

# Mission

East Arnhem Regional Council is dedicated to promoting the power of people, protection of community and respect for cultural diversity in the East Arnhem Regional Council. It does this by forming partnerships, building community capacity, advocating for regional and local issues, maximising service effectiveness and linking people with information.

# **Core Values**

Human Rights
Equality
Independence
Community
Work Confidence
Equity
Respect

# AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

**23 February 2023** 

### **EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of the East Arnhem Regional Council will be held at the Nhulunbuy on Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 9AM.

Agendas and minutes are available on the Council website www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au and can be viewed at the Council's public office.

#### Dale Keehne

### **Chief Executive Officer**

Under closing the gap priority reforms, socio economic outcome 16 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are strong, supported and flourishing and it is standard practice for reports to be considered, discussed and debated in the traditional dialects of the East Arnhem region, Yolngu Matha or Anindilyakwan.

# **Anindilyakwa Ward**

- Constantine MAMARIKA
- Lionel JARAGBA

# **Birr Rawarrang Ward**

- Jason MIRRITJAWUY
- Robert YAWARNGU

# **Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward**

- Lapulung DHAMARRANDJI
- Joe DJAKALA

# **Gumurr Marthakal Ward**

- Evelyna DHAMARRANDJI
- David DJALANGI
- Kave THURLOW

### **Gumurr Miwati Ward**

- Banambi WUNUNGMURRA
- Wesley DHAMARRANDJI

# **Gumurr Miyarrka Ward**

- Bandi Bandi WUNUNGMURRA
- Bobby WUNUNGMURRA

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		Act and Section 51 (c)(ii) (c)(iii) (c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of law; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the	the
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ORDINARY COUNCIL 23 FEBRUARY 2023

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(i) (c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.

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### 11 MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Nil

### 12 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

### 12.1 Fleet and Sales Report

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

12.2 East Arnhem Regional Council Accommodation Business

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

#### 12.3 External Auditors

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

# 12.4 Debtors and Rates of Council

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.

12.5 RFT1683-2211 Lot 83 Gapuwiyak Staff Housing Upgrades

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

12.6 RFT1695-2208 Lot 95 Gapuwiyak - Childcare New Security Fencing

The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government

Act and Section 51 (c)(i) of the Local Government (General)

Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be

ORDINARY COUNCIL 23 FEBRUARY 2023

likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.

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# **ATTENDANCE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 2.1

**TITLE** Elected Members Attendance and Resignation

**REFERENCE** 1718812

**AUTHOR** Wendy Brook, Executive Assistant to the CEO

### **SUMMARY**

This report is also to table, for the Council's record, any absences, apologies and requests for leave of absence received from the Council Members and what absences that the Council gives permission for.

This report is to also provide the process for the newly elected members to acknowledge their role as an elected member, the code of conduct, and sign their declaration.

#### **GENERAL**

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

### RECOMMENDATION

### **That Council:**

- (a) Notes the absence of Cr. Constantine Mamarika.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Cr. Constantine Mamarika.
- (c) Notes << Cr. Name/s>> are absent with permission of the Council.
- (d) Determines <<Cr. Name/s>> are absent without permission of the Council under Section 47(1) (o) of the Act.

### **ATTACHMENTS**:

# **DECLARATION OF REGISTERED INTEREST REGISTER**

**ITEM NUMBER** 3.1

TITLE Declaration of Registered Interest

**REFERENCE** 1718813

**AUTHOR** Wendy Brook, Executive Assistant to the CEO

# **SUMMARY**

Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at a meeting of the Council.

### **GENERAL**

Sections 114 and 115 Local Government Act.

### **REGISTER**

The Declaration of Interest is attached with this report.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

# **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the Conflict of Interest and Related Parties Register.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

1 Declaration of Interest\_December 2022.xlsx





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# **Declaration of Interest Register**

Member's Names/ Families				Current or in the Past
Names	Relationships	Entity Name	Connection to Entity	5 Years
		Banambi Wunungmurra	Te.	
		Miwatj Health	Director	
		Kaye Thurlow		
		Northern Territory Place Names Committee	Member	
		David Djalangi		•
R Guywanga	Wife			
Kenisha Gumbula	Granddaughter	NAAJA	Employee	
L Gumbula	Granddaughter			
		Evelyna Dhamarrandji		
Geoffrey Gurwanawuy	Grandfather	Arnhem Land Progress Association	Director	
Dassy Gondarra	Grandmother	Shepherdson College	CLO	
-				
		Lapulung Dhamarrandji		
		Arnhem Land Progress Association	Director	
		Manapan Furniture	Board member	
		Milingimbi School Council Rulku Milingimbi Hostel	Council member Committee Member	
		Gattjirrk Yolngu Committee	Director	1
		ALPA Milingimbi Store Committee	Chair	
Joe Djakala	Brother	East Arnhem Regional Council	Elected Member	
		Jason Mirritjawuy		
		Dables Wissessan		
	T	Bobby Wunungmurra	Evenutive Member	
Bobby Wunungmurra		LGANT, Northern Land Council	Executive Member, Director	
Bobby Wunungmurra		Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee		
Micky Wunungmurra	Brother	Arnhem Land Progress Association	Director	
Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra	Brother	Yolngu Business Enterprise (2), EARC	Director, Elected Member	
		Constantine Mamarika		
		Groote Eylandt Bickerton Island Enterprise	Director	
		Anindilyakwa Rangers	Employee	
_		Palinanyakwa Rangoro	Linpioyee	
	<u> </u>	Robert Yawarngu		
	<u> </u>	Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra	T	1
Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra	Doothoo	Yolngu Business Enterprise	Director	
Micky Wunungmurra	Brother	Arnhem Land Progress Association	Director Director / Executive	
Bobby Wunungmurra	Brother	Northern Land Council, LGANT, EARC	Member / Elected Member	
			<u> </u>	
		Joe Djakala	_	
Lapulung Dhamarrandji	Brother	East Arnhem Regional Council	President	
		Western Diversion 1"		
Wasley Dhamarra di		Wesley Dhamarrandji	Deard Manther	Current
Wesley Dhamarrandji		Yolngu Business Enterprise	Board Member	Current
Wesley Dhamarrandji		Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Board Member	
	_	Lionel Jaragba Groote Aqua Aboriginal Corporation	Director	Current
Lionel Jaragha		I SI OUIE AUUA AUUI UIII AI GUI DUI ALIUII		
Lionel Jaragba			Director	Current
Lionel Jaragba		Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation	Director Director	Current Current
			Director Director Director	Current Current
Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba		Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation Angabunumanja Aboriginal Corporation	Director	Current
Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba		Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation Angabunumanja Aboriginal Corporation Warningakalinga Aboriginal Corporation	Director Director	Current Current
Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba Lionel Jaragba		Groote Holdings Aboriginal Corporation Angabunumanja Aboriginal Corporation Warningakalinga Aboriginal Corporation Annindilyakwa Land Council	Director Director	Current Current Current

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# **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MINUTES**

**ITEM NUMBER** 4.1

TITLE Minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 December

2022

REFERENCE 1718814

**AUTHOR** Wendy Brook, Executive Assistant to the CEO



# **RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes be taken as read and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

Ordinary Council 2022-12-15 [1973] Minutes.DOCX



# Mission

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# **Core Values**

Respect
Professionalism
Human Dignity
Organisational Growth
Equity
Community

# MINUTES FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

**15 December 2022** 

Attachment 1 Page 10

The Chair postponed the meeting at 9:37AM until a quorum could be achieved as per section 100 of the Local Government Act.

**MEETING OPENING** - The Chair opened the meeting at 9:50AM.

#### In Attendance:

In the Chair President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Deputy President Kaye Thurlow, Councillors: Bobby Wunungmurra, Joe Djakala, Banambi Wunungmurra, Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra, Lionel Jaragba, Evelyna Dhamarrandji (joined at 1:19AM), Constantine Mamarika (joined at 1:19PM) and Robert Yawarngu (joined at 1:45PM).

# **East Arnhem Regional Council Officers:**

Dale Keehne – Chief Executive Officer.

Shane Marshall – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services.

Andrew Walsh – Director Community Development.

Michael Freeman – Corporate Services Manager.

Minute Taker - Nawshaba Razzak, Corporate Planning and Policy Officer.

### Prayer:

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji.

### **Attendance**

### 2.1 ELECTED MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AND RESIGNATION

# **SUMMARY**

This report is also to table, for the Council's record, any absences, apologies and requests for leave of absence received from the Council Members and what absences that the Council gives permission for.

This report is to also provide the process for the newly elected members to acknowledge their role as an elected member, the code of conduct, and sign their declaration.

### 082/2022 RESOLVED (Lionel Jaragba/Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra)

#### That Council:

- (a) Notes the absence of Councillors Jason Mirritjawuy, David Djalangi and Wesley Dhamarrandji.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Councillors David Djalangi and Wesley Dhamarrandji.
- (c) Notes no Councilors are absent with permission of the Council.
- (d) Determines Councillors Jason Mirritjawuy, David Djalangi and Wesley Dhamarrandji are absent without permission of the Council under Section 47(1) (o) of the Act.
- (e) Notes the resignation of Marrpalawuy Marika, and that Northern Territory Electoral Commission has been notified and requested to arrange a By-election.

Attachment 1 Page 11

### 2.2 ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT

#### SUMMARY:

This report is to elect a Deputy President.

The current Deputy President Kaye Thurlow was elected on 30 June 2022 for a six month term ending on 30 December 2022.

As per Section 61(3) the Council may appoint one of its members to be the Deputy President. Section 62(2) states that the term of Deputy is for a period determined by Council.

### 083/2022 RESOLVED (Joe Djakala/Bobby M Wunungmurra)

That Council elects Lionel Jaragba as Deputy President from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

### **Declaration of Registered Interest Register**

### 3.1 DECLARATION OF REGISTERED INTEREST

#### **SUMMARY**

Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at a meeting of the Council.

### 084/2022 RESOLVED (Kaye Thurlow/Lionel Jaragba)

That Council notes the Conflict of Interest and Related Parties Register and the amendments to it.

### **Previous Council Minutes**

# 4.1 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD 20 OCTOBER 2022

085/2022 RESOLVED (Joe Djakala/Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra)

That the minutes be taken as read and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### 5 COUNCIL REPORTS – Deputy President Kaye Thurlow

Deputy President Kaye Thurlow provided a summary of activities including her attendance in LGANT and matters relating to Telstra.

### 086/2022 RESOLVED (Kaye Thurlow/Banambi Wunungmurra)

### The Council:

- (a) Notes the update.
- (b) Requests the CEO to arrange to clarify if the facts in the report are accurate.
- (c) In light of the report requests Telstra raise the level of urgency to the highest possible critical response timeframe.
- (d) Requests a formal outline of remote Telstra facility upgrades and backup power support infrastructure.

### **MOTION - BREAK FOR MORNING TEA AT 10:43AM**

087/2022 RESOLVED (Bobby M Wunungmurra/Banambi Wunungmurra)

#### **MOTION – RESUME AT 11:16AM**

088/2022 RESOLVED (Kaye Thurlow/Banambi Wunungmurra)

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS**

#### 6.1 CEO REPORT

#### **SUMMARY:**

This is a report of the key broad issues since the last report to Council, in addition to those covered in other parts of the agenda.

#### 089/2022 RESOLVED (Joe Djakala/Bobby M Wunungmurra)

That Council notes the CEO Report.

### 6.2 MEETING SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL FOR 2023

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to set the schedule of ordinary meetings for the term of Council.

# 090/2022 RESOLVED (Bobby M Wunungmurra/Evelyna Dhamarrandji)

That Council sets the schedule of Ordinary meetings to be the last Thursday of 23 February, 27 April, 29 June, 31 August, 26 October, and the second Thursday of 14 December.

That Council sets the schedule of Finance Committee meetings to be the third Wednesday of months which do not have an ordinary meeting of Council.

# 6.3 REVIEW AND FURTHER EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUMMARY:

Each Local Authority was asked to consider the review and further strengthening and empowerment of their Local Authority, to inform the review of Local Authorities being conducted by the Northern Territory Government.

### 091/2022 RESOLVED (Bobby M Wunungmurra/Evelyna Dhamarrandji)

That Council endorses the respective recommendations of each Local Authority, to further strengthen and empower their role, as detailed in full in Attachment B, to be provided to the Northern Territory Government and Reference Group, that will develop an Implementation Plan to be provided to the Minister for Local Government Chansey Paech.

### **MOTION – LUNCH BREAK AT 12:45PM**

092/2022 RESOLVED (Evelyna Dhamarrandji/Joe Djakala)

#### **MOTION - RESUME AT 1:19PM**

093/2022 RESOLVED (Evelyna Dhamarrandji/Kaye Thurlow)

Cr Joe Djakala left the meeting, the time being 01:19 PM. Cr Bobby M Wunungmurra left the meeting, the time being 01:20 PM.

### 9.2 REVISED BUDGET 2022 - 23

#### SUMMARY:

This report presents a draft Revised Budget for consideration.

094/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/Banambi Wunungmurra)

#### That Council approves:

- (a) The 2022-23 Budget Revision.
- (b) The financial threshold for reporting on major capital projects for the monthly financial report be set at \$150,000 per project.

### **DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION - 1:29PM**

095/2022 RESOLVED (Kaye Thurlow/Constantine Mamarika)

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 99 of the Local Government Act, 2019 as the items lists come within the following provisions:-

- **12.1** Review of Confidential Decisions The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (c)(ii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.
- 12.2 Appointment of Audit Committee Chairperson and Advertisement for a new External Member of the Audit Committee The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.
- **12.3 Procurement Panel Members -** The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

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**12.4 Request for Rates Concession -** The report will be dealt with under Section 99 of the Local Government Act and Section 51 (b) of the Local Government (General) Regulations. It contains information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.

### **RESUMPTION OF MEETING - 1:44PM**

096/2022 RESOLVED (Evelyna Dhamarrandji/Constantine Mamarika)

That the decisions of Closed Session be noted as follows:-

# 12.1 REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL DECISIONS SUMMARY:

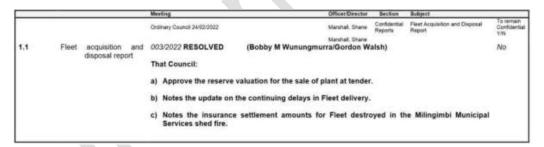
To review confidential decisions from the past year.

097/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/Banambi Wunungmurra)

### **That Council:**

- (a) Approve the change in confidential status to No for the resolutions marked No in the Resolution Register.
- (b) Include those resolutions in the Open Minutes.

According to the Local Government Act and Regulations (section 53) the Council reviewed the confidential information and the following items were marked not confidential from confidential in the Resolution Register.





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		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 21/04/2022	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	FT2223-01 Supply of Toyota Vehicles and Hisces	
12.3	This report seeks Council's approval to award Tender	040/2022 RESOLVED	(Jason Mirritjawuy/Robert Yawarngu)			No
	FT2223-01 - Supply of Toyota Vehicles and Hiaces	That Council:				
	to the recommended supplier Gove Motors.		nendation to award FT2223.01 – Supply of d Supplier Gove Motors for \$897,352.28 (GS			
		b) Give notice of the su website.	uccessful tender to all tenderers and publis	h on the p	ublic Council	

This report seeks Council's approval to award T21203417.1 Galiwinku New Pedestrian Pathways to the recommended Contractor Northern Projects Pty Ltd.

By Council to award T21203417.1 Galiwinku Construct New Pedestrian Pathways to the recommended Contractor Northern Projects Pty Ltd.

By Council tendered Contractor Northern Projects Pty Ltd for \$808,000.00 (Including GST).

Council tenderers and publish on the public Council website

		Meeting	Office	er/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 21/04/2022		nal, Shane	Confidential Reports	Lot 188 Mängimts - Headlease Handback	
12.6	This report is tabled for Council to seek approval to	043/2022 RESOLVED	(Joe Djakala/Kaye Thurlow)				No
	hand back the Section 19 Lease for Lot 189 Milingimbi	That Council:					
	to Northern Land Council (NLC).	<ul> <li>a) Note the recommend on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.</li> </ul>	dation of the Milingimbi Local Auth	nority fro	m the Ord	inary meeting held	
		<ul> <li>Approve the handba Council (NLC).</li> </ul>	ck of the Section 19 Lease for Lot	189 Millir	ngimbi to t	he Northern Land	

		Meeting	Officer/Dire	tor Section	on	Butgest	
		Ordinary Council 21/GA/2022	Varshall, St Varshall, St	reports	rftal	Roads Infrastructure 10 Year Asset Plan Draft.	
12.7	This report is tabled for						No
	Council regarding the						
	development and implementation of the East	044/2022 RESOLVED	(Wesley Bandi Wunungmurra/Gordo	n Walsh)			
	Arnhem Regional Council Roads Infrastructure 10 Year Draft Plan.	That Council support the	draft TAMP for circulation to Local Au	thorities fo	or co	omment.	

		Meeting	OfficeriDirector	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 30/06/2022	Marshall Shane	Confidential Reports	RFT1498-2202 Lat 98 Ramingining New Oval Stage	To remain Confidentia Y/N
			Marshall, Share			
12.1	This report seeks Council's approval to not award	073/2022 RESOLVED	(Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Evel	yna Dhama	irrandji)	No
	Tender RFT1498-2202 - Lot 98 Ramingining New	That Council:				
	Oval Stage	<ul> <li>a) Do not award RFT14 available funding.</li> </ul>	98-2202 - Lot 98 Ramingining - New (	Oval Stage	as there is not enough	
		b) Maintain the project	as a shelf ready option for future gra	int funding	rounds.	
		<ul> <li>c) Give notice to all ter deferred.</li> </ul>	nderers and publish on the public Co	uncil webs	ite of the project being	

		Meeting	Offic	ceriDirector	Section	Bubject.	
		Ordinary Council 30/06/2022		shall, Shane shall, Shane	Confidential Reports	PLEET AND SALES REPORT	
12.2	This report is to advise Council of disposal action	074/2022 RESOLVED	(Kaye Thurlow/David Djalangi)				No
	required and inform Council of Fleet sales	That Council:					
	results as part of the Council Fleet Replacement Program.	b) Notes the continuing	prices for fleet to be sold at publi delays in delivery of new plant.			fleet items will be	
	riogram.	made in the next fina c) Notes the prices rec	incial year. eived for fleet sales since the last	Council	meeting.		

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		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	Land Leasing formal arrangements and the use of the Common Seal	Tis remain Confidential Y/N
			Manhall, Shane			1,000
12.1	This report is tabled for					No
	Council approval of					
	the use of the	RECOMMENDATION(Marrpalawuy Mar	rika/Lionel Jaragba)			
	Common Seal on					
	formal leasing	That Council approves the use of the	Common Seal when requ	uired, with	a register of use tabled	
	arrangements at	at the following Council meeting ratify			•	
	the request of The		10 - 10 - 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10			
	Office of Township					
	Leasing					

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Bubject	
		Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Marshall, Shane Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	Fleet and Sales Report	
12.2	As part of the annual plan, there were a range of tabled projects and initiatives subsequently					No
	approved by the Local Authorities and Council for	RECOMMENDATION(Wesley Dhamarrandji/Ban	di Bandi Wunungmu	rra)		
	the current financial year.	That Council:				
	Each meeting will have updates associated with	(a) Notes the continuing delays in delivery of n	ew plant.			
	the annual plan actions, in addition to the reporting of any new initiatives or business arising for the community.	(b) Notes the prices received for fleet sales sin	ce the last Council m	eeting.		

		Meeting	Officer Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Courtal 2506/2022	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	East Arnham Regional Council - New Tender Evaluation Panel Members	
			Warshalf, Shane		the lower	
12.3	This Report seeks					No
	Council's approval to					
	include Wesley Van Zanden - Regional Waste	RECOMMENDATION(Kaye Thurlow/Bandi Bandi Wur	nungmurra)			
	& Environmental Manager					
	to the East Arnhem	That Council approves the inclusion of Wesley Van	Zanden - Regi	onal Wast	e & Environmental	
	Regional Council Tende	Manager to the East Arnhem Regional Council Tende	er Evaluation Pa	nel.		
	Panel.	(300002				
	ACTIVATION 1					

		Meeting	Officer:Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 25/08/2023	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	WS 2022-09 Visate Collection for Unballuritie and Angurage	
12.4	approval to award WS 2022-06 – Waste Collection for Umbakumba	RECOMMENDATION(Kaye Thurlow/Jason Mirritjawuy) That Council:  (a) Endorses the recommendation to award WS 2022 Umbakumba for a period of two years, with the opti on Contractors performance and market cond Aminjarrinja Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation, a:  (b) Gives notice of the successful tender to all tender.	on to extend for itions, to the s per their Sci	or a further recomm hedule of F	of Angurugu and 12 months, based ended Contractor Rates.	

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	Variation 02 T20-203416.3 – Capuniyah Access Roads Upgrades	
12.5	This report is for noting		Marshall, Shane			No
16.0		The second secon	CONTROL MAKE			140
	purposes only, to make Council aware of Variation	RECOMMENDATION(Robert Yawarngu/Wesley Dham	narrandji)			
	02 to Contract T20- 203416.3 - Gapuwiyak	That Council:				
	Access Roads Upgrades, which was awarded to Orton Byron Developments Pty Ltd ta Henderson Earthmoving &	(a) Notes Variation 02 of \$46,491.20 (Including GST) Construct and Upgrade Local Roads Gapuwiy Access Road Upgrades. Bringing the new total GST).	ak, in relation	to T20-20	3416.3 Gapuwiyak	
	Haulage for \$937,028.29 (including GST).	(b) Publish on the public Council website.				

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		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
	3	Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	WS 2022-07 Waste Collection for Virtuals and Dunyangers	
12.6	This report seeks Council's approval to award WS	RECOMMENDATION(Robert Yawarngu/Wesley Dham	Marshall, Shane arrandji)			No
	2022-07 - Waste Collection for Yirrkala and	That Council:				
	Gunyangara to the recommendation to award WS 2022-07 – Waste Collection of Yirrkala recommended contractor Arnhem Land Pest Control.  Arnhem Land Pest Control.  Arnhem Land Pest Control as per their Schedule of Rates.					
	Page_000001	(b) Gives notice of the successful tender to all ten website.	nderers and pu	iblish on t	the public Council	

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject			
		Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Keehne, Cale Keehne, Cale	Confidential Reports	Australian National Audit of Land Councils			
12.7	To consider a request to make a submission.	RECOMMENDATION(Kaye Thurlow/Evelyna Dhamarrandji)						
	Fage_000004	That Council declines to make a submission to the because:	of Land Councils					
	(a) Council is not fully aware of the Land Council's Governance and roles with organisation.							
		(b) Council values the outcomes through associativith our involvement with those organisations.	ion that benefit	the Comm	nunities in general			

		Meeting	Officer/Directo	Section	Subject	
	23 4995 223	Ordinary Council 25/08/2022	Freeman, Michael Freeman, Victurel	Confidential Reports	CouncilBIZ Changes	No
12.8	CouncilBIZ Changes.	RECOMMENDATION(Wesley Dhamarrandji/Lionel Jara	RECOMMENDATION(Wesley Dhamarrandji/Lionel Jaragba)			
		That Council:				
		(a) Notes the update on CouncilBIZ.				
		(b) More information to be provided at a future meetin	ng.			

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 20/10/2022	Keehne, Dale	Local Authorities	Local Authority Actions - Council Review and Endorsement	To remain Confidentia Y/Ni
			Kestre, Dire			
10.4	This report provides a					No
	summary list of actions arising from Local	076/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/	Jason Mirritja	wuy)		
	Authority meetings in each of the East Arnhem Regional Council communities.	That Council approves the letter supporting Yirrk Scrymgour.	ala's recomme	endation	now be sent to Marion	

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 20/10/2022	Marshall, Shane Marshall, Shane	Confidential Reports	Use of the EARC Common Seel.	
12.1	This report is tabled for Council to approve the	077/2022 RESOLVED	(Wesley Dhamarrandji/Joe Djakala)			No
	use of the Common Seal when required and to	That Council:				
	note the current Register to date.		Common Seal for the execution of land leasi ownship Leasing for lots 177 and 650 in the			
		(b) Notes the current reg	gister of usage to date.			

		Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	
		Ordinary Council 20/10/2022	Manhall, Share	Confidental Reports	RPT15243-2207 Lot 243 Möngimbi Services Shert	
12.3	This report seeks Council's approval to	079/2022 RESOLVED	(David Djalangi/Wesley Dhamarrandji)			No
	award RFT15243-2207 – Lot 243 Milingimbi –	That Council:				
	Replacement Workshop to the recommended Contractor Ironbark		nendation to award RFT15243-2207 – Lot 243 ntractor Ironbark Contracting Pty Ltd for \$98			
	Contracting Pty Ltd.	(b) Give notice of the suc	cessful tender to all tenderers and publish o	n the publi	c Council website.	

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# 12.2 APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND ADVERTISMENT FOR A NEW EXTERNAL MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

#### **SUMMARY:**

The current Audit Committee Chairperson, Clare Milikins' term ends on 31 December 2022. She will not seek re-appointment as the Chair or external member of the Audit Committee. The other external member of the Audit Committee, Greg Arnott's term will also end on 31 December 2022. Therefore, there will be two vacancies in the Audit Committee, and the need to appoint a new chair.

### 098/2022 RESOLVED (Kaye Thurlow/Lionel Jaragba)

#### **That Council:**

- (a) Acknowledges the positive contribution that Ms. Clare Milikins has made in advising the Council on good governance, risk, and control practices.
- (b) Approves the recommendation to appoint Mr. Greg Arnott as the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, for a period of two years, effective 1 January 2023.
- (c) Requests the Corporate Services Manager to re-advertise for a new external member (Independent).
- (d) That this resolution be made public.

# 7.2 2020-2021 WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Notice to acquit the 2020-21 Waste and Resource Management Grant for 30 December 2022.

# 099/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/Kaye Thurlow)

That Council notes and accepts that the expenditure shown of \$155,890.79, has been actually incurred as at December 2022, with the stated purpose of the 2020-21 Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) Grant.

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# 7.3 2022-2023 WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY:

Council is asked to consider the proposal to utilise the 2022-23 Waste and Resource Management Grant to offset costs, to continue to develop the entrances and fencing around landfills at Gapuwiyak and/or Ramingining, and to offset costs to waste containers for the collection and sorting of waste streams and transportation back to Darwin for recycling.

### 100/2022 RESOLVED (Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Constantine Mamarika)

That Council endorses the utilisation of Waste and Resource Management funding for 2022-23, towards installation of gates and fencing at Ramingining and Gapuwiyak Landfills, and with any remaining funds offsetting the costs of purchasing waste containers / trailer for the collection, sorting and transportation of waste materials for recycling and disposal within communities.

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji left the meeting, the time being 01:54 PM. Deputy President Kaye Thurlow to chair the rest of the meeting.

#### 9.3 DELEGATION MANUAL

#### SUMMARY:

Minor review of the Delegation Manual

101/2022 RESOLVED (Lionel Jaragba/Banambi Wunungmurra)

That Council adopts the revised Delegation Manual.

### **TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPORTS**

# 7.1 TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM AND CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

# SUMMARY

This report is tabled for the Council to provide program updates within the Technical and Infrastructure directorate. In addition to progress updates associated with capital projects and initiatives associated with the 2022-2023 Annual Plan.

102/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/Banambi Wunungmurra)

That the Council notes the Technical & Infrastructure Services report.

# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

#### 8.1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to provide information on the progress, successes, challenges and future opportunities of the Council's Community Development Directorate.

103/2022 RESOLVED (Constantine Mamarika/Lionel Jaragba)

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Attachment 1 Page 20

That Council notes the Community Development update.

### **Corporate Services Reports**

### 9.1 FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

#### **SUMMARY**

This report is tabled to the Council to provide the Finance Report for the period ended the 30 November 2022 for its approval.

104/2022 RESOLVED (Evelyna Dhamarrandji/Robert Yawarngu)

That the Council approves the Finance and Human Resources Report for the period ended on 30 November 2022.

# 10.2 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES FROM LOCAL AUTHORITY AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

#### **SUMMARY**

This report provides to Council copies of minutes from Local Authority and Committee meetings.

105/2022 RESOLVED (Robert Yawarngu/Banambi Wunungmurra)

# **That Council notes:**

- (a) The unconfirmed minutes from the Local Authority and Committee meetings.
- (b) Approves the following nominations as members of their respective Local Authorities:
  - i. Joey Wunungmurra.
  - ii. Fabian Marika.

# 10.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTIONS - COUNCIL REVIEW AND ENDORSEMENT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary list of actions arising from Local Authority meetings in each of the East Arnhem Regional Council communities.

106/2022 RESOLVED (Banambi Wunungmurra/Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra)

That Council defers this item until February Council Meeting.

# Correspondence

### **16.1 CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER**

### **DOCUMENT DETAILS REPORT**

**Incoming Correspondence** 

Document ID	Document Name
1680004	Letter - Minister for Indigenous Australians Hon Linda Burney - Local
	Decision Making - Yolngu Region - 13.09.2022
1685581	Letter from ALPA - Call for Recognition - 17.10.2022
	-
1688350	Minister for Local Government - Northern Territory Grants Commission -
	14.10.2022
1698763	Resignation - Marrpalawuy MARIKA – 21.11.2022

**Outgoing Correspondence** 

Document ID	Document Name
1700166	Letter to Electoral Commission - Casual Vacancy - Nov 2022

# 107/2022 RESOLVED (Banambi Wunungmurra/Robert Yawarngu)

That Council notes the incoming and outgoing correspondence register.

# **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

23 February 2023.

### **MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting concluded at 2:56PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Thursday, 15 December 2022, and are to be confirmed in the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Thursday, 23 February 2023.

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 6.1

TITLE Committee Membership

REFERENCE 1726425

**AUTHOR** Nawshaba Razzak, Corporate Planning & Policy Officer

### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to further consider Committee Membership.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Council Currently has the following appointments for various committees:

# Finance Committee:

# **Gumurr Miwatj Ward:**

Primary – Cr Banambi Wunungmurra

Alternate – Cr Wesley Dhamarrandji

# **Gumurr Miyarrka Ward:**

Primary – Cr Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra

Alternate - Cr Bobby Wunungmurra

# **Anindilyakwa Ward:**

Primary – Cr Constantine Mamarika

Alternate – Cr Lionel Jaragba

# **Birr Rawarrang Ward:**

Primary – Cr Jason Mirritijawuy

Alternate – Cr Robert Yawarngu

# **Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward:**

Primary – Cr Lapulung Dhamarrandji

Alternate - Cr Joe Djakala

# **Gumurr Marthakal Ward:**

Primary - Cr Evelyna Dhamarrandji

Alternate - Cr Kaye Thurlow, Cr David Djalangi

With the alternate members being another Councillor.

# Audit Committee:

Deputy President Lionel Jaragba

Cr Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra

Cr Evelyna Dhamarrandji

# CEO Review Committee:

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji

Cr Kave Thurlow

Cr Robert Yawarngu

# **Local Authorities:**

Angurugu – Crs Constantine Mamarika and Lionel Jaragba Galiwin'ku – Crs Evelyna Dhamarrandji, Kaye Thurlow and David Djalangi

Gapuwiyak – Crs Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra and Bobby Wunungmurra Gunyangara - Crs Banambi Wunungmurra and Wesley Dhamarrandji Milingimbi – Crs Lapulung Dhamarrandji and Joe Djakala Milyakburra - Crs Constantine Mamarika and Lionel Jaragba Ramingining – Crs Jason Mirritjawuy and Robert Yawarngu Umbakumba - Crs Constantine Mamarika and Lionel Jaragba Yirrkala – Crs Banambi Wunungmurra and Wesley Dhamarrandji

# **GENERAL**

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

# **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council makes the following alterations to Committee Memberships.

OR

That Council notes the current Committee and Local Authority Memberships.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 6.2

TITLE Closing the Gap - Outcomes

**REFERENCE** 1729915

**AUTHOR** Dale Keehne, Chief Executive Officer

### SUMMARY:

This report is to seek approval from the Elected Members to include indicators that provide evidence to reporting and funding bodies that the actions and deliverables of Council are inclusive of Closing the Gap measurable outcomes.

### **BACKGROUND**

Closing the Gap acknowledges the ongoing strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in sustaining the world's oldest living cultures. It is underpinned by the belief that when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have a genuine say in the design and delivery of policies, programs and services that affect them, better life outcomes are achieved. It also recognises the need for structural change in the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is needed to close the gap.

All Australian governments are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their Communities, organisations and businesses to implement the new National Agreement on Closing the Gap at the national, state, territory and local levels.

Governments have acknowledged that to close the gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must determine, drive and own the desired outcomes, alongside them. This is an unprecedented shift in the way governments have previously worked.

This new way of working requires governments to build on the strong foundations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have, through their deep connection to family, community and culture.

Implementation Plans have been developed and delivered by each party to the National Agreement, in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners. These plans prescribe the alignment of policies and programs to the National Agreement and the required actions to achieve the Priority Reforms and outcomes.

The National Agreement on Closing the Gap has been built around four Priority Reforms that have been directly informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These reforms are central to the National Agreement and will change the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Each Priority Reform includes a target and an outcome. These focus on measuring the change governments are making in the way they work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indicators have also been developed to support reporting against the Priority Reforms, similar to that for the socio-economic targets.

# **GENERAL**

Aboriginal people have run local government and community services in Aboriginal communities across the Northern Territory, since the end of the mission days, and from 2008 Aboriginal people have run local government and community services in a number of communities across larger regions.



This increased Aboriginal Controlled Council's ability to deliver services, and increased their voice and ability to deal and work with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, most importantly provide better and sustainable outcomes for the residents of the regions that they serve.

The voice of local communities has come from locally elected Councillors, and the creation of Community Advisory Boards in each community. This local voice was further strengthened with the shift from Community Advisory Boards to Local Authorities which have a more formal role within the broader regional Councils.

East Arnhem Regional Council is Aboriginal controlled and run and always has been. The majority of staff employed by Council are Aboriginal. However, Government continues to not acknowledge the strengths and outputs of Council against Closing the Gap targets.

Recently at meetings with funding bodies, Council staff were questioned how operations were aligned with Closing the Gap targets. Staff members could talk to the Aboriginal Governance practices that are employed by Council and operations and program design that are lead examples of priority reforms targets and outcomes of Closing the Gap, but could not provide reportable evidence against indicators demonstrating that the outputs of the demonstrating Closing the Gap in practice.

Being unable to demonstrate Closing the Gap priority reforms, targets and outcomes poses a serious and significant risk to Council in the current environment.

It is proposed through this report, that where reasonable tangible indicators can be applied to Council outputs and operations, the Elected Members endorse the implementation to evidence capture tools to allow the organisation to report on Closing the Gap targets at the Territory and National level.

Overtime Council will continue to develop additional indicators to be applied to operations to strengthen reporting against Closing the Gap targets and outcomes.

Socio Economic Target 16: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CULTURES AND LANGUAGES ARE STRONG, SUPPORTED AND FLOURISHING.

Target 16: By 2031, there is a sustained increase in number and strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages being spoken.

By the inclusion of a statement in Council and Local Authority reporting Council will be able to report and evidence that the organisations Governance practices provide outcomes against this target of Closing the Gap.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

# **RECOMMENDATION**

### **That Council:**

- (a) Notes the report
- (b) Approve the inclusion of the following statement in all Council and Local Authority report agendas and minutes "Under closing the gap priority reforms, socio economic outcome 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are strong, supported and flourishing, it is standard practice for reports to be

considered, discussed and debated in the traditional dialects of the East Arnhem region, Yolngu Matha or Anindilyakwan."

(c) Supports the inclusion of other reasonable indicators to be included in operations to evidence Closing the Gap targets and outcomes.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 6.3

TITLE CEO Report 1730126

**AUTHOR** Dale Keehne, Chief Executive Officer

### SUMMARY:

This is a report of the key broad issues since the last report to the Local Authority, in addition to those covered in other parts of the agenda.

### **GENERAL**

I would like to begin by thanking Andrew Walsh our Director of Community Services for Acting once again in the CEO role while I was on leave.

# **Election of New Deputy President**

The Local Authorities have been advised of the important decision Council made on who would serve as Deputy President at the last meeting in December last year.

I too would like to thank Councillor Kaye Thurlow, for serving as Deputy President for the last six months, and the ongoing contribution she makes to Council.

The election of Councillor Lionel Jaragba as the new Deputy President, is significant as he was one of the founding Councillors of East Arnhem Shire Council back in 2008.

In addition to recognising Councillor Jaragba's experience, knowledge and capacity in making the decision to appoint Councillor Lionel Jaragba as Deputy President, Council recognised the importance of his representation as a strong Anindilyakwan cultural man and leader for the people of the Groote Archipelago, alongside Yolngu President Lapulung Dhamarrandji.

# 81st Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin

President Lapulung and I attending this important ceremony in Darwin on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, followed by a reception with the Chief Minister at Parliament House.

Discussions were held on the benefit of working together to arrange for President Lapulung and possibly a representative from the Tiwi region, on speaking next year at the event, about the shared experience of Aboriginal community members and unity with Balanda in supporting the war effort.

I look forward with great commitment and energy to our year ahead, working for all the people of East Arnhem Land.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes the CEO report.



ATTA	CHM	ENTS:
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# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 6.4

TITLE Placeholder - Alcohol Reform

**REFERENCE** 1731048

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development



# **GENERAL**

Information to be provided on the day.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

# **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:** 

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

# **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**ITEM NUMBER** 6.5

**TITLE** Placeholder - Voice to Parliament

**REFERENCE** 1731055

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development

**SUMMARY:** 

Information to be provided on the day.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

# **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Council:** 

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

# **TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

ITEM NUMBER 7.1

TITLE Technical and Infrastructure Program and Capital

**Project Updates** 

REFERENCE 1724361

**AUTHOR** Shane Marshall, Director Technical & Infrastructure Services

### **SUMMARY**

This report is tabled for the Council to provide program updates within the Technical and Infrastructure directorate. In addition to progress updates associated with capital projects and initiatives associated with the 2022-2023 Annual Plan.

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of the annual plan, there were a range of tabled projects and initiatives subsequently approved by the Local Authorities and Council for the current financial year.

Each meeting will have updates associated with the annual plan actions, in addition to the reporting of any new initiatives or business arising for the community.

The information below covers actions associated with the below services:

108 - Veterinary and Animal Control Services.

112 - Support Fleet and Workshop Services.

116 – Lighting for Public Safety.

118 – Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management.

119 – Local Road Upgrade and Construction.

122 - Building Infrastructure Services.

129 - Waste and Environmental Services.

169 - MS/Public Works & Infrastructure Services and Cemeteries.

### **GENERAL**

Service Profile: 108 - Core – Veterinary and Animal Control Services

**Business Unit:** Veterinary and Animal Control

# Action ID:

### 2.3.10.12 Provide program outcome statistics to Local Authority and Council meetings.

<u>Community: All EARC communities</u> Reporting month/period: January 2023

## **Overall Comments:**

Community is very quiet at this time of year. The weather is very hot and humid at this time so the team have performed minimal de-sexing surgeries over the month of January. The majority of the work for the AMP team over this period is community consultations and remote consultations across all of our communities to maintain the consistency of service throughout the wet season.

The AMP team is encouraging community members to access the EARC Veterinary Cabinets across all communities if their animals are sick, injured or need parasite treatments.

# Community Education Activities:

• Dangerous dog stickers: The new dangerous dog signs have arrived and the team has started putting them up at houses with known cheeky or aggressive dogs. Community members have generally been very receptive to this and the stickers have been placed on the metre boxes at the houses. This has been a great initiative as it will increase awareness in community of cheeky dogs and also alert other service providers that visit the houses of the presence of an aggressive dog. The AMP team will be following up any reports of dangerous dogs in community, so we are encouraging all community members to report cases to the team.

- Schedules for 2023: The AMP schedules for January-June for all communities have now been sent through to all stakeholders in community. They have been released via Facebook, community noticeboards and our website. The aim for 2023 is to alert community members of every visit the week before commencing to improve communication and consistency of the program.
- Ehrlichiosis education: House to house community education the tick disease E canis has been discussed with many owners over this period as it is spread by brown dog ticks which are very prevalent at this time of year.
- Facebook: We have released the E canis education video on our Facebook page to all of our followers to educate them on E canis and what we can do to prevent the disease in our dogs.
- Groote Eylandt region: Public awareness campaign and community meeting planned for February regarding violence against animals

# Service Delivery Table:

MONTH OF January 2023	Yirrkala	Gunyangara	Gapuwiyak	Ramingining	Milingimbi	Galiwin'ku
Dogs Desexed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats Desexed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community consultations	5	4	0	0	0	0
Remote/Phone consultations	2	1	2	6	1	4
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	1	2	5	0	4
Minor procedures/other surgeries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parasite Treatments	11	2	0	3	0	0
Euthanasia	6	0	0	0	0	0
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	2	0	0	0	1	1
Total Engagements	27	8	4	14	2	9
Year to Date	27	8	4	14	2	9

# Additional Collaborations/Stakeholder Engagements:

Yirrkala community: The AMP team has been trapping feral cats at commercial locations based on the requests coming from community. The team is going to continue trapping across all regions based on the needs of community.

Cat numbers are increasing rapidly and cause devastating impacts to the environment. The AMP team is also trying to engage local ranger groups to collaborate with the cat trapping processes.

# **University Engagements:**

- Melbourne University: Dr Maddy has been in discussions with Melbourne University and they
  have committed to eight weeks of veterinary engagements in EARC communities
  commencing intermittently from April onwards. Dr Maddy discussed ways that the veterinary
  students can value add to the AMP including improving education materials and parasite
  control protocols.
- James Cook University: Dr Maddy has been in lengthy discussions with JCU surrounding an MoU for veterinary services to community. On 1 March Maddy is presenting to the four and five year veterinary students about remote community work and how rewarding it is.
- Miwatj collaboration: Dr Maddy has been in discussions with AMRRIC and Miwatj surrounding a workshop for the EARC AMP team and Miwatj Environmental Health Teams.
   The workshop will be held in Yirrkala on the 4 - 5 May and will involve flying in all Miwatj environmental health teams from across EARC communities.

The workshop will involve education discussions and linking the teams to improve the ties between the two organisations. The long term aim is for an official partnership with Miwatj health to improve animal and human health.

# Staffing:

The Animal Management Program has the following staff working permanently for the program in 2023:

- Dr Maddy Kelso Veterinarian/Animal Control Manager overseeing program and servicing mainland communities
- Sarah Carrall Veterinary Nurse/Animal Management Worker Mainland communities
- Dr Lauren Clark Veterinary Supervisor Groote Eylandt Region
- Tineka Clarke Animal Management worker/Trainee Veterinary Nurse Groote Eylandt region
- Ingrid Lalara Animal Management Worker Groote Eylandt Region
- The Animal Management Program will have the following staff returning to work for the program in 2023:
- Dr Tania Mitchell veterinarian
- Dr Kathleen Rebgetz veterinarian
- Dr Erica Shaw veterinarian

# **Training for AMP Staff:**

- Sarah Carrall is flying down to Groote to train Tineka Turner in early February in veterinary nursing procedures and to assist Dr Lauren Clark with more complex surgeries.
- Dr Maddy and Sarah Carrall are attending the NT Veterinary Conference in March 2023 to represent EARC and learn new techniques in the veterinary field.

### Concerns/Challenges:

- Groote Region: Overall dogs appear in poorer body condition than usual. Possible causes include lack of nutrition due to owner absence and potentially some animals exhibiting signs of chronic ehrlichiosis.
- Malnutrition due to owner absence is a recurrent issue. The AMP provides school-based education about the importance of ensuring animals are looked after when owners are away, however may need to consider a wider public awareness campaign.
- Animal Welfare cases: There has been a reported increase in aggravated assaults against
  dogs with the majority of reports coming from Angurugu, but also cases in Galiwin'ku and
  Gunyangara communities. Recent cases include reported machete wounds to legs, face and
  torso of several dogs and a dog shot with an illegal crossbow. An animal at Gunyangara was
  stabbed with a kitchen knife. A dog at Galiwin'ku was attacked with a blunt object.
- The AMP team is recommending any community members that believe their animal has been maliciously attacked to report the matter to the police as well. Animal Management Worker

Ingrid Lalara reports finding a dog deceased due to machete injury – the dog belonged to a family member.

 Dr Lauren Clark has also been unofficially informed by police that another dog was found deceased due to violence. A public awareness campaign in Angurugu has now commenced following the last Local Authority meeting. A community meeting will be held in late February in Angurugu to discuss solutions moving forward for the community.

The team is recommending that this issue be discussed at the February council meeting. The plan moving forward is for a public awareness campaign across all communities.

# Plan for AMP in Early 2023:

- AMP vet nurse Sarah Carrall to visit Groote Eylandt in early February to assist with surgeries and provide further nursing training to Tineka.
- Dr Maddy and Sarah visiting all mainland communities across February and March to conduct animal census, animal health consults and provide large scale parasite treatments.
- Large Scale surgical de-sexing programs will commence from April-October this year for the AMP team, when the weather is cooler, less humid and therefore safer for the animals and team. Milingimbi, Ramingining and Galiwin'ku will receive extra visits in 2023 to improve the de-sexing rates and consistency of animal care.
- Dr Maddy is currently working on an electronic system for animal health consults, so community members can send through requests directly to the AMP team rather than go into the office.

Service Profile: <u>116 - Core - Lighting for Public Safety</u>

**Business Unit:** Transport Infrastructure

# Action ID:

4.2.6.8 Manage, maintain and upgrade streetlights in Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra.

Audits have been undertaken on a range of lighting within the communities via the Konect Inspection software, by the Municipal/Public Works team. As part of the ongoing improvement in this area, monthly inspection audits and reporting will form part of the Public Works/Municipal Services work plan, with an order based on the lighting replacement requirements actioned every three months to avoid supply delays.

# **Percentage Completed 90%**



\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

Service Profile: <u>118 - Core - Local Road Maintenance and Traffic Management</u>
Business Unit: <u>Transport and Infrastructure</u>

#### **Action ID:**

4.2.1.1 Manage the maintenance and upgrade of local roads drainage and pedestrian infrastructure under core allocated funds and grant project funding.

#### Galiwin'ku Pedestrian Footpath stage 2 & 3

As part of a funding grant and co-funding through the LAPF, the Buthan Subdivision to the central business precinct area path has been completed, with I drainage elevated section near the airport to be actioned in January.

Market pricing has been received and is being assessed and will be tabled at a special meeting in January to award to the successful contractor.



#### Percentage completed 85%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

Service Profile: 119 - Core - Local Road Upgrade and Construction
Transport and Infrastructure

#### Action ID:

## 4.2.2.6 Upgrade Local Roads – Yirrkala, surface seal, kerbing and drainage.

As part of the Roads Program in Yirrkala, the major initiative is the improvements to surface seals, kerbing and drainage within the community, in line with this year's plan.

Engagements are currently underway with an initial site visit from engineering consultants, to establish a staged approach to the improvement plan to meet the communities' requirements, with all associated documentation anticipated for a February market release.



## Percentage Completed 20%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### Action ID:

#### 4.2.2.1 Upgrade Local Roads – Gunyangara kerbing and drainage improvements.

As part of the Roads Program in Gunyangara, the major initiatives are the improvements to surface seals, kerbing and drainage within the community, in line with this year's plan.

Engagements are currently underway with an initial site visit from engineering consultants, along with a full town roads and drainage survey having been completed, to establish a staged approach to the improvement plan to meet the communities' requirements. These works will be released to the market in January.



#### Percentage Completed 40%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### 4.2.2.5 Upgrade Local Roads – Galiwin'ku – Kerbing and drainage improvements

As part of the roads Program in Galiwin'ku, drainage improvements with kerbing and drainage in selected areas on the foreshore cliff area adjacent street and the school road are planned.

Engineering and survey engagements are underway with tender to be released prior to December.



#### **Project completion 20%**

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

## **RAMINGINING**

#### Repairs and Maintenance of Culvert on Ramingining Barge Access Road Program

BV Contracting have been engaged to undertake the repairs and maintenance of multiple culverts along the Ramingining Barge Access Road. The culverts along the Ramingining Barge Access Road have been inspected and deemed in very poor condition which require immediate repairs and replacement. All the culverts identified are located on the floodplain section of the road with associated road chainage listed below.

Actual works commencement date: Wednesday, 28 September 2022.

Actual completion date: 5 December 2022.

BV Contracting will revisit site to repair any defects identified in the 2023 dry season.

Photos of defective culverts

Culvert 1 CH 18.6 KM:

Culvert is a 2 cell 600mm (wide) x 450mm (height) box culvert.

#### Completed works:

#### T22-203414.1 Ramingining Barge Access Road Upgrades Program Updates

The proposed T22-203414.1 Ramingining Barge Access Road Upgrades project shall comprise of the following works:

Progress update: Project has been put on hold due to ongoing adverse weather events, will await to observe the wet seasonal effect in the coming month(s). Note that this project has been released out for public tender and is now closed, pending tender panel review.

#### Stage 1

Section 1: Ramingining Barge Access Road

Chainage 3.5km to 6.3km Gravel Resheet

Section 2: Ngangalala Access Road

Chainage 0.0km to 0.2km Gravel Resheet

\*\*Stage 2 – Provisional Item(s)\*\*

Section 1: Yathalamarra Access Road

Chainage 0.0km to 4.2km Grade, Water and Roll – Full Maintenance

OR

Chainage 0.0km to 4.2 km Rip and Re-compaction

#### **GALIWINKU**

#### Repairs and Maintenance of Damaged Internal Sealed Roads Updates

The proposed repairs and maintenance of damaged internal sealed roads will be delivered prior to the onset of the wet season, late December 2022. The works shall comprise the repairs and patching of potholes within the internal sealed roads network.

Tentative commencement date: Thursday, 28 November 2022.

Tentative completion date: End of December 2022.

Progress update: Project has been put on hold due to ongoing adverse weather events, will await to observe the wet seasonal effect in the coming month(s).

#### Repairs and Maintenance of Damaged Road Sections on the Gawa Access Road Updates

The proposed repairs and maintenance of damaged road sections on the Gawa Access Road will be delivered prior to the onset of the wet season, late December 2022. The works shall comprise the re-establishment of roadside drainage, reformation of road profile crossfall and placement of additional gravel due to scouring and washout.

Tentative commencement date: Thursday, 28 November 2022.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

Tentative completion date: End of December 2022.

Progress update: Project has been put on hold due to ongoing adverse weather events, will await to observe the wet seasonal effect in the coming month(s)

# T22-203417.1 Galiwinku Design, Supply, Install and Construct Pedestrian Culvert Crossing Updates

The proposed T22-203417.1 Galiwinku Design, Supply, Install and Construct Pedestrian Culvert Crossing project is currently being advertised for public tender with a closing date due on Wednesday, 30 November 2022.

The proposed works shall comprise the following works:

Progress update: Project has been released out for public tender and is now closed, pending tender panel review.

Community	Road Name	Description of Works						
Galiwinku	Off Burmala Street	Design, supply and install / construct an elevated pedestrian culvert crossing with handrails and all associated erosion protection works adjacent to existing concrete floodway						
		Construct approximately 26.5 lineal meters of reinforced concrete pedestrian pathway to join-up with existing Stage 2 Pedestrian Pathway as shown in Appendix A						
		Supply, installation and commissioning of one (1) x Green Frog Systems GFS-200 solar light (wind region C specifications) adjacent to proposed elevated pedestrian culvert crossing						

## Proposed Site of Works

- Yellow coloured placemark pin indicates location of proposed pedestrian culvert crossing.
  - Latitude: 12° 1'14.00"S Longitude: 135°34'25.00"E
- Blue coloured path indicates extent of proposed construction of 26.5 lineal meters of pedestrian pathway.
- Red coloured path indicates existing Stage 2 pedestrian pathway.

#### <u>Galiwin'ku Stormwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation</u>

Arccos Consulting have been engaged to undertake the Galiwin'ku Stomwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation phase to upgrade the above ground drainage within the Galiwin'ku community, which is now underway with the commencement of Stage 1 & 2 survey and services locating works carried out by Fyfe on 1<sup>st</sup> week of January 2023.

- Current progress 30%
- NTG DIPL contour data request was approved on 1<sup>st</sup> week of February 2023.
- Anticipate to achieve 90% design by Friday, 24 February 2023.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs

# YIRRKALA

## <u>Yirrkala Stormwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation</u>

Arccos Consulting have been engaged to undertake the Yirrkala Stormwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation phase to upgrade the above ground drainage within the Yirrkala community.

The commencement of survey is now underway to pick up topography and services for Stage 2 highlighted in green as outlined in map below.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

- EARC and Power Water Corporation (PWC) have an agreement in place to share relevant data for both Stage 1 and 2.
- Land Surveys on site to commence topography and services locating works on 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February 2023.
- Anticipate final survey to be delivered by Friday, 24 February 2023.

#### **GUNYANGARA**

#### Gunyangara Stormwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation

Arccos Consulting have been engaged to undertake the Gunyangara Stormwater Management Plan – Survey, Design and Documentation phase to upgrade the above ground drainage within the Gunyangara community as outlined in map below.

- 90% design report and estimated bill of quantities delivered at end of January 2023
- Pending EARC 90% re-design review

#### Speed Hump Installations Gunyangara

Collaborative teamwork approach to install multiple new speed humps throughout the community.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

ce Profile: <u>122 - Support – Building</u>	and Infrastructure Services
ness Unit: Technical and Infrastruc	ture

#### Action ID

1.4.2.1	Provide relevant Program / Project updates to every Local Authority Community meeting as required.
4.3.14.2	Conduct minor and capital upgrades to various council controlled buildings throughout the region, in line with the allocated budget and completion time lines per community.

The below represents projects with completion dates within the first quarter, and projects that are underway as per the 22-23 Annual plan and approved budget.

Noting that all communities have capital projects listed, but in various stages of the financial year. Completion dates will be added in the next report overview.

#### 4.3.14.2 Ramingining

<u>Lot 123</u> - Council Office - Front Fencing/bollards, veranda soffit and TCU service area works - Completion September.



#### Project yet to commence 0%

Adjusted completion date – January

#### 4.3.14.2 Milingimbi

<u>Lot 243</u> - MS Shed - Refit of Vet Area to coincide with rebuild of new Shed under insurance - September Completion.

The replacement Municipal shed is moving forward with an external project manager appointed to manage the project.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### 4.3.14.2 Gapuwiyak

**Lot 95** - New boundary fence Child Care Centre - Completion February



## **Project - Planning 10%**

Adjusted completion date

#### 4.3.14.2 Galiwin'ku

<u>Lot 315</u> - Basket Ball Court Storage building - Demolition of existing building due to safety concerns - Installation of Shade structures in place - Completion September.



#### Project yet to commence 0%

Adjusted completion date - January

<u>Lot 332</u> - BRACS - Demolition of building due to safety concerns and condition, new security fencing - Completion September.



## Project yet to commence 0%

Adjusted completion date – January

These two projects will consolidated into one market release to reduce the costs of mobilisation on the individual projects.

<u>Lot 51</u> MS Shed - Floating flooring installation and painting to Office and Lunch room – completion September.



#### Project yet to commence 0%

Adjusted completion date - March

#### 4.3.14.2 Yirrkala

<u>Lot 268</u> - Staff Housing - Privacy screening and replacement of boundary fence - completion September.



#### Project yet to commence 0%

Adjusted completion date – December

#### **Lot 195** - Yirrkala – Structural Works

Structural remedial works tender has now been completed with a range of other works being awarded and developed for release.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.



## Percentage completed 30%

Completion date – December.

## 4.3.14.2 Gunyangara

 $\underline{\text{Lot 84}}$  - Staff Housing - Boundary fence replacement with 21-22 financial period rolled over roofing replacement works - Completion March.



#### Percentage completed 5%.

#### 4.3.14.3 Undertake security upgrades at operational facilities and council housing.

## 4.3.14.3 Yirrkala

Lot 81 - Council Offices - new security screens on windows and external doors.



## Percentage completed 100%

## 4.3.14.3 Milingimbi

Lot 168CC - Milingimbi Child Care Centre - security screens.



## Percentage Completed 100%

#### 4.3.14.3 Galiwin'ku

**Lot 564** – Staff House – Enclosed carport and housing screens.



## **Percentage Completion 100%**

**Lot 95** – Staff House – Enclosed Verandah and housing screens.



## Percentage Completion 100%

**Lot 607a Galiwin'ku Hall -** repairs – replacement shutters and new flooring in the drop in centre.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### 4.3.14.3 External Partnered Projects

#### **ACCAP** – Youth Centre Gapuwiyak

As per previous report the ACCAP Army Engineering and Civil Team, as part of the recurrent national program, are constructing a new Youth Centre as part of 3 projects in the Gapuwiyak Community region.



#### Percentage Completion 100%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

Service Profile: <u>129 - Core - Waste and Environmental Services</u>

**Business Unit:** Regional Waste and Environment

## **Budget Type: Capital**

4.1.2.1 Construct a residential waste transfer station at Yirrkala, subject to funding and required approvals

Project on hold. Awaiting results on consultation with Traditional Owners. Have been advised by NLC that consultations scheduled for January 2023. The results of this consultation will dictate the next steps in the construction of the Transfer Station.



#### Project Status - On hold 15%

#### 4.1.2.2 Construct a residential waste transfer station at Gunyangara

A small Waste Transfer Station is currently being developed at Gunyangara. Nhulunbuy Civil have cleared and leveled the area, and a scheduled to compact the community drop off zone and develop some earth bunds around the perimeter for storm water runoff protection by the end of October. The resurfacing and grading of the area has now been completed. A small green waste section is being earth bunded this month and a contractor is being arranged to install signage around the facility.

Once Nhulunbuy Civil complete the green waste section, skip bins and shipping containers will be set up in the facility to begin operations. A small education and information program will be delivered to the community to advise of the area.



## Project Status - Ongoing 85%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### Budget Type: New Initiatives - Operating one-off

# 4.1.5.2 Develop and implement environmental management plans for all Council operated Waste Management and Transfer Station Facilities

Environmental Management Plans (EMP) have been developed and implemented across the six landfill facilities at Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak and Galiwin'ku. Three draft EMPs are currently being prepared for Angurugu, Yirrkala and Gunyangara Transfer Stations.



#### **Project Status – Partially Completed 75%**

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

# 4.1.5.3 Construct a container style site office and off the grid service connections at the Galiwin'ku Waste Management Facility.

A container is already on site and installed at the facility. Scoping and design of the new office space has begun. Office container has been cleaned and re-painted, with a concrete pad laid for a footpath and for positioning of genset and air conditioner. Awaiting for on-site toilet, all other facilities have been completed.



#### **Project Status - Ongoing 85%**

# 4.1.5.5 Monitor the ongoing Waste Management Facility Contractor Induction education and site procedures with new community contractors.

An online induction has been developed for each landfill facility. All new contractors are provided links to the induction and advised to complete before disposing of waste.

To date three new contractors have completed inductions for the 2022-23 Financial Year.

#### Project Status - N/A

# 4.1.5.6 Construct Listed Waste Compounds at the Ramingining Waste Management facility

Advised in previous Council meeting, project is now complete. Signage was erected around the separation bays and directional signs and welcome signs were erected in late November. Below are some images of the signage for the new separation bays.



#### Project Status - Complete 100%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

4.1.5.7 Investigate hydrogeological and associated groundwater monitoring requirements and cost modeling for future capital or grant funding opportunities.

As advised in last Council Report, project has been completed.



#### **Project Complete 100%**

## 4.1.6.1 Develop a Master Site Plan for each of Council's Waste Management Facilities.

Updated master site plans are planned for development in FY22. All six landfill sites historic data will be reviewed, as well as future planning to schedule out new waste cells and life of facility estimations. Currently, all site plans are in draft form and nearing completion.



### **Project Status - Ongoing 50%**

#### Install a site monitoring CCTV Camera at the Gunyangara Waste Management 4.1.6.2 Facility

This project has yet to be initiated. Planning is underway to assess landfill CCTV software across sites and this install will form part of that assessment.



#### Project Status - Not started

Budget Type: New Initiatives - Operating ongoing

Implement and manage appropriate public area litter infrastructure and 4.1.9.12 collection schedules within all communities.

Ongoing core service in all communities: Waste Services are trying to setup a visit with Keep Australia Beautiful NT to assist in the development of community specific litter management plans, provide some education to local organisations and provide some strategies that are working in other communities. Expected to organise community visits in December and January to start developing a plan for each community.

Waste services went out to quote for the development of a Galiwin'ku litter management plan and community consultation. Cross Cultural Consultants (CCC) were awarded the project and are planning their initial community consultation in March. CCC are a privately owned and managed Aboriginal business committed to creating opportunities for social, economic and cultural development through custom consultancy and strategy. They are experienced in delivering community-led co-design, ensuring that local voices and local priorities are heard through engagement.

This project will focus on conducting community/stakeholder consultations over several trips to Galiwin'ku to develop;

- A litter management vision;
- Goals for the next 2 years with measureable action plans;
- Community feedback surveys;
- Community based litter and waste education materials;
- Litter prevention guides; and
- Reuse and recycling tips.





#### Project Status – Planning 15%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

4.1.14.1

Develop, support and monitor the undertaking of monthly community waste education presentations and events such as CDS and Litter for Cash in conjunction with the Local Municipal Services, Community Development, and School based programs in selected communities.

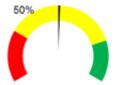
Cash 4 Containers has been planned to re-start throughout the region in February as staff are now all back from their various end of year holidays. CDS days have are planned for Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Yirrkala, Gunyangara and Galiwin'ku in the month of February.

With the recent trials of the TT-30 container counter at Milingimbi CDS Depot, Council are also looking at procuring a second refurbished machine from Envirobank for one of its smaller CDS programs. As well as this, a Tender has been released for the supply of four container counting machines for Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak and Galiwin'ku.

As well as CDS, Waste Services also other projects;

- Due to the success of Cash 4 Trash in Milingimbi, Council are also looking to roll out the program in Galiwin'ku to try to reduce the amount of litter in the community. Waste Services are hoping to initiate the program in early 2023 and then align it to the Quarterly Clean-Up weeks moving forward.
- Waste services and the MS Team are also looking at engaging with the Milingimbi CDP program around regular community clean-up day events to promote healthy living and environmental awareness.
- Waste Services have also started the procurement process to engage a consultant to conduct community consultation with residents in Galiwin'ku to inform a Community wide

Litter Management Strategy. It is expected this program rolls out in the first half of 2023.



#### **Project Status - Ongoing**

4.1.14.2

Implement and conduct a quarterly community household rewards program for waste and environmental practices in each community in conjunction with the Community Development program in each community.

Planning has begun to conduct rewards programs in conjunction with the quarterly community clean-ups. A Bulk Waste Clean-Up was conducted across all nine communities during the week of the 6 to the 10 February.

Waste Services are hoping to grow the rewards programs across all nine communities as part of the Quarterly Hard Rubbish Cleanups. It is planned to continue to roll out Tidiest Yard awards, as well as prizes for Cash 4 Container Recycler of the Year in each Community, Cash 4 Trash in Galiwin'ku as well as other initiatives and competitions. The next Clean-Up week is scheduled for 8 to the 12 May 2023.



#### Project Status - Ongoing

Budget Type: Operating (recurrent)

1.4.2.2 Conduct Quarterly waste services customer satisfaction surveys with community residents and organisations.

Surveys have been developed for both residents and community organisations using smartsheet. The first round of community surveys have been completed on Groote Eylandt with positive feedback regarding Council's management of waste as well as our contractor's kerbside collection performance. Further surveys will be conducted throughout the region to close out the first round of community feedback surveys.

All community participants also receive this gift bag for completing the survey and go into the draw to win \$100 ALPA vouchers.



#### **Project Status – Planning and Design**

2.6.2.4 Pursue grant funding opportunities to enhance waste, environment and sustainability delivery and capital infrastructure.

Two grants have been awarded for this financial year for Waste Services. Waste Services will continue to monitor grant opportunities throughout the financial year.



## **Project Status Completed - Target Achieved.**

4.1.1.1

Outsource waste collection where opportunity to do so exists and is of financial and social benefit to Council. Annually review existing contracts to ensure an effective and efficient waste collection service is achieved and that Council is receiving value for money.

Council have outsourced waste collection in the communities of Angurugu, Umbakumba, Yirrkala and Gunyangara. New contracts have been provided to the Tender winners and the new services have started to be delivered.



#### Project Status - Complete 100%

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

Manage a regular residential kerb side waste collection service at Angurugu, 4.1.4.1 Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Galiwinku and Milingimbi.

This is an ongoing core service. Council provide twice weekly kerb side waste collection for all communities.

Manage a regular commercial kerb side waste collection service at Angurugu, 4.1.4.2 Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Galiwinku and Milingimbi.

This is an ongoing core service. Council provide twice weekly kerb side waste collection for all communities.

4.1.4.3 Coordinate and monitor quarterly waste bin audits and repairs in conjunction with the Municipal Services Program in each community.

Waste Services have been trialing the use of Konect software for wheelie bin audits. Due to the success of these audits, this financial year all bin repairs/audits will be begin to be captured through Konect, with the assistance of Municipal Services.

The first Wheelie Bin audit has been completed and the MS Teams have been busy repairing and replacing broken bins identified during the bin audit.



#### **Project Status – Planning & Design**

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

4.1.5.1 Manage Landfill / Transfer station operations in Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Angurugu, Umbakumba, Milyakburra, Yirrkala, and Ramingining.

This is an ongoing core service of the Council.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

# 4.1.7.1 Monitor and report on the approved 10 year Waste Management Strategy

Waste Services have completed the FY22 Environmental Monitoring and Audit Report of each facility. Overall, management of all facilities were satisfactory and met the requirements of Council's Environmental Management Plan.

There were no reportable safety incidents recorded at the facilities, no environmental incidents and zero Lost-Time Injury hours recorded.



### **Project Status - Completed**

Enter into partnerships and agreements, particularly for the transport or processing of recyclable material, to maximize the recycling opportunities for East Arnhem communities.

Currently, Council have ongoing recycling partnerships with:

- Sea Swift (Barging of materials back to Darwin)
- Envirobank (Container Deposit Scheme);
- Ecocycle (Household Batteries);
- Mobilemuster (Mobile Phones and Accessories);
- TechCollect (E-Waste);
- TyreCycle (Tyres);
- Sell & Parker (Scrap Metal and lead acid batteries); and
- Veolia (Waste Oil and other hazardous materials).

#### Project Status - Ongoing review and assessment

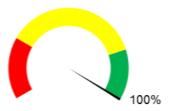
# 4.1.7.3 Undertake and report on the removal of recycling streams within each community location.

The table below illustrates materials recovered and transport back to Darwin for recycling so far this financial year. So far ten different recyclable materials streams have been recovered from the region.

The Councils goal is to have a minimum of nine resource recovery streams available to residents, which has now been achieved for FY23.

	Batteries	CDS	Mobile Phones	Scrap Metal	Tyres	E-Waste	Waste Oil	Damaged Bins	Printer Cartridges	Household Batteries	Gas Bottles
Angurugu	1 Box	19,721				1 Pallet		2 t			
Umbakumba	1 Box	2,112			110 tyres						
Milyakburra		0									
Ramingining	1 Box	51,391	15	472.25 t	104 Tyres		1,640 L				
Milingimbi	2 Boxes	30,891		322.96 t		2 Pallets					
Gapuwiyak	1 Box	208,403	12		82 tyres						
Galiwinku	2 Boxes	12,757				5 Pallets					0.596 t
Yirrkala	1 Box	19,146	33		64 tyres	2 Pallets		0.52 t	2 bags	1 bucket	
Gunyangara		18,817				1 Pallet					

Table 1. Resource Recovery up to 10 February 2023



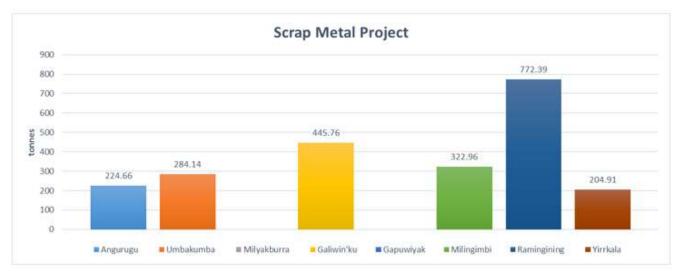
# <u>Project Status – Ongoing</u> (Target achieved)

#### **Scrap Metal Recovery**

The major project operating in this space is the Scrap Metal Recovery Project. This has been an ongoing project. Sell & Parker have since moved to Milingimbi where they have recovered and shipped 323 tonnes to date.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting document for photographs.

Due to unforeseen delays with barge availability, it is unknown when Milingimbi will be completed. Council are currently investigating other transport options to complete the project as Sea Swift have been unreliable and caused significant delays.



Graph. Scrap Metal Recovery for all Communities



#### **Project Status - Ongoing 75%**

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

# 4.1.7.4 Organise and support the Undertaking of CDS monthly collection community events to be held in each Community by the Municipal Services Program.

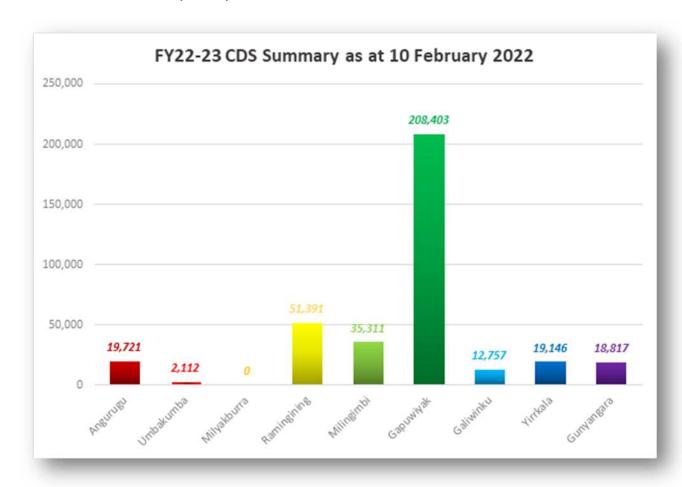
This is an ongoing monthly project. Cash 4 Containers is scheduled for the last week of every month across the nine communities. The results for the first seven months of FY23 by community can be seen in the table below. 367,658 containers were collected and sorted across all communities with Gapuwiyak collecting the most with 208,403.

<sup>\*</sup>Refer supporting documentation for photographs.

FY2022-23	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Angurugu	13,264	929		5,528						19,721
Umbakumba	671			994		447				2,112
Milyakburra										0
Ramingining		20,892	21,701			8,798				51,391
Milingimbi		7,281	13,302			10,308		4,420		35,311
Gapuwiyak	36,990		61,166		70,835			39,412		208,403
Galiwinku		5,194	2,850	2,401	2,312					12,757
Yirrkala	5,479			13,667						19,146

Gunyangara		6,128		12,689						18,817
Totals	56,404	40,424	99,019	35,279	73,147	19,553	0	43,832	0	367,658

Table. FY23 CDS Community/Monthly breakdown



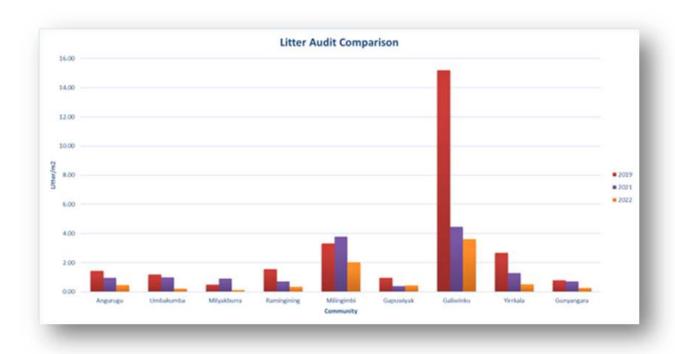


#### **Project Status - Ongoing**

# 4.1.9.11 Coordinate and report on Bi –Annual ground litter audits in conjunction with the municipal Services Program in each Community.

Bi-annual audits have now been completed for all communities. Below are the results to date. As the graph illustrates, there has been a general reduction in litter across the communities since 2019. While the results indicate a positive change in litter management in the communities, there is still significant work to do to continually improve in this area and education residents regarding waste and litter management.

Although the results have decreased it is clear that there are still litter issues at Milingimbi and Galiwin'ku which Council are looking at resolving though targeted litter management strategies, including specific litter management plans, community consultation and Cash 4 Trash.





#### **Project Status - Ongoing**

#### Other Projects

#### WS-01 Implement an aerial mosquito and weed spray program within locations

Council staff completed drone training in October 2022 with The Ripper Aviation Academy. Staff were trained in safe operation of DJI Agras T30, DJI Phantom 4 RTK and the use of the GNSS Mobile Base Station and software. Remote Pilot Licenses have now been obtained by sub 25kg drones as well as to operate the DJI Agras T30 for operational weed spraying and mosquito fogging.

The next step is to ensure all operators have completed their Chemical Handling Certification and to develop a plan and schedule to better address weed management across the communities and mosquito management where necessary.

Weed identification and chemical handling training for Municipal and Waste Services staff has been scheduled for the last week of February. All staff that complete the training will receive the following certifications;

- AHCPMG201 Treat Weeds
- AHCCHM201 Apply Chemicals under Supervision
- AHCCHM304 Transport and Store Chemicals
- AHCCHM307 Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control Pests, Weeds and Diseases

While the drone program is still in the planning stage, Municipal Services are still focused on ensuring they deliver quality weed management to their communities through the use of handheld spray. Below are some images of some recent weed management work conducted at Umbakumba.



## Project Status - Training

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

## WS-02 Asbestos Remediation Project – Galiwin'ku

With Stage 1 complete, EARC are working on proposals to present to the upcoming Project Control Group meeting to continue to progress the project. The proposals include;

- A second 10 day of Emu Picking visible asbestos to further provide clearance certification for public places;
- Engaging with the NT EPA to initiate the remediation process for the historic dumping areas on the outskirts of the community;
- Engage a consultant to begin the Preliminary Site Investigation; which is a requirement of a remediation project;
- Extending the Environmental Project Officers role for a further 24 months to continue to manage the project through to completion.

#### WS-03 Illegal Dumping - Yirrkala

Ongoing illegal dumping has continued at an old gravel site behind the Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation compound. Waste Services have engaged contractors to remove all oils and batteries for the abandoned vehicles and then collect of rubbish and abandoned vehicles for disposal at the Nhulunbuy Waste Facility.

Once all rubbish has been removed, earth bunds will be put in place to block access down into this area to deter future dumping. This is expected to be completed by the end of February.

Service Profile 169 - Core - Municipal Services
Business Unit: Technical and Infrastructure

#### **Snap Send Solve**

Snap Send Solve are thrilled to reveal that East Arnhem Regional Council is the **Northern Territory state winner** of the **Customer Service Award** in the inaugural 2022 Solver of The Year Awards!

EARC out-performed **20** organisations to be named the highest achiever in this category. Snap Send Solve extended their sincere congratulations to EARC.

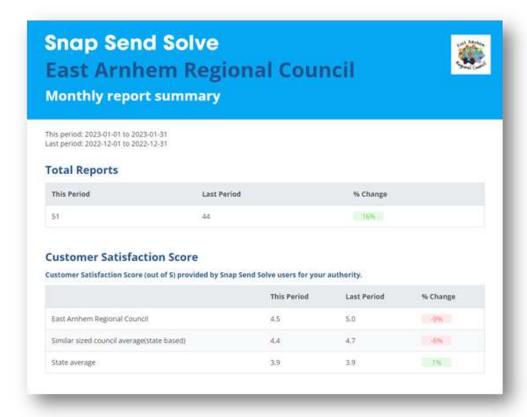
This is the first ever year for the Solver of the Year Awards. They highlight the Solver organisations that make a notable difference to their local communities throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Snap Send Solve (SSS) will announce winners in the week of 13 - 17 February via the following:

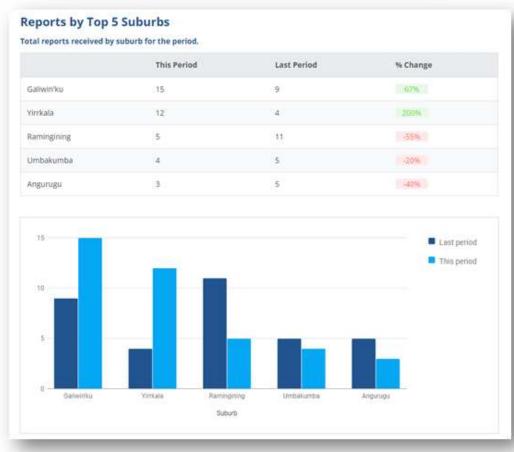
- Snapper EDMs announcing relevant winners in each region
- Social media to Snappers & Solvers: Instagram, Facebook, Twitter & LinkedIn
- o Blog posts on SSS website
- Press release via our PR agency

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.









#### **Training**

The Cert 111 Civil & Construction has commenced across multiple communities with many more training opportunities completed, in progress and upcoming.

- WZ2 & WZ3 Traffic Management
- Chainsaw & Tree felling training.

#### Cert III in Civil Construction (Plant Operations)

First Block of Training:

Angurugu, Umbakumba & Groote Eylandt: 13 -17 February

Second Block of Training:

Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak & Milingimbi: 13 - 17 March

#### Weeds Identification and Control Training

#### **Training Part 1**

AHCPMG201 – Treat Weeds AHCCHM201 – Apply Chemicals Under Supervision

- 1. Milingimbi week commencing 13 February (2 days)
- 2. Ramingining—week commencing 13 February (2 days)
- 3. Galiwin'ku– week commencing 20 February (2 days)
- 4. Gove Peninsula– week commencing 20 February (2 days)

#### Training Part 2 – Gove Peninsular & MSS

AHCCHM304 – Transport and Store Chemicals AHCCHM307 – Prepare and Apply Chemicals to Control, Pest, Weeds and Diseases

Gove Peninsula – week commencing 27th February (2 days)

#### AHCPGD206 Conduct Visual Inspection of Park Facilities

Municipal Services Staff and Strategic/Public Works Infrastructure Manager are now enrolled and currently completing the course online. This will be vital for the compliance inspection of public area assets across the region via the Konect platform.

#### Public Area Infrastructure Updates

#### Milingimbi War Memorial

Five flag poles have been ordered and quotes have been sent to contractors to repaint the memorial wall to "Ochre Red" after general wear and tear and graffiti to ensure the revamp is completed prior to ANZAC Day Celebrations on April 25th.

#### Gapuwiyak Oval Lighting

Two replacement drivers were installed in January 2023 and lights are now operational, the automatic function for YSR to turn the lights on and off will be installed in the coming weeks.

#### Gapuwiyak Oval Goal Posts

The replacement goal posts were delivered to Seaswift on 09.02.2023 and have now arrived in Gapuwiyak.

#### Galiwin'ku Basketball Backboards, Hoops & Chain Net

Six new complete backboards have now arrived community with quotes sort from local contractor to install.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### **KONECT Audits**

The Waste & Municipal Services team conducted the Galiwinku bin audit, with a total 377 bins on 18.01.2023 with replacement and repairs taken place. The Waste team will now travel to all remaining communities as part of their quarterly schedule.

Available Municipal Services Officer Positions are available in Umbakumba, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku & Yirrkala. We have an exciting program this year and multiple training opportunities, we welcome anyone interested to visit your local council office and put your name down.

#### Yirrkala Mowing

Contractors were engaged for a two week period to assist Municipal Services with mowing of Public Areas within Yirrkala. There are further works to be completed and further engagements to ensure the team maintain their regular mowing schedule. The MS team have commenced weed spraying with new machine assisted by Adam Johnson COM/MSS Gunyangara.

## Galiwin'ku Mowing

Local Contractors are engage to assist with mowing/slashing of public areas. Works commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> February and will continue until further notice.

\*Refer supporting document for photographs.

#### Municipal Services/Public Works 2022 Video

Please see attached a short video of Municipal & Public Works highlights for the 2022 across the region.

- Maintaining park and gardens
- Training
- Asset register for Municipal Services workshop
- Well organised and maintained workshops
- Streetlight audit
- Asset Inspection and maintenance of public infrastructure assets

The video was compiled for the December 2022 Council meeting but with time constraints we have moved to today's council meeting.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the Technical & Infrastructure Services report.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

There are no attachments to this report.

## **TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**ITEM NUMBER** 7.2

TITLE Telstra Investment and Connectivity Update

Presentation

REFERENCE 1724364

**AUTHOR** Shane Marshall, Director Technical & Infrastructure Services

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report is tabled for Council as a follow up from the last Ordinary Council Meeting, requesting information from Telstra surrounding investment in Regional Infrastructure and improved connectivity.

#### **GENERAL**

Council officers have been trying to arrange attendance from senior NT staff of Telstra to provide updates to members on outlined current and forecasted investment across the region, with the focus on the mainland communities, given a range of investment was approved with repeater and linkages around the Groote Eylandt areas.

Unfortunately after multiple attempts and due to the unavailability of Senior Telstra staff we have been unable to secure this attendance.

We have however had confirmation of a meeting request on the 7 March with Mr. Nic Danks – a senior officer of Telstra, and the manager senior to him, Dale Keehne the CEO of EARC and the Director of Technical and Infrastructure Services. A Microsoft team's / video meeting link will be arranged for interested elected members to raise any concerns and questions they may have to seek some clarity on future investment and service reliability.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council note the update on the meeting request and Telstra information.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.



## **TECHNICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

**ITEM NUMBER** 7.3

TITLE Proposed Umbakumba Laundry Site

**REFERENCE** 1730825

**AUTHOR** Shane Marshall, Director Technical & Infrastructure Services

#### SUMMARY:

This report is tabled for Council regarding approval for the location and positioning of a funded laundromat within the area of lot 229 Umbakumba.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In line with previous reports regarding approvals for similar facilities namely, the Angurugu laundry facility, the Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust (GEAT) have been corresponding with East Arnhem Regional Council offices in relation to potential sites for a laundry facility within Umbakumba.

#### **GENERAL**

The area that has been identified is on lot 229 next to the Umbakumba Council office. This position has access to utility service connections and open access arrangements for parking.

With the Umbakumba Local Authority not convening a meeting since September 2022 GEAT were asked to seek local support through the local consortium members for support regarding the project to be tabled with Council.

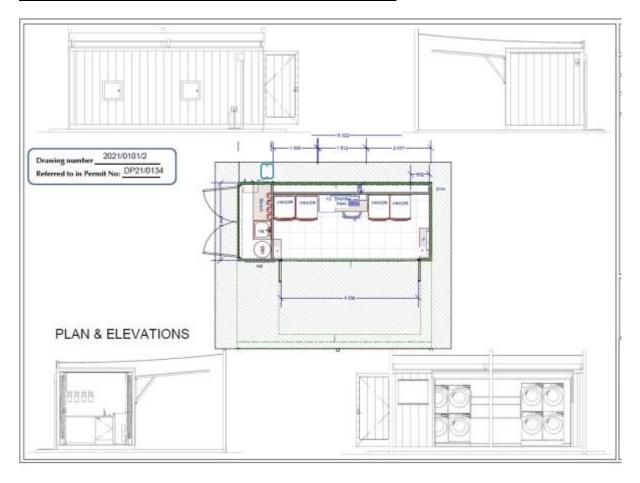
The proposed facility will be fully paid for covering the installation and all ongoing maintenance liabilities, ensuring the needs of the residents into the future.

# **Proposed Area Consulted On**





## **Layout Design of Previous Installations to be Installed**



The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council supports the proposed laundry installation to be located on lot 229 Umbakumba, as supported by the community.

# ATTACHMENTS:

1 Umbakumba Reference Group Signatures.jpg



After reading or having been advised about the information regarding a suitable location of the proposed laundry at Umbakumba,

I support / do not support locating the laundry on Lot 229 Town of Umbakumba.

Date	Name	Address	Circle below
24/01/2023	ROBINA	umbakumb	Support Not support
24/01/2023	Helen Mamar	the Umbakum 1149 Umbakumb	Support/Not support
24/01/2023	Betty Wurgw	1149 Umbakumb	Gupport Not support
24/01/2023	Donnamar	narika Umbo	Support/Not support
24/01/2023	Jennie Barcibaro	Umbakumba.	Support/Not support
	mildred Mamnet		20000000000000000000000000000000000000
24/01/2023	CLIVE WURRAW	vilyn - Umbaki	Avnio Support Not suppor
24/01/2023	JASON YANT	ARR NAA. umba	Support Not suppor
4/01/2023 V	IANESSA MA	MARIKA	Support/Not suppor
4/01/2023		ARA	Support Not suppor
4/01/2023	Raelene Mamar	-ika.	Support/Not suppor
	RAYSHAUN M		BA Support/Not suppor
	Ananias we		Support/Not suppor
	JIBSON -	umba	Support/Not support
1/01/2023		-	Support/Not support
1/01/2023 Č	- lijah Ma	marika.	Support/Not support
/01/2023	Fobian Lal	ala	Support Not support
	BETHUEL		Support/Not suppo

Attachment 1 Page 67

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

**ITEM NUMBER** 8.1

TITLE Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy -

Review

**REFERENCE** 1726010

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development

#### **SUMMARY**

This report is to provide information to the Elected Members on the proposed updates to the East Arnhem Regional Council Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy following the introduction of the Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Bill 2022.

The report provides the opportunity for the Elected Members to reflect on the proposed Policy and to directly influence the final policy and the management of the East Arnhem Regional Council Community cemeteries.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On 29 November 2022, the Territory Government passed legislation that expressly respects traditional Aboriginal burial practices. The Burial and Cremation Act 2022 enables traditional owners to notify authorities about burials and exhumations in areas outside of a community controlled cemetery, rather than seeking approval.

The Act also allows for those who make decisions for land to maintain autonomy in how burials are conducted, without needing to adopt a Westernised cemetery management approach.

Different practices for the burial, exhumation, and disposal of human remains are allowed in certain areas, and take into account economic, social, cultural, and regional interests.

The Burial and Cremation Act 2022 replaces 70-year-old legislation that pre-dated Aboriginal Land Rights in the NT.

Why new legislation was needed: Previously, cemeteries in regional and remote communities on Aboriginal land were not legally recognised. This means in many cases burial records were not kept for these areas. East Arnhem Regional Council has maintained burial records for burials inside Community cemeteries since 2018.

The new legislation ensures that burial areas in Communities cemeteries are legally recognised, and records of burials are maintained. This will help ensure that people across the Northern Territory will have a record of where deceased loved ones are buried.

Having a record of burial sites will ensure they are respected and that future generations can have a connection to their family history.

The draft Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy was reviewed by the Local Authorities in the January 2023 round of meetings. The Policy was accepted without amendment by all Local Authorities that met.

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#### **GENERAL**

#### What has Changed with the Legislation:

- The new legislation requires records be kept for all burials in the NT.
- · Allows burying in cemeteries, burial grounds and other areas.
- Ensures that those responsible for the land have power to decide whether cemeteries or burial grounds are recognised, this includes Traditional Owners of Aboriginal land.
- Ensures that a decision maker for the deceased can be a person with authority under Aboriginal customs and traditions, this is also known as a senior next of kin.

#### **Burial Areas**

The new legislation recognises two types of burial areas:

- · Cemeteries.
- · Burial Grounds.

The difference between a cemetery and a burial ground is that the latter doesn't have an organisation that looks after and manages the area.

There are four possible types of cemeteries, managed by the following organisations:

- Public cemeteries urban cemeteries managed by local government councils.
- Community cemeteries regional and remote cemeteries managed by local government councils.
- Local cemeteries regional and remote cemeteries managed by Aboriginal corporations or other organisations.
- Independent cemeteries cemeteries managed by private organisations.

You must apply to the relevant organisation for a burial to take place in the cemetery. The organisation will keep records of all burials.

#### **Burials and Other Areas**

People can bury outside of a cemetery, such as:

- Burial Grounds.
- Out on Country.
- On Pastoral properties.
- Near Homelands.

Although a burial ground is a declared area, there is no responsible organisation to manage a burial ground.

A representative nominated by the land owner can consent to burials in burial grounds.

Land owners can decide if the area becomes a:

- Cemetery or
- Burial Ground.

They can also decide if it continues to be an undeclared area.

Individuals must notify the department about a burial in a burial ground or other areas, the department to be notified is not the East Arnhem Regional Council.

The department keeps records of all burials outside of cemeteries.

Under the new legislation, individuals must notify the department if you are burying outside a cemetery. A burial notification for outside of a cemetery is not an approval process.

#### **Policy Updates**

The East Arnhem Regional Council Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy has been updated to reflect the changes in the new legislation. This is the second update since the proposed legislation was first tabled in 2019. The last update was considered and approved by Local Authority in July 2020 and endorsed by Council on 8 May 2020.

Many of the changes in the first revision have remained in the current policy, including the provision of \$1000.00 in kind service to residents of the Community who have completed a Burial Application Form and are conducting the burial inside the Community cemetery.

The policy purpose is to define the level of support provided to residents of the East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) communities undertaking funeral activities, and define management, service and record keeping activities of the Council controlled community cemeteries and other burial activities.

#### Policy Objectives include:

- To define hours of operational support (funeral services).
- To define services available.
- Apply limitations to gratis services offered by the Council.
- · Apply applicable fees to non-gratis funeral services.
- Ensure compliance with records management per relevant legislation.

East Arnhem Regional Council is responsible for the efficient delivery of local government services and a range of agency funded services to nine (9) communities in East Arnhem Land. Under the Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Act 2022 (ACT) Council has set statutory obligations.

EARC receives financial assistance to maintain and provide administration of cemeteries as part of the Council's core services defined in the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019. This financial assistance covers cemetery maintenance and management.

Council is recognised as the responsible entity for cemeteries within communities administered by Council under the Northern Territory Local Government Act and Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Act 2022.

The manager of the cemetery is the Chief Executive officer or an individual within a position with delegation to act as the Manager.

The following principles have been applied to the development of the policy:

- (1) To enable and accommodate different methods and practices for the burial, exhumation and disposal of human remains, including respecting the rights of Aboriginal people to practice customs and traditions in relation to burials, exhumations and disposals; and
- (2) to ensure records of burials, exhumations and disposals of human remains are kept and maintained for the benefit of next of kin and future generations; and

(3) to regulate record keeping for the protection and maintenance of burial sites; and

- (4) to recognise different burial areas for the burial of human remains; and
- (5) to regulate cemeteries for the burial of human remain;, and
- (6) to regulate the management of cemeteries in a way that takes into account economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and regional interests; and
- (7) to regulate facilities for the disposal of human remains.

The Policy has also been drafted on the recognition of rights and interests of Aboriginal people.

Attached to this report is the draft policy for review.

Questions for the Local Authority members to consider when reviewing the policy:

Section 5.1 Cemetery Access

Section 5.3 Funeral Services (Section (2) Gratis Services)

Section 5.4 Hours of Availability

Section 5.5 Notification

Section 5.6 Application for burial approval within a Community Cemetery

Section 5.8 Applicable fees

Section 5.10 Refusal of Service

Section 5.12 Burial without approval

Section 5.13 Burial outside cemetery

Section 5.15 Services not provided

Please note that under the new legislation it is now an offence to conduct a burial without approval within a Community cemetery or without providing notification to the department outside of a cemetery (Section 5.12 Burial without approval).

Council's recommendations on records management is valued, the Act and the proposed policy deem *culturally sensitive information*, in relation to a deceased person, information identified as culturally sensitive in:

- (1) a burial application / approval form;
- (2) a burial notification;
- (3) an application for exhumation and relocation of human remains under section 87(1) of the Act;
- (4) an exhumation notification;
- (5) a disposal approval form.

The burial application form requires the following information. Recommendations of all the EARC Local Authorities endorsed the decision maker for the deceased to decide what information is classified as culturally sensitive.

Burial Application Form requirements:

- (a) The following details regarding the applicant:
  - full name, address and contact details;
  - relationship to the deceased person.
- (b) One of the following documents in relation to the deceased person:
  - a notice under section 34(1) of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996;
  - a certificate under section 12(3) of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996;
  - a certificate issued by the coroner or the coroner's clerk under section 17(1) of the Coroners Act 1993:
  - a certificate issued by the Registrar under section 44(1)(a) of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996 certifying the registration of the death of the deceased person;
- (c) Confirmation of the notification of, or confirmation of reasonable attempts to notify, the decision maker for the deceased person.
- (d) Any objection, known to the applicant, from the decision maker for the deceased person to the burial of the deceased person.
- (e) The time and date the service is requested for.
- (f) Preferred location inside the Cemetery or approved burial ground.
- (g) Authorisation for the records to be kept by the East Arnhem Regional Council.

**Culturally sensitive information** will be redacted in any request to access the Community cemetery register.

All Local Authorities that reviewed the draft policy resolved that the decision maker for the deceased person should have autonomy to decide what information is culturally sensitive.

The Policy also list services that East Arnhem Regional Council do not provide in a Community Cemetery or for other burial locations:

- (a) Multiple burials in the same plot.
- (b) Cremation.
- (c) Disposal of human remains.
- (d) Exclusive rights of burial.
- (e) Construction or erection of structures for interment.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **That Council:**

- (a) Notes the report.
- (b) Approves the draft Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy.
- (c) Approves adoption of records management practice for the EARC Burial Register and Cemetery management that allows the decision maker for the deceased to decide what information is classed as culturally sensitive information.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**:

Funeral Services and Cemetery Management Policy - DRAFT - FINAL EDIT 06.01.2023.docx



Policy Number	OPS/008	
Policy Category	Operations	
Responsibility	Director – Community Development	
Council decision (reference):		
Legislative reference:	Local Government Act 2019, Burial and Cremation Act 2022	
Policy reference:		
Next Review date:	4 Years from adoption	

#### 1. Purpose

This policy is to define the level of support provided to residents of the East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) communities undertaking funeral activities and define management, service and record keeping activities of the Council controlled community cemeteries and other burial activities.

#### 1.1 Policy Objectives

- (1) To define hours of operational support (funeral services)
- (2) To define services available
- (3) Apply limitations to gratis services offered by the Council
- (4) Apply applicable fees to non-gratis funeral services
- (5) Ensure compliance with records management per relevant legislation

The East Arnhem Regional Council is responsible for the efficient delivery of local government services and a range of agency funded services to nine (9) communities in East Arnhem Land. Under the Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Act 2022 (ACT) Council has set statutory obligations.

EARC receives financial assistance to maintain and provide administration of cemeteries as part of the Council's core services defined in the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019. This financial assistance covers cemetery maintenance and management.

Council is recognised as the responsible entity for cemeteries within communities administered by Council under the Northern Territory Local Government Act and Northern Territory Burial and Cremation Act 2022. The manager of the cemetery is the Chief Executive officer or an individual within a position with delegation to act as the Manager.

#### 2. Principles

The following principles will be followed:

(1) to enable and accommodate different methods and practices for the burial, exhumation and disposal of human remains, including respecting the rights of Aboriginal people to practice

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customs and traditions in relation to burials, exhumations and disposals; and

- (2) to ensure records of burials, exhumations and disposals of human remains are kept and maintained for the benefit of next of kin and future generations; and
- (3) to regulate record keeping for the protection and maintenance of burial sites; and
- (4) to recognise different burial areas for the burial of human remains; and
- (5) to regulate cemeteries for the burial of human remains; and
- (6) to regulate the management of cemeteries in a way that takes into account economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and regional interests; and
- (7) to regulate facilities for the disposal of human remains.

#### 2.1 Recognition of rights and interests of Aboriginal people

- (1) The rights and interests of Aboriginal traditional owners and Aboriginal people specified in subsections ((2), (3) and (4) Burial and Cremation Act 2022) are to be recognised and the regulation of burials, exhumations, disposals and related activities under this Act must be in harmony with those rights and interests.
- (2) The Act and this Policy is not intended to limit traditional rights to use Aboriginal land otherwise than in accordance with the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).
- (3) The Act and this Policy is not intended to limit native title rights and interests otherwise than in accordance with the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).
- (4) The Act and this Policy must be interpreted in a way that does not prejudice traditional rights and interests to use Aboriginal land and native title rights and interests to the extent those rights and interests are recognised and protected by law.

#### 3. Definitions

**Aboriginal community living area** means an area granted as an Aboriginal community living area under Part 8 of the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*, or the corresponding previous legislative provisions.

**Aboriginal community living area association**, see section 7 of the *Local Government Act* 2019.

**Aboriginal land**, see section 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Cth).

**burial** for the purposes of this policy means the following:

(a) natural burial in the ground without a shroud or funerary box;

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- (b) burial in the ground in a shroud;
- (c) burial in the ground in a funerary box;

burial area means the following areas of land:

- (a) a cemetery;
- (b) a burial ground.

burial fee, for a burial, means a fee charged for the following:

- (a) digging the grave;
- (b) any other fee for a service required to undertake the burial.

burial ground means an area of land declared to be a burial ground by the Minister.

cemetery means an area of land declared to be a cemetery by the Minister.

cemetery plan means a plan required for a cemetery.

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency.

Chief Executive Officer means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council.

**Manager** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council or their delegate responsible for the management and administration of the Council controlled cemetery.

closed cemetery, see section 106 of the Act.

community cemetery means a class of cemetery declared under section 16(2)(b) of the Act.

council, see section 7 of the Local Government Act 2019.

*cremation* means the process of using fire and heat in a purpose-built furnace to reduce human remains to ashes.

*culturally sensitive information*, in relation to a deceased person, means information identified as culturally sensitive in:

- (a) a burial application / approval form;
- (b) a burial notification;
- (c) an application for exhumation and relocation of human remains under section 87(1) of the Act;
- (d) an exhumation notification;

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(e) a disposal approval form.

decision maker, see section 9 of the Act.

*decision notice*, for a decision, means a written notice setting out the matters required for a notice of decision under section 34 of the *Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2014*.

*declared infectious disease* means a disease declared by the Chief Health Officer under section 192(1) of the Act.

disposal, in relation to human remains, means disposal by:

- (a) cremation; or
- (b) any other process prescribed by regulation.

#### enforcement order:

(a) for a cemetery – means an order issued under section 164 of the Act.

exclusive right of burial means a right mentioned in section 50(1) of the Act.

exhumation approval, see section 87(5) of the Act.

**funeral director** means a person who carries on the business of arranging for the burial of human remains or the disposal of human remains.

**funerary box** includes a coffin, casket or other container used to keep human remains for burial.

**human remains** means the body, or part of a body, of a deceased person, but does not include a body, or part of a body, that is cremated or undergoes any other process of disposal prescribed by regulation.

independent cemetery means a class of cemetery declared under section 16(2)(d) of the Act.

inspector means an inspector appointed under section 149 of the Act.

interest holder, see section 8 of the Act.

**Land Council** means an Aboriginal Land Council established under the *Aboriginal Land Rights* (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth).

*local cemetery* means a class of cemetery declared under section 16(2)(c) of the Act.

#### manager:

(a) of a cemetery – see section 23(1) of the Act; or Chief Executive Officer of the Council or their delegate.

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*memorial* means a gravestone, headstone, tombstone, plaque, tablet, cenotaph or any other permanent physical object used to memorialise a deceased person.

*multiple burials* means the burial of human remains in a burial site where other human remains are already buried.

native title, see section 223 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

native title holder, see section 224 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

native title rights and interests, see section 223 of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth).

next of kin, see section 10 of the Act.

officer means a person specified in section 145(1) of the Act.

#### permanent record:

(a) for a cemetery – means the records specified in section 182(1) of the Act

*personal representative*, in relation to a grantee, means the person specified by the grantee under section 54(1)(b) of the Act.

#### premises includes:

- (a) land; and
- (b) a permanent or temporary building or construction on land.

**provider** means a person who, or body that, provides, or holds out to provide, a health service or community service.

public cemetery means a class of cemetery declared under section 16(2)(a) of the Act.

Public Trustee, see section 5 of the Public Trustee Act 1979.

representative for a burial ground, see section 36(1) of the Act.

#### responsible entity:

(a) for a cemetery – see section 4.1(1) of the Act.

**senior next of kin**, see section 11(1) of the Act.

structure means a building or a portion of a building used to inter human remains.

suspended cemetery, see section 168(1) of the Act.

suspension notice means a notice issued under section 175(1) of the Act.

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undeclared area means an area of land that is not within a burial area.

#### 4. Application of Policy

#### 4.1 Responsible entity for cemetery

- (1) The responsible entity for a cemetery is as follows:
  - (a) for a public cemetery or a community cemetery located in a council area the council;
  - (b) for a public cemetery or a community cemetery located outside a council area the entity specified in the notice under section 16(1) of the Act;
  - (c) for a local cemetery the Aboriginal corporation, Aboriginal community living area association or other entity specified in the notice under section 16(1) of the Act;
  - (d) for an independent cemetery the entity specified in the notice under section 16(1) of the Act.
- (2) The responsible entity for a cemetery must manage and control the cemetery
- (3) The responsible entity has the following functions:
  - (a) to establish a cemetery plan for the cemetery;
  - (b) to establish policies for the cemetery;
  - (c) to ensure that there is access to equipment to undertake burials and exhumations in the cemetery;
  - (d) to care for and maintain the cemetery;
  - (e) to fund the maintenance of the cemetery;
  - (f) to ensure that the cemetery is accessible to the public in accordance with the Act or another Act;
  - (g) to ensure that the burial register is accessible to the public in accordance with the Act or another Act;
  - (h) any other functions conferred on the responsible entity under the Act or another Act.
- (4) In exercising a power or function under the Act, the responsible entity must have regard to the following:
  - (a) if the cemetery serves a particular cultural or religious community the values of

Page 6 of 16

that community;

- (b) the heritage value of the cemetery, including the heritage significance of a heritage place or heritage object under the *Heritage Act 2011*;
- (c) the most efficient way of maintaining the cemetery.

#### 4.2 Manager of cemetery

- (1) The manager of a Council controlled cemetery is the Chief Executive Officer of the Council or their delegate.
- (2) The Council is required to notify the Agency of the following information regarding the manager of the cemetery:
  - (a) the full name of the manager;
  - (b) the contact details of the manager.
- (3) A notification under subsection (2) must be in writing and occur as soon as reasonably practicable after the person becomes the manager of the cemetery.

#### 4.3 Cemetery plans

- (1) Cemetery plans are available from the East Arnhem Regional Council community offices and the East Arnhem Regional Council website;
- (2) A cemetery plan includes the following information:
  - (a) the layout of the cemetery that identifies any portion of the cemetery for specific use;
  - (b) the types of burials available in the cemetery;
  - (c) the location of each burial site;
  - (d) that multiple burials are not permitted in the cemetery;
  - (e) that exclusive rights of burial are not available in the cemetery;
  - (f) the date the cemetery plan was last reviewed;
  - (g) any other matter prescribed by regulation.
- (3) A burial approval may still be given to bury human remains in the cemetery before the cemetery plan is established or if it is past its review date.
- (4) The Council must review the cemetery plan at least every 4 years.

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#### 5. Policy Statements

#### 5.1 Cemetery Access

#### (1) Visiting Hours

Cemeteries throughout East Arnhem Regional Council Communities are unsecured. In the interest of public safety, public opening hours of cemeteries are limited to day light hours only between dawn and dusk.

#### (2) Burial Access

Access to burial services is by application to the EARC and must be accompanied by the Burial Application Form.

The Burial Application Form is available via the EARC website or in person at the Council office.

Allocation of a burial plot and approval to bury will only be granted once a completed Burial Application Form has been submitted to the East Arnhem Regional Council.

#### 5.2 Contractor Access

Contractors undertaking works or grave site preparations must gain approval from the EARC prior to undertaking any works. A community or Council representative will be appointed to consult with the contractor on protocol and the area of planned work. The representative will assist the contractor in identification of poorly marked or barely distinguishable burial sites prior to undertaking any works within the cemetery.

#### 5.3 Funeral Services

#### (1) Cemetery Services

East Arnhem Regional Council services for cemetery maintenance and burials are as follows;

- (a) Grave site preparation
- (b) Cemetery Maintenance
- (c) Ceremonial sand delivery

#### (2) Gratis Services

Gratis Service is applicable by location and has a limitation calculated by the value of the service under the followingguidelines;

- (a) EARC Council provided services up to the value of \$1000
- (b) Once per deceased individual
- (c) Limited to the community and EARC administered cemetery where the burial will take place
- (d) For gratis funeral services provided please refer to 4.3 (3)

The gratis measure of \$1000.00 is an in-kind amount, thus cannot be;

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- (a) Used to purchase items
- (b) Paid to an external or third party for service or material
- (c) Held in credit for subsequent funerals of other relatives
- (d) Applied to funeral services requested outside of ordinary business hours

The gratis service amount will be drawn on by application of the fees as per EARC's schedule of rates for the current financial year.

Payment will be required for any service that exceeds the gratis amount as set in this policy.

#### (3) Available Gratis funeral services

Services listed below are subject to equipment availability and serviceability. Council will not be liable for costs of contracted services due to plant, equipment or human resources being unfit for service or unavailable at the time of the request.

- (a) Grave digging
- (b) Ceremonial sand delivery
- (c) General labour assisting in grave preparation activities

Other services may be available at each location, these are by negotiation with the local EARC office. Other services do not form part of the gratis services availability.

#### (4) Transportation of material

Sand requested to be relocated as part of funeral ceremonies must be accompanied by written permission/approval from the relevant Land Council where the sand is to be extracted from.

#### 5.4 Hours of availability

Funeral services as defined in this policy are provided during Council operational hours only and through fee for service arrangements subject to availability and serviceability.

Funeral Services hours of availability:

(a) 8:00am to 4:00pm weekdays

Fee for service is available:

- (a) Saturday between the hours of 8:00am and 6:30pm
- (b) Weekdays between the hours of 4:00pm and 6:30pm

No service is available:

On Sunday, gazette published public holidays or days observed by Council as non-working days (local cultural shutdown)

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#### 5.5 Notification

- (1) EARC's administration require a minimum of two working days' notice for any requested services.
- (2) Request must be accompanied by a completed Burial Application Form submitted to the EARC office.

#### 5.6 Application for burial approval

- (1) The manager of a cemetery may approve the burial of human remains in the cemetery once a completed Burial Application Form has been submitted.
- (2) A person may apply to the manager for a burial approval by submitting the following information on a Burial Application Form:
  - (a) the following details regarding the applicant:
    - i. full name, address and contact details;
    - ii. relationship to the deceased person;
  - (b) one of the following documents in relation to the deceased person:
    - i. a notice under section 34(1) of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages*\*\*Registration Act 1996;
    - ii. a certificate under section 12(3) of the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996*;
    - iii. a certificate issued by the coroner or the coroner's clerk under section 17(1) of the *Coroners Act 1993*;
    - iv. a certificate issued by the Registrar under section 44(1)(a) of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1996 certifying the registration of the death of the deceased person;
  - (c) confirmation of the notification of, or confirmation of reasonable attempts to notify, the decision maker for the deceased person;
  - (d) any objection, known to the applicant, from the decision maker for the deceased person to the burial of the deceased person.
  - (e) the time and date the service is requested for
  - (f) preferred location inside the Cemetery or approved burial ground
  - (g) authorisation for the records to be kept by the East Arnhem Regional

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#### Council

- (3) The manager of a cemetery may not apply for a burial approval under subsection (2) to bury human remains in that cemetery.
- (4) The manager of a cemetery may request a copy of the document required under subsection (2)(b)(i) or (ii) from a provider if the document is not submitted under subsection (2).
- (5) If the manager of a cemetery requests a copy of a document under subsection (4), the provider must provide a copy of the document to the manager unless the provider does not have access to the document.
- (6) The burial approval may be given subject to any conditions that the manager of the cemetery considers appropriate.
- (7) Despite subsection (6), the manager of a cemetery must not impose a condition on a burial approval that is intended to limit the exercise of rights and interests mentioned in section 5 of the Act unless the condition is imposed for environmental protection, public health purposes or public safety purposes.
- (8) If the manager of a cemetery knows there is an objection from the decision maker for the deceased person under subsection (2)(d) of this policy or section 45(1) of the Act, the manager of the cemetery must not approve the burial of the human remains of the deceased person unless the decision maker withdraws, in writing, the decision maker's objection.
- (9) A manager of a cemetery may refuse to approve a burial unless:
  - (a) the proposed burial relates to the exercise of rights and interests mentioned in section 5 of the Act; and
  - (b) the proposed burial does not contravene the Act or another Act.
- (10) If a manager of a cemetery refuses to approve a burial, the manager must give the applicant a decision notice.
- (11) Please see East Arnhem Regional Council Burial Application and Funeral Services Flow Chart Process for further instruction on process.

#### 5.7 Application for authorisation to erect memorial/headstone

- (1) Before erecting a memorial in a public cemetery, a person must, in writing, apply to the manager of the cemetery for authorisation to erect a memorial in the cemetery using the Memorial application form.
- (2) The manager may authorise the erection of the memorial in accordance with any policy determined by the responsible entity.

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- (3) The manager may authorise the erection of the memorial subject to any conditions the manager considers appropriate.
- (4) The applicant must comply with any conditions imposed under subsection (3)
- (5) A structure for interment is not an approved memorial in a Council Controlled cemetery

#### 5.8 Applicable Fees

- (1) Fees are applicable for all funeral services when;
  - (a) The service requested exceeds the gratis limitation.
  - (b) The service is requested outside of hours of availability.
  - (c) The burial is taking place in an approved burial location not under the management of the Council.
- (2) Fees charged will be a rate reflected by the EARC Schedule of Rates and subject to the following conditions;
  - (a) A purchase order has been provided by a recognised debtor of EARC, or;
  - (b) Pre-payment has been made by electronic funds transfer where available at the local Council office.

#### 5.9 Waiver Fees

- (1) Council may provide a reduced fee or waive a fee completely. Approval to waiver fees can only be approved by the Manager of the Cemetery and can only be considered for services inside the Council controlled cemetery.
- (2) Circumstances in which a fee can be waived is at the discretion of the approving officer.
- (3) Application to have a fee waived must be in writing to an officer with delegation to waive the fee.

#### 5.10 Refusal of service

- (1) EARC will not render any service, paid or gratis under the following conditions;
  - (a) A completed Burial Application Form has not been submitted to the EARC.
  - (b) Identity of the deceased has not been formally established or is in question.
  - (c) Burial is not within an approved burial location or EARC controlled cemetery.

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(d) Correct/required information has not been provided for burial records.

#### 5.11 Depth of burial

- (1) Human remains that are buried in the ground must be:
  - (a) Completely covered by soil that is at least 1000 mm deep at its shallowest point; or
  - (b) Completely covered by:
    - a layer of stone, concrete or similar material impervious to water, which is at least 50 mm thick and placed directly over the remains;
       and
    - (ii) soil that is at least 500 mm deep at its shallowest point.
  - (c) No grave is to be prepared deeper than 1500 mm at its deepest point.

#### 5.12 Burial without approval

- (1) All funeral and burial services require a completed and approved burial application form prior to commencement of any type of service.
- (2) A person commits an offence under the Act if:
  - (a) the person intentionally buries human remains; and
  - (b) the human remains are buried in a cemetery; and
  - (c) a burial approval was not given for the burial of those human remains.

#### 5.13 Burial outside cemetery

- (1) A person may bury human remains of a deceased person in a location outside a cemetery after receiving approval from the Agency.
- (2) A burial outside a cemetery includes the burial of the human remains of a deceased person in:
  - (a) a burial ground;
  - (b) an undeclared area;
  - (c) a suspended cemetery.
- (3) East Arnhem Regional will only render service on receipt of approval from the Agency and as a fee for service activity dependent on availability and serviceability.

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#### 5.14 Application for exhumation and relocation of human remains

(1) A person may apply to the CEO of the Agency for approval to exhume human remains of a deceased person in a cemetery and relocate the human remains to another place in or outside the Territory.

#### 5.15 Services not provided

- (1) The following burial and funeral services are not provided by the East Arnhem Regional Council and are not available within East Arnhem Regional Council controlled cemeteries:
  - (a) Multiple Burials in the same plot
  - (b) Cremation
  - (c) Disposal of human remains
  - (d) Exclusive rights of burial
  - (e) Construction or erection of structures for interment

#### 5.16 Cemetery Records Management

- (1) The Council Operations Manager is responsible for the maintenance of the East Arnhem Regional Council Burial register.
- (2) Information for the deceased must be recorded in the EARC Burial Register and Burial application form prior to and after burial has been completed.
- (3) Public access to information is available through the Council website or Council office by following Access to Burial Register Application.

#### 5.17 Access to Information in Register of Burials

- (1) The manager of a cemetery must, on request from the following persons, provide the person with a copy or summary of information in the register of burials for the entry of a deceased person through a completed and Access to Burial Application:
  - (a) the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased person;
  - (b) any next of kin of the deceased person;
  - (c) the applicant for the burial approval for the deceased person.
  - (2) The manager of a cemetery must, on request, provide a copy or summary of information in the register of burials to any Agency.

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- (3) The manager of a cemetery may, on request of a person or organisation, provide the person or organisation with a copy or summary of information in the register of burials for the entry of a deceased person, if satisfied the person or organisation has an adequate reason for wanting a copy or summary of that information.
- (4) In deciding whether a person or an organisation has an adequate reason for wanting a copy or summary of information in the register of burials for the entry of a deceased person, the manager must have regard to the following:
  - (a) the nature of the person's or organisation's interest;
  - (b) the sensitivity of the information, including culturally sensitive information;
  - (c) the use to be made of the information;
  - (d) the need to protect the deceased person about whom the information is sought from unjustified intrusion of the deceased person's privacy;
  - (e) any other considerations prescribed by regulation.
- (5) If information is specified as culturally sensitive information in the burial approval form, that information must be redacted when providing a copy or summary of information under subsection (3).
- (6) The production of a copy or summary of information in the register under subsection (1) or (3) must be done in accordance with any policy determined by the responsible entity for a cemetery.
- (7) The responsible entity for a cemetery may determine and charge a fee for the production of a copy or summary of information in the register under subsection (1) or (3).

#### 5.18 Records Management

- (1) Records must be maintained in line with statutory obligation. The Burial Register, Burial Application Form, Authority to Perform Burial Service and all recordable forms related to funeral, cemetery and burial services must be uploaded and/or recorded in the applicable cemeteries folder on the East Arnhem Regional Council Electronic Documents Records Management System (EDRMS)
- (2) All accompanying evidentiary documents must be uploaded into the cemetery folder on the EDRMS. Records are to be made available on request via the EARC website or in person at the EARC office in accordance with the Northern Territory Information Act and Burial and Cremation Act 2022.

#### 5.19 Other Burial Areas

- (1) EARC does not condone the burial of deceased persons in sites other those defined within the Northern Territory Burial and Cremations Act 2022.
- (2) EARC will only provide fee for service arrangement to a person undertaking burial

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activities outside of a Council Controlled cemetery or an approved burial location including an undeclared burial location as long as all requirements for the burial have been conducted and approved by the appropriate authorities. Service provision is based on availability and service ability.

(3) EARC will not maintain any records of deceased persons buried outside of a Council Controlled Cemetery.

#### 6. Version

Version	Decision Number	Adoption Date	History
1			Council Adopted

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

ITEM NUMBER 8.2

**TITLE** Community Development Update

**REFERENCE** 1726673

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development

# East Arnhem Regional Council

#### **SUMMARY**

This report is to provide information on the progress, successes, challenges and future opportunities of the Council's Community Development Directorate.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Community Development Directorate covers the following areas and operations of Council: Aged Care & Disability services, Children and Library services, Youth Sport and Recreation services, Community Media, Community Night Patrol, Australia Post, Local Authority Support, Accommodation Businesses, Sobering up Shelter and Local Commercial Opportunities. These include Community Development Coordination, through Council offices in the East Arnhem communities.

This report provides updates to the elected members and allows an opportunity for discussion and feedback at Ordinary Council Meetings.



#### **GENERAL**

The Community Development Directorate continues to grow in relationships with the community, stakeholders and its strong workforce; further enabling to extend high-quality, core services to the community.

#### Community Development Programme (CDP)

Significant work is being done on the CDP front for the East Arnhem Region, as EARC continues to collaboratively build processes and understanding with the CDP providers, ALPA and GEBIE.

On 2 February, EARC was invited to be part of ALPA's Community Development Conference held in Nhulunbuy. EARC was represented by the Community Development Directorate and informative and instructive presentations were held on how both parties can own responsibilities across multiple stages, to make the programme a success and creating 'job-ready' participants in the region. Both parties will also be signing an MoU to formalise identified contributions in the process.



EARC and ALPA teams at ALPA's Community Development Conference where CDP discussions were held.

The Host Agreement and MoU will be presented and executed with GEBIE in the days to come.

#### Asset Standardisation Plan

Community Development has recognised that assets that are fit-for-purpose, can have a positive impact on staff by creating a more supportive and productive work environment by improving safety, comfort, and efficiency while on the job.

Standardised assets also demonstrate an organisation's commitment to its employees and can increase their job satisfaction. This can result in reduced turnover, improved morale, and a stronger sense of engagement among staff.

Good assets can also support professional development by providing staff with the tools and resources they need to grow their skills and advance their careers. This will also contribute to a positive work culture and contribute to the success and well-being of staff members.

Standardised, fit-for-purpose assets also boost quality of life for community members participating in the use of facilities such as gymnasiums, Youth Sport and Recreation drop in centres, Aged Care centres, Childcare and Library buildings and Council Offices.

Since the last update to Council, the Directorate has audited over 1500 individual items in 4 communities. Orders to replace unserviceable items and procuring processes for new assets are well under way.

The Directorate would like to thank Taylor Gunn for her ongoing efforts in auditing, liaising and bringing to fruition the procurement of new assets for the wider team. The Directorate is also appreciative of all staff who contributed at different stages of this mammoth project.





Asset audits are underway in the East Arnhem Communities.

#### Community Night Patrol

In the last update on Community Night Patrol, there was a mention of EARC seeking further approval from the agency to repurpose surplus in 21/22 funding to build on continued upskilling of EARC Community Night Patrol staff. This is taking longer than expected due to delays from the holiday season from last year, to uphold the commitment to staff.

Community Development will be investing funds to improve staff on skills and aspects such as data capture, working smarter with technology, de-escalation through two intensive face-to-face workshops.

EARC Community Development has made a significant step in relationship building with the NT Police.

An MoU that defines how NT Police and EARC work in partnership together in the nine East Arnhem communities has been agreed by both parties. This also allows for other agencies and stakeholders to enter into local arrangements for collaboration and provision of CNP services to increase community safety, harmony and wellbeing.

The signing of the MoU has been delayed due to the holidays and staff still returning to work. This is expected to be fully executed in the days to come.

#### Childcare and Libraries

Emily Mitchell is the new Childcare Coordinator for the Umbakumba Crèche. Emily comes to EARC with a wealth of experience working in remote community childcare and is an excellent fit for this role. She is settling in well and has already created relationships with the school and other early childcare organisations in the community.

Transition to Xplor (the new cloud based Childcare Management system), is proving to be a successful engagement platform for staff who are now learning to input health & hygiene data into the system, take photos and engage with parents via the portal.

Representatives from the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) visited three EARC childcare centres in late January. These visits are focussed on identifying the strengths of each centre as well as any barriers that could be addressed prior to the inspection visits that will be made by Department of Education Skills and Employment (DESE) later this year.



A happy child playing at an EARC Childcare Centre.

Yirrkala Childcare staff received a visit from Inclusion Support and took part in a short coaching session that focussed on understanding the importance of connecting with children, and documenting their learning journey.

Lucinda Murungun is the new Library Officer at the Angurugu Library. Lucinda has been working hard tidying the library and organising activities for children who made regular visits over the school holiday period.

Rebecca Pettiford is the new Library Coordinator for the Nhulunbuy Library. EARC would like to thank Susan Stewart who stepped up to cover the Coordinator role during the recruitment period.

#### Communities for Children

EARC is now recruiting for a new Nutrition Officer to assist Jessica Wunungmurra to deliver Growing Up Strong Kids (GUSK) activities to the Gapuwiyak community. Work is also being done to align GUSK work with other nutritional activities in Gapuwiyak to provide better, consistent and holistic messages to the community on the importance of good nutrition for good health and development of the children in community.

#### Aged Care and Disability Services

The Department of Health and Aged Care is conducting a study to seek feedback from Aged Care providers into the management of workforce to develop a future state service blueprint. This study is in preparation for the government's announcement of an enhanced worker screening process set to be implemented on 1 July 2024.

As an Aged Care provider, EARC has been sought after for valuable insights and feedback to shape the future state of the worker screening process. The goal of this study is to understand how EARC currently interacts with the worker screening process and to gather feedback on how the Aged Care workforce is managed. This information will then be used to develop a future state service blueprint and recommendations for the build of the worker screening prototype.

Stacey Eley, Regional Manager – Aged Care & Disability Services will be representing EARC in the study.

#### 2023 Basketball Eastern Cup - Galiwin'ku

The 2023 Eastern cup was a highly successful event to start the New Year. The event was facilitated by EARC Youth Sport and Recreation in collaboration with Basketball NT, and with support from the new regional NTG Community Sports Officer. This was the first regional Basketball competition in Galiwin'ku hosted by EARC.

The competition saw visiting men's and women's teams from Yirrkala, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak, Angurugu, Umbakumba, and Ramingining. Locally, over 60 players participated from Galiwin'ku, with hundreds of people attending to support and spectate over the two days. Community Elders facilitated a formal welcome to all visiting players.



Councillor Kaye Thurlow welcomed visiting players to the Galiwin'ku 2023 Basketball Eastern Cup.



Galiwin'ku leaders welcomed visiting players to the Galiwin'ku 2023 Basketball Eastern Cup

Participants enjoyed catered lunches and dinner from local business the Maynmak Café. All visiting players were accommodated between the EARC VOQ and Marthakal accommodation.

Huge credit must be given to the Galiwin'ku Youth Sport and Recreation team, and supporting staff from the Galiwin'ku council office, including EARC's resident cleaner. Overall, community participation and feedback was outstanding, and EARC will look to make this an annual event going forward.

The men and women's MVP award winners were Maxwell Wunungmurra and Michaela Garawirrtja, both from Gapuwiyak. While the men's and women's Rising Star awards went to Rimili Ngurruwuthun from Yirrkala, and Tash Gurruwiwi from Galiwin'ku.

#### Build UP Skateboarding - Ramingining and Milingimbi

In January, the Build Up Skateboarding team were in Milingimbi and Ramingining to facilitate skateboarding workshops with the youth.



Build Up Skateboarding were in Ramingining these January School Holidays, building skateboards, ramps, and teaching our youth the basics of skating. All resources have been provided to the YSR team to continue facilitating this activity well into the future

Young people in Ramingining and Milingimbi were taught the basics of how to skate by professional skateboarders. Youth also built ramps and skateboards.

YSR teams were taught how to facilitate skateboarding classes, and all equipment including helmets and safety gear, skateboards, ramps and grind rails were left in each location for ongoing use beyond the workshops.

#### Youth, Sport and Recreation

The YSR team has welcomed three new staff in the region since the last update – Ukanji Burchill is the new Youth Support Coordinator in Milingimbi, Tim Saukuru, the new Youth Sport and Recreation Coordinator in Milingimbi and Lily Kerr, the new Youth Sport and Recreation Coordinator in Galiwin'ku.



Ramingining Movie nights in the Rec Hall.



Umbakumba Band practice nights in the community Rec Hall with the YSR team.



YSR worker Tara Wunungmurra painting with children in Angurugu during the January School Holidays.

Young people enjoyed a highly successful school holiday period, with Youth Sport and Recreation teams active across all service locations throughout the December and January break.

A range of activities and events were facilitated including: bush trips, arts, music, dance, cooking, movie nights, after-hours access to youth drop in centres and community recreation halls.

Some activities and events were impacted by weather, but the overall period saw strong engagement across the region, including several young people from our Youth Diversion program.

A breakdown demographic of those who accessed the events and activities during the holiday period are mentioned below, with the total count being 2776.

	•
Male 2-9	468
Female 2-9	336
Male 10-17	580
Female 10-17	482
Male 18+	465
Female 18+	445
Disabled	15
Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified	34
Youth Diversion Participants	13
Parents/Caregivers	330

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the Community Development update.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**:

There are no attachments for this report.

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

ITEM NUMBER 8.3

TITLE 2023 Australian Local Government Association -

**National General Assembly** 

**REFERENCE** 1725569

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to advise Council that the call for motions and attendees has been made for the National General Assembly of Local Government to be held in June 2023.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Each year, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) holds a major event on the annual Local Government calendar called the National General Assembly (NGA). The NGA typically attracts more than 700 Mayors, Councillors and Senior Officers from Councils across Australia.

The NGA is Council's opportunity to contribute to the development of national Local Government policy and receive updates on the top policy issues facing Local Government nationally. The NGA also provides a platform for Local Government to address national issues and advocate to the Federal Government on critical issues facing our sector.

For the last three years East Arnhem Regional Council has successfully tabled motions that have been carried on the floor of the assembly during the debate of motions. At the 2021 and 2022 National General Assembly, East Arnhem Regional Council successfully raised motions calling for nationally consistent recognition of Indigenous Local Government Councils as Aboriginal controlled entities across Australia at all levels of Government. The motion is still progressing today.

#### **GENERAL**

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) is an important opportunity for Council to influence the national policy agenda and promote new ways of strengthening the Local Government sector and our communities.

The attached discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2023 National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra 13 – 15 June 2022.

The paper has been prepared to assist council in developing motions. Council are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Council's motion/s can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Additionally, the ALGA Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the motions process. As a result, ALGA has allocated additional time for debate on motions at the 2023 NGA and amended the criteria with a view to improving the quality and relevance of motions included in the Business Papers.

ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be informed by motions and determined by the ALGA Board and based on the positions of its member associations.

The theme of the 2023 NGA: Our Communities, Our Future.

This theme conveys the critical importance of our communities, how they are the focus of our attention, and how they are at the centre of all our work. Our communities are the reason that Local Governments exist, and it is the health and wellbeing of our communities that will shape Australia's future.

The discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2023 NGA, to be held in Canberra mid-June 2023.

A notice of motion to this year's NGA should either:

- Focus on practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work directly with the Local Government sector to build our communities; or
- New program ideas that would help the Local Government sector to deliver national objectives. Motions should be concise, practical and able to be implemented.

They must also meet the guidelines for motions outlined in the discussion paper. Council is encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question.

Council's motion/s should address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available at www.alga.com.au and be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the NGA Subcommittee to ensure that they meet the criteria included in this paper. The Subcommittee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au. As the convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on the ALGA website.

If your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Be relevant to the work of Local Government nationally.
- 2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region unless the project or issue has national implications.
- 3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
- 4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory Local Government association.
- 5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory Local Government association.

6. Propose a clear action and outcome i.e. call on the Australian Government to act on something.

- 7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, Local Government.
- 8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of Local Government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
- 9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- 10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to Local Government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording: This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...

Setting the scene of the NGA 23.

'Through a devastating pandemic, through a succession of dangerous and damaging natural disasters, through global uncertainty and painful price rises – The Australian people have demonstrated the best of our national character. Resolute and resilient in hard times. Practical and pragmatic about the challenges we confront. Optimistic and confident in a better future. And ready to work together to build it.'

- The Hon Jim Chalmers MP, Federal Treasurer Budget Speech 2022-23.

The opening statement of the Federal Treasurer's first Budget Speech describes the backdrop against which the 2023 NGA will be held. The 2022 NGA was held just weeks after the change in the Federal Government on 21 May 2022.

On 25 October 2022, the new Government handed down its first Budget which updated the economic outlook, realigned priorities and outlined how the Government was to meet its election promises.

The Budget update foreshadows deteriorating economic conditions, citing global challenges, slowing growth, high inflation and higher interest rates, and acknowledges the mounting cost of living pressures on individuals, families and communities.

#### Key updates include:

- The economy is expected to grow solidly this financial year, by 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent before slowing to 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent growth for 2023/24, a full percentage point lower than what was forecast in March;
- That slowing growth will have an effect on employment, but jobs will continue to be created, and unemployment is expected to stay low by historical standards at 4 ½ percent in 2023/24 and 2024/25;
- Inflation is expected to peak at 7  $^{3}$ 4 percent late in 2022, before moderating over time to 3  $^{1}$ 2 percent through 2023/24, and returning to the Reserve Bank's target range in 2024/25; and that
- When that inflation moderates, real wages are expected to start growing again in 2024.

The Government is also committed to repairing the Budget in a 'measured and responsible' manner consistent with the objective of maintaining full employment and the delivery of essential services.

It foreshadows that this will be achieved through spending restraint, with new spending focused on high-quality and targeted investments and building on the capability of the Australian people, expanding the productive capacity of the economy, and supporting action on climate change. The Budget also included a focus on measuring and improving community wellbeing.

By the time of the 2023 NGA, the Government will have delivered its second Budget, which will provide further updates to the economic outlook and also refine its economic strategy going forward.

The 2023 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or extended programs and policy initiatives that could strengthen Local Governments' capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to communities across the nation.

This year's call for motions focusses on eight priority areas:

- Productivity;
- Local Government Infrastructure;
- · Community Wellbeing;
- Local Government Workforce;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Natural Disasters: and
- Housing.

Further detail can be found in the attached NGA23 Call for Motions Discussion Paper.

Note: If Council does submit a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

#### RECOMMENDATION

#### **That Council:**

- (a) Notes the report on the call for motions for the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.
- (b) Nominates Councillors ...... and to attend the NGA23 supported by Senior Officers of Council nominated by the Chief Executive Officer.
- (c) Endorses the following motions to be submitted on behalf of East Arnhem Regional Council.

- (1) ....
- (2) ....
- (3) ....

OR

Will consider and decide on the motion/s to be submitted to 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government at a Special Meeting of Council to be called before submissions are due on Friday 24 March 2023.

OR

Does not submit any motions to the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.

ATTACHMENTS: 1 NGA23-Cal NGA23-Call-for-Motions-Discussion-Paper\_Final\_Dec\_22.pdf





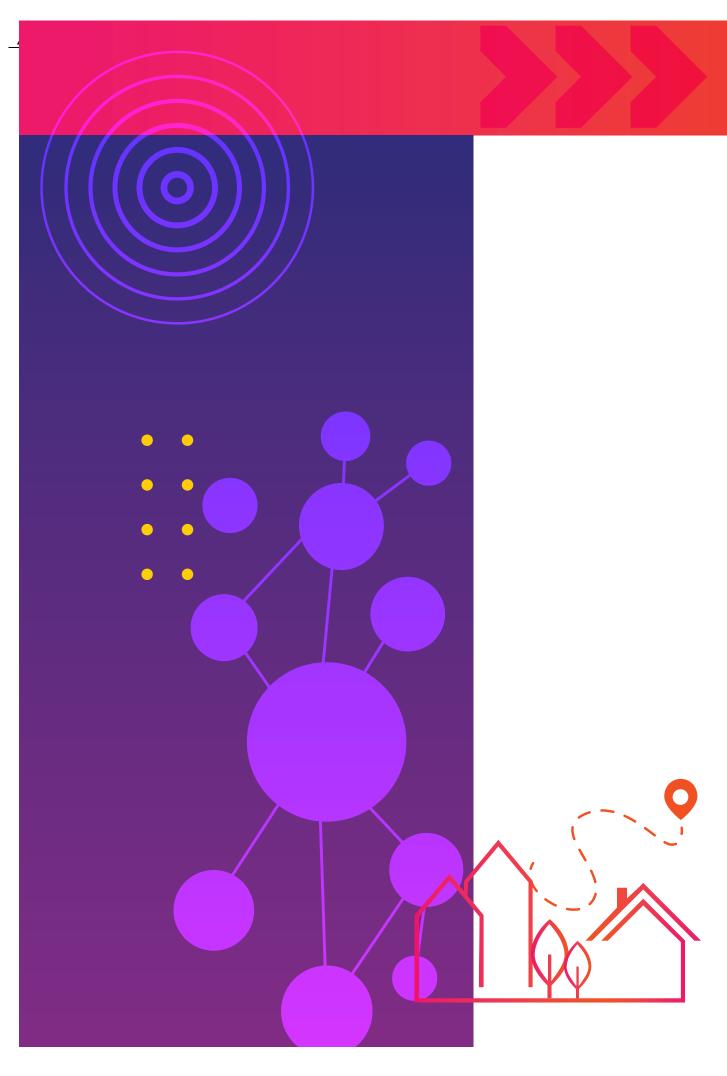
### **DISCUSSION PAPER**

Call for Motions

### **JUNE 2023**

NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE CANBERRA







The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 29<sup>th</sup> National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra mid June 2023.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2023 NGA.

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend this event familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

### **Key Dates**

December 2022	24 March 2023	June 2023 *	June 2023 *
Opening of Call for Motions	Acceptance of Motions	Regional Cooperation & Development Forum	National General Assembly

\* Dates are subject to change depending on timing of Australian Council of Local Government



# Background to ALGA and the NGA

ALGA was established in 1947, and its structure is a federation of member state and territory local government associations.

Its mission is to champion and strengthen Australian councils by representing the agreed position of ALGA members, the seven local government associations from around Australia, who represent 537 Australian councils.

In 1994, the ALGA Board, in consultation with its member associations, established the NGA as a unique forum to engage with councils directly at the national level.

The purpose of the NGA was to build the profile of local government on the national stage and demonstrate to the Australian Government the strength and value of working with local government nationally.

As part of the NGA, debate on motions was introduced as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas, and solutions to the challenges facing Australia's councils and communities.

Outcomes of debate on motions (NGA Resolutions) could then be used by participating councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their own advocacy to the Federal Government and Federal MPs.

At the same time, they assist ALGA, and its member state and territory associations to gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and gauge the level of need and support for emerging policy and program initiatives and advocacy.

### **Changes for 2023**

The ALGA Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the motions process.

As a result, ALGA has allocated additional time for debate on motions at the 2023 NGA and amended the criteria with a view to improving the quality and relevance of motions included in the Business Papers.

The updated criteria for motions is listed on page 6.

ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be informed by motions and determined by the ALGA Board and based on the positions of its member associations.

ALGA's Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA, and those that will take the time to submit motions for debate at this event.

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# **Submitting Motions**

# The theme of the 2023 NGA: Our Communities, Our Future.

This theme conveys the critical importance of our communities, how they are the focus of our attention, and how they are at the centre of all our work.

Our communities are the reason that local governments exist, and it is the health and wellbeing of our communities that will shape Australia's future.

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2023 NGA, to be held in Canberra mid June 2023.

A notice of motion to this year's NGA should either:

- Focus on practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work directly with the local government sector to build our communities; or
- New program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver national objectives.

Motions should be concise, practical and able to be implemented.

They must also meet the guidelines for motions outlined in this paper.

You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s should address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available at www.alga.com.au and be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the NGA Subcommittee to ensure that they meet the criteria included in this paper.

The Subcommittee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au.

As the convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on this website.

If your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

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We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2023 NGA.

Attachment 1 Page 109

# **Criteria for motions**

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
- 2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region unless the project or issue has national implications.
- 3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
- 4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
- 5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
- 6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
- 7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
- 8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
- 9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- 10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...



# Other things to consider

Please note that it is important to complete the background section on the form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the proposal.

The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion.

Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

Try to keep motions practical, focussed, relatively simple and capable of being implemented to ensure that relevant Australian Government Ministers provide considered, thoughtful and timely responses.

Multi-point motions that require cross portfolio coordination have not historically received meaningful responses from the Government.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the NGA Subcommittee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

When reviewing motions, the Subcommittee will consider the motions criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the Subcommittee will group motions together under an overarching strategic motion.

The strategic motions will have either been drafted by ALGA or will be based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will occur in accordance with the rules for debate on motions published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: www.alga.com.au.

All motions require, among other things, a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.

> Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.

# Setting the scene

'Through a devastating pandemic, through a succession of dangerous and damaging natural disasters, through global uncertainty and painful price rises – The Australian people have demonstrated the best of our national character. Resolute and resilient in hard times. Practical and pragmatic about the challenges we confront. Optimistic and confident in a better future. And ready to work together to build it.'

The Hon Jim Chalmer MP, Federal Treasurer Budget Speech 2022-23

The opening statement of the Federal Treasurer's first Budget Speech describes the backdrop against which the 2023 NGA will be held.

The 2022 NGA was held just weeks after the change in the Federal Government on 21 May 2022. On 25 October 2022, the new Government handed down its first Budget which updated the economic outlook, realigned priorities and outlined how the Government was to meet its election promises.

The Budget update foreshadows deteriorating economic conditions, citing global challenges, slowing growth, high inflation and higher interest rates, and acknowledges the mounting cost of living pressures on individuals, families and communities.

Key updates include:

- The economy is expected to grow solidly this financial year, by 3 ½ percent before slowing to 1 ½ percent growth for 2023/24, a full percentage point lower than what was forecast in March;
- That slowing growth will have an effect on employment, but jobs will continue to be created, and unemployment is expected to stay low by historical standards at 4 ½ percent in 2023/24 and 2024/25;
- Inflation is expected to peak at 7 ½ percent late in 2022, before moderating over time to 3 ½ percent through 2023/24, and returning to the Reserve Bank's target range in 2024/25; and that
- When that inflation moderates, real wages are expected to start growing again in 2024.



The Government is also committed to repairing the Budget in a 'measured and responsible' manner consistent with the objective of maintaining full employment and the delivery of essential services. It foreshadows that this will be achieved through spending restraint, with new spending focused on high-quality and targeted investments and building on the capability of the Australian people, expanding the productive capacity of the economy, and supporting action on climate change.

The Budget also included a focus on measuring and improving community wellbeing.

By the time of the 2023 NGA, the Government will have delivered its second Budget, which will provide further updates to the economic outlook and also refine its economic strategy going forward.

The 2023 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or extended programs and policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments' capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to communities across the nation.

This year's call for motions focusses on eight priority areas:

- Productivity;
- · Local Government Infrastructure;
- · Community Wellbeing;
- · Local Government Workforce;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- · Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Natural Disasters; and
- · Housing.



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# 1. Productivity

In February 2022, the then Federal Treasurer asked the Productivity Commission to undertake an inquiry into Australia's productivity performance and provide recommendations on productivity enhancing reform.

This inquiry was the second of a regular series, undertaken at five-yearly intervals, and recognises that productivity growth is vital for Australia's future. Drawing on the Intergenerational Report the Treasurer notes that '... future growth in income and living standards will be driven from productivity growth as the participation effects of young migration are offset by an ageing population.'

ALGA engaged SGS Economics and Planning to undertake research to support its submissions to this inquiry.

SGS Principal and Partner Dr Marcus Spiller presented on some of the findings of this research at the 2022 NGA. In his presentation he identified that local governments generate local economic activity through employment, payment of wages and expenditure on goods and services in the local economy. In addition, SGS identified nine ways local government supports the productive capacity of the broader economy.

Figure 1 – Nine ways local governments contribute to the productive capacity of the broader economy:

#### **Providing Urban Infrastructure**

Arterial roads Major cycleways Green space networks Clean streets

# Mitigating externalities in urban development

Development approvals
Building controls
Separation of incompatible uses

# Place making & Visitor economy

Tourism infrastructure Culture and arts Place quality/attractions Safe streets

# Providing land for housing

Strategic planning for housing development Infrastructure coordination to support housing development

# **Better local labour markets**Provision/ facilitation of child care

services
Facilitating access to training
Supporting social enterprises as skill
accumulators

Supporting key worker housing

# Climate mitigation & adaptation

Mapping & management of climate change hazards Emergency management and recovery Regulated retreat Renewable energy networks

# Providing land for business

Strategic planning for employment areas Infrastructure coordination to support employment lands

#### Business clusters & innovation

Promotion of local business districts Business incubators Business angels

# Circular economy

Resource recovery and reuse Management of landfill

Sources: Adapted from SGS Research for ALGA's Submission to Productivity Commission (2022)

Are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to improve local government's capacity to support productivity growth?

Are there programs that could support one, or all of the identified ways local government contributes to productivity in the broader economy?



# 2. Local Government Infrastructure

The 2021 National State of the Assets Report (NSoA) shone a spotlight on local government infrastructure assets. While the technical report shows that local government assets such as roads, bridges, buildings, parks and recreation, stormwater, water and wastewater and airports and aerodromes are generally in good to very good condition, around 10 percent are not fit for purpose, and around 20 - 25 percent are only fair and over time will need attention.

Over the past 12 months this situation has further deteriorated as a result of natural disasters, and particularly flooding across the eastern seaboard.

The technical report shows that in 2019/20 non-financial infrastructure assets were valued at \$342 billion and were depreciating at \$7.7 billion per year. Replacement costs of these infrastructure assets were in the order of \$533 billion.

While 86 percent of councils have adopted long term financial plans, one third of councils do not have asset management plans for their major assets, or if they do, they are out-of-date. Of the councils that do have asset management plans only 66 percent included financial projections in their financial plan.

Asset management and long-term financial planning are essential tools for councils to manage community assets now and into the future.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of council's infrastructure?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?

•

•

# 3. Community Wellbeing

While the NSoA focuses attention on physical assets, local governments also provide a wide range of important community services that improve local wellbeing. These services are provided at the discretion of councils based on local characteristics, needs, priorities and resources of the local community.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows that local government annual expenditure in 2020/21 was \$43 billion. It is important to note that nationally local government is 83 percent self-sufficient. That is, the vast majority of local government services and infrastructure are funded at the local level either through rates, fees and charges, sale of goods and services, and interest, and only 17 percent comes from grants and subsidies from other levels of government. Unfortunately, many of these grants and subsidies are tied, and often require matching funding which restricts the ability to address local priorities in the way the council and community might like.

Local government community services are broadly defined and may include but not limited to:

- environmental health including food safety;
- · childcare, early childhood education;
- · aged care, senior citizens;
- · services to the disabled;
- programs to address disadvantage, to reduce poverty and homelessness;
- · sporting and recreational programs;
- arts and cultural activities, program and festivals;
- · tourism and economic development activities; and
- library services.

Councils also play a key role making places that are attractive and liveable for current and future workers, and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

ALGA's research shows that almost one in four councils are heavily reliant on federal Financial Assistance Grants, which make up at least 20 percent of their annual operating revenue. Financial sustainability of local governments remains an ongoing issue which threatens local service provision and community wellbeing.

Noting the funding arrangements for the provision of local government community services in your area and across the country, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to improve the delivery of these services?

Are there changes to existing programs, including to administrative arrangements, that would significantly improve local government human service planning and provision of services and infrastructure across Australia?

Are there new programs the Australian Government could develop that would support councils to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians?

What are the actions the Australian Government could take to support councils to improve their ongoing financial sustainability, and their capacity to deliver the services their communities need?



# 4. Local Government Workforce

Local government is a major employer in Australia providing employment, career advancement and training opportunities for more than 190,800 Australians, across an estimated 400 occupations. In many communities, the council is one of the largest employers.

There are 537 local councils in Australia. Importantly, they are geographically dispersed and provide essential public administration to every corner of the nation.

According to the 2022 National Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey, more than 90 percent of local governments are experiencing skills shortages, resulting in around two thirds of councils having their projects impacted or delayed.

Skills shortages occur for a variety of reasons including an inability to compete against the private sector, worker accommodation, support services for families, ageing of the workforce and geographic isolation. The attrition rate (or rate of turnover) of local government staff is estimated to be between 15 – 20 percent per annum.

The most cited skills shortages include engineers, urban planners, building surveyors, environmental officers and human resources professionals.

ALGA's submission to the Productivity Commission's Productivity Inquiry called on all levels of government to work together to improve training pathways and address skills and labour shortages for the benefit of councils, communities, and businesses right across Australia.

While local government must face its immediate workforce challenges, it must also anticipate the changing nature of work, and future skills needed to meet the changing needs of our communities.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?

Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?

Are there other initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?

Attachment 1

Page 117

# Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security

Provision of information technology to all Australians is vital for innovation, economic growth and social equity. However, it is potentially even more important to regional Australia where the tyranny of distance increases the inequity of services available – including education, health, economic and social.

Innovative technology is becoming more broadly available and has the ability to boost productivity and economic growth.

Councils around Australia continue to embrace new technologies to improve their service delivery standards and broaden consultation and engagement with their local communities. However, many councils lack basic technological infrastructure and have a shortage of necessary skills and resources.

In October 2022, cyber-attacks on major Australian corporate organisations including Optus and Medibank Private highlighted the critical importance of cyber security. It is a timely reminder as digital information, services and products become an increasing feature of modern business operation including in local government.

Like all risks, local government must manage the risk of cyber-attack and address cyber security. At a national level, there is a poor understanding of local government's vulnerability to cyber-attacks and a lack or inadequacy of risk management strategies and business continuity planning within the sector. While this is primarily a responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure that the public have confidence in government information management systems and its security.

Drawing upon your own council experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state, or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure and/or to improve cyber security within the sector?



# 6. Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Local governments are playing an important leadership role in addressing climate change, supporting a wide range of programs to lower the carbon footprint of their own business operations and in their local communities.

As a sector, local government is leading the debate for lowering carbon emissions, sourcing renewable energy, responding creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and facilitating the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Councils also have a role to play supporting communities in transition, moving away from fossil fuels to new industries.

Pragmatically, local government has been at the forefront of addressing the impacts of climate change and adapting to reduce its environmental footprint. These impacts include an increased number of days with high temperatures, less rainfall and more droughts in southern Australia, less snow, more intense rainfall and fire weather, stronger cyclones, and sea level rise. These changes will increase stress on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets and natural ecosystems that are already threatened, and significantly affect agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transport, health, tourism, finance and disaster risk management.

At the 2022 NGA, there were five Strategic Motions and 15 associated motions debated concerning this issue. Councils are encouraged to review these motions on ALGA's website prior to developing new motions for debate at the 2023 NGA.

Noting the Government's commitment to reducing emissions, are there programs and initiatives that the Commonwealth Government could develop to assist councils in their work to address climate change and reduce emissions?



# 7. Natural Disasters

Over the past five years, Australian communities have experienced unprecedented natural disasters. At the time of writing, almost every community in Australia, particularly those on the East Coast, had been adversely affected by wet weather conditions associated with the La Nina weather pattern.

Councils in Western Australia are still recovering from a cyclone in 2021, and the Black Summer bushfires in 2019/20 burned approximately 250,000 square kilometres across the country.

The impacts of heavy rainfall, record breaking floods and associated social disruption and damage to infrastructure have exposed weaknesses as well as the strength of current emergency management systems.

There have been numerous NGA motions in the past regarding natural disasters. This year, councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to managing emergencies.

Please note, however, that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Commonwealth Government could assist.

What new programs could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?





# 8. Housing

A lack of affordable housing remains one of the biggest issues for Australian councils and communities.

There is less social and affordable housing stock available than there was a decade ago, and more low-income Australians are experiencing housing stress.

The shortage and rising costs of rental properties and affordable home ownership are having significant social and economic impacts in cities and towns across Australia, including rural and regional communities.

This is due to a range of factors including changes to recent migration patterns, cheap finance and labour and material shortages in the construction sector.

While the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, councils often facilitate affordable housing within their communities, operating within state/territory planning, financial and other legislation requirements.

Some councils are going further, addressing thin markets and developing land and housing themselves, delivering local solutions to meet the needs of their communities.

Local government also plays an important role addressing some of the causes of homelessness, including social inclusion programs that can assist mental health and family violence issues, as well as providing support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?

How can the Australian Government work with councils to address the causes and impacts of homelessness?



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# Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2023 National General Assembly of Local Government.

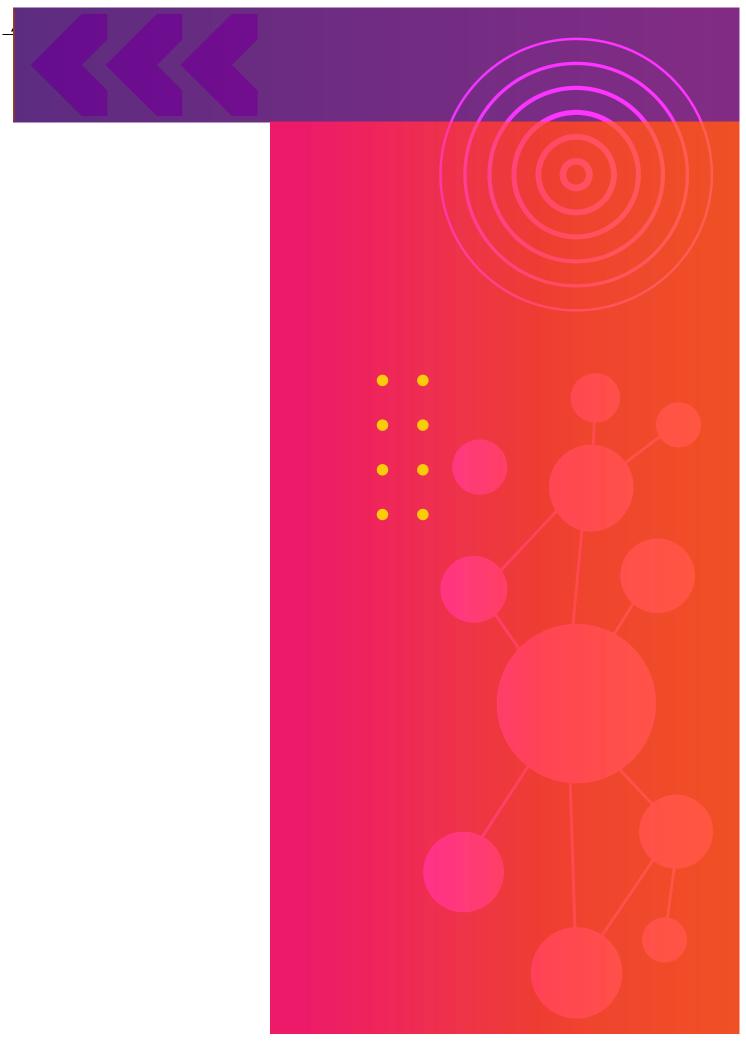
### A FINAL REMINDER:

- » Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 24 March 2023.
- » Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- » Motions should commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- » Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued
- » Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- » It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- » Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- » When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2023 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2023 National General Assembly in Canberra.



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Ordinary Council 23 February 2023

# **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

ITEM NUMBER 8.4

TITLE Council Operations on Public Holidays

**REFERENCE** 1730735

**AUTHOR** Andrew Walsh, Director Community Development

### SUMMARY:

This report is to seek direction from the Elected Members on the provision of Council services on gazetted public holidays.

### **BACKGROUND**

Currently Council only provides emergency response services on public holidays. Current operational plans and budgets are constructed to observe public holidays.

#### **GENERAL**

The Northern Territory public holiday calendar for the 2023 calendar year is as follows:

New Year's Day Sunday 1 January and Monday 2 January

Australia Day Thursday 26 January

Good Friday Friday 7 April

Easter Saturday Saturday 8 April

Easter Sunday Sunday 9 April

Easter Monday Monday 10 April

Anzac Day Tuesday 25 April

May Day Monday 1 May

June public holiday Monday 12 June

Darwin Show Day Friday 28 July

Picnic Day Monday 7 August

Christmas Eve 7pm to midnight Sunday 24 December

Christmas Day Monday 25 December

Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December

New Year's Eve 7pm to midnight Sunday 31 December

Council also observes an organisational public holiday each year for NAIDOC week.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

Ordinary Council 23 February 2023

# **RECOMMENDATION**

# **That Council:**

- (a) Notes the report.
- (b) Request the following programs ..... provide services on the following public holidays .....
- (c) Approves the continuation of Council observing the organisational public holiday during NAIDOC week.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

There are no attachments for this report.

Ordinary Council 23 February 2023

# **CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

**ITEM NUMBER** 9.1

TITLE Representation Review

**REFERENCE** 1729133

**AUTHOR** Michael Freeman, Corporate Services Manager

#### **SUMMARY**

This report presents the final Local Government Representation Review 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Act provides that a committee must review the boundaries and structure of Councils following a periodic election. This has been done during 2022, and the final report is attached.

Pages 23 to 25 covers the East Arnhem Regional Council.

### **GENERAL**

The report says:

The information guide identified the following as an area of focus for East Arnhem Regional Council:

'Progress towards creation of separate Anindilyakwa regional council already begun – how will this impact remaining wards?'

The committee understands that this matter is still under consideration and therefore it did not factor in the review.

The committee decided that 14 members is currently appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to East Arnhem Regional Council.

# Determinations and recommendations

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in East Arnhem Regional Council.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

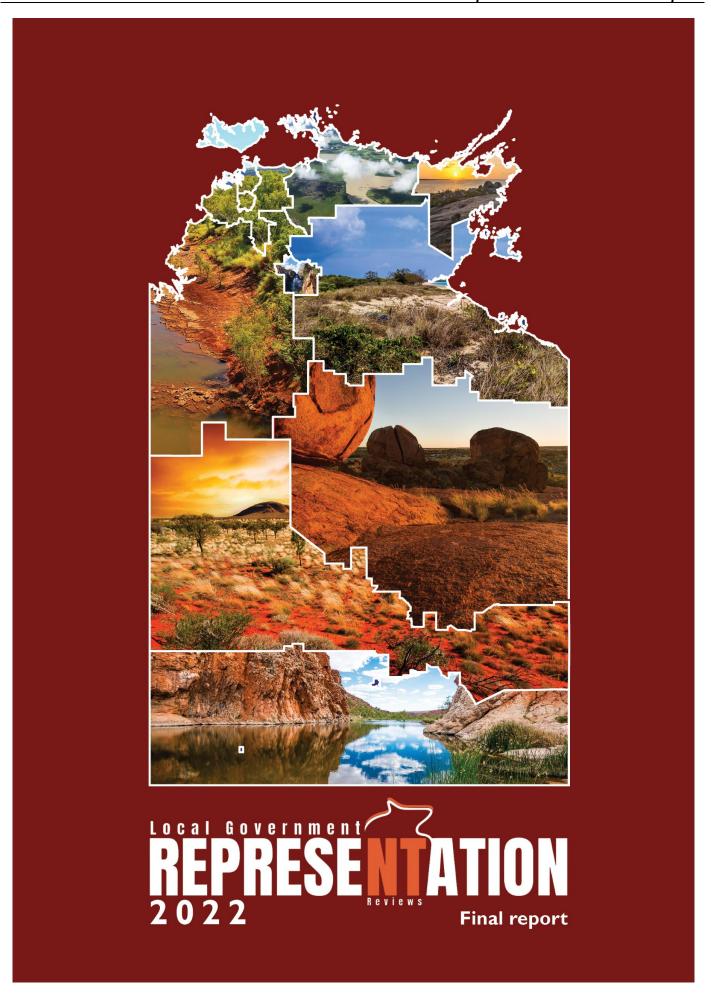
### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council notes the 2022 Representation Review.

# **ATTACHMENTS:**

1 2022-Local-Government-Representation-Reviews-Final-Report





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Produced by the 2022 Local Government Representation Committee

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The 2022 Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) has undertaken the first reviews of representation in the Territory's local government councils in accordance with Part 3.2 of the <u>Local Government Act 2019</u> (the Act).

In accordance with section 28 of the Act, the committee may determine the ward structure of local government areas and the number of members representing each ward. The committee may also recommend changing the total number of members in a council area. Before making a determination, the committee must undertake the following requirements:

- invite written submissions from councils and the public no later than 10 months after election day for a general election.
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- · consider received submissions
- publish a preliminary report on its webpage of its determinations
- invite written submissions from councils and the public on the preliminary report
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- · consider received submissions
- publish a final report on its webpage.

In compliance with section 30(c)(ii) of the Act, the committee's final report must be published along with maps showing new or altered boundaries.

In making their determinations, the committee has considered submissions received during each round of consultation as well as information from the Australian Electoral Commission and Australian Bureau of Statistics. The determinations and recommendations detailed in the following pages have been provided to the Minister for Local Government.

Sean Holden Chairperson

2022 Local Government Representation Committee

9 February 2023

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# **Glossary**

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics: the federal agency responsible for the collection, collation and dissemination of statistics relating to the Australian community, including population data.	
AEC	Australian Electoral Commission: the federal agency responsible for managing the electoral roll in all Australian states and territories.	
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	To satisfy the object of the reviews, the committee must have regard to the following principles as detailed in section 31 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019:</i> (a) community of interests in the local government area including economic, social and regional interests;  (b) types of communication and travel in the local government area with special reference to issues arising out of remoteness or distance;  (c) the trend of population changes in the local government area;  (d) the density of population in the local government area;  (e) the physical features of the local government area.	
BOUNDARIES	Borders defining the area of a ward or local government council.	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer.	
CHAIRPERSON	CEO of the prescribed corporation, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.	
CONSULTATION PERIOD	A period of time in which persons and organisations can provide submissions (suggestions, comments and objections) to the committee.	
COUNCILLOR	An elected ordinary member of council.	
COMMENTS	The committee invites comments from the public and organisations on representation suggestions.	
COMMISSION	Northern Territory Electoral Commission.	
COMMISSIONER	Electoral Commissioner.	
ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES	See boundaries.	
ENROLMENT THRESHOLD	The number of electors each ward or council area should have. This is a concept that is legislated for Legislative Assembly redistributions, but not in Local Government Representation Reviews.	
FINAL REPORT	The committee is responsible for considering objections to the preliminary report's proposals and making a final determination in the form of a final report, to be presented to the Minister for Local Government.	
GENERAL ELECTION	Territory wide elections held every 4 years.	
INFORMATION GUIDE	A document prepared by the committee and released in March 2022 defining the purpose, processes and timeframes of the reviews. The guide included resources to assist the public in understanding and participating in the reviews.	

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# **GLOSSARY**

LGANT	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	The government of a specific local area constituting a subdivision of the Northern Territory.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE (THE COMMITTEE)	The Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) consists of the Electoral Commissioner (a), the Surveyor-General (b), and the CEO of the prescribed corporation (c), who shall act as the Chairperson as prescribed under section 27 of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> The powers of the committee are detailed in Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of the Act.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEWS (THE REVIEWS)	Local Government Representation Reviews (the reviews) are conducted for all 17 of the Northern Territory's local government councils in accordance with Part 3.2, Chapter 3 Local Government Act 2019.
LOCALITY	An area, generally a suburb, as defined by a boundary.
THE MINISTER	The Minister for Local Government.
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS	Local government councils in urban and regional areas of the Northern Territory.
NT	Northern Territory.
NTEC	Northern Territory Electoral Commission.
ORDINARY MEMBER	See councillor.
PRELIMINARY REPORT	The committee considered public suggestions and comments and prepared the first proposed representation reviews of the NT's local government councils.
REGIONAL COUNCILS	Local government councils in remote areas of the NT.
REPRESENTATIONAL STRUCTURE	The presence or absence of a ward structure and the number of elected ordinary members for a council area or ward.
REPRESENTATIVE	See councillor.
REVIEWS PROCESS	Any action taken under Part 3.2 of the Local Government Act 2019.
SUBMISSION	For the purpose of this final report, submission refers to the written submissions received from councils and the public. A submission can be in the form of suggestions, comments on suggestions or objections to the preliminary report. Following commencement of the reviews, submissions were invited from the public, councils, and any other interested party. These were considered by the committee and made available for public inspection on the webpage.
WARD	A segment of a council area defined by a boundary, represented by one or more ordinary members elected to council.
WARD STRUCTURE	The number of wards and location of their boundaries.

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# I. INTRODUCTION, DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1.1 Introduction from the chair

The task of the representation reviews is to determine an appropriate representational structure for each local government council, to ensure electors are fairly represented at the 2025 general elections. The 2022 Local Government Representation Committee is the first independent committee to convene to determine representation in the NT. Previous representation reviews were conducted by councils themselves, with the Minister for Northern Territory (NT) Local Government the delegate for approving changes.

With the privilege of leading this change comes the responsibility of establishing methodologies and practices to independently conduct the reviews; laying a foundation and precedent for future committees.

The NT is comprised of 17 local government councils, 153 councillors, more than 140,000 electors<sup>i</sup> and approximately 232,000 people<sup>i</sup> spread over more than 1.3 million square kilometres. While we may all call the NT home, we are a diverse people with differing needs, challenges and experiences.

lain Loganathan, Robert Sarib and I comprise the 3 members of the committee. Collective experience in surveying, electoral management and local government councils equips us with the knowledge and skills to make informed and balanced decisions.

The 2 questions we as the committee and the broader public have asked are, what is fair representation and how can this best be accomplished?

While it was possible to develop a definition of fair representation within the framework and our purview, it was agreed that the appropriate framework for supporting it will vary depending on the unique circumstances of each council. This is an inexact science, but by applying a considered methodology, understanding the history, reviewing relevant data and consulting with councils and stakeholders, the committee has reached its determinations.

Existing structures and representation will remain unchanged in all but one council area.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those councils and individuals who provided submissions. Each was carefully considered and while the committee disagreed on some of the matters raised, we respect and appreciate your participation. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for their hard work and professionalism.

### 1.2 Determinations and recommendations

Contained in section 5 and Appendix C of this report are the committee's determinations and recommendations for each local government council. The committee has determined existing representational structures will remain unchanged with the exception of City of Palmerston, where a ward structure will be introduced.

### Determinations

A 3 ward structure will be implemented in the City of Palmerston.

# Recommendations

The number of councillors for the City of Palmerston be increased from 7 to 8. If the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) accepts this recommendation, the ward boundaries in scenario A (see map) be implemented. If the number of councillors remain at 7, the ward boundaries in scenario B (see map) be implemented.

That further consultation on appropriate ward names be had with the City of Palmerston on the names listed in section 5.3 of this report and other suitable names.

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# 2. BACKGROUND

# 2.1 What are representation reviews?

As prescribed by the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), reviews of representation must be conducted after every local government general election. The Local Government Representation Reviews (the reviews) assess representational structures of a local government area. Specifically, these reviews will assess if a local government area is to be divided into wards or not, and if necessary determine the ward boundaries, as well as the number of elected members representing each ward.

Determinations resulting from the reviews will take affect at the 2025 local government general elections or at any general election held 12 months or more after the Minister's determination (Section 30(5) of the Act). This may impact where electors vote and the number of candidates that will represent them on council. Recommendations will require the approval of the Minister for Local Government (the Minister). If approved, these changes will take affect with the determinations.

# 2.2 Legislative base

The requirements for conducting reviews for the 17 local government councils in the NT are contained within:

• The Local Government Act 2019 (the Act) Parts 3.1 and 3.2.

These reviews are the first of their kind since the introduction of the Local Government Representation Committee (the committee) under Part 3.2 of the Act. Previous reviews were conducted by each local government council in accordance with provisions of the <u>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations</u>. The <u>2017 NT Council Elections Report</u> recommended that any changes to local government ward boundaries be determined by an independent process similar to that used for NT Legislative Assembly redistributions.

Part 3.2 of the Act outlines the powers, objectives and procedures of the representation committee.

# 2.3 Overview of process and timetable

The Act outlines the requisite sequence of events and timeframes for the representation reviews process.

The committee must:

- invite suggestions relating to the reviews no more than 10 months after the election day for a general election
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- · consider the submissions
- publish a preliminary report detailing its determinations or alternate determinations
- invite written submissions from councils and the public on the preliminary report
- allow at least 60 days after the invitation to receive submissions
- consider the submissions
- publish a final report with its determinations on its webpage
- provide a copy of the final report to the Minister for Local Government at least 18 months before the next general election for the council.

After receiving a copy of the final report, the Minister must, by *Gazette* notice, notify the making of the determination. There is no legislated timeframe for the Minister to make this notification.

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The determination takes effect from:

- if a general election for the council takes place 12 months or more after date of the determination – that election; or
- otherwise the next general election in August 2025.

The timetable for the 2022 Representation Reviews is shown at Appendix A.

#### 2.4 The committee

Pursuant to Section 27 of the Act, the 2022 Local Government Representation Committee consists of the following members:

- (a) the Electoral Commissioner, Mr Iain Loganathan
- (b) the Surveyor-General, Mr Robert Sarib
- (c) the CEO of the prescribed corporation, who will also be the Chairperson of the committee.

The prescribed corporation for the 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews is the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT), Mr Sean Holden is the CEO of LGANT and Chairperson of the committee.

### 2.5 Assessment criteria for the committee to use in determinations

In making determinations, the committee must consider the following matters as detailed in section 31 of the Act:

- (a) community of interests in the local government area including economic, social and regional interests
- (b) types of communication and travel in the local government area with special reference to issues arising out of remoteness or distance
- (c) the trend of population changes in the local government area
- (d) the density of population in the local government area
- (e) the physical features of the local government area.

### 2.6 Assessment criteria in relation to division of wards

When choosing to introduce or change a ward structure, the committee must consider the desirability as detailed in section 32(2) of the Act:

- (a) the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election; and
- (b) keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable;and
- (c) keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable;and
- (d) including an identifiable community wholly within one ward if practicable.

In addition to these criteria, Section 29 of the Act allows the committee to determine its own procedures. Consequently, the committee developed principles and a methodology to guide the reviews (section 4.3 of this report).

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# 3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS

## 3.1 Community engagement

The primary source of information for the public was the Local Government Representation Reviews <u>webpage</u><sup>i</sup>. The webpage includes the following information:

- information guide
- preliminary report
- · maps of current external and ward boundaries for all local government areas
- maps of proposed and prospective external and ward boundaries for local government areas
- · online subscription to newsletters for the reviews
- information on how to draft a submission
- a portal for providing submissions about the reviews
- submissions received
- · final report

A page was also created on the NT Government's 'Have your say' webpage which mirrored the resources available on the review's webpage. A social media campaign was conducted to raise awareness of the reviews.

The committee compiled a mailing list of more than 300 stakeholders, including councils, media representatives and Aboriginal organisations. Stakeholders were informed of key stages of the reviews and provided with information to assist their participation via newsletters. Appendix B lists stakeholders on the mailing list. Table 1 lists the 7 newsletters that were emailed to stakeholders during key phases.

**Table 1: Newsletters** 

Newsletter number	Date	Newsletter content
1	28 March 2022	Submission period opening Notification of the commencement of the 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews and invitation to participate by providing a submission.
2	17 May 2022	Submissions closing soon  Notification of the pending closure of the first submission period.
3	3 June 2022	Submissions published  Notification that submissions that had been received had been published to the reviews webpage.
4	31 August 2022	Preliminary report published  Notification that proposed changes to representation had been published to the reviews webpage.
5	20 October 2022	Submissions closing soon  Notification of the pending closure of the second submission period.
6	7 November 2022	Submissions published  Notification that the submission period had closed, and all submissions received had been published to the reviews webpage.
7	9 February 2023	Final report published  Notification that the final report had been published to the reviews webpage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>i</sup> https://ntec.nt.gov.au/Electoral-divisions/2022-local-government-representation-reviews

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# 3.2 Submissions received

The first round of submissions opened 28 March 2022 and closed 31 May 2022. Five submissions were received during this time and a further 2 in early June. Table 2 lists a summary of the 7 submissions received from councils.

Table 2: First submission period

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
22 April 2022	Coomalie Community Government Council	Coomalie Community Government Council	The council queried the suggestion in the information guide that the number of members be reduced.
27 May 2022	May 2022 Alice Springs Town Council Alice Springs Town Council		The introduction of a ward structure would not be beneficial to Alice Springs Town Council.
6 May 2022	MacDonnell Regional Council	MacDonnell Regional Council	No changes to representation are necessary at this time.
31 May 2022	Central Desert Regional Council	Central Desert Regional Council	The number of members representing Akityarre Ward should not be changed
31 May 2022	Litchfield Council	Litchfield Council	The areas of Holtze and Kowandi should remain a part of Litchfield Council
8 June 2022	8 June 2022 Palmerston (City of) Palmerston (City of)		Council does not support wards
9 June 2022	West Daly Regional Council	West Daly Regional Council	The number of council members should be increased

The second submission period opened 31 August 2022 and closed 4 November 2022. Table 3 lists a summary of the 7 submissions received from councils and individuals.

Table 3: Second submission period

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
28 August 2022	D Gomez	Darwin (City of)	The suburb of Ludmilla should not be split between 2 wards.
15 September 2022	B Raue	Palmerston (City of)	The 4 ward structure proposed in the preliminary report would not support fair representation.
3 October 2022	Central Desert Regional Council	Central Desert Regional Council	Reducing the number of members in Akityarre ward would not be benefit electors or council.
4 October 2022	J Armour	Palmerston (City of)	A ward structure is not necessary.
4 October 2022	S Gotch	Palmerston (City of)	A ward structure is not necessary.
13 October 2022	Litchfield Council	Litchfield Council	Council supports the committee's proposal to not make changes.
19 October 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards.

After the close of the second submission period, the committee engaged in further consultation with the City of Palmerston. During this time, council provided a further 4 submissions. One of these submissions included a suggestion of a 2 ward scenario. This scenario was mapped and discussed at a workshop held on 13 December 2022.

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**Table 4: Further submissions from the City of Palmerston** 

Date	Submitted by	Regarding	Summary
17 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and does not support the scenarios in the preliminary report.
24 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and requested alternative scenarios be developed.
7 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards and proposed a workshop to discuss alternative scenarios.
14 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Palmerston (City of)	Council does not support the committee's proposal to introduce wards. However, if a ward structure is to be implemented their preference is for their 2 ward scenario.

The committee provided formal responses to several submissions. These are listed below.

Table 5: Committee's responses to submissions

Date	Recipient	Summary	
6 May 2022	Coomalie Community Government Council	Addressed queries and concerns raised in the council's submission regarding accuracy of Australian Bureau of Statistics data and statements made in the information guide.	
2 September 2022	D Gomez	Clarification that the suburb of Ludmilla falls wholly within the Chan Ward.	
11 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged the council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The committee agreed to consult further with council to devise more suitable boundaries.	
22 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The council is invited to provide boundaries they believe are suitable for the committee's consideration.	
28 November 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee acknowledged the council's objections to wards, but believes they are appropriate. The council was invited to provide boundaries they believe are suitable for the committee's consideration.	
8 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee agreed to attend a workshop with the City of Palmerston regarding ward boundaries.	
15 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Following the workshop with the council, the committee agreed to include scenarios for 3 wards in the final report.	

All submissions and committee responses are available on the reviews webpage.

During the course of the reviews, the committee met with a number of councils and individuals to address queries and submissions. Table 6 provides an overview of these meetings.

Table 6: Consultations with stakeholders

Date	Participating parties	Summary of discussions
1 April 2022	Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	The Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Daly unincorporated areas and their inclusion into a local government area(s) discussion paper.
21 April 2022	Alice Springs Town Council	The committee provided further details regarding the reviews and the opportunity for the council to ask questions.

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Date	Participating parties	Summary of discussions
17 May 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee provided further details regarding the reviews and the opportunity for the council to ask questions.
20 September 2022	Alice Springs Town Council	The committee discussed the prospective 3 ward scenario for Alice Springs in the preliminary report. The council was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
20 September 2022	Palmerston (City of)	The committee discussed the proposed 4 ward scenarios for Palmerston in the preliminary report. The council was given the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
31 October 2022	B Raue	The appropriate number of members per ward and other factors discussed in Mr Raue's submission.
13 December 2022	Palmerston (City of)	Workshop on possible ward boundaries for Palmerston.

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# 4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Data and considerations

While the Act provides details on the assessment process for the reviews, Section 29 allows for the committee to develop its own procedures. To inform its decision making, the committee accessed data relevant to the reviews.

#### **Enrolment statistics**

Enrolment statistics by local government area and ward as at 14 March 2022 were made available on the reviews webpage and the information guide. Enrolment statistics as at 4 November 2022 were used to prepare this report and are available in Appendix C.

### **Community demographics**

Population and demographic data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the census assisted in satisfying some of the legislated assessment criteria. The last census was conducted 10 August 2021, however, relevant information was not available at the commencement of the reviews. As a result, the committee initially utilised data from the 2016 census which was substituted once the 2021 census data became available.

#### Mapping systems

MapInfo, a desktop geographic information system, was used as the base mapping software for the reviews. Spatial layers to assist with the modelling process (NT localities, Aboriginal communities, roads, cadastral and local government boundaries) were obtained from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL). Elector numbers by SA1 boundaries were used to model local government boundaries. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) provided Boundary Maker, an application designed by the VEC to be used in conjunction with MapInfo to facilitate modelling of ward boundaries.

Maps showing the preliminary, prospective and final ward boundaries were produced by DIPL and can be viewed on the reviews <u>webpage</u>.

#### **Community of interest**

Beyond the physical and technical aspects of the representation reviews is the concept of 'community of interest', which is challenging to define. Numerous references were used to guide the committee including:

- road configurations and consequent linkages
- locality (suburb) boundaries
- indicators of social diversity: for example, language usage and boundaries that represent cultural divides such as Aboriginal land councils.

# 4.2 Previous representation reviews

These are the first reviews undertaken by the committee established under the Act which came into force on 1 July 2021. Prior to this, representational structures (including wards, their boundaries and distribution of members) were determined under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2008* which allowed councils to conduct their own reviews and make recommendations about changes to the Minister for Local Government. The Minister would consider the recommendations before making a determination. Changes to representation could also be made via recommendations from the relevant government department.

Changes prior to the 2021 Local Government Elections were gazetted in December 2020 and resulted in changes to 3 councils.

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Table 7: Previous changes to representation

Council	Representation or ward boundary change
City of Darwin	<ul> <li>The suburb of Wagaman moved from Richardson Ward to Waters Ward.</li> <li>The suburb of The Narrows moved from Waters Ward to Lyons Ward.</li> <li>The suburb of Fannie Bay moved from Lyons Ward to Chan Ward.</li> </ul>
Litchfield Council	<ul> <li>East Ward was abolished resulting in the number of wards for Litchfield Council reducing from 4 to 3.</li> <li>There were resulting boundary changes to the remaining Central, North and South wards.</li> <li>There were adjustments to the representation numbers so that each of the 3 remaining wards has 2 elected members.</li> </ul>
West Arnhem Regional Council	<ul> <li>Barrah Ward was abolished and replaced with 2 new wards (Minjilang and Warruwi).</li> <li>Creation of Minjilang Ward which covers all of Croker Island only.</li> <li>Creation of Warruwi Ward which covers the remaining parts of the former Barrah ward, (i.e. excluding Minjilang Ward/Croker Island).</li> <li>The new wards are each represented by one elected member.</li> </ul>

# 4.3 Principles and methodology

The primary task of the reviews is to evaluate council representational structures for the 2025 general elections. More specifically, the reviews consider whether local government council areas should be divided into wards, and if necessary also determine the ward boundaries and the number of elected members representing each ward. The committee may also recommend a change to the total number of members for a council area. (Section 28 of the Act)

The term 'representational structure' will appear several times in the report. This is used to refer to 2 of the elements that comprise the committee's scope; ward boundaries and the number of members allocated to each council or ward. A comparative list of pros and cons for wards was included in the information guide, available on the reviews webpage.

Section 29 of the Act allows the committee to 'determine its own procedures' and consequently the committee developed its own principles and methodology.

#### **Principles**

The legislation provides assessment criteria at section 31 for the committee to consider when making determinations regarding wards. However, the assessment criteria do not specify an enrolment threshold for wards or an appropriate ratio of electors to members. This provides the flexibility to consider individual circumstances of councils.

At the commencement of the reviews the committee agreed that 'fair representation' would be a core principle and that any changes resulting from the reviews must satisfy this principle. The committee defined fair representation as:

- electors having an equal and equitable opportunity to be represented by their council
- electors have an equal and equitable opportunity to be elected to council
- that the representation framework is fit for purpose and supports democratic principles.

#### Methodology

The committee noted that no local government council in the NT has less than 5 members and agreed this was an appropriate minimum, irrespective of geographic size or population. This allows a quorum to be maintained if a member is unable to attend meetings or resigns. For each council, enrolment and population data was graphed to analyse trends.

There are 17 local government councils in the NT, each with its own needs, challenges and circumstances. The committee grouped these councils into 2 categories and applied a specific method for councils with existing wards and councils without existing wards.

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#### Councils with existing wards

There are 12 councils in the NT that have existing wards, including all 9 regional councils, one community government council and 2 municipal councils.

In comparison to municipal councils, regional councils typically have smaller populations, more members, a lower elector to member ratio and fewer electors per ward. This is appropriate given the geography of these councils and the varied and distinct cultural groups that reside in these areas.

Wards in regional councils have been determined on geographic, cultural and historical reasons. This was deemed necessary to support representation of distinct communities and/or cultural groups. It also divides vast areas of land into smaller areas that are easier to cover, which facilitates better communication between members and residents. These ward boundaries were created after extensive consultation with remote communities in the formation of regional councils.

The committee acknowledged that redefining ward boundaries in regional councils can have far reaching impacts and could therefore be contentious. Any significant changes to ward boundaries would require consultation with impacted councils and communities.

Municipal councils do not have the same distinct cultural groups as regional councils, but are diverse in other aspects. They have much larger populations with multiple and sometimes competing communities of interest. In comparison to regional councils, municipal councils typically have larger populations, fewer members, a higher elector to member ratio and more electors per ward. This is a consequence of the concentrated population and reduced geographic size of these councils.

When assessing member distributions and elector to member ratios between wards equity was a primary consideration. Historical, cultural and geographic factors were also considered in contemplating any change to member distributions and ward boundaries.

## Councils with no existing wards

There are 5 councils in the NT that do not have wards, including one community government council, one shire council and 3 municipal councils.

The committee acknowledge that wards provide the opportunity for fair representation when the number of members and elector to member ratios between wards are as equal as practicable. The committee also recognise the appropriate number of wards varies depending on the characteristics of each council. These characteristics were considered during the committees determinations.

The committee determined that the introduction of wards should be considered for councils that are expected to have at least 18,000 electors by 2025 and an indicative growing population. This 18,000 threshold was not prescribed in legislation but formulated by the committee. It was calculated based on the following:

- If wards are to be adopted there should be a minimum of 3. This was founded on the premise that fewer than 3 wards are unlikely to deliver the benefits of a ward structure.
- The current average enrolments in Legislative Assembly divisions is 5,932<sup>ii</sup>. The committee used this as a guide in determining the approximate number of electors in each ward.
- 3 wards of approximately 6,000 electors each would require a minimum enrolment of 18,000.

When considering where to place ward boundaries, the committee applied the following principles as well as the legislated assessment criteria:

- using major roads as ward boundaries
- · keeping individual suburbs wholly within one ward
- · distributing members as evenly as practicable between wards
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable elector to member ratio.

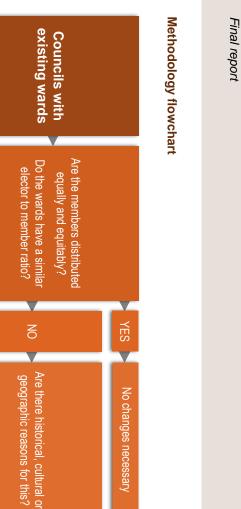
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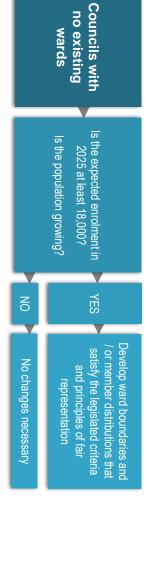
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Attachment 1 Page 145

ooundaries and / or member distributions that satisfy the

legislated criteria and principles of fair representation

Develop alternative ward

No changes necessary

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# 5. DETERMINATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 28 of the Act establishes that the committee may determine:

- (1) (a) if a local government area is divided into wards:
  - (i) that the local government area remain divided into the same wards or be divided into different wards; or
  - (ii) that the local government area should not be divided into wards; or
  - (b) if a local government area is not divided into wards:
    - (i) that the local government area may remain that way; or
    - (ii) that the local government area should be divided into wards.
- (2) If the committee makes a determination that a local government area be divided into wards or different wards, the committee must also determine:
  - (a) the number of wards for a local government area; and
  - (b) the boundaries of the wards for the local government area; and
  - (c) the number of ordinary members for each ward.
- (3) However, the determination under subsection (2)(c) must provide for the same total number of positions for ordinary members for the area that was in place before the determination.

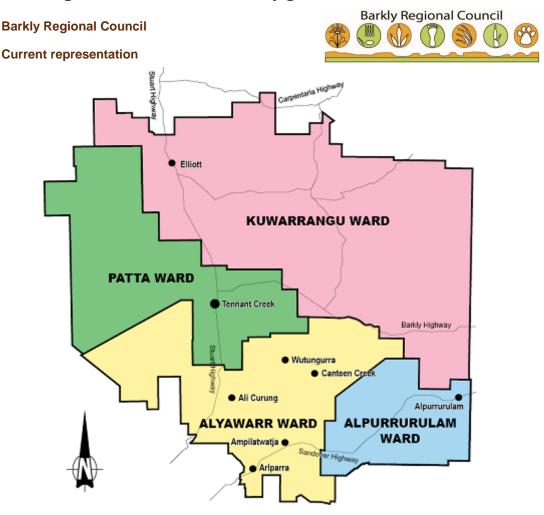
The Minister must give effect to determinations made by the committee (s30(4)).

While the committee may make determinations in regard to wards, other matters related to representation can only be recommended to the Minister (s28(4)). The Minister is obligated to give effect to determinations made by the committee, but exercises discretion for any recommendations.

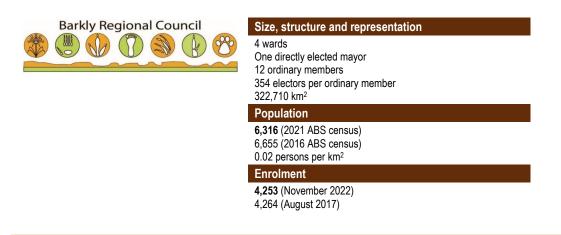
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# 5.2 Regional, shire and community government councils



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



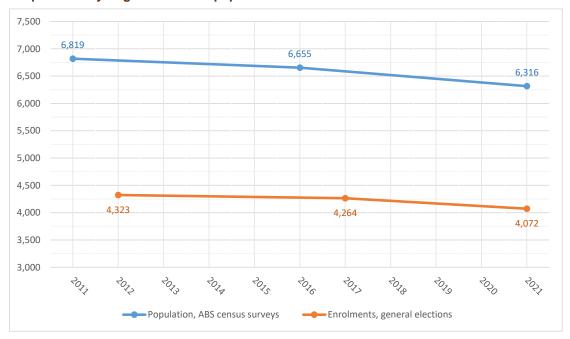
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Table 8: Barkly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Alpurrurulam	213	1	213
Alyawarr	1,604	4	401
Kuwurrangu	508	2	254
Patta	1,928	5	386
Total / Average	4,253	12	354

Graph 1: Barkly Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Barkly Regional Council has 12 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Regional councils such as Barkly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to recent ABS census data, the population in this council area has decreased by 5.1% from 6,655 in 2016 to 6,316 in 2021.

Enrolment in Barkly Regional Council has decreased by 0.3% since the 2017 general elections and, as at 4 November 2022, there are 4,253 electors.

The council has a ratio of 354 electors per member, however, this ratio varies between wards. While Alyawarr Ward has 401 electors per member, Alpurrurulam Ward has 213. The number of members in each ward also varies, for example Alpurrurulam Ward has one, while Patta Ward has 5. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

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No submissions were received in regard to this council.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Barkly Regional Council.

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#### **Belyuen Community Government Council**

## **Current Representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



# Size, structure and representation

No wards

One president, elected by council

5 ordinary members

32 electors per ordinary member

 $41 \ km^2$ 

## Population

149 (2021 ABS census)

164 (2016 ABS census)

3.6 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## Enrolment

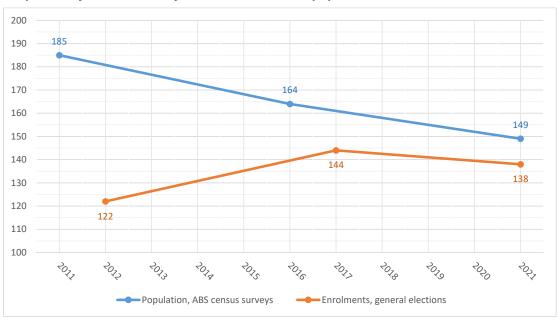
**162** (November 2022)

144 (August 2017)

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Graph 2: Belyuen Community Government Council population and enrolment trends

Belyuen Community Government Council has 5 ordinary members and a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Belyuen Community Government Council has increased by 12.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 162 electors. The council has a ratio of 32 electors per member.

While enrolments have increased, the population has dropped. According to the recent ABS census data the population has decreased by 9.1% from 164 in 2016 to 149 in 2021. This data indicates that either the elector or population numbers, or both, for Belyuen Community Government Council are not accurate.

The information guide (available on the reviews webpage) identified the 'high number of representatives given the small population' as an area of focus for this council. The methodology (see section 4.3) stated there be a minimum of 5 members on a council, therefore the committee did not consider reducing this number.

The number of electors in this council is far less than the threshold at which the committee would consider introducing wards. Therefore, it was concluded that a ward structure was not necessary.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Belyuen Community Government Council.

The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

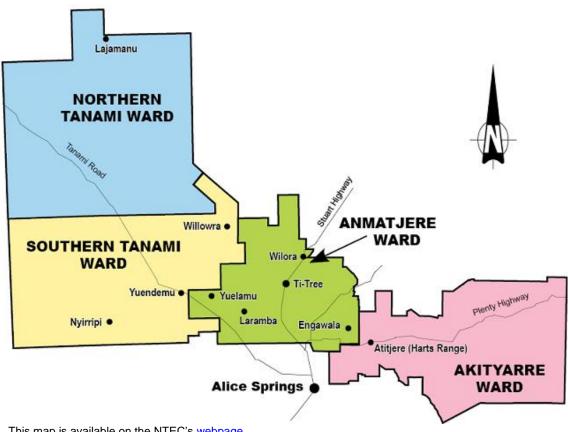
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Belyuen Community Government Council.

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#### **Central Desert Regional Council**

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

One president, elected by the councillors

12 ordinary members

211 electors per ordinary member

281,338 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

3,591 (2021 ABS census)

3,677 (2016 ABS census)

0.01 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## **Enrolment**

2,533 (November 2022) 2,657 (August 2017)

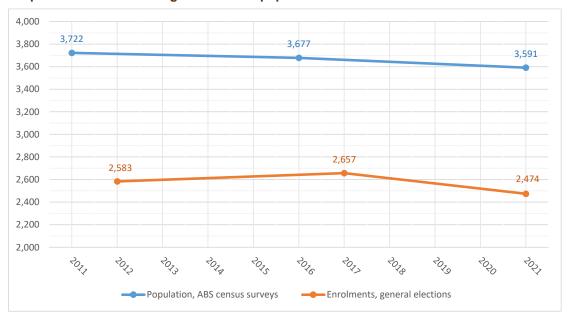
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Table 9: Central Desert Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Akityarre	272	2	136
Anmatjere	988	4	247
Northern Tanami	382	2	191
Southern Tanami	891	4	223
Total / Average	2,533	12	211

Graph 3: Central Desert Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Central Desert Regional Council has 12 ordinary members, with a president elected by council.

A detailed map of this council's current ward boundaries is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Central Desert Regional Council has decreased by 4.7% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 2,533 electors.

Regional councils such as Central Desert typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the 2021 ABS census the population in this council area has decreased by 2.3% since 2016 to 3,591 people.

The average number of electors per member is 211 with some variation between wards, for example, while Anmatjere Ward has a ratio of 247, Akityarre Ward has 136. The number of members allocated to each ward also varies, with both Anmatjere and Southern Tanami wards having 4 members, while Akityarre and Northern Tanami wards have 2 each. This representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created with the boundaries based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

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The preliminary report proposed that the ward boundaries remain unchanged but the number of members in Akityarre Ward be reduced from 2 to one. The rationale for this proposal was the recent number of failed and supplementary by-elections for the ward and the lower number of electors compared to other wards.

Central Desert Regional Council provided 2 submissions to the committee, which advocated the number of representatives for Akityarre Ward should not be decreased. In its second submission (dated 3 October 2022), the council outlined initiatives implemented to improve engagement and service delivery to pastoralists and residents that has renewed confidence in local government in Akityarre Ward. This submission also highlighted the Jervois Mine and Plenty Highway tourism project as likely sources of future population growth in the ward. Both submissions are available on the reviews webpage.

The committee accepted these contentions and agreed not to recommend a decrease in the number of members in Akityarre Ward.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

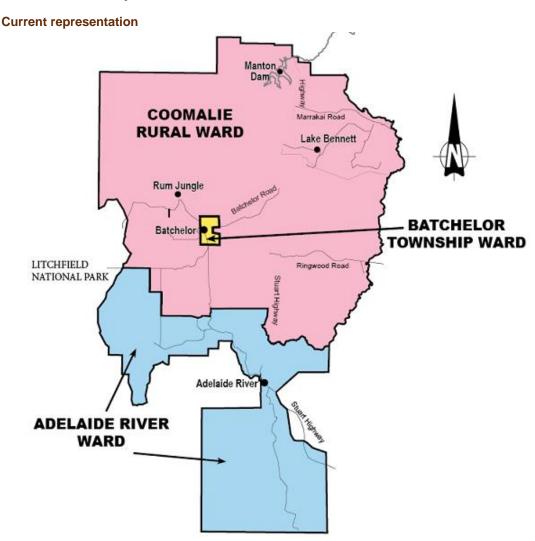
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Central Desert Regional Council.

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#### **Coomalie Community Government Council**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

3 wards

One president, elected by the councillors

6 ordinary members

110 electors per ordinary member

2,056 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

**1,276** (2021 ABS census) 1,319 (2016 ABS census)

0.6 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

#### Enrolment

662 (November 2022)

614 (August 2017)

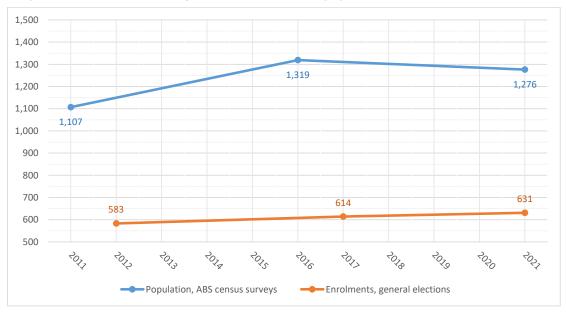
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Table 10: Coomalie Community Government Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Adelaide River	228	2	114
Batchelor Township	185	2	93
Coomalie Rural	249	2	125
Total / Average	662	6	110

**Graph 4: Coomalie Community Government Council population and enrolment trends** 



Coomalie Community Government Council has 6 ordinary members with the president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Coomalie Community Government Council has increased by 7.8% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 662 electors. The average number of electors to members is 110 with all 3 wards having a similar ratio.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 3.3% from 1,319 in 2016 to 1,276 in 2021.

The information guide identified there is a 'high number of members given the small population' as an area of focus for Coomalie Community Government Council. The council provided a submission that queried the committee's basis for this comment and the committee provided a response. All submissions and committee responses are available on the reviews webpage.

While 6 members is more than the minimum (5), it is not excessive or inappropriate given the geographic size of the council. In addition, a reduction in the number of members would make the elector to member ratio less equitable.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

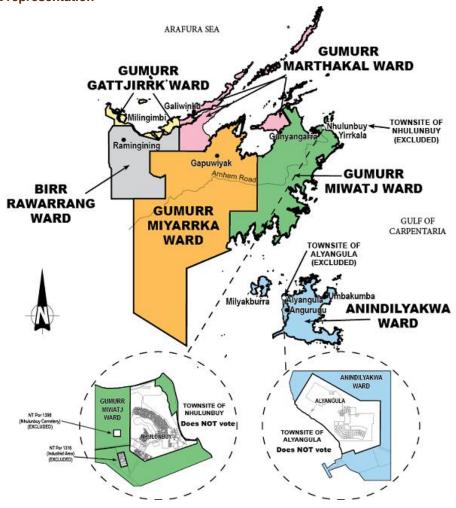
The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in Coomalie Community Government Council.

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#### **East Arnhem Regional Council**

#### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



#### Size, structure and representation

6 wards

One president, elected by the councillors

14 ordinary members

467 electors per ordinary member

33,310 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

8,778 (2022 ABS census)

9,026 (2016 ABS census)

0.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

#### **Enrolment**

**6,535** (November 2022) 5,876 (August 2017)

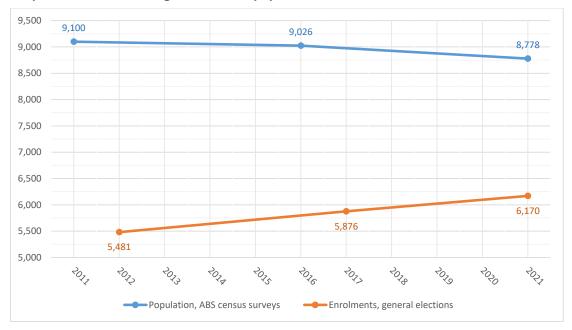
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Table 11: East Arnhem Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Anindilyakwa	900	2	450
Birr Rawarrang	720	2	360
Gumurr Gattjirrk	823	2	412
Gumurr Marthakal	1,680	3	560
Gumurr Miwatj	1,534	3	511
Gumurr Miyarrka	878	2	439
Total / Average	6,535	14	467

Graph 5: East Arnhem Regional Council population and enrolment trends



East Arnhem Regional Council has 14 ordinary members with a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in East Arnhem Regional Council has increased by 11.2% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 6,535 electors. The council has an average ratio of 467 electors per member.

Regional councils such as East Arnhem typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census the population has decreased by 2.7% from 9,026 in 2016 to 8,778 in 2021.

While the members have been distributed relatively evenly between wards, there is some variation in the elector to member ratios. While Gumurr Marthakal Ward has 560 electors per member, Birr Rawarrang Ward has 360. The current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, but also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

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The information guide identified the following as an area of focus for East Arnhem Regional Council:

'Progress towards creation of separate Anindilyakwa regional council already begun – how will this impact remaining wards?'

The committee understands that this matter is still under consideration and therefore it did not factor in the review.

The committee decided that 14 members is currently appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to East Arnhem Regional Council.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in East Arnhem Regional Council.

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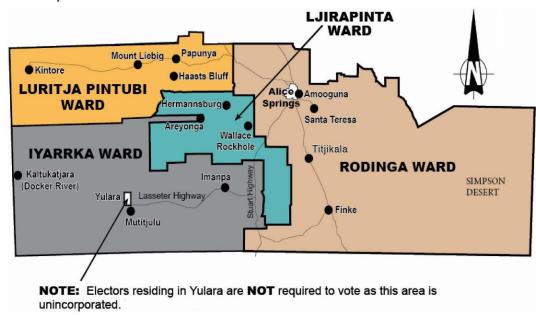
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#### **MacDonnell Regional Council**

#### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



#### Size, structure and representation

4 wards

One president, elected by the councillors

12 ordinary members

310 electors per ordinary member

268,339 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

5,748 (2021 ABS census)

6,029 (2016 ABS census)

0.02 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## **Enrolment**

3,714 (November 2022)

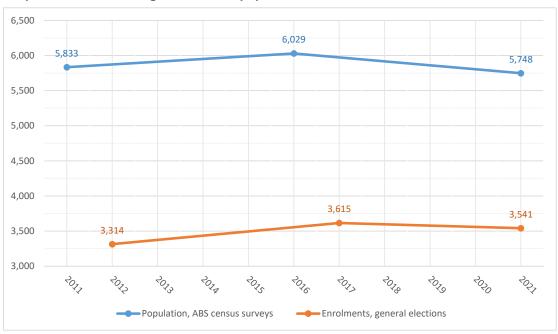
3,615 (August 2017)

Table 12: MacDonnell Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
lyarrka	814	2	407
Ljirapinta	685	3	228
Luritja Pintubi	1,084	3	361
Rodinga	1,131	4	283
Total / Average	3,714	12	310

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Graph 6: MacDonnell Regional Council population and enrolment trends

MacDonnell Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in MacDonnell Regional Council has increased by 2.7% since the 2017 general election and as at 4 November there are 3,714 electors. The council has an average ratio of 310 electors per member.

Regional councils such as MacDonnell typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 4.7% from 6,029 in 2016 to 5,748 in 2021.

There is some variation in the number of members allocated to each ward. While Rodinga Ward has 4, lyarrka Ward has 2. There is also some variation in the elector to member ratios between wards. While Ljirapinta Ward has 228 electors per member, lyarrka Ward has 407. The current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

The MacDonnell Regional Council provided a brief submission stating they did not believe any changes to representation were necessary at this time. This submission is available on the representation reviews <u>webpage</u>.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

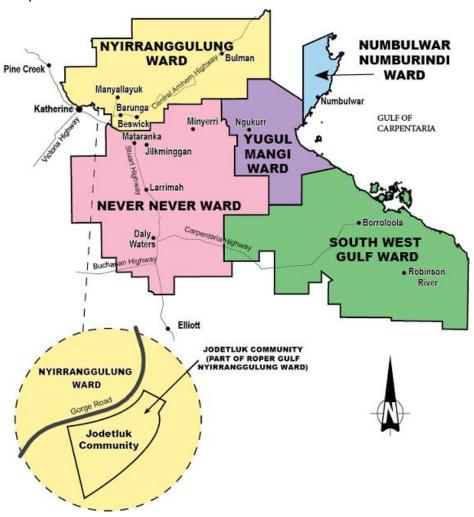
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in MacDonnell Regional Council.

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#### **Roper Gulf Regional Council**

#### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

5 wards

One mayor, elected by the councillors 13 ordinary members 324 electors per ordinary member

185,214 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

**6,486** (2021 ABS census) 6,505 (2016 ABS census) 0.04 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## Enrolment

**4,208** (November 2022) 3,952 (August 2017)

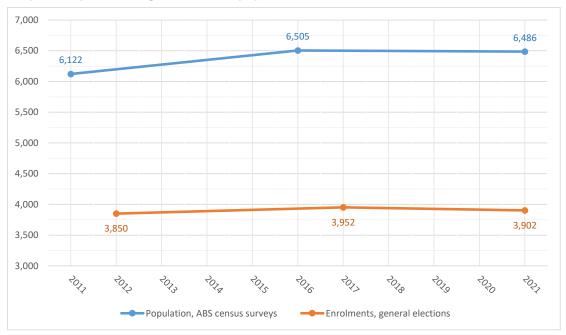
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Table 13: Roper Gulf Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Never Never	884	3	295
Numbulwar Numburindi	528	2	264
Nyirranggulung	970	3	323
South West Gulf	1,002	3	334
Yugul Mangi	824	2	412
Total / Average	4,208	13	324

Graph 7: Roper Gulf Regional Council population and enrolment trends



Roper Gulf Regional Council has 13 ordinary members with a mayor elected by council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Roper Gulf Regional Council has increased by 6.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 4,208 electors. The average number of electors to members in this council is 324 and the members have been distributed equitably.

Regional councils such as Roper Gulf typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 0.3% from 6,505 in 2016 to 6,486 in 2021.

The ratio of electors per member varies between wards. While Yugul Mangi Ward has 412 electors per member, Numbulwar Numburindi Ward has 264. The current representational structure may create some disparity between wards, but it allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

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The committee decided that 13 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

The information guide produced by the committee identified an area of focus for this council. Within Katherine Town Council's boundaries there is an island of land that is represented by the Nyirranggulung Ward of Roper Gulf Regional Council. This small pocket is occupied by the Jodetluck community.

It may be confusing for electors when part of one council sits inside another council's area. However, the committee's main concern is how electors in this area can be fairly represented. Jodetluk has a relationship with the Roper Gulf area and communities in the Nyirranggulung Ward. Changing their representation to Katherine Town Council would disregard their relationship and cultural links.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Roper Gulf Regional Council.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

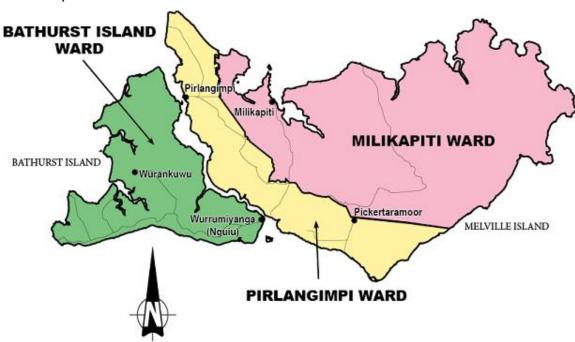
The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in Roper Gulf Regional Council.

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#### **Tiwi Islands Regional Council**

**Current representation** 



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



#### Size, structure and representation

3 wards

One mayor, elected by the councillors

12 ordinary members

144 electors per ordinary member

 $7,483 \text{ km}^2$ 

## Population

2,348 (2021 ABS census)

2,453 (2016 ABS census)

0.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## **Enrolment**

**1,724** (November 2022)

1,636 (August 2017)

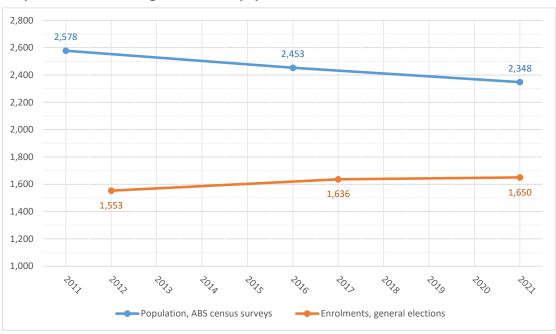
Table 14: Tiwi Islands Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Bathurst	1,135	6	189
Milikapiti	325	3	108
Pirlangimpi	264	3	88
Total / Average	1,724	12	144

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Graph 8: Tiwi Islands Regional Council population and enrolment trends

Tiwi Islands Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Regional councils such as Tiwi Islands typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 4.3% from 2,453 in 2016 to 2,348 in 2021.

Enrolment in Tiwi Islands Regional Council has increased by 5.4% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 1,724 electors. The average number of electors to members in this council is 144. There is some variation in this figure between wards. While Bathurst Ward has an elector to member ratio of 189, Pirlangimpi Ward has a ratio of 88. Bathurst Ward also has twice as many members as its counterparts. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Tiwi Islands Regional Council.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

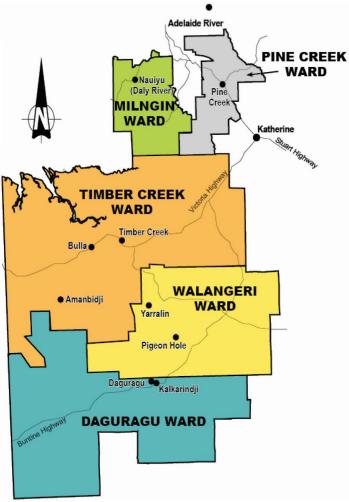
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Tiwi Island Regional Council.

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#### Victoria Daly Regional Council

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



#### Size, structure and representation

5 wards

One mayor, elected by the councillors

5 ordinary members

363 electors per ordinary member

153,287 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

2,815 (2021 ABS census)

2,810 (2016 ABS census)

0.02 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## Enrolment

1,814 (November 2022)

1,713 (August 2017)

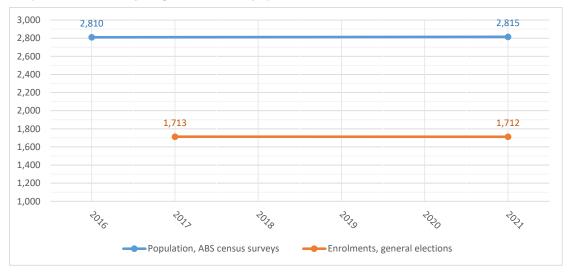
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Table 15: Victoria Daly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Daguragu	444	1	444
Milngin	388	1	388
Pine Creek	225	1	225
Timber Creek	434	1	434
Walangeri	323	1	323
Total / Average	1,814	5	363

**Graph 9: Victoria Daly Regional Council population and enrolment trends** 



Victoria Daly Regional Council has 5 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Victoria Daly Regional Council has increased by 5.9% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 1,814 electors. The average number of electors to members is 363 and the members have been distributed evenly. There is some disparity in the electors to member ratios between wards. While Daguragu Ward has 444 electors per member, Pine Creek Ward has 225. This representational structure creates some disparity between wards, but also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

Regional councils such as Victoria Daly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 0.2% from 2,810 in 2016 to 2,815 in 2021.

The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Victoria Daly Regional Council.

## **Determinations and recommendations**

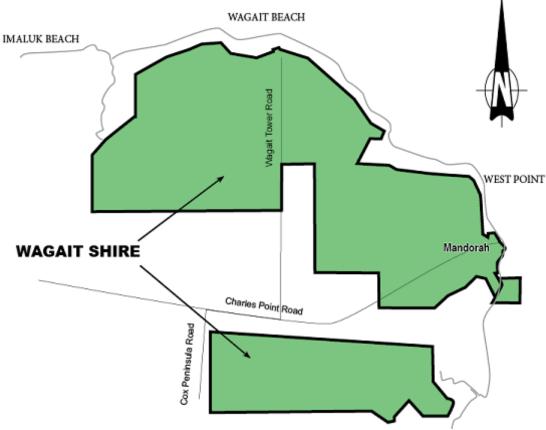
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Victoria Daly Regional Council.

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#### **Wagait Shire Council**

#### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



# Size, structure and representation

No wards

One president, elected by the councillors

5 ordinary members

63 electors per ordinary member

 $5.7 \text{ km}^2$ 

#### Population

**423** (2021 ABS census) 463 (2016 ABS census)

74 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

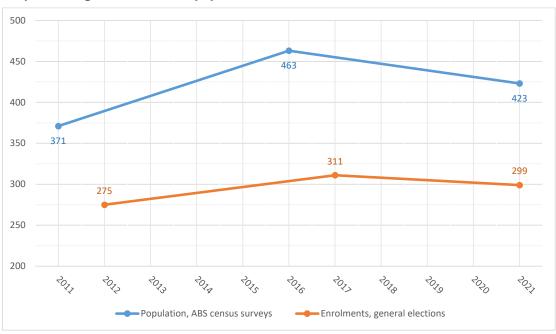
## **Enrolment**

315 (November 2022)

311 (August 2017)

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**Graph 10: Wagait Shire Council population and enrolment trends** 

Wagait Shire Council has 5 ordinary members and a president elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Wagait Shire Council has increased by 1.3% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 315 electors. This figure is far less than the 18,000 threshold at which the committee would consider implementing a ward structure.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 8.6% from 463 in 2016 to 423 in 2021.

The committee decided that 5 members is appropriate given the limited number of discrete communities and small geographic size of the region.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Wagait Shire Council.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

The committee determined not change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Wagait Shire Council.

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#### **West Arnhem Regional Council**

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

5 wards

One mayor, elected by the councillors

12 ordinary members

319 electors per ordinary member

49,675 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

6,281 (2021 ABS census)

6,188 (2016 ABS census)

0.1 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

#### Enrolment

3,825 (November 2022)

3,720 (August 2017)

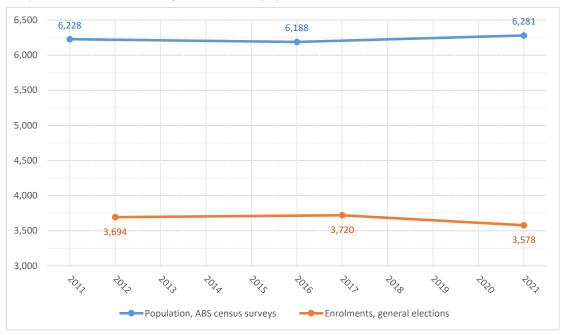
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Table 16: West Arnhem Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Gunbalanya	915	3	305
Kakadu	551	3	184
Maningrida	1,881	4	470
Minjilang	167	1	167
Warruwi	311	1	311
Total / Average	3,825	12	319

Graph 11: West Arnhem Regional Council population and enrolment trends



West Arnhem Regional Council has 12 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in West Arnhem Regional Council has increased by 2.8% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 3,825 electors.

Regional councils such as West Arnhem typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 1.5% from 6,188 in 2016 to 6,281 in 2021.

The average number of members per councillor is 319 with some variation between wards, in particular between Maningrida Ward with 444 electors per member and Minjilang Ward with 164. In addition to having a significantly larger elector to member ratio, Maningrida Ward also has 4 times as many members as Minjilang Ward. While the current representational structure creates some disparity between wards, it also allows distinct communities individual representation on council. These communities were consulted when regional councils were created and ward boundaries were based on geographic, cultural and historical factors.

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The committee decided that 12 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

No submissions were received in regard to West Arnhem Regional Council.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

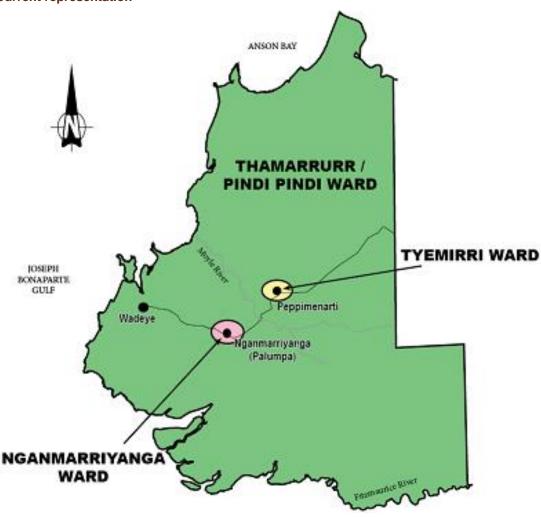
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in West Arnhem Regional Council.

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#### **West Daly Regional Council**

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

3 wards

One mayor, elected by the councillors

6 ordinary members

348 electors per ordinary member

14,070 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

2,973 (2021 ABS census)

3,166 (2016 ABS census)

0.2 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

## Enrolment

**2,089** (November 2022) 1,796 (August 2017)

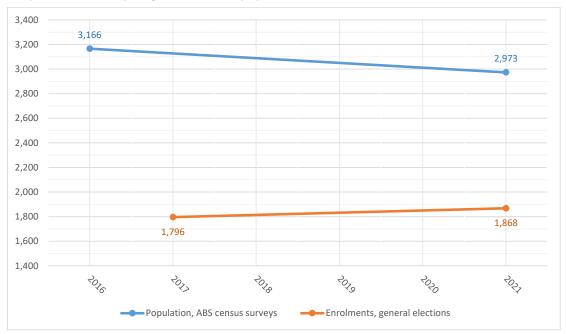
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Table 17: West Daly Regional Council enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Nganmarriyanga	236	1	236
Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi	1,746	4	437
Tyemirri	107	1	107
Total / Average	2,089	6	348

Graph 12: West Daly Regional Council population and enrolment trends



West Daly Regional Council has 6 ordinary members with a mayor elected by the council.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Previously, the area comprising West Daly Regional Council were part of the Victoria Daly Shire Council. This council was split into 2 separate local government areas before the 2017 general elections.

Regional councils such as West Daly typically have a smaller population over a large geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 6.1% from 3,166 in 2016 to 2,973 in 2021. Geographically, West Daly is one of the smallest regional councils in the NT.

Enrolment in West Daly Regional Council has increased by 16% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 2,089 electors.

The information guide identified the following areas of focus for this council:

- Tyemirri ward has small enrolment numbers
- Emu Point homeland has links with Peppimenarti community, but they are in different wards.

West Daly Regional Council provided a submission arguing that the number of members should be increased but did not specify how many would be appropriate. Neither did it describe how the

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members should be distributed. This submission is available on the reviews <u>webpage</u>. The committee agreed that 6 members is appropriate given the number of discrete communities and geography of the region.

The average number of electors per member is 348, with some disparity between wards, particularly Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward with 437 electors per member and Tyemirri Ward with 107. The number of members allocated to each ward also varies, with Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward having 4 while the remaining wards have one each. Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward has been allocated more members due to the fact it has significantly more electors.

These ward boundaries were established with the creation of the council and ensure the smaller communities of Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga each have representation on council. The committee agreed that this was important and fair, despite the disparity in elector to member ratios.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in West Daly Regional Council.

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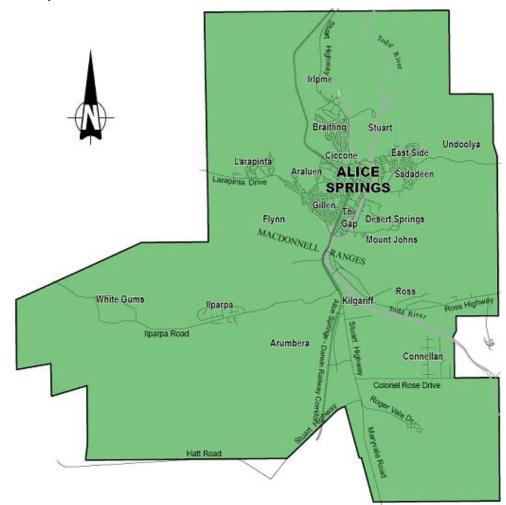
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# 5.3 Municipal councils

**Alice Springs Town Council** 

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

No wards One directly elected mayor 8 ordinary members 2,018 electors per ordinary member 328 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population

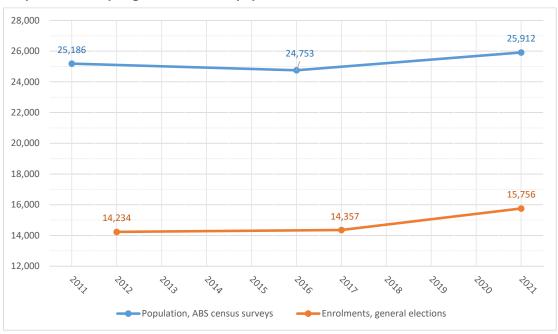
**25,912** (2021 ABS census) 24,753 (2016 ABS census) 79 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

#### **Enrolment**

**16,145** (November 2022) 14,357 (August 2017)

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Graph 13: Alice Springs Town Council population and enrolment trends

Alice Springs Town Council has 8 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Alice Springs Town Council has increased by 12.5% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 16,145 electors. The council has a ratio of 2,018 electors per member.

According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 4.7% from 24,753 in 2016 to 25,912 in 2021.

The information guide identified the 'possible introduction of wards' as an area of focus for this council

A submission received from Alice Springs Town Council expressed that wards were not necessary at this time.

The committee decided that 8 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

Alice Springs Town Council's enrolments have increased to a point approaching the threshold of 18,000 at which the committee would consider wards. The preliminary report did not propose the introduction of wards but did include a prospective scenario in order to obtain feedback. A map of this prospective scenario is available on the reviews <a href="webpage">webpage</a>. Alice Springs Town Council's submission did not support the introduction of wards and stated that the prospective boundaries were not suitable. All submissions are available on the representation reviews <a href="webpage">webpage</a>.

#### **Determinations and recommendations**

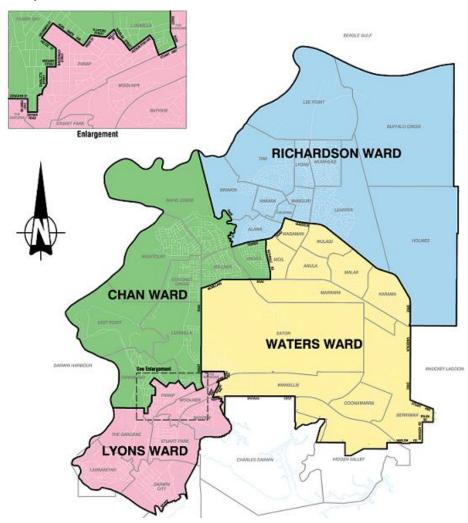
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Alice Springs Town Council.

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## Darwin (City of)

## **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



## Size, structure and representation

4 wards

One directly elected mayor

12 ordinary members

4,341 electors per ordinary member

111 km<sup>2</sup>

## Population

**80,530** (2021 ABS census) 78,804 (2016 ABS census) 724 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

#### Enrolment

**52,092** (November 2022) 50,100 (August 2017)

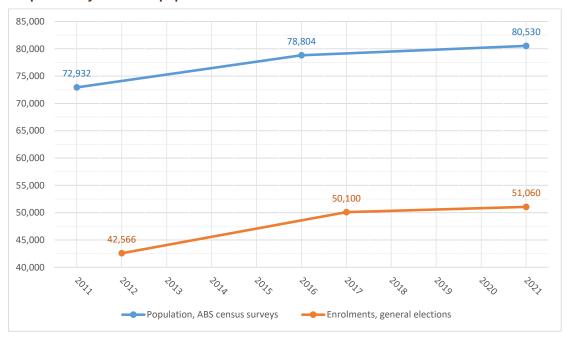
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Table 18: City of Darwin enrolment and representation

Ward	Electors as at 31 May 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Chan	12,719	3	4,240
Lyons	13,362	3	4,454
Richardson	12,907	3	4,302
Waters	13,104	3	4,368
Total / Average	52,092	12	4,341

Graph 14: City of Darwin population and enrolment trends



The City of Darwin has 12 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in the City of Darwin has increased by 4% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 52,092 electors. The average number of electors to members is 4,341. All 4 individual wards have a similar ratio. The members have also been evenly distributed.

Municipal councils such as City of Darwin typically have a larger population over a small geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population has increased by 2.2% from 78,804 in 2016 to 80,530 in 2021.

The committee decided that 12 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

No submissions were received from or in regard to the City of Darwin.

## **Determinations and recommendations**

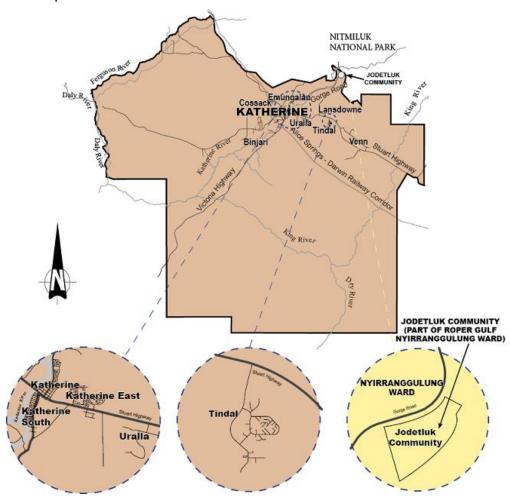
The committee determined not to change existing ward boundaries or recommend changes to representation in the City of Darwin.

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### **Katherine Town Council**

### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



### Size, structure and representation

No wards

One directly elected mayor

6 ordinary members

1,110 electors per ordinary member

7,417 km<sup>2</sup>

### Population

9,643 (2021 ABS census)

9,717 (2016 ABS census)

1.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

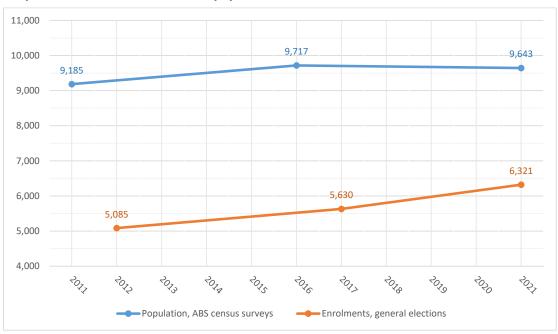
# **Enrolment**

6,661 (November 2022)

5,630 (August 2017)

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Graph 15: Katherine Town Council population and enrolment trends

Katherine Town Council has 6 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Katherine Town Council has increased by 18% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022 there are 6,661 electors.

According to the ABS census the population has decreased by 0.8% from 9,717 in 2016 to 9,643 in 2021.

The information guide identified the 'Possible introduction of wards' as an area of focus.

Enrolments currently fall well below the 18,000 threshold at which the committee would consider wards. While the council area is significantly larger than any other municipal council, it is not so large that wards would be warranted on that basis alone.

The committee decided that 6 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

No submissions were received from or in regard to Katherine Town Council.

### **Determinations and recommendations**

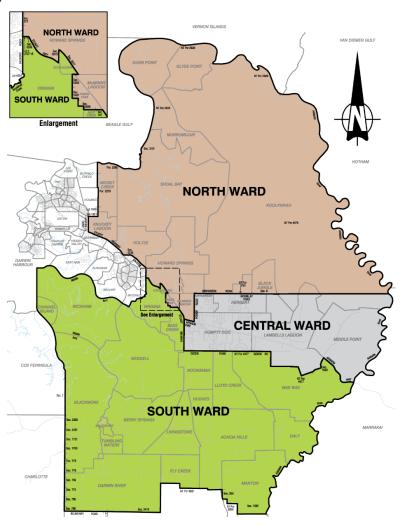
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Katherine Town Council.

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### **Litchfield Council**

### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



### Size, structure and representation

3 wards

One directly elected mayor

6 ordinary members

2,207 electors per ordinary member 2,903 km<sup>2</sup>

### Population

21,411 (2021 ABS census) 23,855 (2016 ABS census)

7.4 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

# Enrolment

13,239 (November 2022) 12,268 (August 2017)

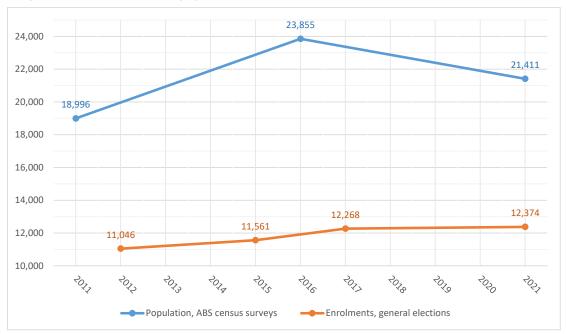
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**Table 19: Litchfield Council enrolment and representation** 

Ward	Electors as at 4 November 2022	Council members	Electors per member
Central	4,542	2	2,271
North	4,261	2	2,131
South	4,436	2	2,218
Total / Average	13,239	6	2,207

**Graph 16: Litchfield Council population and enrolment trends** 



Litchfield Council has 6 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in Litchfield Council has increased by 7.9% since the 2017 general elections and as at 4 November 2022, there are 13,239 electors.

The average number of electors to members is 2,207, with all 3 wards having a similar ratio. The number of members per ward has also been equitably distributed.

According to the ABS census data the population has decreased by 10.2% from 23,855 in 2016 to 21,411 in 2021.

The committee decided that 6 councillors is appropriate given the variety of communities of interest, population, number of enrolments and geographic size of the council area.

Litchfield Council provided 2 submissions to the committee stating no changes were necessary at this time. Both submissions are available on the reviews <u>webpage</u>.

# **Determinations and recommendations**

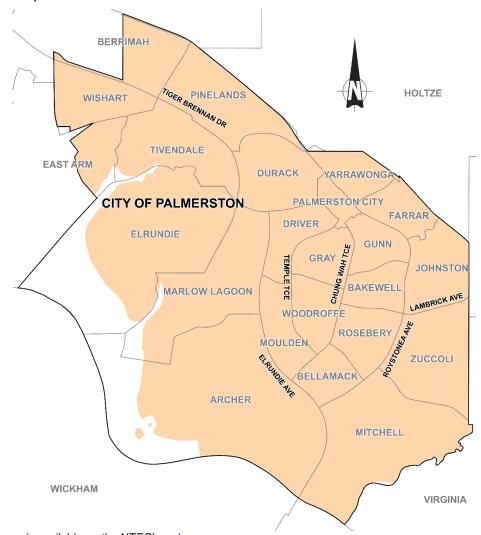
The committee determined not to change or recommend changes to the representational structure in Litchfield Council.

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### Palmerston (City of)

### **Current representation**



This map is available on the NTEC's webpage.



# Size, structure and representation

One directly elected mayor
7 ordinary members
3,516 electors per ordinary member

77 km<sup>2</sup>
Population

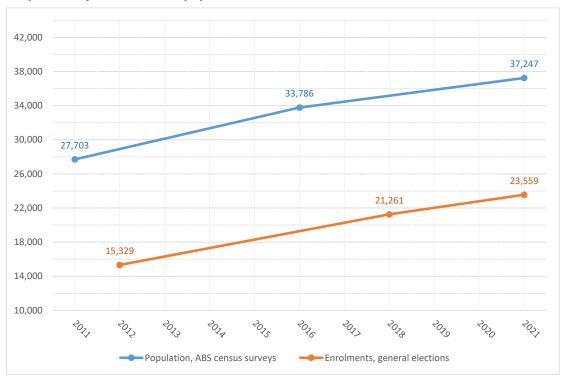
**37,247** (2021 ABS census) 33,786 (2016 ABS census) 482 persons per km<sup>2</sup>

Enrolment

**24,611** (November 2022) 21,261 (March 2018)

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**Graph 17: City of Palmerston population and enrolment trends** 

The City of Palmerston has 7 ordinary members and a directly elected mayor.

A detailed map of this local government council is available on the reviews webpage.

Enrolment in the City of Palmerston has increased by 16% since the 2018 general election and as at 4 November 2022, there were 24,611 electors. The council had a ratio of 3,516 electors per member.

Municipal councils such as Palmerston typically have a larger population over a small geographic area. According to the ABS census data the population had increased by 10.2% from 33,786 in 2016 to 37,247 in 2021.

On 1 July 2022 the City of Palmerston's external boundaries were expanded to include previously unincorporated industrial land. These newly incorporated areas include:

- Berrimah (partial)
- East Arm (partial)
- Elrundie
- Tivendale
- Wishart (partial)

The information guide identified the 'possible introduction of wards' as an area of focus for the City of Palmerston. In their initial submission and meetings with the committee, the council objected to the introduction of wards. Their reasons for not supporting wards are detailed in their submission, available on the reviews <a href="webpage">webpage</a>.

Palmerston is, geographically, the smallest municipal council in the NT. However, it is among the largest councils in regard to population, population density and enrolment; second only to the City of Darwin. The City of Palmerston also has among the highest enrolment and population growth rates of any council in the NT. As this council grows, so too does the diversity of its residents, their interests and their needs.

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The methodology established in section 4.3 described that a minimum of 3 wards would be considered for municipal councils with at least 18,000 electors, and a growing population. Having met both criteria, the committee developed various ward scenarios for the City of Palmerston.

During this process the legislated assessment criteria and guiding principles were used to evaluate ward scenarios and boundaries. This included ensuring equitable elector to member ratios and distribution of councillors, using major roads as ward boundaries, and keeping suburbs wholly within a ward.

In its preliminary report, the committee proposed 2 scenarios of 4 wards for the City of Palmerston. Maps of these scenarios are available on the reviews <u>webpage</u>.

Further submissions from the City of Palmerston again objected to the introduction of wards and raised concerns about both 4 ward scenarios in the preliminary report. The committee provided written responses to their submissions and met with the council to discuss its concerns. All correspondence between the council and the committee is available on the reviews webpage.

To enable further consultation with the City of Palmerston, the committee delayed the release of the final report by a month. The council were invited to submit alternative ward scenarios that addressed their concerns and submitted a 2 ward scenario that is available on the reviews <u>webpage</u>.

The committee attended a workshop on 13 December 2022 at the City of Palmerston to discuss the council's 2 ward scenario and its concerns regarding the proposed 4 ward scenarios. Scenarios with 3 wards were also discussed at the workshop.

Council reiterated that it did not believe a ward structure was necessary or appropriate to support fair representation in the City of Palmerston. The council also stated that if a ward structure were to be implemented, its preference would be its 2 ward scenario which addressed the following:

- each ward should be comprised of at least 2 members
- the suburbs of Driver, Gray, Moulden and Woodroffe should not all be in the same ward
- the number of ordinary members should be increased from 7 to 8.

The committee accepted that the council had raised some valid concerns but did not support the 2 ward scenario as it did not align with the committee's methodology that there should be a minimum of 3 wards. The committee also acknowledged that neither of the 4 ward scenarios in the preliminary report adequately addressed the concerns raised by the council.

Subsequently the committee developed 2 scenarios with 3 wards that addressed council's concerns, noting that council were not supportive of the introduction of wards. These scenarios were provided to council for feedback and are available on the reviews webpage.

Recognising that the number of members in a council are determined by the Minister, the committee has recommended to increase the number of councillors from 7 to 8 based on current enrolment and anticipated population growth. An additional member would enable a more equitable elector to member ratio.

Following careful consideration of the concerns raised by the council, 2 scenarios were developed that each comprised of 3 wards, the suburbs of Driver, Gray, Moulden and Woodroffe are represented by 2 different wards; and there are at least 2 members in each ward.

In addition to the council's feedback and the legislated assessment criteria, the committee again considered the following factors when formulating the new ward boundaries:

- using major roads as boundaries
- keeping individual suburbs wholly within one ward
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable elector to member ratio
- maintaining (where practicable) an equitable distribution of members between wards.

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### City of Palmerston scenario A

Scenario A allows for 8 councillors and a proportionate distribution of electors with the exception of Ward 1 which has a higher ratio of electors to members. This scenario is based on the assumption that the Minister increases the number of councillors from 7 to 8.

Table 20: City of Palmerston scenario A, electors per ward

Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
Ward 1	2	Berrimah Driver Durack East Arm Elrundie Marlow Lagoon Moulden Pinelands Tivendale Wishart	7,082	3,541
Ward 2	3	Bakewell Farrar Gray Gunn Johnston Palmerston City Palmerston Indigenous Village Yarrawonga	8,504	2,835
Ward 3	3	Archer Bellamack Mitchell Rosebery Woodroffe Zuccoli	8,559	2,853
Total	8		24,145	3,018

A map of this scenario is available on the reviews webpage.

### City of Palmerston scenario B

Scenario B is similar to A with the following differences:

- the suburb of Bakewell is in Ward 3 instead of Ward 2
- Ward 2 has 2 council members, instead of 3
- facilitates a more equal distribution of electors if the number of councillors remain at 7.

If the Minister determines that the number of councillors remain at 7, scenario B is to be implemented. There is a larger number of enrolments in Ward 3 to accommodate one more member. The electors to member ratios are similar across all 3 wards.

Table 21: City of Palmerston scenario B, electors per ward

Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
Ward 1	2	Berrimah Driver Durack East Arm Elrundie Marlow Lagoon Moulden Pinelands Tivendale Wishart	7,082	3,541
Ward 2	2	Farrar	6,351	3,176

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Ward	Members	Suburbs	Enrolment as at 31 May 2022	Electors per councillor
		Gray Gunn Johnston Palmerston City Palmerston Indigenous Village Yarrawonga		
Ward 3	3	Archer Bakewell Bellamack Mitchell Rosebery Woodroffe Zuccoli	10,712	3,571
Total	7		24,145	3,449

A map of this scenario is available on the reviews webpage.

### **Determinations and recommendations**

The committee has determined to implement a 3 ward structure for the City of Palmerston and recommends that the Minister increase the number of councillors from 7 to 8. If this recommendation is accepted by the Minister the boundaries defined in scenario A (see map) be implemented.

If the Minister determines that the number of councillors remains at 7, then the boundaries defined in scenario B (see map) be implemented.

# 5.4 Recommended ward names for the City of Palmerston

### **Naming conventions**

In addition to proposing ward boundaries, the committee may make recommendations regarding ward names (s28(4)(a)).

As the Act does not establish conventions, requirements or guidelines in regard to ward names, the committee adopted similar conventions used in Legislative Assembly redistributions shown in the table below.

Table 22: Appropriate and inappropriate ward name criteria

Ар	propriate criteria	Ina	ppropriate criteria
•	Deceased persons who have rendered outstanding service to the community (commemorative names).  Aboriginal names or words relevant to the area.	•	Living persons.  Geographical landmarks.  Names of existing suburbs and places.

Before and after publishing the preliminary report, the committee encouraged councils and the public to nominate ward names. No suggestions were received.

The purpose of local government is to represent people and their communities. Ward names offer an opportunity to honour and recognise people that have made significant contribution and positively impacted local communities. As such, the committee formed a preference for commemorative names.

After consulting with the Place Names Committee Chair and the Place Names work unit, a list of commemorative ward names has been compiled below in table 23.

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Table 23: Suggested ward names

Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
ALNGINDABU, alternatively MCGINNESS	Alngindabu (later Lucy McGinness) was an Aboriginal elder born in Chapana, near the Finniss River. Alngindabu belonged to the Kungarakany language group. Her husband, Stephen McGinness, was a worker on the North Australia Railway stationed at the 34 Mile. The couple later established a tin ore mine in Litchfield, the Lucy Mine, and the McGinness home.
BARACCHI	Pietro Paolo Giovanni Ernesto Baracchi born 1851, Italy, was an astronomer and engineer. On a scientific expedition to Darwin from 1882 to 1883, Pietro helped establish the true longitude of Port Darwin. A monument marking this survey point stands in Liberty Square next to Parliament House. The mark is integral to the history of surveying in Darwin and serves as an important reference point to this day.
BARNESON	Captain James Barneson was in command of the ship Moonta which was chartered to take the Surveyor-General George Goyder and party to Port Darwin. The Moonta arrived at Port Darwin on 5 February 1869 and remained while the Town of Palmerston (now Darwin) was surveyed.
BOUBARIS	Matthew Boubaris was 11 years old when he emigrated from Chios, Greece to Australia with his family in 1956. Shortly after arriving in Darwin in 1958 Matthew formed a lifelong affiliation with the Hellenic Athletic Club and the wider soccer, football and Greek communities. Matthew is credited with helping to found the Alawa Soccer Club and in 2005 was honored with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Recognition Award.
CALDWELL	Clive Robertson Caldwell DSO, DFC & Bar (1911 – 1994) was a pilot of outstanding skill and service who participated in multiple missions during WWII. Clive has been recognised as a leading Australian air ace of WWII. He is officially credited with shooting down more than 27 enemy aircraft in over 300 operational sorties, including an 'ace in a day'. Clive was posted in Darwin for a time, defending the NT from enemy Japanese planes. His last aerial victory took place over the Arafura Sea in 1943.
CLAPÉ	Richard James (Jim) Clapé was born in Perth, WA in 1909. Jim, his wife Maria and their two children lived on Woods Street for a time during WWII. The family returned to Darwin in 1946 and took up residence in Smith Street, then later in Nightcliff. Jim worked as a resident inspector for the Commercial Union and later as a claims superintendent for the War Damage Commission before becoming a charter member of the Rotary Club of Darwin.
DUNHAM	Richard Dunham emigrated from England to Australia in 1961 at the age of 19 to study engineering and surveying at Sydney Technical College. In 1984 he and his family settled in Darwin. Richard served the Litchfield Council as a works manager from 1984 to 2008. On retiring he was presented with a plaque from the Shire President, councillors and shire staff in appreciation of his valued contribution to the council.
KARAOLIAS	Andreas (Andrew) Karaolias emigrated from Kythrea, Cyprus to Darwin in 1961. Like many others Andrew was tempted by the promise of opportunity Australia offered. Over the course of his career Andrew helped to construct homes, businesses and government institutions across the Darwin area including housing commissions in Rapid Creek and Millner, the Nightcliff shopping centre and the old Supreme Court building. Andrew was also an active member of the Greek Cypriot community, even after retirement.
MADEN	Brian Maden emigrated from England to Australia in 1960 before arriving in Darwin in 1967 on a 2 year posting with the Postmaster General. Brian helped build Radio Australia on Cox Peninsula. His work took him to islands and communities across the NT. At the end of his posting Brian decided to settle in Darwin permanently. He and the family lived in Rapid Creek initially, then in Humpty Doo after Cyclone Tracy. In 1980 he transferred to the Department of Defence as a lines supervisor for the Navy at Middle Point Transmitting Station where he remained until his retirement in 1996. Brian served as a volunteer in his community and petitioned for a high school and ambulance service in the rural area.

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Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
MCLEOD	Cissy McLeod born in Borroloola in 1896. Her father Arthur was a store owner and Justice of the Peace. Many details about her mother, known only as 'Polly', have been lost. At the age of 6, Cissy was adopted by Captain Fredrick Mugg and Sarah Mugg and moved to Darwin in 1902. At 16 years of age, Cissy saved Sarah from drowning after she fell from the jetty one night. Cissy later became the first Aboriginal woman to receive the Bronze Medal of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia for her selfless act of courage.
МСРНЕЕ	Hunter Wallace McPhee was born in NSW in 1924. Hunter served in the First Light Horse Brigade during WWI then in the RAAF during WWII before joining the guard's unit in Darwin in 1943. After the war was over, he returned to Darwin to marry his wife Mary and settled in Fannie Bay where they raised 4 children. Hunter found employment with his friend and comrade Pat Delaney in a corrugated iron hut in what is now Winnellie. The business was originally a taxi service before becoming a delicatessen and newsagency. Hunter remained a fixture of the business for over 40 years. He was also heavily involved in the Darwin sporting community.
MOCATTA	Lawrence Mocatta was born in Queensland in 1923. Lawrence enlisted for service in the Australian Imperial Army in 1941 at the age of 17 and served on many vessels based in London with active service in the Middle East. In 1946 after being discharged, Lawrence undertook and completed a Bachelor of Medicine and a Batchelor of Surgery at the University of Sydney. After graduating in 1953, Dr Mocatta moved to Katherine to work locally as well as with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. He later worked at the Darwin Hospital before establishing his own private practice on Cavenagh Street. Dr Mocatta worked as the Territory Health Officer, administering to the nuns and patients at the East Arm Leprosarium and the local Indigenous missions. In April 1967, while sailing his boat, "The Beagle" from Brisbane to Darwin, Dr Mocatta and 5 crew members were caught in a cyclone and perished.
MOORADOOP	Mooradoop, otherwise known as Kathy Mills, was an Aboriginal leader and activist born in the NT who lived in Palmerston for a substantial part of her life. She and her family have been strong advocates for the rights and welfare of Aboriginal people. Among her many achievements and awards, Ms. Mills is credited with co-founding the Danila Dilba Health Service, being the first woman elected to the Northern Land Council and was named NAIDOC person of the year in 1986.
MOTLOP	Edward (Chico) Motlop was born on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait in 1933. After spending his early years in the Torres Strait and later Queensland, Chico arrived in Darwin in 1955. It was here he met and married his wife, Larrakia woman Lorna Raye Johns. Chico was a keen and accomplished footballer. Among his achievements are two premierships (1963 and 1964) and the Drysdale Medal for player of the year. After retiring from the field, Chico took up a career coaching junior and first grade teams. His children and grandchildren carried on his legacy, becoming noted sportspeople in their own right. The NT Rugby League pay annual tribute to Chico with the 'Chico Motlop Shield'.
PARER	Lieutenant Raymond John Paul (Ray) Parer was born in Melbourne in 1894. After completing his training as a pilot in 1918 Ray was twice recommended for the Air Force Cross. In 1920 Ray and fellow pilot Lieutenant John Cowe McIntosh undertook to complete the 1919 Great Air Race flight from England to Australia. By the time the pair commenced the flight the £10,000 prize money had been claimed by brothers (Sir) Ross and (Sir) Keith Macpherson Smith who had arrived in just 28 days. On 2 August 1920, after a protracted 206 day journey filled with tales of misadventure and near disaster, Parer and McIntosh finally arrived in Darwin. Ray's story occupies an incredible chapter in aviation history in Australia and abroad.

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Suggested commemorative ward name	Notes and reasoning
PASPALIS	Michael Theodosios Paspalis was born on the Greek island of Kastellorizo in 1911. To escape the hardships of WWI his family immigrated to Australia in 1917. Shortly after his father's death and at 15 years old Michael left school and his family in Port Hedland to find employment in Darwin in order to support his mother and siblings. Michael found employment as a butcher, delivery driver and taxi driver. After marrying his wife Chryssanthi (Chrissie) Kailis in 1935, the couple established multiple hospitality and food business ventures, including numerous retail buildings in Smith Street, the Star Theatre, the RSL premises, the Fannie Bay Hotel, the Parap Theatre and the Coconut Grove drive-in theatre. Michael and Chrissie were also generous philanthropists, donating to multiple organisations in the Darwin area.
PITCHENEDER	Originally born in WA in 1916, Norma Catherine (Billie) Pitcheneder settled in Darwin in 1948 where she established her own catering business servicing tuckshops in schools around Darwin. Better known as Aunty Billie, she contributed to her community through fundraising and charity activities for almost 30 years. Among the organisations Aunty Billie supported was the Country Women's Association, Red Cross, Lions Club, RSL, Salvation Army and Girl Guides, to name just a few. In addition to being named Citizen of the Year in 1980, Aunty Billie has received multiple honours from many charitable institutions.
RIOLI	Maurice Rioli (Snr) and Willie Rioli (Snr) were respected and much-loved leaders in the Tiwi Islands and Australian Football. Both boasted an impressive sporting career and contributions to Australian rules football in the NT and Australia.
SAVVAS	Kyriaco Savvas first arrived in Darwin in 1949. Not long afterwards Kyriaco opened his own footwear business in Smith Street and then another in the Nightcliff Shopping Village in 1964. Savvas K Footwear still trades today and is run by his sons. Kyriaco was one of the founding members of the Cypriot Community of the NT, helping to establish the first food and wine festival in 1974, a popular event that is held annually to this day.
THOMAS	Ronald Arthur Thomas was born in WA in 1927. After accepting the role of the NT's Deputy Commissioner for Taxation in 1969, he and his family relocated to Darwin. Ronald and his family survived the devastation of Cyclone Tracy in 1974. The family lived in a caravan in the back yard of their Rapid Creek home while it was rebuilt. In 1978 he was appointed the Territory's first Commissioner of Taxes, a position he held until his retirement in 1986. Ronald was credited with the first million dollars earned by the NT Tax Office. He was a keen fisherman, a member of Darwin's Trailer Boat Club, Darwin Aviation Club and PINTS Club. Ronald was recognised for his personal and professional contributions to the community and Northern Territory.
WARREN	David Ronald de Mey Warren was a scientist and inventor born on Groote Eylandt in 1925. Notable among his achievements was the invention of the in-flight data and cockpit voice recording device widely known as the 'black box'. This was revolutionary in the investigation of aeronautical deaths and accidents.
WILLIAMS	Born Ampulatumirri on Melville Island in approximately 1934, Freda Williams is a member of the Stolen Generation. Freda was removed from her family at the estimated aged of 4. In 1942 while playing outside she and the other habitants of Garden Point Mission on Melville Island came under attack from enemy Japanese planes. The mission was evacuated to Alice Springs, before boarding a train to Melbourne. The nuns and children were then relocated to Port Augusta SA where they remained until the end of the war. After returning to the NT, Freda met and married her husband, Ralton Williams, and settled in Darwin. In 2011 Freda was invited to meet the President of the United States, Barack Obama, as one of 3 civilian survivors of the Japanese Bombing of Darwin.

The committee encouraged the City of Palmerston and the general public to suggest appropriate ward names, but no submissions were received. Council did comment however, that the suggested names provided in the preliminary report were not appropriate as they were not people from Palmerston.

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The committee further consulted the Place Names Committee Chair and Place Names work unit to develop the following short list of names from table 23. These names represent a cross-section of genders and cultural identities.

- ALNGINDABU, alternatively MCGINNESS
- BOUBARIS
- CALDWELL
- MCLEOD
- PITCHENEDER
- WARREN

The committee recommends that the Minister consults with the City of Palmerston on the names listed in this report and any other appropriate names before making a determination. If a commemorative name were considered, surviving family members would be consulted.

## 5.5 Recommendations on existing ward names

In accordance with Section 28(4) of the Act the committee may make recommendations to the Minister regarding ward names. The committee recommends that existing ward names be retained.

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# 6. PUBLICATION OF FIRST PROPOSED REVIEWS

### 6.1 Publication

The preliminary report detailing proposed changes to representation was released on 31 August 2022 on the reviews webpage and via a newsletter emailed to stakeholders on the mailing list.

This final report detailing the committee's final determinations and recommendations was released on 9 February 2023 via a newsletter delivered to persons and organisations on the mailing list.

Maps of the final ward boundaries were published on the reviews webpage.

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# **APPENDIX A**

### **Timetable**

Please note these timeframes are approximate and subject to change.

Event	Date	Electoral Act
First consultation period		
Invite initial submissions from councils and the public	Monday 28 March 2022	s30(1)(a)
Last day to receive initial submissions	Tuesday 31 May 2022	s30(1)(b)
Committee determination period		
Submissions received are considered by the committee	Mid-June 2022	s30(1)(c)(i)
Publish the preliminary report detailing proposed changes to representation	Wednesday 31 August 2022	s30(1)(c)(ii)
Second consultation period		
Invite submissions from councils and the public regarding the proposals put forward in the preliminary report	Wednesday 31 August 2022	s30(1)(c)(iii)
Last day to receive submissions	Friday 4 November 2022	s30(1)(d)
Committee determination period		
Submissions received are considered by the committee	September to November 2022	s30(1)(e)(i)
Committee may meet with councils or hold public hearings to gather more information about the submissions received	September to December 2022	s30(2)
Final report published and provided to the Minister for Local Government	9 February 2023	s30(1)(e)(ii)
Determinations take effect		
The Minister to notify any changes by Gazette notice	2023	s30(4)
Determinations to take effect at the next periodic general elections	2025	s30(5)(b)

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# **APPENDIX B**

# **Mailing list**

The following is a summary of the committee's mailing list as at 1 July 2022, and does not include persons and organisations who unsubscribed during the reviews.

Recipients	Grouping/category	No. of recipients
Alice Springs Town Council Barkly Regional Council Belyuen Community Government Council Central Desert Regional Council Coomalie Community Government Council City of Darwin East Arnhem Regional Council Katherine Town Council Litchfield Council MacDonnell Regional Council City of Palmerston Roper Gulf Regional Council Tiwi Islands Regional Council Victoria Daly Regional Council Wagait Shire Council West Arnhem Regional Council West Daly Regional Council	Local government council member or CEO	107
Arafura Araluen Armhem Barkly Blain Braitling Brennan Casuarina Daly Drysdale Fannie Bay Fong Lim Goyder Gwoja Johnston Karama Katherine Mulka Namatjira Nelson Nightcliff Port Darwin Sanderson Spillet Wanguri	Legislative Assembly members and electorate offices	50
ABC Darwin Alice Springs community radio 8HA Alice Advocate Australian Associated Press Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association Fairfax Media First Nations Radio Free TV Gove FM Hot 100 fm	Media	85

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Recipients	Grouping/category	No. of recipients
Imparja Larrakia TV Mix 1049 Music NT National Indigenous Times News.com.au Nine News NT Independent NT News Off the Leash SBS Sky News Tennant and District Times Territory FM The Australian The Saturday Paper The Sun, Darwin, Palmerston, Litchfield Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association		
Anindilyakwa Land Council Arnhem Land Progress Association – ALPA Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation Central Land Council Gumatj Corporation The Gundjeimhi Aboriginal Corporation Ironbark Aboriginal Corporation Jawoyn Association Julalikari Council Larrakia Nation Laynhapuy Homelands Association Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Marthakal Homeland Resource Centre Nhulunbuy Corporation Northern Land Council Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Tangentyere Council Tiwi Land Council Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal organisations	21
Australian Electoral Commission Animal Justice Party Chamber of Commerce Country Liberal Party of the NT Department of Chief Minister & Cabinet Department of Health DIPL ICT Industry Association of the NT Industry Capability Network NT LGANT Minister for Local Government Northern Territory Seafood Council NT Cattlemen's Association NT Farmers NTEC OCPE Southport Progress Association	Other organisations or agencies	32
Individuals who requested to be added to the mailing list	Other individuals	8

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# 2022 Local Government Representation Reviews

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# Current representation and committee determinations

The following table documents current representation across all local government councils in the NT, as well as enrolment figures as at 4 November 2022 and determinations by the committee.

Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determinations and recommendations
Alice Springs	Mayor	1	16,145		No changes will be made to representation in Alice Springs at this time.
	Councillor	8	16,145	2,018	The committee created a prospective scenario of 3 wards that could be considered in future reviews if / when enrolment in Alice Springs approaches 18,000.
Barkly	Mayor	1	4,253		No changes necessary at this time.
	Alpurrurulam Ward	1	213	213	
	Alyawarr Ward	4	1,604	401	
	Kuwarrangu Ward	2	508	254	
	Patta Ward	5	1,928	386	
	Total / Average (not including mayor)	12	4,253	354	
Belyuen	Councillor	5	162	32	No changes necessary at this time.
Central Desert	Akityarre Ward	2	272	136	No changes necessary at this time.
	Anmatjere Ward	4	988	247	
	Northern Tanami Ward	2	382	191	
	Southern Tanami Ward	4	891	223	
	Total / Average	12	2,533	211	

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# **2022 Local Government Representation Reviews** *Final report*

Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determination
Coomalie	Adelaide River Ward	2	228	114	No changes necessary at this time.
	Batchelor Township Ward	2	185	93	
	Coomalie Rural Ward	2	243	125	
	Total / Average	6	662	110	
Darwin	Lord mayor	1	52,092		No changes necessary at this time.
	Chan Ward	ယ	12,719	4,240	
	Lyons Ward	သ	13,362	4,454	
	Richardson Ward	3	12,907	4,302	
	Waters Ward	ယ	13,104	4,368	
	Total / Average (not including mayor)	12	52,092	4,341	
East Arnhem	Anindilyakwa Ward	2	900	450	No changes necessary at this time.
	Birr Rawarrang Ward	2	720	360	
	Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward	2	823	412	
	Gumurr Marthakal Ward	ယ	1,680	560	
	Gumurr Miwatj Ward	3	1,534	511	
	Gumurr Miyarrka Ward	2	878	439	
	Total / Average	14	6,256	467	
Katherine	Mayor	_	6,661		No changes necessary at this time.
	Councillor	6	6,661	1,110	

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# **2022 Local Government Representation Reviews** *Final report*

Council	Ward	Members	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Electors per councillor	Committee's determination
Litchfield	Mayor	1	13,239		No changes necessary at this time.
	Central Ward	2	4,542	2,271	
	North Ward	2	4,261	2,131	
	South Ward	2	4,436	2,218	
	Total / Average (not including mayor)	6	13,239	2,207	
MacDonnell	lyarrka Ward	2	814	407	No changes necessary at this time.
	Ljirapinta Ward	3	685	228	
	Luritja Pintubi Ward	3	1,084	361	
	Rodinga ward	4	1,131	283	
	Total / Average	12	3,714	310	
Palmerston	Mayor	1	24,611		A 3 ward structure will be implemented in Palmerston. The number of members may
	Councillor	7	24,611	3,516	be increased from / to 8 (pending the Minister's decision).
Roper Gulf	Never Never Ward	3	884	295	No changes necessary at this time.
	Numbulwar Numburindi Ward	2	528	264	
	Nyirranggulung Ward	3	970	323	
	South West Gulf Ward	3	1,002	334	
	Yugul Mangi Ward	2	824	412	
	Total / Average	13	4,208	324	

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# **2022 Local Government Representation Reviews** *Final report*

		-,	1		
	348	2,089	9	Total / Average	
	107	107	1	Tyemirri Ward	
	437	1,746	4	Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi Ward	
No changes necessary at this time.	236	236	_	Nganmarriyanga Ward	West Daly
	319	3,825	12	Total / Average	
	311	311	1	Warruwi Ward	
	167	167	_	Minjilang Ward	
	470	1,881	4	Maningrida Ward	
	184	551	3	Kakadu Ward	
No changes necessary at this time.	305	915	ω	Gunbalanya Ward	West Arnhem
No changes necessary at this time.	63	315	5	Councillor	Wagait
	63	1,814	5	Total / Average	
	323	323	1	Walangeri Ward	
	434	434	1	Timber Creek Ward	
	225	225	1	Pine Creek Ward	
	388	388	1	Milngin Ward	
No changes necessary at this time.	444	444	1	Daguragu Ward	Victoria Daly
	144	1,724	12	Total / Average	
	88	264	3	Pirlangimpi Ward	
	108	325	3	Milikapiti Ward	
No changes necessary at this time.	189	1,135	6	Bathurst Island Ward	Tiwi Islands
Committee's determination	Electors per councillor	Enrolment as at 04/11/2022	Members	Ward	Council

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Ordinary Council 23 February 2023

### **CORPORATE SERVICES REPORTS**

**ITEM NUMBER** 9.2

**TITLE** Delegation Manual

**REFERENCE** 1726382

AUTHOR Michael Freeman, Corporate Services Manager

### SUMMARY:

Minor review of the Delegation Manual.

### **BACKGROUND**

Council is required to have a Delegation Manual which authorises actions from Council to the CEO, and from the CEO to other staff.

### **GENERAL**

The manual has minor changes to reflect changes to the delegation for the management of cemeteries and in the waiving of fees in certain circumstances.

It also includes a new delegation from the Council to the Finance Committee for the disposal of assets that are over \$5,000 and less than \$50,000. The major practical use of this will be the approval of reserve prices for fleet auctions.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council adopts the revised Delegation Manual.

# **ATTACHMENTS**:

1 Delegation Manual





Policy Number	GOV 015
Policy Category	Governance
Responsibility	Corporate Services Manager
Date to take effect:	1 July 2022
Legislative reference:	Section 40 of the Local Government Act 2019
Next Review date:	On or before 30 June 2026

Version	Decision Number	Adoption date	History
02 /00/ 2008/ CO	Report 4.5.2 - Minutes of Council meeting dated Feb 8, 2008	Feb 8, 2008	Council Adopted
02 /01/ 2008/ CO	Report 9.2 - Minutes of Council meeting dated Sept. 10, 2008	Sep 10, 2008	Council Adopted
02/ 02/ 2013 CO	Report 13.2 (Res 111 / 2013) - Minutes of Council meeting dated Sept. 25, 2013	Sep 25, 2013	Council Adopted
02/ 03/ 2017 CO	Report 15.4 (Res 235 / 2017) - Minutes of Council meeting dated 22 Nov, 2017	Nov 22, 2017	Council Adopted
02/04/2020 CO	Resolution 007/2020 – Minutes of Council Meeting dated Feb 26, 2020	Feb 26, 2020	Council Adopted
02/05/2020 CO	Minutes of Council Meeting dated July 30, 2020	Jul 30, 2020	Council Adopted
02/06/2020 CO	Minutes of Council Meeting dated August 26, 2020	Aug 26, 2020	Council Adopted
22/09/2021 CO	Minutes of Council Meeting dated September 22, 2021, 050/2021	Sep 22, 2021	Council Adopted
30/06/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting dated June 30 2022	Jun 30, 2022	Council Adopted
25/08/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting August 25 2022	Aug 25, 2022	Council Adopted
15/12/2022	Minutes of Council Meeting December 15 2022	Dec 15, 2022	Council Adopted
23/02/2023	Minutes of Council Meeting February 23 2023	Feb 23, 2023	

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# **Policy**

The East Arnhem Regional Council ('council') is committed to service delivery across the organisation within the parameters of a formalised delegation of authority framework.

# **Purpose of this document**

This delegation manual operates as delegated authority:

- by the council for the President and Deputy President
- by the council for Council Committees
- by the council for Local Authorities
- by the council for the CEO
- by the CEO for council staff.

Its purpose is to provide council staff, councillors and others with details about the levels of decision making and processes that apply to council, particularly as it relates to the powers of council staff in carrying out the functions and decisions of council.

This delegation manual will be reviewed every four years or earlier as circumstances warrant, with a view to improving its utility and relevance as circumstances change for council. The manual must be reviewed within 6 months after a general election.

### The Law

The *Local Government Act* and supporting legislation requires council to provide details of statutory delegations of authority, including personnel and financial delegations.

The following sections of the Act are relevant:

# 40 Delegation

- (1) A council may delegate its powers and functions.
- (2) A delegation may be made to:
  - (a) the CEO; or
  - (b) a council committee; or
  - (c) a local authority; or
  - (d) a local government subsidiary.
- (3) Despite subsection (1):
  - (a) the power to impose rates and charges cannot be delegated; and
  - (b) if power to incur financial liabilities is delegated the council must, by resolution, fix reasonable limits on the delegate's authority; and
  - (c) a delegation cannot duplicate or derogate from the CEO's functions (including delegated functions); and
  - (d) subject to subsections (4) and (5), power to enter into a transaction on conditions that are not arm's length conditions cannot be delegated; and
  - (e) subject to subsections (4) and (5), power to make a decision that requires a council resolution cannot be delegated; and
  - (f) if power to enter into a contract is delegated the contract must be below the threshold value.
- (4) A council may delegate to the CEO the following:
  - (a) the power to enter into a transaction on conditions that are not arm's length conditions if the transaction will provide a community benefit;
  - (b) the power to waive a fee for service (wholly or partly) under section 289(4) if the waiver will provide a community benefit.

Note for subsection (4)(b)

A decision to waive a fee for service (wholly or partly) under section 289(4) requires a council resolution.

- (5) A delegation under subsection (4) must be in accordance with the regulations and any guidelines that the Minister may make.
- (6) A council must, within the first 6 months of its term, determine, by resolution, the threshold value for a contract for subsection (3)(f).

(7) In this section:

arm's length conditions means the conditions that might be expected to operate between commercial entities dealing wholly independently with one another in comparable circumstances.

# 168 Delegation by CEO

- (1) The CEO may delegate the CEO's powers and functions under this Act or another Act.
- (2) A delegation may be made to an individual or a committee.
- (3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), the power to authorise a staff member in relation to a conflict of interest under section 179(6) cannot be delegated.
- (4) Despite subsection (2), the CEO must not delegate a power or function to the following:
  - (a) an audit committee;
  - (b) a council committee;
  - (c) a local authority;
  - (d) a local government subsidiary.

Principles to do with these delegations

# **DELEGATIONS**

- are hierarchial
- · are generally held by the CEO, senior management and council
- relate to positions, not the persons occupying them (because the persons can change or have persons acting in them)
- do not apply to outsourced organisations or people
- the CEO can exercise any of the delegations applying to staff if he/she chooses to do so
- can be exercised by a person in a more senior position than the position specified in the delegations (the senior position person can also 'withdraw' or 'restrict' this delegation if it is not being used properly)
- the senior position must have responsibility for the position (with the delegation) under it
- cannot be exercised by a person in a less senior position unless he/she
  happens to be acting in that senior position (eg during periods of absence of the
  senior position person)
- if there is not a delegation relating to a particular power in this document, it has to be assumed a delegation does **not** exist
- · cannot be exercised to benefit yourself.

Under Section 40 of the *Local Government Act*, council may delegate powers and functions to a Committee, Local Authority, such delegations may only be made by resolution of council at a council meeting.

It is the responsibility of the person in the position exercising the delegation when money is being spent

It is the responsibility of the person in the position exercising the delegation

there is funding available within the annual budget for their particular area of responsibility in the delegations to cover the expenditure to comply with legislation, industrial awards, contracts or agreements, council approved policies and procedures and the code of conduct.

to advise their senior line manager of significant developments even if made within delegation to understand the delegations in the context of the relevant staff position descriptions

to ensure appropriate records are kept

not to exercise their delegation so as to approve a recommendation that personally benefits them

## How the delegations are set out in the delegation manual

Delegation parts are listed in the Table of Contents of this delegation manual.

The content of the delegations appears in the following format throughout the manual:

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations

**Code:** Gives each delegation a unique number for easy reference.

**Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers:** Describes the power or authority that a person may exercise over a matter.

**Positions with Delegations:** Identifies the positions (which appear in the definitions above) that have the specific delegations listed in this delegation manual.

**Positions that Delegations apply to:** Refers to the staff that are impacted by the delegations, by either being the subject of the delegation been exercised (described as For...); by overruling an action (described as By...); or by giving a delegation to a subgroup (described as To...).

**Constraints impacting on Delegations:** Refers to the types of restrictions, limitations and constraints that either will, or may, apply to the delegations being implemented. For example, reads as follows:

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
x.xx	Approve to buy icecreams	Council President	For CEO	Subject to being supported by:
		CEO	For CEO Direct Reports	<ul><li>the annual budget</li><li>enterprise agreement</li></ul>
		CEO Direct Reports	For Level 4	<ul> <li>human resource management</li> </ul>
		Level 4	For Service staff	<ul><li>policies</li><li>employment agreements</li></ul>

So while the delegation exists to approve icecreams the constraint from doing so could be that there is no provision in the budget (might all be spent!) to enable it to be done. There might also be further constraints in council policies and even legal reasons for having to do it because of employment agreements. This column shows the factors that people with a delegation must take into account when deciding on a delegation.

### **Definitions**

## 1. Councillors, Staff Positions and Committee Members

The senior position levels listed below are those that are reflected in this delegation manual which carry the bulk of responsibility associated with the specified delegated powers of authority.

Any decision on where staff roles fit into the above definitions will be made by the CEO, based on a recommendation from the CEO Direct Reports (see below).

- **Level 1: The Council:** (referred to as 'council') Those persons elected to serve the community in accordance with the *Local Government Act* and Regulations (as amended).
- Level 2: Chief Executive Officer (referred to as 'CEO') The person appointed by and responsible to council for the overall and day to day management of the affairs of council.
- Level 3: Director of Community Development (referred to as 'Director'). This person is appointed as Director has responsibility to manage agency services and community service responsibilities.
- Level 3: Director of Technical and Infrastructure Services: (referred to as 'Director') This person is appointed as Director has responsibility to manage technical services, community infrastructure and asset management.
- Level 4: Corporate Services Manager (referred to as 'CSM') This person appointed as Manager with oversight of corporate functions of council, including governance, finance, human resources, risk management, records, health and safety.
- Level 4: Council Operations Manager (referred to as 'CDC') A person appointed as a coordinator of one of the nine Service Centres. They are responsible to the Regional Manager of Community Development for the services delivered within their particular area.
- Level 4: Municipal Services Supervisor (referred to as 'MSS') A person appointed as a supervisor of one of the Municipal Services teams. They are responsible to the Director of Technical & Infrastructure for the services delivered within their particular area.
- Level 4: Regional Managers: (referred to as 'Regional Managers') A person appointed as a

regional program manager of an agency or a technical service.

**Level 4: Coordinator:** (referred to as 'Coordinator) One of roles titled Strategic Project Coordinator; Community Development Strategic Coordinator; Communications & Engagement Coordinator, Finance Manager, Human Resources Coordinator, EA to the CEO, Communications and Engagement Coordinator.

**Level 5: Supervisor:** (referred to as 'Supervisor) One of roles with responsibility for timesheets and staff supervision in Aged Care, Youth Sports and Recreation, Community Night Patrol, and Child & Library Services.

**Service staff:** (referred to as 'Service staff') A persons appointed to mostly provide direct service delivery. These positions are referred to in this delegation manual due to:

- their largely service provision focus, rather than that of management responsibility
- they possibly being affected when the delegations are carried out
- they being all the staff working to Level 5 and above.

**Executive Management Team (EMT):** The team comprising the CEO and two Directors.

**CEO Direct Reports:** The Team comprising the two Directors and the Corporate Services Manager.

**Local Authority**: A committee comprising local community members formed in accordance with the Guideline 1.

### 2. Annual Budget

**Council's Annual Budget**: The budget that is approved by resolution at a meeting of the council for a financial year.

**Service Budget:** (referred to as 'service budget') A service/program component of the budget that applies to a division for which a manager or coordinator has been delegated responsibility and control.

# **HUMAN RESOURCES DELEGATION**

# 1. Staff: Salary, Conditions, Packages, Contracts and Appointment

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
1.1	Set and approve salaries.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to salaries being:  within the annual budget  set by enterprise agreement  influenced by employment contracts or policies  recommended by CEO Direct Reports.
1.2	Set and approve annual salary increments	CEO	To CEO Direct Reports	Subject to salary increments being:  within the annual budget  set by enterprise agreement  influenced by employment agreements or policies  for EBA Level 6 and below roles (i.e. EBA L7+ no delegation and CEO must approve upon recommendation from CEO Direct Reports)

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
1.3	Approve salary packaging content and conditions of employment for staff.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to salary package being:  • within the annual budget  • set by enterprise agreement  • influenced by industry standard conditions of employment or policies.  • recommended by CEO Direct Reports.
1.4	Approve/sign employment agreements and Individual Flexibility Agreements	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to staff contracts being:  reviewed and recommended by council's industrial advisors/lawyers  influenced by industry standard employment contracts or policies  recommended by CEO Direct Reports.
1.5	Set and approve higher duties for staff.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to higher duties being:  • within the annual budget  • set by enterprise agreement  • influenced by employment agreements or policies  • recommended by CEO Direct Reports

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
1.6	Approve/sign Relocation and Repatriation entitlements	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:  • within the annual budget  • set by enterprise agreement  • influenced by employment agreements or policies  • recommended by CEO Direct Reports
1.7	Approve appointment of Acting Director	CEO	For Level 4	Subject to
1.8	Appointment of Acting CEO when CEO on Leave	CEO	For CEO Direct Reports	<ul> <li>Subject to Section 165 of the Act</li> <li>Subject to human resource management policies.</li> </ul>

# 2. Existing staff position changes, vacancies and outside employment

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on the Delegations
2.1	Approve changes to existing position descriptions, including titles, and reclassification of EBA level.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:  • the submission of reports/forms from CEO Direct Reports to the CEO  • the prescribed forms being submitted to Corporate Services to action.
2.2	Approve abolishment of staff positions within Council's staffing plan.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:  • the submission of reports from CEO Direct Reports to the CEO  • the prescribed forms being submitted to Corporate Services to action.

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on the Delegations
2.3	Approve the filling of vacancies within Council's staffing plan.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:  • the submission of reports/forms from CEO Direct Reports to the CEO.  • prescribed forms being submitted to Corporate Services to action
2.4	Approve the creation of new staff position vacancies within Council's staffing plan.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	<ul> <li>Subject to:         <ul> <li>the submission of reports/forms from CEO Direct Reports to the CEO</li> </ul> </li> <li>The funding within the approved staffing budget – see Section 170 of the Act</li> <li>prescribed forms being submitted to Corporate Services to action</li> </ul>

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on the Delegations
2.5	Approve a staff member accepting outside employment or consultancies additional to, or separate from, their normal duties with Council.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:  • the submission of recommendation reports from CEO Direct Reports  • Council's human resource management policies and Code of Conduct

# 3. Staff Probation

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on the Delegations
3.1	Confirm successful completion or otherwise of staff probationary periods	CEO	To CEO Direct Reports	Subject to:      performance assessments     enterprise agreement     employment agreements     human resource management policies     prescribed forms being submitted to Corporate Services to action.      for EBA Level 6 and below roles (i.e. L7+ no delegation and CEO must approve upon recommendation from CEO Direct Report)

# 4. Staff dismissal and redundancy

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
4.1	Authority to make a staff member redundant.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:
4.2	Authority to dismiss a staff member.	CEO	For All staff except CEO	Subject to:

# 5. Staff: leave, overtime, training, conference attendance, travel, external consultancies

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
5.1	Approve staff overtime and TOIL	CEO Direct Reports Level 4	To CEO Direct Reports  For Level 4  For Level 5 and Service staff	Subject to the overtime/TOIL being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement  human resource management policies.  employment agreements
5.2	Approve annual leave, personal leave, community service leave, parental leave, cultural leave, compassionate leave	Council President CEO CEO Direct Reports Level 4 Level 5	For CEO For CEO Direct Reports For Level 4 For Level 5 For Service staff	Subject to all types of leave being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement  human resource management policies  employment agreements  completed leave form and supporting documents  During Pandemic, possible additional approvals as per Leave Form if personal travel involved from community of work location.

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
5.3	Approve long service leave	Council President  CEO  CEO Direct Reports	For CEO For CEO Direct Reports For Level 4, 5 and Service staff	Subject to leave being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement  human resource management policies  employment agreements  completed leave form and supporting documents
5.4	Approve pandemic leave	Council President CEO CEO Direct Reports	For CEO For CEO Direct Reports For Level 4, 5 and Service staff	Subject to leave being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement  human resource management policies  employment agreements  completed leave form and supporting documents

Code	Brief descriptions of Delegated Powers	Positions with Delegations	Positions that Delegations apply to	Constraints impacting on Delegations
5.5	Approve training and study assistance	Council President CEO CEO Direct Reports	For CEO For CEO Direct Reports For Level 4, 5 and Service staff	Subject to leave being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement – clause 29  human resource management policies  employment agreements  completed leave form and supporting documents
5.6	Approve unpaid leave	Council President CEO CEO Direct Reports Level 4 Level 5	For CEO For CEO Direct Reports For Level 4 For Level 5 For Service staff	Subject to all types of leave being supported by:  the annual budget  enterprise agreement  human resource management policies  employment agreements  completed leave form and supporting documents