



OBERON COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014



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# CONTACT DETAILS

OBERON COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION CENTRE and COUNCIL CHAMBERS	137-139 Oberon Street PO Box 84 Oberon NSW 2787	Phone 6329 8100 / Fax 6329 8142 Email <a href="mailto:council@oberon.nsw.gov.au">council@oberon.nsw.gov.au</a> Website <a href="http://www.oberon.nsw.gov.au">www.oberon.nsw.gov.au</a>
OBERON FIRE CONTROL CENTRE	12 North Street, Oberon	Phone 6329 0493 / Fax 6336 0151
OBERON LIBRARY	74A Dart Street, Oberon	Phone 6329 8220 / Fax 6329 8223
OBERON SWIMMING POOL	15 Cunynghame Street, Oberon	Phone 6329 8250
OBERON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE and COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE	Corner Ross Street and Edith Street, Oberon	Phone 6329 8210 or 6329 8212 Fax 6329 8213
ROBERT (BOB) HOOPER COMMUNITY CENTRE	9 Fleming Street, Oberon	Phone 6329 8100 Mobile 0429 207 224
WORKS DEPOT	21-41 Albion Street Oberon NSW 2787	Phone 6329 8200 Fax Workshop 6329 8206 Fax Store 6329 0080



# OUR COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS – Elected September 2012

Councillor	Phone	Email
Ian Doney	6337 5793	ian.doney@oberon.nsw.gov.au
Jill Evans	6336 1254	jill.evans@oberon.nsw.gov.au
Neil Francis	6337 0316	neil.francis@oberon.nsw.gov.au
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John McMahon	6336 1487	john.mcmahon@oberon.nsw.gov.au
John Morgan	6337 5010	john.morgan@oberon.nsw.gov.au
Kathy Sajowitz	6336 0742	kathy.sajowitz@oberon.nsw.gov.au

## MAYOR

Councillor John McMahon was Elected Mayor in September 2012 and again in September 2013.

## DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Kerry Gibbons was Elected Deputy Mayor in September 2012 and again in September 2013.





# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am pleased to provide the 2013/14 Oberon Council Annual Report. The report provides an overview of the Council's activities for the year and measures Council's performance against its objectives as set out in its Community Strategic Plan.

Investigation by the Independent Local Government Review Panel into the future sustainability of Local Government remains high on the agenda with the Review Panel handing down its report in October 2013. Oberon Council has provided a submission in relation to the Review Panel's findings and stated its opposition to forced amalgamations and suggested boundary adjustments to include in the Oberon Local Government Area (LGA) parts of Bathurst Regional Council and Lithgow City Council, which can be better serviced by Oberon Council and therefore provide further economies of scale to improve the sustainability of all 3 LGA's.

During early 2014 Council undertook extensive community consultation regarding a proposal to fluoridate the Oberon town water supply. A Public Information Session and two Community Meetings were held and Council decided not to proceed with the proposal at this time.

Council continues to work with the Central Western NSW Regional Organisation of Council's to progress projects on a regional basis and have been involved in several regional procurement programs.

We have undertaken a number of major projects to enhance community facilities including:

- Renovations to the Oberon Netball Court Toilets, addition of a Meeting Room and lighting at the Oberon Netball courts.
- Commencement of reconstruction of a section of O'Connell Road know as the Oberon West Project on behalf of Roads and Maritime Services
- Reconstruction and widening of a section of Abercrombie Road
- Trial of new drainage practices on unsealed rural roads

Construction of the Columbia Homes 66 bed Aged Care facility commenced during the year and the facility is expected to be completed in early in 2015. This facility will be of great benefit to our elderly residents and will also provide new employment opportunities for the region.

The Oberon community welcomed Andy Paschalidis as our Australia Day Ambassador and held an official ceremony to present Citizen of the Year Awards at the Oberon Showground. We congratulate Janifer Torner as this year's Citizen of the Year, James Adams and Sophie Robinson as joint recipients of the Young Citizen of the Year Award and Brian Dellow as Local Legend of the Year. I would like to pass on my congratulations to all of the award winners.

Functions were also held throughout the year to mark Youth Week, Seniors Expo, Seniors Week and International Women's Day. Support was also provided to assist community organisations with activities including the Highland Steam and Vintage Fair, Oberon Show, Oberon Spring Garden Festival and Christmas in the Common. The Oberon Youth Council formed early in 2014 and held their first successful event a Youth Disco and Talent Quest in April 2014.

The tourism industry continues to expand in Oberon and this has been enhanced by the launch of recreational canoeing, kayaking and electric powered craft which are now accessible on Lake Oberon. The timber industry continues to provide economic stability for the region. Investigations into the re-opening of the Burruga Mine in 2014/15 will provide further job opportunities.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our volunteers, Community Transport drivers and Section 355 Committee Members.

**Mayor John McMahon**



# GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

This Annual Report highlights the progress in achieving the Strategic Outcomes and individual Actions contained in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the financial year 2013/2014. This is the second year that Oberon Council has changed its way of reporting to the community to comply with the changed requirements set in place with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework established by the NSW State Government.

In preparing the draft Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2013, Councillors and management staff again made presentations to the community with visits to Black Springs, Burruga, and O'Connell and also attending Public Information Sessions at the Robert Hooper (Bob) Community Centre in Oberon. In addition Councillors and management staff attended meetings of a number of community groups and organisations throughout the year.

As mentioned in the Message by our Mayor, Councillor John McMahon, there was a significant community consultation process for the proposal to add fluoride to the Town Water Supply. We arranged a Public Information Session and two Community Forums and members of our community made presentations at Council Meetings to voice their opinions about the proposal.

We also sought to improve our community engagement processes during the year including the use of Social Media, ensuring our Website was maintained with up to date details about current activities, posting brochures about our activities on the Community Notice Boards and combining our weekly advertising in a single page for each weekly edition of the Oberon Review, which is the Weekly Newspaper distributed within the Oberon area.

The financial year started with our official Sesquicentenary Celebrations in July with an inspiring Street Parade which involved most of the organisations and groups within our community. The Celebrations were officially opened at the Oberon Showground by the Governor of NSW Marie Bashir AC CVO. We were again privileged to have the Governor attend our official Sesquicentenary Dinner. During the next few months there were several community events held to mark the 150th anniversary for the naming of the town of Oberon.

During the year Councillors and management staff were involved in the local government reform process, attending briefings and meetings held to examine and consider the possible future structure of local Councils in NSW. We made submissions to the Independent Local Government Review Panel reinforcing our opposition to forced amalgamations of Councils and have actively participated in all parts of the reform process.

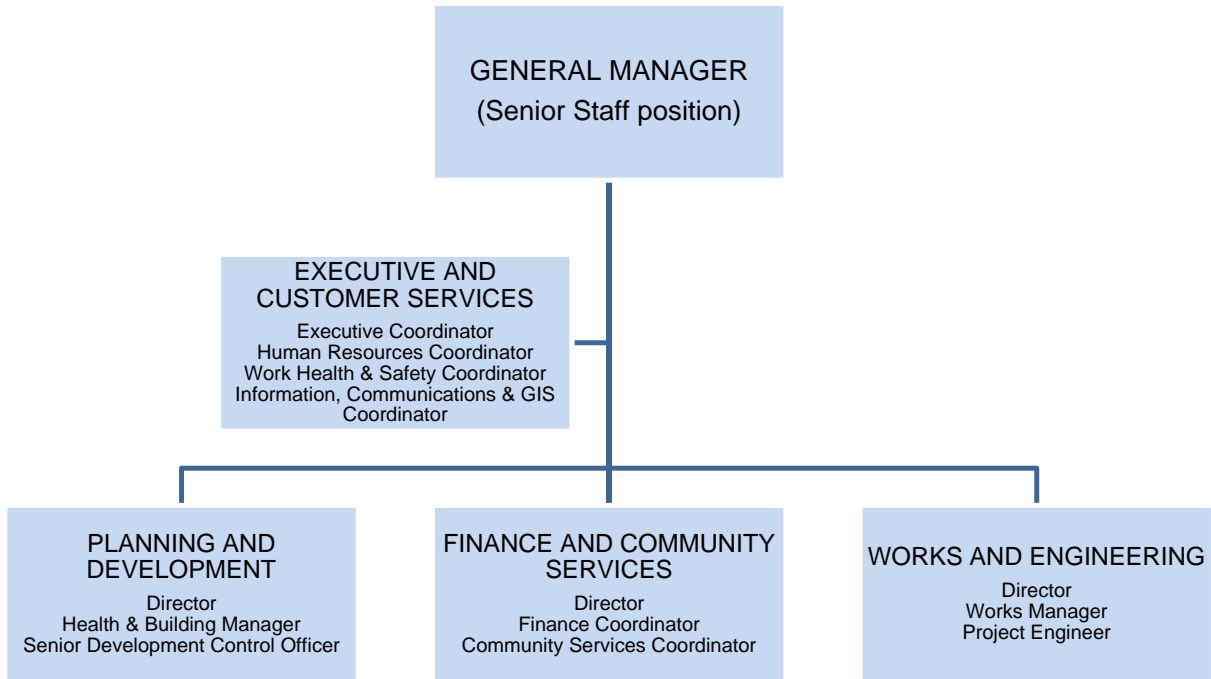
Meanwhile the business of managing the operational aspects of Council's activities continued throughout the year and I have been supported by three Department Directors, who along with me form our Executive Management Team. Gary Wallace leads the Planning & Development Department, with Aruna Wickramasinghe leading the Works & Engineering Department. John Chapman who had been our Director of Corporate Services for 8 years resigned in March 2013 with Lynette Safranek commencing as our Finance & Community Services Director in November 2013.

I am personally pleased with the achievements during the last financial year and look forward to working with the Elected Council, and our Community to achieve the strategic outcomes that we have again identified in the Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2014.

**Alan Cairney, General Manager**

# WORKFORCE / ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Organisation Structure was reviewed by Council in March 2013. The following represents the current structure in operation.



Executive Management Team Left to Right

Planning and Development Director Gary Wallace, General Manager Alan Cairney, Finance and Community Services Director John Chapman (resigned during reporting period) and Works and Engineering Director Aruna Wickramasinghe



# PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Council's Planning and Development Department helps to conserve, protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the Oberon Local Government Area. Council has a primary responsibility of ensuring our sensitive environment is retained and, where possible, enhanced through the application of appropriate building and development controls.

## **Waste Operations**

Our Planning and Development Department has control over Domestic Waste and Landfill Operations in Oberon and the Waste Transfer Stations located at Black Springs and Burruga. Key projects include a major re-development within the Oberon landfill site to incorporate a waste recovery area for recycling in an attempt to reduce the total of entombed waste.

## **Strategic Planning – Oberon Local Environmental Plan 2013**

This includes the implementation of the Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan that was made on 20 December 2013. This is seen as a huge step in guiding development in the Oberon LGA over the next twenty years.

## **Development & Building Control**

Generally the development and building control function relates to buildings such as houses, sheds, commercial and industrial developments as well as the subdivision of land.

Development control is a statutory function of the Planning & Development Department and provides a prescribed approval process whereby people submit applications for determination by Council. The Department is responsible for exercising that function and has a duty to ensure that the use and development of land occurs, and is enforced, in the manner that is suitable for area.

## **Companion Animals**

The Department undertakes Companion Animal Management functions and activities, in accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and the associated Regulations.

Council employs two part time Animal Control Officers and we operate an Animal Pound Facility in Oberon.

The pound has capacity to house up to 12 dogs and 10 cats. Residents are encouraged to have their dogs and cats micro-chipped, which is quick, painless, and easy and is the easiest way a pet can be returned home, so it should be top priority for every pet owner.

## **State of the Environment Report**

A Regional State of Environment Report has been prepared in partnership with the Central West Catchment Management Authority through the Central West Local Government Reference Group, which comprises the 16 Local Government Areas within the Central West Catchment area.

This SoE Report covers the entire catchment and contains information about environmental issues across the catchment, ranging from water and air quality to noise pollution and bio-diversity.



Construction of the Columbia Homes Aged Care Facility





# FINANCE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lynette Safranek commenced during November as the Finance & Community Services Director with responsibility for revenue control, financial reporting, accounts receivable and payable, investments, and purchasing and procurement and management of community facilities. The facilities consist of the Oberon Library, Community Centre, and the Community Technology Centre. The Community Services staff are involved in planning and coordinating community events, as well as the coordination and participation in the Seniors Welfare Committee, Community Services Committee, and Oberon Youth Council.

Considerable resources were allocated during the year ended 30 June 2014 towards assistance with the preparation of Council's Long Term Financial Plan for the 10 years, a 4 year budget to supplement the Delivery Program and a detailed budget in conjunction with the preparation of the Operational Plan. The Revenue Policy and Schedule of Fees and Charges also formed part of the Oberon Community Strategic Plan 2014.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

As mentioned in the General Manager's Report earlier, Council celebrated its Sesquicentenary with many community 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities during 2013/14. Council supported community activities such as, but not limited to:

- Christmas in the Common, December 2013
- Australia Day Awards, Oberon Showground, January 2014
- Oberon Highland Steam and Vintage Fair, February 2014
- Oberon Show, Oberon Showground, February 2014
- International Women's Day, Community Centre, March 2014
- Youth Week: Oberon Youth Council held a Youth Disco and Talent Quest in March 2014
- Seniors Week: Council held a Seniors Expo, two Mystery Bus Tours, a Seniors Lunch at the Oberon High School throughout March 2014

At the Library we have developed a Community Display Area where groups or individuals can apply to display their works. The Oberon Waste2Art winners and participants held the first display. Since then we have had fabulous displays by Australian Authors and U3A. The Library membership has grown by over 200 members during this reporting period, with computer use continuing to be a big attraction.

The Community Technology Centre provides the community, including U3A with computer classes on a part time basis. The Centre offers assistance with computer problems, provided by volunteers.

We continue to raise the awareness of the Community Transport Services within the Oberon Community. This has seen the service being taken up on a regular basis, to the point of utilising a second vehicle. The community are able to use this service for medical appointments and for social events/functions, shopping in surrounding areas, etc. This year saw community bus trips to Floriade in Canberra, Miss Trails House in Bathurst, Milthorpe Christmas Markets, and the U3A Antique Group went to for a trip to Blackheath to visit antique outlets.



# WORKS & ENGINEERING

The planned routine maintenance and resealing or gravel re-sheeting of rural roads within the Oberon Council area is listed below. This includes local roads as well as Regional Roads.

The objectives of the plan are:

- To maintain all major roads to an all-weather access standard.
- To give priority to reconstruction of bitumen roads over new construction work.
- To adopt modern road making techniques and ensure optimum use of resources.
- To grade all secondary gravel roads at least once per year.
- To provide a minimum access standard of a gravelled surface to all existing, dedicated and formed roads which access a property residence.
- To reseal bitumen roads at no more than twelve yearly intervals.

## State Roads

The upgrading of O'Connell Road commencing from the roundabout at Oberon was completed under contract to the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). This consisted of widening, pavement strengthening, and drainage works. Work completed to 30 June 2014 was \$1.7million in value and further work will be completed in the next financial year.

Heavy patching of failed areas of pavement and bitumen reseals, were also completed on several different locations of the O'Connell and Duckmaloi Roads.

## Regional Roads

A total reconstruction of 1.55km was completed on the Abercrombie Road. These areas included 850m section south of Sloggetts Road and a 700m section 10km south of Oberon. A 300m section of guardrail was installed north of Sloggetts Road. These projects were undertaken through the RMS Repair Program and the project was \$800,000.

## Shire Roads

Council completed reconstruction work on Campbells River Road which consisted of a 750m section of road from Black Springs.



O'Connell West Project

# OYC OBERON YOUTH COUNCIL

The Oberon Youth Council (OYC) started up in February 2014. The structure of the OYC provides for nine (9) members, with three (3) appointed by the Oberon High School, three (3) appointed by the St Josephs Catholic School and three (3) community representatives appointment by members of the Youth Council Working Party.

The inaugural members of the Oberon Youth Council are:

## Oberon High School

- Adrian Williams (Youth Mayor)
- Lydia Moore
- Lucy Voerman

## St Josephs Catholic School

- Angus Fittler (Youth Deputy Mayor)
- Ryan Hopson
- Sancia Moran

## Community Representative

- Lisa Safranek (Youth Secretary)
- Nadine Roach (Youth Web Master/PR)



The youth have held a Youth Disco and Talent Quest during Youth Week in 2014 and have plans for a Community Fun Run and Youth Music Festival within the next 18 months. Oberon Youth Councillors also assisted with the Christmas in the Common event held in December 2014 and the Seniors Week Morning Tea Function held in March 2014.

The youth are looking at the needs of youth within the Oberon community and some of the projects that have been identified and referred to Council or further investigation are the Skate Park improvements or replacement, street bike parking, and regular mental health services for our youth.



Oberon Youth Mayor, Adrian Williams; Mayor John McMahon and Youth Deputy Mayor Angus Fittler



# STATUTORY INFORMATION

## Councillor Expenses

### Local Government (General) Regulations Clause 217(1) (a1)

Council reimburses the following costs incurred while on Council business:

- Travelling expenses for private vehicle use
- Accommodation, travelling and sustenance whilst attending conferences and seminars
- Provision of a mobile phone for the Mayor
- Provision of an I-Pad for the Mayor and all Councillors.

The total costs associated with Mayor and Councillor Expenses for 2013/14 were \$120,551 made up as follows:

<b>Mayor Fee (excluding Councillor fee)</b>	\$22,360
<b>Councillor's Fees</b>	\$91,928
<b>Councillor Expenses</b>	
Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors	Nil
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$3,355
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	\$2,908
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	\$
Interstate visits by councillors	Nil
Overseas visits by Councillors	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$120,551</b>

## Councillor Overseas Visits

During 2013/14 no overseas travel was undertaken.

## Councillor Interstate Visits

During 2013/14 no overseas travel was undertaken.

## Attendance by Councillors at Conference and Seminars

- 2013 NSW Public Libraries Conference – Clr Sajowitz: August 2013
- Local Government NSW Annual Conference – Mayor John McMahon: October 2013
- NSW Zone Library Meeting – Clr Sajowitz: October 2013
- SWITCH Conference – Clr Sajowitz: November 2013
- Local Government NSW Climate Risk Workshop – Mayor John McMahon, Clr Kerry Gibbons: March 2014
- Local Government NSW Leaders Forum – Mayor John McMahon: March 2014

## Councillor Training and Skill Development

- Councillor Informal Briefing Sessions
  - 9 July 2013
  - 13 August 2013
  - 10 September 2013
  - 8 October 2013
  - 12 November 2013
  - 10 December 2013
  - 28 January 2014
  - 11 February 2014
  - 25 March 2014
  - 8 April 2014
  - 13 May 2014
  - 10 June 2014
- Asset Management and Roads Workshop – 1 April 2014
- Asset Management Workshop – October 2014
- Code of Conduct refresher training was held as part of the Informal Briefing Sessions held in October 2013 and January 2014.
- Councillor Professional Development refresher for the Code of Meeting Practice was held at the Informal Briefing Session held in December 2013.

## Rates and Charges Written Off

### Local Government (General) Regulations Clause 132

The amount of rates written off in the period under review related to the following:

Total Pensioner concession 2013/14	\$126,464.81
<b>LESS:</b> Subsidy reimbursement	(\$69,555.65)
Amount written off by Council	\$0.00
Rates debts abandoned	Nil
Concessions	Nil
	\$56,909.16

## Work carried out on Private Land

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a4)

During the year ending 30 June 2014 Council made no resolutions under Section 67 of the Local Government Act to subsidise work carried out on private land.

## Joint Ventures/Partnerships

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a8)

Council did not participate in any corporation, partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or other body during 2013/2014.

## Legal Proceedings

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 1(a4)

During 2013/14 Council was not involved in legal proceeding for the recovery of unpaid rates, water usage charges and other debt recovery.

## External Bodies

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a6)

Council does not delegate any functions to external bodies.

## Companies Controlled by Council

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies during 2013/2014.

## Remuneration Packages – Senior Staff

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217(1)(b) and Clause 217(1)(c)

Council employed one (1) senior staff member, as classified by the Local Government Act, at a total remuneration of \$177,587.62 including salaries, private use of a Council vehicle and employers superannuation contribution.

• Total value of salary component of package	\$157,884.69
• Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary	Nil
• Total employer's contribution to superannuation	\$14,431.52
• Total fringe benefits tax for Council vehicle	\$5,271.41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$177,587.62</b>

## State of the Environment

### Local Government Act 1993 S428(1)

Information on the environment can be found in the 2013/14 State of the Environment Snapshot included as an Appendix.

## Companion Animals Act and Regulations

### Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(f)

The Oberon Shire Council undertakes companion animal management functions and activities in accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and the associated Regulations.

Further information can be found in the Planning and Development section of this Annual Report.

## Public Interest Disclosures (PID) Act 1994

### **PID Act 1994**

Council is committed to the objectives of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and encourages the disclosure of any instances of corrupt conduct, maladministration, serious and substantial waste and government information contravention.

In accordance with the Act, Council's Internal Reporting Policy (as required by PID Act 1994) establishes guidelines for the reporting and management of Protected Disclosures. For the reporting period ending 30 June 2014, Oberon Shire Council received **Nil** protected disclosures.

## Contributions and Donations – (Section 356 of LG Act 1993)

### **Local Government (General) Regulation Clause 217 (1)(a5)**

Under Council's Community Grants Program, Council allocates funding to various organisations and community groups that make annual requests. In 2013/2014 a total of \$25,357 was made available and provided as follows:

<b>Civic Requests</b>	<b>\$</b>
Black Springs Public School	200
Burruga Public School	200
Oberon High School	200
Oberon Public School	200
O'Connell Public School	200
St Joseph's Central School	200
RSL Sub Branch Memorial/Museum	450
RSL Sub Branch Memorial	304
Oberon Showground Trust	898
Oberon Masonic Centre	430
Oberon Council Staff Social Club	3,000
Country Women's Association of NSW	100
Oberon Show Society	1,500

Western Regional Academy of Sport	275
<b>Community Requests</b>	
Friends of Oberon Library Inc.	700
Oberon Men's Shed	1,000
Oberon Heritage & Collectors	5,000
Bathurst Harness Racing	600
CHOICE – Genr8 Ministries Sub-Committee	1,000
Oberon Netball Club	500
Evans Community Options	1,000
Lifeline Central West Inv.	500
Central West Life Education	1,000
Oberon Junior Rugby League	500
Oberon Tigers Rugby League	1,000
Black Springs Public School	1,000
Burruga Public School	900
Oberon Junior Hockey Association	500
Can Assist Oberon Branch	500
Oberon United Football Club	500
Industry Links Inc.	500
Robey Centre Social Club	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,357</b>

In addition to the Community Grants, Council allocated in-kind contributions to the following Community Groups:

Oberon Golf Club	5,000
Oberon Golf Club	15,000
Oberon Tennis Centre	5,000
Oberon Heritage & Collectors	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

# ATTACHMENT 1

## OBERON COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013

- Community Strategic Plan 2013
  - Community Engagement Strategy – May 2013
- Delivery Program 2013/2014-2016/2017
- Operational Plans 2013/2014 to 2016/2017
- Resourcing Strategy which includes
  - Long Term Financial Plan 2013/2014 to 2012/2013
  - Workforce Management Plan 2013
  - Asset Management Plan 2013

# ATTACHMENT 2

## 2013/14 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT SNAPSHOT



# ATTACHMENT 3

# AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS