 'Sustainable Region' is one that recognises the current values of the community, the importance of the history of the Region and the character of its built environment. Based on this information, the Region is then in a position to ensure that it has long term goals for maintaining, and moving further towards becoming a community that:

- Is caring, informed, connected and accessible.
- Pursues economic prosperity and provides social equity.
- Acts in an environmentally responsible way.

The Local Government Act 1999 Section 123 – 'Annual business plans and budgets' prescribes the content that must be included in this document and the subsequent process before adoption. Section 123, includes matters regarding:

- Required content in the Annual Business Plan.
- Public consultation obligations of Council.
- The timing parameters relating to adoption (between May 31 and August 31).
- Communication requirements (back to the community) after adoption.

The ongoing development of The Coorong District Council community has always been a priority of Council, with all elected members and staff committed to The Coorong District Council being a progressive and vibrant Council. This plan sets out what Council wants to achieve in the next financial year.

Council will measure performance against the stated objectives via the achievement of project milestones, compliance requirements, budgetary parameters and other agreed targets.

Cr Roger Strother
Mayor

Tim Drew
Chief Executive Officer

1.1 Vision, Mission and Principles for the Annual Business Plan

The following Vision, Mission and Council's core values were adopted as part of The Coorong District Council Strategic Management Plan 2008-2012 in June 2008.

Vision Statement

Council's vision for the district.

The Coorong District Council area will be recognised for its cohesive community, prosperous economy and unique and highly valued environment.

Mission Statement

Council's business purpose and role in contributing to the Vision.

The Coorong District Council is committed to:

- Responsibly managing the natural and built environment with the aim of attaining **sustainability**.
 - Facilitating economic **prosperity**, sustainable growth and employment throughout the district.
 - Enhancing the quality of life for the community by encouraging health, **well being** and safety.
 - Providing **leadership** for the community and ensuring efficient and effective management of the community's resources.
-

Council's Core Values

The principles, attributes and qualities that Council will display and practice in the way we go about our business.

Council will be:

- Accountable and transparent
 - Engaging (participatory, consultative and informative)
 - Creative and innovative
 - Responsible and responsive
 - Equitable
 - Proactive and progressive
 - Committed to sustainability
-

2. ABOUT THE COORONG DISTRICT COUNCIL

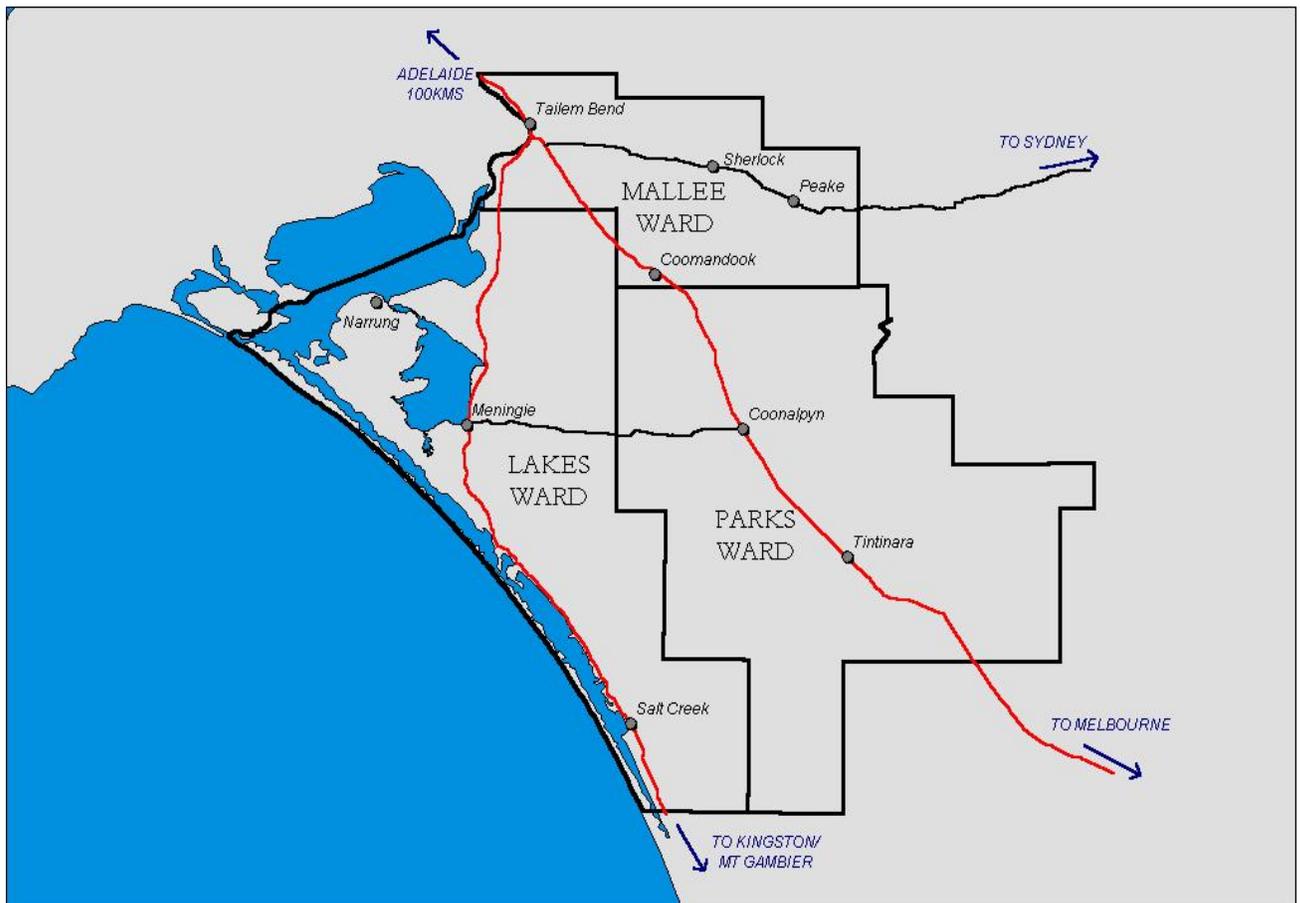
2.1 Community, District and Council Overview

Key features:

- Population in 2006 was 5,724.
- 8,836 square kilometres of mainly rural land.
- Main towns of Tailem Bend, Meningie, Tintinara and Coonalpyn plus other smaller settlements.
- Dukes Highway and the Princes Highway are key transport corridors.
- Large area of coastline and the environmentally renowned Coorong.
- Includes lower reaches of River Murray and encompasses Lake Albert and part of Lake Alexandrina.
- Strong diversified primary industry base.
- Council offices located at Tailem Bend, Meningie, and Tintinara.

For a comprehensive overview of the population and economic activity within The Coorong District Council please refer to Council's Population and Economic Profile.

2.2 Coorong District Map



3. ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2008-09 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

The following table indicates the achievements of the Annual Business Plan 2008/09. Also identified are items that will be carried over to the 2009/10 financial year.

Environmental Objective Sustainability

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|--|--|---|------------|---|--|
| 1.1 GOAL – To have up to date Development Plan provisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community and ensure its development assessment processes reflect best practice principles and consistent decision making. | 1.1.1 Improve the Development Plan | 1.1.1.1 Undertake a Better Development Plan Conversion | DES | Commenced | Will be completed in 2009. |
| | | 1.1.1.2 Commence a Section 30 Review of the Development Plan upon completion of the Murray Mallee Land Use Framework currently being undertaken by Planning SA. | DES | To be carried over to 2009-10 | Due to delay in completion of the Murray Mallee Land Use Framework by Planning SA, Council was unable to commence the Section 30 Review. Will be completed in 2009-10. |
| 1.3 GOAL – To responsibly manage the natural environment to ensure its sustainability and to implement natural resource management principles. | 1.3.1 To establish and maintain policies and procedures to adequately protect and conserve our natural environment | 1.3.1.1 Complete a Coorong Sustainability Plan | DES | Commenced, completion to be carried over to 2009-10 | Investigations and research phase has commenced. Completion of plan was carried over to seek funding opportunities that may be available in 2009-10. |
| | | 1.3.1.3 Complete the Roadside Vegetation Policy | DES | Completed | Adopted at Council's June meeting and forwarded to the Native Vegetation Council for endorsement. |
| | 1.3.2 To adopt Sustainability principles in all of Council's activities | 1.3.2.2 Purchase 'green power' to meet a portion of Council's electricity needs. | GOV | Completed | Council has signed up to a whole of Local Government tender process through LGCS for the purchase of green energy. Tender process yet to commence. |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|--|---|---|------------|----------------------|---|
| | 1.3.3 To maintain Council's commitment to the Coorong Local Action Plan Committee and staff | 1.3.3.4 Assess the feasibility and appropriateness of alternative funding sources | DES | Completed | Following the assessment of appropriate alternative funding sources for LAP it was decided to create a Council wide sponsorship policy. This will occur in 2009-10. |
| 1.4 GOAL – To have infrastructure planning that is adequately resourced, integrated with land use planning and minimises risk | 1.4.2 STEDS Recycled water reuse | 1.4.2.1 Investigate feasibility of reuse of effluent water from Council Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS). | AS | Completed | All three investigation and scoping reports for Tailem Bend, Meningie and Tintinara have been completed and presented to the Council Meeting in October 2008. Council was successful in obtaining funding for all three CWMS Wastewater recycling projects at Tailem Bend, Meningie and Tintinara. |
| | | 1.4.2.2. Obtain funding support from LGA Water smart program. | AS | | |
| 1.5 GOAL – To establish an Asset Management System and plans to ensure the long term sustainability of Council's resources, plant, equipment, buildings and infrastructure. | 1.5.1 Develop an Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan in accordance with legislative requirements | 1.5.1.1 Complete the Asset Management Plan | AS | Commenced | Council has updated its Road Register prior to collecting road asset data for the Plan. A basic Asset Management Plan is being drafted and will be presented to Council as soon as possible. |
| 1.6 GOAL – To implement sustainable programs and policies for the management of waste in the Coorong District Council. | 1.6.1 Waste minimisation tied to maximum resource recovery | 1.6.1.1 Investigate the feasibility of a Regional Landfill Strategy with participating Councils. | AS | Yet to be commenced. | Carried over to 2009-10. |

Economic Objective Prosperity

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|--|---|---|------------|------------------|--|
| <p>2.1 GOAL – To attract new and support existing economic, industrial and commercial development opportunities to ensure the on going prosperity of the Coorong District Council district.</p> | <p>2.1.2 To develop and implement initiatives that will enhance the district's investment, commerce and investment potential.</p> | <p>2.1.2.1 Conduct a detailed assessment of the Coorong District economy.</p> | <p>DES</p> | <p>Completed</p> | <p>Population & Economic Profile adopted in December 2008.</p> |

Social Objective Wellbeing

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|--|------------|---------------------|---|
| 3.1 GOAL – Enhancing the quality of life of the community by encouraging health, well being and safety | 3.1.3 To ensure Council's Environmental Health responsibilities are being met in a sustainable, efficient and appropriate manner. | 3.1.3.3 Full utilisation of Health Manager software | DES | Completed | It was decided not to use Health Manager. An alternative software for health tasks through Civica Managed Services has been implemented and staff trained in its use. |
| | | 3.1.3.4 Complete a Coorong Response Emergency Management (CERM) Plan | AS | Commenced | Investigation and research phase commenced. Completion of plan to be carried over to 2009-10. |
| | 3.1.5 Further enhance Council's relationship with the local Indigenous Community | 3.1.5.3 Enter an agreement and formulate a policy regarding construction works to ensure the protection and preservation of aboriginal heritage. | GOV | Yet to be commenced | Will be carried over to 2009-10. |

Governance Objective Leadership

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4.1 GOAL – Establish a ‘best practice’ governance framework | 4.1.1 Improve Council’s governance performance & develop relevant policies and codes. | 4.1.1.1 Nominate to participate in the LGA Good Governance Assessment Program | GOV | Yet to be commenced | To be carried over to 2009-10. |
| | | 4.1.1.2 Conduct an audit of governance procedures and practices. | GOV | Yet to be commenced | To be carried over to 2009-10. |
| | 4.1.2 Position the Council Members to be successful | 4.1.2.1 Ensure that training plans for elected members address governance issues as appropriate including roles and relationships of Council members and staff. | GOV | Completed | Completed in March 2009. |
| 4.2 GOAL – To facilitate open and transparent relationships with the community and key stakeholders. | 4.2.1 Improve Council’s communication with the community and regional stakeholders | 4.2.1.4 Participate in the Community Panel pilot project. | GOV | Completed | Completed in 2008. |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|------------|-----------|---|
| 4.3 GOAL – To continuously strive for quality, responsive customer service and enhancement of the image of Council. | 4.3.1 Develop and implement a Customer Service Charter | 4.3.1.2 Ensure Customer Service Charter complies with the 'Service' section of the Local Government Service Quality Framework. | CS | Completed | In the development of the Customer Service Charter key principles of the 'Service' section of the Framework were considered. |
| | | 4.3.1.3 Complete Customer Service Charter that includes best practice service standards to meet the needs of the community and Council. | CS | Completed | Customer Charter and service standards adopted by Council at September 2008 meeting. Internal processes in place and Charter launched in January 2009. |
| 4.4 GOAL – To have a secure adequate revenue base to ensure an equitable level of services to meet the expectations of the Council. | 4.4.1 Review Council's rating policy | 4.4.1.1 Review Council's rating policy integrating the review with current and future land use zonings. | GOV | Completed | New rating structure adopted at Council's May 2009 meeting and implemented for 2009-10 budget. |
| 4.5 GOAL – To ensure the Council's finances are managed to maintain financial sustainability. | 4.5.1 Achieve financial targets that are appropriate to Council's circumstances and financial sustainability objectives | 4.5.1.1 Review the LGA Financial Sustainability Information Paper No12. | CS | Completed | Targets in paper have been utilised in drafting the Long Term Financial Plan |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|------------|---|--|
| | 4.5.2 Implement long term financial planning strategies | 4.5.2.1 Develop a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) in accordance with legislative requirements. 4.5.2.3 Ensure the LTFP adequately addresses the requirements of the Asset Management Plan. (Ref 1.5.1.8) | CS | Completed Unable to be completed | Adopted at June 2009 Council meeting. As there was no Asset Management Plan at the time the LTFP was completed this action was unable to be completed. Future reviews of the LTFP will ensure it is aligned with the Asset Management Plan. |
| 4.6 GOAL – To manage the business of Council through the responsible and efficient administration of finances to provide financial stability and the ongoing appropriate delivery of services for the community. | 4.6.1 Improve Council's financial management practices | 4.6.1.1 Review end of cycle management, including purchasing, receivables, cash management and other reporting services. | CS | Completed. | Financial procedure manual has been prepared. |
| | | 4.6.1.2 Transition all creditor payments to electronic funds transfer. | CS | 97% complete | Some creditor payments cannot be transferred to electronic fund transfer. |
| | | 4.6.1.3 Ensure the Internal Control Policy reflects the outcomes of 4.6.1.1. | CS | Completed | Completed as part of 4.6.1.1 |
| | | 4.6.1.4 Develop and adopt Debt Recovery Policy. | CS | Completed | Adopted at January 2009 Council meeting. |
| 4.7 GOAL – An Information Technology (IT) service that keeps pace with Council and community needs. | 4.7.1 Ensure that Council's IT network is cost effective, reliable and fully utilised, delivering quality services to Council and | 4.7.1.1 Prepare an IT Development Program, including the following systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fully integrated GIS o Website and intranet development. o Human Resources/Training | CS | GIS completed Website completed Intranet carried over | December 2008 November 2008 Intranet project deferred. Budget allocation of \$10k was allocated to Powerbudget development to improve budget setting process. |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|--|--|--|------------|-----------|--|
| | the community. | Module (refer to 4.8.1.4 below) | | | |
| | 4.7.2 Ensure Council's IT network had adequate risk protection whilst optimising IT resources. | 4.7.2.1 Implement the agreement with Civica in relation to the provision of full managed services for a period of five years. | GOV | Completed | Transition to full managed services completed in March 2009. |
| | 4.7.3 Develop and implement systems and processes to improve the management of Council's records & meet legislative requirements | 4.7.3.1 Review & report on the current performance of Council's records management practices & software in relation to Council's needs & legislative compliance. | CS | Completed | Consultant has completed a review with recommendations. Leadership team has considered the report and the implementation of recommendations. Implementation to occur in 2009-10. |
| 4.8 GOAL – To develop and promote Council as an 'employer of choice', facilitating the attraction and retention of staff and promoting the principles of work life balance for employees. | 4.8.1 Develop and implement human resource systems and processes to provide contemporary management of people and performance. | 4.8.1.4 Implement a human resource information technology system that is fully integrated with corporate system and includes a training register (refer to 4.7.1.1). | CS | Completed | Completed in February |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2008/09 | STRATEGY | ACTION | DEPARTMENT | STATUS | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|------------|---------------------|---|
| 4.10 GOAL – Have appropriate Organisational Capacity to ensure an effective and efficient organisation | 4.10.1 Optimally structured and resourced organisation to appropriately reflect its role and functions. | 4.10.1.5 Conduct a review of Council's long term office requirements | GOV | Completed | Council considered review at its meeting in May 2009. |
| 4.12 GOAL – Engage the community in the election process, both as candidates and as voters. | 4.12.1 Increase the level of voter participation | 4.12.1.1 Assess the outcomes of the LGA 'LG elections review' with the aim to increase voter participation. | GOV | Yet to be commenced | Carry over to 2009-10. |

4. PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR 2009/10

The Annual Business Plan has an even combination of goals and actions that will positively impact services to the community and the environment and the internal business operations of Council, both of which act to meet the requirements of the current Coorong District Council Strategic Management Plan 2008-2012.

The Annual Business Plan document will be reviewed on a quarterly basis with updates and recommendations provided to Council. During the course of the financial year, available resources and organisational and community priorities (strategic & non strategic and financial & non financial) may change resulting in alteration to the overall plan.

The following table indicates the project priorities for the 2009-10 financial year with regard to the objectives and key activities as identified in The Coorong District Council Strategic Management Plan 2008-2012.

In addition to the project priorities identified in the following table, Council will continue to assess its short and long term office accommodation requirements. Further to a review of office accommodation considered at Council's May 2009 meeting, Council has established a working group to further review and assess office accommodation. Whilst at this stage no budget allocation is made for the provision of longer-term office accommodation, the resolution of this issue in 2009-10 is considered a priority by Council.

2009/10 PROJECT PRIORITIES

Environmental Objective Sustainability

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|---|--|---|--------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1.1 GOAL – To have up to date Development Plan provisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community and ensure its development assessment processes reflect best practice principles and consistent decision making. | 1.1.1 Improve the Development Plan | 1.1.1.2 Commence a Section 30 Review of the Development Plan upon completion of the Murray Mallee Land Use Framework currently being undertaken by Planning SA. | \$10,000 | November 2009 | Completion of Section 30 Review in 2008 (subject to timing of completion of Murray Mallee Land Use Framework) | Development and Environmental Services (DES) |
| 1.2 GOAL – To ensure the long term economic, social and environmentally sustainable future of its community, as well as meeting the community's aspirations. | 1.2.1 Creation of Strategic Land Use Plans (Township Master Plans) | 1.2.1.1 Development of Strategic Land Use Plans | \$15,000 | September 2009 | To be completed in conjunction with the Section 30 Review process. | DES |
| 1.3 GOAL – To responsibly manage the natural environment to ensure its sustainability and to implement natural resource management principles. | 1.3.1 To establish and maintain policies and procedures to adequately protect and conserve our natural environment | 1.3.1.1 Complete the Coorong Sustainability Plan | \$15,000 | December 2009 | Adoption of Coorong Sustainability Plan | DES |
| | 1.3.4 To assess the potential impacts of climate change on | 1.3.4.2 Ensure the Coorong Sustainability Plan (refer to 1.3.1.1) reflects climate change initiatives. | None | December 2009 | Incorporate appropriate actions and targets in Sustainability plan | DES |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|--|---|---|--------------------|---------------|--|------------|
| | the environment, economy and community | | | | | |
| 1.4 GOAL – To have infrastructure planning that is adequately resourced, integrated with land use planning and minimises risk | 1.4.3 Provide a wide range of passive and recreational facilities | 1.4.3.2 Develop a Strategic Bike Plan (particularly for townships) and seek funding for the development and implementation of the Plan. | \$25,000 | 2009 | Successful funding application to BikeSA. | AS |
| | | | | 2010 | Strategic Bike Plan adopted if funding successful. | |
| 1.5 GOAL – To establish an Asset Management System and plans to ensure the long term sustainability of Council's resources, plant, equipment, buildings and infrastructure. | 1.5.1 Develop an Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan in accordance with legislative requirements | 1.5.1.2 Review road classification policy to ensure accurate reflection of road network. | | 2009 | Review is completed. | AS |
| | | 1.5.1.3 Develop and implement a rolling 10 year plant replacement. | | 2009 | 10 year plant replacement plan completed. | |
| | | 1.5.1.4 Review hardware/software requirements | \$50,000 | 2009 | Review completed and implementation of software. | |
| 1.6 GOAL – To implement sustainable programs and policies for the management of waste in the Coorong District Council. | 1.6.1 Waste minimisation tied to maximum resource recovery | 1.6.1.1 Investigate the feasibility of a Regional Landfill Strategy with participating Councils. | None | December 2009 | Investigation into Regional Landfill Strategy completed. | AS |
| | | 1.6.1.2 Ongoing development of a Recycling program. | | 2009 | Recycling program adopted. | AS |
| | | 1.6.1.3 Review options re provision of kerbside green waste collection service. | | 2009 | Review of green waste collection completed. | AS |

Economic Objective Prosperity

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|---|--|--|--------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------|
| 2.1 GOAL – To attract new and support existing economic, industrial and commercial development opportunities to ensure the on going prosperity of the Coorong District Council district. | 2.1.2 To develop and implement initiatives that will enhance the district's investment, commerce and investment potential. | 2.1.2.2 Develop an Economic Development Policy (EDP) | None | February 2010 | EDP completed | DES |

Social Objective Wellbeing

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|---|---|--|--------------------|---------------|---|------------|
| 3.1 GOAL – Enhancing the quality of life of the community by encouraging health, wellbeing and safety. | 3.1.3 To ensure Council's Environmental Health responsibilities are being met in a sustainable, efficient and appropriate manner. | 3.1.3.4 Complete a Coorong Response Emergency Management (CERM) Plan | None | January 2010 | CERM Plan adopted | AS |
| | 3.1.5 Further enhance Council's relationship with the local Indigenous Community | 3.1.5.3 Enter an agreement and formulate a policy regarding construction works to ensure the protection and preservation of aboriginal heritage. | None | December 2009 | Adoption of policy protecting aboriginal heritage and encouraging a positive relationship between Council and the local indigenous community. | GOV |

Governance Objective Leadership

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|--|---|---|--------------------|----------------|---|------------|
| 4.1 GOAL – Establish a ‘best practice’ governance framework. | 4.1.1 Improve Council’s governance performance & develop relevant policies and codes. | 4.1.1.1 Nominate to participate in the LGA Good Governance Assessment Program | None | July 2009 | Nomination submitted. | GOV |
| | | 4.1.1.2 Conduct an audit of governance procedures and practices. | None | December 2009 | Audit completed. | GOV |
| 4.2 GOAL – To facilitate open and transparent relationships with the community and key stakeholders. | 4.2.1 Improve Council’s communication with the community and regional stakeholders | 4.2.1.2 Review and improve Council’s Public Consultation Policy | None | 2009 | Policy is reviewed and improved to facilitate better communication with community. | GOV |
| 4.3 GOAL – To continuously strive for quality, responsive customer service and enhancement of the image of Council. | 4.3.1 Develop and implement a Customer Service Charter | 4.3.1.4 Annual review of Customer Service Charter | None | September 2009 | Charter and service standards to be reviewed in accordance with stated response rates. | CS |
| | 4.3.2 Ongoing improvement of customer service standards | 4.3.2.1 Implement an integrated Customer Request Management Service (CRMS). | See 4.7.3.2 | 2009 | Suitable CRMS implemented. Staff trained. (This may occur as part of implementation of 4.7.3.2) | CS |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|---|--|--|--------------------|------------|--|------------|
| 4.6 GOAL – To manage the business of Council through the responsible and efficient administration of finances to provide financial stability and the ongoing appropriate delivery of services for the community. | 4.6.1 Improve Council's financial management practices | 4.6.1.5 Improve the management of debtors by implementing the bad debt module in Council's business system. | None | 2009 | Bad debt balances reduced by 30% 12 months after implementation. | CS |
| 4.7 GOAL – An Information Technology (IT) service that keeps pace with Council and community needs. | 4.7.1 Ensure that Council's IT network is cost effective, reliable and fully utilised, delivering quality services to Council and the community. | 4.7.1.1 Prepare an IT Development Program, including the following systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Website and intranet development. o Modernised telephone system | \$10,000 | 2010 | Intranet site developed and implemented | CS |
| | | | \$107,000 | 2010 | Telephone system installed. | CS |
| | 4.7.3 Develop and implement systems and processes to improve the management of Councils records & meet legislative requirements | 4.7.3.2 Implement specific actions required to achieve compliance with State Records. | \$50,000 | 2009 | EDMS complies with State Records legislation. | CS |
| | | 4.7.3.3 Records management policy to be developed and implemented. | None | 2009 | Policy adopted. | CS |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|--|--|--|--------------------|------------|--|------------|
| 4.8 GOAL – To develop and promote Council as an ‘employer of choice’, facilitating the attraction and retention of staff and promoting the principles of work life balance for employees. | 4.8.1 Develop and implement human resource systems and processes to provide contemporary management of people and performance. | 4.8.1.1 Review and update Human Resources Management Policy and Procedures Manual. | None | 2009 | Policy and procedures reviewed and updated. | CS |
| | | 4.8.1.2 Develop an employee induction handbook for new employees. | None | 2009 | Induction handbook completed. | CS |
| | | 4.8.1.3 Develop an ‘Attracting and Retaining Staff’ Policy and program (refer to 4.10.1.4). | None | 2010 | Attracting and Retaining Staff Policy and program implemented. | CS |
| | 4.9.2 Identify, review and develop systems and processes to manage risk. | 4.9.2.2 Implement a risk management database. | None | 2010 | Risk management database implemented in accordance with departmental schedule and budget parameters. | CS |
| | | 4.9.2.3 Development of a fraud and corruption policy. | None | 2009 | Fraud and corruption policy adopted. | CS |
| 4.10 GOAL – Have appropriate Organisational Capacity to ensure an effective and efficient organisation. | 4.10.1 Optimally structured and resourced organisation to appropriately reflect its role and functions. | 4.10.1.1 Define the Council’s role and function in the areas of sport and recreation, community services, community development, arts and culture, economic development and tourism. | None | 2009 | Council’s role and functions are defined and prioritised. | GOV |
| | | 4.10.1.2 Assess current allocation of responsibilities, | None | 2009 | Complete a review of the organisational | GOV |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|----------------------------|---|--|--------------------|------------|---|------------|
| | | reporting arrangements and level of resources and ensure responsibility all Council roles and activities is assigned to appropriate staff. | | | structure in conjunction with the findings of 4.10.1.1. | |
| | | 4.10.1.3 Development of an appropriate organisational structure that will meet the needs of the Council and the community. | None | 2009 | Adopt an appropriate organisational structure | GOV |
| | | 4.10.1.4 Promote the principles of succession planning and talent identification to allow for staff development and promotion from within the organisation (may be reflected in action 4.8.1.3). | None | 2010 | Training and development plans for staff allow for promotion. | GOV |
| | 4.10.2 Specify Council's role, responsibility, service provision, organisational arrangements and funding levels for the District's community services. | 4.10.2.1 Prepare a report which details the current position. | None | 2009 | Complete report Identifying the current activities in community services. | GOV |
| | | 4.10.2.2 Consider options for Council's role, responsibility, service provision, organisational arrangements and funding levels and determine a preferred option. | None | 2009 | Adopt an appropriate organisational structure to cover the community service area (also related to 4.10.1.3). | GOV |

| CURRENT YEAR GOALS 2009/10 | STRATEGY | ACTION | BUDGET IMPLICATION | TIME FRAME | PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT | DEPARTMENT |
|--|---|---|--------------------|---------------|---|------------|
| 4.12 GOAL – Engage the community in the election process, both as candidates and as voters. | 4.12.1 Increase the level of voter participation | 4.12.1.1 Assess the outcomes of the LGA 'LG elections review' with the aim to increase voter participation. | None | November 2009 | Measures identified and documented to increase voter participation. | GOV |

5. MEASURING PERFORMANCE – OBJECTIVES FOR THE YEAR

This Annual Business Plan has been prepared to deliver the following Council objectives for the year:

- Complete projects allocated within the 2009-10 budget.
- Annual operating expenses maintained within budget.

The performance of the organisation will be reviewed quarterly and will be reported to Council and the community. The performance is principally measured by the achievement of objectives and tasks stated in the Annual Business Plan and by undertaking quarterly budget reviews.

The performance of the organisation is also reviewed by Council's Audit Committee, which consists of 3 elected members and 2 independent members. The core function of the Committee is to provide independent advice and make recommendations to Council on matters relating to the corporate and financial governance of Council.

Council has implemented the use of key financial indicators as identified in Council's Long Term Financial Plan. The aim of these indicators is to:

- Compare our performance from year to year.
- Comparison with other councils.
- Aim for financial sustainability.

The financial indicators include:

- Operating Surplus/(Deficit)
- Operating Surplus Ratio
- Net Financial Liabilities
- Net Financial Liabilities Ratio
- Interest Cover Ratio
- Asset Sustainability Ratio
- Asset Consumption Ratio

An explanation of these indicators is located in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.

6. 2009-10 BUDGET

The methodology used to prepare the budget was determined by the parameters established in the '2009-10 Budget Guidelines' document adopted by Council at its February 2009 meeting.

These guidelines have been developed to provide Council, its staff and the community with a clear understanding of the principles underlying the preparation of the 2009/10 budget.

The guidelines have been produced in order to ensure that Council is able to prepare a budget based on a solid set of underlying assumptions, which should ultimately give rise to a financially responsible budget, which delivers on Council's key strategic objectives.

It should be noted that whilst Council had not adopted a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) at the time of the 2009/10 budget guidelines were produced, the budget will be prepared on the principles contained within the LTFP. Council recently adopted its LTFP and is committed to reviewing the plan following the adoption of the 2009/10 budget.

Key points in relation to the 2009/10 budget are as follows:

1. Strategic plan objectives will form the overall basis for budget preparation.
2. Projects will not be automatically 'carried over' unless tied to grant funding.
3. Draft Version of the LTFP provides for an operating surplus of \$661,000.
4. The budget will be based on accrual accounting principles.
5. Indexation applied to revenue and expenditure items should be based upon the most reliable estimate of expected cost increases for the local government sector.
6. Revenue should only be included in the budget on the basis of a reasonable expectation it will be received or earned in the financial year.
7. In general, expenses should be budgeted to increase in line with expected changes in the Local Government Price Index (LGPI). There are instances in which some expenditure items will rise according to some other mechanism, for example, salaries and wages are increased according to enterprise bargaining agreements. Wherever possible increases in expenditure above LGPI should be offset by savings in other areas.
8. 2009/10 capital expenditure will be based upon priorities identified in the existing long term capital program and focused on maintaining existing assets.
9. Council's debt management targets are contained within the draft LTFP.

Key considerations regarding the drafting of the 2009-10 Budget, to date, are:

- The need to comply with ever increasing financial and regulatory demands from the State Government, including but not limited to changes to the Local Government Act and Development Act.
- Ageing infrastructure and assets.
- Funding constraints which affect the delivery of the range of services offered.
- Local government costs that increase at rates greater than CPI. Local Government CPI for 2008-09 was 5.1%, compared to the general CPI of 2.5%.
- The increasing difficulty in attracting all levels of staff to work in rural areas, resulting in Council needing to offer competitive wage and salary conditions through enterprise bargaining agreements.
- The requirement to maintain and improve infrastructure assets to acceptable standards including roads, footpaths, lighting, storm water drainage, street trees and plantings, open space and Council properties.
- Recognition that the district has been experiencing a severe drought in recent years.

Council's priorities for 2009-10 include:

- Commence implementation of Council's Asset & Infrastructure Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan and enacting other recommendations coming from the Financial Sustainability inquiry.
- Actively pursuing State and Commonwealth government grant funding to enable large capital projects within the district to proceed.
- Continuing to upgrade the heavier trafficked rural roads throughout the district and ensuring that sufficient maintenance funds are allocated to the sealed and unsealed road network.
- Continuing to replace Council's plant and machinery fleet in a timely manner to minimise downtime and maintenance expenses and ensure effectiveness and efficiency of Council's annual works program.
- Maintaining Council's commitment to the Statewide wastewater recycling project for Council's Community Wastewater Management Schemes in Tailem Bend, Meningie and Tintinara.
- Improving Council's administrative practices with regard to records management, customer service, governance and rating.
- Improving Council's Development Plan.
- Completion of projects undertaken as part of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP).
- Recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer.

The budget delivers on a range of Council's stated objectives contained within its Strategic Management Plan, Annual Business Plan and from previous Council decisions.

6.1 Operating Performance

Council is planning to deliver a surplus budget in 2009-10, with a surplus of \$262k. Council's long-term financial sustainability is dependent on ensuring that, on average over time, its revenue is greater than its expenditure.

6.1.1 Summary of Financial Performance

Revenue

Council's total revenue in 2009-10 is \$10.0m. This includes \$4.5m proposed to be raised from general rates, which is a 5% increase from 2008-09. In setting its rates for the 2009/2010 financial year, Council has considered the following:

- (a) The specific issues faced by our community, which are:
 - (i) The need to continue to maintain and upgrade the district's infrastructure which includes roads, buildings, drainage and parks.
 - (ii) The drought conditions that have been affecting the Council's community over recent years.
- (b) The budget for the 2009/2010 financial year.
- (c) The increase in costs and charges, such as insurance, fuel and utility costs, paid by Council.
- (d) The impact of rates on the community.

The Local Government Act provides for Council to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the Council through general rates, levies, services charges and separate rates.

When compared to the 2008-09 Budget, user charges have decreased by \$2k budgeted reimbursement income has decreased by \$9k. Proposed user charges and reimbursements revenues have been budgeted with regard to the 2008/09 financial year actual results. Revenue from operating grants and subsidies has increased by \$741k, whilst investment income has decreased by \$40k.

Expenditure

Council's overall expenditure in 2009-10 is \$9.7m. Employee expenditure has increased by \$18k principally due to Enterprise Bargaining Agreements requiring an increase in salaries and wages. This increase is offset by the removal of the Drought Officer position. There is no proposed increase in the number of employees.

Contractual services has increased by \$798k, which includes \$120k for the outsourced management of Council's information technology systems, \$240k Landcare expenditure re-allocated from the materials category and \$253k for the RLCIP projects in Asset Services.

Materials expenditure has decreased by \$358k due to the reallocation of Landcare expenditure.

Depreciation, as a percentage of total expenditure, has remained the same from 2008/09. Depreciation expenditure has increased by \$175k.

6.1.2 Summary of Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position summarises the net value of The Coorong District Council by assets, liabilities and equity.

The major movements between the 2008/09 Budget and the 2009/10 Budget are as follows:

- Current assets – Investments have decreased by \$415k due to the need to finance expenditure on the capital items included in this budget.
- Non current assets – Assets have increased by a net \$4.736m as a result of expenditure on the capital items included in this budget.
- Non current liabilities – Loans have increased by \$1.501m in order to finance the expenditure on capital items included in this budget.

6.1.3 Summary of Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows summarises the significant inflows and outflows of cash by operating, investing and financing activities.

The major movements between the 2008/09 Budget and the 2009/10 Budget are as follow:

- Grants received – additional grants of \$606k are anticipated to be received to fund various capital and operational activities.
- Contractual services & materials – the increase of \$862k is due to the additional expenditure on capital items included in this budget.
- Borrowings – proceeds from borrowings has increased by \$1.568m in order to finance the additional expenditure on capital items included in this budget.

6.1.4 Summary of Changes in Equity

The Statement of Changes in Equity summarises the movements in the accumulated surplus and the revaluation and other reserves.

6.1.5 Operating Result by Department

6.1.5.1 Governance

Operating Expenditure - Governance

Governance operating expenditure budget has decreased by \$6k in 2009-10. Changes in the Governance budget have included increases within the CEO Office Expenditure (\$69k) of:

- CEO Office and Other Governance expenditure (\$43k), this is a result of increase in vehicle expenses (\$16k) and costs pertaining to long-term office accommodation review (\$17k).
- Public Relations/Functions (\$11k), increased level of promotional activity and public consultation/information provision.
- Tourism Expenditure (\$11k), production of township brochures for Taillem Bend and Tintinara.

Elected members' travel (\$9k) has increased due to the provision of a vehicle for the Mayor and elected members' allowances (\$5k) have increased due to the expected allowance increase in November 2009.

Due to the removal of the Drought Officer position included in the 2008-09 budget, expenditure on drought and water issues has decreased by \$82k.

The major expenditure items are:

- CEO's Office & Other Governance - \$419,393.
- Elected Members Allowances - \$70,832.
- Elected Members Travel Allowances - \$51,000.
- Public Relations/Functions - \$53,200.
- Elected Member Conferences and Training - \$30,500.
- Local Government Memberships - \$26,000.
- Murraylands Regional Development - \$22,000.
- Regional Tourism - \$21,200.
- Tourism Assistance - \$18,000.

6.1.5.2 Corporate Services

Operating Revenue – Corporate Services

Corporate Services revenue will increase by \$437k in the 2009-10 Budget compared to the 2008-09 Budget. The increase is attributable to an increase in rates revenue and grants commission grants. In addition to general rates, the most substantial sources of revenue in 2009-10 are:

- Grants Commission - \$2,021,888, an annual untied financial assistance grants from the federal government.
- CWMS rates - \$272,165, for the provision of the CWMS services and maintenance and replacement of infrastructure.
- Interest on investments - \$100,000.
- Natural resource management - \$70,000, which is collected by Council on behalf of the two applicable boards.

Operating Expenditure - Corporate Services

Corporate Services operating expenditure budget has increased by \$75k in 2009-10.

Changes in the Corporate Services expenditure include increases in Finance (\$61k), Information Technology (\$34k), Records Management (\$25k) and Human Resources (\$54k). There has been a decrease in Other Corporate Services of \$49k. Most of these variations are due to reallocation of costs apart from Human Resources, \$50k of the increase in Human Resources is attributed to the recruitment costs of a Chief Executive Officer.

The major expenditure items are:

- General Administration - \$522,070.
- Records Management - \$146,139.
- IT Maintenance - \$186,376.
- Finance General - \$193,582.
- Administration Depreciation - \$100,000.
- Human Resources - \$135,516.
- Rate processing - \$75,099.
- Natural Resource Management Levy - \$70,000.
- Rates and Property - \$69,090.
- Libraries - \$59,128.
- Occupational Health & Safety - \$50,983.
- Community Grants - \$42,000

6.1.5.3 Development & Environmental Services

Operating Revenue – Development & Environmental Services (DES)

Overall DES revenue for 2009-10 is budgeted to increase from 2008-09 by \$31k. This increase is attributed to the additional Other Social Services Revenue (Home and Community Care (HACC) funding for the Tailern Bend Community Centre and the Home Maintenance and Modification Program). The most substantial sources of DES revenue in 2009-10 are:

- Landcare Grants - \$342,118. There are also several outstanding grant applications which may be successful in the coming financial year.
- Other Social Services - \$122,000, all of which is Home & Community Care (HACC) funding.
- Development Assessment - \$69,000. No increase in development activity is envisaged in 2009-10.
- Dog & Cat Management - \$40,750. Fees have not changed from 2008-09 to 2009-10.

Operating Expenditure - Development & Environmental Services (DES)

DES operating expenditure budget has increased by \$155k in 2009-10. The major increases in expenditure include: Landcare (\$47k) due to an increased Council contribution, Building (\$38k) due to an increase in vehicle expenses, Tailern Bend Community Centre and HACC programs (\$29k) due to increased funding, Fire Prevention (\$15k), Administration (\$13k) and Social Services (\$13k). The Social Services increase includes new contributions towards the Coonalpyn Hub (\$6k) and the Murray Mallee Community Education Network (\$6.5k). The major expenditure items are:

- Landcare - \$638k for the implementation of various projects. This includes \$150,000 expenditure of carry forward funds.
- Building - \$159k.
- Planning - \$148k.
- Administration - \$139k, including \$15,000 for the Coorong Sustainability Plan.
- Environmental Health - \$129k.

- Taillem Bend Community Centre & Coorong Health Links (Home Modification and Maintenance Program) - \$122k. HACCC funding towards salary and programs.
- Development Policy - \$84k. Includes \$10,000 for Section 30 review and \$15,000 for Strategic Land Use Plans.
- Dog and Cat Management - \$75k.
- Fire Prevention - \$46k, including \$10,000 for bushfire prevention projects and \$7,500 for block slashing.

6.1.5.4 Asset Services

Operating Revenue – Asset Services

Overall operating revenue is budgeted to increase by \$416k in 2009-10 compared to the 2008-09 budget. This is mainly attributed to an increase of \$582k in CWMS revenue, \$147k RLCIP Grant, \$40k in sanitation and garbage and \$19k Asset Services Infrastructure Management. Road grant revenue will decrease by \$315k. The most substantial sources of operating revenue in 2009-10 are:

- Road Grants - \$1,213,672. Including \$482,633 for Roads to Recovery and \$731,039 from the Grants Commission.
- CWMS Revenue - \$581,900. This includes Grant funding for CWMS at Taillem Bend - \$374,700, Meningie - \$74,700 and Tintinara – \$132,500.
- Other Asset Services - \$147,000 RLCIP Grant.
- Asset Services/Infrastructure - \$97,000. This includes fuel rebate - \$50,000, Strategic Bicycle Plan Grant - \$25,000 and Places for People Grant - \$15,000.
- Private Works - \$70,000.
- Sanitary & Garbage - \$96,150. Including Zero Waste Grants for Coonalpyn and Tintinara Waste Transfer Stations totalling \$42,950, Disposal fees of \$35,200, \$12,000 for drum muster and \$6,000 for sale of disposed items.
- Coonalpyn Swimming Pool - \$17,945.
- Cemeteries Revenue - \$13,750.

Operating Expenditure - Asset Services

Asset Services expenditure has increased by \$413k in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09. This increase is mainly attributed to \$253k for the RLCIP funded projects, \$173k increase in depreciation and \$75k in CWMS Expenditure for the septic tank de-sludge program.

The most substantial expenditure items in 2009-10 are:

- Depreciation - \$2,735,100.
- Plant and machinery maintenance - \$1,114,826, which includes \$530,000 for fuel.
- Unsealed roads maintenance - \$897,944. which includes \$649,344 for patrol grading activities.
- Asset Services Administration and Infrastructure Management - \$556,740.
- Depot Expenses - \$211,902.
- Waste Depots and Transfer Stations - \$238,123.

- Sealed Road Maintenance - \$216,241.
- Parks & Gardens - \$191,076.
- CWMS Expenditure - \$124,836.
- Domestic Collection of Garbage - \$121,055.
- Public Conveniences - \$111,438.
- Street Lighting - \$65,600.
- Property Management - \$67,904.

6.2 Capital Expenditure

The Annual Business Plan demonstrates a strong focus on the improvement of business systems and processes within Council's operational practices, which are designed to improve the level of efficiency and effectiveness in service provision to the community. This is primarily achieved through the Corporate Services and Governance functions of Council.

The maintenance and development of services and infrastructure, and the protection and improvement of the environment are primarily achieved through the Asset Services and Development & Environmental Services functions.

The total Capital expenditure for 2009-10 is proposed to be \$8.444m which is a slight increase compared to \$8.390m in 2008-09. The most significant delivery of capital projects to the community is achieved through the Asset Services department which plans expenditure of \$7.998m.

Capital Expenditure - Governance

The Capital expenditure for Governance is \$144k. This includes; \$54k for the continued development of the former Mitsubishi test track site, \$48k for a performance assessment & evaluation system and \$43k for agenda preparation software.

Capital Expenditure - Corporate Services

The overall capital expenditure budget for Corporate Services has increased by approximately \$146k for the 2009-10 financial year and is proposed to be \$281k.

Corporate Services capital projects for 2008-09 are related to systems and process improvements, which are expected to deliver efficiency gains. Projects requiring capital expenditure allocations have been identified in the following areas:

- Information technology - \$80k, including \$11k towards a new intranet, \$54k for asset management software and \$16k for computer equipment replacement.
- Records management - \$54k. For a new electronic data management system (EDMS) required to improve and upgrade Council's records systems.
- Council office - \$107k for a new telephone system.
- Libraries - \$40k. Capitalisation of new books.

The Manager Corporate Services position was re-established in January 2007 and has a strong focus on improving business systems and processes in order to drive improved customer service and increase efficiency. It is envisaged that to achieve Council's goals

in relation to systems and process improvement, a further year or two of business plan and budget focus will be required.

Capital Expenditure - Development & Environmental Services

Capital expenditure for Development & Environmental Services totals \$21k, which is for the establishment of a dog off-leash area in Meningie.

Capital Expenditure – Asset Services

The overall capital expenditure for Asset Services is \$7.998m which represents a \$1.252m increase in 2009-10 compared to the 2008-09 Budget. The increase is attributable to the increase in CWMS capital expenditure of \$1.265m in 2009-10. The most significant capital expenditure items in the 2009-10 Budget are:

- CWMS schemes - \$2.848m. Upgrades of CWMS systems at Taillem Bend, Meningie and Tintinara through the Statewide Wastewater Recycling Project.
- Unsealed Roads - \$1.098m.
- Sealed Road Construction - \$600k.
- Plant & Machinery - \$901k.
- Sanitary & Garbage - \$499k. Including a new cell at the Taillem Bend landfill (\$370k).
- Vehicles - \$1.070m.
- Public conveniences - \$225k, including replacement of the public toilet at Meningie.
- RLCIP community projects - \$293k.
- Minor plant - \$128k.
- Footpaths - \$64k.

Sealed road construction projects (\$305k) include:

- Poltalloch Road - \$257k.
- Washpool/Placid Estates Road - \$48k.
- Westbrook Road - \$47k.

Sealed roads major reconstruction projects (\$160.5k) include:

- Willow Street Streetscape Upgrade - \$160.5k.

Road resealing projects (\$129k) include:

- Old Dukes Highway - \$129k.

Unsealed roads resheeting projects (\$1.048 M) include:

- Bunbury Road - \$60k
- Gypsum Road - \$35k
- Long Point Road - \$36k
- Field Road - \$64k
- Lake Albert Road - \$53.5k
- Moonie Hill Road - \$64k
- Pelican Point Road - \$53.5k
- Yarindale Road - \$75k

- Blacketts Road - \$64k
- Ferme Road - \$43k
- Frost Road - \$64k
- Gypsum Road - \$64k
- Ware Road - \$64k
- Bunbury Road - \$64k
- Culburra-Woodswell Road - \$53.5k
- Keith-Woodswell Road - \$64k
- Cooke Plains Road - \$53.5k
- Coombe Road - \$53.5k
- Richardson Road – \$125k

Major plant replacement items include:

- Replacement patrol grader - \$261k
- Replacement front end loader - \$80k
- Replacement combination roller - \$125k
- Light vehicles - \$386k

In relation to other capital expenditure items, the following additional information is provided:

- Footpaths, \$64k. Footpaths capital will generally be split evenly between Meningie, Tintinara and Coonalpyn.
- Maintenance - \$75k. Replace failed kerb and gutter (\$37k) and failed pavement (\$37k).
- Stormwater - \$27k. Upgrade of stormwater infrastructure at Albert Road Meningie - \$27k.
- Aerodromes - \$14k. Meningie airfield facilities upgrade (\$5k) and Tintinara landing strip widening (\$9k).

6.3 Rates Summary

Council has undertaken a review of its Rating Policy during 2008-09. As a result of the review, Council amended its rating policy at its meeting held in May 2009 and proposes to introduce changes for the 2009-10 financial year.

After assessing its current basis for rating and a range of alternative options, Council has altered its rating policy in the following ways:

- Introduce differential rating based on land use as determined by the Valuer General and defined in the Local Government Act 1999 to replace the existing practice of differential rating based on the broadly defined urban or rural location of the land. The nine land use codes are defined as:
 1. Residential
 2. Commercial – Shop
 3. Commercial – Office
 4. Commercial – Other
 5. Industrial – Light
 6. Industrial – Other
 7. Primary Production

8. Vacant Land

9. Other

For ease of practical application, Council has grouped the land use codes as follows:

- Residential (1) and Other (9)
- Commercial/Industrial (2 to 6)
- Primary Production (7)
- Vacant Land (8)
- Set the relativity of the differential rates between the various land use groups as follows:
 - Residential and other land at 1.00 (being the base rate).
 - Commercial/Industrial land at 1.00 (being the same as the residential rate).
 - Primary production land at 0.85 (being a discounted rate).
 - Vacant land at 1.15 (being an amount higher than the base rate).

Features of the current structure which Council will retain are:

- A rebate is available on the differential general rates paid, so that the maximum rate paid in 2009/2010 is no greater than 10% more than that applicable in 2008/2009 for residential properties, and 20% for all other properties. The rebate is subject to the increase not being due to capital improvements on the property or a change in ownership with the new value reflecting the purchase price.
- The rating basis will continue to be based on capital value.
- A fixed charge to apply to all rateable properties.

Council may adopt one of three valuation methodologies to value the properties in the area. They are:

- Capital value – the value of the land and all the improvements on the land.
- Site value – the value of the land and amenity improvements but excluding the value of buildings.
- Annual value – a valuation of the rental potential of the property.

Council has decided to continue to use the capital value method for the 2009-10 financial year, on the basis that it provides the fairest method to distribute rate responsibility across the district.

The Local Government Act provides councils with the choice to raise revenue for the broad purposes of the council via a single general rate or through differential general rates. Council has decided to continue to use a differential rating system in the 2008-09 financial year, using land value as the factor to apply differential rates.

6.3.1 General Rates

Council will use the most recent valuations from Valuations SA to determine the rate in the dollar that will be applied when levying rates in the 2009/10 financial year. The valuations as provided by the Valuer General have resulted in an average valuation decrease of 0.62% across the Council area.

Information regarding 2008-09 general rates is:

- The total amount of revenue raised by general rates in 2008-09 was \$4,280,271.
- The fixed charge for 2008-09 was \$295 per rateable property.
- The rate in the dollar in 2008-09 was 0.002827 (Urban) & 0.0024264 (Rural) – the rural rate is 11.6% less than the urban rate.
- The split between urban and rural in 2008-09 was 29.31% and 70.69%.

The 2009-10 general rates will be:

- The total amount of revenue raised by general rates in 2009-10 will be \$4,494,390.
- The fixed charge in 2009-10 will be \$295 per rateable property.
- The rate in the dollar in 2009-10 for residential, commercial and industrial land uses, primary production land uses and vacant land is proposed to be:
 - Residential and other land – 0.002900
 - Commercial/Industrial land – 0.002900
 - Primary production land – 0.002465
 - Vacant land – 0.003335.
- The percentage of revenue raised from each land use will be:
 - Residential and other land – 34.2%
 - Commercial/Industrial land – 3.8%
 - Primary production land – 56.4%
 - Vacant land – 5.5%

6.3.2 Service Charges

CWMS

The service charge exists to cover the costs associated with operating the Community Wastewater Management Schemes (CWMS).

The cost, excluding depreciation, for maintaining the CWMS service in the 2009-10 Budget is \$125k for normal operations (including the septic tank desludge program). Council will recover the cost through a recommended service charge of:

- \$178.50 – STEDS, per occupied unit (there were 1,475 occupied units charged in 2008-09).
- \$35.70 – STEDS, per vacant allotment (there were 227 vacant allotments charged in 2008-09).

The total revenue raised from the proposed STEDS service charge will be \$272k. The justification for this figure being greater than the combined costs associated with septic tank desludge program, normal operations and capital replacement is to fund the cost of depreciation of the schemes. The recommended service charge for STEDS is a 5% increase on 2008-09.

Council will be spending \$2.848m this financial year on upgrading the three CWMS schemes at Tailem Bend, Meningie and Tintinara as part of the Statewide Wastewater Recycling program.

Water Supply Systems

Council provides water supply systems to residential properties in Wellington East and Peake. The cost, excluding depreciation, of maintaining these systems in the 2009-10 budget is \$14k for normal operational costs. Council will recover the cost through a range of recommended service charges:

- \$187.10 plus 93c per kilolitre for usage greater than 125 kilolitres per annum - Wellington East water supply
- \$136.30 plus 93c per kilolitre for usage greater than 125 kilolitres per annum - Peake water supply

The service charges have increased by 5% compared to 2008-09.

The total revenue raised from the proposed water supply charges would be \$21k.

6.3.3 Natural Resource Management (NRM) Levy

Parts of the Council district are in the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Board and the South East NRM Board area. Council is required to collect, under the Natural Resources Management Act, a levy to assist in funding the work of these boards.

These levies are not Council charges – the revenue is collected by Council on behalf of each board and passed on directly. The levy amount for each property will be itemised separately on Council rates notices.