



WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016

Wagait Shire Council – elected members 2015-2016



*Peter Clee –
council president*



*Brad Irvine –
deputy president*



*Alex Richmond
– councillor*



*Shenagh Gamble
– councillor*



*Kurt Noble
– councillor*



*VJ Thorpe
– councillor*



*Lisa-Marie Stones
– councillor (res)*

Wagait Shire Council – staff members



*Deborah Allen
– chief executive
officer*



*Pam Wanrooy
– administration
officer*



*Gary Zikan –
council works
supervisor*



*Robyn Presley
– sports and
recreation officer*

*Rowan (Robbo)
Roberts – plant
operator*

*Angela Adams
– cleaner*

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Introduction

This report has been generated to satisfy the requirements of Part 14.1 of the *Local Government Act 2016* which states in part that councils must prepare an annual report on the preceding financial year; therefore the following information communicates the Wagait Shire Council's activities from 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The report also complies with Sec 131 of the Information Act

The report gives an account of council's work and performance in achieving the goals and objectives of the service delivery plans identified in the Wagait Shire (WSC) Plan 2015 – 2016. It also includes the President's report on council achievements during the year as well as the Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) report. Council's audited financial statements for year ending 30 June 2016 are included in this report. All related documents identified in this report can be found on the council's web site at <http://wagait.nt.gov.au/publications-2/>

President's message

The year 2015-16 proved to be an interesting but challenging one for the Wagait Shire Council, its councillors, its staff and its residents.

The Department of Local Government (now Department of Family and Community Services and Regional Development) continued to apply pressure through the Belyuen, Wagait and Coomalie Community Advisory Group for Wagait to amalgamate with other councils to form a "top end shire". This was intended to include Belyuen and Coomalie – and possibly Litchfield and Dundee. The Wagait community continued to oppose such a proposal as impractical and having no benefit to the shire. The department failed to produce a coherent or financially viable opposite view. The council will continue to hold its line although the advisory group continues to meet to look at "options". With the Kenbi settlement in place, there is a rational argument for an overall Cox Peninsula Shire. The community and the council would be prepared to discuss such an initiative.



A submission was lodged in October 2014 that outlined the Wagait Shire's request for an extension of the shire boundaries to include presently unincorporated land to the south and west of Wagait Beach. The previous government's response was that it would not be considered until the Belyuen, Wagait and Coomalie Community Advisory Group's findings were considered and discussed. With the Kenbi settlement, the council will be seeking to engage with the Belyuen community about the possibility of forming a single shire to include the land identified for the boundary extension, mostly now Aboriginal-owned freehold land.

With the need to remediate major pollution problems before the Kenbi hand-back, the shire's land-fill site was closed at short notice. An alternative site proved uneconomic so a waste pickup and transfer was organised. Although the NT Government provided a grant to cover the cost of the pickup bins, the operational costs have been borne by the council. This has seen the introduction of a waste management charge to cover ongoing costs.

Complaints continue to be received regarding feral and unrestrained domestic dogs in the community. The council has established a voluntary animal registry, and organised for animals to be micro-chipped. Efforts to engage a part-time animal control officer were blocked by the department. The council is working with the NT Local Government Association to develop animal management by-laws.

As a result of the resignation of Cr Lisa-Marie Stones, Kurt Noble joined the council in 2015. The new chief executive officer Deborah Allen completed her first year in the position in June 2016. Deborah has done a magnificent job reorganising the council and its systems and I offer my sincere thanks to her for her work and assistance to all councillors in the past 12 months. I would also like to thank all staff members for their efforts in their various roles and for their support for the CEO.

Last but far from least, thank you to the Wagait Beach community. Your support, ideas, criticism and assistance have been a vital cog in the council's activities in the past 12 months. As always, I enjoy speaking with members of the community and listening to their issues. I am only ever a telephone call away.

Peter Clee
President
Wagait Shire Council

CEO's message

Having had the privilege of serving as CEO for the Wagait Shire Council and community of Wagait Beach for a year, it is with pleasure that I provide my comments for the 2015 – 2016 Annual Report.

Staff

My staff have supported me well and responded without resistance to the challenges that have presented during the year, in addition to adapting easily to a different management style from a new CEO. I wish to thank all staff members for the hard work they have carried out and acknowledge the generous support I have received from the greater community. There were no changes in staffing during the year.



Governance

Council met all of the Local Government Act, regulatory and guideline statutory requirements for the year. Council resolved to introduce two new policies governing dispute resolution and media during the year and also established an audit committee. Russell Anderson was selected as the committee's independent chair with President Peter Clee and Deputy-president Brad Irvine as committee members.

Wagait Shire Council holds a general meeting every third Tuesday of the month. These meetings are open to the public and are opportunities for individuals or organisations to make presentations to the council members.

Finance

The council increased its rates from \$515.00 to \$525.30 or 1.99%. Rates and charges received in 2015 – 2016 amounted to \$204 000 and contracts returned \$130 000; totalling \$334 000. The council received total grants of \$284 000 so income generated solely by the council was in excess of 50 per cent.

The council could not operate without the support of Federal Government and Northern Territory Government grants. We welcome and appreciate the continued support of both governments by providing funds to our council. Without these funds it would be very difficult to continue operating.

The Commonwealth Government provided the following grants to council:

- Federal Assistance Grant (General Purpose) \$9063

- Federal Assistance Grant (Roads) \$53 817

- Roads to Recovery \$54 162

Council also received the following annual grants from the NT Government:

- Operational Grant \$71 198

- Community Recreation Officer Support \$21 000

Cash available at the end of the financial year was \$860 850. With careful management, the council's finances continue to be satisfactory.

Roads

Maintenance on roads was the council's largest project during the 2015 – 2016 year, spending more than \$100 000 on them. The majority of the expenditure was for works

to reinstate the shoulders on 11 km of internal roads. Smaller activities included repainting the white lines on Wagait Tower Road, painting new white lines on Cox Drive and Erickson Crescent; repainting storm water barriers and replacing degraded street name and hazard signs throughout the estate. Maintaining the road network continued to be the shire's principal priority.

Waste management

Waste management provided some challenges with closure of the landfill at relatively short notice and no alternative waste disposal site available for residents and visitors to Wagait Beach. The quickest, cost effective and most environmentally sensible solution was to establish a weekly kerb-side collection for household waste. A special purpose grant application to purchase wheelie bins for a once-off gratis issue to land owners was approved by the NT Government and the collection service started in November. Quarterly hard waste collections were added as an additional municipal waste management service in March; options for the management of green waste are still being considered. All landfill practices have ceased with household and hard waste being transported to the Shoal Bay transfer station.

Regional cooperation

The Wagait Shire is a member of the Local Government Association NT (LGANT) and Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC). Membership of these organisations facilitates and encourages access to a wealth of local government knowledge as well as senior bureaucrats and NT Government ministers.

The council has a strong working relationship with LGANT and appreciation is extended to the association's board, CEO and staff for their continued support.

Appreciation

I wish to acknowledge the stewardship of our councillors, under the leadership of President Peter Clee, for all of their support and guidance during my time in this role. They have brought their passion to the monthly meetings and engaged in robust discussions on occasions on matters about which they feel strongly. Their enthusiasm as councillors and commitment to the community is a great motivator for me and I feel very fortunate to have worked for them.

Finally I wish to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication to keeping things going in an ever changing and sometimes challenging environment. The pride shown by the staff reflects the council's ability to operate effectively with very limited resources.

Deborah Allen
Chief Executive Officer

Wagait Shire Strategic Plan 2013 – 2018

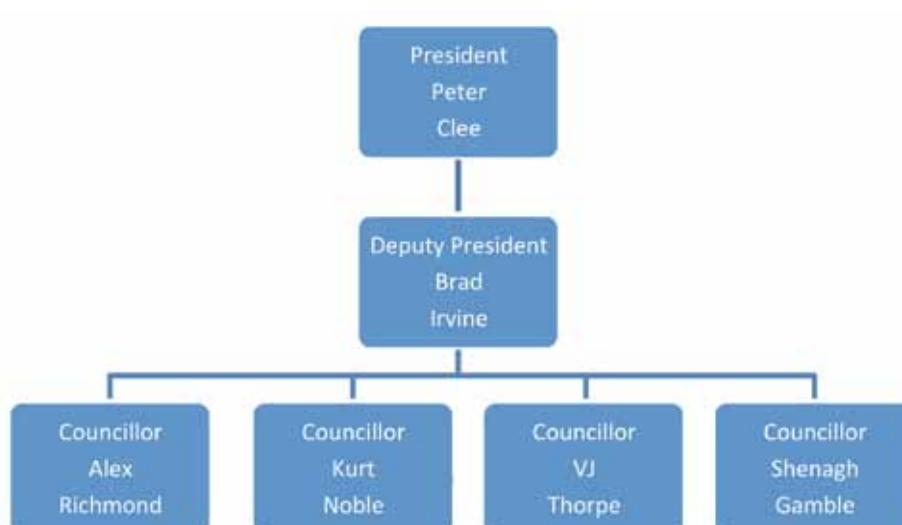
Strategic directions developed by council are aimed at achieving real and sustainable service delivery. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that the Chief Executive Officer implements these directions for the benefit of the community.

To achieve gains in our community we need to be financially sustainable. We also need to ensure that costs match our areas of engagement, thus improving that financial sustainability.

The strategic plan can be found on the council website via the following link:

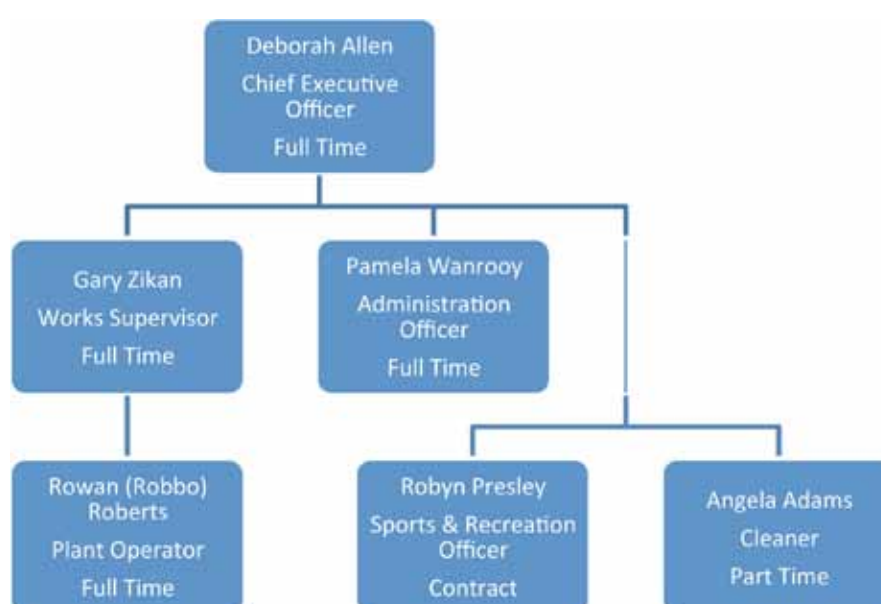
<http://wagait.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Strategic-Plan-2013-2018.pdf>

Elected Members



Councillor Lisa-Marie Stones resigned 01 March 2016

Council Organisation Chart



The staffing structure remained unchanged throughout the year.

Report on services

Note for performance indicators (Note 1): the 2015 – 2016 Shire Plan did not articulate a minimum or maximum number of indicators to meet, therefore performance has been difficult to measure. This has been rectified in the 2016 – 2017 Shire Plan by providing numbers to be measured against to assess performance.

Maintenance and upgrade of parks, reserves and open spaces

Parks, gardens and other open spaces have been developed and maintained for the use and benefit of the community thus improving the visual amenity of the area.

Council's major open space area is the sports ground, Cloppenburg Park. Routine mowing is undertaken during the wet season. Other areas maintained include the open spaces adjacent to the community centre and council office in addition to the beach access points. Regular mowing, weed control and litter collection is undertaken.



Open space area around the council office and community centre.

During 2015 – 2016 the shade sail over playground was replaced and signage erected on Wagait Tower Road for Cloppenburg Park and public toilets.

Performance indicator

Number of complaints as to condition of public areas – Note (1)

Number of times mowing, weed control and litter collection – Note (1)

Operation within budget – financial statement provided at Annex 2

Maintenance and upgrade of public buildings, facilities and fixed assets

Effective and timely maintenance programs introduced to ensure management of physical infrastructure, i.e. council's public buildings, facilities and fixed assets.

Routine maintenance was undertaken by council employees while some matters required attendance by qualified tradespersons. Routine maintenance programs are in place for the sports ground, septic facilities, air conditioners, emergency generators and water supply.

The council has spent up to \$10 000 annually on power. On 20 February 2016, a 20 KW solar system was installed on the council works shed. This system cost \$48 000, although eligibility for a small scale technology certificate reduced the cost to \$34 500. A further grant is being sought from the Department of Business Support. The feed in value is offsetting the council's power costs.

Rusted guttering on the community centre and council office was replaced to ensure quality drinking water at both facilities. The water tanks are regularly quality assessed as they are critical to disaster recovery and shelter operations. The two generators serving these buildings are regularly inspected and run in preparation for disaster response requirements.

Building insurance levels were reviewed. It was agreed they were undervalued and increased in July 2015.

Performance indicator

User complaints and comments – Note (1)

Number of buildings maintained – Note (1)

Compliance with budget – financial statement provided at Annex 2

Building inspections undertaken – achieved

Local road upgrade and construction

Construction of new and upgrading of existing sealed and unsealed roads: There are very few roads in the shire that require construction and any upgrading or construction is undertaken by contractors. Climate conditions impact upon when these works can be undertaken. There is a need to establish a road classification system to support asset management decision-making in assessing when roads are in need of upgrading.



Performance indicator

Kilometres of roads upgraded – N/A

Cost per kilometre – N/A

Local roads maintenance

A high standard and safe network of roads with efficient collection and disposal of storm water and run off is required.

The council maintains the sealed and unsealed roads including drainage, footpaths and kerbing within the shire boundaries. With the exception of pot hole repairs, work is usually undertaken by contractors. The council undertakes mowing of verges, weed spraying, litter control and clearing of drains.

During 2015 – 2016, 11 km of the sealed road network within the town has had the shoulders reinstated. A five-year program worth more than \$160 000 has been funded under the Roads to Recovery program.

Repainting of approximately three quarters of the roadside barriers has been achieved using council staff in addition to Community Development Program participants as part of a training program.

Performance indicators

Road condition complaints from community – Note (1)

Number of pot holes repaired – Note (1)

Number of drains cleared – Note (1)

Traffic management on local roads

The council aims to provide adequate street signage and traffic control devices to increase the safety of users of the road network.

For the current reporting period, road markings were completed for Wagait Tower Road, Cox Drive and Erickson Crescent and 39 street name signs were replaced. The old ones will be auctioned and proceeds donated to the youth and seniors groups and the Darwin Duchess. The new signs feature the shire's banyan tree logo.

A number of degraded yellow hazard and intersection chevrons were replaced. Vegetation was cleared to improve visibility at intersections within the town area.

Performance indicator

All streets have street name plates – achieved

Effective traffic control signs – achieved

Feedback from road users – Note (1)



Fleet, plant and equipment maintenance

A routine maintenance schedule ensures there is regular maintenance of all the council's plant and equipment assets. This aims to ensure the equipment operates at peak condition and has extended life and resale value.

Time is set aside for services to be undertaken when they are due. Log books are maintained to ensure that operating times do not exceed service requirement.

Performance Indicator

Number of days that plant is not operational – Note (1)

Waste management and litter reduction

The council has introduced efficient and sustainable waste disposal services through the collection and disposal of domestic and hard waste.

The council was advised in July 2015 that the tip would be closed by the end of October. An initial proposal to use the Belyuen dump was discussed. The CEO developed a plan and costings for a transfer station on part of the Kenbi claim land, but further investigation confirmed residents' concerns that there was potential for pollution from the site flowing into the Imaluk Creek headwaters. The estimated costs and tenure conditions for this proposal were not acceptable so the council deferred consideration of the establishment of waste transfer station.

Street-side household waste collection commenced in November 2015 at no cost to ratepayers and bins (400) were purchased with funding from a \$31 000 NT Government special purpose grant. Presently 200 bins are being collected on a weekly basis within the town area.

The first hard waste collection was undertaken on 6 – 23 March 2016 with skip bins placed outside the council works depot. Concerns have been raised about what is being dumped in these bins which has included inappropriate household waste, therefore this

collection is likely to change so that additional waste management controls can be put in place. This hard waste collection is being scheduled quarterly. Recycling of cans has continued through the local supermarket's cash for cans program. A solution for green waste disposal is expected to be provided before the end of 2016.

In June 2016, five quotes from waste management businesses were received with Finn Bins submitting the successful quote for the 2016 – 2018 contract to collect and dispose of household and hard wastes. Hard waste collection will continue quarterly with a kerbside collection to be trialled in December of 2016.

Performance Indicator

Feedback regarding condition of dump – N/A

Weed control and fire hazard reduction

The council aims to have an effective weed control and hazard reduction program which will enhance the amenity of the area through the control of noxious weeds on council land and areas maintained under contract.

Weed control is undertaken on a scheduled basis with council employees qualified to use sprays for the control of weeds. Fire hazard reduction is monitored and undertaken as and when required. The council liaises with the Department of Lands in identifying weeds and has a contract to eliminate weeds within the foreshore Restricted Use Area (RUA).

Where control burning is required, the council seeks support from the local bush fire brigade. Town firebreaks were slashed and town area drains sprayed for weeds during the report period.

Council participated in the NT Government's weeds program where glyphosate is provided to community free of charge for the control of Mission and Gamba grass on private properties. There continues to be a problem with some absent owners not managing these weeds causing them to spread on to adjacent land.



Gamba grass spread poses a significant fire risk.

Performance Indicators

Number of reports complaining of weeds – Note (1)

Weed outbreaks identified in or near the community – Note (1)

Animal welfare and control

The council aims to have a community free of uncontrolled or potentially dangerous animals. Public concern in 2014 – 2015 led to community meetings and the development of an animal management plan.

The closure of the tip saw an increase in the number of dingos and other dogs roaming the estate. Council staff have been setting and managing two traps for scavenging dogs. These traps are available to property owners and occupiers upon request. A number of wild animals have been euthanised.

An animal management contractor had several meetings with the council which resulted in 14 local dogs being micro-chipped and addresses updated for another 10 on 30 April 2016.

A public Facebook page *Wandering Dogs of Wagait* (established in early 2015) continues to be used as a forum to identify domestic dogs wandering at large, as does the shire council's Facebook page.

In February 2016 Litchfield council agreed to provide regulatory assistance to Wagait on a fee for service basis for use of its dog compound. This has been put on hold after communication from the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

The council has firearms to deal with injured animals and also removes dead native wildlife from the area. LGANT is drafting model dog by-laws and the Wagait Shire will review these and consider their suitability for introduction.



Microchipping dogs at Wagait Beach.

Performance Indicators

Number of complaints from community – Note (1)

Library, cultural and heritage

The council aims to provide access to library resources and material designed to meet the diverse needs of all ages and groups within the community. It also supports cultural and heritage initiatives. It has an initial book stock and the service is open during normal council office hours.

An unsuccessful grant application seeking funding from the Regional Economic Development Fund for improvement of road access into the Milady B24 bomber site was submitted in January 2016. The Milady bomber site was cleared of grasses and weeds by the council works team.

Performance Indicators:

Number of users and purpose of visit – Note (1)

Civic events

Wagait Shire Council conducts and manages agreed civic and community events that provide high quality, meaningful and inclusive experiences for all ages at Wagait Beach. Civic events are promoted and organised for the community subject to council agreement. Resources to conduct the events are sourced via government grants, volunteers and council contributions. Local community service organisations may also be involved. Grant funds are sought where announced funding is available and each event is costed prior to council's consideration.

During 2015 – 2016 a seniors' trip to Adelaide River on 18 August 2015 was attended by 17 local community members.

Walk to School Day on 20 May 2016 saw 45 children walk 1 km to the jetty for a healthy breakfast supplied by the Wagait Beach Supermarket and served by parents, councillors, staff and community members.

Australia Day 2016 started with the annual 4-million mm fun run for 30 participants. Citizen of the year was Jill Mumme for her work on the commemorative garden, a place where locals can reflect on the passing of their loved ones. The garden features plaques set on to large natural stones set around the native tree garden in the council grounds.

Pink Stumps Day was held on 21 February 2016. A limited number of people took part.

The Anzac Day service on 25 April again attracted large numbers of residents and visitors. The Fun Bus and Smile a Mile continued to regularly visit the community.

Performance Indicators

Attendance numbers at each event – Note (1)

Resident feedback about events – Note (1)



A large turnout at the Australia Day celebrations.

Local emergency services

Wagait Shire Council is involved in local emergencies by participating in relevant planning, mitigation, preparation, preventative measures and committees. It aims to mitigate potential hazards, raise awareness and improve response within the community. The council is responsible for the operations of the cyclone shelters and liaises with the relevant authorities.

The council works in conjunction with the local NT Emergency Services (NTES) unit in dealing with disasters. Throughout the year, support was provided to NTES, Cox Peninsula Volunteer Bushfire Brigade and the Disaster Recovery Committee. Council encourages the community to have an annual clean-up and endorses and supports local disaster recovery plans.

During 2015 – 2016, the council supported the local Cox Peninsula Fire service by agreeing to enter into a peppercorn lease on a section of council land for brigade use. The Bendigo Bank very generously donated \$80 000 towards the erection of a new fire shed that has now been built and the council will assist further with connection to mains power supply.

Performance indicators

Attendance at regional cyclone shelter briefings – achieved

Support offered to local volunteer services units – achieved

Administration of local laws

The council has not adopted any local laws but is presently working with LGANT to develop animal management bylaws. The council will continue to monitor future circumstance and where necessary, will introduce appropriate laws.

Performance indicators

Number of complaints received by the council that may indicate a requirement for local laws - Note (1)

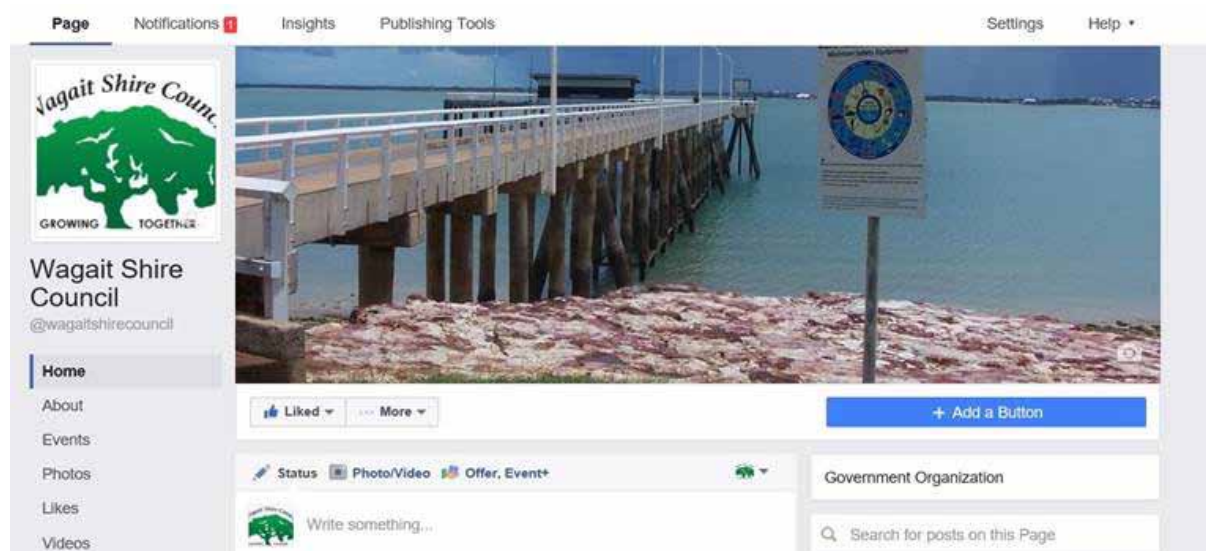
Community requests that reflect changes in attitude or expectations - Note (1)

Customer relationship management

The council aims to provide respectful, organised, polite and efficient responses to community enquiries or complaints through high standards of communication, transparency and openness.

The council has an office at Wagait Beach that is open five days a week. Residents are able to access information at any time during office hours. The council's web site also provides information to the community on its activities and service delivery.

The local newspaper *The Wagaiter* ceased publication in August 2015 and the information this provided to the community, including updates from the council, is no longer available. In response, the council endeavours to keep the community informed via notices and newsletters that are available on the council notice boards, Facebook page (commenced January 2016) and at the local shop.



A community consultation meeting was held on 20 April 2016 and the council also developed and conducted a public consultation survey encouraging people to submit ideas for the future with an opportunity to win a \$50 gift voucher. Councillor VJ Thorpe facilitated “meet the community” sessions at the shop and Cox Country Club on two Saturday mornings.

Performance Indicators

Feedback regarding overall customer service Note (1)

Governance

The aim is for elected members to have a clear understanding of responsibilities associated with leadership, management of the council, strategic planning, policy development and compliance with statutory requirements.

The council conducts regular monthly meetings that are open to the public. Agendas and minutes are produced for each meeting and are available to the public. There are no elections scheduled until 2017.

Changes in the period under review were:

Brad Irvine was elected deputy-president in July 2015; re-elected for a six-month tenure at the January council meeting and Lisa Marie Stones resignation from council was accepted at the March 2016 meeting.

Training undertaken by Kurt Noble, Peter Clee and Deborah Allen was run by Litchfield Shire Council and made available to other councils.

Performance indicators

Report number of elected members attendance at meetings – no meetings cancelled due to failure to make a quorum

Number of voter turnout at elections - Note (1)

Advocacy and representation on local and regional issues

The aim is for council's (community) views to be represented in the appropriate forums to ensure the local community is effectively represented in regional issues of significance.

The council maintains membership of LGANT; the Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC); the Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait Local Government Advisory Group (BCWLGAG) and participates in other regional groups. These organisations provide the council with an avenue to address regional issues that may impact on the shire.

The CEO also participated in forums at which a broad range of local government activities at a commonwealth and territory level were discussed.

The council has identified a need for sound land use planning on the Cox Peninsula and has called for the establishment of a regional planning authority.

Performance indicator

Groups in which involved – Note (1)

Commercial contracts

The council aims to effectively manage contracts that enhance the amenity of the community and viability of the existing local government body.

The council enters into contractual arrangements with various government departments to undertake



Land Use plan highlighted the need for local planning input.

maintenance of assets and deliver services on a commercial/profitable basis. In 2015 – 2016, contractual commitments were met for PowerWater (water quality and town water supply), Department of Infrastructure (jetty and car park) and Department of Lands Planning and the Environment (weeds and RUA). The weeds management contract has been renewed until November 2016.



Water supply maintenance contract assists in boosting the council's income.

Painting the jetty wooden railings was completed as a one-off Infrastructure Department contract.

Performance Indicators:

Successful completion, acquittal and renewal of contracts and feedback – achieved

Sport and recreation

Council provides opportunities for all sectors of the community to participate in sport and recreational activities.

The employment of a Sport and Recreation Officer under grant funding continued. Activities included regular after school activities, in addition to school holiday and special events, eg, camping trips and visits to Darwin for water based activities. The children also participated in the annual harbour clean-up day by collecting rubbish from the beaches and foreshore.

Performance Indicators

Number and diversity of planned events – Note (1)

Attendance and participation numbers – Note (1)

Local welfare and social services

The council provides other community services (welfare and social services) that enhance amenity. For example, the council is conscious of the need to provide ongoing support for the Wagait Beach Medical Clinic to ensure the community has access to a professional medical service.

The community centre is made available to community groups as required for a wide range of activities. The council also is an active supporter of the Mandorah Ukulele Folk Festival and the Wagait Arts Group exhibition.

Performance Indicators:

- Attendance numbers at events and services – Note (1)
- Resident satisfaction/complaints with each event or service – Note (1)
- Suggestions and feedback about events and services – Note (1)

Visitor accommodation and tourism

Council aspires to create a welcoming environment for visitors to the shire. It provides support to community groups who wish to promote the cultural heritage of the area.

Tourist sites within the shire are maintained by the council. The council is also committed to working with any individual or group who can provide visitor accommodation to the area.

Performance indicators

- Report on meetings attended – Note (1)
- Successful attendance at events – Note (1)

Asset management

Council undertakes asset management plans, policy development and performance monitoring to effectively manage shire assets.

The council aims to develop an asset management plan with appropriate policies and introduce a computer-based asset management system.

Performance Indicators:

- Asset management plans and policies in place – not achieved
- Detailed schedule of assets – partly achieved

Council planning and reporting

Council undertakes the development of strategic plans, including business and service delivery plans, to ensure the council's long term sustainability and ability to deliver services to the community. It provides documentation that provides clear direction about future activities and service delivery expectations.

The council currently produces all statutory documentation and plans are reviewed, updated and submitted as required by legislation.

Performance indicators:

- Ensure financial data is up to date to produce accurate reporting – achieved
- Regular reports to council meetings – achieved
- Maintain accurate property and rate records – achieved

Financial management

Council aims to have an effective and efficient financial system to support the shire council's activities.

The financial management system is maintained in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and Australian Accounting Standards. A computerised system is used for all financial transactions. Financial reports are presented to the council on a monthly basis.

The preparation of annual financial statements is outsourced and accounts are audited by an external auditor on an annual basis.

During 2015 – 2016, terms of reference for an audit committee were established and Mr Russell Anderson appointed as chair. President Clee and deputy-president Irvine are members. A community member is yet to be appointed but expressions of interest were called for during March – April 2016.

An external bookkeeper has been engaged to comply with the auditor's 2014 – 2015 recommendations.

All Department of Local Government and Community Services legislative requirements were completed by due dates ie:

- Consult on and deliver the shire plan and annual budget
- Declare rates
- Audited financial statement and annual report submitted
- Grants commission and Roads to Recovery annual reports completed and accepted by relevant department
- Special purpose grants acquitted

Performance indicators

Satisfactory audit report – Note (1)

Compliance with annual budget – achieved

Financial plans completed within prescribed timelines – achieved



Special purpose grants, such as one for the sports ground shade sail, were acquitted on time.

Human resources

The council aims to have an effective and efficient council workforce. A dispute resolution policy was adopted in June 2016.

Council staff employment is carried out in accordance with a non-discriminatory staff policy. The promotion of employees is subject to annual performance reviews. All employees are encouraged to assess their training requirements annually.

A contract with the Community Development Program was established and job seekers provide up to 25 hours per week of work activities that benefit the community.

Performance indicators

All employees undertake performance review – achieved

Number of industrial relations type complaints – none received

Training plan developed for all required – achieved

Information technology and communications

The council's plans and policies for an effective and secure IT system include:

- Information technology (IT) support services and advice associated with the operation and management of council's hardware, software and internet systems,
- Effectively managed and functioning IT including ease of accessibility for users and web page design and maintenance,
- An effective and efficient system – council's information is controlled and managed while complying with ITIL standards,
- The council has independent stand-alone hardware and utilises appropriate software for accounting functions,
- Introduce integration of financial data with administrative reporting.

The computer system was upgraded during the reporting period.

Performance indicators

Meet ITIL standards – achieved

Public and corporate relations

Public and corporate relations are enhanced by:

- Communication with the general public through personal contact, public meetings and media information
- Verbal and written information that provides clear information about council activities
- Residents and the general community expect that they will be informed on all council matters to judge whether or not their interests are properly represented.
- Council notice boards at the local supermarket, council office and council website are regularly updated with information concerning council activities.
- Media releases are issued where and when required and a website has been established.

A media policy was adopted at the October 2015 meeting.

Performance indicators

Attendance numbers at public meetings – Note (1)

All statutory reports completed on time – achieved

Community satisfaction with corporate relations – Note (1)

Feedback to the monthly council meetings – achieved

Website and Facebook statistics – Note (1)

Records management

Council's aim is to have an efficient, effective, user-friendly records management system.

There are three main areas of records storage. A manual A to Z listing filing cupboard for the storage of all hard copy documents, property files containing all hard copy matters affecting the property and a computer based file that is subject specific. The three systems make it easy for the recovery of documents. Archived documents are retained at the shire workshop.

Performance indicator

Days to complete a freedom of information request – no requests received

Information required is readily available – achieved

Revenue growth

Council aims to produce a balanced budget that meets all service delivery requirements. Funding of council's operations is through appropriate rating policies and the maximum use of grants, fees and charges and other income sources with the budget being prepared on an annual basis. Income is derived from government funding, contracts with other government departments and agencies and rates. Rate revenue is low with increased capacity possible. Grant funding and other service contracts are actively sourced. The council aims to avoid non-budgeted expenditure.

Rates for 2015 – 2016 were \$525.30. There are 388 rateable properties in the shire and a review was conducted with the Valuer-General's Department to ensure accuracy.

Performance indicators

Budget balanced without shortfall – financial statement provided at appendix 2

New grant funding – Note (1)

End of year position – Note (1)

Contract income maintained – achieved

New contracts acquired – achieved



The 20 KW solar power array on the council workshop is helping to cut long-term power costs.

Risk management

The aim is to protect council assets, staff, community and environment through appropriate risk management systems.

Risk management is assessed annually to a limited degree in conjunction with the insurance renewal process. All council assets are insured. During 2015 – 2016 the insurance level was adjusted in keeping with current valuations. A fraud protection plan is available on council web site.

Performance indicators

Satisfactory audit of the asset register – achieved

Fraud protection plan updated – not achieved

Comprehensive risk management plan developed – not achieved

Appendix 1: Overview 2015 – 2016 year financial plan

The major financial assumptions made in the development of the Wagait Shire Council's plan for 2015 – 2016 were:

FINANCIAL ITEM	ASSUMPTIONS
Operational	
Ongoing operations	Ongoing base operational expenditure has been developed for each service from 2014 – 2015 budget details where possible. 2014 – 2015 ongoing base income has been increased by 8.74% for 2015 – 2016.
Road maintenance	It is anticipated there will be a significant increase in road maintenance expenditure this FY.
Waste management	The Commonwealth as part of the Kenbi Land Claim requires the closure of Wagait's rubbish tip prior to the end of 2015. Alternative waste management solutions such as gaining access to a transfer station or establishing kerbside household waste pickup will be considered.
New operating initiatives	The council will continue to monitor its performance and introduce new initiatives when necessary.
Depreciation	Depreciation has been calculated for the purpose of providing an estimated profit and loss statement.
Interest on borrowings	No loan borrowings have been provided for
Operating income	
Rates	Rates will be charged in accordance with the approved rates determination.
Fees and charges, interest earnings and other income	The council will continue to maximise the return on invested surplus funds throughout the year.
General purpose and road grants	The council has taken into account the predicted levels of grant funding advised by the Local Government Minister in June 2015.

Capital items	
General	Capital works projects mainly will be funded by way of grants. Revenue expenditure will be matched to the level of the NT operational grants funding.
Road upgrade and construction	Any major road works will be funded from Roads to Recovery, FAA Roads, reserve funds and grants.

Waste management	No income for waste management works has been identified but grant programs will be examined to source any such funds available.
Vehicles, plant and equipment	There is no formal policy in relation to the replacement of vehicles. A new vehicle has been purchased in the 2014 – 2015 financial year and council will develop a replacement vehicle policy to save on costs for the future.
Borrowings	The council does not propose to undertake any borrowings

Appendix 2: Audited financial report 2015 – 2016 year



18 October 2016

The Council Members
Wagait Shire Council
PMB 10
Wagait Beach NT 0801

SWJR Nominees Pty Ltd
ABN 49 078 887 171
Cnr Coonawarra & Hook Roads
PO Box 36394, Winnellie NT 0821
Tel: 08 8947 2200
Fax: 08 8947 1146
lowrys.accountants@lowrys.com.au

Dear Chief Executive Officer

AUDIT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

We have completed our audit of Wagait Shire Council for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 and, subject to the Chief Executive Officer approving and signing the report, we are in a position to issue an unqualified audit opinion.

The report to the Council, including the 2016 management letter, includes all matters and issues arising from our audit which we consider appropriate for consideration by the Council.

Enclosures

1. We have enclosed three copies of the 2016 General Purpose Financial Report for distribution as follows:
 - One bound copy is for your records;
 - One unbound copy is for your records; and
 - One unbound copy is to be forwarded to the Northern Territory Grants Commission.
2. We have also enclosed a signed copy of the 2016 management letter.

Please contact this office should you require any further assistance.

Yours faithfully
Lowrys Accountants

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin James', is written over the typed name and title.

Colin James
Registered Company Auditor

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN: 65 843 778 569

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 30 June 2016

Prepared by:

LOWRYS

Accountants

PO Box 36394

Winnellie NT 0821

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN: 65 843 778 569

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

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The Council Members
Wagait Shire Council
PMB 10
Wagait Beach NT 0801

Auditor's Independence Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2016 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the requirements of the *Local Government Act* and the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations* made under that Act, in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

LOWRYS ACCOUNTANTS



Colin James
Registered Company Auditor

Darwin, 18 October 2016

Wagait Shire Council

ABN: 65 843 778 569

Chief Executive Officer's Certificate

I, Deborah Allen, the Chief Executive Officer of the Wagait Shire Council, do hereby certify that the annual financial statements:

- (a) have been properly drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the *Local Government Act* and *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*, so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2016 and the results for the year then ended; and
- (b) are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council.



Deborah Allen
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 18 October 2016

Wagait Shire Council

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Revenue and Other Income			
Rates and annual charges	3A	205,474	209,698
User charges and fees	3B	176,470	148,717
Grants and contributions	3C	360,504	257,670
Interest	3D	11,310	17,677
Total operating revenues		<u>753,758</u>	<u>633,762</u>
Operating Expenses			
Employee costs	4A	334,473	373,600
Materials and contracts	4B	337,816	183,197
Depreciation and amortisation expense	4C	154,915	272,087
Other operating expenses	4D	16,880	12,500
Total operating expenses		<u>844,084</u>	<u>841,384</u>
Deficit for the year		<u>(90,326)</u>	<u>(207,622)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Revaluation increment	7	1,526,801	-
Total other comprehensive income		<u>1,526,801</u>	<u>-</u>
Total profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year		<u>1,436,475</u>	<u>(207,622)</u>

The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	862,507	837,135
Accounts receivable and other debtors	6	20,970	33,130
Total current assets		<u>883,477</u>	<u>870,265</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	2,950,767	1,531,330
Total non-current assets		<u>2,950,767</u>	<u>1,531,330</u>
Total Assets		<u>3,834,244</u>	<u>2,401,595</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and other payables	8	25,960	34,339
Provisions	9	31,178	26,625
Total current liabilities		<u>57,138</u>	<u>60,964</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	9	1,357	1,357
Total non-current liabilities		<u>1,357</u>	<u>1,357</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>58,495</u>	<u>62,321</u>
Net Assets		<u>3,775,749</u>	<u>2,339,274</u>
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		1,715,725	1,806,051
Reserves		2,060,024	533,223
Total Equity		<u>3,775,749</u>	<u>2,339,274</u>

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Accumulated Surplus	Asset Revaluation Reserve	Roads Reserve	Motor Vehicle Reserve	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ACCUMULATED FUNDS					
Balance at 1 July 2014	2,013,673	343,223	180,000	10,000	2,546,896
Deficit for the year	(207,622)	-	-	-	(207,622)
Closing Balance at 30 June 2015	1,806,051	343,223	180,000	10,000	2,339,274
Balance at 1 July 2015	1,806,051	343,223	180,000	10,000	2,339,274
Deficit for the year	(90,326)	-	-	-	(90,326)
Other comprehensive income	-	1,526,801	-	-	1,526,801
Closing Balance at 30 June 2016	1,715,725	1,870,024	180,000	10,000	3,775,749

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**STATEMENT OF WORKING CAPITAL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

		2016	2015
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	862,507	837,135
Accounts receivable and other debtors	6	20,970	33,130
Total current assets		883,477	870,265
Less:			
Current liabilities			
Accounts payable and other payables	8	25,960	34,339
Provisions	9	31,178	26,625
Total current liabilities		57,138	60,964
Net current assets		826,339	809,301
Current ratio (This is the ratio of current assets to current liabilities)		14.97 : 1	14.27 : 1

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash flows (used in)/from operating activities			
Receipts from customers		384,832	357,832
Grants and contribution receipts		379,354	257,670
Payments to suppliers and employees		(702,573)	(537,400)
Interest received		11,310	17,677
Net cash flows from operating activities	10	<u>72,923</u>	<u>95,779</u>
Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities			
Proceeds from disposals of property, plant and equipment		-	23,000
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		<u>(47,551)</u>	<u>(192,577)</u>
Net cash flows used in investing activities		<u>(47,551)</u>	<u>(169,577)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>25,372</u>	<u>(73,798)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>837,135</u>	<u>910,933</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5	<u><u>862,507</u></u>	<u><u>837,135</u></u>

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

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**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This note sets out the principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements by Council as set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of Compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, the requirements of the Local Government Act, the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 18 October 2016.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets. Historical cost is based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

All amounts are presented in Australian Dollars, unless otherwise noted.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements:

(a) Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is measured on major income categories as follows:

Rates are recognised as revenue when the Council obtains control over the asset comprising the receipt.

Rates are an enforceable debt linked to rateable property that will be recovered when the property is sold, and therefore control normally passes at the time of levying, or where earlier upon receipt of rates paid in advance. The rating period and reporting period for the Council coincide and accordingly, all rates levied for the year are recognised as revenue.

Uncollected rates are recognised as receivables. A provision is recognised when full collection is no longer probable.

Non-reciprocal grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the Council and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably. If conditions attached to the grant received are not satisfied, the recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until these conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(a) Revenue (continued)

Revenue from the rendering of service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax, when applicable.

(b) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Council measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value on either a recurring or non-recurring basis, depending on the requirements of the applicable Accounting Standard.

Fair value is the price the Council would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (ie unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market value may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Freehold property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value based on periodic valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation surplus in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired prior to 1 July 2008 as an asset in accordance with AASB 1051 Land under Roads. Land under roads acquired after 30 June 2008 has not been recognised as in the opinion of Council it is not possible to reliably attribute a fair value, and further that such value if determined would be immaterial.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Buildings and improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, office equipment and furniture and motor vehicles

Buildings and improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, office equipment and furniture and motor vehicles are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are recognised as expenses in profit or loss in the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including buildings and improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, office equipment and furniture and motor vehicles, but excluding freehold land and work in progress, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Council commencing from the time the asset is available for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

	2016	2015
	Life (years)	Life (years)
Buildings and improvements	20	20
Plant and equipment	3	3
Infrastructure	10	10
Office equipment and furniture	3	3
Motor vehicles	5	5

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained surplus.

(d) Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the Council commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset.

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified 'at fair value through profit and loss' in which case transaction costs are recognised as expenses in profit or loss immediately.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) Financial Instruments (continued)

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at either fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost. Where available, quoted prices in an active market are used to determine fair value. In other circumstances, valuation techniques are adopted.

Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts (including fees, transaction costs and other premiums or discounts) through the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying amount with a consequential recognition of an income or expense in profit or loss.

(i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets are classified at 'fair value through profit or loss' when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking. Such assets are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in carrying value being included in profit or loss.

(ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iii) Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Council's intention to hold these investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(iv) Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities other than financial guarantees are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(d) Financial Instruments (continued)

Impairment

At the end of each reporting period, the Council assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset has been impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets will be deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of the occurrence of one or more events (a "loss event"), which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset(s).

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include: indications that the debtors, or a group of debtors, are experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter into bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

When the terms of financial assets that would otherwise have been past due or impaired have been renegotiated, the Council recognises the impairment for such financial assets by taking into account the original terms as if the terms have not been re-negotiated so that the loss events that have occurred are duly considered.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expire or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the entity no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are discharged, cancelled or have expired. The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability, which is extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value of consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

(e) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Council reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an asset's class, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the class of assets belong.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Employee Provisions

Short-term employee provisions

Provision is made for the Council's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and annual leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

Other long-term employee provisions

Provision is made for employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Long-term employee benefits are measured at the nominal amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Council's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current employee provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Council does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

(g) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position. The Council did not have an overdraft during the year.

(h) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from ratepayers as well as amounts receivable from clients for fees and services provided. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are recognised at fair value less any provision for impairment.

(i) Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST, the net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a net basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(j) Income Tax

The Council is tax exempt under Sec 50-25 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, being a local governing body.

(k) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Council has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(l) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

When the Council retrospectively applies an accounting policy, makes a retrospective restatement or reclassifies items in its financial statements, a third statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding comparative period, in addition to the minimum comparative financial statements, must be disclosed.

(m) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Council during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(n) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Key estimates

Impairment

Impairment of property, plant and equipment

The Council assesses impairment of property, plant and equipment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Council and to the particular asset that may lead to impairment. If an impairment trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. This involves fair value less costs to sell or value-in-use calculations, which incorporate a number of key estimates and assumptions. There was no provision for impairment of property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2016 (2015: \$Nil).

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(n) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements (continued)

Impairment of accounts receivable

The provision for impairment of receivables assessment requires a degree of estimation and judgement. The level of provision is assessed by taking into account the recent sales experience, the ageing of receivables, historical collection rates and specific knowledge of the individual debtors' financial position. Provision for impairment of receivables at 30 June 2016 amounted to \$8,512 (2015: \$8,512).

Useful lives of property, plant and equipment

The Council reviews the estimated useful lives of property, plant and equipment at the end of each reporting period, based on the expected utility of the assets.

Key judgements

Employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: Employee benefits (September 2011) defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. The Council expects most employees will take their annual leave entitlements within 24 months of the reporting period in which they were earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amounts recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

(o) Economic Dependence

The Council is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of grants from the Northern Territory Government to ensure the continuance of its activities.

At the date of this report the management has no reason to believe that the Council will not continue to receive funding support from the Government.

(p) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods

The AASB has issued a number of new and amended Accounting Standards that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods, some of which are relevant to the Council. The Council has decided not to early adopt any of the new and amended pronouncements. The Council's assessment of the new and amended pronouncements that are relevant to the Council but applicable in future reporting periods are set out below:

- AASB 9: *Financial Instruments* and associated Amending Standards (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018).

The Standard will be applicable retrospectively and includes revised requirements for the classification and measurement of financial instruments and revised recognition and derecognition requirements for financial instruments.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(p) New Accounting Standards for Application in Future Periods (continued)

The Council does not expect any impact from the new classification, measurement and derecognition rules on the Council's financial assets and financial liabilities. There will also be no impact on the Council's accounting for financial liabilities, as the new requirements only affect the accounting for financial liabilities that are designated at fair value through profit or loss and the Council does not have any such liabilities. The new standard also introduces expanded disclosure requirements and changes in presentation. The new impairment model is an expected credit loss (ECL) model which may result in the earlier recognition of credit losses. The Council has not yet assessed how its own impairment provisions would be affected by the new rules.

- AASB 15: *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017).

The new Standard will replace AASB 118 which covers contracts for goods and services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts. The new standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service transfers to a customer - so the notion of control replaces the existing notion of risks and rewards. The standard permits a modified retrospective approach for the adoption. Under this approach entities will recognise transitional adjustments in retained earnings on the date of initial application (e.g. 1 July 2017), i.e. without restating the comparative period. They will only need to apply the new rules to contracts that are not completed as of the date of initial application.

Management is currently assessing the impact of the new rules. Council is unable to estimate the impact of the new rules on the Council's financial statements.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

Note 2: Functions/Core Services

Functions/core services are common municipal services that many councils deliver to their ratepayers and residents. After a community consultation on the Wagait Shire Council Strategic Plan covering the period 2013 - 2018, it was decided that some of the listed services (marked **) will not be provided by the Council. These decisions will be reassessed in the event of a change in shire circumstances or on request from the community.

The activities relating to the Council functions/core services are as follows:

Local infrastructure

- Maintenance and upgrade of parks, reserves and open spaces
- Maintenance and upgrade of buildings, facilities and fixed assets
- Management of cemeteries**
- Lighting for public safety including street lighting**
- Local road upgrading and construction
- Local road maintenance
- Traffic management on local roads
- Fleet, plant and equipment management

Local environment health

- Waste management including litter reduction
- Weeds control and fire hazard reduction
- Companion animal welfare and control

Local civic services

- Library, cultural and heritage
- Civic events
- Local emergency services

Community engagement in local government

- Training and employment of local people in council operations
- Administration of local laws**
- Customer relationship management, including complaints and responses
- Governance including administration of council meetings, elections and elected member support
- Administration of local board advisory bodies and management committees**
- Advocacy and representation on local and regional issues

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 3: Revenue and Other Income		
Note 3A Rates and annual charges		
<i>Ordinary rates</i>		
Residential, business and rural flat rate	205,474	209,698
Note 3B User charges and fees		
Jetty and boat ramp maintenance	66,791	55,373
Power and water contract income	46,479	58,281
Weed management income	16,458	15,591
Other fees and charges	46,742	19,472
Total user charges and fees	176,470	148,717
Note 3C Grants and Contributions		
<i>General purpose grants (untied)</i>		
FAA - General purpose component	7,959	9,343
FAA - Roads to recovery component	53,817	56,020
	61,776	65,363
<i>Northern Territory Government operating grants</i>		
General purpose component	143,499	143,551
Department of Sport, Recreation and Racing	21,000	-
Department of Infrastructure and Regional	101,734	-
Department of Local Government	31,000	-
	297,233	143,551
<i>Capital grants</i>		
Other	-	48,756
<i>Non Government grants and contributions</i>		
Australia Day Council	1,100	-
Other	395	-
	1,495	-
Total grants and contributions	379,354	257,670
Note 3D Interest		
Financial institutions	11,310	17,677
Note 4: Expenses		
Note 4A Employee benefits expense		
Salaries and wages	298,951	330,671
Superannuation	29,233	28,530
Leave entitlements	4,552	-
Recruitment and relocation	-	11,572
Training and development	1,737	2,827
Total employee benefits expense	334,473	373,600

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 4: Expenses (continued)		
Note 4B Materials and contracts		
Accounting services	-	12,360
Advertising	4,290	2,401
Bank fees	1,555	1,148
Consultants, rates valuation fees and council election fee	8,123	14,288
Contractors, maintenance and materials	13,328	26,478
Bad and doubtful debts expense	-	7,601
Donations	750	-
Electricity	12,037	12,070
Information technology expenses	8,896	-
Insurance	24,613	17,526
Printing and stationery	2,405	2,581
Repairs and maintenance	33,891	8,773
Roads to Recovery	104,527	-
Subscriptions	2,609	1,885
Telephone	7,678	8,414
Travelling and accommodation	1,999	6,091
Vehicle registration	2,651	2,702
Vehicle, plant and equipment expenses	7,592	13,115
Waste management	74,604	-
Other	26,268	45,764
Total materials and contracts	337,816	183,197
Note 4C Depreciation and amortisation		
Buildings and improvements	-	26,283
Plant and equipment	46,982	75,164
Infrastructure	86,446	83,857
Office equipment and furniture	-	28,480
Motor vehicles	21,487	58,303
Total depreciation and amortisation	154,915	272,087
Depreciation on buildings and improvements was not expensed in 2016 due to the revaluation of those items undertaken by Integrated Valuation Services as at 6 July 2015.		
Note 4D Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit services	15,542	7,500
Other services	1,338	5,000
	16,880	12,500

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 5: Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash at bank	861,046	837,103
Cash on hand	1,461	32
Total cash and cash equivalents	862,507	837,135
Restricted cash and cash equivalents summary		
<i>Purpose</i>		
External restrictions		
- Included in liabilities	-	-
- Included in revenue	-	-
Total external restrictions	-	-
Internal restrictions		
Included in liabilities:		
Employee leave entitlements	32,535	27,982
Accrued wages	-	10,209
Total internal restrictions	32,535	38,191
Total unrestricted	829,972	798,944
Total cash and cash equivalents available	862,507	837,135

Management believe that there were no grants which were not expended as at 30 June 2016 (2015: \$Nil)

Note 6: Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors		
Rates and annual charges	18,464	40,202
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(8,512)	(8,512)
	9,952	31,690
GST receivable	9,578	-
Other	1,440	1,440
Total unrestricted accounts receivable and other debtors	20,970	33,130
Total receivables are aged as follows:		
Current	4,253	31,690
30 to 60 days	-	-
More than 90 days	14,211	8,512
Total receivables	18,464	40,202

The average credit period on rates and other receivables is 28 days. No interest is charged for the first 28 days from the date of invoice. Thereafter, interest is charged at 17% per annum, which is calculated on a daily basis, on the outstanding balance. The Council has recognised an allowance for doubtful debts for all properties that are not able to have a statutory charge applied because there is a limited means of being able to recover this income.

Movement/(recoveries) in allowance for impairment of receivables

Balance at the beginning of the year	8,512	3,943
Impairment losses recognised on receivables	-	4,569
Reduction in allowance	-	-
Balance at the end of the year	8,512	8,512

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land and buildings		
Land, at cost	400,000	400,000
	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Buildings and improvements, at fair value	2,222,727	1,517,105
Accumulated depreciation	-	(821,179)
	<u>2,222,727</u>	<u>695,926</u>
Total land and buildings	<u>2,622,727</u>	<u>1,095,926</u>
Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment, at cost	354,243	306,691
Accumulated depreciation	(314,912)	(267,930)
	<u>39,331</u>	<u>38,761</u>
Infrastructure, at cost	864,460	864,460
Accumulated depreciation	(609,970)	(523,524)
	<u>254,490</u>	<u>340,936</u>
Office equipment and furniture, at cost	174,729	174,729
Accumulated depreciation	(174,729)	(174,729)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Motor vehicles, at cost	107,432	107,432
Accumulated depreciation	(73,213)	(51,725)
	<u>34,219</u>	<u>55,707</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>328,040</u>	<u>435,404</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u><u>2,950,767</u></u>	<u><u>1,531,330</u></u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

Note 7: Property, Plant and Equipment (continued)

Movement in carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the financial year:

	Land at cost \$	Buildings and improvements at fair value \$	Plant and equipment at cost \$	Infrastructure at cost \$	Office equipment and furniture at cost \$	Motor Vehicles at cost \$	Total \$
As at 1 July 2014							
Gross book value	400,000	1,483,909	260,593	825,633	169,525	107,443	3,247,103
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(746,015)	(209,627)	(439,667)	(148,446)	(71,808)	(1,615,563)
Net book value 1 July 2014	400,000	737,894	50,966	385,966	21,079	35,635	1,631,540
Additions	-	33,196	46,097	38,828	5,204	69,252	192,577
Depreciation	-	(75,164)	(58,302)	(83,858)	(26,283)	(28,480)	(272,087)
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(20,700)	(20,700)
Net book value 30 June 2015	400,000	695,926	38,761	340,936	-	55,707	1,531,330
Net book value as of 30 June 2015 represented by:							
Gross book value	400,000	1,517,105	306,691	864,460	174,729	107,432	3,370,417
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(821,179)	(267,930)	(523,524)	(174,729)	(51,725)	(1,839,087)
Net book value 30 June 2015	400,000	695,926	38,761	340,936	-	55,707	1,531,330
As at 1 July 2015							
Gross book value	400,000	1,517,105	306,691	864,460	174,729	107,432	3,370,417
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	(821,179)	(267,930)	(523,524)	(174,729)	(51,725)	(1,839,087)
Net book value 1 July 2015	400,000	695,926	38,761	340,936	-	55,707	1,531,330
Additions	-	-	47,551	-	-	-	47,551
Depreciation	-	-	(46,981)	(86,446)	-	(21,488)	(154,915)
Revaluation	-	1,526,801	-	-	-	-	1,526,801
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net book value 30 June 2016	400,000	2,222,727	39,331	254,490	-	34,219	2,950,767
Net book value as of 30 June 2016 represented by:							
Gross book value	400,000	2,222,727	354,243	864,460	174,729	107,432	4,123,591
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	-	-	(314,912)	(609,970)	(174,729)	(73,213)	(1,172,824)
Net book value 30 June 2016	400,000	2,222,727	39,331	254,490	-	34,219	2,950,767

Valuation of Building and Improvements

An independent valuation of buildings and improvements was undertaken by Integrated Valuation Services as at 6 July 2015. These assets have been valued at "Fair Value" and adopted in the 2015-16 financial statements.

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN 65 843 778 569

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 8: Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
Current		
Sundry creditors and accrued expenses	20,228	20,088
Accrued wages	-	10,209
Payroll liabilities	5,732	2,950
GST liabilities	-	1,092
Total accounts payable and other payables	25,960	34,339

Settlement of sundry creditors is generally net 30 days.

a. Financial liabilities at amortised cost classified as accounts payable and other payable:

Accounts payable and other payables:		
- total current	25,960	34,339
- total non current	-	-
	<u>25,960</u>	<u>34,339</u>
Less GST payable	-	(1,092)
Financial liabilities as accounts payable and other payables	<u>25,960</u>	<u>33,247</u>

No interest is payable on outstanding payables.

Note 9: Employee Provisions		
Current		
Annual leave	19,752	13,979
Long service leave	11,426	12,646
Total current provisions	31,178	26,625
Non Current		
Long service leave	1,357	1,357
Total non current provisions	1,357	1,357
Total provisions	32,535	27,982

Note 10: Cash Flow Information		
Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operating Activities with Current Year Surplus		
Deficit for the year	(90,326)	(207,622)
Non cash transactions		
Depreciation and amortisation	154,915	272,087
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(2,300)
<i>Changes in net assets and liabilities:</i>		
<i>(Increase) / Decrease in assets:</i>		
Accounts receivable and other debtors	12,160	1,717
<i>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable and other payables	(8,379)	17,894
Employee provisions	4,553	14,003
Net cash flows from operating activities	72,923	95,779

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Note 16: Financial Risk Management		

The Council's financial instruments consist mainly of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable and other debtors and accounts payable and other payables.

The carrying amounts for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139: *financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

Financial assets

Cash and cash equivalents	862,507	837,135
Accounts receivable and other debtors	20,970	33,130
Total financial assets	<u>883,477</u>	<u>870,265</u>

Financial liabilities

Accounts payable and other payables	25,960	33,247
Total financial liabilities	<u>25,960</u>	<u>33,247</u>

Financial Risk Management Policies

Management is responsible for mentoring and managing the Council's compliance with its risk management strategy. The committee's overall risk management strategy is to assist the Council in meeting its financial targets whilst minimising potential adverse effects on financial performance. These include credit risk policies and future cash flow requirements.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the Council is exposed to through its financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk relating to interest rate risk. There has been no substantive change in the types of risk the Council is exposed to, how these risks arise, management's objectives, policies and procedures for managing or measuring risks from the previous period.

a. Credit risk

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss for the Council.

Credit risk exposures

The maximum exposure to credit risk by class of recognised financial assets at the end of the reporting period is equivalent to the carrying amount and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the statement of financial position.

Legislative restrictions on Council's investment powers effectively limit investments to financial instruments issued or guaranteed by Australian Governments, banks and authorised deposit taking institutions. Rates and other receivables are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Council's exposure to bad debts is not significant.

The Council has no significant concentrations of credit risk exposure to any single counterparty or group of counterparties. Details with respect to credit risk of accounts receivable and other debtors are provided in Note 6.

**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

Note 16: Financial Risk Management (continued)

b. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the Council might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations in relation to financial liabilities. The Council manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward-looking cash flow analysis in relation to its operational, investing and financing activities;
- maintaining a reputable credit profile;
- managing credit risk related to financial assets; and
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions.

c. Market risk

Interest rate risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises on financial assets and financial liabilities recognised at the end of the reporting period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of fixed rate financial instruments. The Council is also exposed to earnings volatility on floating rate instruments.

The financial instruments that expose the Council to interest rate risk are limited to cash and cash equivalents.

The Council also manages interest rate risk by ensuring that, whenever possible, payables are paid within any pre-agreed credit terms.

Fair value sensitivity analysis for fixed rate instruments

The Council does not account for any fixed rate financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss. Therefore a change in interest rates at the reporting date would not affect profit or loss.

Fair value

The fair value of the Council's financial assets and liabilities approximates their carrying amounts.

Note 17: Additional Council Information

Wagait Shire Council is a local government body formerly called Cox Peninsular Government Council.

Principal place of business

Lot 62 Wagait Tower Road
Wagait Beach NT 0822

Registered Office

PMB 10
Wagait Beach NT 0801

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Wagait Shire Council

SWJR Nominees Pty Ltd
ABN 49 078 887 171
Cnr Coonawarra & Hook Roads
PO Box 36394, Winnellie NT 0821
Tel: 08 8947 2200
Fax: 08 8947 1146
lowrys.accountants@lowrys.com.au

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a general purpose financial report, of Wagait Shire Council (the Council) which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Statement of Working Capital, the Statement of Cash Flows, a summary of significant accounting policies along with other explanatory notes and the Chief Executive Officer's Certificate.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and relevant provisions of the Local Government Act and Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, and for such internal controls as management determine are necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

We performed the procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Local Government Act, the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards, a true and fair view which is consistent with our understanding of the Council's financial position and of its performance.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and Local Government regulations.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of the Wagait Shire Council is in accordance with the Local Government Act and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards.

Emphasis of Matter

Without qualifying our audit opinion, we draw your attention to the Note 1 in the financial statements which explain the fact that the Council is dependent on operating grants from Government funding agencies. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the management believe that such funding will continue in the foreseeable future.

Other Matter

The financial statements of Wagait Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2015 were audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified audit opinion on those statements on 15 October 2015.

LOWRYS ACCOUNTANTS



Colin James
Registered Company Auditor

Darwin, 18 October 2016

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Wagait Shire Council

SWJR Nominees Pty Ltd
ABN 49 078 887 171
Cnr Coonawarra & Hook Roads
PO Box 36394, Winnellie NT 0821
Tel: 08 8947 2200
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Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and relevant provisions of the Local Government Act and Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, and for such internal controls as management determine are necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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Other Matter

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LOWRYS ACCOUNTANTS



Colin James
Registered Company Auditor

Darwin, 18 October 2016

18 October 2016

The Council Members
Wagait Shire Council
PMB 10
Wagait Beach NT 0801

Dear Council Members

Management Letter 2016

We have completed our audit of the Wagait Shire Council (the Council) for the year ended 30 June 2016 and we have issued an unqualified audit report.

As part of our examination, we made a study and evaluation of the Council's system of internal control to establish the level of our reliance on the system in determining the nature, timing and extent of other procedures necessary to enable us to express our audit opinion. This work is not primarily directed towards the discovery of weaknesses or the detection of fraud or other irregularities and should not, therefore, be taken as an assurance that no other weaknesses exist. Accordingly, the comments in this letter refer only to those matters that have come to our attention during the course of our normal audit work and do not attempt to indicate all possible improvements that a special review might develop.

Subject to the weaknesses noted and reported in this letter we can report that the Council does not have significant issues relating to internal control and accounting procedures of which we became aware during the course of the audit.

We would also like to bring to your attention the following:

1. Accounting /Finance

We noted that the Council did not:

- depreciate building and improvements during the year due to the revaluation of those assets
- recognised the revaluation increment of property during the year as a result of the adopted valuation document
- maintain the schedule required for details of allowance for doubtful accounts
- reverse accruals made in previous years which resulted in the recognition of \$12,500 other income during the year

We proposed adjustments to be made and the Council booked the adjustments accordingly.

We also noted instances of errors on claiming GST on purchases, however, we did not propose any adjustment due to the immateriality of errors noted.

We recommend that the Council ensure that similar transactions be booked in the future to avoid adjustments at the end of the year, which will lead to a more efficient audit.

2. Employee Entitlements

During our audit, we noted that:

- On costs, such as superannuation and worker's compensation insurance, were not taken into account when calculating the employee leave entitlement provisions.
- Probability factors and discount rates were not taken into account when calculating the employee leave entitlement provisions.

We recommend that the Council should:

- formulate and consider the on-cost expenses, probability factors and discounting rates when calculating employee leave entitlements..
- perform reconciliations on a regular basis between leave forms and leave days applied to the employee entitlement accounts.

3. Salary increase

We noted that the Council did not issue any formal letters or confirmations to employees advising the employees of the salary increases during the year. We acknowledge that salary increases were verbally advised by the former Chief Executive Officer.

We recommend that where there have been increases to employee wages, letters be prepared documenting the new wage and conditions. This will ensure that there are no future disputes regarding wages or conditions, and provide an audit trail as to when the conditions etc. changed and the authorisations pertaining to it. We recommend that a copy be retained on the employee files.

4. Property, Plant and Equipment

Physical inventory of Fixed Assets

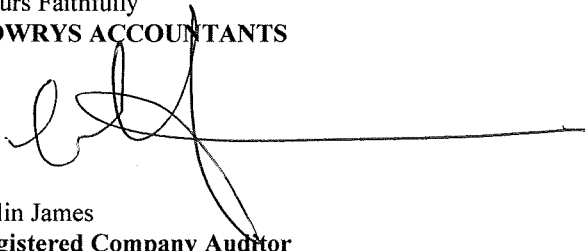
For the year ended 30 June 2016, a full physical inventory review of fixed assets was not carried out by the Council.

We strongly recommend that the Corporation conducts a full physical inventory review of all the Council's fixed assets periodically to safeguard the assets and ensure the accuracy of the reported figures of fixed assets. This procedure will also enable management to assess whether there are items appearing in the fixed asset register which are not physically present.

We received complete co-operation from the Council during the conduct of the audit procedures and we wish to extend our appreciation for the assistance provided to us.

Yours Faithfully

LOWRYS ACCOUNTANTS



Colin James
Registered Company Auditor

Appendix 3: Comparison – Budget v actual income and outgoings

Comparison between budgeted and actual income and outgoings

	Description	2015 - 2016 Budget	2015 - 2016 Actual
INCOME			
	Contract	\$129,433.00	\$149,932.00
	Grants	\$314,325.00	\$379,354.00
	Interest Received	\$12,000.00	\$11,310.00
	Outstanding Rates	\$11,400.00	\$3,759.00
	Professional assistance for CEO from reserves	\$8,000.00	
	Rates @ \$525.30 per lot	\$203,816.40	\$201,715.00
	Rental Received	\$10,010.00	\$7,688.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$688,984.40	\$753,758.00

EXPENDITURE			
	Employee Costs	\$384,600.00	\$334,473.00
	Contracts and Materials	\$15,000.00	\$13,328.00
	Repairs and Maintenance of Town Assets	\$12,000.00	\$33,891.00
	Roads	\$113,322.00	\$104,527.00
	Administration	\$61,350.00	\$62,474.00
	Other Operational Costs	\$60,500.00	\$63,850.00
	Community Development and Support	\$18,500.00	\$2,022.00
	Waste Management	\$9,712.40	\$74,604.00
	Capital Purchases	\$14,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		\$688,984.40	\$689,169.00