

A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2007/2008

SHIRES ASSOCIATION SECTION WINNER GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL

MAYOR: CR. DOUG LUMMIS

GENERAL MANAGER: PAUL MANN

POPULATION : 4,700

AREA: 4,817 sq km

WEBSITE: www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au

CITATION

Gilgandra Shire Council is a mid-sized Western NSW council that impressed the Trustees with a significant number of outstanding achievements throughout 2007/2008.

Gilgandra's success in providing a very wide range of services and progressive development is underpinned by a very impressive corporate structure, which was focused on long-term strategic planning and asset management. Council's financial position also improved markedly during the year under review.

The Trustees were particularly impressed with the commitment shown by Council in the provision of services and access for the aged and disabled. The recent appointment of a Community Services Director will ensure that aged care, along with youth, cultural and library services continue to enjoy a high priority.

The Trustees appreciated the succinct and informative submission provided by the Council, which laid the framework for the Trustees later visit.

Some of the major projects and initiatives noted were:

- The addition of a new \$2.4m special care dementia wing to the existing Council-operated 40 bed Cooee Lodge Hostel
- The provision of a new dental surgery within the town's MPS, plus construction of accommodation for visiting dentists.
- An extensive recycling service which has seen a 50% increase in recycling through the design and installation of new equipment.
- A free wireless internet service for visitors and residents.
- Completion of stage 1 of a new basketball stadium.
- Commenced a special rate levy to fund planned infrastructure maintenance and improvement.
- A new land-use strategy, including industrial and residential subdivision planning.
- A partnership with the state government for the construction of a purpose-built Disability House, and the development of an Access Mobility Plan
- The creation of one website for the whole Gilgandra community.

The Trustees congratulate the Mayor, General Manager, Councillors and staff of Gilgandra Shire Council on an outstanding achievement.

(For comment: John Flannery, Chairman A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust, 0419 422 001 or jflannery@hunterlink.net.au)