

WEST DALY
Regional Council

Yu kanhi thimneme da ngarra putek neki
Welcome to Country

Regional Plan

2024-25





West Daly Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work, paying our respect to Elders past, present and in the future

Our Brand

Our Council's logo was developed from a concept design created by Annunciata Wilson of Peppimenarti. The communities within the West Daly region are represented by the colours of their dance group.

Communication between communities was sent via message sticks to advise of the passing of a loved one or ceremonies. People would walk to where they needed to be and they would count the number of days it would take by marking the message stick.

Peppimenarti is red (Wangga)

Nganmariyanga is yellow (Lirrga)

Wadeye is black (Thanta)



WEST DALY
Regional Council



DARWIN

Address: 1/4 Albatross Street, Winnellie NT 0820

Telephone: (08) 7922 6403

Email: info@westdaly.nt.gov.au

WADEYE

Address: Lot 463 Perdjer Street, Wadeye NT 0822

Postal Address: C/ Wadeye Post Office, Wadeye NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8702

NGANMARRIYANGA

Address: Lot 108, Nganmariyanga NT 0822

Postal Address: CMB 30 Palumpa NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8500

PEPPIMENARTI

Address: Lot 16, Peppimenarti, NT 0822

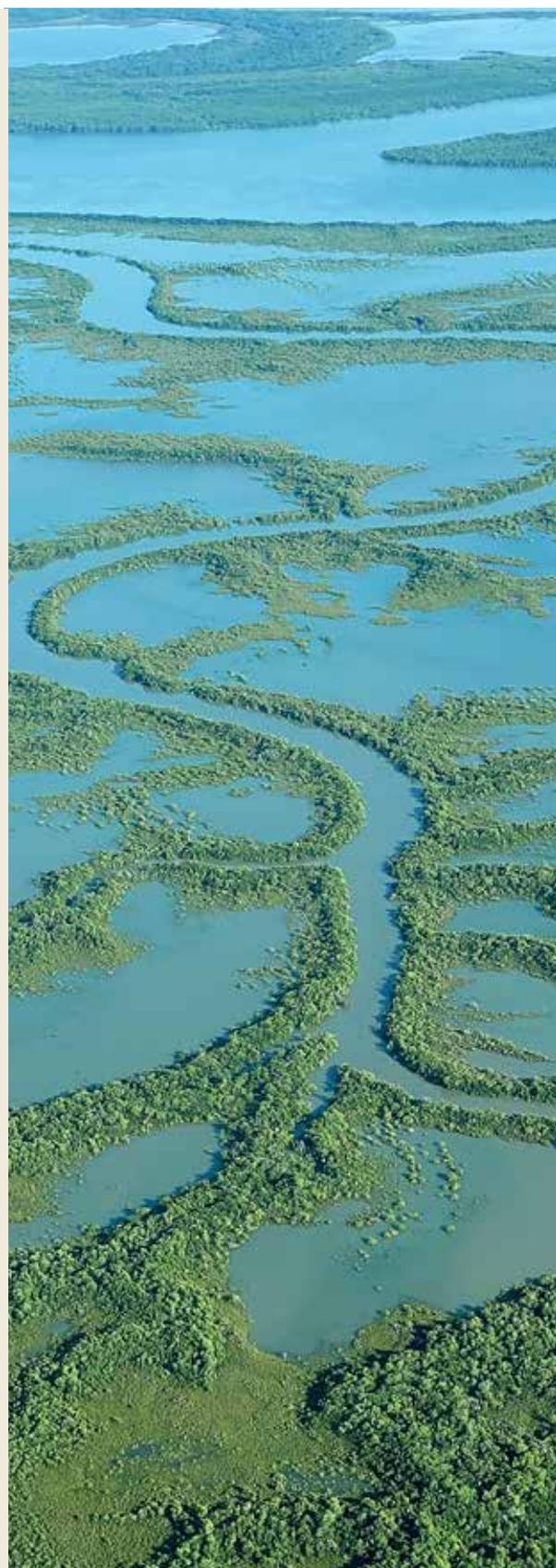
Postal Address: PMB 56 Peppimenarti NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8600



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ACCESS TO REGIONAL PLAN 2024-25

The West Daly Regional Plan 2024-25 is available on Council's website www.westdaly.nt.gov.au

Hard copies are available for public inspection at Council's offices (Darwin, Wadeye, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga) as per section 33(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.



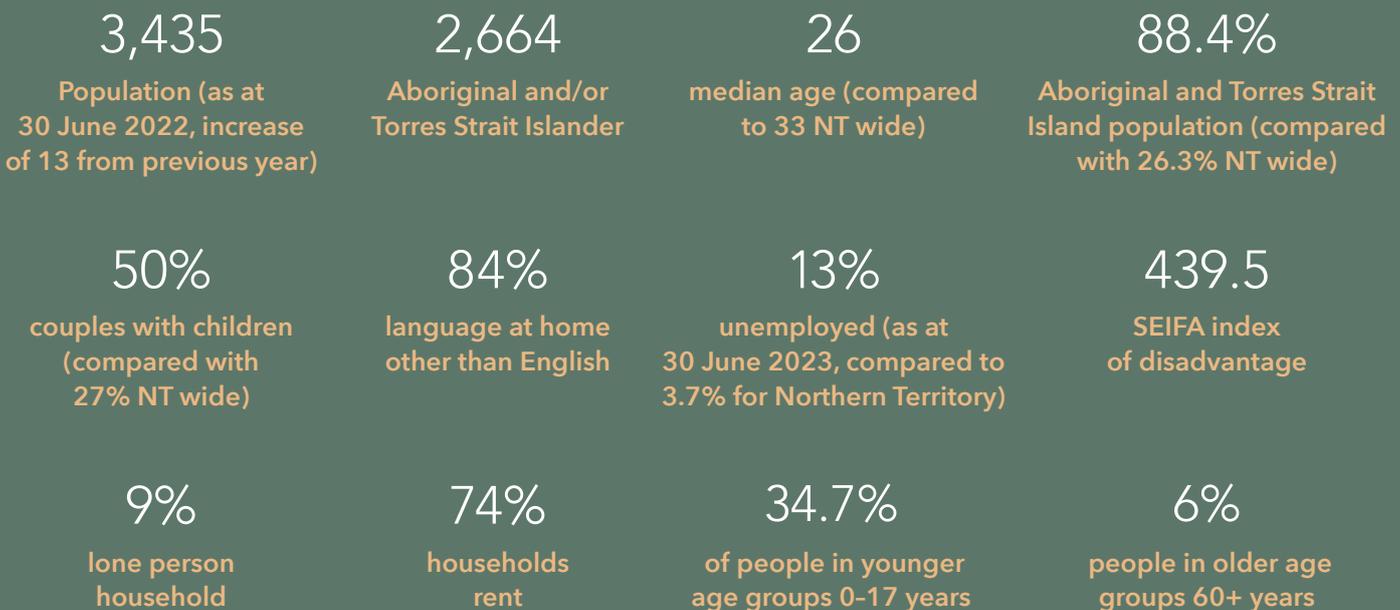
West Daly Region Overview

Statistics

Economic focus



Population focus



Selected subpopulation categories

West Daly Regional Council LGA – Total people (Usual residence)	2021		2016			Change	
	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	2016 to 2021
Males	1,490	50.1	50.5	1,554	49.1	51.8	-64
Females	1,486	49.9	49.5	1,613	50.9	48.2	-127
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	2,631	88.4	26.3	2,875	90.8	25.5	-244
Australian citizens	2,790	93.8	79.8	3,006	94.9	78.6	-216
Eligible voters (citizens aged 18+)	1,804	60.6	58.3	1,810	57.2	56.9	-6
Population over 15	2,148	72.2	79.0	2,117	66.8	78.4	+31
Employed Population	474	81.3	94.4	453	57.5	93.0	+21

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021 (usual residence)





The West Daly region is a place of untouched beauty with expansive beaches that meet mangrove and melaleuca forest with savannah reaching out to the floodplains of the fertile Moyle River.

The West Daly region is located in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

The region has diverse flora and fauna across a spectacular landscape that is the traditional lands of Thamarrurr. There are 2 main languages other than English spoken in the West Daly Region - Murrinh Patha and Kriol.

The West Daly region covers 14,000 square kilometres and is located about 300 to 420 kilometres south-west of Darwin. The area is mainly rural, with 3 Indigenous communities at Peppimenarti, Nganmarriyanga and Wadeye. The local government services here are managed by West Daly Regional Council (Council).

Council is aligned with the Northern Territory Government's Top End Regional Economic Growth Plan 2022-2030, which has been developed to enhance social and economic opportunities for people throughout the region.

The Council works with the Northern Territory Government on their 4 key priorities to achieve this:

- 1 identify and construct key infrastructure to support economic growth
- 2 prioritise Aboriginal capability and leadership
- 3 grow existing industry and skilled local workforce
- 4 identify and activate economic opportunity.

The Plan identifies several growth sectors for the region to create economic and social opportunities, including agribusiness, native bush foods, resources, tourism, energy transition and construction and civil works.





The Council plays a key part in the economic and social development of the West Daly region and is extending its services to deliver infrastructure in the region on behalf of the Northern Territory and Australian governments.

Council is also delivering on the Northern Territory Government's focus for a circular economy by upgrading waste management facilities at Wadeye, Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti and an abandoned vehicle recycling project in Wadeye and Nganmariyanga.

With a mission to create real opportunities and provide services and facilities for everyone, our goal is to strengthen Council so it is in a good position to build capability and capacity in our communities, develop a community with good infrastructure, increase jobs, improve

wellbeing and support our people to prosper and grow.

A key example is a solar lighting project which Council is developing to improve safety in the community.

Further construction to improve housing and infrastructure in our Homelands will also be a priority for this Regional Plan.

West Daly Regional Council will continue to work in partnership with the Northern Territory and Australian governments and community allies, such as Thamarrurr Development Corporation, to improve how we live in the community.

Council is focused on strengthening its local decision making and capability of its Local Authorities - working together to make a real difference.

Highlight of key projects for 2024-25



Securing operational funding for the Wadeye swimming pool



Develop the Peppimenarti Community Hub



Upgrade ICT infrastructure in Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti



Grant application to upgrade ablution facilities in Wadeye



Upgrade Chicken Oval in Wadeye



Review sporting and recreation facilities across all communities



Improve local roads and infrastructure (ongoing)

See pages 35 - 42 for more information and feature stories on these projects.



Message from the Mayor and CEO



Bere mayor's welcome manenne

Mayor's welcome

As the Mayor of the West Daly Regional Council, I am happy to reflect on our journey and look forward to supporting our communities in the future.

As a Council we work hard to fulfill our responsibilities. Our goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.

Many of our people have poor health and need special care. Council will keep advocating for a renal clinic to be established in Wadeye. People want to stay on community and be with their families when they have treatment.

The Wadeye swimming pool has become more than a recreational facility; it is a place for better health and social activity. It is important that we keep it open for our children and community to have a space for joy, learning, and community bonding.

We are happy that the Port Keats Road upgrade will be commencing soon thanks to the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government. The upgrade will mean safer travel between our communities and better food security. It is important that more jobs are created for our people to grow and prosper. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and for representing the West Daly region.

The Council is Indigenous led and we know the importance of listening to our community.

We have challenges but our Council stands strong, guided by the principle of doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time. It is this commitment that moves us forward, ensuring that our actions today pave the way for a brighter tomorrow.

Ralph Narburup

Mayor



Murrinh nukunu thanguu CEO

Welcome message from CEO



It is with great pleasure that I present our strategic priorities for the year ahead. Our mission is clear: to enhance the quality of life for every member of the West Daly communities through sustainable development and inclusive growth.

Our immediate priority is to secure the operational funding necessary for the Wadeye swimming pool. This facility is more than a recreational space; it is a cornerstone for community health, youth engagement, and social cohesion. We are committed to ensuring its doors remain open to serve as a beacon of community spirit.

Recognising the power of sport to unite and inspire, we are dedicated to improving our sporting facilities. This includes the construction of women's change rooms at all our major sporting facilities and encouraging greater participation in sports across all our communities.

The Top End Economic Growth Plan is designed to lay a strong foundation for prosperity. This document should not sit on the shelf. The following key initiatives for the West Daly region must be actioned.

Port Keats Road: The upgrade to Port Keats Road and Saddle Rail Creek bridge, funded by

the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government, is due to commence in 2024 and will improve connectivity, increase safety, and open new opportunities.

Emergency shelter and sports hall: Establishing a multifunctional space that ensures the safety and wellbeing of our residents while promoting sports and community events.

Community housing and repairs: Increasing the availability of community housing and addressing repairs will provide secure and comfortable living conditions.

We will continue to advocate for these important infrastructure priorities to improve the liveability of our region.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the interim CEO, Mark Blackburn, whose stewardship has been instrumental in navigating the organisation through a period of transition. His dedication and leadership have set a high standard for us all.

Finally, I am eager to be present and engaged within the West Daly communities. It is my firm belief that the best way to lead is by listening, understanding, and acting upon the needs and aspirations of the people we serve.

Together, we will strive for a future that is not only prosperous but also equitable and resilient. Let us embark on this journey with unity, determination, and a shared vision for the betterment of our beloved communities.

John Thomas
Chief Executive Officer



Our Council

Welcome deyida ngumamnara

Welcome to our region

The West Daly Regional Council covers about 14,000 square kilometres along the western coast of the Top End, bordering the Timor Sea.

The land in which our Elected Members live and work is known as Thamarrurr. In local Murrinh Patha language this means 'coming together to work as one people'.

The traditional lands of Thamarrurr has significant natural, cultural and spiritual values for its people.

Council sees its role as working together with local people to build a stronger community.

We embrace our rich history and natural environment while working towards opportunities for economic and social development.

West Daly Regional Council is made up of 3 wards - Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi, Nganmariyanga and Tyemirri.

Council's headquarters are located on the main street of Wadeye and is the hub from which we deliver operational and support services to Wadeye, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga and the surrounding areas. Our Homelands service centre in Wadeye delivers municipal, essential and housing maintenance services to 13 Homelands across the West Daly region.

Council offices are also located in Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti, while a small team of administrative, financial and support services is located at the Council's office in Darwin.

Council uses Local Decision Making as a key way to listen and engage with the community. Council works with each of the Local Authorities in our 3 main communities to identify priority projects and services to involve the community and hear what they need and want to improve their lives and their community.

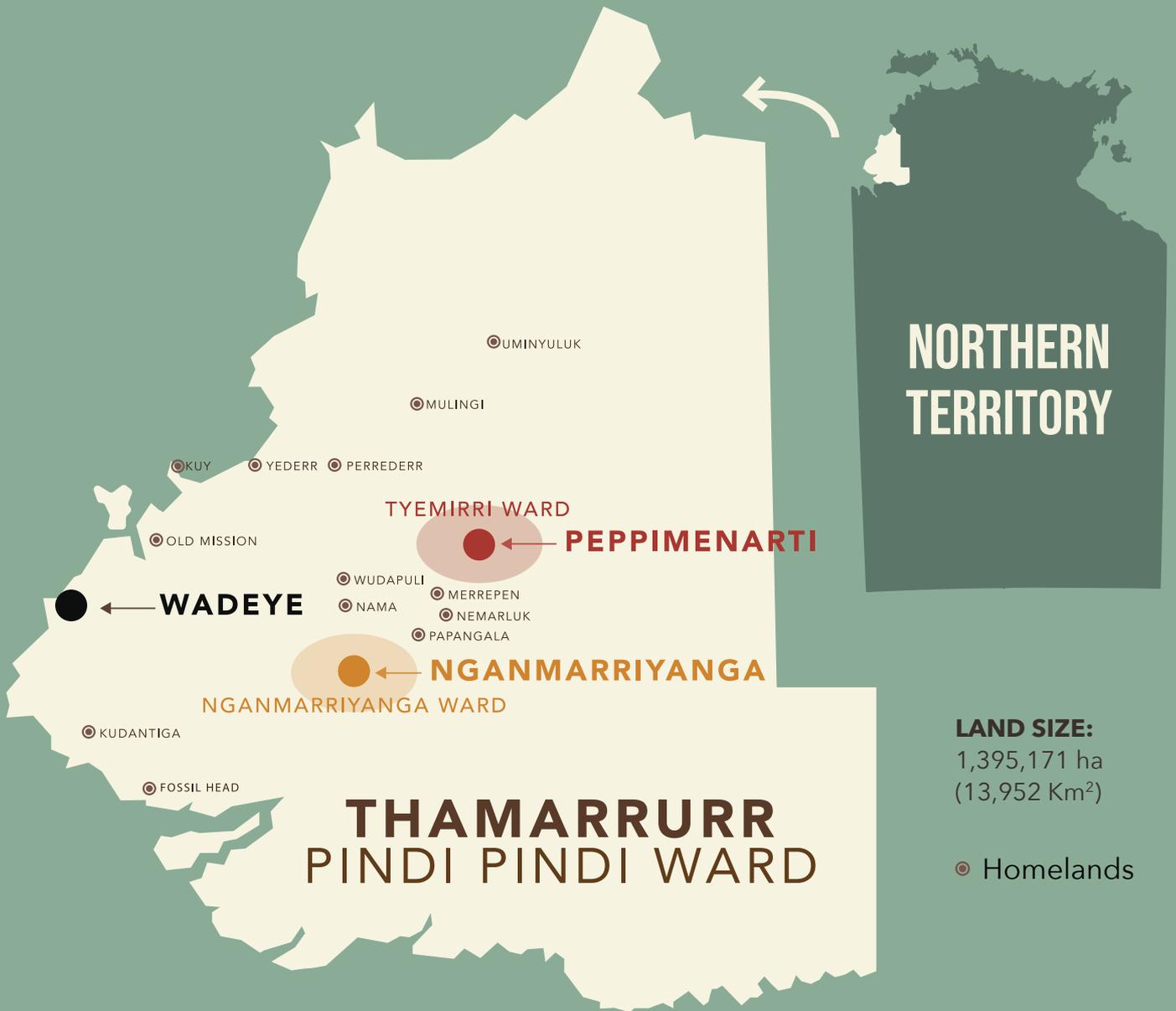
We deliver our services in partnership with government and local non-for-profit organisations.

Our Elected Members represent Council across the West Daly region and are involved in a range of local committees and organisations.





Our Community





Vision

Working together to make a difference in our community.

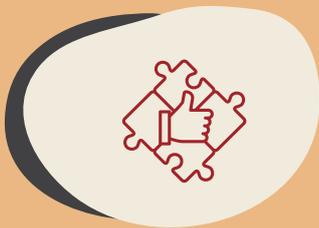
Improving how we live in our communities by creating places that are respectful, peaceful and safe.

Mission

To walk alongside culture, country and people to build a stronger community. We do this by working together, creating real opportunities and providing services and facilities that everyone can use.



Values



We do the right thing



We work together



We look after and encourage each other



We respect each other's feelings, rights and cultures



We listen and learn from each other



Our Focus Areas

West Daly Regional Council's Focus Areas are strategic objectives that develop and change with the needs of our community.

Our focus areas for 2024-25 are outlined below.

Focus area

Objective

1. A strong Council

We build strong foundations and continuously improve our governance, planning and systems to create a resilient organisation.

2. Strong, safe and healthy people

We build capability and capacity in our communities and support all our people by investing in the environment and their safety, growth, and wellbeing.

3. Developing Council for community

We aim to provide stable opportunities for our communities through improved infrastructure, increased employment, and cultural and sporting events.

4. Delivering on our promises

We grow our services by listening and seeking new opportunities, working with others to support our communities today and in the future.



Our Elected Members

**Kardu kanhi ngarra thumampunkungkarat-neme
welcome puyemamka-neme da ngarra putek kanhi**

The Elected Members of the West Daly Regional Council welcome you to Country

West Daly Regional Council is made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 4 Councillors who are elected for a 4 year term. There are 3 electoral wards, with each ward represented by Elected Members based on their population size, including:

- *Nganmariyanga Ward - one representative*
- *Thamarrur/Pindi Pindi Ward - 4 representatives*
- *Tyemirr Ward - one representative.*

Role of members

according to the *Local Government Act 2019*

The role of a member of a council is:

- to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the council area; and
- to provide leadership and guidance; and
- to facilitate communication between the members of the council's constituency and the council; and
- to be properly informed to enable participation in the deliberations of the council and its community activities; and
- to ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities; and
- to ensure that council resources are used prudently and solely in the public interest; and
- to actively monitor the financial affairs of the council.

However, a member of the council has no power to direct or control staff of the council, or to interfere with the management of staff of the council.

A member of the council has a duty to act, at all times, in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the council's constituency.



Elected Member

Commitment Statement

As elected members of West Daly Regional Council we commit to:

- 1 Uphold the values of West Daly Regional Council
- 2 Working together and not undermining each other
- 3 Holding each other accountable for our behaviours
- 4 Respecting each other's views and working together for the benefit of the community and Homelands
- 5 Unanimously supporting the organisation and staff at all times



We commit to honour this statement and hold ourselves and each other to account

Ralph Narburup
Mayor

Wilfred Harris
Deputy Mayor

John Wilson
Councillor

Terry Sams
Councillor

Mark Tunmuck-Smith
Councillor



Our Council wards

Thamurrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

Wadeye, also known as Port Keats, is one of Australia's largest remote Indigenous communities located approximately 420 kilometres south-west of Darwin.



Tyemirri Ward

'Peppi' as it is known, is located on Tom Turner Creek approximately 320 kilometres by road south-west of Darwin. The community was established in approximately 1974 with the people calling the area Peppimenarti long before European settlement of Australia.

Nganmarriyanga Ward

Palumpa is located 353 kilometres south-west of Darwin on Port Keats Road between the communities of Peppimenarti and Wadeye.





Elected Members



Ralph Narburup - Mayor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Wilfred Harris - Deputy Mayor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



John Wilson - Councillor
Tyemirri Ward



Terry Sams - Councillor
Nganmariyanga Ward



Mark Tunmuck-Smith - Councillor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Peter Cumaiyi - Councillor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Our Governance

The West Daly Regional Council is a local government entity governed by several laws but primarily by the *Local Government Act 2019* and its regulations and guidelines, as well as the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Fair Work Act 2009*.

Council uses best practice governance to meet its legal and ethical compliance obligation, demonstrate a strong corporate responsibility and deliver services in a timely manner.

Council makes sure its decisions are made within budget and allocates resources appropriately to provide the greatest benefit to our communities.

Our governance structure is designed to enable Council to implement its vision and values with internal controls in place to fulfill its commitments.

This structure holds the Elected Members of Council and our Chief

Executive Officer to account by defining their responsibilities and Council's policies, processes and practices. This ensures we can meet our strategic direction and the performance standards set by legislation and governance standards.

Councillors meet every 2 months to discuss and debate local issues, projects and services in our region at an Ordinary Council Meeting, which is open to the public unless dealing with confidential business matters.

Additional Council meetings are sometimes held to address priority issues.

In the alternate months, the Finance Committee meets to ensure Council's finances are regularly reviewed in accordance with legislative requirements.

Local Authority meetings are held in the community throughout the year to allow community members to attend and have input into services and opportunities to improve their community.

Council is committed to keeping our people informed by being open and transparent.

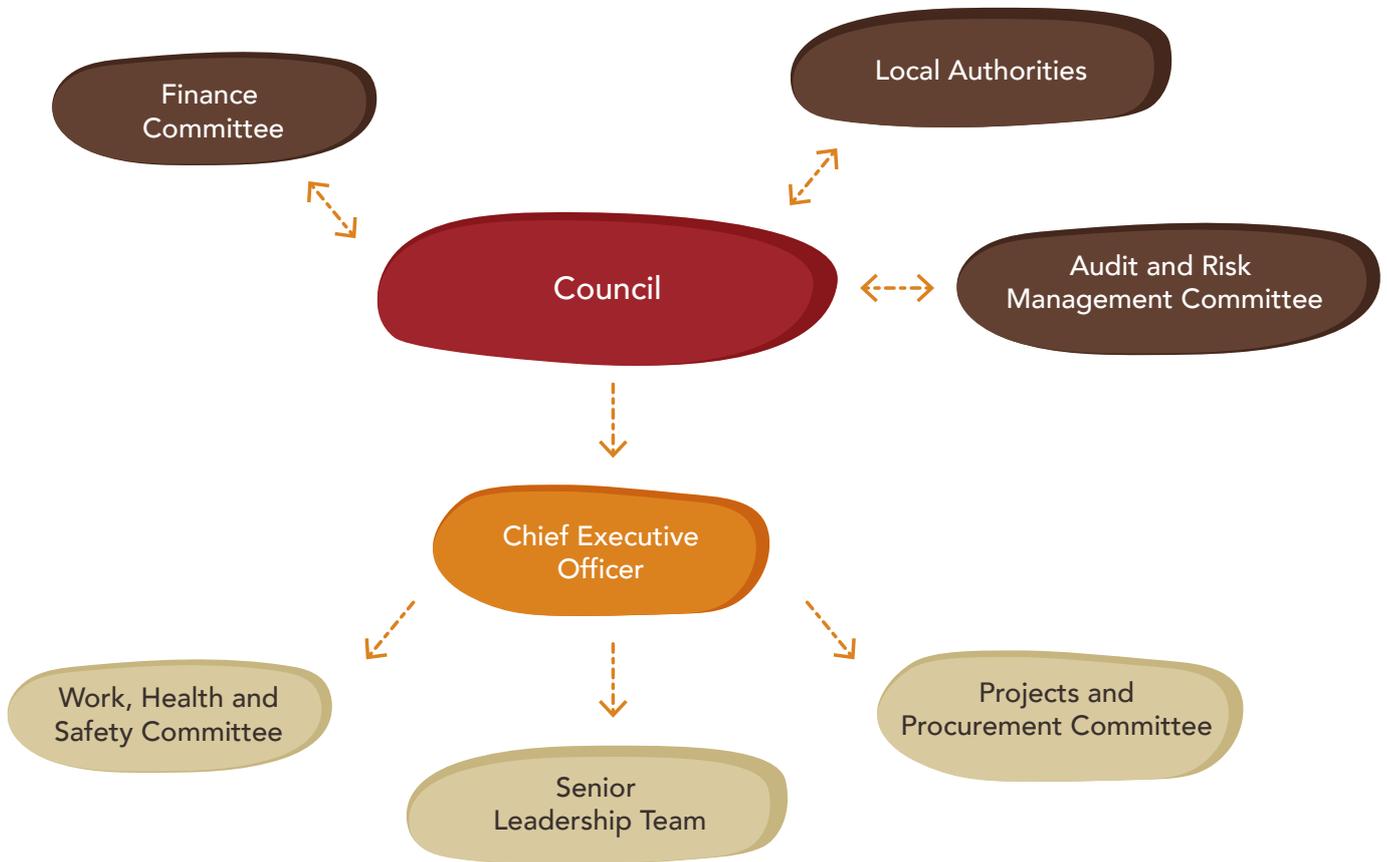
Council publishes all meeting agenda papers, relevant policies, plans and minutes, including resolutions, on its website www.westdaly.nt.gov.au



Wadeye Local Authority meets throughout the year



Our Governance Framework



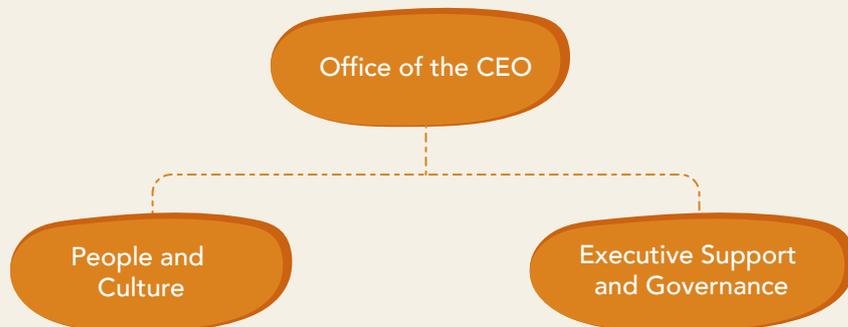
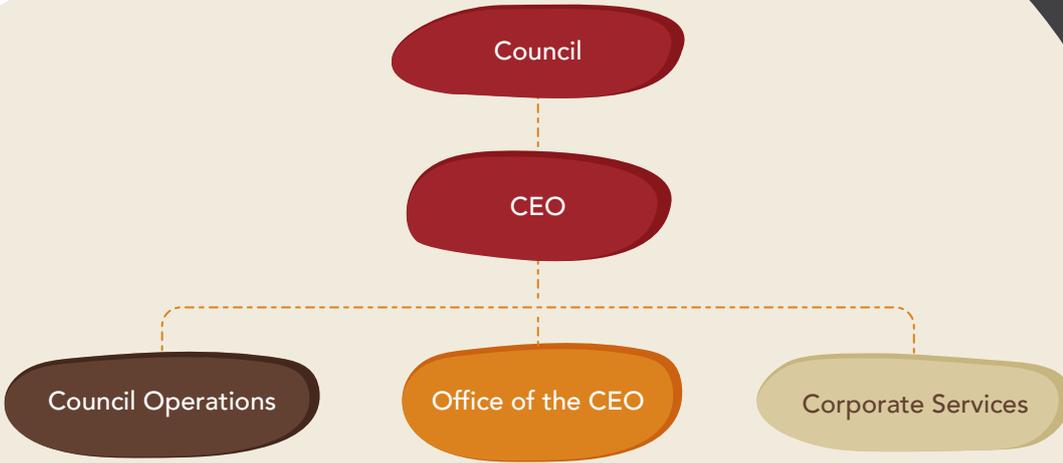
The purpose of the West Daly Regional Council's governance framework is to provide a clear focus on regulatory outcomes, demonstrate a risk-based approach to regulation, inform organisational improvement and improve engagement with stakeholders.

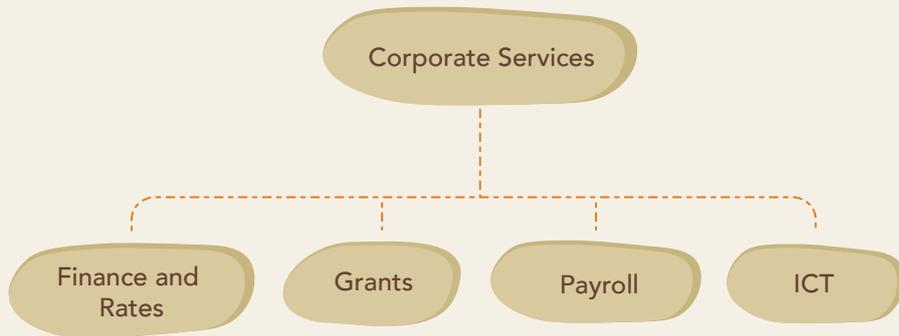
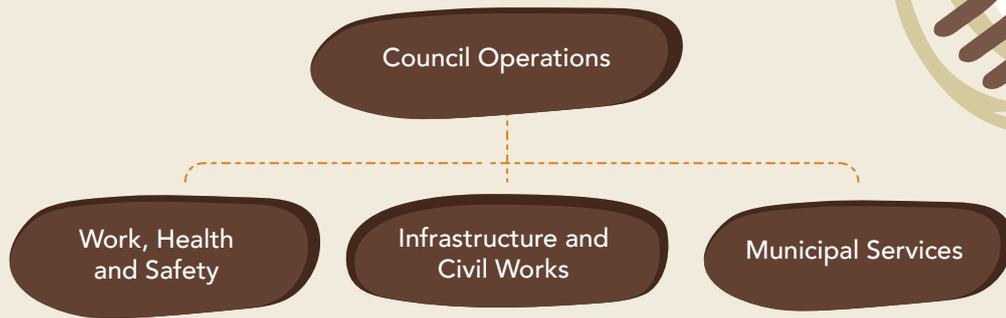
Potential influences on Council's administration and regulatory framework include:

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*
- Council's policies and procedures
- Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Council's Finance Committee.



Our People







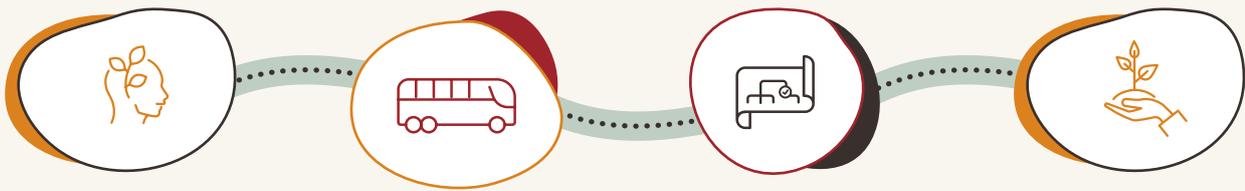
Our Operating Environment

Our risks

Council aims to apply its risk profile to every business, strategic and operational decision it makes into the future.

This risk framework provides us with the architecture to map our Regional Plan and inform reporting on our performance including strategic outcomes, services and project success.

Identified risk areas



Mental health and wellbeing

Assets and infrastructure

Service delivery continuity

Environmental impact



Financial sustainability

Regulatory and statutory requirements

Cybersecurity





Our opportunities and challenges

West Daly Regional Council experiences unique challenges but also opportunities to focus on specific areas to improve how we provide services and programs in our community.

Social disruption due to community unrest coupled with our remote location present challenges in our ability to deliver services. As a result we are refocusing our organisation to create a respectful, peaceful and safe community.

We are working with our communities, our partners, and the Northern Territory and Australian governments, to come up with local solutions for these complex challenges.

We will listen to what our community want and find the investment opportunities we need to make a difference in our community.

Directing this investment to the right areas, such as our ageing infrastructure, will help Council to build the foundations so our organisation and community can grow.

Our people, their passion, drive and resilience, are what makes our community and Council strong and we will use their local knowledge and skills to grow our services and local jobs.

Opportunities

- > Improve communication and engagement with community
- > Strengthen Local Authorities
- > Increase local employment
- > Train and develop staff
- > Introduce health and wellbeing strategies
- > Create new partnerships
- > Grow grant funding
- > Diversify funding options
- > Support emerging leaders
- > Promote Elected Members professional development
- > Introduce new technology
- > Improve cybersecurity safety

Challenges

- > Maintaining good mental health and wellbeing
- > Managing the financial cost of delivering services in a remote area
- > Dealing with the impact of community unrest and social disruption on our organisation and people
- > Building financial sustainability
- > Maintaining ageing assets and infrastructure
- > Providing continued service delivery
- > Providing environmental health services and animal management
- > Managing impacts of seasonal accessibility
- > Providing a safe working environment
- > Retaining staff
- > Managing inefficient information technology services

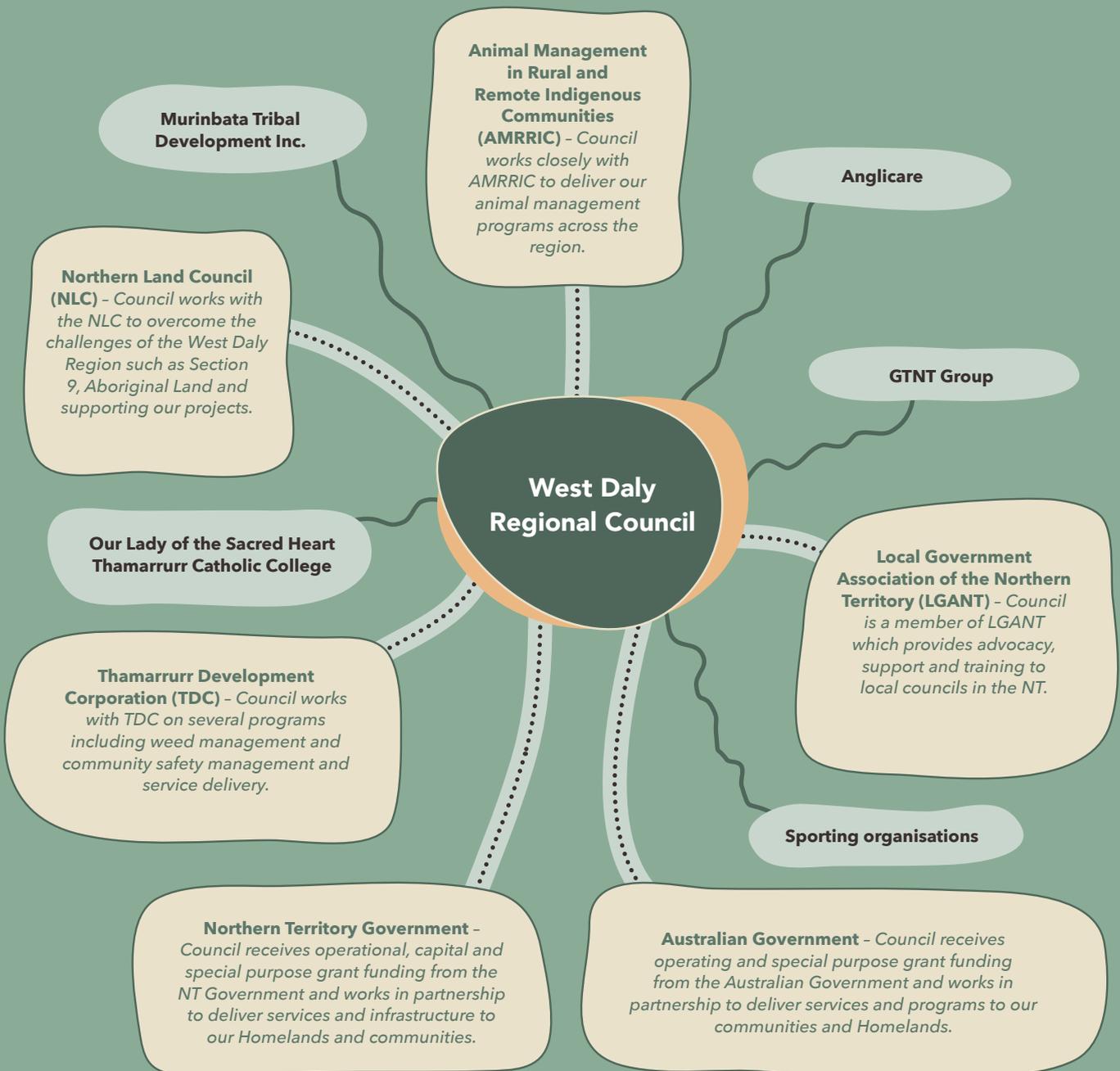


Our Cooperative Opportunities

The West Daly Regional Council has collaborative partnerships with a wide range of community, business and government organisations to support our community and help deliver services and investment in our region.

Elected Members represent Council on a range of committees and organisations and Council is committed to expanding these cooperative opportunities in 2024-25 under Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.

Our partners include:





Local Authorities

The West Daly Regional Council has 3 Local Authorities to give people a strong local voice in their community.

Local Authorities are created under the *Local Government Act 2019* to represent regional and remote areas in the Northern Territory to help councils listen and work with community residents.

In 2024-25, Council has a focus on engaging with the Local Authorities and supporting them to ensure they meet their legislative requirements.

Local Authorities give community members more control over the services that affect them and involve people in planning projects and services the community need and want.

Local Authorities represent people in Wadeye, Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti and aim to meet 4 times a year (weather permitting) to give feedback on service delivery and identify priority community projects.

For the West Daly Regional Council, the 3 Local Authorities:

- enable communities to be closely involved in issues related to local government
- ensure local communities have an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government
- act as advocates for the local community by taking their views directly back to Council
- advise Council and contribute to Service Delivery Plans for local communities and the region

- contribute to developing Regional Plans
- recommend priorities for expenditure in Council's budget
- advise Council on its specific community and social projects that impact their community or region
- alert Council to new and emerging issues affecting the community.

Each Local Authority has a budgetary allocation to fund priority local projects based on community need and want.

Local Authorities are governed in accordance with the provisions of Ministerial Guideline 1, Local Authorities.

Council publishes all Local Authority meeting agendas, papers, relevant policies, plans and minutes, including recommendations, on its website.





Local Authority members

WADEYE

Mayor Ralph Narburup
 Deputy Mayor Wilfred Harris
 Councillor Peter Cumaiyi
 Chairperson Steven Pultchen
 Councillor Tunmuck-Smith
 Damien Tunmuck
 Ken James
 Mark Ninnal
 Timothy Dumoo
 Cyril Ninnal
 Basil Parmbuk
 Margaret Perdjert
 Anne Marie Nudjulu
 Gregory Munar

PEPPIMENARTI

Mayor Ralph Narburup
 Cr John Wilson
 Chairperson Karl Lukonavic
 Henry Wilson
 Annunciata Wilson
 Leaya Smith
 Nathan Wilson
 Anastasia Wilson

NGANMARRIYANGA

Mayor Ralph Narburup
 Councillor Terry Sams
 Chairperson Amy Narburup
 Jack Wodidj
 Lorraine Keringbo
 Jimmy Murielle
 Moses Wodidj
 Jeff Wodidj
 Roger Wodidj
 Warren Wodidj
 Alex Jacky
 Sandra Jacky
 Mary Wodidj

Local Authority projects

Wadeye

Community safety

Operation of Wadeye swimming pool
 Speed humps
 Road safety signage

Community enhancements

Wheelchair access for the footpath on the side of the courthouse and shop
 Water bubblers at the church
 Irrigation at the church
 Trees at the church
 Community events
 Lighting at the barge

Strategic projects

Wadeye emergency shelter and sports hall

Peppimenarti

Community safety

Improved solar lighting
 Footpaths
 Fencing

Community enhancements

Community seating and shade
 Shade structures
 - Cemetery
 - Basketball court
 Drainage
 Animal management
 Water tank at the cemetery

Strategic projects

Sporting hub
 Community Activity Centre (Youth, Mens Shed, Cultural Centre)

Nganmariyanga

Community safety

Safety measures around speed humps
 Animal management (AMRRIC)

Community enhancements

Installation of playground
 Bush fruit trees
 Fence at the oval
 Football posts at the oval
 Seating at the cemetery
 Footpaths

Strategic projects

More local people in jobs



Our Homelands

Homelands are where small populations of people live, whose rightful homes are located on ancestral lands that have cultural and spiritual significance.

The West Daly Regional Council is committed to improving outcomes for all Aboriginal people and recognise Homelands as being intimately connected to social, cultural and emotional wellbeing.

Also sometimes referred to as outstations, Homelands are the traditional country of groups of Aboriginal people, often families or closely related people that vary in population and size.

There are more than 30 Homelands in the West Daly region, 13 of which the West Daly Regional Council is funded to deliver a range of

municipal, essential and housing maintenance services under 4 different grant programs.

These include:

- Municipal and Essential Services (MES) - repairs and maintenance, minor works and general operational costs for delivering municipal and essential services to Homelands
- Housing Maintenance Services (HMS) - conducting urgent, general and routine repairs and maintenance to extend the life of houses and minimise deterioration so Homelands

residents can live in a safe and healthy environment

- Homelands Jobs - employ local Aboriginal people in Homelands to help deliver Homelands programs to increase economic participation by offering employment and training opportunities to residents
- Homelands Capital Grants (HCG) - to buy and build capital infrastructure that supports the delivery of municipal and essential services to Homelands not covered by Northern Territory Government leases.

Homelands services by West Daly Regional Council:

Kuy

Old Mission

Perrederr

Fossil Head

Merrepen

Nama

Uminyuluk

Kudantiga

Mulingi

Nemarluk

Yederr

Papangala

Wudapuli





Our Service Delivery

The West Daly Regional Council delivers a range of municipal and essential services across 3 communities, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga and Wadeye, and surrounding Homelands. These services create many local employment opportunities and support developing and maintaining community infrastructure, assets and programs to meet our communities' needs. The scope and type of services provided have been developed in conjunction with community needs and legislative requirements.

Council currently delivers a range of core services across the region.

	DARWIN	WADEYE	NGANMARIYANGA	PEPPIMENARTI	Homelands
Municipal services					
Cemetery maintenance		☑	☑	☑	☑
Road infrastructure and maintenance		☑	☑	☑	☑
Sporting facilities		☑	☑	☑	
Homelands municipal services					☑
Parks and gardens		☑	☑	☑	
Waste management		☑	☑	☑	☑
Council infrastructure		☑	☑	☑	
Animal management		☑*	☑*	☑*	☑*
Council engagement					
Local Authorities		☑	☑	☑	
Council engagement					
Community night patrol		☑	☑	☑	
Bus services		☑			
Library services		☑		☑	
Swimming pool		☑			
Airstrip maintenance services		☑	☑	☑	
Centrelink services			☑	☑	
Post office agency			☑	☑	
Street lights		☑	☑	☑	
Support services					
Administration support	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Asset procurement	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Governance and compliance	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Financial services	☑				
People and wellbeing	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Health, safety and risk	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Information technology	☑*				
Records management	☑				
Grant management	☑				

* in collaboration



Internal and Homeland access road network

Council maintains an extensive network of internal roads across the West Daly Region. Council also coordinates the maintenance and upgrade of a vast network of formed and gravel Homeland access roads. An aging internal road network within the communities and a shift to a higher standard for rural roads is a major budgetary consideration for Council. Limited funding, extreme environmental impacts due to wet season rains, and the need to source materials and specialist road crews from major urban centres contribute to the challenges, cost and complexity.

Improving the overall safety and condition of the road network remains a key operational focus for Council under Focus Area 3: Developing Council for Community.

Waste management

Council provides a range of waste management services for residents, businesses and community-based organisations, including regular waste collection services, kerbside garbage collection, litter patrol, regular hard waste removal, community and pre-cyclone clean-up days, waste management facilities management, planning and developing operational policy and strategy, and community education and engagement.

Waste management is critically important across the West Daly region. Our community recognises the link between effective waste management, environmental sustainability, our country, and our people's health.

Council's waste management practices and policies are guided by the *Northern Territory Waste Management Strategy 2015-2022*, the *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019*, and the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 2007*.

This is supported by a national shift in thinking around waste as a resource and applying the principles of a circular economy, including:

- avoid waste
- improve resource recovery, increase use of recycled materials and build demand and markets for recycled products
- better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy

- improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

The key focus for Council surrounding effectively managing solid waste is to adopt an integrated approach, including avoidance, recycling, minimisation, treatment and disposal. This comes under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people, and Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.

Achieving this desired approach presents a significant and ongoing challenge to our Council. Our remote and isolated region with vast distances of unsealed roads, high transport costs, and limited waste infrastructure creates barriers to efficiently separating and transporting recyclables and hazardous wastes. The historical practices of waste burial and incineration continue across some parts of our region where limited alternative options are available. Failure to demonstrate the economic incentives and positive environmental impacts surrounding resource recovery will continue to undermine any incentive for the community to engage in more sustainable practices.

Cemetery management

Council maintains responsibility for managing and maintaining cemeteries within our region. This is coordinated under the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022* and *Burial and Cremation Regulations 2022*, with strong support from Local Authorities and Traditional Owners.

Council regularly maintains and upgrades these sacred and culturally significant areas.

Several cemeteries and burial sites located within the 3 communities and throughout the Homelands are managed by Council.

Council is currently finalising a project with the Northern Land Council and the Wadeye Local Authority to upgrade and repair the cemetery at Wadeye. This comes under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people, and Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.



Parks and open spaces

Parks and open spaces are vital places for communities within the West Daly Region to connect, socialise and play. Coming from often crowded living conditions, community parks and open spaces are seen as a refuge and communal meeting places to share stories and enable culture to exist and flourish in a contemporary setting. Council's civil crews take great pride in ensuring these places are well maintained with regular mowing, spraying, irrigation and general maintenance and upgrade activities subject to available funding.

Developing more childrens' play areas continues to be a priority for the Council and community, under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people, and Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community.

Sports Grounds

Sport continues to play an essential part in the lives of community members within our region, under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people, and Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community.

This passion is reflected in Council's commitment to maintaining and improving our sporting grounds and facilities. The main sport within the region is Australian Rules Football. Council maintains sporting ovals in each community and continues to invest in upgrades in these sporting fields. Civil crews regularly undertake lighting, irrigation and mowing maintenance programs to maintain the playability of these grounds. The 'supporting healthy communities through sports and recreation programs' report showed there are many benefits to Aboriginal communities participating in sport and recreation programs. These include improving school retention and attitudes to learning, social and cognitive skills physical and mental health and wellbeing, increased social inclusion and cohesion, increased validation of and connection to culture, and crime reduction. Council aims to be more involved in on the ground delivery of sporting programs.

Animal management

Dogs and other animals are very important to the people within our region, and dogs occupy a vital place in the culture of our communities. Living conditions in our remote communities impact animal and human health. There are clear links between the health of the local dog populations and their

human companions. Large unmanaged dog and cat populations can cause problems for our communities, including overpopulation, Zoonosis (transfer of disease from animal to human, i.e. scabies and hookworm), noise, litter, dangerous and threatening behaviour, and loss of food and livestock.

Council understands the need for a culturally sensitive and appropriate Animal Management Strategy. Animal management practices focus on three key areas, including regular and frequent veterinarian visits, medical or chemical sterilisation, and a continual educational program. Principally, animal management refers to companion animals such as dogs and cats but may include larger animals such as pigs and horses.

Council works in partnership with its Local Authorities to deliver animal management programs across the region, under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people, and Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.

Weed control and fire hazard reduction

Weeds severely impact the Northern Territory's environmental, economic, social and cultural values. Under the *NT Weeds Management Act 2001*, Council works closely with Weed Management Branch of the Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security and the Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC) Ranger Program to prevent, monitor, notify and dispose of declared weeds within our region.

Fire hazard reduction activities reduce the fire risk to our communities and Homelands, under Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people.

Bushfires are part of the Northern Territory landscape. The fire season within the West Daly region runs from April to November. Council ensures pre-season maintenance mowing, spraying, clearing fire breaks, and pruning are completed to reduce the fire risk and effectively manage weed control.

There are 5 management zones across the Northern Territory under the *Bushfires Management Act 2016* and within Bushfires NT jurisdiction, with the West Daly region under the Vernon Arafura Bushfire Management Zone. The Vernon Arafura Regional Bushfire Management Plan supports community-wide fire management within our region and guides our response to and management of fire prevention activities.

Increased fuel loading due to the spread of gamba grass remains an extreme risk and a key focus of Council hazard reduction programs.



Commercial services

Council offers commercial services to several Australian Government agencies and private businesses to deliver contracts in remote communities in the West Daly region.

Providing these vital services helps to increase further support for the residents within our region, under Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.

Australia Post

On behalf of Australia Post, Council delivers postal services to two communities in the West Daly region:

- Nganmariyanga
- Peppimenarti

This comes under Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises.

Council staff collect, sort, and distribute mail at each location. Council staff also redirect uncollected mail. All mail is secured in the Council office until collected.

Centrelink

Services Australia contracts Council to provide the Agents and Access Program in Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti. As an Agent, Council is committed to providing and improving the quality of Services Australia services available to customers in the region.

Across the region, Council staff work as Agents and Specified Personnel. This comes under Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community.

They provide culturally appropriate customer services, monitor and report on service consumption and manage service equipment on site. All service access equipment is housed inside Council offices and accessible to customers during Council hours of operation. Services accessed by clients include Centrelink, Medicare, accessing MyGov, and general assistance by Council Agents to access self-service equipment and referral to the Services Australia call centre.

Aerodrome management

Council conducts inspections, and facilitates maintenance work and reporting for 3 aerodromes of Nganmariyanga, Peppimenarti and Wadeye on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL).

Council employs Aerodrome Reporting Officers (ARO) for each aerodrome to respond to after-hours calls and ensure the safety of the airstrip before landing. Works Safety Officers (WSO) complete regular inspections and maintenance activities.

This comes under Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community.

Remote tenancy management

Council is contracted by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to provide Tenancy Management Support Services for Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti (including the Homelands of Nama and Wudapuli).

Council officers deliver education to tenants around the living strong program, provide assistance with administrative support, and report repairs and maintenance requests to contractors.

This comes under Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community.





Actions against our Focus Areas

Focus Area 1: A strong Council

Objective

We build strong foundations and continuously improve our governance, planning and systems to create a resilient organisation.

Action	Key Performance Indicator
1.1 Implement a Strategic Plan	Implement relevant Strategic Plan priorities by 30 June 2025
1.2 Review the long-term Financial Plan (3 years project)	Review Financial Plan by 30 June 2025
1.3 Publish and implement a Regional Plan	Approve and publish 2025-26 Regional Plan by 30 June 2025
1.4 Publish and implement a Workforce Management Strategy	Approve and publish Workforce Management Strategy by 30 June 2025
1.5 Develop and implement an Organisational Risk Framework	Approve and implement Organisational Risk Framework by 30 June 2025
1.6 Implement new Enterprise Resource Planning including procurement procedure	Procurement procedure in place by 30 June 2025
1.7 Review and update Council policies against legislative requirements	Review policies by target review dates
1.8 Annual survey staff - organisational pulse check	Annual organisational pulse check survey completed by all staff by 30 June 2025
1.9 Implement cultural awareness training for staff	50% of staff to complete cultural awareness training by 30 June 2025
1.10 Seek collaborative partnerships that secure financial sustainability	Continue discussions with at least 2 existing partners with the aim of securing ongoing financial support
1.11 Increase 'opportunity' grant based funding by 10%	10% total increase to Council's grant funding in 2024-25
1.12 Establish 3-year period contracts with preferred contractors (electrical and plumbing)	Award and commence new 3-year period contracts with preferred contractors by 30 June 2025
1.13 Develop Asset Management Plans	Asset Management Plan to be in place by 30 June 2025
1.14 Participate in Local Decision Making agreements	Engagement in Local Decision Making agreements in 2024-25

**Focus Area 2: Strong, healthy and safe people****Objective**

We build capability and capacity in our communities and support all our people by investing in the environment and their safety, growth and wellbeing.

Action	Key Performance Indicator
2.1 Monitor and evaluate Elected Member behaviour statement	Evaluate adherence to behaviour statement throughout 2024-25
2.2 Continue leadership training and professional development for staff in managerial and supervisory positions	50% of staff in managerial and supervisory positions complete training by 30 June 2025
2.3 Undertake Elected Member governance training	Implement 1 governance training session by 30 June 2025
2.4 Publish and implement a Circular Economy Strategy	Approve and publish Circular Economy Strategy by 30 June 2025
2.5 Develop an Environment and Green Energy Strategy with a view to reducing reliance on diesel in communities	Develop an Environment and Green Energy Strategy by June 2025
2.6 Continue to develop and implement the workplace health and safety continuous improvement plan, including relevant training such as 4WD, first aid, mental health first aid, and hazard and risk management training	Implement at least 2 workplace health and safety training sessions per quarter in 2024-25
2.7 Continue Employee Assistance Program support	Implement 2 EASA information sessions in 2024-25
2.8 Continue to upgrade the Wadeye landfill site	Continue planned works on the Wadeye landfill site in 2024-25
2.9 Appoint Waste Management Officer for the Wadeye landfill site	Appoint a dedicated Waste Management Officer by 30 June 2025
2.10 Implement Circular Economy Fund focusing on the Wadeye Abandoned Vehicle pilot program	Implement the Wadeye Abandoned Vehicle pilot program by 30 June 2025



Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community

Objective

We aim to provide stable opportunities through improved infrastructure, increased employment and cultural, sporting and social events.

Action	Key Performance Indicator
3.1 Establish apprenticeship and traineeships positions	Establish 2 positions in 2024-25
3.2 Secure additional contracts and subcontracts that create employment opportunities	Secure at least 1 contract in 2024-25
3.3 Increase Council's civil services workforce hours	Increase civil hours by 10% across Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga in 2024-25
3.4 Complete a review of sporting infrastructure across 3 communities	Complete the review by 30 June 2025
3.5 Upgrade security lighting at all Council buildings and facilities	Complete security lighting upgrade by 30 June 2025
3.6 Improve fencing at Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga sporting ovals	Complete fencing improvements by 30 June 2025
3.7 Continue to advocate for upgrade of Port Keats Road as the key access point to the West Daly Region	Continue to advocate with government and other partners across 2024-25
3.8 Replace 1 piece of heavy machinery	Replace machine by 30 June 2025
3.9 Provide training or upskilling opportunities to Council's civil staff	Provide training to 25% of civil staff by 30 June 2025
3.10 Complete Homelands Services budgeted works	Complete budgeted works by 30 June 2025
3.11 Develop and implement a capital expenditure forward works program	3 year forward works program in place by 30 June 2025
3.12 Partner with community agencies to run community events including NAIDOC week	Run at least 4 community events in 2024-25

**Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises****Objective**

We grow our services by listening and seeking new opportunities, working with others to support our communities today and in the future.

Action	Key Performance Indicator
4.1 Install Wadeye bus stops / shelters	Install 3 shelters by 30 June 2025
4.2 Advocate for a renal clinic to be established in Wadeye	Continue to advocate with local partners and organisations in 2024-25
4.3 Advocate for government business centres in 3 communities	Continue to advocate with government in 2024-25
4.4 Advocate for a extreme weather event emergency shelter in Wadeye to cater for the whole region	Continue to advocate with government in 2024-25
4.5 Develop interconnectivity between work sites to improve speed and reliability, including investigating Starlink in all 3 communities	Connectivity is improved in 2024-25
4.6 Implement centralised system to capture road asset data (GIS)	Review and develop GIS including data capture in 2024-25
4.7 Work with service providers to develop and implement an Animal Management Plan	Animal Management Plan to be in place with 2 visits to each Local Authority by AMRRIC in 2024-25
4.8 Resourcing Wadeye swimming pool with a third party contract to manage operations of pool in place	Contract in place for facility to be open 6 days per week in 2024-25
4.9 Continue the solar street light safer communities initiative	Complete lighting initiative by 30 June 2025
4.10 Continue to develop the Peppimentari Community Hub proposal	Proposal and funding submission complete by 30 June 2025
4.11 Continue to partner with local organisations to investigate the Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Nganmariyanga accommodation hub proposals	Continue to advocate with local organisations in 2024-25
4.12 Implement the Top End Region Economic Growth Plan in partnership with government	Implement with government in 2024-25
4.13 Complete Local Authority funded 2024-25 projects	Complete projects in 2024-25





Feature stories





Collaborative efforts and funding solutions: reopening Wadeye swimming pool with lifeguard support

Focus Area 1: Strong, healthy and safe people

On 23 November 2023, the Wadeye swimming pool was officially re-opened because of our community's collaborative efforts and strategic partnerships.

The much anticipated re-opening comes after the \$4.5 million refurbishment was completed. This was funded by the NT Government with a valuable contribution from the Wadeye Local Authority.

The Wadeye swimming pool is an integral part of our community, promoting healthy lifestyles and providing a central gathering place. The refurbishment ensures the pool continues its vital role in our community for years ahead.

We have faced staffing challenges since the pool opened last year due to a shortage of qualified lifeguards. Staffing the pool has become a priority and Council has since awarded a lifeguard contract to The Y, a trusted recreational operator in the NT. With these measures in place, the pool operations permanently resumed.

Looking forward, we remain mindful of the continued need for funding to sustain pool operations. We are grateful for the Wadeye

Local Authority's 50% contribution to the initial contract with The Y for lifeguard service provision, demonstrating their recognition of the pool's importance to our community. This partnership ensures continued access for our community to this essential asset in the short term.

Council is now lobbying the NT Government for a long term and sustainable option for the pool's ongoing operational funding to ensure it remains open to the community.



Wadeye swimming pool



Peppimenarti's new Community Hub: uniting services and opportunities

Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises



The journey toward Peppimenarti's new Community Hub began with a setback - the old wooden office building faced significant termite damage, prompting Council to evacuate and set up temporary facilities.

This unfortunate event catalysed plans for the new Peppimenarti Community Hub. This central space aims to bring together essential services like Australia Post, Centrelink, council operations, and support for local initiatives and small businesses.

Council recognised an opportunity to create a one-stop-shop for the community, centralising services, providing a platform for commercial enterprises, and doubling as a meeting space for community gatherings.

Set against the backdrop of flood plains and Tom Turner Creek, the Hub will improve access to essential services and serve as a versatile meeting space for community

gatherings and events, benefiting not just Peppimenarti but also for neighbouring areas and Homelands.

Last year, a commitment was made to allocate funds for a feasibility study and to develop concept plans for the Hub. Council is developing the concept plan and will move forward with the feasibility study to determine costs and finalise the tender application for the Hub's construction. Funding for this project will be sourced from the Australian Government.

We are optimistic about the project's success and anticipate the build to be completed within the next 2 years.



Artist's impression - Peppimenarti's new Community Hub



Enhancing connectivity through ICT upgrades in Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti

Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community

Plans are underway to upgrade information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure in Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti, addressing connectivity challenges within the region.

Inspired by the successful implementation of Starlink in Wadeye by several organisations, a similar initiative is being pursued in Peppimenarti. Additional plans are in motion to explore Starlink installation in Nganmarriyanga with the aim to establish a reliable communication link for office staff.

Once the Peppimenarti Community Hub is constructed and the ICT infrastructure has been relocated, WIFI access will

be extended to the public within the Hub's vicinity. Similarly, Council has partnered with Telstra to offer complimentary WIFI near our Wadeye office from 7am to 7pm, providing a comfortable shaded seating area, telephone box and WIFI connectivity.

Our immediate focus in Nganmarriyanga is to establish reliable communication infrastructure.

We aim to complete these upgrades before the onset of wet season in December, with discussions and proposals scheduled for upcoming local authority meetings.

These improvements in mobile and broadband connectivity will deliver significant and widespread benefits, enhancing connectivity and accessibility for communities and surrounding Homelands in the West Daly Region.



West Daly Regional Council seeks grant for ablution block upgrade

Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community



West Daly Regional Council is pursuing an opportunity to improve community amenities through a grant application aimed at upgrading ablution facilities in the Wadeye community.

This initiative follows correspondence from the NT Government outlining a co-contribution proposal for the project - a generous offer the Council is keen to leverage.

Our focus is to ensure that the upgraded ablution blocks not only fulfill their functional purpose but also maintain high standards of cleanliness and hygiene for our community.

We are exploring options for suitable ablution blocks that will effectively serve the Wadeye community.

The proposed upgrade includes a twin ablution block strategically positioned on Perdjer Street, the main thoroughfare of Wadeye.

We anticipate this upgrade will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Council remains committed to improving infrastructure and amenities across the region, fostering a safer and more comfortable environment for all.





Upgrading sports facilities in Wadeye

Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community

We are currently undertaking a significant project to upgrade Chicken Oval in Wadeye, one of 2 ovals primarily used for AFL within the community.

The town football ovals are central to community life in Wadeye, especially for fostering healthy lifestyles among the youth.

While the main oval has top-notch facilities like twilight lights, Chicken Oval lacks sufficient infrastructure for football games and other activities.

Council has secured Australian Government funding to improve its infrastructure by developing irrigation, adding shade structures, and fixing fencing around the oval. These upgrades will be completed during the dry season.

We're also evaluating an existing on-site bore for functionality and capacity to support the necessary infrastructure.

Another ongoing project involves constructing a kids' playground at Chicken Oval. This project is funded by Wadeye Local Authority and construction is expected to begin in 2024, with completion targeted for July 2024.

Developing Chicken Oval provides an additional field for community use, distributing sports and recreation across various areas instead of concentrating them in one location, which is essential

given historical community unrest and divisions.

Council has also reached agreements with contractors to build 5 playgrounds across the wider community - one in each locality - making recreational facilities more accessible for children without the need for extra travel.

This initiative reflects Council's commitment to maintaining and improving our sports grounds and facilities, recognising the crucial role that sports play in the wellbeing and unity of our communities.



Chicken Oval at Wadeye

Reviewing sporting and recreation facilities across communities

Focus Area 4: Delivering on our promises

Ensuring access to high quality sporting and recreational facilities for our young people is paramount to their health, fitness, and overall engagement.

Unfortunately, many of our existing facilities across communities are outdated and in need of maintenance. We're currently undertaking a comprehensive review to assess the state of these facilities and identify opportunities for improvement.

This task is challenging given the age of many facilities, but we're committed to conducting a thorough audit to capture all relevant data. Our goal is to compile a scope of work that prioritises safety, functionality and cost-effectiveness, enabling us to secure funding for necessary upgrades and services.

These reviews and upgrades are expected to take 2 years and is subject to the funding we're able to secure. Ideally, with sufficient funding, we aim to complete development and upgrades within this timeframe.

We are encouraged by the support from both the NT Government and Australian Government who in the past have recognised the importance of these facilities and are willing to contribute to these upgrades. We are also optimistic that this same support will extend to other facilities in need of improvement across our communities.





Improving road infrastructure for safer and more accessible communities

Focus Area 3: Developing Council for community



Maintaining the roads that connect communities and Homelands in the vast West Daly Region is vital, especially after the wet season when rain and flooding can cause extensive damage.

Our focus remains on repairing roads during the dry season to enhance safety and accessibility during the wet season. This includes ensuring proper bitumen sealing, adequate drainage, and maintaining safe water crossings with structures or bridges.

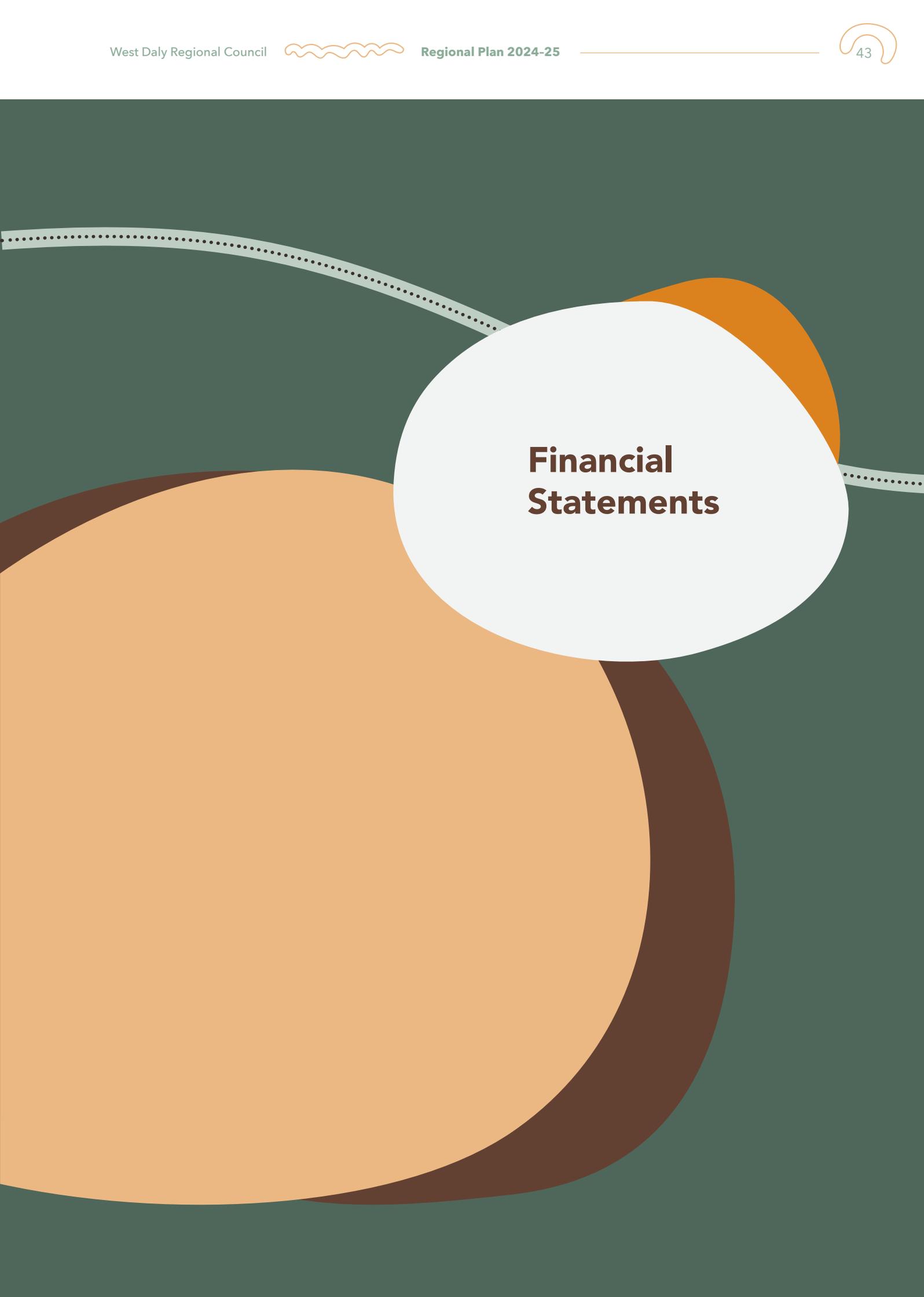
Continuously enhancing our data collection efforts enables us to gather information on road length, location and conditions.

This data allows us to prioritise areas for improvement and plan our works effectively.

As a regional Council without a significant rate base, we rely heavily on external funding sources. Once funding is secured, we can assess our priorities and strategically allocate resources to make significant improvements to our road infrastructure.

Ongoing road upgrades aligns with our overarching goal of developing Council for the community's benefit, placing a strong emphasis on safety. Regularly improving road infrastructure aims to reduce the number of road accidents, enhance accessibility for the local community and visitors, and reduce the risk of flooding to improve access to various Homelands.



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Financial Statements





Our Financial Plan

2024–2025

Budget Introduction

The West Daly Regional Council proposes to adopt its budget for the 2024-25 financial year consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Objectives

The objectives for the 2024-25 financial year are to deliver sustainable services to the West Daly region in line with our Regional Plan 2024-25 and community priorities. A key focus remains to deliver core services, including civil services to our communities by maintaining a minimum level of service delivery hours and standards.

Measures

Council will continue to invest in our people and services to deliver on the objectives within this Regional Plan.

Council also continues to control operating costs in order to remain viable and to maintain plant and equipment. To that end, Council continues to rationalise fleet, dispose of plant and equipment beyond its useful life, and identify asset renewal opportunities.

Council continues to grow our own source revenue by developing building and mechanical commercial services, as well as provision of accommodation, with the goal of being cost-neutral, and building to a net return to Council.

The 2024-25 budget does not assume increases in current funding levels at this stage. Revised budgets through 2024-25 are intended to include actual funding levels as well as any prior year projects continuing into this new year.

Depreciation is not funded, and is disclosed in the budget. Council remains reliant on grant funding opportunities through the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to acquire new or replacement capital assets. This becomes increasingly required when fleet and yellow plant approach end of life. Some of Councils highly utilised assets were originally transferred from Victoria Daly Regional Council in 2014. These have required increased maintenance expenditure. Council has not funded any major capital initiatives in its long term 4 year financial plan. This is discussed further in the long term plan section.

Council continues to apply an administration fee to funded programs and capital infrastructure projects at the set rate of 15%, to assist in the costs associated with the running of these programs.

Indicators

The 2024-25 Focus Areas are discussed within this Regional Plan. They list the KPI's that Council intends to use in assessing the effectiveness of our outputs or actions.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenses

The combined budget 2024-25 as presented in this Regional Plan contains the required information as specified.



Annual Budget 2024-25

Budget 2024/25 - *Income and Expenditure*

Operating Income	Operating Grants and Subsidies	\$7,241,634
	Interest / Investment Income	\$295,000
	Commercial and Other Income	\$692,150
	Rates	\$1,910,058
	Annual Charges	\$1,258,263
	User charges and fees	\$730,544
	Income Total	\$12,127,648
Operating Expenditure	Council Committee and LA Allowances	16,000
	Council Committee and LA Expenses	8,000
	Elected Member Allowances	\$284,200
	Elected Member Expenses	\$38,400
	Employment Expenses	\$7,094,433
	Repair and maintenance	\$1,643,500
	Materials and Contracts	\$180,000
	Interest Expense	\$310,000
	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	\$1,350,000
	Other Operational Expenses	\$2,278,115
	Expenditure Total	\$13,202,648
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT		-\$1,075,000

Budget 2024/25 - *Annual Budget Operating Position*

BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT		-\$1,075,000
Remove NON-CASH ITEMS		
Less Non-Cash Income		\$0
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses		\$1,350,000
	TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	\$1,350,000
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS		
Capital Expenditure		-\$315,000
Borrowing Repayments (Principle Only)		
Transfers to Reserves		\$0
Other Outflows		\$0
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	-\$315,000
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS		
Proceeds from Sale of Assets		\$40,000
Capital Grants Income		\$0
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding		\$0
Other Inflow of Funds		\$0
Transfers from Reserves		\$0
	TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	\$40,000
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION SURPLUS / DEFICIT		0



Budget 2024/25

Local Authority Budgets	Darwin/Regional	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Total
Operating Income					
Operating Grants and Subsidies		801,847	771,043	5,668,744	7,241,634
Interest / Investment Income	295,000	-	-	-	295,000
Commercial and Other Income		46,450	20,700	625,000	692,150
Rates		150,587	168,634	1,590,837	1,910,058
Annual Charges		126,432	124,626	1,007,205	1,258,263
User charges and fees		178,704	180,192	371,648	730,544
Income Total	295,000	1,304,019	1,265,195	9,263,434	12,127,648
Operating Expenditure					
Council Committee and LA Allowances	-	4,000	4,000	8,000	16,000
Council Committee and LA Expenses	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
Elected Member Allowances	-	22,100	22,100	240,000	284,200
Elected Member Expenses	-	3,600	3,600	31,200	38,400
Employment Expenses	1,942,781	575,774	984,659	3,591,220	7,094,433
Repair and maintenance	8,000	182,000	224,500	1,229,000	1,643,500
Materials and Contracts	-	15,000	15,000	150,000	180,000
Interest Expense	24,000	8,000	8,000	270,000	310,000
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	121,680	7,804	7,804	1,212,712	1,350,000
Other Operational Expenses	319,990	197,837	202,761	1,557,527	2,278,115
Expenditure Total	2,424,451	1,016,115	1,472,424	8,289,659	13,202,648
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-2,129,451	287,904	-207,229	973,775	-1,075,000



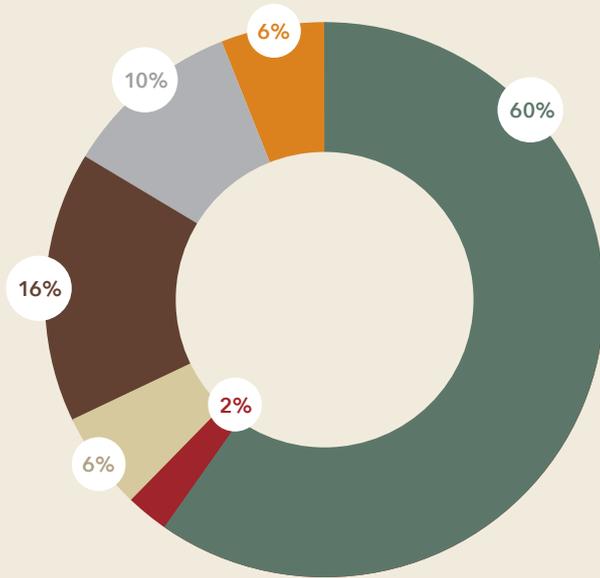
Budget 2024/25

Local Authority Budgets	Darwin/Regional	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Total
Remove NON-CASH ITEMS					
Less Non-Cash Income	-	-	-	-	-
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	-	-	-	1,350,000	1,350,000
Expenditure Total	-	-	-	1,350,000	1,350,000
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS					
Capital Expenditure	55,000	55,000	55,000	150,000	-315,000
Borrowing Repayments (Principle Only)	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Reserves	-	-	-	-	-
Other Outflows	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	-55,000	-55,000	-55,000	-150,000	-315,000
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS					
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Capital Grants Income	-	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	-	-	-	-	-
Other Inflow of Funds	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-\$2,184,451	\$232,904	-\$262,229	\$2,213,775	-\$0



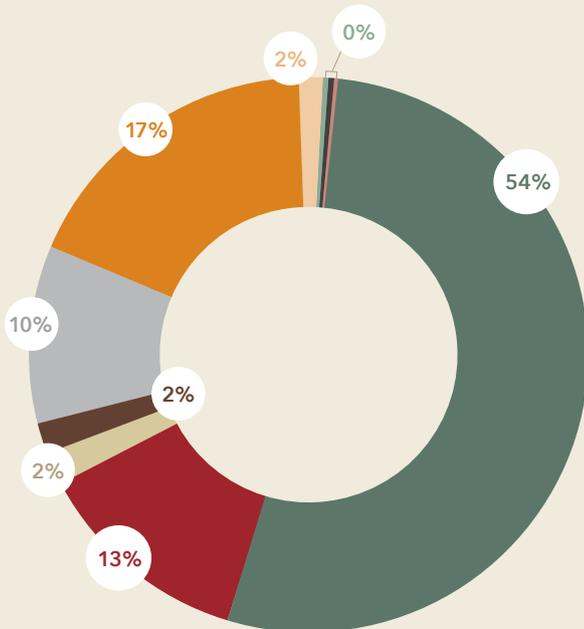
2024/25 Budget

Income - Operational and Capital



- Operation Grants and Subsidies.....
\$7,241,634
- Interest/Investment Income.....
\$295,000
- Commercial and Other Income
\$692,150
- Rates
\$1,910,058
- Annual Charges
\$1,258,263
- User charges and fees.....
\$730,544

Expenditure - Operational and Capital



- Operating Expenditure Employment Expenses
\$7,094,433
- Operating Expenditure Repair and maintenance
\$1,643,500
- Operating Expenditure Materials and Contracts.....
\$180,000
- Operating Expenditure Interest Expense
\$310,000
- Operating Expenditure Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment
\$1,350,000
- Operating Expenditure Other Operational Expenses
\$2,278,115
- Operating Expenditure Elected Member Allowances.....
\$284,200
- Operating Expenditure Elected Member Expenses
\$38,400
- Operating Expenditure Council Committee and LA Allowances
\$16,000
- Operating Expenditure Council Committee and LA Expenses
\$8,000



Proposed allowances for 2024/25

Allowances	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
Base Councillors allowance	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500
Additional allowance	\$82,000	\$16,000	-
Total Councillor allowance	\$102,500	\$36,500	\$20,500
Other allowances			
Professional Development allowance	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Extra Meeting allowance**	-	\$10,000	\$10,000
Vehicle allowance if no vehicle provided	\$40,000	-	-
Capped allowances total	\$44,000	\$14,000	\$14,000

** Extra meeting allowance is to be paid to eligible members (not including Principle Member) for attendance at extra meetings or activities is the accumulated hours on any one day and are:

- Up to 2 hours \$200
- Between 2 and 4 hours \$300
- More than 4 hours \$500 (maximum payable any one day)

A capped vehicle allowance at \$10,000 will be available in certain circumstances, including:

Travel to and from statutory & official Council meetings, approved functions representing the Principle member, Local Authority Meetings within the Councillors own ward, and meetings where an extra meeting has been approved.

Further information is available in the Northern Territory of Australia Remuneration Tribunal, Determination of allowances for members of Local Councils, Determination No.1 of 2024.

Allowances - Local Authority	Chair	Member
If the meeting is held up to 2 hours	\$300	\$200
If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours	\$450	\$300
If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours	\$600	\$400



Schedule of fees and charges

Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges 2024-25
ADMINISTRATION		
Rate & Property Services		
Change of Ownership Advices - Rates	Advice	\$55.00
Rates Search	Property	\$55.00
Copies of Rates Notices	Notice	\$44.00
Late Payment Fees		
Late fees on Invoice Payment (>30 days)	Month	\$50.00
Documentation Assistance		
Completing forms, application, etc.	Hour	\$66.00
Printing	Page	\$2.20
Photocopying	Page	\$2.20
Scanning	Page	\$2.20
Laminating		
A4	Page	\$5.50
A3	Page	\$11.00
Internet Access Library - Wadeye Only		
Computer hire	Hour	Free
ACCOMMODATION - Visitor's Quarters (VOQ)*		
Nganmarriyanga		
VOQ	Night	\$264.00
Peppimenarti		
VOQ - 2 Bedroom	Night	\$385.00
VOQ - 1 Bedroom	Night	\$264.00
Wadeye		
VOQ Unit	Night	\$330.00
VOQ single person Accommodation	Night	\$264.00

Long term accommodation bookings (subject to availability) will be discounted as follows;

Booking more than 2 weeks less than 4 weeks - 15%

Booking more than 4 weeks less than 6 weeks - 20%

Booking more than 6 weeks - 25%

*VOQ rate is per person, per night



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges 2024-25
CONFERENCE ROOM HIRE		
Winnellie	Full Day	\$880.00
	Half Day	\$440.00
Wadeye	Full Day	\$495.00
	Half Day	\$275.00
Nganmarriyanga	Full Day	\$495.00
	Half Day	\$275.00
Peppimenarti	Full Day	\$220.00
	Half Day	\$137.50
PLANNING		
Temporary Road Closure		
	Per Occasion	\$330.00
ECONOMIC SERVICES		
Lawn Mowing (minimum charges)		
Domestic		
Lawn	Hour	\$121.00
Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$121.00
Commercial		
Lawn	Hour	\$187.00
Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$187.00
Equipment Hire		
LED Screen on Trailer	Hour	\$82.50
	Day	\$550.00
BBQ Trailer	Day	\$110.00
Mobilisation/Set-up/Return	Occasion	\$82.50
SWIMMING POOL		
Out of Hours Hire	Hour	\$110.00



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges 2024-25
Waste Management Fees		
Municipal Solid Waste (non-commercial)	Unit	Fee (GST Inc)
Clean Fill	m ³	No charge
General Waste	m ³	No Charge
Green Waste	m ³	No Charge
Bins (non-commercial)	Unit	Fee (GST Inc)
Replacement 240 litre Wheelie Bin	Each	\$159.40
Commercial and Industrial	Unit	Fee (GST Inc)
Unsorted Waste will be charged at m ³ rate	m ³	\$396.00
Animal Carcasses	Each	\$55.00
Oil-Cooking	Per ltr	\$2.50
Batteries	Each	\$22.00
Car/vehicle bodies dumping only	Each	\$22.00
Car/vehicle bodies removal and dumping	Each	\$418.00
Concrete/rubble	m ³	\$220.00
General waste	m ³	\$60.50
Green Waste	m ³	\$60.50
Metal uncontaminated	m ³	\$60.50
Mixed Fill (soil, rock, rubbish)	m ³	\$60.50
Solar Hot Water Systems	Each	\$74.80
Timber (untreated)	m ³	\$60.50
Timber (treated) includes pallets	m ³	\$60.50
Tyre - vehicle	Each	\$24.20
Tyre - Light Truck 16"	Each	\$44.00
Tyre - Truck Heavy Vehicle	Each	\$88.00
Tyre - Tractor/Grader/Loader	Each	\$214.50
White Goods	Each	\$24.20
TRADES CHARGE		
Labour (within Community)*		
Unskilled/Semi Skilled Labour	Hour	\$88.00
Skilled Labour	Hour	\$132.00
Supervisor	Hour	\$242.00
Administration Services	Hour	\$110.00
Cleaner	Hour	\$88.00



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges 2024-25
Trades*		
Mechanic	Hour	\$187.00
Carpenter	Hour	\$176.00
Builder	Hour	\$198.00
Trades Assistant	Hour	\$132.00
Travel	KM	\$3.30
*Minimum charge is 1 hour; 50% rate increase after 4:30PM and 100% rate increase for weekends.		
Others		
Workshop Materials	Per	Cost + 30%
Mobilisation/Demobilisation charges	Occasion	Actual cost + 15% admin fee
Workshop Consumables	Per	\$38.50
Key Cutting	Key	\$22.00
Vehicle Inspection - not exceeding 4.5 tonnes	Per	\$65.34
Trailer - not exceeding 4.5 tonnes (Aggregate trailer mass)	Per	\$65.34
Vehicles - Over 4.5 tonnes	Per	\$150.04
Airport charges (subject to Avdata charge rates. Refer www.avdata.com.au)		
<9,000kg	Landing per tonne	\$25.19/t
≥9,000kg	Landing per tonne	\$34.65/t
Heli<2,500 kg	Landing per tonne	\$25.19/t
Heli≥2,500 kg	Landing per tonne	\$34.65/t
minimum	Landing per tonne	\$25.19/t



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges 2024-25
PLANT HIRE*		
Description	Rate per Hour	Rate per Day # (7 hours)
Grader	\$297.00	\$1,870.00
Loader	\$297.00	\$1,870.00
Volvo Flat Top Truck (tilt tray)**	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
John Deere Tractor 5093E inc slasher	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Hino Tip Truck	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Roller	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Backhoe	\$242.00	\$1,540.00
Bobcat	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Excavator 2.5 Tonne	\$242.00	\$1,694.00
Trailer Tandem Wheels	NA	\$132.00
8FT Slasher	\$44.00	NA
6FT Slasher	\$27.50	NA
Forklift	\$198.00	NA
Ride on Mower	\$176.00	NA
<p>* All on a wet hire basis - must include WDRC employee as Driver, with operator and fuel; A mobilisation/set-up/return fee of \$83 per occasion is charged if plant hire is required outside the Community.</p> <p>** Volvo Flat top truck (tilt tray) can also be hired per kilometre basis at \$3.50/KM. Minimum charge \$500 for out-of-community collection.</p> <p># Day rate is from 8 am to 4 pm (7 hours maximum)</p>		

Terms, Payments & Recourse

- All fees are inclusive of GST.
- All accounts for the purchase of goods or services, provided by the West Daly Regional Council (WDRC) are to be settled in full within 30 days from date of Invoice.
- Should the Customer default in the payment of any monies due under this Agreement, then all monies due to WDRC shall immediately become due and payable, and will be paid by the Customer within fourteen (14) days of the date of written demand from WDRC.
- In the event an account is not settled, WDRC reserves the right to withhold any further supply of goods and services and shall be entitled to charge interest on all amounts not paid by the due date for payment and the Customer undertakes to pay any interest so charged. Such interest will be calculated on a daily basis from the due date for payment until the date that WDRC receives payment with 10.0% per annum. Late payment processing fees of \$35.00 will be charged on top of interest.
- Any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by WDRC in recovering any outstanding monies, including debt collection agency fees and legal costs, shall be added to the original monies owed and will be paid by the Customer on an indemnity basis and all such costs shall be recoverable as a liquidated debt.
- For Fees & Charges not mention in above list, Council authorised the CEO to determine reasonable Fees & Charges and inform council with any updates to the table.
- These fees & Charges are for short-term (daily / weekly) purpose. For long term and commercial activities, separate fees & charges will be negotiated.
- Debit card and Credit card (MasterCard / Visa) attracts 1.0% Surcharge.
- Staff and councillors are entitled to 35% discount on listed labour rates.

West Daly Regional Council



WEST DALY
Regional Council

Declaration of Rates and Charges 2024/2025

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), that the following rates and charges were declared by the West Daly Regional Council ("Council") at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 26 June 2024 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act, in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

For the purpose of this declaration:

"allotment"	has the meaning set out in section 225 of the Act.
"Commercial purposes"	means rateable land used for commercial, industrial, community or other business purposes and irrespective of any intention to profit from such use.
"Council area"	means the area of Council as defined in the Act.
"garbage collection service"	<p>the "garbage collection service" comprises a kerbside collection service of one garbage collection visit per week with a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin per garbage collection visit. The total garbage collection service charge for an allotment is as follows:</p> <p>Total Garbage Collection Service Charge = garbage collection service charge x #bins assigned x #assigned minimum garbage collection services.</p> <p>The number of assigned collection services are dependent upon the community.</p>
"Mining tenement"	has the meaning set out in section 7 of the Act
"Pastoral lease"	has the meaning set out in section 3 of the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i>
"Rateable land"	as defined at section 218 of the Act.
"Residential dwelling"	means a dwelling, house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building on residential land (whether or not it is exempt from rates) and includes a unit within the meaning of the <i>Unit Titles Act</i> and the <i>Unit Titles Schemes Act</i> ;
"Residential land"	means land used or capable of being used for residential purposes (but does not include land on which there is no residential dwelling);
"Residential purposes"	means rateable land used or capable of being used for residential purposes.
"the Act"	means the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> (NT) as in force.

Rates

The Council made the following declaration of rates pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act:

1. Pursuant to section 227 of the Act, the Council adopts, as the basis of determining the assessed value of all allotments in the Council area, the unimproved capital value as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963* (NT).
2. However, consistent with section 227(3) of the Act:
 - (a) the unimproved value of a mining tenement is its assessed value; and
 - (b) the unimproved value is taken to be 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement.



3. The Council, pursuant to section 237 of the Act, declared that it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$1,910,058 which will be raised in accordance with section 226 of the Act. The basis of rates are the valuation-based amounts calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment with which are subject to minimum amounts and/or fixed amounts.
4. The Council declared the following differential rates with minimum amounts being payable in application of each of those differential rates:
 - (a) With respect to every allotment classed as Residential land in the council assessment record, a differential rate of 5.8218% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$1,971.70 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,whichever is the greater.
 - (b) With respect to every allotment classed as Commercial land in the council assessment record, (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), a differential rate of 18.2572% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$2,191.13 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,whichever is the greater.
 - (c) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Vacant land, a differential rate of 5.8218% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,971.70 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (d) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Other land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration] a differential rate of 5.8218% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,971.70 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (e) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Residential purposes, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,971.70 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (f) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Commercial purposes (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$2,191.13 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (g) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Vacant Land, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,971.70 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (h) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Other Land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration], where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,971.70 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (i) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area which is subject to Mining Tenements, the rate will be the assessed value (being 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement) multiplied by 0.006942, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$1,779.76 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).

- (j) Note:
- (i) contiguous tenements or reasonably adjacent tenements held by the same person are to be rated as if they were a single tenement;
 - (ii) if the owner of the mining tenement is also the owner of the land underlying the mining tenement and is liable for the rates for the underlying land tenure, the only rates payable are either the rates for the mining tenement or the rates for the underlying land tenure, whichever is greater.
- (k) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area over which there is a Pastoral Lease, the rate will be the assessed value multiplied by 0.000612, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$751.98 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).

Charges

Garbage Collection charges

5. Pursuant to Section 239 of Act, the Council declared the following charges for the purpose of enabling or assisting Council to meet the cost of garbage collection services and the waste disposal services it provides for the benefit of eligible ratepayers within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services) and the occupiers of such land. The Council intends to raise \$1,121,306 by way of these charges.
6. The following charges were declared by the Council:
- (a) Residential Garbage Collection Charge:
 - (i) a charge of \$1,501.74 per annum per allotment of Residential dwelling will apply.
 - (ii) the purpose for which this charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Residential land in the Council area;
 - (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a residential dwelling referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,501.74 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).
 - (b) Commercial Garbage Collection Charge:
 - (i) a charge of \$2,721.60 per annum per allotment of Commercial purposes land will apply;
 - (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Commercial purposes land in the Council area;
 - (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a Commercial Purposes land referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins, an additional charge of \$2,721.60 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, which charge shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(i).



(c) All Other Garbage Collection Charge:

- (i) a charge of \$1,501.74 per annum per all other allotment will apply;
- (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of all other land not applicable to paragraphs 6(a) and 6(b) in the Council area;
- (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of another allotment referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,501.74 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).

Waste Disposal and Management Charge

7. Pursuant to section 239 of the Act, the Council declared the following charges in respect of Waste Disposal and Management Charge services it provides for the benefit of all land within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services). The Council intends to raise \$13,520 by way of these charges.
8. A charge of every allotment for which the Council is not able to, or not willing to provide a garbage collection service. This charge provides access to landfill facilities within the Council boundaries and is as follows:
 - (a) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$396.70 for residential allotments.
 - (b) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$1,040.14 for commercial allotments.

Animal Management Charge

9. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used for Residential purposes in the Council assessment record, and for which the rural classification is not applicable, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally for the purpose of "Animal Management" and to assist the implementation of Animal Management in the Council area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$8,976 by way of this special charge. This rate will be levied on all "Residential land" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$22.00 per allotment.

Environmental Charge

10. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally "Environmental Charge" for the purpose of assisting with the implementation of waste facility management in the area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$44,462 by way of this special charge and is as follows:
 - (a) This rate will be levied on all "Residential purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$88.00 per allotment; and
 - (b) This rate will be levied on all "Commercial purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$110.00 per allotment.

Relevant interest rate

11. The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with section 245 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum and is calculated on a daily basis.

Payment dates

12. The Council determined that rates and charges for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 inclusive shall be due and payable by the 30th September 2024.
13. Payments falling due on a weekend or public holiday may be paid by the following business day, without incurring any penalty.
 - (a) details of due dates and specified amounts will be listed on the relevant rates notice in accordance with section 242 of the Act ("the Rates Notice").
 - (b) variations to those options for payment will be administered according to the conditions outlined on the front and reverse of the Rates Notice.
14. A concession will be provided to eligible residents who qualify under the NT Concession and Seniors Recognition Scheme.
15. A ratepayer and or charge payer who fails to abide by such conditions may be sued for recovery of the principal amount of the rates, charges and interest (if applicable) plus any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by Council in recovering or attempting to recover the rates, charges and interest, including but not limited to, debt collection agency fees and legal costs.

Rates Assessment Record Certification

I certify to the Council that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the rates assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the West Daly Region.


John Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
West Daly Regional Council

ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE RATING POLICY

West Daly Regional Council's rates and charges are set each year with consideration to a variety of criteria, such as rising service delivery costs, planned capital projects, rising service levels, and other Council initiatives. The Council also considers statistical measures such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and potential increases in wage costs as a result of the Council's enterprise agreement.

To minimise the impacts on ratepayers, Council consciously aims to minimise rates increases while generating enough income to meet its goals and maintain appropriate service levels.

Council's revenue from rates represents 16% of total budgeted operating revenue. This is a small portion of Council's total revenue in comparison to many Councils in larger and urban areas. To sustain the provision of existing levels of service provided by the Council, the rates have been increased by 15% for residential and 8% for Commercial for this 2024-25 financial year. This increase is a result of the necessity to make up for decreased revenue from other sources as well as the above mentioned considerations. The Council's does not hold sufficient reserves to be able to support major capital programs, and is reliant upon prudent Grant and Project Funding applications having reference to the Regional Plan to be able to provide major capital and project spending in the coming year.

Ratepayers within the West Daly regional will continue to pay rates which are comparable with other local government jurisdictions. Therefore, Council's assessment of the social and economic effects of the Council's rating policy is deemed to have no substantial social or economic impact on the Council's ratepayers.



Long Term Financial Plan

The Budget which has been developed for 2024-25 feeds into the long term financial planning of Council. This planning is restricted by a series of unknowns regarding community and commercial service related programs and contracts.

Commercial, user charges, and agency contracts represent a further revenue stream for the Council in its overall budget. These programs also assist by subsidising other core service activities of Council including administration, human resources, and infrastructure services. They also assist with revenue toward capital upgrades.

The sustainability of Council is dependent upon stable, long term grant funding arrangements with the Australian Government and with the Northern Territory Government. Changes in these arrangements and also in existing commercial, Rates and Charges, plus agency contracts have the potential to disrupt the Council's capacity to deliver its core services to the communities.

Key assumptions of the long-term financial plan:

- All current core services will continue to be provided by the Council.
- Grant-funded (community) services have been considered only where it is known that the funding is recurrent. Council has not been advised, at the time of preparing the long term financial plan, of what funding will be available for the next 4 financial years. Estimates are based on original arrangements provided to the Council, and an allowance for increases through CPI, or other known factors about significant events.
- There will be no significant adverse change in government policies impacting upon the operation of the Council.
- Overall CPI increases between 3% and 5% in the long term plan, acknowledging some volatility in past quarters, which for this plan is assumed to stabilise over the four year period.
- Unless otherwise mentioned, there are no additional major initiatives planned over the next four years outside this Regional Plan. This is due to major initiatives being wholly dependent on additional grant or other funding. There is currently no indication of significant increases that would enable other major initiatives to be considered.
- The repairs, maintenance, management and development of infrastructure is intended to continue at the same level as detailed in the current year budget with increases in line with the inflation figures used.



Long Term Financial Plan

		2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Operating Income	Operating Grants and Subsidies	\$7,241,634	\$7,458,883	\$7,682,649	\$7,913,129
	Interest / Investment Income	\$295,000	\$303,850	\$312,966	\$322,354
	Commercial and Other Income	\$692,150	\$712,915	\$734,302	\$756,331
	Rates	\$1,910,058	\$2,005,561	\$2,105,839	\$2,211,131
	Annual Charges	\$1,258,263	\$1,321,175.78	\$1,387,234.57	\$1,456,596.30
	User charges and fees	\$730,544	\$752,460	\$775,034	\$798,285
	Income Total	\$12,127,648	\$12,554,844	\$12,998,024	\$13,457,826
Operating Expenditure	Council Committee and LA Allowances	\$16,000	\$16,480	\$16,974	\$17,484
	Council Committee and LA Expenses	\$8,000	\$8,240	\$8,487	\$8,742
	Elected Member Allowances	\$284,200	\$292,726	\$301,508	\$310,553
	Elected Member Expenses	\$38,400	\$39,552	\$40,739	\$41,961
	Employment Expenses	\$7,094,433	\$7,307,266	\$7,526,484	\$7,752,279
	Other Operational Expenses	\$2,278,115	\$2,346,458	\$2,416,852	\$2,489,358
	Repair and maintenance	\$1,643,500	\$1,739,421	\$1,847,139	\$1,972,414.79
	Materials and Contracts	\$180,000	\$185,400	\$510,962	\$526,291
	Interest Expense	\$310,000	\$319,300	\$328,879	\$338,745
	Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	\$1,350,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,493,500	\$1,538,305
Expenditure Total	\$13,202,648	\$13,704,844	\$14,491,524	\$14,996,132	
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	-\$1,075,000	-\$1,150,000	-\$1,493,500	-\$1,538,305	
Remove NON-CASH ITEMS					
Less Non-Cash Income					
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	\$1,350,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,493,500	\$1,538,305	
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	\$1,350,000	\$1,450,000	\$1,493,500	\$1,538,305	

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Long Term Financial Plan (continued)...

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS				
Capital Expenditure	-\$315,000	-\$300,000	-	-
Borrowing Repayments (Principle Only)	-	-	-	-
Transfers to Reserves	-	-	-	-
Other Outflows	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	-\$315,000	-\$300,000	\$0	\$0
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS				
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	\$40,000	-	-	-
Capital Grants Income	-	-	-	-
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	-	-	-	-
Other Inflow of Funds	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Reserves	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION SURPLUS / DEFICIT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Planned Major Capital Works

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project	Total Prior Years Actuals	FINANCIAL YEAR				
			2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	> 2028
Infrastructure	Swimming Pool-Wadeye	\$4,800,000					
Infrastructure	Manthape Walkway Bridge-Wadeye	\$1,670,541					
Plant & Equipment	Tipper Truck & Backhoe Peppi / Palumpa	\$404,418					
Plant & Equipment	Motor Grader-Wadeye	\$250,000					
Buildings	Upgrade staff Housing-Wadeye	-	\$40,000	\$20,000	-	-	-
Buildings	Upgrade staff Housing-Palumpa	-	-	\$20,000	-	-	-
Buildings	Upgrade staff Housing-Peppimenarti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fleet	Night Patrol Vehicle-Wadeye	\$74,000	-	-	-	-	-
Fleet	Replace CSM MV-Wadeye		\$137,500	-	-	-	-
Fleet	Replace CSM MV-Palumpa		\$68,750	-	-	-	-
Fleet	Replace CSM MV-Peppimenarti		\$68,750	-	-	-	-
Plant	Replace Plant-TBA		-	\$260,000	-	-	-



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In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the West Daly Regional Council

during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the West Daly Regional Council.

The West Daly Regional Council advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the West Daly Regional Council shall obtain and should only rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the West Daly Regional Council in respect of the application.

John Thomas

Chief Executive Officer,
West Daly Regional Council





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