

MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN



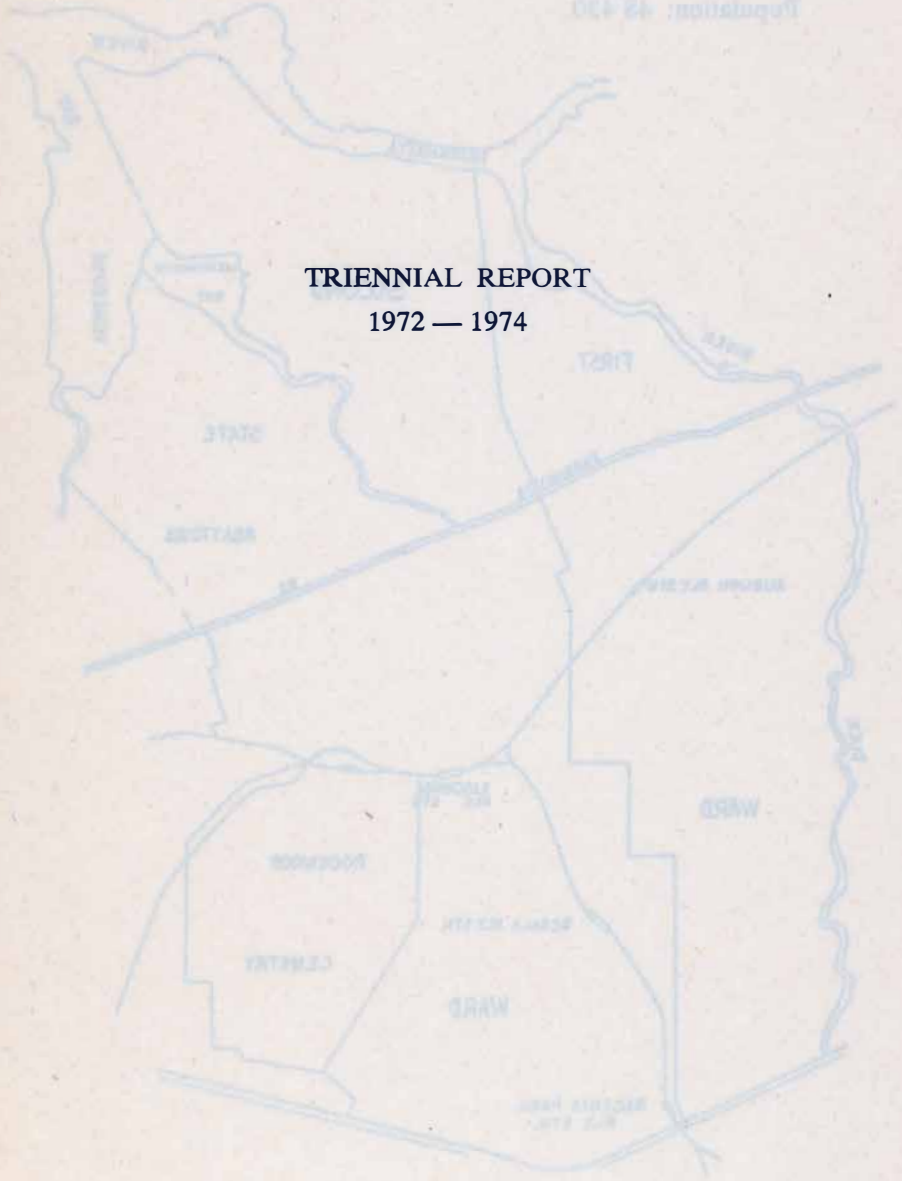
TRIENNIAL REPORT

1972—1974

MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN
 Location map: 55 544 : 1
 Area of Municipality: 3122 ha.
 Length of Roadway: 197.92 km.
 Population: 42 430



TRIENNIAL REPORT
1972 — 1974



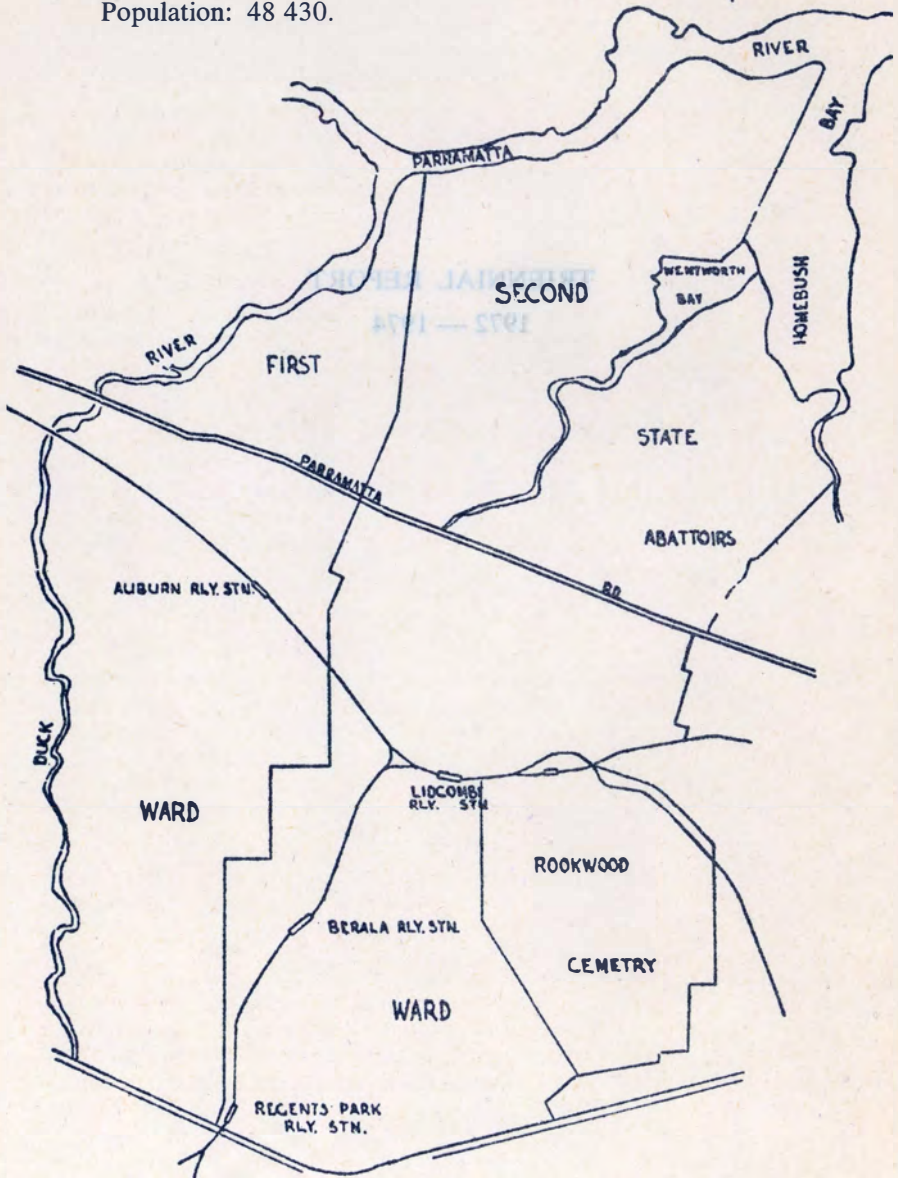
MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN

Reduction ratio: 55 440 : 1.

Area of Municipality: 3152 ha.

Length of Roadways: 197.95 km.

Population: 48 430.



GENERAL

With the pending conclusion of this triennial period, it is with pleasure that I am able to present for information purposes, an outline of the various activities of Council during the three years commencing September, 1971. This report also covers the initial two Mayoral terms when the Office of Mayor was held by Alderman C. G. Noble. Amendments to the Local Government Act prior to that date, advanced the time for holding triennial elections from December to September; this alteration being intended for any newly elected aldermen to obtain a grasp on the functions of Council prior to the commencement of the coming financial year with its attending important tasks of considering estimates of income and expenditure and the fixing of a rate.

At this point, I feel that some tribute should be paid to the enthusiasm and energies of my fellow aldermen who, in performance of their aldermanic duties, attended many meetings of Council and Committees as well as becoming involved in multitudinous "on-site" inspections to assist them in their decision making responsibilities.

The 1972-74 triennial period witnessed the introduction of many important amendments to the Local Government Act which, in a particular manner, affected or were designed to affect environmental control and strengthen the powers of council to play a greater authoritative role in community government.

In addition, the Australian Government displayed an unprecedented interest in financially assisting councils in overcoming their day to day problems.

In this regard the inception of the Sydney Western Region No. 14 Area Improvement Programme saw the sum of five million dollars being made available for this Region of which Auburn Council received a most appreciative grant of four hundred thousand dollars to be spent on specified works of open space development, tree planting programmes and essential drainage works.

The ratepayers of the Municipality will appreciate that this grant has allowed for necessary improvements which otherwise would have been delayed for a number of years.

Of particular importance also is the fact that this pilot scheme for financial assistance to Local Government is to be a continuous one even though it may be restricted in some sense because of cuts in the Australian Government programme of spending, designed to assist the restriction of inflationary trends.

It is worthy of note also that for the first time ever this Council, through its association with the Sydney Western Region No. 14, was able to be represented before the Grants Commission and made a suitable submission, as yet not determined, for a financial grant.

Council has also been actively represented at hearings of the Grants Commission in order to present its case in relation to grants for specific works and including those of a nature which ordinarily would impose a severe strain on its finances in the event of no assistance being received. Of this type of work, mention could be made of Council's awareness of the need for reconstruction and widening of the railway overbridges which, as most motorists are aware, can be the source of frustrating traffic delays during peak periods.

One of the major reforms and amendments with which the Council was associated over the period was the Builders' Licensing Act of 1972 which provided for the registration and licensing of builders; greater powers also were given to councils under Section 288 (c) of the Local Government Act to enforce the fencing of swimming pools; this was introduced as a safety factor.

Great emphasis in the period was placed on the State Government's Environmental Impact Policy which was a declaration to promote and maintain an awareness of the need to preserve the quality of our environment; in accordance therewith Ord. 29 Cl. 10 was altered so as to ensure that liquid waste from premises shall not be discharged into any public place, public reserve, etc., without Council's approval; this amendment also provided that the Council shall not approve such discharge unless it is satisfied that such liquid waste is not likely to cause pollution or to constitute a nuisance or danger on any public place, public reserve, etc.

One of the most significant items of legislation of paramount importance to the day, was by proclamation in the Government Gazette on Friday, 1st September, 1972, and this day was the one on which the Local Government "Appeals" Amendment Act, 1971, commenced.

This Amending Act introduced into the Local Government Act, a new part (Part XIIB "Appeals") which constituted the Local Government Appeals Tribunal and made provision for the jurisdiction, powers, authorities, duties, functions and discretion of the Tribunal.

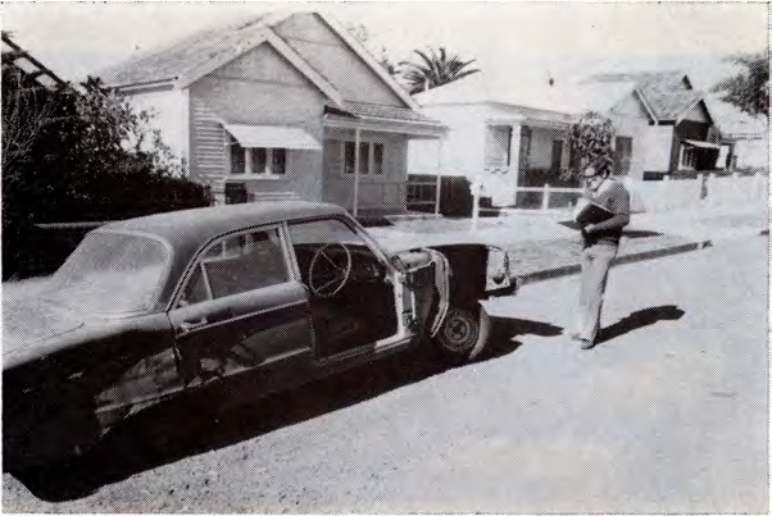
Of particular importance with the amendment was that the legislation conferred on the Tribunal the authority to hear and

TOWN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT



The picture center a line of up to 2500'00
(Photo: Traffic Act)

ABANDONMENT OF VEHICLE BODIES, ETC.



This practice carries a fine of up to \$200.00
(Motor Traffic Act).

determine appeals under the Local Government Act in relation to the following parts—

- Part XI — Building Regulations.
- Part XII — Town Planning.
- Part XIII — Town and Country Planning Schemes, also in relation to the Local Government (Regulation of Flats) Act, 1955.

To this end the amending legislation removed from the Land and Valuation Court jurisdiction to hear appeals under Part XIII of the Act, divested from the State Planning Authority powers to hear certain Appeals under Division 7 (Interim Development) of Part XIII and, at the same time, abolished the Cumberland, Newcastle and Wollongong Boards of Appeal, the Country Board of Appeal and the Board of Subdivision Appeal.

The Appeals Tribunal thus became the final arbiter on any question of fact or reasonableness of fact in proceedings before it. The only redress for either a council or an appellant is now to the Supreme Court on a question of law.

With the influx of New Australians into the country an unexpected and undesired trend of illegal slaughtering for human consumption was detected and concerned both the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board and Health Officials so greatly that in order to stop the practice, particularly as it was associated with the disposal of the refuse of such illegal slaughtering, this and other Councils issued pamphlets in the various languages, drawing the attention of householders to such illegalities.

With the advent of the coming triennial election the first effect of the lowering of the voting age for Local Government elections under an amending Bill in 1973, will be felt and all residents of this age group should have taken the necessary steps to see that they were enrolled.

The Local Government (Regulation of Flats) Amendment Act, 1973:

This Act, assented to on the 20th September, 1973, amended the Local Government Regulation of Flats Act, 1955, by extending until 21st September, 1978, the time within which applications may be made to convert buildings erected before the 30th June, 1949, into residential flat buildings; Section 6 of that Act provided that a Council shall refuse any such application to make further extension of a building already converted where the proposed extension would have the effect of increasing the floor plan area of the building to an area greater than the maximum floor area which could have been approved when the building was first converted.

Section 7 of the Act provided that any existing use rights which attach to a converted building only permit the maintenance and continued use of the building as converted and the making of additions with a floor area of up to 30% of the original floor area of the building.

Of particular note was the fact that during the period Ordinance No. 51 of the Local Government Act was amended on the 25th January, 1974, to increase from \$5.00 to \$20.00 "on the spot" fines for littering.

On the 20th May, 1974, the Minister for Planning and Environment, assumed the duties and responsibilities relating to environmental control previously exercised by the Minister for Local Government.

The Local Government Amendment Act of 1974 inserted a new Section 269A into the Act which places the onus on Council whereby if it proposes to prevent or restrict through-traffic, it is now required to advertise the proposal and consider objections; it must then seek the consent of the Commissioner of Police before carrying out the work; if the Commissioner's consent is not forthcoming the council concerned must submit its proposal, together with objections, to the Minister for Local Government for determination.

A most significant Local Government event during the term was the findings of the Committee appointed to investigate administration and areas of Local Government. This Committee's report, which is now more commonly referred to as the Barnett Report, made recommendations which involved sweeping changes in most aspects of Local Government and included a proposal that Auburn Municipal Council, along with Holroyd Municipal Council, be amalgamated as one area with Parramatta City Council. It would appear that the Minister for Local Government does not intend acting upon this proposal at this stage and will only legislate for amalgamation of areas upon request of the areas involved or after due consideration of recommendations from the Boundaries Commission.

Early in the term, a committee of delegates from Auburn and Parramatta City Councils was established for the purpose of investigating all aspects of pollution problems which were common to both areas and these have been responsible for strong representations to appropriate Ministers in an endeavour to produce a better environment for the people to enjoy. Among other things, the committee has pressed for more stringent penalties for pollution offences with the view in mind that a substantial minimum penalty would assist to deter the needless and destructive activities of those who elect to disregard the common right of all to inhabit pleasant surroundings.

Towards the end of the triennial term, it became necessary to hold an extraordinary election to fill two vacancies caused by the resignation of former Aldermen D. H. R. Maguire and R. P. Tarlinton which resulted in the election to office of Aldermen E. J. Challenger and P. J. Gleeson.

Unfortunately, due to the abolition of compulsory voting prior to the 1968 triennial elections, the trend of low voting percentages continued and I cannot stress too strongly, the importance to every elector to exercise his or her right to vote at the coming election to be held on Saturday, September 21, 1974, thus ensuring a maximum participation in the say of aldermanic representation during the next three years.

FINANCE

Council, like all other corporate bodies, has found it increasingly difficult to maintain a balanced budget, and continued inflationary trends, brought about by the wage and price structures, have had their effects on financial planning. Although certain steps have been taken to provide for these variations in the economy, it has been found necessary on two occasions, during the term, to obtain increased revenue by way of rates and other charges; this action of course, was only taken after exhaustive investigation and deliberation regarding the allocation of various priorities and in this connection, tribute must be paid to Council's Estimates Committee which was charged with this unenviable task.

An important point is that council administration in its operation is subject to the same economic pressures which apply to the individuals and whilst it has always been favourably placed in regard to the raising of loan money, it is significant of the times that the rate of interest chargeable to Local Government borrowing, rose from 6.2% in 1972 to 9.75% in 1974.

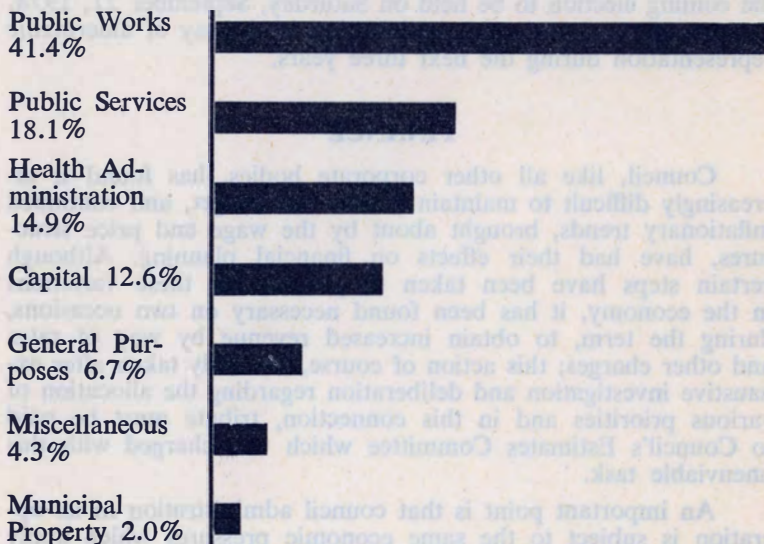
A general revaluation of the Municipality took place during 1973 and was used for rating purposes in 1974. As Council is unable to levy differential rates, the effects of the revaluation were not felt in a uniform manner over the whole of the area as related to the rate levy in different locations and zonings.

Relationships with Council's bankers, the Commonwealth Trading Bank, continued to be on a very high plane with the result that availability of credit when required for short or long term purposes, presented no problems and negotiations with short term money market investments also were very satisfactory in that revenue from this source over the term was of a lucrative nature and supplemented the general funds.

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THREE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER, 1974

Aggregate expenditure over the period was \$9 587 821.00 and a more detailed dissection of this total follows in both diagrammatic and tabulated form.

% Expenditure Related to Each Dollar



	Expenditure			
	1972	1973	1974	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purposes	218 779	202 260	222 367	643 406
Public Works	1 229 246	1 259 751	1 481 832	3 970 829
Health Administration ..	439 055	462 632	525 182	1 426 869
Public Services	493 624	563 909	674 419	1 731 952
Municipal Property	46 504	59 197	85 072	190 773
Miscellaneous	119 277	140 017	155 883	415 177
Capital	365 922	454 690	388 203	1 208 815
	2 912 407	3 142 456	3 532 958	9 587 821

Income

	1972	1973	1974	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Purposes	2 001 571	2 306 349	2 681 548	6 989 468
Public Works	162 144	201 746	547 564	911 454
Health Administration ..	73 133	54 237	60 820	188 190
Public Services	199 174	220 109	215 164	634 447
Municipal Property	19 275	20 887	43 462	83 624
Miscellaneous	44 836	53 763	45 400	143 999
Capital	392 523	278 317	280 000	950 840
	<u>2 892 656</u>	<u>3 135 408</u>	<u>3 873 958</u>	<u>9 902 022</u>

Particulars of General Rate Levy

Year	Rate in \$	Unimproved Capital Value	Yield
1972	1.68c	\$117 460 290	\$1 842 722
1973	1.88c	\$118 943 052	\$2 097 499
1974	0.89c	\$295 100 918	\$2 594 908

PUBLIC WORKS

Details of Expenditure:

Despite an adverse economic situation which appears to be a common problem among local government bodies, Council was able to maintain an acceptable level for its public works programme as indicated by the following details:

Road construction (including main and secondary roads)	\$1 158 588
Road maintenance (including main and secondary roads)	\$799 035
Stormwater drain construction and maintenance	\$313 937
Footpath paving construction and maintenance	\$231 851
Kerbing and guttering construction and maintenance	\$3 603
Street and gutter cleaning	\$246 800
	<u>\$2 753 814</u>

Specific allocations to resealing of roads during the term amounted to \$165 000 due to a more marked effect of weather conditions upon road surfaces. Several extremely heavy periods of rainfall also had a severe effect on Council's maintenance allocations as these conditions accentuate normal wear and tear of roads.

The public works programme differed from previous years following Council's decision to formulate a programme to cover the whole triennial period in lieu of the previous annual basis.

Road and Traffic Signs:

Expenditure on this item totalled \$13 725 and will continue to receive appropriate allocations. Included in this amount was the necessary replacement of road signs to comply with the metric conversion timetable.

Tree Planting:

This important environmental aspect has maintained the close attention of Council and \$52 918 was allocated for this purpose in addition to the \$15 000 grant under the Western Area Improvement Scheme. Unfortunately, this programme has been the subject of numerous incidents of vandalism and all residents are urged to promptly report any instance of vandalism of any nature and/or littering or car dumping. Council has voted a standing reward of \$100 for information leading to the conviction of vandals.

The allocation of \$55 000 for a tree and shrub nursery from the Australian Government will engender an increasing scale of tree and shrub plantings throughout the Municipality.

When the nursery comes into operation, Council anticipates that advanced trees can be provided free of charge to residents for planting in private properties. In this way the straight line of trees in each street can become part of a landscaping design by the co-ordination of tree planting in the front yards with the adjacent street trees.

Council's endeavour to improve the environment by massive tree plantings has been assisted by its town planning powers. In each town planning consent, whether it be a residential flat building, industrial or commercial development, a condition has been imposed requiring landscaping of the site.

In the period 5532 trees comprising 11 different varieties, were planted in streets throughout the Municipality and 1220 were planted in various parks and reserves. Tree planting was

undertaken along the Parramatta River foreshores adjacent to Council's garbage disposal area in Jamieson Street and also in Silverwater Park on the confluence of Parramatta and Duck Rivers. The total number of trees planted in this connection was 174.

Main Roads:

Throughout the term Council has carried out negotiations with the Department of Main Roads in endeavours to obtain improvement with the following matters which are of great importance to the Municipality:—

- (a) Means of traversing the Western Expressway by both vehicular and pedestrian traffic alike.
- (b) Early construction of Main Road 190 (Joseph Street).
- (c) Declaration of certain heavily trafficked roads as secondary main roads.

Although success to date has been somewhat limited, rate-payers and residents are assured that Council will continue to press these and other matters considered necessary for the welfare of the Municipality.

Beautification of Intersections:

Work of this nature was extended to include the Auburn Road, Queen Street, Civic Road intersection and at the Joseph Street, Bridge Street, Taylor Street intersection. The installation of flower boxes and trees appeared to meet with a good reception from shoppers.

Sydney Western Region Area Improvement Programme:

Details of the above Improvement Programme, in which Auburn Council is participating, was the subject of a joint press statement in January, 1974, by the Australian Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. T. Uren, M.P., and the New South Wales Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Sir Charles Cutler, K.B.E., E.D., M.L.A., which stated:—

Forty projects worth \$3.5 million to improve conditions in Sydney's Western Region were announced to-day by the Australian Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Tom Uren, and the New South Wales Minister for Local Government, Sir Charles Cutler.

Funds are principally allocated to local councils for such purposes as land acquisition, road improvements, traffic studies and extended library services.

Among the projects supported is the development of the Duck River Parklands at Auburn, preservation of the Blue Mountains escarpment, and the provision of community halls at Baulkham Hills, Mount Druiitt and Windsor.

The projects are the first to be announced in a five-year advancement programme for the region.

The programme was initiated by the Australian Government in co-operation with the New South Wales Government and the Western Region Committee, which comprises the ten local councils.

A total of \$5 million is allocated for the first year of the programme and an announcement of the remainder of the projects is expected in February.

A second pilot area improvement programme has commenced in Melbourne's Western Region, where the allocation for the first year is \$3 million.

The Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr. Uren, said that Sydney's Western Region had been picked for a pilot scheme because it clearly lagged in many services.

"This is partly because of the exceptional rate of growth of the region," he said.

"More than 700 000 people live there. The population increased 19% between the 1966 and 1971 censuses, compared with 11% for Sydney as a whole."

The Minister for Local Government, Sir Charles Cutler, said that the councils had been asked to submit proposals, preferably with a regional benefit.

"Officers of the Australian Department of Urban and Regional Development and the New South Wales State Planning Authority have selected a range of projects of great value to people in the area," he said.

The councils in the Western Region are:—

- Municipality of Auburn
- Shire of Baulkham Hills
- Municipality of Blacktown
- City of Blue Mountains
- Shire of Colo
- Municipality of Fairfield
- Municipality of Holroyd

City of Parramatta
 City of Penrith
 Municipality of Windsor

Funds are being made available for the listed projects to be carried out by local councils and other bodies, including State Authorities.

Payments from the Department of Urban and Regional Development's budget will be made to the State Government, under Section 96 of the Constitution, to be passed to nominated bodies.

In deciding on this first list of projects to improve living conditions in the west of Sydney, guidance has been sought from local councils and this three-way partnership will continue into the five-year programme.

There have also been consultations with bodies like the Social Welfare Commission and departments such as that of the Australian Minister for Tourism and Recreation, Mr. Frank Stewart, and the State Ministry of Planning and Environment.

Auburn: Duck River Parklands.

Auburn Council in consultation with State Planning Authority of N.S.W.

Under the Cumberland Planning Scheme a large area of land bordering the Duck River was set aside for reclamation as regional open space.

About 24 acres of land is owned by Council and development has begun. The project has been planned in detail. Work can proceed immediately but some development would need to be spread over a number of years.

In the next six months the following work can be completed:—

Botanical Gardens development	\$110 000
Extension of Riverside Walkway	\$25 000
Two Soccer Fields and Facilities (Webbs Ave.)	\$40 000
Cleaning Duck River	\$30 000
Tree, Plant and Shrub Nursery in Parklands	\$50 000
Allocation	<u>\$255 000</u>

Auburn: Varying Scheme.

Auburn Council.

To finalise the details of the Council's Varying Scheme it is necessary that Council employ consulting engineers to carry out comprehensive traffic surveys for transport planning purposes.

Allocation \$20 000

Auburn: Wellington Road Improvements.

Auburn Council.

Wellington Road, Auburn, requires the installation of a major deep drainage system for the whole of its length and partial reconstruction to satisfactorily carry the increasing scale of motor traffic which at the last count averaged 16 000 vehicles per day.

Allocation \$95 000

Auburn: Duck River Parklands.

Auburn Council.

Supplementary money can be spent in relation to the establishment of a tree, plant and shrub nursery in the Duck River Parklands, including a Botanical Garden. \$15 000 for the purchase of decorative stonework can be spent.

Allocation \$15 000

Auburn: Tree Planting.

Auburn Council.

Money will be provided for tree planting in streets and public reserves with priority to the Lidcombe area.

Allocation \$15 000"

Of the \$400 000 allocated in the 1973/74 Western Area Improvement Grant, an amount of \$315 000 was expended prior to the 30th June, 1974. The balance of the expenditure is taking place on the Wellington Road drainage works and on the erection of an Amenity Building in connection with the Webbs Avenue playing fields.

Council's application for the 1974/75 Western Area Improvement Grant was made under the following headings:—

Concrete footpath, kerb and gutter construction and minor associated drainage works to improve the amenity of the residential neighbourhoods from the resident and school children pedestrian viewpoint.

Additional projects for the Duck River Parklands.

MAYORS OF THE TERM

Alderman C. G. NOBLE, J. P.,
Mayor, September, 1971 to
September, 1973.



Alderman T. H. KEEGAN, J.P.,
Mayor, September, 1973, to
September, 1974.



*His Worship the Mayor, Ald. T. H. Keegan, J.P., in the Chair, then re
E. W. Black, A.M.I.E., (Engineer/Town Planner), Ald. P. R. Nagle, J.P.,
E. J. Challenger, Ald. H. E. Wilson, J.P., Ald. L. Meakin, J.P., Ald. W.
J.P., Mr. A. P. Hayes, J.P., F.A.I.H.S., M.B.S.I., (Health Surveyor),*

MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN — COUNCIL IN SESSION

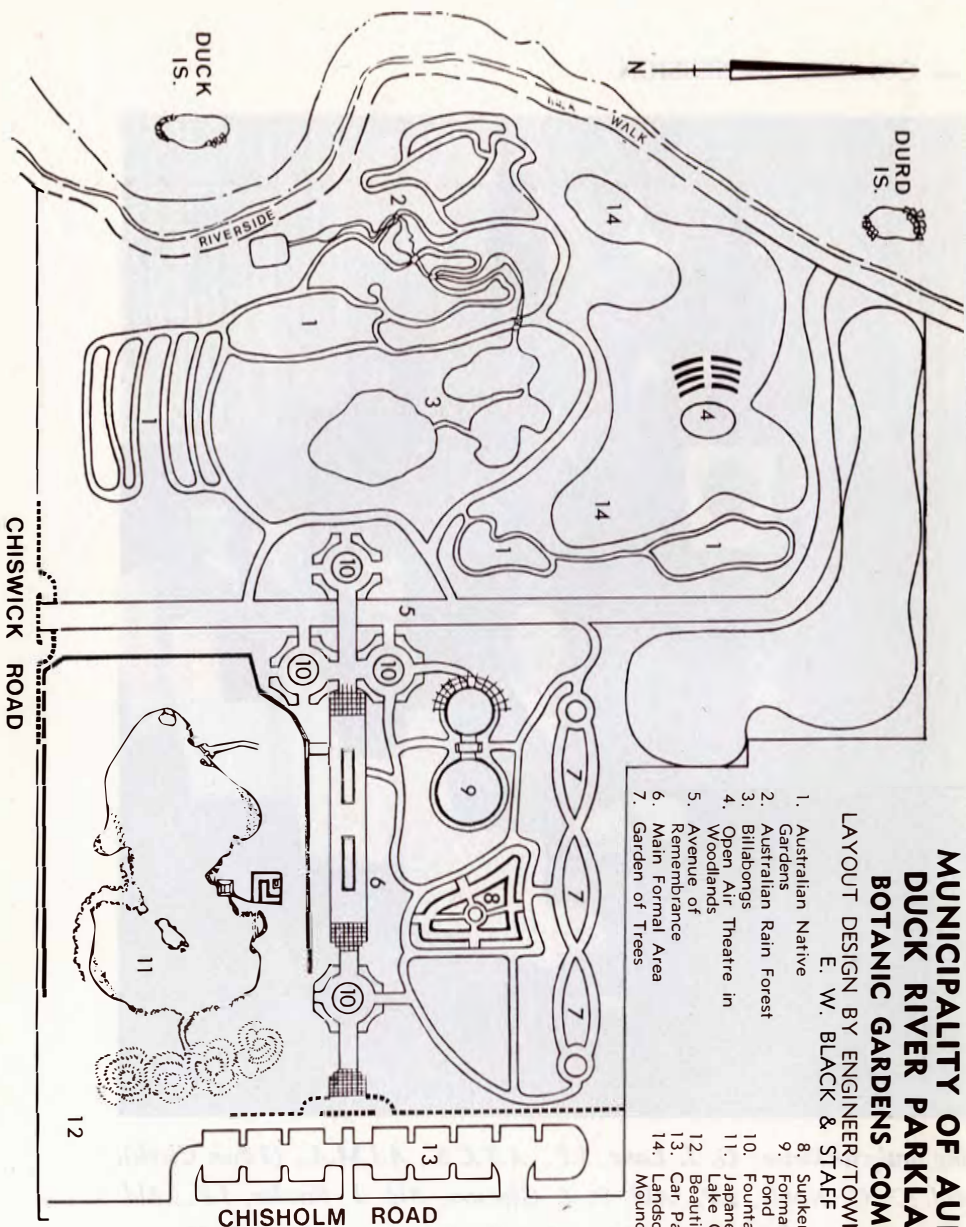


His Worship the Mayor, Ald. T. H. Keegan, J.P., in the Chair, then reading anti-clockwise: G. J. Lane, J.P., A.T.C.S., A.I.M.A., (Town Clerk), E. W. Black, A.M.I.E., (Engineer/Town Planner), Ald. P. R. Nagle, J.P., Ald. C. G. Noble, J.P., Ald. P. J. Gleeson, Ald. J. Fowler, J.P., Ald. E. J. Challenger, Ald. H. E. Wilson, J.P., Ald. L. Meakin, J.P., Ald. W. B. Austin, J.P., Ald. P. A. Hislop, Ald. W. Lawrence, Ald. S. L. Hedges, J.P., Mr. A. P. Hayes, J.P., F.A.I.H.S., M.B.S.I., (Health Surveyor), Mr. C. Goldsworthy, J.P., A.T.C.S., A.I.M.A., (Deputy Town Clerk).

N — COUNCIL IN SESSION



standing anti-clockwise: G. J. Lane, J.P., A.T.C.S., A.I.M.A., (Town Clerk),
Ald. C. G. Noble, J.P., Ald. P. J. Gleeson, Ald. J. Fowler, J.P., Ald.
B. Austin, J.P., Ald. P. A. Hislop, Ald. W. Lawrence, Ald. S. L. Hedges,
Mr. C. Goldsworthy, J.P., A.T.C.S., A.I.M.A., (Deputy Town Clerk).



**MUNICIPALITY OF AUBURN
DUCK RIVER PARKLANDS
BOTANIC GARDENS COMPLEX**

LAYOUT DESIGN BY ENGINEER/TOWN PLANNER
E. W. BLACK & STAFF

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Australian Native Gardens | 8. Sunken Rose Garden |
| 2. Australian Rain Forest | 9. Formal Ornamental Pond |
| 3. Billabongs | 10. Fountains |
| 4. Open Air Theatre in Woodlands | 11. Japanese Hill and Lake Garden |
| 5. Avenue of Remembrance | 12. Beautified Outer Area |
| 6. Main Formal Area | 13. Car Park |
| 7. Garden of Trees | 14. Landscaped Earth Mounds |

- Major stormwater drainage works.
- Studies to further strategic urban and environmental planning.
- Park improvements throughout the Municipality.
- Major works.
- Improvements to the Silverwater Solid Waste Disposal Area adjacent to Parramatta River.

PARKS AND RESERVES

Council has 35 parks and reserves which provide facilities for both active and passive recreation throughout the Municipality. The Municipal parks and gardens system could be summarised as follows:—

Parks and Reserves	35
Enclosed Sports Ovals	3
Total Number of Playing Fields	19
Total Number of Children's Playground Areas	35
Municipal Golf Course	1
Basketball Courts	9
Swimming Centre Pools	5
Tennis Courts	8
Cycle Track	1
War Memorials	2
Ornamental Fountains	3
Garden Surrounds to Public Buildings	7
Street Gardens	11
Public Toilets in Park Areas	13

At a cost totalling \$96 000, Council has provided amenity blocks at the following locations:—

- Coleman Park No. 1
- Railway Park
- Phillips Park
- Mona Park
- Guilfoyle Park
- Webbs Avenue Reserve

AUBURN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Successive very wet seasons over the past three years have sealed the expansion rate of the number of players and green fee revenue at the Municipal Golf Course.

However, the rain has boosted the rate of tree growth and the overall grass coverage of the area, and the golf course has been credited with excellent fairways during this period.

Additional long range chemical treatment of the greens for the elimination of couch grass and the prevention of seeding of winter grass has considerably improved the putting surface of the greens.

As an indication of the very wet conditions which prevailed during the preceding three years it is recorded that by 2nd July, 1972, Sydney had been drenched by more wet days in the first six months of 1972 than in any other year since 1891.

However, worse was to come in 1973 when newspaper headlines proclaimed that year as the biggest wet of the century, but both of these previous wet years paled into insignificance with the well remembered floods of 1974.

In the early months of this year, sodden and muddy fairways and swollen water courses forced closure of many Sydney golf courses and that included our own normally well drained Auburn Golf Course.

Sydney had rainfall on more than half the days of the first three months of 1974, the Anzac Day deluge flooded the golf course and Duck River to such an extent that it took several weeks for the area to dry out.

Green fees for the three years totalled \$139 202.

STREET GARDENS

Additional street gardens have been established at Church and Dalley Streets, Lidcombe; Joseph Street, Lidcombe; Civic Road and Auburn Road, Auburn. Street gardens throughout the Municipality now number 14.

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD GARDEN COMPETITION

Auburn Council's name has figured prominently in the Section and Zonal winners for the garden surrounds of the Administrative Building, Queen and Susan Streets, Auburn, the Courtyard Garden at the Senior Citizens' Building, Euston Road, Auburn, and has received high commendation for the landscaping treatment at the Wyatt Park picnic area, Olympic Drive, Lidcombe.

AUBURN BOTANIC GARDENS

The design of the gardens, which are located in a 24-acre tract of land bounded by Chisholm Road, Chiswick Road, Duck

River and West Street, includes Australian native gardens, Australian rain forest, billabongs, open area theatre in woodlands, Avenue of Remembrance, main formal area comprising ornamental fountains, formal ponds, main entrance, sunken rose garden, perfumed garden, ornamental pond and bridge, pergola, pathways, seating, etc., garden of trees involving special tree plantings, Camellia walk, Azalea plantings, Japanese Hill and Lake Garden, beautified outer area at the corner of Chiswick Road and Chisholm Road and landscaped earth mounds.

Progress made up to June 28, 1974, in the Botanic Gardens was:—

Construction and shaping of the five traditional mountains in the Japanese Gardens section—completed.

Construction of the car parking area adjacent to Chisholm Road—near completion.

Placing of stones around the Japanese Garden Lake—commenced.

Fencing of Botanic Gardens area—completed.

Extension of Remembrance Avenue to join with the Riverside walk at the north-western corner of the Botanic Gardens area—near completion.

Pathways and native garden areas in the billabong section—formation commenced.

Curved pathway in Garden of Trees area—completed.

Progress on other projects in the Duck River Parklands adjacent to the Botanic Gardens is as follows:—

Formation of Riverside Walk between Killeen Street and Mona Street—nearing completion.

Dredging of Duck River, formation of river banks and creation of two islands completed between Chiswick Road and Webbs Avenue.

Construction of two soccer fields at the western end of Webbs Avenue—earthworks nearing completion, dressing rooms and public toilet work in progress.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Mobile Nursing Service

This service continues to be in great demand and the dedication of the nursing staff has resulted in a high standard of patient-nurse relationship. In many cases, visitations by the nurses have resulted in the desirable extension of other forms of assistance to patients in the social welfare and meals on wheels fields.

At times, difficulty is experienced in coping with the number of registered patients and in such cases, a casual sister is appointed to meet the demand. This occasional necessity occurs despite the fact that the facilities of the service are only available upon a doctor's recommendation.

Red Cross Blood Bank

Council has maintained its support for this very worthy cause, by arranging for regular visits of the Red Cross to Auburn Town Hall to obtain donations. The value of the Blood Bank to the community cannot be over-emphasised and the demand for donors is continually increasing.

An appeal is made to all persons to actively support the Blood Bank by becoming donors and thus ensure a higher supply of blood to hospitals which rely on this source for surgical requirements. Enquiries may be made at the Council Chambers or at the Blood Bank's Sydney headquarters.

Infectious Diseases

A further fall in cases notified during the period again pays tribute to Council's immunisation campaigns and it is worthy of note that no case of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria has been reported within the Municipality for a period in the vicinity of 10 years.

All parents are advised to take advantage of the protection offered to their children by making full use of the immunisation campaigns at the appropriate time and further details in this respect appear later in the report.

Baby Health Centres

Each of the three centres was highly patronised and it is pleasing to note that an organised effort to attract migrant mothers with their children to make use of the consultations available met with a large degree of success.

Dog Registrations

Since the opening of the animal shelter and pound by the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Rookwood Road, Chullora, Council has been able to more effectively handle the straying dog problem. The dog population (registered) appears to be static at slightly in excess of 3000 and over the term, a total of 930 dogs were impounded.

Garbage and Waste Disposal

With the establishment of the Metropolitan Waste Disposal Authority, a body set up for the purpose of co-ordinating the operations of garbage and waste disposing organisations and to

provide disposal locations, Council has been restricted to some extent as to the future planning of its disposal activities and provision of disposal sites. The Authority finances its operations by the receipt of statutory contributions from Councils, and Auburn Council's commitment to date has exceeded \$33 000.

Legal Proceedings

Institution of legal proceedings for various offences under the Local Government Act took place on 36 occasions and resulted in the imposition of fines totalling \$1134. Fines for littering were imposed on 145 persons and penalties for parking of vehicles on footpaths were found necessary in 556 cases.

Building Applications

The Building Department of Council treated a total of 2525 building applications during the triennial term; such applications involving building construction or additions to the value of \$40 626 930.

Abandoned Vehicles

This problem appears to be steadily increasing due to the need for removal of 664 dumped vehicles from public roads or places. All residents are particularly requested to promptly report any apparent instances of car abandonment in order that offenders may be readily traced and prosecuted.

Various Shop Licences Issued

Smallgoods	286
Barbers and Hairdressers	115
Refreshment Rooms	180
Fruit Shops	104
Butchers' Shops	111

Pollution and the Environment

As mentioned earlier in the report, Council retains membership of a joint committee with delegates from Parramatta City Council on pollution matters, is represented on the Sydney Harbour and Parramatta River Pollution Committee and recently joined a newly formed committee in conjunction with the National Trust for study of certain pollution and environmental problems. A constant surveillance is maintained over the whole of the Municipality to detect cases of pollution and residents are reminded that should they desire to report air pollution occurrences outside normal office hours, a telephone call to the Air Pollution Control Branch at 649-1555 will suffice.

Building

On July 1, 1974, Ordinance 71 was repealed and a new Ordinance controlling building works came into force. This Ordinance is known as Ordinance 70 and it is based largely on recommendations formulated by the Inter-State Standing Committee of Uniform Building Regulations, after several years of extensive research on a comprehensive study of present-day needs, and is fully metricated.

Part 6 of the Ordinance classifies buildings according to their use—this will ensure that a building created for one use, where a low standard of fire protection may be appropriate, is not subsequently used for a purpose which would require a higher standard unless it complies with the requirements for its new class. Accordingly, as an essential element of these requirements, provision is made for the issue and revocation by Council of Certificates of Classification.

Provision is made in Part 5 of the Ordinance for the establishment of Primary and Secondary Fire Zones. Buildings in such Zones, where required to be fire resisting construction, are also to have a greater resistance to fire and its incipient spread to adjacent buildings than buildings outside such zones. Plans of Fire Zones and detailed information relating to this Ordinance are available at the Health and Building Department.

Builders' Licensing Act, 1971

This provides for the licensing of builders and other persons who carry out "building work" required in the construction of a dwelling or in the making of alterations or additions to a dwelling.

Swimming Pools

Council at its meeting of 19th June, 1974, resolved to adopt a code to control the construction and use of swimming pools and the fencing of the surrounds of such pools with an approved type of fence with a childproof self-locking gate — minimum height of fence 1.0667 m (3 ft. 6 in.). Such fence shall be constructed as a physical barrier between the pool and any public place or adjoining land.

Council seeks your co-operation in the protection of LIFE.

General Details for Information Purposes

Dates of future immunisation clinics to be held in Auburn Town Hall:

September 18, October 16, November 13, December 11.

At all these clinics immunisation may be obtained against:

1. Poliomyelitis with polio virus vaccine live oral Sabin Trivalent.
2. Diphtheria and tetanus with C.D.T. vaccine.
3. Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis with triple antigen.

On all the days scheduled, the clinics are held at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Persons under 18 years of age require parental approval and Council's record card must be completed prior to immunisation.

In the near future, Council will be conducting immunisation clinics for the issue of measles vaccine and interested parties are requested to periodically peruse the local press to obtain all information about this free service.

Baby Health Centres

Expert infant care advice may be obtained at each of the three Centres conducted by Council.

Auburn: Northumberland Road, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Lidcombe: Bridge Street, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Regents Park: Amy Street at rear of Library, Monday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

Each three months a clinic is held in Auburn Town Hall between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The clinics are extensively advertised in the local press and enrolments may be made through Council's Health Department.

Council's Rubbish Tip

A garbage tip is conducted at Jamieson Street, Silverwater.

Only normal household garbage or household clean-up rubbish is received at this tip. No trade waste or old motor vehicles can be accepted for tipping and for the convenience of residents of the Auburn Municipality only, the tip is open for the disposal of household clean-up refuse, without charge, on Saturdays between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Library Services

Council is currently examining proposals for the erection of a new Central Library due to the existing building being inadequate for this purpose.

All branches are well patronised and with the large influx of migrants into the area in recent years, much work has gone into the development of services to children. Regular class visits to libraries are made by pupils of schools nearby and more distant schools having books on deposit which are changed at intervals, are visited by staff members.

Displays by local societies have been held in the libraries ranging from a very interesting display illustrating the work of Lidcombe Hospital to paintings by local artists and an exhibition of Scouting at Regents Park Library. Local groups and societies are reminded that the libraries will willingly display posters, etc. advertising local activities, concerts, fetes, etc. Children's Book Weeks have been given prominence by running competitions and awarding prizes at functions attended by the Mayor and members of Council. Education Week, Apprenticeship Week, etc., all receive publicity.

Collections of books for backward readers have been popular, as also have books in large print for people with poor eyesight. Recently a service to "Shut Ins," i.e., elderly, sick, etc., has been started at Auburn library with the help of Auburn Apex Club which is responsible for the delivery and collection of books.

Enquiries at all libraries are growing in number and staff spend much time answering enquiries and helping readers to find information they require.

At the end of 1973 total membership at all three libraries was 20 223 borrowers. The total book stock was 77 370 volumes and the number of books issued during 1973 was 348 213.

Various activities are connected with the libraries as well as the supply of books to people of all age groups and with all tastes and needs. All libraries have a regular Story Time after school one day each week, and Auburn has a Creative Activities Group for older children which is usually well attended.

For adults a Photography Group meets on Tuesday nights above the library at Auburn and a Painting Group on Mondays. On Mondays, also, a Music Group meets in Room 1, Town Hall Chambers.

All these Groups were originally formed under the auspices of the library service.

Auburn District Historical Society has now been in operation for over three years and has a membership of about 60. Average attendances at meetings which are held each fourth Tuesday in the month at Room 1, Town Hall Chambers at 8 p.m. is about 20-30. Guest speakers address the meetings on topics of historical interest and visits are made to places of historical significance. Anyone who is interested in joining any of the above Groups or the Historical Society should enquire at the libraries or get in touch with the Groups concerned.

Meals on Wheels

This very creditable activity of Council continues to be the subject of many complimentary remarks from those in receipt of its benefits and persons who enjoy the personal satisfaction of being a participant in its organisation and operations.

Difficulty is experienced from time to time in obtaining sufficient volunteers (with or without cars) and an appeal is made to any person who can devote an hour or two each month to assist in ensuring that no disruptions to the service occur.

Interested parties can make further enquiries or arrange to have their names placed on the roster list by telephoning Mrs. Lloyd on 649-6011 at approximately noon each week-day.

Town Planning

Council made full use of its powers and responsibilities imposed by the Auburn Planning Scheme and the Local Government Act and Ordinances by:

- Formulation of policies in relation to residential flat buildings, industrial and commercial development.
- Establishment of development Control Plans for the erection of residential flat buildings in Residential 2(c) zones; erection of town houses, group houses and villa homes in Residential 2(b) zones and for development in industrial zones.
- Suspension of certain areas from the planning scheme to permit change of land use.
- Council also commenced a review of the planning scheme in connection with the compilation of the Varying Scheme.
- Legal action was taken in connection with non-compliance with Council's Development Consent conditions.
- Council adopted the following policies in relation to residential flat building development—

November, 1971 — confirmation of policies for maximum height of two stories.

August, 1972 — maximum excavation and slope of drive-ways.

September, 1972 — restriction of height of flat buildings to 22 ft. 6 in. at average footpath level.

September, 1972 — contribution by developers towards common drainage scheme.

September, 1972 — boundary setbacks requiring a minimum distance between buildings and side boundaries of 11 ft. at the driveway side and 9 ft. on the other side.

September, 1972 — contribution of \$100 per residential flat unit towards the purchase and improvement of land for parks and recreational uses.

June, 1973 — restriction of development in residential 2(b) and residential 2(c) zones to single storey using powers from Section 309(4) of the Local Government Act.

June, 1973—division of residential 2(b) and 2(c) zones into sub-areas and residential flat building requirements for each sub-area receive consideration as planning survey information becomes available.

July, 1973 — maximum population density of 80 persons per acre in residential 2(c) zoning and 45 persons per acre in residential 2(b) zones. The basis of assessment being 0.78 persons per habitable room or 1.45 persons per bedroom.

December, 1973 — Development Control Plan No. 5 for the regulation of residential flat building in the area bounded by St. Hilliers Road, Parramatta Road, Macquarie Road, Hutchinson Street, Gibbons Street and Rawson Street, zoned Residential 2(c) and depicted on the Auburn Planning Scheme map as 2(c).

December, 1973 — the State Planning Authority was requested to suspend the Auburn Planning Scheme for the Berala area zoned residential 2(b) to permit the change of zoning from the existing residential 2(b) zone to that of the residential 2(a) zone.

December, 1973 — retention of the single storey restriction and requiring town houses, group housing, villa homes, etc. development be located on the allotment having minimum width of 66 ft. (20 m) and minimum area of 12 000 sq. ft. (1111 square metres) and the maximum number of dwelling units shall not exceed one unit per 3000 sq. ft. (278 m²) of site area.

Note: Application for suspension was refused by the State Planning Authority of N.S.W.—one reason given by the State Planning Authority was—

“Proposals of such magnitude should be incorporated in Council’s Varying Scheme to afford an opportunity

CLEANING OF DUCK RIVER



BEFORE



AFTER

SENIOR CITIZENS' UNITS AT LIDCOMBE



of gauging the proposal in relation to the development of the Municipality as a whole."

August, 1974 — Development Control Plan for the Martin Street, Lidcombe area and the Berala area, which are both zoned residential 2(b) for town houses, villa homes, etc., tabled for consideration.

There was a significant increase in the number of Development Applications received by Council. 778 applications for industrial and business land use were received and of this number 617 were approved subject to various conditions and 161 were refused.

Development applications for residential flat buildings numbered 137 of which 84 were approved and 53 refused.

The total number of separate dwelling units in the 84 developments approved was 621 and the extra number of bedrooms provided was 1268.

Four Interim Development Orders were proclaimed in the period involving the erection of the bank building at 35 John Street, Lidcombe; the change of use of Clyde Brickworks Company property, corner of Junction and Newton Streets, Auburn as a trade waste disposal area; a section of the Lidcombe State Hospital was changed from its zoning to permit the installation of laboratories and a small area in Queen Street, Auburn, including Council's own property, was altered from a residential 2(c) zone to Special Business 3(b) zone.

The Local Government Appeals Tribunal commenced its jurisdiction on September 4, 1972. In the period the number of cases heard by the Tribunal was fourteen.

Town Planning Varying Scheme

Council was successful in obtaining a grant of \$20 000 from the Australian Government in connection with the Sydney Western Region Area Improvement Programme towards the employment of consulting engineers to carry out comprehensive traffic surveys for a transportation study in connection with the finalisation of Council's Varying Scheme.

The Varying Scheme has also been brought closer to finality by the compilation of and updating of the 36 town planning base maps comprising the Municipality of Auburn. Each base map will be reviewed individually in conjunction with information and data concerning social, technological, economic, physical changes and likely trends. In its examination of the base maps, Council will give consideration to the following matters:

- (a) Formulation of planning policies.
- (b) Review of development control plans.

- (c) Planning of new roads and public pathways.
- (d) Closing of unnecessary roads and lanes.
- (e) Removal of non-conforming uses from residential areas.
- (f) Separation of automobile population from pedestrian population.
- (g) Inclusion of interim development orders into the Varying Scheme.
- (h) Relationship between land use and traffic as illustrated by the transportation study recently undertaken.
- (i) Effect of the Sydney Western Area Region No. 14—Area Improvement Grant on the planning of the Municipality.
- (j) Information received from Federal and State Government Departments concerning proposals affecting the planning of the Municipality.
- (k) Road widening and deviation proposals by the Department of Main Roads.
- (l) Alteration of the Auburn Planning Scheme Ordinance.
- (m) Reservation of land for public recreation—parks and gardens, children's playgrounds, municipal parking areas and other municipal purposes.
- (n) Social planning.
- (o) Environmental planning.

The whole of the matters enumerated above may not be pertinent to each individual working map when submitted for consideration, but will be relevant to the overall plan when the total number of maps amounting to 36 have been processed.

Senior Citizens' Homes

In furtherance of its aims to provide additional aged persons units, Council constructed self-contained accommodation in three separate buildings for six single persons and three married couples which raised the total number of units provided to 65.

It is hoped that in the near future, further units will be provided upon the appropriate site becoming available and at this stage, tribute must be paid to the Lidcombe Central Progress Association which provided the site for the Lidcombe units and to the Auburn Senior Citizens' Welfare Association which provided all furnishings.

Auburn Swimming Centre

Council resolved to heat the various pools at Auburn Swimming Centre in 1973 and this work was commenced very early in 1974.

A special loan of \$50 000 was obtained for the purpose of heating and a 3 000 000 BTU per hour heating unit was installed.

Use of the heated training and wading pools has been enjoyed by the Auburn Amateur Swimming Club for training purposes and learn-to-swim lessons each week-end since early May, 1974.

During the initial trial period the Centre has been available to the public and in this regard use of the Centre has been provided for the Swimming Club to foster winter activities.

It is envisaged that the 50 metre and diving pools will be heated in the early and latter weeks of the 1974/75 swimming season. Dressing rooms are also to be heated.

Council has authorised its Architects to investigate and report on the capital cost and feasibility of providing a satisfactory arrangement for covering structure over the 25 metre training pool and the smaller wading pool.

CONCLUSION

The administration of Council and organisation of community activities is not an automatic process but rather one which relies heavily upon the co-operation of many organisations and people.

In this regard, I can only compliment the spirit of co-operation which Auburn Municipal Council has enjoyed for so long between local parliamentarians, sporting and service clubs, and the numerous community groups which form part of our everyday life.

The staff of Council have always responded when called upon and this also greatly assists in an effective and efficient administrative routine.

Ratepayers and residents are assured that the efforts of Council over the previous three years have resulted from a sincere and genuine attempt by your elected representatives to carry out those activities which, in their opinion, were in the best interests of the Municipality.

Ald. T. H. KEEGAN, J.P.,
Mayor of Auburn.
(1-9-1974)

FACTS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Telephones

Office 649-6011, 649-6012, 649-6013, 649-6014, 649-6015,
649-4413.

Swimming Centre 649-9125, 649-4876.

Public Golf Course 649-9972.

Municipal Libraries—Auburn 649-4815, Lidcombe 649-9387,
Regents Park 644-7558.

Baby Health Centres—Auburn 649-8621, Lidcombe 649-7941,
Regents Park 644-7540.

Civil Defence 649-6331.

Postal Address

All correspondence should be addressed to the Town Clerk,
Municipality of Auburn, Box 118, P.O., Auburn, 2144, or Council
Chambers, Auburn.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays to Fridays.

Electors enrolled: 31 000.

Area of Parks and Reserves: 348 acres.

Local Mobile Nursing Service

This service is located in the Council's Administrative Building,
Susan Street, Auburn, and can be contacted by ringing
649-6011, Health Department, during ordinary office hours.

Municipal Libraries

Auburn: Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays 9.30
a.m. to 12 noon.

Lidcombe and Regents Park: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6
p.m., Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Swimming Centre, Wyatt Park, Lidcombe

Swimming Season: October 1 to March 31 (tentative).

Hours open to public: Mondays to Saturdays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
Sundays 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.—6 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the
months of December, January and February.

Night bathing: December, January and February, Mondays to
Fridays 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Centre is available for carnivals.

Municipal Golf Course

Open every day except Christmas Day.

Parking Facilities for Shoppers

All main shopping centres are subject to the half-hour parking restrictions.

Adequate car parking facilities are available in Auburn, Lidcombe and Berala.

Accommodation for approximately 850 vehicles is available at the undermentioned sites at all hours:

Susan Street adjoining the public school and at the corner of Queen Street.

Kerr Parade — railway overbridge to Marion Street — angle parking.

North Parade — railway overbridge to St. Hilliers Road — angle parking.

South Parade—between railway station and western overbridge.

Queen Street—between Auburn Road and Harrow Road adjacent to the Royal Hotel.

Church Street, Lidcombe—between Olympic Drive and railway station—angle parking.

Bridge Street, Lidcombe—at rear of hotel.

Off New Street adjacent to Bridge Street.

Berala Shopping Centre.

Mary and John Streets, Lidcombe—at rear of Court House.

Amy Street, Regents Park — at rear of shops, entrance from Regent Street.

Printed by Flame Printing Co. Pty. Ltd.,
13-15 Cockthorpe Road, Auburn, N.S.W., 2144
Phones: 649-7725, 649-7726
