

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

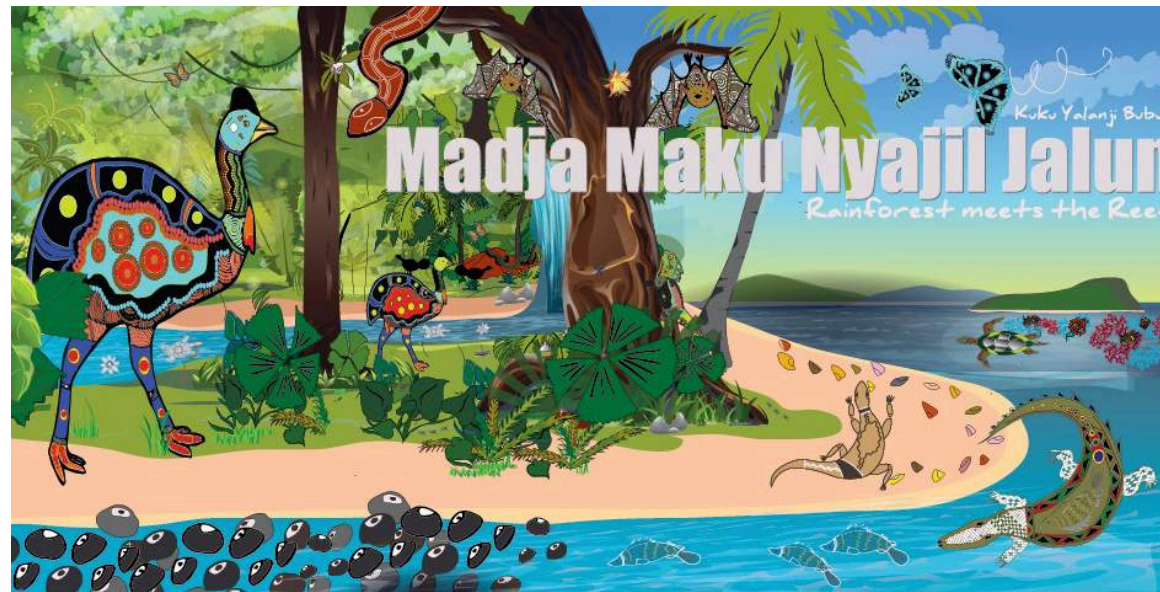
ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DIVERSE DOUGLAS
PROVIDING COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND SERVICES
SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT
ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

2014 - 2015

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL





Douglas Shire Council would like to show its appreciation by acknowledging local Indigenous artists Lenice Schonenberger, Loretta Pierce (Lenoy) and Ronald Bamboo for providing the cover artwork entitled “**Daintree Ferry**”

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REGIONAL PROFILE



The Douglas Shire covers an area of 2,445km from north of Ellis Beach in the south to the Bloomfield River in the north. Douglas is home to approximately 11,000 residents, most of whom live in the two major population centres of Port Douglas and Mossman.

The Shire has many diverse communities with the Traditional Owners, the Eastern Kuku Yalanji and Yirrganydi peoples occupying this land for thousands of years prior to first contact.

As a world renowned tourist destination where the 'Rainforest meet the Reef', the Shire lies within Australia's Wet Tropics World Heritage Area to the west and north, and the Coral Sea and World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to the east.

While the economy of the Shire depends mainly on tourism with 1.2 million visitors annually exploring the stunning natural wonders, Douglas boasts a strong agricultural industry with much of our rural farmland utilised in sugar cane production.



Low Isles



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It is with great pride that I present the second Annual Report of the new Douglas Shire Council.

The new Douglas Shire Council came into existence on 1 January 2014 following a poll in March 2013 when the majority of the community voted to de-amalgamate from Cairns Regional Council.

The birth of the new Douglas Council has allowed us to create an entirely new local government authority, organisational structure and culture. This culture is based on a contemporary, smart and innovative approach to all aspects of council's operations, with a strong focus on community engagement, productivity, business efficiency, accountability and good governance.

Our vision is to lead the way on financial, environmental and social sustainability, and be a model for other councils to follow. Douglas Shire is the only place in the world with two adjoining World Heritage listed areas: the Great Barrier Reef and the ancient Daintree rainforest, so a priority is to build a sustainable economic base in such a beautiful and environmentally rich part of this planet.

Last year I announced Council's plan to achieve financial and community sustainability and a strategy to return Council's operating result to a balanced budget within the shortest possible time. The final operating result for the 2014/15 financial year was almost \$4 million better than budgeted and the nearly 80 per cent improvement is a remarkable result for Council in its first full financial year since de-amalgamation.

Financial sustainability is the primary focus of our Council and this financial result demonstrates we are well on the way to securing the future of the Douglas Shire for ongoing generations. In my first eighteen months as Mayor I have worked diligently with Councillors, the CEO, staff and the broader community to successfully establish the new Council.

Our far better than expected financial position has been supported by a large number of milestone events and achievements that have been well received by the community. The Annual Report details a vast array of these achievements, which include the delivery of an extensive capital works program, economic, community and environmental initiatives. In 2014/15, Council was successful in securing \$1,125,000 in grants from external bodies, and provided \$750,000 to community organisations, which included \$430,000 to Tourism Port Douglas Daintree.

Looking ahead, Council will continue to work closely with all sectors of the community and business, including the state and federal governments in order to achieve a strong, vibrant, and sustainable economy with long term job opportunities and an enjoyable lifestyle.

Finally, I want to thank and express my sincerest appreciation to our CEO, Linda Cardew, all staff and my fellow Councillors for their ongoing diligence and significant contributions to all aspects of Council's performance. I am constantly impressed by the dedication, loyalty and commitment of our staff who have worked tirelessly with Councillors to deliver for our communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This first full year of the operation of Douglas Shire Council has seen the development of the fledgling organisation into a capable and sustainable organisation, proudly taking its place alongside its neighbours in the Far North. Staff have met the challenges of Council's first year with enthusiasm and determination to achieve extraordinary results across all sectors.

We achieved a financial result for the 2014/2015 financial year of almost \$4 million better than originally forecast, reducing the expected deficit from \$5.068 million to an operating deficit of \$1.099 million. The contribution of all staff in efficiently managing resources was an important factor in this success.

Council's Operational Plan included fifty major initiatives across all areas of Council and at the end of the financial year 90 per cent were completed with the remainder to be finalised in the following year. Numerous other initiatives requested by Council and the community during the year were delivered: community programs and educational initiatives, new Library initiatives and programs, funding and in-kind support for many clubs and community organisations, collaboration with local Yalanji artists to create vibrant artwork for the Daintree Ferry, financial support for major events, a wide range of economic development initiatives, environmental management, the development of asset and land management strategies, and improvements to many administrative services. The review of Council's Planning Scheme also commenced during the year.

Council was also a grateful recipient of competitive Queensland State Government funding that enabled further delivery of programs and capital improvements.

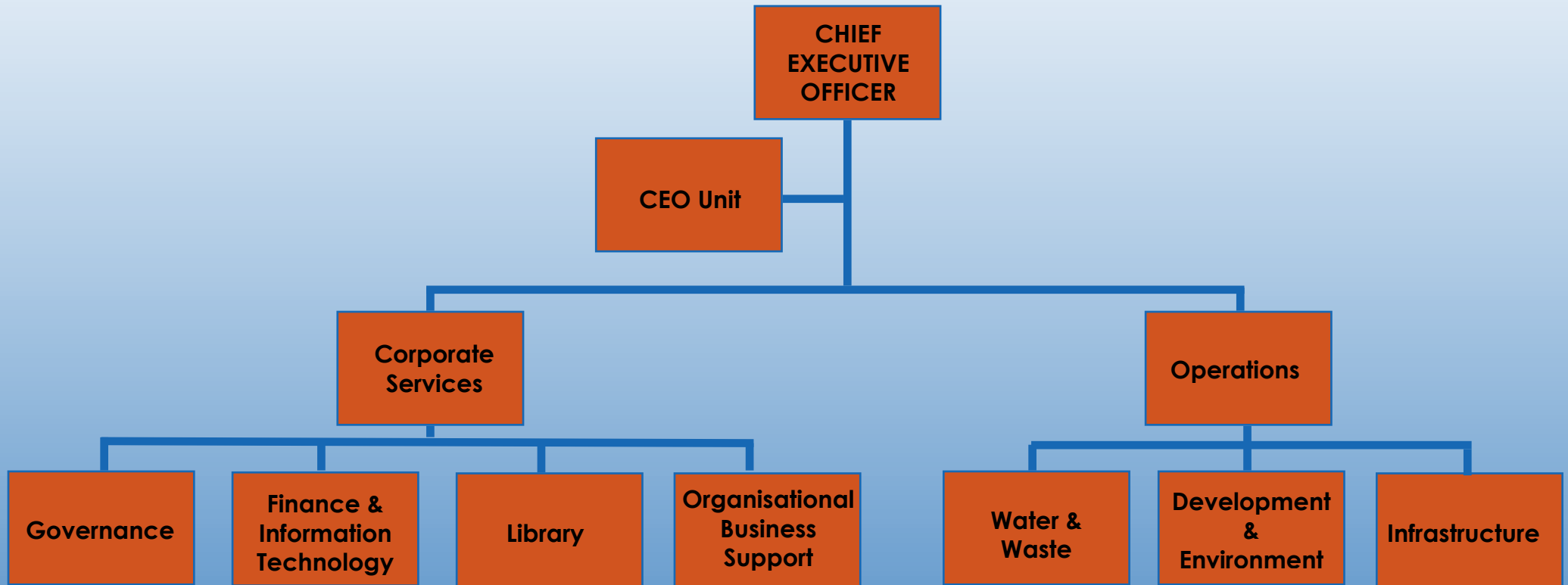
Over \$8 million in capital works programs were identified for the year of which 75 per cent were completed, with the majority delivered under budget achieving savings of \$744,600.

Throughout the year Council's NDRRA project team continued to work on the restoration of essential public assets with the assistance and financial support of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority following the declared disaster events of 2014 and Tropical Cyclone Nathan in 2015, and has now implemented the largest capital works program in the history of the Shire.

There has been much work behind the scenes to deliver the very complex business for which Council is responsible and I extend my sincere gratitude to the Mayor and Councillors for their direction and support, and to all staff who have again worked tirelessly to ensure that Douglas is a strong and capable team at the service of Council and the community.



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES



**Mayor
Cr Julia Leu**



**Deputy Mayor
Cr Abigail Noli**



Cr David Carey



Cr Bruce Clarke



Cr Terry Melchert

Douglas Shire Council comprises a Mayor and four Councillors elected to represent the interests of the diverse communities that form the Shire. Formal Council meetings are held at the Mossman Administration Building every third Tuesday commencing at 10am, unless otherwise required. Meetings are open to the public unless Council resolves to move into a Closed Session under the relevant provisions of the Local Government Regulation 2012.

PARTICULAR RESOLUTIONS

Section 250(1) of the *Local Government Act 2009* requires a Council to adopt an expenses reimbursement policy.

EXPENSES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY FOR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES - Adopted 28/01/2014

No amendments by Council Resolution in this Financial Year.

Section 206(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009* requires Council to set an amount for each different type of non-current physical asset below which the value of an asset of the same type must be treated as an expense.

ASSET CAPITALISATION GENERAL POLICY – Adopted 16/06/2015

Moved: Cr Noli **Seconded:** Cr Carey

“4. That Council adopts the Asset Capitalisation General Policy”

Carried:
Unanimously

Whilst this policy was adopted in the 14/15 Year, it does not come into effect until 1 July 2015.



COUNCILLORS

Under Section 186 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to report information relating to the total remuneration, total superannuation contributions, expenses incurred and the facilities provided to each Councillor under Council's Reimbursement and Expenses policy. A record of attendance by Councillors at Council meetings and details of complaints received against Councillors is also included.

Councillor Remuneration

The following table shows the total remuneration, including superannuation contributions, paid to each Councillor during the financial year 2014/2015.

The below table shows expenses incurred by and the facilities provided to each Councillor during the financial year 2014/2015 under the local government's Expenses Reimbursement Policy.

Councillor	Gross Salary	Super	Total Remuneration	Travel/ Expenses	Fringe Benefit Tax
Mayor Julia Leu	\$94,987.69	\$11,398.52	\$100,687.00	\$13,842.10	\$5,279.33
Deputy Mayor Abigail Noli	\$54,709.90	\$5,197.50	\$59,907.40	\$4,862.49	
Councillor Bruce Clarke	\$47,918.94	\$4,549.08	\$52,468.02	\$1,809.37	
Councillor David Carey	\$47,918.94	\$4,549.08	\$52,468.02	\$5,052.29	
Councillor Terence Melchert	\$47,918.94	\$4,549.08	\$52,468.02	\$2,609.46	

Councillors will be provided with the following facilities and support:

Mayor:

- Office accommodation with administration support.
- Fully maintained vehicle for use in Council duties with full and unrestricted private use. Vehicle is to have a favourable Green Star rating and purchase price is not to exceed \$40,000.

Deputy Mayor and other Councillors:

- Basic administration support to assist with conferences, workshops or training attendance, including travel and accommodation arrangements.

Each Councillor will be provided with a single standard laptop and mobile telephone to be used for Council purposes. Each laptop will be provided with appropriate hardware and software applications to enable Councillors to perform their role.

Support for the Council supplied laptops and mobile telephones will be supplied by Council's Information Technology Unit during standard business hours.

'COUNCILLORS' continued

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

ITEM	Julia Leu	Abigail Noli	David Carey	Bruce Clarke	Terry Melchert
The number of local government meetings that each Councillor attended during the financial year	24	25	25	24	25

ITEM	TOTAL
Orders and recommendations made under section 180(2) or (4) of the Act	-
Orders made under section 181 of the Act	-
Complaints about the conduct or performance of Councillors for which no further action was taken under section 176C(2) of the Act	-
Complaints referred to the department's Chief Executive under section 176C(3)(a)(i) of the Act	-
Complaints referred to the Mayor under section 176C(3)(a)(ii) or (b)(i) of the Act	-
Complaints referred to the department's Chief Executive Officer under section 176C(4)(a) of the Act	1
Complaints assessed by the Chief Executive Officer as being about corrupt conduct under the Crime and Corruption Act	-
Complaints heard by a regional conduct review panel	-
Complaints heard by the tribunal	-
Complaints to which section 176C(6) of the Act applied	-

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION COMPLAINTS

Under Section 187 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is committed to dealing fairly with administrative action complaints and has adopted a centralised complaints management register.

ITEM	RESULT
<p>1(a) A statement about the local government’s commitment to dealing fairly with administrative action complaints</p>	<p>Douglas Shire Council is committed to handling all administrative complaints to ensure that they are dealt with fairly and professionally and in a manner that is respectful to the complainant. The investigation of concerns and complaints can lead to improvements within Council and the manner in which we maintain community services.</p>
<p>1(b) A statement about how the local government has implemented its complaints management process, including an assessment of the local government’s performance in resolving complaints</p>	<p>Customer Request Management (CRM) System identified low level complaints, monitored resolutions of these complaints through monthly reports on the close out of CRM’s. High level complaints and resolutions are recorded through the Complaints Register. Most complaints are resolved within timeframes determined by the Complaints Management General Policy.</p>
<p>2(a)(i) Administrative action complaints made to the local government</p>	<p>146</p>
<p>2(a)(ii) Administrative action complaints resolved by the local government under the complaints management process</p>	<p>144</p>
<p>2(a)(iii) Administrative action complaints not resolved by the local government under the complaints management process</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>2(b) The number of administrative action complaints under paragraph (a)(iii) that were made in a previous year</p>	<p>0</p>



OVERSEAS TRAVEL

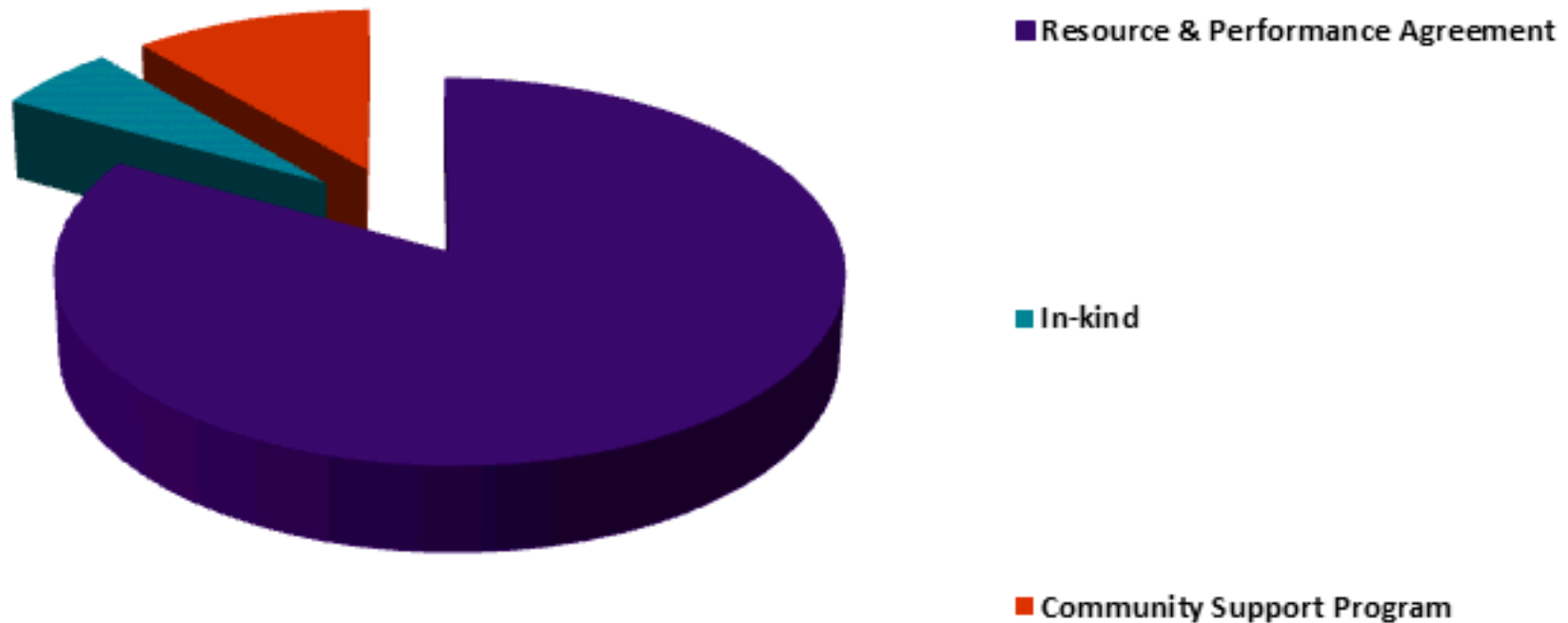
There was no overseas travel made by a Councillor or Local Government Employee in an official capacity during the financial year.

EXPENDITURE ON GRANTS TO COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Under Section 189 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, Council is required to report upon such contributions. During 2014-15, Douglas Shire Council provided financial assistance to the following organisations:

Organisation	Amount	Purpose
Port Douglas Daintree Tourism	\$430,000.00	Provision of destination marketing and tourism for the Shire.
Douglas Chamber of Commerce	\$3,000.00	Delivery of New Year's Eve fireworks.
Douglas Chamber of Commerce	\$50,000.00	Delivery of Carnivale; 10 days of events that promote the Shire and offer the community exciting opportunities for inclusion.
Douglas Shire Historical Society	\$5,000.00	Upkeep of the facilities.
Douglas Theatre Arts Group	\$5,000.00	Upkeep of the facilities.
Douglas Shire Community Services Association	\$5,000.00	Delivery of Christmas in the Park; activities for the community.
Cairns Regional Council	\$42,120.00	Funding towards Ironman event as agreed prior to de-amalgamation.
Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)	\$17,620.00	Funding provided for various community arts and cultural projects in the Douglas Shire that engaged a professional or emerging artist.
World Wide Sports Agency	\$10,000.00	Delivery of the Croc Trophy event in the Shire.
Port Douglas Event Management	\$5,000.00	Funding towards the Great Barrier Reef Marathon.
Medieval Horse Sports Australia	\$10,000.00	Delivery of the Port Douglas Beach Picnic Races.
Mossman District Nursing Home	\$40,000.00	Preparation of business case, financial and economic appraisal.
Community Support Program	\$84,184.00	Funding provided for delivery of programs to the community.
In-kind assistance	\$43,128.42	Assistance towards community events and activities.
TOTAL	\$750,052.42	

Total Community Grants Funding



OTHER CONTENTS

Corporate and Operational Plans

Under Section 190 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, the Chief Executive Officer must provide an assessment of the progress towards implementing the Corporate Plan and Operational Plan.

Council's Operational Plan included fifty major initiatives across all areas of Council and at the end of the financial year 90% were completed, all within budget, with the remaining few initiatives to be finalised in the following year.

In our first full year Council has made substantial progress with the implementation of strategic goals set out in Council's 2014-2019 Corporate Plan. Support for our communities is ongoing, with an extensive schedule of programs, events, funding and information introduced throughout the year. Particular emphasis has been placed on vulnerable and disadvantaged community members with the introduction of Access Douglas, volunteering opportunities and community development activities, and the co-funding of Regional Arts Development programs.

Economic development initiatives have been implemented throughout the Shire through a substantial capital works program and the commencement of the restoration of essential public assets following the 2014 declared disaster events, both providing opportunities for local contractors. Council has worked closely with both the film and tourism industries to identify opportunities and to promote the Shire in a range of forums.

The review of the Planning Scheme commenced this year and improvement works were completed at the Daintree Gateway and scheduled for the upgrade of the Mossman Town Centre. Substantial progress has been made towards securing the Port Douglas water supply with the purchase of land and preparation of the development application for a new reservoir. Major works for the upgrade of Council's water and wastewater systems were scoped and budgets for those works adopted by Council. A very successful educational anti-dumping program was delivered to the community.

Council continues to utilise a wide variety of media in its engagement with the community, with social media proving to be highly effective, reaching an increasingly large audience. Council partnered with local Kuku Yalanji artists to deliver new artwork for the Daintree Ferry and Daintree Gateway signage, and with Wujal Wujal Shire Council, Jabalbina and WTMA to start work on the Bloomfield Track Tourism Drive project. The first Daintree Forum was held, engaging communities north of the river in a dialogue about local issues. Officers worked effectively with the state agencies in disaster preparation and management.

Prudent financial management delivered an exceptional operating position at the end of the 2014-2015 year, with Council again receiving an unmodified audit from QAO. Review of all Council policies, the introduction of electronic services for our customers, and the transparent reporting of a very wide range of operational activities at every second Council meeting through the CEO's report were just several of the strategic governance goals implemented further to the direction provided in the Corporate Plan.

Celebrating our Communities

To celebrate and share the culture, lifestyle and diversity of Douglas communities through community events and programs.

To encourage and support our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

To promote inclusiveness, through accessible programs, social infrastructure and facilities that meet the needs of our diverse communities and visitors.

- Supported the Douglas Chamber of Commerce for the delivery of Carnivale with funding of \$50,000 and \$15,000 'in-kind' support for a period of three (3) years on terms set out in the Resource and Performance Agreement 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2017.
- Provided support for the Port Douglas Event Management (PDEM) Canegrowers Great Barrier Reef Marathon Festival with funding of \$5,000 and \$5,000 'in-kind' support for a period of three (3) years.
- Released remaining funds to Paws and Claws Kennels Port Douglas to provide assistance for operational requirements and the purchase and installation of a caretaker's cottage.
- Approved funding of four Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) 2014-2015 Round One projects totalling \$8,850.
- Approved funding of three Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) 2014-2015 Round Two projects totalling \$8,770.
- Supported Douglas Shire Community Services Association for the delivery of the Mossman Community Christmas in the Park event with funding of \$5,000 and \$2,500 'in-kind' support for a period of three (3) years.
- New cycle bridge and infrastructure linking Teamsters Park with the Mowbray Valley and the Bump track installed.
- Supported Douglas Chamber of Commerce for the delivery of New Year's Eve Fireworks in Port Douglas with funding of \$3,000 and 'in-kind' support in the form of the venue for a period of one (1) year on terms set out in the Resource and Performance agreement 1 December 2014 to 30 June 2015.
- Supported three local Indigenous artist by engaging them to produce artwork for the Daintree Ferry.
- Installed new signage for the Daintree River Ferry turnoff.
- Provided financial support to Medieval Horse Sports Australia to the value of \$10,000.
- Engaged a street artist to deliver Aerosol Art Workshops to children at Wonga Beach Skate Park.
- Conducted 'Extreme Weather' photo competition and exhibition in Council Administration Building Foyer.
- Approved construction of a grass tennis court at the Port Douglas Tennis Club.
- Processed and approved applications for community and sporting events on public land to ensure they were successful and operated in a safe environment.

'Celebrating our Communities' continued

- Endorsed the 2015-2016 Regional Arts Development Fund and application for funding to Arts Queensland based on a Council contribution of \$17,620 and adopted a new Douglas Shire Council Regional Arts Development Fund guidelines and application form.
- New playground developed and installed at Cape Tribulation.
- Implemented a responsible dog owner education and enforcement program which resulted in 5.9% increase in dog registrations.
- Celebrated local author Rob Hubbard at the launch of his poetry book titled 'Distinctively Daintree' at Mossman Library.
- Provided bins and/or free tipping for numerous community and charitable events including Great Northern Clean Up, Christmas in the Park, Cape Kimberley Clean Up, Mossman District Show.
- Assisted the Douglas Shire Historical Society with the purchase of a stand for their touchscreen computer exhibit, 'Douglas Shire's Diggers in WW1' which details the military history of local Diggers who enlisted in World War 1.
- Engaged and supported 2395 people from our local community via computer training, Storytime outreach and children's activities.
- Established the Mayor's Christmas Appeal.



Building a Sustainable Economic Base

- To develop a sustainable Capital Works program that generates local opportunities for employment.**
- To support the growth of local business and industry, and to encourage commercial investment in the Shire.**
- To increase opportunities to promote the Shire as a destination of choice.**
- Improve the social and economic outcomes and opportunities for our communities.**

- Continued the economic incentive previously described as the “Smart Card” under the banner of the “Douglas Card”, to residents of Douglas Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, Tablelands Shire Council, Cairns Regional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council and Cook Shire Council.
- Awarded contracts to Pre-Qualified Suppliers for hire of mobile and fixed plant (wet & dry).
- Air-conditioner refurbished at Mossman Administration Building.
- Removed asbestos from the Mossman Depot back wall.
- Delivered Capital works - including new generator at Mossman Works Depot, new floor frame for Clink Theatre, new solar lights on Esplanade, new light pole and access ladder at the ferry, resurfaced netball courts at Port Douglas Sports Centre, and Port Douglas Community Hall improvement for new Customer Service Hub.
- Entered into a contract for the Mowbray Road Causeway Upgrade at Spring Creek.
- Introduced E-Services for enhanced provision of customer service.
- Secured over \$1,125,000 in funding grant from external bodies.
- Successful tender of the Operation and Management of the Caravan Park and Campground situated at 24-32 Davidson Street, Port Douglas.
- Completion of Woobadda bridge to improve accessibility along the Bloomfield track.
- Completed and opened stage one of the Daintree Gateway, including new toilet facilities, landscaping works at several locations including the ferry crossing, river cruise terminal and the ferry road intersection.
- Captured data, development of submissions and contracts to obtain and commence delivery of NDRRA funding totalling in excess of \$20 million for the restoration of essential public infrastructure including roads.
- Dredged Daintree River for the Ferry Crossing.

'Building a Sustainable Economic Base' continued

Ladder & light pole



Solar light panel



Daintree Gateway Centre



Before



After

'Building a Sustainable Economic Base' continued

- **Mowbray River Road and Connolly Road Causeway Upgrade Projects** - Sourced raw materials from the Mowbray River Quarry and the proposed causeway upgrades will ensure these raw materials are available for restoring road access through the shire following flooding and other natural disasters.
- **Whyanbeel Causeway Number 3 Upgrade Project** - Upgraded bridges and causeway crossings along Whyanbeel Road as this road is the primary evacuation route through this area. The Whyanbeel Causeway Culvert No.3 upgrade and replacement project provides reliable travel to and from this area.
- **Daintree Village Flood Monitoring Gauge** - Automation of the flood monitoring gauge at Daintree Village to provide accurate and real time flood levels to allow the Local Disaster Management Group to provide advice to the community and the Daintree Ferry for operational requirements.
- Completed safety upgrade of the Port Douglas Road and Captain Cook Highway with landscaped gardens on the road verges and a unique hard landscaped surface for the roundabout.
- Teamsters Park at Craiglea received a revamp that included formalising of car park, new bollards and picnic tables and an improved access point on service road for safety.
- Port Douglas Community Hall received a landscape and footpath upgrade to improve the aesthetics of this fabulous venue.



- Submitted a draft of the new Douglas Shire Planning Scheme for State Government Interest Review.
- Sixty-four Development application approvals issued this period and eighty-four new Development applications lodged.
- Worked with local businesses and community groups to deliver record numbers of Council approved public place events with over one hundred minor and twenty-eight major event permits issued.

Improved Environmental Performance

To enhance and preserve cultural heritage, natural and built environments through sound planning and community involvement.

To reduce the consumption of energy and other resources in all Council operations.

- Awarded contracts to Pre-Qualified Suppliers for hire of mobile and fixed plant (wet & dry).
- Removed gravity drainage deck at Port Douglas Waste Water Treatment Plant and replaced with a full stainless steel unit to improve bio-solids handling.
- Installed outfall flow meter at Port Douglas Waste Water Treatment Plant.
- Relocated Mossman Waste Water Treatment Plant outfall flow meter to give more accurate readings.
- Removed grit from the oxidation ditch at Mossman Waste Water Treatment Plant, increasing capacity of the reactor by 20%.
- Installed automatic change over generator systems at two main wastewater pump stations in Mossman and Port Douglas to prepare Council better for wastewater operations during severe weather conditions.
- Delivered 'Love where you live' dump stunt display at Port Douglas Markets and Mossman Show stall.



'Improved Environmental Performance' continued

- Selected sewer networks in Mossman and Port Douglas were inspected and re-lined to ensure an extended asset lifecycle of Council infrastructure and reduction in water infiltration into sewer network and subsequent improvement environmental compliance.
- Upgraded overflow chambers at three sewer pump stations in Mossman and Port Douglas to ensure outflow is screened as per FNQROC standards.
- Sewer manhole and pump station rehabilitation continued, reducing infiltration into the reticulation system. Several manhole chambers and pump station internal walls were repaired and ultra-coated to provide protection against Hydrogen Sulphide corrosion.
- Upgrade water supply mains in Mowbray River Road (stage 1: 2.2km) and Syndicate Road (3.5km) to reduce breakages in these areas.
- Restored and upgraded water ring feed in Ashford Avenue, Port Douglas to improve flow and fire fighting ability in the area.
- Successfully implemented water restrictions for the first time in the history of the Shire.
- Installed variable speed pump at the Mossman Swimming Pool.
- Completed a study on the viability of waste collection north of the Daintree River so as to move to community engagement.
- Erosion control measures were installed at the Daintree and Whyanbeel water treatment plants to protect vegetation and stabilise the embankments and prevent silt run off to the surrounding waterways.
- Lined Rex Creek intake channel with a stainless steel insert, ensuring maximum usage of available water to feed the Mossman water treatment plant.



- Refurbished previously de-commissioned 1.8 ML reservoir at the Mossman Water Treatment Plant, increasing drinking water storage capacity in the Port Douglas/Mossman water scheme.
- Installed remote solar powered turbidity meter at Rex Creek raw water intake. Live data allows operators to monitor intake water quality and operate filtration plant at optimum levels.
- Engaged with licensed businesses connected to private water supplies to develop a water management plan ensuring the safe supply of water to their customers.
- Implemented a State sponsored illegal dumping and littering surveillance program.

'Improved Environmental Performance' continued

- Treated 7.4 hectares of priority weed *hiptage benhalensis* in the core infestation area of Butches Hill. 1575 staff hours were completed by DSC staff assisting externally funded contractors.
- Provided free green waste disposal and free mulch to Shire residents at accepting Transfer Stations.
- Entered into a Regional Waste Contract for the collection of ferrous metals and lead batteries.
- 342 gas bottles were decommissioned and sent for recycling.
- Over 7300t of general waste was sent to the Suez ARRT Facility for processing for cane farm re-use.
- Investigated approximately 75 planning compliance matters.
- Accepted over 2400 used chemical containers through the DrumMuster program and sent for recycling.
- Over 320t of scrap metal and 14t of tyres were received and transported on for recycling.
- Over 1700t of green waste was collected and mulched for resale, giveaway or on site use.
- Over 180t of recycling & packaging material was sent for processing at the Material Recovery Facility in Cairns from commercial sources.
- Over 830t of recycling & packaging material was sent for processing at the Material Recovery Facility in Cairns from residential sources.
- Approximately 1t of paint, 26t of batteries, 10t of waste engine oil were collected and sent for recycling.
- 765 fridges and air-conditioner units were degassed recovering 144kg of refrigerant for recycling.





reef guardians

*Working together today
for a healthier Reef tomorrow*

Engage, Plan, Partner

To implement the Community Engagement Framework and Guidelines as adopted.

To develop enhanced collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders to achieve community outcomes.

To ensure effective disaster management planning to support the Douglas communities.



- Provided over \$590,000.00 in Resource and Performance Agreement funding to organisations to deliver community events and tourism initiatives including TPDD, Mossman Show, Ironman and Crocodile Trophy.
- Entered into a contract with AECOM Australia Pty Ltd for the provision of engineering consultancy services associated with the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements 2014 Funded Restoration Works Northern Road Package.
- Appointed Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC as the supplier of Traditional Owner consultancy services to provide cultural awareness training for the successful NDRRA contractors.
- Allocated \$257,565 for Council's contribution towards the delivery of the Degarra Causeways Access Flood Immunity Upgrade.
- Formed a partnership with the Douglas Shire Local Disaster Management Group.
- Sections of the Local Disaster Management Plan were exercised including activation of the Port Douglas Storm Tide Shelter and the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.
- Installed backup generator at the Council depot for use in disaster situations.

'Engage, Plan, Partner' continued

- Completed targeted informal stakeholder consultation in relation to the draft new Douglas Shire Planning Scheme.
- Answered over 2200 planning enquiries.
- Commenced a review of Council's Local Laws.



- Installed automatic river height gauge at the Daintree Village to assist in decision making.
- Completed level 2 flood study for the Daintree village to Barratt's Creek.
- Received grant funding of \$12,258 for 'First Five Forever', a family literacy program aimed at supporting stronger language and literacy environments for young children from 0-5 years and their families.
- Partnered with ABC Open which runs free workshops in regional Australia to run 'Getting to know your digital camera' and the 'Art of writing and blogging' at Mossman Library.
- Engaged with author Rosalind Brenner in the launch of her book 'Kalisa: a journey to return'.
- Delivered disaster education sessions to local schools and community.
- Commenced implementation of an illegal camping strategy that includes a review of regulatory signage, identifying hot spot areas, partnering with the local police and employing a new Local Laws officer.
- Up-skilled a regulatory services officer to an accredited swimming pool inspector to help monitor non-compliant swimming pool fences and investigate swimming pool immersions.
- Acquitted grant funding of \$12,000 under the State Library of Queensland's 'Technology Trendsetters' for Wi-fi.

Governance

To develop a financially sustainable organisation through sound strategic planning.

To demonstrate leadership in local government through sound, transparent, accountable and equitable decision making.

To deliver services to our community in an efficient, productive and cost effective manner.

- Developed Complaints Management Process and General Policy.
- Successful tender of the Operation and Management of the Caravan Park and Campground situated at 24-32 Davidson Street, Port Douglas.
- Adopted Schedule of Fees and Charges for the 2015 - 16 financial year.
- Reviewed, amended and adopted policies transferred from Cairns Regional Council with de-amalgamation.
- Commenced project to refine council forms to ensure consistency across departments and better communication with customers.
- Successfully completed water chlorine-free trial.
- Entered into a contract for the restoration of the Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield Road as part of the delivery of Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements 2014 Funded Restoration Works Northern Road Package.
- Adopted general policies of a financial and administrative nature.
- Developed a Land Asset Strategy to inform acquisition and disposal of Council freehold land.
- Conducted community engagement on a range of projects including Women of Douglas - Get Out, Get Active; Crocodile Management and Front Street Steetscape Upgrade.



NUMBER OF INVITATIONS TO CHANGE TENDERS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR

Under Section 228(7) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, there were four instances during the 2014/2015 financial year where persons who had submitted a tender to Council were invited to change their tenders. These relate to:

There were no instances during the 2014/2015 financial year where personal who had submitted a tender to Council were invited to change their tenders.



LIST OF KEY REGISTERS KEPT BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT



The following registers are held by Council:

- * Asbestos Register
- * Asset Register
- * Conflict of Interest/Material Personal Interest Declarations Register
- * Corporate Risk Register (being established)
- * Gift Register
- * Land Record
- * Local Laws Register
- * Vulnerable Residents Evacuation & Recovery Register
- * Register of Cost Recovery Fees
- * Register of Council Meeting Minutes
- * Register of Delegations (including financial)
- * Register of Council's approved procurement arrangements
- * Register of Interests Councillors
- * Register of Interests Chief Executive Officer
- * Register of Interests Senior Executive Employees
- * Register of Interests of a Person who is related to a Councillor, Chief Executive Officer or Senior Executive Employee.
- * Register of Resource and Agreements for Fundings
- * Road Map and Register
- * Record of Declaration of Interest
- * Record of Written Complaints about Councillor Conduct
- * Record of Administrative Action Complaints
- * Record of Taking of Declaration of Office

REMUNERATION PACKAGES

Section 201 of the *Local Government Act 2009* requires Council to report the total number of remuneration packages that are payable to the senior management.

Number of Senior Management Staff	Band of Remuneration
3	\$100,000 - \$200,000



Community Financial Report

INTRODUCTION

Council's general purpose financial statements are for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2009, the Local Government Regulation 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. They have also been audited by the Queensland Audit Office.



This community financial report provides a summary of the financial statements with the aim of providing understandable information to the members of our community.

The financial statements include the following:

- **Statement of Comprehensive Income** – includes Council's operating and capital revenue, operating expenses, capital income and capital expenses for the period.
- **Statement of Financial Position** – provides details of Council's current and non-current assets and liabilities.
- **Statement of Changes in Equity** – identifies movements in Council's Equity balance.
- **Statement of Cash Flows** – shows the movement in Council's cash position during the period and excludes all non-cash items such as depreciation.
- **Notes to the Financial Statements** – provide details of significant accounting policies and supporting information relating to the major statements, including a detailed breakdown of property, plant and equipment.
- **Measures of Financial Sustainability** – provide three sustainability indicators designed to help monitor the current and long-term sustainability of Council.

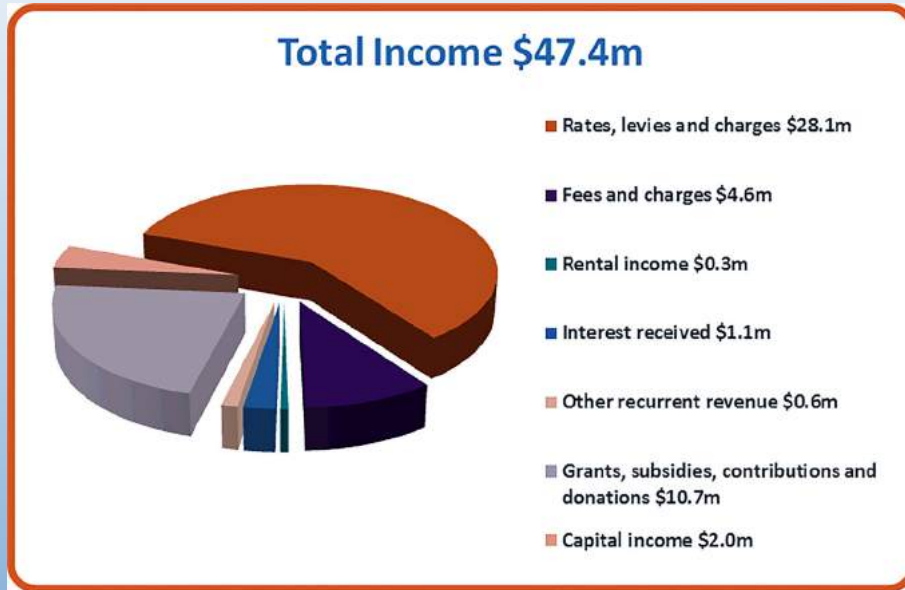
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015 AT A GLANCE

Operating Revenue	\$36,929,289
Operating Expenses	(\$38,028,744)
Operating Position	(\$1,099,455)
Capital Revenue	\$8,476,780
Capital Income	\$2,001,411
Capital Expenses	(\$19,410,580)
Net Result	(\$10,031,844)
Current Assets	\$30,845,449
Non-Current Assets	\$302,568,072
Total Assets	\$333,413,521
Current Liabilities	\$8,260,884
Non-Current Liabilities	\$8,905,397
Total Liabilities	\$17,166,281
Net Community Assets (Equity)	\$316,247,240

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

INCOME

The following graph and table show the composition of Council's income for the reporting period.



Income by percentage

Rates, levies and charges	59.32%
Fees and charges	9.82%
Rental income	0.57%
Interest received	2.37%
Other recurrent revenue	1.22%
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	22.48%
Capital income	4.22%
	100.00%

Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations

Includes capital grants, subsidies and contributions of \$6.6 million and assets contributed by developers of \$1.9 million.

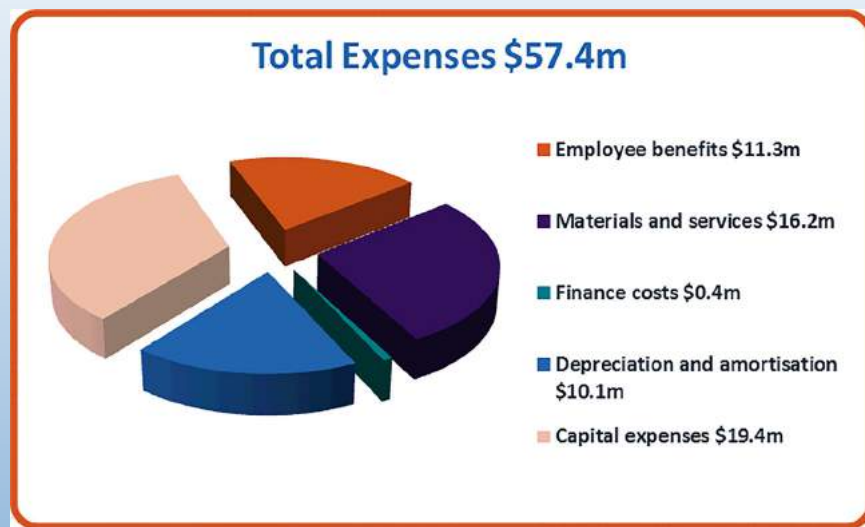
Capital Income

Includes a revaluation increment to property, plant and equipment (sewerage assets) reversing a previous revaluation decrement of \$2 million.

Further details can be found in notes 3 to 5 of the notes to the financial statements.

EXPENSES

The following graph and table show the composition of Council's expenses for the reporting period.



Expenses by percentage

Employee benefits	19.74%
Materials and services	28.09%
Finance costs	0.75%
Depreciation and amortisation	17.62%
Capital expenses	33.80%
	100.00%

Capital Expenses

Includes a revaluation decrement to property, plant and equipment (transport assets) of \$18.6 million and a discount rate adjustment to Council's landfill restoration provision of \$0.8 million.

Further details can be found in notes 6 to 9 of the notes to the financial statements.

OPERATING POSITION

Council's operating position reflects its ability to meet day-to-day operating costs from its operating revenue. This includes its ability to fund the depreciation of assets.

It is determined by deducting operating expenses from operating revenue and shows an operating deficit of \$1.1 million, compared to a budgeted operating deficit of \$3.8 million.

This variance of \$2.7 million is mainly due to:

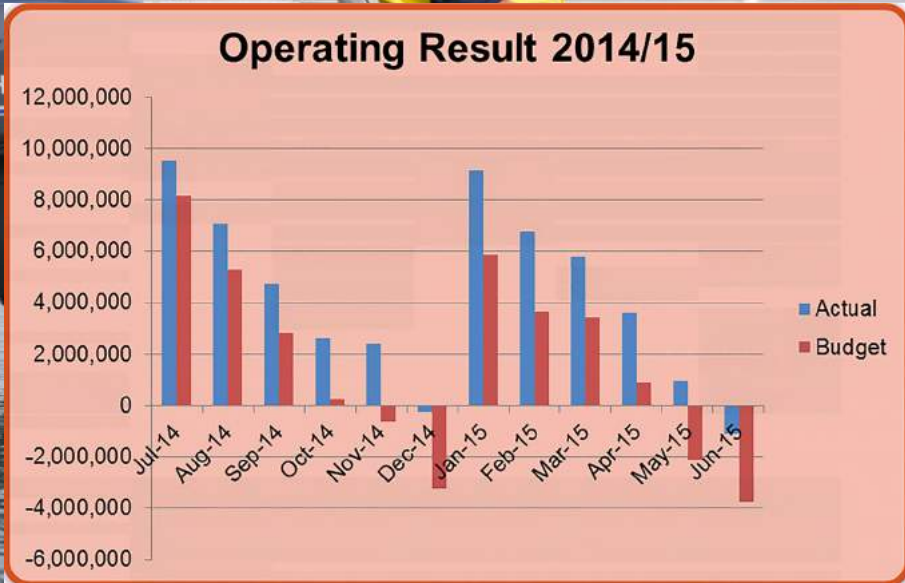
- Greater than anticipated operating revenue for the period, mainly relating to rates and utility charges (\$0.3 million) and fees and charges (\$0.6 million)
- Less than anticipated operating expenditure, mainly relating to salaries and wages (-\$0.7 million) and materials and services (-\$0.9 million)

The following table provides details of Council's budgeted operating result compared to the actual result for the reporting period.

Douglas Shire Council	Budget 14/15	Budget 14/15	Actuals 14/15
Budget Vs Actuals	Adopted 27/06/2014	Revised 24/03/2015	Audited Financial Statements
For the 2014/2015 Financial Year			
	\$	\$	\$
Operating Revenue			
Net rates and utility charges	27,775,175	27,782,564	28,122,320
Fees and charges	3,703,494	4,057,959	4,655,890
Grants, subsidies, contributions and donations	800,536	2,166,530	2,178,788
Interest received	633,240	977,240	1,123,392
Other recurrent income	800,663	613,306	848,899
Total Operating Revenue	33,713,108	35,597,599	36,929,289
Operating Expenses			
Employee benefits	12,048,582	12,048,582	11,338,883
Materials and services	16,799,535	17,017,963	16,137,571
Depreciation	9,730,868	10,093,415	10,122,645
Finance costs	202,570	202,570	429,645
Total Recurrent Expenses	38,781,555	39,362,530	38,028,744
Operating Result	(5,068,447)	(3,764,931)	(1,099,455)

'OPERATING POSITION' continued

The following graph shows Council's budgeted operating result compared to its actual operating result on a month by month basis for the reporting period.



NET RESULT

Council's net result is determined by deducting total expenses (operating expenses and capital expenses) from total income (total revenue and capital income).

The overall net result is a negative \$10 million.

This result includes some significant items of revenue which are restricted as follows:

- **Developer contributions** – cash contributions made by developers to fund future infrastructure assets have restrictions placed on their use and are constrained.
- **Other constrained revenue** – raised from other sources, for example grant funds provided for a specific purpose.

It also includes many non-monetary values such as:

- **Non-monetary revenue** – infrastructure assets contributed by developers such as roads, drains, sewerage mains and water mains represent non-cash revenue which is not available for Council operations or future capital expenditure.
- **Gain on disposal of non-current assets.**
- **Increases in the value of Council's landfill restoration provision** - as a result of a re-estimation of the future cost to restore the landfill sites.
- **Non-current asset revaluation decrements** – which occur when asset values are adjusted downwards as part of an external revaluation



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Council assets as at 30 June 2015 total \$333.4 million. This includes \$30.8 million of current assets (cash and other assets that are expected to be converted to cash or consumed within a year) and \$302.6 million of non-current assets. Property, plant and equipment makes up 90% of total assets.

Current assets consist of cash and cash equivalents, short term deposits, trade and other receivables and inventories. Non-current assets consist of long term assets like property, plant and equipment, including capital works in progress.

The following graph show the composition of Council's assets:



The following graph show the composition of Property, plant and equipment.



Further details can be found in notes 10 to 12 and notes 14 to 16 of the notes to the financial statements.

LIABILITIES

Total liabilities as at 30 June 2015 are \$17.2 million. This includes \$8.3 million of current liabilities (due to be settled within twelve months) and \$8.9 million of non-current liabilities. Liabilities mostly consist of loans, amounts owing to suppliers, amounts owing to employees for leave entitlements and provision for the future cost of restoring landfills.

The following graph shows the composition of Council's liabilities:



Further details can be found in notes 17 to 19 of the notes to the financial statements.

BORROWINGS AND REPAYMENTS

During the period Council did not apply for any new loans, however made principal repayments of \$111,940 and interest payments of \$140,056 in accordance with the terms and conditions set by Queensland Treasury Corporation. The loans balance as at 30 June 2015 is \$2.1 million and Council's debt per rateable property is \$232.

COMMUNITY EQUITY

Council's total community equity as at 30 June 2015 is \$316 million and represents Council's asset revaluation surplus of \$5 million (increase in values of property, plant and equipment as a result of revaluations) and retained surplus of \$311 million. This is determined by deducting the value of total liabilities from the value of total assets.

Further details can be found in note 20 of the notes to the financial statements.



MEASURES OF FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The following ratios are designed to provide a measure of the performance of Council against key financial sustainability criteria:

Ratio	What the ratio provides	How the ratio is calculated	Actual result	Target result
Operating surplus ratio	An indication of the extent to which revenues raised cover operational expenses only or are available for capital funding purposes or other purposes.	Net result (excluding capital items) divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital items)	-3%	between 0% and 10%
Asset sustainability ratio	An approximation of the extent to which the infrastructure assets managed by Council are being replaced as they reach the end of their useful lives	Capital expenditure on the replacement of assets (renewals) divided by depreciation expense.	67%	greater than 90%
Net financial liabilities ratio	An indicator of the extent to which the net financial liabilities of Council can be serviced by its operating revenues.	Total liabilities less current assets divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital items)	-37%	not greater than 60%

The Operating surplus ratio is a considerable improvement over the previous reporting period. The Asset sustainability ratio has also improved considerably and demonstrates an increasing commitment to expenditure on asset renewals. The Net financial liabilities ratio indicates Council is in a very healthy position to service its existing liabilities.

FURTHER DETAIL CAN BE FOUND IN COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WHICH ARE INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS
THE DOUGLAS SHIRE
COUNCIL FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS 2014-15