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About Walkerville

The Walkerville Council has been in existence for just over 150 years, being proclaimed in July 1855. The community is very proud of its history and the “village” character of the council area.

Walkerville is situated on the north-eastern border of the Adelaide CBD and is the smallest council within the metropolitan area, covering only 3.5 square kilometres. It was one of the earliest settled areas outside of central Adelaide.

The Town, consisting of the suburbs of Medindie, Gilberon, Vale Park and Walkerville has a population of just over 7,000 residents. It is predominantly a place where people live with 92% of its assessments being residential. Many of these properties date back to the mid 1800s and provide a variety of dwelling styles ranging from single fronted cottages to mansions of a grand scale.

There are two State Government Primary Schools being Walkerville and Vale Park and three independent schools, two providing school education, Wilderness School, St Andrew’s School and St Monica’s Parish School.

The main areas of commercial activity are located along major arterials and Walkerville Terrace. Main North Road, provides for showrooms and bulky goods, while Walkerville Terrace and North East Road provides neighbourhood services with a range of shops, post office, hotels and consulting rooms.

The River Torrens is the boundary between the Town of Walkerville and City of Norwood & Payneham and St Peters. The Linear Park is a highly valued recreational and environmental asset. The Council is also home to the Levi Park Caravan Park which is located on the banks of the River Torrens. A range of accommodation facilities is available, from powered tent sites to luxury cabins and fully serviced suites within the State Heritage listed Vale House.

At the 2006 Census, the population of the Town of Walkerville was 7,008 persons. This represents an increase in population since the previous Census undertaken in 2001, when the population was 6,846 persons.

Population projections for the Town of Walkerville indicate that the population will continue to grow, albeit at a slow rate. It is estimated that by 2021, the population will increase to 7,576 persons. This represents an average growth rate of 40 persons per annum, or approximately 8% over the period.

The largest age groups in the Town of Walkerville include 45-54 year olds and 55-64 year olds. Generally the Town of Walkerville has an older population compared to the Adelaide Statistical Division (ASD), with less people in the age groups under 44 and more people aged 45 and over. One of the more interesting facts about the Town of Walkerville is the sizeable share of the population aged 75 and over, especially in the 75-84 year age group compared to the ASD. This is related to the relatively high number of aged care facilities and retirement living units in the Council area.

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1 Planning SA, Population Projections Inquiry System, accessed 27.9.07
Strategic Management Plan

MISSION STATEMENT

“To enhance the identity, character and quality of life of Walkerville, through care, integrity and service”

CORPORATE VISION STATEMENT

- “Maintain and build upon the social, physical, and environmental heritage of Walkerville for the benefit of the community”
- “Be at the forefront of best practice and customer service to work with the people of the Town to enhance their quality of life”
- “Preserve an urban form and built environment which protect the best from the past, but meet contemporary needs and create a high amenity living and working environment”
- “Turn major thoroughfares into attractive landscaped boulevards with the adverse impact of transport minimised”
- “Create an attractive and vibrant town centre which reflects the values and spirit of Walkerville in a manner which services the needs of the community”
- “Provide a range of responsive community services and facilities to meet identified needs”
- “Implement environmentally sustainable development and practices by council and community”
- “Develop the town’s infrastructure to a high standard to achieve high levels of amenity and safety”
Message from the Mayor

Mayor David Whiting

As your Mayor it is my privilege to present to you my first annual report, having been elected as your Mayor at the General Elections held in November 2006. That election saw six Members of the Council re-elected and we were joined by four new Members. As a result of a supplementary election held to fill a casual vacancy in the Walkerville Ward Ct James Williams also joined the Council in June 2006.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to those Members of the Council pre November 2006 who did not continue, along with Ct Rich for his time as Mayor.

This financial year also saw, in August 2006, long serving Chief Executive Officer, Mr Ron Wallace retire after 10 years of dedicated service. Ron’s commitment to Walkerville is a testament to his dedication and I would like to publicly thank Ron for his service.

Whilst annual reports are a time for reflection (and I will touch on some of Council’s key achievements during the period) it should be remembered that Local Government is a continuum. Decisions made by the Council now will influence the Town and its residents for many years to come.

To be a Councillor is not only a privilege but it carries with it a high level of responsibility. As Councillors we are charged with demonstrating leadership for the Town on behalf of not only today’s but tomorrow’s community.

For my part as Mayor, I will continue Walkerville’s active involvement with the Metropolitan Mayors Group and the Eastern Regional Alliance – Office of the East. The Metropolitan Mayors and Chief Executive Officers meet regularly to discuss and progress matters of interest to Local Government on a metropolitan wide basis. The Office of the East is a formal alliance between the eastern Councils (Burnside, Campbelltown, Norwood, Payneham and St Peters, Prospect, Tea Tree Gully, Unley and ourselves) and is the mechanism through which many of the positive resource sharing projects have been achieved.

Financial sustainability is one of the key issues facing the whole of Local Government and to ensure that Walkerville continues to remain a viable and responsible Council, focus has been placed on financial management and strategic planning to ensure that we continue to build upon the solid foundations laid in the past. This will continue to be a focus for the current Council.

Ceremonial duties are an important aspect of civic life and the Town of Walkerville actively participates in Citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day and presents a number of civic awards. On 26 January 2007 I had the pleasure of welcoming eight new residents to Walkerville and presented Mr Bruce and Mrs Raye Whitehead as the joint winners of the Australia Day Citizen of the Year for their tireless contributions to the Walkerville Community via the Walkerville Uniting Church. Other award recipients were Mr Trevor and Mrs Denise Langton, Mr John Thompson and Mr David Mason. Mr Mason was also awarded the Volunteer of the Year award at a ceremony hosted by Council on 17 May 2007.
In October 2006, Mayor Rich presided over a ceremony to celebrate the re-opening of the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery for the interment of ashes. The Cemetery has great historical significance with the first burial recorded as occurring in 1850. The Friends of the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery, a volunteer group, puts in countless hours maintaining headstones and graves within the cemetery and must be thanked for their contribution to the community.

The Biennial Walkerville Art Show was held in June/July 2007. This is a joint project between the Council, the Walkerville Society and the Rotary Club. This year 212 works from 78 artists were exhibited. The range was diverse and the quality high, demonstrated by the sale of 45 paintings with a combined value of $11,150.

The Town Centre project has dominated activities during the year. The second agreement with Holcon was signed in August 2006. Post the election much time has been spent on this project, although it now appears that the land is no longer available for purchase.

This year saw the introduction of a joint Prospect/Walkerville Youth Officer, Ms Cate Keane. We now have a joint Youth Advisory Council named Essential Youth: Agents of Change. This group was active in hosting events during youth week which was celebrated between 14 and 22 April 2007.

The Walkerville library continues to be one of the Council’s treasures. Along with many of the valued programmes such as the visiting author programme, big book club and little book club activities and Baby Bounce and Rhyme, this year has seen the introduction of Toddler Read and Rhyme.

On the works front, in addition to Council’s regular high levels of maintenance of road infrastructure, trees and parks, Gawler Terrace was reconstructed and the YMCA car park was also redeveloped to provide an additional 18 car parking spaces.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Members of Council for their support and assistance and to also thank the staff for their dedication and commitment to Walkerville and look forward with enthusiasm to my term as Mayor.
Chief Executive Officer’s Statement

As the 2006/2007 financial year draws to a close it is timely for Walkerville to reflect upon the achievements and challenges of its 152nd year.

Walkerville is one of the oldest municipalities in South Australia with a proud history and tradition.

One of the first things noticeable about Walkerville is the strong sense of community. Important relationships exist between the Council; Elected Members and staff, service groups, volunteers, friends and the community. This defines Walkerville and sets it apart as a Town.

Walkerville as with all other Councils is facing a challenging, yet exciting period as more and more focus is directed towards Local Government and the quality of governance, public sector management and services provided. As community expectations increase and governments at all levels are seeking to provide more for less, increasingly service provision for non-traditional services is falling to Local Government. This indicates the importance of providing local services at the local level and indeed (ignoring for a moment the cost implications) Councils are well placed to provide a myriad of local services.

As part of its commitment to prudent stewardship of Walkerville, our Council, along with other Councils, in the Eastern Region has risen to this challenge by seeking to form co-operative relationships and undertake resource sharing. Walkerville is a participant in many resource sharing projects. East Waste of which Walkerville is a member is a regional subsidiary that provides kerbside waste collection. The Eastern Health Authority another regional subsidiary of which Walkerville is a member Council provides environmental health services such as health inspections, immunisation and pollution prevention. Waste Care SA provides waste transfer facilities and promotes new waste management technologies. In conjunction with Prospect Council services such as Home and Community Care, general inspectorate and support to youth are provided. Walkerville also participates in a regional grants officer project, a regional emergency management planning and response project, and the SWAP library project (run out of the Walkerville site) which provides access for Walkerville members to additional libraries and collections.

Focus has also been squarely placed on the financial sustainability of Councils. To ensure long term financial sustainability Councils must ensure that rates levels, debt levels and asset management and infrastructure renewal projects are set to appropriate levels to ensure that each generation of ratepayers is paying an appropriate proportion for the services consumed. Whilst theoretically this appears to be both reasonable and straightforward in practice it requires much planning and thought in an area where in all cases the data is not well defined. To this end, Walkerville has been focussing during 2006/2007 on commencing detailed strategic planning for the Town, including asset management planning to assist to guide continued long term financial sustainability. Due for completion during the 2007/2008 financial year, much community consultation and background work
has been undertaken in the current period.

The Council endeavours to match service delivery levels to the levels desired by the community in order to balance and contain cost increases that inevitably occur over time. Waste management in particular has had and will continue to have significant impacts upon Council’s budget as do utility costs and increasing community expectations for sound environmental management. Whilst it is not possible to satisfy each and every person 100% the Council is mindful of its duty to work for the community good and to this end operates with a philosophy of working together.

To this end, during the 2006/2007 financial year the Council has sought to balance major infrastructure projects with community development projects. Key projects undertaken during the year include the reconstruction of Gawler Terrace and the upgrade of the Walkerville YMCA. Council also completed a major planning policy amendment. The Council was also pleased to be able to officially reopen the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery. The SWAP library network introduced wireless internet access which has proven to be particularly popular at all sites. A number of key annual events were also hosted including the Australia Day breakfast celebrations and the annual Carols in the Village both of which provided an opportunity for members of the community to meet and socialise.

Walkerville remains a desirable area in which to live and we continue to welcome new residents. The future development of Walkerville will need to be respectful of the qualities that make it unique whilst providing the opportunities and services required by these coming generations.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many service organisations and volunteers who assist our community and without whom the quality of life for some of our residents may not be so rich. Also my sincere thanks to all of the dedicated Councillors, and of course the staff at Walkerville Council; our grounds staff, library staff and administration who each year go above and beyond to serve the Town of Walkerville and make it the special place that it is.
Elected Members

During 2006-2007 Local Government elections were held. The elected members sitting on Council between 1 July 2006 until the declaration of polls on 17 November 2006 were:

- Mayor John Rich
- Councillor Alan Hedges
- Councillor Rex Adams
- Councillor Luke Westenberg
Elected Members Vale Park Ward

Councillor David Whiting

Councillor Heather Wright

Councillor Helen Rossis

Elected Members Walkerville Ward

Councillor Pat Eady

Councillor Jeanette Linn OAM

Councillor Tony Pederick
At declaration of polls on 17 November 2006 Members of Council were:

**Mayor David Whiting**

### Elected Members Medindie/Gilbert Ward

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<th>Councillor Rex Adams</th>
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### Elected Members Vale Park Ward

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<th>Councillor Helen Rossis Resigned from Council 16/10/07</th>
<th>Councillor Heather Wright</th>
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Elected Members Walkerville Ward

Councillor Philip Cheesman

Councillor John Rich

Councillor Pat Eady
Resigned from Council 09/03/07

Councillor James Williams
elected to Council 15/06/07
Elected Council

Decision making structure - committees

The Council is the main decision making body. The Council, pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999, may establish committees:

- To assist the Council in the performance of its function;
- To inquire into and report to the Council on matters within the ambit of the Council's responsibilities;
- To provide advice to the Council; and
- To exercise, perform or discharge delegated powers, functions or duties.

When establishing a Committee, the Council determines the reporting and other accountability requirements that are to apply to the Committee.

Current committees are:

**Development Assessment Panel**

Council's Development Assessment Panel pursuant to 56A of the Development Act 1993 still operates and has delegated authority from Council to carry out the assessment of development applications. The Development Assessment Panel carried out its duties within the provisions of the Development Act to make decisions on development applications with due regard to Council's Development Plan. The South Australian Parliament passed the Development (Panels) Amendment Bill, which resulted in the make up of the panel changing to include members of the public who are independent of the Council. Walkerville previously incorporated two independent members on its Panels. The biggest change therefore is that the Walkerville Panel now has two more independent members and an independent Chairperson.

Membership:

Mr Bill Chandler (Presiding Member)

Ms Stephanie Johnston

Mr Douglas Johnston

Mr Philip Cheesman

Ms Heather Wright

Ms Carolyn Wigg, and

Ms Skye MacDonald

**Walkerville Town Centre Committee**

Pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1999, on 4 December 2006 the Council established its Town Centre Committee.

The Town Centre Committee has been established to provide advice to the Council on the following matters:

- In relation to the current Town Centre Development project, including the sites at 82–86 Walkerville Terrace and 33 Warwick Street and the Transport SA (DTEI) car park, review the need for a prudential report(s) pursuant to Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1999 and if it is determined that such a report(s) is required, cause for such a report(s) to be prepared for presentation to and consideration by the Council.

- To act as a steering committee providing advice to the Council in respect to the development of a long term master plan for the development of Walkerville Terrace and the total DTEI Walkerville site, taking into account the aspirations of all stakeholders and the ability of existing infrastructure to handle resulting increased usage, economic viability, disposal of any Council owned land and local amenity.

- In conjunction with items above, consider (and report
back to the Council on) the value of a thorough and independent traffic study investigating the ramifications of all new development on Walkerville Terrace and the DTEI Walkerville site.

- Subsequent to the outcome of items 2 and 3 above, provide advice to Council as necessary about the preparation of a new Council wide Development Plan, Plan Amendment Report during the term of this Council.

Membership:

All members of Council.

**Town of Walkerville Audit Committee**

The Corporation of Town of Walkerville’s Audit Committee was established on 19 February 2007

The principal objective of the Audit Committee is to add value to and improve, the Corporation of the Town of Walkerville’s operations, by assisting the Council to meet its legislative and probity requirements as required by the Local Government Act 1999 and other relevant Legislation, Standards and Codes.

The primary role of the Audit Committee, is to assist the Council in the effective conduct of its responsibilities in respect to financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls and facilitating the organisation's ethical development.

The Audit Committee is established to assist the co-ordination of relevant activities of management and the external auditor in order to facilitate the achievement of organisational objectives in an efficient and effective manner.

As part of the Council's governance obligations to its citizens, the Council has constituted an Audit Committee to facilitate:

- the enhancement of the credibility and objectivity of internal and external financial reporting;
- propose and provide information relevant to a review of the Council’s Strategic Management Plans and Annual Business Plan;
- the review and reporting on any matter relating to financial management or the efficiency and economy with which the Council manages its resources;
- effective management of financial and other risks and the protection of the Council’s assets;
- compliance with laws and regulations as well as use of best practice guidelines;
- the provision of an effective means of communication between the external auditor, management and the Council;
- proposing and reviewing the exercise of powers under Section 130A of the Local Government Act 1999.
- review Annual Financial Statements to ensure that they present fairly the state of affairs of the Council;
- liasing with the Council’s Auditor; and
- reviewing the adequacy of accounting, internal control reporting and other financial management systems and practices of the Council on a regular basis.

Membership:

Cr Philip Cheesman (Chairperson)
Mr Geoffrey Gosden
Mr John Maslen
Cr Carolyn Wigg
Mayor David Whiting

**Building Fire Safety Committee**

The objective of the Building Fire Safety Committee is to investigate whether fire safety in existing buildings throughout the Council area is being adequately maintained, and where it is considered inadequate, to require it to be upgraded so as to provide an acceptable level of fire safety. As the role of the BFSC relates to fire
safety in older existing buildings, priority for inspections are made on a risk assessment basis related to types of buildings that constitute a high fire safety risk. For example, buildings that provide overnight accommodation for unrelated persons or where occupants may not be highly mobile, or where large numbers may congregate and not be familiar with their surroundings or other buildings deemed to be a risk because of their circumstances. During the last 12 months, the Building Fire Safety Committee has overseen the installation of fire safety sprinkler systems to various buildings and the upgrade and improvement to fire safety provisions for a number of building/renovation programs.

**Attendances at Council meetings**

There were a total of 19 council meetings during this financial year, of which 9 were prior to the 11 November elections.

**3 July to 6 November 2006**

Mayor Rich attended 9  
Councillor Adams attended 8  
Councillor Eady attended 9  
Councillor Hedges attended 8  
Councillor Linn attended 9  
Councillor Pederick attended 9  
Councillor Rossis attended 6  
Councillor Westenberg attended 6  
Councillor Whiting attended 6  
Councillor Wright attended 7

**21 November 2006 to 4 June 2007**

Mayor Whiting attended 10  
Councillor Adams attended 9  
Councillor Cheesman attended 9  
Councillor Eady attended 4 prior to her resignation on 09/03/07  
Councillor Reade attended 10  
Councillor Rich attended 9  
Councillor Rossis attended 5  
Councillor Wigg attended 9  
Councillor Wilkins attended 10  
Councillor Wright attended 10

**Elected member allowances**

The register of elected member allowances and benefits was available for inspection upon request at the Council Office.

Allowances paid to members:

- Mayor: $14,560.00
- Deputy Mayor: $4,550.00
- Presiding member of a standing committee: $4,550.00
- Elected members: $3,640.00

Other benefits included training and attendance at conferences pertaining to Council’s roles and functions.

The Council also resolved to make available to the Mayor the following facilities and support to assist with performing or discharging official functions and duties: mayoral office space; laptop computer; internet service; mobile telephone (including reimbursement of council related phone calls); home phone rental, copy paper and clerical assistance as required.

**Elected Members Training/Conferences**

During the 2006/2007 financial year a budget of $12,000 was set aside for training and development and attendance at seminars/conferences for elected members. Various courses/conferences were undertaken throughout the year at a cost of $11,891. Courses/Seminars undertaken by Elected Members were:

**Mayor David Whiting**

- 2007 ICLEI Conference
- Audit Committee Training

**Cr Rex Adams**

- Murray Darling Association Conference

**Cr Heather Wright**

- Community Renewal/Sustainability Conference
Cr Carolyn Wigg
- 2007 Mainstreet Conference
- New Elected Members Residential Seminar
- Audit Committee Training

Cr Paul Wilkins
- New Elected Members Residential Seminar

Cr Tony Reade
- Community Renewal/Sustainability Conference
- New Elected Members Residential Seminar

Cr Philip Cheesman
- New Elected Members Residential Seminar
- Resource Recovery & Waste Forum
- Audit Committee Training
- Financial Sustainability & Asset Management Overview

Wallmans Lawyers conducted elected members training and induction at Council meeting.

**Representation to Outside Bodies**

Elected Members are represented to various outside bodies both locally and regionally. Members currently representing Council on outside bodies include the following members and organisations:

- Murray Darling Association – Councillor Adams
- Inner North East Adelaide YMCA – Councillor Adams
- Pleasant Sunday Afternoon – Councillor Adams
- WastecareSA – Councillor Cheesman
- East Waste Management Authority – Councillor Rich
- Highbury Landfill Authority – Councillor Rich
- Walkerville Primary School Council – Councillor Rich
- Eastern Health Authority – Councillors Rossis and Wigg
- Vale Park Primary School Council – Councillor Wright
Administration

**Governance**

The administration area of Council has the primary responsibility for the provision of governance support to the elected membership and administrative support to all other Council service departments.

Services provided by the administration team include:

- Governance
- Financial Management
- Rates and Property Administration
- Information Technology and Records Management
- Customer Service and Administrative Support
- Community Safety

Council is committed to a high standard of corporate governance and accountability and seeks continuous improvement.

**Executive Management Team**

The role of Council's Executive Management Team was to provide advice to Council on strategies and policy direction, to implement Council decisions and to ensure that Council complied with its statutory obligations. Management and staff were also responsible for carrying out the regulatory and service roles of a local government body.

The Executive Management Team comprised the Chief Executive Officer, three Department Managers and the Executive Assistant.

Council staff operated under a system of delegated authority according to their level of training and responsibility. This promoted accountability and allowed for the smooth functioning of operational and administrative activities.

Allowances paid to members of the Executive Management Team (excluding Executive Assistant) included a cash salary, fully maintained motor vehicle and statutory superannuation.

**Human Resources**

Council continues to retain a balance of well trained and responsive Council employed staff, and the use of contractors for specialised projects and services. Council also has shared arrangements with other neighbouring Councils. This extends to a shared regional grants officer, a joint youth officer with Prospect as well as shared service provision and a regional risk coordinator. The use of employed staff, contractors and shared service arrangements ensures that projects are carried out using specialist equipment and skills of contractors where necessary, whilst retaining a core workforce that can respond quickly and efficiently to localised problems and concerns.

All employees were employed under an Enterprise Agreement and relevant industrial awards or a common law contract of employment.

Employees continue to undertake appropriate training to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to service the community efficiently.

Council employed a total of 33 people, 20 full time and 12 part time/casual employees and 1 trainee.

**Equal Opportunity**

Council is an equal opportunity employer and will employ the best person for the advertised position. Employees are encouraged to attend training courses to improve their skills base and their opportunity for advancement in the Local Government Industry.

**Customer Service**

Council's Customer Service provided a one-stop shop for prompt and efficient customer
service for both visitors and ratepayers within the Town. Service was provided across the counter and in response to telephone and email enquiries.

Requests ranged from trimming trees, road and footpath maintenance, recycling and domestic rubbish collection, parking, planning, rates and animal management queries.

Information Technology & Records Management

Council focussed on replacing hardware during this financial year to ensure that all IT assets were running efficiently. A suite of products was installed to provide a more secure electronic email environment including archival software to ensure that all relevant records are captured. This system also assists with retrieval and searching. Software continues to be reviewed to ensure that an efficient and effective service is provided.

Management of correspondence is actioned in accordance with General Disposal Schedule 20 for Local Government Authorities in South Australia. Once archived, permanent records are stored at State Records whilst non-permanent records are stored with a State Records approved service provider of temporary records.

Council’s website continued to receive a growing number of hits as more functionality was made available. The Corporation of the Town of Walkerville has implemented a number of on-line transactions as part of the Australian Government’s Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund (RRIF). The 'BizConnect' project allows real estate agents and conveyancers to request Section 7 search on-line.

Council also participated in the 'NeDA' project which allows businesses and members of the public to lodge a Development Application and enquire on its processing status online.

With these on-line transactions businesses and residents in the area can now transact with Council anytime day or night.

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning provides the framework within which all of Council’s major decisions are made. Council’s Strategic Management Plan 2001 to 2006 Directions for the Future provides the key outcomes for Council to achieve.

During 2001-2006 Council achieved these key outcomes by:

- Resource Sharing;
- Ongoing relationships with the State and Federal Governments;
- Support to the Local Government Association (LGA). Mayor/ Councillor John Rich concluded his term as President of the LGA during 2006;
- Development of an annual project of Civic Ceremonies;
- Actively maintained council owned properties, footpaths, kerb and gutter;
- Regular maintenance for parks and gardens;
- Developed a Community Management Plan;
- Continue to provide a community bus service;
- Engaged a youth service officer;
- Revised Development Plan in a number of areas including heritage.

Council engaged the services of Urban Planning Solutions to undertake the development of the 2008-2018 Strategic Management Plan. Workshops were held with elected members and staff. Community involvement has been a major component of the plan with workshops being held which enabled interested persons / stakeholders to provide invaluable input into Council’s future directions.

This process will conclude during 07/08 financial year.

Risk Management / Occupational Health Safety & Welfare

Council continued to share the resources and expertise of a risk and occupational health safety and
welfare co-ordinator from the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme / LGA Workers Compensation Scheme with Burnside, Prospect and Campbelltown Councils.

The annual Risk Management Review was conducted by the Local Government Mutual Liability Scheme, Walkerville's results were just above the metropolitan average with a score of 91.3%. The Local Government average was 85.9%.

Occupational Health Safety & Welfare continued to be a major commitment for the Council with the safety of its workers of paramount importance. Council worked closely with the Local Government Association Workers Compensation Scheme with its annual review.

**Community Safety**

Council provides community safety awareness within the Town with the assistance of the City of Prospect. Areas covered include parking, animal management including lost dogs, overhanging growth, European wasp control etc.

Council continues to work with local schools to ensure that the safety of children is paramount and our Community Safety Officers monitor the area to ensure compliance with legislation.

**Dog and Cat Management**

Council in association with the Dog and Cat Management Board, continued to provide educational programs to the community for responsible pet ownership and urban animal management to ensure the safety of residents and the wellbeing of animals.

The Reference Group for the development of the Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan undertook consultation with the community through adverts in the City and Standard Messenger newspapers. Following the consultation with the community and key stakeholders, the Strategic Urban Animal Management Plan 2007 – 2012 was adopted by Council at its 4 June 2007 meeting.

**Finance**

The Town of Walkerville continues to be largely dependent on residential rates income to fund its operations, more so than most other councils. This is largely attributed to the fact that Walkerville has a high percentage of residential properties and a limited capacity to raise revenue from alternative sources, such as fees and charges and receives minimal government grants.

The finance department coordinated the preparation of the Council budget for Council approval. Council engaged the services of a consultant to assist the finance department to meet statutory reporting requirements. Council operated within tight budget constraints to keep rate increases to a minimum. (refer to Audited Financial Statements).

During the 2007 / 08 year, Council will commence work on its 10 year financial plan and 10 year asset management plan. These will assist Council and the community for its long term future direction.

**Rates & Property**

Property values are used as a basis for determining what share of the total rate revenue individual ratepayers are to pay. The property values used by the Council are independently set by the Valuer General. Ratepayers can object to the valuation if they believe it is inaccurate.

Rates are determined based on the capital value of the property, which includes both the value of the land and the value of any buildings or other structures.

Rates are the major source of revenue for council, accounting for 81% of Council's revenue. Other sources of income include grants, but unfortunately one of the Grants being the Federal Assistance Grant is distributed upon formula for broad equity across SA that accordingly results in the Town of Walkerville receiving only a fixed minimum amount per capita. Other sources include Statutory Charges, User Charges, and reimbursements. Due to Council's size, these are only minimal income sources.

Council again acted as a collection agency for the Natural Resources Management Levy, funds which are used by the Board to manage resources.
Rating Policy

Rating Administration was responsible for maintaining a database of approximately 3430 properties within the Town of Walkerville for billing and collection of rate payments and the administration of Council’s Rating Policy (appendix A).

Office of the East

Office of the East, a cooperative alliance between City of Burnside, City of Campbelltown, City of Prospect, City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, City of Tea Tree Gully, City of Unley and Corporation of the Town of Walkerville continued to meet and identify opportunities for improved services.

Codes & Registers

Under the Local Government Act 1999 Council is required to keep a list of registers and codes of conduct/practice.

Code of Practice – procedures at meetings

The Local Government (Procedures at Meetings) Regulations 2000 specify certain procedures to be undertaken during the operation of Council meetings. These meetings include:

a) the meetings of a council; and

b) the meetings of a council committee performing regulatory activities

c) the meetings of any other council committee

The Regulations provide that the Council may develop a ‘Code of Practice’ where Council chooses to establish its own procedures at these meetings where those procedures are capable of variation by a prescribed number of Elected Members as determined by the Act (refer to Section 86(8b) and 89(1b). This Code of Practice includes the procedures which are specified within the regulations as capable of variation and which have been so varied by the Council and where the Council has determined that the Act and/or Regulations are silent.

Code of Conduct – Elected Members

This Code of Conduct is a public declaration of the principles of good conduct and standards of behaviour that this Council believes the community could reasonably expect of its Members of Council.

Code of Conduct – Employees

This Code of Conduct is a public declaration of the principles of good conduct and standards of behaviour the Walkerville Council have decided its stakeholders could reasonably expect of Council employees to demonstrate in the performance of their duties and functions. This code is required by the Local Government Act 1999, section 110.

Code of Practice – Access to Meetings and Documents

This Code of Conduct is a public declaration relating to public access to Council and Committee meetings and the minutes of those meetings. This Code is requested by the Local Government Act 1999, section 92.

Council’s Policy Documents and Codes of Conduct/Practice provides a comprehensive guide for Council’s procedures and conduct of Council Members and Administration.

- Advertising charges
- Bluestone kerbing
- Budget - implementation of programs
- Building inspections
- Building on or near boundary alignments
- Chief Executive Officer - appointment of acting
- Circulation of agendas and minutes to the media & other groups
- Community fund guidelines
- Computer network, internet and email access/usage policy and guidelines
- Consultation – public
- Contracts and tenders
Customer Service Standards
Development - building over easements
Development - extensions of planning consents
Development - public notification
Development / building work - repair damage
Development Act delegations
Disposal of surplus equipment
Dog & Cat Management - control of cats
Education, training, seminars & conferences
Elected members allowances, benefits, facilities and support
Elected members training and development
Election signs – control of
Environmental Management
Equal employment opportunity
Fines / charges – waiving of
Footpath and nature strip maintenance
Grants information
Internal review of council decisions
Investments & review of investments
Memorial Gardens – use of for wedding ceremonies / photographs
Order making
Outdoor dining
Parking permits - residential
Parks, gardens & reserves – use of
Playground risk management
Possums - trapping and the destruction of
Records Management
Risk Management
Roundabout and protuberance landscaping
Sign-post erection
Signs and minor traffic devices
Sponsorship – accepting & provision of
Staff - annual leave
Staff - immunisation against influenza
Staff - membership of professional associations
Staff - sick leave
Staff – uniforms / corporate wardrobe
Stobie pole decoration
Street lighting
Telecommunications overhead infrastructure
Temporary road closure – events on roads
Town hall / meeting room - free hire to community groups / educational bodies
Tree policy
Undergrounding of powerlines
Vandalism and graffiti management
Volunteers
Walkerville Oval & Levi Oval - hire of
Wesleyan Cemetery - restoration of gravesites
Wesleyan Cemetery - Smith Street
Wilderness Home Help Fund

By Laws

The following by-laws made under the Local Government Act, 1999 are in operation with the Council area.

By-law No. 1 Permits & Penalties

To provide for a permit system and continuing penalties in Council by-laws, to clarify the construction of
such by-laws and to repeal by-laws.

**By-Law No 2 – Local Government Land**

For the management and regulation of the use and access to Local Government land (other than streets and roads) vested in or under the control of the Council, including the prohibition and regulation of particular activities on local government land.

**By-Law No 3 – Roads**

For the management, control and regulation of certain activities on roads.

**By-Law No 4 – Moveable Signs**

To set standards for moveable signs on streets and roads and to provide conditions for and the placement of such signs.

Full copies of the by-laws are available from the Council office or can be downloaded from Council’s website [www.walkerville.sa.gov.au](http://www.walkerville.sa.gov.au).

**Voter Representation**

Council’s current representation quota is one Councillor for every 591 electors – 10 Elected Members for 5912 electors.

The Town of Walkerville is the only remaining town Council within metropolitan Adelaide and there are no other Councils of a similar size and type with which to compare the representation quota.

Under section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council will be required to conduct its Elector Representation review in 2008. The review will follow the provisions of section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999. This provides that Council must first prepare a representation option paper that will be released for public consultation. Following that consultation Council must prepare a report outlining the consultation and responses and any proposal Council considers should be carried out in relation to the review. This report also will be released for public consultation prior to the report being finalised.

**Competitive Neutrality, Significant Business Activities and Structural Reform of Public**

The competition principles applicable to Local Government under the Competition Principles Agreement require that each Local Government authority issue a Clause 7 Statement which in the last year, Council advises that it:

- Has 2 significant businesses defined as Category 1 businesses under Competitive Neutrality principles – Eastern Waste Management Authority, Eastern Health Authority;
- Has no by-laws which place barriers on market entry, conduct or discriminates between competitors;
- Has received no complaints alleging a breach of competitive neutrality principles by the agency;
- Has not been involved in any structural reform of monopolies.

In 1995 Council became a subsidiary member of the Eastern Health Authority. The Authority provides a cost effective and efficient service and ensures that its constituent councils are meeting their various legislative responsibilities which relate to Environmental Health and are mandated in the following legislation:

- Public and Environmental Health Act 1987;
- Food Act 2001;
- Supported Residential facilities Act 1992;
- Environmental Protection Act; and

**Confidentiality**

While the Local Government Act requires meetings of Council or any of its Committees to be open to the public, from time to time some matters need to be discussed in confidence. Confidential matters are covered by Sections 90 and 91 of the Local Government Act, and Council has adopted a Code of Practice relating to the principles, policies, procedures and practices that the Council applies for the purposes of the operation of
Sections 90 and 91. The Code of Practice – Access to Council Meetings, Council Committees and Council Documents has specific accountability mechanisms, including the requirement to provide a summary of the use of the confidentiality provisions in Council’s annual report.

A total of 19 confidential items were tabled at meetings under Section 90 (2) and (3) of which 18 items were also considered under Section 91 (7)

**Freedom of Information**

Council is required under Section 9(1) and (1a) of the Freedom of Information Act 1991 to publish annually an Information Statement (refer to appendix B). Included in this Statement is a list of Council documents which are accessible to the community as required by law.

**Freedom of Information Applications**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 under Schedule 4 1(gb) states that Council must report on the applications made to Council under the Freedom of Information Act 1991 during the relevant financial year containing the information required by the regulations. Council received a total of 15 Freedom of Information Applications throughout the 2006/2007 financial year.

**Contracts and Tenders**

Council reviewed and adopted its Contracts and Tenders policy in June 2007 and is committed to ensuring a fair, transparent and accountable process, in the provision of services, purchasing of goods and services and in the disposal of land and other assets.

The Corporation of the Town of Walkerville aims to ensure that its methods of:

- service provision (including the carrying out of works)
- purchasing goods
- selling and disposal of land and other assets

are cost effective, represent best value for money and meet the needs of the community.

Council’s Contracts and Tenders Policy addresses the key elements of the conduct of Council affairs in these areas and the principles that will guide its decision-making processes.

**After hours Service**

Council has engaged the services of an after hours telephone answering service which provides members of the public with a 24 hour 7 day a week response to their emergency.
Mark Draper, Manager Works & Infrastructure

Domestic Waste Collection

Walkerville Council is a member of the Eastern Waste Management Authority (East Waste), a regional subsidiary comprised of six metropolitan Councils, established to collect and dispose of municipal waste. East Waste provides a three bin service to Walkerville residents:

- a 140 litre waste bin collected weekly (blue lid).
- a 240 litre bin for recyclables collected fortnightly (yellow lid).
- a 240 litre green organic bin collected fortnightly (green lid).

An average of 56.3% of waste collected by East Waste is diverted from landfill and either recycled or reused.

Mayor/Councillor John Rich is Council’s representative on the Board of the Eastern Waste Management Authority.

Hard Waste Collection

The annual Hard Waste collection occurred in October 2006 with 98 tonnes of waste collected over a four day period.

Road Maintenance And Renewal

Gawler Terrace - Road Reconstruction

Work commenced on the reconstruction of the Gawler Terrace road pavement and associated kerbing and storm water drainage works. The project also included the construction of a centre island blister, threshold treatments and kerb protuberances to control traffic. The following quantities of work were involved:

- 5,355 square metres of road pavement was reconstructed
- 974 lineal metres of kerbing was constructed
- 600 square metres of footpath was brick paved.

The reconstruction of Gawler Terrace equates to 1.4% of the total road network.
**Road Maintenance**

Council conducts periodic audits of road infrastructure to locate failed areas or areas of risk that need to be attended to. The following audit maintenance work was carried out during 2006/2007:

- 12.9 kilometres of footpaths (16% of the network) were inspected and repairs to identified trip points were carried out;
- 42 sections of kerbing, totalling 259 lineal metres, were replaced due to damage caused by tree roots or subsidence.

**Reserves & Recreation Areas**

The following Reserve & Recreation area projects were undertaken during the year:

**Walkerville YMCA**

The following projects were undertaken to ensure compliance with standards and to improve safety:

- Remove and replace the existing asbestos stadium roof
- Extend the car park and reseal to create an additional 18 parking spaces
- Install a fire fighting stand pipe on the Smith Street side of the building

**Creswell Park Public Toilets**

A design has been prepared for the replacement of the existing toilets on the southern side of the Tennis Club clubrooms with a single unisex/disabled toilet. This work will also involve the upgrading of the exterior of the building.

**Linear Park Access**

The following projects were undertaken to improve access to the Linear Park:

- The section of shared use path between Levi Park and Ascot Avenue (150m long and 3m wide) was reconstructed to correct excessive cross fall and cracking which resulted from flooding over the past decade.
- The section of shared use path from Ascot Avenue to Fife Street (613m long and 2.5m wide) was repaired where required and resealed.
- The board walks at St. Andrews Street and Gilbert Street were re-decked where required and a section of failed decking at Gilbert Street was replaced with a concrete retaining wall and bitumen path.

The repairs to the Linear Park shared use path carried out during the year has resulted in 16% of the path network being upgraded.

**Reserve Maintenance**

Council maintains approximately 12.4 hectares of reserve area which includes formal gardens, ovals and passive reserves. The River Torrens Linear Park, Walkerville Oval and Levi Park are the most significant reserve areas. Activities undertaken by council’s maintenance team include grass cutting, tree maintenance, lighting maintenance and revegetation works.

In response to the imposition of water restrictions Council has reduced the irrigation of reserves by 15 to 20%, depending on the nature of the reserve and activities conducted on the reserve.

The Walkerville Oval and Levi Park Oval are irrigated using bore water. Where possible irrigation has been reduced to conserve water.

**Management Plans For Community Land**

Management Plans for all “Community Land” held by Council or under the care and control of Council have been implemented and endorsed by Council.

**Storm Water Management**

**Gawler Terrace Reconstruction**

The Gawler Terrace road works included the construction of 258m of storm water pipe from the existing system in Warwick Street to Smith Street. The drain terminates at Smith Street however it has been designed to connect to
future drainage works to be undertaken on North East Road.

**Forward Planning and Design**

Design work has continued on the proposed duplication of the Lansdowne Terrace storm water drain which will incorporate water diverted from Ascot Avenue via Evelyn Street. Design work has also continued on the upgrading of the Walkerville Terrace storm water drainage from St. Andrews Street to Burlington Street, and including the Devonshire Street / Hay Street drain.

**Highbury Landfill Authority**

East Waste, a regional authority comprising Burnside, Walkerville and Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Councils, was established to collect and dispose of municipal waste. East Waste operated the landfill at Highbury from 1971 to 1996 and at cessation of operations at the landfill, Highbury Landfill Authority (HLA) was established to administer the closure of the site. Walkerville Council has a 10% share in HLA. Mayor/Councillor John Rich was Council’s representative on the HLA Board during 2006/2007.

During the year the HLA Board achieved the following outcomes:

- Continued the monitoring of gas, site water and ground water within the site and extraction of gas for generation of power
- Investigated the feasibility of automation of the gas monitoring process
- Negotiated the renewal of the EPA landfill licence
- Developed the strategy for closure of the landfill site by June 2008
- Initiated negotiations in relation to the continued extraction of gas for power generation
- Initiated discussion with Planning SA in relation to a potential housing development east of the landfill site.

**Waste Care SA**

Waste Care SA, a regional subsidiary comprising six metropolitan Councils, established the Wingfield Resource Recovery Centre (WRRC) in 2004 and has contracted Transpacific Industries Ltd (TPI) to operate the business of receiving, re-using, recycling and disposal of waste. The recent acquisition of Cleanaway Australia by TPI has resulted in an increase in the tonnage of waste received at the WRRC. Council was represented on the Waste Care Board by Mayor/Councillor J. Rich (July 2006 to February 2007) and Councillor P. Cheesman (February 2007 to June 2007)

During the year the WCSA Board achieved the following outcomes:

- WCSA worked with TPI to increase the tonnage of waste delivered to WRRC
- WRRC is now fully tenanted with the operations of AMCOR and Jefferies being established on the site during the year
- The Jefferies organics operation based at WRRC now processes 100,000 tonnes of kerbside collected garden waste annually
- The WWRC received over 1 million tonnes of waste in the past 12 months and recycled in excess of 80% of this material
- WCSA made a submission to the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to the increase in the Solid Waste Levy. This included protracted discussions in relation to the practice, by competitors of WCSA, of storing excessive amounts of waste that should be transferred to landfill

**Levi Park Caravan Park**

Pursuant to schedule 8 section 9 of the Local Government Act 1999, Council must preserve the Caravan Park, the Moreton Bay Fig tree and Vale House. The nature and use of the park is not to be altered by Council without approval of the Minister.

During the year the Levi Park playground was fenced to ensure that children are not able to run
onto the adjacent roadways. An extensive inspection of trees within the park was undertaken and funds will be allocated in 2007/2008 for the maintenance pruning, tree removal and replacement required.

**Asset Management**

Council is required to prepare asset management plans for infrastructure and major assets for a period of at least ten years. During the year the following work was undertaken:

- Council staff undertook asset management training courses conducted by the Local Government Association
- Council, in conjunction with the Eastern Region of Councils, purchased Road Surface Management (RSM) software and specific modules of the Conquest Asset Management Software. The existing council data has now been transferred to RSM and Conquest in readiness for the preparation of a 10 year road works program
- Maloney Field Service was contracted to prepare an asset data base of all buildings, reserves and structures within the Town. This work is beyond the normal accounting requirements for assets and looks at components of assets, condition rating and replacement values
- Council’s storm water system data has been reviewed prior to sorting into a catchment basis for the asset management plan.

**Depot Operations**

Council’s maintenance team of nine employees is based at 42 Fuller Street, Walkerville. The maintenance team is responsible for the routine maintenance of road infrastructure, reserves and public buildings. The team is also responsible for the administration and monitoring of numerous contracts for the maintenance and renewal of council infrastructure.

The following is a brief summary of the maintenance team’s activities during the past 12 months:

**Street Tree Maintenance**

620 mature street trees were pruned by council staff and a further 109 were pruned by contractors. A total of 729 trees (20% of street trees) were maintenance pruned.

Work has also commenced on a program to formatively prune 1 and 2 year old street trees.

All street trees less than 3 years old were watered regularly during the summer months, abiding by water restrictions.

**Street Cleaning**

Council employees air broom footpath litter into the kerb prior to collection by the street sweeper. The sweeping cycle is a minimum of 4 weeks based upon need and increases to weekly during heavy leaf fall periods. A footpath sweeper has been contracted to sweep footpaths in high litter areas such as Northcote Terrace and the shopping precinct of Walkerville Terrace.

**Weed Control**

A summer and winter weed control program is conducted by a council contractor. The weed control contract included all street verges and the Torrens River Linear Park.

**Litter Bins**

A total of 95 litter bins located throughout the Town in streets and on reserves are emptied either weekly or twice weekly depending on demand. The work is contracted out.

**Doggy-do-bags**

12 doggy-do-bag dispensers are located throughout the Town on streets and in reserves. The replacement of bags takes place as the contractor collects refuse from adjacent litter bins.

**Bus Stop Shelters**

Directional tactile surface indicators were placed at 23 bus stop locations in accordance with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements. Paving adjacent to 3 bus stops was extended to ensure compliance with DDA requirements. It is intended that all 15 council shelters will be replaced over the next six years. A further 15 shelters are supplied and
maintained by Adshel in return for the right to place advertising in the shelter.

Street Sign Maintenance

Each year an audit of approximately 20% of the Town’s street signs is carried out and faded or damaged signs are replaced. During 2006/2007 the Medindie and Gilberton suburbs were audited and signage replaced where required.

Line marking

During the past 12 months the suburbs of Medindie and Gilberton were relined. The Town is relined on a three year basis.

LOOKING FORWARD

The following work has been undertaken in preparation for future infrastructure renewal –

- Design of road reconstruction in Acacia Street and Daphne Street and associated storm water drainage in Palm Street
- Survey of Buckingham Street and Waterman Avenue (McArthur Street to end) in preparation for detailed design work to occur in 2007/2008 and construction in 2008/2009
- Preliminary discussions with Planning SA and the City of Norwood, Payneham & St. Peters in relation to the joint funding of an open space strategy plan for the River Torrens Linear Park
- Analysis of the Ascot Avenue and Lansdowne Terrace storm water drainage systems, in conjunction with the Cities of Prospect and Port Adelaide Enfield
- Investigation of options for upgrading of the Hay Lane / Walkerville Terrace storm water drainage system
- Data collection and analysis for a review of traffic control treatments
Planning & Development

Development Assessment

The Planning and Development Department dealt with an unprecedented 294 applications during 2006/07, surpassing the record figure set in the previous year by 10%. Furthermore, the total construction value of development assessed over the past 12-months was in excess of $32m. Walkerville also recorded the highest jump of any metropolitan council in the value of renovations and additions to properties with $5.8m spent on home improvements during 2006/2007 compared with $2.6m for the previous year. Despite the heightened building activity, there were no appeals lodged with the Environment, Resources and Development Court against Council decisions during the past year. Council planning and building officers also undertook a combined 400 inspections of properties to ensure compliance with requirements under the Building Code and Development Plan.

Changes to legislation during the past year required Council to report on its performance with respect to development assessment timeframes to the State Government. The collated figures revealed that the Town of Walkerville substantially met its statutory obligations with respect to development assessment processing times.

Section 49 Applications

Council considered three development applications by State Government bodies during 2006/2007. These involved minor building additions to both the Vale Park and Walkerville Primary Schools, and a proposal for basement car parking on the Transport SA land, which was subsequently withdrawn.

With respect to property transactions, Planning and Development staff processed 285 property search enquiries, a 15% increase on the previous year’s total.

Policy Development

The past year saw the commencement of the ‘Shaping Our Future’ project, leading to the preparation of Council’s draft Strategic Plan. The draft Strategic Plan was informed by feedback from the community through forums and open house sessions, and via written submissions.
following broad public consultation. The ‘Shaping Our Future’ project will set Council’s strategic agenda for the next four years across all areas including public and environmental health, infrastructure maintenance and delivery, community and library services, local history, built heritage and suburb character.

The past year also saw the authorisation of the Heritage Places and Areas (Interim) Plan Amendment Report (PAR), and the commencement of the Local Heritage (Supplementary) PAR. Combined, the two PARs provide protection for over 700 of the Town’s historic properties, in addition to introducing five Historic (Conservation) Policy Areas to preserve the character of suburbs.

Another important planning policy milestone achieved during 2006/2007 was the commencement of the Residential and General PAR, which represents the first comprehensive review of the Walkerville Development Plan since July 1993. It is anticipated that the draft PAR will be released for public consultation in mid-2008, once it receives Council’s endorsement.

Council policy staff prepared 25 submissions in response to important strategic initiatives by both State and Federal governments, including the proposed amendment to the Urban Boundary, the Sustainable Development Bill and Roof Truss Taskforce, the Regulated Trees Bill, the State Planning Review, the South Australian Strategic Plan, and the Bulky Goods Review.

Economic Development

The Town of Walkerville is a participant in the National Electronic Development Assessment (NeDA) project, this year having reached a stage in the project where developers can now lodge planning applications on-line. Walkerville is one of the first Adelaide Metropolitan Councils with the capability to offer electronic development application lodgement and tracking services on-line. Council is currently working with a select group of developers to ‘road test’ the process before broadly publicising the service to all potential applicants. This initiative provides more choices for the community and more efficient transactions between Council and industry.

LOOKING FORWARD

Development Register

Council is in the process of adapting its Development Register from the current hard copy format to an on-line system. This will enable viewing of the Register without having to visit the Council office, while making the search for specific information much easier. It is anticipated that the Development Register will be available through Council’s website by January 2008.

Heritage Advisory Service

During the past year, Council gave support to the establishment of a Heritage Advisory Service as a joint partnership between the Town of Walkerville and the Department for Environment and Heritage. Approximately 20% of the Town of Walkerville’s housing stock is assigned some form of heritage listing, the highest proportion of any Adelaide Metropolitan Local Government Area. This, combined with the fact that approximately 40% of the total Council area is covered by Historic (Conservation) Policy Area status, demands a formal and structured Heritage Advisory Service. Once established, the service will enable owners of listed buildings (making applications) the opportunity to access professional architectural advice at no cost. The Heritage Advisory Service will be operational by December 2007.

Development Plan Review

Council has reached agreement with the State Government for commencement of the Section 30 Development Plan Review, which will chart the Town’s land use agenda over the next five years. The Section 30 Review represents an important strategic project where the community will be invited to comment and provide ideas on the future built form and land use distribution within the Town.

Walkerville Traders

It is Council’s desire to explore the opportunity for developing ties with traders along each of Walkerville’s business strips to offer professional advice and assistance in their transactions with Local
Government. Council will look at other established models where Local Government and businesses have worked in partnership to maximise economic development opportunities within retail and commercial areas.
Community Development and Environment

Anne Sawtell, Manager Community and Environmental Services

Community Development

Community Fund

Last year Council allocated grants to ten community groups totalling $9,635 for a range of worthwhile projects including the City Edge Christian Church - $1,200, to purchase barbecue equipment for its monthly luncheons for socially isolated people and the Walkerville Art Group – $100, to employ an Art teacher on a short term, temporary basis.

HACC Services

Walkerville Council, in conjunction with the City of Prospect provides home assist services for elderly, frail residents and their carers to remain living independently. Trained staff visit and assess the needs of the person and deliver the appropriately required services eg domestic assistance, social support, home maintenance, transport (ie to medical appointments), home modification and advocacy. Council’s Home Assist programme is mainly funded through the Home and Community Care (HACC) programme, which is a joint Commonwealth and State Government programme, as well as local government. With an ‘ageing population’ it is not surprising that there is an increasing demand for home assist services. In the 2006 calendar year, Walkerville residents received 1,475 hours of home assist services.

Community Bus

Council also offers a community bus service (which also attracts HACC funds). This weekly service is run each Friday and the outsourced bus service picks up the resident from their home, takes them to the North Park shopping centre and returns to their home. This service, being a HACC funded service is available for elderly, frail residents and their carers.

Volunteers

Council is very fortunate that many of our residents volunteer their time and services to assist local schools, churches, community groups and Council (ie particularly with our Library and the Friends of the Walkerville Wesleyan Cemetery). To thank our volunteers, representatives from local community groups are invited.
Community Information

Community information is provided on a regional basis (Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, Prospect and Walkerville) and this information can be found at the SWAP Library website – www.swaplib.sa.gov.au.

Walkerville News

Each quarter, residents receive a copy of Council’s newsletter which primarily focuses and reports on Council’s issues and services.

Youth

Walkerville Council shares the services of a Youth Officer (0.2FTE) with the City of Prospect. During National Youth Week (14 April to 22 April) bands “Granny Flat” and “She’s Alright” proved popular with the audience at the Sussex Hotel. On Wednesday, 18 April thirty young people aged from 15 to 19 years enjoyed listening to youth band “Granny Flat”. On the following night, Thursday 19 April “Granny Flat” featured once again with “She’s Alright”. Over twenty young people aged between 18 to 25 years attended this event. Feedback from the young people who were present at the National Youth Week is that they want to see and hear more live music.

A joint Walkerville and Prospect Youth Advisory Committee was established this financial year.

SWAP

The SWAP Library Network was established in 1989 and now four Councils, namely Campbelltown; Norwood, Payneham & St Peters; Prospect and Walkerville share and have access to a shared SWAP computer system that operates library management software and hardware. The SWAP hardware and staff are based at the host Council, namely Walkerville. The SWAP Library Network’s Memorandum of Understanding establishes the SWAP Library Network Committee that meets at least twice a year to discuss the following issues which are duly reported to the constituent councils:

- considering and determining the annual budget for the Network;
- considering the strategic direction of the Network;
- considering any major policy issues in relation to the Network; and
- making recommendations to the councils in relation to these matters.

Each council has one Elected Member and the Chief Executive Officer appointed to the SWAP Library Network Committee (as well as proxies) with voting rights. Councillor Heather Wright and Chief Executive Officer Ms Helen Dyer are Walkerville’s representatives.

Projects instigated by SWAP this financial year include:

- SMS Notification – borrowers are able to be notified when the items they have reserved are available for collection through a message being sent via their mobile phone. This service has proved to be very popular.
- Email Notification – holds and overdues. Patrons can request their reservation and overdue notices to be sent via email.
- Public Access Wireless Network – Public Libraries SA implemented this project in conjunction with the SWAP staff. The public now have access to a wireless network at Walkerville (as well as Prospect, Payneham and Campbelltown Libraries). Visitors and library members who have a laptop computer can connect to the Network using a wireless connection which means that they are not restricted to using fixed data points in the libraries. In order to use this service, members of the public firstly need to apply for membership to use the State’s public wireless network (which means they can access wireless at library through the State that participates in this project), and once approved they are issued with a user login and password. There are approximately 250 people registered as SWAP wireless users.
- Homework Help/Your Tutor Online Tutoring – Public Libraries SA (on behalf of public libraries) negotiated an
agreement with YourTutor to provide access to an online tutoring facility using public libraries as the access point. This project was funded from the public libraries database levy. Access to the Online tutoring resource “Homework Help” was completed in December 2006. The official launch was held at the Campbelltown Library on 28 February 2007. Response from both parents and students who have used this resource has been very positive. Access to the service is free. There is a link on the SWAP website – www.swaplib.sa.gov.au – which makes it simple for students to access the service. The service connects students to expert tutors in the fields of Maths, Science and English as well as helping with assignments and research, and is available weekdays from 4pm to 8pm.

- Britannica Online – Public Libraries SA (on behalf of South Australian public libraries) negotiated an agreement with Encyclopaedia Britannica to purchase the “Britannica website” database. Libraries have the option to purchase a licence to use the database which the SWAP Library network agreed to. Britannica Online is the web based version of “Encyclopaedia Britannica”. Registered Library members can access this service through the SWAP website and again staff have received very positive feedback about the database.

**Library**

The Walkerville Public Library provides the traditional ‘lending service’ as well as a variety of programmes including:

- Preschoolers ‘Baby Bounce and Rhyme’ held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 10.30am.
- ‘Toddler Read & Rhyme’ aimed for 2 to 3 year olds held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.
- School holiday programmes
- State wide “Little” and “Big Book Club” events were held in Walkerville eg well known Australian author Susan Mitchell was a special “Big Book Club” guest at the Walkerville Town Hall on Tuesday 28 November 2006, speaking about her biography of former first lady, Margaret Whitlam. The “Little Big Book Club” brought children’s author Tom Skinner to the Walkerville Library on Tuesday 22 August 2006.

During the year 110,323 items were borrowed from its shelves and 64,639 people visited the Library. In addition to borrowing items, patrons can take advantage of other library facilities such as a coloured photocopier/fax; five pc’s (with Internet access); local history records; community and reference information as well as daily newspapers. As of 30 June 2007, the Library stock totalled 22,561 items.

**Children’s Book Week – 18th – 25th August 2006**

Children’s Book Week is one of the most important, and busiest weeks of celebration in the library year. This year approximately 1,000 students visiting our Library enjoyed the activities centred on the theme of “Book Now”.

Throughout one day, 200 children from various schools spent an hour hearing from author Wendy Orr. Wendy is a well known Victorian writer and has written numerous books for children of all ages – some of which have been prize winners or short listed for awards in Australia.

**Australian Library and Information Week – 21 May – 25 May 2007**

Libraries across Australia had an opportunity to celebrate the services offered to their community during Library and Information Week. Walkerville Library presented special programmes for toddlers and adult visitors during Library Week.

**Environment**

Council’s environmental initiatives include:

- Rainwater tank rebate scheme – cost of plumbing a rainwater tank (maximum of 2,000 litres) and connecting it to the house – maximum of $400 rebate, one per household.
Environmentally friendly bags campaign – at the Council Office residents can bring in their plastic bags and deposit in the recyclable bin provided in the front foyer. These bags are recycled into such items as garden stakes, posts and rails, bollards, garden edging and wheel stops.

Environmental Health

Eastern Health Authority

The Eastern Health Authority provides a wide range of environmental health functions for the Corporation of the Town of Walkerville. The Authority's staff is engaged in a variety of services for which councils have legal responsibility including the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987; the Food Act 2001; the Supported Residential Facilities Act 1992; the Environment Protection Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 1999.

On the fourth Wednesday afternoon of every month (except December) the Eastern Health Authority staff hold an immunisation clinic at the Walkerville Council. During this financial year, the Eastern Health Authority continued its school based immunisation programme, 679 vaccinations were administered in Walkerville schools. The public immunisation clinic at Walkerville has continued to be busy with 171 people using the service in 2006/2007.

The Eastern Health Authority is governed by a Board of Management consisting of two elected members from each of the five constituent councils, namely the City of Burnside, City of Campbelltown, City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters, the City of Prospect and the Corporation of the Town of Walkerville. At the 21 November 2006 Council meeting, Councillor Helen Rossis and Councillor Carolyn Wigg were appointed as Council's Eastern Health Authority Board Members.

Community Events

A number of events were held in 2006/2007 including the Volunteers Reception and Australia Day celebrations.

Town of Walkerville Miniature Christmas Pageant Presentation.

Nearly 1,400 people visited and almost $2,000 was raised at this year’s Town of Walkerville Miniature Christmas Pageant which was open to the public and schools from Thursday 9 November through to Sunday 12 November. This was the most successful Miniature Pageant yet!

In conjunction with local resident Mr Peter J Golding, Council was very pleased to once again support this unique Pageant. There were 62 floats in the display, many of which have their own sound and animated characters.

Channel 7 promoted the Pageant through its community announcements. Money raised was donated to Channel 7’s “Children’s Research Foundation of SA Inc.”

Carols in the Village

On Wednesday, 13 December 2006 the Wilderness School Choir and the Cantabile Singers performed at the annual Carols in the Village. Father Christmas arrived in fine style, on the back of a camel and the youngsters had the opportunity to meet him and receive a bag of free sweets. Many families enjoyed the festivities and joined in the carol singing.

Art Show 2007

This year's Walkerville Art Show was once again an outstanding success. Walkerville Council staff worked closely with members of the Walkerville Society and the Rotary Club of Walkerville to ensure that the Art Show ran smoothly.

The fourth Walkerville bi-ennial Art Show was open to the public from Thursday, 28 June through to Sunday afternoon, 1 July. Over the four days 525 people viewed the paintings with Sunday afternoon proving to be a particularly popular time to visit. Seventy eight artists (including eight locally talented residents) entered this year's Art Show and the 212 displayed paintings certainly transformed the Town Hall into an Art Gallery. Forty five paintings were purchased and the total value of these paintings was just over $11,150. Interest in this year's Art Show is on par with the 2005 exhibition.
Awards

Volunteer of the Year Award 2007

On Thursday, 17 May 2007 over 130 people attended Council’s annual Volunteer Reception. Volunteer representatives from Walkerville’s schools, community groups and religious orders were present when Mayor Whiting announced the winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award, Mr David Mason. A keen sportsman, David Mason played junior sport for Walkerville and 253 Senior Football Games for the Walkerville Football Club from 1975 to 1995. He has also played senior cricket for the Walkerville Cricket Club for over 25 years, retiring in 2002. He was also a member of the Walkerville Men’s Softball Club.

Australia Day Awards

On Friday, 26 January 2007 over 130 people attended and enjoyed Council’s Australia Day celebrations which were held in the Walkerville Town Hall. The morning’s proceedings commenced with Mayor Whiting performing the Australian citizenship ceremony for eight residents, before he announced the winner of this year’s Australia Day, Citizen of the Year Award.

Council received four very worthy nominations for the 2007 Australia Day, Citizen of the Year Award. This year’s joint winners were Bruce and Raye Whitehead. Bruce and Raye Whitehead have been associated with the Walkerville Uniting Church since their childhood. Currently, Mr Whitehead oversees the two treasurers who manage the Church’s finances and he is also the Church’s representative to the Uniting Church Synod.

After the ceremony the Rotary Club of Walkerville provided breakfast for Members and guests in the Council courtyard.

LOOKING FORWARD

Council has committed to maintaining its Library and Community Services programmes in 2007/2008 financial year. Additionally, Council has budgeted to progress two current environmental projects (in addition to its plantings and open space programmes) being the Environmental Management System (EMS) and the ICLEI Water Campaign.

The EMS was commenced in 2005/2006 with a basic system being developed. This is a system of management that will now be implemented throughout the Council’s operations to ensure that in all matters, the Council has appropriate regard to environmental management.

Council is also a participant in the ICLEI water campaign. This is a campaign designed within a milestone programme to reduce and more efficiently use water resources. Council has allocated monies to ensure Council completes milestone 1 within the current financial year.

It is also planned to review the community bus service.