

6. Second Quarter review of the 2008/09 Operational Plan

This report provides an update on the implementation of the 2008/09 Operational Plan during the second quarter of the year to 31 December 2008.

General Manager

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 the General Manager must report to Council at the close of each quarter on the extent to which performance targets set by the Management Plan have been achieved.

10 A comprehensive assessment of all activities undertaken by the organisation is presented in the separate 'Second Quarter Review' document, distributed to all Councillors on X February 2009 and tabled to the meeting of X February 2009.

The following information provides a summary of major issues and achievements for the quarter, from across the organisation.

ISSUES

Summary of major issues and achievements

Governance

- 20 • Operational Examination – Council has signed off on recommendations implemented from the 2006 Independent Operational Examination. All recommendations from the review have been considered by Council with the majority being actioned. The formal process associated with the implementation of the Operational Examination report is now concluded.
- Promoting Better Practice – Council has signed off on all elements of the Action Plan arising from the 2006 Department of Local Government 'Promoting Better Practice' review. All elements of the Action Plan have been considered with the vast majority being actioned. The Department of Local Government have now formally advised that they have concluded their review of the Action Plan implementation and all items are satisfactory.
- 30 • Finance – A separate finance report for the second quarter (Financial Statement (Budget Review) for 31 December 2008) has been presented to the Council meeting of 10 February 2009. The following points are provided as a summary of that report.

The table below compares the revised working capital balances at 30 June 2009 with balances estimated at the time the 2008/09 Budget was adopted.

Fund	Original Estimated Working Capital Balances at 30.6.09	Revised Estimated Working Capital Balances at 30.6.09	Variation
General ¹	1,136,427	1,156,478	20,051
Water	699,486	739,223	39,737
Sewerage	721,942	854,233	132,291

During the quarter Council resolved to allocate \$840,000 of uncommitted General Fund monies as follows:-

- Merimbula Jetty (\$200,000)
- Tathra Ring Road (\$160,000)
- Eden Port Plan Memorandum of Understanding (\$100,000)
- Bermagui Community Centre Modifications (\$30,000)
- Asset Management Plan/Register (\$100,000)
- Merimbula Traffic Strategy (\$50,000) and
- General Fund Asset Management Reserve (\$200,000).

An amendment to these distributions was made following Council's meeting on 23 December 2008 with:-

- \$260,000 allocated to Pambula pool refurbishments offset by reductions in Tathra Ring Road (\$110,000)
- General Fund Asset Replacement Reserve (\$100,000) and
- Rotary Park Merimbula (\$50,000).

During the second quarter Council also resolved to fully fund the following items referred to the budget review process:

- Peer Review of Pambula Pool Business Case - \$10,000
- Additional Contribution to Senior Citizen's Week - \$3,500
- Library, Art Gallery and Lobby Improvement Works - \$29,000
- Bermagui Blue Pool Stairs and Handrails - \$50,000
- Additional Funds for Toilets at Bermagui Surf Lifesaving Club - \$50,000

¹ The General Fund incorporates the Waste Fund balances. All revised estimated working capital balances at 30 June 2009 exceed the minimum levels set at the time the 2008/09 Budget was adopted – for General Fund \$1,136,000 and for Water and Sewer Funds \$686,000.

Infrastructure

- 60
- Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Identification of 29 specific projects from around the Shire to be funded from a direct Federal Government grant of \$1,043,000. Funds are to be expended by September 2009. During the quarter staff were involved in assessing the requirements of the funding program when announced, facilitating the process for local groups and Council committees to nominate projects for consideration, facilitating presentation to Council from groups, compiling information on projects and preparing the reports for Council consideration. This process has impacted on other priorities outlined in the adopted plan and amendments are being made accordingly. This process will have further impacts in the second half of the
- 70
- current financial year as the funds are received and expended and will also flow over into the 2009/10 year. This activity is all additional to the adopted plan.

Planning, Development and Environment

- \$20,000 emergency weed management funding was secured during the quarter for the control of the Blue Hound's Tongue weed outbreak at Fisheries Beach. This location is the only site in Australia where this environmental weed occurs. The weed must be controlled as it is very invasive.

Community, Culture and Economy

- 80
- Eden Preschool and Sapphire Mobile Service – Council resolved on 11 November 2008 to accept an offer from the Department of Community Services of funding to Council for the operation of these two services. Staff have been involved in working with the committee of the former auspice, the Department of Community Services and the community to ensure a smooth transition. A project officer was appointed funded by the Department and Council to assist with this process. Licence applications have been lodged and Development Applications have been prepared and staffing appointments progressed. The new services will commence operation early in 2009 when licence applications are approved. This activity is all additional to the adopted plan.
 - Fees for children's services were amended during the quarter and the new fees apply from 1 January 2009.
- 90
- Sapphire Coast Tourism Board allocation – the additional \$50,000 potentially nominated in the Management Plan has been applied for by SCT and has been paid.
 - Customer Services call back system designed – a new program which will see weekly follow up to a randomly selected number of callers and correspondents to Council has been developed and will be implemented in the next quarter. Results from the call back will be reported to Council quarterly through the management plan quarterly report process.

- Public access to wireless internet services – project adopted December 2008 to be implemented 2009.

100

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report circulated to Councillors on 5 February 2009 and considered at the Council meeting of 10 February 2009, on the extent to which programs, actions and performance targets set by the Operational Plan for the period ending 30 September have been achieved, be noted.
2. That Council approve the alterations to the Management Plan outlined in the report to Council on 10 February 2009 and summarised as:-
 - Operational examination 2006 completed.
 - Promoting Better Practice review 2006 completed.
 - Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program commenced and included in the Plan.
 - Eden Preschool and Sapphire Mobile Service commenced operation and included in the Plan.
 - Public access to wireless internet services commenced and included in the Plan.

110