

Aquaculture

Clean Seas Tuna determined that it would relocate its kingfish operation at Fitzgerald Bay to Arno Bay and Port Lincoln. The company cited water quality and stock health issues, indicating that it would “fallow” Fitzgerald Bay sites before relocating cages back in to the area.

It is understood that cost considerations played a significant part in the company’s decision to essentially discontinue its Whyalla operation. Work to provide improved harbour facilities for the industry could not be brought to a suitable conclusion due to uncertainties surrounding the larger aquaculture operator.

Southern Star Aquaculture continues to operate its business at Fitzgerald Bay.

Development

ASSESSMENT: Development assessment continued the level of activity set last year, with a total value of approved development of \$27.4 million, an increase over the 2010/2011 figure of \$25.1 million, and slightly above the median value of \$26.3 million for the decade. As a further indicator of activity, the number of applications approved rose to 487, from last year’s 471.

RESIDENTIAL: Residential development more than doubled last year’s level of activity, with 73 new dwellings approved for a development cost of \$17.2 million. This exceeded expectations, when compared with the equivalent figures last year of 34 dwellings and \$6.7 million development cost. Dwelling additions continued at a lower level, posting 51 compared with 61 in 2010/2011.

INDUSTRIAL: New industrial development approvals fell to \$300,000, down from last year’s value of \$564,000, and significantly less than the previous year’s figure of \$1.52 million.

COMMERCIAL: Commercial development totalled \$3.7 million, returning to more moderate levels from last year’s strong figure of \$11.76 million. The most significant approval was for a new classroom building and resource centre for a private school at a cost of \$1 million. Other important commercial development work included alterations to a fast food outlet at a cost of \$450,000, additions to motel accommodation valued at \$360,000, and shop alterations of \$720,000.

Industrial Estate

Council undertook planning for the development of the Whyalla Industrial Estate in 2006. Many enquiries from firms seeking to establish in Whyalla provided impetus for the establishment of a fully serviced industrial park.

The ensuing Global Financial Crisis severely affected sales with 10 parties withdrawing their offers to purchase, and contracted purchasers failing to settle on 11 other sites.

To date, 12 allotments of the original 34 have been sold with one allotment sold in 2011/2012.

With a number of major projects in the process of seeking approvals and financing, the estate is well located to provide industrial sites for mining service-related activities and also those associated with manufacturing and resource processing activities. Uncertainties around the future approval of the Olympic Dam mine expansion have influenced sales of land within the estate.



*Whyalla Foreshore
and
Ada Ryan Gardens*

Solar Oasis

After much negotiation, the Solar Oasis consortium was able to finalise details of its funding deed with the Commonwealth Government, which previously had allocated \$60million to the project.

The company is now planning its strategy to commence activity on the site, but this again is subject to securing financial partners.

It is hoped that once funding is secured, work can commence on the 40 megawatt, solar thermal power station, comprising some 300 big dishes on land to the north of the industrial estate.

Support for economic development

The Whyalla Economic Development Board was subsumed into Regional Development Australia Whyalla and Eyre Peninsula. Council maintains its support through a resource agreement providing \$140,000 in operating funds and also “peppercorn” rental of the Nicolson Avenue premises, valued at \$70,000 annually. Council continues to work closely with the organisation on a number of economic development initiatives.

Council also supports the Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group with an annual subsidy of \$10,000. This group pursues programs and initiatives which provide mutual economic benefit to the cities of Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie.

Sustainability Centre

The Regional Sustainability Centre, Whyalla, based at UniSA’s Whyalla campus, is a regional research node of the Barbara Hardy Institute. It works collaboratively with the Centre for Regional Engagement and the Centre for Rural Health and Community Development. Established with support from the SA Premier’s Science and Research Fund, the centre works closely with regional industries and communities on developing practical solutions and strategies for sustainable management and utilisation of resources, such as energy, water and waste streams.

Among the centre’s key activities is the development of technologies in support of a demonstration solar thermal power plant to be built in Whyalla, and to provide operational research support for future large-scale base load solar power generation planned for the Upper Spencer Gulf region.

With the development of a solar power station and associated Wizard Power demonstration plant, many opportunities for research into renewable energy and sustainable development will arise. Whyalla will become a key destination for those undertaking research. This may result in additional employment and business opportunities.

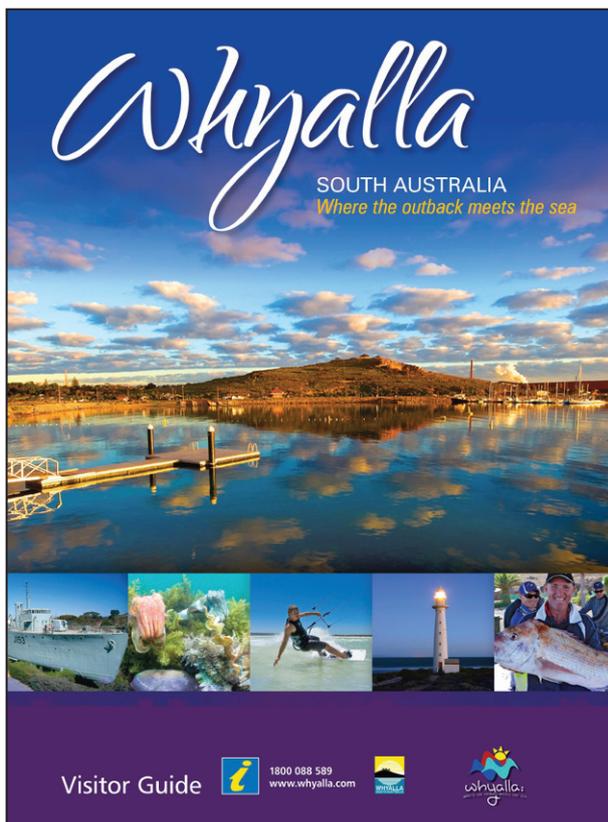
Council provides an annual subsidy of \$25,000 towards operation of the centre.

Visitor Centre and Maritime Museum

Numbers into the Council operated visitor centre totalled 28,704, a modest increase of 143 on 2010/2011 and representing an overall lift of 6,405 on the figure of 23,735, 10 years ago.

Unfortunately, numbers into the maritime museum component of the tourism complex dropped by 706 patrons from 9,242 to 8,486. It is hoped that the museum’s 2012/2013 business plan will address this reversal.

The visitor centre took over the running of steelworks tours in September, following the cessation of the previous community-operated service due to the significance of the tours to Whyalla’s tourism industry. In the first nine months of the new arrangement the



tours returned an approximate 23% profit. A steelworks tour survey, which achieved 300 responses, was undertaken to assist in Council’s delivery of the service in 2012/2013 and beyond.

Council entered the 2011 SA Tourism awards, achieving a silver medal for excellence in tourism by local government and a bronze medal for visitor information and services.

A Facebook page was established with around 820 friends to date and growing, proving exceptionally popular with regular posts.

Work started on the next edition of the Whyalla Visitor Guide with a print run of 35,000 due for production around August 2012. This 52-page, full colour promotional and informational publication will be distributed to around 100 key locations and downloadable from the Whyalla.com website.

The visitor centre maintained accreditation with the SA Tourism Industry Council and thereby a member of the accredited SA visitor information network.

Marketing activity of the overall tourism precinct and the various services available involved pro-active editorial and advertising campaigns with local and/or regional newspapers, radio, TV, visitor guides, and caravanning magazines; special school holiday activities and programs; establishment of a monthly calendar of events; direct mailouts to schools and tour groups; listings on various websites; and providing visitor bags for special events.

The visitor centre has over the years developed the largest and most diverse range of souvenirs in Whyalla for both visitors and residents. Sales figures for 2011/2012 continued to grow showing an almost 22% increase during the past five years.

The Whyalla sub-branch of the Naval Association of Australia hosted a commemoration ceremony in January to mark the 70th anniversary of the commissioning of the HMAS Whyalla. Held in the shipbuilding gallery within the museum, it was attended by dignitaries including the SA Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and Mrs Scarce, and President of the Naval Association of Australia Mr David Kerr.

Admissions: Past ten years

June 30	Vis Cen	Museum	Steelwoks
2012	28,704	8,486	1,916
2011	28,561	9,242	2,160
2010	25,013	8,528	-
2009	26,271	9,252	-
2008	27,527	13,549*	-
2007	25,729	7,949	-
2006	22,729	8,149	-
2005	22,402	7,798	-
2004	23,334	8,897	-
2003	23,735	8,507	-

* Denotes inclusion of a one-off special event.





*Council's annual
Australia Day
Celebrations*



“Our goal is for our natural and built environment to address the needs of population and industry, but in an ecologically sustainable and aesthetically pleasing way”

Environmental landscape

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY: The community again supported the Council organised public site in March, which focused on the Hummock Hill, foreshore and Ada Ryan Gardens area, supported by various sponsor businesses. Other community organisations included the Whyalla Scuba Divers Club and the Whyalla and Districts Four-Wheel Drive Club.

Divers removed bottles and cans, fishing equipment and large items such as tyres, trolleys and drums from underwater areas around the fishing jetty, swimming enclosure and marina moorings. Four-wheel drive members accounted for two “ute” loads of rubbish (tyres, electrical goods, car bonnets and cables that had been stripped of copper) from the Mount Laura area. Service and social clubs, youth groups and schools also helped clean up the thoughtless acts of others.

COASTAL WORKS: Development of Douglas Point’s South Hill is in the final stages. Work undertaken by the Cultana Jenkins Shack Owners Association and Council’s contractor has resulted in a first class lookout for the people of Whyalla and visitors.

Council worked in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources on sand dune enhancement works at Point Lowly. Works commenced on the propagating of local species for revegetation at these sites. Succulent weed control continued with good results.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE: A team representing management and staff met frequently to address Planet Footprint data in relation to Council’s consumption of energy and greenhouse gas production. Annual reporting requirements for Council’s EPA sustainability licence were undertaken and completed.

HUMMOCK HILL HERITAGE PROJECT: Work started on restoration of the historic wartime gun and gun emplacement, and landscaping of a former playground. Seats, bollards and vehicle wheel stops have been installed at several sites and an additional viewing area created.

Old railway sleeper retaining walls are being replaced with stone, similar to the former playground area. The next stage will be establishment of a botanical walkway with interpretive signage, linking the summit of Hummock Hill with Whyalla Foreshore. Interpretive signage for the remainder of the site is also a priority.

MAIN STREET TREES: Difficulties have been experienced establishing street trees in the main street

City Plaza section of Patterson and Forsyth Streets due to underground services and gradients. An experiment has been underway - regarded as “ticking more boxes” than any other species - to test suitability and function at this site of Whyalla’s first fruitless white cedar *Melia azedarach* “Elite.”

MOUNT LAURA CONSERVATION RESERVE: Monitoring of previous erosion control revealed areas were standing up well to subsequent severe storm events. Weed control, including prickly pear and caltrop infestations, has been progressing well, but requires an ongoing commitment to ensure work is successful in a meaningful way.

WHYALLA WETLANDS: All drip irrigation systems were made operational with recent plantings requiring less water to establish and irrigate due to their endemic nature to the Whyalla region. Investigation into the cost of re-establishing a sprinkler system and a non-weed species of lawn for six specific sites is under way. Storm damage repair works were completed. Repetitive spraying of kikuyu and couch grasses at selected sites has been successful, but will be required on an on-going basis to ensure the wetlands are kept clear of these weeds. Quotes are being sought for other infrastructure work to be carried out during 2012/2013.

Foreshore seaweed

The matter of seaweed accumulation along stretches of beach at Whyalla Foreshore has been the source of division among different groups within the community for many years. Seagrass provides valuable habitat for many land and sea-based organisms, and is widely accepted as a natural part of life.

However, there have been times when clearance of seaweed would be of benefit to the community for various reasons – eg to enable the holding of events, provide improved and safer beach access, and address perceived untidiness, neglect and a potential source of hidden dangerous objects. Council considered a compromise was required and held discussions with the Fisheries Branch of PIRSA in relation to the periodic clearance of seaweed.

An agreed outcome was reached by all parties. While Council must still apply for ministerial exemption if it wishes to remove seagrass from the foreshore, it can now move seagrass from one area to another along the beach (eg relocating it against the seawall to catch sand and try to recreate a frontal dune that once existed) as required without an application, provided seagrass is not physically removed from the beach.

Foreshore masterplan

After four years in negotiation, Council was able to successfully rezone land at Whyalla Foreshore for residential purposes via the authorisation of the Foreshore Development Plan Amendment. This clears the way for residential development after previous Council success in revoking the community land designation.

Arrium (formerly OneSteel) also agreed to relocate its beacon on the sandhill at the end of Roberts Terrace, to the nearby marina. Council will provide a site free of charge to Arrium. Approvals are being sought through the Development Act for this structure.

Capital works included refurbishment of the northern carpark to remove a convoluted road pathway and provide more suitable access and parking for vehicles towing caravans and other recreational vehicles.

Other works included the start of upgrading and painting of the foreshore building, which comprised reroofing, refurbishment of toilets, new air-conditioning to the café, replacement of external ceilings, replacement of balustrade on the surf lifesaving club building, replacement of rusted roofing and rendering and painting of the building. This work will continue into 2012/2013 with completion expected in September 2012.

Works on stormwater design continued as well as design and costings for footpaths and additional beach entries.

Approximately \$600,000 in funding was obtained from the State and Federal Governments to assist with foreshore works. The current program is expected to be completed during 2012/2013.

Funding was also secured for reinstatement of the seawall which was damaged during extreme weather in May 2011. State emergency funding of \$400,000 was secured to assist with total cost of the works (around \$700,000). The replacement seawall comprises precast concrete wall panels that are being produced off site within Whyalla to be transported and installed in August/September. A new boardwalk, stormwater discharge, light pole repairs, road resealing and car park marking will be undertaken upon completion of the seawall installation.

Waste management

Waste management responsibilities remained a major focus of Council services to the community including general litter control, recycling, household waste collection, landfill site management, street sweeping and co-ordination of annual Clean Up Australia Day activities.

Council ensured compliance with EPA licence conditions at its Mount Laura Waste and Recycling Depot, in conjunction with ongoing implementation of its landfill environment management plan.

Statistical highlights (with 2010/2011 figures in brackets):

- 11,403 tonnes (12,274t) of waste was sent to landfill, 21,999 tonnes (22,014t) was recycled and 3,800 tonnes (960t) of organic waste was composted. This amounted to a 69% diversion rate compared to 64% last financial year.
- 2,971 cubic metres of garden mulch was processed for sale to the public, local contractors and developers.
- 1,745 tonnes (1,629t) of co-mingled kerbside recyclables was collected, baled and transported to Adelaide for further sorting and recovery.
- 806 tonnes (390t) of scrap metal was diverted from landfill and transported to Sims Metals in Adelaide.
- 103 tonnes of e-waste was collected.

In April 2012, Zero Waste held a successful free drop-off for unwanted chemicals, further diverting waste from landfill.

Council maintained its EPA sustainability licence, which streamlined the four previous licences covering the Mount Laura Waste and Recovery Depot, Whyalla Marina, Whyalla slipway and Whyalla Cemetery crematorium into one combined licence.

Preparations commenced on the third clay liner lift for cell one at the Mount Laura depot, which is expected to increase the cell life by 12 to 18 months with a possible allowance for a fourth lift prior to moving into cell two.



“Our goal is for a community actively involved in, and with confidence in, Council – a Council to govern in the interests of all members of this diverse Whyalla community, for Council to be open and approachable, to listen and be representative of our views, to act on behalf and in our best interest.”

Community consultation and dissemination of Council information

During the past year Whyalla Council consulted and communicated with residents on particular issues that affected their neighbourhood or Whyalla generally, while regularly promoting its many and varied services and facilities

Some examples include:

- A 30-minute weekly information show was conducted Tuesday mornings by Council officers on community radio station 5YYY.
- Residents were notified of Category 2 and 3 development applications requiring approval of Council. [Category 1 applications are exempted from public notification by the Development Act.] When an application is notified, residents have the opportunity to write to Council expressing their view of the application.

Council’s Development Assessment Panel provides the opportunity for all Category 3 representors to appear before the panel, and any Category 2 representor whose issues remain unresolved.

- Council issued a schedule of media releases to local and regional media (newspaper, TV and radio) resulting in follow-up interviews and photos. Council enjoys a strong relationship with all local and regional media which has benefitted its programs and activities. The support of regional TV and radio publicises Council issues and events not only within Whyalla, but also to adjoining towns (eg Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Cowell, Quorn, etc) which benefits local residents by attracting visitors to events in Whyalla.
- A quarterly, 16-page, tabloid *Whyalla Council News* newspaper was again produced entirely in-house – summer, autumn, winter and spring editions – and letterboxed free to Whyalla households. This publication has become a very important vehicle through which to communicate with residents in a way that general media are unable to do.

It is also mailed to residents in coastal and farmland areas who do not have roadside letterbox deliveries and to a growing list of business and government leaders and agencies outside Whyalla.

Editions of *Whyalla Council News* were used to consult with the community and seek response to matters including Australia Day awards, Hummock Hill heritage project, Council community survey, and OPAL active travel survey.

Whyalla Council News has proven to be a highly successful concept through which to disseminate a wide range of Council related information to ALL residents in ALL households and in a manner that no other single medium can achieve.

- Extensive in-house marketing campaigns (advertising, editorial and photographic) of Council’s annual Easter snapper fishing championship in State and national magazines, newspapers, television, radio and via numerous websites generated both a focus on Whyalla, and on-going economic benefits.
- A regular weekly segment was broadcast on local/regional commercial radio station 5AU every Thursday morning designed to promote Whyalla events to local residents and in-town visitors, and to other potential visitors from the adjoining regional areas of Eyre Peninsula, Flinders Ranges, Roxby Downs and the Mid-North. The segments were also used to promote appropriate Council activities, surveys, programs, etc.
- Information was regularly maintained and updated on Council’s web site at www.whyalla.sa.gov.au, and www.whyalla.com. The 2012/2013 budget will include funding to enable a significant upgrade to both sites – the first for many years – in conjunction with investigations over the use of social media.
- In accordance with S50 of the Local Government Act, Council has a public consultation policy which sets out steps that Council will take to establish partnerships and encourage community involvement in planning and in decisions about the services Council provide.

Community land management plans

Under the Local Government Act, all land either owned or managed by Council is classified as community land except where it has been specifically excluded from this designation. Council must prepare management plans for each parcel of community land in its area, which are required where Council wishes to lease land for various purposes. Should it wish to sell land, it must undertake a formal revocation process under the Act.

Community land management plans for more than 150 separate parcels of land were prepared during the year, notified in accordance with Council's public consultation policy and then adopted by Council.

Separate community land revocation procedures were initiated in respect to the airport and Lot 121, which is the remaining allotment within the previous airport rural living subdivision. Processes involving the West Whyalla Football Club site and a laneway adjacent to Wynbring Jida Child Care Centre were initiated or pursued.

Compliance – general

PARKING EXPIATIONS: Council's compliance officers administered parking controls pursuant to the Australian Road Rules, and Private Parking Areas Act and Regulations across the city including the marina, outside schools, at designated parking areas and in private car parks. Several of the most common offences detected were exceeding a designated time zone, stopping in a "no stopping" zone, or stopping on a solid yellow line.

LITTER EXPIATIONS: Depositing of litter on Council land continues to be an increasing problem. Council initiated some proactive surveillance techniques in the most

common illegal dumping sites, although there has been a reduction in the number of expiation notices issued. It is believed that offenders are less likely to leave identifying information in illegally dumped items.

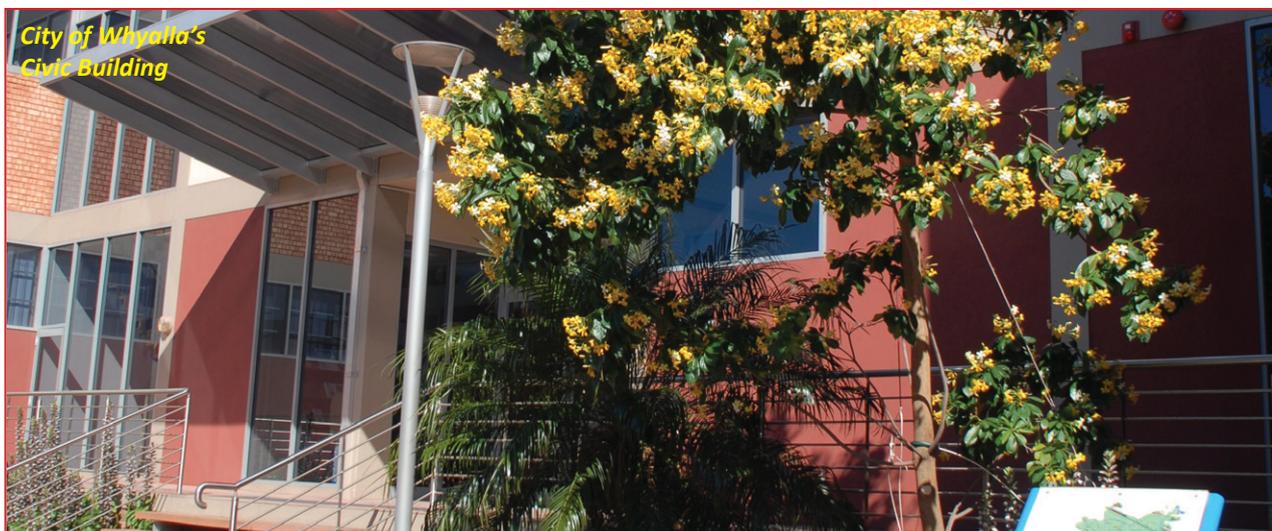
Illegal litter ranges from cigarette butts thrown from car windows, household litter deposited in laneways, and furniture, household appliances or vehicles abandoned in public places.

OTHER EXPIATIONS: Council began formally adopting a series of By-laws in 2007 and administering them. This has allowed Council to deal with several issues, which it may not have been able to previously.

A compliance officer maintained authorisation to administer the Marine and Harbours Act and Regulations, enabling the issuing of expiations relating to boating offences in waters adjacent to Council's foreshore – particularly the marina - covering unregistered water craft and unlicensed or inappropriate use of boats and jet skis.

Jet skiers in particular need to pay special attention to their conduct because even though jet skis are a fun recreational craft, they must still comply with all requirements of the Marine and Harbours Act and Regulations.

BUSHFIRE PREVENTION: Although no expiations were issued in relation to unsafe premises pursuant to the Fire and Emergency Services Act, residents were regularly urged to ensure their properties were kept in a fire safe condition at all times, otherwise expiations may be issued where the property is deemed to pose a threat to itself or surrounding sites. Council may order a property to be brought up to standard and may perform the required work at the landowner's expense, if that order is not obeyed.



Compliance – dogs

There was a continued increase in microchipping of dogs, with more than half of registered dogs microchipped, which is a worthwhile permanent form of identification. In some Eastern states it is a mandatory requirement under animal legislations. SA's Dog and Cat Management Act may in future require all dogs to be microchipped

The number of desexed dogs has continued to increase with dog owners who have standard registration – most likely due to the approximately 40% discount available. This discount is required to be offered under the management Act for all dogs registered that are desexed.

Impounded dogs were generally unregistered, making it more difficult for them to be returned to their owner. The number of returned dogs continued to decrease, but the number of dogs impounded also dropped. Council's objective is to try to return ALL dogs and it regularly promotes the need for responsible dog ownership.

Reported attacks almost doubled, which includes any incident from a dog running up to a person and scaring them, to an injury occurring. This is of concern for Council, a possible reason for the increase being greater public awareness to report all incidents.

Council encourages all dog harassments/attacks to be reported, even though no formal action may be taken as such reporting can help build profiles on particular dogs and enable proactive policing. Unfortunately, in 2012 Council did experience one of SA's most horrific attacks on a person causing serious injury, receiving positive media comments for its action taken.

Dog registration numbers are on the decline although income from registrations has increased, mainly due to the increase in dog registration fees of 10% the previous financial year.

In 2009/2010, income totalled \$153,595, compared with \$163,187 in 2011/2012, the increase resulting from the SA Government allowing fees to rise in an endeavour to reduce, or at least maintain costs incurred by local government dog management.

TRENDS OF PAST SIX YEARS

	2011/12	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Total registered	5,490	5,428	5,516	5,418	5,343	5,309
Microchipped	2,933	2,779	2,426	1,944	1,498	1,162
Obedience trained	163	164	157	47	49	49
Desexed	3,449	3,374	3,354	3,142	1,694	1,886
Impounded	594	620	620	646	653	634
Returned	312	330	260	351	353	345
Attacks reported	65	33	28	25	36	38
Expiations issued	532	436	404	357	841	611

Council adopted fee increases over the previous three years in accordance with the Dog and Cat Management guidelines.

Council's compliance officers are aware there is a drop in dog registrations – an aspect that will need to be addressed in the long-term. Many unregistered dogs are detected when investigating complaints.

Development

Council promotes sustainable development through administration of the Development Act and Building Code, both of which seek to achieve energy efficient building practices and sustainable urban design practices including coastal protection, efficient use of stormwater, preservation of native vegetation and landscape quality, and the protection of urban amenity and air quality.

ENFORCEMENT: Council continued to monitor and manage enforcement duties, with three matters involving unauthorised development work, of which two related to retaining walls constructed without approval. All matters were satisfactorily resolved.

APPEAL: An appeal was lodged against a Council planning decision when Council's Development Assessment Panel refused consent for a 30-metre tall Telstra mobile telephone tower within a wholly residential area. The decision was challenged by the applicant. Following a three-day hearing in the Environment, Resources and Development Court involving expert and lay evidence, the court ultimately upheld the appeal.

STRUCTURE PLAN: Council is still awaiting further progress towards finalisation of a draft Structure Plan establishing a long-term urban strategy for Whyalla, which is being prepared by the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Council has previously contributed input to this process, including specialist advice on air quality in support of further residential development in the eastern end of Whyalla in the wake of air quality improvements flowing from OneSteel's Project Magnet operational changes.

Council will ensure that the State Government follows its commitment that, when released, the draft will be the subject of effective public consultation.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS: A Development Plan Amendment reviewing opportunities for commercial development of bulky goods outlets and the case for expansion of the existing Rural Living Zone has all but completed its investigations phase.

The Airport Commercial and Rural Living Development Plan Amendment is aimed at identifying the most appropriate way of meeting an evident demand for additional commercial and rural living land for Whyalla. The DPA has been held in abeyance until the results of a flood management analysis for the city are available.

Preparation of a draft plan amendment for Local Heritage has advanced through detailed investigations, and will next enter an informal consultation with affected owners. The work will result in identification of buildings or places of local heritage value for possible inclusion in the Whyalla Development Plan.

Scope of a proposed Residential and Centres Development Plan Amendment has been revised by Council and is awaiting the Minister's acceptance in its expanded form.

The DPA is planned to review local centres policies, to incorporate more local content for residential development including foreshore land, and introduce better provisions governing industrial and farming land. All DPAs are the subject of community comment through a consultation phase.

Environmental health

Council's Environmental Health Officer conducted regulatory inspections of all health related matters and undertook proactive educational measures to ensure that a high standard of public and environmental health was maintained.

FOOD SAFETY & EDUCATION

Council adopts a proactive approach to food safety incorporating promotion and routine food inspections. Ninety-four inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Standards and the *Food Act 2001*, comparative with last year's figures.

A total of 32 written warnings to food businesses were issued for non-compliance with food safety standard requirements. Eleven food related complaints concerning alleged food poisoning, contamination from foreign matter, cleanliness and inappropriate food handling techniques were received. All complaints were investigated and resolved satisfactorily.

A six-monthly newsletter highlighting food safety and hygiene matters was distributed to all food businesses. The newsletters were well received by businesses that often used the information as a training tool for staff. Businesses were further educated on food safety concerns during the course of routine inspections.



*Mayor Jim Pollock
and Veggie Woman*

The community was educated on food safety through articles in the quarterly 16-page tabloid newspaper *Whyalla Council News*, monthly information sheets, presentations to schools, community groups and other interested parties, and during radio interviews.

There are six businesses within the council area that serve food to “vulnerable populations” such as hospitals, aged care facilities and child care centres, which are required to have a food safety plan and are subject to an audit to verify compliance with food safety standard 3.2.1. Audits were undertaken by an external independent auditor and reports submitted to Council.

Council commenced a partnership with TAFE SA Regional offering food safety courses to food handlers. The aim of the course was to increase knowledge and enhance the level of professionalism within the region – covering issues including legal requirements of food safety, preventing food spoilage, pest and waste control, causes and effects of food poisoning, food handling practices and other relevant matters. Upon successful completion of the course participants were issued with a nationally recognised certificate of attainment.

PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Council received a total of 38 complaints relating to issues requiring inspections covering impairment to amenity (such as where the state of a premise may be a risk to public health), offensive odours, pest and vermin control, animal management, mosquito control, wasp sightings and inappropriate keeping of poultry.

Other health related inspections were conducted on a routine basis and included:

- Twelve public swimming pool and spa pool inspections, similar to last year’s numbers. Educational materials were provided to public swimming and spa pool owners and operators, reminding them of their legislative requirements.
- Council received seven applications for installation of onsite wastewater treatment systems – two household and five commercial – of which two were Council owned sites with these assessments conducted by an external agency. There has been a decline in the number of waste control system applications in recent years, but this is expected to change as residential “lifestyle” blocks requiring onsite treatment systems are purchased.

- Five hairdressers and skin penetration inspections, also similar to last year, were undertaken. A risk minimisation newsletter was developed and distributed to all hairdressing businesses highlighting the importance of cleaning, sanitising, hand washing, appropriate sharps disposal and management of head lice.
- There are 11 high risk manufactured water systems registered with Council, which are independently inspected annually. A compliance report is submitted to Council to assess and follow up any non-compliance matters.

Whyalla Council was selected as a pilot council for the *Public Health Act 2011* implementation program. As part of the process, Council representatives are involved in collaborative workshops to assist with the development of guidance and resource materials, road test resources developed, assist in the development of training modules and aid in evaluation and dissemination of outcomes. An elected member and the Environmental Health Officer are Council’s representatives on the program.

IMMUNISATION

Council discontinued the public childhood immunisation clinics from April 1, 2012 due to a significant decline in the number of attendees. Of the 109 people vaccinated during the 13 clinics in 2011, only 31 were in the target age group of 0-4 years, seven were staff vaccinations and 75 were school immunisation catch-ups.

It was decided to concentrate resources on the school immunisation program and to increase the number of visits to schools to improve the percentage of students that are being fully vaccinated. Council conducted two public clinics prior to discontinuing the service with a total of 42 vaccines being administered.

For the school immunisation program three rounds of visits were undertaken across four secondary schools with a total of 1,247 vaccines administered, delivering protection against Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Council visited each of the schools on a secondary day during each round to catch up students that were not available on the initial visit.

Human resources

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Council administration undertook an organisational structure review, formulated a revised structure and reported to Council proposed changes in January. This followed a significant downsizing in workforce numbers with approximately 25 positions eliminated as a result of labour turnover and conclusion of term contracts.

There is a “no forced redundancies” clause in Council’s Enterprise Agreement. Flexibility and multi-skilling provisions of the agreement ensured Council’s operational and services capabilities were maintained and productivity enhanced.

Council’s Enterprise Agreement No. 7 was negotiated with workplace representatives and industrial officers of both the Australian Workers Union and the Australian Services Union. This resulted in the agreement being certified by the Industrial Relations Commission of SA on January 20 for a three-year term with salary increases of 5%, 4% and 4% for each of its three years respectively.

Council’s Joint Consultative Committee of management and workplace representatives, whose role it is to monitor the implementation of the enterprise agreement, met on May 30 to commence a review of the Local Government Employee (SA) Award classification structure for outdoor employees. As required by the agreement, negotiations with the AWU commenced with a consultative process which is hoped to be concluded within 12 months.

LABOUR MARKET FLUCTUATION

Previous years saw significant challenges in the Whyalla labour market with fluctuating steelworks and mining activity affecting labour demand. Combined with a trend for “baby boomer” employees to embark on retirement or transition to retirement programs, the result enhanced staffing volatility.

During 2011/12, circumstances required Council to undertake extensive recruitment processes for senior positions including Chief Executive Officer, Group Manager Engineering, Infrastructure and Major Projects, and a Manager Assets and Engineering with the latter two still proceeding as at June 30.

Further openings have also occurred in the areas of legislative compliance, building assessment, event management, cemetery curating, and parks and reserves.

Council has attracted a suitable array of applicants for the various roles, but is aware that local and regional labour markets are likely to remain highly competitive in view of external developments. Council will need to remain vigilant of its reputation as an employer of choice.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND FAIR TREATMENT

Council is very aware of its legislative and ethical responsibilities in regard to its mandate to protect employees and ensure equitable treatment for the diverse members of its community.

Both its Fair Treatment and Safe Environments Policies and related procedures are in place. They are regularly reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with relevant legislation while also reflecting Council’s values in these regards.



Whyalla Wetlands

Mandatory reporting training was held in 2010/2011 for relevant employees. Extensive vetting and induction of volunteers and non-employment persons involving police checks, as appropriate, were also undertaken. Training on customer service guidelines and in complaints handling, so as to provide enhanced customer satisfaction and equitable treatment, was undertaken with relevant frontline employees.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Whyalla Council aspires to be a “learning organization,” and to that end, expenditure for training, development and educational activities is set aside under the terms of its Enterprise Agreement. These learning areas of an organisation such as Council are being linked increasingly to strategic goals, outcomes and business strategies.

Arising from a Training Needs Analysis, a training program was developed in consultation with management, supervisors and employee work team. An amount of \$98,300 – equal to 1.5% of Council’s annual payroll – was spent, representing a key investment by the organisation.

Formal courses of study, leading to tertiary qualifications or to recognition of vocational training undertaken by employees as approved students, included:

- Diploma of Building Surveying.
- Diploma of Library/Information Services.
- Certificate IV in Regulatory Services.
- Certificate III in Horticulture.
- Automotive Mechanical Technology 3.
- Diploma in Business Management.

Other training attended by employees included:

- Licences training, eg loader, skidsteer, etc.
- Roads and works conference.
- Work zone traffic management.
- MR and HR licence training.
- White Card training.
- TreeNet conference.
- Certificate II in Driving Operations.
- AIBS conference.
- Environmental health State conference.
- Rate modelling – billing training.
- Chernalert training.
- Rates administration fundamentals.
- Annual financial statement training.
- E-waste pathways training.
- Accredited visitor information centre conference.
- ShadowProtect training.
- Land division masterclasses.

Further employee training and development, including OHS&W requirements, involved:

- Four monthly training sessions on Council’s suite of OHS&W policies and procedures.
- Senior first aid.
- CPR first aid refresher.
- Emergency warden training.
- Twenty-nine employees participated in the Healthy Lifestyle program.
- Thirty-seven employees participated in skin cancer screening.
- Sixty employees participated in flu vaccinations.
- Sixty-four people participated in a pedometer challenge.

Inductions included:

- Nine employee inductions.
- Forty-two volunteer/work experience inductions.
- Eighty-nine contractor inductions.

RISK AND OHS&W MANAGEMENT

Council is strongly committed to and has worked to meet the SA Plans target (T2.11) of a 40% reduction in injury at work by 2012.

It is implementing the Local Government Association’s “One System Program” to ensure maintenance of the association’s exempt employer (self-insured) licence. Council’s key performance indicator scored 92%, indicating continuing improvement in this vital area.

OHS&W efforts are seen as part of a broader risk mitigation culture and program for Council. During 2011/2012, work progressed on formatting a hazard/risk profile for Council business units and the development of hazard/risk identification and mitigation processes. These included development of an organisation-wide, computerised integrated risk register and a corrective and preventative action monitoring and reporting system.

Work has also continued on the development and updating of:

- Emergency planning.
- Disaster management plans.
- Business continuity plan review.
- Sustainability risk management plan.

Information Services

Council's Information Services section is staffed by three officers who service a computer network of 17 servers, more than 110 desktop workstations and laptops, with approximately 105 users in 11 locations throughout the city. The team supported more than 50 software applications used daily, and around 40 other applications used solely for network support and management.

In addition to the management and provision of computers and associated software, peripherals and network services for Council staff, Information Services was responsible for purchasing and providing support for photocopiers, fax machines, telecommunications and security systems.

IT support was also provided for the Whyalla EPNRM office and the District Council of Cleve on a fee-for-service basis.

The primary objective of the Information Services team was to enable other Council staff to perform their roles more effectively and reliably via the use of modern state-of-the-art technology.

Highlights include:

- A new SAN (Storage Area Network) was installed to increase capacity (hard disk space) for Council's servers at both the Civic Building and Disaster Recovery site at the depot. The SAN has provided the ability to further virtualise Council's server fleet, reducing the number of physical servers that Council needs to purchase and maintain.
- The recently installed solar powered CCTV cameras in Patterson and Elliot Streets were re-configured with larger capacity solar panels after it was found that the original installation did not provide enough power to keep the equipment running 24/7.
- Council's main high volume photocopier in the Civic Building was replaced.

- Elected members were supplied with Apple iPads to enable them to access emails, calendar, agendas and minutes wherever they are at the time. It is hoped that in the longer term members will feel familiar enough accessing agendas on their iPads that substantial paper savings can be made by reducing the number of printed copies.
- One of the larger projects for Information Services was fitting out Council's new public library. New equipment included 12 public access Internet PCs, three OPAC (catalogue) terminals, a colour photocopier and RFID equipment to assist in the check-in/out of items.

Procurement

Whyalla Council operates a centralised procurement function incorporating a best practice system with access to the Local Government Association's SA tender and contract system for placement of tenders online.

Council, in conjunction with Strategic E Commerce, also maintains an online procurement system with businesses and suppliers, allowing purchase orders to be placed electronically or via a fax gateway. This enables an auto-update of committal costing to Council's financial database.

Council's procurement and disposal policy aims to provide elected members, Council officers, potential suppliers and buyers, and the Whyalla community with a framework detailing how procurement and disposal activities are undertaken by Whyalla Council in a consistent, compliant, fair and transparent manner. The policy includes reference to Council's "buy local" procedures and can be viewed on its web site and at the Civic Building and public library.

Council is in the process of streamlining its contractor management procedures and updating the trades and services register, ensuring that all relative contractor insurance and induction requirements are in place.



Records management

Records are information resources containing evidence of business transactions, decisions made and actions taken in relation to Council's functions and activities. They show why decisions were made and what, where and when they occurred. They also inform who were involved and what advice or instructions were given.

Records are a vital aspect of Council business and the ability to effectively manage and maintain them has become an increasingly important function of Council in order to control, protect and preserve the records and to meet any legal, evidential, accountability and legislative requirements.

An ongoing records management project is in place, ensuring that continuous substantial improvements are made in Council's record keeping practices, while assisting to reach compliance with various standards issued by State Records.

Activities supporting this project include:

- Development of a three-year management plan for 2011/2014 – incorporating recommendations from State Records in line with records management survey results.
- Completion of a dedicated payroll storage area.
- Relocation of records gas suppression system.
- Completion of long-term security storage and relocation of secondary records.
- Creation of an action plan following State Record's survey outcomes.
- Continuation with archiving backlog.

During 2012/13 emphasis will be placed on:

- Continuing work on updating Council's records management disaster plan.
- Updating SynergySoft user manuals and continuing to provide training to Council officers.
- Preparing for an independent audit scheduled for January 2013.
- Relocation of Council's permanent records to be completed by the end of 2012.
- Continued training of officers in the use of the Office Integration system which allows easy registration of records from Outlook, Word and Excel.
- Developing and implementing adequate reporting mechanisms to senior management.
- Continuing with archiving backlog.

Freedom of information statement

Whyalla Council produces an annual Information Statement in accordance with Section 9 (1a) of the FOI Act.

Copies were available at the Council office, Whyalla Public Library and Council's web site. Included within the statement is a list of all Council committees and documents accessible to the community as required under relevant legislation.

Information included in the statement is contained elsewhere within the *Council Governance* section of this annual report.

Requests for other information not included under Access to Council documents will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. A fee of \$30.50 must be forwarded with a completed application in writing, unless the applicant is exempt from payment.

Applications will be responded to as soon as possible within the statutory 30 days of Council receiving the properly completed FOI request form, together with the application fee and any search fees. Council's FOI Officer will advise the applicant of any additional charges as defined under Section 53 (Fees and Charges) of the FOI Act, Regulations.

Requests received in 2011/2012:

Five requests for information under the Act were received and processed compared with two requests in 2010/2011, four in 2009/2010 and seven in 2008/2009.

Two of the requests related to land issues, one to a dog attack, one to statistics of rat and mice populations, and the final application related to purchasing of Council materials. Three requests were released in full while two were partially released.

In addition to the five requests, there was one third party consultation relating to the release of a document in relation to Council's annual food report. Approximately 50 hours were spent processing the applications.

Number of resolutions

A total of 399 resolutions were actioned by Council compared with 387 the previous year.

Confidentiality

Under the Local Government and Development Acts, Council and Special Council meetings may discuss matters of a confidential nature in a closed session.

The City of Whyalla continues to ensure its commitment to open and transparent decision-making through minimising the number of decisions it makes in confidence. The table below provides an overview of the number of times the public were excluded from Council or committee meetings:

	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09
Council meeting	5	1	10	12
Special Council meeting	2	1	1	3
Total	7	2	14	15

The number of items including reports, minutes and/or attachments kept in confidence for a specific period:

	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09
Council meeting	4	1	28	16
Special Council meeting	0	1	1	2
Total	4	2	32	18

Amendment of records

A member or the public may gain access to Council documents to make amendments concerning their personal affairs by making a request under the Local Government Act. The person may then request a correction to any information about themselves that is incomplete, incorrect, misleading or out of date.

Report on internal reviews of Council decisions and complaints handling

Part 2, Section 270 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires Council to establish a Complaint and Grievance Procedure for the review of decisions of:

- The Council.
- Employees of Council.
- Other persons acting on behalf of Council.

At Section 270(8), the Act further stipulates that a council must, on an annual basis, initiate and consider a report that relates to the number of applications for review made under this section and the kinds of matters to which the applications relate. Outcomes of the review must be included in this annual report.

There were no written requests to Whyalla Council for a formal Section 270 review during 2011/12.

Council provides a range of critical services to its community. Local government is often said to be the sphere of government closest to the people. The increasingly complex range of services provided by Whyalla Council demands the highest standards of efficiency, accountability and responsiveness.

Peter Peppin, who commenced as Chief Executive Officer in June 2012, initiated a review of Council's Customer Service Charter soon after his commencement. The new charter, which was introduced in August 2012, will provide customers with certainty in the turnaround time for service requests and will be reported to Council each quarter.



Residents of Council trophies for best Christmas Pageant floats

Executive management team

The executive management structure (otherwise referred to as the senior management team) comprised the chief executive officer and three group managers – Corporate Services, Development Services and Infrastructure Services.

The salary packages of these officers included the provision of a fully maintained vehicle or equivalent, which recognises out of hours work in lieu of overtime payments.

Positions and award classes were:

Chief Executive Officer: Contract.

Group Managers Corporate Services, Development Services and Infrastructure Services:
All ASU Senior Officer Level 5-2.

Payments to auditor

In 2011/2012 a total of \$14,000 was paid to Council's auditors for work performed during the year.

Other payments

Development Assessment Panel: Comprised five members – an independent chairperson who received \$80 per hour or part there of, two independent members who received \$50 per hour or part there of, and two elected members. The panel met as required on two occasions.

Audit committee: Comprised five members – four Elected Members and one independent expert who received \$1,000 and air flights per sitting. The committee is required to meet on at least three occasions a year, and in 2011/2012 met four times.

Services for the community

Council makes decisions on policy issues relating to services that are provided for the public and include:

Aged care, airport, and Australia Day celebrations.

Boat ramps, bus shelters.

Car parks, child care, citizenship ceremonies, civic and environmental education, clean air controls, Clean Up Australia Day, community halls and centres, cycle tracks.

Dog control.

Environmental health matters.

Fishing jetty and marina, foreshore facilities and kiosk.

Garbage collection, grants and donations.

Immunisation programs, information service.

Litter bins.

Maritime museum.

Parking bays and street closures, parking controls, parks and reserves, planning controls, playground equipment Point Lowly Lighthouse, public cemetery, public libraries, seating, toilets, transport.

Recreational/sporting facilities, roads/footpaths/kerbing.

Stormwater and drainage, street lighting and sweeping, street tree planting.

Tourism, traffic control devices, traffic lights and school crossings.

War memorials, World Wide Web site.

Organisations on which Council was represented

Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association

OneSteel Environmental Consultative Group

Provincial Cities Association

Tourism Eyre Peninsula

University of Whyalla Campus Advisory Committee

Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group

Whyalla Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Whyalla Hospital Board

Whyalla Marine Sports Association

Our people

Labour Force (full time equivalent)

	11/12	10/11	09/10	08/09
Executive Services	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
Customer services	3.5	4.6	4.0	3.5
Organisational development	2.0	1.0	2.8	2.0
	6.5	6.6	7.8	7.5
Corporate Services				
Administration	2.0	2.0	2.6	2.8
Finance	5.4	4.5	7.0	7.9
Information technology	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Purchasing	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Records management	3.3	2.3	2.3	3.2
Asset management	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.0
Child care centre	10.9	11.4	12.5	12.7
Libraries	6.6	6.5	7.7	8.1
Community services	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	36.2	34.0	39.1	41.7
Infrastructure				
Supervisors	4.0	6.0	6.0	7.0
Administrative/technical	6.8	9.6	10.0	6.7
Landfill and environment	5.0	6.0	8.0	6.8
Tradespersons	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0
Labourers/operators	34.3	35.0	45.0	36.0
	53.1	59.6	73.0	60.5
Development Services				
Building, planning, engineering, research, airport	13.5	8.8	10.8	16.0
Tourism/Media	6.2	6.7	7.4	7.0
	19.7	15.5	18.2	23.0
Sub-total FTEs	115.5	115.7	138.1	132.7
Traineeships	2.0	3.0	3.0	8.0
Total FTE's	117.5	118.7	141.1	140.7



*Storytime at the
Public Library*

Access to Council documents

Documents listed below were available for public inspection at the Council office, while some were available at the library. Members of the public were able to obtain copies through the fee structure as outlined, GST exempt.

DOCUMENT	FEE
Council agenda and minutes	Free
Standing committee agenda and minutes	Free
Policy manual	\$24
Strategic plan	Free
Budget statement	Free
Annual report	Free
Council by-laws (per page)	25c
Annual financial statements	Free
Supplementary development plans previously on exhibition	Free
Planning applications by consent (per page)	25c
Planning application register (per page)	25c
Building application register (per page)	25c
Development application search (initial application)	\$16
Development application search (subsequent applications requested at same time as initial application) (per page)	\$11
Register of elected members allowances and benefits (per page)	25c
Register of employees salaries, wages and benefits (per page)	25c
Assessment book (per page)	25c
Register of public streets and roads (per page)	25c
Register of fees and charges levied by Council	\$2
Extract from register for dog registrations (per dog)	\$3
Local environment plan	\$11
Individual Council policies	Free
Electoral and supplementary rolls for candidates	Free
Additional electoral and supplementary rolls for candidates	\$35
Rates search fee	\$28
Land agent search, non urgent	\$49
Land agent search, within 24 hours	\$59

Local Government Acts:

Mandatory registers, codes, policies

The City of Whyalla maintains the following registers and codes of conduct/practice as required under the appropriate Local Government Acts:

REGISTERS

Chapter 4, Part 1, Section 44 (6): Delegations register.
 Ch 5, Pt 4, Section 68: Members' register of interests.
 Ch 5, Pt 5, Section 79: Members' register of allowances and benefits.
 Ch 7, Pt 2, Section 105: Officers' register of remuneration, salaries and benefits.
 Ch 7, Pt 4, Section 116: Officers' register of interest.
 Ch 11, Pt 1, Section 107: Community land.

Ch 11, Pt 1, Section 231: Public roads.

Ch 12, Pt 1, Section 252: By-laws.

CODES

Ch 5, Pt 4, Section 63: Members' code of conduct.

Ch 6, Pt 5, Section 92: Code of practice for access to meetings and documents.

Ch 7, Pt 4, Section 110: Employees code of conduct.

MANDATORY POLICIES

Ch 4, Part 4, Section 49: Contract and tender policies.

Ch 4, Pt 5, Section 50: Public consultation policies.

Ch 8, Pt 3, Section 125: Internal control policies.

Ch 12, Pt 2, Section 259: Policy on order making.

Local Government (Elections) Act 1999

Part 14, Section 81: Campaign donation returns prepared by candidates.

Freedom of Information Act

Part 2, Section 9: Information statement.

National competition policy

SERVICE DELIVERY

Activities of Council that have been subjected to competitive tender or other measures to ensure services are delivered cost effectively include:

Waste management.

Bitumen work.

Concrete footpaths and road construction.

Cleaning offices and toilet blocks.

Motor vehicles.

Audit service and debt collection.

Various infrastructure recurrent activities.

Electrical work.

Line-marking.

Quarry crushing.

Construction of new library.

Museum building, Mount Laura homestead.

Banking services.

Waterproofing Whyalla project.

Street signage.

Foreshore building upgrade, boardwalk, sea wall repairs.

Revised Clause 7 statement:

The application of competition principles to Council under the competition principles agreement are:

Significant business activities

Category 1 Business activities Nil

Category 2 Business activities Nil

Cost reflective pricing or market price are the key principles employed by Council to achieve competitive neutrality.

General policies

Listed below are policies retained by the City of Whyalla.

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Dog management.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Cake stalls.
Complaints and public grievance handling.
Letters to the editor.
Media releases.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

Building inspection.
Council reserve land (freeholding).
Development conditions (standards).
Enforcement and compliance.
Middleback Park Estate development (standards).
Soil test, engineering calculations (foundation assessment).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business support and incentive.
Competition (complaints mechanism).

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Environment.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Financial internal control.
Lease rental and licence review.
Management of budget.
Procurement and disposal.
Rate capping, rebate.
Rates – Remission of fines.
Treasury management.

GOVERNANCE

Access to Council and committee meeting documents.
Code of conduct for Council employees.
Code of conduct for elected members.
Conduct of Council and Council committee meetings.
Elected members – Allowances and benefits.
Elected members (recognition on retirement).
Elected members training and development.
Elections and caretaker requirements.
Fraud and corruption prevention.
Good governance and administrative practice.
Mayor (member on committees).
Mayoral invitation.
Order making.
Policies, procedures and document control.
Procurement and disposal.
Public consultation.
Whistleblower protection.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Education (closing schools).

HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Asbestos receipt and disposal – Mount Laura Waste and Recycling Depot.
OHW & S and injury management.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Fair treatment – Display.
Non employment relationships.
Non employment relationships – Non volunteer.
Non employment relationships – Volunteers.
Vehicles – Council vehicle.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Council photographs.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Bus shelter.
 Driveway construction.
 Footpath – Asphalt.
 Footpath – Concrete.
 Nature strips (development by residents).
 Nomenclature.
 Service lane sealing.
 Tree.
 Weeds (removal by residents).

LEGAL PROVISIONS

Brand name usage.
 Council logo.
 Legal actions (authority to act).

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Airport – contractor responsibilities.
 Asset management.
 Cemetery administration.
 Cemetery operating.
 Hire and use (sports grounds and reserves).
 Parks – Lighting.
 Wilson Park flags.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Care Centre
 Accidents, incidents or injury.
 Age range.
 Asthma.
 Behaviour and guidance.
 Biting.
 Cancelling care.
 Child access areas and supervisory practices.
 Child and youth protection.
 Clothing.
 Collection of children – Habitual lateness.
 Collection of children – Lateness.
 Collection of children – Non-collection.
 Collection of children – Parents in an unfit state.
 Collection of children.
 Communicating with children.
 Confidentiality.
 Dental hygiene.
 Development and training.
 Disaster plan and fire.
 Distressed children.
 Drug and alcohol.
 Enrolment of children.
 Exclusion and suspension.
 Excursion.
 Family communication.
 Family involvement.
 Fees.
 Food handling and nutrition.
 Grievance.
 Hourly care.
 Hygiene.

Illness and sick children.
 Immunisation – Children.
 Items from home.
 Laundry.
 Maintenance – Facilities and yard equipment.
 Medication.
 Meetings – Committee.
 Multiculturalism, inclusion and anti bias.
 Pest control.
 Program policy.
 Progress records.
 Safe sleeping.
 Safety.
 Staff ratio.
 Student.
 Sun protection.
 Television and DVD.
 Volunteer.

Donations (community bodies).
 Donations (trophy).
 Financial aid (development of sporting grounds).

Library

Children's program.
 Displays.
 Equipment use.
 Homebound service.
 Library information services.
 Library internet.
 Library patrons.
 Loans.
 Local history collection.
 Volunteer program.
 Whyalla index.

Loans to community groups (self supporting).
 Maritime museum (collection management).
 Schools (annual awards).
 Volunteers on committees/working parties – recognition.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Demolition and building work.
 Disaster and emergency management.
 Privatisation of services.
 Provision of safe environment.
 Quality.
 Risk management.
 Use of recycled water.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Outdoor café.
 Parking area (mayor).
 Signage.

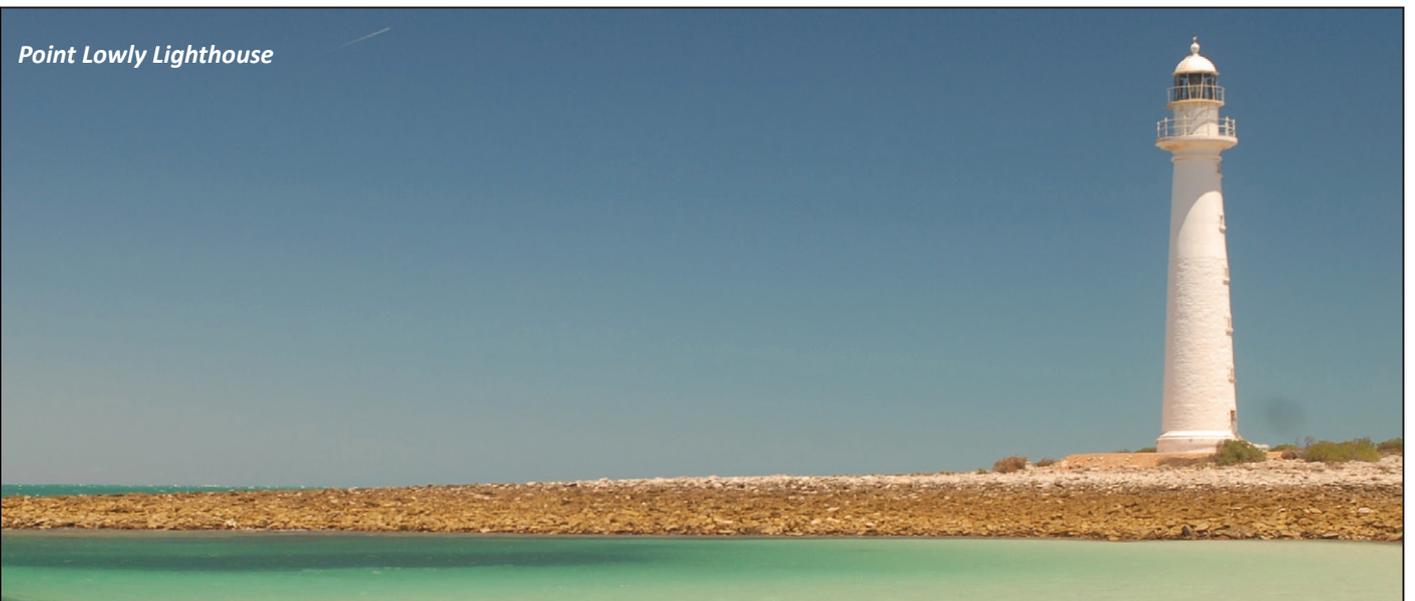
*Flinders and Freycinet
Lookout*



Leafy Ada Ryan Gardens



Point Lowly Lighthouse



54 A glimpse into 2012/2013

Whyalla Council has adopted a recurrent budget deficit of \$2,167,596 for the 2012/2013 financial year.

General rate income will rise by 9%

Major features of the budget strategy are:

To increase rate revenue available for capital works in order to commit the amount required to maintain our existing infrastructure.

The budget allocates 18% or \$7,433,229 for capital expenditure compared with 26% in 2011/2012. An inquiry into financial sustainability identified an infrastructure gap (back-log) as a major issue for most SA councils, which have not been allocating enough funds to capital expenditure in order to maintain existing assets.

Council's annual capital financial performance is sustainable if capital expenditure on the renewal or replacement of existing assets on average approximates the level of Council's annual depreciation expense. Any shortfall of such capital expenditure against annual depreciation expense would involve future ratepayers being left with an excessive burden when it comes to replacing or renewing Council's non-financial assets.

This long-term financial plan incorporates an increase in capital spending in order to maintain our asset base and eliminate the infrastructure gap.

Aim to keep rate increases to CPI + 3%.

Rates increased by 9% to account for budget pressures and to assist in achieving surplus position.

To maintain net financial liabilities ratio of between 0% and 50%.

Current level is at 25.3%, well within the target range.

Devise a budget which takes into account the strategies of the long-term financial plan.

Key principles in Council's adopted 10-year long-term financial plan have been incorporated into the 2012/2013 budget.

Some of these main themes are that:

- Annual expenses on rehabilitation/replacement of existing assets should at least equal total annual depreciation.
- Additional rate income and expense reductions will be used to work towards an operating surplus.
- Reserve funds are used to fund capital works in the first instance, and loan funds used in the second instance, thereby reducing interest costs.

Consistent with Council's commitment to community information and consultation, a budget forum was conducted during June in order for the public to comment. The community consultation session has now become an annual event enabling the public to air their views in regards to the proposed financial budget.

BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE	\$
Recurrent budget (incl. depreciation)	25,432,793
Capital works	7,433,229
Loan principal repayment	565,360
Allocation to reserves	5,726,957
Total	39,158,339
INCOME	
Cash for projects brought forward	2,469,323
Rates and charges	12,847,494
Capital works (incl \$1.6m loan)	2,108,665
Transfer from reserves	6,038,917
Grants Commission general purpose grants	2,369,323
Other recurrent income	8,075,431
Total	33,909,153
Less Depreciation	5,726,957
Net Cash Surplus	477,771

OPERATING STATEMENT

ITEMS	REVENUE	EXPENDITURE	NET BUDGET
	BUDGET	BUDGET	
	\$	\$	\$
Municipal Governance	2,200	522,448	(520,428)
Executive Operations	76,736	1,268,721	(1,191,985)
Corporate Services	17,895,448	6,031,516	11,863,932
Infrastructure	4,627,613	15,011,056	(10,383,443)
Development Services	663,200	2,599,052	(1,935,852)
	23,265,197	25,432,793	
OPERATING SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)			(2,167,596)

IMPACT ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

Council budgets include a high-level summary of both operating and capital investment activities prepared on a uniform and consistent basis. The primary objective of this arrangement is to ensure that councils provide a common 'core' of financial information to enable more meaningful comparisons of each council's finances. Long-term financial plans and annual financial statements are summarised on the same basis. The table on the next page summarises Council's finances using the uniform approach.

Year Ended 30 June:	2010 Actual \$	2011 Actual \$	2012 Audited Result \$	2013 Adopted Budget \$
Operating Revenues	22,481,238	23,388,904	25,837,223	23,265,197
<i>less</i> Operating Expenses	23,732,349	24,865,980	23,603,486	25,432,793
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) before Capital Amounts	(1,251,111)	(1,367,579)	2,233,737	(2,167,596)
Less: Net Outlays on Existing Assets				
Capital Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Existing Assets	2,021,370	4,818,237	5,351,068	5,292,064
<i>less</i> Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	4,769,858	7,054,710	6,014,434	5,726,957
<i>less</i> Proceeds from Sale of Replaced Assets	86,901	157,301	79,995	105,000
	(2,835,389)	(2,393,774)	(743,361)	(539,893)
Less: Net Outlays on New and Upgraded Assets				
Capital Expenditure on New/Upgraded Assets	2,988,141	337,840	5,408,162	2,141,165
<i>less</i> Amounts Specifically for New/Upgraded Assets	4,034,157	1,264,028	2,143,222	350,000
<i>less</i> Proceeds from Sale of Surplus Assets	4,300,903	1,764,510	261,979	25,000
	(5,346,919)	(2,690,698)	3,002,961	1,763,165
Net Lending / (Borrowing) for Financial Year	6,931,197	3,716,893	(25,863)	(3,390,868)

Challenges ahead

A prioritised continuous improvement framework has been established as part of a flexible and on-going review process, which will be a challenging process and require a total commitment to ensure success.

The outcome will consolidate the position of Whyalla Council as a pro-active, forward focused council, which provides relevant and cost effective services to the community.

Council will:

- Continue to undertake a full strategic plan review with senior staff, elected members and the community.
- Revise the 10-year forward financial plan.
- Revise the three to five-year capital improvement program.
- Review strategic planning priorities (identify Council's core and non-core activities.)
- Continue to implement a centralised records management program.
- Continue to implement a corporate governance program.
- Identify future property development opportunities.
- Review Council's financial progress in light of the inquiry into the sustainability of local government.
- Continue to review recurrent costs via balanced scorecard programs.
- Look at entrepreneurial opportunities and how marketing might improve the viability of various operations.
- Continue to review all Council assets through a step-by-step working party.
- Continue to implement key performance indicators and comparative indicators.
- Undertake an annual project planning timeline.
- Revise the corporate management plan.
- Revise departmental business plans.
- Implement new legislative requirements in relation to Council budget and rating systems.
- Continue to implement Council's waste management strategy.