



Council has delivered (continued):

A Sustainable Economy

- Of 2,980 km of roads in the shire, Council is responsible for 2,307 km, of which 1,654 km are unsealed. Council spent \$12.9M, including \$2.5M in grants, maintaining, renewing and upgrading its road network, including grading 1,482 km of its unsealed road network.
- Secured \$6.6M in grant funds to restore and improve flood damaged roads. This included upgrading the Sandy Tate Crossing, Ootann Road and constructing a more sustainable crossing over the Mitchell River (Gamboola Crossing) on Strathleven Road and restoring multiple sections of flood damaged shire roads.
- Council has responsibility for 233 km of water mains and 5,120 water connections. It supplied 4,484 mega litres of treated water.
- Spent \$7.6M on water services and maintenance, renewals and upgrades of water assets of which \$910K was grant funded.
- Is responsible for 128 km of sewer mains and 3,660 household connections. 1,815 mega litres of sewage was treated.
- Spent \$3.4M on sewerage operations and maintaining, upgrading and renewing assets.
- Spent \$1.7M collecting and disposing of solid waste and upgrading and renewing waste infrastructure.
- Received a total of 110,894 tonnes of rubbish of which 999 tonnes was collected for recycling, 1,729 tyres were recycled and 3,878 tonnes of green waste was processed.
- Assessed 67 development applications and issued 566 building approvals with a total value of \$69.8M with 227 of those being dwellings.
- Developed a strategic marketing plan to promote the Mareeba Industrial Park to help diversify the economy and create new opportunities for business development.
- Initiated the sale of lots within the Chillagoe Industrial Park.
- Prepared a draft new Planning Scheme for the shire with appropriate planning and development controls to balance continued economic growth, the rural relaxed lifestyle and protection of the shire's valued natural assets.
- Completed the construction of the new Kuranda Visitor Information Centre jointly funded by the Kuranda Infrastructure Levy and Council which has resulted in a 35% increase in visitors to the centre compared to the previous year.

A Sustainable Community

- Spent \$4.1M maintaining, upgrading and renewing 140 parks and open spaces totalling 120 hectares as attractive and welcoming spaces.
- Spent \$5.2M to maintain, upgrade and renew community facilities and Council buildings, prioritising existing community facilities for sport and recreation. This included the Mareeba Gymnastics building extension and the development of the Kuranda Community Precinct.
- Improved community safety and all-abilities access by installing pedestrian ramps to Byrnes Street Mareeba and Dimbulah Memorial Hall Park and long distance bus shelters in Mareeba and Kuranda.
- Contributed to collaborative partnerships to deliver community-led outcomes including:
  - Installation of Mareeba Cool Pool Cover
  - Developing the Mareeba Shire Anzac Trail and heritage assets register to commemorate the First World War
  - Regional Arts Development Fund
  - Café 2 youth arts projects in Kuranda and Mareeba
  - Mareeba Sporting Precinct Stage 1.

A Sustainable Environment

- Delivered a range of biodiversity protection services including pest and weed eradication programs.
- Partnered with rural fire brigades, Queensland Fire Service and property owners to conduct controlled burns in identified priority areas to improve community safety and protect property.
- Is a Reef Guardian Council to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
- Installed automated Smart Water meters for the early detection of water leaks and sustainable water management in Mareeba and have commenced work in Kuranda.
- In 2015/16, tendered for the refurbishment of the Mareeba Sewerage Treatment Plant to provide an environmentally compliant and reliable facility.
- Completed drainage protection works at Warril Creek, Kuranda and worked in partnership with Kuranda Envirocare to protect previous rehabilitation work.
- Installed a new sewerage pump station at Barang Street, Kuranda to protect the environmental values of Jumrum conservation park.

Laying the foundations for a strong and sustainable future

I am pleased to present a summary of the major activities and outcomes of the first 18 months of your new Mareeba Shire Council.

This report doesn't cover all of Council's operations, but focusses on the steps taken to build a sustainable organisation and describes how the new Council has delivered essential services and managed assets for water, waste, sewerage, transport and parks and gardens.

Your Council understands the importance of the timely delivery of these services and sustainable management of local government infrastructure to growing the economy, enhancing the liveability of our communities and preserving the natural environment.

Committed to delivering a high level of sustainable service by balancing what we can afford with what is most important to the community, Council has prioritised those services that only a local government can deliver. Our priorities include maintaining and upgrading existing essential infrastructure, rather than building new infrastructure, using Council funds to leverage government grants to cover these costs wherever possible and entering into community partnerships with community groups, sporting clubs, chambers of commerce and regional bodies to enhance community wellbeing and prosperity.

Your Council has its eyes firmly fixed on the future of this shire. Solid groundwork undertaken over this initial period has ensured that we continue to manage our resources carefully whilst maintaining service standards and meeting the expectations of ratepayers and residents.

I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors and staff for their hard work, commitment and enthusiasm. I also take every opportunity to pay tribute to the remarkable community of Mareeba Shire, a community which has understood and accepted that difficult decisions had to be made, and have trusted Council to make those decisions.

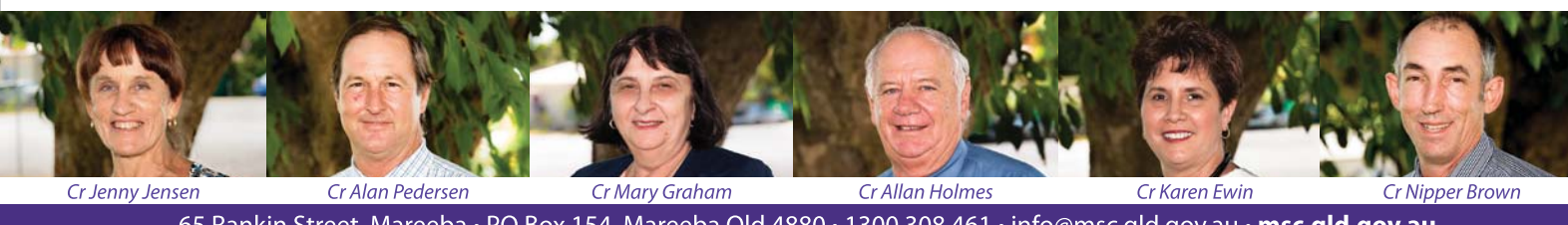
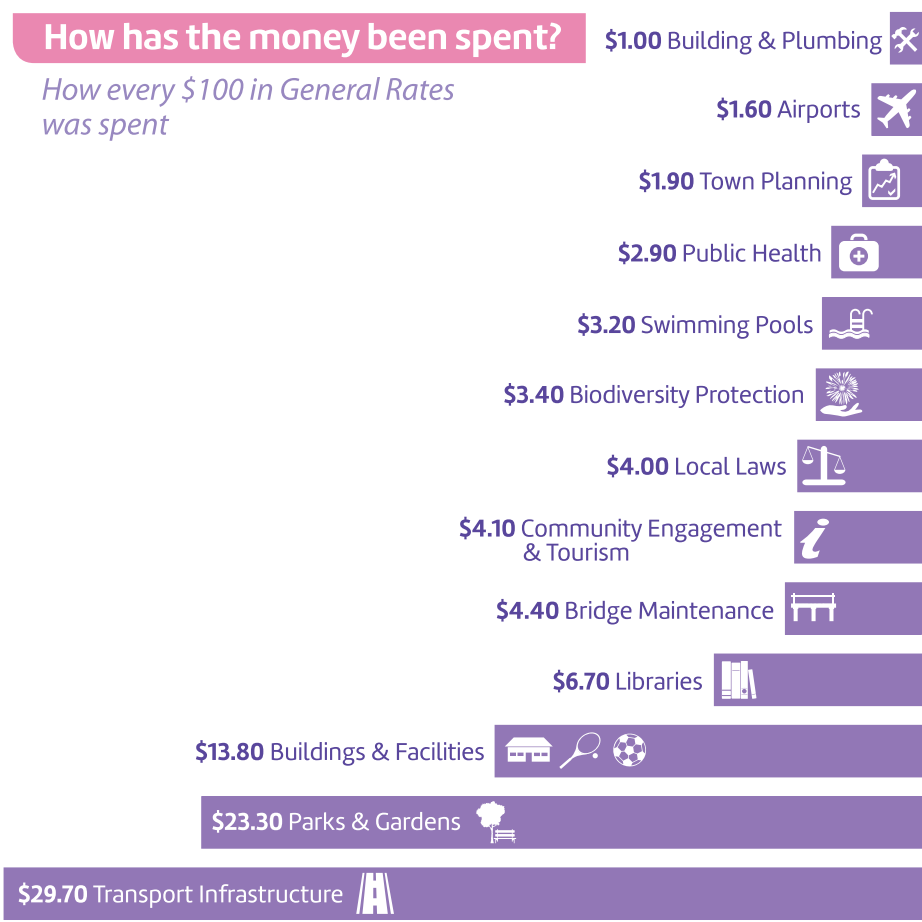
Tom Gilmore  
MAYOR

Council has delivered:

A Sustainable Council

- Built a long-term financially sustainable organisation, achieved by a detailed service level review and organisational restructure.
- Demonstrated increased efficiency in response to the increased number of customer enquiries with a reduced number of full-time positions.
- Delivered balanced budgets in both 2013/14 and 2014/15.
- Limited general rates increases - 0% in 2014, 9.9% increase in 2014/15 and 3.5% increase for 2015/16 with CPI linked increases proposed going forward.
- Repaid the de-amalgamation debt of \$5.1M without taking out a loan or imposing a special levy (saving approximately \$537 per rateable property).
- Achieved a significant improvement in our long-term financial sustainability rating as provided by Queensland Treasury Corporation.
- Engaged extensively with Mareeba Shire communities to understand expectations and achieve outcomes, with a number of Council meetings held outside of Mareeba.
- Secured \$13M in grant funding to upgrade the Mareeba Airport to expand aviation services, diversify the local economy and grow the shire and region.
- Secured a further \$8M in government grants to offset the cost to Council for priority infrastructure upgrades and renewals.
- Achieved a threefold return on investment in Council infrastructure projects, most of which commence in 2015/16, through securing grants.

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# Snapshot of Expenditure by Town/District

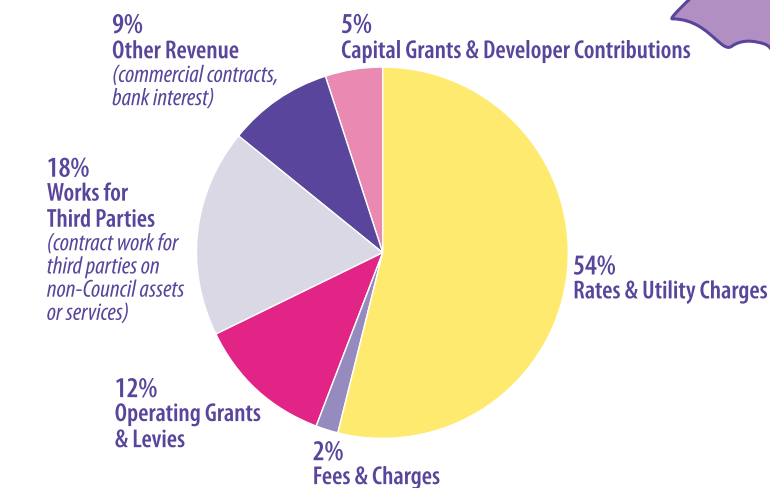
The shire map on the right presents Council's operational and capital expenditure that can be specifically identified in towns and districts for the period 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2015. It includes infrastructure and community partnership contributions and is only a proportion of the total expenditure.

**Shire Population: 20,020** (ABS 2011 Census)

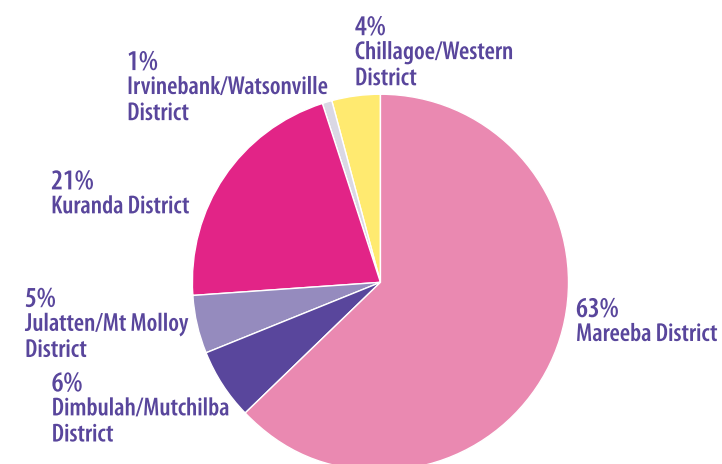
District Populations (ABS Census 2011)	
Chillagoe/Western	523
Dimbulah/Mutchilba	1,414
Irvinebank/Watsonville	344
Julatten/Mt Molloy	1,265
Kuranda	4,344
Mareeba	12,130

## Where did the money come from?

Sources of revenue



Rates and utility charges by district



## District Highlights

Listed are some of the key projects undertaken in each of the towns and districts within the Mareeba Shire, or which Council have committed to for 2015/16.

### Chillagoe/Western District Highlights

- Improved Chillagoe water supply
- Provided sealed overtaking sections on Ootann Road, Almaden
- Upgraded Chillagoe aerodrome including drainage works with commitment for further works to aerodrome in 2015/16
- Contributed to community partnerships for paving the War Memorial, erecting cover for Dave the Dinosaur, works at the Chillagoe Rodeo Grounds and promoting Chillagoe as a premier tourism destination

### Dimbulah/Mutchilba District Highlights

- Springmount Road pavement rehabilitation with further works committed in 2015/16
- Dimbulah parks lighting and footpath works
- Contributions to community partnerships for Dimbulah Lions Festival, Dimbulah Australia Day, Mutchilba New Year's Eve celebrations, and Men's Shed
- Parks upgrades in Dimbulah and Mutchilba

### Irvinebank/Watsonville District Highlights

- A base station to improve mobile phone coverage will be installed in the Watsonville area as a result of Council and community lobbying
- Renew and upgrade existing transport, water and building assets, parks and gardens
- Community partnerships for Watsonville cemetery and John Moffat Festival

## Julatten/Mt Molloy District Highlights

- A base station to improve mobile phone coverage will be installed in the Julatten area as a result of Council and community lobbying
- Renewing the Bump Track Causeway, upgrading McLeans Bridge Road, Julatten
- Upgrades at Geraghty Park in a community partnership between Council and user groups
- Mt Carbine Sports Ground Public Amenities upgrade in partnership with the Rodeo Association
- Upgrading Mt Molloy water main
- Community partnerships for community library, environmental projects, community mosaic project, and relocation of cenotaph

## Kuranda District Highlights

- Refurbishment of Kuranda Community Precinct with the relocation of Kuranda Library and Customer Service Centre
- Completed new Kuranda Visitor Information Centre
- Second Kuranda water reservoir built to improve water supply reliability
- Replaced playground equipment and repairs to Roscommon Park, Speewah
- Renewing two bridges on Black Mountain Road, 50% grant funded
- A base station to improve mobile phone coverage will be installed in the Speewah area as a result of Council and community lobbying
- Community partnership contributions including Kuranda Amphitheatre upgrades, Kuranda Recreation Centre upgrades and Kuranda festivals
- Secured funding from the Kuranda Infrastructure Levy for redevelopment of Therwine Street

## Mareeba District Highlights

- Secured government grants towards the Mareeba Sewerage Treatment Plant refurbishment to provide a compliant and reliable facility
- Priority road works included upgrading Anzac Avenue intersection, Byrnes Street footpaths, Costin Street pavement renewal and Bilwon Road upgrades
- Bicentennial Lakes improvements
- Coordinated "Clean Up Mareeba" projects including the Skate Park with community groups, businesses and residents
- Community partnership contributions to Mareeba Rodeo, festivals and photography workshops
- Relocation of bus stop to Arnold Park

