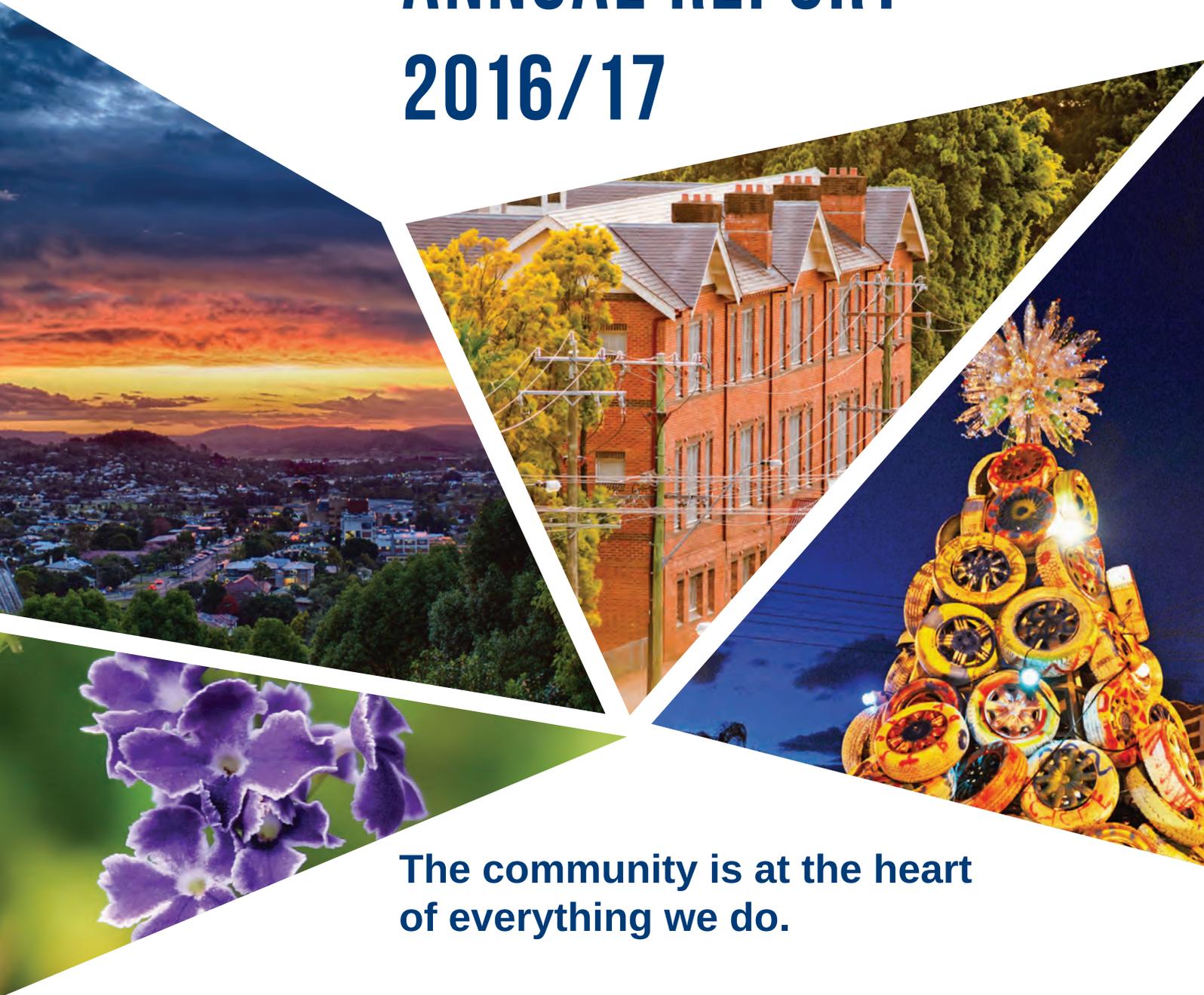




ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



**The community is at the heart
of everything we do.**





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FROM THE MAYOR

I have the pleasure in introducing Lismore City Council's Annual Report for 2016/17. In doing so, I acknowledge the local people of the Bundjalung Nation and thank Elders of the past and present for their custodianship of and enduring connection to this beautiful place.

It is fair to say that the challenges faced by Lismore City in the past year are equalled only by our ability to rise up and meet them. Of course I am referring firstly to our major flood emergency, but more broadly to the rate of change at which society now operates and therefore Council must reciprocate.

On the 31 March, Lismore experienced the most devastating flood in its long history. While the height was below the big floods of 1954 and 1974, the scale of our growth since that time, combined with the lack of major flooding in the past 20 years, meant that the impacts were greater than anyone could have imagined. Even those who had a memory of the larger floods and our flood identity were shocked by both the speed of the deluge and the impact felt by residents and businesses.

While we will continue to discuss our recovery for some time to come, the community can look back now at the way we have come together and know that things could have been worse. We may be still filling in paperwork so that state disaster money can finally flow into our LGA, but the community itself has bounced back in a way only



Lismore could. Through the community Helping Hands Hub and the spontaneous volunteers, working with Council staff and many private contractors, our city was cleaned up in record time.

So while we still count the cost, financially and emotionally, the community is coming back. New shops are opening and our CBD has an energy that cannot be denied. New housing growth is the highest it has ever been. Lismore is here to stay and we will be so much more than before.

One highlight from this year that proves our resilience was the opening of our new Lismore Regional Gallery in October. This amazing space, sitting beside the new Lismore Quadrangle, is proving an instant hit with locals and visitors. After enduring 60 years in a 'temporary' building, this new facility growing out of the historic Lismore High School site shows both our passion for the creative industries and our vision to make old things new again.

This Quad, bordered by the gallery, library and conservatorium, will soon connect with the Oakes Oval sports precinct which is also undergoing a major redevelopment. Forming the central hub of our growth corridor between the river and hospital, it will become an exciting new space in which people come to understand again that we are the regional capital and wholeheartedly embrace our role as a city. We are the business engine and entertainment centre for the whole Northern Rivers.

As our newly opened Lismore Base Hospital continues to fill the wards and rooms with services and much-needed space to maintain and improve our community's health and wellbeing, we must continue to provide increased levels of service to specialists and patients who travel into our city each day. This means more accommodation and

housing options, with greater transport connectivity. We continue to push the state government to act on these issues as we rely on legislation and programs that provide these functions.

We know that to be more sustainable in future, we must provide people with the options to lower their environmental impacts. This means living closer to services and becoming more connected. There is no greater opportunity to do this than in Lismore as the regional city.

Sustainability at all levels is vital to future prosperity and this is clearly a focus for us. From an environmental perspective we are now into the third year of our innovative Biodiversity Management Strategy. While it had some early detractors who felt we were treading on state shoes, they have quickly fallen away in the face of strong results. We have managed to work with local landholders and primary producers to share knowledge and deliver on ground works that were never possible under old structures. This partnership signals our intent to focus on practical, shared outcomes, rather than red or green tape.

We are also halfway into our Renewable Energy Master Plan, which will see Lismore City Council generate 100% of its electricity needs from renewable energy sources by 2023. While the challenge is great, given the lack of leadership at a federal or state level on renewables, Council has been able to break new ground on Australian firsts such as our community solar initiative and floating solar farm. These innovative ideas continue to grow and show our desire to lead in this space.

This passion for sustainability and removing barriers of the past can also be seen in our developments and land

releases as we see the North Lismore Plateau open up for housing. The Plateau development was the catalyst for the construction of the South Lismore Sewage Treatment Plant. This project is Council's biggest infrastructure project to date and represents our strong commitment to and confidence in our city's future. The Plateau, along with other developments in and around the urban area, shows a willingness to protect our agricultural heritage from over-development, while providing the mix of future accommodation that our changing population needs.

Our financial sustainability is also paramount in our thinking as we transition from a clunky bureaucracy of the last century to a modern organisation focused on partnering. With a major budget cut delivered last financial year, we were able to redirect significant dollars into assets. Like councils across NSW and Australia, we struggle to now maintain water, sewer and road assets that were created pre and post World War II without a plan for maintenance. While the state government's 'Fit for the Future' process has flipped and flopped over the past year, we push on for a sustainable Lismore into the future.

So in a year of great heartache, the community of Lismore and its villages continues to find hope in our shared achievements. If this is what we can accomplish in our most difficult year, imagine what the future holds!

Cheers,
Isaac

Isaac Smith
Mayor – Lismore City Council

Council's vision

To connect and serve the community who are at the heart of everything we do.

Council's values



- We cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone.
- We are honest and build trust between each other.
- We consider our actions and our reactions to others.
- We are understanding, caring and respectful of differences.
- We are accountable for all that we do and support others in their responsibilities.

Show mutual respect



- We are determined, disciplined, consistent and realistic.
- We plan, prepare and take ownership of our efforts.
- We show leadership through professionalism.
- We support each other to achieve our best.
- We work safely together.

Strive to do our best



- We are passionate about the work we do.
- We improve and look for better ways to do things.
- We care about each other and our community.
- We recognise and reward hard work.
- It's ok to have fun.

Love doing what we do



- We encourage participation and inclusion in all our communications.
- We are transparent, fair and accountable.
- We are trained to do our jobs well.
- We communicate respectfully.

Connect, Listen and learn

YOUR ELECTED COUNCILLORS



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The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework is how NSW councils plan services and projects within the community.

In simple terms, every four years we ask our community what they want for the future, then develop projects to meet these objectives and budgets to fund them.

The NSW Government requires all NSW councils to do this. Every four years, we review our Community

Strategic Plan (10 years) and develop a new Delivery Program (four years) and Operational Plan (one-year budget).

These documents are accompanied by a Resourcing Strategy (10 years) that is made up of a Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Plan.

While this is a legislative requirement for all councils, it is also a system of planning that makes sense.



How our plans fit together

Community Strategic Plan

- Takes a 10-year outlook.
- Defines community priorities and aspirations.
- Outlines 10-year objectives for Council to work towards to achieve community priorities.



Delivery Program

- Takes a four-year outlook – the length of a council term. A new Delivery Program is adopted by each new council.
- Details specific strategies Council will implement to achieve community priorities.
- Sets timelines to achieve these strategies.



Operational Plan

- A one-year outlook.
- Details specific programs, projects and events Council will undertake to achieve community priorities during a financial year.
- Includes performance indicators to measure success.



**2016/17
IN REVIEW**



SECTION 1

Delivery Plan Progress

The Imagine Lismore Delivery Program takes the strategic goals outlined by the community in the Imagine Lismore Community Strategic Plan and turns them into actions. The Delivery Program identifies all the key activities that Council will undertake over its four-year term and details the specific strategies Council will implement to achieve community priorities.

Reporting on the progress of the implementation of the Delivery Program is currently under review and is not available at the time of publishing. The 2017/18 Annual Report will include the new format.



SECTION 2

Financial Summary and Asset Management Reporting

Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428

Overview

The 2016/17 Financial Reports show a net operating result for the year of a \$18.732 million profit. At the same time, the net operating result before capital amounts is a \$4.502 million profit. These results, especially the before capital amounts result, indicates the Council is generating sufficient revenues to fund the range of works, services and programs Council delivers including the planned replacement of infrastructure.

Council's total equity increased during 2016/17 by \$235.110 million to \$1.332 billion. Growth in total equity is essential to long-term financial sustainability and management continues to look for new ways to improve this position.

To gain some perspective on the size of Council operations, total income from continuing operations was \$120.957 million and total expenses from continuing operations were \$102.225 million for the year.

Council continued to invest in infrastructure upgrading to bring long-term benefits to the community during 2016/17. Ongoing capital works for urban and rural roads, bridges, footpaths, cycleways, stormwater, plant and the renewal of water and wastewater networks were highlights of Council's \$43.017 million investment in infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

Council is in a sound financial position with a net operating result before capital amounts profit reported, total equity increasing, and cash, cash equivalents and investments at reasonable levels, liabilities such as loans at a manageable level, and key performance indicators mostly within acceptable ranges.

To be financially sustainable, adequate funding must be provided to replace infrastructure assets as and when required. For 2016/17, this was achieved as the net operating result before capital amounts a \$4.502 million profit.

Ongoing effort is required to increase funding for infrastructure asset renewal and backlog. Having an agreed position on asset management requirements and integrating these into the long term financial plan to determine the balance between assets, works, services and programs provided by Council is essential to financial sustainability.

Based on the results and indicators included reported in the 2016/17 Financial Reports, Council has taken a step towards achieving financial sustainability.

Key Financial Results

The following is a summary of the key results and indicators:

- Net Operating Result from the Year is a \$18.732 million surplus
- Net Operating Result for the year before Capital Grants and Contributions is a \$4.502 million surplus
- Total Income from Continuing Operations increased by \$8.952 million to \$120.957 million
- Total Expenses from Continuing Operations increased by \$4.146 million to (\$102.225) million
- Total Equity increased by \$235.110 million to \$1.333 billion
- Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments total \$65.96 million
- Unrestricted Current Ratio 1.50x
- Debt Service Cover Ratio 4.03x
- Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding 10.50%
- Building, Infrastructure & Other Structures Renewal Ratio 144.89%
- Infrastructure Backlog Ratio 19.95%
- Asset Maintenance Ratio 0.93

Income Statement

The net operating result for 2016/17 is an \$18.73 million surplus. This result incorporates the recognition of capital revenues such as capital grants and contributions for specific purposes that amounted to \$14.23 million. These capital funds have been used for capital expenses which are not included in the net operating result. It should also be noted that the net operating result includes cash and non-cash incomes and expenses.

The following table displays the summarised information for the Income Statement:

Item	2016/17 (\$'000)	% Change	2015/16 (\$'000)
Income from continuing operations	120,957	7.99	112,005
Expenses from continuing operations	102,225	4.23	98,079
Net operating result for the year – Profit/(Loss)	18,732	34.51	13,926
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions – Profit/(Loss)	4,502	32.76	3,391

A summary of the major movements from 2015/16 to 2016/17 follows:

For income from continuing operations:

- Increase in rates & annual charges – \$2.22 million.
- Increase in grants & contributions for operating purposes – \$2.40 million.
- Increase in grants & contributions for capital purposes – \$3.70 million.

For expenses from continuing operations:

- Increase in employee benefits & on-costs – (\$2.11) million.
- Increase in borrowing costs – (\$566,000).
- Increase in loss on disposal of assets – (\$1.48) million

Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Financial Position is used to summarise the total net assets (assets – liabilities = net assets/equity) under Council's control. As at 30 June 2017, total net assets were \$1.33 billion. During 2016/17, net assets increased by \$235 million from \$1.10 billion. The main contributors were the increase in Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment assets of \$235 million, and cash, cash equivalents and investments of \$27.71 million. This is reduced by an increase in borrowings of (\$26.95) million.

The increase in Infrastructure, Property Plant & Equipment assets was primarily the result of community land assets revaluation which added \$3.3 million, water and wastewater assets revaluation which added \$200 million, transport assets indexation which added \$5.5 million, bulk earth works assets indexation which added \$7.5 million, the Regional Art Gallery & Quadrangle development which added \$5.4 million and the South Lismore Sewage Treatment Plant development which added \$5.3 million.

The major component of Council's total net assets are its infrastructure assets. Net infrastructure assets total \$1.08 billion as at 30 June 2017 and include the following major categories and amounts:

Infrastructure Assets	At Fair Value (\$m)	Accumulated Depreciation (\$m)	Carrying Value (\$m)	Accumulated Depreciation/ %
Roads, Bridges, Footpaths & Earthworks	791.1	222.0	569.1	28.1
Stormwater Drainage	80.0	29.0	51.0	36.3
Water Supply Network	266.9	93.1	173.8	34.9
Wastewater Services Network	458.5	172.9	285.6	37.7
Total Infrastructure Assets	1,596.5	517.0	1,079.5	32.4

Income from continuing operations

Income from continuing operations increased by \$8.95 million or 7.99% compared to 2015/16. A summary of the individual categories and comparisons is below:

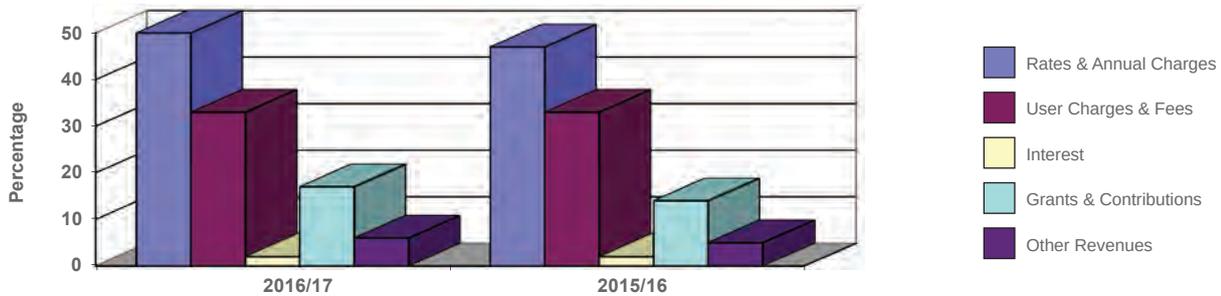
Type	2016/17 (\$'000)	% Change	2015/16 (\$'000)
Rates & Annual Charges	49,563	4.69	47,343
User Charges & Fees	32,567	0.03	32,558
Interest	2,171	26.22	1,720
Other revenues	5,639	3.20	5,464
Grants & Contributions – Operating	16,787	16.70	14,385
Grants & Contributions – Capital	14,230	35.07	10,535
Total	120,957	7.99	112,005

Commentary on the major movements from 2015/16 to 2016/17 follows:

- **Rates & Annual Charges** – Increased by 4.69% or \$2.22 million. Income from rates increased by 3.49% which is in line with rate pegging and anticipated growth. Annual charges increased by 6.21% or \$1.30 million with the major areas being Wastewater \$696,000, Water \$294,000 and Domestic Waste Management \$157,000.
- **Interest** – Increased by 26.22% or \$451,000. This increase is attributable to an increase in the portfolio due to funds borrowed early in 2016/17 and not spent to the extent anticipated during the year.
- **Other revenues** – Increase by 3.20% or \$175,000. The major movements are an increase in income generated from recycling operations \$361,000 along with an increase in income received from insurance recoveries of \$521,000 as well as \$392,000 in other income attributable to flood donations received. This increases were offset by class action recoveries of (\$1.11) million in 2015/16 were not repeated in 2016/17.
- **Grants & Contributions/Operating** – Increased by 16.70% or \$2.40 million. The major movement was the 50% or \$2.91 million of the 2017/18 Financial Assistance Grants being received in advance. This is offset by a decrease in the Roads to Recovery Grant of (\$485,000).
- **Grants & Contributions/Capital** – Increased by 35.07% or \$3.70 million. The grant funding increase was mainly due an increase of funding of \$2.651 million for the Regional Art Gallery & Quadrangle development along with additional Roads & Maritime Services (Blackspot, Regional Roads Repair, Wilson Street Bridge, Cycleways) funding of \$588,000, Regional Airport upgrade of \$686,000 and Domestic Waste Management Grants of \$496,000. This was partially offset by a decrease in Section 94 and Section 64 contributions of (\$704,000).

The following graph represents the main types of income from continuing operations expressed as a percentage of total continuing operations for 2015/16, 2014/15 and 2013/14. It clearly shows Council's reliance on Rates & Annual Charges:

Major income types as a % of total income from continuing operations



Expenses from continuing operations

Expenses from continuing operations have increased by \$4.15 million or 4.23% from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

A summary of the individual categories and comparisons is provided below:

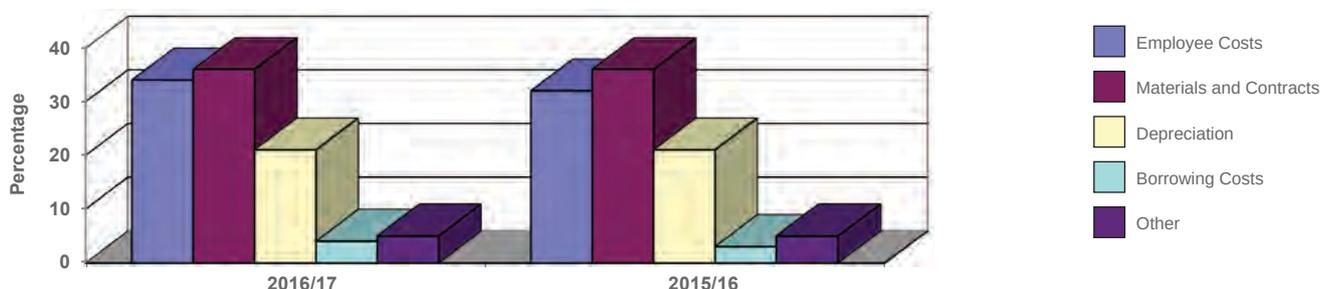
Type	2016/17 (\$'000)	% Change	2015/16 (\$'000)
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	34,179	6.59	32,065
Borrowing Costs	3,640	18.41	3,074
Materials & Contracts	35,883	0.35	35,757
Depreciation & Amortisation	20,845	(0.19)	20,885
Other Expenses	5,199	(0.65)	5,233
Loss on Disposal of Assets	2,479	147.16	1,003
Net share of interests in Joint Ventures & Associated Entities	-	N/A	62
Total	102,225	4.23	98,079

Commentary on the major movements from 2015/16 to 2016/17 follows:

- **Employee Benefits & On-Costs** – Increased by 6.59% or (\$2.11) million. The majority of this increase relates to a full year impact of GSAC and LMB staff being employed by Council instead of being contracted from a casual labour hire company, and more works being undertaken on RMS roads and these costs being expensed instead of being capitalised if they were Council roads.
- **Borrowing Costs** – Increased by 18.41% or (\$566,000). This increase relates to the increase in borrowings for capital works, and in particular the South Lismore Sewage Treatment Plant (\$18.7 million), in 2016/17.
- **Loss on Disposal of Assets** – Increased by 147.16% or (\$1.48) million. This mainly relates to infrastructure assets (\$736,000), other land improvements (\$50,000), sale of property (\$229,000) and sale of real estate (\$387,000).

The following graph represents the types of expenses from continuing operations expressed as a percentage of total continuing expenses for 2016/17 and 2015/16:

Expenses from continuing operations



Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Council has total cash, cash equivalents and investments of \$65.96 million as at 30 June 2017. Compared to 2015/16, this is an increase of \$27.71 million. Typically, Council's total cash, cash equivalents and investments are reasonably stable, but can fluctuate depending on the timing of cash flows and investment decisions. This increase is abnormal and is due to funds being borrowed in 2016/17 year for capital works which was not expended as anticipated.

Council is required to recognise investments held at 30 June each year at their market value.

For 30 June 2017, all cash, cash equivalents and investments are either restricted by external legislation e.g. developer contributions – Section 94 \$4.76 million, Wastewater Services \$39.21 million, Water Supply Services \$8.69 million, Unexpended Grants \$1.11 million, Stormwater Management \$1.39 million, Domestic Waste Management \$871,000, Other Waste Minimisation \$189,000, Art Gallery Gift Account \$30,000, Trust Fund \$1.06 million and Lismore Flood Appeal Fund \$470,000; or internally in accordance with Council's reserves policy \$7.65 million and unexpended loans \$526,100.

Borrowings

During 2016/17 Council borrowed \$31.121 million for capital works including \$3.418 million for General Fund, \$6.355 million for Water and \$21.348 million. These funds were used for projects such as the Municipal Building Lift, Footpaths, Galvanised Culverts and Drainage Works, Art Gallery/Quadrangle Project, Farming the Sun, South Lismore Sewage Treatment Plant, Nimbin Water Upgrade, and Wastewater and Water infrastructure.

Council's total borrowings at 30 June 2017 are \$70.172 million. These loans are attributable to General Fund \$28.771 million, Wastewater Fund \$28.798 million and Water Fund \$12.603 million.

Key Performance Indicators

These indicators provide a snapshot of how the Council is performing or positioned financially. To assist with interpretation, a simple definition and the benchmark for each indicator is provided below:

- a. Operating Performance Ratio – This ratio measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue. The benchmark is greater than 0%.
- b. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio – This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It measures Council's reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. Council's financial flexibility improves the higher the level of its own source revenue. The benchmark is greater than 60%.
- c. Unrestricted Current Ratio – This ratio represents Council's ability to meet short term obligations as they fall due. It is the total cash or cash convertible assets available to meet liabilities within the next 12 months, or current period, expressed on a dollar for dollar basis excluding assets and liabilities. The benchmark is greater than 1.5.
- d. Debt Service Cover Ratio – This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark is greater than 2.
- e. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage – This ratio is to assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. This percentage is based on the amount outstanding as a percentage of the amount to be collected for rates and annual charges for the current year and outstanding from previous years. The benchmark for this ratio is <10%.
- f. Cash Expenses Cover Ratio – This liquidity ratio indicated the number of months Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflows. The benchmark is greater than 3 months.

The following table is a summary of the key performance indicators for 2016/17 and 2015/16:

Performance Indicator	2016/17	2015/16
Operating Performance Ratio	6.54%	4.39%
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio	74.36%	77.75%
Unrestricted Current Ratio	1.50x	1.45x
Debt Service Cover Ratio	4.03x	4.35x
Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage	10.50%	10.71%
Cash Expense Cover Ratio (months)	9.02	5.16

Commentary on all performance indicator results is provided below:

- a. Operating Performance Ratio – Favourable. The result is above the benchmark.
- b. Own Source Operating Revenue – Favourable. The result is above the benchmark.
- c. Unrestricted Current Ratio – Neutral. This result equals the benchmark.
- d. Debt Service Cover Ratio – Favourable. This result is above the benchmark.
- e. Rates, Annual Charges, Interest and Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage – Unfavourable. This result is above the benchmark, however there continues to be improvement compared to previous years. On a fund by fund basis the percentages are General Fund Rates 7.43%, Water 24.46% and Wastewater 13.33%. Part of the reason why Water is high is that the last quarter's water charges were issued on 30 June 2017, hence no payment recognised in this calculation. A comprehensive approach to debt recovery has been implemented and continued improvement is anticipated over time.
- f. Cash Expenses Cover Ratio – Favourable. This result is above the benchmark.

Asset Management Reporting

The summary of Council's financial position with regard to its infrastructure is included in the 2015/16 Financial Reports under 'Special Schedule No. 7 – Condition of Public Works'.

The information prepared for all assets is based on the outcomes of the fair value revaluation processes that Council progressively undertakes for all of its assets in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Local Government. These processes include a re-assessment of the asset inventory and a condition assessment at the times when revaluations are undertaken.

For the 2016/17 financial year, a revaluation of Council's Water and Wastewater asset group and Community Land Assets was undertaken. In particular there has been a significant increase in the value of Council's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure as a result of this revaluation. There are a number of reasons for this and Council has commenced a process to refine the information available, assumptions made and some of our work practices which have contributed to this increase. The outcome of this process may lead to a further revaluation in the 2017/18 financial year.

Council has been continuing with its strategy of focussing its spending on pavement re-seals in the transport asset area. This strategy will continue for a further year to ensure that a water-proof seal is maintained on roads with sound pavements, thus ensuring that those pavements last for their expected useful lives.

Council's adopted Delivery Program includes a proposal for a Special Rate Variation to provide increased funding and address backlog in its roads infrastructure from the commencement of the 2019/20 financial year. Council is gathering information and preparing to commence consultation with the community in the second half of 2018.

To assist in its decision-making processes on where to spend allocated capital budgets in the all asset areas, Council has implemented and adopted an optimised decision making tool. This software system analyses all of our condition data and can recommend which assets should receive funding for renewal. This tool strengthens Council's strategic decision-making capabilities with parks/open space assets being added to the system in the last year. Building assets are planned to be added for 2017/18. The information from this process is also being used to assist in decision making for the allocation of maintenance funding.

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1. Council has not yet determined a clear definition of the satisfactory standard of infrastructure in terms of what the community is prepared to pay. Establishing these standards along with the corresponding cost implications to the community is a key component of Council's asset management improvement program. This will be a key factor in determining what is affordable and satisfactory for our community.
2. The current Asset Management Plans for Council's infrastructure have identified the anticipated funds required to sustain the current standard of infrastructure and compares this to the available funding in the Long Term Financial Plan. The impact of this shortfall will be the basis of consultation with the community when determining the agreed and affordable service levels for infrastructure.
3. Special Schedule 7 has been updated to reflect the recently adopted Asset Management Plans for each asset class. A number of assumptions pertaining to the estimated cost of the assets to be brought up to a satisfactory condition/standard and the required and current maintenance have been changed. These are noted

Estimated cost to bring up to a satisfactory condition/standard

- Satisfactory refers to the estimated cost to bring the asset to a satisfactory condition as deemed by Council. It does not include any planned enhancements to the existing asset. According to the guidelines provided by the Division of Local Government, it is the estimate to bring any assets that are deemed to be in Condition 3, 4 or 5 back to a Condition 2. The methodology used to attain the figures is:

Condition Rating	Useful Life Consumed	Cost to Bring to Satisfactory (Condition 2)
1	0-25%	0
2	25-50%	0
3	50-75%	25% of Depreciable Amount
4	75-100%	50% of Depreciable Amount
5	100%	75% of Depreciable Amount

Required Annual Maintenance

- Required Annual Maintenance is what should be spent to maintain assets to a satisfactory standard. Maintenance is deemed to be the total of Operations and Maintenance expenditure required to keep the assets at the current level of service as reported in Council's Asset Management Plans and the Annual Report (428).

Current Annual Maintenance

- Current Annual Maintenance is what has been spent in the current year to maintain assets. Maintenance is deemed to be the total of Operations and Maintenance expenditure as reported in Council's Asset Management Plans and the Annual Report (428).

SECTION 3

Statutory Report

Local Government Act 1993 Section 428

Councillor expenses and facilities

Clause 217 (1) (a1) (i) to (viii)

Council's Councillors Expenses and Facilities lists the expenses that will be paid and the facilities provided to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in relation to discharging the duties of civic office. Our policy recognises that Councillors, in performing their civic functions, are entitled to be provided with certain facilities and be reimbursed for expenses noted in the policy. A listing of this policy can be read and downloaded from Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au. The following is a summary of Councillor expenses and facilities that were provided during the financial year.

	2016/17	2015/16
Councillor Expenses & Facilities Expenses	\$'000	\$'000
Communication and Office Facilities	8	13
Conferences & Seminar Attendance	17	15
Childcare Expenses	1	0
Total	26	28



Contracts awarded by Council

Clause 217 (a2)

Procurement awarded from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 17

ONGOING CONTRACT DETAILS

Tender Number and Title	Contractor	Amount	
T2009-17	Health Services	Various	Schedule of Rates
T2010-34	Management of City Hall Lismore	NORPA	\$1,114,919.00
T2011-14	Security Services	Summerland Security	\$333,678.18
T2011-17	Lease of Nimbin Caravan Park	Peter Mann and Christine Seymour	\$14,000.00
	Management of Nimbin Public Pool	Peter Mann and Christine Seymour	\$27,000.00
T2011-28	Cleaning Services	ISS	\$233,851.01 & \$3,707.91
T2012-5	Lease - Lismore Caravan Park	Anmath Pty Ltd	Lease Agreement Profit Share
T2012-7	Quarry Drill and Shot Firing	Various Contractors in order of priority	Schedule of Rates
T2012-26	Selective Tender-Gingerbread House Lease	Northern Rivers Child Care	Lease Agreement
T2013-9	LGP Electricity Contract Small Large and Street Lighting		\$2,500,000.00
T2015-20	Various Asphalt Plant Supplies	Non-ordered supplier panel	Schedule of Rates
T2015-22	Supply of Vacuum Excavation Services	Priority per order	Schedule of Rates
T2015-33	NOROC Sewer Main Replacement Panel Contract	Panel of Contractors	Schedule of Rates

TENDERS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Tender Number and Title	Contractor	Amount	
T2015-46	South Lismore STP Design and Construct	Stirloch Constructions	\$22,290,044.00
T2015-48	Caniaba Pump Station	Diona Pty Ltd	\$737,344.72
T2016-2	Transport of Resource Recovery Materials	Nortons Transport Lismore Pty Ltd	Schedule of Rates
T2016-3	Wilson Street Bridge - Pile Driving and pre-cast concrete bridge components	Non ordered supplier panel	Schedule of Rates
T2016-4	PV Solar Systems for GSAC and Other Minor Solar	Rainbow Power Compnay Ltd	\$179,363.00 excl. GST
T2016-5	Airport Runway Lighting Upgrade	Saunders Electrics Pty Ltd	\$365,092.79
T2016-7	Lismore Regional Art Gallery Construction	Bennett Constructions Pty Ltd	Schedule of Rates

TENDERS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Tender Number and Title		Contractor	Amount
T2016-8	South Lismore STP 11kV Transline Relocation	NJ Constructions	194,449 incl. GST
T2016-9	3 x Road Rollers - Approximately 14T	Atlas Copco	\$265,000 excl. GST
T2016-10	PV Arrays for Farming the Sun East Lismore STP	Suntrix Commercial Pty Ltd	\$268,330 excl. GST
T2016-12	Truck not less than 16000kg GVM with Crane and Winch	Southside Truck Centre	\$179,955 excl. GST
T2016-13	Clyde Capbell Carpark Toilet Block Refurbishment	Greg Blark Building	\$129,250 incl. GST
T2016-14	Optical Sorting Unit for MRF	Recycling Design and Technologies Pty Ltd	\$781,356 excl. GST
T2016-22	One (1) Rear Loader for Waste Facility (1762)	Sci Fleet Hino	\$226,580.74 (ex GST).
T2016-23	One (1) Hooklift Truck for Waste Facility (1742)	Northern Rivers Isuzu	\$202,063.18 (ex GST)
T2016-24	Four (4) x Truck and Trailers - Roads Section (1261, 1271, 1281 & 1291)	Southside Truck Centre	\$1,395,344 (ex GST)
T2016-25	Asphalt Plant - Raw Material Supply Sand and Argillite Dust	Non ordered supplier panel	Schedule of Rates
T2016-26	One (1) Cab Chassis Truck for use as a combination Sewer Jetting and Vacuum Excavation	Hino Motor Sales Australia	\$432,813 (ex GST)
T2016-27	Provision of Natural Vegetation Regeneration/Restoration Services	Non ordered supplier panel	Schedule of Rates
T2016-28	Supply of Various Materials and Services	Supplier panel	Schedule of Rates
T2016-31	Internal Lift - Design and Construct - Old Municipal Building	Bennett Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd	\$177,852.00 (ex GST)
T2016-34	Removal of Biosolids from East Lismore Treatment Plant 2017-2021	Compass Equipment Hire Pty Ltd	Schedule of Rates
T2016-37	Supply and Construction of Three Sheds for Commercial Services/Delegation of Acceptance of Tender	Refer Council Report (BP16/1180) and Action Sheet (BP16/1293)	Various
T2017-4	Transaction to Interaction Solution	FE Technologies Pty Ltd	\$236,550 (excluding GST)

TENDERS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Tender Number and Title		Contractor	Amount
T2017-6	Nimbin Water Supply Stage 2	Civil Logic, Tullera	\$1,396,259 (inclusive GST)
T2017-15	One 24T-27T Excavator - Waste Facility	Komatsu Australia	\$272,800 (ex GST)

QUOTATIONS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Quotation Number and Title		Contractor	Amount
Q2016-1	Bush Regeneration and Tree Planting Services	Various	Various
Q2016-2	One 4 x 2 Truck approx. 4.5 tonne GVM for Council's Waste section - delivery of waste bins	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$55,236.00
Q2016-3	One x 4 x 2 Truck approx 7.5T for Parks	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$89,27.40
Q2016-4	Two x 30m3 open top hooklift bins	Eternity Trade Pty Ltd	\$18,040.00
Q2016-6	ONE (1) TIPPER TRUCK APPROX. 7,500KG GVM FOR COUNCIL'S SEWER SECTION	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$94,609.80
Q2016-7	Northern Rivers Waste Audit	EC Sustainable	\$54,900.00
Q2016-9	Land Improvements and other structures revaluation	Jeff Roorda & Associates	\$32,260.00
Q2016-10	Truck approximately 7500 kg GVM for Roads Section (1941) Sign Truck CLOSSES 24 JUNE 2016	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$59,822.00
Q2016-11	4-WD Tractor – Parks Section (2302) CLOSSES 29 APRIL 2016	Ongmac Trading	\$119,001.00
Q2016-12	Courier Run	Wizz Couriers Pty Ltd, Ballina	\$234 per week + GST
Q2016-13	Truck approximately 7.5T GVM for Parks Section (1811) CLOSSES 29 APRIL 2016	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$96,475.00
Q2016-14	Secondhand forklifts – Waste Facility CLOSSES 22 APRIL 2016	Komatsu Forklift Australia	\$59,278.80
Q2016-15	Nimbin Water Main Upgrade Stage 1 (Relates to T2014-23)	Ledonne Constructions Pty Ltd	\$422,434.10
Q2016-16	One 4x2 Cab Chassis Truck approx. 6-7.5T GVM for Roads Section (1540) Signage Truck CLOSSES 24 JUNE 2016	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$63,926.00

QUOTATIONS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Quotation Number and Title		Contractor	Amount
Q2016-17	One 4x2 Truck approximately 6-7.5T GVM for Roads Section – Signage Truck (1550) CLOSES 24 JUNE 2016	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$55,203.00
Q2016-18	PC Refresh 2016	Dell Australia	Purchased \$43,442 and Lease \$97,034 (inc GST)
Q2016-19	Woodchipper for Parks Section (Plant No 6402) CLOSES 15 JULY 2016	Bandit Tree Equipment	\$92,001.00
Q2016-21	One Roadworks Broom to suit Tractor (Plant No. 7680) CLOSING 3 AUGUST 2016	Sewell Sweepers	\$13,911.99
Q2016-22	Library Replacement MFDs	Staples	SOR
Q2016-23	Lismore: Place maker for the heart, and Bridge to Bridge	Village Well	\$49,320 (exc GST)
Q2016-25	REMP Business Case 3 Lighting Supply and Installation Compliant Energy Savings Scheme	Ensol Systems Pty Ltd	per submission
Q2016-26	RTRL Governance Model Development	University of Technology	\$46,706 (exc GST)
Q2016-29	Multi-Function Devices Waste Facility & Brunswick Street Depot	Staples	Various
Q2016-31	Vegetation Mapping Lismore LGA	Landmark Ecological Services Pty Ltd	SOR
Q2016-32	CBD Security CCTV Consultant	Matryx Consulting Pty Ltd	\$14,696.00
Q2016-33	Integrated Management System Software	Integrum	per submission
Q2016-35	6 x 30mx Skip Bins - Waste Facility	Eternity Trade Pty Ltd	\$60,852.00
Q2016-39	Koala Population and Sensity Study	Biolink Pty Ltd	\$27,942.50 (exc GST)
Q2016-40	One cab Chassis Truck	James Frizelles Automotive Group	\$63,218.50 inc GST
Q2016-41	Oakes Oval Redevelopment	Planit Holdings Pty Ltd	\$109,400.00 exc. GST
Q2017-2	Solar System for Lismore Regional Art Gallery	Precept Renewable Energy Services Pty Ltd	\$46,100 inc GST
Q2017-7	Effectiveness Audit of Paid Parking Lismore Base Hospital	Bitzios Consulting	\$19,670 ex GST

QUOTATIONS 1 JULY 2016 TO 30 JUNE 2017

Quotation Number and Title	Contractor	Amount	
Q2017-12	Lismore Airport - General Aviation area entrance driveway lighting	Concept Engineering	\$19,287.80 (inc GST)
Q2017-13	Balzer Park Playground & Fitness Dunoon	a-space	\$133,100.00 (inc GST)
Q2017-15	Prepare a deed of agreement for Albert Park Baseball Complex	SGL Consulting Group Pty Ltd	\$23,500 plus GST
Q2017-20	Linemarking Machine - Roads Section	Wager Spraytech Australia Pty Ltd	\$8,040.07 (incl GST)
Q2017-22	Delivery of Work Health and Safety Cert IV	North Coast Community College	\$2,110.00 per student
Q2017-26	Lismore Memorial Gardens Landscape Masterplan	Florence Jaquet	\$38,500.00

Public Interest Disclosure Reporting

Section 31 of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011

Council has a procedure 1.2.35 - Internal Reporting – Public Interest Disclosures.

Information on Public Interest Disclosures is made available to staff through Council's intranet site. Staff training is conducted at varying times.

No public officials made a PID to their authority, no PIDs were received and no PIDs were finalised in the reporting period.

Legal Proceedings

Clause 217 (1) (a3)

Total legal proceedings costs incurred during the year were:

Details	\$ Costs	Status	Result
LCC v Purnell	1,095	Final	Successful
LCC v's Treetops Lismore	3,375	Finalised	Successful
LCC v's Singh	7,662	Finalised	Successful
LCC v's Reeves	3,577	Ongoing	N/A
LCC v's Vivian	3,762	Finalised	Successful
LCC v's Tutin	5,798	Finalised	Successful
LCC & Ors v's Ryan	17,222	Finalised	Successful
LCC v's Ihalainen & Zenzmaier	3,000	Finalised	Unsuccessful
Total Legal Expenses	44,396		

Works carried out on private land (S67)

Clause 217 (1) (a4)

There were no private works reported to Council this year.



Financial Assistance (\$356) provided by Council

Clause 217 (1) (a5)

During the year, Council resolved to make donations totalling \$199,459. These were allocated as follows:

Beneficiary	Amount
Ace Community Colleges Ltd	1,500.00
Anna-Leeza Hull	100.00
Anthony & Belinda Smith	100.00
Bexhill Public Hall Inc	2,000.00
Big Scrub Rainforest Landcare	2,500.00
Billen Cliffs Hall	2,000.00
BJP Physical Culture Far North	400.00
Blue Knob Hall Inc	2,673.43
Caniaba Springrove Community Hall	3,067.31
City Of Lismore RSL Sub Branch	2,272.73
Clunes Coronation Hall Inc	3,051.87
Coffee Camp Public Hall	2,698.81
Corndale Hall	2,718.37
Dungarubba Memorial Hall	2,000.00
Dunoon Hall Committee	2,000.00
Eltham Public Hall	2,776.53
Friends of Lismore Rainforest	942.00
Friends of the Koala	5,021.00
Goolmangar School Of Arts Inc	7,794.95
Jiggi School Of Arts Inc	3,173.05
Keerrong Public Hall	841.56
Koonorigan Hall	4,000.00
Koonorigan Residents Building Fund	819.35
Life Education Van	3,436.67
Lifeline Northern Rivers	2,400.00
LightnUp Inc	10,400.00
Lismore City Lions Club Inc	2,500.00
Lismore Home Garden Education Club	1,100.00
Lismore Musical Festival Society	7,500.00
Lismore Richmond Rovers Soccer	4,000.00
Lismore Thistles Soccer Club	5,735.45
Lismore Toy Library Inc	4,000.00
Men & Family Centre Inc.	1,500.00
Mental Health Support Group	2,650.00
Miss J A Gray	200.00
Miss Z E Coles	200.00

Beneficiary	Amount
Ms L K Folpp	100.00
Multitask Human Resource Foundation	4,000.00
Nimbin School Of Arts	8,080.03
North Coast Academy Of Sport	5,000.00
North Coast National A & I Society	10,000.00
Northern Rivers Kart Club	350.00
Northern Rivers Social Development Council	6,666.00
Northern Rivers Wildlife Carer	2,885.00
Numulgi Hall Committee	2,913.99
Rainbow Region Community Farms	1,818.18
Remembering and Healing Inc	2,620.00
Repentance Creek Public Hall	3,046.16
Richmond River Historical Society	1,050.00
Rock Valley Hall Incorporated	2,800.32
Rosebank Public Hall Committee	3,019.73
Rotary Club Of Lismore West	5,500.00
Roy Wardell Community Centre Inc.	2,000.00
Ruthven Hall Committee Inc	9,335.04
Sanctuary Northern Rivers	5,000.00
South Gundurimba Hall Inc	2,465.12
South Lismore Bowling Club	100.00
South Lismore Duck Pond Landcare Group	400.00
Southern Cross Lads Inc	1,994.00
Southern Cross University	500.00
The Channon Childrens' Centre	750.00
The Channon Public Hall Trust	2,000.00
Tregeagle Hall Inc.	2,550.00
Tullera Community Hall Inc	3,019.73
Tuntable Creek Public Hall	2,000.00
Whian Whian Hall	2,899.71
Wilson's River Landcare Group Inc	2,000.00
Women Up North Housing	4,970.00
Wyrallah Hall Association Inc	2,000.00
Wyrallah Public School Parents	5,000.00
Wyrallah Road Public School	100.00

External bodies – functions delegated by Council

Clause 217 (1) (a6)

Rous County Council – has three main functions

Bulk Water Supply - Rous County Council is commissioned to provide bulk water supply to its constituent councils. Lismore City Council, along with Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley councils purchase water for reticulation to the residents of their respective urban areas.

Flood mitigation - Rous County Council is a flood mitigation authority operating across the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley. It is responsible for the construction and replacement of flood mitigation infrastructure including the routine maintenance of various canals and floodgates and related natural resource management activities.

Weed biosecurity - Rous County Council undertakes a wide range of activities to combat the spread of noxious weeds across the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley. It is the Local Control Authority responsible for administering the Noxious Weeds Act 1993.

The elected Council is made up of eight councillors with two nominated from each of the constituent councils (Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley). Lismore City Council's representatives were Councillors Darlene Cook and Vanessa Ekins.

Dorrroughby Glenview S355 Committee – Dorroughby Community Hall

Council has delegated the care, control and management of the Dorroughby Community Hall. Membership of the committee comprises nominated citizen representatives whose positions are endorsed by Council.

Lismore City Hall

Council previously engaged Northern Rivers Performing Arts Inc (NORPA) to manage Lismore City Hall on its behalf under a management contract arrangement. Council paid NORPA a management fee to operate, manage and maintain the building, and Council paid the rates and major building maintenance, and maintained the surrounds. The contract expired on 31 December 2015.

Council determined to deliver these services into the future via an alliance style contract and called tenders on this basis in late 2015. The contract was awarded to NORPA and they continue to manage the facility on Council's behalf.

Nimbin Caravan Park and Pool

The Nimbin Caravan Park is leased to a third party under a lease agreement. The Nimbin Pool is managed for a fee by the same party that leases the caravan park. The pool is a free public facility and, as such, is a budgeted cost to Council. Council receives a lease fee from the caravan park operators and the operators are carrying out infrastructure improvements as part of the terms of their lease. The agreement will next be reviewed in 2017 when the lessee has an option to extend the lease. A market rental review will also be undertaken at that time.

The management agreement for maintenance of the Nimbin Pool was reviewed in July 2015. The next review has been aligned with the option for extension of the lease.

Controlling interest held by Council in corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies

Clause 217 (1) (a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures syndicates or other bodies during the financial period.

Council participation in corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies

Clause 217 (1) (a8)

Richmond Tweed Regional Library

Lismore City Council has separate agreements with Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council and Tweed Shire Council to operate a regional library service known as the Richmond Tweed Regional Library (RTRL).

Lismore City Council is the 'Executive Council' for the regional library service and all financial reporting for RTRL is consolidated into Council's financial reports.

In the event Council withdrew from the regional library service, its share of regional library assets and liabilities would be determined by the RTRL Committee. If agreement was not reached, the NSW State Library would be asked to determine.

Residential Land

Council is party to a joint venture with Chevina Pty Ltd and John Newton for the development of residential land. A total of 47 lots have been created and 46 sold.

In brief, the agreement between Council, Chevina and Newton is:

- Council holds title to the land.
- Chevina and Newton develop and professionally market the developed lots for sale.
- Council receives an agreed land value amount for each lot sold and one half of the profit from each lot after development, sale and legal costs are deducted.

North East Weight of Load Group

Lismore City Council, in conjunction with Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Tenterfield and Tweed councils, is a member of NEWLOG.

NEWLOG operates with the objective to generally advance the aims of reducing damage to Council and classified roads and promotion of road safety, by policing of vehicle weights as prescribed in the Acts and Regulations pertinent to overloading.

NEWLOG's equity at 30 June 2017 is \$149,891 and Lismore City Council's share is \$18,204.

The existing Deed of Agreement, which details the management and functions of NEWLOG, has been extended on a month by month basis.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Reference Section 428 (2) (n)

Our people strategies and initiatives that support equal employment opportunity including the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, Reconciliation Action Plan, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

We recognise that the level of female representation in our senior management positions is disproportionately low. Another challenge is to monitor and support the instances of internal promotion of female employees. In this financial year a Gender Action Plan will be delivered to address these challenges.

We maintain a sharp focus on merit-based selection along with a strong commitment to equal employment opportunity.

Human Resource Activities

Our People Strategy is aligned with and supports the Delivery Program. For the 2017/18 financial year key initiatives include:

- Leadership Development (Senior Leadership Development program plus Frontline Leaders program evaluated and further evolved)
- Learning and Development (delivery of detailed strategy and schedule for corporate learning)
- Performance (review of performance management practice and provision of training to supervisors)
- Culture Development (assessment of current state and plan to achieve ideal future state culture)
- Employee Engagement (engagement baseline measure taken and response plan implemented)
- Internal Communication (HR procedures refresh and available online)
- Diversity (Gender Action Plan and delivery of other planned diversity initiatives)
- Organisational Design (workforce planning and structural realignment)

Enhanced Work Health and Safety (WHS) initiatives and incident prevention measures

The Work Health & Safety section are managing initiatives and progress via a detailed Action Plan.

The WHS Management System has been revised along with two core procedures:

1. Risk Management. The Risk Management Procedure details the risk management tools to be used by Council to standardise the process across all sections. This is in progress with the update of Hazard and Risk Registers, Corporate SWMS, Job Safety Analysis and Safe Operating Procedures.
2. Incident Reporting and Investigation. This Procedure has been revised to reflect the implementation of Integrum (Phase 1), a new Integrated Management System. Integrum allows for an automated system to ensure investigations and corrective actions are captured and completed.

Integrum will be used to analyse trends and manage risk more effectively. All Audits and Inspections shall be captured in the system with a corrective action register to ensure closure of identified hazards.

The StateCover self audit showed an improvement of 15.8% from 2016. There are two main focus areas, Document Control and Systems Audits which have been added to the Action Plan to ensure compliance for 2018.

EEO Awareness

Reference Section 428 [2] [n]

The EEO Management Plan 2018-2022 is under development to ensure alignment with other diversity plans such as the Gender Action Plan, Disability Action Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment Prevention (Custodians of Culture) training provider has been selected with training scheduled before the end of financial year. The Contact Officer network has also been refreshed this financial year, with additional members also scheduled for training. These activities help Council to provide, model and encourage a workplace free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying.

Aboriginal Employment Strategy

The Aboriginal Employment Strategy is a key focus area within Council's new Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). One of the initiatives is to increase Aboriginal employment participation to reflect the total percentage of Aboriginal community members.

This year, Council successfully applied for funding through the Elsa Dixon Program which has supported the employment of 7 school-based trainees who identify as ATSI.

Council is committed to achieving an improvement in employment participation rates and implementing an eLearning cultural competency program raising staff awareness and understanding about Indigenous culture.

Total remuneration package – General Manager

Clause 217 (1) (b)

The remuneration applicable to the General Manager for year was:

	2016/17	2015/16
Salary	213,633	213,138
Bonus/Performance payments	0	0
Superannuation	25,200	23,161
Non-cash benefit	43,874	30,662
Fringe Benefits Tax payable	9,762	8,923
Total Remuneration	292,468	276,715

Total remuneration package – Senior staff

Clause 217 (1) (c)

The remuneration applicable to the two senior officers was:

	2016/17	2015/16
Salary	384,466	370,164
Bonus/Performance payments	0	0
Superannuation	59,484	54,536
Non-cash benefit	1,460	1,159
Fringe Benefits Tax	334	1,219
	445,743	427,078

Stormwater levies

Clause 217 (1) (e)

The Stormwater Management Services (SMS) charge provides funds to deliver council's Cleaner Waterways Program (the Program). The Program focuses on improving stormwater quality in the Wilsons River and Tucki Tucki Creek catchments of Lismore's urban area. The Program has enabled Council to construct and maintain stormwater treatment devices, remediate stormwater channels and undertake community education.

The Urban Stormwater Management Plan was revised in 2015/16 to develop a holistic and long-term approach to urban stormwater management. The revised Plan integrated both stormwater quality and quantity objectives to be delivered within the context of Council's asset management framework. Council is now focused on delivering the projects and actions in the plan.

A flagship project in the plan is the naturalization of Browns Creek through Lismore Park in the centre of Lismore. Preliminary work on this project has commenced but it needs to be integrated with Council's planned major upgrade of Lismore Park. Another key focus for the project will be to ensure that the ongoing maintenance of the finished work can be funded by Council.

Companion animals

Clause 217 (1) (f)

The *Companion Animals Act* was introduced into New South Wales on 1 July 1999 to protect pets, people and the wider community. The principle objective of the Companion Animals Act is to provide for the effective and responsible care and management of companion animals. This also extends to councils providing appropriate management and care for animals that come into their custody, including accurately managing records of these animals. Enforcement, education and information service expectations of the Companion Animals Act and associated regulation are delivered through resources of Council's Compliance and Administration groups.

The following matters are relevant to this reporting period:

- In accordance with Section 67A of the Act, pound data collection return (reporting on the seizing and holding of companion animals) has been reported to the department.
- In accordance with clause 33A of the regulation, Council's Compliance Officers (Law Enforcement) report any relevant information regarding a dog attack incident using the dog incident reporting module of the Companion Animals Register. Further reporting is provided quarterly to the department. For the reporting period, a total of 63 attacks were reported.
- Council funded companion animal management (enforcement, education and information service) activities to the value of \$360,000.
- Council currently provides four (4) off-leash areas – Riverside Park South (fenced area), Lismore Gasworks and Elizabeth Gardens, and Hepburn Park Recreational Area, Goonellabah.
- The following companion animal community education programs were participated in by Council to promote and assist in the de-sexing of dogs and cats: North Coast National (Lismore Show) and National Desexing Network – A program of The Animal Welfare League of QLD.
- Pets in the Park, community walk day.
- The following arrangements are employed by Council for complying with Section 64 of the Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals in Council's control:
 - Maintenance of a database of customers currently seeking to re-home a companion animal from Council's pound. Re-homing is facilitated where an animal is declared suitable (successful temperament and health assessment) and an appropriate match is identified.
 - Maintenance of relationships with Animal Rights and Rescue, Animal Welfare League NSW, Companion Animals Welfare Inc, 11 Hour Rescue, Australian working Dogs Rescue and Wally's Rescue to facilitate the re-homing of suitable animals.

Rates and charges written off

Clause 132

The amount of rates and charges written off during the year are as follows:

	2016/17	2015/16
Pensioner Abandonments		
General	731,979	732,448
Water	239,942	242,493
Wastewater	229,911	228,872
Domestic Waste	182,432	183,640
Sub Total	1,384,264	1,387,453

Other Abandonments	22,107	16,701
Postponed Rates & Interest	0	0
Written off due to hardship	252	522
Total	1,406,623	1,404,676



Special Rate Variation – Business Promotion

Instrument under Section 508 (2)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved a special rate variation (SRV) application for the 2013-14 to 2017-18 rating years. In addition to the rate peg, the SRV comprised a business promotion component of \$106,500. The business promotion component continues to be collected from business-rated properties in the Lismore urban area. For this year this equated to approximately \$113,600.

The following table represents the expenditure per project/program and outcomes achieved.

Projects/ Programs	Income	Spend	Purpose	Amount	Outcomes
1 Marketing	\$41,000	\$41,709	Stocktake Sale	\$16,404	The Big Thank You Sale - Lismore suffered from a flood on 31 March 2017. The Annual Stocktake Sale was combined with an 'Open for Business Thank You Sale' to promote Lismore businesses re-opening after the devastating flood. This included a marketing collateral, shop and win promotion, social media and roving entertainment.
			12 Days of Christmas Promotion	\$19,305	The 12 days of Christmas marketing campaign involved television and newsprint promotion, Santa and street theatre performances to attract shoppers into the CBD for a Christmas experience.
			Lismore Lantern Parade	\$6,000	Marketing promotion help for Lismore Lantern Parade after flood devastated Lismore. The Lantern Parade is an iconic event that has been held in Lismore for 22 years.

Projects/ Programs	Income	Spend	Purpose	Amount	Outcomes
2.Events – three Signature Events	\$38,000	\$37,195	Eat the Street	\$24,896	The third year of this major new event for Lismore attracting more than 20,000 people into the CBD up 50% from the first event. This is a new iconic event for Lismore showcasing local restaurants and produce.
			Lismore Christmas Carols	\$9,799	Sponsorship of the Lismore Christmas Carols which attracts thousands of people to the CBD with roving entertainment and a Santa visit as well as support for local charities.
			Lismore Lantern Parade	\$2,500	Sponsorship of the Lismore Lantern Parade. This is an iconic event that has been held in Lismore for 22 years. Attracts approximately 30,000 people to the CBD with a street parade and 'Fiery Finale'. This is a signature Lismore event.
			Lismore Lantern Parade	\$2,500	Sponsorship of the Lismore Lantern Parade. This is an iconic event that has been held in Lismore for 22 years. Attracts approximately 30,000 people to the CBD with a street parade and 'Fiery Finale'. This is a signature Lismore event.
3.Place making	\$14,000	\$13,960	Christmas Decorations	\$10,940	Provide and replace Christmas decorations in the CBD - commissioned a heart theme in conjunction with the 'Come to the Heart' brand to add colour and vibrancy during the Christmas period.
				\$2,070	Repaint and repair recycled timber seating for pop-up events after the March flood.
				\$950	Supplies for Back Alley Gallery for displays during Eat the Street food event and placemaking.

Projects/ Programs	Income	Spend	Purpose	Amount	Outcomes
4. Business and Community	\$20,574	\$21,587	Lismore Business Awards	\$5,000	Sponsorship of Lismore Business Chamber and Industry Awards - showcasing Lismore businesses.
			CBD Retail Strategy	\$15,000	CBD Retail Strategy.
			Restart the Heart Campaign	\$1,587	Support of Chamber of Commerce and Industry "Restart the Heart" Campaign after Lismore floods in March 2017.
Totals	\$113,574	\$114,451		\$114,451	



Special Rate Variation – Biodiversity Management Strategy

Instrument under Section 508 (2)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved a permanent special rate variation (SRV) application from 1 July 2016. In addition to the rate peg, the SRV comprised a biodiversity management strategy component of \$500,000. The biodiversity management strategy component is collected from all residential and farmland rated properties. Business rated properties are excluded. For this year this equated to approximately 500,000.

The following table represents the expenditure of the funds, variations and outcomes achieved:

a) 2016/17 – Proposed Program and Actual Program	2016/17 Budget	2016/17 Actual
Cleaning up our own backyard		
Planning and Processes		
Review Operational Plan for Roadside Vegetation Management 2005	\$20,000	\$16,120
Staged weed management in road reserve High Conservation Value areas	\$20,000	\$19,000
Complete vegetation mapping for the Lismore LGA	\$80,000	0
Subtotal	\$120,000	\$35,120
Supporting the community		
Recognition of community achievements	\$5,000	\$2,050
Strategic conservation projects (e.g. wild dogs)	\$10,000	\$6,573
Education actions	\$10,000	\$19,710
Subtotal	\$25,000	\$28,496
Working with rural landholders		
Implementation		
Rural landholder capacity building - project implementation	\$33,400	\$38,908
Rural landholder capacity building - extension officer	86,000	\$70,520
Rural and rural residential collaborative information pack	\$5,000	
Coastal Zone Management Plan implementation - riparian restoration in rural areas	\$38,600	\$25,603
Community and industry group partnerships	\$20,000	\$5,000
Rate rebate program	0	0
Subtotal	\$183,000	\$140,031

a) 2016/17 – Proposed Program and Actual Program	2016/17 Budget	2016/17 Actual
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Working in the urban environment

Implement components of the Sport and Recreation Plan	\$20,000	\$18,147
Wellbeing and tourism initiatives	\$5,000	0
Weed management in urban bushland	\$25,000	\$20,534
Weed management in priority urban riparian areas	\$25,000	\$24,965
Road and traffic management for wildlife	\$26,000	\$430
Subtotal	\$101,000	\$64,076

Koala Plan of Management Implementation

Training program for development assessment	\$10,000	0
Koala habitat restoration program and Advisory Group	\$31,000	\$19,970
Study: koala density and population in koala planning area	\$30,000	\$30,333
Subtotal	\$71,000	\$50,303
Grand Total	\$500,000	\$318,026

b) Reasons for significant differences between proposed program and actual program

The commitment of SVR funding was not finalised until June 2016. This timing impacted on Council's ability to deliver all actions detailed in the Biodiversity Management Strategy program for 2016/17 due to limited staff resourcing for much of the 2016/17 financial year. Reasons for shortfall in specific project areas are detailed below:

1. Review Operational Plan for Roadside Vegetation Management 2005 - Late commencement
2. Complete vegetation mapping for the Lismore LGA - Awaiting updated aerial photos from Land and Property Information
3. Recognition of community achievements - Postponed due to flooding
4. Strategic conservation projects - Limited staff resourcing
5. Coastal Zone Management Plan implementation - Late commencement
6. Community and industry group partnerships - Delayed awaiting results of related research project to inform program development
7. Wellbeing and tourism initiatives - Delayed, to align with partnering opportunities
8. Road and traffic management for wildlife - Delayed, awaiting completion of koala habitat study
9. Koala Habitat restoration program - Late commencement
10. Training program for development assessment - Limited staff resourcing

c) Outcomes achieved by Program	
Rural Landholder Initiation	Funded works on 15 properties. Planted 4668 trees including 847 koala feed trees. Undertook weed control across 9.5 hectares of high conservation value bushland. Installed 1.48 km of fencing to exclude cattle from riverbanks and high conservation value land. Undertook weed control along 1.68 km of riparian land. Complete 5 field days.
Urban Green Corridors Plan	The development of the Urban Green Corridors Plan to identify and enhance a green corridor within Lismore city areas and provide a strategic and co-ordinated approach to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity values. Weed control was undertaken in 3 priority HCV bushland reserves covering 3 hectares.
Roadside Vegetation Management Plan	Revised plan to guide Council staff and contractors to undertake routine maintenance of roadside vegetation in a way that protects and conserves high conservation value vegetation and threatened plant species. Weed control was completed in 4.5 km of high conservation value vegetation to improve the quality of these areas.
Urban riparian restoration	Weed control and revegetation work undertaken along 2.8 km of river/creek bank covering more than 6ha.
Coastal Zone Management Plan	Work undertaken on 5 rural properties including planting of 1489 trees, excluding stock from 2.8km of riverbank and undertaking weed control across 3.7 hectares
Koala habitat restoration	Work undertaken on 3 rural properties and 2 areas of Council management urban bushland. Including planting of 100 trees and weed control across 5.5 hectares of koala habitat
Koala habitat study	Competition of a koala habitat and population study over the area covered by the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management
Tracks and trails	Improvement to bushland walking tracks at Tucki Tucki Creek and Slaters Creek including resurfacing and installation of interpretive signage
Biodiversity Awards	Inaugural Lismore Biodiversity Awards with 3 sponsored award categories for primary producer Award, Rural Landholder award and Community and Schools Award.

Government Information (Public Access) Act – Annual Report

Clause 7A: Details of the review carried out by the agency under section 7 (3) of the Act during the reporting year and the details of any information made publicly available by the agency as a result of the review

Reviews carried out by the agency	Information made publicly available by the agency
Yes	No

Clause 7B: The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications)

Total number of applications received
10

Clause 7C: The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act (information for which there is conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure)

Number of Applications Refused	Wholly	Partly	Total
	1	3	4
% of Total	25%	75%	

Schedule 2 Statistical information about access applications to be included in annual report

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/Deny whether information in held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Private sector business	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Members of the public (by legal representative)	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	70%
Member of the public (other)	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	30%
Total	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	10	
% of Total	40%	30%	10%	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%		

* More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to Table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome*

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/ Deny whether information in held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	50%
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	50%
Total	4	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	10	
% of Total	40%	30%	10%	10%	0%	10%	0%	0%		

* A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	No of applications	% of Total
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	1	0%
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0	0%
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0	0%
Total number of invalid applications received	0	0%
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0	0%

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of Act

	Number of times consideration used*	% of Total
Overriding secrecy laws	0	0%
Cabinet information	0	0%
Executive Council information	0	0%
Contempt	0	0%
Legal professional privilege	0	0%
Excluded information	0	0%
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0	0%
Transport safety 0 0	0	0%
Adoption	0	0%
Care and protection of children	0	0%
Ministerial code of conduct	0	0%
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0	0%
Total	0	

*More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act

	Number of times consideration used*	% of Total
Responsible and effective government	0	0%
Law enforcement and security	0	0%
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	3	100%
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0	0%
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0	0%
Secrecy provisions	0	0%
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0	0%
Total	3	

Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications*	% of Total
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	9	90%
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0	0%
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	1	10%
Total	10	

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total	% of Total
Internal review	0	1	1	100%
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0	0%
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0	0%
Review by NCAT	0	0	0	0%
Total	0	1	1	0%
% of Total	0%	100%		

*The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review	% of Total
Applications by access applicants	1	100%
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0	0%
Total	1	

Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies.

	Number of applications transferred	% of Total
Agency-Initiated Transfers	0	0%
Applicant - Initiated Transfers	0	0%
Total	0	

SECTION 4

Audited 2016/17 Financial Reports

Section 428 (4) (a)

The audited 2016/17 Financial Reports were presented to the community at Council's 14 November 2017 meeting. The document can be found at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/page.asp?f=RES-CLO-68-53-34



SECTION 5

State of the Environment Report

Section 428 (1)

The Regional State of the Environment (SoE) 2016 reports on our environment's condition at a regional and local level, covering local government areas from Port Macquarie-Hastings in the south to Tweed in the north.

The report is a result of collaboration between 12 general councils, three county councils and several NSW Government agencies. It provides a report card on our vegetation and soil health, habitat restoration, water quality and marine health, energy and waste, and wastewater. SoE reporting was once the domain of individual councils but as part of NSW Government reforms to the planning and reporting framework, local councils were encouraged to produce SoE reports at a regional level.

The Regional State of the Environment Report Card 2016 as well as the Lismore State of Environment Report 2016 Report Card can be downloaded at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-ZDR-57-42-23



A large mural of a woman's face is painted on a brick wall. The woman has dark hair and is looking slightly to the right. The mural is rendered in a soft, painterly style. The brick wall is a mix of red and brown tones. There are two windows with white frames above the mural. A black pipe runs vertically down the left side of the wall. A 'LOADING ZONE' sign is visible on a pole in the lower center. The bottom of the image features a green and blue geometric graphic.

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