

A. R. BLUETT MEMORIAL AWARD 2006/2007

SHIRES ASSOCIATION SECTION WINNER LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL

MAYOR: COUNCILLOR IAN LOBSEY
GENERAL MANAGER: ROBERT HUNT
POPULATION: 7,541
AREA: 5,002 sq km
WEBSITE: www.lpsc.nsw.gov.au

CITATION:

During 2006/2007 the Liverpool Plains Shire Council took a very progressive approach to achieving growth, improving the quality of life and new opportunities for sustainable social and economic development. These strategies impressed the judges as they involved extensive consultations, the creation of partnerships with other private and public organisations and the construction of new infrastructure.

During the year the Council has experienced critical staff shortages, a flood disaster, water supply shortages, problems with local medical services and unprecedented development pressures. Despite these difficulties, the Council has addressed the challenges, embarked on a number of very innovative projects and has completed a very substantial capital works program with quite limited resources.

The entry was succinct, informative and the Executive Summary, in particular, was very helpful in drawing attention to the key elements of the submission. Some of the major projects and initiatives reported by the Council were:

- The large spending on infrastructure backlog in roads, bridges and footpaths and the major gravel resheeting program
- Improvements to the Werris Creek Railway Museum and Monument
- Residential and industrial land development projects in Quirindi, Werris Creek and Willow Tree
- Formation and recurrent funding of Village Development Committees in seven local villages
- Establishment of a Community Initiative Fund to assist local organisations
- Completion of a flood study and floodplain management plan
- Construction of four new Rural Fire Service Brigade Stations
- Improvements to the Quirindi Recreation Centre
- Improvements to medical services and child care facilities
- Development of the innovative [Tr@cer](#) Electronic Data Management System and meeting management software
- Adoption of a ten year Strategic Regional Water Plan
- The initiation of a Joint Climate Recovery Project with Blacktown City Council

The Council was formed in 2004 and the Trustees congratulate the Mayor, Cr Ian Lobsey, General Manager, Robert Hunt, councillors and staff of the Liverpool Plains Shire Council on an outstanding achievement and a well-deserved A.R. Bluett Memorial Award.

(For comment: John Flannery, Chairman A.R. Bluett Memorial Trust, 0419 422 011 or email jflannery@hunterlink.net.au)