



SHIRE OF
LAVERTON
Discover the Outback Spirit

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017



SHIRE OF LAVERTON ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

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ABOUT US

Welcome to the Shire of Laverton – Discover the Outback Spirit!

Covering some 183,198km² of predominantly desert and pastoral country, Laverton has something for everyone, from spinifex plains, mulga woodlands and unique granite rock outcrops to rich Aboriginal and European history and culture.

Wongi people, collectively known as Wongutha or Wankatja people, have occupied the Laverton area for thousands of years. Their first known contact with Europeans was around 1860 when Sir John Forrest travelled through the area on an expedition to search for the remains of Ludwig Leichardt.

Many other explorers followed Forrest, including Frank Hann and David Carnegie, surviving by the teachings and knowledge of the Aboriginal people. These early explorers are recognised in the Great Beyond Visitor Centre – Home of the Explorers Hall of Fame.

During the 1880's, sandalwood cutters travelled through the area looking for the valuable aromatic timber and their tracks opened up much of the region. In the decades since, many tonnes of sandalwood have been exported from the Laverton district.

In 1886 gold was discovered in the area – suddenly eager prospectors arrived in droves from Coolgardie, eager to strike it rich. The rapidly growing settlement was soon called British Flag after the first successful mine.

One such keen prospector was Dr Charles Laver, a British doctor who rode his bicycle from Coolgardie to the Laverton area the same year. He soon became an enthusiastic promoter of the region and travelled back to Britain a number of times to raise funds for local mining ventures, however his priority remained to attend to the sick and injured. He had an excellent rapport with his co-workers and patients and got on very well with the local Aboriginal people. Without his energy (and his capital) Laverton may well have faded away at this point.

By 1897 an informal town had sprung up to the west side of the Craiggimore mine. This proved an unsuitable location for the permanent settlement, so an alternate site was chosen about three kilometres away. In July 1900 the new town was gazetted as Laverton, in honour of Dr Laver who had done so much to ensure the prosperity of the area.

Today the town is an important service centre for a range of mines that operate in the area, for the continuing pastoral industry and for the people of the western desert regions. Laverton is also an important tourism hub, acting as a true gateway to Australia's Outback.



OUR VISION

The Shire of Laverton will strive to work with the community to fulfil their needs and support their aspirations while acting with fairness and demonstrating leadership.

	Objectives	Outcomes
SOCIAL	<i>Proud, spirited, harmonious and connected community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong sense of community pride and ownership
ECONOMIC	<i>Prosperous local economy attracting businesses, opportunities and people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable tourism • Improved economic development opportunities
ENVIRONMENT	<i>Revitalised, green, welcoming and safe natural and built environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe and efficient transport network • Modern, well maintained Other Built Infrastructure • Clean, safe and tidy environment
CIVIC LEADERSHIP	<i>A financially strong and knowledgeable Shire, leading an empowered community</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective communication and stakeholder engagement • Organisational Development • Improved planning



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I am pleased to present the Shire of Laverton Annual Report for 2016/2017. The reporting year was a year of consolidation and continuation of a number of long term projects, including the Main Street upgrade, Community Hub planning, Great Beyond Visitor Centre expansion planning and commencement of sealing works on the Great Central Road.

The Main Street upgrade commenced some three years ago and is now complete. The end project is a great achievement for the community and has transformed the town centre.

Architectural design and costings for both the Community Hub project and the expansion of the Great Beyond Visitor Centre have been completed. Council is reviewing the plans to ensure both projects can be achieved within budget. It is anticipated that tenders for the Community Hub project will be invited early in 2018. The timing of the Great Beyond Visitor Centre expansion will be influenced by the availability of grant funding.

The Laverton Community Hub will be a multi-purpose community focussed facility which will become the heart of the community, where people can connect interact and enjoy a range of social, recreational and sporting activities.

I am happy to report also that in 2016/2017 sealing works commenced on the Great Central Road, in the Laverton Shire. Known as the Outback Way, from Laverton in WA to Winton in Queensland, a total of 2,700km, there is approximately 1,500km left to seal.

With the first lot of funding from the Commonwealth and State, the Shire of Laverton will seal 45km.

Considerable progress was also made with the Yilka Native Title Claim. Final determination was achieved in September 2017. As the Great Central Road is not a dedicated road, Native Title has impacted on the status of this asset in terms of ownership and jurisdiction. The Shire of Laverton is currently going through the consultation process with the Native Title holders, the Department of Premier and Cabinet Native Title Unit, and the relevant State Government Departments in order to achieve dedication of the road.



Council was disappointed that the proposed Laverton Health Campus which includes six Aged Living Units, was not funded by the new State Government, particularly as the previous Government committed to the Community that it would fund the \$19.4M project, nevertheless Council continues to lobby for this project and the Hon. Roger Cook, Minister for Health, has committed to visit Laverton to inspect the current facility and hopefully commit future funding for this much needed community facility.

As I mentioned previously, 2016/2017 has been a year of consolidation and progress in a number of areas. Going forward, the outlook for Laverton is positive, the economy, through the mining industry, is solid with a number of gold mining operations reaching full production in 2016/2017. These include AngloGold Ashanti Sunrise Dam 240,500 oz, GoldFields Australia Granny Smith 283,798 oz, Regis Resources Garden Well, Moolart Well and Rosemont Projects 324,353 oz.

Gold mines currently under construction include Gruyere (Gold Road Resources and GoldFields Australia) and Dacian Gold Mt Morgans Project annual production is projected to be 270,000 oz and 200,000 oz respectively.

The Minara Resources Murrin Murrin mine, with 46,000t of nickel and 3,200t cobalt, and Lynas Corporation's Mt Weld Rare Earths Project continue to contribute to the Laverton economy in a big way.

I would like to acknowledge Councillors and staff for their commitment to the Shire of Laverton and their support during the year. I would also like to thank the many volunteers in the community for their contribution to Laverton.

Cr Pat Hill
Shire President



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



The 2016/2017 financial year was a difficult year for Administration with a number of workplace issues/resignations impacting on operational and compliance issues.

I am pleased to say however, that in the latter part of 2016/2017 and early 2017/2018 operational issues have been addressed and administration is functioning at a satisfactory level, is achieving compliance and is delivering for the community.

Staff

During the year we welcomed Les Vidovich, Executive Manager Technical Services and Jo Morgan, Community Development Manager, to the team. Both Les and Jo have substantial experience in their field and will serve Council and the community well.

Staff turnover for the reporting period was unsatisfactorily high at 13.

Works and Services Activity

Gravel Sheeting:	• Great Central Road SLK 27-35 (2015/16 carryover)	\$286,449
	• Great Central Road SLK 68-70 (2015/16 carryover)	\$120,137
	• Great Central Road SLK 35-42	\$123,134
	• Bandy Road SLK 22-26	\$162,289
	• Bandy Road SLK 26-31	\$32,542
	• Old Laverton Road SLK 24-29	\$32,542
Plant Replacement:	• Rubbish Truck	\$309,500
	• Maintenance Grader	\$405,000
	• Construction Grader	\$405,000
	• Multi-Tyred Roller	\$175,340
	• Backhoe	\$183,700

Cashless Debit Card (CDC)

The Shire of Laverton has for some time been involved in discussions concerning the cashless debit card initiative. The card is designed to limit access to cash and separates and places 80% of people's welfare money towards a debit card used for essential items like food.



Through our developing Wellbeing Strategy, the Shire have recognised the need to tackle the key areas of alcohol, gambling, health and Domestic and Family Violence and the negative and harmful impacts this has on our community.

In recent months Council has been actively working with, and supporting the Department of Social Services in establishing, co-ordinating and promoting consultation and engagement events across all sections of the community in Laverton.

Council staff co-ordinated a number of local information and engagement sessions that were delivered in collaboration with the DSS and were held in a range of different venues that included the Shire Hall, Women's Crisis Centre, Wongatha Residents Group, MEEDAC and Goldfields Employment and Training (GETS). A total of 66 people were actively involved in these sessions and all had the opportunity to discuss and raise any issues and concerns, which were answered and noted by the DSS staff.

The Federal Government has now confirmed the introduction of the Cashless Debit Card.

Youth Services

The Laverton Youth Service's ongoing activity programs are designed to provide a variety of participatory cultural, recreational, educational, learning, artistic, healthy, challenging and fun activities that support children and young people in increasing pro-social behaviours. These include our highly successful Bike Maintenance and Ride project, our comprehensive holiday activity programs and our developing collective Community Gardens.

The structured youth program has provided a wide range of sports, music, arts, cooking, cultural and other activities. This is supported by additional regular events including, going 'out bush', overnight camping, movie nights and Blue Light Discos.

The Youth Services team work closely with Laverton and Mount Margaret Schools, the Laverton Leonora Cross Cultural Association (LLCCA), the Police, the Department for Child Protection and Family Services and One Tree Crisis Intervention Service. We are also supported by the YMCA from Kalgoorlie who visit every two weeks to put on gym and activity sessions in the Shire Hall, and the wonderful Curtin Volunteers! who attend during the holiday periods.

The joint collaborative work between the Crisis Centre, the Youth Centre and Laverton School has been particularly successful in providing gender specific preventative work with young people. Fortnightly *Kungka*, (Girls night), and *Minarli*, (Boys night), offer a range of different activities and a safe space to discuss issues and concerns.



Attendance of youth sessions has been increasing as the programs develop, and we usually work with up to 25 young people each day during term time, and that increases to 50-60 during the school holidays.

Congratulations to the Youth Services Team who won an award under the category 'Aboriginal Child Health' in the 2017 Children's Environment and Health Local Government Report Card Project. The Report Card recognises local governments who take innovative and holistic approaches in advancing children's environment and health strategy development. This is reflected in both the policy and action levels.

Flood Damage

The Shire road network sustained substantial damage from flooding in early 2017.

Federal Government funding of \$7.2M has been approved for remedial works which are planned to commence in 2017/2018.

Main Street

This project (Phase 2) was completed at a cost of \$3.9M. The work undertaken has transformed the town centre and has created a sense of community.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank Councillors for their support of the Administration during the year. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts and commitment of staff during what has been a difficult but rewarding year.

P Durtanovich
Acting Chief Executive Officer



OUR COUNCIL

Cr Patrick Hill
Shire President

Cr Rex Ryles

Cr Shaneane Weldon
Deputy Shire President

Cr Deanne Ross

Cr Robin Prentice

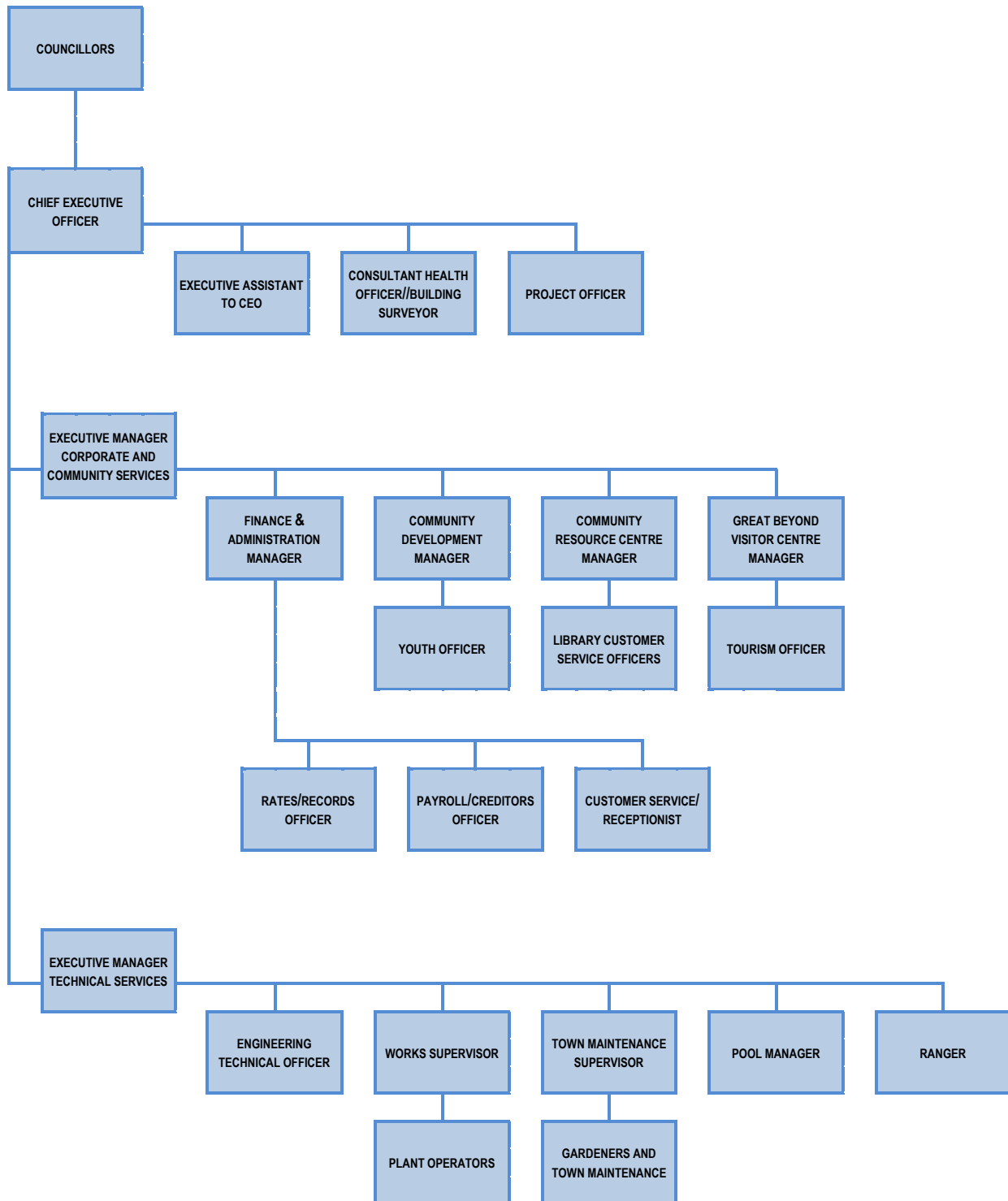
Cr Rex Weldon

VACANT

2016 - 2017
as at 30 June 2017



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



COMPLIANCE

Payments to Employees

Section 5.53 (2) (g) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 19B of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* require all local governments to report in their Annual Report, any employees receiving a salary in excess of \$100,000 per annum. Set out below (in bands of \$10,000) is the number of Shire employees entitled to an annual salary of \$100,000 or more:

EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED UNDER
ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT 2012

Salary Range (\$)	No. of Employees
100,000 to 109,999	1

EMPLOYEES EMPLOYED UNDER
FIXED TERM CONTRACT

Salary Range (\$)	No. of Employees
130,000 to 139,999	2
210,000 to 219,999	1

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

The Shire of Laverton revised the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan during 2013 and the Shire of Laverton Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2013-2017 was formally adopted by Council on 12 December 2013.

The *Disabilities Services Act 1993* requires Council to report on its Access and Inclusion Plan achievements within its Annual Report. Works completed during 2016/2017 mainly centred on access in the main street including access ramps to business centres such as the Community Resource Centre, Post Office and Supermarket.

Public Interest Disclosure

The Public Interest Disclosure Code was established by the Commissioner for Public Standards under section 20 of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*.

One of the principles of the Code is not just to provide protection of those who make disclosures (and those who are the subject of disclosures), but also to encourage a system of transparency and accountability in the way government officials act and utilise public monies.



Matters that fall into the category of public interest include:

- Improper conduct (irregular or unauthorised use of public resources);
- An offence under State Law including corruption (substantial unauthorised or irregular use of, or substantial mismanagement of, public monies)
- Administration matters generally (conduct involving substantial risk of injury to public health, prejudice to public safety or harm to the environment)

Matters that relate to the Shire of Laverton should be referred to the Shire of Laverton's Public Interest Disclosure Officer. Disclosures to the Public Interest Disclosure Officer can be made not just about officers of the Shire of Laverton but also its elected officials.

There is an obligation of the Public Interest Disclosure Officer in the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* to ensure that the disclosure is confidential and that the person making a disclosure is provided adequate protection from reprisals, civil and criminal liability or breach of confidentiality. More information can be found at www.publicsector.wa.gov.au.

The Shire of Laverton had no Public Interest Disclosures during the reporting period.

Register of Minor Complaints

Section 5.121 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (Register of certain complaints of minor breaches) requires the complaints officer for each local government to maintain a Register of Complaints which records all complaints that result in action under section 5.110(6) (b) or (c) of the Act (Conduct of Certain Officials).

Section 5.53 (2) (b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that details of entries made under section 5.121 during the year in the Register of Complaints, including:

- (i) The number of complaints recorded on the Register of Complaints;
- (ii) How the recorded complaints were dealt with, and;
- (iii) Any other details that the regulations may require

be disclosed in the Annual Report

In accordance with these requirements, a complaints register has been maintained.

As at 30 June 2017, no complaints were recorded, therefore no action was required.



Freedom of Information

Sections 96 and 97 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* require local governments to publish an information statement annually.

In summary, the Shire of Laverton's Statement indicates that the Shire of Laverton is responsible for the good governance of the Shire and carries out functions as required including statutory compliance and provision of services and facilities.

All Council meetings are open to the public and meeting dates and venues are advertised on a regular basis. Members of the public are invited to ask questions during Public Question Time shortly after the commencement of each meeting.

The Shire of Laverton maintains records relating to the function and administration of the Shire and includes such documents as the Minutes of Meetings, Rate Book, Town Planning Scheme, Local Laws, Codes of Conduct, Register of Financial Interests, Register of Delegated Authority, Financial Statements and Electoral Rolls. These documents can be inspected free of charge at the Shire Office, 9 MacPherson place, Laverton during office hours.

Where ever possible and practical, and in line with privacy laws, the Shire of Laverton makes personal information readily available free of charge.

No Freedom of Information requests were made during the reporting period.

Record Keeping

The *State Records Act 2000* is an Act to provide for the keeping of State records and for related purposes. Section 19 of the Act requires each government organisation to have a Record Keeping Plan that has been approved by the State Records Commission.

The Shire of Laverton's Recordkeeping Plan 2011 was adopted by Council in April 2011. After some minor changes were made, approval was received by the State Records Commission in December 2011. The registration number of the recordkeeping plan is 2011029.

On 17 March 2017, the State Records Commission approved the continuation of the Shire of Laverton Record Keeping Plan with the next review due to be completed and submitted to the State Records Office no later than 2 December 2021.

The objectives of the Shire of Laverton's Record Keeping Plan are to ensure:

- Compliance with Section 28 of the *State Records Act 2000*,



- Record keeping within the Local Government is moving toward compliance with State Records Commission Standards and Record Management Standard AS ISO15489,
- Processes are in place to facilitate the complete and accurate record of business transactions and decisions,
- Recorded information can be retrieved quickly, accurately and cheaply when required; and the
- Protection and preservation of the local government's records.

Councillor Remuneration

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and under the guidelines of the State Salaries Tribunal, the following allowances were paid to Councillors in 2016/2017:

President (including President's Allowance)	\$35,400
Deputy President (including Deputy President's Allowance)	\$13,900
Councillors	\$9,400

Integrated Planning and Reporting

In 2015/2016, Council undertook a comprehensive review of the Strategic Community Plan following which the Corporate Business Plan was reviewed and updated. The Corporate Business Plan was again reviewed in 2016/2017 resulting in only minimal change to the Plan.

The Corporate Business Plan aims to fulfil the strategic direction set by Council and progress the Council's vision while keeping with the community's aspirations and values.

Copies of both documents are available at the Shire Administration Office and are also on the Shire of Laverton's website.

Actions identified in the CBP are ongoing and include:

- 3.1.1.3 Continue the sealing and upgrade program of Outback Way in accordance with funding availability.
- 3.1.2.1 Maintain and improve rural road network.
- 3.1.2.3 Progress Main Street Project.
- 3.1.3.1 Continue implementation of Airport Master Plan.



3.2.2.3 Seek funding for Great Beyond Visitor Centre Stage 2.

4.1.2.4 Continue to engage with the community and lobby on its behalf.

It is envisaged that during the 2017/2018 year, the following major projects will be completed/commenced:

- **Sealing of sections of the Great Central Road/Outback Way;**
- **Architectural design work for the Laverton Community Hub Project completed;**
- **Remote Aboriginal Access Road funded gravel sheeting on the Great Central Road;**
- **Bandy Road gravel sheeting;**
- **Bandy Road creek crossing;**

