

INVERELL SHIRE COUNCIL – FACT SHEET (May, 2015)

1. Fastest Growing Shire in the Northern Tablelands Electorate – Growth Rate that exceeds many NSW Regional Centres. Population 16,846 Growth Rate Last 5 years of 0.624%.
2. Recognised Regional Service Centre for 69,000 people (Economic Impact Statement for Big W Development Application, prepared by independent consultants engaged by Woolworths Properties).
3. 1,678 Businesses in the Shire (Group 11 Council average 1,398).
4. Population per Councillor is 1,872 (Group 11 Council average is 1,495).
5. 212 Effective Full-time Staff, including Connections and Linking Together Centre.

EFFICIENCY

6. Real Operating Cost per Capita as shown in Council's Fit for the Future Roadmap, have decreased by 15% over the last 5 years and are estimated to drop by a total of 25% by the end of the 2016 – 2020 Fit for the Future period.
7. Governance and Administration costs 50% below the Group 11 Council Average and amongst the lowest in the Industry, resulting in more funds being available for Service and Infrastructure delivery.
8. Workers Compensation premiums of \$1.90 per \$100 of Wages Paid against an Industry Average of \$3.60 per \$100 of wages paid.
9. Work Health and Safety Performance of 99.2% (being 100% for WHS Management System Compliance and 98.4% for Specific Hazard identification and treatment). This is against an Industry average of 75%.
10. Achieved all Work Health and Safety and Public Liability Insurance Performance Rebates over the last 5 years saving Council over \$250K.
11. Energy Efficiency and Solar Energy cost savings now total \$365K p.a.
12. Savings of \$180K p.a. or \$1.8M over 10 years, in Light Plant Fleet Costs and a modern, efficient and technologically advanced Heavy Plant Fleet resulting in Council not having to increase its Plant Hire Charges in the last 6 years. This has significantly aided Council's ongoing Maintenance and Infrastructure Renewal Programs. GPS Tracking in process of being installed in Council's Plant Fleet to further improve efficiencies.
13. Council's "return on investment" for programs delivered through the Linking Together Centre on behalf of the State and Federal Governments is up to \$6 return for every \$1 invested providing strong social gains to the community.

BUDGET

14. Total Budget 2014/2015 \$ 38M

Council received the following General Rates in 2014/2015:

RESIDENTIAL	40.2%	\$	4,136,423
RURAL RESIDENTIAL	7.5%	\$	766,217
BUSINESS RATES	20.3%	\$	2,084,502
FARMLAND RATES	32.0%	\$	3,295,081
MINING RATES		\$	-
TOTAL GENERAL RATE REVENUE	100.0%	\$	10,282,223

15. Typical Residential Sewer Bill of \$447.00 p.a. against a NSW Average of \$625.00 p.a. being 30% less.
16. Typical Residential Water Bill of \$548.00 p.a. with no water restrictions, against a NSW Average of \$550.00 p.a and a NSW Councils 3,000 to 10,000 properties Average of \$617.00, while providing significant ongoing water subsidies to Bindaree Beef (Inverell's largest employer and a business of State significance).
17. Lowest Waste Management Charges in the Region.
18. Recycling Rate is 45% against a Group 11 Council average of only 36%.

INFRASTRUCTURE

19. \$21M of renewed and new infrastructure delivered outside of Council's Road Infrastructure Programs over the last two Council Terms (7 years), with over 30% of these being funded from Grants.
20. New Ashford Water Treatment Plant \$4.6M, Cameron Park Redevelopment \$0.9M, Inverell Sewerage Treatment Plant Renewal and Upgrade \$3.6M and \$1.8M Gilgai Drainage Project being delivered. Grants and Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme Interest Rate Subsidies secured for these projects.
21. 8 km of new Bike Paths and Footpaths over the last 7 years, with an additional \$440K of work programmed for 2015/2016 with \$ for \$ funding from NSW Roads and Maritime Services.

22. ROAD DATA

a. Regional Roads	391 km
b. Bridges/Major Culverts	105
c. Culverts and Causeways	912
d. Sealed Local Roads	341 km
e. Gravel Local Roads	1,248 km
f. Bridges/Large Box Culverts	69
g. Culverts and Causeways	3,157
h. Sealed Urban Streets	121 km
i. Gravel Urban Roads (Back Lanes)	13 km
j. Urban Bridges/Major Box Culverts	7
k. Culverts and Causeways	12

TOTAL ROADS 2,114 km
(Group 11 Council Average is 1,451km)

TOTAL BRIDGES/MAJOR BOX CULVERTS 181
TOTAL CULVERTS/CAUSEWAYS 4,081

23. 17 new bridges delivered over the last 15 years, replacing old Timber Structures.
24. Bitumen Road Costs:

a. Bitumen Road Stabilisation	\$ 200,000 - \$250,000 per km
b. Bitumen Road Rehabilitation	\$ 250,000 - \$400,000 per km
c. Convert Gravel to Bitumen	\$ 250,000 - \$400,000 per km
d. Bitumen Reseals – Rural	\$ 3.23 per square metre
e. Bitumen Reseals – Urban	\$ 3.67 per square metre

Reseal Costs are 25% below the IPWEA National Industry Benchmark. This result is efficiency driven and resulted in an additional 10km of roads being resealed in 2014/2015, (Total Reseal in 2014/2015 was 73.4km – basically equivalent of resealing from Inverell to Bingara).

25. Gravel Road Costs:

a. Arterial Collector Road	\$ 18,500.00 per km
b. Local Access Road	\$ 17,500.00 per km
c. Minor Road	\$ 16,500.00 per km
d. Grading	\$ 913.00 per km
e. Grading and clean out Table Drains	\$ 1,245.00 per km

Council's Annual Budget provides for approximately 57.14 km of Gravel Resheeting dependant on Road Type.

26. Remainder of Auburnvale Road to Copeton Northern Foreshores Bitumen Sealed \$400K in 2014/2015 securing a \$200K Grant from NSW Roads and Maritime Services – Better Boating Grant Program. The 1 kilometre Bitumen Seal extension on Rifle Range Road was funded from Gravel Pit Royalty income from Myall Gravel Pit located on that Road.
27. \$6M in additional Regional and Rural Road Funding for 2015/2016 (including the \$1M Tintot Bridge Renewal) on top of the ongoing \$5M Regional and Rural Road Renewal/Construction and \$3.4M Rural Road Maintenance Programs.
28. Urban/Villages Renewal/Construction funding is \$0.5M, plus \$0.13M for Gilgai Drainage, and Urban/Villages Maintenance of \$1.56M in 2015/2016.
29. Modern Rural Fire Service and SES Plant Fleet and Infrastructure supporting the Shires RFS and SES Volunteers, and have donated 4 second-hand Bushfire Tankers to smaller Rural Shires.

GOVERNANCE

30. Council is one of the 67 NSW Council's who participate in the NSW Small Business Friendly Council Program.
31. Council is one of the 32% of NSW Council's that has an Audit and Risk Committee.
32. Independent Reviews of Council have recognised the ongoing sound Management of Council as follows;
- *"Council has been well managed over the review period" – TCorp Financial Assessment and Benchmarking Report, 2013;*
 - *"Inverell Shire Council is a well-managed and efficient local government authority. Council has strong links to the local community it serves. The review team was impressed at the administrative professionalism and effectiveness in achieving value for money" – Department of Local Government Promoting Better Practice Review Report 2008;*
 - *"Council's approach to integrity management and its responses during the review gives reason for a high level of confidence in Council's ability and commitment to the further improvement of an already well-managed organisation" – Echelon Australia Integrity Management Programme Diagnostic Review Draft Report April, 2015.*
 - *"Council's systems and records have been well maintained during the year and the audited accounts will be submitted to the Division of Local Government within the prescribed time" – Forsyths Business Services Pty Ltd 2013/2014 Audit Report.*