

Community Financial Report

The Community Financial Report aims to provide a brief summary of Council's 2006/07 Financial Statements in a form that is readily understood by members of our community, customers, employees and other stakeholders. Complete Financial Reports commence on page 78.







Budget

To ensure that the City of Ryde maintains a sound financial position, Council prepares a budget as part of a detailed planning cycle. Similar to managing a household budget, money needs to be earned, bills have to be paid and savings need to be set aside for future needs.

Council's expenditure budget for 2006/07 was \$97 million. In 2007/08 the expenditure budget will be \$101 million.

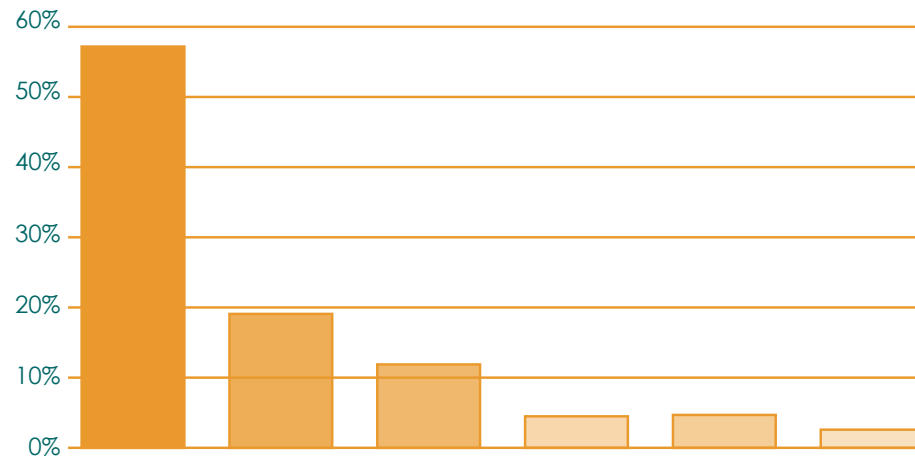
Financial Performance

Where did our money come from?
(Income Statement)

Rates and Annual Charges	57.2%	
Grants and Contributions	19.1%	
User Charges and Fees	11.9%	
Interest & Investment Income	4.7%	
Other	4.5%	
Asset Disposal	2.6%	

Total 100%

Total Income \$84.4 Million



As indicated in the graph, Council's main source of income is from rates, \$48.2 million, or 57.2%. Federal and State Government grants assist in providing facilities and services in the community. User charges and fees (such as Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre and regulatory/statutory fees) are also an important source of income.

Where is the money spent?

(Income Statement)

Council provides a wide array of essential services and infrastructure to the community. This work is done by Council's employees and contractors. Combined, this equates to 77.16% of all expenditure.

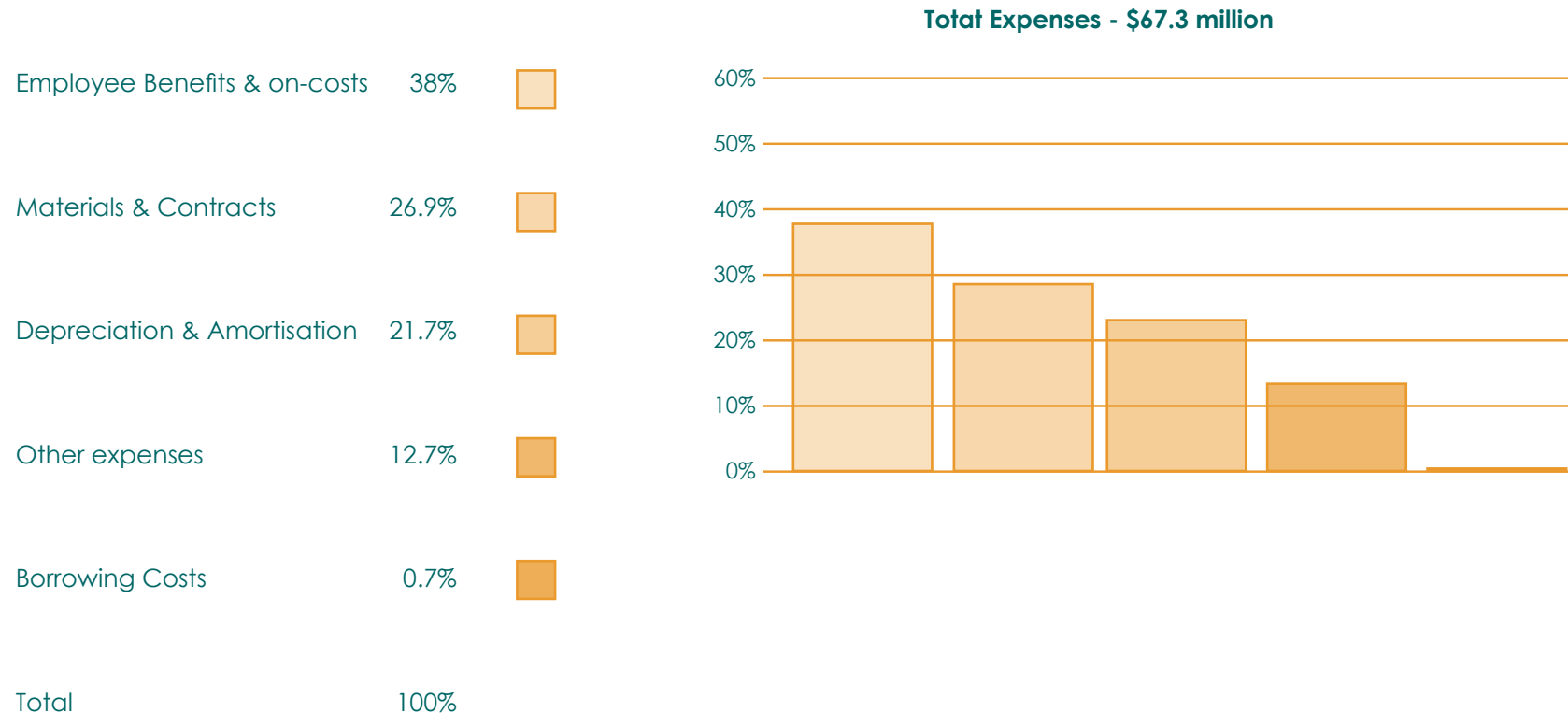
In planning for the future, 21.7% is allocated towards the future replacement of assets (via depreciation).
0.7% of expenditure is used to repay loans.

What was our Capital Expenditure?

The income statement does not include expenditure on the purchase of assets.

Council delivered \$23.6 million on capital expenditure, a \$2 million increase from the previous year. Major projects included:

- Restoration of Brush Farm House (\$2.5 million)
- Roadworks (\$3.5 million)
- Catchments (\$2 million)
- Parks (\$2million)
- Town Centre Upgrades (\$1.2 million)
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (\$0.9million)

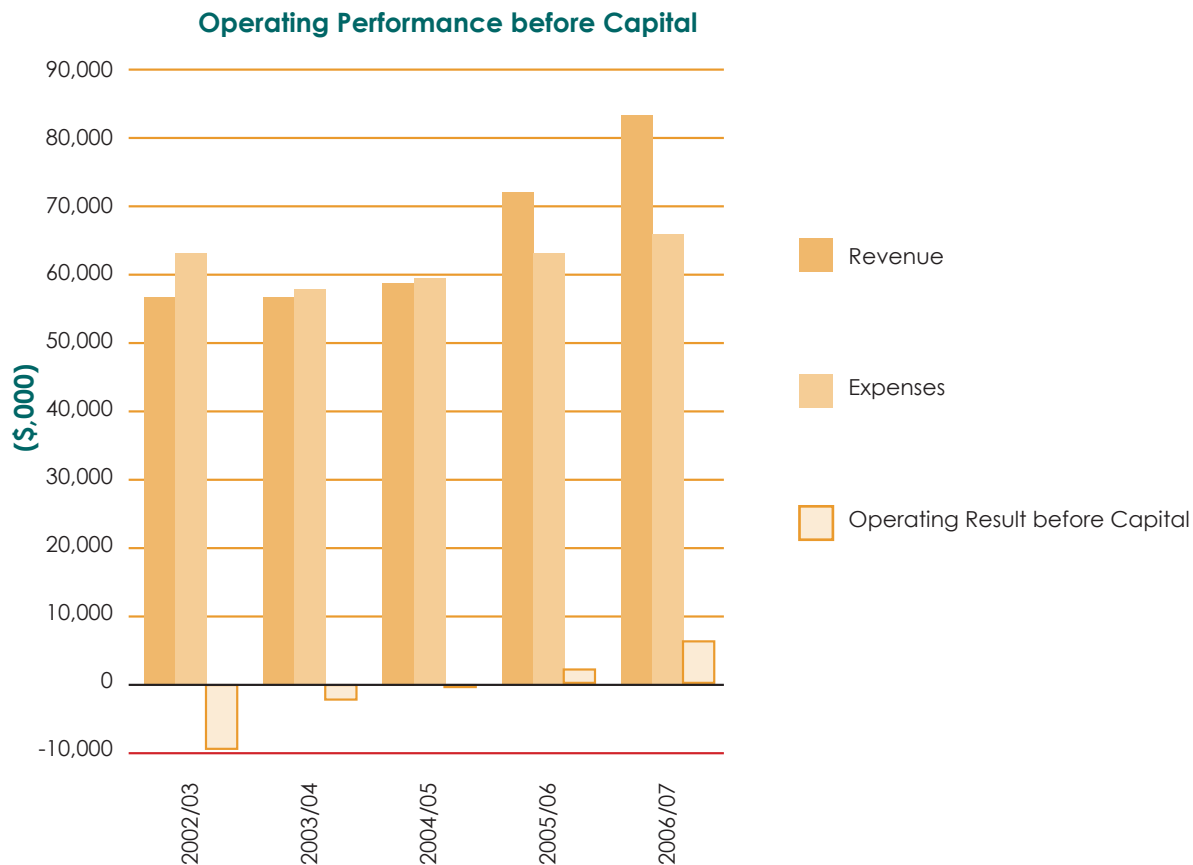


How does the performance compare to previous years?

(Income Statement)

Council has achieved an operating surplus before capital grants and contributions for the 2nd consecutive year in a row. A surplus is desirable before capital items as it shows that costs incurred for normal delivery service operations is less than the normal revenue received from providing those services.

Council is focused on its financial sustainability. It has adopted a 20 year Long Term Financial Strategy so that we invest in our current day needs without burdening future generations in our community. Council has also developed an Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Guidelines to look after Councils \$2 billion in assets.



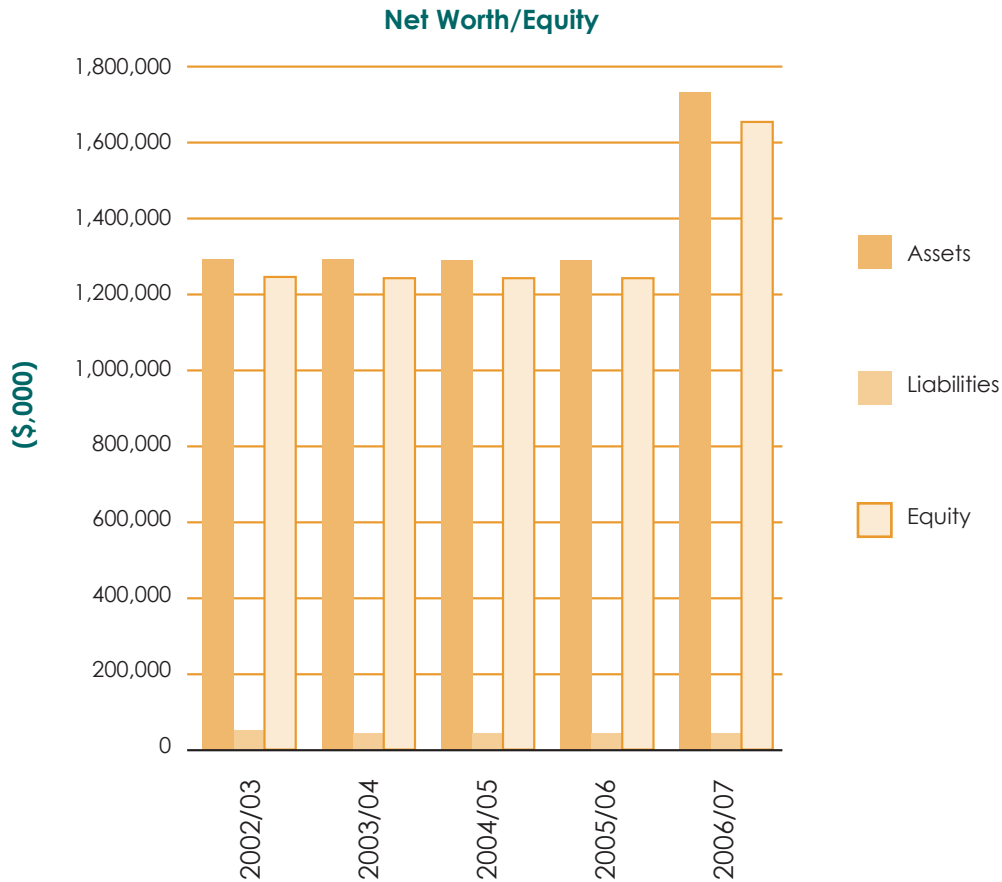
What are we worth?

(Balance Sheet)

The community owns assets totalling nearly \$2 billion. These assets include such things as Land, Roads, Bridges and Footpaths, Stormwater Drainage, Buildings, Plant and Equipment.

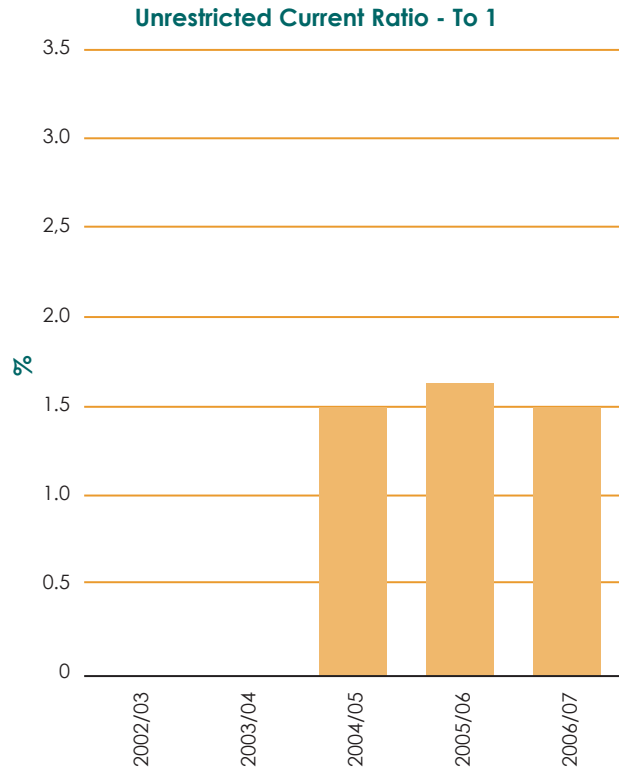
Amounts owing at 30 June 2007 totalled \$26 million.

To calculate our net worth, consider a household income (an asset) less the home mortgage (liability). Our community's total worth as at 30 June 2007 is \$1.689 billion.



How are we going?

(Performance Measures)



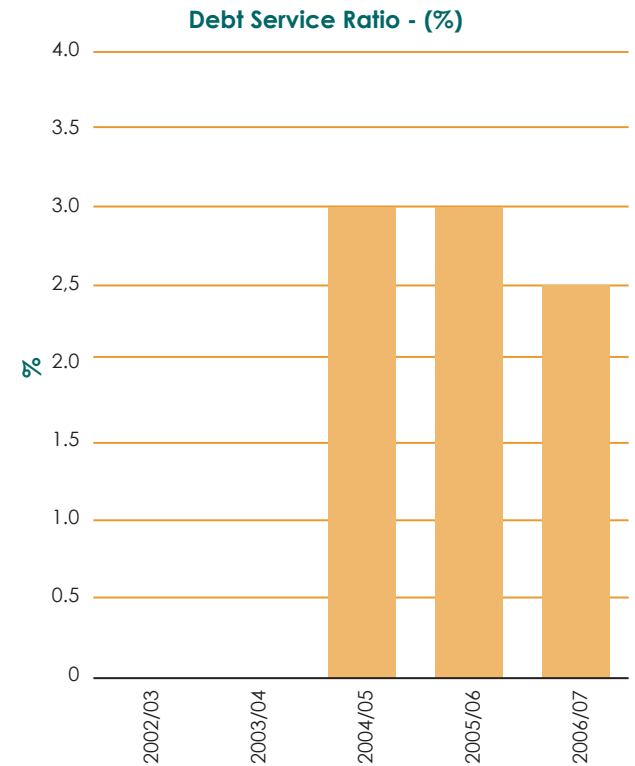
Please note that the data collected in 2002/03 and 2003/04 was not suitable for comparison

Unrestricted Current Ratio

For every \$1 of current liabilities, Council has \$1.70 of working capital to satisfy these obligations in the short term. This is deemed as satisfactory for the business of Local Government.

Debt Service Ratio

Council's debt service ratio has been steadily decreasing over the past five years. 2.6% of our total revenue was committed to loan repayments for 2006/07. Council has the financial capacity to take up and service additional loan borrowings to fund infrastructure projects if it so desires. Council's level of debt is below the industry standard of comparable councils.



Please note that the data collected in 2002/03 and 2003/04 was not suitable for comparison

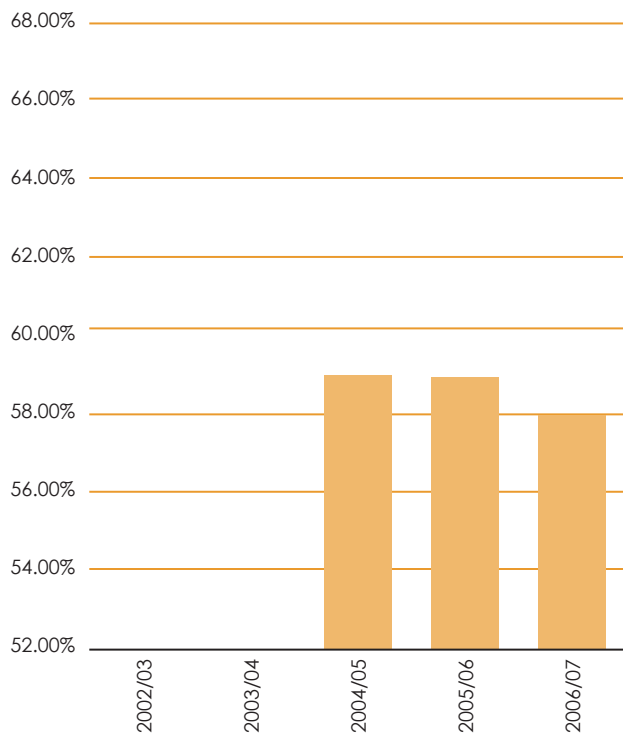
Rate Coverage Ratio

Council continues to receive over 50% of its revenue from rates and Annual Charges. Rate pegging limits Council's ability to generate additional revenue to cover rising costs and this puts further pressure on Council's ability to adequately fund services.

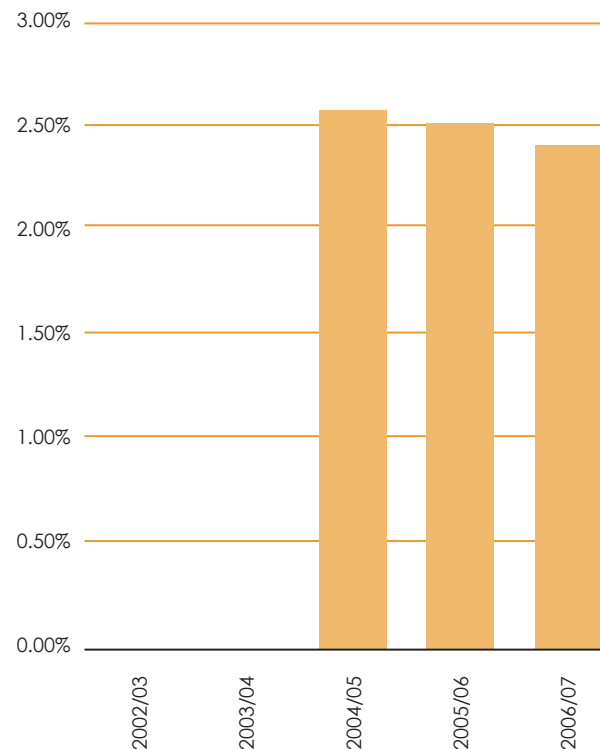
Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding

Ryde maintains a strong recovery rate of 2.5% outstanding rates and annual charges for 2007, which compares very favourably with the industry benchmark of 5%.

Rate Coverage Ratio



Rates & Annual Charges Outstanding percentage



Please note that the data collected in 2002/03 and 2003/04 was not suitable for comparison

Looking Forward

Based on the pleasing results for 2007 and as highlighted by the financial indicators, Council is in a sound financial position. Whilst this result was positive, Council is aware of its long term financial position.

The City of Ryde owns nearly \$2 billion of essential infrastructure (roads, drains, parks, libraries etc) and needs to source an extra \$4 million per annum to invest in these assets so they continue to be maintained in a satisfactory condition for future generations. The cost to bring our Public Works assets to a satisfactory condition is estimated to be \$56.7million (as reported in Special Schedule 7 of

the financial statements). This financial challenge is something the Council is endeavouring to resolve. Council has taken a proactive approach by trebling our capital works budget in 2007/08 from \$14 million to \$41.7 million.

How we spend:

Macquarie Park Corridor Rate

The Macquarie Park Corridor Rate raised approximately \$1 million from its resident business properties. This will assist in implementing the Macquarie Park Corridor Master Plan, which has been developed with the State Government and community stakeholders in response to the changing nature of business in the Corridor, and the construction of the new Chatswood to Epping rail link.

These funds are separately accounted for and are being used to construct and maintain public domain infrastructure in the area. This will improve roads and cycleways as the area changes from a low density business park to an attractive viable and vibrant urban centre.

Revenue and expenditure is as follows:

	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$1,000,000	\$1,012,000
Project Costs	Budget	Spent
Place Management	\$200,000	\$110,000
Public Domain and Central Spine	\$500,000	\$371,000
Fine Grain Roads	\$200,000	\$135,000
Civil Open Parks	\$100,000	-
Total	\$1,000,000	\$616,000
Balance	\$ Nil	\$396,000

Stormwater Management Service Charge

The Stormwater Management Service charge raised approximately \$957,000 from residential and business properties (but not including vacant land or land owned by the Crown or land held under lease for private purposes under the housing Act 2001 or the Aboriginal Housing Act 1998).

The funds raised are separately accounted for and are used to assist in the provision of stormwater management services across the City of Ryde.

Revenue and expenditure is as follows:

	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$1,100,000	\$956,975
Project Costs	Budget	Spent
First Avenue Catchment Management	\$1,055,000	\$849,000
Peel Park Water Harvesting	\$10,000	\$9,000
Tuckwell Park Water Harvesting	\$10,000	\$10,000
Waterloo Park Water Harvesting	\$10,000	\$9,000
Total	\$1,085,000	\$877,000
Balance	\$15,000	\$80,000

Statutory Information

Planning Agreements

In 2006/07, the City of Ryde entered into two Planning Agreements pursuant to Section 93G(5) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979. Details of these Planning Agreements are as follows:

1. Planning Agreement entered into with Bevillesta Pty Limited with the value of public benefit being \$10,350,000.00 involving public domain works, a Council facility including commercial and a new library, Cenotaph relocation and a monetary contribution.
2. Planning Agreement entered into with Waterpoint Shepherds Bay Pty Limited with the value of public benefit being \$1,475,000.00 in the form of a monetary contribution.

State of the Environment Report 2006/07

The City of Ryde edition of the NSROC Regional State of the Environment 2006/07 has been published separately and can be found on Council's website at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au.

Bush Fire Hazard

We have undertaken works (ie vegetation removal/fuel reduction) at:

- Pryor Park (behind Long St)
- Gilda St (behind no 17)
- Field of Mars (behind 12, 14, 16 Finch Ave)
- Corner of Cox's and Pittwater Roads
- Behind 16 Magdala Road
- Marsfield Park (northern and southern sides of oval)
- Somerset Park (around 140 – 150 Crimea Rd)

NSW Fire Brigades undertook a broadacre burn within Pidding Park.

We have also carried out annual maintenance of all existing fire trails/breaks.

Overseas Travel

No overseas visits for Councillors or City of Ryde staff were paid by Council in 2006/07.

Councillors' Expenses and Provision of Facilities

Office Equipment

At the beginning of the current term of Council, and in accordance with the Policy on the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for the Mayor and other Councillors, all Councillors were supplied with a facsimile machine with scanning, photocopying and telephone answering capabilities at their residential home address to a maximum value of \$1,000. Councillors were also provided with a laptop computer with Microsoft Office and related software to a maximum value of \$3,000. Councillor Edna Wilde OAM did not request a laptop computer.

Communication Expenses

In 2006/07 Councillors were reimbursed a total sum of \$29,554 for communication expenses covering the area of email, internet and telephone (both fixed and mobile) and any related technology purchases.

Conference Expenses

The following conferences were attended by City of Ryde Councillors in 2006/07:

- LGA Water Management Conference – Broken Hill – 16-18 August 2006. Council was represented by the Mayor, Councillor Ivan Petch and Councillor Vic Tagg.
- LGA Conference – Blue Mountains – 28 October – 1 November 2006. Council was represented by the Mayor, Councillor Ivan Petch and Councillors Michael Butterworth, Connie Netterfield, Sarkis Yedelian and Gabrielle O'Donnell.
- ALGA General Assembly – Canberra – 27-30 November 2006. Council was represented by Councillor Sarkis Yedelian.

The total cost of registration, travel, accommodation and meals for Councillors for these conferences was \$12,422.

Councillor Training

No external training for Councillors was paid by Council in 2006/07.

Interstate Visits

No interstate visits for Councillors were paid by Council in 2006/07.

Spouse, Partner or Accompanying Person expenses

No expenses for spouses, partners or accompanying persons of Councillors whilst performing their civic functions were paid by Council in 2006/2007.

Child Care Expenses

No expenses for the provision of care for a children or immediate family member of, a Councillor to allow the Councillor to undertake their civic functions were paid by Council in 2006/07.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 1989 and Regulation

The impact during the year of the FOI requirements on the organisation's activities was that considerable assistance continued to be provided to persons seeking access to City of Ryde's documents. Enquiries were able to be satisfied without the need for an FOI application. A total of two FOI requests were made in 2006/07 and are summarised below:

Number of new FOI Requests

FOI Requests	Personal	Other	Total
New	2		2
Brought forward			
Total to be processed	2		2
Completed	1		1
Transferred Out			
Withdrawn			
Total Processed	2		2
Unfinished (carried forward)	1		1

What Happened to Completed Requests

Result of FOI Requests	Personal	Other
Granted in full		
Granted in part	1	
Refused		
Deferred		
Completed	1	

Basis of disallowing or refusing access

	Personal	Other
Section 6	1	
Section 19		
Section 22		
Section 25 (1) (a1)		
Section 25 (1) (a) – exempt		
Section 25 (1) (b), (c), (d)		
Section 28 (1) (b)		
Section 24 (2)		
Section 31 (4)		
Totals	1	

Costs and fees of requests processed

	Assessed Costs	FOI Fees Received
All completed requests	\$150	\$100

Days to process

Elapsed Time	Personal	Other
0-21 days	1	
22-35 days		
Over 35 days		
Totals	1	

Processing Times

Processing hours	Personal	Other
0-10 hours	1	
11-20 hours		
21-40 hours		
Over 40 hours		
Totals	1	

Reviews and Appeals

Number of internal reviews finalised: 1

Number of ombudsman reviews finalised: 1

Number of District Court appeals finalised: Nil

Details of Internal Review Results

Bases of internal review	Personal		Other	
	Upheld	Varied	Upheld	Varied
Access refused	1			
Deferred				
Exempt matter				
Unreasonable charges				
Charge unreasonable incurred				
Amendment refused				
Totals	1			

Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PIIP) Act 1998

The City of Ryde has adopted the Model Privacy Management Plan and Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government. Through staff education and training, and review of files and public reports prior to release, Council endeavours to comply with the requirements of the PIIP Act. There were no internal reviews under Part 5 of the PIIP Act in 2006/07.

Legal Proceedings

Parties	Address	Decision	Costs
1. Stefano Di Berardino v Council	22 Cilento Crescent, East Ryde	Consent orders	\$300 paid to Council
2. Neil Kenny v Council	14 Teemer St, Tennyson Point	Appeal upheld	Nil
3. Council vs Fry	Jennifer Park, Putney	Conviction recorded	\$1,500 fine and \$4,500 costs paid to Council
4. Grego vs Council (x2)	31 River Avenue, Chatswood West	Discontinued (x2)	Nil
5. New Age Constructions v Council	130 Ryde Road, Gladesville	Appeal upheld in part	\$5,600

Companion Animals

Companion Animal Management has been a key operational program throughout the year, with Regulatory Services increasing the resources required to manage the increase in demand for services.

Recently we have received good feedback from members of the community and also welfare organisations in relation to the improved customer service provided by the Regulatory Services Unit.

- Compliance Rangers handled 851 complaints regarding companion animal issues from the general public.
- Council Rangers handled 375 Complaints in relation to stray, abandoned, or roaming dogs.
- 212 Companion Animals were impounded by Rangers.
- 159 Companion Animals, or 75% of all impounded animals were returned home to their owners.

- 53 Companion Animals, or 25%, were impounded and transported to Blacktown Pound, which is the City of Ryde's contractor for pound operations.

The Regulatory Services Unit has also developed a strong partnership with the Department of Housing in the management of feral cats within the local housing estates. This partnership has been very beneficial to the community and will also assist in the reduction of feral cat populations in housing estates, as well as protecting native wildlife.

Companion Animal Management and Education will continue to be a key program for the Regulatory Services Unit over the 2007 – 2010 Management Plan period, with the SPOT School Education Program and Free Micro-chipping Open Days two key projects for the 2007-08 financial year.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan

The City of Ryde is committed to achieving a safe and rewarding workplace free from discrimination where all employees and prospective employees are afforded equal access to opportunities and benefits relating to employment, promotion and training. Our EEO Management Plan, currently undergoing Executive Team approval, contains strategies that form the basis of sound EEO management practices and aim to eliminate all forms of discrimination and/or harassment in the workplace. Such strategies include:

- The on going promotion of EEO throughout the organisation
- Improving staff access to information relating to Human Resources policies and practices
- Providing EEO training for selection committee members in relation to best practice recruitment and selection processes
- Developing and implementing new EEO-related policies in relation to flexible work practices, carer's responsibilities, age discrimination and persons with disabilities
- Researching, developing and implementing strategies to improve the employment opportunities of the following target groups;
 - o Women
 - o Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
 - o People with a disability
 - o People from racial, ethnic and/or ethno-religious minority groups.

The City of Ryde has also developed an Access and Equity Strategy with the development of our Multicultural Policy and Disability Discrimination Action Plan. These key documents complement the EEO strategies detailed within the EEO Management Plan and will assist in ensuring that the facilities provided to our community are appropriate and accessible.

Section 428(2) (g)

Senior Staff Remuneration

The total amount of money payable in respect of the employment of the General Manager and the 4 Group Managers, including money payable for salary, for the provision of fringe benefits and for all other on-costs connected with their employment are:

Position	Total
General Manager	278,634
Group Manager - Community Life	194,389
Group Manager - Corporate Services	189,554
Group Manager - Environment and Planning	195,568
Group Manager - Public Works	193,417
Total Senior Staff Remuneration	\$1,051,562

Stormwater, Coasts and Estuaries, and Waste Management

Stormwater, Coasts and Estuaries

The Ryde local government area is comprised of fourteen discrete stormwater drainage catchments, with a total area of over 4000 hectares. With the exception of Macquarie Park, the predominant land use is urban residential, which is characterised by low to medium-density development with significant proportions of private landscape and public open space. Many of the City's catchments are sensitive receiving environments impacted by catchment related activities that have an impact on stormwater quality.

The City has prepared Stormwater Management Plans for the Lower Parramatta River, the Mid Parramatta River and the Lane Cove River Catchments. The preparation of these plans involved extensive stakeholder and community consultation, and resulted in a set of recommended activities and actions aimed at guiding the management of stormwater quality throughout the City. The plans detailed short, medium and long-term actions for the City and these actions are being progressively incorporated into the Council's management planning process.

In the past year, Council has formed two Floodplain Management Committees (Eastwood & Terry's Creek and Macquarie Park) and is an active member of the Water Quality Monitoring Steering Committee. The City has an ongoing program to monitor the water quality of our waterway systems to assess changes in aquatic health and to guide actions aimed at improving water quality.

The City of Ryde is also a member of the Parramatta River Estuary Management Committee, which is guiding and overseeing the preparation of the Parramatta River Estuary Management Plan. This plan will compliment the Lane Cove River Estuary Management Plan completed in 2004.

In addition to the above activities and as part of a review of planning controls for Macquarie Park, the City of Ryde is developing specific planning controls and initiatives to address water sensitive urban design objectives, stormwater quality and general water management.

Waste Management

A new waste collection service for the City of Ryde commenced on 1 May 2006. Approximately 100,000 new bins were delivered to premises in the City and approximately 70,000 old bins were picked up in return.

As a result of the introduction of a new green-waste service and a change to the recycling service, the amount of waste going to landfill has dropped by around 700 tonnes per month. This is made up of approximately 500 tonnes of green-waste and an additional 200 tonnes of recyclables per month. The City's recycling levels have increased from 18% to almost 43% by 30th June 2007. A fantastic effort by our Community! Parks recycling stations consisting of a 240L waste bin and a 240L recycling bin have been introduced to 261 sites across a number of parks. This initiative has also assisted in increasing recycling rates in the City.

Waste education programs have been developed and delivered to increase public awareness of waste minimisation and recycling. These programs also compliment and assist the collection service in minimising contamination rates.

The programs delivered in 2006/07 include:

- Free Waste and Recycling Tour – "Follow your Waste Tour" in conjunction with WSN Environmental Solutions
- REEN - Ryde Environmental Education Network for schools
- Waste Education trailer used at local schools, Granny Smith Festival local shopping centres and other venues
- Partnership with Eden Gardens to conduct Worm Farming, Composting information sessions and general waste education
- Second-hand Saturday Program
- Cleanup Australia Day March 2007
- Harmony Festival March 2007
- Promotion of the Chipping and Mulching Service
- Recycling Week November 2006
- Mobile Muster/Planet Ark November 2006
- "Dumping. It's Dumb" program organised by Council on S.T.A buses working out of the Ryde depot
- Litter Prevention Campaign.

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT
Payments Greater Than \$150K 2006/2007

Payee	2006/2007 Actual (inc GST)	Payment Type	Description
3m Australia Pty Ltd	286,923	Contract	RFID system - Libraries
Advanced Mechanical Systems Pt	463,049	Contract	Air Handling Units
Bewsher Consulting	177,963	Contract	Drainage study
Blue Mountains City Services G	158,621	Contract	Construction
Caltex Australia Petroleum Pty	663,617	Contract	Fuel
Civica Pty Ltd	296,944	Contract	Software maintenance
Civil Constructions Pty Ltd	469,949	Contract	Landscaping and paving works
Cunneen & Mayne Building Construction	169,759	Contract	Construction/Maintenance
Deskor Interiors Pty Ltd	153,969	Contract	Office furniture
Dioxide Pacific Pty Ltd	214,858	Contract	Backwash water recovery system
Elite Stonemasons P/L	314,967	Contract	Construction retaining wall
Ethan Group Pty Ltd	731,514	Contract	Computer Hardware
Hunter Holden	877,475	Contract	Supply of Motor vehicles
Macdonald Johnston Engineering	452,490	Contract	Supply of heavy plant
Optus Billing Services Pty Ltd	197,669	Contract	Communications
Reino International Pty Limited	1,051,719	Contract	"Supply, install and maintenance of Parking Meters"
Ryde Toyota	151,161	Contract	Supply of Motor vehicles
Sterling Group Services Pty Ltd	647,086	Contract	Ryde Park landscaping
Storm International Pty Ltd	268,641	Contract	Cleaning
Swimplex Projects Pty Ltd	207,963	Contract	Ultraviolet System
Sydney Building Projects Pty L	2,475,424	Contract	Construction - Brush Farm house
Sydney City Toyota	1,914,150	Contract	Supply of Motor vehicles
Tardis Services Pty Limited	182,849	Contract	Computer Hardware
Waste Service Nsw	7,994,643	Contract	Waste removal and recycling contract
A Gubert Concrete & Building	292,045	Schedule of rates	Minor works

Payee	2006/2007 Actual (inc GST)	Payment Type	Description
A J Paving	365,878	Schedule of rates	Heavy patching
All Tippers Pty Ltd	178,388	Schedule of rates	Minor works
Allard's Plant Hire Pty Ltd	260,333	Schedule of rates	Plant Hire
C W Concrete Pty Ltd	466,858	Schedule of rates	Minor works
Comfortone Constructions Pty L	206,988	Schedule of rates	Minor works
CSR Emoleum Road Services	221,973	Schedule of rates	Asphalt
Hickey's Earthmoving Pty Ltd	304,123	Schedule of rates	Plant Hire
Leonard Holt Robb	355,879	Schedule of rates	Advertising
M J Smooth Concreting Services	498,662	Schedule of rates	Concreting
Marsdens Law Group	152,285	Schedule of rates	Legal Services
Sam the Paving Man Pty Ltd	193,000	Schedule of rates	Minor works
Sorrento Constructions Pty Ltd	570,596	Schedule of rates	Minor works
Western District General Concreting	224,423	Schedule of rates	Minor works
Works Infrastructure Pty Ltd	1,621,649	Schedule of rates	Asphalt
Breeze Plumbing Services Pty Ltd	193,082	Other	Plumbing Services
Corporation Sole EPA Act	238,640	Other	Contribution
Energy Australia	2,074,784	Other	Supply electricity
Hays Personnel Services (Aust)	368,591	Other	Agency staff
Kealec Pty Ltd Electrical	168,336	Other	Electrical Services
Kompan Playscape Pty Ltd	198,924	Other	Supply of playground equipment
National Australia Bank Ltd	1,069,366	Other	Loan repayments
New South Wales Fire Brigades	1,367,278	Other	Contribution
State Debt Recovery Office	297,374	Other	Infringement processing
StateCover Mutual Limited	595,503	Other	Workers compensation
Statewide Mutual	963,560	Other	Insurances
Sydney Training & Employment Ltd	231,567	Other	Apprentices and casual staff
Sydney Water Corporation	254,452	Other	Water supply
Westpac Banking Corporation	742,141	Other	Loan repayments and banking services

Contract Represents a contractual arrangement for the supply of one or more products or the supply of services at a lump sum value.

Schedule of Rates Represents a contractual arrangement whereby the goods and/or services are supplied at agreed rates

Other All other payments greater than \$150k

State Government Charges

	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
NSW Fire Brigade Levy	\$1,327,953	\$1,415,370	\$1,367,278
Street Lighting Charge	\$1,074,996	\$1,182,589	\$1,284,897
NSW Waste Levy	\$658,871	\$809,866	\$744,827
Department of Planning Contribution - Sydney Regional Development Fund	\$192,654	\$198,049	\$203,594
Total	\$3,254,446	\$3,605,874	\$3,600,596

Resolutions – Private Land

Summary of resolutions made during 2006/2007 under section 67 – works carried out on private land.

- 51 to 59 Melville Street, Ryde. Drainage easement piped by Council, total cost \$100,000.
- Toni Crescent, Ryde. Drainage reconstruction of pipe work, total cost \$147,000.

Stormwater Management Service Charges

The Council has levied an annual charge for stormwater management services in the 2006/2007 financial year. The following is a summary of the stormwater management services provided.

Projects	Original Budget	Actual
Income	1,100,000	956,975
Capital Projects		
First Avenue Catchments Management	1,055,000	848,626*
Peel Park Water Harvesting	10,000	8,814*
Tuckwell Park Water Harvesting	10,000	10,258*
Waterloo Park Water Harvesting	10,000	8,610*
Total Expenditure	1,085,000	876,308*
Surplus/(Deficit) 2006/2007	15,000	80,667

* Projects were work in progress at 30 June 2007. All projects will be completed in 2007/2008.

State Government Charges explanation

Fire Board Contribution

Under Section 50 of the Fire Brigades Act, local government contributes 12.3% of the NSW Fire Brigades aggregate expenditure for each fire district. The NSW Fire Board estimates it will spend \$363,782,533 on the Sydney Fire District in 2007/08. Councils contribution which is based on the 5 year moving average of the value of ratable land within the Sydney Fire District is \$1,392,581.

Sydney Regional Development Fund

Under Section 143 of the Environment Planning & Assessment Act 1979, Council is required to contribute to the repayment of loans relating to the strategic acquisition of open space across the Sydney metropolitan area by the NSW Government under its Sydney Regional Development Fund.

NSW Waste Levy

Under Section 88 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act, Council is required to pay a Waste and Environment Levy of \$38.60 per tonne of waste disposed at landfill.

The funds raised by the levy are used to provide grants under the NSW Government's City and Country Environment Restoration for environmental purposes including waste reduction initiatives to local councils and industry.

City of Ryde received \$80,000 in 2006/2007 and \$168,280.84 in 2007/2008 for meeting the pre determined targets.

Street Lighting Charge

The Council is required to contribute towards the cost of street lighting of public roads within the City (324 kilometres of Council Roads, 31 kilometres of State Roads and a number of pathways and a number of park facilities. There are currently approx 8100 lights in the City of Ryde as part of the Street Lighting System).

Charges are set by IPART and costs are increasing by 8-9% per year.