



**Alexandrina Council**

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# Annual Report 1998/1999

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**Welcome to the Alexandrina Council  
Mayor Kym McHugh**

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## *Vision Statement*

*A visionary Council that embraces the needs of the community by protecting and enhancing:*

- *Our natural environment*
- *Lifestyles*
- *Cultures and Heritage*

*through positive economic, social, cultural and environmental initiatives*

## *Mission Statement*

*Our Mission is to provide visionary leadership and serve the local and wider community equitably with efficient and effective services in order to achieve our community's present and future needs.*

*Preserving the Past - Securing the Future*

## *Corporate Plan Objectives*

1. *Ensure open communication that incorporates on-going consultation which fosters ownership by the community.*
2. *Ensure future development has a positive impact on the quality of life presently enjoyed by the community.*
3. *Protect and enhance the natural environment and heritage of the area.*
4. *Plan, provide and maintain infrastructure and services required to meet the needs of the community in the most equitable, cost efficient and effective manner.*
5. *Promote and facilitate economic development consistent with the lifestyle and unique environment of the area.*
6. *Facilitate and Coordinate community services having regard to social and cultural needs.*
7. *Ensure best practices in respect to customer service.*

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## **MAYOR KYM McHUGH**

It is with pleasure that I present this Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 1999.

The launching of our Corporate Plan was the culmination of community consultation at its best. The Mission of the Council is to provide visionary leadership and serve the local and wider community equitably with efficient and effective services in order to achieve our community's present and future needs. I see no reason why the Council cannot achieve its mission as we continue to work as a united team with a clear strategic focus.

The Council has continued to ensure equitable delivery and access to services are maintained as a Council priority. The Chief Executive Officer Mr John Coombe and his team continually strive for improvement in service delivery and will be further developing their customer service policies and protocols.

The opening of the office extensions will be welcome by not only the staff but the community. There is no doubt the new facilities will increase efficiencies and service delivery. The funding of these extensions has been met by asset rationalization.

The challenge before us is to secure our financial stability and our three year financial plan forms a significant part of our astute financial management.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without recognising the valued and important role our volunteers play in our community. We are certainly blessed with a caring and hard working community which makes our work in local government so much easier and rewarding - thank you to you all.

**Kind regards**

**KYM McHUGH**  
**MAYOR**

**Alexandrina Council**

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## ***OUR YEAR BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, JOHN COOMBE***

A key outcome for the year has been the launch of our Corporate Plan 1998-2001. This has been developed following extensive consultation with the community, staff and elected members. It will be our strategic focus on how we can best manage and achieve our corporate goals.

Our vision of being a visionary Council that embraces the needs of the community by protecting and enhancing our natural environment, lifestyles, cultures and heritage through positive economic, social, cultural and environmental initiatives, has Council and community ownership.

Council has continued to provide responsible financial management which saw Council not enact the exemption granted by the Minister to move outside of the rate capping provisions under the Local Government Act. As a means to further secure our financial future Council will undertake over the next 12 months a re-write of our financial statements to reflect our Corporate Structure together with the development of a three year financial plan.

As an organisation we have continued to re-assess and measure our performance to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

The extensions to the Goolwa office facilities are anticipated for completion in late July with an official opening by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Mark Brindal in September. This will provide a welcome relief for our staff who have been working under difficult conditions.

The Alexandrina Council is developing a reputation as being an innovative and responsive council which is prepared to continually challenge itself for the betterment of its community and the range of services it provides.

We can be proud of our achievements which have resulted from a whole of organisation united team approach. However the challenge before us is to achieve our corporate objectives thereby securing our future.

**JOHN L COOMBE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Alexandrina Council**

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# **COUNCIL OFFICES**

*Principle Office*

*16 Dawson Street  
GOOLWA 5214*

*Strathalbyn Office*

*1 Colman Terrace  
STRATHALBYN 5255*

*Postal Address*

*Post Office Box 21  
GOOLWA 5214*

*Telephone :*

*(08) 8555 7000*

*Facsimile :*

*(08) 8555 3603*

*Web site:*

*[www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au](http://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au)*

*Whilst the principle office is at Dawson Street, Goolwa, Council still provides a full service at the Strathalbyn Office. This service provides general advice on Council and Community issues, processes rate payments, dog registrations, account enquiries and professional staff are available at Strathalbyn by appointment.*

**Alexandrina Council**

## District Details

Area	167,711 ha
Estimated population	16,000
No of rateable assessments	13,000
No. of Electors	14,075
No. of Councillors (Mayor elected at large)	10
Length of sealed roads	361.4 kms
Length of unsealed local roads	989.6 kms

### Major industries

*Clipsal Manufacturing and Training Centre at Strathalbyn, saleyards and abattoirs, viticulture - Langhorne Creek, Belvidere, Mount Compass and Currency Creek, general farming and dairying, tourism, primary production, fruit production, local manufacturing, flour mill, electrical engineering, boat building, Air Goolwa - Airport and Belvidere*

### Major Tourist Attractions

*Beaches, river, wine growing areas, Signal Point, Heritage Buildings, Cockle Train, River boats, surfing, sailing, fishing, swimming, sailboarding, Regional Art Centre Goolwa, Coastal Walks, Coastal Bike Track, Community Festivals and Events, Trout Farm, Whale Watching.*



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## *Elected Members*

*Following the election held in 1st November 1997, elected to the Alexandrina Council for the term of 1/11/99 to 1/5/2000 were :*

### **Mayor**

*Mayor Kym Mchugh*

### **Elected Members**

*Glenda Rosemary Connor*

*Nangkita-Ashbourne Ward*

*Valerie Muriel Ball*

*Strathalbyn Ward*

*Geoffrey James Penno Jarrett*

*Strathalbyn Ward*

*Terence William McAnaney*

*Angas-Bremer Ward*

*Roderick Roy Potter*

*Angas-Bremer Ward*

*John Richard Lane*

*Port Elliot- Middleton Ward*

*Mary Elizabeth Beckett*

*Port Elliot-Middleton Ward*

*Barry Lionel Griffin*

*Currency Creek-Hindmarsh Island Ward*

*Leon Frank Tuckwell*

*Goolwa Ward*

*Anthony Deane Presgrave*

*Sturt Ward*

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## *SENIOR OFFICERS*

*Chief Executive Officer*

*John Coombe*

*Manager, Finance and Information Technology*

*Kym Yeates*

*Manager, Corporate Services*

*Michael Shelley*

*Manager, Technical Services*

*Atis Berzins*

*Manager, Environmental Services*

*Des Commerford*

## *CORPORATE INFORMATION*

*Auditor*

*D G Scott and Co*

*Bank*

*Bank SA*

*Solicitor*

*Lempriere Abbott and McLeod*

*Debt Collection*

*Austwide Collection Services Pty Ltd*

**Alexandrina Council**

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## ***COUNCIL MEETINGS***

*Ordinary meetings of the full Council are held alternately between Goolwa and Strathalbyn on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. The first Monday meeting comprises Enviromental Services and Corporate Services and Council commencing at 10.00 am with the remaining meeting being Technical Services, Finance and Information Services and Council commencing at 5.00 pm.*

*All meetings are open to the public and Agendas and Minutes of meetings are on display for public inspection.*

## ***STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF COUNCIL***

*The attached Organisation Chart gives an overview of the Council structure and functions performed.*

*The Administraiton includes the functional areas of Corporate Services; Environmental Services; Technicial Services and Finance and Information Services.*

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## **FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The department has experienced a year of consolidation despite the inconveniences of being split by construction activities associated with the Civic Centre at Goolwa.

Strong assessment growth continued throughout the area, both through the creation of new subdivision, building activity and new infrastructure being installed by our viticulture industry.

A new rating policy has been adopted by Council which strengthens our rating alignment for the area with all Common Effluent Schemes charging structure being brought into line.

The highlight for the year without doubt was the formal adoption of our 3 year financial plan which is linked to our Corporate Plan.

The development of this document was undertaken in conjunction with all managers and elected members, and incorporates Activity Based Costing principles.

This document has already allowed true costs to be realised for each activity area and tightened responsibility throughout the organisation.

Stage One of our Assessment Management Strategy, incorporating recognition and valuation was initiated with total asset worth being valued at 111 million dollars.

Over the next 12-24 months this will be further enhanced by developing maintenance schedules and ensuring adequate resources are provided.

Policy development throughout the report period with policies developed for Rating, Internal Financial Control, Rebates and Donations, River Licences, Phone and Car Usage. These will be further enhanced and reviewed on an annual basis.

Information Technology advances were strong throughout the year with the following major initiatives undertaken:

- Commissioning of our web site
- Desktop faxing and e-mail
- Replacement of telephone system
- Enhancement of our corporate software
- Year 2000 Compliance
- Policy development

Council's Finance & Information Technology Department is fortunate to be staffed by a group of well experienced, innovative and caring individuals whom will ensure that Alexandrina Council continue to lead the way with Finance/IT initiatives.

**Alexandrina Council**

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## **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Corporate Services includes Council administration services, community services and inspectorial services. Providing quality customer service is of paramount importance in serving the needs of our community. We believe this has been achieved through the commitment and dedication of our staff members responding to customer needs in a courteous and professional manner.

Council has strengthened its relationship with the other Fleurieu Councils in delivering valuable and needed community services. These include the Caring Neighbourhood Project, the Families First program and transportation services. This year the Caring Neighbourhood Project and Families First program extended into Strathalbyn and has proved to be a great success. A number of individuals and families have benefited through these programs. Council has also entered into a partnership arrangement with the State Government to deliver Home Assist services, Neighbour Aid services and services co-ordinated through the Heritage Club for our frail and aged members in the Goolwa, Mount Compass and Port Elliot areas.

Council recognised the important role that our volunteers play within our communities and arranged an afternoon tea in the Mount Compass Sports and Social Club during National Volunteers Week to celebrate the achievements of our many volunteers. A great time was had by all with special thanks to the Mount Compass Area School Choir.

Council produced four Newsletters during the year distributed to residents and electors of the area. We would like to thank the Goolwa Sandwriters Group for their valued assistance with editing and publishing advice.

Corporate Services has participated in the Jobs Challenge '98 Program by providing two traineeships within our records management department and Heritage Club administration. This has been a great benefit to the trainees, the administration and the community.

Council was successful in achieving a grant under the Federation Fund for the project to produce a History of the Port Elliot and Goolwa Districts. The book is due to be launched in 2001 as part of the celebrations for Australia's 100th year of federation.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The focus of the department is towards quality of life associated with housing, health, economic growth and the state of the local environment.

Approximately 1120 development proposals were dealt with by the department being a total of \$37 million. This level of activity accounted for some of the highest growth development in non-metropolitan South Australia.

During the previous twelve months some long term planning was commenced with a review of existing zoning within parts of the Council area. In particular, the expected growth in Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island will require continued review of needs to meet the expected demand. A similar scenario is expected for Strathalbyn.

The preparation of the Tourism Management Plan and the Local Agenda 21 Report on the environment were both a significant undertaking for Council. Both documents will give a direction for future planning.

The Local Agenda 21 report examines the need for sustainable activities that reduce the impact on the environment with particular emphasis on biodiversity and catchment management. Council has also commenced a review and educational programme directed at Council operations.

Environmental Health has always been a focus of Council with the last twelve months experiencing unprecedented applications for septic tanks as related to the high growth. Council also commenced the emphasis on the Foodsafe Program with business support.

Cultural development has gradually increased in profile within Council's programs. This is varied from streetscape use of public art, to the management of the Goolwa Community Arts Centre and promotion of events such as Tour Down Under and Classic Adelaide and South Australian Wooden Boat Show at Goolwa.

The Department has been involved in upgrade of public spaces and reserves during the year. In particular the river and lakes foreshore at Milang and Clayton and upgrade of coastal areas such as Basham Beach and Horseshoe Bay in Port Elliot.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**(continued)**

In the next twelve months the Department will continue with promotion of sustainable development, with an emphasis on rural activities and the development of an economic program that will support the expected growth in tourism and commercial activities.

It is expected that planning studies will be proposed for Hindmarsh Island and Strathalbyn Town Centre to assist Council in development control from expected growth in these two areas. Review of the recently completed consolidated Development Plan has commenced in accordance with the Section 30 Review. In particular the study of Strathalbyn will concentrate on the protection of the heritage character and the Hindmarsh Island Management Plan is designed to develop policies that balance environmental protection and development expansion.

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## **TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Commissioning of “The Spirit of the Coorong” which is now running up to five trips a week into the Coorong
- Auckland Youth Symphony Orchestra visit to Goolwa – very successful with Centenary Hall fully booked
- Adelaide Boat Show – Alexandrina held cooperative marketing activity promoting the lower lakes area in cooperation with a group of local boating businesses and clubs
- Alexandrina Council *Sponsorship of Events* Policy Document adopted by Council to assist Council in its decision making process in relation to sponsoring local events.
- Fleurieu Way formalised as a recognised tourist drive throughout the region
- *River Walk* launched at Signal Point
- Royal Adelaide Show – Alexandrina coordinated the Fleurieu Promotional stand in cooperation with 12 festival committees to promote festivals in the Fleurieu Region.
- Fleurieu Tourism Partnership - recognised by both the Fleurieu Peninsula Tourism Marketing Board and the region’s Councils. Created to work together on issues ranging from infrastructure development to tourism promotions
- Golden Oldies Netballer’s Picnic Day - 850 women from New Zealand, Cook Islands, South Africa, Fiji, Barbados, Vanuatu, Australia (Interstate & SA) in Goolwa
- Chimera Music Festival attracted about 1,000 people to Clayton
- Mount Compass Produce trail officially launched – the trail is becoming a successful attraction in Mount Compass
- Tour Down Under Year 1 – sprint stage in Goolwa and race finish in Strathalbyn. Large crowds lined the roads to see the cyclists. The organisers were most impressed with the support provided by Alexandrina Council and staff.
- Goolwa Wharf Market trialled some successful midweek markets in January holidays
- Tourism Breakfasts reestablished. These have become very popular amongst operators with attendance ranging from 50 to 90 people. An excellent networking & information opportunity.
- Tourism Road Grant funding success - \$150,000 funding approved from South Australia Tourism Commission to assist with sealing of remainder of Crow’s Nest Road.
- Surfing Report – Tourism Student produced *Surfing Report* – looked at surfing tourism – its demographics, needs and opportunities.
- Western Victoria Road Show regional promotion in Western Victoria followed by very successful cooperative promotion at the Ballarat 3BA Travel Expo.
- Wooden Boat Festival – attracted approx 12,000 visitors over the weekend. Visitors from interstate & overseas travelled to SA to attend.
- Tourism Management Plan adopted by Council



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## **TECHNICAL SERVICES**

Another exciting dynamic year has passed with significant structural change within the department with two new faces and two changes of positions. The department has been positioned to be customer focussed and the feedback from our clients has been positive. All aspects of our workload have increased dramatically emphasising the continued growth in population, development and community expectation.

The budget as adopted was a further recognition from amalgamation that maintenance was a key issue in the community and that the rural infrastructure owned by Council was in need of further injections of capital to reach an adequate standard. To this end a further 50,000 tonnes of road maintenance rubble was crushed and placed on the rural roads as well as various tonnages of other quarry type product. This effort has seen tens of kilometers of road upgraded and in particular roads in the Willunga part A and Langhorne Creek areas.

Sealed road construction, in particular Leslie and Finnis-Clayton Roads saw the expenditure of 1.1 million dollars of the budget used to further the links for sealed roads within the area.

Council through operational savings has seen the extension of garbage collection services to Ashbourne and Finnis area. This is the planned extension of the service and is recommended in the 5 year Waste Management Plan adopted by Council.

The Milang community have been the recipients of the major placement of infrastructure through the commissioning of the 1.6 million common effluent septic tank scheme. The end use of this scheme is controlled irrigation and sets a model for future schemes.

The Alexandrina Council has further promoted the 'we care' attitude with the community and its group representatives. Townships, foreshore and dune care groups have benefited from financial and in kind support supplied by Council working for and with these representatives. The ultimate example of this effort has been the win by Goolwa in the National Tidy Towns awards. Goolwa has set a standard for working together second to none and has collected its just rewards.

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## *CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS*

*During 1998/99 Council discussed a total of 33 confidential items. These were :*

*Disposition of Land & Legal Advice*

*Former Police Station & Cell Block, Young Street, Port Elliot*

*Staff Appraisals*

*Draft Consultation Report*

*Public Toilet Cleaning Tender*

*Office Extensions Tender*

*Proposed Sale of Assets*

*Interim Audit Report*

*Notice of Motion to Rescind*

*Performance Assessment*

*Replacement of Council Equipment*

*Corporate Plan*

*Corporate Information Software Revision*

*Australia Day Nominations*

*Telephone System and Data Exchange Report*

*Ombudsman*

*State Ombudsman Report - Van der kamp*

*Performance Assessment*

*L.G.A. Workers Compensation Scheme*

*E.P.A. Report*

*Minutes of Machinery & Waste Management Committee Meeting*

*Changeover of Vehicles*

*Effluent Lagoons*

*Rockbuster & Mercedes*

*Surplus Machinery*

*Tour Down Under*

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## *CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS (continued)*

*Minutes of Meeting of the Machinery & Waste Management  
Committee*

*Ombudsman*

*Renewal of Cleaning Services Contracts - Strathalbyn District  
Technical Officer - Technical Services  
Manager of Technical Services - Appointment  
Ombudsman*

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

*Nil applications for the provision of information under the Freedom of Information legislation were received during the year.*

## COUNCIL CERTIFICATES - SECTION 65ZY

*In accordance with Sub section 42a (1a) of the Local Government Act, notice is hereby given that no Council Certificates were issued under Section 65zy of the Local Government Act.*

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## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

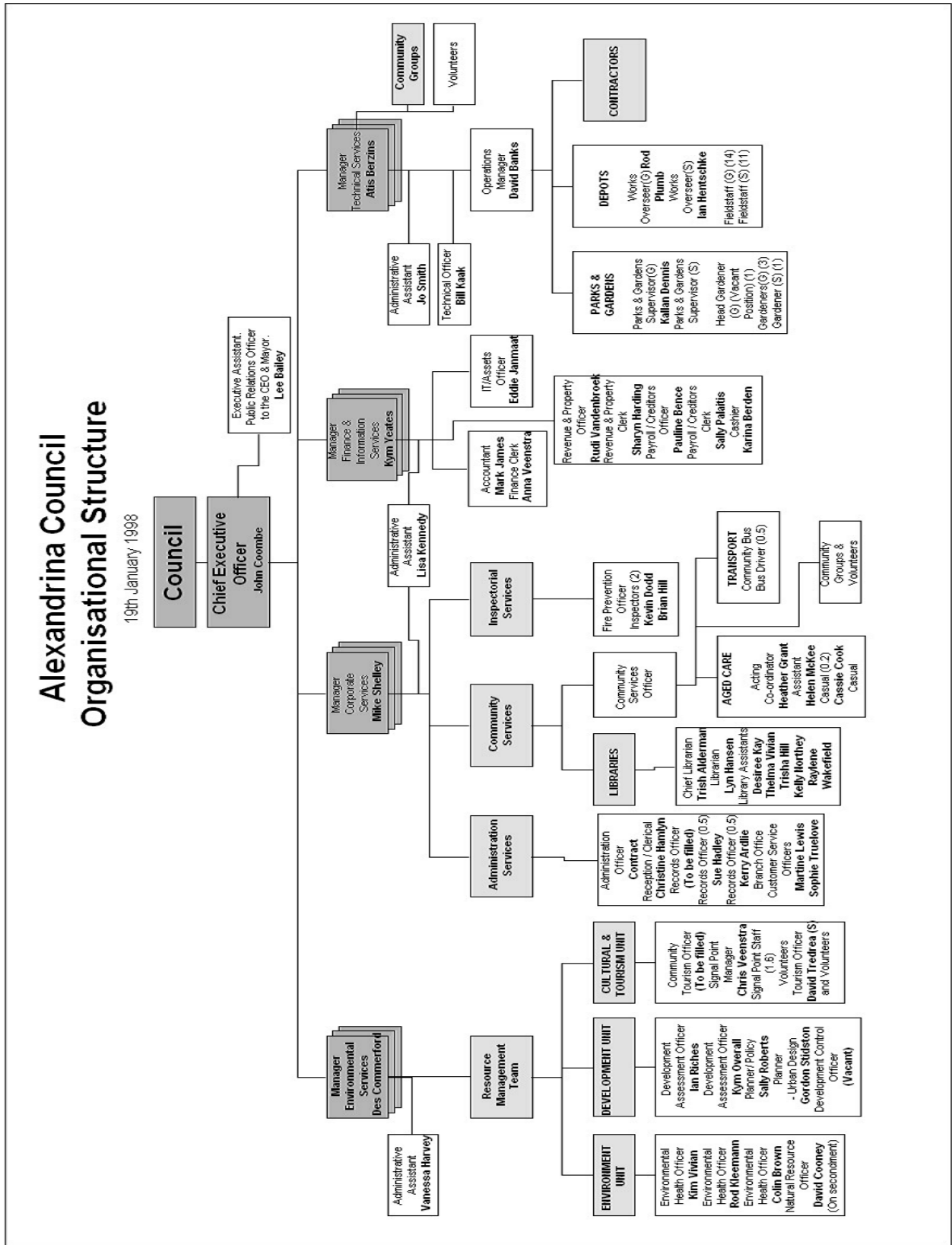
### **Operating Statement for the year ended 30th June 1999**

<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>	<b>\$</b>
Wages and Salaries	3,184,124
Contractual Services	2,205,656
Materials	1,280,226
Finance Charges	390,794
Depreciation	5,134,389
Loss of Revaluations	
Loss on Disposal of non Current Assets	40,894
Other Expenses	1,183,618
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>13,419,701</b>
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>	
Rates - General	6,526,469
Rates - Other	680,456
Statutory Charges	344,644
User Charges	272,786
Operating Grants and Subsidies	1,047,675
Investment Income	215,304
Reimbursements	786,476
Gain on Disposal of Non Current Assets	128,183
Income from Commercial Activities	262,355
Other Revenue	220,862
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>10,485,210</b>
<b>Operating Deficit Before Capital Revenues</b>	<b>(2,934,491)</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL REVENUES</u></b>	
Capital Grants, Subsidies and Monetary Contributions	1,162,300
Physical Resources Received Free of Charge	212,000
	<b>1,374,300</b>
Operating Deficit after Capital Revenues and before Extraordinary Items	<b>(1,560,191)</b>
Extraordinary Items	
<b>CHANGE IN COMMUNITY WEALTH RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>(1,560,191)</b>

Alexandrina Council

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## ORGANISATIONAL CHART



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## CONTROLLING AUTHORITIES

- *Strathalbyn Oval Controlling Committee*
- 
- *Goolwa Recreation Ground Committee*
- 
- *Port Elliot Institute*
- 
- *Riverport of Goolwa Authority (formerly Signal Point Board)*