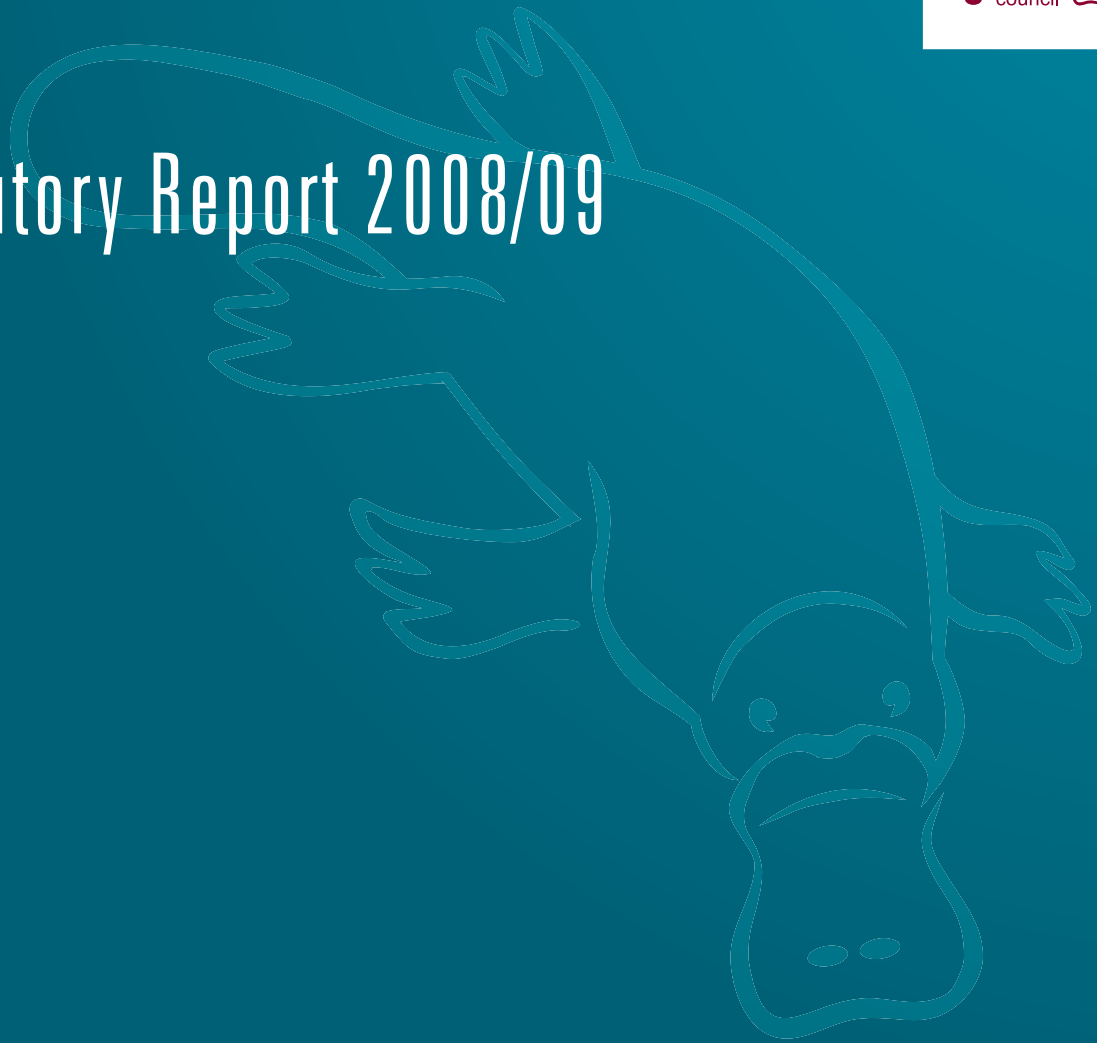




Statutory Report 2008/09



summary report : bringing camden together



Statutory Report

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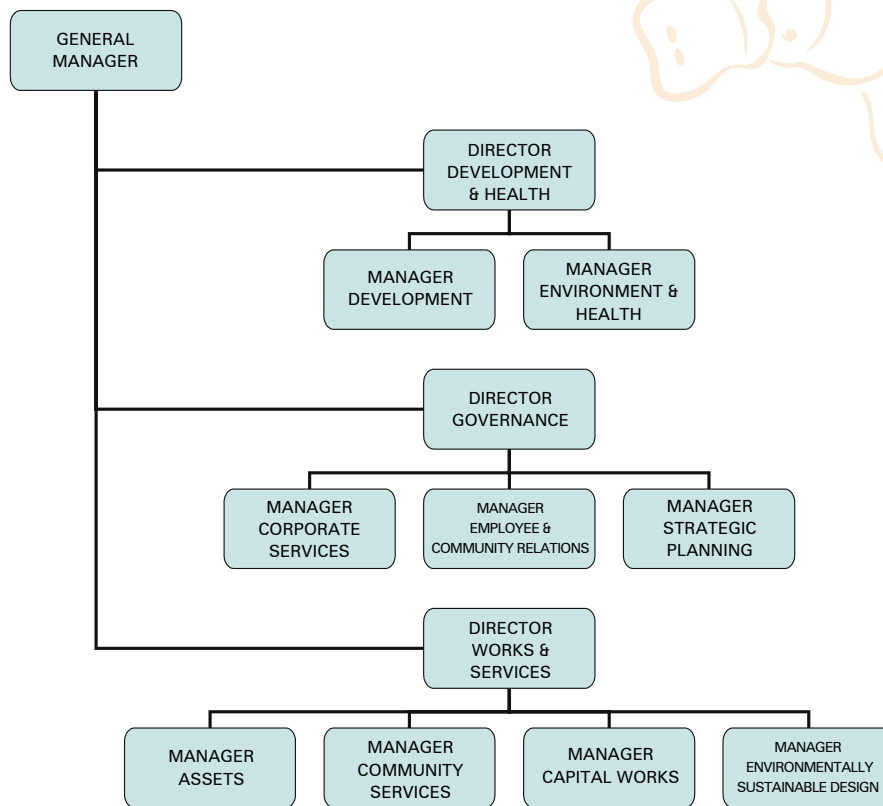
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Camden Council Structure and Functions



Functions relating to each Branch

Manager Development

- Development Application Assessment
- Development and Building Compliance
- Development Certificates
- Fire Safety
- Land Use Planning
- Development Policies
- Land Development Engineering
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control
- Planning Certificates
- Public Entertainment Approvals
- Approve Advertising Signs
- Court Appeals
- Geographic & Land Information
- Naming of Roads and Reserves
- Driveway Crossing Approvals
- Public Road Activity Assessment
- Tree Removal Approvals
- Landscape Design Assessment
- Final Plans of Subdivisions
- Pre DA Advisory Service
- Plan Printing

Environment & Health

- Pollution – Air, Noise, Water
- Regulation of Overgrown Land
- Environmental Assessment of DA's
- Industrial & Commercial Audits
- Water Quality assessment
- Food Shop Inspections
- Legionnaires Inspections
- Hairdressing & Skin Penetration Salons
- On-Site Sewage Management
- Regulation of Companion Animals
- Noxious Weeds
- Parking Regulations
- Roadside Trading
- Unauthorised Signs
- Domestic Waste Management
- Commercial Waste Management
- Waste Education
- Abandoned Vehicles

Manager Corporate Services

- Administration
- Property & Legal
- Local Democracy
- Communications
- Information Services
- Records Management
- Annual Reports
- Freedom of Information & Privacy Matters
- Management Plan
- Petty Cash
- Council Business Papers & Minutes
- Computer Services
- Rating
- Accounts Payable
- Debtors
- Revenue
- Purchasing & Expenditure
- Financial Management
- Management Accounting
- Community Grants
- Budget

Manager Strategic Planning

- Delivery Major Strategic Plan
 - Managing Urban Growth
 - Accessibility
 - Environmental Systems
 - Economic and Community Development
 - Governance
- Tourism Development
- Heritage Issues
- Cross Organisational Projects
- Major Rezonings
- State and Regional Planning Issues Strategic Landuse Planning
- Place Management
- Systems Management
- Community Consultation
- Corporate Planning

Manager Employee & Community Relations

- Payroll
- Community/Public Relations
- Customer Service
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Workers Compensation
- Risk Management
- Recruitment
- Employee Welfare
- Industrial and Arbitration Matters
- Staff Training and Development
- Tourist Information Centre

Manager Capital Works

- Capital Works, Buildings, Parks, Roads & Drainage
- Section 94 Works
- Project & Contract Management
- Engineering Administration

Manager Community Services

- Youth Services
- Children's Services
- Aged Services
- Disability Services
- Family Day Care
- Libraries
- Section 355 Committees
- Town Farm and BEP, Seniors Cattie, CIFA
- Civic Centre
- Sport & Recreation Facilities including Camden Polo and MALC
- Cohesive Communities Strategy
- Cultural Development
- Community Information
- Community Liaison
- Volunteers Management
- Information Provision
- Community Development Events Management
- Community Facilities Management
- Community Development

Manager Assets

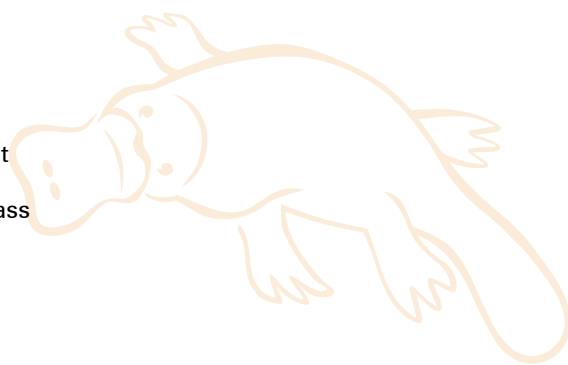
- Roads & Footpaths/Cycleways Construction & Maintenance
- Stormwater Drainage
- Bus Shelters
- Public Toilets
- Building Maintenance
- Street and Traffic Signs
- Parks & Gardens
- Parks Volunteers
- Road Linemarking
- Street Sweeping
- Stores and Supply
- Depot and Workshop
- Construction Plant
- Vehicle Fleet
- Community Bus

Manager Environmentally Sustainable Design

- Stormwater Management
- Engineering Survey and Design
- Cemetery Management
- Flooding
- Natural Areas Management
- Sustainability
- Public Tree Management
- Natural Areas Management
- Tidy Towns Committee
- Cemetery Management
- Flooding
- Public Tree Management
- Environmental Education
- Accessibility
- Community Road Safety
- Traffic and Transport
- Local Traffic Committee

Senior Staff

General Manager	Greg Wright
Director Governance & Outcomes	Steve Kludass
Director Works & Services	Ian Gannell
Director Development & Environment	Sue Morris



Senior Staff - Total Remuneration Package

General Manager:	\$232,000.00
Director Governance & Outcomes:	\$180,850.00
Director Works & Services:	\$177,650.00
Director Development & Environment:	\$183,591.00

Note: Total package includes the total value of the salary component of package, the total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary component, total employer's contribution to superannuation (salary sacrifice or employers contribution), total value non-cash benefits, and the total fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits.

Councillor Remuneration

During 2008/09, Council Provided:

Mayoral Allowance	\$ 33,000.00
Councillor Fees	\$ 137,000.00

Councillor Expenses

Dedicated Office Equipment	\$ -
Telephone	\$ 4,619.73
Conferences/Seminars	\$ 22,504.90
Training	\$ -
Interstate Visits - all costs	\$ -
Overseas Visits	\$ -
Expenses for Spouses	\$ -
Child Care	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 27,124.63



Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Mayors and Councillors Policy. (Policy 5.2)

Review adopted 25 November 2008 – ORD302/08

Part 1 - Introduction

This document is to be referred to as the "Payment of Expenses and provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillors Policy".

The Policy commenced from 12 February 2007.

Purpose of Policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is accountability and transparency in the reimbursement of expenses incurred or to be incurred by Councillors. The policy also ensures that the facilities provided to assist Councillors to carry out their civic duties are reasonable.

Objectives and coverage of the Policy

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Ensure there is consistency in the application of reimbursement of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner.
- Assist Councillors to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers of Camden and to facilitate communication between the community and Council.
- Provide a level of support which will serve to encourage residents to seek election to civic office.

The Policy applies equally to the Mayor and all Councillors.

Reporting Requirements

The Local Government Act requires Council to adopt and publicly advertise in local papers the Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy each year and to then

submit a copy of the Policy to the Department of Local Government by 30 November. (Sect. 252 & Sect. 253)

The Act also requires Council to include details of monies expended on Mayoral and Councillor fees and details of this Policy in the Annual Report. (Section 428(2)(f)).

The Local Government (General) Regulation also requires Council to report annually on details of any overseas visits undertaken during the year by Councillors, staff or other persons representing Council (including visits sponsored by other organisations). (Clause 217).

Any reference in this Policy to "the Act" refers to the Local Government Act, 1993 as amended.

Relevant Legislation and Policies

- Local Government Act, 1993.
- Department of Local Government Guidelines for payment of expenses and provision of facilities.
- Code of Conduct.
- Department of Local Government Circulars to Councils –2005/08 and 2002/38.
- ICAC publications – "No Excuse for Misuse" and "Preventing the Misuse of Council Resources."

Approval arrangements

Various approval arrangements are indicated throughout the Policy and vary from full Council meeting approval to Mayor and General Manager.



Part 2 - Payment of Expenses

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The payment of expenses to Councillors is outside the provisions of the annual fee determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal which is paid to Councillors.

Payment of expenses generally

Any expenses claimed must be related to representing Council at official or ceremonial functions, meetings, conferences/seminars as approved by Council in carrying out the civic duties of the Councillor. Claims for reimbursement of these expenses will only be made on production of receipts for such amounts

where indicated in this Policy and/or on completion of the appropriate claim form.


Allowances and expenses

All claims for reimbursement must be made within one month of the date of the receipt and on the appropriate Claim for Reimbursement Form.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS, ETC

Attendance

Any Councillor may attend a conference, approved by Council, either as a formal representative of Council



or as part of learning and skill development to assist Councillors to discharge the functions of civic office. Requests for attendance at such events, interstate or overseas, must be approved by Council prior to attendance. The report to Council should outline the benefits of attendance by the Councillor.

The Mayor and General Manager may approve attendance by Councillors at conferences, seminars, meetings or similar functions within the State (ACT is taken to be included as part of NSW due to the proximity and ease of travel) without the need for prior reference to Council.

Councillors nominated to attend any conference who withdraw from attendance at the conference without reasonable cause will be liable for any costs incurred by Council. The Mayor and General Manager will assess and determine the appropriateness of such withdrawal and liability for costs.

(Council Meeting 25/11/08, ORD301/08)

Costs

Council will pay all normal registration costs, including registration, official luncheons, dinners, tours.

Accommodation

Council will pay accommodation in relation to the conference/seminar. Accommodation will be approved by the Mayor and General Manager at the standard room rate after taking into account the type and location/venue of conference/seminar.

Travel

Council will pay travel expenses associated with attendance at conferences/seminars and the like. The most economic method of transport will be undertaken. This Policy provides for the standard of air ticket to be purchased as economy class. Private vehicles may be used subject to approval by the Mayor and General Manager and reimbursement is in accordance with this Policy and calculated at the rate specified in the Local Government (State) Award, as varied from time to time.

Advance payments

Councillors may request payment in advance in anticipation of expenses being incurred for such matters as attending conferences, seminars and/or training. On return Councillors must produce all receipts for the expenditure of those funds, with a full reconciliation to be completed.

Councillors are to produce the receipts and complete the reconciliation within one month of the expenditure being incurred.

Spouse and Partner Expenses

Where a Councillor is accompanied to a conference/seminar by a spouse/partner costs incurred for the attendance shall be the responsibility of the Councillor. These costs relate to travel, partner's programme and out of pocket expenses.

There may be limited instances where certain costs incurred by a Councillor on behalf of their spouse/partner are properly those of the Councillor expended in the performance of civic duties. Accordingly, Council will reimburse reasonable expenses in attending these functions. Such functions could include those which a Councillor's spouse/partner would be reasonably expected to attend such as Council civic and ceremonial receptions, Australia Day ceremonies or on occasions Citizenship ceremonies.

Any further peripheral expenses incurred will not be reimbursed by Council.

Outside of these provisions, the Mayor and General Manager may approve payment for the attendance of a spouse/partner as part of a Council group booking to a local Charity event or similar function as may occur from time to time.

Where a Councillor is accompanied by spouse/partner to the Local Government Association Conference, Council will meet the cost of registration and the official dinner for the spouse/partner. Travel expenses and any additional accommodation expenses will be the personal responsibility of the Councillor.

Incidental expenses

Out of pocket expenses or incidental expenses associated with attending conferences, seminars or training will be reimbursed on presentation of receipts and completion of a claim form as provided above. Examples of incidental expenses include telephone or facsimile calls, laundry, taxi fares, parking fees or meals, where not part of the conference or function. These are over and above, the cost of registration, accommodation and travel to the event.

Specific Expenses for Mayors and Councillors

Attendance at seminars and conferences

Council will provide normal conference/seminar registration fees, transport, accommodation, official lunches and dinners relevant to the conference/seminar and reasonable out of pocket expenses. Out of pocket/incidental expenses claims will be capped at \$50 per day (inc. of GST). Any claims above \$50 must be approved by the Mayor and General Manager. The claims must be made within one month of the date of the receipt.

If approved, after returning, Councillors or an accompanying member of staff, must provide a detailed written report on the beneficial aspects of the conference or seminar.

Local travel arrangements and expenses

Councillors will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred relating to Council business and/or representing Council, such examples are attending conferences, seminars, MACROC meetings, etc. A claim may also include the use of private motor vehicle, public transport, taxi, parking fees and road tolls.

If a Councillor's private vehicle is used for transport, the amount reimbursed will be calculated at the rate specified in the Local Government (State) Award, as varied from time to time.

Under this Policy, Councillors are personally responsible for all traffic or parking fines incurred while travelling in private or Council vehicles on Council business.

Interstate travel

Council approval is required prior to any interstate travel being undertaken by Councillors. The report to Council should include all details of the travel, including itinerary, costs and expected benefits. If required to travel by air, economy air fares only will be provided. If approved, Council will pay costs as per "Attendance at Seminars and Conferences" and incidental expenses.

Overseas travel

Council approval is required prior to any overseas travel being undertaken by Councillors. Council needs to scrutinise the value and need for such travel. If approved economy air fares only are to be provided.

After returning from any overseas travel, Councillors or an accompanying member of staff, must provide a detailed written report to Council on the aspects of the trip.

Training and educational expenses

Council provides an amount in the annual Management Plan and Budget for Councillor Training and Education expenses to support and encourage active learning and

skill development and for attendance at Conferences and seminars relating to Council activities. Payment of additional expenses/costs in relation to such training will be as per this Policy.

Telephone costs and related expenses

Council will provide a mobile phone for use in order to carry out the Councillor's civic functions and responsibilities as provided in this Policy under "Provision of Equipment" below.

Call charges for mobile phones associated with private business must be met by the Councillor. Council will reimburse an amount up to \$250 per month (inclusive of GST) for Council related business.

Councillors must complete a Telephone/Mobile Phone Declaration Claim Form for each billing period in relation to call charges associated with official calls. All claims for reimbursement for telephone costs must be made within one month of the date of the provider's invoice. Any amounts exceeding the limit must be approved for payment by the Mayor and General Manager.

If an individual landline is installed to the Councillor's premises, Council will reimburse an amount up to \$100 per month (inclusive of GST) to cover rental and call charges.

Legal expenses and obligations

Council may by way of resolution indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses of:

- (a) a Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act, 1993 or any other Act for and on behalf of Council; or
- (b) a Councillor defending an action in defamation provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Local Government Act, 1993; and
- (c) a Councillor for proceedings before the Local Government Pecuniary Interest Tribunal or an investigative body provided, the subject of the proceedings arises from the performance in good faith by the Councillor of a function under the Local Government Act, 1993 and that the enquiry, investigation, hearing or proceedings taken against a Councillor results in a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.

In addition, the amount of such reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of any monies that may be or are recouped by the Councillor on any basis.

Insurance expenses and obligations

Council complies with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 1993 (Section 382) and Councillors are covered by current insurance policies for various amounts in respect of:

- Public Liability – for matters arising out of Councillors performance of civic duties or exercise of functions as Councillors but are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policy;
- Professional Indemnity – for matters arising out of Councillors performance of civic duties or exercise of functions provided the performance or exercise of the relevant civic duty or function is in the opinion of Council, bona fide and/or proper.

- Personal accident – Coverage where personal injury occurs whilst on Council business Australia wide.

Care and other related expenses

Council will consider reimbursement of reasonable fees for the cost of care arrangements, where the Councillor is the primary carer, including child care, aged care or for the disabled to permit Councillors to attend to responsibilities and duties as a Councillor.

The level of reimbursement for this care will be at the current market rate on evidence of payment and approved by the Mayor and General Manager.

Additional Mayoral Expenses

Nil.

Part 3 – Provision of Facilities

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Council will provide facilities, equipment and services that are appropriate to support the Mayor and Councillors in undertaking the role of elected members.

PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES FOR COUNCILLORS

Equipment –

Council will provide the following equipment to Councillors, if requested, subject to the reimbursement of expenses limitations mentioned elsewhere in this Policy:

- Mobile telephone (standard as provided to staff) or Blackberry mobile phone with internet and email capability.
- Computer equipment (standard as provided to staff) or laptop (the equivalent of a Toshiba 6000 series) and printer/fax multi function machine, together with printer cartridges and replacements.
- Installation of a dedicated telephone line (ASDL) and equipment necessary for internet connection.

Facilities –

The following facilities are provided -

- A Councillors' Room is provided in the Council Offices to assist Councillors in dealing with resident and ratepayer matters and Council business generally. The room is equipped with a telephone, computer, printer and internet connection;

- Councillors letterhead;
- Sustenance only is provided to Councillors at Council/ Committee Meetings. Meals are provided at civic functions and the like for Councillors and/or partners.

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES FOR MAYOR

The role of the Mayor is:

- To exercise, in the case of necessity, the policy making functions of the governing body of the Council between meetings;
- To exercise such other functions of the Council as the Council determines;
- To preside at meetings of the Council; and
- To carry out the civic and ceremonial functions of the mayoral office.

In order to reflect the additional time and commitment required to carry out the responsibilities of the Mayor, in addition to the support provided to Councillors, the following is provided to the Mayor:

- Mayoral Office provided to assist in carrying the Mayoral functions;
- Secretarial support is also provided by the General Manager's secretary;
- Mayoral carparking space in the Council carpark adjacent to the Council Offices is also available.
- The Mayor may request the use of a Council pool vehicle for official Council business, if a vehicle is available.

Part 4 – Other Matters

Personal Benefit

Councillors should not generally obtain private benefit from the provision of equipment and facilities, nor from travel bonuses or any other loyalty schemes. It is acknowledged that incidental use of Council equipment and facilities may occur from time to time. Such incidental private use is not subject to a compensatory payment.

Acquisition and returning of facilities and equipment by Councillors

All equipment provided to Councillors contained in this Policy, remain the property of Camden Council. Such equipment will be returned on completion of the term of office, however, Councillors not seeking re-election or not returned may request the purchase of such property. The General Manager will consider each request and determine an appropriate fair market price.



Overseas Visits Undertaken by Councillors, Council Staff & Other Persons

Representing Council

During the 2008/09 reporting period there were no overseas visits undertaken by Councillors, Council Staff & other persons representing Council.

Rates and Charges Written Off During 2008/09

Rates and Charges Written Off During 2008/09

The Local Government Act provides Council with the ability to write off rates and charges under certain circumstances. Each year it is necessary to report to Council and formally resolve to write off these amounts.

There are several types of write offs and the amounts proposed in respect of the 2008/09 rating year are set out below and discussed.

1. Postponed amounts where land is occupied solely as the site of a house or is rural land, because of its zoning or permitted use, is valued for rating purposes at a higher value to reflect its permitted use rather than its actual use. After 5 years of postponement the original year is abandoned.

Rates from 2004	\$2,791.24
Interest to 30/6/2009	\$1,131.15
Total	\$3,922.39

2. Small balance adjustments where the total amount left outstanding are less than \$3.00.

Amount	\$1,907.77
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3. The amount of pension rebates granted during the 2008/09 rating year.

Pension Rebates	\$504,840.17
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Council will claim 55% reimbursement from the State Government for the amount written off.

4. The amount of Stormwater Levy written off during 2008/09 as new pensioners are recorded.

Amount	\$170.00
--------	-----------------

5. During 2008/09 Rating year several properties were revalued resulting in some amounts of Farmland Capping being written off.

Amount	\$30,581.16
--------	--------------------

The total amount of rates and charges written off in the rating year 2008/09 is \$541,421.49 and appropriate provision was made in the 2008/09 Budget.

Major Contract Awards

Outstanding Payments from Previous Period/Current made to contracts during 2008/09

JOB DESCRIPTION	CONTRACTOR	AMOUNT PAID 2008/09
Bio Retention Filter - Smeaton Grange	J N Civil Pty Ltd	\$184,488.80 ex gst
Birriwa Reserve Amenities	Structum Pty Ltd	\$396,166.86 ex gst
Camden Main Street Median	Lamond Contracting	\$234,737.30 ex gst
Volvo Loader	CJD Equipment	\$258,000.00 ex gst
Cat Grader	WesTrac	\$298,000.00 ex gst

List of Tenders over \$150,000 entered into by Council during 2008/09

1. Camden Main Street Centre Median Upgrade Lamond Contracting	\$274,980
2. Narellan Urban Forest Playground Furnass Landscaping Enterprises	\$387,655
3. Design for Camden Pool Redevelopment Lippmann Partnership	\$224,000
4. Bio Retention Filter - Smeaton Grange J N Civil Pty Ltd	\$405,980
5. Supply & Deliver Catipillar Grader WesTrac	\$298,000

Freedom of Information Act 1989 Requirements

For the 12 Month Period ending 30 June, 2009 Statistical Data for Camden Council

Freedom of Information (FOI) became operative from 1 July 1989. Under the terms of the Act, Camden Council is required to publish statistical data in conjunction with its Sustainable Camden Report.

Council Staff responsible for processing FOI applications attended workshops at an advanced level during the 2008/09 reporting period to keep up-to-date with legislation and appellant determinations. Details of requests for information under the FOI Act received by Council for the 12 month period ending 30 June, 2009 is as follows:

SECTION A – NEW FOI APPLICATIONS

How many FOI applications were received, discontinued or completed?	Number of FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
A1 New	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19
A2 Brought forward	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
A3 Total to be Processed	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19
A4 Completed	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19
A5 Discontinued	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
A6 Total Processed	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19
A7 Unfinished (carried forward)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION B – DISCONTINUED APPLICATIONS

Why were FOI applications discontinued?	Number of Discontinued FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
B1 Request transferred out to another agency (s.20)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B2 Applicant withdrew request	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B3 Applicant failed to pay advance deposit (s.22)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B4 Applicant failed to amend a request that would have been unreasonable diversion of resources to complete (s.25(1)(a1))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
B5 Total discontinued	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: If request discontinued for more than one reason, select the reason first occurring in the above table. The figures in B5 should correspond to those in A5.

SECTION C – COMPLETED APPLICATIONS

What happened to completed FOI applications?	Number of Completed FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
C1 Granted or otherwise available in full	15	17	Nil	Nil	15	17
C2 Granted or otherwise available in part	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
C3 Refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
C4 No documents held	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
C5 Total completed	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19

Note: A request is granted or otherwise available in full if all documents requested are either provided to the applicant (or the applicant's medical practitioner) or are otherwise publicly available. The figures in C5 should correspond to those in A4.

SECTION D – APPLICATIONS GRANTED OR OTHERWISE AVAILABLE IN FULL

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI Applications (Granted or Otherwise Available in Full)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
All documents requested were:						
D1 Provided to the applicant	-	-	-	-	-	-
D2 Provided to the applicant's medical practitioner	-	-	-	-	-	-
D3 Available for inspection	-	-	-	-	-	-
D4 Available for purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-
D5 Library material	-	-	-	-	-	-
D6 Subject to deferred access	-	-	-	-	-	-
D7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in D1-D6 above	15	19	-	-	15	19
D8 Total granted or otherwise available in full	15	19	-	-	15	19

Note: The figures in D8 should correspond to those in C1.

SECTION E – APPLICATIONS GRANTED OR OTHERWISE AVAILABLE IN PART

How were the documents made available to the applicant?	Number of FOI Applications (Granted or Otherwise Available in Part)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
Documents made available were:	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
E1 Provided to the applicant	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E2 Provided to the applicant's medical practitioner	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E3 Available for inspection	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E4 Available for purchase	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E5 Library material	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E6 Subject to deferred access	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
E7 Available by a combination of any of the reasons listed in E1-E6 above	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
E8 Total granted or otherwise available in part	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

Note: The figures in E8 should correspond to those in C2.

SECTION F – REFUSED FOI APPLICATIONS

Why was access to the documents refused?	Number of Refused FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
F1 Exempt	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
F2 Deemed refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
F3 Total refused	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

Note: The figures in F3 should correspond to those in C3.

SECTION G – EXEMPT DOCUMENTS

Why were the documents classified as exempt? (identify one reason only)	Number of FOI Applications (refused or access granted or otherwise available in part only)					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
Documents made available were:	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
G1 Cabinet documents (Clause 1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G2 Executive Council documents (Clause 2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G3 Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety (Clause 4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G4 Documents affecting counter terrorism measures (Clause 4A)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Documents requiring consultation:						
G5 Documents affecting intergovernmental relations (Clause 5)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G6 Documents affecting personal affairs (Clause 6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G7 Documents affecting business affairs (Clause 7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G8 Documents affecting the conduct of research (Clause 8)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Documents otherwise exempt:						

G9	Schedule 2 exempt agency	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G10	Documents containing information confidential to Olympic Committees (Clause 22)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G11	Documents relating to threatened species, Aboriginal objects or Aboriginal places	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G12	Documents relating to threatened species conservation (Clause 24)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G13	Plans of management containing information of Aboriginal significance (Clause 25)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G14	Private documents in public library collections (Clause 19)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G15	Documents relating to judicial functions (Clause 11)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G16	Documents subject to contempt (Clause 17)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G17	Documents arising out of companies and securities legislation (Clause 18)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G18	Exempt documents under interstate FOI legislation (Clause 21)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G19	Documents subject to legal professional privilege (Clause 10)	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
G20	Documents containing confidential material (Clause 13)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G21	Documents subject to secrecy provisions (Clause 12)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G22	Documents affecting the economy of the State (Clause 14)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G23	Documents affecting financial or property interests of the State or an agency (Clause 15)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G24	Documents concerning operations of agencies (Clause 16)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G25	Internal working documents (Clause 9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G26	Other exemptions (eg. Clauses 20, 22A and 26)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
G27	Total applications including exempt documents	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

Note: Where more than one exemption applies to a request select the exemption category first occurring in the above table. The figures in G27 should correspond to the sum of the figures in C2 and F1.

SECTION H – MINISTERIAL CERTIFICATES (S.59)

How many Ministerial Certificates were issued?

Number of Ministerial Certificates

	07/08	08/09
H1 Ministerial Certificates issued	Nil	Nil

SECTION I – FORMAL CONSULTATIONS

How many formal consultations were conducted?

	Number	
	07/08	08/09
I1 Number of applications requiring formal consultation	Nil	Nil
I2 Number of persons formally consulted	Nil	Nil

Note: Include all formal offers to consult issued irrespective of whether a response was received.

SECTION J – AMENDMENT OF PERSONAL RECORDS

How many applications for amendment of personal records were agreed or refused?

	Number of Applications for Amendment of Personal Records	
	07/08	08/09
J1 Agreed in full	Nil	Nil
J2 Agreed in part	Nil	Nil
J3 Refused	Nil	Nil
J4 Total	Nil	Nil

Note: Include all formal offers to consult issued irrespective of whether a response was received.

SECTION K – NOTATION OF PERSONAL RECORDS

How many applications for notation of personal records were made (s.46)?

	Number of Applications for Notation	
	07/08	08/09
K1 Applications for notation	Nil	Nil

SECTION L – FEES AND COSTS

What fees were assessed and received for FOI applications processed (excluding applications transferred out)?

	Assessed Costs		Fees Received	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
L1 All completed applications	\$450.00	\$540.00	\$589.00	\$636.00

SECTION M – FEE DISCOUNTS

How many fee waivers or discounts were allowed and why?

Number of FOI Applications (where fees were waived or discounted)

	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
M1 Processing fees waived in full	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
M2 Public interest discounts	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
M3 Financial hardship discounts – pensioner or child	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
M4 Financial hardship discounts – non profit organization	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
M5 Total	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

SECTION N – FEE REFUNDS

How many fee refunds were granted as a result of significant correction of personal records?

Number of Refunds

	07/08	08/09
N1 Number of fee refunds granted as a result of significant correction of personal records	Nil	Nil

SECTION O – DAYS TAKEN TO COMPLETE REQUEST

How long did it take to process completed applications? (Note: calendar days)	Number of Completed FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
O1 0-21 days – statutory determination period	14	18	Nil	Nil	14	18
O2 22-35 days – extended statutory determination period for consultation or retrieval of archived records (s.59B)	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
O3 Over 21 days – deemed refusal where no extended determination period applies	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
O4 Over 35 days – deemed refusal where extended determination period applies	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
O5 Total	15	19	Nil	Nil	15	19

Note: Figures in O5 should correspond to figures in A4.

SECTION P – PROCESSING TIME: HOURS

How long did it take to process completed applications?	Number of Completed FOI Applications					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09	07/08	08/09
P1 0-10 hours	13.50	59.00	Nil	Nil	13.50	59.00
P2 11-20 hours	28.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	28.00	Nil
P3 21-40 hours	5.00	Nil	Nil	Nil	5.00	Nil
P4 Over 40 hours	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
P5 Total	46.50	59.00	Nil	Nil	46.50	59.00

Note: Figures in P5 should correspond to figures in A4

SECTION Q – NUMBER OF REVIEWS

How many reviews were finalised?	Number of Completed Reviews	
	07/08	08/09
	Q1 Internal Reviews	Nil
Q2 Ombudsman Reviews	Nil	Nil
Q3 ADT Reviews	Nil	Nil

SECTION R – RESULTS OF INTERNAL REVIEWS

Grounds on which the internal review was requested	Number of Internal Reviews					
	Personal		Other		Total	
	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied	Original Agency Decision Upheld	Original Agency Decision Varied
R1 Access refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R2 Access deferred	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R3 Exempt matter deleted from documents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

R4 Unreasonable charges	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R5 Failure to consult with third parties	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R6 Third parties views disregarded	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R7 Amendment of personal records refused	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
R8 Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: Figures in R8 should correspond to figures in A4.

FOI Act had no impact on Council's activities, policies or procedures during the 2008/09 year.

Note: Camden Council processed 149 applications under Section 12 of the Local Government Act – access to information in the 2008/09 reporting period.

ENQUIRIES REGARDING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

All applications must be made in writing, accompanied by the applicable fee and directed to the following address:

Freedom of Information Officer
Camden Council
PO BOX 183
CAMDEN NSW 2570

Application forms are available from Council's website www.camden.nsw.gov.au

Please contact Council's Freedom of Information Officer on (02) 4654 7777 to discuss your needs prior to lodging any formal applications. In many cases it may be possible to satisfy your requirements without the need for recourse to the Freedom of Information Act.

Action Taken in Complying with the Requirements of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998

A Privacy Plan of Management as required by the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP) was adopted by Council in 2000.

Staff responsible for overseeing the management of information held by Council, continually update knowledge in this area. Regular revision and monitoring of processes are conducted to ensure advice provided to staff and customers relating to privacy protection is accurate. Also workshops are

organised for new and existing staff to reinforce the practical application of the Information Protection Principles.

Statistical Details of Reviews Conducted Under Part 5 of the Act.

During 2008/09 there was 1 request conducted under Part 5 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.

Legal Proceedings 2008/09

Approximately \$465,187 was expended in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against Council (legal and court costs, settlements etc) during the 2008/09 reporting period.

Legal Actions resolved during the 2008/09 reporting period.

Defendant	Offence	Plea	Result
Batasty Pty Ltd (Narellan Hotel)	Fail to comply with conditions of consent (car parking & trading hours)	Guilty; fined \$45,000	\$23,000 (100%)
T Le	Unauthorised removal of 50 trees at 140 Coates Park Road Cobbitty	Guilty; fined \$13,500; ordered to replant trees	\$1,500 (100%)
The Qur'anic Society	Defendant lodged appeal against Council decision	Commissioner Brown dismissed the appeal	Legal costs incurred - \$175,225.52 Costs reimbursed - \$30,913.35
R Furtner	Expose Article in/on/over road/let article be exposed at road without approval	Guilty	Section 10
MCV Commercial	Expose Article in/on/over road/let article be exposed at road without approval	Guilty	Section 10
P Hussey	Stop on path strip in built up area.	Guilty	Section 10
B Hunt	Expose Article in/on/over road/let article be exposed at road without approval	Guilty	Section 10
D Barron	Appeal of dangerous dog declaration x 3	Dog Control Order	\$1500.00 costs awarded
V Humphries	Deposit litter from vehicle	Guilty	Section 10
A J Adams	Disobey No Stopping Sign	Guilty	Section 10
J Y Koen	Stop in bus zone – school zone	Guilty	Section 10
A Khan	Stop in bus zone – school zone	Guilty	Section 10
Jenkins	Stop in bus zone – school zone	Guilty	PIN to stand \$243.00 & Court costs \$73.00
G Aaron	Stop in bus zone – school zone	Guilty	PIN to stand \$238.00 & Court costs \$73.00
T Smith	Not Comply with notice to register animal x 5 dogs	Not Guilty	PINs to stand \$660.00 & costs awarded \$992.00 Costs Incurred \$1966.80
I MacFetters	Double Park	Guilty	Section 10
D Scott	Not notify change in identification details x 2	Guilty	Section 10 Legal costs \$698.50
J Mifsud	S68 LGA – Install OSSM facility without approval	Guilty	Penalty \$200.00 & costs awarded \$73.00 Costs Incurred \$1317.44
J Simpson	Own dog uncontrolled in a public place	Guilty	Section 10

Private Works

Council carried out work on private land or on behalf of owners of private land under Section 67 which included construction of dish crossings, driveway cross-overs, road making and kerb & guttering.

Minor Private Works Undertaken	\$16,104
Macarthur Road Traffic Refuge	\$24,964
	\$41,068

Expenditure during the 2008/09 reporting period: \$41,068

Minor Private Works Income	\$31,575
Macarthur Road - Private Contribution	\$24,465
	\$56,040

Income during 2008/09 reporting period: \$56,040

These figures do not include private works carried out by Council solely or jointly for another Council or a public authority; nor any graffiti removal work carried out by Council in accordance with Section 67A or 67B.

The Categorisation of the Council's Businesses and the Council's Progress in Implementing the Principles of Competitive Neutrality

National Competition Policy specifies a number of principles aimed at clearly identifying government business activities and developing a "level playing field" where those business activities compete in the open market against private organizations. This is to ensure that government owned business does not enjoy unfair competitive advantage over private business.

Council has determined those of its activities that fall within the jurisdiction of National Competition Policy and the principles of competitive neutrality. Council has identified the Commercial Waste Management unit as a Category Two business unit in accordance with the financial turnover applicable to this Category.

This classification imposes on Council some obligations relating to the costing and accounting for this activity. Council has included the results of this activity in the Annual Special Purpose Reports for 2008/09.

Council has also determined that it will deal with any complaints about competitive neutrality utilizing its existing complaints management system.

There have not been any complaints lodged in the 2008/09 reporting period.

Statement of all Companies in which the Council held a Controlling Interest during 2008/09

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the 2008/09 reporting period.

Partnerships, Co-operatives and Joint Ventures during 2008/09

It should be noted that Council is a Shareholder in the Southern Phone Company for two shares at \$1.00 each being one A class share and one in the B to ZZ class.

Statement of Employee Relations Activities and Statement of Activities Undertaken by Council to Implement its EEO Management Plan

- In accordance with relevant legislation, policy and procedure, the recruitment of staff is based on merit principles ensuring the most suitable candidate is selected and all applicants are afforded equal opportunity. Skill shortages continued to present difficulties in the early part of the last financial year, however in latter months long term vacancies have been filled.
- In order to attract suitable applicants, a review of advertising has been conducted and more innovative strategies trialled.
- Recruitment and Selection Training continues to be provided for all staff required to participate in recruitment panels.
- The collection of data to inform workforce planning continues to ensure Council is adequately resourced now and into the future.
- Work has continued on the Human Resource Strategic Plan which identifies five key areas, Workforce Planning, Employer of Choice, Employee Wellbeing, Continuous Improvement and The Learning Organisation, as being critical to the continued successful management of Council's most valuable asset – its employees.
- Clarity regarding relevant industrial legislation has now been obtained and Council continues to manage its employees in accordance with all relevant Award provisions.
- The commitment to maintaining good employee relations remains a high priority and is facilitated through consultation and communication.
- Counselling, mediation and employee support is provided through the Employee Relations Branch and continued funding of Council's Employee Assistance Programme, a confidential counselling service provided by an external company.
- Employment opportunities continue to be provided for young people in our local area through Council's very successful Traineeship Programme. The success of our trainees and apprentice is evidenced by the number of awards received with one trainee being awarded Trainee of the Year.
- The outstanding work of Council employees has continued to be recognised through Award ceremonies including Rotary Pride of Workmanship and Awards specific to professional disciplines.
- One employee continues on the Supported Wage Programme and opportunities to increase this number continue to be explored.
- The review of all employment based policies and procedures is nearing completion.
- The policies and procedures associated with the Child Protection Legislation have been completely rewritten to reflect recent changes.
- Changes in relation to superannuation contributions have been implemented and continue to be monitored.

Training and Development

The forecast growth of Camden Council will place enormous pressure on the organisation and it is essential our employees are equipped with appropriate skill, knowledge and expertise levels.

In the last financial year training and development opportunities were offered in the following broad categories:

- Corporate: training to meet organisational and legislative requirements
- Job specific training to ensure skills and knowledge remain current in functional areas
- Professional development programs to provide broader knowledge and career development opportunities.

Thirty three (33) in house training courses were offered to staff throughout the 2008/09 financial year. Staff attended one hundred & eight (108) offsite courses.

Employees are also encouraged to increase their level of tertiary qualification through Council's Education Assistance Programme with seventeen (17) employees engaging in study at universities and TAFE colleges.

Work Experience

Eighteen students from local high schools and two students from universities participated in work experience placements at Camden Council. This programme enables Council to showcase employment opportunities within Local Government in the hope of attracting potential candidates in the future. Council again participated in the local Careers Expo which is coordinated by the Department of Education and Training.

Occupational Health and Safety

The recruitment of a dedicated OH&S/Workers Compensation Officer has enabled a greater level of focus in these areas and it is anticipated this will result in more proactive intervention strategies being implemented. Work has commenced on the development of an Occupational Health and Safety System.

The Occupational Health & Safety Committee, made up of staff and management representatives, continues to operate effectively.

Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, comprised of staff and management representatives, meets regularly and provides a good forum for consultation between Council and its employees.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Camden Council is strongly committed to the principles of Equal Employment Opportunity and actively promotes a workplace that is free from discrimination and harassment. All new staff participate in training aimed at providing information about relevant legislation and the importance of appropriate practices and behaviours in the workplace.

A complete review of Council's EEO Management Plan is underway.

NSW Rural Fire Service Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Activities

Camden Council, in conjunction with NSW Rural Fire Service, continues to encourage landowners and the community to implement land management practices that can result in the reduction of bush fire hazards in the Camden Local Government Area (LGA).

Objectives for reducing bush fire hazard are being achieved by close liaison with land management agencies and the community and through issuing notices to clear and remove bush fire hazard.

Planning activities have been implemented to facilitate the best possible protection for the community and those assets at risk from bush fire.

Hazard reduction work undertaken by Camden Council has taken place in the form of management of Council reserves and roadside fuel slashing as listed:

- Approximately 600 hectares of total mowing area were maintained throughout the 2008/09 reporting period.
- Broad mowing areas of Council assets such as reserves and sportsfields were cut and maintained thirteen (13) and eighteen (18) times respectively within the 2008/09 reporting period.
- Road & Traffic Authority state main roads within the Camden LGA were maintained under contract by Camden Council eight (8) times within the 2008/09 reporting period.
- Fire breaks in John Oxley Reserve and Gundungurra Reserve were cut four (4) times within the 2008/09 reporting period.
- All rural roadsides were cut twice (2) within the 2008/09 reporting period.

Comparison of actual Stormwater Management services with projected Stormwater Management services as proposed in the Management Plan

Project 1; Stormwater Harvesting Projects

Harrington Reserve Stormwater Harvesting, Harrington Park. This system of wetlands captures and filters stormwater from over 7,000ha of urban land in Currans Hill, Smeaton Grange, Mt Annan, Narellan, Narellan Vale and Harrington Park. The water is then used to irrigate the soccer fields and reserves in Harrington Park, reducing the demand for potable (drinking) standard water by approximately 38,100 kilolitres each year – the equivalent of nearly 38 Olympic swimming pools. During 2008/09, the second wetland component was completed along with a flood bypass channel to divert excess water in times of extreme and continued flooding.

Project 2; Outlet Management

Many older suburbs within the Camden Local Government Area have little or no treatment of stormwater prior to its discharge to local waterways. Accordingly, during 2008/09 Council initiated a project to investigate, prioritise and design stormwater outlet controls for these areas to reduce the pollutant load entering our creeks. This project will be completed within the first half of the 2008/09 year, with the installation of appropriate outlet structures to commence shortly thereafter.

Project 3; Education and Promotion

The majority of pollutants entering our stormwater system come from activities undertaken within urban areas such as garden fertilising and littering. Several education activities were undertaken during 2008/09 to help increase our community's awareness of potentially polluting activities. These included the publication and distribution of a newsletter to all residents and drain stencilling of environmental messages in areas close to waterways with high pedestrian activity.

Project 4; Water Quality Monitoring

Council engaged consultants to design a strategic water quality monitoring framework for the Local Government Area; with an emphasis on the Narellan Catchment and the Nepean River. Once the framework is completed, the ongoing annual monitoring undertaken will enable Council to analyse the effectiveness of the stormwater improvement works being completed with the levy funding, and further to monitor the quality of our waterways.

Project 5; Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) Maintenance

GPTs capture coarse pollutant materials such as litter and nutrient-loaded sediment, and to function effectively GPTs need to be cleaned and the captured material removed regularly. Additional service visits

were undertaken this year which enabled a greater volume of pollutants to be removed from our sensitive waterways. This level of maintenance will be ongoing through levy funding and the benefits of reducing gross pollutants from our waterways will be delivered.

Project 6; Wetland Maintenance

The wetland maintenance activities planned for this year have been deferred until 2010/11. The money allocated for these works in 2008/09 and 2009/10 works has been pooled with the funds for 2010/11, and will be targeted at significant rehabilitation works at the Lake Annan wetland; the desilting of the Lake and macrophyte planting will be given high priority.

Project 7; Stormwater Asset Management – Data Collection

In 2008/09, \$30,000 was spent on works associated with plotting stormwater pipes and pits onto a digital mapping system. The work on gathering additional detailed information on Council's storm water drainage system, including pipe locations, sizes, depth and condition and eventual plotting on the GIS will still be continuing in 2009/10. This level of data capture and information is critical to the management of Council's extensive stormwater drainage network.

External Bodies Exercising Delegated Council Functions – Community Management Committees

Committee	Highlights
Camden Seniors Program	<p>The Camden Seniors Program Committee provided 4 major events over the financial year – these were Spring Luncheon, a Christmas Luncheon, Seniors Concert and a Lifestyle and Leisure Expo for Seniors.</p> <p>Enhancements were made to these events to make them more interactive such as workshops on a wide range of topics at the Expo such as financial planning, exercise regimes for the aged, crime and safety etc. as well as some members of the program committee taking on dual roles by participating in the Seniors Issues Group.</p> <p>The Committee has been actively working to increase publicity and access to their events and all events are eagerly anticipated and well attended. The Committee has implemented formal feedback and evaluation mechanisms into their event planning to ensure continuous improvement of services.</p>
Bicentennial Equestrian Park	<p>The Bicentennial Equestrian Park Management Committee reports a successful 2008/09. The highlights include the increase in event days and increases in passive usage, expenditure on maintenance and park improvements of \$83,670 plus voluntary work and labour donations by Premier User Groups, Committee and others valued at \$113,640. This increased usage was achieved despite the impact of equestrian activity restrictions, caused by the Equine Influenza, being in place for part of the year.</p>

Committee	Highlights
Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA)	<p>The two main activities are the student exchanges with local students visiting Japan and in turn overseas guests visiting Camden.</p> <p>These annual visits have helped to cement the friendship that exists between our two towns. They give the students involved a life-changing experience of different people and a different way of life.</p> <p>Within CIFA we also have an Anime and Culture Club, organised by two young women who were part of a student delegation while at high school. This group meets fortnightly at the Undercroft to enjoy various aspects of Japanese culture, including film screenings.</p>
Camden Town Farm	The Camden Town Farm Community Management Committee continues to work hard towards achieving the Masterplan's objectives.

Community Plan

Council endorsed Camden's Community Plan 2004 - 2009 in November 2004. The Plan addresses the needs of the community in the key areas identified in the Community Well Being Policy (2003). These areas are:

- Community Safety
- Life long Learning
- Arts and Culture
- Healthy lifestyles and Community health
- Economic Development
- Recreation and Leisure
- Housing and the Urban Environment
- Accessibility
- Young people

The Community Plan also contains strategies to respond specifically to the needs of the seven identified target groups, as part of the Department of Local Government Social Planning requirements – Older People, People with a Disability, Women, CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse), ATSI (Aboriginal AND Torres Strait Islander), Young People, Children and Families.

Key activities and projects for older people

Senior's Committee

The Senior's Committee has played a proactive role in community development by commenting on Council Development Applications and participating in focus groups and various consultations. They also organized an annual Seniors Concert at the Camden Civic Centre. This free event included live entertainment by the Kelly Variety Show and a free lunch. Seniors Expo with interactive workshops were organised which was appreciated by all attendees as this was different from previous years and the annual bus trip (this year to the

Seacliff Bridge and Thirroul) was very successful with 2 buses booked and filled.

Information Provision

Council officers continued to be an initial point of contact for older residents and carers seeking individual information and referral.

As well, the Camden Seniors Health and Lifestyle directory was provided to assist seniors in maintaining their independence at home. The directory contains listings of health services, transport options and social groups in the local area, as well as focusing on those seniors who are active in the community by providing information on physical activity opportunities such as exercise classes and the promotion of Camden's walkways. It has continued to prove a great success with an overwhelming response from community residents.

Key activities and projects for people with a disability

Disability Action Plan

Through the Disability Action Plan Council aims to increase access to services and facilities for people with disabilities and provide individual information and referral to residents.

The major achievements implementing the Disability Action Plan were:

- Disability Access training, specifically targeting access to buildings, was provided to Council staff and Council's Access Group;
- Council's Access Group critically reviewed and developed a submission to the Federal Government's Discussion Paper on the harmonisation of Disability Parking Permits throughout Australia;

- As part of Council's celebration of International Day of People with a Disability, Council conducted a regional poster competition (MacAbility) with primary and high schools to raise awareness of disability issues and challenge negative stereotypes;
- Council has implemented improved parking facilities in Oxley Street for people with mobility difficulties;
- Continued investigation and implementation of improvements in access to Council's facilities and services. This included the implementation of an access hoist at the Mount Annan Leisure Centre, and further Council become an affiliate of the "companion card" program throughout NSW;
- In consultation with the Camden Show Society, Council offered patrons improved access and service via the introduction of dedicated accessible parking areas, improved access to the site and negotiated the provision of portable accessible toilets and amenities.
- Council has established a comprehensive protocol for the Camden Access Group to review and have input into significant development applications;
- Successfully upgraded the access to the community park in Curry Reserve; and
- Increased access to information on Council's website.

Access Community Advisory Group

The Access Community Advisory Group (ACAG) continues to work towards improved access in the Camden community, with representatives from the community, local community organisations, Councillors and Council staff. The ACAG provides information on access to the community, advocates for increased access to public and commercial areas and assists Council in the implementation of the Disability Action Plan.

Partnerships

Council officers in Community Planning and Development are actively involved in key partnerships and networks including the Macarthur Aged and Disability Forum, Macarthur Disability Network and the Macarthur Health Service Access and Disability Committee and are also an initial point of contact for local people with a disability and their carers who are seeking individual information and referral for local residents.

Key activities and projects for young people

Youth Strategic Plan 2005 - 2010

Council continues to roll out the Youth Strategic Plan 2005 – 2010. The key areas of the plan are 'being able to get what I want', young people have a sense of belonging, there is employment opportunity, there is opportunity to participate in healthy activity and capacity to continue to learn and develop skills throughout their lives.

Council provides funding throughout the year under the Gifted and Talented Program for young people who represent Camden in the fields of academic, sporting or cultural pursuits.

Information provision to young people

Health information was included in all packages/show bags distributed to young people at the following events:


- National Youth Week – April 2009
- Drug Action Week – (Information display at Narellan Town Centre) – June 2009
- Party Safe Week – November 2008
- Sexual Health Week (Information packs distributed to young people participating in workshops) – September 2008

National Youth Week

Camden celebrated another successful Youth Week in 2009. The week kicked off on Saturday 28th March with the 'Reduce Reuse Recycle' Op-Shop tour. This was an initiative that coincided with Reverse Garbage workshops held on 2nd and 4th April at the Camden Youth Café. These initiatives encouraged young people to learn about the environment and to reverse their garbage into grand masterpieces. This was a joint collaboration between young people, the Camden Youth Café, Community Planning and Development and Camden Library Services.

Youth Week also saw the official launch of the Kirkham Skate Park Shade Structure and a free BMX and Skate workshop. This was held on Sunday 29th March and professional skaters from iSkate facilitated the workshops, demos and ran a mini-skate competition for the 95 young people that attended. Free transport was provided for young people as well as a free BBQ lunch. The day also saw members from the Narellan Rotary Club be acknowledged and thanked for their hard work in constructing the shade structure. The day was a huge success and was organised in partnership with Camden Area Youth Services, Camden Community Connections and Community Planning and Development.

The mark of the end of National Youth Week in Camden, a free alternative band night was held on Friday 3rd April at Camden Civic Centre from 6 – 10pm. The night gave young Camden bands the opportunity to showcase their talents and promote their band, with many CD's being sold after each set. Bands included The Lawnmowers, Inflight Entertainment, Denham Reagh and the Grand Lethals. The night saw approximately 180 young people attending and was organised in partnership with the Camden Civic Centre and Community Planning and Development. This event



also gave Council the opportunity to engage with young people and to promote our services.

Other successful events that Council was involved in and partially funded throughout the week included activities at the Camden Youth Café, Camden Area Youth Services Body Glitter Workshop and the Youth Homeless Info Session that was organised in partnership with UnitingCare Burnside Macarthur Reconnect program and the Camden Youth Café.

Skate Park

Youth Week 2009 saw the launch of the new Skate Park Shade Structure and a BMX and Skate Workshop (facilitated by iSkate Australia). The day also saw members from the Narellan Rotary Club be acknowledged and thanked for their hard work in constructing the shade structure. The day was a huge success and was organised in partnership with Camden Area Youth Services, Camden Community Connections and Community Planning and Development.

Get there Bus It Project

In August 2008, Camden Council launched the Get There Bus It project. Targeted towards 18-25 year olds, this project is a free Friday late night transport service for young people that live in the Camden Local Government Area. The aim of the project is to get young adults home safely from entertainment hubs that serve alcohol. Pick ups occur from the bus shelters on John Street, Camden and Campbelltown Station and drop people at their own front door. The bus does not operate as a shuttle service to transport young people to and from entertainment hubs. Rather it takes young people home at night who cannot arrange alternative transport or those who don't have a licence. The service operates from 10pm to 2am and requires photo identification.

Between 1st August 2008 and 30th June 2009, 4,078 people have been transported home with 3,278 being under 25 years of age. These records also indicate that the project is reaching its target group as 90.4% of young people are using this service.

Beach Bus

The Camden Wollongong Beach Bus Project involves young people enjoying free travel to the Wollongong beaches during the Summer Holiday period. This service has become part of Young People's social calendars and will continue to run over the 2009/2010 holiday period.

Higher School Certificate (HSC) Mayoral Reception

The Mayoral Reception for Outstanding Achievement is an annual event for students of the Camden LGA who have achieved a band 6 or higher in the 2008 HSC. This event is to highlight the recognition, hard work and efforts that the students have put into their studies.

This year, the event was held on Monday 16th March 2009 at the Camden Civic Centre. 41 Camden students in total received certificates and attended the function.

Fishers Gig Heats

Camden & Campbelltown Councils worked in partnership and organised a series of four band heats for the annual Fishers Gig, as part of the Fishers Ghost Festival. Fishers Gig will take place on Saturday 1st November 2008 with local Camden and Campbelltown bands showcasing their talents in front of a wide audience. The Fishers Gig heat 3 month process began in the second half of 2008 on 26th July and concluded 26th September, with six bands being announced to play on the night. Camden bands that won the competition included The Lawnmowers, What Remains, Ladies and Gentlemen and Denham Reagh, with Campbelltown bands Dinkiebike and Inflight Entertainment also making it through.

The Fishers Gig heats allow local bands the opportunity to participate and showcase their talents of rock, alternative and punk style music. These heats were held at Campbelltown Arts Centre and Camden Civic Centre, attracting over 700 people in total.

Sexual Health Week

A series of afternoon graphic design workshops were facilitated by Community Planning and Development, Traxside Youth Health Service and Camden Creative Studios for Sexual Health Week which took place 15th - 21st September 2008. These workshops were granted \$1000 from Sydney South West Area Health Service (SSWAHS) and as a result, young people from marginalised backgrounds designed and created three postcards to address the issues of healthy sexual relationships and what it means to them. The workshops took place in early September, with 22 young people attending. The launch of the postcards took place at Camden Youth Café on Friday 19th September, during Sexual Health Week.

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week and National Stress Less Day was recognised and celebrated on Wednesday 8th October 2008 at Narellan Library and Camden Youth Café. De-Stress UR Head afternoon involved free massages for young people who may be feeling stressed out or tired from exams and study. The afternoon was a great success, with over 50 people attending.

National Mental Health Week aims to support the social and emotional wellbeing of Australians by encouraging everyone to maximise their health potential. Not all Australians have an optimistic outlook on life because many people do not know the value of positive thinking. "Appreciate the little things in life – Building Resilience" was the theme for Mental Health Week this

year, with an emphasis on developing positive thinking and an optimistic outlook on life by focusing on the positives and dwelling less on the negatives.

Camden Youth Café

The Youth Café is continuing strongly with up to 30 young people attending each afternoon.

Camden Youth Café participated in NAIDOC week activities during 7-11 July 2008 with a free didgeridoo workshop for 23 young people from the Camden area. This 2-hour workshop was facilitated by local musician and artist, Joe Hagarty, who explored indigenous culture and the history of the didgeridoo. Young people involved were also given the opportunity to learn how to play a didgeridoo as well as the opportunity to create one of their own. This was a fantastic afternoon with lots of fun, culture and music.

During the January 2009 School Holidays the Youth Cafe ran photography workshops in conjunction with the Camden Creative Studios. Young people involved had a lot of fun learning how to take good photographs and experimenting with Photo Computer software. Final artwork was exhibited in the Narellan Library.

The Camden Youth Café also celebrated a number of key events and activities during 2008/2009 including National Youth Week, Drug Action Week and Sexual Health Week.

Graffiti Removal

The Graffiti Action Plan continues to be implemented and strategies to further reduce graffiti and vandalism in the area are being evaluated.

Youth Activities at the Library

The library continues to provide a range of programs, technologies, collections and activities to meet the needs of young people. Through the establishment of the youth advisory board youth are provided an opportunity to influence the Young Adult Collection. The Young Adult Collection has attracted higher utilisation and extended into the youth space providing youth services with literacy resources.

The HSC lecture series was held regarding study technique and key subject topics and was well attended and received.

Activities and projects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and people from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds

Camden LGA Community Harmony Strategy 2009 - 2010

Council applied for and received funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for a strategic two year program of activities and events aimed at increasing community acceptance of and tolerance towards cultural and religious diversity. Council recognizes that rapid growth and change

can be unsettling for both new and old residents and Council wishes to facilitate community harmony in the area. Aiming to achieve that end, this project has already employed a new worker who has been implementing a number of the strategies, including mosaic art workshops for young people and quilting workshops for women. The project has also funded a Living Libraries program which will be launched in October. Next year, digital art workshops will engage young parents and grand parents. The project will culminate with a large event in 2010.

Multicultural Street Festival

Council received funding from the Community Relations Commission (CRC) to hold multicultural street festivals in Elyard Street Narellan in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Planning is well under way for the first 'Narellan Rhythms 2009' event, which will include a variety of interactive music workshops and performances. Supporters include Narellan Chamber of Commerce, Narellan Rotary Club, the Narellan Town Centre and the Advertiser.

Cohesive Communities Advisory Group


Council established the Cohesive Communities Advisory Group (CCAG) to provide advice and assistance to Council and to assist our community to deal with the many changes faced by a growing community and to assist with projects to maintain and promote harmony. Meeting bi-monthly over the last year, CCAG volunteers have been working on inter-faith projects and on the multicultural street festival and some are keen to work on multicultural policies for Council.

NAIDOC Week

Council staff provided boomerang painting activities at a Campbelltown NAIDOC Week event, organized a well attended premier of a contemporary Aboriginal movie at the Narellan Cinema Complex and facilitated activities in the libraries and Youth Space during NAIDOC Week in July 2008. The activities and events provided the opportunity for the community to recognise and celebrate Camden's local indigenous people and their heritage. They also provided vehicles to open lines of communication between Council and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day is a time for Australians to come together to reflect and celebrate the many cultures that make up our country. Harmony Day provides an opportunity for us to celebrate our successes as a culturally diverse society, re-commit ourselves to harmony and say "no" to racism. To facilitate cultural harmony in the Camden LGA, Council applied to and received funding from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship for Harmony Day projects at local schools in March 2009 and 2010. After calling for expressions of interest,



Council administered funds to 13 schools this year resulting in projects such as: the establishment of a Harmony Garden at Narellan Vale Primary School, a cultural exchange between Camden High and Holroyd High School students; the initiation of a postcard exchange between Curran's Hill Primary School and Bankstown North Primary School, a multicultural food and music day at Magdelene High; multicultural storytelling at Mt Annan Primary School, the purchase of multicultural library materials for use by several schools; dress up and musical events.

Chinese Market Garden projects

Council has continued to work in partnership with Camden Community Connections and Leppington Primary School on outreach initiatives designed to resource and connect the south-east Asian market gardeners who reside in the Leppington area. The latest project is a needs assessment of the current, changing situation. Results of that project will inform further work with this community.

Key activities for women.

International Women's Day

Council organised the Camden's Women's Awards 2009 as part of International Women's Day celebrations this year. The Awards acknowledge the contributions of women to our local community, with the finalists receiving their awards at a reception held at the Camden Civic Centre.

Camden/Wollondilly Domestic Violence Network

Council continued representation on the Camden/Wollondilly Domestic Violence Network which is coordinated by the Benevolent Society.

Key activities and projects for children and families

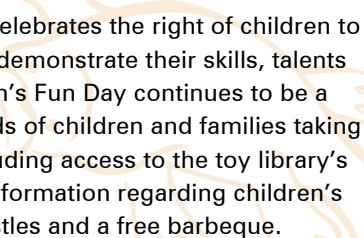
Camden Children and Families Strategic Plan (2005 – 2010)

Camden's Children and Families Strategic Plan (2005 –2010) continued to be implemented during 2008/09. The objectives of the plan fall under the broad strategic headings of: accessibility, healthy lifestyles, recreation and community safety.

Components of these broad strategic headings were incorporated into community projects during the year including the development of a Camden Play Strategy and Council's involvement in a new project targeting 9-12 year olds.

Children's Fun Day 2008

Council partnered with Camden Community Connections, Centrelink, Macarthur Diversity Services, The Benevolent Society and Northcott Society to hold a Children's Fun Day in October 2008 as part of International Children's Week. Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia during the fourth



week of October. It celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood and demonstrate their skills, talents and abilities. Children's Fun Day continues to be a success with hundreds of children and families taking part in activities, including access to the toy library's large outdoor toys, information regarding children's services, jumping castles and a free barbeque.

Party in the Park 2009

In May 2009 Council partnered with Macarthur Lions and Camden RSL Sub Branch to host an afternoon of family fun to coincide with the second Annual Macarthur Lions Fun Run at Bicentennial Equestrian Park.

The day was a success with a large variety of interactive activities to keep children entertained. Local dance schools performed throughout the day and the fire brigade provided interest for older children. Everyone appreciated the free sausage sizzle and drinks kindly supported by Macarthur Lions. The voluntary contribution of the NSW Fire Brigade, Country Valley Milk, Streets Icecream and The Benevolent Society helped make the day a success.

School Holiday Activity Guide

Council continues to produce the School Holiday activity guide which promotes low or no cost activities for children and young people during the school holiday period in the Camden area. With great interest and support from local services, the activity guide has become a regular resource for school holidays and it is promoted through local community organisations, schools, Council's customer service desks and website.

Enhancing Activities for 9-12 Year Olds

Camden Council has been involved in the working party for a project focusing on enhancing activities for 9-12 year olds in the Metro South West Region. The Project, lead by UnitingCare Burnside and funded by DoCS, is a prevention and early intervention strategy which aims to improve outcomes for young people. The project aims to:

- Improve access to activities that promote positive development for children aged 9-12
- Increase the capacity of services to deliver programs to this age group; and
- Improve the sectors capacity to integrate service planning and delivery to this age group in SW Sydney.

Mayoral Citizenship Awards

The Mayoral Citizenship Award certificate and book prize was awarded to one student from each primary and secondary school in the Camden Local Government Area at the school's end of year Award Ceremony. The certificates are awarded to students who promote community wellbeing within the school and/or wider Camden community through the principles of active citizenship and participation.

Camden Family Day Care Scheme

Council manages the Camden Family Day Care Scheme, a quality child care service provided in the home environment of 45 Carers. Carers are registered, trained and supported by the coordination unit and provide a service to approximately 320 children. Camden Family Day Care continues to work in partnership with the Burnside Uniting Care who provide an Early Intervention Program for families at risk. This project will subsidise care places for children whose families experience additional stress or hardship. Camden Family Day Care continues to provide an accredited service which meets licencing and regulatory requirements.

Libraries

Our libraries have had a very successful year and continue to provide rich collections, services and programs to meet our community's need.

The library has introduced Wireless Technology (WiFi) at each location and also a computer booking system for our public computers.

The libraries fines amnesty in July and December was a huge success. The fines amnesty allowed customers of the library service to return overdue items and make a donation of non-perishable food in place of a fine payment. This donation was then given to a local charity to distribute to those in need in our community.

The library's programs continue to attract positive interest and growth with babies attending the Babies into Books lapsit program, preschool children and families attending Story time and children and youth attending our school holiday and school term programs.

The library has hosted a number of high profile visiting authors. New partnerships and programs have been developed with many artists, performers and new programs developed which have delivered a greater sense of belonging, a more vibrant activity space and wonderful life long learning opportunities to the community.

The library continues to provide a range of programs, technologies, collections and activities to meet the needs of young people.

The HSC lecture series was held regarding study technique and key subject topics and was well attended and received.

Recreation and Facilities

The Recreation and Leisure Services team have been involved in the design of community, recreation and leisure facilities in the new release areas of Oran

Park, Gregory Hills and Spring Farm to ensure quality facilities are provided for residents in emerging communities. A review of the Leases and Licensing procedures was undertaken streamlining the process and developing generic agreements for all Community Facilities and Sporting Fields.

The Birriwa Sportsfield amenity building was completed and incorporates change facilities, substantial storage units, and toilets, with a second floor kiosk and viewing balcony and a community room available for public hire. This facility has elevated the quality of the overall Sportsfield and is now seen as one of the premier grounds in the LGA and in great demand from a number of user groups. Upgrades were also carried out at a number of other areas including; Kirkham Park, with the canteen facilities receiving a major overhaul to incorporate storage areas in the building as well as improve the general usability, Sedgewick Reserve playground was the recipient of a significant upgrade which more than doubled the original size of the playground and an additional carpark was installed at Charker Reserve Harrington Park to alleviate some of the congestion on the streets with the assistance of HarPak.

Sportsfield lighting projects were completed at a number of council sporting reserves including Liquidambar, Elizabeth, Wandarrah and Jack Nash. Design work has commenced on the \$5million upgrade for the Camden Memorial Pools complex with construction to begin in the first half of 2010.

As the population continues to grow in the Camden LGA so too does the demand for Council's community and recreation facilities with usage again increasing significantly on previous years.

Camden Civic Centre continues to provide quality entertainment and facilities

The Civic Centre continues to provide a range of quality and affordable entertainment for families, youth and children as a component of the Centre's calendar of events.

Live performances by professional entertainers and community groups continue to attract large audiences to the centre, exposing the community to quality entertainment.

In 2008/09 near capacity crowds were achieved for many performances including The Wiggles "Kingdom of Paramithi", The Watoto Choir, Dorothy the much loved dinosaur, Justine Clarke, Cinderella, Spastic Council Local School Spectacular, Lachlan Glenn Pianist, and the Fishers Ghost Youth Orchestra.

Many of these performances, funded through the Council's Musical Fee Relief Policy, provided an opportunity for the community to access entertainment within an accessible pricing structure. The culmination of

children and family entertainment meant the provision of exciting, educational and culturally diverse entertainment for in excess of 10,000 members of our community.

Following the success of the inaugural Bumps, Bibs, Tots and Teeth Expo in November 2008 the Centre staff are in preparation for the second expo with an array of local service providers registering to promote quality services to families across Macarthur.

To complement the calendar of events the Centre continues to provide affordable facilities for the celebration of significant celebratory, community, cultural, civic and corporate events which support all age groups within the area.

Council continues to provide a competitive price structure for the Civic Centre, encouraging not for profit and private hirers to use the venue for a wide variety of events.

Financial Assistance

Contributions and Donations

A Funding Opportunities brochure was developed in 2007 detailing Council's community funding programs to promote funding opportunities for the local community. This brochure was promoted through Council's customer service desks, website, local media and community mailouts.

Camden Council's Community Financial Assistance Program 2008/09 Funding Round

Each year Camden Council provides funding to assist local non-profit community organisations and groups in providing services and facilities which will be of benefit to the Camden community.

The aim of the Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP) is to:

- assist in the establishment of new groups and services;
- enhance the quality of service delivery and facilities to meet community needs;
- promote increased access and equity of community resources, services and facilities; and
- encourage community participation in the provision of local services and activities.

There is one round of funding per year conducted in September, with projects up to the value of \$5,000 considered in line with the eligibility criteria.

Projects are considered under three categories:

- Community Cultural Development and the Arts;
- Sport and Recreation; and
- Community Projects

In the 2008/09 funding round Council has allocated a total of **\$39,906** to **14** groups and organisations approved for funding, including the organisations below. A mayoral reception was held on 9 February 2009 at the Camden Civic Centre to present cheques to the successful applicants.

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Vinnies Youth Housing	Provision of Beds	Part funding for purchase of whitegoods for homeless and at risk young people in the Camden and wider Macarthur area
Camden Rotary Club	Home Maintenance Support	Volunteer home maintenance and small repairs for older Camden residents
Macarthur Disability Services	Pilot multi-media project for people with a disability	Multimedia music and visuals, education, production and performance for people with a disability
Camden Area Youth Services	Professional make-up workshop	To improve young women's access to the youth space and in turn to other services.
Macarthur District Temporary Care	Let's Dance	A musical dance show involving young people with disabilities in Camden LGA
Camden Senior Citizen's	Photocopying for seniors	Photocopier for use by the various Seniors Groups in the area.

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Camden and District Netball Association	Upgrade of sound and timing system	New upgrade will benefit some 1600 members and families and will further assist expansion of the current competition
Narellan Lions Club	Club Trailer	Trailer will transport more BBQ equipment, tables, chairs etc to community events
Camden Soccer Club	Fit-out of disabled toilet and referee's shower	To assist in meeting disability requirements and to encourage inclusiveness.
Macarthur Lions	Modifications to the caravan used at community events	Increases community capacity and fund raising opportunities
Camden Community Connections	Financial Literacy Workshops	Part funding for provision of financial literacy program to assist families to better understand mortgages, superannuation, credit cards etc.
Harrington Park Scorpions Softball Club	Healthy Safe Family Sport	Part Funding of gazebo for club facility
Camden Aerodrome History Hut Association	History Hut Project	Part funding for upgrade of facility at Camden Aerodrome .
Narellan and Tahmoor MS Support Group	Social Ventures	Part funding to provide excursions for people with MS to increase participation in community.

Donations Policy

Council's Donations Policy is aimed at assisting individual residents with financial or in-kind support for charitable purposes. A number of donation requests were received in the 2008/2009 financial year, including financial support for local playgroups, providing medical services and equipment for people in need and assisting with many community events and activities.

A total of 14 applications were successful in the financial year 2008/2009 with a total of \$6,700 provided

Through the Donations Policy funding, local primary and high schools are also asked to nominate a student each year to receive a Mayoral Citizenship Award, which includes a certificate and book prize for a student in each school who promotes community wellbeing within the school and/or wider Camden community through the principles of active citizenship and participation.

Gifted and Talented Program

The gifted persons fund was established to support young residents, 23 years and under, with the costs of competing in academic, sporting or cultural competition that involved travelling outside the area.

A total of 20 applications were successful in the financial year 2008/2009 with a total of \$4,512.80 provided.

Annual Subsidies


In addition Council provided subsidies to the following organisations in the 2007/08 financial year:

Organisation	Subsidy amount
Camden Art Prize	\$16,887
Camden Historical Society	\$1,131
Ingleburn RSL Club and Campbelltown Pipes and Drum	\$1,545
Campbelltown-Camden District Band	\$1,545
Camden Community Band	\$2,163
South West Sydney Academy of Sport	\$8,000
Camden International Friendship Association	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$36,271

Musical Performance Fee Relief Program

The Camden Civic Centre Musical Fee Relief Program supported the provision of quality community entertainment through the management of the Council Musical Fee Relief Policy.

Two funding rounds were offered in September and March with applications from Musical Groups and individuals prepared to provide quality entertainment opportunities to the community at affordable rates.



The Council continues to provide funding to meet the following objectives;

- Increase accessibility to the Civic Centre venue, providing improved opportunity for musical and performance groups to utilize the facility
- Enhance community awareness and involvement in performance art
- Enhance community wellbeing, sense of belonging through exposure to high quality cultural events and activities.

Whilst the program offers the community an opportunity to access significant entertainment it also provides excellent opportunity for performers to showcase their talent to their community thereby gaining exposure.

Enabling not for profit community groups to perform within the venue at subsidised rates increases accessibility to the venue, accessibility to affordable quality entertainment, and utilisation of the venue.

Some of the significant funded events include the Watato Children's Choir Performance, Lachlan Glen's Gift to Camden Concert, Impact Under 25's, Spastic Council Christmas Carols, Fishers Ghost Youth Orchestra, Education Day Service, Fishers Gig, and the Macarthur Singers performance. These events each achieved excellent audience attendance and showcased the various entertainers of our community.

The Musical Fee Relief program continues to support community access to quality cultural programs that may not be readily available without the funding.

OTHER:

Welcome Pack

Council upgraded its new resident welcome package in 2008 to help people settle into their new community.

The welcome pack focuses on basic information to enable people to live, learn, work and play safely in Camden. The package includes a 'Welcome to Camden' booklet, Macarthur Bus Network timetable, Australian Electoral Commission change of address form, Macarthur visitors guide and a Camden Library Services membership form.

The packs are distributed to new residents with their new waste service while real estates are also assisting in the distribution of postcards.

Community Services e newsletter

The Community Services team developed the quarterly Community Services e-newsletter. The aim of the e newsletter is to keep local service providers and those that access Council services up to date with activities and initiatives of Council's Community Services team.

The newsletter is sent via email to over 100 local organisations on a database and outlines team structures, financial assistance opportunities, current projects and upcoming events and activities.

Compliance with Companion Animals Act 1998

Enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation

The principal object of this Act is to provide for the effective and responsible care and management of companion animals. The Act allows Council stricter controls on domestic cats and dogs by micro-chipping, registration and penalties for non-compliance with the Act.

Companion Animal seizure and animal care facility activities

The NSW Department of Local Government has initiated a system to collect data from NSW Councils about their seizure and animal care facility activities under the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Regulation. Data is being collected primarily to assist individual Councils in their animal management activities. The information is useful in the development of companion animal management policies, strategies and promotional activities. Stray animals seized within the Camden Local Government Area are transported to Council's contracted pound, Renbury Farm Animal Shelter.

The collection of data has been lodged with the Department of Local Government. The number of companion animals seized and/or impounded during 2008/09 reporting period are as follows:

	Seized	Returned to owner	Impounded at Renbury Farm	Surrendered by owner
Dogs	390	23	367	32
Cats	178	0	178	22
Total	568	23	545	54

Reported Dog Attacks 2008/09

Dog attack data is required to be reported to the Department of Local Government in order to guide policy and provide information to the Minister and Parliament. When Council receives a report of a dog attack and the investigation has been completed, a Dog Attack Data Collection Form is submitted to the Department of Local Government.



Within the Camden Local Government Area during 2008/09 the following attacks were reported:

Victim Type	Attacking Dog Identified	Attacking Dog Unidentified	Total
Person	10	3	13
Dog	2	3	5
Other Animal	2	3	5
Total	14	9	23

Companion Animal Management and activities

Council employs four rangers, three of which undertake general duty Ranger work including duties in respect of animal control and enforcement. Council's fourth ranger predominately undertakes Noxious Weeds duties and some other general ranger duties including animal control and enforcement.

The Department of Local Government rebate for the reporting period was \$75,104.

This is significantly higher than in previous years due to the recognition of the 4th quarter payment relating to 2008/09 in the correct period. This means that 2008/09 includes 5 payments.

Companion Animal community education programs

Camden Council promotes responsible pet ownership within the community in a variety of ways:

- Pet ownership and responsibilities are regularly displayed on community notice boards within the Camden Local Government Area. This includes notice boards in busy locations such as Narellan Town Centre.
- Pet responsibilities and changes to legislation are advertised in the local newspapers.
- Council provides information to local veterinary clinics and related animal businesses for distribution to their clientele.
- "Dangerous" and "Restricted Breed" dog owners are informed in writing of any changes to legislation or matters that may affect them.
- Council promotes the desexing of companion animals and ensures pet owners are aware of the reduced registration fee for desexed animals.
- Council rangers enforce the Companion Animals Act by issuing penalty infringement notices, nuisance orders and dangerous dog declarations where required.
- Rangers undertake regular patrols of local reserves and bike track/walking facilities to educate and inform pet owners of their responsibilities.

Alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals

Under Section 64 of the Companion Animals Act, Councils are required to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals. Camden Council informs and promotes responsible pet ownership including micro-chipping and registration. Micro-chipping and registration ensures the pet and its owner can be reunited.

Suitable unclaimed companion animals are re-homed and sent to rescue organisations.

Outcome of Dogs/Cats Impounded at Renbury Farm on behalf of Camden Council

	Released	Euthanased	Sent to Rescue Organisations	Sold
Dogs	210	61	90	55
Cats	9	148	29	14
Total	219	209	119	69

Dogs that have been declared dangerous or a restricted breed are not suitable to be re-homed and are euthanased as required by the Act. These dogs are included in the figures shown above. The animals which are euthanased often comprise of animals which are older or not suitable to be re-homed due to temperament or health.

Off leash areas provided within the Camden Local Government Area

Camden Local Government Area has two (2) off leash areas:

- River Road Reserve, Elderslie. This Reserve is a dedicated off leash area seven (7) days a week with no time restrictions.
- Bicentennial Equestrian Park. The Equestrian Park is only designated off leash before 10am and after 5pm daily. During horse event periods all dogs must be on leads.

Section 85

Section 85(1A) of the Act requires Council to use any money paid from the Fund only for the purposes that relate to the management and control of companion animals in its area.

The Department of Local Government rebate was fully utilised to offset employment and associated activities of companion animal management by Council.

Particulars of Compliance with and Effect of Planning Agreements in Force during 2008/09

27 Planning Agreements

Harrington Grove

This Voluntary Planning Agreement applies to land known as Harrington Grove, which is a 440 hectare site located to the north and west of the existing Harrington Park development. The objective of the agreement is to provide suitable funding for the provision of infrastructure, facilities and services to meet the relevant needs generated by the urban development. The Agreement includes heritage conservation works for the Orielson and Harrington Grove homesteads and significant bushland conservation works.

The bushland conservation works have commenced with the first annual report being submitted to Council. These works are well underway and have met the required outcomes.

Mater Die (Wivenhoe)

This Voluntary Planning Agreement applies to land known as Mater Dei or Wivenhoe, which is a 150 hectare site bound by Cobbitty Road to the north, Macquarie Grove Road to the east and the Mater Dei access driveway to the west. The objective of the agreement is to provide suitable funding for the

provision of infrastructure, facilities and services. The Agreement includes heritage conservation works for Wivenhoe and significant bushland conservation works.

Yamba

This Voluntary Planning Agreement applies to land known as Yamba, which is a 8.3 hectare site fronting Camden Valley Way at Kirkham. The site is situated between existing residential development at The Links Estate Narellan, rural land to the west, and Kirkham Lane to the south. The objective of the agreement is to require the proponent to undertake heritage conservation and adaptive reuse works to Yamba Cottage and associated buildings in conjunction with various stages of development of the site.

The proponent has commenced initial works to Yamba cottage which include weatherproofing the building and securing it against vandalism in accordance with the requirements of the VPA.