

City of Whyalla

Annual Report 2010/2011



City of Whyalla

Contents

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Closed public holidays.

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Council web sites:

Council: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au

Whyalla: www.whyalla.com

Public library:

www.library.whyalla.sa.gov.au

Snapper championship:

www.australiansnapper.com.au

Industrial estate:

www.whyallaindustrialestate.com

OPERATIONS:**Mt Laura Waste & Recycling Depot**

Iron Knob Road – 8645 5016.

Whyalla Child Care Centre

Nicolson Avenue – 8645 4030.

Whyalla Public Library

Alex Ramsay:

Ramsay St – 8649 3000.

Civic:

Patterson St – 8645 7891.

Community Information Service:

(At Civic Library) – 8645 1955.

(NB. The two library branches will relocate to a new central Whyalla Public Library next to Westland Shopping Centre early 2012.)

Whyalla Visitor Centre and**Whyalla Maritime Museum**

Lincoln Highway – 8645 7900.

Toll free – 1800 088 589.

Council works depot

Lacey Street – 8645 6300.

Stray dog kennels

Cnr Watts & Cook Sts – 8640 3444.

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About this Annual Report!

Copies are available free of charge from the City of Whyalla office, Darling Terrace, or can be viewed and downloaded from Council's website: www.whyalla.sa.gov.au. All enquiries please phone Council on 08 8640 3444.

Mayor Jim Pollock and CEO Ian Burfitt discuss the highlights and challenges of the year and what's in store for the City of Whyalla.



Jim N Pollock
MAYOR



Ian Burfitt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

What do you consider to be the main achievements of the year?

MAYOR: The big achievement has been staying on track while dealing with a huge change in the economy.

We've maintained our profile and relevance with local and national government. Local Government is more important than ever before and the spending of \$23 million across our community in response to our performance demonstrates the crucial role Council is playing in our local community.

CEO: We've seen a stabilisation of our financial situation with a readjustment of the staffing compliment to meet current and future needs of our identified outcomes. We are continuing to deliver on our promises, getting new projects completed and embarking on asset management programs, which will maintain these assets into the future.

What have been the biggest challenges?

MAYOR: Without doubt, responding to the economic situation has been a challenge, but this is where our relationships with government and private sector partners have come into force.

Development has stalled all around rural and regional SA, but with the impending BHP Olympic Dam project commitment and announcement we expect confidence to be reinvigorated.

We've seen some growth continue, but expect once the necessary announcements are confirmed that considerable growth will flow onto locations such as Whyalla.

CEO: I agree, locations such as Whyalla have been extremely reactive to the economic conditions. We've been promoting Whyalla as the major location to establish mining families.

We are commencing a major focus on cleaning up the appearance of the city and improving the liveability by way of road, park, footpath and overall infrastructure replacement and renewal. We've adapted our plans so that there has been a bigger focus on presentation and maintenance of public spaces so that we're in a better position to promote the city to existing and new residents.

How has Council delivered in the last year?

MAYOR: We undertook an extensive survey to determine expectations of the community. Not surprisingly the areas of footpath improvements, road maintenance and open space maintenance were the areas that received most interest and support.

So, having asked the community we are now embarking on enhanced programs to deliver improved performance within these outcome areas.

We commenced a major public library development at Westland, which will provide a more central and enhanced library service to Whyalla – expected to be fully operational early in 2012.

Residents are encouraged to attend our Council meetings and in recent meetings there have been no occasions where Council has held any “in confidence” sessions in order for Council to be truly transparent in its decision making.

CEO: We want to identify large scale development opportunities on public owned land and fast-track them to the building stage in areas such as the Industrial Estate and other locations where surplus land has no identified future public need.

We are also fully investigating the best method of delivery for existing facilities such as the Mount Laura Recycling Centre and Landfill and the Whyalla Airport. Both these facilities are major cost centres and may well serve the wider community under different operational management.

We have made significant inroads in reigning in expenditure in an endeavour to produce a small operational surplus. It is anticipated that for the 2011/12 financial year this milestone will be achieved – the first for a decade.

What happens next?

MAYOR: Well, we are motoring now in terms of getting projects up and running, whether they be significant road and street improvements, expanded footpath provision, delivering on the state-of-the-art new public library and shortly moving to the delivery in the 2011/12 year a “Waterproofing Whyalla” project, which will green up a significant number of median strips and open space locations using 100% recycled water.

We recognise the significant Commonwealth and State Government funding contributions towards this project in the order of 75% of the total cost.

We are also proposing to establish a wide representative community collaboration group in order to represent the interests of the Whyalla community in discussions particularly with the State Government on major developments that may be proposed for our city.

CEO: We will also continue to ensure we are linking in with plans that will bring economic benefits to the City of Whyalla as the mining boom and other economic development projects are rolled out. Whyalla is positioning itself for expansion as not only a diversified industrial servicing location, but one which is recognised for its adaptability, liveability and a “can do” approach.

We commend the 2010/11 Annual Report to you!

WHYALLA:

Where the
Outback
meets the Sea.

**WHYALLA
COUNCIL:**

Proudly
serving its
community.

**OUR TRADITIONAL
CUSTODIANS**

We acknowledge the Barngarla people as traditional custodians of our land and give thanks for its use.

Aboriginal tribes first occupied our area around 6,000 years ago when it was visited by semi nomadic tribes of Malkaripangala people who were a subdivision of the Barngarla Aboriginal group culturally linked to Lakes Eyre and Torrens tribes.

Their significant places included Fitzgerald Bay, Weeroona Bay, Point Lowly, Stony Point, Black Point, Wild Dog Hill, Mount Young, Mount Laura, Hummock Hill, caves Cultana Range caves and Tregalana salt lake.

CITY OF WHYALLA PROFILE AT A GLANCE

Area (hectares)	107,177
Rateable properties (as at June 30, 2010)	12,066
Total sealed roads managed (kms)	216
Population (estimated as at June 30, 2009)	23,214
Development applications, past 7 years	\$221 m
Development approval value, past 7 years	5,220
Establishment of fully elected local government	July 4, 1970
Original Town Commission formed	May 1, 1945

WEATHER:

Enjoys a Mediterranean climate with an annual average rainfall of 271mm. Average monthly temperatures: Summer 28^c max, 18^c min. Autumn 24^c MAX, 14^c min. Winter 18^c max, 8^c min. Spring 23^c max, 13^c min.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT:

From/to Adelaide: By car - Four to five hours on National Highway1.
By air - Regional Express (Rex) operates up to five return services daily.
By bus - Premier Stateliner operates up to four return services daily.
In Whyalla: Car hire - Available through Avis, Budget and Hertz.
Taxi - Des's Cabs operate a 24-hour, seven-day service and meet all air services.
Public transport - Des's Transport operates the city's 51/2-day bus service.

Barngarla people wore cloaks made from kangaroo skins turned fur inside during winter. In summer, they smeared their bodies with fat and ochre. They hunted both land and marine animals, but never included oysters and other shellfish in their diet.

The Barngarla were known to "sing" to the sharks and dolphins at Fitzgerald Bay and Point Lowly to help them drive fish towards shore where they could be either caught in traps or speared. By the 1970s, the majority of Eyre Peninsula Aboriginals lived at fringe camps near white settlements. The Malkaripangala virtually disappeared.

OUR HISTORY

The northern Spencer Gulf was first navigated by Matthew Flinders in 1802, followed by Frenchman Louise-Claude de Freycinet the following year. In 1840 explorer Edward John Eyre reported of iron stone in the Middleback Ranges, 50 kms west of where Whyalla would be ultimately established.

Our city has its origins clearly in South Australia's, and indeed the nation's, remarkable mining and resources story. Settlement began in the late 1890s when the Broken Hill Proprietary Company gained mining leases to extract iron ore in the area.

Early World War II fortifications at historic Hummock Hill.





Launching of the PJ Adams on January 10, 1962 at the Whyalla Shipyard.

Today's sprawling city started in 1901 as a campsite on the shore at the foot of Hummock Hill – a service base for a jetty constructed by BHP to ship out the ore.

A settlement, then known as Hummock Hill, gradually expanded until 1914 when it was proclaimed the town of Whyalla.

The BHP Company extended its industrial activities by building a blast furnace, wharf and harbour in the late 1930s.

Activity continued into the 1940s with much growth and the establishment of many community facilities and services – the Whyalla Hospital, a new airport, hotels, banks, church and public schools, two open-air cinemas, Memorial Oval, and a wide range of social and sporting organisations with associated facilities.

Whyalla's development was only made possible by the construction of the Morgan to Whyalla water pipeline which has been described as a major feat of engineering for its time. The 359km pipeline took four years to build and opened on March 31, 1944.

Whyalla's domestic supply had previously relied on either rainfall or water brought from Port Pirie in barges. A second, but shorter pipeline was completed in 1967 and includes an undersea section.

A shipyard was built because of Whyalla's strategic location and the first ship *HMAS Whyalla* (now preserved and restored at the Whyalla Maritime Museum) was launched in 1941.

The booming town was proclaimed a city in 1961 and a steelworks started production in 1965, but in 1978 after construction of 66 ships, its famous shipyards closed. (The BHP steelworks became an independent company – OneSteel Whyalla Steelworks – in 2000.)

The 1970s saw many projects for major community facilities undertaken through Federal, State or Council funding, for ultimate operation by Council. These included a child care centre, recreation and leisure centre, third public library, fauna and reptile park, and the takeover and considerable upgrading of the city's bus service.

In 1984 Santos commissioned a fractionation plant at Port Bonython. The cost of the whole project, including a 659km pipeline and a 2.4km jetty to waiting tankers, was \$1.4billion.

However, Whyalla suffered a severe blow to its economy and growth when the shipyard ceased operations in 1978 – at the same time as and a downturn in the steel industry worldwide saw stringent rationalisation within BHP.

These setbacks dogged Whyalla well into the 1990s as the population gradually lost around 10,000 from its buoyant days when it peaked in 1976 at 33,000.

With growth reversing and development slowing down significantly, Whyalla certainly felt its share of "lows." From the mid 1990s development approvals started to lift, although with a degree of inconsistency.

Nevertheless, there were positive trends clearly surfacing, while success stories again became more apparent.

OUR 21ST CENTURY

By 2003 major development resurgence – particularly in residential building activity – was in full swing and in just five years annual development approvals rocketed from \$11.5million to a massive \$56.3million.

During this period, 462 new houses were approved worth more than \$80million, while the biggest industrial estate in SA was developed by Council.

Into 2010/2011 residential growth continued with other significant retail development on the horizon.

The steel industry became more secure with the establishment of OneSteel to take over from BHP, and subsequent developments and commitments to ensure the company had a long-term future certainly reflected a new positiveness in Whyalla.

However, 35 years on from the early 1970s and the population drop in conjunction with changing trends and rising costs saw the demise of some of the developments of the time. The public libraries, by necessity, were rationalised to two (soon to become one new centralised state-of-the-art community facility.) The fauna and reptile park closed – a victim of rising costs and shrinking markets for this type of facility, while the public bus service was privatised to minimise its operational costs on ratepayers.

Entering the 21st Century, Council saw the opportunity to streamline its operation, more in keeping with the 2000s, and opted for the removal of its previous ward system of eight councillors representing individual wards, and three aldermen representing the whole city, to be replaced with ten councillors covering the whole of Whyalla, plus the mayor. In 2009 the number of councillors was further reduced to nine.

Whyalla's declining population finally started to turn the corner when it bottomed out at 22,051 in 2003. Estimated population figures have since seen steady growth 22,148 (2004), 22,170 (2005), 22,287 (2006), 22,589 (2007), 22,810 (2008), 23,041 (2009), 23,214 (2010).

Local government elections last November saw a new Whyalla Council embark on its next 40 years, after celebrating its 40th anniversary on July 4, 2010.

OUR WHYALLA TODAY

Whyalla is certainly a city of contrasts – from the Outback to the sea, from green parks and gardens to massive industrial operations, from new housing estates to well established historic neighbourhoods, and from the traditional corner store to multi million-dollar shopping centres.

It is located on the western shore of upper Spencer Gulf, around 394kms northwest of Adelaide by road and 240kms by air, averages 300 days of sunshine every year and has an annual rainfall around 270mms. Whyalla is clearly a city of the past, present and future!

The city is divided into five "suburbs" with three postcodes primarily for the purpose of postal services – Whyalla and Whyalla Playford 5600, Whyalla Norrie and Whyalla Stuart 5608, and Whyalla Jenkins 5609.

Whyalla is often referred to as the "Education City." Facilities include Whyalla campuses of the University of SA and TAFE SA, public and private primary and secondary schools, and a special school for students with intellectual disabilities.

It is a resilient community of around 70 different nationalities. It is a city of wide open spaces, quality sporting grounds and approximately 50 neighbourhood parks and reserves.

The Corporation of the City of Whyalla, generally referred to more simply as Whyalla City Council or even just Whyalla Council, was established in 1970 when it replaced the Whyalla Town Commission. This was an unusual form of local government comprising both elected and appointed representatives of the community and BHP.

Its urban boundaries comprise 41.5 square kms within a total local government area of approximately 1,000 square kms.

Whyalla Council has one of the most diverse operations of any local government. It operates an airport, two public libraries, child care centre, cemetery and crematorium, visitor information centre, maritime museum, lighthouse, waste landfill site, marina and boat ramps.

Early Whyalla with the first hospital in the foreground which opened April 9, 1940.





The 1960s resulted in massive housing development as Whyalla spread westwards, including the Westland Shopping Centre, yet to be built where circled and opened in 1968.

Council also owns the city's leisure centre and is responsible for all major development like the foreshore, wetlands, water saving and harvesting initiatives, public works, and innovative environmental projects.

Whyalla's major industries include OneSteel Whyalla Steelworks producing a range of steel products including rail line and steel sleepers, Santos producing crude oil and LPG, industrial fabrication companies, national contractors to heavy and engineering industries, commercial salt production, Cognis Australia producing natural betacarotene for the food and vitamin industries (used as pro-vitamin A and colouring for foodstuffs such as margarine, cheese, sauce and soft drinks), aquaculture, tourism and major events.

The city has established itself as a regional shopping hub with many recognisable national and

SA brands, including such names as Coles, Foodland, Harris Scarfe, Target, Woolworths, Hungry Jacks, McDonalds, KFC, Pizza Hut, Pizza Haven, Subway, Harvey Norman, Radio Rentals, Spotlight, Cheap As Chips, Home Mitre 10, Stratco, Go Lo, Blockbuster, Video Ezy and more.

Whyalla Council continues to preside over a period of continuing growth. In 2005/2006 Council was exceptionally pleased that a record amount of \$20.5million in development approvals was achieved, double the previous year. Little did it realise at the time that it was just the start of things to come – \$40million worth of approvals in 2006/2007 and \$54million during 2007/2008.

In August 2010, plans were announced for a \$30million proposed re-development of the Westland Shopping Centre (with work expected to commence in 2011/2012). The following month

a major mineral earth mining company, Arafura Resources, announced that it would establish a processing plant at Whyalla as part of a \$1billion project (with a preliminary goal of having the plant completed in 2013.)

At a social and community level, Whyalla has an extensive range of active and committed community groups with hundreds of proud volunteers working for the betterment of the city and their fellow residents.

Council worked closely with residents to develop and adopt its "Whyalla Community Plan: Whyalla Towards 2022 Vision" in 2009 and then the "Whyalla Sports and Recreation Master Plan."

In times of rapidly changing circumstances work started earlier this year on a revised community strategic plan to be completed and adopted by the end of 2011.

Introduction

In June 2009 the Corporation of the City of Whyalla adopted a new community plan for the city following a long process of public engagement which was critical to achieving a collective vision for Whyalla's future.

Council's previous strategic plan was due for review in 2007. Mindful of the need to engage the community and its varying stakeholders, Council consulted in producing a broader based plan, which was then developed in collaboration with the community and stakeholders.

The outcome, *"The Whyalla Community Plan: Whyalla Towards 2022 Vision,"* was adopted as Council's new strategic plan. This 2010/2011 Annual Report is the second year in which Council can relate its actual

performance results against its goals. It will also be the last year of the "Towards 2022 Vision.

Ensuring relevance of the current plan is maintained, while taking into account changing economic conditions and the direction of Council which may have since changed, has seen Council initiate a review process to develop and adopt a further new strategic plan specifically linked to its long-term financial plan.

The difficulty with the current plan is that it is not directly linked with the long-term financial plan and is very broad in its direction. It will need to reflect commitments to achievable projects within designated timeframes.

Our mission

"To improve the total quality of life in Whyalla."

Our vision

"Our aim is to be a vibrant, growing city offering people a diverse range of sustainable economic, environmental and community opportunities. Our community is to have access to quality services and facilities, capitalising on (while also protecting) our attractive coastal and outback landscape. Our city is to be home to an energetic, harmonious, integrated community actively involved in shaping Whyalla for current and future generations."

Our key areas

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

"Our vision is for a safe, culturally diverse, socially rich, healthy, harmonious and engaged community with access to a relevant range of services and facilities."

Our community is made up of friends, colleagues, neighbours, community groups, local enterprises, agencies and service providers.

We seek a mix of people of all ages and from varying walks of life and that they be supportive of one another, creating a sense of community spirit and a sense of being part of Whyalla's social fabric.

Our community will be one tolerant of differences and welcoming of newcomers, one that enjoys safe neighbourhoods, participation, involvement, life-long learning, a sense of well being, and good health.

Our desired outcomes:

- Access to quality learning, cultural and creativity facilities and events.

- Health services which are accessible and meet the needs of the community.
- Sport, recreation and leisure programs and facilities that enhance the well-being of the community.
- Enhanced youth development through increased participation in community activities.
- Access to diverse shopping, transport and business services in integrated centres that meet varied and changing community needs.
- A vibrant and diverse community, actively engaged as citizens, which supports and creates a sense of belonging to its people.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

“Our vision is of a vibrant, growing city with a sound and sustainable economic base, and an equitable, prosperous and wealthy community.”

Our desired outcomes:

- Infrastructure is developed and maintained to provide living and enterprise spaces in a sustainable manner to meet our needs and position our city to play a key part in the region’s economic growth.
- Enhanced local employment and skills bank positioning Whyalla as a launch pad for future industry and jobs growth in the region.
- Or people have access to a range of state-of-the-art educational and training facilities so that an increasingly competent and knowledge rich workforce is an economic advantage for Whyalla.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

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

Our desired outcomes:

- Our natural environment and coastal areas are protected and conserved. All aspects of the natural and built environment are managed and maintained in an ecologically sustained way.
- Sustainable use of water, energy and natural resources, and minimisation of waste and greenhouse gas emissions.
- A safe and well maintained standard of infrastructure across the city.
- Whyalla is recognised as an attractive regional city that preserves its heritage aspects and provides a range of attractive housing that meets the diverse needs of its community, reflecting neighbourhood character in an environmentally sustainable way.

COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

“Our vision is for a community actively involved in, and with confidence in 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.”

To ensure that Council is able to achieve this, it must continue with good governance, being open and transparent, a learning organisation, at the forefront of local government best practice, and financially sustainable.

Our desired outcomes:

- A community that is confident, with its views heard, understood, genuinely valued and reflected in Council business.
- Representation that instills confidence and reflects the best interests and values of the community.
- A leading, best practice organisation in risk management compliance and management of its assets and information.
- An organisation that is progressive, fair and flexible with a diverse culture that encourages innovation, learning and excellence in customer service across all areas.
- A financially accountable and sustainable organisation with well managed assets and appropriate planning and review systems and an equitable rating system in place.

To enable Council and the community to assess Council's performance over any one period and over time, performance targets were set for a number of selected activities:

Goal 1: COMMUNITY WELLBEING

Our vision is for a safe, culturally diverse, socially rich, harmonious and engaged community with access to a relevant range of services and facilities.

Our approach	Target	Actions/ comments	Result
Establish a state-of-the-art library and community centre.	30/06/2011	Construction at lock-up stage, internal second fix fit out to complete. Landscaping to be completed during 2011/2012.	90%
Facilitate development of regional art gallery.	30/06/2012	Matters pertaining to suitability of location and long-term feasibility yet to be resolved.	20%
Advocate for adequate hospital capacity and allied health services for the city.	30/06/2011	Council maintained representation on both hospital and aged care boards.	100%
Support and encourage annual program of sporting, social and cultural events for Whyalla's various venues.	30/06/2011	Annual funds provided to ensure continuation of and creation of events in the city.	95%
Ensure long-term sustainable operations of Whyalla Leisure Centre.	30/06/2011	Final financial arrangements adopted by Council and accepted by YWCA.	95%
Provide and promote appropriate and accessible facilities and activities for children and youth, including disabled.	30/06/2011	Implementation of OPAL program.	100%

Goal 2: ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Our vision is of a vibrant, growing city with a sound and sustainable economic base, and an equitable, prosperous and wealthy community.

Our approach	Target	Actions/ comments	Result
Support development of Whyalla as a freight and transport hub and entry point to the region for the resources industry.		Continuation of promotion of industrial estate and its location adjacent to a road/rail facility to industries that support the mining sector.	
Provide funding for establishment and operation of regional sustainability centre at Whyalla campus of Uni SA.	30/06/2012	Funding provided and included in future budget. Final year of agreement.	100%

Goal 3: ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

Our vision is for our natural and built environment to address needs of population and industry, but in an ecologically sustainable and aesthetically pleasing way.

Our approach	Target	Actions/ comments	Result
Protect and improve local native vegetation and habitat by closing tracks in conservation reserve that create erosion heads or disturb native flora and fauna.	30/06/2013	Year three of five-year program for removal of identified weeds and control of stormwater runoff to minimise erosion.	60%
Reduce mains and River Murray water use.	30/06/2011	Maximise water reuse and recycling in the city by development of appropriate water tolerant landscapes and underground irrigation measures to increase stormwater infrastructure capacity where necessary.	100%
	30/06/2011	Complete design phase of stormwater harvesting and extension to recycled water network.	100%

Our approach	Target	Actions/ comments	Result
Reduce use of carbon based energy.	30/06/2011	Promote Council's and the city's environmental initiatives and encourage community involvement in and understanding of living more sustainably. (SEEC and through support of Advancing Whyalla.)	100%
Reduce waste and landfill.	0.8t/m ³ by 30/09/2010 AS4454-2004	Compaction rates of 0.8t/m ³ of air space achieved by September 2010. Produce good quality mulches and composts pasteurised to Australian Standard 4454-2004.	ongoing
Maintain and upgrade infrastructure in accord with city's asset management plan.	30/06/2011	Development of advanced works program for period 2011/2013 has been undertaken.	100%
		Detailed condition assessment and revaluation for development and enhancement of building and land assets undertaken throughout the year, to be used as a base for review of building asset management plan.	95%
		Completion of Jessop/White Park redevelopment.	100%

Goal 4: COUNCIL GOVERNANCE

Our vision 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.

Our approach	Target	Actions/ comments	Result
Ensure the adopted community plan forms the basis of Council business and activities.	30/06/2011	Linking to desired outcomes is provided for in recently adopted project management policy and procedures, and transposed to activities with progress monitored monthly.	100%
Ensure accountability and transparency of elected members and officers in accordance with the two respective codes of conduct.	30/06/2011	Elected member training conducted after election with ongoing training outlined in training plan.	100%
	31/12/2010	Code of conduct policies adopted by new Council.	100%
Implement best practice risk management system approach.	30/06/2011	Strategic risk plan has commenced along with identification of key risks, current goals and gaps.	100%
		Development and implementation of internal risk register with integrated CAPA reporting consistent with scheme requirements complete. Training and implementation currently under way.	80%
Ensure adequate employee resources for a sustainable organisation, through provision of training based apprentices, trainees, cadets.	30/06/2011	End of current program. All 11 on LGA training incentive award now complete except apprentice, which runs over longer period.	100%
			100%
Engage the community in Council's financial governance process by ensuring that business planning, budgets and policy formulation follow public consultation policy.	30/06/2011	All relevant documentation has been subject to public consultation periods consistent with policy. Where necessary, consultation also occurs with audit committee.	80%
	30/06/2011	Throughout the year all staff worked towards producing a balanced result. While control has been exercised over internal factors and significant cuts made, external factors have negatively impacted on achievement of the goal in the current financial year. However, with current savings in place, a surplus budget for 2011/2012 is anticipated. Work has commenced on review of financial systems.	

JULY - NOVEMBER



Mayor
Jim N Pollock



Deputy Mayor
Cr Jack Velthuisen



Councillor
Colin Carter



Councillor
Natasha Free



Councillor
Merton Hodge



Councillor
Eddie Hughes



Councillor
Bruce Ledo



Councillor
Ruby McGinnis



Councillor
Rick Santucci



Councillor
Joanne Waters

NOVEMBER - JUNE



Mayor
Jim N Pollock



Deputy Mayor
Cr Colin Carter



Councillor
Tim Breuer



Councillor
Merton Hodge



Councillor
Eddie Hughes



Councillor
Joanne Marshall



Councillor
Ruby McGinnis



Councillor
Sarah Minney



Councillor
Raj Rajamani



Councillor
Jack Velthuisen

Electoral representation

The table below provides a comparison of the electoral representation quota for councils of a similar size and type to Whyalla with a ratio of elected members to electors.

Council	Electors	Members	Ratio
Barossa	16,231	12	1: 1,352
Gawler	14,732	11	1: 1,339
Mt Barker	20,519	11	1: 1,865
Mt Gambier	18,003	11	1: 1,636
Prospect	13,948	9	1: 1,549
Port Pirie	12,185	11	1: 1,107
Whyalla	14,580	10	1: 1,458

Electoral representation review

Section 12(4) of the Local Government Act 1999 requires a council to conduct an electoral representation review at least once every eight years.

Council commenced a full review in accordance with the Act during 2008/2009 in which submissions from the public were invited. The review was endorsed by Council at its meeting on August 17, 2009, at which time it was resolved that the principal member of the elected Council be the mayor (elected by the whole of the community), the city not be divided into wards, and that the elected Council comprise nine area councillors.

Electors will be advised when the next representation review is to be held and how they can make submissions as part of a community consultation process.

Elected members allowances and support

The Local Government Act 1999 provides for elected members to receive an annual allowance for performing and discharging official functions and duties.

In 2010/2011, these amounted to:

Mayor	\$56,000 (Previously \$42,428)
Deputy mayor	\$17,500 (Previously \$13,259)
Other councillors	\$14,000 (Previously \$10,607)

In addition, all elected members were provided with a laptop computer and e-mail facilities to assist them to undertake their role. The mayor has access to a vehicle for Council business and civic duties. Office space and administrative support is also provided. Full details of these and other reimbursements paid to elected members are detailed in the Register of Allowances and Benefits available for viewing at the City of Whyalla Civic Building.

Elected member training

Council's elected members' training and development policy was reviewed and revised by the newly elected Council at their meeting of January 24, 2011.

A proposed training plan for the subsequent 12 months was also adopted at the meeting. A further training needs analysis utilising a Local Government Association instrument is being undertaken to determine training plans for the remaining three years of office.

The following elected members' training was undertaken in 2010/2011:

- LGA AGM and associated sessions.
- Elected member induction training by Wallmans Lawyers that included role of elected members, conflict of interest provision, holding public office, elected member's code of conduct, meeting procedures and confidentiality.
- Elected members financial governance training.
- Elected members and senior manager Mount Gambier familiarisation tour.
- LGA learning management system online training modules: Roles and responsibilities of councils and council members, conflict of Interest, register of Interests, council and committee meeting procedures, and financial management and reporting. Four elected members are undertaking all online modules and one member four modules.



COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Services

- Human resources
- Governance
- Customer services
- Strategic planning

Corporate Services

- Administration
- Finance
- Rates
- Information technology
- Records management
- Purchasing
- Child care centre
- Libraries
- Community grants
- Youth activities
- Community activities/development
- Aged care/home and community care support
- Sport and recreation
- Maintenance of Council buildings

Development Services

- Planning and building applications/approvals
- Development opportunities
- Heritage advice
- Public relations
- Media & communications
- Tourism
- Visitor information centre
- Maritime museum
- Airport
- Major events

Infrastructure Services

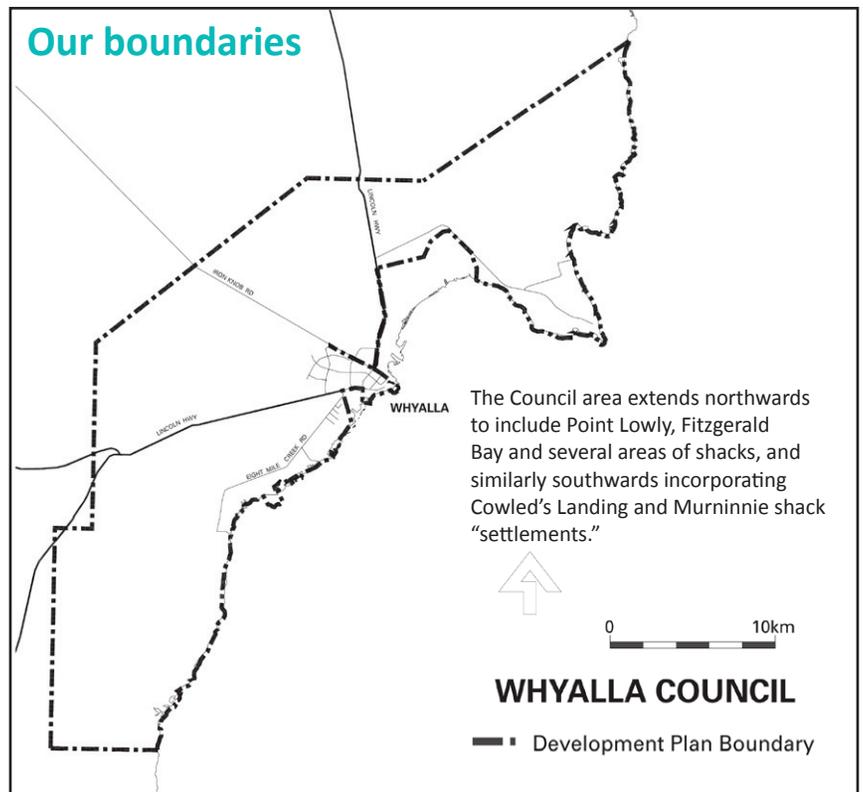
- Traditional roadwork related activities including pothole patching, sign repairs, line marking
- Footpath maintenance
- Parks and gardens
- Cemetery
- Dog management
- Health management
- Parking management
- General inspectorial duties
- Waste management: Household rubbish collection
Recycling
General litter control
Street sweeping
Operation of landfill site
- Environment
- Education
- NRM projects
- Coast Care

COUNCIL

Other committees and working parties

- Airport Advisory and Security Committee
- Audit Committee
- CEO's Review Panel
- Child Care Centre Advisory Board
- Community Grant Program
- Development Assessment Panel
- Foreshore Master Plan Working Party
- Library and Mount Laura Trust Museum Project Facilitation Working Party
- Nomenclature Committee

Our boundaries



Structure, functions, decision-making

FULL COUNCIL:

Comprising a mayor and nine councillors, the full Council is the decision-making body on all policy matters. Ordinary meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 5.30pm (except public holidays when meetings are held on the following evening.) Members of the public are welcome to attend during the general section of the meeting.

COMMITTEES:

Other working parties, groups and committees comprising elected members, staff and in some cases members of the public, addressed specific issues. They are:

- City Strategy and Policy Committee.
- Economic Prosperity and Community Wellbeing Committee.
- Environmental Care and Governance Committee.
- Airport Advisory and Security Committee.
- Audit Committee.
- CEO's Review Panel.
- Child Care Centre Advisory Board.
- Community Grants Program.
- Development Assessment Panel.
- Foreshore Master Plan Working Party.
- Whyalla Nomenclature Committee.

DECISION MAKING

Whyalla Council has adopted a decision making structure to facilitate good governance and having regard to due process comprising:

- Council
- Development Assessment Panel
- Committees
- Delegations to employees
- Grievance procedures

Council generally receives minutes, reports and recommendations from the various committees and officers for decision by the full Council.

Agenda and minutes

Agenda of all full Council, committee and working party meetings are placed on public display no less than three days prior to the meetings, with minutes displayed, including on the internet, within five days of a meeting. Minutes of the meetings of committees and working parties are included in the agenda for the meetings of the full Council (or appropriate committee).

Council staff and elected members support the Queensland flood relief appeal through a community sausage sizzle and cakes fundraiser outside the Civic building.

Delegations

The Chief Executive and other officers have delegated authority from Council to make decisions on a number of specified administrative and policy matters. These delegations are listed in Council's policy manual and are reviewed annually in keeping with legislative requirements.

Council makes decisions which direct and/or determine its activities and functions. Such decisions include the approval of works and services to be undertaken, and the resources which are to be made available to undertake such works and services.

Decisions are also made to determine whether approvals are to be granted for applications from residents for various forms of development.

Public participation

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council.

These are:

Deputations: With approval of the committee chairman or mayor, a member of the public can address a committee or Council personally, or on behalf of a group of residents.

Public question time: A member of the public can ask questions of Council during public question time as listed in its agenda for those meetings. Forms are also available from the Civic Building or Council website to facilitate providing appropriate information in relation to questions raised.

Petitions: Written petitions can be addressed to Council on any issue within Council's jurisdiction.

Written requests: A member of the public can write to Council on any Council policy, activity or service. Information can also be sourced by e-mailing Council at council@whyalla.sa.gov.au or via www.whyalla.sa.gov.au.

Elected members: Members of the public can contact any elected member of Council, including the mayor, to discuss any issue relevant to Council.



WHYALLA Council's annual business plan set out the organisation's proposed services, programs and projects for 2010/2011. It aimed to maintain efficient services for the community and continued progress towards the longer term objectives for Council as set out in the Strategic Community Plan *Whyalla Vision Towards 2022*, adopted by Council in 2008.

The plan was Council's key management document reflecting work it needed to undertake over the next year to meet its strategic plan goals and objectives within the constraints of the newly revised Ten Year Financial Plan.

The community was broadly canvassed to participate in the process. The document was placed on public exhibition during which time written submissions were invited, draft copies were promoted on Council's website with a similar opportunity to comment, a public meeting was held in the Council Chamber which involved presentations to a small number of residents and the opportunity to ask questions and make further submissions, and local newspaper, radio and television coverage promoted release of the draft annual budget and the opportunity for the public to make comment.

Items in the 2010/2011 annual business plan included:

Ten-year financial plan: This plan balances the level of funding required to achieve the city's outcomes and is the basis for the preparation of the annual budget. A major component is the focus on financial sustainability, accrual accounting and effective management of Council assets. The plan had been under review to take into account changes in assumptions and the operating environment that had occurred since the previous July. It included a long-term rate increase strategy adopted by Council on April 19, 2010.

Annual budget: Council's annual budget was formulated to address key outcomes from the strategic plan: *"A financially accountable and sustainable organisation with well managed assets, appropriate planning and review systems, and an equitable rating system in place."*

The budget was developed in conjunction with Council's ten-year financial and annual business planning documents, and in light of finances reasonably available, services both required under legislation and those desired by the community, and with a view to long-term organisational sustainability.

Capital improvement program: This program was to ensure that Council's assets were protected, developed and maintained in a timely fashion. It is achieved by linking the program to Council's strategic plan, ten-year financial plan, and long-term asset renewal plan.

Annual business plan: This documents the actions required by each department to ensure that desired outcomes of the community plan can be achieved. Progress is monitored through the use of Interplan.

Infrastructure asset management plans: Council, in accordance with Chapter 8, Section 122, of the Local Government Act 1999 (Strategic Management Plans), is required to adopt plans for each of its classes of assets, detailing maintenance and renewal requirements for the next 10 years. This was undertaken.

Key financial indicators: In accordance with Section 122 of the Local Government (Financial Management and Rating) Amendment Act 2005, Council is also required to introduce measures to assess its performance over the financial year. This also was undertaken.

Priorities established for 2010/2011 included:

- Continue the integration of Council's Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan (IAMP) into the long-term financial plan and facilitate the funding of important replacements and renewal of Council road, footpath, building, parks and recreation, and stormwater infrastructure assets.
- Continuing review of Council's long-term financial plan to incorporate outputs of the IAMP and the financial impacts of changing conditions and strategies.
- A comprehensive capital works program of \$9,925,576, including \$3,529,996 for replacement/renewal of assets, and \$6,395,580 for new and upgraded assets.
- Continuation of existing discretionary services to our community, libraries, child care centre and airport.
- Effective management of short-term loan funds to ensure that repayment of principle takes precedence over additional capital spending.

Project priorities for 2010/2011 included:

- Continue current stage of foreshore redevelopment.
- Complete access to industrial estate.
- Next stage of library.
- Continuation of work towards creation of a purpose-use art gallery.
- Completion of Nicolson Avenue landscaping.
- Creation of planned neighbourhood parks as per Council's landscape plan.
- Seek to attract major retail investment while assisting current business owners in existing shopping hubs.
- Resealing of bitument roads.
- Continue to address the future of Whyalla's waste disposal site, services and rehabilitation to ensure current legislative requirements are met.
- Foreshore Master Plan.
- Support for aquaculture industry, including Kingfish Harbour construction.
- Property development initiatives, eg City Centre Master Plan.
- Industrial estate development.

A continuing major focus has been implemented on Council to reduce the annual operating deficits, which have been occurring over the past decade, to meet annual depreciation requirements and to reduce the significant asset management back log.

The operating situation is anticipated to return to a very small surplus in 2012.

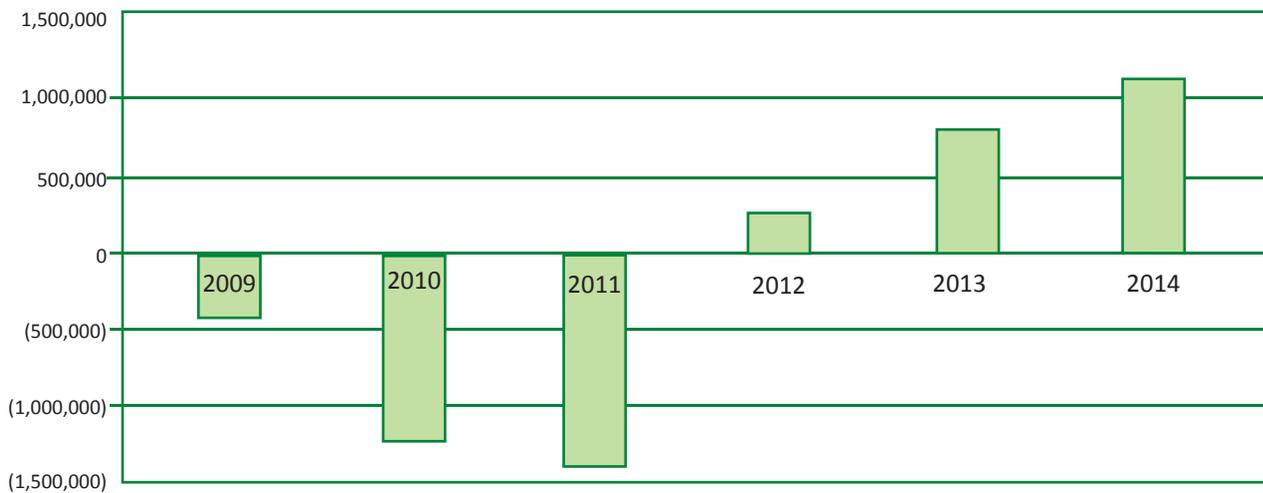
There is still ongoing detailed work to be achieved to ensure that over time operating surpluses can be sustained. Careful strategic planning and financial management will be required if council is to maintain existing services, service levels and assets into the future.

Senior management focusing on revisions of key strategic plans, the robust long-term financial plan, and clear and concise asset management plans aimed at meeting financial targets are vital to securing a sustainable future for the City of Whyalla.

I am confident that as a result of continued fiscal management, long-term asset planning and improved operational efficiency achievements in conjunction with collaboration through community engagement, we will meet long-term sustainability objectives – of maintaining operational surpluses and reduced long-term debt.

Ian Burfitt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Operating Surplus/(Deficit) - \$'000



Sustainability Indicators							
Key Objective & Target	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	Target Achieved Yes / No
Operating Surplus/(Deficit): Short to medium term (0 to 5 years) 0 to \$500,000	(474,288)	(1,252,345)	(1,367,579)	314,070	663,791	1,071,179	Yes
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) Ratio 0 to 15%	(4)%	(11)%	(11)%	3%	5%	7%	Yes
Net Financial Liabilities <\$0 & <\$10mill	10,280,376	5,328,298	2,873,553	7,414,910	6,770,332	5,718,942	Yes
Net Financial Liabilities Ratio >0 & <50%	46%	24.2%	13%	32.2%	28.1%	22.7%	Yes
Interest Cover Ratio Between (5%) & 10%	0.2%	0.8%	0.7%	2.7%	2.8%	2.5%	Yes
Asset Sustainability Ratio Between 90% & 110%	19%	57%	66%	103%	100%	100%	Yes
Asset Consumption Ratio Between 40% & 80%	61%	68%	57%	64%	64%	64%	Yes

Council turns 40, opens new park on July 4



The community was hosted at a free sausage sizzle, afternoon tea, entertainment, boucy castle for the kids and a glorious sunny day to celebrate Council's 40th anniversary and opening of the newest park - Jessop-White Park in the city's CBD.



“Our vision is for a safe, culturally diverse, socially rich, healthy, harmonious and engaged community with access to a relevant range of services and facilities.”

Arbor activities

TREE REMOVAL

A hazardous tree removal program will continue through 2011/2012 along Jenkins Avenue, McRitchie Crescent, Duncan Street nature strips and selected areas around the City that was highlighted for action through a tree audit. More removal work will continue on Jenkins Avenue, Nicolson Avenue and McDouall Stuart Avenue medians following the failure of some trees to pass Council audits.

A fresh two-yearly audit is in its final completion, which includes parks, reserves, car parks, nature and median strips. Hazards in these areas have been identified. Almost 18,000 trees have, to date, been listed on the register comprising 14,226 on nature strips, 2,160 on medians, 226 in car parks and 1,327 in reserves.

A tree selection working party of Council staff, Councillors and selected members of the public will monitor the changing climate and its impact on the health of Whyalla's trees. Ongoing monitoring of tree health and implementation of tree replacement strategies with continued data collection enables the selection working party and the arbor team to gain a clearer picture for a greener streetscape. Alternative street tree species will be explored, while all species in use have been reviewed and researched for their suitability and use as street trees.

Formative pruning has occurred on main avenues, medians and numerous streets – eg Syme Street, Noble Street and Flinders Avenue for the benefit of service trucks, postal deliveries and pedestrians.

PLANTING PROGRAM

New trees were planted along various suburban streets including Jenkins Avenue, Cartledge Avenue and Moores Street, and at Council's Whyalla Maritime Museum and Civic Park.

The 2010 National Tree Day event saw around 150 enthusiastic volunteers turn out in “freezing cold” conditions to plant 800 native trees and shrubs along Lincoln Highway between Racecourse Road and Norrie Avenue. Most Whyalla schools took part separately, planting trees and shrubs which were propagated and donated by Council. Many other groups – including Lions Club members, OneSteel and Scouts, to name just a few – targeted additional sites.

Council is exploring the Trees for Life Program to help replant large areas along the Lincoln Highway.

INSPECTION OF STREET TREES

Street tree inspection data is being analysed and converted into maintenance programs. Information gathered will feed the regular tree pruning and new planting programs, tree watering schedule and the hazardous tree removal program.

Art gallery

Council has been planning the development of an art gallery for some years, having received \$400,000 from the State Government.

During 2010/2011, evaluations were undertaken on a Middleback Theatre option for the siting of a gallery at a cost of approximately \$811,000. These costs included the upgrade of an existing facility to house the gallery and some car park works (\$113,000). The car park, however, is situated on Department of Education land, which adds some complications to the overall concept.

Council is committed to complying with requirements of grant funding and provision of an art gallery will be delivered by June 30, 2012.

be active Field Officer

This position is funded by the Office for Recreation and Sport for three years with a role designed to develop the importance and value that sport plays in local communities, while also educating and supporting local sporting organisations to ensure their continued future. It is combined with the Community Development officer into a dual role – the **be active** Community and Recreation Field Officer.

Highlights include:

- Continued to work with local sporting associations and clubs to assist business improvement strategies, supporting applications for grants and facility development.
- Member of the Memorial Oval upgrade committee.
- Purchased new electronic scoreboard for Memorial Oval.
- Continued to work in conjunction with Whyalla Community Health on a Heart Foundation walking program. Organised two walks – in October 2010 at Whyalla Wetlands and in March 2011 at Civic Park.
- Liaised with a local clubs on their infrastructure and its ongoing future.

- Provided detailed information to Whyalla Sports Network from the Office for Recreation and Sport.
- Attended metropolitan and regional **be active** Field Officer Conferences in September 2010 and April 2011.
- Promoted the **be active** message at anti-poverty week, children's week, mental health week, seniors month, Whyalla pride week, youth week, 5YYY, Come Out/Kindy in the Park, SciWorld and NAIDOC Week events.
- Successful with application to SA Health for the OPAL program (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle).
- Member of the organising committee for the Wicked Wheels Pedal Prix "come and try" event.
- Conducted sports sessions with school students from various schools and DECS programs.
- Conducted a physical activity information session to staff at OneSteel Whyalla.
- Attended the 2011 Office for Recreation and Sport Club Development Conference.
- Attended an Office for Recreation and Sport workshop on "Essentials for Coaching Children."
- Attended the Office for Recreation and Sport Grants review information session in Port Lincoln.
- Launched a Whyalla be active website.
- Produced and distributed a "Getting Started" booklet.
- Upgraded cricket nets at Schulz Reserve for public use.
- Purchased **be active** banners to use in promotions of program at displays.
- Conducted a Child Safe Officers course for sporting clubs.

In 20011/2012, be active plans include:

- Continue to provide support to clubs with information from the Office for Recreation and Sport.
- Continue to work with local community organisations to promote healthy living and participation in sport and physical activity.
- Provide another Child Safe Officers course.
- Promote and deliver the second regional **be active** roadshow for Whyalla.
- Continue to promote Heart Foundation walking by holding more walking events.

Child Care Centre

The centre caters for 0 to 5-year-olds, is licensed for 68 children and achieved a 6.2% lift in numbers – up by 1,468 from 23,850 to 25,318.

This comprised 13,529 at morning sessions and 11,789 in the afternoon (13,330 and 10,550 the previous year.) By the close of the year the centre was experiencing high numbers in the two to five years section, while numbers in the nursery were unusually low.

The centre underwent two external licencing department audits which looked at, firstly, facilities and maintenance, staffing levels, staff qualifications, and the type of activities and experiences staff were providing to children, and secondly, a food safety audit by a national auditor – both of which the centre passed.

Staff commenced making major changes to the structure and design of the centre's program and child development information in line with the introduction of the Early Years Learning Framework. To facilitate its implementation, staff are looking at each area of the centre's practices to make changes and improvements to help in the provision of high quality care. Staff are looking at how they provide experiences for the children on a daily basis, and how they can improve long and short-term plans, while still meeting needs of the children and their families

The centre is also experiencing yet further changes with the National Childcare Accreditation Council closing from January 2012, to be replaced by the National Quality Framework, which will detail standards the Centre must adhere to in daily operations.

Three staff upgraded their qualifications to the current version while three have commenced studying for their Certificate 3.

The centre finalised funding arrangements for a \$20,000 Areas of Need grant, spending it on an upgrade to facilities, staff training and the provision of educational equipment for the children.

Staff undertook training in the Early Years Learning Framework (jointly with TAFE), emergent literacy, behaviour management, first aid, food handling, asthma and SIDS.

As part of budget planning for 2011/2012, Council adopted the first five-year business plan for the centre in an endeavour to further reduce operating costs. The centre is not expected to produce an immediate balanced budget, but expects a steady positive trend will achieve this outcome.

Community development

The Community development role exists to develop and implement community activities and projects, combined with the **be active** Field Officer into a dual role titled the **be active** Community and Recreation Field Officer. Group Manager Corporate Services provides support and assistance to the activities within this portfolio.

Highlights include:

- Financially supported the Graeme Jose Award.
- Provided support to Amaroo Lodge aged residence as Council Liaison Officer.
- Funded Whyalla Art Group's Hummock Hill Art Prize.
- Worked closely with D'faces in supporting local youth programs.
- Supported the Whyalla Christmas pageant and Christmas Carols. Council further maintained its commitment to the pageant by providing small grants to encourage community group participation.
- Council continued to provide financial grants to groups during the year – supporting the performing arts, sporting groups, services clubs and events. The program ensures that groups can be supported in their endeavours and that the community continues to benefit from the results.
- Supported local initiatives for celebrating senior's week.
- Financially supported local cadet groups including army, navy and air force.
- Completed the Whitehead Street Park development. This included installation of air-conditioning and furniture in the restored former Guide Hall, established landscaping and constructed safety fencing around a historic water tank.
- Supported the "Live at Lefties" event at the Left Hand Club, and the Whyalla Musicians Reunion at Easter through the Community Development Music Program.
- Supported WERIC (Whyalla Eco Renovation Information Centre), Advancing Whyalla and Whyalla Pride Week.
- Supported Families SA children's Christmas party.
- Supported Mission Australia events such as an Xbox tournament and Easter egg collection.
- Group Manager Corporate Services was involved in planning discussions for the Housing SA "Round Table Program."
- Supported Foodbank.
- Supported juvenile diabetes ride for a cure event.
- The **be active** Community and Recreation Field Officer also sat on a number of committees including NAIDOC week, Whyalla Aboriginal Children and Family Centre Enabling Group, youth week, youth sector network, early childhood services network, domestic violence action group, interagency committee and the seniors committee, to name a few.

In 2011/2012, community development plans include:

- Community arts projects, eg Schulz Reserve toilet block and Jessop-White Park.
- Continue to promote and support Christmas pageant.
- Update family services directory and seniors booklet.
- Continue to support seniors groups with financial donations towards events during seniors' month.
- Conduct a review of the community grants program.

Community groups

Council continued to provide an annual subsidy for Advancing Whyalla which runs a range of community programs. The subsidy allowed for the employment of a part time co-ordinator. Advancing Whyalla operates from Whyalla Eco Renovation Information Centre (WERIC). The subsidy allowed it to continue to provide information on sustainable living solutions in the Whyalla environment.



Council supports community groups with various programs of awards and grants.

Events

As a part of its commitment to major community events, Council conducted a successful 20th Australian Snapper Championship at Easter, organised, staged and marketed entirely in-house. This annual competition is significant for both its economic and wellbeing benefits for the city and community generally.

Council held another successful late afternoon/evening Australia Day event, which attracted several thousand to the Whyalla Foreshore. Also totally organised and staged by Council staff and fully sponsored by Council, the event – while recognising the importance of Australia Day celebrations – again catered for families as a low-cost day out with free entertainment and amusements. Novel activities which have become synonymous with the Whyalla event included dummy spitting, thong throwing and bottomless boat events, finishing with fireworks. The introduction of an alcohol free status for the entire foreshore area on the day was an outstanding success.

Council again provided funding to private business Events Whyalla to undertake a range of community events, assist with the conduct of sporting carnivals and seek to attract major commercial events to the city. Major events included a monster trucks rumble at Bennet Oval, a kiteboard classic at Whyalla Foreshore, the Whyalla Gift and Food and Wine Fair at Bennet Oval, and the Whyalla Fishy Fringe Festival at the foreshore also at Easter. Through Events Whyalla Council also assists clubs and organisations plan and conduct sporting and special events to bring visitors to the city and aid fundraising efforts of community organisations.

Leisure Centre

Proposed maintenance and upgrading of the more than 30-year-old centre was put on hold to enable Council to undertake a thorough building condition assessment report and develop a subsequent renewal program that prioritises activities.

Council expected the report to be completed by the end of September 2011, at which time a schedule of works would be finalised. Council proposed to allocate \$200,000 in the 2011/2012 budget to commence the renewal program.

Council entered into an agreement with the YMCA to operate the centre from July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2015.

OPAL

The OPAL (Obesity Prevention and Lifestyle) initiative commenced in Whyalla in September 2010. Community consultations and a needs assessment have since been completed to determine local priorities for the program.

Stakeholders and the community were invited to forums to guide the direction of an OPAL program resulting in the development of an action plan, with goals addressing healthy food available at outlets, local food production and distribution, healthy meals produced in and from homes, active travel, active leisure time, and promoting the use of open parks and spaces.

An OPAL advisory committee has been established and meets quarterly as well as an internal council steering group.

The first theme, released in May 2011, encourages the community to “make it a fresh snack”. Stakeholder training was held in June 2011 with 44 people attending to learn how they could promote the theme to the community.

Other activities in OPAL’s short history in Whyalla include:

- “Make it a Fresh Snack” promotions in three supermarkets involving posters, brochures and shelf wobblers.
- Collaborating with Whyalla Public Library to create approximately 40 “Hop, Skip, Crunch” kits (healthy eating/physical activity toys) for loan through the toy library. Kits have been purchased and as at June 30 were being assembled for distribution.
- Collaborating with Whyalla Hospital and Health Services to purchase four outdoor fitness stations to be installed at Civic Park.
- Purchasing a drinking fountain to be installed at the Civic Park playground.
- Assisting other agencies with provision of healthy eating/physical activity advice for their programs or being a guest presenter at programs.
- Assisting agencies to apply for grants to promote healthy eating and physical activity.
- Forming a high school canteen network to discuss issues in canteens.
- Involvement with the “Way 2 Go” program and promoting OPAL’s services through the program.
- Running a five-week healthy eating and cooking program with disengaged primary school students.
- Assisting promotion of the local breastfeeding support group.
- Providing funding for a vegetable garden at the TAFE SA childcare centre.
- Co-ordinating a healthy lifestyle school email network and newsletter.
- OPAL promotions in doctor’s surgeries.

- OPAL promotions at Wicked Wheel, Come and Try day, Youth Week Small Day Out, Heart Foundation community walk, Come Out festival, Kindy in the Park, SciWorld and NAIDOC Week fun day.
- Regular media appearances - newspaper, radio and television.
- Promoting OPAL activities and initiatives in Council's quarterly *Whyalla Council News* publication including the insertion of a "Make it a Fresh Snack" brochure.
- Attending regular networking meetings such as interagency meetings and Early Childhood Services Network meeting.
- Being a member on advisory groups for the "Day to Day Living" program (to improve quality of life for people with severe and persistent mental illness) and the "HIPPY" program (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters – a home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program targeting families with young children).

Parks and gardens

Whyalla has several large open space recreation and sporting areas including Wilson Park, Ada Ryan Gardens, Whyalla Foreshore, Memorial Oval, Jubilee Park and Bradford Street Reserve. Parks and Gardens staff regularly maintain these areas with mowing, spraying, and irrigation maintenance activities.

Ada Ryan Gardens, in conjunction with the **Whyalla Foreshore**, remains the most popular leisure area in the city and is maintained to the best standard possible. The gardens' aging duck pond was removed for a number of reasons and filled in. Palms, which previously provided protection and shade on a central island, will be pruned while turf is still to be installed.

Further work will be undertaken at the foreshore to compliment recent development, which has included extra paths along Cudmore Terrace, improved fencing for the playground and paving under a wave style shelter. Turf areas will be completed when work to the seawall is undertaken. Drainage works will be completed in 2011/2012 to reduce flooding effects on the recently developed areas. New seating was provided at the marina car park from a generous donation by members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Transformation of **Memorial Oval** as Council's premier sporting oval was completed, including the restructure of roadways around the perimeter of the oval, sealing around the clubrooms, overhauling of the two grandstands including a time keepers box, installation of a garden bed along the Duncan Street fence, and removal of surplus buildings such as an old tuck shop and associated substandard sheds and toilet block. A new electronic scoreboard was installed and once teething problems had been rectified was a worthy addition for spectators. Funds have been included in the 2011/2012 budget for a memorial wall to be constructed from the bluestone of the demolished tuck shop.

Bradford Street Reserve continued to be a hive of activity on Saturday mornings during summer with junior cricket utilising the two available pitches.

The **Civic Park** feature pond had the rubber liner and rock edging removed due to ongoing vandalism and to comply with conditions of recycled water use for the reserve. The basin will remain and be grassed to provide a retention area for the surge of stormwater from nearby streets. Increased planting and mulching occurred throughout the park to improve non-vegetated areas despite continued vandalism of plantings.

Adjacent **Schulz Reserve** had new public cricket nets installed and set back further into the reserve from Nicolson Avenue to improve safety. Fitness equipment will be installed along the concrete path of the reserve at each lighting point during 2011/2012.



Schulz Reserve cricket nets upgraded for public use.

Jubilee Park's two ovals have continued to be maintained at the best level possible.

Eighteen **neighbourhood parks** were maintained providing turf areas, tree plantings, playgrounds, half basketball courts and shelters. Further mulching and tree planting is to occur on a handful of reserves to complete their development. **McGee Family Park** continued to benefit from fundraising support of the local Neighbourhood Watch group resulting in additional shade sails and tree plantings.

Twenty-five **playgrounds** were maintained across the city to comply with Australian Standards, which involved weekly and monthly inspections to ensure all facilities were safe for children to enjoy. A four-page lift-out published in the June 2011 quarterly edition of Council's publication for residents, *Whyalla Council News*, promoted their locations with a photograph and description of facilities.

Twelve areas described as **boutique or statement reserves** were maintained along with 26 **tree reserves**. Privately developed housing sub-divisions, Legends Estate and Ocean Eyre Estate, were required to provide funds to complete open space developments in these areas.

Around 400km of **nature strips** within the built up area of the city continued to be maintained. It is usual for every nature strip to be mowed three or four times a year as part of on-going weed control, but good spring, summer and autumn rains resulted in a busier year for the mower crews. Three new mowers will be purchased in 2011/2012 to further improve delivery of this service.

Median strips extend for approximately 30kms along the main thoroughfares of the city. Council was successful in securing a Federal grant which will be used to green medians using extensions to the recycled water network. This should provide the option of recycled water to Bradford Street Reserve, Memorial Oval and Jubilee Park as well as other sporting facilities.

The Council-owned and operated cemetery continued to be maintained to a high standard providing a high level of service for residents and local funeral directors. Some lawns, however, are proving difficult to maintain due to nearby trees, but further turf installation and selected tree removals will be completed to improve the interment areas.

Manual **litter collection** continues to be a significant issue, costing almost \$128,000 (more than \$115,000 in 2009/2010) for staff and community groups to pick up. The worst impact areas in order of cost are nature strips, foreshore and marina, Civic Park and reserves.

Public library

Council's library service staff spent a significant part of the year at its Alex Ramsay and Civic branches preparing for relocation later in 2011 to a new state-of-the-art centralised library near Westland Shopping Centre – sorting and reducing collections, clearing out storage areas, tagging materials for a new security system and generally planning for the relocation.

This resulted in an inconsistent outcome of statistics relating to various aspects of patronage.

A 2010/2011 snapshot:

- An estimated 82,950 people visited the library.
- 5,035 people borrowed a total of 134,839 items.
- 6,518 children attended the library's programs in Terms 3 and 4 of 2010, and Term 1 in 2011. Programs were suspended in Term 2, 2011 due to the pending relocation.
- 7,513 new items - including books, DVDs and CDs - were ordered or donated and processed.

A program to re-register all library borrowers commenced 18 months ago. Borrowers were gradually re-registered and work was completed in clearing out the records of old borrowers who had not used the library since the beginning of the re-registration period. The register now only includes borrowers who have visited the library or joined in the last 12 months. A re-registration process had not occurred for at least 10 years and was undertaken to remove borrowers no longer using the library on a regular basis. New arrivals are joining and others re-joining.

An outbound service to child care centres, kindergartens and schools ceased following the loss of a part-time contract position. This and the suspension of children's programs in preparation for the move to the new library impacted on numbers into the library and loans. However, numbers are expected to increase significantly when the new library is fully operational.

Highlights during the year included:

Security tags: A joint tendering process was undertaken with the Adelaide Hills Library in Stirling to select an item security system for the new library. Known as an RFID system (Radio Frequency Identification), it will use tags to recognise items held in the library and provide a security alert if removed without being processed as "borrowed".

Photocopying: A control system on public printing and photocopying was installed and is working well. The service is coin operated, but in the new library will operate by coin and borrower card.

Homebound service: Use of a homebound service, which takes the library into households and nursing homes for borrowers unable to visit the library in person, was maintained with 111 borrowers. Staff selected and delivered books and other items fortnightly, assisted by volunteers.

Database: The community information database, which includes contact information on a broad range of community organisations in Whyalla, was made available online via the Whyalla community website. Organisations are able to edit information themselves online.

Toy library: A toy library service for families with children under five years continued to prove popular. There were 1,088 loans involving 223 toys. Another fundraiser was held to assist in purchasing new toys with catalogues offered to families and patrons and a percentage of sales going into new toys for the library.

Boat building: A second highly successful cardboard boat-making workshop was held at the Civic Library to coincide with Australia Day celebrations to increase the number of children participating in a popular bottomless boat race as part of activities on the day.

SPECIAL EXPLANATION:

Borrowers: During a review of registered borrowers (the first in 10 years) in which borrowers who had not used the library in the preceding 12 months were removed from the list, it was determined that the previous annual number of borrowers statistics may not have reflected accurately the actual number of borrowers.

Visitors: This year's figure is an estimate only due to "people counters" being non operational for at least six months. Repairs were not implemented due to the pending relocation to a new library.

Kindy in the Park: As part promotional activities, the library collaborated with kindergartens for the Come Out Festival and attended Kindy in the Park at Civic Park, distributing 70 early childhood packs and seeing approximately 150 people.

Mimili indigenous students: Staff provided a tour and activities for Mimili indigenous students through a program organised by UniSA. Six students with teachers attended Civic Library. The program was designed to introduce students from remote areas to a larger populated regional city while introducing them to study and the use of libraries.

Summer reading program: This state-wide program had the theme of "Scare up a Good Book". Children filled in log sheets with prizes to collect from the library once they had read 10 books. All log sheets went into a State draw for major prizes.

Audio books: The library participated in a program sponsored by the Royal Society for the Blind in lending out special players loaded with audio books for sight impaired residents. Titles were loaded on to the players as requested.

IMPORTANT LIBRARY STATISTICS					
AS at June 30	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Bookstock	38,395	41,220	41,635	44,945	49,610
Loans	134,839	148,437	140,526	142,664	157,789
Borrowers: Adult	3,834	9,948	9,303	8,693	8,215
0 - 4 yrs	66	61	89	51	30
5 - 14 yrs	565	1,152	1,227	1,083	973
15 - 19 yrs	49	926	789	729	701
Childrens Programs	6,518	9,693	7,388	2,288	1,826
New items	7,513	6,882	5,178	4,332	4,397
Internet bookings	12,963	14,372	11,165	9,853	9,391
Visitors	82,950	89,489	82,621		



Council's newest playground in the residentially developing north-eastern part of Whyalla.

Roads, footpaths, kerbs, planning and more

In August 2010 Council received results of the condition assessment survey on all its roads, footpaths, kerbs, street signs and street furniture. This information, road hierarchy and road usage was used as the base for formatting a new forward works program. A coordinated approach was the focus of the 2010/2011 program ensuring all preparatory works; such as kerbing, full or partial reinstatements, crack sealing and other preliminary works, was and will be undertaken prior to resealing.

This resulted in major kerb realignment and replacement works along roads selected for resealing during 2011/2012. In 2010/2011, a capital kerbing budget of \$75,000 was utilised for this work, with an additional \$140,000 from the capital resealing budget line of \$800,000 also used for this purpose. The remainder of the capital reseal budget was reallocated to the 2011/2012 program, giving a total of \$2.4million to be used for the future road resealing and reconstruction program.

\$170,000 was spent on the annual concrete footpath renewal program, coming in \$30,000 below budget, with a total of \$500,000 budgeted for the 2011/12 program (which includes \$200,000 developer contribution for new subdivisions).

In addition to capital renewal and replacement, Council spent more than \$252,000 on kerb and footpath repairs, \$127,500 on spray pave patching works, \$27,000 on unsealed road maintenance (north and south coastline) and \$51,000 on stormwater drainage maintenance.



With the continued use of Geographical Information Systems, more commonly known as GIS, Council has built up a number of databases on geographically mapped assets and data sets. This information is available to all Council staff, and selected sections (eg cemetery, waste management and property address details) is accessible by the public through the Council website by using the companion program Exponare. Due to the availability of rapidly expanding web based information, accessing, linking and sharing similar information is becoming more commonplace throughout the industry, and Council has been working towards the integration of these systems with its own.

Council is half way through a major exercise to convert its plans and drawings to an electronic system, and we're half way there. This huge undertaking has also involved an upgrade and revision of all infrastructure plans and technical drawings, creating a significant challenge with the large number of plans and files in existence and their various ages and conditions. When completed, all staff will have access to electronic copies of plans and drawings in a pdf format. Council has continued with the use of electronic survey equipment incorporated with Civil Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) software for preparation of its civil, road and drainage designs.

Youth development

The area of youth development has been outsourced to Plaza Youth, an organisation that provides a co-ordination role to Youth Council, ensures participation in local government, and with other appropriate groups, and provides decision-making processes.

Highlights include:

- Ongoing consultation and development of activities for youth.
- Ongoing consultation on Whyalla youth issues and needs with local, State and Federal government bodies.
- Funding and assistance with Youth Week activities.
- Continual evaluation and planning of Youth Council initiatives.

In 2011/2012 youth development plans include:

- Renegotiate Youth Council contract.
- Youth Council working closely with elected members of Whyalla Council to ensure a youth voice is considered in its deliberations.
- Manage Youth Council program in a manner that ensures opportunities for local youth interested in politics, allowing the opportunity to voice their opinions on any issues affecting youth in Whyalla.

Council purchased and distributed 2,000 counter-top kitchen organic waste bins to interested residents.



Council officers on a committee tasked with installing a new electronic scoreboard at Memorial Oval ready for action.



OPAL team



“Our vision is of a vibrant, growing city with a sound and sustainable economic base, and an equitable, prosperous and wealthy community.”

Airport

The city owns the Whyalla Airport after the Federal Government divested itself of regional airports in 1991, with Council responsible for day-to-day operation, and ongoing and long-term infrastructure maintenance and renewal. It comprises a sealed runway of 1,700 metres, unsealed runway, hangar, terminal building, ancillary structures and a range of other buildings and facilities. The pavement strength rating has deteriorated during its life to the point where it is only suitable for SAAB 340 or smaller aircraft.

Larger aircraft, particularly C-130 transports (Hercules), use the airport from time to time, but Council must provide concessional access to such aircraft as they cause additional wear and tear on the weakened pavement.

There has been a significant increase in air traffic during the past 10 years with passenger numbers growing on average by 6% annually. This has resulted in additional flights and more patronage of the terminal, which is now unable to suitably cope with current passenger numbers.

Major capital investment is required to bring the airport to a level where it can accept a larger range of aircraft, including larger passenger aircraft as well as increased military use. Investment in a major runway upgrade and an enlargement of the terminal building are required.

While air travel increases in popularity, the availability of only one carrier operating the Whyalla route is not ideal and makes the city vulnerable from pricing and other standpoints. There is seen to be a need to address this situation.

With a range of challenges facing the ongoing operation of the airport, Council has sort help within the field and has been in liaison with Adelaide Airport Limited regarding the management and long-term development of the facility.

During the past few years, a due diligence exercise has been undertaken and other external factors are being investigated regarding future management of the airport.

In the meantime, Council has worked in conjunction with AAL to prepare an airport master plan, which is well in progress and will be completed in the early part of the new financial year. This will determine development potential at the airport by making predictions as to the impact of an increase in air traffic into the foreseeable future. Growth of the airport and air travel generally will have some impact on proposed residential areas and will require adoption of suitable policies to address potential noise nuisance.

Council is also undertaking a review of its Development Plan for the airport to allow for more commercial and residential development in non-operational areas

as development of this land will provide funding for infrastructure upgrades. As part of this review a plan amendment is being prepared to rezone areas not required for airport operations.

Council will continue to consider options for future operation of the airport during 2011/2012. It will need to undertake a formal community land revocation process prior to considering long-term options.

Day-to-day operation of the airport has been impacted on by a number of Federal Government legislative changes in recent years. March 2010 marked five years since the airport became “security classified” and completion of all processes and plans that had to be revised to comply.

Other legislative changes included implementation of a risk-based safety management system, and a drug and alcohol management plan. An upcoming project is the preparation and implementation of a disability access facilitation plan. Council continues to maintain the airport to the required legislative standards.

Aquaculture

After working for several years in partnership with local aquaculture companies in an attempt to develop a stand-alone aquaculture harbour, the project was discontinued after the Commonwealth Government closed its regional assistance grant program. Funding provided by the State Government will be re-allocated to a “waterproofing Whyalla” project.

While funding was to be provided by Commonwealth and State Governments, majority of the costs to develop a harbour were to be borne by the private sector. Various difficulties experienced by the larger of the two aquaculture operators meant that it could not guarantee contributions to the harbour’s construction. Council had previously determined that it would not put more funding into the development and the various delays caused by these uncertainties resulted in deadlines set by the Commonwealth passing without the harbour being built.

Both aquaculture companies require upgraded harbour facilities if they are to continue their operations in the region and grow. Increased activity will need to be absorbed by the Point Lowly facility. Council is assessing costs associated with an upgrade and repairs to existing facilities at Point Lowly due to past aquaculture operation, prior to proceeding with any further plans to assist industry operators with upgraded port facilities.

Community land

Council, in order to cater for future growth, embarked on a strategy in 2006 to identify excess land and other land which might be suitable for urban expansion. Various land was identified as excess land with development potential.

Parcels designated as community land were processed to remove community designation. This process involved a thorough assessment and public consultation prior to seeking the consent of the Minister of Local Government. No community land was revoked during 2010/2011.

Development

ASSESSMENT: Development assessment continued the level of activity set last year, with a total value of development of \$25.07 million. This is less than the 2009/2010 figure of \$26.29 million, but remains above the median value of \$22.79 million for the decade overall. The number of applications at 471 was lower than last year's 577; but this figure reflects the greater tendency for multiple structures to be included in a single application thereby saving fees.

RESIDENTIAL: Development declined sharply from last year's level of activity, but remained relatively sound with 34 new dwellings approved at a development cost of \$6.75 million. Dwelling additions continued at a slightly lower level, posting 61 compared with 74 the previous year.

NEW LIBRARY: As the major focus of significant civic development by Council, a development application for Council's new library building was granted approval by the Development Assessment Commission with a value of \$3.8 million approximately. It is located in the same precinct as Council's recently completed museum building and caretaker's house at Mount Laura Homestead Museum.

INDUSTRIAL: Approvals returned to 2008/2009 levels, totalling \$564,000 for the year, significantly less than the previous year's figure of \$1.52 million. The only proposal of note was an industrial workshop with a \$300,000 development cost.

COMMERCIAL: By contrast, however, commercial development overall showed a sharp increase with activity totalling \$11.76 million, more than trebling last year's figure of \$3.51 million. The most significant approval was

for the construction of a visitor accommodation complex of \$4.8 million. Other proposals included a new café with a development cost of \$800,000, and expansion of existing developments covering motel accommodation, a cabin park and an aged care facility, all of which combined totalled \$1.4 million.

STRUCTURE PLAN: Council sought progress in the finalisation of a new Structure Plan, setting out a long-term urban strategy for Whyalla, being prepared by the Department of Planning and Local Government. Council has contributed input to this process, including specialist consultant advice supporting the withdrawal of an EPA restriction on increased residential development in the eastern end of Whyalla, following completion of major components of Project Magnet associated with the pellet plant, by OneSteel.

A supplementary phase of the consultant's study finalised its review of air quality for the town, demonstrating its acceptability for future residential development within appropriate areas adjacent to the coast. Council will ensure the State Government follows its commitment that, when released, the draft will be subject to effective public consultation with the community.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT: A Development Plan Amendment reviewing opportunities for commercial development of bulky goods outlets and the case for expansion of the existing Rural Living Zone was progressed through an investigations phase. The Airport Commercial and Rural Living Development Plan Amendment was commenced with the intent of identifying the most appropriate way of meeting an evident demand for additional commercial and rural living land. Resolution of issues relating to rural living will be clarified through improved stormwater management information for Whyalla, including this area.



Leafy Ada Ryan Gardens.

Industrial estate

The Whyalla Industrial Estate is the city's most important economic development initiative. Council undertook its development to cater for the needs of industrial businesses seeking to locate in Whyalla and service the mining boom.

Major infrastructure works including a high voltage power backbone were completed in November 2009. The power component itself was a major project costing approximately \$3.3 million and involved the installation of a 33 kilovolt ring route. Council was able to secure \$1million in government funding to assist with this work.

Council previously signed 22 contracts of the 34 available lots. One purchaser of eight allotments sought to break the contract for which Council sought compensation through the courts. Three other contracted parties have not settled. One further contract was signed during 2010/2011 and two previously contracted parties settled (Link and Ausmelt). One settlement is scheduled to take place in early 2011/2012. As at June 30, 2011, there were 11 sold lots.

There has been renewed interest in the estate with several interested parties currently being pursued following progress towards approval of the Olympic Dam expansion, other mining activities, and the announcement of the proposed Arafura development.

Solar Oasis power

The Solar Oasis project has been announced previously for Whyalla with \$60million in Federal Government grant funding having been allocated to the project to allow for the establishment of a 40 megawatt solar thermal power station involving the construction of 300 large dishes. It is proposed that the plant will produce enough electricity to power 9,000 homes, almost enough for the entire city of Whyalla and will have a total project cost in the range of \$230million.

There have been considerable delays in bringing this project to fruition with work on the four-dish demonstration project stalling for some time. Recent advice indicates that issues related to the deed of grant from the government are in the process of being resolved.

Support of economic development bodies

Council provided an annual subsidy of \$140,000 to Whyalla Economic Development Board to enable economic development initiatives to be pursued.

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

Sustainability Centre

Council provided \$25,000 towards the operation of a regional sustainability centre operated from the Whyalla Campus of the University of SA.

Visitor Centre and Maritime Museum

VISITOR CENTRE

Numbers into the centre totalled 28, 561 – an increase of 3,548 or 14.2% on 2009/2010, and an overall lift of 6,262 or 28.1% in the 10 years to June 30, 2011. A total of 247,600 visitors have been recorded in the 10 years.

Two-yearly on-site audits by SA Tourism Industry Council were conducted in July 2010 with the centre successfully meeting all accreditation requirements. An on-site inspection in July followed by lodgement of a 30-page submission in August resulted in the centre winning silver in the category of visitor information and services in the 2010 SA Tourism Awards.

February 15, 2011, marked one year since tours of the OneSteel steelworks resumed as a collaborative partnership between the Iron Knob Visitor Centre, OneSteel and Whyalla centre with more than 2,100 people booking a tour. This figure is expected to grow during 2011/2012 generating income for the centre and providing a significant attraction for visitors.

February also saw 35,000 Whyalla visitor guides printed, providing the city's main official source of visitor information with 54 businesses choosing to support the city's tourism industry by advertising. The centre continued to update and distribute Whyalla street maps free of charge to businesses throughout the year. Both the guide and street maps are projects of the visitor centre.

A detailed customer survey was undertaken between Januarys 2010 and 2011, the length of time allowing for different types of visitors, high and low seasons, and reintroduction of steelworks tours. The survey was undertaken to help the centre understand its contribution to increased tourism yield in the region, monitor its performance, and identify its role in changing visitor behaviour in order to increase the yield. Behaviour such as increasing length of stay, activities undertaken and the likelihood of repeat visitation are all factors which contribute to tourism yield in Whyalla. This information can then be used to identify appropriate marketing strategies.

The second stage of an upgraded souvenir display was completed. The centre provides the biggest range of souvenirs in Whyalla and by doing so generates income and plays a further important role in the local tourism industry.

MARITIME MUSEUM

Numbers into the museum totalled 9,242 – an increase of 714 or 8.4% on 2009/2010, but an overall decline of 26 or 0.3% in the 10 years to June 30, 2011. A total of 91,139 admissions have been recorded in the 10 years.

The museum maintained its involvement with the Conservation Council of SA's shark watch program by registering shark sightings in the Whyalla area for public and scientific information.

Restoration and maintenance on the museum's centrepiece, the original HMAS Whyalla, included cleaning and repainting the four-inch gun barrel, completion of the restoration and preservation of the ship's lifeboat, completion of major restoration work involving rust treatment on the main deck, and repair and replacement of bridge steps. Restoration and preservation of the historic shipyard signal mast, which stands at the museum's entrance, was completed.

Eighteen donations to the museum's collection were received from residents in Whyalla, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Adelaide, Melbourne and Orange. BHP donated a model of Point Lowly and touch screen on display in the Singing to the Sharks gallery.

Additions to the model railway landscape in the museum building included shipyard and steelworks cranes, shipyard buildings, cargo ship and two tug boats. An exhibition "Stalky: Drawings from the Whyalla Industrial Past" was installed in the shipbuilding gallery as part of state-wide 175-years of SA celebrations.

The Flinders Freycinet Lookout statues were restored and a consultation process contributed to the theme selection and creation of the first public statue at Whyalla Foreshore – diver and fish.

The museum and grounds were the venue for various meetings, business promotional photography and conference dinners. Education programs were presented to local and visiting schools, and various talks and lectures were given to groups.

The museum maintained membership and professional affiliations with Museums Australia, History Trust of SA, Australian Maritime Museums Council, Naval Historic Society of Australia, and American Historic Naval Ships Association.

Advertisements were placed in newspapers (local, Port Augusta, Adelaide), magazines (caravanning, airlines, over 50's lifestyles) tourist guides (local and Eyre Peninsula) and local radio and TV. Promotional coverage was achieved on various websites and TV programs, and in both domestic and international newspapers, magazines and books.

Admissions: Past ten years

June 30	Vis Cen	Museum
2011	28,561	9,242
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
2002	22,299	9,268

* Denotes inclusion of a one-off special event of 4,000 people.



Flinders Freycinet Lookout.

Council's annual Australia Day celebrations



Dummy spitting.



Welcoming new citizens



Thong throw.



Bottomless boat racing.



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

Development

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Council promotes sustainable development through administration of the Development Act and Building Code, which contains a range of requirements to ensure that buildings meet prescribed energy efficiency ratings.

Council has a separate set of rules for development at the Legends Estate housing project where it has maintained a requirement for seven-star energy efficiency to ensure that this development “raises the bar” in respect to sustainable building outcomes.

HERITAGE PROTECTION: Council progressed investigations into preparation of a draft plan amendment for Local Heritage, with the assistance of its heritage adviser. The work allowed identification of buildings or places of local heritage value for possible inclusion in the Whyalla Development Plan. The draft plan will be finalised to enable agency consultation to be conducted as the next major phase.

The proposed Residential and Centres Development Plan Amendment is planned to review local centres policies and incorporate more local content into the statutory residential policies of the Whyalla Plan. It is expected that the schedule for the Statement of Intent for this DPA will need to be adjusted with the Minister’s agreement prior to being progressed by Council. Both DPAs will be subject of community comment through a consultation phase.

Council continued its efforts to protect its own built assets of heritage value, arranging for remedial work to be undertaken on one of the Tanderra Craft Village buildings to ensure its retention and continued community use.

Environmental landscape

COASTAL

Weeds: Much has been done to improve Whyalla’s coastal region. Significant problems have been identified and remedial action is under way. Many succulent weeds were removed or poisoned, particularly around shacks near Point Lowly Lighthouse and Fitzgerald Bay. This work is ongoing.

Shingle dunes: Another area of concern on Whyalla’s eastern coastline is continuing damage of the geologically significant shingle dunes that are highly visible in the Fitzgerald Bay area. Damage has been caused by use of the dunes as a challenging place to drive or ride off-road vehicles and bikes. Works have commenced to barricade tracks leading onto the dunes in conjunction with the installation of signs to highlight the significance of the dunes and the consequences for causing further damage.

Much of this work has been done with the assistance of volunteer groups such as Heta (young conservation volunteers) and Conservation Volunteers Australia, as well as the important efforts that the Cultana Jenkins Shack Owners Association – with funding from Whyalla Council and the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resource Management Board – have achieved.

The EPNRM gave a \$9,000 grant to the shackowners association to install signs at the dunes and surrounds, \$6,000 of which was spent on recycled plank signs.

HUMMOCK HILL

There have been many meetings held between OneSteel, Council, EPNRM and community representatives to plan an upgrade of Whyalla’s historic Hummock Hill landmark. The Hummock Hill Planning Committee was assembled to guide this project in which OneSteel has expressed an interest to assist. It is proposed to preserve the aging gun emplacements and failing railway sleeper retaining walls with a series of projects designed to ensure long-term viability of infrastructure on the hill.

Plantings of vegetation species endemic to the area will supplement existing plants, while erosion and vehicle control structures will be installed at strategic locations on the hill face.

The planning committee will release information to the public in September 2011 as part of a six-week consultation phase of the project. Members of the public who participate will receive a copy of the final plan with explanations as to why the ultimate recommendations were determined.

OneSteel and Council have both made significant financial commitments of \$50,000 each to the project for 2011/2012. In addition, the EPNRM has pledged to cover erosion control and native vegetation protection works.

MOUT LAURA CONSERVATION RESERVE

The Mount Laura Conservation Reserve is an area set aside permanently to preserve and enhance the biodiversity of the region and the land that supports it. This site was formed as a ‘trade off’ for permission to clear Whyalla’s new industrial park. This has involved the addressing of many issues including, drainage, erosion, inappropriate vehicle use, track closures, weed infestations and feral animal control.

The Native Vegetation Council visited the site in June of this year, and was most impressed with the quality of the vegetation after the wet season we have had, as well as the quality and success of the works Council has completed on the site so far. \$5000 has been allocated to the site for capital works this year, with a focus on track closure, and making our signs at the site more resistant to vandalism.

ROADSIDE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

New roadside vegetation markers have been ordered at a cost of approximately \$800 and will be installed commencing August 2011 at sites where there is high value vegetation. A Council roadside vegetation survey identified areas of high, medium and low value vegetation on roadside verges. The survey was conducted (by habitat and land management consultant Larry Bebbington) at the request of the Native Vegetation Council, which jointly funded the project, to help complete Whyalla Council's Roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

Results assist Council to make informed environmentally sensitive decisions in the way it conducts rural road works, which are now carefully controlled by management plan guidelines.

WHYALLA WETLANDS

Works have progressed steadily in line with a five-year remedial works program for the site. A significant milestone was the armouring of all stormwater inlets and on-site erosion control works around the individual banks of the ponds completed in April 2011.

Volunteer groups, including Heta volunteers and local Rotary Club members, have assisted with plantings around Pond 1, the SES compound fence, and the old aerodrome site. This complemented work carried on from 2009 National Tree Day event.

Water testing is continually undertaken to monitor any changes that occur after rain or in situations when there has been no rain. Results show that intrusion of underground water into the ponds keeps the salinity at high levels, with the level in Pond 4 comparable to the sea. However, after significant rain events, salinity drops for some time, before coming back into equilibrium with the natural conditions of the site.

Environment staff continue to guide local schools around the site and explain how the wetlands work, as well as in class education sessions explaining the significant role that the wetlands play in regards to water quality, biodiversity and habitat.

Foreshore masterplan

RESIDENTIAL: The Foreshore Masterplan proposed development of housing on land owned by the Education Department and reserve land adjacent to South Whyalla Football Club.

To enable development to occur, it has been necessary to revoke community land designation of some of the reserve land. This occurred in 2009, but, before further progress could be made it was necessary to rezone the land for residential purposes. This process was subsequently delayed due to the need to undertake air quality monitoring to meet EPA and Department of Health concerns about air quality in eastern Whyalla.

Modelling work was undertaken showing that air quality in this part of the city was not discernibly different to that elsewhere in Whyalla. It showed graphically, that work undertaken by OneSteel to improve emissions from its "pellet plant" had been effective in reducing dust emissions. The EPA has now withdrawn its concerns and the rezoning exercise will proceed.

DEVELOPMENT: Council undertook a review of priority works in the light of feedback related to the present stage of works, and public risk and liability concerns. As a consequence, an amendment to the Stage 2 works program was undertaken, with costings prepared to enable budget estimates to be provided and funding bodies advised of Council's proposed new direction.

Approval was received from the Commonwealth Government to reallocate a portion of grant funding (\$282,000) and formal approval is pending in relation to State Government funding (\$333,000). Council also approved a budget allocation to the Foreshore of \$380,000. Other funding has also been agreed to or sought from sources including OneSteel (painting assistance for the foreshore building), Regional Development Australia and the café lessee.

In all, a program of works involving expenditure of \$1.07m is proposed, although a portion of these funds is not likely to be spent due to damage to a section of seawall, which will now require a more extensive and costly reconstruction after extraordinary high tides in May 2011. Council is currently seeking qualified engineering advice as to the extent of repair works required. Allowance will be made for potential future sea level rises and, therefore, reconstruction of a wall similar to that existing is unlikely.

Heritage advice

Through a joint agreement with the Upper Spencer Gulf cities, Council retains a heritage advisory service through Flightpath Architects. A heritage architect visits Whyalla at three-weekly intervals to assess development applications which may have an impact on buildings with heritage character, while providing advice on Council building projects. The heritage advisor also provides advice to members of the public.

Solar hot water

Council started the financial year with a continued commitment to encourage residents to install solar hot water systems by maintaining a 5% rebate on the unit cost, an incentive introduced by Council in 1995.

During early year periodic budget deliberations the scheme was subsequently terminated on September 1.

Waste management

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

Council ensured compliance with EPA licence conditions at the waste and recycling depot, in conjunction with ongoing implementation of its landfill environment management plan.

Statistical highlights, with 2009/2010 and 2008/2009 figures in brackets:

- A total of 12,274 tonnes of waste was landfilled. Total weight of incoming materials at the Mount Laura Waste and Recycling Depot was 34,288 tonnes, equating to a diversion rate of 64% from landfill compared to 54% last financial year and 48% the previous year.
- Due to issues of product quality, turnover at Council's composting facility was slow and only 960 tonnes of collected organics was composted.
- A total of 1,629 tonnes of co-mingled kerbside recyclables was collected, baled and transported to Adelaide for further sorting and recovery. A further 944 tonnes were received from industry.
- Approximately 8,000 tonnes of recycled concrete, bricks and rubble were crushed into 20mm road base material, all of which was used throughout the city for various civil projects.
- A total of 390 tonnes of scrap metals was diverted from landfill and transported to Sims Metals in Adelaide.
- The kerbside hard waste collection service, which ceased in March 2011, resulted in 55 tonnes collected.
- More than 4,850 cubic metres of e-waste were forwarded to Adelaide for processing.

Due to significant cost increases in providing residents with a free hard waste service, Council ceased the annual collection in its current format in March 2011. Council is now in the process of investigating the possibility of offering a limited hard waste service and determining costs before making a final decision.



Addressing water erosion and inappropriate vehicle use in the Mount Laura Conservation Reserve.

36 Our year in review Environmental care

The existing liquid waste cell at the landfill was officially closed in November as a result of changes to EPA legislation. Options were considered for continuing this facility onsite – either by directly spraying grease trap waste onto green waste as part of the composting process or installing additional compliant storage – but due to risk management issues and high construction costs of a compliant cell, the Mt Laura Landfill no longer offers a liquid waste drop off facility.

Operations of the Sustainable Environment Education Centre (SEEC) were suspended pending its possible relocation to Whyalla Visitor Centre.

Council is in the process of investigating operations of the Mt Laura Landfill and future options, with a possibility of putting management and operations out to public tender.

Council received notification from the Environmental Protection Agency that it will receive a *Sustainability Licence* in the 2011/12 financial year, which will combine four existing EPA licences (243, 1522, 2430 and 14141) covering the Mt Laura Landfill and Recycle Centre, Whyalla Marina, Whyalla slipway and Whyalla Cemetery crematorium.

Following the success of a foodwaste trial in early 2009, Council adopted a program in which it would provide ratepayers with an organic recycling option. In late 2010 Council, with additional funds from Zero Waste, purchased 2,000 *Aussie Kitchen Mate* organic food bins and in May 2011 the program was released. The bins, while stocks remain, are available free of charge to the public.

More than 180 residents (adults and children) took part on Clean Up Australia Day, with an additional 13 schools undertaking Clean Up Australia Day activities within their school grounds during the week leading up to the main event.

More than 2,200 trees and shrubs grown in Council's own nursery were planted on National Tree Day, with 800 along the Lincoln Highway reserve (from Norrie Avenue to Racecourse Road). The remainder were donated to individual schools and community groups participating at other self nominated areas. Locally produced mulch was supplied to protect the new plantings from summer heat and lack of water.

Whyalla Council is part of the Eastern Eyre Peninsula Waste Management Group, which has operated for three years, and includes Kimba, Cleve, Franklin Harbour and Whyalla. A common aim is to improve waste management, obtain grants for equipment, and share resources and landfill management strategies.



Council introduces e-waste.



Helping at Clean Up Australia Day...



...And at National Tree Day.

“Our vision 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

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 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.

The 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 not only publicises Council issues and events within Whyalla, but to adjoining towns (eg Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Cowell Quorn, etc) which also benefits local residents by attracting visitors to events in Whyalla.
- A quarterly, 16-page, tabloid *Whyalla Council News* newspaper was 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 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 a search for Whyalla's heritage buildings and landmarks worthy of local heritage value.

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 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 2011/2012 budget is expected to include funding to enable a significant upgrade to both sites – the first for many years.
- 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

Council is also required to prepare community land management plans for all land it holds, with more than 160 land parcels that it either owns or over which it exercises care and control.

Previously, Council had adopted a limited number of plans (CLMPs) over some land parcels, but had not completed its legislative requirements to have all land suitably covered. Consultation occurred during 2010/2011 to implement all remaining plans, with the matter to be finalised early in 2011/2012.

Compliance – dogs

There has been a significant increase in microchipping of dogs in recent years, believed in part due to Council's annual discounted microchipping day and publicity campaign during the past four years. This is a permanent form of identification for an animal and is becoming the norm. In some Eastern states it is a mandatory requirement under animal legislations.

The number of desexed dogs has also continued to increase. Although no clear reason can be identified, a number of factors are believed responsible, including animal owners being more responsible for their pets, and Council's registration concessions for desexed dogs under the Dog and Cat Management Act.

Impounded dogs were generally unregistered making it difficult for them to be returned to their owner. The number of dogs returned decreased on previous years, which is of concern to Council as the aim should be to return ALL animals.

Reported attacks remained relatively low, although a slight increase on the previous year. The total of 33 includes any incident ranging from a dog running up to a person and scaring them, through to the occurrence of an injury.

The number of dogs impounded, 620, was exactly the same as the previous year.

Although registration numbers have remained relatively consistent, income from these fees has more than doubled. In 2002/2003, a total of \$63,061 income was raised, compared to \$153,595 in 2010/2011. The high increase resulted from the State Government doubling fees in 2004/2005 in an endeavour to reduce dog management costs on local government. However, a dog owner may pay as low as \$11 depending on the number of concessions applicable.

Many residents and dog owners are often unaware that State Government sets, or confirms, all fees including those of expiation notices. Overall, Council compliance officers believe there is reasonably good compliance and a relatively low percentage of dog owners causing issues.

TRENDS OF PAST FIVE YEARS

	2010/11	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07	2005/06
Total registered	5,428	5,516	5,418	5,343	5,309	4,642
Microchipped	2,779	2,426	1,944	1,498	1,162	506
Obedience trained	164	157	47	49	49	56
Desexed	3,374	3,354	3,142	1,694	1,886	3,098
Impounded	620	620	646	653	634	673
Returned	330	260	351	353	345	349
Attacks reported	33	28	25	36	38	39
Expiations issued	436	404	357	841	611	848

Compliance – general

PARKING EXPIATIONS: Council's compliance officers administered parking controls pursuant to the Australian Road Rules, Road Traffic Act and Private Parking Areas Act across the city including the marina, outside schools and at designated parking areas including private car parks.

The most common offences detected continue to be exceeding a designated time zone, stopping in no stopping zones, or stopping on a solid yellow line particularly at school zones.

LITTER EXPIATIONS: Depositing of litter on Council land continues to be an increasing problem. Council initiated proactive surveillance techniques in the most common illegal dumping sites with a corresponding slight increase in the number of offenders detected and issued with a \$315 expiation notice pursuant to the Local Government Act. Items of litter ranged from cigarette butts thrown from car windows, household litter left in public places, and furniture, household appliances or vehicles abandoned in public places.

OTHER EXPIATIONS: Council adopted a series of By-laws in 2007 and continued administering them during the past year for the betterment of the community.

A Council compliance officer is authorised to administer the Marine and Harbours Act, enabling him to issue 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. Expiation numbers are expected to rise with more training and increased competency.

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 land owner's cost if that order is not obeyed.

Development assessment

Council continued its development assessment operation with one qualified building assessment officer, a cadet building officer (undertaking tertiary studies) and a planning officer looking after all development assessment matters under a qualified Planning Manager. The cadet building officer is in training to provide for succession planning in the building area. Development assessment administration duties are carried out by a development support officer.

One of Council's long-term building assessment staff retired during 2010/2011, which allowed the cadet to fill the breach. A second cadet building officer resigned during the year, underlining the difficulty in retaining young people to fill professional roles in the Council workforce.

APPEALS: No appeals were lodged against planning decisions. An outstanding appeal lodged in the previous year against Council's refusal of two very large sheds within the Sunset portion of Ocean Eyre Estate was withdrawn by the appellant. A second matter involving an attached double carport was resolved in a compromise through an amended design proposal overcoming principal issues of concern.

ENFORCEMENT: Council continued its diligence in the management of enforcement matters – three instances involving unauthorised building work at variance with approved drawings. These were satisfactorily resolved with work to be rectified in accordance with revised design plans. Two further breaches relating to swimming pool fencing were rectified as required.

Environmental health

Council's Environmental Health Officer maintained high standards of public and environmental health by conducting regulatory inspections of all health related matters and undertaking proactive educational measures within the community. During the 2010/2011 financial year Council's environmental health team reduced from two to one officer.

FOOD SAFETY & EDUCATION

Council adopts a proactive approach to food safety incorporating promotion and regular food inspections. Ninety-five inspections were carried out to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Standards and the *Food Act 2001*, compared with 92 for the same time last year and 83 in 2008/2009.

Council received 10 food related complaints involving labelling requirements, alleged food poisoning and cross contamination. All complaints were investigated and satisfactorily resolved.

A six-monthly newsletter highlighting food safety matters and common non-compliance issues has been developed and is distributed to all food businesses, which are also educated on food safety during routine inspections and on a needs basis. The community is educated through articles in *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. These 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.

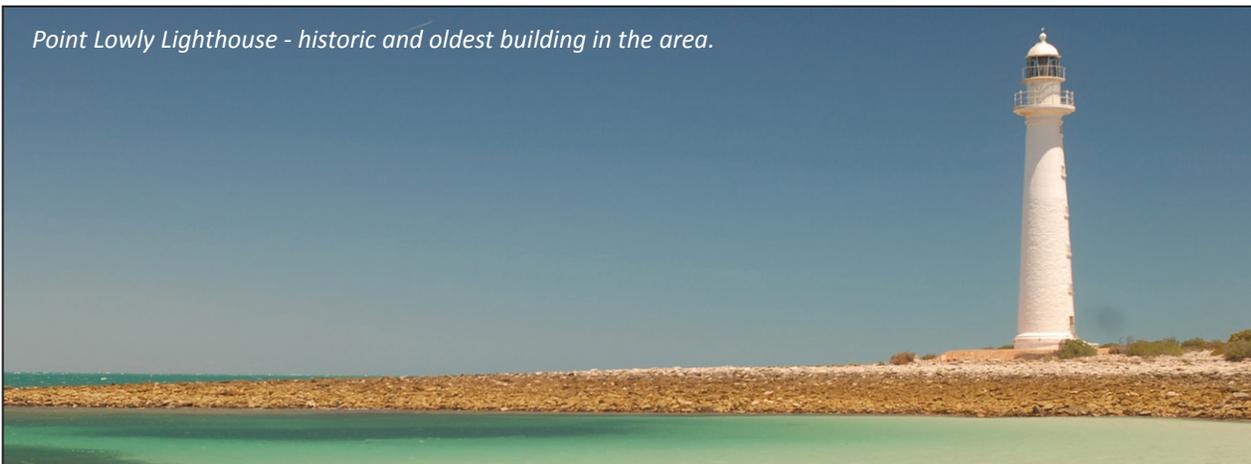
HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Inspections were carried out not only to meet statutory requirements set in legislation, but also in response to complaints and queries.

Inspections included:

- Twelve public swimming pools and spa pools (17 last year and nine in 2009/2010). Educational materials were provided to owners and operators in relation to legislative requirements.

Point Lowly Lighthouse - historic and oldest building in the area.



- Ten wastewater treatment systems (including septic tanks and aerobic systems), the same as last year.
- Six hairdressers and skin penetration compared with 16 in 2009/2010. There was more focus on self-assessments of these businesses and targeted awareness campaigns on outstanding issues.

A range of other investigations and inspections were conducted in response to customer requests and concerns about health related matters. Many of these complaints were in regards to impairment to amenity issues – such as where the state of a premise may be a risk to health. Examples include: where there is an extreme build up of rubbish in the yard, there is infestation or a risk of infestation by rodents or other pests or offensive odours are emanating from the property (eg. wood smoke).

Complaints are received surrounding animal management issues such as mosquito control, wasp sightings or the inappropriate keeping of poultry (eg. odour generation and excessive noise from roosters).

IMMUNISATION

Council conducted 13 public immunisation clinics, one clinic per month, at the Bunyarra Christian Centre with a total of 254 vaccines administered. Three visits occurred under the school immunisation program across four secondary schools with 1,139 vaccines administered. The vaccines delivered protection against Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

A snapshot of vaccines administered through Council's immunisation services for the past four years:

2010/2011	1,393	2008/2009	1,625
2009/2010	1,346	2007/2008	1,539

Promotion measures will be increased during 2011/2012 in an effort to increase immunisation coverage rates. Influenza vaccines were administered to Council staff with 56 employees taking up this opportunity.

PUBLIC/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Council adopted the Public and Environmental Health Management Plan 2010-2015 in October 2010. This document sets out Council's environmental health objectives for the next four years and includes challenges faced by the Environmental Health Officer in the role of promoting high standards of public health.

Human resources

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Whyalla Council considerably downsized its workforce during 2010/2011 with approximately 25 positions eliminated through an increased turnover rate as attrition rose in line with the tighter employment market in Whyalla, conclusion of contract positions upon expiry

and work position restructures. This level of reduction was achieved within a "no forced redundancies" clause in Council's Enterprise Agreement, with no industrial action taking place, and having regard for both award and Enterprise Agreement protocols.

The flexibility and multi-skilling of the workforce ensured Council's operational and service capabilities were maintained.

The final 5% increase from the current Enterprise Agreement was passed on in October 2010. Council's fifth agreement expires in October 2011 with negotiations due to commence for a further agreement under a transfer of jurisdiction to the State industrial system from the Federal system.

A joint consultative committee monitored the agreement and consulted with management during the year. A single bargaining unit has been formed with Australian Services Union and Australian Workers' Union workplace representatives to negotiate the forthcoming agreement.

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

To operate effectively, a Council must have a structure which works effectively, is appropriate to its and the community's needs, and which is capable of adapting quickly to a changing local government environment.

The early part of 2011 has seen Council's senior management conduct a review of the organisation's structure to best enable it to effectively and efficiently meet the service and governance needs of its community and deliver optimum value for money. There has been a reduction of employee numbers and the restructure will see an enhanced utilisation of human resources to improve competency and provide synergies across the various departments.

Implementation of the restructure is ready to proceed from late July 2011.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & FAIR TREATMENT

Legislation, which has expanded over time, outlaws discrimination on certain specified grounds such as sex, marital status, age and disability. Council has a Fair Treatment Policy which seeks to protect the rights and ensure equitable treatment for both its employees and the diverse members of its community.

Council's Safe Environments Policy was extensively revised and reviewed in 2010/2011 to ensure compliance with updated Child Protection Act requirements. This entails the need for police checks for relevant employees and volunteers and that mandatory reporting training is undertaken by relevant staff.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Training and development of Council's employees is regarded as an important organisational objective at Whyalla Council and is a necessary precursor to productivity improvements, enhanced efficiency, legislative compliance, continual improvement and improved service performance.

Council conducts a training needs analysis in conjunction with its annual performance review of employees, after which a program is established to best support employees' training and development while meeting legislative requirements. Under Council's Enterprise Agreement, an amount equivalent to 1.5% of annual payroll is allocated to training – a key investment. Formal courses of study leading to Australian National Training Authority recognition and relevant vocational training are also undertaken by employees as approved students.

Training undertaken during 2010/2011 within a budget of \$100,000 included:

- Certificate III in records keeping.
- National street tree symposium.
- Authorised person's conference.
- Certificate IV in human resources.
- Diploma in management.
- Climate adaptation program.
- Contract management and project management.
- Roads and works conference.
- Child safe environment workshop.
- Synergy systems indicators training.
- Mandatory reporting.
- Senior first aid.
- Work zone traffic management refresher.
- White card training.
- Accredited visitor information centre conference.
- Dog and cat management board's professional development training for animal management officers.
- Authorised persons' association annual conference.
- Planning practice intensive course, as well as training on OHS & W and other Council policies.

OHS & W MANAGEMENT

Lack of attention to working conditions and occupational safety and health can have a drastic impact on how effectively local government or indeed any organisation operates. Council, in its community strategic plan, commits to meeting the SA plan's target (T2.11) of a 40% reduction in injury at work by 2012.

It has also committed to and worked assiduously to implement the Local Government Associations' Workers Compensation Scheme's "One System Program" to ensure maintenance of the LG Exempt Employer Licence. At its OHS & W key performance indicator audit for 2010, Council scored 92% which was a pleasing result following significant work implementing the program.

Training for all staff has been provided on a wide range of OHS & W issues, including:

- Four monthly training sessions on Council's suite of OHS & W policies and procedures.
- Senior first aid certificate and recertification.
- CPR refresher.
- Work zone traffic management refresher.
- Certificate IV in Occupational, Health and Safety.
- 14 employees attended the launch of healthy lifestyle program, with 28 participating.
- 32 employees participated in skin cancer screenings.
- 55 employees participated in a flu vaccination program.
- Confined space overview.
- Health and safety representatives' training for appropriate levels.

INDUCTIONS

The following inductions were conducted during the year, which included a strong emphasis on occupational health, safety and welfare rights and responsibilities:

- Four employees.
- 58 volunteers/work experience participants.
- 106 contractors.



Investigations continued into the future operation of the Whyalla Airport.

Information services

Council's Information Services section was staffed by three officers who serviced a computer network of 15 servers, more than 110 desktop workstations and laptops in 12 locations throughout the city, around 20 major software applications used daily, and other applications that are used solely for network support and management.

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

Highlights include:

- Replacement of Council's entire PC fleet. A mix of thin clients and desktop computers replaced the computers that staff and library patrons had been using since 2005.
- The bandwidth of Council's Wide Area Network (WAN) was upgraded by replacing radios that had been in place since 2004. The previous WAN comprised a shared 20Mbps link between sites with the new links ranging from 400Mbps to the depot, 200Mbps to the new Library and 50Mbps to all other sites. At the same time, Council's CCTV network at the Whyalla Foreshore was integrated into the network and three new cameras are to be added at Spencer Hotel, Eyre Hotel and Riskit Park. Cameras are monitored at the Whyalla Police Station.

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 orders to be placed electronically or via a fax gateway. This enables an auto-update of committal costing to the financial database.

Council's procurement and disposal policy, which aims to achieve a responsive local government, quality services, and best value for money for service users and ratepayers through the promotion of fair and open competition, was reviewed and updated in May 2011. 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 libraries.

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 which contain 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 in order to control, protect and preserve records and to meet 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 included:

- Continuation of the three-year plan, 2007-2010.
- Archiving specialist Experience Matters continued with the archiving project of inactive records located in secondary storage.
- SynergySoft user manuals were updated and training was provided to Council officers.
- Certificate III in Records Management correspondence training was completed by the Records Officer in 2010.
- New records area with dumb waiter facility completed.
- State Records of SA records management survey was completed.

In **2011/2012** emphasis will be placed on:

- Development of a new three-year records management plan, 2011-2014, incorporating recommendations from State Records in line with survey results.
- Preparing for an independent audit scheduled in July 2010, but deferred for 12 months due to staff changes.
- Relocation of Council's permanent records completed by the end of 2011.
- Completion of dedicated payroll storage area.
- Long-term security storage and relocation of secondary storage records to continue with further work to be completed in the next year.
- Continuation of the implementation of Council's records management disaster plan.
- Continuation of the training of officers in 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.

Freedom of Information statement

Whyalla Council produces an annual information statement annually in accordance with Section 9 (1a) of the FOI Act.

Copies were available at the Council office, Civic and Alex Ramsay Libraries, and Council's web site. Included within this statement was a list of all Council committees and documents accessible by the community as required under relevant legislation.

A summary of the statement is also printed in local newspaper *Whyalla News*.

Information included within the statement is contained 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 FOI Act. A fee of \$29.50 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 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 2010/2011:

Two requests for information under the Act were received and processed, compared with four requests in 2009/2010 and seven the previous year. One request related to the sale of Council land and the other to a Council contract, both of which were granted in full. Approximately 20 hours was spent on processing the two applications.

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:

	10/11	09/10	08/09
Council meeting	1	10	12
Special Council meeting	1	1	3
City Strategy & Policy committee	0	3	0
Total	2	14	15

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

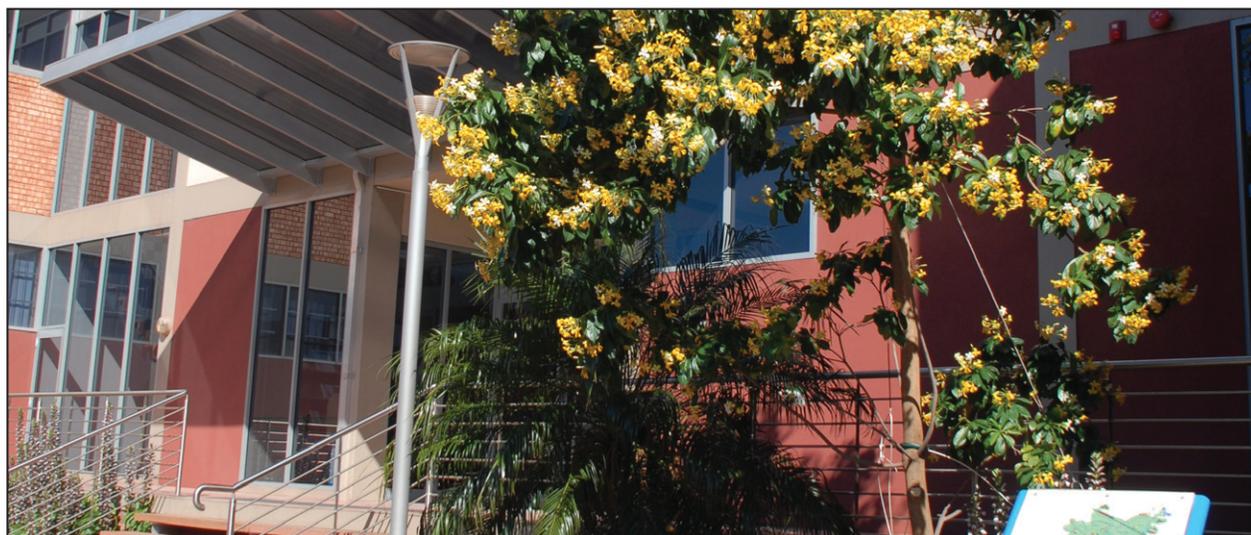
	10/11	09/10	08/09
Council meeting	1	28	16
Special Council meeting	1	1	2
City Strategy & Policy committee	0	3	0
Total	2	32	18

Number of resolutions

A total of 387 recommendations were actioned by Council.

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/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 2010/2011.

In respect to general complaints handling, an audit was conducted by the Ombudsman of 12 councils across the State including Whyalla. The audit survey and feedback by the Ombudsman's office in May 2011 indicated a generally effective system and complaints handling process was in place in Whyalla in accord with Council policies and the *AS/ISO 10002:2006 Australian Standard for Customer Satisfaction: Guidelines for Complaints Handling in Organisations*.

Further opportunities for continuous improvement and enhanced complaint handling were recognised from the audit. A project by a customer service task force to implement improvements has commenced and will be integrated with a review of Council's customer service charter.

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.

Salary packages included the provision of a fully maintained vehicle or equivalent, which also recognised 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 2010/2011 a total of \$13,500 was paid to Council's auditors for work performed during the year.

Other payments

Development Assessment Panel: Comprises five members – an independent chairperson who receives \$80 per sitting, two independent members who receive \$50, and two elected members. The panel meets as required. During 2010/2011 it met on three occasions.

Audit committee: Comprises 6 members – one community member who receives \$100 per sitting, four elected members of Council officers, and one independent expert who receives \$1,000 and air flights per sitting, with four Council officers as observers. The committee is scheduled to meet twice a year, and in 2010/2011 met on three occasions.

Services for the community

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

Aged care, airport, 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, public seating, public toilets, public 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.

Workforce salaries

The table below provides a spread of direct salaries paid to all staff:

\$ From	\$ To	10/11	09/10	08/09
10,001	20,000	2	3	3
20,001	30,000	4	11	11
30,001	40,000	9	16	23
40,001	50,000	46	69	72
50,001	60,000	37	29	33
60,001	70,000	30	22	8
70,001	80,000	2	5	3
80,001	90,000	2	4	2
90,001	100,000	3	3	3
100,001	110,000	2	-	-
110,001	120,000	-	-	-
120,001	130,000	-	1	1
130,001	140,000	-	-	-
140,001	150,000	-	-	-
150,001	160,000	1	-	-
		138	163	159

Council was represented on:

Advancing Whyalla
 Eyre Peninsula Local Governemnt Association
 OneSteel Environmental Consultative Group
 Provincial Cities Association
 Tourism Eyre Peninsula
 University of Whyalla Campus Advisory Committee
 Upper Spencer Gulf Common Purpose Group
 Whyalla Aged Care
 Whyalla Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Whyalla Hospital Board
 Whyalla Marine Sports Association

Our people

Labour Force (full time equivalent)

	10/11	09/10	08/09	07/08
Executive Services	1.0	1.0	2.0	2.0
Customer services	4.6	4.0	3.5	4.0
Organisational development	1.0	2.8	2.0	2.0
	6.6	7.8	7.5	8.0
Corporate Services				
Administration	2.0	2.6	2.8	2.0
Finance	4.5	7.0	7.9	8.0
Information technology	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Purchasing	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Records management	2.3	2.3	3.2	3.0
Asset management	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0
Child care centre	11.4	12.5	12.7	13.2
Libraries	6.5	7.7	8.1	7.4
Community services	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	34.0	39.1	41.7	40.6
Infrastructure				
Supervisors	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.0
Administrative/technical	9.6	10.0	6.7	6.1
Landfill and environment	6.0	8.0	6.8	7.0
Tradespersons	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0
Labourers/operators	35.0	45.0	36.0	34.0
	59.6	73.0	60.5	58.1
Development Services				
Building, planning, engineering, research, airport management	8.8	10.8	16.0	12.6
Tourism/Media	6.7	7.4	7.0	7.4
	15.5	18.2	23.0	20.0
Sub-total FTEs	115.7	138.1	132.7	26.7
Traineeships	3.0	3.0	8.0	6.0
Total FTE's	118.7	141.1	140.7	132.7



Council again ensured that Father Christmas arrived on time and safely, albeit a little windswept, at the annual Christmas pageant.

Access to Council documents

Documents listed below were available for public inspection at the Council office, while some were available at both public libraries. Members of the public were able to obtain copies of these documents through the fee structure as outlined. All fees are GST exempt.

DOCUMENT	FEE
Council agenda and minutes	Free
Standing committee agenda and minutes	Free
Policy manual	\$22
Strategic plan	Free
Budget statement	Free
Annual report	Free
Council by-laws (per page)	20c
Annual financial statements	Free
Supplementary development plans previously on exhibition	Free
Planning applications by consent (per page)	20c
Planning application register (per page)	20c
Building application register (per page)	20c
Development application search (initial application)	\$15
Development application search (subsequent applications requested at same time as initial application) (per page)	\$10
Register of elected members allowances and benefits (per page)	20c
Register of employees salaries, wages and benefits (per page)	20c
Assessment book (per page)	20c
Register of public streets and roads (per page)	20c
Register of fees and charges levied by Council	\$2
Extract from register for dog registrations (per dog)	\$2
Local environment plan	\$10
Individual Council policies	Free
Electoral and supplementary rolls for candidates	Free
Additional electoral and supplementary rolls for candidates	\$32
Rates search fee	\$10
Land agent search, non urgent	\$30
Land agent search, within 24 hours	\$40

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.
Chapter 5, Part 4, Section 68: Members' register of interests.

Chapter 5, Part 5, Section 79: Members' register of allowances and benefits.

Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 105: Officers' register of remuneration, salaries and benefits.

Chapter 7, Part 4, Section 116: Officers' register of interest.

Chapter 11, Part 1, Section 107: Community land.

Chapter 11, Part 1, Section 231: Public roads.

Chapter 12, Part 1, Section 252: By-laws.

CODES

Chapter 5, Part 4, Section 63: Members' code of conduct.

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

Chapter 7, Part 4, Section 110: Employees code of conduct

MANDATORY POLICIES

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

Chapter 4, Part 5, Section 50: Public consultation policies.

Chapter 8, Part 3, Section 125: Internal control policies.

Chapter 12, Part 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.

Road construction.

Cleaning offices and toilet blocks.

Motor vehicles.

Audit services.

Debt collection.

Various infrastructure recurrent activities.

Electrical work.

Line-marking.

Quarry crushing.

Sanitary disposal.

Security of Council buildings.

Leisure centre operation and management.

Construction of new library.

Asset valuation – Roads, kerbs, infrastructure.

Museum building, Mount Laura homestead.

Revised Clause 7 statement:

The application of competition principals to Whyalla 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.

The 2011/2012 Budget

Whyalla Council has adopted a recurrent budget surplus of \$314,070. General rate income will rise by 6.5% which includes a 3.3% Consumer Price Index allowance plus an additional 3.2%.

Major features of budget strategy are:

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

The budget allocates 26% or \$10,377,480 for capital expenditure compared with 26% in 2010/11. An inquiry into financial sustainability previously 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.

Whyalla Council's *annual capital financial performance* is sustainable if capital expenditure on renewal or replacement of existing assets, on average, approximates the level of the 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 the 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 recurrent expenditure growth within annual CPI increases.

Council has increased its recurrent costs from 2011/2012 levels by 3.5%.

To maintain net financial liabilities ratio of between 5% and 10%.

Current level is at 8%, well within the target range.

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

Key principles in Council's adopted ten-year long-term financial plan have been incorporated into the 2011/2012 budget.

Some of these main themes are that:

- Annual expenses on rehabilitation/replacement of existing assets should at least equal total annual depreciation.

BUDGET SUMMARY

EXPENDITURE

Recurrent budget (including depreciation)	23,362,813
Capital works	10,377,480
Loan principal repayment	530,079
Allocation to reserves	4,651,705
Repayment of art gallery funds	200,000
Total	39,122,075

INCOME

Cash for projects brought forward	817,500
Rates and charges	11,734,150
Capital works (including \$2.35 million loan)	2,985,481
Transfer from reserves	7,005,705
Grants Commission general purpose grants	4,561,244
Other recurrent income	6,633,031
Total	33,737,111

OPERATING STATEMENT

	Revenue	Expenditure	Net
Municipal governance	2,000	362,511	(360,511)
Executive operations	45,000	1,214,531	(1,161,031)
Corporate services	18,546,151	5,673,371	11,858,013
Infrastructure	4,364,480	12,676,847	(9,193,808)
Development services	719,250	3,203,289	(1,787,819)
Operating surplus	\$23,676,881	\$22,130,549	(\$645,156)

IMPACT ON 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 below summarises Whyalla Council's finances using the uniform approach.

- 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, its annual budget forum was conducted during June to enable the public to comment and air their views on the proposed financial budget.

Challenges ahead

A prioritised continuous improvement framework has been established as part of a flexible and ongoing review process, which will be challenging 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 (ie, identify 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 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 budget and rating systems.
- Continue to implement Council's waste management strategy.

