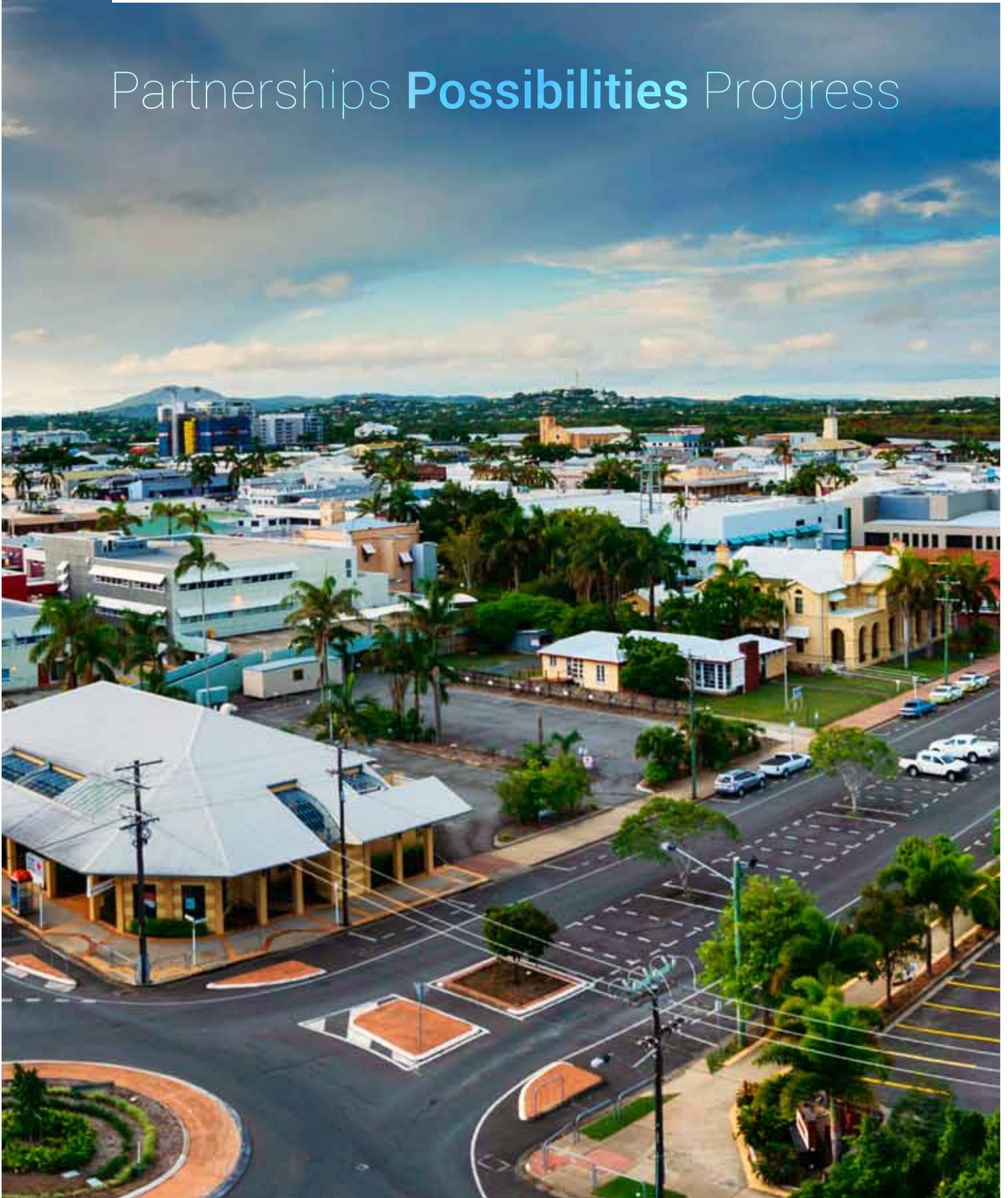




Mackay Regional Council

Annual Report 2013-2014

Partnerships **Possibilities** Progress





2014 commemorated the 150 year anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders to Queensland

about this report

The Mackay Regional Council Annual Report 2013-2014 provides a comprehensive look at our performance from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

This report is guided by the Corporate Plan 2009-2014, which council extended to June 2015. The Corporate Plan describes our strategic objectives and key strategies.

The annual report provides an overview of our effectiveness in delivering for our community, noting the highlights, our achievements and addressing the minor setbacks experienced throughout the year. It also identifies the future directions and challenges that lie ahead for our area. This report meets our statutory reporting requirements and informs all council stakeholders including ratepayers, residents, businesses, community and interest groups, news media, all levels of government, council staff and the wider general community.

The Annual Report 2013-2014 meets our commitment to be transparent in performance reporting.

Mackay Regional Council acknowledges the Yuwibara People, the traditional owners and custodians of the lands in our region and we pay respect to the Elders both past and present.

Copies of our 2009-2014 Corporate Plan, our Community Plan 2011-2031, this annual report and council's financial statements are available free of charge electronically on our website: mackay.qld.gov.au.

Download a QR scanner app and use your smartphone to scan this code and be linked straight to our website.



Feedback Please direct any feedback or suggestions about this annual report to our Communications and Marketing program on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or email council@mackay.qld.gov.au.

We want to hear from you!

Our vision

Prosperous, Sustainable and Vibrant

Our mission

To deliver the vision for the Mackay region in partnership with our community and to strive for excellence in planning, delivering and managing community services and facilities.

index

01

our **profile**

02

a word from
our **Mayor**

04

a word from
our **CEO**

05

councillor **profiles**

10

corporate **structure**

11

our **organisation**
our values, our staff
and our volunteers

17

corporate **plan**

18

community
and **lifestyle**

31

economic
development

43

environmental
sustainability

51

strategic
planning

55

engineering
services

65

organisational
excellence and
governance

67

our reporting
framework

75

mackay **waste**
services **report**

81

mackay **water**
services **report**

89

community
financial **report**

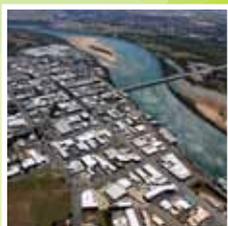
95

legislative
requirements

105

independent
auditor's **report**

our profile



Area: 7622km²

Five times the size of Brisbane City Council, double the size of Townsville (3736km²) and larger than Cairns (1694km²) and the Sunshine Coast (2291km²) combined



Population: 121,909 people (as at June 30, 2013)

Ratepayers: 51,000 - compared to Townsville 78,000 (June 2013) and the Sunshine Coast 158,932 (June 2013)



31 unspoilt beaches

Manage budget of \$344 million in 2013-2014



Manages 2429km of roads

Maintains 228km of paths and bikeways



Handled 104,000 tonnes of waste

Operates 6 libraries

a word from our Mayor



This financial year has certainly been a period of change for our organisation as we experienced an adjustment in our economy. But with every challenge comes opportunity.

Following the successful Diversify Mackay Forum, it was pleasing to see the formation of the **Diversify Mackay Leadership Alliance (DMLA)**. The establishment of DMLA Pillar Groups to investigate opportunities to diversify our economy is welcomed by all. I look forward to the coming 12 months as these groups develop.

Deirdre Comerford

Emergency Management portfolio

Phone: (07) 4961 9455

Email: deirdre.comerford@mackay.qld.gov.au

We consolidated our working relations with neighbouring councils Whitsunday and Isaac through the establishment of the **Whitsunday ROC**. A key achievement was the joint delegation to Canberra where we met the Deputy Prime Minister and several government Ministers. It resulted in funding being secured

for stage one of the **Mackay Ring Road** and **Eton Range Project**.

April saw the commencement of the refurbishment of the heritage listed former Pioneer Shire Council building and surrounding parkland. This work signalled the beginning of the **City Centre Revitalisation Project** which aims to revitalise our City Centre. The **Eungella Biodiversity monitoring and research study project** carried out by Griffith University and local volunteers was an historic moment for our region. We celebrated the **150th anniversary of the arrival of the Australian South Sea Islanders** to Queensland. A program of events were celebrated throughout the year.

Much progress has been made with developers and the Urban Development Institute of Australia through monthly **Developer Forums** – a regular gathering to provide robust, productive dialogue on planning and regulatory matters. It was pleasing to see a number of **partnerships delivering community assets** such as the upgrade of Grendon Park at Salonika Beach; Half Tide foreshore upgrade; 230 sealed carparks at the South Mackay Sporting Precinct and the viewing platform at Jilalan Rail Yards. These projects would not have been achieved without corporate sponsorship.

Never before has council taken part in such thorough, innovative engagement of the **draft planning scheme**. The new scheme brings together the three former councils' schemes into one. It was great to see the response to our community engagement.

Sarina saw the completion of the \$2.8M waste facility and significant progress was made on the new \$37M sewerage treatment plant.

a word from our Mayor



Baby Welcoming Ceremony

Mayor Deirdre Comerford

Emergency Management portfolio

Phone: (07) 4961 9455

Email: deirdre.comerford@mackay.qld.gov.au

Marian and Mirani saw the commencement of the \$10M water treatment plant and \$2M raw water intake structure built at Marian to service both communities. Council launched a **Pioneer Valley Passport** initiative to encourage residents to discover their backyard and to support businesses in the Pioneer Valley.

Council signed off on a consortium to manage **Stadium Mackay**. The arrangement strives to minimise the overall cost on council and in turn,

its ratepayers. The stadium also hosted an **NRL fixture match** between Newcastle Knights and Canterbury Bulldogs. It certainly brought our stadium to life and created economic activity for the town.

I pay tribute to my fellow councillors who have actively helped guide the decision-making process and provide significant input. They have embraced the need to consult with the community and have made some difficult decisions to ensure we deliver meaningful services in an efficient manner. This annual report provides a snapshot of our achievements, what we have provided the community and how we are working to secure a better future for the region. In reading this report, you will notice we have again delivered our core functions, but also many projects. Hopefully you will read of the **partnerships, possibilities and progress** - hence the theme of this year's Annual Report.

I again thank all staff for their tireless efforts and committed dedication to serving our community.

a word from our CEO



Barry Omundson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry', written in a cursive style.

The last 12 months have been a period of significant change in our organisation.

The staged implementation of a range of innovative and transformational initiatives including our *Roadmap to Organisational Excellence* and our *Culture Development Plan* has resulted in a more efficient and effective organisation as we travel towards becoming a modern council.

The link between a great organisation and its corresponding culture has been repeatedly proven by the world's top organisations. As we emerge from year one of our three-year Culture Development Plan, the organisational improvements are beginning to be seen as staff embrace our *One Team* philosophy. Underpinning our progress to date has been our five organisational values, which were developed on the basis of a culture survey that three quarters of our staff responded to.

Employee Health and Safety; Client Satisfaction; Respect; Teamwork and Accountability provide the bedrock for organisational excellence that the Mayor, councillors, our community and business partners and indeed all levels of government, expect.

I applaud the fortitude of our staff in transforming this organisation through a values led process. In terms of transformation, after five consecutive natural disaster recovery programs, our road network is a credit to those staff and contractors who reconstructed them each time. I also acknowledge and thank the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) support team who painstakingly and often repeatedly processed our substantial claims program. The workload for our roads is now within our ability to sustainably maintain.

Sustainability has been a key strategic imperative here in the Mackay region as we come down to more normal levels of growth. The development of our Regional Sustainability Strategy is drawing to an end, whereupon we will have greater clarity and direction around the three pillars of progress in planning, the provision and maintenance of infrastructure and the financial levers available.

Prudent long-term financial planning continues to allow significant capital investment, adding to our \$3 billion asset base. A real focus here however, in the next few years and beyond, is to get more out of our existing assets, thereby delaying further capital investment and reducing the rate burden on our community.

Our staff have proven quite resilient and adaptable as we continue to pursue organisational excellence and I thank them for their ongoing efforts. The progress we have made could not have been achieved without our *One Team* philosophy and I acknowledge and thank the Mayor, councillors and our leadership team for their ongoing support and guidance.

councillor profiles



Deputy Mayor Kevin Casey

Roads and Drainage portfolio

Phone: 0417 168 730

Email: kevin.casey@mackay.qld.gov.au

As our region continues to grow, I am deeply committed to developing and maintaining infrastructure that will adequately service our vibrant community.

Completing our extensive Capital Works Program coupled with the ongoing flood recovery repairs has been a significant achievement.

The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement work has been successfully completed, with many state and local roads being restored after several years of natural disasters.

The implementation of the Walking and Cycling Committee has resulted in the extension of the Cross City Trail to Bridge Road. It will be further extended to Archibald Street to help enhance our fitness and lifestyle opportunities.



Cr Chris Bonanno

Festival, Events and the Arts portfolio

Phone: 0408 775 788

Email: chris.bonanno@mackay.qld.gov.au

Our direction with events has had a strong focus on community involvement with the support of a lot of groups and organisations to help ensure they are working toward being self-sustaining.

I have been encouraged to see the community become more involved in a number of activities to help lift the spirits of residents. The Mackay Festival of Arts was once again our feature event that captivated the region. With Greenmount Homestead's bicentennial celebrations now being planned for the end of May 2015 and City Centre Revitalisation activities high on next year's agenda, there is a full year of planning ahead.

There has also been a concerted effort towards activating spaces with the arts and events, helping to bring life to many of our under-utilised facilities. Council, Government and community joint funded initiatives have helped lift the quality of what we can make available to our community and it is encouraging to see many volunteer and community groups rise to the challenge to make things happen. I am extremely privileged to have the opportunity to work with so many talented and motivated people who have a positive vision for our region.



Cr Laurence Bonaventura

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio

Phone: 0427 638 673

Email: laurence.bonaventura@mackay.qld.gov.au

The commissioning of the new \$2.4 million Sarina Waste Transfer Station delivered a modern first-class site, giving residents the ability to dispose of their waste in an easy to use, all-weather and hassle-free facility.

My continuing role as the council representative on the Local Authority Waste Management Area Committee (LAWMAC) keeps me up-to-date with developments in the waste industry and gives me the ability to look at options that will enhance our waste business.

I am proud to have played a role in the gazettal of Mackay region's first dog off-leash areas at three of our beaches and two parks. This has given dog-lovers the ability to exercise their pets at selected times and sites without a lead.

I've enjoyed and embraced any opportunity I can get to learn more about the processes, needs and wants of residents across my portfolio. I have spent time in the field with staff getting hands-on experience in areas from dog patrols through to monitoring food establishment compliance.



Cr Frank Gilbert

Water and Sewerage portfolio

Phone: 0427 530 774

Email: frank.gilbert@mackay.qld.gov.au

I am looking forward to the opening of the new Sarina Sewerage Treatment Plant and the Marian Water Treatment Plant.

Both projects are large ratepayer investments that will not only improve the quality of service to each of those communities but more importantly help facilitate future expansion in both of these important development areas.

I applaud the work our Water Services team has done to roll out the automatic meter reading devices, which allows us to introduce an easy-to-use, interactive client service system. This has been of great benefit to clients and has assisted them to avoid unaffordable water bills. Our understanding of the drivers of water demand is increasing to the point where we can more accurately predict future water consumption enabling more accurate, cost effective planning.

In addition we are combining the multiple information sources to better manage sewage flows, reduce capital expenditure and optimise operations.



Cr Alison Jones

Community and Client Services portfolio

Phone: 0407 690 248

Email: alison.jones@mackay.qld.gov.au

I've always had a passion for people and as a dedicated volunteer of more than 20 years, I strive to instil a sense of community spirit and focus on inspiring others.

I see my role as a councillor is to have an open dialogue with the community to promote the positive services and support networks our council has to offer.

With a strong sense of social justice, I proudly supported the Stand for the Silent anti-bullying campaign this year. The youth are one of my priorities and opening the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre was critically important. Our council provides many great services such as our Read 4 Life program in our libraries and the highly successful Healthy Rural Communities Program. As Chair of the Mackay Drop in Centre Committee, I am determined to see the development of a day facility for homeless people in our region.



Cr Greg Martin

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio

Phone: 0418 887 756

Email: greg.martin@mackay.qld.gov.au

Into my third year of my first term, I am immensely proud of council's direction and the diligent approach of working as one team to find efficiencies and cost savings whilst still delivering the levels of service expected by our community.

As the Economic Development portfolio councillor, I have forged strong ties with our Economic Development program and local business community to deliver crucial projects.

The launch of the Diversify Mackay Leadership Alliance has been a key deliverable along with the planning and branding for the \$18 million City Centre Revitalisation. My fellow councillors and I care about our region and remain determined to lead a progressive council who know what they want, and that is to make our region the soul and pulse of northern Australia.



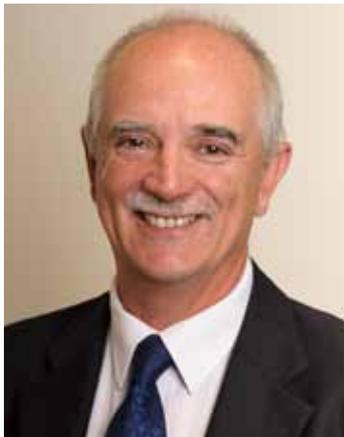
Cr Theresa Morgan

Parks and Environment portfolio
Phone: 0417 748 317
Email: theresa.morgan@mackay.qld.gov.au

Working with officers and community groups to maintain and improve the many parks and beaches in our region has been a key achievement of mine as the Parks and Environment portfolio councillor.

I am particularly proud to see work start on the upgrade to Edward Lloyd Park at Marian and completion of beach plans for Town and Far Beach, which has provided us with a plan for the future management of this area.

The vegetation designs for the Southern Entry statement (Stockroute Road roundabout) have given us a visually appealing entrance to our great city. As Chair of the Sustainable Futures Advisory Committee and the Natural Environment Advisory Committee, it has been very exciting to be involved in the partnership between council and Griffith University during their biodiversity study at Eungella to monitor the impacts of climate change.



Cr David Perkins

Planning and Development portfolio
Phone: 0418 776 799
Email: david.perkins@mackay.qld.gov.au

In the current term of council, I've been fortunate to hold the Planning and Development portfolio and the Rural Services portfolio from Gargett to Eungella.

The Draft Mackay Region Planning Scheme will replace the existing Mackay, Sarina and Mirani schemes. More than 300 public submissions were received covering over 800 matters and officers and councillors have been working through those submissions before coming up with final recommendations to present to the State Government in early 2015. The draft scheme will also need to take into account the new State Planning Policy and other policies being developed by State Government.

Our planning department has also taken the best from other state and local government programs with the "Focus On Development" program, which is designed to create a more outcomes rather than process-driven approach to facilitate development in a timely and professional manner. This culminated in the signing of a charter between council and the development industry's peak body, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, committing all parties to work together for joint outcomes.



Cr Paul Steindl

Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio

Phone: 0403 266 216

Email: paul.steindl@mackay.qld.gov.au

One of the significant milestones this year was working with stakeholders to secure funding for the first stage of the CQUniversity Sporting Precinct.

We proudly delivered another successful Sports Expo and Sign-On Day, which attracted over 6000 people. As a board member of the North Queensland Sports Foundation, it has been pleasing to see recommendations implemented from the independent review.

The creation of the South Mackay Sports Working Group is integral to better planning of our sporting events and helps facilitate open communication between the respective stakeholders. I am keen to see this group flourish and provide quality sport and recreational facilities for our community.



Cr Ross Walker

Finance, Asset Management and IT

Phone: 0429 615 711

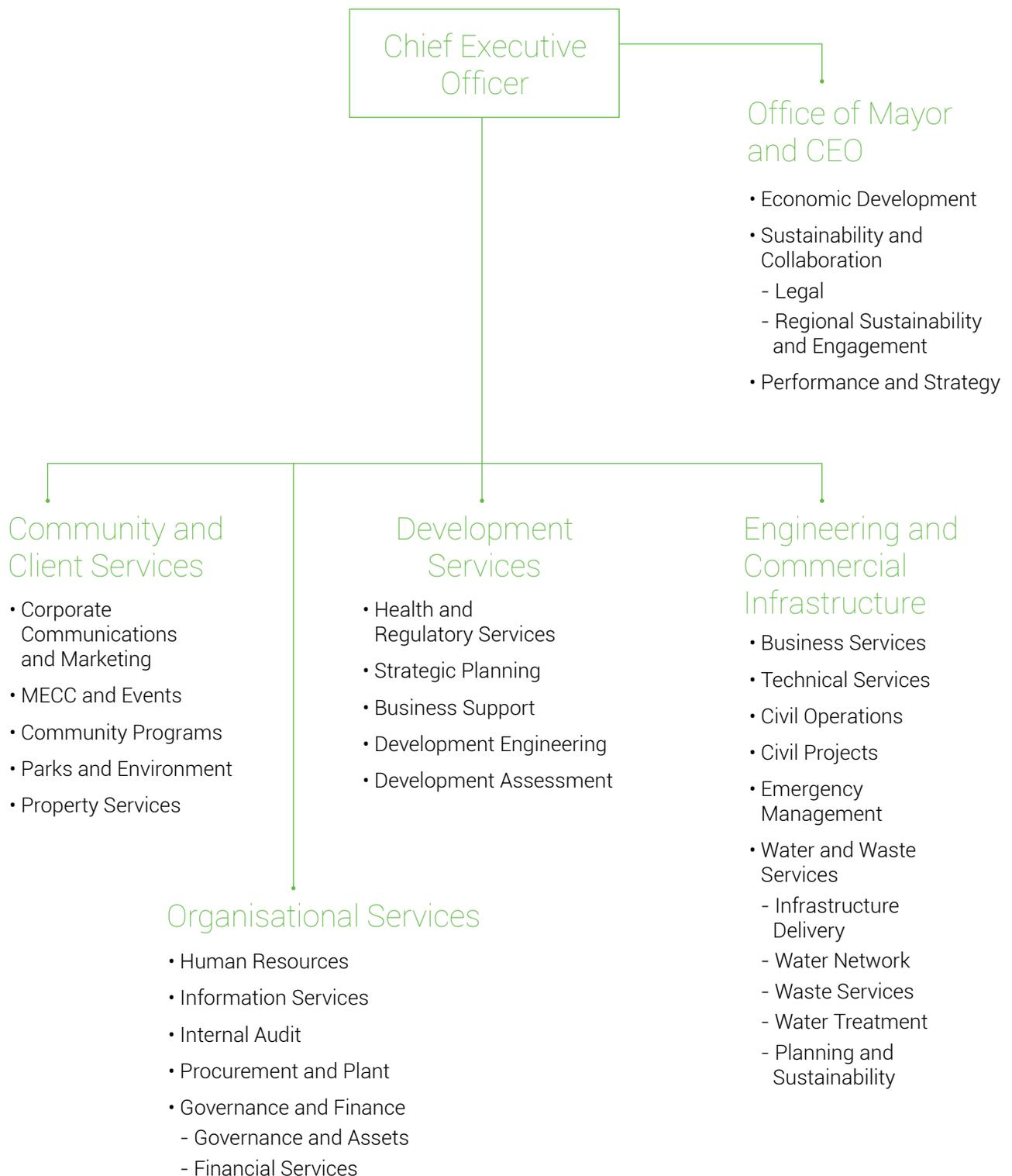
Email: ross.walker@mackay.qld.gov.au

As a former Marian cane farmer of 35 years, Chair of the Australian Cane Farmers Association and an experienced businessman (with a degree in business), I have continued to work with our rural communities and local organisations.

It was certainly pleasing to deliver the lowest rate rise in five years for owner-occupiers and provide a substantial increase to the pensioner rebate despite a \$1.2 million reduction in state and federal government subsidies.

In planning for the future, we allocated \$820,000 towards our Regional Sustainability Strategy and revamped our long-term financial forecast – council's financial blueprint for the future. To further enhance our internal business management operations, a cross-council succession planning project was implemented and we improved our regional map coverage via a new MiMaps system. Pleasingly, the Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) rated our council to be "in a sound financial position".

corporate structure



our organisation

our values

We are currently undergoing a significant change culture program to move us towards a forward-thinking, innovative organisation - *Working as one team to achieve for our clients and community.*

This core statement reflects what we as an organisation are here for. The five organisational values embrace behaviours that reflect what we truly value in delivering effective and efficient outcomes for our community. Nearly three quarters of our staff completed a culture survey to help establish this set of values and outline the behaviours associated with those values.



our staff

Mackay Regional Council is one of the region's largest employers, with about 1000 staff. In 2013-2014, we filled 200 positions and hired 174 new staff.



Total headcount of staff

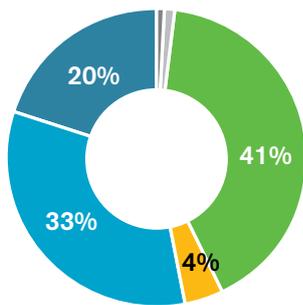
2012-2013 = 1148
 2013-2014 = 1115
 (includes full time, part time, casual, temporary, apprentice and trainee positions)

Breakdown of staff

Full time = 890
 Part time = 77
 Casual = 64
 Temporary staff, apprentice and trainee = 84

Our trainees

- Labourers
- Machinery operators and drivers
- Technicians and trade workers
- Clerical and admin workers



We have a real focus on providing opportunities for our community, with 26 trainees and four apprentices in training as at June 30, 2014.

- 73 per cent were male, 27 per cent female
- 53 per cent were mature age trainees or apprentices (24 years and over) when they commenced their qualification.

We saw a significant improvement in the retention rate during 2013-2014 compared to the previous 12 months. The cancellation rate was 15 per cent compared to 23 per cent in 2012-2013.

Conservation and Land Management Trainee Mitchell Lynch was awarded council's first Trainee and Apprentice of the Year award.

Mentoring program

Twenty-eight staff completed this program to broaden their knowledge and leadership skills within local government.

SUPERvisor training program

This internally and externally delivered program was first introduced in 2012 and continued to gather momentum in 2013-2014. Over 60 supervisors participated in 10 workshops to help support, educate and equip them with knowledge and skills to empower them as supervisors and allow them to better understand their responsibilities.

Self-education assistance

Five staff members were approved for self-education assistance and 25 employees undertook study under the arrangement.

Learning and development activities

We sponsored and co-ordinated more than 8742 training courses throughout the year. Staff took part in computer classes, health and safety courses and leadership programs.

We sponsored and co-ordinated more than 305 employees who attended conference, meetings workshops and seminars.



25 years

Recognition of service

Council's 25 Year Service Club now boasts a total of 70 members. During the year, 10 of our tireless workers reached the milestone with 25 years of service:

Tina Astbury - Water Truck Driver, Civil Operations

Noel Brown - Plant Operator, Civil Operations

Janette Guy - Administration Officer, Technical Services

Jason Grandcourt - Manager, Waste Services

Lance Jakeman - Leading Hand, Parks and Environment

Shery Kirkpatrick - Administration Officer, Health and Regulatory

Maria Macdonald -
Inter Library Loan Officer, Community and Lifestyle

Kenneth Martin -
Electrical/Mechanical Coordinator, Water Services

Bruce Neyland - Leading Hand, Parks and Environment

Bevin Price - Leading Hand Formsetter, Civil Operations



our volunteers |

We rely on volunteers to operate many of our community programs and facilities. Hundreds of volunteers offer their commitment, support and experience to assist community members and visitors to the region.

In May 2014, we invited our volunteers to a special performance of *Hairspray* by the Mackay Musical Comedy Players. The event was held as part of National Volunteers Week. Over 200 council volunteers were treated to a free performance to thank them for their efforts. We fully support and recognise our wonderful volunteers, who generously give up their time to provide care and support for those in need. Our volunteers are present at the following locations:

Artspace Mackay

Our volunteers are always on hand to help with new exhibitions and raise funds for the Artspace Mackay Foundation.

Festival of Arts

A small but dedicated army of volunteers help deliver the 16-day Festival of Arts, providing support at the G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day in July every year.

Greenmount Homestead and Museums

The Homestead again attracted an estimated 8000 people to its annual free Heritage Fair in May. We saw 2013 visitors go through the door of the Homestead during the year, double the numbers from the previous year.

Our museum volunteers are also an integral part in preserving our heritage, helping keep the doors open at three museums in Mirani, Sarina and Mackay.

Libraries

Friends of Mackay Libraries helped fund a special author talk by Judy Nunn which attracted 65 guests. A special Read 4 Life event with well-known Playschool presenter Jay Laga'aia was supported by Friends of Mackay Libraries donating 1000 bags.

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)

Friends of the Theatre are part of virtually every show or performance at MECC. One of the key gifts was the purchase of an ATM that provides an ongoing income stream for MECC. They also donated over \$50,000 to purchase technical equipment and uniforms for youth ambassadors.



Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

Our dedicated Friends of the Gardens donated over 2500 hours during the year. To commemorate the 10th birthday of the Gardens, they produced a calendar and Bungee Jumping Caterpillars book.

They hosted seven planting bees which saw 1900 plants added to the Gardens. The volunteers planted 75 trees in the new Timber Tree Arboretum and a further 500 trees in the Meadowlands area. They also raised \$3000 by operating the Gardens shop on weekends.

Orchid House

Two groups of volunteers provided valuable support with general nursery work and orchid work. Without this extra help, we wouldn't be able to grow thousands of outdoor plants to replant into garden beds across the region.

Sarina Sugar Shed

Our volunteers remain a pivotal part of the facility, providing valuable staff support during operational times. The Shed launched its new specially produced rum this financial year, which proved an enormous hit.

corporate plan

We extended our Corporate Plan 2009-2014 until June 2015 to provide us with the opportunity to carefully consider the strategic direction for the future.

The current Corporate Plan provides a guide for all activities to be undertaken by council to ensure that key services and projects will be delivered and addressed.

Our Strategic Priorities are:

- Community and Lifestyle
- Economic Development
- Environmental Sustainability
- Strategic Planning
- Infrastructure Services
- Commercial Services
- Organisational Excellence

community and **lifestyle**

fast **facts** |

- > Welcomed 949 people at 10 Citizenship Ceremonies
- > 130 babies participated in council's three Baby Welcoming Ceremonies
- > 4 swimming pools and a three-tiered Bluewater Lagoon
- > 7 skate parks
- > 1 youth centre
- > 13 community halls
- > 111 playgrounds including an all-abilities playground
- > 1 international sports stadium (Stadium Mackay)
- > 1 award-winning Bluewater Trail (shared pathway around the city)
- > 5 libraries and 1 mobile library
- > 11 SES facilities.



snapshots



Aquatic facility visits

In our drive to find efficiencies, we leased out the Memorial and Pioneer Swim Centres to a contractor. This decision would reduce council's operating costs by about \$400,000 for a full year.

There was a change in reporting of attendances during 2013-2014. The operator provided figures for total attendances rather than just casual attendances.

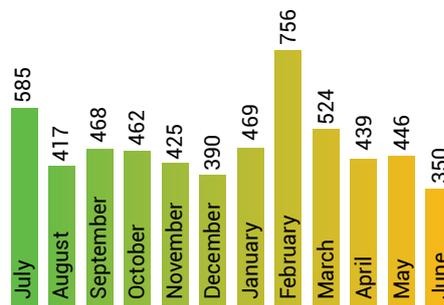
We saw significant attendance increases at Mirani and Sarina Swim Centres.

Swim Centre	2012-2013	2013-2014
Memorial	26,343	28,746
Pioneer	23,791	34,581
Mirani	10,182	44,772
Sarina	6052	25,210
Bluewater Lagoon	305,439	261,463

Library services

Our region's library membership grew by 5731 this year, bringing the total membership count to 43,180 – an 11 per cent increase on 2012-2013. We also added about 25,906 new items to our collection.

Members borrowed about 694,758 items ranging from books, DVDs and CDs to eLoans. Other popular items were Bolinda eAudiobooks, eBooks and Zinio digital magazines.



2013-2014 New library members

awards



We collected four awards at the 2013 Mackay Spinal Injury Association Inclusive Community Champion Awards, as well as one Keep Queensland Beautiful Heritage and Culture Award.

"Best Government Department" award
for Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

"Best Entertainment Venue" award for Meadowlands Amphitheatre

"Best Individual" award for Cr Alison Jones
as Chair of Equitable Access Advisory Committee

"Best Sporting Facility" award for Stadium Mackay

"Keep Queensland Beautiful Heritage and Culture" award
for the commemorative Mackay150 Book 'Then and Now'
and the Mackay150 Heritage Awards



"These two projects were judged as innovative, original, engaging and incorporating a whole-of-council approach. I really want to congratulate Mackay on recognising the importance of its heritage and culture."

– Keep Queensland Beautiful CEO Rick Burnett

highlights



Mayor Deirdre Comerford (centre) and councillors (from left) Frank Gilbert, Greg Martin, Theresa Morgan, Kevin Casey, Paul Steindl, Chris Bonanno, Laurence Bonaventura and David Perkins kick up their heels at the new amphitheatre.



"The Meadowlands amphitheatre is something out of a story book."

– Mackay Host Lions Club's Tom Becker



October's Global Grooves event doubled as a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders to Queensland.

Amphitheatre unveiled

Talented students from Mackay regional schools were the first to step into the spotlight at Mackay's newest entertainment precinct, the Meadowlands Amphitheatre in July. Located within the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Mayor Deirdre Comerford officially opened the \$1.1 million facility as part of the 2013 Rock Pop Mime Show. Catering for up to 5,000 people with tiered outdoor seating, this venue is part and parcel of the 10-year Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Master Plan.

ASSI commemoration at Global Grooves

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland, October's Global Grooves event featured musical and dance performances from local descendants.

The event also included our region's Filipino, Solomon Island and Cook Island communities along with the West Ambae Cultural Dancers from Vanuatu.



Golden occasion celebrated

From Olympic champions to learn-to-swim classes, for the past five decades Mackay Memorial Swim Centre has provided our community with a fun and safe place for people of all ages to train, play and relax; and in December we celebrated its golden anniversary. To mark the day, council and pool operators, LTS Leisure, invited one and all to enjoy free pool entry on Saturday, December 15.

“Original proposals for a swimming pool in Mackay commenced in the 1880s and the community raised 22,000 pounds from raffle tickets and other donations, which helped make up the 90,000 pounds needed to build the pool. Thanks to the combined efforts of the community and council, the Mackay War Memorial Swim Centre was officially opened on Saturday, December 14, 1963.”

– Local historian **Berenice Wright**

highlights



(Right) Possum Magic's Grandma Possum and friends helped Mayor Deirdre Comerford unveil some specially convened artworks by sculptor Adriaan Vanderlugt.



Or Alison Jones (far right) celebrates with staff and volunteers at Pioneer Valley Museum's 25th Anniversary.

Public art celebrates 150 years

Characters from the musical Possum Magic joined Mayor Deirdre Comerford to unveil a special new collection of public artworks at our Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre in September. Featuring five native animals that reside in Mackay's Civic Precinct, local artist Adriaan Vanderlugt was commissioned to create the works as a permanent commemoration of Mackay's 150 year anniversary. Adriaan spent a year carefully crafting these pieces out of camphor laurel from Greenmount Homestead.

Silver celebration

100-plus years of history were on show at Pioneer Valley Museum's 25th anniversary celebration in September. Special guests included the museum's first coordinator Lesley Kane and former Mirani Shire Mayor, Clive Rodgers.



Regulatory Services Coordinator Steven Gatt, Linda Petersen (with her pooch Ollie), Amaryllis O'Hara (with Isabella and Sydney), Ben Rutherford (with Ash) and Cr Laurence Bonaventura (with Max) discuss the success of our region's off-leash areas.

"It was fantastic to be able to take in the collective views of the community at an open forum such as this."

– Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio
Cr Laurence Bonaventura

Doggies' day out

Thanks to matching funding from the Queensland Government, work started on the construction of Mackay's first fenced dog off-leash area at North Mackay. The facility, which includes agility equipment, was completed by June 30, 2014.

In April, the Campwin Beach Field Day was an opportunity to discuss the use of dog off-leash zones with our Local Laws officers. We now have five dog off-leash areas in our region: Campwin Beach southern end, Bucasia Beach, Camilleri Street Park and Northern Far Beach and the fenced area at North Mackay.

Calendar marks a decade

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of our beautiful botanic gardens, the Friends of the Gardens and Botanic Art Interest Group produced a 2014 calendar. Titled BOTANICA 2014, the calendar features a variety of detailed drawings of mostly native plants, all of which can be found at our Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

highlights



Mackay Regional Council's Emergency Management team members Bruce Chester-Master and Anthony Lee check out their new community-awareness car signage.

Preparing for natural disasters

In an ongoing effort to build a resilient community, we staged our annual Cyclone Saturday event at Caneland Central Shopping Centre in November. Thousands were given vital information on how best to prepare for floods, cyclones and heavy rain during the summer months.

Fortunately, we escaped the wrath of any severe weather event during the financial year, but there was still plenty of work done to repair roads and bridges from the previous year with funding from the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement.

Resilience is the key message and to remind residents, two of our Emergency Management vehicles were fitted out with crucial community-awareness signage.

Phrases such as "Are you prepared for emergencies?" and "Get ready" now feature in eye-catching red and yellow on the rear of the cars along with side stickers promoting the State Emergency Service's (SES) 132 500 number.

Funded by the State Government's Get Ready program, it's hoped the year-round promotion of these key messages will gain much-needed exposure and momentum.

**To download a copy of our
Emergency Action Guide, visit:**

mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency



Left: Olympian Lisa Curry conducted free fitness sessions in Mackay.
 Right: Rugby legend Shane Webcke was a guest at the Sports Expo and Sign-On Day held at the MECC.



Olympian promotes healthy lifestyle

A major drawcard for our Active in the City and Healthy Rural Communities Mackay programs was a visit by triple Olympian Lisa Curry who conducted a series of free fitness sessions at Seaforth, Mirani and Mackay and a motivational seminar at the Mackay multi-sports complex as part of her One Life, One Chance Aussie Roadtrip.

Sports Expo a success

Rugby league legend Shane Webcke was a big hit with the locals as a crowd of about 7000 ventured to the annual Mackay Sports Expo and Sign-on Day in February. This council-initiated event was made possible with support from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, the Active After School program, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled, the Queensland Government, Rio Tinto and Sports Power.

“If we can encourage children to be active they can improve their health, fitness, coordination and develop better social skills.”

– Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio
 Cr Paul Steindl

Healthy kits delivered

Healthy Rural Communities Mackay and the mobile library put rural residents on the road to better health and fitness with the introduction of health kits comprising exercise DVDs, cooking and exercise books, hand weights and resistance bands.



Residents toast to the success of the 2013 G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day.



Festival finishes on a high note

Well over 20,000 people turned out to support the 2013 G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day (the final event in our 16-day, 30-show Festival of Arts program) at Queens Park.

Celebrity guests included rock icon Glen Shorrock and My Kitchen Rules chef Rocco La Bella who fired up the Culinary Marquee Sessions kitchen. More than 25 food stalls were on offer, along with market stalls, an artists' village and three stages offering a variety of musical entertainment throughout the day.

Celebrating our champions

Our sporting heroes tasted more success with the Mackay Cutters Rugby League team clinching its first Intrust Super Q-CUP title. The Mayor and councillors held a Civic Reception at MECC for the victorious team.

Sun safety prioritised

With the aim of reducing the harmful impacts of ultraviolet radiation (UVR), council approved a Shade Policy in April which will provide future direction on shade standards for community playgrounds throughout the region. While higher profile parks will be our initial focus for the installation of shade structures, all of our playgrounds will be reviewed during the development of our Playgrounds Shade Master Plan.

highlights



Mayor and councillors sign the Purple Pledge.

Purple Day

To show their support for the 91,000 people in Queensland who have epilepsy, Mayor Deirdre Comerford and councillors donned purple clothing on March 26 and signed the Purple Pledge, an initiative aimed to dispel the myths surrounding this condition.

Fatality Free Friday

In May, the Mayor and councillors called for community members to join them in signing the Fatality Free Friday pledge. By taking the pledge, councillors promised to remind family, friends and workmates to take extra care on the road, put their lights on while driving, follow the road rules, drive safely and take care as a pedestrian. Fatality Free Friday is an initiative of the Australian Road Safety Foundation.

support

"We have seen far too many tragic accidents recently, not a single road death in Australia for just one day is our aim – a Fatality Free Friday."

– Roads and Drainage portfolio Cr Kevin Casey

highlights



Judah Kelly, Levi Cameron, Jack Gray, Tia Gostelow, Oliver Carter-Beck, Jacob Shanks and Tegan Philpott support the anti-bullying campaign Stand for the Silent.

Break the silence

To help break the silence around bullying, we encouraged residents of all ages to get behind Mackay's very own Stand for the Silent event at Caneland Central in March. Special guest was Paul Stanley from the One Punch Can Kill campaign. This event was made possible thanks to Mackay Youth Connections Network, headspace Mackay, Youth Information Referral Service (YIRS), Police-Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Mackay, Valley District Youth Council, health practitioners and council.

support

"It's quite disturbing to hear that 27 per cent of Year 4-9 students are bullied every few weeks or more each term. This means more than a quarter of our country's schoolchildren are being tormented on a regular basis. This event is all about raising awareness, letting people know about the support available and taking a strong stand on the issue."

– Community and Client Services portfolio Cr Alison Jones



Resident Kathleen Price kicks back with free WiFi at the Bluewater Lagoon.

Surf while you swim

In April, we worked collaboratively with local business Redfox Corporation (the home of Redfox Wireless Broadband) to trial the provision of a three-month public WiFi zone at the Bluewater Lagoon. This service was well patronised and is now a regular feature at the facility. Our library members also enjoyed free WiFi, with 7555 users clocking up more than 10,603 hours this financial year.

Celebrating women, inspiring change

In collaboration with the State Government, we proudly supported the Sarina Women's Healthy Life, Feel Good Expo in May. Coordinated by the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre, the event was the perfect platform to celebrate International Women's Day. Held at the Bob Wood Cultural Hall, Sarina, event highlights included a wide selection of stalls ranging from cancer support to psychic readings, scrapbooking and Tupperware.

economic **development**

fast **facts** |

Mackay has \$6.6 billion in gross regional product and is one of Australia's largest sugar-producing regions.

We are a major resource export hub, and we're known for our agricultural, construction and tourism industries.

Council looks after:

- > 3 museums
- > 2 art galleries
- > 1 entertainment and convention centre
- > 1 tourism venture, the Sarina Sugar Shed.

snapshots

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

We saw a nine per cent increase in patronage numbers to MECC, with 170,771 people attending 612 events in 2013-2014.

The return of Ice City, the centre's highly popular ice-skating attraction which is conducted every two years, was largely responsible for the increase in patronage.

Artspace Mackay

The changing economic climate and almost five months without a functioning café impacted on visitor numbers to Artspace Mackay, with an 8.7 per cent drop in numbers.

We attracted 24,776 visitors (down from 26,972 from the previous year). The facility hosted 102 activities and 25 exhibitions and displays throughout the year.

A new lessee at the café is helping attract numbers and we are offering more affordable workshop and event options for the community. Stronger ties with Mackay Tourism have helped enhance the marketing of the Triple-A rated gallery to business and leisure visitors.



snapshots



Grace Reed and Loy Muller show off the range of Sugar Shed liqueurs.

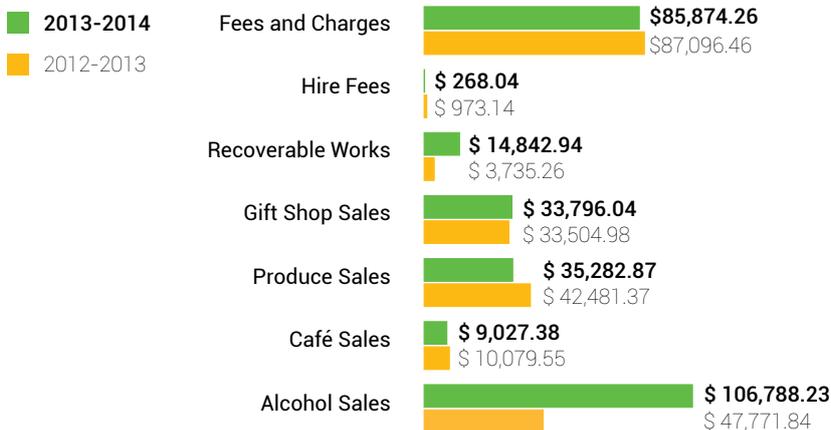


“As a boutique distiller, the Sugar Shed takes pride in the deep connection it shares with its growers and the time-honoured traditions and unique methods that go into making its rum.”

– Tourism and Economic Development portfolio Cr Greg Martin

total sales 2013-2014
\$285,879

Sugar Shed sales figures



Sarina Sugar Shed

We saw strong interest in sales throughout the year with the introduction of the specially produced rum. Its launch in September resulted in alcohol sales on site jumping 128 per cent to \$106,788. Five first edition bottles with authenticity certificates were auctioned at the September launch. Gift shop sales also recorded a slight increase.

Visitation numbers for the 12 months were 5558 – an 11 per cent drop on the previous year. The tightening of the economy and the loss of a few distribution outlets also saw a drop in produce sales, but sales to visitors to the facility remained strong.

awards

"Most Outstanding Contribution by an Individual"
Mackay Isaac Region award for Glenys Mansfield

"Gold for Best Tourism Attraction"
Mackay Isaac Region award for Sarina Sugar Shed

"Excellence in Food Tourism"
Mackay Isaac Region award for Sarina Sugar Shed

highlights



"This forum was full of microcosmic thinking and entrepreneurial spirit. Ideally this is what we should be doing at cities across the nation."

– CSIRO Future Team Leader and guest presenter Dr Stefan Hajkowicz

Diversity key focus of forum

Positioning our region as a food bowl for Asia was listed as one of 10 key priorities to emerge from the inaugural Diversify Mackay Forum.

The brainchild of Mackay Airport General Manager Rob Porter and organised by Mayor Deirdre Comerford and the Office of the Mayor and CEO, the forum challenged 100 invited guests from retail, mining services, business, industry, government and community representatives to discover opportunities that would create a sustainable future for the region.

The top three priorities identified were; expanding Mackay's airport and seaport, positioning the region as a food bowl for Asia and revitalising the City Centre to take advantage of the blue river through the city.

An action plan was developed and the community was continually updated via a special webpage on council's website: mackay.qld.gov.au/diversifymackay.

highlights



Artist's impression of completed public artwork on the corner of Victoria and Wood Streets.
(Right) Adelaide Mayor Stephen Yarwood visited Mackay to start discussions around the revitalisation.



Visionary delivers key message

The much anticipated \$18 million revamp of Mackay's City Centre was very much on the radar this year.

A thought-provoking presentation from CBD guru and Lord Mayor of Adelaide City Stephen Yarwood in September 2013 started the discussions. About 200 City Centre traders, owners and interested business leaders attended the free presentation, which council viewed as a catalyst for the planned City Centre Public Realm Improvement Project.

The City Centre Revitalisation Project is jointly funded (50/50) by council and the Australian Government.

"The strong response to this presentation indicated the passion and interest traders and business owners have about the type of changes and vision we all want for our City Centre. By working in partnership with the business community, we can deliver a lasting legacy for our city."

– Mayor Deirdre Comerford



Artist's impression of the revitalised Pioneer Shire Council building.

"Heritage-listed buildings, such as the former Pioneer Shire Council building, add to the character of our City Centre and are an irreplaceable reminder of an asset that holds special architectural, cultural and historical significance to society."

– Tourism and Economic Development portfolio
Cr Greg Martin

As part of the project, Zined Pty Ltd started work in April on the restoration of the heritage-listed former Pioneer Shire Council building. Expressions of interest were also called to commission an iconic piece of public artwork for the Wood and Victoria streets intersection. We then shortlisted four of the 32 public art submissions, announcing the chosen piece at our planned mid-August 2014 project launch.

City events create excitement

In February, our city was bursting with cultural vibrancy as we welcomed in the 2014 Chinese New Year. For the first time, city business owners and the Chinese community joined forces to host a Year of the Horse celebration, as part of our region's Enjoy Summer in the City festivities.

In April, residents turned out in numbers to enjoy a host of family friendly activities like face painting, animal cuddling and egg hunting at The Lanes Easter Carnival Street Party. Organised by council, this event was supported by River Sessions and Mackay Grande Suites.

highlights



Mackay joined forces with Isaac and Whitsunday councils to form the Whitsunday Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC).

ROC reaps rewards

The newly formed Whitsunday Regional Organisation of Councils (ROC) continued to spread the collective word about our region's three councils (Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday).

Chair of the Whitsunday ROC and Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford attended a two-day visit to the nation's capital along with Isaac counterpart Anne Baker and Whitsunday Mayor Jennifer Whitney. The three mayors held positive talks with Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, a range of Federal Ministers and senior policy advisors during the visit to push the importance of the Whitsunday region and its infrastructure needs.

The ROC also secured \$38,400 in funding to further enhance the collaboration efforts of our region's three councils. This grant from the Department of Local Government Community Recovery and Resilience will help Whitsunday ROC work towards efficient and sustainable initiatives. Collectively, the ROC aims to reduce procurement costs through the investigation of joint purchasing, set up processes and policy to support and increase shared services opportunities, and enhance engagement with stakeholders to support greater investment in infrastructure priorities.

"This funding provides recognition from the State Government that the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday councils have made a firm commitment to work together to deliver efficient and sustainable initiatives."

– Whitsunday ROC Executive Officer Amanda Camm

Local favourite Ben Barba played the NRL match between the Bulldogs and Newcastle in September.



Stadium hosts high-profile events

We showcased our city to the nation by hosting an NRL fixture match between Newcastle Knights and Canterbury Bulldogs in July at Stadium Mackay. It was the first feature event at the stadium after council took over ownership of the facility. Another successful professional bull riders event attracted a good crowd in September.

To further revitalise Stadium Mackay, council approved a new consortium to manage the facility. The new board will consist of representatives from Mackay and District Rugby League, Mackay Junior Rugby League and Mackay Cutters along with council officials and external delegates. The group will take on the day-to-day responsibilities of operating the stadium, facility management, promotion and field maintenance. This arrangement strives to minimise the overall impost on council and ratepayers.

“We recognise that with stronger collaboration, we can produce better outcomes and enhance the stadium to make it a great community facility.”

– Mackay and District Rugby League President Glenn Ottaway

Mission accomplished

We spend almost \$100,000 annually removing graffiti and in May we launched a new campaign called Operation Graffiti Stop as part of a State Government initiative to help local businesses tackle graffiti. Aimed at business shopfronts and building owners in the region, Operation Graffiti Stop promoted a mission for all “agents” to report and remove graffiti from their premises.

highlights



Ian Tynan, Francois Joubert, Mayor Deirdre Comerford and Cr Theresa Morgan unveil the \$2.5M Grendon Park and Half Tide Foreshore upgrade.

Partnerships deliver community assets

In August, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) partnered with council to celebrate the \$2.5 million Grendon Park (at Salonika Beach) and Half Tide Foreshore upgrade. New picnic tables, barbecue facilities and playground equipment now feature at the park, along with a one kilometre shared pathway from Half Tide Esplanade to the park.

A new sealed carpark with 230 spaces was built at the South Mackay Sporting Precinct thanks to BMA's Hay Point Expansion Stage 3 (HPX3) Project. This economic partnership delivered a great community asset without council needing to allocate significant funds from its capital works budget.

"We are proud to support the development of facilities that have mutual benefit for the project, council and the wider community."

– BMA HPX3 Project Director Francois Joubert

A similar partnership with Aurizon transformed a hillside piece of land near the Jilalan Rail Yards into a new public open space. In May, Mayor Deirdre Comerford joined Aurizon General Manager (Service Delivery Coal North) Catherine Baxter to turn the first sod to mark the start of construction. The project would involve a viewing platform and surrounding parkland showcasing the pit to port journey of coal in our area.



Economic Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin is pleased with placemaking efforts in Evans Avenue.



Evans Avenue traders bursting with pride

The \$2 million rehabilitation of Evans Avenue saw traders in the area eager to promote their newly revamped precinct – so much so that they launched their own directory, with assistance from council. More than 70 businesses joined forces to produce the Discover Evans Avenue directory, which is available on our website at mackay.qld.gov.au/economicdevelopment.

During the five-month construction period, the group, with our support and assistance, also implemented a host of other marketing and advertising strategies including a radio campaign and staff rewards program. The avenue now boasts an additional 32 two-hour parking spaces and three bus stops to allow for greater vehicle turnover.

“As a former local business owner, I know first-hand how important it is to stay abreast of our current economic climate in order to continually adapt your business plan to suit.”

– Tourism and Economic Development portfolio Cr Greg Martin

highlights



Above: Samantha Cummings and Mary Rand from Under the Veil, Narelle Allen from Sarina Pets and Produce and Joy Huxhan from the Sarina Community Bendigo Bank.



Business booming in Sarina

Sarina businesses welcomed thousands of patrons through their doors in August, thanks to the return of the Sarina Shopper Competition. The competition is an initiative of council's Sarina Business Network and Focus on Sarina program to increase activity and patronage in the area. This innovative initiative put customers in the draw to win a \$500 voucher or one of 10 \$100 vouchers at a participating Sarina business, plus one of two \$50 bank accounts courtesy of Sarina Community Bendigo Bank.

Traders kept up to date with forums

In February, business owners gathered to discuss the economic vitality of our region at council's Sarina Business Breakfast. Held at the RSL, participants heard from a cross-section of business experts offering relevant economic information and advice. Discussion topics revolved around the current state of play of rental and property sales, the flow-on benefits of a 50-room motel to be built by Nationwide Civil Pty Ltd, and the benefits of being a Mackay Region Chamber of Commerce member.

Mackay's free March business breakfast held at MECC proved equally successful – the focus of this gathering revolved around operating a thriving small business in today's economic climate.

Mackay City Centre website

We posted a 13 per cent increase in visitation to council's City Centre website – mackaycitycentre.com.au – with 185,427 visits in 2013-2014 compared to 163,993 in 2012-2013.



Left: Roslyne Tebbatt's winning Valley photo for the March Facebook prize pack.
Right: February's Facebook winning entry - Carl Barnes and son Ethan enjoy their favourite spot in the Pioneer Valley.



Passport promotes the Valley

Launched on Australia Day, our five-month Pioneer Valley Passport initiative was created to support local Valley businesses and spark interest in discovering what we have to offer right here in our own backyard. Quaint coffee shops, local eateries, accommodation venues and unique outdoor activity companies were among a dozen businesses involved in the promotion; each offering a different discount or promotion. Passport holders were then encouraged to visit these businesses to get their booklet stamped. Those who collected five stamps were eligible to win the Ultimate Valley Getaway worth \$2500.

Monthly prizes were also on offer for those who posted photos of their Valley experience on our council Facebook page. Supported by Seven Local News and Sea FM, the Pioneer Valley Passport received excellent feedback from both the businesses involved and our local community.



"It's definitely a credit to Mackay Regional Council that they've run this promotion; it was really well done and we've appreciated the publicity."

– Broken River Kiosk Owner Robyn Burns



environmental **sustainability**

fast **facts** |

Our 135 Parks and Environment Officers:

- > maintained 560 hectares of parks
- > 1 botanic garden – Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
- > 3 camping reserves – Seaforth, St Helens and Ball Bay
- > pruned 3595 trees
- > saved about 3530kL of water from water-wise initiatives at Paget Depot
- > held 20 Coastcare activities throughout the region.

snapshots



Council's green initiatives

Our focus on energy-saving technology resulted in significant environmental and cost savings, totalling about \$294,495 in the financial year.

We reduced our CO₂ emissions by 711 tonnes and applied a Thermoshield thermal insulation coating on the Gordon Street Administration Building to create even further energy savings into the future.

Total energy savings 2013-2014*

867,360 kWh reduction (through continuing use of energy saving technology across council)

711 tonnes CO₂-e/year reduction

Around \$294,495/year cost saving*

*Estimates of savings from Planet Footprint

awards

First green star council

We were named one of 26 Australian Gold Standard councils by Planet Footprint. The award is recognition for our approach to sustainability to save significant dollars from our power bill.

"Last year we saved a whopping \$200,000 and energy consumption in our Mackay administration building alone was reduced by 30 per cent. By investing in sustainable practices and saving on our energy bills we are able pass on these savings to our ratepayers and keep our rates low."

– Parks and Environment portfolio Cr Theresa Morgan

highlights



The Ooralea pollutant trap is helping net plenty of man-made debris that would otherwise make its way to the ocean.



Partnership tackles marine debris

About 80 per cent of marine debris comes from land-based sources with the majority washing into stormwater drains and into our rivers and oceans. To reduce the amount of debris entering our waterways, council implemented Gross Pollutant Traps on a number of stormwater drains. This resulted in 15 tonnes of debris being captured and removed, which included removing just over 13,000 individual pieces weighing a total of 225 kilograms of actual man-made litter.

“The trash rack program allows us to actually prevent debris from hitting our waterways, which ultimately has a devastating effect for our coastlines and Great Barrier Reef.”

– Eco Barge Clean Seas Founding Chair Libby Edge



Mackay's Town and Far beaches.

"New access tracks will make it safer and easier for anyone heading to the beach whether they're enjoying their lunch break or heading out for a paddle."

– Adrenalin Rush Mackay Manager Melissa Millen

Community feedback integral to beach protection

In September, we sought the community's thoughts on a draft beach plan detailing the future management of Mackay's Town and Far beaches. As part of the Coasts and Communities Program (CCP), we – along with Reef Catchments – collaborated with beach users, residents, community groups and key stakeholders to create this plan to protect and restore the natural environment of our coastline. The plan, which was adopted in December, will help us to preserve 4.5 kilometres of valuable coastline while still allowing for appropriate recreational access and use. This was another initiative funded by the Natural Environment Levy and the Federal Government's Caring for Our Country Program.

Register plants seeds of preservation

The Significant Tree Register catalogues over 550 trees in the region which are deemed significant. Approved and adopted by council in July, the register was funded by council's Natural Environment Levy. To know more, refer to the Significant Tree Register on our website at mackay.qld.gov.au/treeregister.



A team of scientists visited Eungella National Park to study the impacts of climate change.



International biodiversity study

Our attention turned to Eungella with an international scientific study to monitor the impacts of climate change on the biodiversity of our picturesque national park. In September 2013, council approved \$115,000 in funding to partner with researchers from Griffith University's School of Environment to complete a Biodiversity, Monitoring and Research Study Project.

A team of six scientists surveyed 20 rainforest sites at four different elevations to determine which species are unique to particular parts of the rainforest and how they adapt to different climates; information yielded will determine which species will require ongoing monitoring as our climate changes.

The project involved many volunteers from a number of local community groups and council staff. It was endorsed by the Natural Environment Advisory Committee, council's Sustainable Futures Committee, the Mackay Conservation Group, the Mackay Bush Walking Club and the Society for Growing Australian Plants.

"Eungella is a special place comprising species found nowhere else on Earth and this unique study project has the potential to provide critical information and results for the climate change debate."

– Mayor Deirdre Comerford

highlights



Over 4000 plants have been added to the Botanic Gardens' Living Collection.

Planting seeds for future growth

More than 70 large native trees, including hoop pines, kauri pines, eucalypts and she oaks, were planted along Lagoon Street to create an impressive Timber Tree Arboretum entrance to our popular Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. These trees will provide more shade for the area, making it an ideal setting for exercising, relaxing and picnics. Additionally, Birdlife Mackay volunteers added 120 native plants to the Gardens' collection to provide further habitat for birds.

Over 4000 plants have been added to the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens' Living Collection. This has included the threatened with extinction in the wild species Koumala Range *Actephila* *Actephila championiae* – known from just one creek-line. Twenty-one per cent of threatened species native to the Central Queensland Coast bioregion are now housed at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Conservation volunteer opportunities

Local school students and interested community members now have the opportunity to gain conservation, landscaping and bushland care skills following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) creating the Woodlands Bushland Alliance. This initiative was established by Woodlands' developers Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) and council. It provides opportunities for hands-on volunteering experience in the preservation of Woodlands' 10 hectares of bushland.

highlights



SLCMA community volunteers Inez McMurtrie, Lynette Keir and Peter Whitehead working within the 'Melaleuca wetland' themed garden during a SLCMA weekend volunteer morning.

Spring into the gardens

Sarina came alive with all things flying, crawling and buzzing in September at the launch of the Sarina Community Native Gardens. This project, which was an initiative of Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association Inc (SLCMA), was funded by our Natural Environment Levy. Council also worked closely with SLCMA throughout the design process.

Input was received from a vast array of organisations including the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Sarina State High School with funding from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and the Queensland Government. ABC's Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis was a special guest at the opening.

"Through these gardens we aim to promote the benefits, uses and values of growing native plants as an alternative to potentially weedy, non-native plants."

– Parks and Environment portfolio Cr Theresa Morgan



Over 1300 children participated in the Plant-ed education sessions held at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.



Message into schools

We helped support the “Start the Switch” sustainability campaign run by the Mackay Conservation Group, which involved seven schools from the region.

Working with Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Landcare, we helped keep a private wildlife reserve open for school students.

Over 1300 children participated in Plant-ed educational sessions, while the outreach program Plant-ed Elsewhere saw 250 children from three different schools host a visit, which involved our staff taking displays and educational presentations to the students.

Environmental education sustainability on show

Over 800 people checked out our booth at the Sustainability Pavilion at the Mackay Show in June 2014. Council officers joined community organisations, local industries and businesses to promote a mixture of education programs covering Active Towns, the natural environment, waste, water, energy efficiency, conservation, green technologies, organic food and gardening.

The display replaced the Bluewater Ecofest, which was held in October 2013. The one-off event featured the Sizzler Recycling Challenge, Thiess River 2 Reef Ride and a butterfly enclosure.



strategic **planning**

fast **facts** |

In 2013-2014 council:

- > met with developers each month to discuss upcoming projects
- > approved 1186 new lots
- > received 424 development applications through Smart eDA – the online electronic lodgement system
- > processed 110 multiple dwelling unit applications (includes dual occupancy applications)
- > handled 1697 Duty Planner enquiries (a 10 per cent drop from the previous financial year)
- > valued Mackay's building applications at \$532,472,999.

snapshots



Developers Forums

Regular forums with the development industry have forged a stronger partnership and opened communication channels with the Urban Development Institute of Australia.

Through improved communication and engagement, many issues were resolved at these forums and key presentations provided, which allowed both parties to better understand the challenges experienced.

Planning Scheme takes shape

The Draft Planning Scheme formal consultation process was one of the most comprehensive engagement programs conducted by council. We received over 360 submissions. This together with various planning reform initiatives such as the amendments to trunk infrastructure charges framework and potential impacts from the Planning and Development Bill reaffirm our leadership role in encouraging good design and ongoing development in the community.

Development Applications

We accept Development Applications (for operational works, material change of use, reconfiguration of lots and combined applications) over the counter at council's Development Services building at 42 Wellington Street, Mackay and through Smart eDA, an electronic lodgement system where you can prepare, lodge and track development applications online at - mackay.qld.gov.au/planning.

The overall activity for the year saw our monthly average decrease from 57 applications per month to 53. While this is significantly down from the previous year, the reduction reflects a return to normal activity levels for development.

Applications received	Total
Development Engineering	1304
Development Assessment	661
Health and Regulatory Services	1

snapshots



Health and Regulatory Services

Top three pest management complaints

Complaints/inspections	Total
Dingo/wild dog/fox	221
Feral pig	117
Giant rats tail grass	202

Top three health and regulatory inspections

Complaints/inspections	Total
Food	375
Nuisance	282
Noise	142

Local Laws requests

Complaints	2012-2013	2013-2014
Dogs straying	704	633
Aggressive dogs	568	537

highlights

Securing our future

In August, we became the first Queensland member of a newly established Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) organisation. This alliance will enable council to work with other local governments to keep our region moving forward. It will also give regional councils a platform to advocate for Federal funding for vital infrastructure and services and help develop strong planning policies for the future. RCA has developed an advocacy action plan that provides high level advice on issues affecting regional capitals to the Australian Government.

highlights



Tracy Belbin, Onno Van Es, Professor Pierre Viljoen and Linda Single overlook plans for the sporting precinct.

Sporting precinct plans unveiled

CQUniversity teamed up with Olympic and Paralympic athletes to unveil final plans for the Mackay Regional Sports Precinct, proposed for the campus at Ooralea in August. The \$72 million precinct will feature a multi-purpose indoor sport and recreation facility, athletics track and field, aquatic centre with Olympic size swimming pool, gym, sports bar, ice-skating rink and community clinic. Council participated in the development of these plans and has been integral in supporting this project.

Rolling out the red carpet

More than 200 Queensland planning professionals enjoyed learning about our region's profitable industries and beautiful natural environments at a three-day Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) State Conference.

Based on the theme Sugar and Spice – diversity in our regions, the forum's speakers included former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer, Mackay Sugar's Quinton Hildebrand and co-founder of Earth Hour Nigel Marsh.

During their stay, delegates inspected our world class coal terminal at Hay Point, Paget's industrial area, Mackay Sugar's Cogeneration Plant and the Mackay City Centre, which is about to undergo an \$18 million public realm facelift.

"The Mackay Local Government Area is one of the fastest-growing regions in the state with a population growth rate of 2.7 per cent; this conference was a great opportunity for us to share ideas and upcoming projects to make sure we are financially sustainable to support and facilitate development."

– Planning and Development portfolio Cr David Perkins



engineering **services**

fast **facts** |

Our 104 roads
and maintenance workers:

- > maintained about 2485km of roads – this included about 1931km of rural roads
- > serviced 498km of State Government roads (pothole repairs, grading works)
- > carried out routine maintenance on 174km of the Bruce Highway
- > cleaned and maintained 228km of footpaths/shared pathways and cycle paths
- > carried out general maintenance on 48 off-street car parks
- > maintained 83 bridges (36 timber, 47 concrete)
- > cleaned and maintained 22 boat ramps (7 Mackay Regional Council and 15 Transport and Main Roads owned).

snapshots

Major Capital Works

Major capital works for the year involved trunk roads, pavement improvements and general road works.

Program	Actuals spent
Trunk roads	\$18.66 million
General works	\$4.3 million
Trunk drainage	\$3.27 million
Pavement improvements	\$2.9 million
Bridge replacement	\$2.28 million
Active Towns – pilot program	\$1.57 million
LATM – traffic and road safety	\$1.28 million
Footpaths and bikeways	\$700,561
Shoulder treatment initiatives	\$404,735
Boat ramps	\$95,109
Bus shelters	\$87,712
Total	\$37.2 million



highlights



Our biggest achievement during the year was the completion of the flood-damage work in June 2014.

Since 2008, our crews in collaboration with contractors have been confronted with ongoing flood-damage work due to consecutive wet weather events. We have repaired countless roads, bridges and culverts as part of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

It was the single largest road works project ever undertaken by council. We completed work on 1535 kilometres of rural roads and 400 kilometres of our urban road network since 2008.

NDRRA works wrap up

Shakespeare Street, Paradise Street and Midge Point Road are examples of integral roads that have been restored and enhanced across our Mackay region over the past six years. This feat was achieved via funding from the Queensland and Australian Government's NDRRA initiative, together with additional complimentary funding contributed by council. The end result (as at June 30, 2014) is that we've successfully restored, and in some cases significantly enhanced, the equivalent distance in roads from Sydney to Mackay to deliver a stronger, more resilient network. The total combined flood-damage restoration expenditure, coupled with council's normal maintenance and roads renewal programs since 2008, is \$680 million.

Top NDRRA projects include	Actuals spent
Shakespeare Street	\$6 million
Midge Point Road	\$6 million
Balnagowan Mandarana Road	\$6 million
Paradise Street	\$5 million
Kuttatubul Mt Jukes Road	\$5 million
Stockroute Road	\$5 million
Victoria Street	\$3 million
Eversleigh Road	\$3 million
Sugarshed Road	\$3 million
Mangrove Road	\$2 million
Devereaux Creek Road	\$800,000



Mackay Stickers and Signs' Russell Jordan gives the Connors Road project the 'thumbs up'.



Thumbs up for Connors Road

Finished in October 2013, the multi-million Connors Road upgrade involved pavement reconstruction, traffic light installation, upgraded storm water drainage and the construction of additional lanes each way between Archibald Street and Boundary Road.

Additionally, \$4 million was allocated to convert the Archibald Street roundabout to two lanes to further enhance traffic flow and increase vehicle capacity in the area. The Connors Road upgrade was a key part of council's Rebuilding our Roads campaign, dedicated to repairing the significant damage our roads sustained during past wet seasons.

"The Connors Road/Archibald and Paradise streets intersection is a high priority on council's radar. With about 16,500 vehicles using this intersection every day, it's one of the highest-use intersections in our region."

– Roads and Drainage portfolio Cr Kevin Casey



A new road will connect Northern Beaches with Blacks Beach via the Plantation Palms development.

Landmark infrastructure agreement struck

In April, council and Plantation Palms (one of Mackay's most recognised communities), secured a landmark infrastructure agreement to develop a road that will connect the centre of the Northern Beaches with Blacks Beach via Plantation Palms.

Both parties will fund the \$15 million Chenoweth Drive project. This public/private partnership is the first of its kind for Mackay. When complete, the connecting road will be a vital piece of infrastructure that will allow our Northern Beaches to evolve and prosper as an affordable, inclusive, active and unique community over the next 20 years and well into the future.

"We're extremely grateful council is providing its full support towards our project and are excited to commence planning immediately with first stage construction expected to begin early 2015."

– Plantation Palms Developer Kim Clarke

highlights



Above: Before shot of the West Funnel Creek Bridge. Right: Locals inspect the upgraded bridge at open day.



New bridge welcomed

Residents applauded the construction of a new \$1.5 million bridge at West Funnel Creek this year. Located about 25 kilometres south-west of Sarina, this project resulted in a two-lane overpass replacing the original 80 year-old, one-lane bridge. The bridge is just one example of council's \$35.6 million commitment to new capital roads and drainage projects region wide.

Key intersections improved

About 130 metres of River Street received a facelift, courtesy of a \$985,000 rehabilitation. To enhance traffic flow, a roundabout was also constructed at River and Nelson streets as part of this project. Additionally (as separate projects), the roundabout at Mangrove Road, Matsuura Drive and River Street was restored and Milton Street (between Gordon and Victoria streets) was rehabilitated.

Community provides direction

Caravan parking, improved vehicle access and a new wedding garden were among key recommendations to revitalise the Sarina Field of Dreams Parkland. In May, council endorsed a Landscape Master Plan for this popular multi-use facility. The plan was developed in consultation with the Field of Dreams Advisory Committee and our community. To help improve the functionality of the site, we allocated \$130,000 from our capital budget to replace the playground and build a solid shade structure (which is now complete), and to construct internal roads and a vehicle entrance.

highlights



Bike week culminated in a super hero-themed bike ride.

Funding delivers vital infrastructure, programs

We were selected as one of three councils to be part of the State Government funded Active Towns initiative. The three year program, totalling \$6 million, aims to deliver more walkways, bikeways and infrastructure on a matching dollar for dollar basis.

"If you live in East Mackay, you can now leave your car at home and cycle along the new section of our Bluewater Trail into the city. Cycling to work can save you money on car expenses, makes for easy parking and keeps you fit and healthy at the same time."

– Roads and Drainage portfolio Cr Kevin Casey



Safety Circus troops entertained and educated our region's children.



Bicycle Belles - Mackay's women-only cycling community.



Some significant projects were delivered this financial year:

- Buddy the clown, Lola the acrobat and Monty the magician visited Mackay primary schools to teach our kids about bike safety, bullying and protective behaviours. With support from Queensland Police Service and CQUniversity, a theatre production titled Safety Circus visited 40 different schools.
- We completed the Cross City Link segment of our award-winning Bluewater Trail. The link from Juliet Street to Milton Street has now been extended to connect to Bridge Road (the entire project is anticipated to be completed mid-2015).
- Working closely with Bicycle Connection, we also launched Bicycle Belles, a new cycling community for women.
- We unveiled a new \$1.35 million shared pathway along the trail from the River Street Boat Ramp to Burns Street. This extension allows cyclists from East Mackay to cycle safely to the City Centre.



Bike sheds allow residents to securely store their bike and personal items.



- We installed a secure \$68,000 bicycle parking facility (boasting 24 parking spaces and lockers for personal items) at Memorial Swim Centre.
- Free bike safety classes were provided with help from PCYC Mackay.
- We partnered with local businesses to promote Bike Week activities, social rides, roller racing, bicycle maintenance workshops and a superhero-themed community outing where participants rode alongside local Queensland Police Service crime fighters.
- We ran a State Government-funded TV campaign to highlight the new laws for motorists and cyclists sharing the road.



highlights



The Sarina Skate Park is ready for action.

Collaboration delivers new facility

Sarina's youth now have a new place to meet and practise their skating and BMX tricks with the completion of the new \$289,000 skate park. Located at Brewers Park, the facility opened in October with a free barbecue and ribbon cutting by Mayor Deirdre Comerford, State Member for Mirani Ted Malone and Sarina BMX President Victor Norton. Following considerable consultation and input from the community, the 450 square metre park boasts ramps, jumps and a large bowl. Council donated land for the site along with \$130,000 worth of funding; the State Government provided \$100,000 via its Get in the Game initiative and funds were also donated by Norton Earthmoving, Sarina Bendigo Community Bank and the Rotary Club of Sarina.



organisational excellence and **governance**

fast **facts** |

In 2013-2014:

- > we had 570,758 visits to council's website, mackay.qld.gov.au
- > our Facebook fan base grew by 64 per cent from 4043 to 6637 fans
- > we increased our eNewsletter subscribers by 5.8 per cent from 9540 to 10,097
- > 105,643 customer enquiries were handled through 1300 MACKAY
- > we cleaned 83 barbecues and 263 toilet cubicles weekly.

snapshots



Call centre enquiries

More and more enquiries and transactions are being made online via council's website, but we still posted an increase in the number of calls taken by our Client Service Officers. We handled 105,643 client enquiries compared to 104,855 in 2012-2013.

Our websites

We recorded a drop in visitations to our corporate website. This was largely due to the external website eRecruitment no longer being included in monthly visitation numbers.

We averaged around 47,000 visits per month to mackay.qld.gov.au and a 25 per cent increase in traffic to the MECC website in the financial year.

Website visits

Website	2012-2013	2013-2014
Council	596,155	570,758
MECC	170,268	214,256
Artspace Mackay	17,253	13,033
Botanic Gardens	15,554	15,129
Sarina Sugar Shed	6119	5063
ecoMackay	3797	4938
Mackay City Centre	163,993	220,520

Top five call centre enquiries

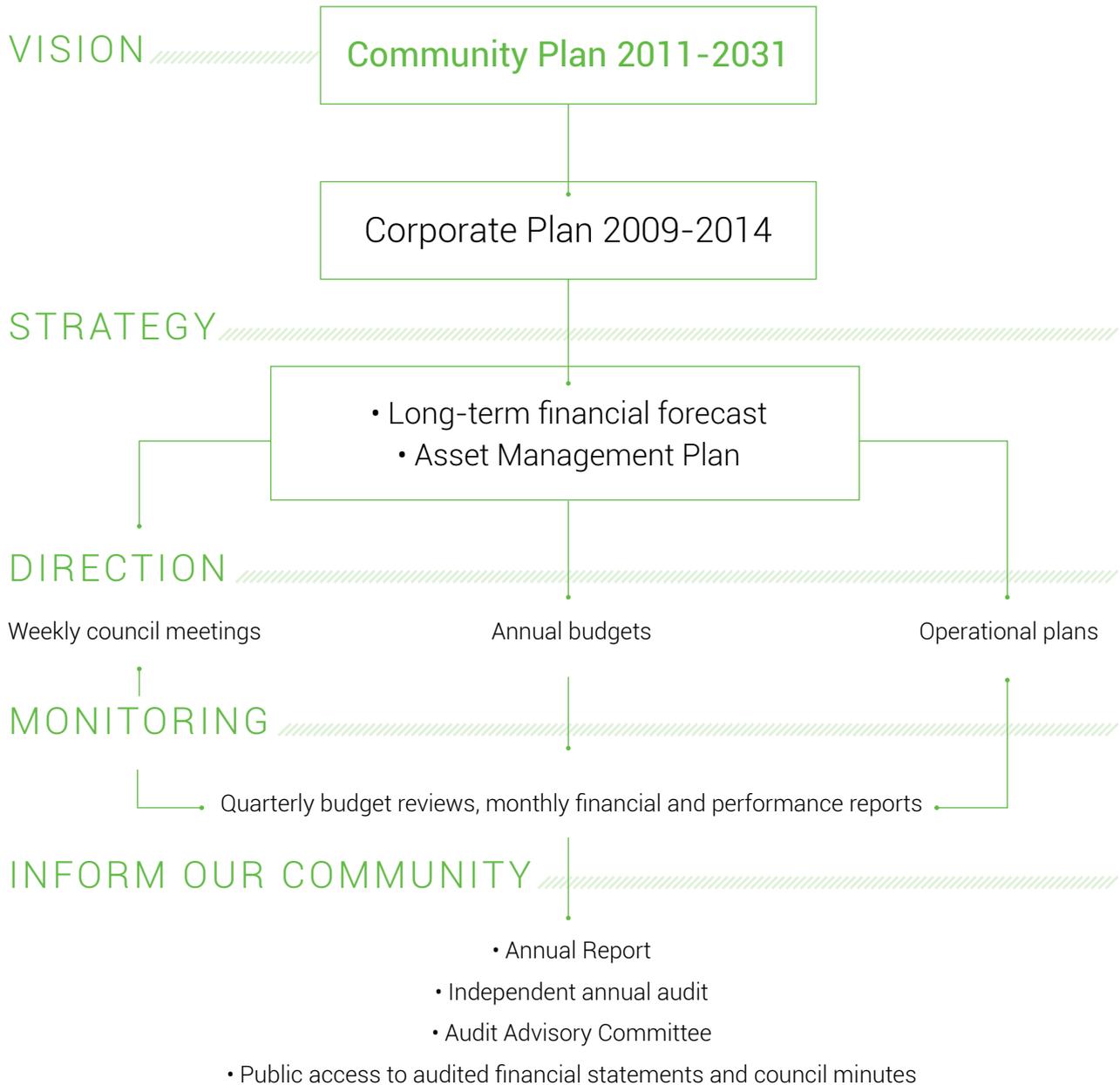
1. Rates
2. Local Laws
3. Water related issues
4. Wheelie bins
5. Waste related issues

awards

LGMA Challenge

Mackay Regional Council's team placed third at the Queensland LGMA Management Challenge.

our reporting framework



highlights



Above: Council's new look, user-friendly website. Left: Mackay Pound impounded 897 dogs in 2013-2014.

Pet registration

We recorded a 21 per cent jump in dog registration numbers with 13,689 being registered. Cat registrations also increased by 20 per cent. We impounded 897 dogs in 2013-2014 but achieved an 81 per cent success rate of re-homing the dogs, with 731 being returned to their owners or finding a new home.

New pet registrations

Year	Cats	Dogs
2010-2011	1462	7777
2011-2012	1894	9452
2012-2013	2273	11,249
2013-2014	2748	13,689

New-look website goes live

Our growing online presence received attention during the year, with a fresh, new website launched that is more functional and user-friendly. The site features brighter colours, larger fonts, the content has been simplified and we added an "I Want to" section, which sports quick links to our top 10 customer requests.

Ratepayers can also source all their account information online. Making this information available electronically has streamlined our management of rates enquiries, allowing customers to make payments on their rates account, check their balance and view a breakdown of all itemised charges at the click of a button, as opposed to phoning our Client Services Centres.

We also recorded a 64 per cent jump in likes on the Mackay Regional Council Facebook page. Followers on Twitter increased from 408 to 985 followers in June 2014.



Safety is a major focus across council.

Safety first

We carried out 370 safety inspections during the year and saw a drop in lost time injuries and fewer days lost due to injury. We recorded 99 fewer days lost to injury this year, down to 329 compared to 423 the previous financial year. This pleasing result can be attributed to Safe Plan (our Workplace Health and Safety system) which requires everyone to complete monthly safety actions.

In October, we joined a group of other councils in an external audit of Workplace Health and Safety management systems. This was a requirement for Local Government Workcare (LGW), the Workers Compensation provider for a large group of Queensland councils to maintain their self-insurance licence. We met the required standards for the audit and council was congratulated for our commitment and the overall result achieved.

Flexible, modern mapping system implemented

Our online mapping system MiMAPS (which stands for Mackay's Internet Mapping and Property System) is now mobile accessible. The application can be accessed across various mobile, web and desktop platforms and it's also compatible with all browser systems including Firefox and Google Chrome. The new system is user-friendly and more interactive with enhanced features and additional capabilities. Users can perform searches and analysis across multiple layers, integrate their MiMAPS location with Google's Street View (to view photographs of a property), print scaled maps, combine all layers into one view, add bookmarks and input their own GPS location.

highlights



President of LGA UK Sir Merrick met delegates from Ipswich, Cairns and Mackay.

"Local government is facing harsh financial challenges and we need to continually look at how to improve efficiencies, save money and review how we operate."

– CEO Barry Omundson

Shared services analysed

At the invitation of the Local Government Association of Queensland, our Mayor and CEO returned from a whirlwind five-day tour of UK councils in April armed with knowledge and strategies to achieve significant operational and service-delivery efficiencies.

Council has been actively reducing operational costs and continually looking at efficiencies. Some of the achievements include downsizing most vehicles (where appropriate) to four cylinders, which has been a saving of \$500,000. A reshaping of the management structure also produced significant cost savings.



Official documents

Our code of conduct, delegation register (which records the delegated levels of authority and instruments of authority held by all council officers), equal employment opportunity plan and Community Engagement and Guidelines Policy are now available on our website at mackay.qld.gov.au.

Working with our community

Residents and businesses have more opportunities to have their say on council initiatives with our Community Engagement Policy and Guidelines. These documents detail ways in which we, as a council, should inform, consult and involve residents in community consultation processes, allowing us to work together to effectively achieve our vision of a prosperous, sustainable and vibrant region.

Additions to our Community Engagement Policy include the provision of a proposed engagement strategy to be included in reports presented to council. The establishment of a Community Engagement Working Group and online register also allows our community access to view and provide feedback on any current consultations under way.

Council's Community Engagement Guidelines and Policy is available on our website at mackay.qld.gov.au/policies.

Audit committee

Council maintained an Audit Advisory Committee and an internal audit function during the reporting period.

The Audit and Risk Advisory Committee is established under section 105(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and is an advisory committee to council. Membership comprises two councillors and three external members. Council personnel, including the Chief Executive Officer, attend the committee meetings as observers to provide relevant information pertaining to the committee's terms of reference.

As at June 30, 2014, the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee membership comprised:

- Mayor Deirdre Comerford
- Councillor Ross Walker (Chair)
- Roy Peterson (independent member)
- Peter Sheville (independent member)
- Brad McCosker (independent member)

The committee met quarterly and provided a review and monitoring role over:

- Internal audit
- Risk management
- Legislative and policy compliance
- Financial reporting and external audit; and
- Council's control framework.

highlights



Internal audit

Council is committed to responsible governance and the internal audit function is an integral component of corporate governance. The function operates in accordance with an Internal Audit Charter approved by council and complies with State Government legislative requirements as well as meeting the professional standards of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

The objective of council's Internal Audit function is to provide a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management/mitigation processes, internal controls and governance activities. In addition to the traditional role of the internal audit function, the focus is equally balanced to "adding value" to business operations through identification of potential efficiencies, providing an advisory role to core processes and business initiatives development.

Internal Audit applies a risk based approach to its planning and activities and the Internal Audit Plan is prepared in alignment with the council's Enterprise Risk Management framework.

Activities in 2013-2014

- Delivering the risk based annual Internal Audit Plan covering assurance activities including compliance and performance improvement areas and providing advisory services where required;
- Internal audit reviews including the council's fraud and corruption framework, contract management, consultancy expenditure and recovery of fees and fines. Focus during this year was also directed to the development of data analytic reports specific to the areas of procurement and accounts payable;
- Reviews of the Internal Audit and Audit and Risk Advisory Committee charters; and
- Monitoring implementation of agreed internal and external audit recommendations.

Internal Audit attends the Audit and Risk Advisory Committee meetings and provides reports on elements of the approved Internal Audit Plan and other areas as required.



Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.

Code of Competitive Conduct for business activities

In accordance with sections 45 and 47 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, we resolved not to apply the Code of Competitive Conduct (the Code) to our Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (Type 3 business activity). Ultimately, we decided the costs of applying the Code would outweigh the benefits, and the activity has significant non-commercial objectives. We do not conduct any other business activities or prescribed activities.

Significant business activities

Below is a list of all business activities that we as a council have conducted during the financial year. The Local Government Regulation 2012 defines two types of significant business activities. Type 1 significant businesses are business activities that have expenditure of at least \$42.64 million for combined water and sewerage services and \$25.54 million for other business activities.

Type 2 significant businesses are business activities that have expenditure of at least \$12.77 million for combined water and sewerage services and \$8.55 million for other business activities. Our council has two significant business activities – Mackay Water and Mackay Waste. In accordance with legislation, we have resolved that these business activities be conducted as Type 2 business units.



Mackay **waste** services report

vision

Mackay Waste Services will be an innovative service provider recognised for its commercial performance, providing regional leadership, the respect of its customers and industry regulators and prides itself on its sustainability.

mission

Mackay Waste Services is committed to delivering sustainable waste services to the Mackay region in an efficient and commercially sustainable manner. Mackay Waste Services is a Type 2 commercial business unit of our council, providing waste management services to the Mackay community including waste collection, waste disposal and resource recovery.

fast facts

- > 1 major waste transfer station and 10 rural transfer stations
- > 2 recycling facilities (Materials Recovery Facility and Resource Recovery Facility)
- > 3 green waste facilities (Bucasia, Paget and Walkerston).

snapshots

Weekly rubbish bins collected 2013-2014

49,506 bins - up 1402 = 2.9% increase

Fortnightly recycling bins collected

48,762 bins - up 1527 = 3.24% increase

Kerbside waste bin collection

We collected about 965 tonnes less in our kerbside collection - 34,038 tonnes in total.

Hogan's Pocket Landfill waste

There was a 10 per cent drop in 2013-2014, the decrease is attributed to an increase in waste separation and decline in population growth and construction activity in our region. We recorded 103,961 tonnes in total.

Green waste recycling

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Dylan in February 2014 contributed to a 32.8 per cent increase in the collection of green waste for the year. We handled 9058 tonnes.

Materials Recovery Facility

Processed recyclables (in tonnes) at our Materials Recovery Facility

Recyclables	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Glass	895.94	394.48	340.22
Paper and cardboard	3334.62	4459.95	3866.93
H.D.P.E.	245.60	101.65	154.7
P.E.T.	214.22	94.92	110.08
Aluminum	298.81	140.92	142.48
Steel/Tin	494.54	142.81	212.86
Mixed plastics	269	119.66	89.9
Total (Tonnes)	5752.73	5454.39	4917.17

Overview of the 2013-2014 financial year

Waste Services had nine staff and a combined annual operating and capital budget of over \$34.7 million. Its operations were carried out according to our Annual Performance Plan that defines expectations in terms of performance, reporting, level of service and policy compliance.

Waste Services undertook the following work:

- contract management
- strategic procurement
- project management
- site management
- preventative and reactive management.



highlights



Sarina's new waste transfer station.

New waste facility for Sarina

This was a key project delivered six months ahead of schedule to meet the needs of our growing community. The \$2.8 million transfer station at Sarina is a state-of-the-art facility, which features purpose-built structures for the disposal and collection of green waste, individual containers for steel, white goods and other recycling programs, such as a DrumMUSTER compound.

Landfill a flaring success

Hogans Pocket's new landfill gas flare officially opened in July 2013. The \$500,000 project will significantly help reduce carbon emissions by burning off methane at the site.

In 2013-2014, 14,566 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emission (CO₂-e) was destroyed. This is equivalent to over 2600 cars being driven for a year.

Vision set for waste management

Reducing the amount of landfilled waste is a high priority under our new Waste Management Strategy. The strategy (which aligns with the *Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* and the Commonwealth Clean Energy legislation) identifies alternative options to reduce waste generation, increase recycling and decrease the amount going to landfill.



Hogans Pocket Cell 1 capping.

Hogans Pocket Cell 1 capping project

This \$3.7 million project is a part of council's push to reduce environmental impacts and maintain environmental standards when closing landfill cells.

We utilised a geomembrane capping system with clay rich fill. The benefits of capping landfill cells include:

- reduction of leachate generation by the ingress of water into the landfill cell
- improvement in controlling surface waters during rainfall events
- enhancement of landfill gas capture by the landfill gas collection system.

We also commenced drafting designs and tender specifications for the development of Cell 3 at Hogans Pocket. This new landfill cell, at a cost of \$4.8 million, will cater for our region's continued growth and provide an environmentally sound location for our waste.

We successfully secured \$2.5 million in funding for the project from the Queensland Government's Royalties for Regions.

"Try buying items with less packaging, think about how items can be reused and recycle what you can.

If we all work to reduce the amount of waste we generate, we can lengthen the life expectancy of Hogans Pocket and reduce overall operating costs."

– **Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio**
Cr Laurence Bonaventura

highlights



Mackay Coastal Clean Up volunteers lend a hand at Town Beach.

Pride of place

September's Great Northern Clean Up was hailed a success, with over 250 volunteers coming together across 15 sites region wide to collect five tonnes of rubbish.

We also threw our support behind the Mackay Coastal Clean Up, which is an initiative of Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc, and the BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) Hay Point Coal Terminal Expansion Stage 3 (HPX3) Project. In two days, we removed tonnes and tonnes of rubbish from 10 beaches.

Bin audit program

To improve our recycling rate and to educate residents, we conducted bin audits on 9724 yellow-lidded recycling bins. Bins were inspected three times over a six-week period and those found with major contaminants were removed from service. The audit found 16.7 per cent of bins had minor contamination and almost six per cent were found with major contamination.

Wheelie bin audit

During the year as part of good governance and preparation for the upcoming new waste collection contract, a project commenced to audit the bin numbers for collection services. So far 31,560 bins have been audited. During the audit some bins were noted as being presented without being paid for. They have now been added to the rates system and have additional services provided for or have been returned to council.



Cr Laurence Bonaventura congratulates Year 7 student Emma Mannzelmann from Victoria Park State School.

Waste education trailer

A key educational tool was our new waste education trailer. The vehicle ventured to many schools and community events delivering educational messages on recycling, worm farming and composting. The trailer has placed the winning art entry as part of its livery on the outside of the trailer.



Green waste diversion

2013-2014 proved to be a bumper year for diverting green waste from landfill. Council accepts green waste at its waste disposal centres and the material is then processed for other uses, such as producing garden mulch. For the reporting year it was forecast that 5800 tonnes would be processed. It turned out that 9058 tonnes was processed in 2013-2014.

Some of this increase is attributable to the impact of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Dylan but the majority is due to the wetter climate compared to the previous year.

Mackay **water** services report

vision

Mackay Water Services will be an innovative water service provider which is recognised for its commercial performance, provides regional leadership, has the respect of its customers and industry regulators and prides itself on its sustainability.

mission

Mackay Water Services is committed to delivering sustainable water services to the Mackay region in an efficient and commercially responsible manner.

overview

Water Services is a commercialised business unit of Mackay Regional Council that provides treated water services to over 40,541 residential connections and 3000 commercial and industrial connections – a total of over 100,000 consumers. The business also provides sewage collection and treatment services to over 49,413 connections, as well as non-potable recycled water to farming and public recreational establishments.

The business unit employs approximately 189 staff and has a combined annual operating and capital budget of over \$111 million. Its operations are carried out according to the annual Performance Plan that defines council's expectations in terms of performance, reporting, level of service and policy compliance.



fast facts |



In 2013-2014 we:

- > responded to over 5200 customer service requests
- > analysed over 5000 water samples
- > performed 132,000 laboratory tests on over 6700 samples
- > installed over 20,000 automatic meter reading devices this financial year
- > replaced over 7000 water meters
- > treated 14,359ML/year through 2 water treatment plants and 12 smaller facilities
- > recycled 3,981ML of water through the recycled water storages
- > 40,541 connections to the water network
- > maintained 1565km of water mains and a 764km wastewater network.



snapshots

Water consumption tariffs

Council is responsible for providing water and sewerage infrastructure for existing and future users of these services.

Tariff 1 0-150 kilolitres per half year \$1.70/kl

Tariff 2 Over 150 kilolitres per half year \$2.55/kl

Water access

The annual water access charge in 2013-2014 was \$348.35. Properties where a metered water supply has been connected were charged on a per factor basis. Vacant land is allocated one factor per allotment.

awards

Premier's Sustainability Awards

We were a finalist in the 2014 Premier's Sustainability Awards - under the 'Innovation in Sustainable Technologies' category.



The new Sarina Water Recycling Facility.

key projects

New sewerage treatment plant for Sarina

Significant progress was made on the construction of the \$37 million plant at Sarina. This project was a key deliverable in the 2013-2014 financial year with commissioning due to start in late August 2014.

The system features the latest technology and provides a more reliable and modern sewerage treatment plant to meet the needs of a growing Sarina township.

\$4 million sewerage pump station in Sarina

– to complement the new treatment plant, helping transfer Sarina's wastewater to the new sewerage treatment plant.

Construction started on \$10 million water treatment plant at Marian

– to provide a more reliable potable water supply for the future for Marian/Mirani and improve water quality by no longer using bore water supply.

Marian \$2 million raw water intake structure

– to provide a reliable source of water for the new Marian water treatment plant.

key projects |



Completion of \$4.5 million sewerage pump station upgrade and new rising main at prawn farm

– to provide for growth in the Northern Beaches area.

New water mains cater for growth

We installed over 400 kilometres of new water mains across the region to cater for our continued growth and replace our aging network.

Suburbs to benefit from the work included;

- Walters Avenue, Bucasia
- Waverly Street, Bucasia
- Milton Street, Mackay (Evan to George to Shakespeare)
- Graffunder Street, South Mackay
- Brooks Street, Sarina
- Broad Street, Sarina
- Brewers Road, Sarina
- Dawson Street, Sarina
- Stockbridge Street, West Mackay
- Kellys Road, Walkerston
- Bridge Street, Walkerston



It was another highly productive 12 months upgrading the region's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Some of the significant improvements saw the:

- Completion of new booster pump stations – Blacks Beach Reservoir and Eulbertie Avenue
- Completion of trunk main in conjunction with Bruce Highway/Stockroute Road intersection upgrade
- Completion of trunk and water mains in Milton Street (Gordon Street to Victoria Street) and Cemetery Road Phase 1
- Completion of concrete refurbishment works to the Mt Pleasant no. 1 water reservoir and cleaning program for Mackay's 40 reservoirs
- Completion of four sewerage pump replacements, six sewerage pump station upgrades and the construction of a new sewerage pump station at Bucasia
- Completion of two new sewer rising mains in Sarina and two in Mackay
- Continuation of the inflow and infiltration program including the rectification of defects
- Completion of the installation of new switchboards to Golf Links Pump Station and Nebo Road bores
- Telemetry upgrades to various water and sewerage assets.

Enforcement Notices and Penalty Infringement Notices

In the previous year, a new process was implemented which resulted in 27 Penalty Infringement Notices issued. We saw this drop significantly in 2013-2014, with 17 Penalty Infringement Notices issued for backflow prevention device, water theft and illegal connections.



Social marketing program

The "Watch the Flow of Your H₂O" social marketing campaign continued throughout the 2013-2014 year. The campaign's focus is to create awareness of our local water issues and encourage each member of the community to reduce their individual consumption. As our region continues to grow, our community is going to use a lot more water and the more water we use, the more investment required to keep up with the demand.

Education

More than 500 school students participated in the H₂O Education Program, which is provided free of charge. It provides an insight into our local water story, the water cycle and the journey water takes to reach our taps, as well as valuable information on water conservation practices.

Cross subsidies evaluation

Mackay Regional Council has undertaken an analysis of cross subsidies for the provision of water and sewerage services in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Department of Natural Resources (1998). The guidelines state that cross subsidies exist when one class of consumer pays less than the marginal cost of providing a given service, while another consumer pays more than the marginal cost for that same service.

The findings of an internal analysis undertaken found that no cross subsidies exist between consumer classes in the provision of water and sewerage services.



Regional Consumption

Total regional water use dropped slightly in the 2013-2014 financial year from 15,469.36ML last year to 15,012 in this reporting period.

2013-2014 regional consumption in megalitres

Nebo Road WTP (surface water + bores)	13,052
Sarina and beaches	1054
Marian/Mirani	515
Koumala	12
Finch Hatton	36
Gargett/Pinnacle	21
Walkerston	0
Eton	52
Midge Point	193
Calen	63
Bloomsbury	14
Total (megalitres)	15,012

community financial report

Our Community Financial Report contains a summary and analysis of our financial performance and position for the financial year.

Statements

To make it easier for readers to understand our financial management and performance, our report focuses on four key financial statements:

- income statement
- balance sheet
- statement of cash flows, and
- statement of changes in equity.

Income statement

How did we perform in relation to our trading result over the past 12 months?

Balance sheet

What do we owe and own at year end?

Statement of changes in equity

What is the wealth of the community at year end?

Statement of cash flows

Where has our cash been received and used during the past 12 months and how much remains at year end?

Results

Our financial results are reflective of a strong economic base and a sound capacity to service our obligations in the future.

Our long-term financial forecast provides a plan to address the challenges and demands associated with providing economic sustainability in a projected growth environment.

statement of comprehensive income

This statement measures how we performed in relation to income and expenses during the financial year.

This result does not necessarily represent surplus funds available for general use as certain items of revenue have restrictions on their use. Some revenue is non-monetary (e.g. contributed infrastructure assets such as roads, sewerage mains and water mains and parks constructed by developers on council's behalf, in new land subdivisions), while other revenue is constrained for use on specific future activities (e.g. developer contributions or grants used to maintain and/or expand the region's infrastructure).

Our financial results are reflective of a strong economic base and a sound capacity to service obligations in the future. Our long-term financial forecast provides a plan for the challenges and demands council faces in the current economic environment.

Snapshot of the region's assets

The table to the right illustrates the region's assets as at June 30, 2014.

Total revenue – where our money comes from

Our revenue totalled \$434 million in the 12 months ending June 30, 2014. The pie graph indicates that 47 per cent of council's revenue is generated from rates and around 43 per cent is received as grants and subsidies.

The high percentage of revenue from grants and subsidies, as was the case in the 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 years is directly related to the funding for the delivery of significant work under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangement.

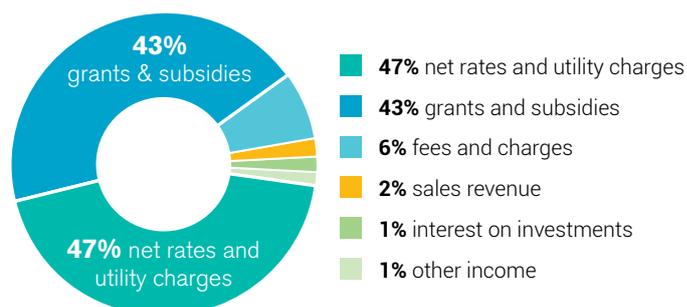
We actively seek revenue from other sources and attempt to maximise investment earnings to assist in funding the many services council provides.

Where our money is generated from

2013-2014 results

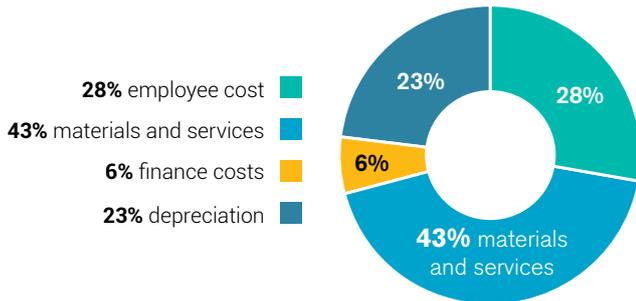
\$433,989,331	total income
- \$338,465,058	total expenses
= \$95,524,273	surplus

Assets	Total asset value	Written down value as of June 30, 2014
Land	\$252,396,129	\$252,396,129
Site improvements	\$101,287,823	\$82,278,453
Buildings	\$191,092,970	\$137,104,055
Plant and equipment	\$53,988,781	\$37,132,002
Heritage and cultural	\$3,743,920	\$3,535,088
Roads, bridges, drainage	\$2,022,930,540	\$1,787,757,527
Water	\$580,122,522	\$410,573,060
Sewerage	\$629,334,534	\$469,539,066
Waste	\$51,987,731	\$30,568,769
Work in progress	\$128,057,894	\$128,057,894
Total	\$4,014,942,844	\$3,338,942,043



Major items of capital expenditure included:

- NDRRA Works - \$37.7 million
- Waste Water Infrastructure - \$32.1 million
- Roads, Bridges and Drainage - \$23.1 million
- Water Infrastructure - \$13.2 million
- Waste Infrastructure - \$5.4 million
- Parks and Environment - \$2.6 million



Where our money goes

Council incurs both operational and capital expenditure in providing services to the community. Capital spending is added to the carrying value of assets as it maintains and expands council's asset base. The graph below shows the components of operating expenditure only. Our level of expenditure is monitored constantly throughout the year. Detailed estimates are prepared at the beginning of each financial year and performance is measured against these estimates through regular budget reviews, ensuring funds are utilised as efficiently as possible.

While council's operating costs amounted to \$273 million, we spent \$130 million on capital projects during the year.

Components of operating expenditure

statement of financial position

Our statement of financial position measures what we own and what we owe to relevant stakeholders at the end of the financial year.

The result of these two components determines the net wealth of council, which is effectively the net wealth of the community. Our community's net worth (what we own less what we owe) at the end of the financial year was about \$3.21 billion.

2013-2014 results

\$3.51 billion	Assets (what we own)
\$0.30 billion	Liabilities (what we owe)
<hr/>	
\$3.21 billion	Equity (community wealth)

What do our assets consist of?

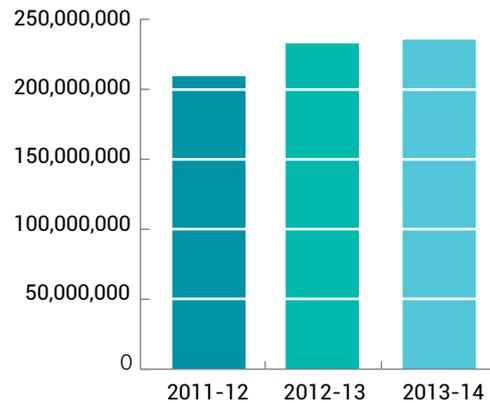
The bulk of our assets are in the form of infrastructure such as roads, drainage, water and sewerage assets which collectively make up 77 per cent of council's total asset base. Significant parts of council's expenditure in the long term financial forecast are focused on maintaining and upgrading these infrastructure assets, to cater for recent and projected future growth.

What do our liabilities consist of?

Most of our liabilities are in the form of loans and provisions which collectively represent 91 per cent of council's total liabilities. Loans are used to finance certain projects in order to ensure costs are shared across the generations who will receive a benefit from those assets. Provisions include the setting aside of funds to rehabilitate landfill and quarry sites administered by council as well as expenses relating to employee entitlements (e.g. long service leave).

The long-term financial forecast shows debt increasing over time as investment continues in major community infrastructure. Borrowings for the 2013-2014 year were for necessary water infrastructure and road assets including Connors Road and East Funnell Creek bridge. These infrastructure investments have all been driven by growth in the region and the use of debt ensures that residents of the future also contribute their fair share to the cost of these long-life assets.

Our outstanding debt at financial year end was about \$236 million. The bar graph shows the borrowings of Mackay Regional Council over the past three years. Increases are in line with council's long term financial forecast and in accordance with debt policy.



statement of changes in equity

This statement measures the change in our net wealth and considers such items as retained earnings and revaluations of our asset base.

A portion of the community wealth is cash backed by an appropriate level of internally imposed expenditure restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary or future use.

These restrictions are held in various reserves for management purposes and held to plan for future projects. With good planning this can place less reliance on loan borrowings or future rate increases and provides flexibility to ensure council can weather any unforeseen financial shocks or adverse changes in its business.

The current balance of these reserves total approximately \$126 million.

statement of cash flows

This statement identifies how we received and spent the money during the year. The end result details what cash is available at year end.

The cash balance is \$149 million, but it is important to note that a large portion of this amount is restricted for specific purposes such as NDRRA flood repairs and future capital works.

We pool and invest funds throughout the year in low risk short-term investments in accordance with council's investment policy.

Looking forward our short and long-term cash flows indicate that sufficient cash is available to meet recurring activities and capital expenditure.

2013-2014 results

opening balance	\$157,263,533
cash received	\$356,755,711
cash spent	\$364,527,754
cash available at year end	\$149,491,490

overall trends

The 2013-2014 financial year ended in a strong financial position, and council's long-term position has been rated as sound by the Queensland Treasury Corporation. Our commitment to maintain financial sustainability in the long term will allow us to meet future obligations and the demands of our community for the foreseeable future. This is supported by the 2013 Credit Review undertaken by Queensland Treasury Corporation, which included the following financial sustainability measures.

Measure of financial sustainability

Ratio	Target	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Operating surplus	Between 0% -10%	-2.5%	1.8%	3.0%	4.3%	5.4%	6.9%	8.1%	9.6%	10.6%	11.2%
Net financial liabilities	Not greater than 60%	49.0%	68.9%	70.6%	67.5%	70.8%	61.8%	59.7%	60.3%	57.5%	58.0%
Asset sustainability	Greater than 90%	139.5%	118.9%	92.8%	84.7%	105.8%	62.6%	61.1%	94.1%	88.7%	93.2%

Operating surplus ratio

This is an indicator of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes. A positive ratio indicates the percentage of total rates available to help fund proposed capital expenditure. Council's long term commitment to funding future capital growth is reflected in these results.

Net financial liabilities ratio

This is an indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of council can be serviced by its operating revenues. The benchmark established for the Local Government sector is a maximum of 60 per cent and results higher than this indicate that the flexibility to use debt to fund future projects may be restricted.

In order to address affordability issues and ensure intergenerational equity, we will continue to use loan funds to manage impacts of necessary major capital investment.

The increased debt levels are also reflective of the loss of significant water and sewerage subsidies. Despite exceeding the desired target, we remain confident in meeting the financial liabilities over the long term. It should also be noted that the projected results are significantly lower than previous projections.

We continue to review our sustainability and will also take the opportunity to review results arising from the Regional Sustainability Strategy which is currently underway.

Asset sustainability ratio

This ratio is an approximation of the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives.

Council is confident that the planned capital expenditure on the renewal of assets included in the long-term financial forecast contributes to asset replacement and renewal for the forecast period with information currently at hand. Further work on the asset management plans and Regional Sustainability Strategy will improve council's ability to make informed decisions regarding asset management into the future.

legislative requirements

Our legislative requirements section contains a summary of policies, rates, allowances, expenses, funding and committees undertaken by council and our councillors.

Borrowing Policy

Loans are used to fund major capital and infrastructure works so that repayments are spread over a number of years, as they have extended useful lives.

Our Borrowings Policy details new borrowings, the purpose of the borrowings and repayment terms. They are as follows:

Project	Repayment Term	2012-2013 Loan	2013-2014 Loan	2014-2015 Loan
General	9-20 years	12,837,137	13,899,043	38,000,000
Water	20 years	5,625,593	757,144	-
Sewerage	20 years	13,890,000	-	-
Cleansing	15-20 years	580,634	-	-
Total		\$32,933,364	\$14,656,187	\$38,000,000

Purposes of borrowing

The types of projects we fund by loan borrowings are usually large infrastructure projects which would have a significant financial impact if funded in one financial year. This method ensures that our ratepayers are not burdened with unrealistic expenditure levels. The repayment for these capital works creates an asset for council, which can then be repaid over a number of years reflective of the extended life of the asset, where appropriate.

Revenue Policy

Our Revenue Policy (adopted annually at the budget meeting) governs our revenue-raising activities. This policy provides details on how rates are levied and explains the differential rating system. All water, sewerage and waste charges are based on this policy, as well as special levies, rate remissions, payments and discounts and cost recovery on private works. Copies of our Revenue Policy are available at mackay.qld.gov.au/policies.

Special rates and charges

Under the *Local Government Act 2009* we're required to provide details of action taken in relation to, and expenditure on, a service facility or activity for which the Local Government made and levied a special rate or charge for the financial year and a summary of all rebates and concessions allowed by Local Government in relation to rates.

Special rate (City Centre Management)

A special rate was levied on properties within our City Centre precinct for City Centre Management. The revenue from these rates was used as core funding for the promotion, revitalisation and enhancement initiatives of our City Centre.

Special Charge (Rural Fire Services)

Where requested by a Rural Fire Brigade (or group thereof), we levy a Special Charge to provide assistance with their operations. All funds levied (less an administration charge) are paid to the relevant Rural Fire Brigade or group.

Rebates and concessions

We have six different rebates and concessions for our rates. These are Concessions for Eligible Pensioners, Remission for Non-Profit Community Organisations, Conservation Strategy - Rates Relief Policy, Rates Relief Policy and Concessions for Concealed Leaks Policy and Exceptional Circumstances Policy. Full details of these rebates and concessions are available within the Revenue Policy at mackay.qld.gov.au/policies.

Summary of expenditure

Department	Advertising	Entertainment/ Hospitality
Office of the Mayor & CEO	\$3952	\$46,542
Development Services	\$19,915	\$10,333
Organisational Services	\$3421	\$35,775
Community and Client Services	\$309,025	\$207,215
Engineering	\$25,991	\$20,804
Commercial Infrastructure	\$186,632	\$22,594
Total	\$548,936	\$343,263

Administrative action complaints

As an organisation we strive to uphold excellent standards. As a result, our Complaint Policy is in place to efficiently and effectively investigate and manage client complaints. A review, conducted by internal programs, identified a number of requests that were being incorrectly recorded in previous years and were considered to be an administrative action complaint. As a result, our number of administrative action complaints for 2013-2014 was 486. Most of these related to the non-principal place of residence rating category. We pride ourselves on possessing an open, client-focused and responsive complaints-handling process. A number of policies and procedures will be amended to ensure correct recording of information for reporting functions.

Councillors' Remuneration Policy

Our councillors' remuneration is determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal that sets remuneration levels for all councils across the state. Our council adheres to recommendations by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

Councillors' Reimbursement Policy

Our councillors' reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities policy (as required under the Local Government Regulation 2012) ensures accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred by our councillors and ensures they are provided with reasonable facilities to assist them in carrying out their civic duties. The policy is as follows:

Payment of expenses

Expenses will be paid to a councillor through administrative processes approved by our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) subject to the limits outlined in this policy, or council endorsement by resolution.

Expense categories

(i) Professional development

We will reimburse expenses incurred for mandatory professional development and/or discretionary professional development deemed essential for the councillors' roles. Any professional development, regardless of category and requiring overseas travel, requires formal council resolution. The Mayor attends the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ), Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and any other relevant conferences/seminars/workshops as the primary delegate. Councillors can attend workshops, courses, seminars and conferences that are related to their roles. Approval to attend is made by council resolution and therefore councillors should advise the CEO of their desire to attend an event. The CEO will provide a report to council seeking approval on behalf of the councillor.

(ii) Discretionary professional development

Each councillor can attend (at their own discretion) workshops, courses, seminars and conferences that improve their skills relevant to their role. This training is initially limited to \$5000 per councillor over the current term of office, but will be reviewed annually when setting the budget. There is no requirement for a council resolution to approve these attendances, however, the councillor would need to submit a request to the CEO (prior to attendance) and provide all relevant documentation within 14 days of attending the event to ensure their expenses are reimbursed.

(iii) Travel as required to represent council

We will reimburse local, interstate and, in some cases, overseas travel expenses (such as flights, motor vehicle, accommodation, meals and associated registration fees) deemed necessary to achieve the business of council where a councillor is an official representative of council and the activity/event and travel has been endorsed by resolution of council. (continued...)

Approval for such travel is to be approved either by resolution of council or by the Mayor and/or the CEO.

We will pay for reasonable expenses incurred for overnight accommodation when a councillor is required to stay outside our council area. Wherever possible all councillor travel approved by council will be booked and paid for by us in advance.

(iv) Private vehicle usage

Councillors' private vehicle usage will be reimbursed if the usage is for official council business.

This includes to:

- attend official council business/meetings/functions/community events and public meetings in the role of councillor
- investigate issues/complaints regarding council services raised by residents/ratepayers and visitors to the region.

Councillors making a claim for reimbursement of private vehicle usage can do so by submitting the appropriate form detailing the relevant travel based on log book details. The amount reimbursed will be based on the published Australian Tax Office business-use-of-motor-vehicle-cents-per-kilometre method and kilometre rate applicable at the time of travel. Councillors will be provided with an appropriate log book to assist in this process.

(v) Meals

We will reimburse reasonable costs of meals for a councillor when the councillor has incurred the cost personally and the meal was not provided within the registration cost of the approved activity/event, upon production of a valid tax invoice.

The following limits apply to the amount we will reimburse for meals: \$23 for breakfast (if the councillor is required to depart their home prior to 6am), \$25 for lunch and \$43 for dinner (if the councillor returns to their home after 9pm).

Expenses relating to the consumption of alcohol will not be reimbursed. Should the councillor choose not to attend a provided dinner/meal, then the full cost of the alternative meal shall be met by the councillor. Only one method of reimbursement will be permitted. Meal limits are in accordance with Taxation Determination TD 2009-2015 and will escalate in line with future Taxation Determinations as issued by the ATO from time-to-time.

(vi) Hospitality

Councillors may have occasion to incur hospitality expenses while conducting council business apart from civic receptions organised by council. The Mayor may particularly require additional reimbursement when entertaining dignitaries outside of official events. To allow for this expense, the following amounts can be claimed: \$500 per annum for councillors and Deputy Mayor and up to \$6000 per annum for the Mayor (based on the category assigned to council by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal).

To claim, the Mayor or councillor must provide a written statement of whom they entertained and an indication of the costs. Receipts, if available, should be provided but are not mandatory.

These limits will be increased annually on July 1 each year, adjusted by the movement in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index (CPI) at March 30 each year.

(vii) Accommodation

Councillors may need to stay away from home overnight while attending to council business. When attending conferences, they should take advantage of the package provided by conference organisers (if applicable) and therefore stay in the recommended accommodation unless prior approval has been granted by the CEO.

All councillor accommodation for council business will be booked and paid for by us. Suitable accommodation will be sought within a reasonable distance to the venue that the councillor is to attend. Should more than one councillor attend the same event, we will book and pay for a separate room for each attending councillor.

Provision of facilities

Council will provide facilities for the use of councillors in the conduct of their respective roles with council. All facilities provided remain our property and must be returned when the councillor's term expires. The facilities provided by us to councillors are to be used only for council business unless prior approval has been granted by resolution of council.

Facility categories

(a) Administrative tools and access to council office amenities

Councillors will be provided with the following:

- suitable office space at the administration building in Gordon Street, Mackay and council meeting rooms for daily use
- secretarial support for Mayor and councillors located at the administration building
- desktop and/or laptop computer
- use of our landline telephone and internet access
- fax and/or scanner
- printer, photocopier, paper shredder, filing cabinet
- stationery
- hands-free mobile telecommunications device for councillors' private vehicle
- any other administrative necessities, which we resolve are necessary to meet the business of council.

(b) Home office

We recognise that by using contemporary communication technologies (such as the internet for the electronic distribution of agendas and minutes) and the distance some councillors will have to travel if this technology was not used, there is a necessity to provide home-office facilities to councillors.

Accordingly, we will supply and pay for an internet connection and land-based phone line at the councillor's residence. We will pay installation costs (if required) and monthly costs for line rental and current internet package. These services will be in the name of the councillor and personal usage will be the councillor's responsibility.

(c) Maintenance costs of council-owned equipment

We are responsible for the ongoing maintenance and reasonable wear-and-tear costs of council-owned equipment that is supplied to councillors for official-business use. This includes the replacement of any facilities that fall under council's Asset Replacement Program.

(d) Uniforms and safety equipment

We will provide to a councillor:

- uniform allowance as per staff policy
 - council blazer, tie or scarf
- necessary safety equipment for use on official business (eg safety helmet, boots and safety glasses).

(e) Use of council vehicles on council business

Councillors will have access to a suitable council vehicle for official business. A councillor wishing to use a council vehicle for council business must submit a request to the CEO at least two days prior, except in exceptional circumstances as determined between the councillor concerned, Mayor and CEO.

(f) Private use of council vehicles

The Mayor will be provided with a fully maintained suitable council vehicle of no higher value than a Holden Statesman Caprice including all running costs provided for unlimited and unrestricted use by the Mayor for council business and private purposes in recognition of the duties required to be performed by the Mayor and the irregular hours required to attend council, community and civic responsibilities. Should the Mayor elect to use a privately owned vehicle, we shall pay for all kilometres travelled at the applicable ATO rate. Payment shall be made monthly, based on the monthly opening and closing odometer readings of the nominated vehicle.

(g) Fuel costs

All fuel used in a council-owned vehicle on official council business will be provided or paid for by us.

(h) Car parking amenities

We will provide councillors with car parking spaces at the main administration building. Councillors will be reimbursed for parking costs they have paid while attending official council business (eg secured vehicle parking at an airport).

(i) Telecommunication needs: mobile phones

To enable councillors to be able to communicate effectively, councillors will have the costs of a mobile phone package paid by us. The package will be the \$129 per month Personal Freedom Connect Plan, amended from time-to-time by the CEO as required. The councillor is to arrange the plan and provide us with the account details.

We will pay \$129 into the account monthly and any costs over and above those will be the councillor's responsibility.

(j) Insurance cover

Councillors will be covered under relevant council insurance policies while discharging civic duties. Specifically, insurance cover will be provided for public liability, professional indemnity, councillors' liability and personal accident.

We will pay the excess for injury claims made by a councillor resulting from the conduct of official council business and on any claim made under insurance cover. We will cover costs incurred through injury, investigation, hearings or legal proceedings into the conduct of a councillor, or arising out of (or in connection with) the councillor's performance of his/her civic functions. If it is found the councillor breached the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2009*, the councillor will reimburse us with all associated costs incurred by council.

(k) API card

Councillors may become API members.

(l) Limit

We may by resolution reduce or limit benefits receivable under this policy.

allowances

Councillors' allowances

Total remuneration paid to each of our councillors during 2013-2014, minus superannuation:

Councillors	Total
Cr Deirdre Comerford	\$154,636.04
Cr Kevin Casey	\$105,434.16
Cr Chris Bonanno	\$91,375.96
Cr Laurence Bonaventura	\$91,375.96
Cr Frank Gilbert	\$91,375.96
Cr Alison Jones	\$91,375.96
Cr Greg Martin	\$91,375.96
Cr Theresa Morgan	\$91,375.96
Cr David Perkins	\$91,375.96
Cr Paul Steindl	\$91,375.96
Cr Ross Walker	\$91,375.96

Councillors' superannuation

Total superannuation paid to each of our councillors during 2013-2014:

Councillors	Total
Cr Deirdre Comerford	\$18,556.20
Cr Kevin Casey	\$12,652.12
Cr Chris Bonanno	\$10,965.24
Cr Laurence Bonaventura	\$10,965.24
Cr Frank Gilbert	\$10,965.24
Cr Alison Jones	\$10,965.24
Cr Greg Martin	\$10,965.24
Cr Theresa Morgan	\$10,965.24
Cr David Perkins	\$10,965.24
Cr Paul Steindl	Nil*
Cr Ross Walker	\$10,965.24

* Councillor Paul Steindl elected not to take the superannuation contribution.

expenses

Councillors' expenses

Total expenditure for these services during 2013-2014:

Councillors	Conferences/ Travel	Private Vehicle Usage	Provision of Facilities	Totals
Cr Deirdre Comerford	\$14,315.93	-	\$13,395.59	\$27,711.52
Cr Kevin Casey	\$6607.34	\$4883.25	\$2998.80	\$14,489.39
Cr Chris Bonanno	\$2476.42	\$8952.52	\$2642.93	\$14,071.87
Cr Laurence Bonaventura	\$2156.47	\$2151.18	\$2806.57	\$7114.22
Cr Frank Gilbert	\$7399.45	-	\$3040.50	\$10,439.95
Cr Alison Jones	\$2582.65	\$3882.94	\$2980.29	\$9445.88
Cr Greg Martin	\$5186.05	\$688.94	\$2839.26	\$8714.25
Cr Theresa Morgan	\$2529.09	\$4776.70	\$3252.56	\$10,558.35
Cr David Perkins	\$5026.17	\$5369.60	\$2646.22	\$13,041.99
Cr Paul Steindl	\$11,302.82	-	\$2743.12	\$14,045.94
Cr Ross Walker	\$667.00	\$2726.90	\$2941.12	\$6335.02
Totals	\$60,249.39	\$33,432.03	\$42,286.96	\$135,968.38

Senior management remuneration

Under section 201 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, we provide the total remuneration paid to senior executive employees, including the CEO and employees reporting directly to the CEO during the financial year.

Remuneration for senior management during 2013 - 2014:

Income range	Number of packages
\$100,000 - \$200,000	2
\$200,000 - \$300,000	6

meetings

Council meetings from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014:

Councillors	Ordinary	Special meetings	Absent on council business	Leave of absence
Cr Deirdre Comerford	38	2	5	2
Cr Kevin Casey	38	2	3	4
Cr Chris Bonanno	43	2	2	0
Cr Laurence Bonaventura	41	2	0	4
Cr Frank Gilbert	40	2	0	5
Cr Alison Jones	37	1	1	7
Cr Greg Martin	38	2	3	4
Cr Theresa Morgan	39	2	1	5
Cr David Perkins	44	2	1	0
Cr Paul Steindl	43	2	2	0
Cr Ross Walker	45	2	0	0
Total meetings	45	2		

Councillor complaints

There were no formal complaints investigated.

registers

Council maintains a list of registers that are available on request. These include:

- Register of animal impoundment
 - Register of assets
- Register of authorised persons
 - Register of cats and dogs
 - Register of cemetery
 - Register of complaints
- Register of conflict/material personal interest
 - Register of contracts
- Register of councillor complaints
 - Register of delegations
 - Register of electoral gifts
 - Register of gifts and benefits
- Register of infrastructure agreements
 - Register of infrastructure notices
 - Register of installed on-site sewerage and greywater use facilities
 - Register of interests
 - Register of land records
 - Register of licensing
 - Register of lobbyists
 - Register of local laws and subordinate local laws
 - Register of regulatory fees
 - Register of roads and road maps
 - Register of stock impoundment
 - Register of testable backflow prevention devices
 - Register of vehicle impoundment

committees

Local, State or Federal Government Committees

The following is a list of councillor appointments to committees and groups, both internal and external to council from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Portfolio	Councillor	Committee	Internal/ External	Other Councillor Representatives
Emergency Management	Mayor Deirdre Comerford	Artspace Foundation Executive Committee	External	
		City Centre Project Control Group	Internal	Cr Greg Martin, Cr Chris Bonanno
		LGAQ Policy Executive	External	
		Mackay District Disaster Management Group	External	
		Mackay Community Foundation	External	
		Mackay Local Disaster Management Group	Internal	Cr Kevin Casey, Cr Paul Steindl
		Mackay Local Disaster Recovery Group	Internal	Cr Kevin Casey, Cr Paul Steindl
		Trustees of the Mackay Showgrounds	External	
		Regional Capitals Australia Board	External	
		Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC)	External	
		Whitsunday ROC	External	
Roads and Drainage	Cr Kevin Casey	Infrastructure Recovery Sub Group	Internal	Cr David Perkins, Cr Frank Gilbert
		North Queensland Local Government Association	External	
		Roads Accident Action Group	External	
		Rural Affairs Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr David Perkins
		Traffic & Regulated Parking Advisory Committee	Internal	Cr Laurence Bonaventura
		Walking & Cycling Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Paul Steindl
		Whitsunday Regional Roads & Transport Group	External	Mayor Comerford
Festival, Events and the Arts	Cr Chris Bonanno	Citysafe	External	
		Crimestoppers	External	
		Mackay Regional Showcase Committee	External	
		Regional Arts Development Fund Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Theresa Morgan
		Revitalising Artspace Working Group	Internal	
		River Rock to Mountain Top Festival Organising Committee	External	Cr Ross Walker
		Sarina Festival Organising Committee	External	
		Visual Arts Advisory Committee	Advisory	
Waste, Health and Regulatory Services	Cr Laurence Bonaventura	Improving Waste Outcomes Working Group	Internal	
		Local Authorities Waste Management Advisory Committee	External	
		Rural Safety Working Group	External	
Water and Sewerage	Cr Frank Gilbert	CTM Water Alliance Executive Committee	External	
		Water & Sewerage Capital Advisory Committee	Advisory	Mayor Comerford, Cr Ross Walker
		Mackay Water Recycling Project Growers Meeting	Internal	
		Reducing Water Consumption Working Group	Internal	
		St Vincent De Paul Housing Committee	External	

Local, State or Federal Government Committees

The following is a list of councillor appointments to committees and groups, both internal and external to council from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Portfolio	Councillor	Committee	Internal/ External	Other Councillor Representatives
Community and Client Services	Cr Alison Jones	Community Grants Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Paul Steindl Cr Chris Bonanno
		Equity Access Advisory Committee	Advisory	
		Human Social Recovery Group	Internal	Cr Chris Bonanno
		Cultural Diversity Advisory Group	Advisory	
		Mackay Drop In Centre	External	
		Greenmount Heritage Fair Planning Committee	External	
		Mackay Historical Society	External	
		Mackay Matsuura Sister City Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr David Perkins
		Mackay Safe Healthy Communities Network Support Group	External	Cr Frank Gilbert
		Pioneer Valley Museum	External	
		Regional Social Development Centre	External	
		Sarina Historical Centre Committee	External	
Townsville Mackay Medicare Local	External			
Tourism and Economic	Cr Greg Martin	City Centre Taskforce	Internal	Cr Chris Bonanno
		Economic Recovery Sub Group	Internal	Cr Ross Walker
		Mackay Tourism Ltd	External	
		North Qld Bulk Ports Community Reference Group - Mackay	External	
		Tourism Assets Working Group	Internal	Cr Chris Bonanno
		Sarina Tourist Arts & Craft Board	External	
		Sarina Bendigo Community Bank Grants Committee	External	
		Sarina Rural Skills Centre Management Board	External	
Sarina Field of Dreams Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Theresa Morgan		
Tourism & Events Advisory Committee	External	Cr Chris Bonanno		
Parks and Environment	Cr Theresa Morgan	Environment Recovery Sub Group	Internal	Cr Laurence Bonaventura, Cr Paul Steindl
		Local Marine Advisory Committee (GBRMPA)	External	
		Improving Visual Amenity Working Group	Internal	
		Natural Environment Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Alison Jones
		Pioneer Catchment & Landcare Group	External	
		Sarina Landcare Integrated Catchment Management Association	External	
		Sustainable Futures Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Frank Gilbert
Planning and Development	Cr David Perkins	Character & Heritage Advisory Committee	Advisory	Cr Greg Martin, Cr Chris Bonanno
		Regional Sustainability Advisory Committee	Advisory	Mayor Comerford, Cr Ross Walker
		Development Assessment Review Team	Internal	
		Developers Forum	Internal	Mayor Comerford
		Mackay Regional Housing Company Limited	External	
Yantai Committee	External	Cr Greg Martin		

Local, State or Federal Government Committees

The following is a list of councillor appointments to committees and groups, both internal and external to council from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Portfolio	Councillor	Committee	Internal/ External	Other Councillor Representatives
Sport, Recreation and Facilities	Cr Paul Steindl	Brewers Park Sporting Committee	Internal	
		CQU Working Group	Internal	
		DBCT Community Working Group	External	
		North Qld Sports Foundation	External	
		North Qld Bulk Ports Community Reference Group - Hay Point	External	
		Sarina Sugar Shed Taskforce	Internal	Cr Greg Martin, Cr Chris Bonanno
		Sports Expo & Sign-On Day Working Group	Internal	
		South Mackay Sporting Precinct Working Group	Internal	
Finance, Asset Management and IT	Cr Ross Walker	Audit Advisory Committee	Advisory	Mayor Comerford
		Asset Management Steering Committee	Internal	
		Rates Review & Alternate Sources of Revenue Working Group	Internal	Mayor Comerford, Cr Chris Bonanno, Cr Frank Gilbert

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

This fund is a partnership between our council and Arts Queensland that supports one-off, short-term projects that offer professional arts, cultural and heritage opportunities for our community.

The total amount allocated to the RADF program for the 2013-2014 financial year was \$160,000.

RADF funding source	Amount
Arts Queensland contribution	\$74,000
Council contribution	\$86,000

Breakdown of allocations	Amount
Allocation for community projects – four rounds at \$38,250 per round	\$153,000
RADF community committee training	\$7000

grants

Community Grant Program

We provided grants to local not-for-profit community groups to help provide services, events and activities to benefit our community.

Applications are accepted twice each financial year and local not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding through the following six categories:

- community organisation development
- community facilities upgrade/development
- sport and recreation development
- community arts and cultural development
- community events development
- small equipment.

Community Grant Program

The following is a summary of expenditure from our Community Grant Program. Grants of more than \$4000 for the financial year are detailed below (grants less than \$4000 totalled \$23,110.57).

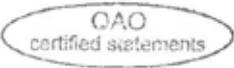
Organisation	Program description	Amount
Bloomsbury Soldiers Memorial Hall	Assist laying concrete at rear of hall as the base of a memorial garden.	\$5000
Coalition of Community Boards	Supporting the employment of a project worker.	\$5000
Mackay & District Pipe Band	Stage a free community concert held at MECC in November 2013.	\$4500
Mackay Choral Society Inc	Assist in staging the North Queensland Eisteddfod in Mackay Easter 2014.	\$5000
Mackay Churches Together	Subsidise costs for National Day of Thanksgiving Community Festival in 2014.	\$5000
Mackay Epilepsy Support Group	Purple Day Ball 2014.	\$5000
Sarina Tourist Arts & Crafts Centre	Construction of a public ramp at Mt Pelion School building to be relocated to the "Field of Dreams" Sarina.	\$5000
Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) LTD	Assist hosting Wantok Mackay 2014 forum.	\$4722.30
Film and Arts Mackay Inc	Hire costs of venue and films for the Mackay International Film Festival.	\$5000
Mackay and Regional Football Zone	Development and implementation of a five year strategic and operational plan.	\$5000
Mackay Australian Football League Inc.	Ongoing development of Harrup Park as Mackay's principal AFL venue.	\$5000
Mackay Surf Life Saving Club	Purchase of a beach sweeper.	\$5000
Pioneer Valley Country Music Association Inc.	Costs associated with running the 2014 Country Music Festival.	\$5000
Sarina Arts Council	Planning, producing and presenting the Sarina Arts Extravaganza.	\$5000
Sarina Festival Inc.	Operational costs of the 2014 Sarina Festival.	\$5000
Sensory Circus Tribe	Creating a theatrical circus production "Fractured Faerie Tales" July 2014.	\$4400

independent auditor's report

Our Independent Auditor's Report can be found in full on the CD included.

The following is a copy of our

- Financial Sustainability Statement
- Management Certificate and;
- Certificate of Accuracy.



MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2014

Management certificate
For the year ended 30 June 2014

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared pursuant to Section 176 and 177 of the Local Government Regulation 2012 (the Regulation) and other prescribed requirements.

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that :

- (i) the prescribed requirements of the Local Government Act 2009 and Local Government Regulation 2012 for the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
- (ii) the general purpose financial statements, as set out on pages 1 to 54, present a true and fair view, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, of the Council's transactions for the financial year and financial position at the end of the year.

 Mayor Deirdre Comerford Date: <u>08 / 10 / 14</u>	 Chief Executive Officer Barry Omundson Date: <u>08 / 10 / 14</u>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor of Mackay Regional Council

Report on the Financial Report

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Mackay Regional Council, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and certificates given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

The Council's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with prescribed accounting requirements identified in the *Local Government Act 2009* and *Local Government Regulation 2012*, including compliance with Australian Accounting Standards. The Council's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control, other than in expressing an opinion on compliance with prescribed requirements. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

The *Auditor-General Act 2009* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and all authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland public sector entities and can be removed only by Parliament.

The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

Opinion

In accordance with s.40 of the *Auditor-General Act 2009* –

- (a) I have received all the information and explanations which I have required; and
- (b) in my opinion -
 - (i) the prescribed requirements in relation to the establishment and keeping of accounts have been complied with in all material respects; and
 - (ii) the financial report presents a true and fair view, in accordance with the prescribed accounting standards, of the financial performance and cash flows of Mackay Regional Council for the financial year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and of the financial position as at the end of that year.

Other Matters - Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

Those viewing an electronic presentation of these financial statements should note that audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the information presented electronically and does not provide an opinion on any information which may be hyperlinked to or from the financial statements. If users of the financial statements are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic presentation of information, they are advised to refer to the printed copy of the audited financial statements to confirm the accuracy of this electronically presented information.



B MACRAE FCPA
as Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland



Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor of Mackay Regional Council

Report on the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

I have audited the accompanying current-year financial sustainability statement, which is a special purpose financial report of Mackay Regional Council for the year ended 30 June 2014, comprising the statement and explanatory notes, and certificates given by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer.

The Council's Responsibility for the Current-Year Financial Sustainability Statement

The Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the current-year financial sustainability statement in accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. The Council's responsibility also includes such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the statement that is accurately calculated and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the current-year financial sustainability statement based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with the *Auditor-General of Queensland Auditing Standards*, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit is planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Council's preparation and fair presentation of the statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Council, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the statement.

My responsibility is to form an opinion as to whether the statement has been accurately calculated based on the Council's general purpose financial report. My responsibility does not extend to forming an opinion on the appropriateness or relevance of the reported ratios, nor on the Council's future sustainability.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

The *Auditor-General Act 2009* promotes the independence of the Auditor-General and all authorised auditors. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Queensland public sector entities and can be removed only by Parliament.

The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

Opinion

In accordance with s.212 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, in my opinion, in all material respects, the current-year financial sustainability statement of Mackay Regional Council, for the year ended 30 June 2014, has been accurately calculated.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, attention is drawn to Note 1 which describes the basis of accounting. The current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management (Sustainability) Guideline 2013* for the purpose of fulfilling the Council's reporting responsibilities under the *Local Government Regulation 2012*. As a result, the statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Matters - Electronic Presentation of the Audited Statement

Those viewing an electronic presentation of this special purpose financial report should note that audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the information presented electronically and does not provide an opinion on any information which may be hyperlinked to or from the financial statements. If users of the financial statements are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic presentation of information, they are advised to refer to the printed copy of the audited financial statements to confirm the accuracy of this electronically presented information.



B MACRAE FCPA.
as Delegate of the Auditor-General of Queensland



Queensland Audit Office
Brisbane

MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Current-year Financial Sustainability Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2014

Certificate of Accuracy
For the year ended 30 June 2014

This current-year financial sustainability statement has been prepared pursuant to Section 178 of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

In accordance with Section 212(5) of the Regulation we certify that this current-year financial sustainability statement has been accurately calculated.



Mayor
Deirdre Comerford

Date: 08 / 10 / 14



Chief Executive Officer
Barry Omundson

Date: 08 / 10 / 14

*If this CD is missing, you can view the
independent Auditor's Financial Report by
visiting www.mackay.qld.gov.au*



PO Box 41 Mackay Qld 4740 Phone **1300 MACKAY** (622 529) mackay.qld.gov.au