

## Hunter Councils

### Business achievements 2009 – 2010

---

#### The organisation as a whole

1. Substantially reduced member Council financial contributions to operations with all member Council contributions (except for environmental programs) to be eliminated in 2010 / 2011 financial year
2. Achieved an operating surplus of \$401,852
3. Achieved continuing growth in profitability of Hunter Councils Ltd
4. Funded a number of professional development activities for member councils and expanded free service provision to member Councils across a range of areas.

#### Environment Division

1. Delivered an unprecedented level of regional project outputs to councils. These project outputs addressed environmental compliance and best practice, sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, energy and water conservation in facilities, illegal dumping, natural asset management
2. Resourced and facilitated the completion of both regional and local climate change risk assessment and adaptation strategies for all Hunter LGAs. Councils of the region are now recognised as Australian leaders in this area
3. Delivered substantial tailored services to meet the individual and collective needs of councils - examples include staff training, specialist mapping products, council systems audits, community education materials and campaigns – *to maximise resource sharing and cost efficiencies*
4. In-house design of innovative environmental assessment, planning and management tools to promote best practice by councils e.g. Electronic REF template & Roadside Marker Scheme – *award winning projects with the potential to be rolled out NSW and Australia wide.*
5. Co-ordinated regional delivery of Community Energy Meter Program – over 300 Power Meters available through 62 council libraries – *largest initiative of its kind in Australia so far.*

#### Local Government Training Institute

1. Achieved a final tally of short courses and events conducted for the 2009-2010 financial year of 1,449 which was a 45% increase on the previous financial year
2. Had over 600 participants from 88 NSW councils studying local government or management qualifications (likely to be more in 2010-2011)

3. Was commissioned by the NSW Food Authority to design and develop an accredited course: the *Certificate IV in Food Surveillance*. The course is to be rolled out to all Food Safety Officers in councils across NSW.

### **Regional Procurement**

1. Goods purchased during the financial year through contracts managed by Regional Procurement amounted to \$49,379,244
2. Fundamental review of structure and staffing of the Division undertaken in conjunction with development and implementation of processes to achieve Quality Assured status (status achieved September 2010)
3. End of year surplus achieved in excess of \$100,000.

### **Screen Hunter Central Coast**

1. Consolidated its status as the busiest regional film office by far in regional NSW (effectively as much business as all the other offices combined)
2. Increased income from non-grant sources by over 50% compared to the previous year.

### **Hunter Records Storage**

1. Continued the consolidation of its financial position by achieving for the second year running an increase in end of year net surplus result
2. Negotiated an agreement (finalised in the 2010 / 2011 financial year) for the repayment of subsidy provided by Hunter Councils Inc
3. Surpassed all projected targets for business growth.

### **Consultancy Services**

1. Delivered consultancy services / advice to three NSW ROCs, twelve Councils and one private sector organisation
2. Generated \$10,000 in income (and produced considerable goodwill for the organisation through pro bono work)
3. Exhibited significant capacity to grow business limited only by available resourcing.