

- 1) Excavation, pipe laying and associated materials to the value of not greater than \$300,000 plus GST from Knock Contracting; and
- 2) Water cart services plant hire to the value of \$141,825 plus GST from CAC Transport P/L

The actual costs incurred were Knock Contractors \$264,683 and CAC Transport P/L \$155,776 both including GST which were below the limits set by the Council resolution.

Special Rate Variation

Council applied for a Special Rate Variation in 2012/13. This application was approved by IPART on 12 June 2013 and adopted by Council on the 24 June 2013. The rate increase is effective from the 2013/14 rating year with increases of 2.5% above rate pegging for 2013/14 and further increases of 5.5% for 2014/15 and 2015/16 including rate pegging and then remaining at the approved rate pegging limits from that time forward.

The additional funding is to fund principle and interest (less subsidy) for approved projects under rounds 1 and 2 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme over a ten year period.

Council is required to report more comprehensive details of outcomes achieved from the Special Rate Variation from 2013/14.

The following table shows the projects that have been completed from funding under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme in 2013/14.

Project description	Costs under LIRS program
Broad Crossing bridge replacement *	\$961,211
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Short to Southern end)	\$79,857
Aberdeen St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Susan)	\$110,005
Graeme St Aberdeen reconstruction (Walker to Kyuga)	\$193,188
Mount St Aberdeen reconstruction (Graeme to Moray)	\$110,414
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Short)	\$243,015
Segenhoe Rd Scone reconstruction	\$52,289
Middlebrook Rd Scone reconstruction	\$112,198
Glenbawn Rd Scone reconstruction	\$108,512
Dartbrook Rd Cassilis reconstruction	\$141,438
Llangollen Rd Cassilis reconstruction	\$169,740
Broad Crossing approaches	\$222,018
	\$2,503,885

* Only partially funded from LIRS Program, \$500k also provided by State Government to the project. Council as at 30 June 2014 had \$2,906,217 worth of projects to complete under the funding arrangement.

Environmental Programs

Details are included in the report "Environmental Services".

Bush Fire Reduction Activities

Upper Hunter Shire Council has formulated a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Councils of Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah to form the Liverpool Range Zone.

Activities in 2013/14 included:

- participation in the Liverpool Range Zone Bushfire Management Committee including input into the Plan of Operations for the Risk Management Plan as prepared under s52 of the Rural Fires Act;

b) Contracts awarded with open values

Council has awarded the following contracts for set periods of time where cost is dependent on unknown quantities. The value over the life of the contract is expected to be greater than \$150,000.

Contractor	Nature of goods or services
Various (Panel Source)	Labour hire and recruitment services
Workforce Road Services, Complete Line marking & Combined Traffics Management	Provision of Line Marking as required.
Boral Resources & Buttai Gravel	Supply and delivery of road base material
Origin Energy	Supply of electricity for non-contestable (small sites)
Various (Panel Source)	Supply and delivery of road safety barrier systems as required
Various (Panel Source)	Bitumen spray seal, AC (Asphaltic Concrete) , mill & re-sheet, crack sealing (bituminous & rigid surfaces) & Heavy Patching

During 2014/15 Council did not exercised its authority to procure items under Section 55 (3) (k) of the Local Government Act 1993 which allows for work to be carried out in an emergency situation.

Special Rate Variation

COUNCIL APPLIED FOR A SPECIAL RATE VARIATION in 2012/13. This application was approved by IPART on 12 June 2013 and adopted by Council on the 24 June 2013. The rate increase is effective from the 2013/14 rating year with increases of 2.5% above rate pegging for 2013/14 and further increases of 5.5% for 2014/15 and 2015/16 including rate pegging and then remaining at the approved rate pegging limits from that time forward.

The additional funding is to fund principle and interest (less subsidy) for approved projects under rounds 1 and 2 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme over a ten year period.

Council is required to report more comprehensive details of outcomes achieved from the Special Rate Variation.

The following table shows the projects that have been completed from funding under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme.

Project description	Year of completion	Costs under LIRS program
Coolibah St Scone reconstruction	2013/14	91,057
Short St, Scone reconstruction (Short St to end)	2013/14	89,558
Broad Crossing bridge replacement *	2013/14	\$1,177,899
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Short to Southern end)	2013/14	\$79,857
Aberdeen St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Susan)	2013/14	\$119,178
Graeme St Aberdeen reconstruction (Walker to Kyuga)	2013/14	\$193,188
Mount St Aberdeen reconstruction (Graeme to Moray)	2013/14	\$110,414
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Short)	2013/14	\$243,015
Segenhoe Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$52,289
Middlebrook Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$112,198
Glenbawn Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$108,512
Dartbrook Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$141,438

Project description	Year of completion	Costs under LIRS program
Llangollen Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$169,740
Broad Crossing approaches	2013/14	\$222,018
St Aubins St Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$470,143
Haydon Lane Murrurundi reconstruction	2014/15	\$39,839
Gundy Road Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$120,000
Idaville Rd Merriwa reconstruction	2014/15	\$150,972
Doolans Gully Bridge Merriwa replacement	2014/15	\$291,174
Garland Bridge replacement	Not yet completed	\$490,120
Sandy Creek Bridge replacement	Not yet completed	\$17,154
Haydon St Murrurundi reconstruction	Not yet completed	13,116
		\$4,502,879

* Only partially funded from LIRS Program, \$500k also provided by State Government to the project. Council as at 30 June 2015 had \$764,612 worth of projects to complete under the funding arrangement.

Environmental Programs

DETAILS are included in the report "Environmental Services".

Bush Fire Reduction Activities

UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL has formulated a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Councils of Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah to form the Liverpool Range Zone.

Activities in 2014/15 included:

- participation in the Liverpool Range Zone Bushfire Management Committee including input into the Plan of Operations for the Risk Management Plan as prepared under s52 of the Rural Fires Act;
- liaison with Working Groups within the RFS including welfare, communications, community safety and training;
- input into the development of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) including budgetary reporting and preparation of estimates;
- maintenance of the Standards of Fire Cover within the shire including vehicle replacement program;
- construction of fire stations to house tankers including welfare facilities for volunteers Moonan, Killoe and Collaroy;
- fire trail construction and maintenance on designated fire trails using Bushfire Mitigation Funding;
- support during bushfire incidents;
- involvement of Council plant in RFS preferred plant system.

Participation in Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) Program

UNDER S54 OF THE RURAL FIRES ACT 1997, Council also carried out routine hazard reduction activities, including the continuous slashing of road verges, village street verges and park areas.

Upper Hunter district currently has 26 brigades with 850 registered volunteers, of whom approximately 600 are registered as active.

Clause 217 (1) (e)

Annual charge for stormwater management

Council has been levying an annual charge for stormwater management services for a number of years. The charge is being used to increase the level of stormwater projects above those previously funded under the general rate.

The introduction of the new charge raises and additional \$95,000 for stormwater projects within the Shire each year.

There was one project proposed and completed under the 2015/16 Delivery Program and Operational Stormwater charge, being Kingdon Street Scone Reticulation: \$112,000.

Clause 217 (1) (e1)

Annual charge for coastal protection

During this year, Council has not levied an annual or other charge for coastal protection services.

Clause 217 (1) (f)

Companion Animals Act reporting

Council provides an annual return to the Office of Local Government on activities to enforce and ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulations, including lodgement of pound data collection returns. Council also reports information on an incident-by-incident basis related to dog attacks.

The Animal Control expenditure budget was approximately \$130,500 which was slightly higher than the previous year. The majority of this expenditure can be attributed to companion animals.

Ongoing community education through various forms of media has promoted responsible pet ownership and plays an important role in reducing the number of stray and unwanted animals. Council, in partnership with a local veterinary practice secured grant funding from the Office of Local Government's Responsible Pet Ownership Grants Program (Year 2). The funding was used to promote responsible pet ownership throughout the community through a series of service days at a local veterinary practice in Aberdeen together with the production and distribution of educational material, vouchers for de-sexing, advertising and media releases.

While Council continues to euthanise unwanted animals, every reasonable effort is made to re-home them. Advertising of animals that may be suitable for re-homing is undertaken via contact with local vets, media advertising, including social media, and response to requests from the community for pets. Council continues to work with animal rescue groups such as Dog Rescue Newcastle, Cat Rescue as well as specific breed rescue agencies in an effort to reduce the numbers of euthanised animals.

Council maintains a total of four (4) off-leash areas throughout the Upper Hunter Shire with one in each of the main centres of Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone. A review of the off-leash areas will be undertaken by Council in 2016/17 to identify possible upgrades.

Animal Control revenue was approximately \$44,118 of which \$32,899 was attributable to Companion Animal Registrations.

Dog and cat related enquiries increased relative to the previous year with a total of 228 customer requests recorded during 2015/16.

Section 508A (1)

Special Variation to Rates expenditure

Council applied for a Special Rate Variation in 2012/13. This application was approved by IPART on 12 June 2013 and adopted by Council on the 24 June 2013. The rate increase is effective from the 2013/14 rating year with increases of 2.5% above rate pegging for 2013/14 and further increases of 5.5% for 2014/15 and 2015/16 including rate pegging and then remaining at the approved rate pegging limits from that time forward.

The additional funding is to fund principle and interest (less subsidy) for approved projects under rounds 1 and 2 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme over a ten year period. There has been no differences in the repayment of the principal and interest on the loans raised.

Council is required to report more comprehensive details of outcomes achieved from the Special Rate Variation.

The following table shows the projects that have been completed from funding under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme.

PART 4 - Statutory Statements

CATEGORY/ LEGAL MATTER	YEAR OF COMPLETION	COSTS UNDER LIRS PROGRAM
Coolilbah St Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$91,057
Short St, Scone reconstruction (Short St to end)	2013/14	\$89,558
Broad Crossing bridge replacement *	2013/14	\$1,177,899
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Short to Southern end)	2013/14	\$79,857
Aberdeen St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Susan)	2013/14	\$119,178
Graeme St Aberdeen reconstruction (Walker to Kyuga)	2013/14	\$193,188
Mount St Aberdeen reconstruction (Graeme to Moray)	2013/14	\$110,414
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Short)	2013/14	\$243,015
Segenhoe Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$52,289
Middlebrook Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$112,198
Glenbawn Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$108,512
Dartbrook Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$141,438
Liangollen Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$169,740
Broad Crossing approaches	2013/14	\$222,018
St Aubins St Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$470,143
Haydon Lane Murrurundi reconstruction	2014/15	\$39,839
Gundy Road Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$120,000
Idaville Rd Merriwa reconstruction	2014/15	\$150,972
Doolans Gully Bridge Merriwa replacement	2014/15	\$291,174
Ringwood Road, Merriwa	2015/16	\$70,471
Haydon St Murrurundi reconstruction	2015/16	\$68,092
Garland Bridge replacement	2015/16	\$1,501,730
Timor Road, Timor	Not yet completed	\$0
Sandy Creek Bridge replacement	Not yet completed	\$22,001
Total		\$5,644,783

There were no significant variations from the financial results forecasted in Council's Long Term Financial Plan submitted to IPART as part of the application for the Special Rate Variation.

Clause 217 (1) (e)

Annual charge for stormwater management

Council has been levying an annual charge for stormwater management services for a number of years. The charge is being used to increase the level of stormwater projects above those previously funded under the general rate.

The introduction of the new charge raises and additional \$97,000 for stormwater projects within the Shire each year.

Clause 217 (1) (e1)

Annual charge for coastal protection

During this year, Council has not levied an annual or other charge for coastal protection services.

Clause 217 (1) (f)

Companion Animals Act reporting

Council provides an annual return to the Office of Local Government on activities to enforce and ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulations, including lodgement of pound data collection returns. Council also reports information on an incident-by-incident basis related to dog attacks.

The Animal Control expenditure budget was approximately \$130,316 which was consistent with the previous year. The majority of this expenditure can be attributed to companion animals.

Ongoing community education through various forms of media has promoted responsible pet ownership and plays an important role in reducing the number of stray and unwanted animals.

While Council continues to euthanise unwanted animals, every reasonable effort is made to re-home them. Advertising of animals that may be suitable for re-homing is undertaken via contact with local vets, media advertising, including social media, and response to requests from the community for pets. Council continues to work with animal rescue groups such as Dog Rescue Newcastle, Cat Rescue as well as specific breed rescue agencies in an effort to reduce the numbers of euthanised animals.

The number of animals being euthanised has decreased significantly relative to previous years due to ongoing work with animal rescue groups such as Dog Rescue Newcastle, Cat Rescue as well as specific breed rescue agencies. Advertising of animals that may be suitable for re-homing is undertaken via contact with local vets, media advertising, including social media, and response to requests from the community for pets.

Council maintains a total of four (4) off-leash areas throughout the Upper Hunter Shire with one in each of the main centres of Aberdeen, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Scone. A review of the off-leash areas is currently being undertaken by Council to identify possible upgrades.

Animal Control revenue was approximately \$33,352 of which \$8,352 was attributable to Companion Animal Registrations.

Dog and cat related enquiries increased relative to the previous year with a total of 370 customer requests recorded during 2016/17.

Section 508A (1)

Special Variation to Rates expenditure

Council applied for a Special Rate Variation in 2012/13. This application was approved by IPART on 12 June 2013 and adopted by Council on the 24 June 2013. The rate increase is effective from the 2013/14 rating year with increases of 2.5% above rate pegging for 2013/14 and further increases of 5.5% for 2014/15 and 2015/16 including rate pegging and then remaining at the approved rate pegging limits from that time forward.

The additional funding is to fund principle and interest (less subsidy) for approved projects under rounds 1 and 2 of the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme over a ten year period. There has been no differences in the repayment of the principal and interest on the loans raised.

Council is required to report more comprehensive details of outcomes achieved from the Special Rate Variation.

The following table shows the projects that have been completed from funding under the Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme.

Project work was commenced on Susan St, Bettingham St and Sherwood St totalling \$98,000.

PART 3 - Statutory Statements

CATEGORY/ LEGAL MATTER	YEAR OF COMPLETION	COSTS UNDER LIRS PROGRAM
Coolibah St Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$91,057
Short St, Scone reconstruction (Short St to end)	2013/14	\$89,558
Broad Crossing bridge replacement *	2013/14	\$1,177,899
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Short to Southern end)	2013/14	\$79,857
Aberdeen St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Susan)	2013/14	\$119,178
Graeme St Aberdeen reconstruction (Walker to Kyuga)	2013/14	\$193,188
Mount St Aberdeen reconstruction (Graeme to Moray)	2013/14	\$110,414
Scott St Scone reconstruction (Liverpool to Short)	2013/14	\$243,015
Segenhoe Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$52,289
Middlebrook Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$112,198
Glenbawn Rd Scone reconstruction	2013/14	\$108,512
Dartbrook Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$141,438
Liangollen Rd Cassilis reconstruction	2013/14	\$169,740
Broad Crossing approaches	2013/14	\$222,018
St Aubins St Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$470,143
Haydon Lane Murrurundi reconstruction	2014/15	\$39,839
Gundy Road Scone reconstruction	2014/15	\$120,000
Idaville Rd Merriwa reconstruction	2014/15	\$150,972
Doolans Gully Bridge Merriwa replacement	2014/15	\$291,174
Ringwood Road, Merriwa	2015/16	\$70,471
Haydon St Murrurundi reconstruction	2015/16	\$68,092
Garland Bridge replacement	2015/16	\$1,501,730
Timor Road, Timor	2016/17	\$148,304
Sandy Creek Bridge replacement	2016/17	\$230,831
Total		\$6,023,918

There were no significant variations from the financial results forecasted in Council's Long Term Financial Plan submitted to IPART as part of the application for the Special Rate Variation