



**CLARE & GILBERT  
VALLEYS COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008**



Clare and Gilbert Valleys is known internationally and nationally for its fine wines and splendid living conditions. This unique part of South Australia incorporates a number of towns with distinct characteristics.

The Clare & Gilbert Valleys experience distinctive seasons and hosts a variety of annual events to correlate with the seasonal changes. The indigenous Australians of the region, Ngadjuri, survived times of drought using the mallee root and underground soakages for water.

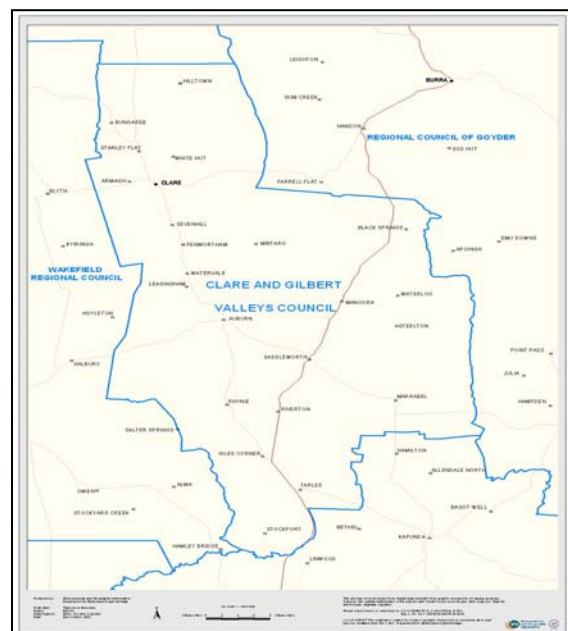
Clare received its name in 1846 from Edward Gleeson who settled in the area as a sheep farmer and named it after his native county in Ireland. Settlers from England, Wales, Austria and Poland moved in to the region, creating its rich heritage and assorted architectural styles. In 1845 copper was discovered in nearby Burra, hence a transport corridor was built to convey the ore to the Gulf of St Vincent. Around this passageway, towns sprang up: Mintaro, Watervale, Auburn and Leasingham, which all still stand today. Mintaro has world class slate deposits with an operating quarry and superbly maintained heritage buildings, many available as tourist accommodation.

Riverton is situated in the heart of the fertile Gilbert Valley, some 30 minutes from Clare. Farmers in the Gilbert Valley produce cereal and hay crops, sheep, cattle, pigs and poultry, and in recent times they have diversified into small seed crops, vines, olives, and hatcheries.

Clare Valley, renowned for its Riesling has another landmark named after the wine: the Clare Valley Riesling Trail. The trail utilises a disused railway line for cycling and walking and incorporates many of the wineries and vineyards during its 27km path from Clare to Auburn. Almost 30 wineries in this region are supported by a visitor information centre which assists tourists in discovering the excellent services, food and wines of the area.

With its close proximity to Adelaide, the Clare and Gilbert Valleys offer an escape for the city dweller. With its array of accommodation, bed and breakfast, hotels, motels and camping facilities, tourists can be satisfied with the range available. The natural beauty of the Clare and Gilbert Valleys also attracts gifted artists to the region for inspiration.

The residents of the Clare and Gilbert Valleys have welcomed and capitalised on tourist numbers with careful management of their natural resources. Award winning wines from the region help attract international tourists to the Valleys as well as winemakers who wish to experience the wine producing qualities of this region.





## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

**Vibrant communities working together to grow in a dynamic, innovative and sustainable way.**

To achieve our Statement of Purpose we will:

- *be ethical and professional at all times*
- *promote open and effective community consultation, which facilitates discussion, involvement, action and partnership*
- *provide excellence in customer service by facilitating prompt, accurate and effective response to customer concerns*
- *adopt sound business principles in the management of Council resources*
- *encourage quality, innovation and continuous improvement in the delivery of services to the community.*

The following extract from the *Local Government Act 1999* details Council's statutory requirements for the production of the Annual Report.

1. A Council must, on or before 30 November in each year, prepare and adopt an annual report relating to the operations of the Council for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.
2. The annual report must include the material, and include specific reports on the matters, specified in schedule 4 as amended from time to time by regulation.
3. The annual report must comply with any requirement prescribed by the regulations.
4. A copy of the annual report must be provided by the Council to each member of the Council.
5. A copy of the annual report must be submitted by the Council
  - a) to the Presiding Members of both Houses of Parliament; and
  - b) to the persons or bodies prescribed by the regulations, on or before a day determined under the regulations.
6. The Presiding Members of the Houses of Parliament must within six sitting days after receiving a copy of annual report under subsection (5), lay the copy before their respective Houses.
7. A Council may provide to the electors for its area an abridged or summary version of its annual report.
8. A Council must ensure that copies of its annual report are available for inspection (without charge) and purchase (on payment of a fee fixed by the Council) by the public at the principal office of the Council.



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