

A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD

2008/2009 SUBMISSION



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Mayor: Cr James Treloar
General Manager: Glenn Inglis
Trim Ref: SF2119

BRIEF STATISTICS FOR 2008/2009

Total Population 57,182
Urban Population 40,000
Rural Population 17,000
Council Area 9,653 sq km
Staff 492 full time/557 positions
Most recent organisational review April 2005

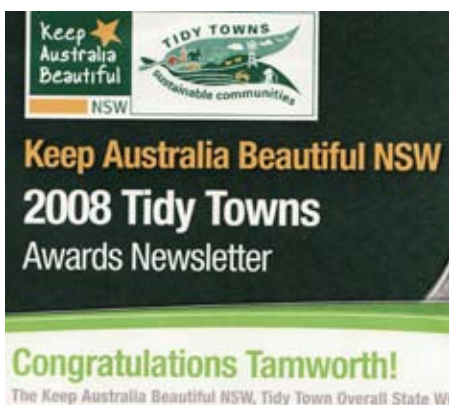
Tamworth Regional Council is based in the north of NSW and is a local government body formed in March 2004 with the amalgamation of a city council based in Tamworth and the shires of Barraba, Manilla, Parry and Nundle. The population is 57,000.

Tamworth is an urban city of over 40,000, with another 10,000 people living within 20km of the city centre. The smaller towns of Manilla, Barraba, Nundle and Kootingal and another 17 hamlets and tiny villages lie within the local government boundary.

Tamworth is a modern, progressive city with a pretty easy going lifestyle and a strong economy that in 2007/2008 saw something like \$211million worth of approved development and construction activity. It is thriving, with a strong building industry and vibrant retail and hospitality sectors. It was the first city in the southern hemisphere to have electric street lighting back in 1888 – and it's leaders say it's been a shining light ever since.

It is a friendly city – and not just when it hosts the world famous Tamworth County Music Festival each January and 50,000 visitors come to town - or when it hosts major sporting and cultural events and conferences. It has been a winner of the Friendly Towns awards more than a few times and is the current NSW and Australian winner of the Tidy Town awards. The region has forged extensive civic, community and corporate partnerships that support those outstanding achievements.

Tamworth Regional Council is one of the biggest councils in inland NSW – we operate six libraries, one art gallery, six museums, three community centres, six public swimming pools, five sewerage treatment works and seven different water treatment schemes. We employ something like 630 people across an area three times the Sydney basin – 190km from end to end and up to 60km wide in the middle.



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The northern boundary of TRC lies 100km from Tamworth and the south-eastern tip is nearly 90km away from the city.

We have the biggest network of local and regional roads in NSW - within our regional council area there is something like 2,000 kilometres of sealed roads – and another 1,900 km of unsealed or dirt roads. We have something like 67 timber bridges and another 116 concrete bridges.

TRC delivers water supplies to more than 20,000 connections – domestic, residential, commercial and industrial. We are delivering waste services to some 22,500 properties.

As a council TRC looks after and manages 3,275 hectares of green space or open space like sporting fields and parks. There are 250 separate parks or pieces of bushland around the council area – the biggest single green space is Oxley Park in Tamworth which is 492 hectares.

While the city continues to record strong growth and up to a 1.5% population increase a year, we are also seeking to address the challenge of economic and social sustainability – the social health – of our smaller towns and villages. They are seeing declining populations and a reduction in services.

We have introduced a unique framework for ensuring these communities are included in planning and decision making processes. We have established something like 45 Section 355 committees, the largest number in the state. They represent a powerful tool for a council – a direct line of communication into these diverse communities – a way to engage and empower these communities.

They guide and organise a variety of council-owned facilities – like the 50 village halls we own and community centres or playing fields – and consult with us about the best ways of helping those communities to develop socially and economically.

Tamworth is a regional centre for more than just its local government area. It is a city that attracts people from all over the north west and New England for such diverse activities as shopping, health and medical, educational, cultural and commercial and industrial services.

It offers country heart with city style.



I. Executive Summary

The year 2008/2009 was a spectacular one for Tamworth Regional Council and its 57,000 residents whatever way you look at it.



It was a high water mark in the history of the council region from the point of view of works on-ground, of projects and programs undertaken, but also in community involvement and expectations, and in social and cultural achievement. The year also saw significant technical and planning processes and preparation put into place for strategic development.



TRC finished the year with a strong and substantial report card that showed outstanding progress and some stunning achievements from its budget and management planning.

Despite major flooding that saw the TRC area declared a natural disaster area in November 2008, the city went on to win the title of the Australian Tidy Town of the year in May 2009. It had been named the overall NSW winner of the Tidy Town award in November 2008. The awards are a terrific endorsement of the great work so many people do to make this community sustainable, socially rich environment that takes account of its people, its place and its future. It is a council area that has forged extensive civic, community and corporate partnerships that support those outstanding achievements.

In 2008/2009 there was major investment spending in regional infrastructure building during the year – outside the flood damage estimated to be at least \$20m to council assets.

TRC drafted a budget of \$173million with a forecast capital works program of \$82million for 2008/2009. This was nearly \$20m up on the previous year and included provision for \$16m in water works and \$41 in sewer works. TRC spent some \$13.5million on roads and bridges, including new works and maintenance.

It was the biggest capital works budget TRC had drafted and represented a year of significant new initiatives underpinned by substantial asset maintenance, a focus on putting more blocks into place for a stronger and sensitive program of community development strategies, and strategic planning across a broad range of directorates and communities.

The year also marked the last year of the first ever term of Tamworth Regional Council. The mayor has reported that the councillors had enjoyed robust debate on issues but were a cohesive, supportive team who had laid a sound and solid base for the operations of a new council and had brought the wider community together from shires forcibly amalgamated and with residents opposed and suspicious of the new order. Despite this they had managed a council era that saw unprecedented growth and in their final year, the completion and achievement of important and progressive projects and programs.

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Executive Summary - cont.



One of the most significant achievements for 2008/2009 was the completion of the \$30million Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre in Tamworth. It was one of the most ambitious undertakings ever by a local government body.

It has been heralded as the best horse and livestock events centre in the country – a world class super centre - and it presents a spellbinding landmark on the horizon of the city. The iconic structure is massive in scale and spectacular in shape and design. The stadium and stables complexes are ringed on the site like a horseshoe but from the air look like some galactic space station.

The \$30million centre had its formal opening in February this year with an expo and an artistic and theatrical performance by 600 people and horses.

We also opened the new Capitol Theatre – a performing arts centre that operates as a council venue within what we believe is a unique and innovative private/public partnership.

Our strategic development programs laid substantial foundations last year for future integrated growth and development and for a new landscape footprint that has its roots in robust, vibrant, sensitive and sustainable environmentally-responsible planning.

We spent the previous three years preparing the Tamworth Regional Development Strategy in consultation with the community, state agencies and the development industry – to shape the future direction of growth and manage the pressures of the here and now and of the future.

We have seen sustained growth around the urban hub of Tamworth – however, growth hasn't been uniform across the council region and we have seen demands for a range of new housing opportunity, pressures from fragmentation of the rural landscape, and a recognised shortage of developed industrial land.

That strategy guided the development of a new modern, best practice **Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan**. 2008/2009 saw the final drafting, mapping, and development of the statutory instrument for the LEP. The department approved the draft for exhibition during the year and it went on public exhibition in July 2009.

The draft LEP and the associated **draft Regional Development Control Plan** have been five years in the making – since amalgamation of the five former councils – and after the public feedback period and subsequent revisions or amendments, will go back to the department for final approval.

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Executive Summary - cont.



In the past three years, Tamworth Regional Council has built and replaced **eight bridges** at a cost of over \$10m. Four were completed to June 30, 2009 and we have another four to complete this year at a cost of \$1.7million.

Among other major achievements in 2008/2009 were:

- The preparation and negotiation, including tender analysis, of a new **waste services management contract** worth some \$30m over nine years.
- The **\$80million Westdale Sewerage Augmentation** and **100% effluent re-use farm** project has been four years in the planning.
- A 400-seat **live performance theatre** in the heart of the Tamworth CBD has been provided by TRC using a model which, to our knowledge, has never been attempted before. In general terms, a venue has been constructed as part of a larger cinema complex which can function both as a live performance theatre (complete with fly tower, pit lift, backstage areas, green room and lighting catwalk) and can also function as a cinema. It was purpose built with TRC having comprehensive input into the final design and fitout of the building. It has been provided to the city for \$1.675 million which is a fraction of the capital cost of a traditional approach to the provision of a performing arts centre by Local Government.
- A start on the **\$8million indoor sports centre**.
- Masterplanning for the new civic space around **Bicentennial Park and Fitzroy St**.
- **Riverside Master Plan** including relocation of major sports to co-exist with other codes.
- **TRC Recreation Plan**.
- The **Tamworth Regional Racing Precinct** feasibility planning.
- **Community programs** specifically to address youth, aged and disabilities sectors.
- The **Crime Prevention Strategy** which is targeting community concern over anti-social behaviour and perceived safety concerns at night, particularly by the elderly. As part of this multi-faceted strategic program we have projects such as Coedale Cares, with funding from the Attorney-General's Department which is using environmental design strategies to prevent crime in one disadvantaged suburb.





2. Principal Activities

Capital Works and Services

Construction of the \$30m Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

The world class super-centre was completed in September 2008 after a 15-month construction period. TRC contributed over \$20m of the \$30m project cost through council cash and reserves and loan funds. Federal and State Government grants of \$10.268m made up the balance. At the time it was the biggest ever construction undertaken by the council but an investment in the region's future and the culmination of a 10-year dream by industry stakeholders and horse groups to enhance Tamworth as the leading equine region in NSW and to cement and help develop events in the region. We believe it was one of the most ambitious undertakings ever by a local government body.

It is a spectacular architectural design and up to June 2009 over 78,200 people and 15,000 animals had been to AELEC. It has attracted international praise and is hosting state and national titles. More importantly, it is actually spawning new events and activities and developing new equine and livestock markets for those industries.

A community open day at AELEC in September 2008 was an historic one – about 9,000 people – many who'd never been on a horse in their life – turned up to take a tour of the centre. Mayor James Treloar said at the time it was the single most significant piece of infrastructure the council had built. Visitors are continually overawed by the architectural beauty and size of the centre.

TRC had driven the project and set up working groups to achieve the end result. Horse and livestock groups were involved in the planning, consultation and design specification preparations. They are being consulted further for future and ongoing business planning and corporate and commercial partnerships. An internal TRC working group, including engineering, survey and design and specialist project managers were involved for the length of the project, including a project manager and works superintendent on site for the construction. Over 1,000 workers, 145 contractors, sub-contractors and suppliers were involved in the building.

The project saw some special design and construction firsts and cutting edge building systems – site fabrication of post-tensioned bottom cord trusses, quadrant roof sheets, splayed and curved off-form concrete which provided new construction challenges. The builder and architect have entered their work on AELEC in subsequent design and industry awards. The project was also singled out for setting new outstanding occupational health and safety standards for the building team. The stadium has an indoor arena and sales ring. It has 478 stables, outdoor arenas and horse sporting fields, exhibition lawns and livestock amenities.



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The \$80million Westdale Sewerage Augmentation and 100% effluent re-use farm project has been four years in the planning but actual on-site construction works got underway in January 2009.

The formation of an alliance agreement between contractors, designers and TRC to design, construct and operate an upgraded plant as part of the augmentation was decided in late 2008.

There are two separate project arms - Part A includes the augmentation works at the Westdale plant, a new pump station, a 7.5kilometre pipeline for effluent transfer, and the building of a 1,500 megalitre dam as part of the upgraded storage system. Part B involves the farm establishment and operations, including a pump station and irrigation pipes. TRC agreed to award a tender for the Part B contract in June 2009. So far, work has begun on the sludge lagoons, about 5km of the pipeline has been completed and there's about six months of work left to complete the dam.

Pre-construction activities including tender preparation began about four years ago. An alliance agreement between TRC, United Group Infrastructure and MWH Australia was struck in 2008.

It is the biggest capital works project ever undertaken by Tamworth Regional Council and will provide a trade waste and sewer system that will provide for the city for the next 20 years.

It will provide for industrial, commercial and residential growth for about 60,000 people and will effectively double the capacity of the treatment plant.

It will give the city a new environmental standard in effluent treatment and recycling, will handle projected population growth, will stop the discharge of treated waste into river systems, and will allow for a daily effluent discharge of 11.7megalitres (currently) to be used to irrigate farmland and grow fodder.

The Westdale treatment plant upgrade and augmentation and the construction and operation of a new 100% re-use farm at New Winton is a huge building block for key infrastructure for growth and development.

The upgrade will give the city one of the most sophisticated sewerage systems in regional Australia and enhance its appeal for major industry trade waste users and particularly food processing industries.

The two project arms are scheduled to be completed in mid-2010 to allow for the smooth dovetailing of effluent disposal and re-use and the subsequent de-commissioning of an old sewerage plant near the city's growing residential suburbs. The Swan St plant has treated about one-third of the city's sewage but will be shutdown.

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Capital Works and Services - cont.



Preparation and negotiation, including tender analysis, of a new waste services management contract worth some \$30m over nine years.

TRC finalised and announced the new council waste services contract to Transpacific Cleanaway in February 2009 after an 18-month tender preparation, analysis and negotiation project that will provide extended recycling and garbage services to 25,000 properties across a region three times the size of the Sydney Basin.

The contract has the capacity to take a regional approach appropriate to service provision to many small communities and delivers them at a cost effective rate. Five former councils delivered disparate and different services to more than 55,000 people over a 9,500 sq km area. Some 50,000 are within a 20km radius of the city centre. The contract negotiation has wrapped these into one single service delivery model, involves a broad suite of services but importantly has substantially extended more services to more rural and isolated areas, at or below an industry standard rate or waste services charge of \$248 a year.

The contract comes into effect from August 31, 2009 and will deliver 22,500 garbage and recycling services to eligible properties across TRC. The changes include a new waste contractor, a completely new wheelie bin for recycling which replaces an old black crate system, extended recycling to an additional 6,500 properties, extended garbage collections to 700 new properties, extended bulky goods collections, extended garden organics or green waste services to an extra 832 properties, and new timetables for kerbside collections.

The \$10million Taminda levee was finished in June 2009 and was one of the most complex civic projects for TRC and part of a long standing plan to put in place improved flood management for the entire city.

Work on the 2.8km flood levee had begun in April 2005 and was completed this year over a staged program, much of it dependent on a series of state and federal government funding grants, TRC budgets and scheduling of TRC work crews. The project essentially flood-protects a wider area of valuable industrial and commercial lands and properties in the main industrial suburb of the city, sporting and recreation grounds, and a busy network of traffic and inner cross-city transport links. The construction work incorporated a number of different techniques to achieve flood protection including earth embankment construction, a retaining wall system and a demountable flood barrier system.

In places, the top of the levee stands 3.5metres high – and a new road network travels along part of it. An existing levee section around the city racecourse has been increased from one to two metres. The project included roadworks and roundabouts, creation of detention ponds, the shifting of something like 100,000 cubic metres of soil for the levee – or about 12,000 truck loads, as well as sewer, power and telecommunications relocations, and access and property reinstatements.

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Capital Works and Services - cont.**



A \$13.5million roadworks program was completed in 2008/2009 including significant new works on the Timber Bridge Replacement Program.

Council reached another milestone in its successful timber bridge replacement program during 2008/2009 with the completion of six new bridges at Ironbark Gully Bridge, Big Oakey Creek Bridge on Ogunbil Rd, Trough Gully Bridge on Nundle Rd, McKerihans Bridge on Nundle Rd, and Lonergan's Bridge at Limbri and Limestone Gully Bridge. The construction this year of another four bridges will also complete the replacement of all its timber bridges on the regional roads network.

Major drainage and road works were completed including:

- Underground **drainage construction** works worth \$100,000 at Sapphire Crescent in Tamworth commenced in June 2008.
- **Burgmanns Lane, Tamworth** – a \$560,00 works project to complete a 2km gravel section that completes a major city ring road. Reconstruction, gravelling and bitumen sealing brought it to B-double standard and keeps heavy vehicles out of the city centre.
- **Moonbi Gap Rd works** - a \$520,000 project that effectively closed another gravel gap in a northern link road that provides for a city bypass for heavy vehicles.
- The **\$465,000 Hill St Kable Ave drainage project** involving pollution trap and stormwater pipes to new environmental standards.
- The construction of a new **\$1.2m roundabout** on the New England Highway completed to superior RTA standards began in April 2008.
- **The Long Gully project** was completed in 2008/2009 at a cost of \$580,000 and was part of a larger project begun in 2004 to deliver a series of box culverts and pipes linking the Long Gully open channel line near Endeavour Park in Brisbane St and down to the Peel River through established residential areas. The storm water drainage system is designed to solve problems caused by torrential rain in residential areas towards the high hills in the city's east.

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The \$5.25million Hills Plain water and sewer infrastructure project.

TRC has achieved more milestones this year with continued work on the Hills Plain infrastructure program. Hills Plain is a rural residential area of 850 hectares on the northern fringe of the city - and will ultimately support a population equivalent to the town of Gunnedah, about 10,000 people. Major infrastructure works have been completed this year by TRC crews who cut in a new water main across a distance of 3.6km for a 450mm pipeline and 4.2km of a 375mm pipeline that is responsible for the bulk transfer of water from the main city reservoir to Hills Plain. A \$530,000 component pump station construction was also begun. It will push water from the Victoria Park reservoir up hill to feed into reticulation for Hills Plain. Crews had to work overland and through rock and bush to eventually connect the two mains at a rendezvous point. Three stop valves at the connection point allow TRC to isolate each section of the main without closing down other bits as well. A sewer works component of the project is completing a \$3m sewer reticulation system of 9.2kms which includes a new pump station at Hills Plain.



Regional Livestock Marketing Centre

Tamworth Regional Council has owned and operated the Tamworth Regional Livestock Marketing Centre for the past 125 years. After an extensive Strategic Planning Evaluation process work is now underway on a new \$14.5million centre under a private/public partnership arrangement. The process included a committee of stakeholders investigating ownership options and overwhelmingly decided the first priority was to ensure the region was adequately serviced with a modern and functional saleyard selling complex. It has signed an agreement with a private company to develop and operate a new centre on a greenfield site. The new centre will be completed in 2010 and will meet the current industry standards in Occupational Health and Safety, animal welfare, disease control and cater for an increase in livestock numbers passing through the facility.

Water infrastructure asset renewal

TRC spent \$1.155million last year as part of an overall water infrastructure asset renewal program. This included chemical upgrades at its main city water treatment plant. Across the board it has also expanded telemetry monitoring systems to provide more effective and more efficient information about water supply systems and from its water infrastructure water assets. The equipment is providing info from reservoirs and pumping stations and are another technological and cost-effective tool in reporting systems. They are saving travel time and staff field trips. Online instrumentation is transferring info such as about turbidity and fluoride residual levels. Replacement works and upgrades are delivering conservation savings as well.



3. Principal Activities: Regional Strategic Planning

Community Strategic Plan

The implementation of the Tamworth Regional Community Strategic Plan was begun in May 2009 as a staged approach to meet timeframes listed in new draft legislation. The initial phase of the process involved surveys of Councillors and applicable Council Section 355 Committees (Community Development Committees) and identified key existing and emerging regional issues while capturing the themes of the NSW State Plan.

Since the Community Needs Survey and corresponding statistical analysis, TRC's existing principal activities and strategic directions reporting structure was redesigned into a three tier strategic framework of themes, outcomes and strategies and this is reflected in the design of the 2009/2012 Management Plan. A raft of stand alone strategic documents were integrated into the new strategic framework. The core themes capture the issues raised in the various consultations, align with the quadruple bottom line reporting components (social, environmental, economic, governance) and have been branded to reflect TRC's regional context.

Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan Tamworth Regional Development Control Plan

The LEP and associated draft Control Plan have been five years in the making - since amalgamation of the five former councils - and after consultation and any subsequent revisions or amendments will go back to the Department for final approval. The two drafts were approved to go on public exhibition from July 2009. The exhibition period finishes in August. TRC has scheduled a number of workshops and public information sessions to allow the community to examine and assess the drafts. These have included a series of travelling roadshows to smaller areas to outline the planning provisions.

Taminda Revitalisation and Economic Development Strategy

The strategy was finalised and substantial work started during 2008/2009 on implementing those strategies, including preparation of a new concept for a 'super' racing precinct incorporating all three racing codes. A feasibility study has since been completed. The strategy also prepared an **Aviation Industry Strategic Plan** in conjunction with Department of State and Regional Development.

A major aim of the plan is to secure the Tamworth Regional Airport as a sustainable long-term facility. The plan is investigating future development options and the growth and relocation of suitable aviation businesses to the precinct.

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Regional Strategic Planning - cont.



Community Economic Development Plans

In partnership with its communities and Department of State and Regional Development's Main Street Small Towns Program, TRC previously facilitated the preparation of Community Economic Development (CED) Plans for Bendemeer, Barraba and Nundle.

A Main Street Co-ordinator was appointed in the third quarter of 2007-2008 to work with the Manilla and Barraba communities to actively implement the CED Plans. The Co-ordinator has worked with the two communities to progress a number of initiatives including Stage 2 of the Manilla Riverwalk, a monthly movie night for young people in Manilla, minor infrastructure maintenance at the Manilla Weir, the Shearing Display at the Barraba Tourist Info Centre and investigations into the development of a 'community' park at Barraba.

CED plans for Nundle are being implemented in conjunction with Tourism Tamworth and relevant Community Development Committees.

Tamworth Flood Recovery Group – Disaster Planning and Response Strategies

A special counter-disaster team was set up to coordinate flood recovery operations across the area in the wake of a torrential rain event near Tamworth in November 2008. It was declared a natural disaster area. A core group of key disaster agencies was formed after the first flood – but a second flood two weeks later had even wider implications. TRC was the liaison and central administrative agent.

The aim was to put the region back on its feet by managing the reconstruction and recovery phase. This included providing relocation and hardship programs for people left without livable housing, providing for stock losses, roads and infrastructure damage, closures and repairs, health issues and emergency responses.

The floods were categorised as a 1 in 200 year event in some places. In one four kilometre section, the Limbri-Weabonga Rd was ripped apart and underscored by up to four metres and the initial estimate of costs was put at \$11million – since revised to \$5.5million.

Three bridges still need replacement. Up to June 30, 2009, some \$2.8million had been spent repairing some roads. Flood damage claims for sports field areas were estimated at \$3.6million with funding of \$1.026m anticipated in the 2008/2009 year and a further \$2.57m in 2009/2010. An initial roads audit showed that 55 of 70 roads suffered pavement damage.



4. Principal Activities: Cultural and Heritage

Capitol Theatre

A 400-seat live performance theatre in the heart of the Tamworth CBD has been provided by TRC using a model which, to our knowledge, has not been achieved in local government before. In general terms, a venue has been constructed as part of a larger cinema complex which can function both as a live performance theatre (complete with fly tower, pit lift, backstage areas, green room and lighting catwalk) and can also function as a cinema. It was purpose built with TRC having comprehensive input into the final design and fitout of the building.

Community groups were closely involved in the concept development and had direct access to TRC theatre consultants.

The project involved direct cooperation and agreement between TRC, the developer and owner of the shopping centre, the cinema complex operator, and local community. A unique and functional venue and a commercial arrangement has been created.

The Performing Arts Centre has been provided at a total capital cost to TRC of \$1.675 million - perhaps a fraction of the capital cost of a traditional approach to the provision of a performing arts centre by local government.

The theatre is located within a larger complex in the CBD which provides car parking, adjacent restaurants and facilities and front of house services at no additional cost to TRC.

The lease fee includes all asset maintenance (except theatre specific fitout items such as fly towers) and includes all utilities and services such as power, air conditioning, all public area cleaning, all backstage area fitout (excluding theatre specific items), all security and all centre management fees. Aside from the lease, there are very few outgoings payable by TRC and there are significant cost savings in not requiring a front of house presence as this is provided as part of the lease.

The lease itself is for a fixed rental with a fixed annual increase which means that TRC can budget with certainty on the cost of the premises and all outgoings.

The provision of live performance venues in regional communities has been addressed in a variety of ways - often associated with significant capital and recurrent costs. TRC hopes it will deliver great results both financially and functionally for the community.

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Cultural and Heritage - cont.



Tamworth Region Cultural Plan

Work began in June 2009 on a review of the original cultural plan, which had been adopted by the former city council before amalgamation. The four other councils did not have cultural plans in place but this review will provide for a new Cultural Plan that covers the whole region. It includes an assessment of activities from the former plan and identification of the cultural needs of all our communities. It is designed to guide TRC in supporting cultural life of the region from 2010. It is looking at a broad range of facilities and activities such as design and ownership of public buildings and spaces, heritage and history, visual and performing arts, creative activity and community festivals and events.



Festivals and Events

TRC supports a range of festivals and events as part of its regional cultural program. This includes administrative, management and financial support to such events as Nundle Go for Gold Easter Festival, Kootingal Pumpkin Festival, Barraba International Festival, Woolbrook Spring Festival, Grey Fergie Muster at Bendemeer. TRC is the main organiser and manager of the annual Country Music Festival and budgets something like \$1million for operational activities to that festival.

Indigenous Cultural Program

TRC organised, managed and liaised with various community groups in helping provide a wide range of cultural and community projects. These included an Aboriginal Showcase event, Naidoc Week celebrations, Reconciliation Week, Care for Country and Coledale Cleanup.

Refurbishments and Community Conversions

A number of historical museums, such as the Powerstation and Calala Cottage had upgrades during the year.

The former Barraba council building has undergone major redevelopment as part of a \$165,000 project to turn it into the new regional records head office for TRC. The work will create a super-centre for all TRC archives and paper records but the project will also create new modern spaces more customer-focused and friendly and improve services to the Barraba community.

It will become the records storage headquarters for the TRC and effectively will take hundreds of files currently stored in about eight different TRC locations.

TRC Heritage Program

TRC provided a Regional Heritage Advisory Service and the Tamworth Regional Heritage Assistance Fund through the year. Recommendations were provided on 19 applications to carry out heritage works and distributed funding to help support some of those.

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Library Programs

As part of a wide ranging review of **library operations** last year and special marketing and customer services strategies, management has made concerted efforts to ensure libraries remain relevant and attractive to users in today's world. The city's main library trialled extended Saturday afternoon opening hours – and saw weekend loans increase by 76%. The libraries hosted more children's programs, including twilight teenage events, baby book readings, and even a ***Locked in the Library*** night in Youth Week. Over 5,400 people attended children's events at TRC libraries last year – up about 17% on the previous year's figures. Author talk programs, website information, online services and book group hostings were all expanded or introduced.

TRC through its City Library management hosted the 2008 Public Libraries NSW – Country Conference. Over 300 delegates attended and speakers from as far away as the Netherlands, US and NZ attended. The conference was both a professional and financial success – TRC handed over \$25,000 in conference profit to the Public Libraries NSW Country Association.

AELEC Spectacular and Expo Showcase

A TRC team was responsible for producing and managing a special opening celebration gala theatrical event, including an evening performance for a sell-out crowd of 3,500, to mark the opening of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre. This included indigenous dance groups, pony club riders, a Light Horse Charge of Beersheba re-enactment, school kids, Olympic equestrian and trick riders, actors and singers like Colin Friels and Troy Cassar-Daley, in a stunning entertainment production. The outdoors expo during the day attracted another 4,000 people.



5. Principal Activities

Sport and Recreation

Tamworth Indoor Sports Centre

Planning for the new \$8million Regional Indoor Sports Centre in Tamworth got underway in 2008/2009. In May 2009 the Federal Government announced a \$5million dollar grant under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Strategic Program. TRC had earlier committed \$2m in loan funds to the construction with the balance of the funding for the project to come via contributions from local sporting organisations. Stage 1 of the development will provide four courts, a kiosk, change rooms and a multi-purpose room which can cater for a variety of exercise classes as well as meetings. The facility design will ultimately involve six multi-sport basketball and netball courts with a potential to cater for a range of other sports including futsal (indoor soccer), indoor hockey, volleyball, badminton, indoor bowls, and dance sport. In full operation, the centre has the potential for an estimated participation base of around 2,500-3,000 people. The business plan and concept plans were completed in 2008/2009. Work has continued on tender preparation with construction expected in October 2009.

The Riverside Sports Precinct Masterplan

This plan provides \$3.72million to relocate some sports in Tamworth under an ambitious and imaginative strategy to meet a changing gameplan in the sports world. Media has reported it as a visionary new sports plan that will see different codes sharing more of the same sporting space and facilities. TRC drafted the masterplan after lengthy consultation over two years with nine different major city sports groups. The relocation involves about 16 hectares of sporting facilities and will see junior rugby league, oztag and cricket sharing Plain St space and football (soccer) and touch football sharing Gipps St at the other end of the Riverside sporting precinct. Major water, building and other infrastructure work including grassing, are already underway. A new sports amenities block is just about to start construction. The grounds and relocation should be in place for the winter 2010 seasons.

The \$1.29million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program

Work is underway on 21 separate projects under the Federal Government stimulus package. TRC and community sports groups have also committed additional funding to achieve the projects. The major projects include lighting of major cricket and sports ovals in Tamworth which will allow night games for AFL, cricket, oztag and rugby league and union, an extended skate park that will see new freestyle BMX jumps, an extensive upgrade to a park in Nundle providing a themed playground. A new amenities block is being built at the Barraba Sportsground for \$150,000 and a \$90,000 project at Manilla will see major extensions to Chaffey Park amenities. Four city playgrounds will get major upgrades worth \$120,000. Another four villages will see new facilities including upgrades to halls and playground and sporting facilities.



A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION

Sport and Recreation - cont.

TRC Recreation Plan

A virtual green paper on the development and management of open space along the river banks near the city's CBD was prepared during 2008/2009. It looked at both passive and active options and identified some community ideas for a children's playground, picnic, family and barbecue facilities, and upgrading the entire strip to cater for increasing cyclists and walkers. The Recreation Plan was adopted in October following extensive consultation with the community from March 2008. The plan provides an overall strategic direction for the management and development of open space and recreation facilities in the local government area. A Sports Strategy and Recreational Facilities Strategy is now underway as a result of that plan.

The Tamworth Regional Racing Precinct

A feasibility study into the project was completed during 2008/2009, including a timetable that could see a consolidated and integrated racing precinct commence construction by the end of 2009 if the project gets the green light. The alliance of harness, greyhound, horse racing and TRC finalised a business plan for what could be a new multi-racing track complex in Taminda. The Tamworth Regional Racing Precinct group is looking at a shared super racing precinct for the three codes. The groups are due to finalise their involvement and the go-ahead for the project in August 2009.

Tamworth Regional Sports Tourism Audit

This \$80,000 project is auditing sporting codes and their value to the local economy and where future growth can be pitched. The research will show what sports hold the key to building future potential as major event attractions and how they can turn their codes into tourism big hitters. TRC contracted a leading sports economic researcher to do a tourism audit of sport, including a full analysis of council sporting facilities and capabilities of sports associations, both in physical and human terms. The audit is charting the current economic value of sport and identifying gaps and opportunities. An economic evaluation was completed along with a facilities audit. Since June 30, 2009, a gaps analysis has been completed along with workshops to identify those groups who have greater potential to host major zone, state or national events.

Tamworth Regional Aquatic Centre

Work began on concept planning and feasibility studies during 2008/2009 for a new contemporary aquatic facility including indoor pools, cafe, gymnasium, meeting rooms and change facilities. TRC has committed an additional \$200,000 in the 2009/2010 budget to develop detailed plans that would see a start on staged construction in the near future.



6. Principal Activities Economic and Social Development

Statistics released August 2008 put the value of new homes approved by TRC in 07/08 at \$61million with commercial development at nearly \$36million in the same year. It was the fourth year of overall growth.

Bicentennial Park and Fitzroy St Masterplan

The initial concept plans were released in May 2009. TRC began briefing user groups and stakeholders to outline just what proposals had been put forward in the first round of planning to re-design and upgrade Fitzroy St and revamp Bicentennial Park to make it more exciting, more accessible and more user-friendly.

Preliminary ideas of how to extend the rejuvenated Tamworth city centre streetscape to include Fitzroy St and stretch into the green space of Bicentennial Park were exciting and challenging and provoked review, comment and discussion. The plans are being discussed with major user groups and other key stakeholders. Chief among the suggestions are to continue a tree-lined avenue from Fitzroy St right through to the footbridge and Peel River, creating an adventure playground, making a new reflective space and memorial garden for war memorials, moving the McKellar stage, building a new country music memorabilia walk that might eventually link to Hands of Fame park, building new amenities and kiosk buildings to better serve users, re-configuring the ponds, and creating entertainment and leisure zones that are more attuned to each other.

Under the plans, there would be more sympathetic tree plantings, more cycleways and walkways, and a new entertainment stage framing a village green.

Taminda Revitalisation Strategy

As part of the overall strategy, TRC set up a special working group in February 2009 which contains representatives from a range of industry and business sectors to provide a diversity of perspectives for a way forward in re-branding and energising the industrial heart of Tamworth. The group has already identified priorities for the revitalisation of Taminda as directional signage, streetscaping on main arterial and collector roads, upgraded street lighting, completing kerb and gutter and pavement works on the Oxley Highway from Ridge to Bass Streets, pavement rehabilitation and resurfacing on Barnes Street, and intersection upgrades on Dampier Street. TRC has since budgeted \$150,000 to undertake preliminary works such as a comprehensive drainage strategy for the catchment, upgraded street lighting, directional signage, pavement rehabilitation, streetscaping and green belt plantings, and gateway statements.

A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION

Economic and Social Development - cont.



Regional Economic Development Program Stage 1

A twin element program that has involved macro SWOT and Sector Strategies being developed and the Community Economic Development program on a grassroots level with Manilla Riverwalk and Main St projects.

Airport Strategic Plan

A \$700,000 project has included upgrade works, apron and terminal works. A back-up power source for the runway lighting was completed with the installation of a stand by generator which will also provide terminal power in the event of main power failures. There was also improvements to the airport hangars. The plan includes creating a general aviation hangar precinct, extensions to the apron and tarmac, and a boost for new aviation-support or ancillary industries. Some of those works will get underway in the next few months.

Village Improvement Fund

TRC budgeted \$100,000 in its 2008/2009 management plan. This program provides a pool of funds to support the work undertaken by the Section 355 committees and Community Development Committees in making improvements to community facilities or equipment under their care. A separate \$60,000 Donations Program also saw funds go to smaller community organisations for various upgrade and improvement works.

TRC Section 355 Committees Program

TRC supports 45 different community committees across 22 towns and villages. The number of committees is believed to be the biggest of any local government authority in NSW. Over the past year activities in many areas continued to provide valuable and effective links and improvements. The committees meet monthly and TRC provides administrative and secretarial help to all. This includes some marketing and advertising support and physical assistance, but importantly can also strengthen, enhance and further develop existing committees through advice, guidance and ideas.

TRDC and Tourism Tamworth

TRC funds two independent bodies, the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation and Tourism Tamworth. Last year the TRC program provided \$1.02million to the two organisations towards concentrated economic, social and cultural development strategies. Tourism Tamworth last year assumed a bigger responsibility with marketing and promotion of council infrastructure like AELEC, the Capitol Theatre and the regional entertainment centre. They are the lead agency for promoting the annual Tamworth Country Music Festival. There were also upgrades to smaller rural Visitor Information Centres. The TRDC has assumed a greater role in skills development and employment generation for the city under their funding agreement with TRC.



7. Principal Activities: Built and Natural Environment

Forest Rd Landfill Stage I small vehicle waste transfer station.

In September 2008 a new generation in cleaner, greener garbage disposal at the Tamworth tip arrived with the completion of a 12 month project at the Forest Rd landfill. The works were on a new eight hectare site and were a \$1million makeover creating a new small vehicle transfer station and green waste processing pad.

The SVTS provided for a new drive-in, drop-off, drive-out waste disposal complex with new quality levels of user safety and convenience. It has since also delivered higher rates of recovery for recycling materials. Tamworth tip sees up to 400 vehicles a day - and about 80% of those use the new site. Figures showed that in the 12 months to July 2008 there was something like 78,000 tonnes of material dumped at the Tamworth landfill. It generates about 1,500 tonnes of garbage a week. About 15,000 tonnes of the yearly total is domestic waste. And about 51% of that is either recycled or reprocessed for use somewhere else.

Sewer Relining and Water Main Upgrades

A sewer relining program began in 2008/2009 to rehabilitate sewers in poor condition thereby increasing their effective life. In the last 12 months approximately 8,250 metres of Tamworth sewers have been relined at cost of \$860,000.

At Manilla works have involved CCTV and relining of 4.2km of mains and water upgrades with new stop valves and mains. The program at Manilla saw \$330,000 spent last year with a projected \$750,000 in 2009/1010 to complete works and investigate a new water treatment plant.

At Barraba the program completed \$270,000 of a planned \$861,000 project which includes new water mains, stop valves, CCTV of sewer mains and refurbishment of all sewer pump stations.

Cycleways and the 2009 Tamworth Regional Bike Plan

The draft Tamworth Regional Bike Plan was completed during 2008/2009 and represents a five year plan to improve cycling and pedestrian links across the region. In many cases, the concepts target links between schools, health providers, residential areas and recreational spaces and build a network around those. The draft focuses on 16 different locations and includes plans for an extra 27km of bike track in Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla, Moonbi, Kootingal, Bendemeer and Nundle. The plan follows a continuing program undertaken of pedestrian facilities, including traffic refuges, footpath upgrades, installation of new bus shelters and pedestrian level crossings. Much of this work was funded under Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants and RTA programs.

A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION

Built and Natural Environment - cont.



New England Highway roundabout to new RTA standards

TRC crews completed a \$1.2m project with the two-lane reinforced concrete pavement roundabout on the highway near the new AELEC. The design called for a 40metre diameter roundabout with overhead lights and landscaping. The steel fibre concrete pavement design required strict quality control which included extensive testing and inspection of each section of pavement. The roundabout had been designed to new RTA requirements.

Gateways Beautification Strategy

This TRC project is in consultation with community groups, CDCs, and tourist and special advisory groups and aims to improve the appeal of entries to villages and towns. Preliminary concept plans were lodged and reviewed before June 30, 2009 as part of a \$20,000 project. The first banner signage was due to be erected between Tamworth and Kootingal in July 2009.

AELEC water harvesting and conservation project

The \$1.72million project to recycle water for the Longyard sporting areas and harvest roof water from the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre was about 90% complete by June 20, 2009.

The scheme will eventually save about 84megalitres of town water a year and will deliver recycled irrigation water for the neighbouring hockey and athletics sporting fields and for landscaping areas at the equine centre.

A new combined 8.4megalitre backwash water and roof water storage has been built in the AELEC holding paddock.

A new water treatment plant, incorporating a pump station with six pumps, has been built and when commissioned later in 2009 will filter and UV-disinfect recycled supplies for irrigation of the sporting precinct.

The storage lagoon is about 100m long, 50m wide and about four metres deep and holds backwash water from the Calala treatment plant and rain water from the AELEC stadium and stable roofs before feeding it through reticulation lines.

The project includes a network of about 2km of pipelines, to bring the backwash water to the lagoon, feed it to the plant, and then reticulate it back to the sporting fields and AELEC grounds. A federal grant of \$250,000 is helping fund the project.

8. Principal Activities

Environmental Initiatives



Tamworth Effluent Reuse Farm

The \$10million farm project is part of the \$80m Westdale sewerage augmentation project and represents a significant environmental step for the city. The farm is located on a 1400ha Winton property some 7.5km from the plant. Estimates suggest it could produce 14,000 tonnes of crop and fodder a year but extra effluent could be used in future to irrigate public green spaces around the city as well. A joint community/TRC ecological project has done rehabilitation and conservation work on the farm to restore remnant grassy woodland vegetation.



Water Rebates Program

A \$300,000 residential water saving rebates program to run from 2007/2008 to 2009/2010 was introduced February 28, 2007. The program was designed to offer rebates for homeowners to install more water saving products and retrofit houses with water efficient appliances like showerheads, pool covers, dual flush toilets, rainwater tanks and greywater systems. TRC rebated \$205,000 on some 1,670 products to May 2009, including 1,100 washing machines. The total project water saving from the program is 46.1ML a year. Applications for rebates average 20 per week, which is considered to represent strong interest from residents. In 2008/2009 the rebate total was about \$90,000.

Emergency Water Supplies Drought Program

Part of the wider Drought Management Plan and Demand Management Plan from 2007. In 2008/2009 project work involved emergency water investigations at Nundle, Bendemeer, Manilla, Moonbi, Kootingal and Tamworth and totalled \$650,000. Work was about 75% complete at June 30, 2009. A separate emergency bore testing project at Barraba was completed at a cost of \$350,000. They form part of the project of emergency water investigations in all seven water supply areas to better drought-protect TRC communities.

Rehabilitation of Tamworth Drift Wells

Six Tamworth Drift Wells were refurbished and connected to the Calala Lane Water Treatment Plant at a cost to June 30, 2009 of \$1.79M, of which the State Government will pay half. Testing and monitoring will be undertaken as the first step in plans to prepare a hydrological model to simulate the effect pumping from the wells, under various climatic conditions, will have, if any, on the groundwater aquifer and adjacent licenses. Based on this information Council will then make a decision on whether to make application to the Department of Water and Energy for a permanent extraction licence from the wells. The rehabilitation project was the result of a severe drought in 2007.



A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION Environmental Initiatives - cont.

Namoi Urban Sustainability Plan

This plan was developed and written in 2008 but in the past 12 months TRC developed its own sustainability action plan from that masterplan. Eight key staff from different directorates analysed and identified standard indicators for sustainability in different work areas, such as behaviours and long term habits, operational procedures, systems and the things we do that we can do better. Double sided printing, turning off corporate lighting systems where unnecessary, using recycled materials in more areas. The team is also designing a corporate training module to be delivered to all TRC staff to improve resource efficiency.

Energy Savings Action Plan

Several small projects completed in 2008, including insulation of the heritage-listed community centre roof and installation of waterless urinals in some civic buildings. Ten audits were completed for the original plan based on the highest energy-consuming sites, such as a water treatment plant and the TRC headquarters. Last year, TRC's energy consultant completed audits of another 12 key council facilities. TRC has begun addressing the most cost-effective recommendations from that audit, including re-glazing of some window spaces in Parry House, a city TRC building that houses water and planning divisions, expected to be completed July 2009.

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaption Strategic Plan

The Green is the New Black program was developed to address significant changes including a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions - involving preparation of the plan and a considerable amount of work. A regional "carbon footprint analysis" will be completed in 2009/2010.

Redesigned TRC water notices

In 2008/2009 TRC issued the first of new water bills to customers. They were designed to help water users cut their consumption and included comparative data to measure consumption at different times of the year. They are also a guide to target consumption levels and industry averages. The new notices provide information that complies more fully with advanced levels of national guidelines.

Urban Riparian Zone project

This 18-month project began in May 2009 and targets a model section of riparian land in the centre of the city. It includes CMA, Landcare and DPI representatives working with TRC to enhance the conservation, educational and recreational values of the area. Preliminary bird studies, plant surveys and some weed control have been undertaken. It will eventually rehabilitate and revegetate a one kilometre stretch of the Peel River and improve habitat for the land and the water life.

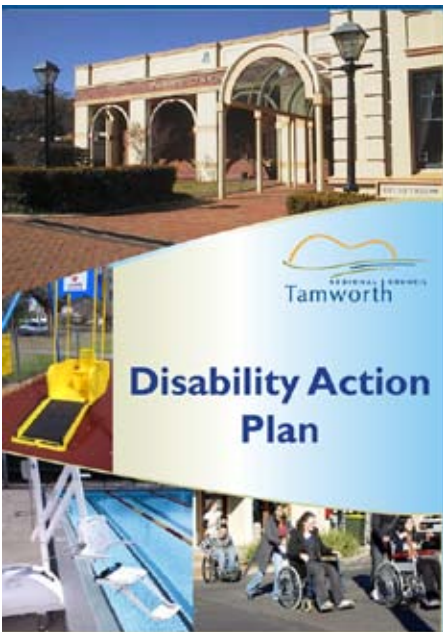
9. Principal Activities

Health and Community Services



Crime Prevention Strategy

As a result of community lobbying and services approaches, TRC responded over the year to calls for a greater focus on community health and safety. TRC set up a CCTV trial during the year to meet community expectations. A \$100,000 project to extend that permanently is now underway. TRC also supported a Liquor Accord project after securing government funding, and various CBD and domestic violence programs, including domestic violence resource cards and a new graffiti management plan. An online survey provoked widespread interest from local residents keen to have input in protecting the Tamworth CBD from crime and anti-social behaviour. The survey was broadened in January 2009 with 22,000 survey forms included with a rates mailout.



Disabilities Action Plan

This plan was drafted in 2008/2009 and aims to improve and sustain a multi-use region with a range of activities, services, facilities and opportunities that are accessible to all members of the community. The plan is due to go on public exhibition August 2009.

Community Services and Special Projects

The council has partnered numerous community groups and corporate bodies in providing a range of disadvantaged programs, supporting a special Access Awards, a Disabilities Expo, and physical improvements to the landscape, such as a \$50,000 Liberty wheelchair swing in a major park. The swing involved about six different groups. A TRC report suggests that there are about 358 young people who live in Tamworth who can benefit from the swing but about 700 people who are aged from toddlers to 14 years old in the TRC area who could also use it.

Manellae Lodge aged care hostel

TRC operates a 21-bed aged hostel, Manellae Lodge, at Manilla. In February 2009 the hostel was given an excellent rating when it was accredited to May 2010. Among other aged care initiatives is the current work to build a special "gofer" track that will allow residents a more comfortable ride from the hostel through some hilly terrain into the centre of the town for services.

Youth Services

TRC operates a youth centre and young people and staff were involved in a youth advisory group to draw up initial concept plans for new and expanded skate park facilities in Tamworth. At Manilla, consultation with young people has been behind a \$50,000 skate park project there.

TRC Pools kids safety program

TRC pools introduced a new safety initiative for little children where pink wristbands were worn by all toddlers to identify their vulnerability. The program aimed to reinforce messages to mums or minders that they needed to be within arm's length of small kids.



I0. Principal Activities

Corporate and Technology

TRC Internet Redevelopment

A two-year project to completely re-design the council website is almost complete. The council website was established six years ago by the former city council as a web portal. Extensive investigations into a new website that was relevant, easily maintained, and user-friendly have followed. A process of public engagement with community groups established broad ideas on information architecture and the site map. We have now purchased through a tender process a modern content management system that allows for multiple and decentralised publishing. It is a 500-page website that logistically needs high traffic and content flows not constrained by a small centralized IT unit. Web content author training program has been undertaken.

Three new websites developed

Over the past 12 months TRC also developed three new separate websites for high profile and public council operations in the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre, the new Capitol Theatre and the Tamworth Country Music Festival. The three are significant commercial venues that need their own internet presence to allow customers and clients to easily access information about events, bookings, ticketing and business activities.

Communicate and Connect training initiative

The Communicate and Connect Supervisor and Mentoring Program was developed and has now been implemented. It is a three-level training model that supports trainees and apprentices through individualised and more relevant learning cultures and skills development. It takes account of the generational levels and extent of the TRC workforce and their capacity to transfer skills and corporate knowledge easily and effectively.

CENTAMAN is a bookings management system that enables TRC to manage bookings for any halls, sporting fields, equine centre, and any other council venues. It also has an online ticketing module for AELEC for arena seating, stabling and parking. It is the only system we know of where you can manage online all four of those bookings. It was launched early 2009.

Review of Records held in the former Councils of Manilla Barraba Nundle and Parry and Tamworth City

Since September 2006, TRC has been undertaking a review of all records held by the five former councils. In 18 months the documentation of the former Manilla, Barraba and Nundle records has been completed. The current work is documenting the former Parry shire records with the city council's old records still to be tackled. The total number of boxes containing permanent and state archive material stands at 2,922 so far.



A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION

Corporate and technology - cont.

Regional Services Efficiency Audits

Three years ago TRC introduced a program of Regional Services Efficiency Audits. This ongoing program reviews operational, procedural, practical, management and administrative systems for a broad range of council activities and processes. So far, 30 individual audits have been completed, with another 10 in the past year, and 26 of those approved for alternative or new systems. They have included macro and micro investigations. One review into servicing of council plant resulted in TRC fitting out a mobile service and maintenance van. This carries out repairs and service in the field saved \$185,000 a year in plant down time. Another review of library operations at Manilla resulted in an additional 19.5 hours available for the community because it was co-located to a council office.

An audit of stump grinding operations revealed that by using contractors against having a council grinder has now represented a saving of \$135,000 over five years. Others have returned efficiency gains rather than financial savings. Pools, backwash water reuse, landfill opening hours and site maintenance, CBD cleaning, weed spraying and reserve slashing have all come under recent review

Geographic Information System aerial imagery

In July 2008 TRC added a high flying high-tech product to its regional mapping library. The aerial imagery provided high resolution pictures of the major populated areas across about 1,150 of the 9,650 square kilometres of the council region. It was the most up to date available of Tamworth areas. It added to the council's existing mapping resources and provided the first ever customised digital imagery of the region. It was better than what you can normally find online and provided high resolution pictures of TRC places, and has including individual properties and precincts. It is available in hard copy colour and as soft copy in electronic format. In March 2009 it was upgraded again with some more recent imagery of new works and changed landscape details added.

Remote Water Reading

TRC introduced new technology in 2008/2009 with remote water meter reading instrumentation. It allows for faster and more efficient meter reading, particularly in remote or rural residential areas. It also records when meters fail or are tampered with. TRC has about 20,000 connections to seven different schemes.

I I. List of Projects completed by 30 June 2009:

Nature of Project	Date Completed	Total Cost \$000	% Council Funds
• Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre	September 2008	\$30M	65%
• Capitol Theatre	June 2009	\$1.65M	100%
• Stage 1 Small Vehicle Waste Transfer Station	October 2008	\$750	100%
• Drought Management Plan, 2008	February 2008	n/a	100%
• Refurbishment of Scott Road Drift Wells		\$179	50%
• Construction Bendemeer Treated Water Plant		\$1M	50%
• Sewer Rehabilitation and Relining		\$860	100%
• State 1 Regional Economic Development Program	June 2009	\$179	100%
• Upgrade to Tamworth Regional Airport	February 2009	\$700	100%
• Taminda Levee Construction		\$10M	40%
• Tamworth Community and Regional Equine Sustainability (CARES)	January 2009	\$10	100%
• Award new Waste Service Contract	31 July 2008		100%
• GIS Aerial Imagery	June 2009	\$140	100%
• Internet Development	June 2009	\$100	100%
• AELEC, Capitol Theatre, TCMF Web site development	June 2009	\$27	100%
• TRC Records and Archive Review	June 2009	\$86	100%
• Proclaim Customer Request Management System and upgrades	June 2009	\$50	100%
• Ironbark Gully Bridge Replacement of Timber Bridge	June 2009	\$759	60%

II. List of Projects completed by 30 June 2009 contd:

Nature of Project	Date Completed	Total Cost \$000	% Council Funds
• Oakey Creek Replacement of Timber Bridge	June 2009	\$337	50%
• Bypass Ringroad upgrade	June 2009	\$1.8M	100%
• Tamworth Regional LEP/DCP 2009		\$100	50%
• Gateways Beautification Program		\$60	100%
• Lonergans Bridge Project	June 2009	\$311	100%
• Limestone Gully Bridge		\$401	60%
• Tamworth City Stormwater Drainage Program			
• Hill Street and Long Gully and Sapphire Crescent		\$1.13M	100%
• South Tamworth Library Refurbishment		\$60	100%
• Roadworks Programs including construction and maintenance	June 2009	\$13.6M	70%
• Roadworks Burgmanns Lane & Moonbi Gap		\$1.1M	80%
• Centaman Booking Management System, Online Ticketing	December 2008	\$40	100
• Fitzroy Street Masterplan		\$126	100%
• Emergency Water Supplies Program	June 2009	\$350	50%
• Victoria Park Reservoirs to Hills Plains	June 2009	\$5.25M	100%
• Calala Water Treatment Plant	June 2009	\$1.15M	100%
• Manilla Water and Sewerage Works	June 2009	\$330	100%
• Barraba Water and Sewerage Works	June 2009	\$270	100%
• Racing Precinct Feasibility Study	June 2009	\$25	100%

12. List of Projects in progress at 30 June 2009:

Nature of Project	% Completed 30/6/09	Total Cost \$000	% Council Funds
• Stage 2 Small Vehicle Waste Transfer Station	10%	%350	100%
• Roll Out new bins as part of new Waste Contract	75%	\$30M	100%
• Tamworth Regional LEP/DCP 2009	50%	\$100	100%
• Fitzroy Street Design Upgrade and Bicentennial Park Masterplans	50%	\$149	100%
• Implementation of Gateways Beautification Program for the northern entrance to Kootingal and southern entrance to Tamworth	70%	\$50	100%
• Regional Economic Development Strategy Stage II	5%	\$80	100%
• Implementation of Energy Savings Action Plan	90%	\$40	100%
• Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program No. 1 Oval Lighting	15%	\$270	4%
• Riverside Sports Complex - Plain Street Development	20%	\$1.93M	88%
• Tamworth Indoor Sports Centre	0.05%	\$8M	25%
• Sports Tourism Audit	50%	\$80	75%
• Demand Management Plan (Water) 2007	60%	\$835	100%
• Water Sustainability Strategic Plan 2008-2010	65%	\$725 (of above)	100%
• Westdale Wastewater Treatment Works Augmentation	20%	\$56M	85%
• 100% Effluent Reuse Farm	1%	\$10M	85%
• Design and construction of treated water and sewer for Hills Plain Master Plan	85%	\$10.5M	100%

12. List of Projects in progress at 30 June 2009 contd:

Nature of Project	% Completed 30/6/09	Total Cost \$000	% Council Funds
• Installation of radio end points to allow remote reading of water meters	10%	ongoing	100%
• Manilla Skate Park	30%	\$50	100%
• Tamworth Regional Council Urban RIPARIAN Project		\$35	8%
• AELEC Water Harvesting & Conservation Project including Longyard Precinct & TRECC	85%	\$1.72M	85%
• 18th Fibre Textile Touring Exhibition		\$1M	
• Taminda Revitalisation		\$230	100%
• LEP		\$149	50%
• Economic Development		\$198	100%
• Gateways		\$113	100
• Fitzroy Street Design Upgrade and Bicentennial Park Masterplan		\$100	95
• Emergency investigations at Nundle, Bendemeer, Manilla, Moonbi, Kootingal and Tamworth	75%	\$650	50%
• Hills Plain Water Reticulation and Pump Station		\$5.8M	100%
• Victoria Park Pump Station	5%	\$530	100%
• Sewer Large Reticulation (includes Hills Plain Sewer Pump)		\$4.4M	100%
• New Timber Bridges Replacement (4)		\$1.7M	50%



13. Awards and Citations

Tamworth Regional Council won a number of major awards and honours during 2008/2009. These included:

- The Local Government Annual Financial Statement Award for best presented Financial Statements
- Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2009 - Australia's Tidiest Town
- Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2009 - Energy Innovation Award
- Australian Tidy Towns Awards 2009 - Community Action Award
- NSW Tidy Towns Award in November 2008
- NSW Property Institute Award for AELEC construction



Tamworth Regional Council's finance team topped the state pool when it comes to accounting for what it does and compiling the statements that show it best.

TRC won the NSW award for best presented financial statements at the Local Government Finance Professionals Conference – voted the top team from more than 100 other NSW councils. It won for outstanding work and took out the NSW Local Government Financial Statement Award. The award represents the set of financial statements that are the most technically correct, the best presented and ones which provide the most relevant information to the end user.

Australian Tidy Town winner 2009

The award was announced by Governor-General Quentin Bryce at Government House and was seen as a terrific endorsement of the great work so many people do to make their community a sustainable, socially rich environment that takes account of its people, its place and its future. The GM of TRC Glenn Inglis said the environmental attitudes of work, life and play had also contributed to Tamworth polling so well in the judging, particularly in relation to recycling, waste management, energy savings plans, and even the new 100% effluent re-use farm. Both Mr Inglis and the councillors have paid tribute to the work of so many community groups, particularly the Tidy Towns committee and the other 45 special groups set up under the umbrella of TRC that look after their local places.

Tamworth was named the winner of the state Tidy Towns Award in November 2008.

The city won the overall state award after winning its category for similar sized centres in NSW and won three other major civic awards for community and corporate partnerships. The city's industrial giant Penford's won the Water Conservation Award for a project which has seen a significant water saving result in production processes. Tamworth also won the Civic Partnership Award through the Meals On Wheels group and the Powerstation Museum was named the winner of the Cultural Heritage Award for its Powering On historical work. Manilla was the second placegetter in the town category for its size behind winner Bundanoon. St Michael's Catholic School at Manilla was named winner in its section for environment projects.



A.R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD - 2008/2009 SUBMISSION Awards and Citations - cont.

The Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre won a state award for project excellence in October 2008.

Tamworth Regional Council was named the local government winner in NSW for an outstanding achievement in the property industry. The NSW chapter of the Australian Property Institute voted AELEEC as the leading local government project in NSW in 2008. The API said TRC had been the best local government authority in delivering a project that achieved sustainable development in the built or natural environment. The judges said the equine centre was a significant project for a local government body and was a testament to the way in which a community could work to bring together something special. It was a great example of excellence and innovation, they said.

The NSW Training Initiative Award

TRC's human resources department celebrated three big wins at the recent northern area NSW Skills Training Awards. They won the top award for their Communicate and Connect Program. This program engaged a range of regional vocational education and training stakeholders in the skills training/workforce trainees and apprentices employed by TRC. Regarded as original, dynamic and promoting best practice, the three tiered program aims to assist the adult learning experience and provide support and the necessary tools for supervisors and mentors to manage their trainees and apprentices effectively.

Top Apprentices

TRC apprentice Mark Ewin in automotive and IT applications trainee Jacinta Russell were named among outstanding regional apprentices for the year 2008/2009 at the NSW Skills Training Awards.

NSW Department of Primary Industries Commendation

For the TRC Namoi Aquatic Habitat Initiative (NAHI) Project which remediated four priority road crossing sites to improve fish passage in local waterways.

Namoi CMA nominated the TRC project Care for Country indigenous environmental landscaping project at the Botanic Gardens for a state environmental award in 2009.

Commendation from the Centre for Volunteering for TRC recognition of community volunteers through its Australia Day Awards program.

Commendation from NSW DPI for the Tamworth CARES program and the inclusion of biosecurity. The aim of Tamworth CARES is to help reduce disease risk in the thriving horse industry sector of the north west.

Commendations and congratulatory letters from Her Excellency the Governor Marie Bashir, then Premier Morris Iemma, state agriculture minister Ian Macdonald, the Mayor of Hurstville, Vince Badalati, among others on the construction and opening of the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

National Sister City Association Awards

The TRC-sponsored Sister City committee won two awards from the national association in 2008/2009 for their activities in Sister City programs with Gore New Zealand and the hosting of Boseong, South Korea, visits.