



# CityProfile

## Financial Result

Council has maintained its sound financial position as at 30 June 2009. Of note is that whilst the Income Statement reflects a deficit of \$39.71 million, this is because of a number of one-off items:

- \$42.4 million – Revaluation Decrement for Roads
- \$0.93 million – Revaluation Decrement for Investment Properties
- \$7.28 million – Provision for Remediation of former Gasworks site
- \$2.14 million – Advance payment of Financial Assistance Grant

If not for these one-off items, the operating result would have been a surplus of \$8.76 million.

Council's overall cash and investments increased from \$63.4 million to \$77.93 million. Much of the funds held were to complete the Sewer 2010 upgrade of the Koorringal and Narrung Street Sewerage Treatment Plants, plus a number of major road upgrade projects along the Glenfield Road Corridor.

The highly volatile global financial markets have impacted negatively on Council's investment returns in 2008/09 and on Council's overall financial performance.

In particular the performance of managed funds has been poor which is consistent with overall market conditions.

The Balance Sheet and key financial indicators confirm that Council remains in a sound financial position as at 30 June 2009 and is well placed to address the financial challenges which lie ahead. These include:

- The need to implement a Remediation Action Plan on the former gasworks site in Tarcutta Street
- The need to establish additional road and rail associated infrastructure at Bomen to enable the economic growth of the City
- Implementation of Master Plans including the Airport, Bomen Livestock Marketing Centre, Riverside Precinct and Bolton Park
- The possible impact on investment returns (in the short-term at least) of volatile financial markets

Detailed financial information can be found on Council's website at [www.wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wagga.nsw.gov.au)

## OUR CITY

- 17.3 % of the population is under the age of 11
- The 17-24 year age group constitute 13.5% of Wagga's population as opposed to 9.2% for NSW
- 3.5% of people are from non-English speaking backgrounds
- 6.7% of people were born overseas
- Our LGA
- The Local Government Area (LGA) occupies an area of 4,866 sq km, made up of the City of Wagga Wagga and the villages of Collingullie, Currawarna, Galore, Humula, Ladysmith, Mangoplah, Oura, Tarcutta, Uranquinty and surrounding farmland
- There are 25,592 rateable properties in Wagga Wagga
- Wagga Wagga is a key industry centre in the region, generating a Gross Regional Product of approximately \$2.6 billion and accounting for over one third of the Murrumbidgee Statistical Division economic output from only 7% of the land area

## OUR COMMUNITY

- The education and training sector provides both services and employment opportunities to many people in the area
- There is a university, a regional Institute of TAFE, a community college, nine high schools, and many primary schools, preschools and child care services
- Due to its large Indigenous population Wagga Wagga is also the location for several key Indigenous organisations, and Indigenous specific government agencies. All three arms of the Defence forces have a presence in the local area and RAAF and Army are large employers
- The manufacturing and construction industries are strong sources of employment as are the accommodation and food services sectors and the transport industry
- Wagga Wagga has a diverse employment base including strengths in services, defence, manufacturing and agriculture

## WHAT WE DO

- Manage 200 parks and reserves and 95 playgrounds citywide
- Maintain a local road network of 2129.38 km's
- Maintain a local footpath network of 235 km's
- Provide learning to 14,193 Children at Council's Library
- Administer vaccines to 617 babies, children and school students
- Collect 720L of waste and recycled materials from 43,600 households
- Provided family day care services to approx 884 children and 578 families



## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

LYN RUSSELL PSM FAIM FLGMA  
| GENERAL MANAGER

Wagga Wagga and its surrounding communities have enormous potential – economically, socially and environmentally.

We have great infrastructure investment opportunities that will achieve real economic returns in terms of regional growth, jobs and increased opportunity and we have significant projects in the pipeline that will deliver increased social and cultural opportunity for the community.

To realise this potential, Council has embarked on a significant change program to best position both Council and the communities we serve for making full use of the opportunities available to us. The strategies we've implemented have already led to improvements and heralded benefits for our community, and I have detailed some below.

Councillors and the organisation of Council will acknowledge that working in partnership will achieve the greatest results for the people who rely on us to establish and maintain Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas a vibrant, rich and exciting place to live, work and invest.

A detailed description of Council's achievements over the past 12 months are showcased in the Annual Report 2008/09 and I hope that as you read of our performance in the key areas of Economic, Environment, Social and Governance you too will feel excited and positive about the future of Wagga Wagga.

This document is a summary of the 2008/09 Annual Report.

Other documents that complement the Community Annual Report include:

The 2008/09 Annual Report, Audited Financial Statements and State of Environment Report.

For full report and other events and news go to:

**Website:** [www.wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wagga.nsw.gov.au)

**Visit:** Council's Civic Centre at Cnr Baylis and Morrow Streets, Wagga Wagga

**Phone:** 1300 2 WAGGA



## Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians

Council acknowledges and respects that Indigenous Australians were the first people of this land and the Wiradjuri people were the first regional custodians of the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area. This recognition includes acceptance of the rights and responsibilities of Indigenous Australians to participate in decision making.

Council acknowledges the shared responsibility of all Australians to respect and encourage the development of an awareness and appreciation of each others heritage and origin. In so doing, Council recognises and respects the heritage, culture, sacred sites and special places of Indigenous Australians.

Council is committed to developing programs to improve the wellbeing of all City of Wagga Wagga residents as well as facilitating reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents.

Council recognises that social justice and reconciliation are fundamental to achieving positive changes. Council will continue to actively encourage Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians to work together for a just, harmonious and progressive society.

Council recognises the richness of Indigenous cultures and values in promoting social diversity within the community.



## WAGGA WAGGA CITY COUNCIL

# Annual Community Report for 2008/09

## 2008/2009 OVERVIEW

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Enhanced community engagement strategies including: new Advisory Committees established, annual village consultation program, Annual "Report to the People", Community newsletters and improved on-line feedback capability
- External city image audit and Council approval for a new city image strategy, including: streetscaping, landscaping, signage, public art strategy/funding, entrance and suburb statements, creating city pride and a sense of place
- Development of comprehensive environmental sustainability strategy for the City

### FUTURE PLANS

- Airport – become an aeronautical infrastructure and commercial hub
- Bomen Business Park - champion and source funding as a principal industrial location of national significance
- Riverside Wagga Wagga - finalise masterplan as a focal destination point for the community
- Recreation Precincts – develop and implement an holistic approach to the future development of sporting and recreation
- Lake Albert – balance community needs with environmental and economic constraints
- Community Vision – engage with the community in developing their vision for 2030
- City Image - develop and implement comprehensive strategy
- Sewer 2010 - finalise construction and commission new plants
- Workplace Agreement - develop, negotiate and implement a comprehensive agreement for Wagga Wagga City Council
- Draft Wagga Wagga Local Environment Plan 2008 and Development Control Plan - finalise completion
- Workforce Plan - lead development of a comprehensive plan for Wagga Wagga City Council



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

COUNCILLOR KERRY PASCOE | MAYOR

I am proud to present this overview of Council's achievements and progress to you, the community. This is the first full year our current body of elected representatives has worked together and we, along with all of Council staff, can be proud of the achievements detailed in this report.

Each of us chose to be a Councillor to make a difference to our communities and make decisions for now, and for the future. And we look forward to making some important decisions for the City's future.

**GIVING OUR COMMUNITY A VOICE |** Regular communication with our community is really important and whilst Councillors are available all the time to talk to residents about issues or ideas for improving the local government area, we have also created a number of ways to have regular, formal discussions. We've also acted on feedback from the 2009 Community Survey to detail programs and initiatives in our 2009/10 Management Plan.

**FEDERAL FUNDING BOOST |** In November the Federal Government announced nearly \$1.3 million for six local community infrastructure projects, which will be completed in the second half of 2009.

**AN EDUCATION AND TRAINING HUB |** Wagga Wagga continues to grow its reputation as a national education and training hub, with first-class facilities and services offered by the military bases (RAAF and Army), Charles Sturt University, and TAFE NSW Riverina Institute. Adding to these strengths, Council is proud to welcome Regional Express Australian Airline Pilot Academy to the City this year and is actively partnering with key stakeholders to support the ongoing growth of tertiary education and training facilities and services.

**WHICHWAYWAGGA |** It's important that Council works with the community to decide how they want Wagga Wagga to be in the future and to this end, we have commenced the "WhichWayWagga Vision 2030" project. Over the second half of 2009 people will be asked to give their ideas and thoughts on the Local Government Area's future and we will use this information to plan for the works and services we need to provide to support this vision. This project will commence with a Wagga Wagga Futures Week during November.

**SOUND FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS |** Over the coming years our community will be greatly enriched because of the foundations we've established during this past year and I'm pleased to have led the elected body that has been part of this critical stage in the City's history.





## Our Performance

### 1. Social

### 2. Economic

### 3. Environment

### 3. Environment (cont.)

### 4. Governance

## The Planning Process of Council

The full Annual Report reports against the actions outlined in the four year Management Plan 2008/2019 which are based around the below four themes:

-  1. Social
-  2. Economic
-  3. Environment
-  4. Governance

In the full 2008/09 Annual Report, icons are used throughout the Performance section to make it easy to recognise, at a glance, which projects we have completed successfully. The icons also show which projects were not completed during 2008/09.

In each section you can also read about our major achievements, challenges and future plans.

In this document, we have summarised key achievements of each sphere to give you an overview of what we achieved in 2008/09.

For the full introduction see the full 2008/09 Annual Report.

#### WE FOCUS ON

- 1.1 A vibrant and attractive place that offers a range of lifestyle choices and a liveable environment
- 1.2 A growing diverse and dynamic community
- 1.3 A broad range of leisure, sport, cultural and educational pursuits for the varying needs of the community
- 1.4 A safe, healthy and active community

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Civic Precinct Conservation Plan

In 2009 the National Award Winning Civic Precinct building celebrated its tenth birthday. It is timely therefore, that Council undertakes the development of a conservation plan that will consider the ongoing conservation management of this late twentieth century building and precinct within a heritage framework.

##### Cultural Funding 2010

A range of applications have been submitted to Arts NSW and the Australia Council under their current grant funding rounds. In addition to the existing triennial funding for the Museum of the Riverina, Council's Wagga Wagga Art Gallery has also been invited to apply for triennial funding for 2010. This invitation is a significant achievement and is in recognition of the growing reputation of the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery from a regional and state perspective.

##### Wagga Wagga Exhibition Centre

Council completed construction of new Junior Rugby League fields and proposed amenities block at the Exhibition Centre. Other works completed include the new grandstand and ground improvements at Senior Rugby League and the sealing of roads within the Exhibition Centre precinct. Total project costs for these works were \$1.7million.

##### Community Grants Program

Council's Annual Community Grants Program provided the Wagga Wagga community over \$160,000 during 2008/09. The grants program aims to support local not-for-profit community-based groups, organisations and services and in some categories individuals.

##### Community Capacity Programs

Council has partnered with other sectors of government and the community to deliver a range of community capacity programs. Some of these include: community events, indigenous programs, housing support and youth programs.

#### WE FOCUS ON

1. A strong, sustainable and well balanced economy that generates growth and employment opportunities
2. Sustainable infrastructure and services that support current and future needs of the community
3. A skilled workforce that accommodates the changing needs of the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### The Bomen Master Plan

The Draft Bomen Master Plan has been under development this year and will be finalised in November 2009. This Master Plan focuses on the long term growth of the Bomen Business Park, capitalising on its advantages for logistics and distribution and recognising the State significance of the Business Park for economic growth and job creation.

##### Livestock Marketing Centre (LMC)

The Wagga Wagga LMC has again confirmed itself as the number 1 centre in Australia for the sale of sheep and lambs. In addition, the Centre rose to number 2 in the State for the sale of cattle and over \$200 million of stock was sold through the centre in the last financial year.

##### Wagga Wagga Airport

Signage and landscaping at Wagga Wagga Airport in 2008/09 continued improvements in 2007/08 to create a new extended passenger lounge and terminal entrance. Complementing growth in activity at the Airport, additional growth in aviation training through the establishment by Regional Express Airlines of the Australia Airline Pilot Training Academy and growth of the National Aerospace Training Centre, places Wagga Wagga in a strong position as a growing centre of excellence for aviation related industries.

##### Infrastructure Funding

In November the Federal Government announced nearly \$1.3 million for six community infrastructure projects, which will be completed in the second half of 2009. Projects included:

- An \$858,000 development of the Botanic Gardens
- \$140,000 for recreational facilities in rural villages
- Construction of a \$30,000 half Basketball Court at Belling Park
- A \$50,000 contribution towards the construction of the Wagga Wagga Men's Shed

#### WE FOCUS ON

1. An integrated approach to water resource management
2. A sustainable built and natural environment
3. Sustainable management of natural resources
4. Promoting environmental sustainability

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Draft Wagga Wagga Local Environment Plan 2008 (WWLEP)

The preparation of the Draft Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2008, included an extensive exhibition period and detailed discussions/consultations with a wide range of community groups. The process has also included collation and review of over 280 submissions received during the extended exhibition period.

Also factored into the Draft LEP reporting framework, are:

- progressive reports to Council's E-Team
- briefing of Councillors by the Planning Panel and
- progressive Planners' reports to the Planning Panel

The briefing of Councillors by the Planning Panel, reflects the fact that Wagga Wagga City Council will ultimately receive handover of the management of the yet to be gazetted LEP. A new city-wide Development Control Plan is being developed in parallel with the new LEP and it is currently expected that both will come into effect in the first quarter of 2010.

##### Sewer 2010

The \$42 million Sewer 2010 Project is progressing well with practical completion of the upgraded Koorngal and Narrung Sewage Treatment Plants scheduled for December 2009. The major earthworks, civil construction and mechanical fitout for the upgraded plants has been completed and the commissioning of the new plants is underway.

The construction of the Sewer 2010 Project which commenced in January 2008, is the second stage of the augmentation and upgrading of Councils sewage treatment facilities and collection and transportation network.

Stage one comprised of the development of the Bomen Industrial Sewage Treatment Plant and stage two comprises of the augmentation/upgrade of Councils two main Sewerage Treatment Plants, the installation of a second river pipeline crossing under the Murrumbidgee River and the construction of a new sewage rising main from the Flowerdale Pumping Station to Narrung Street.

The aim of the project is to meet with the optimum sewerage treatment quality levels and licence conditions as set by

the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW), to manage risk and to allow for future growth in the sewer system.

##### Environmental Sustainability Strategy

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy project was initiated in 2007/2008 when Council was successful in applying for funding of \$20,000 from the NSW Environmental Trust to develop a local strategy focusing on environmental sustainability. The strategy will give Council and the community direction for implementing environmental initiatives to ensure environmental sustainability of the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (WWLGA) based on community consultation and research relating to: Land, Climate, Air & Energy, Water, Biodiversity, Waste and Heritage.

##### Former Tarcutta Street Gasworks Site

Investigations of the former Tarcutta Street gasworks site have been undertaken to establish more accurately the extent of contamination remaining on the site. This information has been utilised to develop a Remedial Action Plan and conceptual site model to direct the necessary requirements for the remediation of the site.

##### Reuse Resource Strategy

The finalisation of the new Resource Recovery Strategy for Wagga Wagga was developed in line with Councils Strategic Plan 2008/18 and addresses the broader issues of environmental sustainability through resource recovery rather than focusing on waste disposal.

The Strategy sets down eleven key strategic directions that are linked to and aligned with Councils Community Strategic Plan as well as Regional and State initiatives. The strategic directions include outcomes related to Councils key strategic goals in the areas of Social, Economic, Environment and Governance.

##### Solar Panels

The installation of Thirty (30) Photo Voltaic panels have been mounted on the roof of the Alan Turner Depot to generate electricity and to offset a portion of the carbon emissions of the Depot. The estimated annual generation from the facility is 8,000 kWh with a reduction of approximately 8 Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>/ annum of emissions from Council's depot.

##### Environment Programs

Wagga Wagga City Council coordinates a number of programs that assist in maintaining the local environment, some of these include: Earth Hour, Clean Up Australia Day, Schools Sustainability Challenge, Urban Salinity Tours, Hardy Ave Waterwise Demonstration Upgrade, National Tree Day, 2AAA Monthly Interview, WRAP and Recycling in the Civic Centre.

#### WE FOCUS ON

1. Leading the region into the future
2. Effective and transparent leadership that enjoys the support and confidence of the community
3. Council's operations and activities are effective, efficient and customer focused
4. Council having the necessary financial, human and other resources and management systems to provide appropriate services and infrastructure

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Service Quality

The implementation of Council's Service Quality Strategy was introduced in 2008/09 to measure our effectiveness in dealing with customers. Improvement Teams are required to gather data to identifying key areas for improvement to allow Council to better meet customer expectations.

##### Contribution Plans

The generation of new Section 94 Contribution Plans to provide community infrastructure for the proposed re-zonings in the areas of Lloyd and Boorooma.

##### Corporate Training

The main focus areas for corporate training in 2008/09 included:

- Introduction of new programs targeting Leadership Development, Service Quality, Strategic and Community Planning, Communication & Consultation, Time, Task and Project Management, Disability and Access Awareness, Conflict Resolution and Complaint Handling
- Ongoing training and education for over 12 courses
- Federal/State funding applications to enable current employees to obtain nationally recognised qualifications as part of the existing worker traineeship program
- Support to apprentices and trainees through a number of trade, technical and professional qualification programs with the support of local New Apprenticeships Centres (NAC's)
- Education and training assistance for employees completing formal studies outside work through TAFE and Universities

##### Freedom of the City

The Freedom of the City was bestowed on the Kapooka Army Band on August 1, including a parade down Baylis Street and a formal ceremony.

##### Bronze Award

Council received a bronze award for its 2007/08 Annual Report as part of the 57th Australasian Reporting Awards.