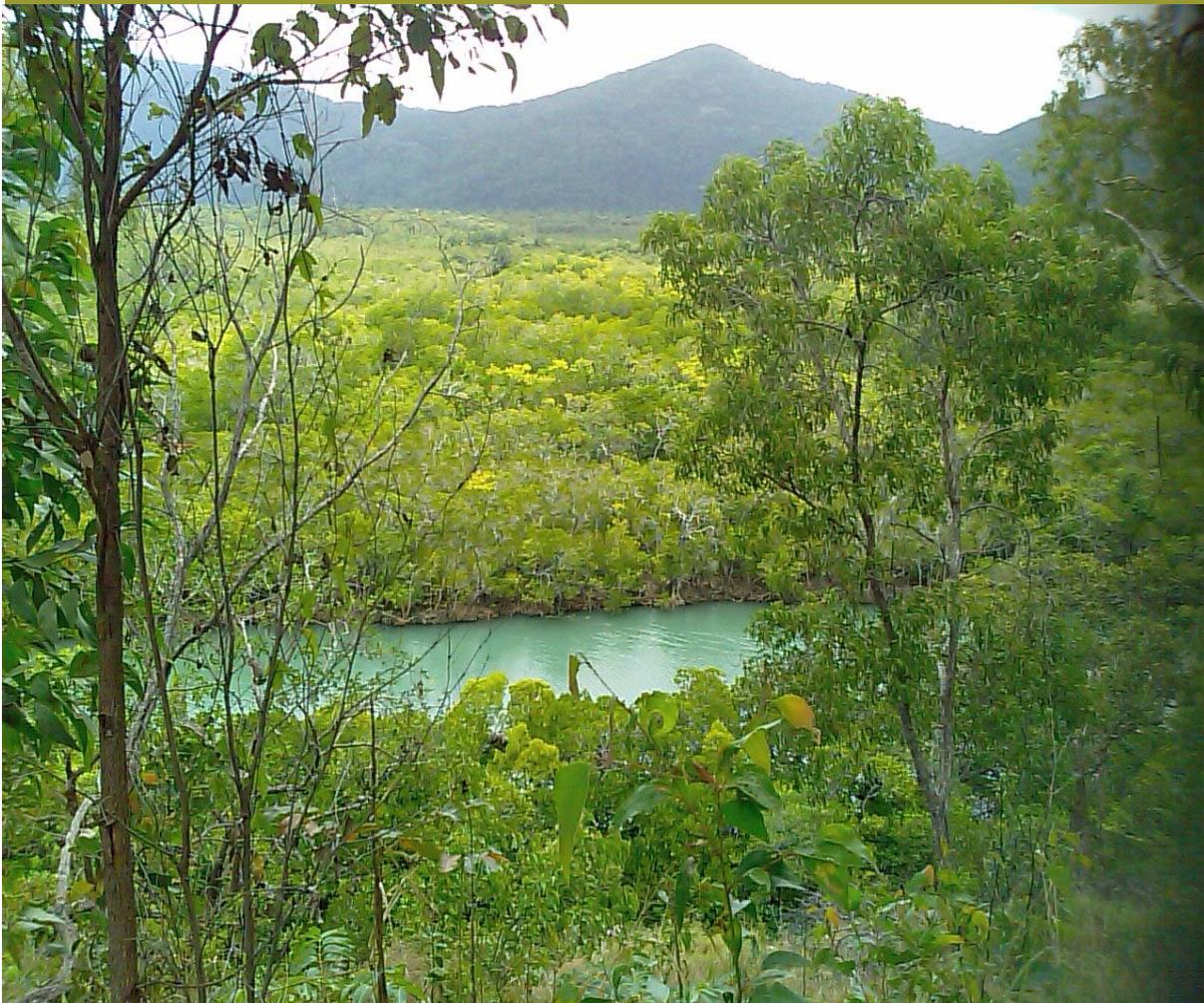




# Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Annual Report 2007-08



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### Introduction

This Annual report has been formulated for the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

This report has been formulated in accordance with the prescribed format outlined in Section 531 of the Local Government Act. This and following sections outline the purpose of the Annual Report and how it must be prepared. This section also specifies the need for the Annual report to be adopted.

The following subsections outlines the key requirements for council:

- (1) A local government must prepare an annual report for each financial year.*
- (2) The report must be presented to the local government for adoption, and must be adopted by it before 30 November in the year after the end of the financial year to which the report relates.*
- (3) However, the Minister may allow a longer period for a local government to comply with subsection (2).*

We hope the report is enlightening and you as the reader will be better informed once you have finished reading it.

Front cover picture: Buddabadoo Creek

## **Community Profile**

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council area (incorporates the whole Deed of Grant in Trust—DOGIT) lies to the east of Cairns Regional council (from Daintree to the north down to Babinda in the South). By road the distance is about 60 kilometers from Cairns CBD, however, it is only approximately 12 kilometers if measured in a straight line.

The coastline of the shire runs east from False Cape, around Mission Bay, past Cape Grafton and then south from Kings Point to Palmers Point. The total coastline is in excess of 60 kilometers. The shire services an estimated population of about 3,000 people.

The DOGIT could generally be described as a long slender shape bounded in the west by the Murray Prior Range and the coast on the east. It has an overall length of about thirty (30) kilometers and is about 2.5 kilometers wide in the south, but broadens out to almost 8 kilometers across the northern part. It has an area of about 154 square kilometers.

Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council has approximately 51 Kilometers of road. Of this total, about thirty kilometers is sealed road (in the main township areas) and the rest remains unsealed. The township of Yarrabah is for the most part located adjacent to Mission Bay. Originally, European influence began in earnest with the establishment of an Anglican Mission in Yarrabah on 17th June, 1892.

Over the years, subsequent government policies saw many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and some South Sea islander peoples from far and wide forcibly re-located to Yarrabah. As a consequence, most local residents can claim both traditional and historical ties to the area. In the present day context we see Yarrabah for Yarrabians.

The first Aboriginal Council was established in the mid 1960's, principally as an advisory body. The community received its DOGIT land tenure recognition in 1986 through enabling legislation which is the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984.

During 1997 actions commenced to transition Aboriginal Councils to Mainstream status. In 1999 actions were initiated to commence the repeal process for the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984. This move resulted in Aboriginal Councils being fully constituted under the Local Government Act 1993. The Queensland Government adopted the Local Government (Community Government Areas) Act 2004, which was new transition legislation.

Local Government reform in Queensland commenced in 2008, commencing with structural reform (boundary and representational changes) for Yarrabah the boundary was not affected, however our number of represent councilors was reduced from 7 to 5.

The community has an estimated population of 3,000 people.

Elected Members Profile



Cr Percy Neal—  
Mayor  
Portfolio responsibilities

Media  
Economic Development  
Native Title



Cr Anthony Fourmile  
Portfolio responsibilities

Arts  
Youth & Elders  
Culture  
Sports & Recreation



Cr Sandra Houghton—  
Deputy Mayor  
Portfolio responsibilities

Housing  
Education  
Women's Issues  
Health



Cr Michael Sands

Portfolio responsibilities

Environmental &  
Climate Change  
Community  
Development  
Employment Program  
(CDEP)  
Municipal Works  
Environmental Health



Cr Bevan Walsh

Portfolio responsibilities

Transport  
Employment  
Law & Order

## **Vision Statement**

*“To improve the quality of life  
for the Yarrabah Community”*

## **Mission Statement**

*Through the practice of good governance and strong leadership, the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council aims to:*

- *Provide Quality Services*
- *Be Accountable*
- *Advocate on Community Issues*
- *Provide Quality Representation on Issues affecting the Community*
- *Accommodate Change;*
- *Foster Growth*
- *Promote Success in a Friendly and Culturally Sensitive Environment*
- *Comply with all Legislative and Statutory Requirements*



## **Mayors Report**

As the first democratically elected Mayor in Yarrabah, I am honored to be elected to this esteemed role. I wish to extend a gratitude of thank those who supported me through the Elections in March. I am committed to doing what is right for Yarrabah and my focus during my term will be on these key areas – Media, Economic Development and Native Title.

Whilst I have come on part way through 2006/07, what I can gather is this period was yet another eventful period for the council. Since I have been elected I have encountered a barrage of issues dealing with Local Government Reform. On the ground this has meant a new look at the way we do business within council – a continued look at what services should be retained and what should be divested.

The continued actions surrounding the Howard Governments ‘Welfare Reform’ entered into by the previous council has been viewed with some concern. I for one do not agree with the words and in my view a more appropriate position to take is connected to “Social Reform”. On the ground we would like to see improved social behavior, a healthy and vibrant community and a standard of service equal if - not better - than any other community.

We are aware of the changes that are proposed to CDEP. Council is supportive on the proviso that no-one in the community is disadvantaged. My view is to be inclusive - not exclusive, and I am committed to doing this through demonstrating accountability, transparency and integrity in my dealings.

Overall 2006/07 has been yet another very eventful year for Local Government in Queensland. What is concerning is the rate of change that is happening and how we will be able to focus on real issues. We have been dutifully informed that the reform process is only part way through. This council remains committed to ensuring the viability and sustainability of our organization, continuing as a local government authority and making Yarrabah the best Indigenous Community.

Key areas that we will continue to target:

- funding opportunities,
- new initiatives,
- completing projects,
- community engagement,
- stakeholder collaboration,
- land reform, and
- planning.

The changes to Local Government have not directly affected this community - at this time we remain unaffected. We have not been amalgamated, and a very strong case was put to the review commission to strengthen our position. Just so we do not rest on our laurels, I have openly state that I will do everything in my power to put things in place.

I look forward to leading this council and working with staff and other organizations to making Yarrabah a better place.



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**Percy Neal**  
**Mayor**

## **Chiefs Report**

The events of this year were more about consolidation. The Local Government reform was commenced with the structural change—amalgamations, rationalizing of councilor numbers—council elections completed and the clarification of the next phases of the reform process: legislative and performance management.

Our operations have been challenged in this financial year, especially in relation to activities linked to Welfare and Social reform. Both reform processes are focused on addressing social dysfunction through direct intervention strategies. The social reform process is particularly concerned with Alcohol Management, the Welfare Reform process has a broader scope and entails issues like truancy, welfare payments, Infrastructure development and home ownership. Presently the Yarrabah Agreement and Indigenous Partnership agreements underpin these processes.

2008 promises more challenges, with CDEP being earmarked for changes. To ensure we maximize the potential benefits to the community, council has sought to ensure performance is consistent with the signed project agreements. Yarrabah Employment Program (YEP) has continued its transformation and recent recruits will continue to value add.

Housing remains a high priority for the community. Recent changes to the Aboriginal Land Act 2008 pave the way for the council to commence leasing of land. It is the intention of the council to commence Home Ownership in the shire. To set the way, council has positioned itself to take full advantage of developments by keeping up to date with developments and supported the creation of new a town plan.

My focus for this period has been across a range of issues: reform, welfare reform, social reform, Local Government Managers, skills bank development, Blueprint for the bush and town planning. I remain committed to performing the role of CEO and working for the council to do what is for Yarrabah. I remain confident in the capacity of the staff to continue the way forward. However, I note the degree of change in the next 12-24 months will really change the look and feel of the organization.

Council remains in a positive position. With continued commitment to work in partnership I am certain of the future being what we want it to be. The landscape is changing to adapt to the new way of doing things – we intend to make people aware and to ensure they are involved.



---

**Leon Yeatman**  
**CEO**

## **Corporate Overview**

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council was established under the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 and has been delivering services since 1986 for the purposes of furthering the social, economic and cultural development. As a council, we are bound relevant government legislation to provide relevant municipal and community services to, and for all Yarrabah residents.

The Yarrabah Council has proven itself over the years as being adaptable to change. Our commitment to good governance has been reflected reliable staff, efficient processes and effective services.

With a workforce of nearly 600 Indigenous people (and in the midst of welfare reform), the Council has demonstrated its ability to provide services and support for the benefit shire residents. The work standard is linked to continuous improvement and employees of the council continue to pursue personal and professional development opportunities with the expressed intent of improving self, organization and community.

The council is supported by a CEO and a senior management team—over 50% are local. These managers have been employed because of their knowledge, experience and qualifications in their areas of responsibility. Continual staff development opportunities are supported to ensure employees possess the necessary skills and abilities to carrying out their required duties. The Council boasts an employment percentage for local employees above 85%. In the management structure the percentage of local employees is 80%. It is our commitment to provide ample opportunity for local people to gain knowledge and experience to support personal growth and maintain a level of job satisfaction.

Yarrabah Council is grants focused and administers nearly 40 grant: origins— Federal, State Government grants and philanthropic organizations. This will be a challenge into the future as financial sustainability requires reliance less on grants and more on self generated income.

The Council has a “very sound” financial and operational position. Our competencies in management have been developed through hard work, dedication and commitment. We remain focused on the long term objective of maintaining good governance and sound accounting practices. We are also committed to ensuring effective community engagement and routinely consult the community on matters of community importance. We strive to improve service and infrastructure performance to ensure better standard of living.

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Councils ability to provide meaningful employment opportunities has been restricted in recent times. We are presently at capacity and in the longer term our view is council face further challenges to ensure viability. To balance out the prospect and ensure enhance opportunity, council has set a strategic path to effectively manage development and growth of local businesses. We expect that by supporting people in business we will increase opportunities to secure employment in Yarrabah and around the region.

Overall the community has enjoys steady growth at between 2% and 4% and with the introduction of a The town plan, we envisage better monitoring and control of land within the shire.

## **Borrowing Policy**

Borrowings will only be undertaken if:

- all alternative options for undertaking the project without borrowing have been investigated and proved less advantageous to the Council;
- the benefit received from undertaking the borrowing is greater, over the life of the borrowing, than the costs of borrowing;
- repayments will be met from project income or other untied income of Council (not grant funding).

Long-term debt is only to be used for income producing assets or those assets that can be matched with a revenue stream.

Debt including a bank overdraft is not to be used to finance recurrent/operating budget activities.

The maximum term of any new debt is to be 10 years or matched with the useful life of the asset, whichever is shorter.

Council shall monitor its capacity to pay, to ensure the community is not burdened with unnecessary risk.

Only those projects identified in strategic planning documents or other plans shall be eligible for funding through borrowing.

Borrowings must be undertaken in Australia and be in Australian dollars.

The borrowings policy is reviewed and updated annually.

As at 30 June 2007, there were no borrowings from Council.

# Community Financial Report

Local Government (Community Areas) finance standards prescribes the following specifications for this section of the Annual Report. Section 37 (1) of these standards state that the Annual report content must include—

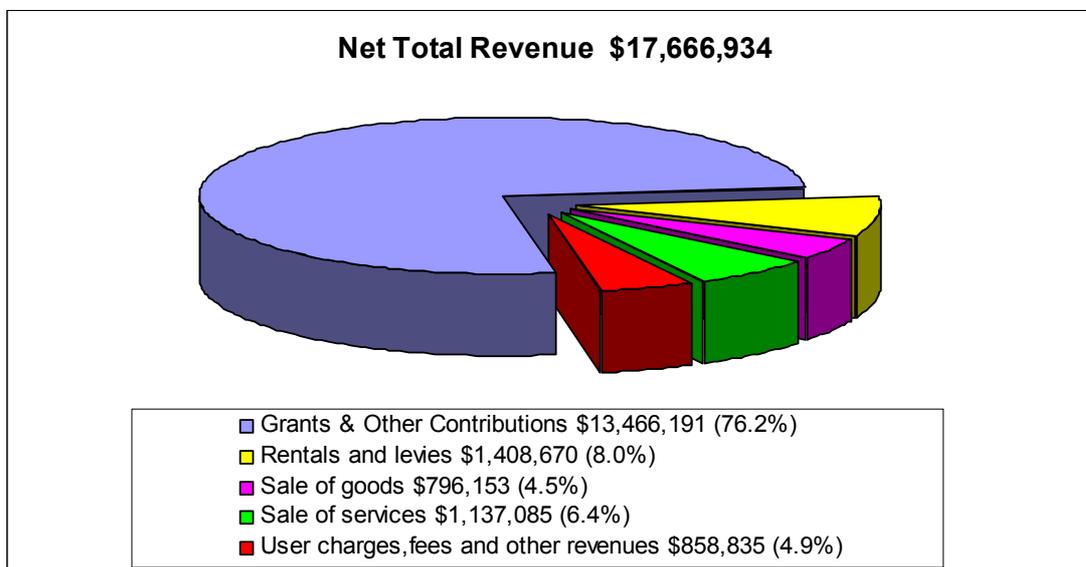
- (a) a summary of its policy about borrowings; and
  - (b) a community financial report.
- (2) The community financial report must be—
- (a) consistent with, but not part of, the community government's financial statements; and
  - (b) in a form that is readily understood by the community.
- (3) In this section—

**community financial report** means a report containing a summary and analysis of the community government's financial performance and position for the financial year.

For the purposes of community financial reporting, as prescribed in the Local Government Finance Standards 2005, the report must contain a summary and analysis of the financial performance and position for the financial year.

## Financial Performance 2007-08

The following pie graph shows financial performance in respect to revenue received for the financial year. As demonstrated councils net revenue is predominantly grants based. Future sustainability will only be assured with an equalisation of fees derived from sale of goods, services and other source revenues (presently totalling (32%))



## Grants & Other Contributions

Federal and State Government grants and subsidies represent a significant portion of the revenue received. It includes grants for the operations of the CDEP Scheme and both State Government Financial Aid and the general purpose and roads grants. For the financial year, a total of \$13,466,191 was received. This is 76.2% of total revenue.

### **Rentals and Levies**

This section covers income generated from housing, rental and lease rental income. Housing rentals are net rental income received for payment of rent for housing in the community operated by Council. Council has some 306 dwellings that are used for rental accommodation. For the financial year, a total of \$1,408,670 was received. This is 8.0% of total revenue.

### **Sale of Goods**

This section covers canteen sales, sales from CDEP activities and the joinery. Enterprise receipts are income received for sales and commissions at the Guyala Hotel. For the financial year, a total of \$796,153 was received. This is 4.5% of total revenue. Please note that the general Liquor License for Guyala Hotel was surrendered during this period and this enterprise has ceased to exist.

### **User Charges, Fees and Other Revenues**

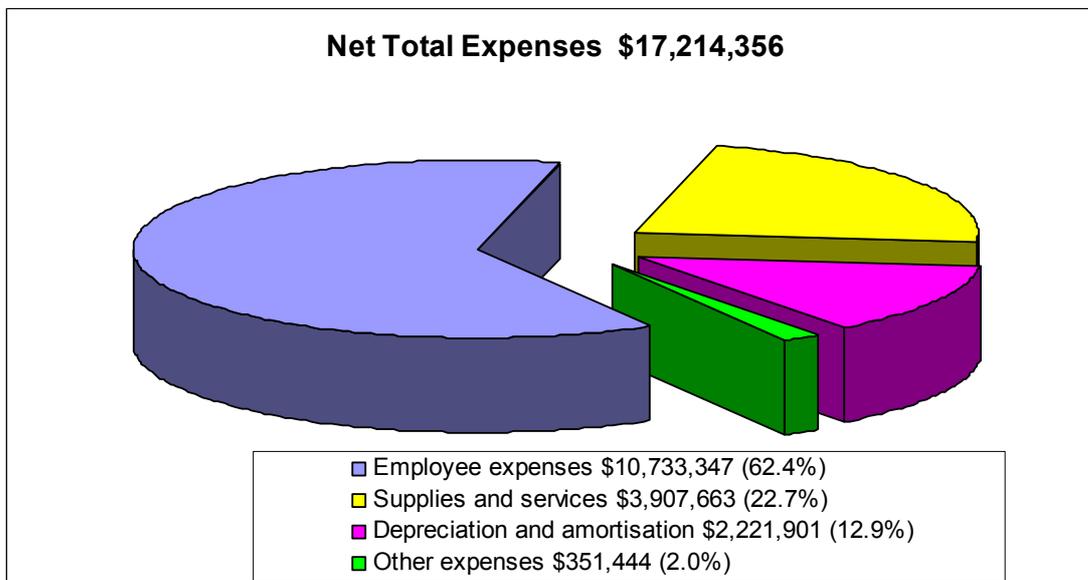
Revenue derived from this income category includes administration charges, animal management income, pool income, service charges and expense reimbursement.

Other Revenues in this category includes commission income, interest on investments, fuel subsidies, donations, insurance claim proceeds and some sundry income. For the financial year, a total of \$858,835 was received. This is approximately 4.9% of total revenue.

### **Sale of Services**

Revenue in this category includes hire and lease fees, freight charges, tariffs, bus run income, contract works income, childcare fees and some user pay fees and charges. For the financial year, a total of \$1,137,085 was received. This is approximately 6.4% of total revenue.

As the above information shows the revenue streams of Council, the following pie graph shows financial performance in respect to expenses disbursed for the financial year.



### **Employee Expenses**

Expenses disbursed from this category are for the operations of the Council including payment of wages for employees, payments of Fringe Benefits Tax, Superannuation and Workcover. For the financial year, a total of \$10,733,347 was disbursed. This is approximately 62.4% of total expenses.

### **Supplies and Services**

Expenses disbursed from this category are for the operations of the Council in general. This includes expenses such as repairs and maintenance of Council buildings and houses, motor vehicle expenses and expenses in relation to the operation of the Guyala Canteen. For the financial year, a total of \$3,907,663 was disbursed. This is approximately 22.7% of total expenses.

### **Depreciation and Amortisation**

Depreciation and amortisation expenses relate to depreciation allowed for Council owned assets such as buildings, houses, motor vehicles, office equipment and plant and equipment. For the financial year, a total of \$2,221,901 was disbursed. This is approximately 12.9% of total expenses.

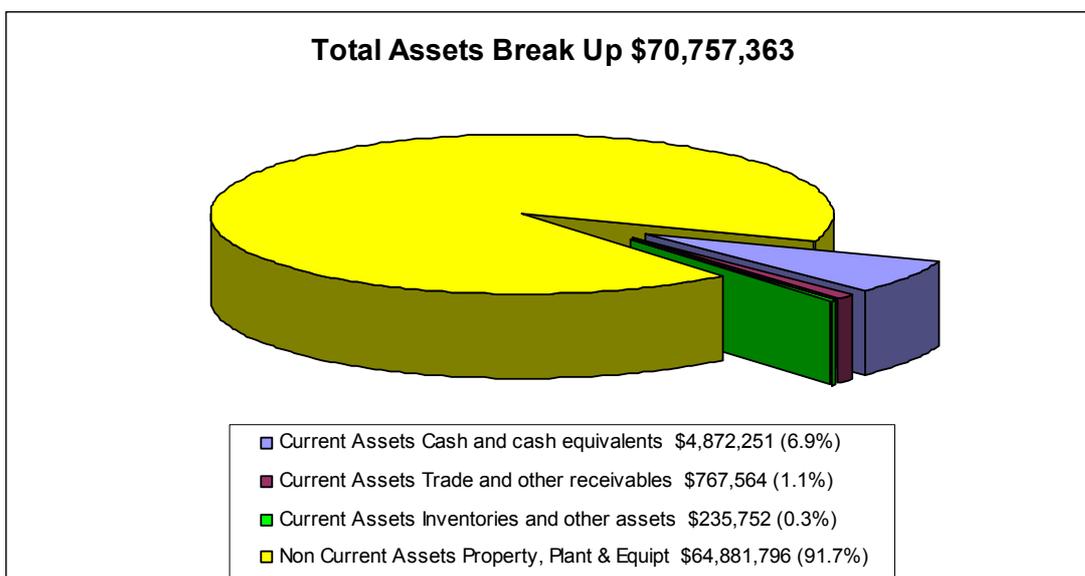
### **Other Expenses**

Expenses in this category are for expenses such as Councillor' remuneration, bad and doubtful debts, bank charges, donations, grants refunded, losses on disposal of assets and other sundry expenses. For the financial year, a total of \$351,444 was disbursed. This is approximately 2.0% of total expenses.

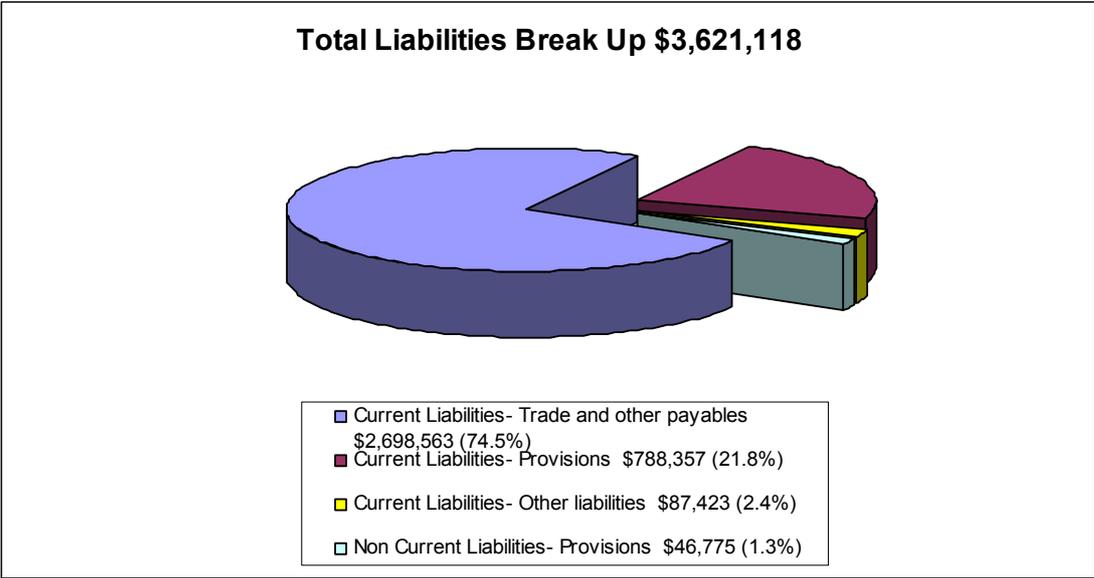
### **Financial Position 2007-08**

The Total Assets amount to \$70,757,363 and the Total Liabilities amount to \$3,621,118 giving a result of Net Assets of \$67,136,245.

The following pie graph shows the break up of the Total Assets into Current and Non Current Assets of the Council as at 30 June 2008.



The following pie graph shows the break up of the Total Liabilities into Current and Non Current Liabilities of the Council as at 30 June 2008.



## Other Statutory Requirements

### 533 Local Government Act 1993 - implementing corporate and operational plans

The Corporate and Operational Planning process as applied at the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Councils is a new element which was only made mandatory in 2006. The corporate plan covers two separate terms of the council and an amendment process was commenced and is due for completion.

The following tables seek to inform the reader about the key performance indicators of the council as identified in the existing operational plans and councils performance in accordance with achieving desired outcomes.

1. GOVERNANCE	Status
1. Ordinary Meetings conducted at least every 3 months	√
2. Fairness and equity in decision making	√
3. Number of agreements created	√
4. Number of new staff appointments	-
5. Number of participants enrolled in professional development/training.	√

2. DEPOT AND PLANT	status
1. Annual Maintenance reports	-
2. Hire rates reviewed to conform to Regulatory Fee reporting requirements	√
3. Asset Register relating to equipment stored at the Depot	-
4. Monitor Fuel consumption	√

3. ROADS	status
1. Trimming of growth in the road reserves and weed management	-
2. Pot holes identified and repaired according to work plans	√
3. Unsealed roads graded periodically (consistent with our bus route program)	√
4. Drains and culverts assessed and cleaned or replaced periodically (dry season)	√
5. Damaged signs replaced within 1 week	-

4. WATER	status
1. water quality	√
2. implementation of water meters throughout the shire	-
3. finalisation of key water infrastructure projects (impacts to supply by demand in China)	√

5. SEWERAGE	status
1. Strategic Asset Management Plan	√
2. Customer Service Standards	-
3. Chemical analysis reports from Cairns Water	√
4. Progress of Sewer extensions	√

<b>6. WASTE MANAGEMENT</b>	status
1. Cover rubbish at the refuse disposal area a minimum of once weekly	-
2. Full rubbish bins in outer areas to be emptied periodically	√
3. Catch fences be maintained and wind-blown material removed as necessary	√
4. Transfer Station site to be operational by June 2009	-
5. Land fill site closed by June 2009	-

<b>7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>	status
1. Number of animal round-ups performed	√
2. Number of animals destroyed	√
3. Number of animals referred to RSPCA	-
4. Number of animals registered	-
5. Equipment replaced	-
6. Participation in local and regional activities/events	√
7. Clean and tidy community	-

<b>8. PARKS AND GARDENS</b>	status
(1) Formulate and implement a beautification program	-
(2) Parks and Gardens in a clean and presentable state	-
(3) Finalisation of Sports Recreation and Open Space Plan	√
(4) Signed LIPA	-

<b>9. SPORTS &amp; RECREATION</b>	status
1. Develop Sports, Recreation and Open Space plan with stakeholders	√
2. Formulate a long-term strategic plan	√
3. Help to facilitate three monthly meetings with stakeholders	-
4. Management involvement in coordination of community events	√

<b>10. HOUSING</b>	status
<b>General</b>	
(1) Level of compliance with new official housing policies and procedures	√
(2) Low level of complaints received about housing tenancy or council housing staff	X
(3) Timely reports (qualitative and quantitative) to CEO, Council and funding bodies.	√
(4) Provide a monthly contribution into the Local news letter on Yarrabah Housing policies and issues	X
<b>Tenancy management</b>	
(5) Compliance with funding conditions	√
(6) Conduct annual audit of tenant Compliance with official tenancy agreements	√
(7) Performance target - 98% collection of rents charged	X
(8) Performance target – 20% of outstanding rental arrears	X
<b>Construction</b>	
(9) Level Utilization of local labour on community housing project (IEP)	√
(10) Appropriateness of housing design meeting client needs	√
(11) Number of new serviced lots developed	√
(12) Reducing the individual cost of housing units	-

<b>12. AGED CARE</b>	status
1. Compliance with the whole 44 outcomes of the Standards, residential	√
2. Compliance with the Quality National Standards, HACCC and CAPS	√
3. Number of compliance issues addressed	√
4. Number of complaints registered	√
5. Number of meeting conducted	√
6. Number of registered places utilized	√
7. Status report on assets	√
8. Annual appraisal of staff	√

<b>11. DAYCARE</b>	status
1. Number of compliance issues addressed	√
2. Number of complaints registered	√
3. Number of meeting conducted	-
4. Number of registered places utilized	√
5. Status report on assets	√
6. Annual appraisal of staff	√

<b>13. TRAINING</b>	status
1. Number of training activities	√
2. 50% occupation rate of training rooms	X
3. Number of local service usage	X
4. Review of training plan	√
5. Monitor compliance and ensure minimal number of non-compliance	√

<b>14. FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	status
1. Unqualified Audit	-
2. Annual Financial Statements completed by 31 October 2008	√
3. Annual Report Completed by 30 November 2008	X
4. Annual budget prepared before 1 September 2008	√
5. Number of Monthly Financial Reports submitted to Council	√
6. Number of Policies created	√

<b>15. TRANSITION</b>	status
1. Number of Community Engagement Forums held	√
2. Town Plan implemented and understood	-
3. Initiate lease information process	-
4. compliance with prescribed reporting requirements (Queensland Health Project Funding Agreement)	√

The work culture at Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council is still adapting to the new way of doing business. Challenges associated with peoples understanding and general comfort operating within a strategic framework (understanding and applying their knowledge in this framework to improve relationship between the work on the ground, services, operational

planning and the higher level corporate planning documents) is affecting performance. Council will need to develop a culture more receptive and adaptive to change.

The Corporate and operational plans were formulated with the assistance of the Local government Associational of Queensland. assessment of its performance in implementing its corporate and operational plans.

**534 Content of report about other issues of public interest**

*(a) details of action taken in relation to, and expenditure on, a service, facility or activity—*

*(i) for which the local government made and levied a special rate or charge for the financial year; and*

*(ii) supplied by another local government under arrangements entered into under section 59*

Not applicable

*(b) a list of all action taken under section 488(2) during the year*

No actions recorded

*(c) a list of all resolutions made during the year under section 489(1)*

Not applicable

*(d) a list of the registers kept by it and open to inspection; and*

<b>Register description</b>	<b>Location kept</b>
Annual report	First floor reception
Minutes Register	First floor reception
Contracts register	First floor reception
Complaints register	CEO
Animal Registration register	Rangers
Key register	Corporate Services Mgr
Gift Register	CEO
Contracts Register	CEO
Delegations Register	CEO

*(e) a summary of all rebates and concessions allowed by the local government in relation to rates; and*

*(ea) a copy of the local government's expenses reimbursement policy*

Not applicable

*(f) a copy of any resolution made during the year under section 236A, 236B or 237*

There are no resolutions covering the appointment of an Acting Mayor for the financial period

(g) particulars of—

(i) the total remuneration paid by it to each of its councillors under the remuneration schedule during the year; and

(ii) the expenses incurred by, and the facilities provided to, each of its councillors under the local government's expenses reimbursement policy during the year; and

(iii) the total superannuation contributions paid by it for each of its councillors during the year

The following table summarises the remuneration and associated expenses attributed to each councillor for the financial period.

	Remuneration	Super contribution	Travel expenses	Telephone allowance	Total
<i>Vince Mundraby</i>	50,151.37	5,249.44	3456.46		58,857.27
<i>Errol Neal</i>	4,300	0	714.13		5,014
<i>Michael Sands</i>	18,326.88	1,431.22	1336.85		63,871.40
<i>Wayne Connolly</i>	1,400	0			1,400
<i>Mervyn Smith</i>	1800	0	232.59		2032.59
<i>Josephine Murgha</i>	7,000	0	232.59		7232.59
<i>Les Murgha</i>	5,400	0	232.59		5632.59
<i>Percy Neal</i>	18,671.10	2240.56	1855.62		22767.28
<i>Sandra Houghton</i>	13,628.44	1635.41	1134.8		16398.65
<i>Bevan Walsh</i>	13,358.10	1,431.22	1030.26		15819.58
<i>Anthony Fourmile</i>	17,126.88	1431.22	1132.03		19690.13
					218,716.21

Below is a copy of councils resolution covering the new remuneration levels as prescribed by the Remuneration Tribunal—this cost structure will be a significant impost to the council, and reflects the highest payment levels afforded for Indigenous Shire Mayors and Councillors

**RESOLUTION 03 – 01/04/2008:** The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council agree to the following as the remuneration to be paid on percentage terms to Councillors:

Remuneration Range rate payable to a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly %	Remuneration Range (rounded to nearest \$10) \$
Mayor 55%	\$69,610
Deputy Mayor 40%	\$50,620
Councillors 35%	\$44,300

Council agree to comply with the transitional expenses Reimbursement policy for Local Government Councillors on matters relating to Payment of expenses, expense Categories, additional expenses for Mayor and provision of facilities.

Mayor will be provided with a vehicle and council endorse private use of this vehicle.

Councillors request that Superannuation be deducted from the remuneration at the industry rate – contributions will be made payable to the industry superannuation scheme.

(h) details of the number of meetings attended by each councillor during the year

The following schedule summarises the total number of meetings held by the council according to classification type:

<b>Meeting Classification/Type</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ordinary Meetings	15
Special Meetings	5
Trustee Meetings	1
Committee/Portfolio Meetings	30

The following tables summarises the number of meetings attended in accordance with meeting type.

<b>Councillors Attendance at Council Meetings 30/07/07-30/06/08</b>
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**Former Councillors**

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Ordinary meetings</u></b>	<b><u>Special meetings</u></b>	<b><u>Trustee Meeting</u></b>
<b><u>Total meetings held</u></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
Cr Vincent Mundraby	7/7	4/4	1
Cr Leslie V Murgha	7/5	4/4	1
Cr Josephine Murgha	7/6	4/4	1
Cr Mervyn Smith Jnr	7/4	4/0	1
Cr Michael Sands	7/7	4/4	1
Cr Anthony Fourmile	7/6	4/3	1
Cr Errol Neal (Appointed 29/10/07 due to resignation of Cr Connolly)	7/5	4/2	1
Cr Wayne Connolly (Resigned as of 02/09/07)	7/1	4/2	1

**Current Councillors as of 31/03/2008**

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Ordinary meetings</u></b>	<b><u>Special meetings</u></b>	<b><u>Trustee meeting</u></b>
<b><u>Total meetings held</u></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Cr Percy Neal	4/4	1/1	1
Cr Sandra Houghton	4/4	1/0	1
Cr Michael Sands	4/4	1/1	1
Cr Bevan Walsh	4/3	1/1	1
Cr Anthony Fourmile	4/2	1/0	1

*(l) names of shareholder's delegates of the local government for its LGOCs for the year under section 643*

Not applicable

*(m) particulars required to be included under section 847*

No complaints received during the year

*(n) each of the following details for a financial year starting on 1 July 2005 or later—*

*(i) the total number of breaches of the local government's code of conduct committed by councillors as decided during the year by the local government;*

*(ii) the name of each councillor decided during the year by the local government to have breached the code, a description of how the councillor breached the code, and details of any penalty imposed by the local government on the councillor;*

*Examples of how breaches of the code of conduct might be described—*

- misconduct at a local government meeting*
- misuse of confidential information*
- directing an employee in contravention of section 230(2) of the Act*

*(iii) the number of complaints about alleged code of conduct breaches by councillors, other than frivolous or vexatious complaints, that were referred to the conduct review panel during the year by the local government or the chief executive officer under chapter 4, part 3A;*

*(iv) the number of recommendations made to the local government by the conduct review panel during the year that were adopted, or not adopted, by the local government;*

*(v) the number of complaints resolved under the local government's general complaints process during the year and the number of those complaints that related to an alleged breach by a councillor of the local government's code of conduct;*

*(vi) the number of complaints made to the ombudsman, and notified to the local government, during the year about decisions made by the local government in relation to enforcement of its code of conduct.*

No breach recorded

### **S 38 – Local Government (Community Government Areas) Finance Standard 2004**

The Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council has control of –

- (a) approximately 15,609 hectares of land that is a reserve under the Land Act 1994; and
- (b) 50 km of roads.

This land does not have a value for its financial statements.

*(i) a statement including the information prescribed under a regulation about its activities during the year to implement its plan for equal opportunity in employment*

Yarrabah aboriginal Shire council is an equal employment opportunity provider.

*(j) particulars of other issues relevant to making an informed assessment of its operations and performance in the financial year*

Nothing noted

*(k) particulars of issues required by the Local Government Finance Standards:*

*(1) A local government's annual report for a financial year starting on or after 1 July 2006 must contain—*

*(a) the following details for overseas travel undertaken during the financial year by a councillor or employee of the local government—*

Not applicable

- (b) a summary of its expenditure, for the financial year, for each of the following—
- (i) services rendered by a consultant, summarised by reference to categories of services;
  - (ii) entertainment or hospitality services;
  - (iii) advertising;
  - (iv) grants to community organisations.

*Examples of categories of services—*  
advertising, engineering, environmental, information technology, managerial

*(2) In this section—*

**consultant**, for a local government, means an entity, other than an employee of the local government, that is engaged by the local government—

- (a) to give advice and make recommendations to the local government about a new concept, process or other matter the local government intends to implement; and*
- (b) for a fixed period and at an agreed rate of payment.*

*Examples of entities who are not consultants—*

- a person providing statistical data or legal advice to the local government without providing a recommendation about the data or advice or its effect on the local government
- a valuer providing a valuation of the local government's assets

The table below identifies the consultants by name and services rendered to the council during the financial period

<b>Name of consultant</b>	<b>Type of service</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Bill Peach & Associates	Engineering – Housing	12 Months
Ian Kush	Technical advice and support – Transition	12 months
Lambert & Rehbein Engineers	Engineering – services and infrastructure	12 months
Bottoms & English Lawyers	Legal Advice	Ongoing
Ross Planning	Open Space Planning – Sports & Recreation	12 Months
SGL Planning	Recreation Plan	12 months
Arup & Partners	Town Planning	24 months
Cardino MBK	Waste Management & water service infrastructure	24 months
Harvey Douglas	Animal Management – Horse removal	12 months

**532 Local Government Act 1993 financial position of local government**

- (a) the financial statements for the year as audited by the auditor-general; and
- (b) the auditor-general's report on the financial statements.

## **Acknowledgements**

*On behalf of the council I wish to extend a gratitude of thanks to all the staff at the council for demonstrating yet again wonderful commitment to the job. To those who moved on from the council during this period, your time with the organisation was treasured and we look forward to continuing our professional relationship established during the course of your employment.*

*For the outgoing council, your term with the council will not go unnoticed. It is expected that the platform laid will be built upon to enhance the community. We thank you for your leadership and influence you have had on staff and visitors to the shire.*

*The current council has its work cut out—the continued reform agenda across the spectrum will continue to not only test our resolve, but our capacity to adapt and improve. The community has demonstrated their faith in electing you to the leadership role, what you do with this trust will be your testament at the end of your term in 2012.*

*This report does not happen without the dedication and hard work. I acknowledge the efforts of Mr Nigel Underwood, Mr Craig Ford, Mr Colin Cedric, Mr Vic Welsh, Mr Darren Miller, Mrs Nadine Cannon, Mr Robert Sands Snr, Mr Nick Ewin and Mr Jeffery James for their input into the Corporate and Operational Plans—as well as other strategic documents.*

*These are exciting times.*