

ANNUAL REPORT



2005/2006



(Google Earth image of Coober Pedy from 4 kilometres)

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COOBER PEDY

HUTCHISON STREET, COOBER PEDY

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MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to begin my annual report with the message that Council is working its way forward following the financial troubles of the past three years that were associated with the demise of our old power station generation assets. Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen - formerly StateWest Power) is providing the community with a reliable and sustainable electricity supply, and Council's diligent financial management has placed us in an excellent position to move forward with some confidence over the next few years.

This year has again seen much of my time devoted to issues associated with anti-social behaviour in Coober Pedy. I am pleased to report that I have forged strong relationships with the Mayors of Port Augusta and Ceduna as we move forward together in an endeavour to address these community issues, predominantly caused by transient movement of people from and to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

Previous initiatives to implement a Transitional Housing Accommodation program in Coober Pedy seem to have ground to a halt, due mainly to the matter of 24 hour policing and ongoing funding. I have continued to lobby Police Ministers, Commissioner of Police and other Ministers in an endeavour to move forward with both issues, without any success at all. My resolve to achieve positive outcomes remains steadfast.

In October 2005 the Coober Pedy Senior Officers' Group formed and meets on a monthly basis. This group, as the name suggests, comprises the senior officers of key service



Mayor Steve Baines
(Photo courtesy Coober Pedy Regional Times)

providers, both local and visiting, whose aim is to identify issues of concern to residents and service providers in Coober Pedy and try to work out ways that these issues can be resolved by working as a collective group. Issues include the transitional accommodation program, anti-social behaviour, dry area, policing, impact of decisions on the APY Lands, State and Commonwealth funding programs and so on. The group is providing a voice for the community in Government circles.

I am pleased to report that in April 2006 I met with the Police Minister, the Hon Paul Holloway MP, during the Opal Festival and was able to spend some time with him in the main street area talking about community problems. The Minister, in his capacity as Minister for Planning, indicated that he would pursue on our behalf, possible funding from the Places for People Program, to implement infrastructure and strategies towards addressing anti-social behaviour in the main street area. Subsequent to his visit and another by officers from Planning SA, in July 2006 Council received funding of

\$175,000 to implement these strategies.

Our partnership with Regional Express (Rex) continues to flourish with increased passenger numbers throughout the year. As part of the fleet replacement program being undertaken by Rex, it is possible that we may see the introduction of the larger Saab aircraft during the latter half of the 2006 calendar year. With this possibility in mind I continue to lobby for the introduction of the Saturday flight which would then make it a seven day a week service.

Whilst it was very pleasing to see Aboriginal Air Services introduce a service from Alice Springs to Coober Pedy via Ayers Rock, it would appear that extremely low passenger numbers may see its eventual withdrawal from the route.

Council is very mindful of the sporting and recreational needs of the community and following the successful involvement of the Coober Pedy Football Club back in the Woomera and Districts Football League, we are committed to ensuring a home ground presence and game venue of suitable quality and towards that end, Council has committed to part funding the construction of a change room facility at the oval, which could also facilitate youth development programs.

We are delighted that Oxiana Limited, the company undertaking development of a copper and gold mine at Prominent Hill near Coober Pedy, have agreed to part fund the project to the tune of \$50,000.

A cheque for this amount was presented to Council by Managing Director and CEO Mr Owen Hegarty at

a ceremony at the oval in May, also attended by AFL legend Mr Ron Barassi, who turned the first sod of soil for the new change rooms.

Council certainly looks forward to a long lasting relationship with Oxiana Limited as it is quite obvious that there will be significant employment and economic benefits to our town and I acknowledge the involvement of the Northern Regional Development Board (NRDB) in this pursuit.



Oxiana Managing Director & CEO Mr Owen Hegarty signs \$50,000 cheque for change rooms
(Photo courtesy Coober Pedy Regional Times)

Other developments during this year have included the following:

- Approval and implementation of the Coober Pedy Development Plan
- Introduction of Telstra ADSL Broadband in Coober Pedy
- National Native Title Tribunal negotiations regarding the Breakaways Reserve
- NRDB Economic Development Forums
- Council assistance with resolving the future viability of the Coober Pedy Regional Times

It would be remiss of me not to mention the visit to Coober Pedy of a number of descendants of Willie Hutchison, the young 15 year old boy who first discovered opal in the area back in 1915. In conjunction with the Coober Pedy Historical Society I hosted a civic reception on 15th April 2006 at which approximately 50 people were in attendance and it was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the life and times and family of the young boy who means so much to this community.

I believe that the performance of Council this year has again been one of consolidation tempered with diligence and providing a base from which we can move forward next year. I look forward to the continued good working relationship with Senior Management as we look forward to future challenges.

As the next Local Government election is in November 2006 we will all be working for the betterment of the community and I issue a challenge to the new Council to do likewise and time will tell whether I am a part of that.

Steve Baines JP
Mayor

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The local government area comprised of the District Council of Coober Pedy is very small compared with the vastness of Outback South Australia. It is only a mere 77.6 square kilometres and straddles the Stuart Highway (Highway 87) some 832 kilometres north of Adelaide. With a population widely accepted within the community of some 3,500 residents from approximately 45 ethnic backgrounds, Coober Pedy's multi-cultural lifestyle is seen as quite an attraction to the visitor.

The town's economy is based strongly upon the tourism and opal mining industries and it has developed as a regional service centre in Outback South Australia. This year has seen progressive steps taken Oxiana Limited, a Melbourne based mining company that will develop a copper/gold mine at Prominent Hill, some 135 road kilometres south-east of Coober Pedy. The Northern Regional Development Board continues to liaise with Oxiana, particularly with regard to developing the relationship with the Coober Pedy community. It is anticipated that development at the site will commence during the latter half of 2006, with production commencing during the back-end of 2008.

Council continues to move forward with its recovery process following the recent financial issues associated with the old power station. We now find ourselves in a position to be more proactive with regard to community infrastructure and other needs.

The Coober Pedy Development Plan was finally approved and released in September 2005 and now provides a



Chief Executive Officer Mr Trevor McLeod

clear and concise guideline for development in the town.

Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) - formerly StateWest Power, has continued to generate a reliable and sustainable electricity supply and has developed an excellent working relationship with Council. Together we have been fielding a number of enquiries regarding alternative energy proposals that may afford some benefits in future years.

Council has committed significant financial and in-kind support for two both a changeroom and toilet facility at the town oval, as well as a skate park facility adjacent to the main street entrance to the town centre. major sport and youth recreation facilities during the year,

The development and use of sporting facilities in Coober Pedy remains a high priority and together with funding partners Council is committed to providing better facilities than those that exist currently. With the support of both the Youth Advisory Council and Aboriginal Youth Advisory Council the youth will have facilities that will assist with having a healthy and active lifestyle.

The Northern Regional Development Board's (NRDB) relationship with Council is as strong as ever. Unfortunately in early 2006, Mr Ross Sawers left the NRDB to take up a position with Oxiana Prominent Hill. Mr Stephen Staines, also with the NRDB, took up the vacant position in June 2006 and we look forward to his continued involvement with the community.



Far North Economic Development Officer Stephen Staines with Administration Trainee Tegan Clohesy

Economic Development Forums are held on a regular basis providing up to date information for local and out of town contractors interested in obtaining work within the region and these have proven extremely successful events.

During this financial year Council received funding of \$43,485 under the Regional Airports Funding Program to purchase and install basic security measures at the Coober Pedy Airport. This is no doubt only the beginning and other matters pertaining to airport security will be addressed on an as needs basis as determined by legislation.

Council's ongoing commitment to its partnership with Regional Express (Rex) to waive head tax to allow for cheaper and affordable airfares continues to achieve results with Rex

showing an increase of 8.66% in passenger load numbers.

Unfortunately the proposal by Alice Springs-based airline Aboriginal Air Services to introduce an Alice Springs/Ayers Rock/Coober Pedy and return flight proved unsustainable and was withdrawn.

Council continues representation at negotiation hearings of the National Native Title Tribunal in an endeavour to reach agreement on matters pertaining to use of the Breakaways Reserve. Unfortunately these things take time and it is anticipated that the negotiations have some distance to go.

We continue to encounter difficulties in recruitment of qualified staff, one example being electricity distribution linesmen. Council is forced to engage contract linesmen at some considerable cost. We continue to pursue some relief from this without too much success.

Other developments of note during this year have included the following:

- Ongoing commitment to the pursuit of apprentice and traineeship opportunities
- Offer of assistance to the Oodnadatta Community, when possible, to assist with electricity interruptions when ETSA Utilities are delayed.
- Financial support of various projects undertaken by community organisations, including Major Sponsorship commitments to the annual Coober Pedy Races and the 2007 National Opal Symposium

In addition to responsible financial management by Council, the retention of all senior staff during this year has been crucial to ensure the very stable

and team orientated practices engendered by Council. A lower than normal turnover of other staff has been experienced as well.

Elected Members and all staff have worked conscientiously throughout the year and have continued to exercise prudent decision making as we recover from our recent financial problems. This common sense approach will stand Council in good stead as it moves towards the next few years with renewed confidence.

I take this opportunity to again extend my sincere thanks to Mayor Baines,

Councillors, Senior Management and all staff for the manner in which we continue to work together to meet the challenges that confront us and I look forward to those that will no doubt face us next year.

Trevor McLeod
Chief Executive Officer

WHAT IS COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Council's role is to:

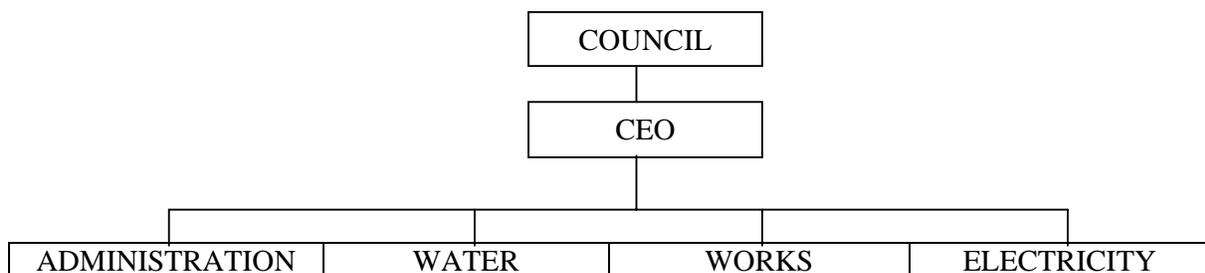
- Provide public services in a fair and equitable manner
- Make decisions on behalf of the community
- Promote and co-ordinate local effort
- Represent the community to other governments
- Manage Council's facilities and resources effectively and efficiently
- Encourage community participation in all aspects of Local Government
- Exercise and perform the powers, functions and duties of Local Government as required by the Local Government Act

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The normal elector representation on Council is that of a Mayor and eight (8) Councillors however shortly after the general election in May 2003, Councillor Quartermain resigned. Council was able to continue functioning without the need for a supplementary election to fill that vacancy due to a prior resolution concerning Council representation. Council continues to function effectively and looks forward to the next general election in November 2006 to return to full strength. Council is the policy and decision making body.

The Chief Executive Officer has the responsibility of implementing and administering these policies and decisions through the use of Council's human, physical and financial resources.

The Council is divided into the four (4) departments of Administration, Works, Water and Electricity and is structured as shown below:



FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Overview

This year Council has been dealing with considerable cost pressures mainly associated with the fuel component of the Power Purchase Agreement with Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) for the purchase of electricity. The fuel price has increased by over 70% since the signing the Power Purchase Agreement in December 2003.

This has caused a significant increase in costs for Council to incur. Council received funding for these increases in January and March 2006. From 1 July 2006 the Federal Government will be reducing the fuel excise and therefore it will take the financial pressure off Council.

Council, together with IT Vision, has been developing its new Electricity Billing software. It has been in operation for approximately 4 months and is working well.

The next stage is to redesign the water and electricity bills that are sent to customers.

Council also performed an upgrade of its entire desktop and server hardware and as a part of the IT upgrade, Council also had the backbone network brought up to standard.

Council also helped to implement a new software solution for the library that included a new search facility for patrons.

It was quite a momentous time for all Councils in South Australia with the commissioning and presentation of the Sustainability Report. The report detailed that all Councils need to identify how best to deal with assets and the replacement and maintenance of infrastructure.

Council will be examining the report's recommendations and the most appropriate manner in which to incorporate these into Council operations.



Mr Damien Clark (right), Finance & Administration Manager, with IT Trainee David Halkias

The Council figures at a glance:

Surplus before Depreciation: \$1.659M

Depreciation: \$1.176M

Surplus after Depreciation: \$0.483M

Loan Balance @ 30/6/06 \$1.572M

Cash Balance @ 30/6/06 \$1.452M

Debtors Balance @ 30/6/06 \$0.633M

Creditors Balance @ 30/6/06 \$2.475M

All managers should be congratulated for their contribution in achieving this turnaround.

Collection of Debts

Council is mindful of the various individual financial circumstances in which our customers find themselves and endeavours to balance the need for customers to pay accounts on time whilst appreciative of their circumstances.

Council offers various account payment options including the Internet, phone and in person.

When and where necessary Council tries to accommodate customers with suitable payment plans to ease their financial burden.

Staff Changes

Maria Daniell retired from Council after many years of service. Council employed Gina Shelton for front counter service and Kathy Kiosses moved laterally to the position of Rates and Property Officer.

Sherill Wood, Water and Electricity Officer, took maternity leave allowing Leah Henderson to move into that position for a period of 12 months.

Council employed Haimish McBain as a Tourism Trainee to replace Ms Henderson for that same period.

Council was also fortunate in securing an IT traineeship for a 12 month period to work with both Council and the school library.

Mini Gems Child Care Centre

This year has seen the centre consolidate further and now provide an excellent service to the community.

The centre now operates essentially on a full capacity basis and together with minimal staff turnover has created a wonderful environment in which the 'toddlers' thrive.

Centre management are again to be congratulated in maintaining the excellent they have set.

Many thanks

Again I extend my sincere thanks to all Elected Members for their support and positive feedback which, together with prudent financial decisions, has assisted in Council's recovery.

I would like to thank all of the staff under my supervision for the support they continue to show.

Thanks also must go to the Senior Management of Council for their diligence and application to their responsibilities which in turn has assisted me in mine.

Damien Clark
Finance & Administration Manager

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Ordinary meetings of Council are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak to Council during the public consultation section of the meetings between 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm.

The agenda is placed on public display on the Friday preceding the meeting. Minutes are available for inspection by the Friday after the meeting.

SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

Full Council makes decisions on policy issues relating to services that are provided to the community. These services currently include:

- Road construction and maintenance
- Litter bins
- Traffic control devices
- Public toilets
- Public cemeteries
- School Community Library
- Child Care
- Tree planting
- Planning and Building control
- Rubbish disposal site
- Tourist Information
- Fire hydrant systems & fire protection through CFS
- Parks & reserves
- Water supply
- Electricity supply
- Aged housing
- Aerodrome
- Dog control & impoundment
- Quarry products
- Parking control

- Recreational & sporting facilities
- Plant and equipment hire
- Street cleaning & lighting
- Support for community groups

Council is also required to carry out a number of policing services under various Acts, Regulations and By-Laws. These include control on –

- Environmental Health
- Land use
- Dogs
- Signs
- Land division
- Fire Hazards
- Traffic
- Buildings
- Litter
- Parking



New self-cleaning public toilet module

Anyone contemplating undertaking property building development of any kind must obtain Council approval.

If you are unsure about a matter please phone Council by:

Phone: (08) 86 725 298,

Fax: (08) 86 725 699 or email at

dccp@cpcouncil.sa.gov.au

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Council Meetings:

Members of the public have a number of opportunities to put forward their views on particular issues before Council. These are –

- **Deputations:**

With the permission of the Mayor a member of the public can address the Council personally or on behalf of a group of residents.

- **Presentation to Council:**

Between 8.00 pm & 8:30 pm at each general meeting of Council any member of the public can address the Council for five (5) minutes on any issues relevant to Council.

- **Petitions:**

Written petitions can be addressed to the Council on any issue within the Council's jurisdiction.

- **Written Requests:**

A member of the public can write to the Council on any Council policy, activity or service.

- **Elected Members:**

Members of the public can contact an Elected Member of Council to discuss any issue relevant to Council.

Council has adopted the following policies, codes and procedures that are also available for public inspection:

- Access to Council Meetings, Council Committees & Council Documents
- Elected Members' Allowances and Support Policy
- Elected Members' Code of Conduct
- Employees' Code of Conduct
- Internal Review of Council Decisions
- Making of Orders
- Public Consultation Policy
- Purchasing Policy
- Rating Policy
- Rate Rebate Policy
- Rates of Allowances for Members
- Register of Allowances and Benefits

GENERAL INFORMATION

ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

Council has a policy of making all documents available for public inspection except for those that are of a personal nature, relate to matters affecting staff or require some type of contractual confidentiality.

The following documents are available for public inspection at the Council Offices, free of charge:

Council Meeting Agenda, Council Minutes, Council Budget, Annual Report including Annual Financial Statements, Council By-Laws, Plan Amendment Report, Supplementary Development Plan, Planning Application Register, Building Application Register, Register of Elected Members' Allowances & Benefits, Register of Employees' Salaries, Wages & Benefits, Register of Public Streets & Roads, Register of Fees & Charges Levied, Assessment Book & Property Records

Members of the public may purchase copies of these documents for a fee declared by Council during annual budget deliberations.

Requests for Other Information

Requests for other information not included above will be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information provisions of the Local Government Act. Under this legislation an application and a search fee must be forwarded unless the applicant is granted an exemption.

Application of Competition Principles

During 2005/2006, Council continued with a review of its policies with particular attention paid to the application of National Competition Policy and any possible restrictive aspects by-laws and policies may have on competition.

Council has, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, adopted policies and procedures that govern tender and purchase practices for goods and service.



School and Community Library



Training Pool Staff



Mini Gems Children's Centre

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - *STAFFING OVERVIEW*

During the year Council employed the following staff numbers:

Function	Full-time	Casual	Part-time	TOTAL
Governance	2	0	0	2
Finance & Administration	7	0	1	8
Tourism	2	0	1	3
Works	13	2	0	15
Water Supply	5	0	0	5
Electricity Supply	5	3	1	9
Library	0	0	2	2
Pool	0	12	0	12
Childcare	5	7	0	12
Childcare Links	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	40	24	5	69

Total salaries expense for the year ending the 30th June 2006 was \$2,299,344 which represents 20.77% of Council's total cash expenditure of \$11,069,246.

STAFF TRAINING

Employee training and development is an investment. It can increase productivity by

- Increasing the skills of employees so that they are capable of operating more efficiently.
- Creating a safer workplace.
- Quickly and efficiently preparing employees to use new technology and deal with workplace changes.
- Increasing employee morale.

Council has delegated the responsibility of staff training to the Chief Executive Officer.

In the 2005/2006 year the following monies were spent on training:

Administration	\$ 15,523
Electricity	\$ 14,628
Works	\$ 21,854
Water	\$ 9,297
Tourism	\$ 3,205
Swimming Pool	\$ 2,157
Child Care Links	\$ 939
Child Care	\$ 1,085
TOTAL	<u>\$ 68,688</u>

A large percentage of the training was related to Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare issues.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The goals of council's Equal Employment Opportunity Program are to:

- Ensure that all staff or potential employees receive fair and equitable treatment.
- Engage or promote staff on a proper assessment of merit without discriminatory bias based on sex, sexuality, marital status, pregnancy, race, physical impairment, intellectual impairment or age.
- Involve and consult with staff on work practices and workplace change.
- Employ staff with skills best suited to the provision of Local Government services to the community.
- Give all staff equal access to training.

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Roads

The District Council of Coober Pedy Works Department continues to maintain more than 400 kilometres of roads in the township and mining areas. Grading of roads and driveways to all areas of the township is ongoing and special attention is given to all public requests for road grading and these are carried out in order of priority and the availability of materials if required. Construction and sealing of Halliday Place and Ferrall Street, along with Potch Gully Road with Roads to recovery funding has now been completed.

Many new or upgraded power, water and Telstra services are being installed and in order to be compliant they must be correctly positioned on road reserves. This has necessitated the realignment and construction of a number of roads including Kami Road, Wollaston Road, Thrower Close and Bryant Street because like many other roads in the township they were not aligned with the appropriate reserves when initially constructed. The realignment of the intersection between Paxton Road, Cameron Drive and Rufos Street has been designed and will be completed soon with Black Spot funding to provide a safer traffic environment as at present there is considerable confusion at that location.

Watering of roads is consistent to ease some of the dust problems and to extend the maintenance intervals of unsealed roads that carry high traffic loads.

Aerodrome/Airport

Council is the owner of the aerodrome that is licensed by CASA (Civil



Works Manager Mr Darren Zechner

Aviation Safety Authority) and to meet regulation standards, daily safety inspections are carried out with regular cleaning of lights, markings and markers, sweeping of the runway, taxiway and buildings as well as grading, rolling, slashing and poisoning of vegetation within the airport runway and taxiway perimeters. Coober Pedy's Aerodrome requires considerable maintenance to keep it to the standard for which it has been recognised.

During March an emergency airport exercise was undertaken and involved Council, all Emergency Services (Police, CFS, SES, and Ambulance) and parents and children from the school to update procedures and awareness for new recruits.

The Aerodrome Manual was reviewed and updated to reflect the new manual of standards by which aerodromes are regulated. The Coober Pedy Airport is now a "Certified Aerodrome".

There has been a major change in regulations relating to air safety and security at Airports that host Regular Public Transport operators and this has driven an administrative overhaul of operations manuals and procedures. A sophisticated system of closed circuit security cameras and an alarm system have been installed at the Airport along with security training of 5 staff

members to conduct metal detection of passengers and cabin baggage checks when requested by the Department of Transport. This has been funded by the Federal Governments “Securing Our Skies” program.

Workshop

The Works Department operates a comprehensive mechanical workshop to maintain and repair all Works, Water Supply, Electricity Supply and Administration vehicles. These include trucks, loaders, graders and bitumen plant as well as cars and utilities. The workshop is operated by qualified diesel mechanic James Fairfull, who also supervises Alastair Falland, the apprentice diesel mechanic.



Expanded Workshop facilities

Construction work is also carried out by qualified fitter Trevor Guthridge, who has built a new water tank for the International Tipper truck that was acquired last year as well as many new skip bins to cope with a growing demand in rubbish removal.

Council has been making 2 of these bins available on weekends to residents, at no cost, for the last 6 months and will continue to do so for at least the remainder of this financial year.

Other Works Duties

- Breakaways Reserve maintenance
- Council Building maintenance
- Drive Inn Maintenance
- Sports Area Maintenance
- Cemetery management/maintenance
- Town Hall maintenance
- Opal Festival and Coober Pedy Race Weekends:
Contribution of labour and machinery to help bring these events to fruition
- Power Station:
Cleanup and carting of contaminated soil from the old diesel tanks site to a specially prepared poly lined pit in a separate area at the rubbish dump. Carting of materials to fill and level ground where tanks were positioned
- Private Works – commercial rubbish bin pickups
- Quarry Sales and deliveries of sand and metal material



Ronald Michie & Tom Curnow, Parks & Gardens

Parks & Gardens

Tom Curnow (Supervisor) and Ronald Michie (Parks & Gardens worker) are responsible for the upkeep of Council’s Reserves including Keane Reserve, McDougall Road tree plantations, Jewellers Shop Noodling Area, Council administration office gardens

and the aerodrome as well as watering and maintaining the cemetery. Daily checks and maintenance of watering systems are carried out at the school oval, Triangle, the free BBQ areas and playground. They also sweep roads and assist the Works maintenance and construction teams when required.

Dog & Cat Management

Tom and Ronald also undertake the role of keeping the errant dogs and cats in check. A dog immunisation program is undertaken to assist in the elimination of fleas, ticks and mange and these services are free for registered animals. Birth control immunisation for female dogs is available if requested by the dog owner.

A staff member from Umoona Community assists Council staff with these control measures when needed at the community and in the main street. Any unwanted and neglected pups are then placed in the dog pound and dealt with at a later date.

Residents are urged to contact Council should they require any of these services. Relevant Council staff have attended a Dog and Cat Management seminar in Whyalla to upgrade their knowledge as well as attending a Dog Handling course in June.

The new dog pound facility is operational with the installation of an air conditioner and automatic water outlets. Currently a surgery area is being constructed and will be set aside for visiting vets.

Waste Depot

The Council operated Waste Depot (licensed by the EPA) is situated 4

kilometres north of town adjacent to the Oodnadatta Road. The second stage of operation has commenced and is expected to last until May/June 2007.

The Depot operates from 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm Monday to Sunday and is closed on public holidays. Dumping of household and other waste is free however Council does charge for truckloads and commercial bins etc. Dumping anywhere else in town or on the opal fields is illegal and Council will prosecute any offenders.

Rubbish Collection

Daily residential collection from the green 'wheelie' bins has proven to be successful following streamlined procedures to collect bins from the bottom of driveways making it more practical for collection.

Aged Housing

Council maintains 4 dugout units situated on Harlequin Drive, as well as 4 aboveground units on Van Brugge Street. These units are for the elderly and any interested persons requesting occupancy should contact the Community Health Sister at the Health Centre.

Training

Council is committed to a high standard of development and training for its employees including operator tickets for plant and equipment, senior first aid courses and work zone traffic management training.

Staff

There were a number of staff changes throughout this financial year due to the resignation of Tom Curnow, Parks and Gardens Supervisor, David Giles, Storeperson and Daryl Middleton, Construction and Maintenance worker.

New staff appointments included:

John Holdrich, Meter Reader/Waste Management worker, Bill Michie, Construction & Maintenance worker, and Trevor Guthridge, Workshop Fabricator.

Darren Zechner
Works Manager

WATER SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Coober Pedy Water Supply System, comprising bore field, desalination plant, storage and reticulation has now been in operation for 22 years. Some areas of the operation are showing their age and require constant maintenance and some areas are being upgraded as time and finances permit. This year has all so seen a substantial change to water supply staff.

Borefield

Both bore controllers have been replaced with variable speed drives this year and should see the bore motors last a lot longer before they need replacing.

There has only been one leak in the Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe line from the bore this year. Gas substitution is still employed on genset motors at the bore site.

Reticulation System

The town reticulation system is showing signs of age, with some ductile iron fittings and valves rusting, causing occasional smelly and discoloured water. Water Supply staff is replacing fittings and has repaired some 300 or so leaks this year.

However, some interruptions to supply and small amounts of discoloured water are inevitable. Water Supply staff urge consumers to notify the Council of water quality irregularities and suspected system leaks (damp patches on ground) to enable prompt attention by staff.



Water Supply Manager Mr Les Hoad

Water Quality

The District Council of Coober Pedy is committed to providing the highest achievable water quality as per guidelines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC), which provides the basis for maintaining quality control.

Water samples are collected and undergo bacteriological and chemical analysis on a monthly basis, or more frequently if deemed necessary, by the S.A. Water Corporation at its Australian Water Quality Centre at Bolivar. Daily tests are also carried out in-house to maintain quality.

Sewerage System

The sewerage scheme has been operating efficiently with normal preventative maintenance and repairs being carried out.

The quality of treated effluent has been maintained to correct levels as required by the Government Statutory Bodies, and is evidenced by the condition of the irrigated school oval and Triangle recreation areas, which are a credit to the Parks and Gardens department of Council.

There is still quite a margin between our current minimum and maximum intake, indicating that more properties could be connected. There has been a sewer dump point installed on the adjacent to the depot fence line for motor homes and caravans to dump their waste.

Water Treatment Plant

Since the new plant was installed in mid-November 2001, there has been no shortage of water for the town. The underground tank (known as the snake pit) is still holding water, giving the town an additional two days storage capacity.



Alex Morgan checking filter membrane instruments

Les Hoad
Water Supply Manager

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Over the past twelve months the township has only experienced five power outages since the generation section was privatised. These unforeseen incidents were quickly rectified and Energy Generation (enGen) are to be commended on their efforts.

Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) is the owner of the generation plant and is responsible for the maintenance and continual power supply to the town. Warranty work has been undertaken utilising the expertise of several mechanical and electrical staff engaged to ensure top performance and uninterrupted supply. All eight gensets and the surrounds are well maintained and the cleanliness of these and the premises is a credit to the staff.

The Wind Turbine has not been operational for quite some time due to problems with the alternator, which had to be removed and sent to Adelaide to be rewound. It has since been returned and installed with the assistance of the crane. enGen is still trying to source electrical parts to rectify existing problems.

Dave Sanders has been employed casually by enGen as power station operator and is responsible for the monitoring of the eight gensets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday as well as general cleaning. Geoff Ferguson is the stand-by power station operator and he monitors and carries out oil changes, all services, general maintenance and repairs on the gensets when required and as requested by enGen.

Some of the surplus generation plant has been sold with the remainder open



Distribution Supervisor Mr Peter McBain

to tender and unsold as at the time of preparation of this report.

Distribution

The Distribution Section is still owned and maintained by Council, with staff comprising Distribution Supervisor, Peter McBain, Linesperson, Graeme Norton and a 2nd year Apprentice Linesperson, Geoffery Graham. Council is still unable to entice qualified Linespersons to Coober Pedy, making it necessary to hire staff from organisations in Adelaide to assist with the workload.

There have been several *planned* power outages with extensive upgrading of several areas of the distribution network. These included areas in Lia, Traeger, Hutchison and Reilly Streets, as well as Holly Crescent, Post Office Hill Road and Alp Street, Naylor Place, Elleway Drive and Tupper Close. Other areas completed were in Crowders Gully, German Hill, Stretton and Italian Club Roads.

Staff completed the high voltage (HV) road crossing of the Stuart Highway to Airport Road, and replaced the low voltage SWER earth on the Potch Gully line.

Damage is still being caused by an inordinate number of cockatoos on the line network and with them chewing through the insulation, the town has had a few *unplanned* power outages. Other outages were experienced by customers due to burnt out and faulty service fuses, storm damage SWER and a blower hitting a low voltage mains in the town area.



Distribution team at work on overhead lines

The Elevated Work Platform (EWP) was driven to Adelaide in July to have the mandatory 15 year rebuild and it was necessary to hire another unit during this four week period until the rebuild was completed.

Electricity single phase meters installed on new premises are now the plug-in type and are installed in situations where supply installations have been upgraded, replacing damaged meters or replacing old clock-face meters.

Accommodation for electricity supply staff has overcrowded the Works Depot offices and in the near future this will be addressed. It is proposed to relocate the old power station office block to the Works Depot to give staff additional and suitable crib and

meeting room facilities, including one section as an office for the Distribution Supervisor and Electrician and another as a reception area for Vonnie Ferguson, Administration Assistant.

SWER & Town Connections

Three additional customers have been connected to the SWER line, with a block of four units and four other customers connected in the town area.

Public Lighting

Bi-monthly night patrols are carried out by staff to check and inspect the street lights. Replacements and any repairs, as the need arises, are dealt with during the course of daily work. Special thanks for the public notifying Council of lights not working.

Office of the Technical Regulator

Two staff members from the Office of the Technical Regulator visited Coober Pedy during August to have discussions with staff and continue ongoing investigations.

Faulty Electrical Installations

Several properties were advised to upgrade their electrical wiring and these have now been completed. Other property owners have had to relocate installations.



Administrative Assistant Mrs Vonnie Ferguson

OHS & W Requirements

The Audit early in July was compliant. Testing of all lifting equipment, personal issued equipment and associated items for HV and LV usage on the EWP is continually being tested and updated as required. Renewal of all licences and training is monitored and updated whenever trainers are in town or updated when staff are in Adelaide when necessary.

Staff Information

One staff member resigned as meter reader, and another's employment terminated for disciplinary reasons.

As mentioned previously Council continues to source short-term linesmen to assist when necessary and continues to search for a permanent replacement.

Peter McBain
Distribution Supervisor

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Ms Leah Henderson has continued with her role as Visitor Information Officer located within the Council administration offices. Due to some extended staff leave, Leah was relocated to the inner Administration office and her position was filled by Tourism Trainee Haimish McBain.

The Visitor Information Centre continues to focus on the provision of unbiased and valuable information for the travelling public and also as a resource for town information following the many requests received, particularly by school children.

Following the official opening of the upgraded VIC in March 2005, the centre has provided a vibrant, open, airy and colourful attraction for visitors.

Council is very pleased to house the original Progress Association Minute Book from 1920, when the town name was changed from 'Stuart Range Opal Field' to 'Cooper Pedy'. The original handwritten record of this significant and historical event is there for all to see.

Council continues to fund the VIC for opening hours on weekends and public holidays.

The Visitor Information Officer also provides invaluable assistance, support and logistics for the annual Opal Festival, as does Council and its Works staff in particular.

Council's main tourism website is at www.opalcapitaloftheworld.com.au and its local government site at www.cooperpedy.sa.gov.au, and are of great value to potential visitors to the town and locals utilising its features. The websites continue to be regularly updated in order to provide current product tariffs, business information and upcoming events, with many thousands of hits on the tourism site being recorded.

The swimming pool continues to be extremely popular with visitors to Cooper Pedy. Manager Barry Daniell and his staff continue to provide a wonderful facility that is well utilised during warmer months.

Staff undertake regular training in order to provide the very best of service to the community.

Leah Henderson
Visitor Information Officer



Council's new upgraded Visitor Information Centre

Schedule of Community Donations

During the financial year the following community donations were allocated:

Coober Pedy Amateur Racing Club Inc.	\$6,100
Coober Pedy Shooters Club	\$5,500
Tiny Peco Productions	\$1,000
Umoona Aboriginal Aged Care	\$1,000
Umoona Aboriginal Youth Advisory Committee	\$1,000
Coober Pedy Miners Association	\$8,500
St Vincent De Paul	\$ 900
TOTAL:	\$24,000

Census 2001 (As per 2001 Census Statistics)

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Population	1,713	1,349	3,062
Speaks language other than English aged 5 or more	472	308	780
Australian citizens	1,302	1,009	2,311
People of Indigenous Origin	173	164	337

Council will be undertaking a concerted effort in partnership with Census 2006 staff to encourage residents to list Coober Pedy as their primary place of residence for the 2006 Census in August in an effort to more accurately reflect the community population.

Computers & the Internet

In the week preceding the 2001 Census, 643 people (22%) had used a personal computer.

The total number of persons who had used the Internet in the week preceding the 2001 Census was 662.



Administration Staff from left: Michelle Riha, Kathy Kiosses, Leah Henderson, Gina Shelton, Melissa Rosewarne & Sherill Wood

ELECTED MEMBERS & SENIOR STAFF

Subsequent to the May 2003 Election and as at 30th June 2006

ELECTED MEMBERS

Mayor	BAINES Steve	86 725 140
Deputy Mayor	Maylin , Michael	86 723 891
Councillors	Athnasiadis , Paul	86 725 179
	Blobel . Harry	0407 711 942
	Doulgeris , Tina	0419 416 824
	Rapaic , Boro	86 725 068
	Temple , Rose	86 723 476
	Wardle , Roanna	86 723 309

Record of Meeting Attendance of Elected Members

Name	Ordinary	Attended	Special	Attended
Mayor S Baines	12	12	6	6
Cr M Maylin	12	11	6	5
Cr P Athanasiadis	12	10	6	5
Cr H Blobel	12	9	6	1
Cr T Doulgeris	12	10	6	5
Cr B Rapaic	12	11	6	6
Cr R Temple	12	10	6	4
Cr R Wardle	12	6	6	2

Cr R Wardle was temporarily relocated to work out of Port Lincoln from 24th January 2005 to early February 2006 following the Eyre Peninsula bushfires

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION

Chief Executive Officer	McLeod , Trevor	86 725 408
Finance & Administration Manager	Clark , Damien	86 723 828
Manager Water Supply	Hoad , Les	86 725 286
Manager Works	Zechner , Darren	86 725 069

SELECTED STATISTICS FOR **12 MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE 2006**

<u>Properties</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Valuation</u>
Crown Land (non-rateable)	353	10,819,688
Vacant	252	2,471,606
Residential	1,171	54,447,512
Commercial & Industrial	137	23,836,119
Other non-rateable	2	222,850
Primary	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,915</u>	<u>91,797,775</u>
Building Applications (Commercial Only)	9	
Planning Applications	22	
Land Division	0	

Water Supply Department

Raw water pumped from bore field	482,808 kl
Potable water produced	310,131 kl
Desalination operating hours	10,485 hrs
Number of customers	1,578
New connections for 12 months to 30.6.2006	8
Services removed	24
Sewerage Scheme intake	49,640 kl
Irrigation (grey) water	46,114 kl
Highest recorded daily water demand	1,291 kl

Electricity Supply Department

(Energy Generation Pty Ltd (enGen) data)

Kilowatt hours of electricity generated (including Wind Turbine)	12,789,514 kWh
Town Consumption	10,515,833 kWh
Fuel consumed (diesel litres)	3,443,849

Works Department

Roads – Council road lengths at 30th June 2006 (includes roads to mining fields)

Lengths at end of year	<u>Sealed</u>	<u>Formed</u>	<u>Unformed</u>	<u>Natural surface</u>	<u>Total</u>
In built-up areas (km)	25.00	40.00			65.00
In non built-up areas (km)	2.00	102.00	<u>12</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>358.00</u>
Total Road Lengths	<u>27.00</u>	<u>142.00</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>423.00</u>