



Statutory Report 2006/07



summary report : bringing camden together



Statutory Report



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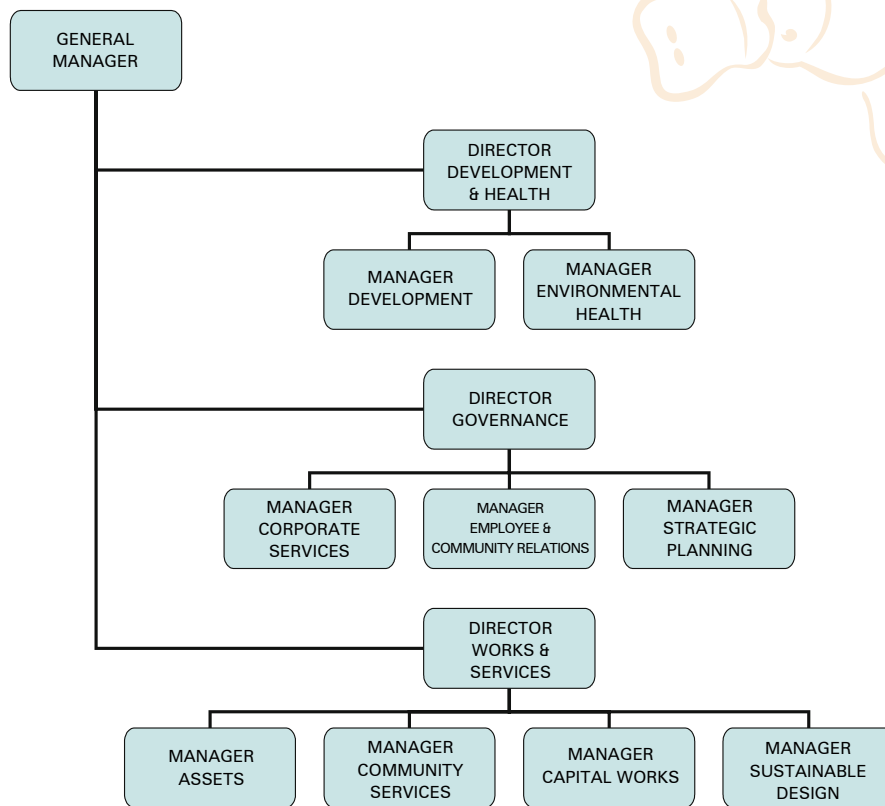
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Camden Council Structure and Functions (1 July 2006 – 31 December 2007)



Functions relating to each Branch

Manager Development

- Development Applications
- Site Inspections
- Building Complaints
- Development Certificates
- Development Control
- Fire Safety
- Minor Strategic Planning
- Serve Orders
- Public Entertainment
- Assess NatHERS
- Approve Advertising Signs
- Court Appeals
- Geographic & Land information
- Naming of Roads and Reserves
- Driveway Crossings
- Tree Removal
- Landscape Design
- Dam Construction
- Sand Extraction
- Final Plans of Subdivisions
- Bonds
- Pre DA Advisory Service
- Plan Printing

Manager Health & Environment

- Pollution – Air, Noise, Water
- Overgrown Land
- Environmental Assessment of DA's
- Environmental Advice
- Industrial & Commercial Audits
- Water Quality
- SOE Report
- Food Shops
- Legionnaires Inspections
- Hairdressing & Skin Penetration Salons
- Animal Complaints
- Noxious Weeds
- Parking Regulations
- Roadside Trading
- Unauthorised Signs
- Waste Management
- Earthworks Group
- Waste Education
- AWT Service
- 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 Rezoning
- State and Regional Planning Issues Strategic Landuse Planning
- Place Management
- Systems Management
- Community Consultation

Manager Employee & Community Relations

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

Manager Capital Works

- Capital Works
- Section 94 Works
- Design (Roads and Drains)
- Engineering Administration
- Emergency Services (SES and Rural Fire Service)

Manager Community Services

- Youth Services
- Children's Services
- Aged Services
- Family Day Care
- Libraries
- Section 355 Committees
- Civic Centre
- Sport & Recreation Facilities
- Community Information
- Community Liaison
- Volunteers Management
- Information Provision
- Events Management
- Community Facilities Management
- Community Development

Manager Assets

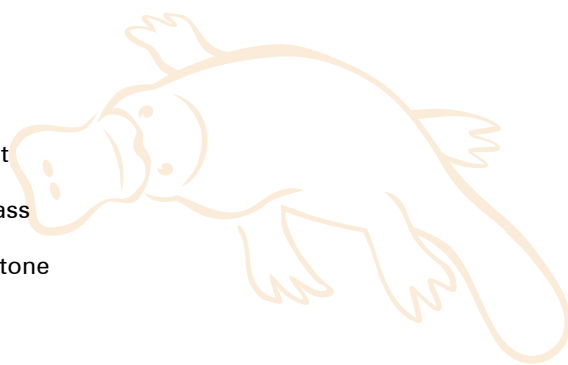
- Roads & Footpaths/ Cycleways Construction & Maintenance
- Stormwater Drainage
- Bus Shelters
- Public Toilets
- Building Maintenance
- Street and Traffic Signs
- Parks & Gardens
- Parks Volunteers
- Road Linemarking
- Street Sweeping
- Stores and Supply
- Depot and Workshop
- Construction Plant
- Vehicle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

Manager Environmentally Sustainable Design

- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Vegetation Management
- Design
- Sustainability
- Accessibility
- Community Road Safety
- Traffic
- Natural Areas Management
- Survey Design
- Cemetery Management
- Flooding
- Public Tree Management
- Tidy Towns Committee
- Local Traffic Committee
- Environmental Education

Senior Staff

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



Senior Staff Remuneration

General Manager	\$210,000
Director Governance & Outcomes	\$166,400
Director Works & Services	\$166,400
Director Development & Environment	\$166,400

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, total value non-cash benefits, and the total fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits.

Councillor Expenses

During 2006/07, Council provided:

Mayoral Allowance	\$29,345
Councillor Fees	\$120,960

Other Expenses

During 2006/07, Council provided:

• Dedicated Office Equipment	nil
• Telephone Calls	\$5,217.65
• Conferences/Seminars	\$7,617.08
• Training	nil
• Interstate Visits – all costs	\$2,832.17
• Oversea visits	nil
• Expenses for Spouses	\$40.91
• Child Care	nil
TOTAL	\$15,707.81



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

Review adopted 12 February 2007 – ORD25/07



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 will commence from (date of adoption)

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. (Section 252 and Section 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 2005 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 are outside the provisions of the annual fee determination made by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal 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.

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 Councillors 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 (inclusive 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, for 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 need 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 providers 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 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 the Tribunal or investigative body makes a finding substantially favourable to the Councillor.

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

- Councillors letterhead.

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

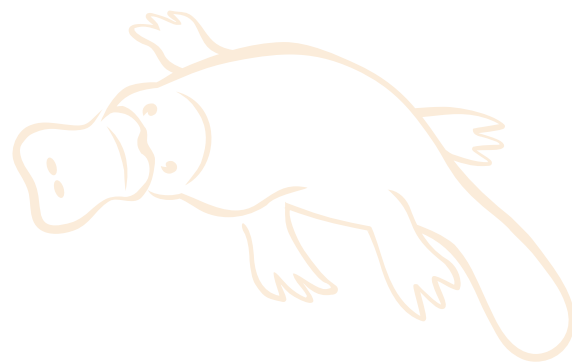
All equipment provided to Councillors contained in this Policy, remain the property of Camden Council. Such equipment will be returned on completion of the term of office, however, Councillors not seeking re-election or not returned may request the purchase of such property. The General Manager will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



Overseas Visits Undertaken by Councillors, Council Staff & Other Persons Representing Council

During the 2006/07 reporting period one overseas visit was undertaken to Japan to mark the tenth anniversary of the Friendship Agreement between Camden Council and Kashiwa City Council. Camden's representatives were Councillor Chris Patterson, Councillor Peter Johnson and Mr Greg Wright. All three representatives met their own expenses and Council made no financial contribution to the cost of the trip. Council did, however, grant Mr Wright five days special leave to attend.

Rates and Charges Written Off During 2006/07



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 2006/07 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 2002	\$2,919.02
Interest to 30/6/2007	\$1,187.98
Total	\$4,107.00

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

Amount	\$1,721.20
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3. The amount of pension rebates granted during the 2006/07 rating year.

Pension Rebates	\$430,133.50
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Council has claimed and received 55% reimbursement from the State Government for the amount written off.

The total amount of rates and charges written off in the rating year 2006/07 is \$435,961.70 and appropriate provision was made in the 2006/07 Budget.

Major Contract Awards

Outstanding Payments from Previous Period made to contracts during 2006/07

JOB DESCRIPTION	CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT SUM	VARIATION	AMOUNT PAID 2006/2007
Camden Library	Barker Solutions	\$1,781,022.73	\$144,488.79	\$1,596,983.27
Camden Valley Way Culvert	TJ & R F Fordham	\$1,119,191.00	\$23,184.17	\$524,971.94
Harrington Park Water Quality Stage 1 & 2	TJ & R F Fordham	\$1,027,634.98	\$630,681.20	\$145,317.98
Concept Design Carpark	Kann Finch Group Pty Ltd	\$241,950.00	\$0.00	\$127,037.03

List of Tenders over \$100,000 entered into by Council during 2006/07

1. Harrington Park Waterbody 2

Contract
TJ & RF Fordham \$1,278,716.00

2. Realignment The Old Oaks Road

Contract
WEM Civile Pty Ltd \$625,607.00

3. Liquidamber Tennis Courts

Contract
Liquidamber Tennis Courts \$311,500.00

4. Wandarrah Reserve Amenities

Contract
Avoca Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd \$203,097.00

5. Smeaton Grange Road Reconstruction

Contract
TJ & RF Fordhm \$577,821.00

Freedom of Information Act 1989 Requirements

For the 12 Month Period ending 30 June, 2007 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 2006/07 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, 2007 is as follows:

	06/07	05/06		06/07	05/06
SECTION A -			SECTION B -		
FOI Requests			Completed Requests		
New Requests Received	16	19	Granted in Full	15	18
Completed	16	18	Granted in Part	NIL	NIL
Withdrawn *see note	NIL	1	Refused	1	1
Total Processed	16	18	Deferred	NIL	NIL
Unfinished	NIL	NIL			
SECTION C -			SECTION D -		
Ministerial Certificates			Formal Consultation		
Issued	NIL	NIL	Number of Requests Requiring Formal Consultations	1	1
SECTION E -			SECTION F -		
Amendment of Personal Records			Notation of Personal Records		
Amendment Requests	NIL	NIL	Requests for Notation	NIL	NIL
SECTION G -			SECTION H -		
FOI Requests Refused			Costs and Fees Requests		
Reason -Section 25(1) (a) (Exempt)	1	1	All Completed Requests:		
Section 25 (1) (Document more than 5 yrs old)		NIL	Processing Costs	\$495.00	\$525.00
			Fees Received (including copying fees)		\$240.00
SECTION I -			SECTION J -		
Discounts Allowed			Total # Days to Process		
Pensioner	1	1	0-30 days	15	125
			31-45 days		
			Over 45 days **	1	14
SECTION K -			SECTION L -		
Total Processing Time			Reviews and Appeals		
0-10 hours	35.75	77.40	Number of internal reviews requested	1	1
11-20 hours			Number of Ombudsman Reviews Requested	1	1
21-40 hours	14.00		Number of Administrative Decision Tribunal Appeals Finalised	1	NIL
Over 40 hours					

FOI Act had no impact on Council's activities, policies or procedures during the 2006/07 year.

Note: Camden Council processed 33 applications under Section 12 of the Local Government Act – access to information in the 2006/07 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.

Since the last reporting period, 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 2006/07 there were no requests conducted under Part 5 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998.

Legal Proceedings 2006/07

Approximately \$336,892.00 was expended in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against Council (legal and court costs, settlements etc) during the 2006/07 reporting period.

Legal Actions resolved during the 2006/07 reporting period.

Defendant	Offence	Plea	Result
Lackey Place, Currans Hill	Appeal of a Penalty Infringement Notice: Fail to Comply with Control Requirements	Not Guilty	Penalty Infringement Notice withdrawn after mention
Cruikshank Avenue, Elderslie	Breaches of S51 of Companion Animals Act1998	Guilty	Convicted
Hayter Parade, Camden South	Appeal of a Penalty Infringement Notice: Animal Not Registered x 7	Not Guilty	Annulled
Blackmore Road, Smeaton Grange	Pollute waters - Matter with council's solicitors awaiting further action	On-going	Court action to commence
Coates Park Road, Cobbitty	Appeal Dangerous Dog Declaration and PIN issued.	On-going	On-going
John Street, Camden	Appeal Penalty Infringement Notice: Stop in parking area for disabled without current permit displayed.	Guilty	Section 10

Defendant	Offence	Plea	Result
Catherine Field Road Catherine Field	Removal of 12 trees. The matter be referred to Council's solicitors for action to proceed against property owner Catherine Field Road, for unauthorised tree felling and land clearing.	On-going	Court action to commence
Catherine Field Road Catherine Field	Removal of 12 trees. The matter be referred to Council's solicitors for action to proceed against property owner for unauthorised tree felling and land clearing.	On-going	Court action to commence
Ingleburn Road Leppington	Carry out development without consent, removal of 4 trees. The matter be referred to Council's solicitors for action to proceed against property owner for unauthorised tree felling and land clearing.	On-going	Court action to commence
VIP Kennels - Dwyer Road, Leppington	Appeal against Demolition Order		The Commissioner upheld the appeal by the Plaintiff Land & Environment Court - 16 Jan 07 & 2 May 07
VIP Kennels - Dwyer Road, Leppington	Non Compliance with Order to cease use and demolish works		Camden Local Court - Matter listed for 19 November 2007
Deepfields Road, Catherine Field	Unauthorized Removal of 12 trees. The matter be referred to Council's Solicitors to proceed with action in the Local Court against property owner for unauthorised tree removal at Deepfields Road, Catherine Field.	On-going	Court action to commence

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.

Expenditure during the 2006/07 reporting period: \$8,908

Income during 2006/07 reporting period:

\$19,387

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

The National Competitive 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 the National Competitive 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 2006/07.

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 2006/07 reporting period.

Statement of all Companies in which the Council held a Controlling Interest during 2006/07

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the 2006/07 reporting period.

Partnerships, Co-operatives and Joint Ventures during 2006/07

It should be noted the 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

- The recruitment of all staff is based on merit principles which ensures that the most suitable candidate is selected for any vacant position and that all potential applicants are afforded equal opportunity.
- Extensive workforce planning is currently underway to ensure that the organisation is adequately and appropriately staffed to meet current and future needs. Adequate staffing levels are of critical importance as extensive urban growth continues to impact on the organisation.
- The development of a Human Resource Management Strategic Plan is underway and will provide invaluable guidance and direction for the future.
- Continued uncertainty regarding industrial relations legislation presents ongoing challenges and planning for the anticipated changes and subsequent impact is well underway.
- Council's commitment to good employee relations continues and is supported through sound consultation and communication.
- Counselling and mediation services continues to provide through direct contact with the Employee Relations Branch and by way of Council's Employee Assistance Program.
- The provision of employment opportunities for young people remains at a high level. Two trainees have been employed in the Employee Relations and Library areas of Council and through a partnership with the University of New South Wales student planners are employed to complete the industry component of their degree course. A successful partnership with MG - My Gateway provides the opportunity for Council to become a host employer to eight trainees and one apprentice. Council also continues to employ two staff members with a

disability through the Supported Wage Program.

- Over the past twelve months a growing number of employees have been formally recognised by way of awards at both regional and state level which is testimony to the outstanding progress and achievement of staff at Council.
- Child Protection Legislation requirements continue to be implemented and reviewed.
- Employment based policies and procedures continue to be implemented and reviewed.

Training and Development

As the local government area continues to grow at a rapid rate the delivery of a high standard of service to our community will rely heavily on the skills, knowledge and expertise of Council's staff.

Staff participated in a total of 198 training programs with 654 staff attending. Training was 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 designed to provide broader knowledge and career development opportunities

Staff seeking to obtain or increase tertiary qualifications continue to be supported through Council's Staff Development Assistance Program and it has been particularly pleasing to see excellent academic results being achieved.

The total expenditure for training during the period has been \$191,539.27.

Work Experience

Students participated in work experience and work placement programs and close relationships continue to be maintained with local educational institutions. Campbelltown and Camden Councils continue to participate jointly in successful local Careers Expos which are designed to provide information about employment opportunities in Local Government to students. Camden Council has and will continue to participate in state wide initiatives co-ordinated by the Local Government Association.

Occupational Health & Safety

The Occupational Health and Safety Committee, which is made up of staff and management representatives, continues to operate effectively and ensures a pro active approach to workplace safety is taken.

To ensure ongoing commitment to the advancement of a sound Occupational Health and Safety System a review of all policies, procedures and processes is underway. The implementation of anticipated recommendations will ensure a safe work environment continues to be provided, ongoing compliance with legislation and mitigation of potential liability and risk.

Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee, comprised of staff and management representatives, continues to provide a forum for consultation between Council and its employees. New committee members have been elected and appropriate training undertaken.

Equal Employment Opportunity

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

An extensive training program was implemented in the latter part of 2006 to ensure all staff understood Council's Dignity & Respect in the Workplace Policy and their obligations in relation to this Policy. Supervisors and Managers were also reminded of their obligation to ensure all staff adhere to and abide by all employment related policies.

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 identified:

- Approximately 600 hectares of total mowing area were maintained throughout the 2006/07 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 2006/07 reporting period.
- Roads & Traffic Authority state main roads within the Camden LGA were maintained under contract by Camden Council eight (8) times within the 2006/07 reporting period.
- Fire breaks in John Oxley Reserve and Gundungurra Reserve were cut four (4) times within the 2006/07 reporting period.
- All rural roadsides were cut twice (2) within the 2006/07 reporting period.

Comparison of Actual Stormwater Management Services with Projected Stormwater Management Services as Proposed in the Management Plan

As at 30 June, 2007, Council had not adopted a stormwater management levy. It has been resolved by Council that the levy be introduced as from the 1 July, 2007.

External Bodies Exercising Delegated Council Functions — Community Management Committees

Committee	Highlights
Camden Seniors Program	The Camden Seniors Program Committee provided four (4) major events over the financial year – these were Spring Luncheon, a Christmas Luncheon, Seniors Concert and a Lifestyle and Leisure Expo for Seniors. 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.
Bicentennial Equestrian Park	Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Community Management Committee report the Committee completed a successful year in 2006/07, with the Park used on 80 event days involving 4,490 competitors, 5,230 spectators and about 7,500 persons using the Camden Markets parking area. The Committee met on twelve (12) occasions and members were active between meetings, involving a total contribution of some 60 weeks. The Premier Groups, Camden Horse Trails, Cobbitty Pony Club, County of Cumberland Campdraft Club, Illawarra Dressage Association and Sydney Polocrosse Club, Camden Show Society, were active during the year, both with events and voluntary work in the park. Highlights were the One Day Events including the cross country competition, the Campdraft involving some 1,000 head of cattle and 400 horses, Polocrosse carnivals preparing for the October Nationals, Dressage Championships, and the regular Pony Club activities for the children and young adults. Of the voluntary works, Sydney Polocrosse Club with their ground earthworks and park wide grass seeding and fertilizing, together with the Campdraft maintenance of the southern end of the Park were outstanding. Others provided support through their preparation for specific events. The Management Committee acknowledges the valuable assistance given by Camden Council's officers and Councillors and looks forward to further ongoing support to help achieve the parks full potential.
Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA)	CIFA have been involved in many activities during the year through their Friendship Agreement with Kashiwa City in Japan, including: Camden students visited Japan in September 2006 to visit High Schools, Primary Schools and Disneyland. The trip also included a homestay with Japanese families, a civic reception, cultural activities and trips to Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kobe. CIFA organised a homestay for 14 Japanese Students and 2 Leaders from KIRA (Kashiwa International Friendship Association) for 10 days with Camden families. The visitors experienced a bush camp, farm activities, trips to the Blue Mountains, Featherdale Wildlife Park, local primary and high schools as well as an International Students Reception at Camden Civic Centre and Bush Dance. The Anime and Cultural Club for young people interested in Japanese culture continues to meet monthly in the Camden Civic Centre Undercroft, with discussions on Japanese art and film screenings. A group of 26 Adults including Camden Councillors and General Manager, CIFA and Anime Cultural Club members visited Japan in March/April 2007 for the 10th Anniversary of the Friendship Agreement with Kashiwa City where they attended a Civic Reception and celebratory dinner, as well as visiting Japanese cities including Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

Committee	Highlights
Catherine Field Community Hall and Tennis Courts “go over and beyond”	The Committee was dissolved on 25 September 2006 with management of the Catherine Field Hall and Park being taken up by Council.
Leppington Oval and Tennis Courts	The Committee continues to manage the bookings for the Leppington Oval and Tennis Courts throughout the year, providing a valuable recreational service to local residents.
Australia Day	The Committee was dissolved on 25 September 2006 and co-ordination of Australia Day event taken up by Council, with support of individual organisations and community members.
Camden Festival	The Camden Festival celebrated its fourth year in 2005 and continues to grow, in popularity as a regional festival. The Camden Festival Committee has been able to attract representatives from key organisation from across Macarthur this has meant that it has had these organisations resources available to support key events. The festival highlights have included: the street fair in Argyle Street Camden, Food, Wine and Music Festival at Belgenny Farm, Camden Kids Fun Day and Cinema under the stars – held at the Mount Annan Botanic Gardens for the first time in 2005. A number of other community events coincide with the festival adding to the ambience and celebratory atmosphere across Camden. These include: Seniors Luncheon, at Belgenny Farm, Camden Park House open weekend and the Goulburn to Sydney Bike Race finishing in Argyle Street Camden.
Camden Christmas Lights	The Committee was dissolved on 25 September 2006 and coordination of the Christmas Lights event was taken up by Council, with support of individual organisations and community members.
Camden Town Farm	The past 12 months has been a busy time for the Town Farm. Council adopted the Town Farm Masterplan in May 2007, the plan identifies opportunities and provides direction for the Farm. A toilet facility has been constructed, and new fencing and interpretive signage installed. The Committee has worked hard throughout the year to improve the facility and prepare the Farm for community events and open days.



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

The Community Plan also contains strategies to respond specifically to the needs of the seven (7) 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

Council continued to support the Camden Seniors Program Committee (a Community Management Committee of Council), which held 4 successful events throughout the year including, the Spring Picnic, Early Christmas Luncheon, Seniors Week Concert and a Leisure and Lifestyle Expo.

Council officers participated in a Grandparents and Grandkids Day at Curry Reserve as part of Seniors Week 2006 and coordinated the production and distribution of a Calendar of Events publicising events and activities for older people in the Camden area. Seniors Week which was distributed widely across the Camden community.

Camden Library delivered a significant seniors week program to promote life long learning and health and well being. The program included talks on diabetes, travel, financial management and healthy eating and exercise.

Community Planning and Development has also been working with local community members and community organisations to facilitate an older driver's project 'No Car, No Worries', designed to support and advise older people on public transport options once they stop driving.

Council's Cultural Development Coordinator supported the production of a DVD regarding the history of Camden with the Carrington Computer Club, an IT club for seniors.

Council officers are also an initial point of contact for older residents and carers who are seeking individual information and referral for local residents.

The library continues to provide a range of services tailored to the needs of older residents, including:

- Extension of the Home Library Services for housebound and residents of local nursing homes;
- Extension of the large print and talking books collection;
- Internet classes and one-on-one training for older people;
- Involvement in planning days for local aged services;
- Grandparents and Grandkids Story time sessions in seniors week and to celebrate grandparents Day;
- Seniors week events including Memory Man and picnic Storytime.

Key activities and projects for people with a disability

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.

A number of initiatives were implemented including:

- Disability Awareness training was provided for all council staff, with specific sessions relating to customer service and working with people with a disability;
- Participation in a disability services mapping process to identify service gaps which informed State Government Planning;
- Funding for purchase of additional library books in large print;
- Conduct a regional poster competition (MacAbility) with primary and high schools to raise awareness of disability issues and challenge negative stereotypes;
- Coordinating activities for International Day of People with a Disability;
- Continued improvements in access to Council's facilities and services;
- Access upgrade of community park in Curry Reserve; and
- Increased access to information on Council's website.

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 provide information on access to the community, advocate for increased access to public and commercial areas



and assist Council in the implementation of the Disability Action Plan. The ACAG was also responsible for successfully lobbying for the inclusion of an Access Award category in the Camden/Wollondilly Business Awards for 2007.

Funding was provided through Council's Community Financial Assistance Program for Tahmoor MS School Support Group to provide a recreational/social service to local people with a disability; Macarthur Disability Services for a 'Short Film – Tall Stories' project including workshops for people with a disability in creating short films to raise awareness of disability issues; Camden Christian Life Centre towards equipment for a respite service for families/children with a disability and seek funding for the establishment of the Camden Stroke Recovery Club who provide social support and education to people recovering from a stroke and their families.

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.

ACAG provided input into the Camden Library redevelopment to ensure the library signage, furnishings, resources and counters met accessibility standards. ACAG nominated the Library Service for the Accessibility Award in the Camden Wollondilly Awards.

Key activities and projects for Young People

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 activities 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. Funding was also provided to Camden Area Youth Services for a portable BBQ to enable the service to outreach to young people across the Camden LGA.

Council received funding through the Department of Community Services Youth Week grants to coordinate and fund projects throughout Youth Week 2007 with a range of activities and events being held including drama workshops and performances, the launch of the 'Driven to Distraction' DVD, a band night, a joint Youth Forum with Wollondilly Council, a trivia night, graffiti workshop, craft activities and the official launch of the Camden Youth Café.

The Camden Youth Café commenced operation in March 2007 and is based in the Narellan Youth Space above Narellan Library. The service operates on three afternoons each week with a Coordinator and Assistant and provides a safe, supervised and fun environment for young people in the Camden area with regular programmed activities, resources, information and comfortable areas to spend time with friends.

The Youth Café also hosted a band night in June 2007 in conjunction with local young people to raise money for Oxfam. Over 100 young people attended the event, with over \$1000 raised on the night.

A DVD 'Driven to Distraction' highlighting safe driving was produced by local young people at Camden Creative Studios. The DVD looks at driver distraction and young people were the creative drive in the development and production of the DVD which will be promoted through local schools.

The opening of the sound and dark room has provided a valuable resource for young musicians and photographers. Young people were well represented in the inaugural CD 'Local Produce' and the photography exhibition both of which were launched in Youth Week 2006.

Council ran a Carmony (Camden + Harmony) project with young people from local high schools with Multicultural nights funded through the Department of Community Services. The nights aimed to raise awareness of various cultures represented in our local community with film, food, dance, music and guest speakers. The Carmony group also organised an under-18s Multicultural Dance Party in March 2007 at the Camden Civic Centre with funding provided through Macarthur Youth Commitment.

A Regional Youth Forum for Young Leaders was held in November 2006 with representatives from schools across Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee discussing issues and strategies relevant to young people. The forum's discussions have formed the basis of a Regional Youth Action Plan between the three Councils and Department of Education.

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 library continues to provide a range of programs and collections to meet the needs of young people. A highlight of the program was the production of a DVD for Inflight Entertainment.

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

The Camden Library "In Concert" series has provided a platform for young musicians to showcase their talents locally as well as providing a cultural program for the wider community.

Key activities and projects for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

Activities were held to celebrate NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Day of Observance Committee) Week in July 2006 with an official flag raising ceremony to mark the start of NAIDOC Week followed by a Mayoral Reception at the Camden Civic Centre. Other events included a fun day and community lunch as well as an art competition for local schools.

An official flag raising and Mayoral Reception was also held during Reconciliation Week in May 2007, with guest speakers and a screening of the reconciliation film 'Kanyini' at the reception.

Council has been able to support an indigenous women's group in the Camden local area by providing funding through Council's Community Financial Assistance Program for activities to strengthen connections between mothers and daughters.

Council staff are also involved in regular meetings of the South West Sydney Koori Interagency.

Key activities and projects for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

A Harmony Day event was held in March 2007 to celebrate diversity and encourage awareness of different cultures in our local area. The day included cultural displays, community information, performances from cultural dance group and musicians and guest speakers discussing their experiences both in their country of origin and in Australia.

Council also facilitated a Carmony project with young people from local high schools to raise awareness of various cultures represented in our local community through Multicultural nights of film, food, dance, music and guest speakers. The Carmony group also organised an under-18s Multicultural Dance Party in March 2007 at the Camden Civic Centre through funding provided by Macarthur Youth Commitment.

Council continued to provide support to the Chinese Market Garden Project through membership of the Camden Market Garden Committee. Funding was provided to the South West Sydney Chinese Children School Association to the Chinese market garden community language school to purchase equipment to assist local children in learning about their cultural background.

MDSi (Macarthur Diversity Services Inc) continues to have an office in Narellan Community Office Space with a worker responsible for outreaching in the rural north of the Local Government Area.

As part of the Camden International Friendship Association's sister city project a program of Japanese Anima Movie screenings occurs at the Camden Civic Centre. This is attended by a mixture of visiting Japanese students and other interested residents. A discussion group is held after each screening.

The library has established a partnership with MDSi and throughout the year provided storytime to the multicultural playgroup at Currans Hill.

Other activities Council were involved in to support people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds included:

- Participating in the Macarthur Settlement Planning Committee and the Macarthur Migrant Interagency.
- Increased partnerships and networks with community organisations and cultural groups.

Key activities and projects for children and families

Camden's Children and Families Strategic Plan (2005 –2010) continues to be implemented. 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 included in the two major community events held for Children and Families in 2006/07.

Children's Fun Day 2006

Council in partnership with Camden Area Community Resource Centre (now known as Camden Community Connections) and Centrelink held Children's Fun Day in October 2006 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. The activities include access to the toy library's large outdoor toys, information regarding children's services, jumping castles and free barbeque.

Family Fun Day 2007

In May 2007 Council, in conjunction with Camden Community Connections and Centrelink, held a Family Fun Day as part of National Families Week 2007 at Onslow Park in Camden. Families Week is held annually in May to promote the interests of families. This year's theme was FITT- 'Families Investing in Time Together' with promotional material available with handy hints of how to achieve the theme within families. The day was a success with activities that provided physical, creative and intellectual stimulation for children and a bit of respite for carers. Community Bands played throughout the day and the fire brigade provided interest for older children. Everyone appreciated the free sausage sizzle and drinks. The voluntary contribution of the NSW Fire Brigade, Macarthur Lions and local businesses helped make the day a success.

Funding was provided through Council's Community Financial Assistance Program to community groups and organisations supporting children and families in the Camden area including equipment for the Chinese market garden community language school; upgrade of Camden Playgroup outdoor area and support of a respite service for children with a disability.

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 are experience additional stress or hardship. Camden Family Day Care continues to provide an accredited service which meets licencing and regulatory requirements.

Quality Entertainment and Cultural facilities

The Civic Centre continues to provide a range of quality and affordable entertainment for children aged from 0-5yrs. These events have provided quality entertainment for 5000 youngsters and formed part of the significant program of community events the Centre offers. Working in partnership with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music the centre continues to provide music classes for pre school students.

In addition to large scale entertainment the Centre hosts a variety of School Holiday activities for youth.

The centre remains competitive offering a range of affordable packages, accessible facilities and equitable pricing structures.

Library Services

The library's programs continue to attract positive interest and growth with over 1200 babies attending the Babies into Books lapsit program, just short of 4000 preschool children attending Story-time and 1300 students attending school holiday activities.

A range of school holiday activities are held in the library for the K – Yr 6 age groups. The introduction of the Holiday Happenings activities day staged in the plaza at Narellan Library has been very successful with themes now introduced for each holiday. The Summer Reading Program again was hugely successful with over 360 children participating, with 1070 books read amongst participants.

The library has hosted a number of visiting authors, artists, performers and events which have delivered a greater sense of belonging, a more vibrant activity space and wonderful life long learning opportunities to the community.



Program	Regularity	Attendance
Story-time preschool story time sessions.	Four times a week	3873
BIBS (Babies into books program)	Once a week	1210
Children Holiday activities	Program runs every school holidays	1096
Young adult activities Project busters Pizza 'n' pages Get Creative	Offered monthly	114
HSC Lectures	Annual program	140
Young adult holiday activities	Program runs every school holidays	215
Internet training	Perpetual courses, six months each.	18 candidates per course
Author visits Brant Web and Todd Russell		150
Book discussion group	Monthly	12 each session
Local studies programs	Run in conjunction with History, and Heritage weeks.	62
In concert series	Monthly	50 each session
Artist of the month	Monthly rotation	Visits indicated in library statistics.
Book Week visiting author	Annual program school program and visiting author	380
Library tours	Average two per month	40 each month
School visits	5 per week during school terms	175 Yr 7 students
Duke of Edinburgh host	Annual program	20 students
Adult programs Knit in Seniors week activities Law week activities Libraries week	Run throughout the year	228

Camden Library Open Day 2006

Camden Library celebrated the redevelopment of the Camden Library Service with a community open day in April. The day was attended by over 3,000 people who enjoyed activities, displays, rides and entertainment.

Since re-opening over 10,000 people have visited the Camden Library each month.

Key activities for women.

Council organised the inaugural Camden Women's Awards 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 Library.

Council officers are also part of the Camden/Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee, raising awareness of domestic violence in the community and providing community activities for local women.

Funding was provided to the Carwoola Council of Elders Women's Group to support the establishment of an indigenous women's group in the Camden area who are Aboriginal/connected to the Aboriginal community and support a Mother and Daughter Bonding Project.

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.



Community Financial Assistance Program

The Community Financial Assistance Program is a Council funded grant program for one off projects or capital expenditure for community groups or organisations. Applications can be made under the categories of Sport and Recreation, Community Cultural Development and the Arts and Community Projects. A total of \$38,623 was provided to the following projects in 2006/07:

Organisation	Project Name	Project Summary
Camden Liquor Accord	Drinking Kills Driving Skills	Promoting road safety and raising awareness
Camden Playgroup	Camden Playgroup outdoor play space	Upgrade play area
Camden Christian Life Centre	Oasis	Respite service for families/children with a disability.
Camden Stroke Recovery Club	Start up funding	Provide social support/education to people recovering from a stroke and their families.
Camden Area Youth Services	United We Sizzle	Portable BBQ to enable service to outreach to young people
Carwoola Council of Elders Womans Group	Mother and Daughter Bonding	Establish a group in the Camden area who are Aboriginal/connected to the Aboriginal community
WRARG (Wilson Cr Richardson Rd Area Residents Group)	Celebrating Narellan @ 180	Raise awareness off the history of Narellan for local residents.
Tahmoor MS School Support Group	Social Venture	Provides a recreational/social service to local people with a disability.
Macarthur Disability Services	Short Film – Tall Stories	Work shops for people with a disability in creating short films to raise awareness.
South West Sydney Chinese Children School Association	Chinese market garden community language school	Purchase of equipment to assist local children in learning about their cultural background.

Donations

Council's Donations Policy is aimed at assisting individual residents with financial or in-kind support for charitable purposes. A small number of donation requests were received in the 2006/07 financial year, but with increased promotion in the Funding opportunities brochure it is expected that this number will increase in 2007/08.

Through the Donations Policy funding, local primary and high schools are 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 Persons Fund

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 involve travelling outside of the area.

A total of 24 applications were received and processed in the financial year 2006/07 with a total of \$3,853 provided.

Additional Funding

In addition Council provided subsidies to the following organisations in the 2006/07 financial year:

Organisation	Subsidy amount
Camden Art Prize	\$16,395
Camden Historical Society	\$1,098
Ingleburn RSL Club and Campbelltown Pipe and Drum	\$1,500
Campbelltown-Camden District Band	\$1,500
Camden Community Band	\$2,100
South West Sydney Academy of Sport	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$32,593

Musical Fee Relief Program

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

Camden Council provides 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
- To enhance community awareness and involvement in performance art

- To enhance community wellbeing, sense of belonging through exposure to high quality cultural events and activities

Events staged within the Centre under the policy included the Hooley Dooleys Concert, Spastic Council Carols by Candlelight and Camden Band Night featuring Camden High School Band, Campbelltown and Camden District Band, Rugby Band, NAIDOC week celebrations.

The program has enabled not-for-profit community groups to perform within the venue at subsidised rates increasing accessibility to the venue and accessibility to affordable quality entertainment for the broader community.

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 to assist in developing 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 2006/07 reporting period are as follows:

	Seized	Return to owner	Impounded at Renbury Farm	Surrendered by owner
Dogs	384	29	355	19
Cats	78	3	75	49
Total	462	32	430	68

Reported Dog Attacks 2006/07

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 2006/07 the following attacks were reported:

Victim Type	Attacking Dog Identified	Attacking dog Unidentified	Total
Person	6	0	6
Dog	11	2	13
Other Animal	1	2	3
Total	18	4	22

In the above data the most common type of 'other animal' to be attacked during 2006/07 were sheep.

Companion Animal Management and activities

Council employs a Companion Animals Officer and three other Rangers who have partial duties in respect of animal control and enforcement, in addition to general type ranger duties and noxious weeds.

The Department of Local Government rebate for the reporting period was \$52,074.

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.

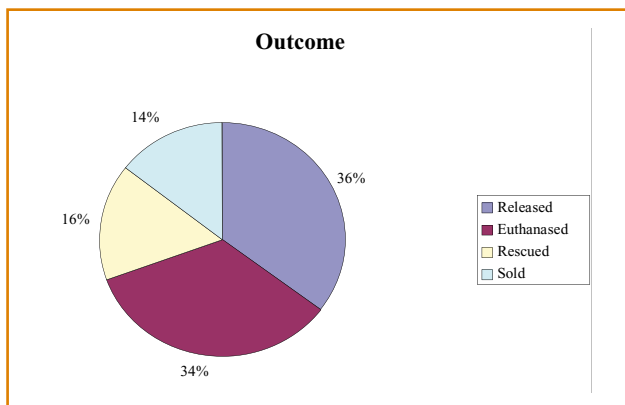
- Pet responsibilities and changes to legislation are advertised in the local newspapers.
- Council provide information to local veterinary clinics and related animal businesses for distribution to their clientele.
- “Dangerous” and “Restricted Breed” dog owners are informed in writing of any changes to legislation or matters that may affect them.
- Council promote the desexing of companion animals and ensure 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



Only 34% of the dogs/ cats impounded were humanely euthanased. 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 between 5am – 9am 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 2006/07

There were no planning agreements in force during the 2006/07 reporting period.