NT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Discussion Paper 2026

Prepared by the Local Government Representation Review Committee



YOUR SAY
YOUR WAY

LGRR2026.COM.AU



In the spirit of reconciliation, the Local Government Representation Review Committee acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

VERSION HISTORY

No.	Modified	Modified By	Comments
2.0	14/09/2026	Local Government Representation Review Committee	Amendments to Governance and Conflicts of Interest section (page 13). Image replacement (page 21). New anonymity/de-identified submissions wording added (page 18). Version history table included.
1.0	23/07/2026	Local Government Representation Review Committee	Initial discussion paper released for consultation.

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CONTENTS

01 **BACKGROUND**

Introduction, review process and committee.

Pages 5 – 8

02 **ABOUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

What the committee can recommend, what must be considered and governance.

Pages 10 – 13

03 **SUBMISSIONS**

Who can make a submission, questions to consider and how to submit.

Pages 15 – 18

04 **FACTS & FIGURES**

Information about Local Government Councils and key dates.

Pages 20 – 47



BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for taking the time to review this document and to consider making a submission to the 2026 Local Government Representation Review.

The structure of local government representation can influence how communities are represented and how elected members engage with residents.

These Local Government Representation Reviews are held after each Local Government Council periodic general election and are an important part of our democracy. (The 2022 Local Government Representation Review can be found here.)

The Local Government Representation Review provides the Northern Territory Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development with recommendations that ensure all voters are fairly represented.

Part of this process is seeking opinions, facts and viewpoints on existing representation structures from Local Government Councils, stakeholders and the public. These submissions identify where there could be changes that may improve community representation at the Local Government Council (or council) level in the Northern Territory.

The review also offers a way for members of the public to better understand how their Local Government Council works, its structures and what it delivers to the community. There is a Local Government Representation Committee conducting this review and its members review the submissions before making recommendations to the Northern Territory Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development. (Before 2019 local government legislative changes were made, councils conducted their own representation reviews and made recommendations to the Minister.)

The 2026 committee will not make any decisions – only recommendations. The Minister decides on any representation changes after receiving the recommendations.

An important note: This review is about Local Government Council representation and is not about adjusting Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries. That is covered by a separate process called the NT Electoral Boundary Redistribution in accordance with the Electoral Act 2004.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW TIMETABLE 26/27

DISCUSSION PAPER
RELEASED 23 JULY

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE
2 OCTOBER

PRELIMINARY REPORT
PUBLISHED 18 JANUARY

FINAL SUBMISSIONS CLOSE
MONDAY 2 APRIL

FINAL LGRR REPORT
PUBLISHED JULY 2027
Provided to councils and Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development

2026 JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC | 2027 JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC | 2028 JAN FEB

1ST CONSULTATION PERIOD: OPEN 23 JULY
Invitation to make submissions (initial)

1ST COMMITTEE REVIEW PERIOD: 5 OCTOBER TO 15 JANUARY
Submissions considered by the committee, preliminary report drafted

2ND CONSULTATION PERIOD: OPEN 18 JANUARY
Invitation to make submissions (preliminary report)

2ND COMMITTEE REVIEW PERIOD: APRIL TO MID JUNE
Committee may meet with councils, or hold public hearings to request more information

MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION AND DETERMINATION PROCESS: FROM AUGUST 2027
Minister considers the committee's recommendations and makes determinations

MINISTERIAL DETERMINATIONS



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The three committee members bring specialist expertise to the representation review process.

CEO of the prescribed corporation, the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

Northern Territory Electoral Commissioner

Surveyor-General of the Northern Territory

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory is the peak body representing the Local Government sector in the NT and provides leadership, support and representation on issues impacting the sector. The CEO brings a thorough understanding of the interests, concerns and challenges of the councils being reviewed.

The Electoral Commissioner is the returning officer for Local Government general elections which are conducted using the boundaries and wards being considered. They provide numerical or statistical data for enrolment numbers, voter participation, ward structure and representation to support the review process.

The Surveyor-General brings extensive land boundary, geographic, mapping and surveying knowledge of the Northern Territory to the recommendation process.

The Electoral Commissioner and the Surveyor-General are also members of the NT Boundary Redistribution Committee relating to Legislative Assembly electoral boundaries.

The committee will be supported by staff and resources from their respective organisations, and as required by the following agencies:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
- Department of the Attorney-General and Justice



ABOUT THE RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT CAN THE COMMITTEE MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON?

The committee makes recommendations to the Minister about matters relating to a Local Government Council area, such as the:

Introduction or removal of wards

Altering existing ward boundaries

This is particularly for those that extend beyond the Local Government Council boundary or do not currently align with existing administrative locality boundaries (suburbs), distinguishable physical or natural features (e.g. creeks, rivers, roads). Any population changes should also be taken into account.

Number of elected members for each Local Government Council area or ward

While the committee can make recommendations about the number of elected members for existing wards and any newly introduced wards, this must add up to the total number of members prescribed for each Local Government Council. Any change to the number of elected members is decided by the Minster under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Names for new wards, name changes of existing wards

As the purpose of local government is to represent people within communities, the name of a Local Government Council ward is an important way to commemorate and recognise people who have made a significant contribution or positive impact on the development of the Territory.

In assessing new Local Government Council ward names or a ward name change, the committee will consider:

1. Requests to commemorate a person through a ward name only if the person has been deceased for at least 12 months;
2. The change is not the name of existing suburbs, places and wards; and
3. Understanding that geographical landmarks are not appropriate.



The committee can also recommend other representation matters involving:

External boundaries of Local Government Council areas

The Administrator of the Northern Territory and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development have powers to establish Local Government Council under the *Local Government Act 2019* (Section 16). The committee may review external Local Government Council boundaries and make recommendations to the Minister as part of the review.

Unincorporated areas

- Local Government Council areas cover about 98% of the land mass in the NT. The other 2% is classified as unincorporated land. Approximately 3% of the NT's population resides on unincorporated land.
- Any decisions about incorporating unincorporated land or introducing currently unincorporated areas into a nearby Local Government Council area are made by the NT Government. For example, the NT Government announced the incorporation of Elrundie, Tivendale and Wishart into the City of Palmerston effective from 1 July 2022.
- A discussion paper proposing the inclusion of the unincorporated areas of the Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Daly into a Local Government Council area(s) was released in March 2022. In March 2023, the NT Government announced it would not continue with its proposal.
- In early 2026, the NT Government announced its intention to determine the incorporation of the estate development known as 'Northcrest', which at the time of writing this discussion paper remains unincorporated land.
- Maps showing unincorporated land in the NT can be found here.

WHAT MUST THE COMMITTEE CONSIDER?

In making recommendations, the committee must consider the following matters set out in Section 31 of the *Local Government Act 2019*:

- Community of interests in the Local Government Council area including economic, social, and regional interests
- Types of communication and travel in the Local Government Council area with special reference to issues arising out of remoteness or distance
- The trend of population changes in the Local Government Council area
- The density of population in the Local Government Council area
- The physical features of the Local Government Council area.

In addition, if the committee is making recommendations concerning current Local Government Council ward structures, or is investigating the introduction of wards, then it must further consider in accordance with Section 32(2) of the Act, the desirability of:

- The number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election
- Keeping the area of each ward with rural and remote areas as small as practicable
- Keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable
- Including an identifiable community (like a suburb, land parcel, or property, or a cultural and/or language group) wholly within one ward if possible.

There is nothing in the Act restricting the committee from considering other factors, such as economic, operational, or logistical factors, in informing its recommendations.

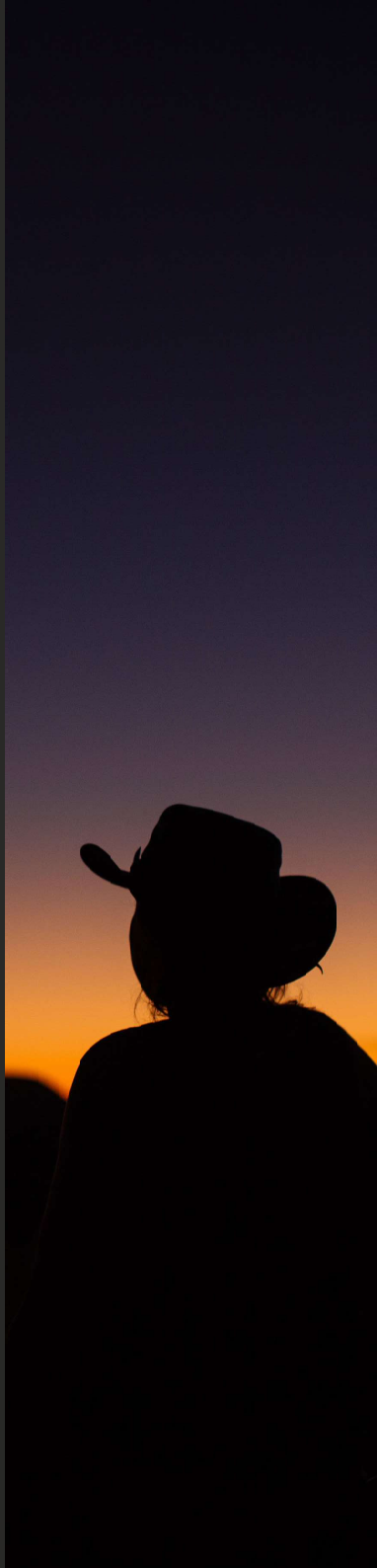
GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Part 3.2 of the *Local Government Act* establishes the Local Government Representation Committee and provides the legislative framework for its membership, functions, powers and procedures. The Act also allows the committee to determine its own procedures.

a. In developing its recommendations the committee is expected to:
   I. operate in accordance with an approved Terms of Reference.
   II. comply with the requirements of Part 3.2 of the *Local Government Act*.
   III. maintain appropriate records of engagement with stakeholders, with stakeholder meetings and consultations reflected in the committee's report, including proposals not adopted with reasons for the committee's recommendations.

b. The deliberation stages of the recommendation process, including consideration of submissions and formulation of recommendations are undertaken in confidence and not made public.

c. Given the committee members may have professional or other connections to the local government sector, both actual and perceived conflicts should be identified, disclosed and appropriately managed.





SUBMISSIONS

WHO CAN MAKE A SUBMISSION?

Anyone can lodge a submission making comments or recommendations about electoral representation in Local Government Council areas.

- All 18 Local Government Councils in the NT will be consulted directly and encouraged to raise awareness about the review and the submission process within the council area.
- Elected members (and prospective candidates) can also make their own submissions separate to a council's submission.
- Other stakeholders will be contacted and encouraged to make submissions. These include, but are not limited to:
  - Aboriginal community-controlled organisations
  - Land councils
  - Peak and industry associations
  - Ratepayers and resident groups
  - Relevant community groups
- Individuals (members of the public, constituents, voters and business owners) are also encouraged to make submissions.

Input gives the committee a wide range of relevant views and, importantly, highlights issues that raise awareness of local issues.

MAKING AN INFORMED SUBMISSION

There are a number of factors to consider when putting together submissions. The following questions have been developed to assist stakeholders in considering the advantages and challenges associated with representation structures.

Representation

- How would wards affect representation of different communities and geographic areas across the Local Government Council area?
- Does the current structure (ward or non-wards) provide fair and effective representation?
- Is the ratio of elected members to electors appropriate across the Local Government Council area?
- Does an undivided (non-ward) council encourage elected members to focus on the needs of the entire Local Government Council area?
- Is it beneficial for residents to be able to approach or vote for any elected member, rather than the ones representing a ward?

Diversity of elected members

- Could wards encourage representation from a broader range of locations, backgrounds and experiences?
- Do current ward boundaries reflect community interests, local identities and patterns of interaction?

Local and council-wide issues

- How might wards affect the balance between local priorities and whole-of-council decision-making?
- What challenges can arise in establishing and maintaining ward boundaries?
- How might wards influence relationships between elected members and the communities they represent?
- Are existing ward names appropriate and representative of the areas they describe?

Community connection and growth

- How effectively are communities of interest represented, including cultural, linguistic, geographic, historical and traditional connections?
- Are there demographic trends, population changes or growth patterns that may affect future representation requirements?
- Are there anticipated residential, commercial, industrial or other developments that may influence future representation needs or boundaries?
- Should the status of any unincorporated areas be reviewed as part of representation structures?

Governance and administration

- Are there operational, financial, governance, or logistical factors that should be considered when assessing representation structures?
- Are there alternative representation models that may better support fair and effective representation?

Practical operation of the electoral system

- How might the number of candidates on a ballot paper affect voter understanding, voter choice and informal voting rates?
- How might ward structures influence the number and diversity of candidates standing for election?
- What impact might ward structures have on campaign effort, campaign costs and opportunities for candidate engagement with the community?
- What impact do wards and non-ward systems have on the cost of running by-elections?
- How might ward and non-ward systems affect candidate participation, electoral competition and voter choice?
- How might ward and non-ward representation structures impact voter participation.

The matters outlined above are provided for discussion purposes only. They are intended to support informed consideration of representation structures and assist stakeholders in identifying issues that may be relevant to their Local Government Council area.

The discussion questions should not be interpreted as promoting or discouraging any representation model and their inclusion does not imply a preferred outcome.

HOW TO SUBMIT?

Email

You can make a submission via email with any relevant attachments.

Send your email to submissions@lgrr2026.com.au

Post

You can mail your submission to:

Local Government Representation Review Committee
PO Box 2075, Parap, NT 0804

Phone

Any questions? Contact the secretariat on (08) 8944 9688

Submissions must include your full name, organisation, address, phone number and email in case the committee would like to discuss your submission further.

Rationale and evidence should be provided in support of changes proposed together with who has been consulted in developing the submission.

All submissions will be acknowledged via email. Any ongoing discussions can be conducted by email, phone, or video calls.

All submissions will be published on the Local Government Representation Review 2026 website and listed in the proposed and final reports together with a submissions overview.

You may request that your name and identifying details are **not published** when making a submission.

Any request for anonymity will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. If you request anonymity, the Committee will contact you to discuss the process and any applicable arrangements.



FACTS AND FIGURES

DEFINITIONS

What is a Local Government Council?

A Local Government Council is the third sphere of government, after federal and state/territory.

Local Government Councils are governed by elected members/councillors and led by a Mayor or President.

Local Government Councils are responsible for community-level services. They manage local roads, car parks, street signage, stormwater drainage, lighting, footpaths, parking, cycle paths, parks, gardens, playgrounds, sporting fields and courts, swimming pools, public toilets, animal management, land and coast care programs, libraries, waste management, cemeteries, and community events and programs such as youth and seniors support, sport and recreation, disability services, as well as child and aged care. In some places, they also deliver Centrelink and Australia Post services.

The legal and geographic limit of the Local Government Council area is defined by administrative boundaries. The Local Government Council area determines which area a council manages, provides services for, and holds responsibility for, including voter representation for that specific area.

Local Government Councils are primarily funded through the collection of rates, fees, and government grants.

Local government representation is crucial because it ensures decisions directly affecting daily life are made by people accountable to the local community.

What is a boundary?

A Local Government Council **boundary** defines the legal and geographic limit of a Local Government Council area. It determines which area a council manages, is responsible for, and provides services to (such as waste collection and libraries). This includes voter representation for that specific area.

What is a ward?

A Local Government Council **ward** is a geographic subdivision of the larger Local Government Area. Wards are designed to ensure fair representation by dividing the council into smaller areas. Electors within each ward vote to elect specific elected member/councillors to represent their area on the council.

WHAT AREAS OF THE NT ARE INCLUDED IN THE REVIEW?

The whole of the NT is included in the review, including 18 of the NT's Local Government Council areas and the 2% of land mass covered by unincorporated areas.

This does not mean that changes will be made to every Local Government Council area.

Five municipal councils

- Alice Springs Town Council
- City of Darwin
- City of Palmerston
- Katherine Town Council
- Litchfield Council

Ten regional councils

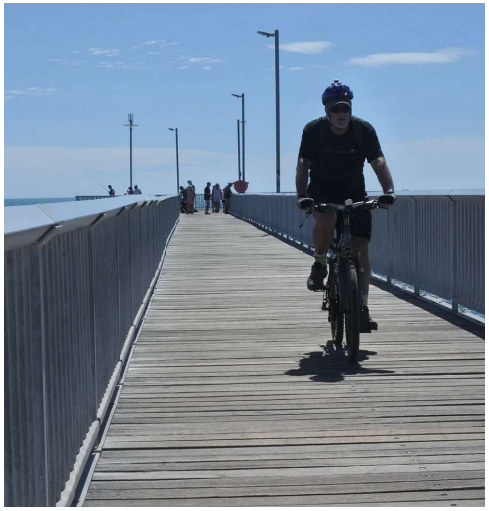
- Barkly Regional Council
- Central Desert Regional Council
- East Arnhem Regional Council
- Groote Archipelago Regional Council
- MacDonnell Regional Council
- Roper Gulf Regional Council
- Tiwi Islands Regional Council
- Victoria Daly Regional Council
- West Arnhem Regional Council
- West Daly Regional Council

Three shire councils

- Belyuen Community Government Council
- Coomalie Community Government Council
- Wagait Shire Council

Unincorporated Areas

- Darwin Unincorporated
- Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Unincorporated
- Alyangula, Nhulunbuy and Yulara Unincorporated



MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DATA

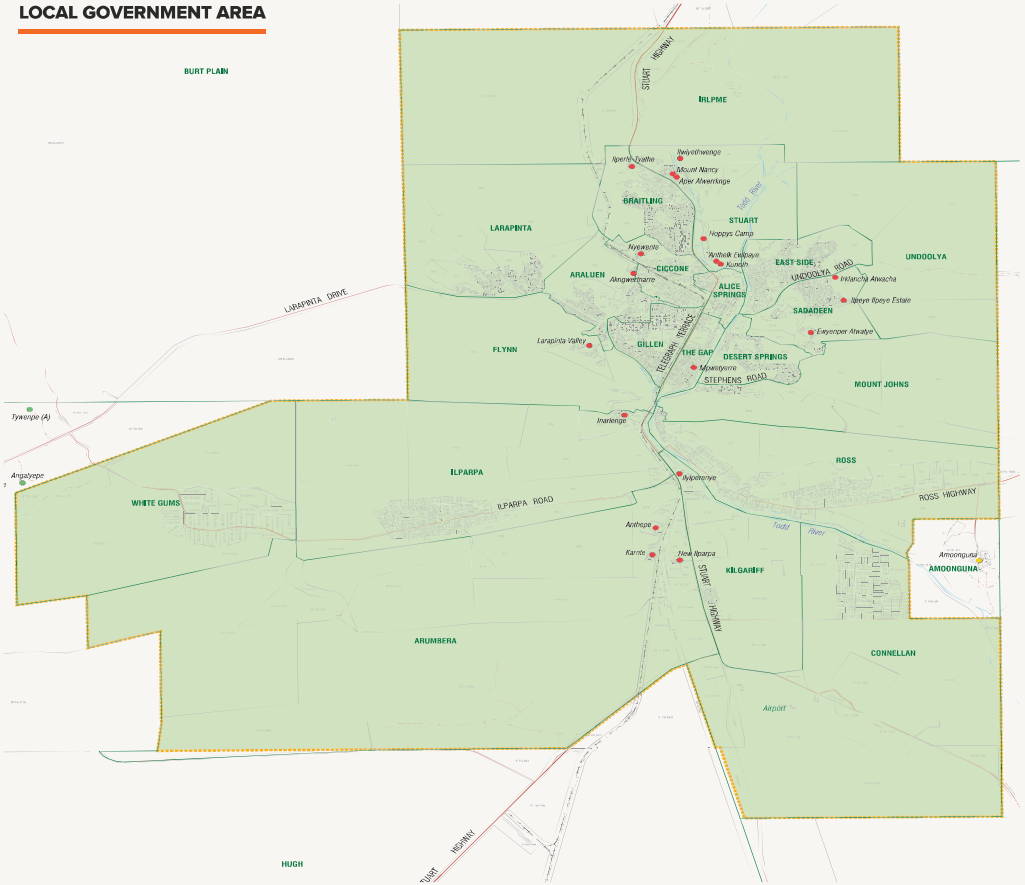
ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

AREA SIZE: 328 SQKM

NO WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	9
REPRESENTED BY	8 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	30,875
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	28.5%
2020 POPULATION	26,448
POPULATION CHANGE	+16.7%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	17,069
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+8%
VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	2,133

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DATA

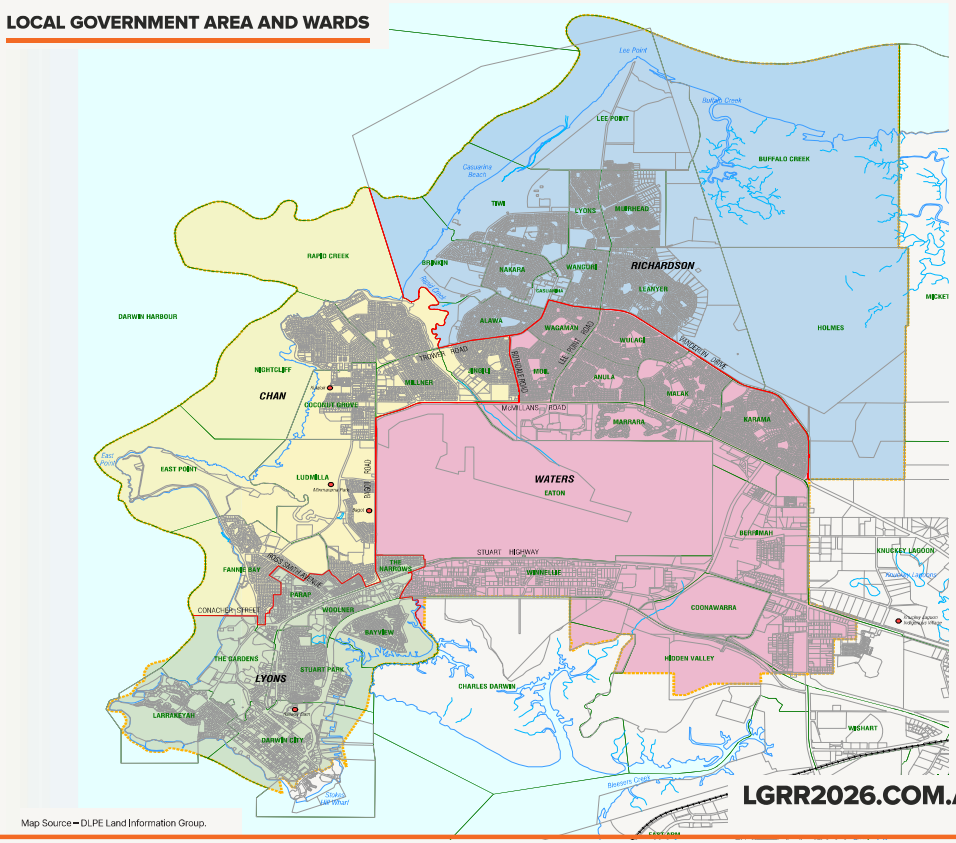
CITY OF DARWIN

4 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	13
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	90,035
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	11.2%
2020 POPULATION	82,030
POPULATION CHANGE	+9.8%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**52,119**	**2.1%**	**4,343**	**111**
Chan Ward	3	12,617	0.6%	4,205	30
Lyons Ward	3	12,852	-2.3%	4,284	14
Richardson Ward	3	12,923	3.2%	4,307	52
Waters Ward	3	13,727	6.9%	4,575	42

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DATA

CITY OF PALMERSTON

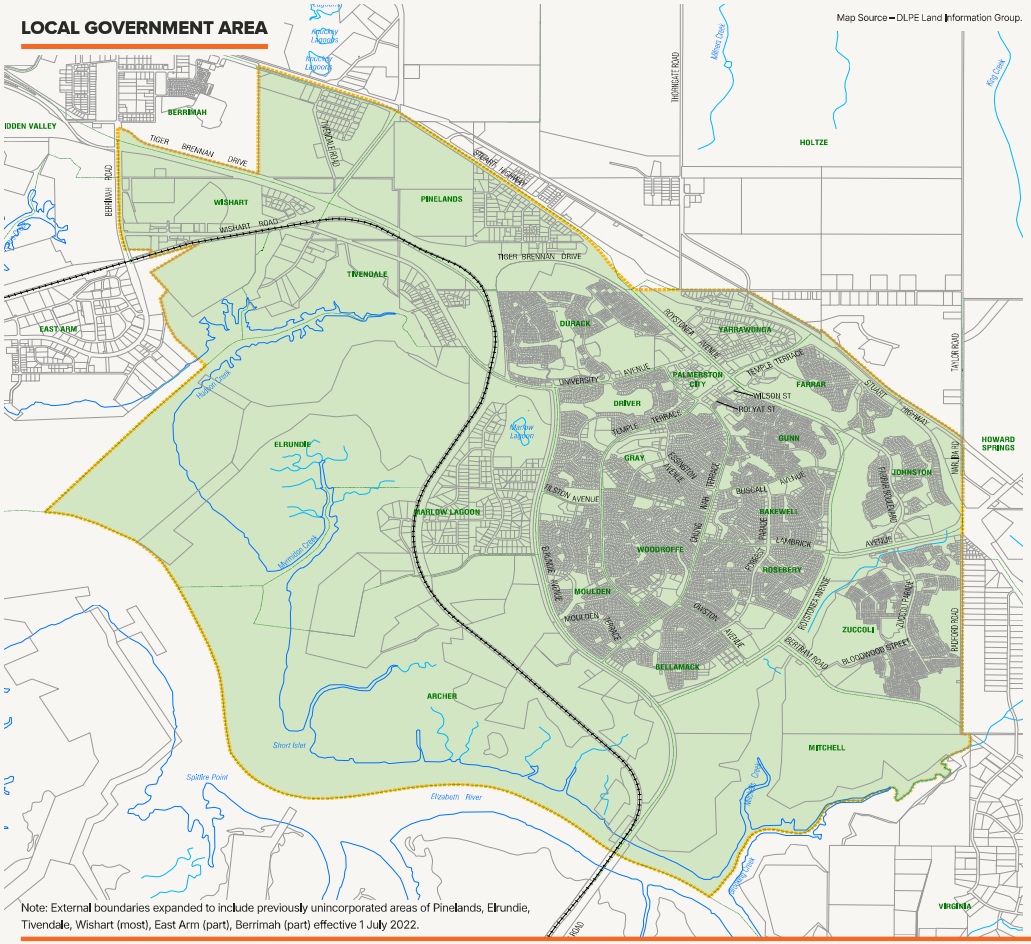
AREA SIZE 2026: 72 SQKM

AREA SIZE 2022: 53 SQKM

NO WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	8
REPRESENTED BY	7 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	42,748
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	16.9%
2020 POPULATION	39,032
POPULATION CHANGE	+9.5%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	26,412
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+12.1%
VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	3,773

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Note: External boundaries expanded to include previously unincorporated areas of Pinelands, Elrundie, Tivendale, Wishart (most), East Arm (part), Berrimah (part) effective 1 July 2022.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DATA

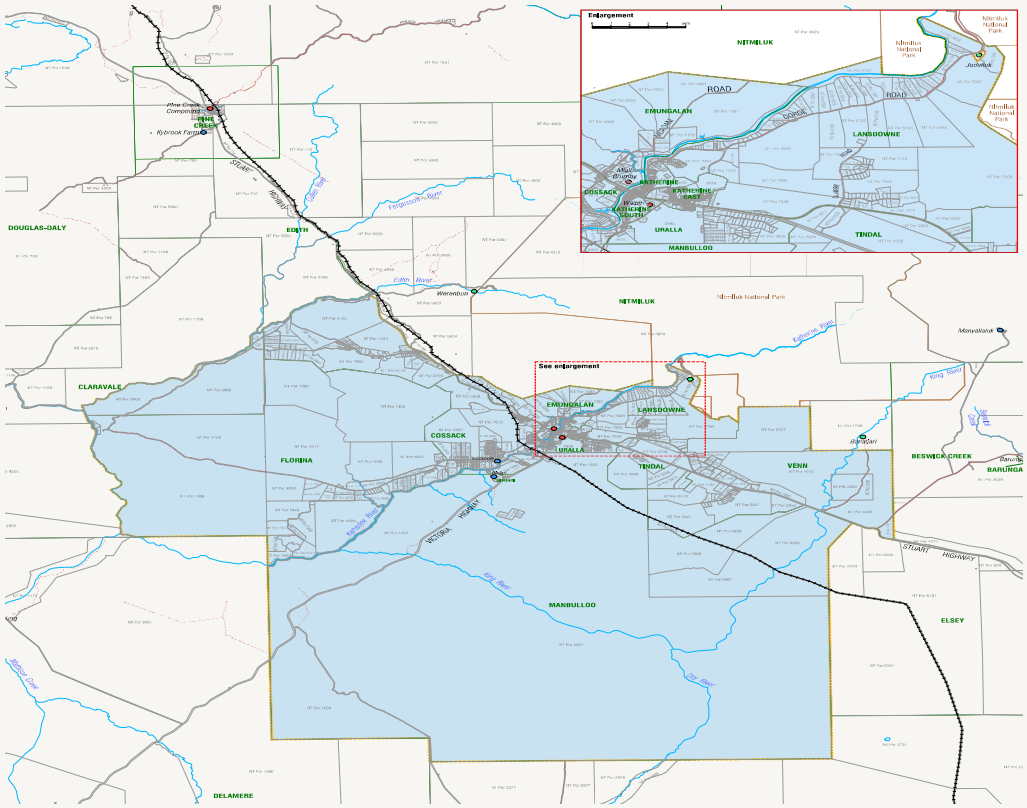
KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

AREA SIZE: 7,417 SQKM

NO WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	7
REPRESENTED BY	6 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	11,282
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	34.2%
2020 POPULATION	10,617
POPULATION CHANGE	+6.3%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	6,852
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+8.4%
VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	1,142

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DATA

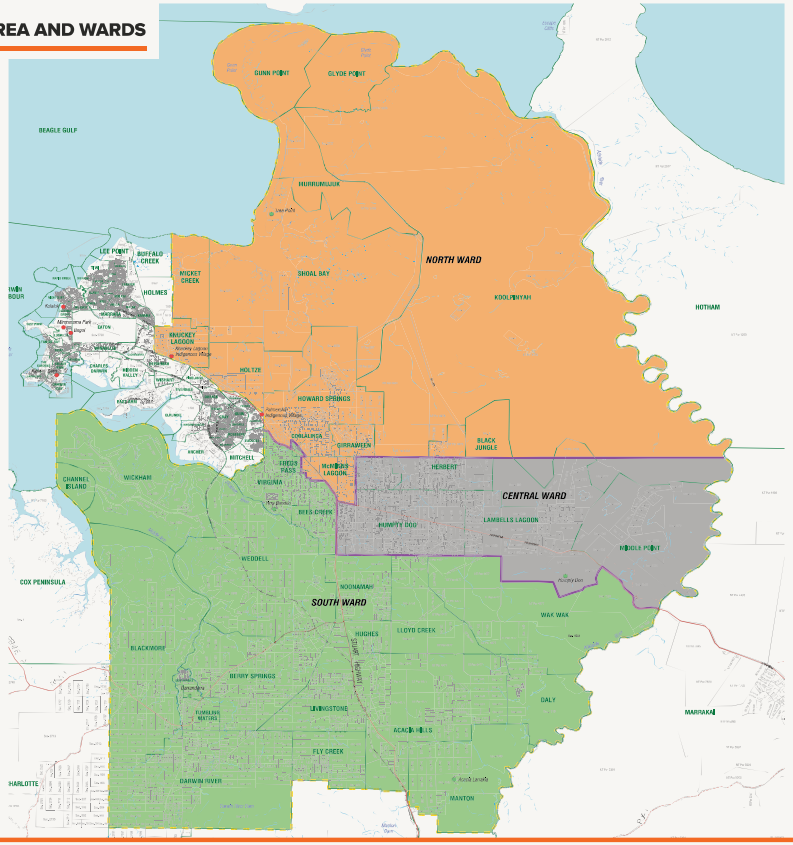
LITCHFIELD COUNCIL

3 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	7
REPRESENTED BY	6 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	24,849
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	14.1%
2020 POPULATION	25,566
POPULATION CHANGE	-2.8%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**13,969**	**12.9%**	**2,328**	**2,903**
Central Ward	2	4,837	13.7%	2,418	370
North Ward	2	4,441	12.7%	2,220	1,390
South Ward	2	4,691	12.3%	2,345	1,290

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

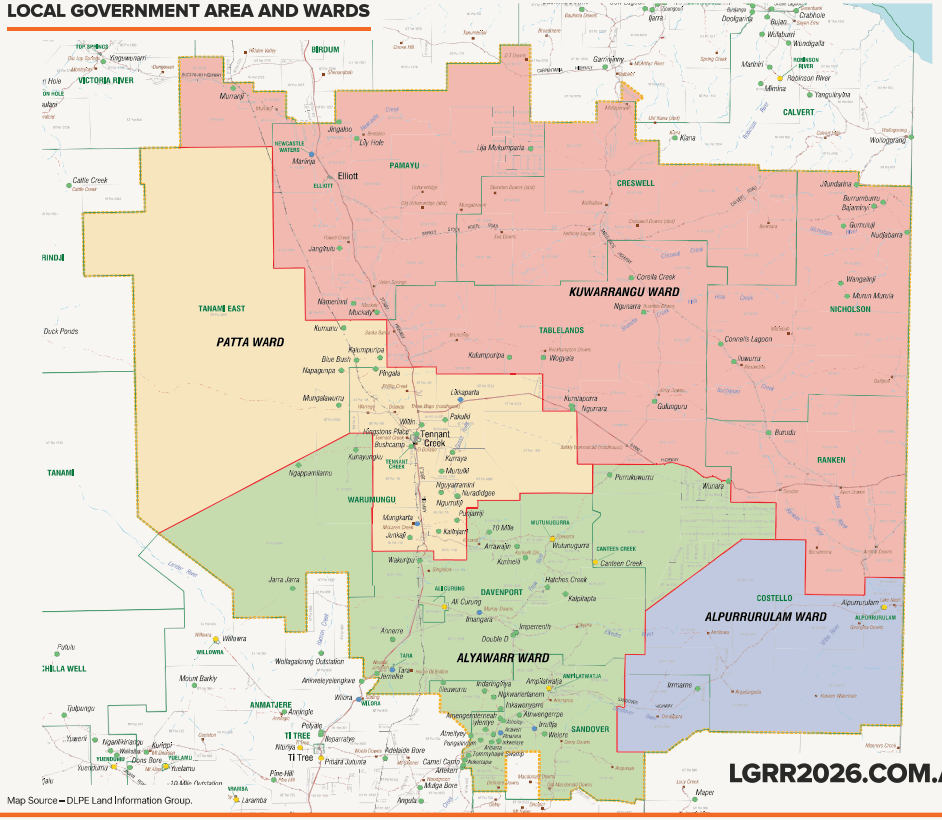
BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL

4 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	13
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS PLUS 1 ELECTED MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	7,448
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	70.0%
2020 POPULATION	7,453
POPULATION CHANGE	-0.07%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**4,562**	**12.0%**	**380**	**322,700**
Alpurrurulam Ward	1	233	28.7%	226	31,870
Alyawarr Ward	4	1,789	15.0%	447	73,010
Kuwarrangu Ward	2	485	8.0%	242	147,410
Patta Ward	5	2,055	8.9%	411	70,410

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

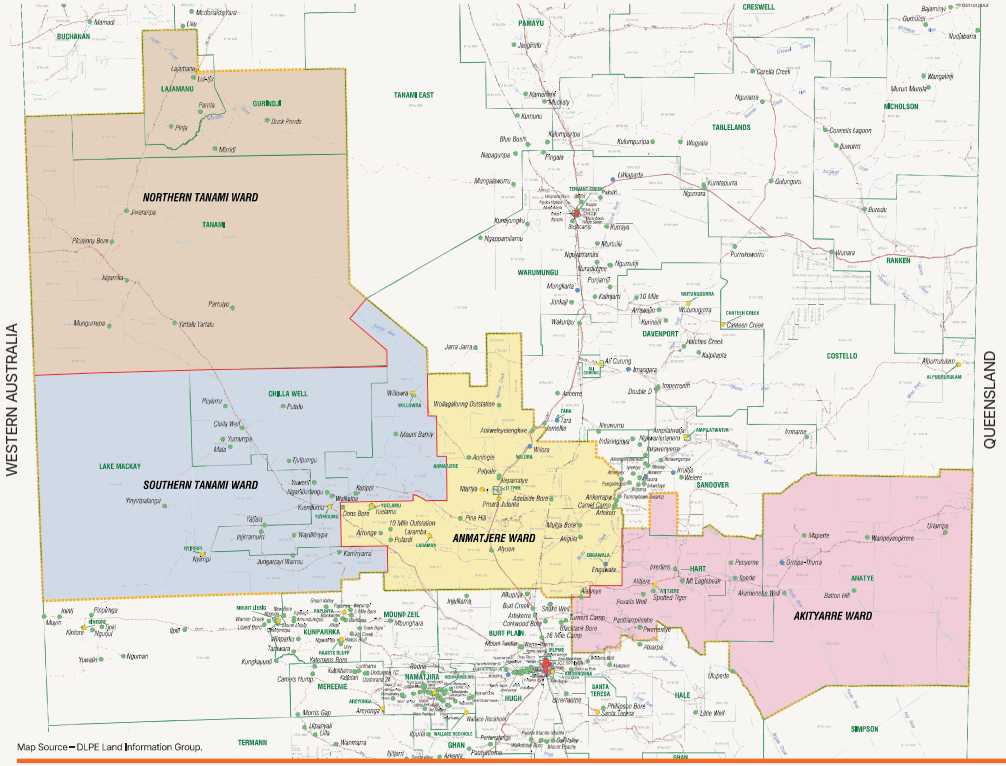
CENTRAL DESERT REGIONAL COUNCIL

4 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	12
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	4,170
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	80.7%
2020 POPULATION	4,241
POPULATION CHANGE %	-1.7%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE 2026
COUNCIL TOTALS		**2,709**	**9.5%**	**225**	**281,338**
Akityarre Ward	2	269	4.7%	134	64,370
Anmatjere Ward	4	1,009	3.1%	252	40,450
Northern Tanami Ward	2	483	35.3%	241	92,960
Southern Tanami Ward	4	948	7.6%	237	83,510

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

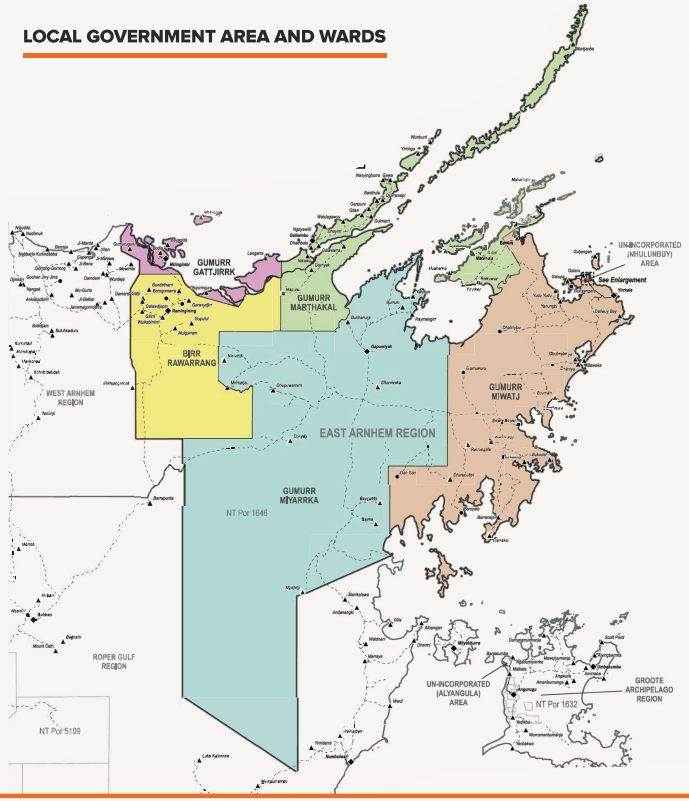
EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

5 WARDS

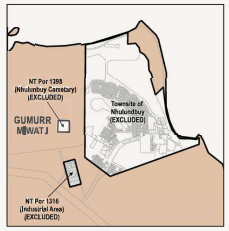
ELECTED MEMBERS	12
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	8,572
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	90.8%
2020 POPULATION	10,369
POPULATION CHANGE %	-17.3%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM (2026)	AREA SIZE SQ KM (2022)
COUNCIL TOTALS		**6,611**	**24.8%**	**550**	**30,710**	**33,310**
Birr Rawarrang Ward	2	887	31.0%	443	3,970	3,970
Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward	2	1,002	29.6%	501	600	600
Gumurr Marthakal Ward	3	1,942	24.6%	647	2,550	2,550
Gumurr Miwatj Ward	3	1,782	21.2%	594	6,670	6,670
Gumurr Miyarrka Ward	2	998	21.6%	499	16,890	16,890

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.



Unincorporated Area Enlargement
(Not to scale)

East Arnhem Regional Council Anindilyakwa Ward abolished to create new council (Groote Archipelago Regional Council) therefore a reduction from 6 to 5 wards. (Gazette May 2024).

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

GROOTE ARCHIPELAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

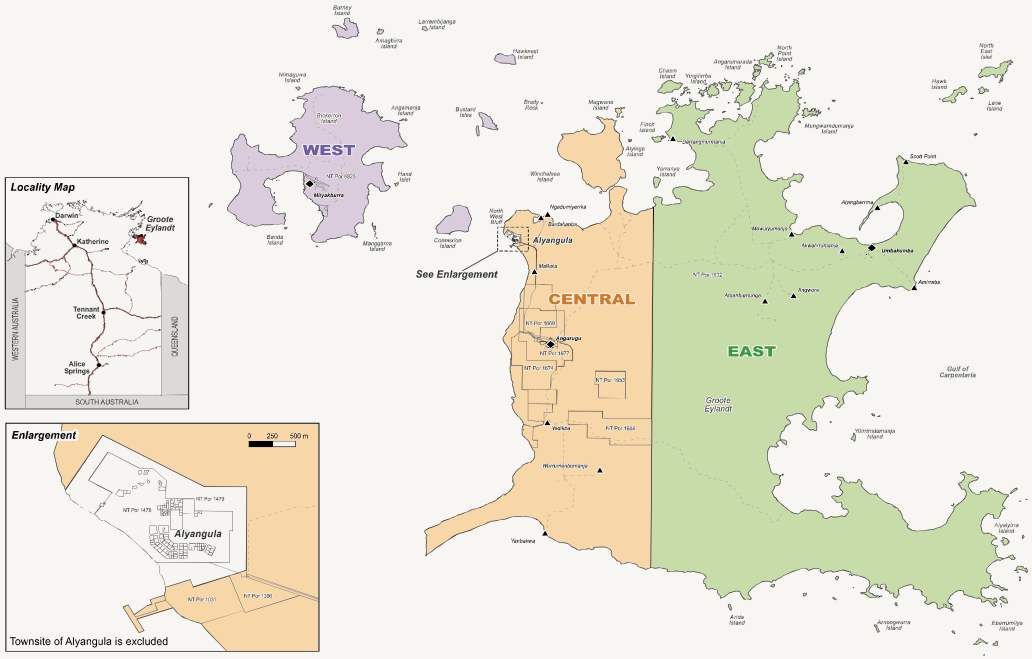
3 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	7
REPRESENTED BY	7 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	1,653
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	NO DATA
2020 POPULATION	NO DATA
POPULATION CHANGE %	NO DATA

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM (2026)	AREA SIZE SQ KM (2022)
COUNCIL TOTALS		**1,140**	**30.9%**	**162**	**2,600**	**–**
Central Ward	3	731	N/A	243	800	
East Ward	2	312	N/A	156	1,550	
West Ward	2	97	N/A	48	240	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS

Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.



Constitution of Groote Archipelago Regional Council with 7 members effective 1 Sept 2024 (Gazette May 2024) and subsequent creation of 3 wards: Central, East, West (Gazette January 2025)

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

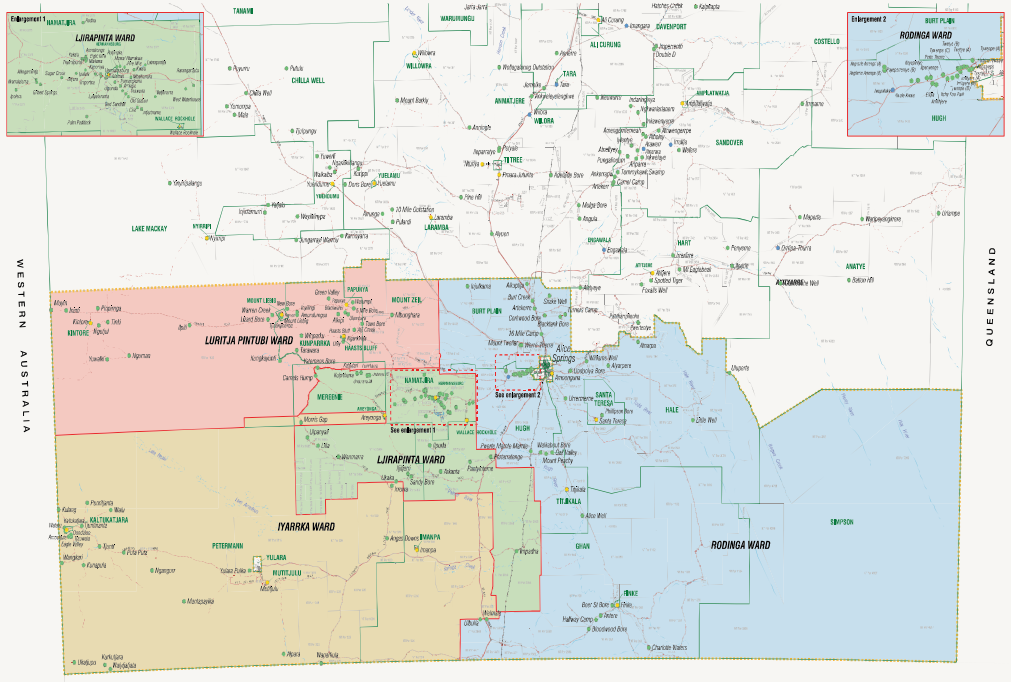
MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL

4 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	12
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	6,978
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	84.2%
2020 POPULATION	6,939
POPULATION CHANGE %	0.6%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**3,945**	**11.4%**	**328**	**268,339**
Iyarrka Ward	2	873	12.5%	436	77,600
Ljirapinta Ward	3	680	4.5%	226	25,060
Luritja Pintubi Ward	3	1,119	7.6%	373	42,100
Rodinga Ward	4	1,273	18.5%	318	123,550

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

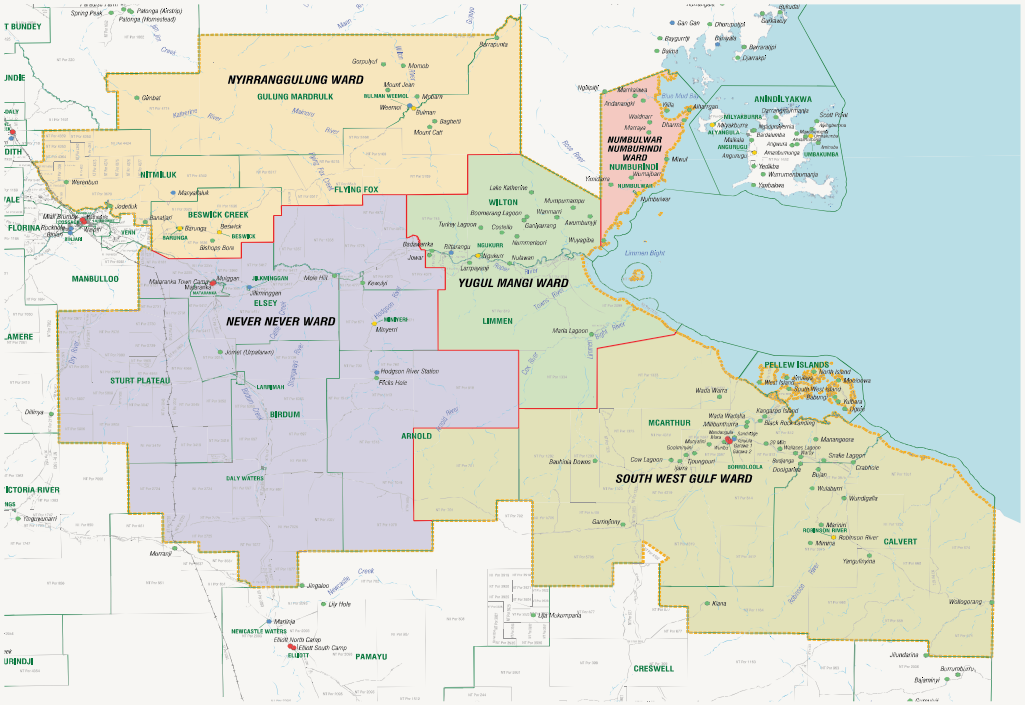
ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL

5 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	13
REPRESENTED BY	13 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	7,597
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	80.9%
2020 POPULATION	7,458
POPULATION CHANGE %	+1.9%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**4,497**	**15.2%**	**345**	**185,215**
Never Never Ward	3	1,023	26.1%	341	60,560
Numbulwar Numburindi Ward	2	571	15.8%	285	4,410
Nyirranggulung Ward	3	1,017	14.4%	339	40,140
South West Gulf Ward	3	1,028	8.4%	342	60,050
Yugul Mangi Ward	2	858	12.7%	429	19,970

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

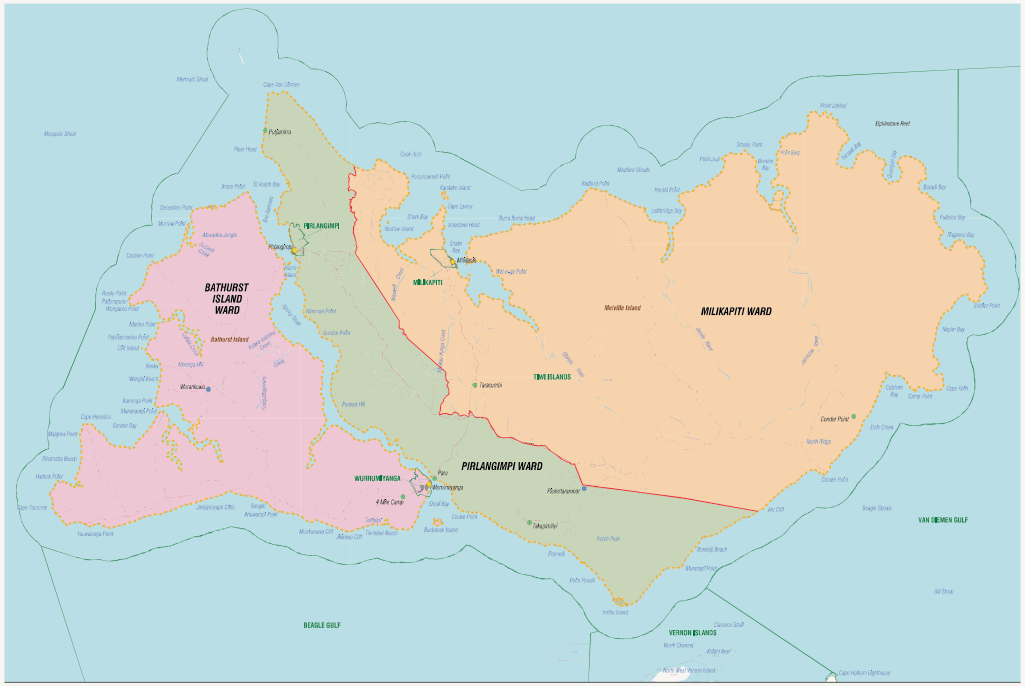
TIWI ISLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

3 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	12
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	2,767
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	90.6%
2020 POPULATION	2,743
POPULATION CHANGE %	+0.9%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**1,831**	**11.0%**	**152**	**7,483**
Bathurst Island Ward	6	1,178	7.9%	196	1,670
Milikapiti Ward	3	344	15.4%	114	4,260
Pirlangimpi Ward	3	309	18.8%	103	1,520

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

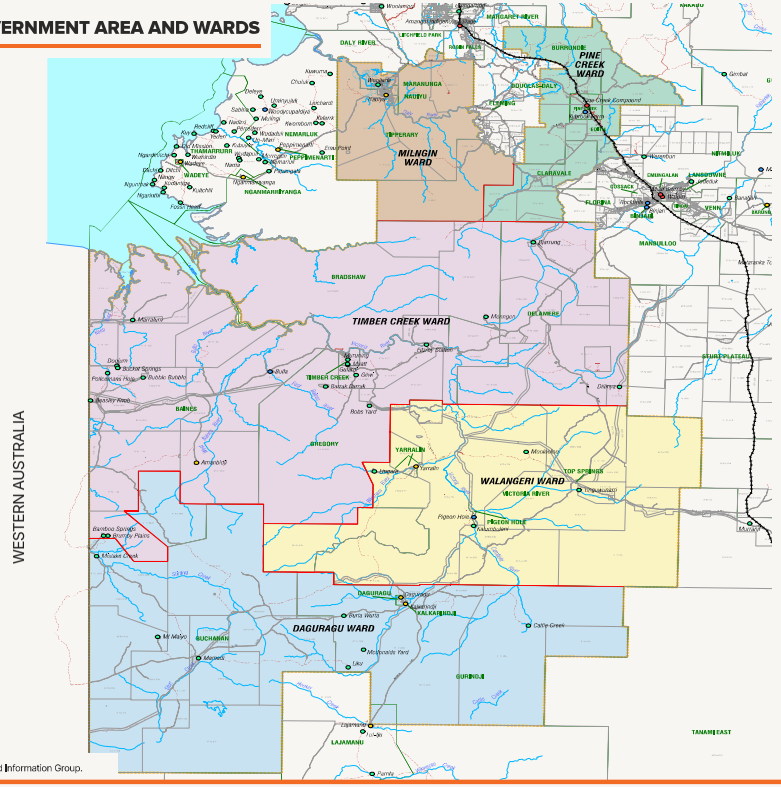
VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

5 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	5
REPRESENTED BY	5 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	3,356
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	74.2%
2020 POPULATION	3,175
POPULATION CHANGE %	+5.7%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**1,886**	**10.2%**	**377**	**153,287**
Daguragu Ward	1	500	15.2%	500	43,360
Milngin Ward	1	366	1.4%	366	10,880
Pine Creek Ward	1	228	12.9%	228	8,800
Timber Creek Ward	1	426	4.7%	426	59,220
Walangeri Ward	1	366	18.8%	366	30,400

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

5 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	12
REPRESENTED BY	12 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	7,608
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	88.7%
2020 POPULATION	6,860
POPULATION CHANGE %	+10.9%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**4,394**	**17.6%**	**336**	**49,675**
Gunbalanya Ward	3	1,028	21.7%	342	16,200
Kakadu Ward	3	557	5.7%	185	15,890
Maningrida Ward	4	2,252	28.5%	563	10,070
Minjilang Ward	1	200	24.2%	200	320
Warruwi Ward	1	357	22.3%	357	7,160

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS

Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.



REGIONAL COUNCIL DATA

WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

3 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	6
REPRESENTED BY	6 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A MAYOR
CURRENT POPULATION	3,495
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	83.9%
2020 POPULATION	3,735
POPULATION CHANGE %	-6.4%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**2,279**	**22.0%**	**379**	**14,070**
Nganmarriyanga Ward	1	261	25.5%	261	230
Thamarrur/Pindi Pindi Ward	4	1,899	20.9%	474	13,560
Tyemirri Ward	1	119	33.7%	119	230

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

SHIRE COUNCIL DATA

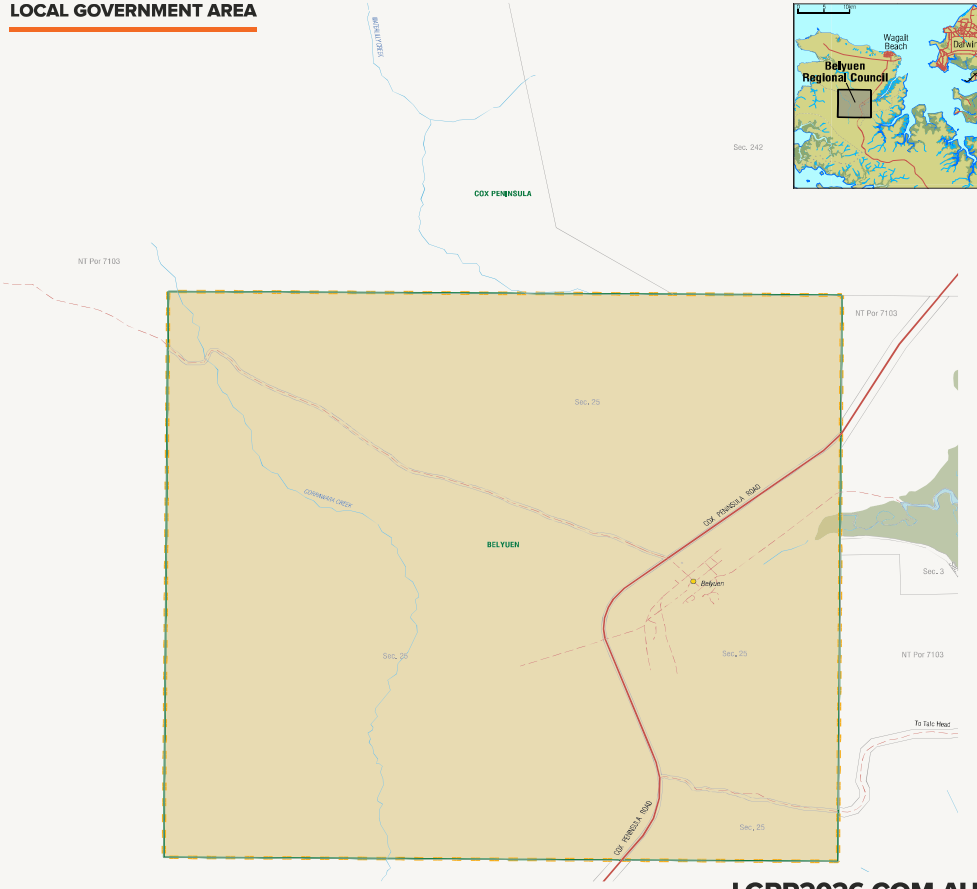
BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

AREA SIZE: 41 SQKM

NO WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	5
REPRESENTED BY	5 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	167
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	93.2%
2020 POPULATION	176
POPULATION CHANGE %	-5.1%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	173
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+25.4%
VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	34

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

SHIRE COUNCIL DATA

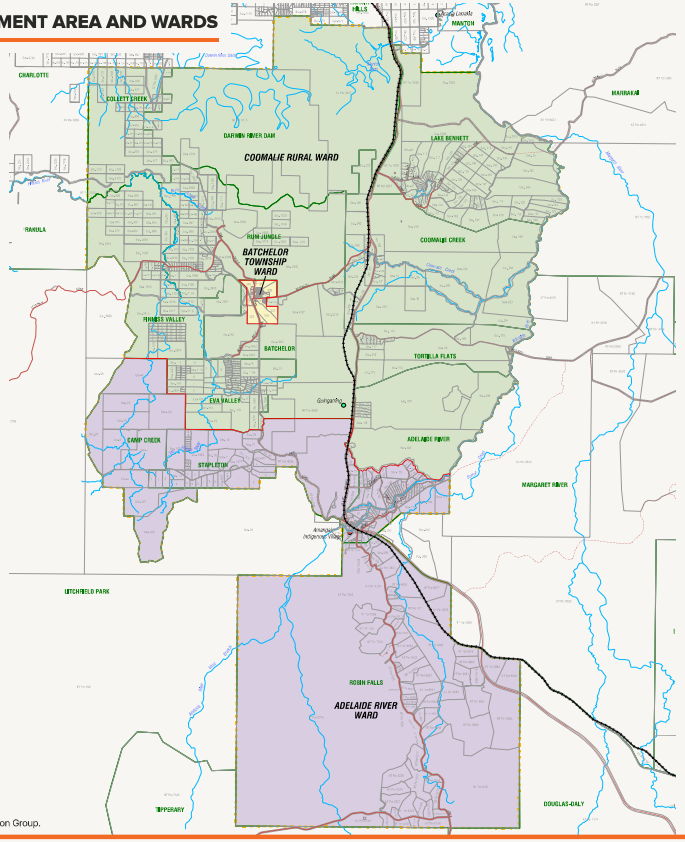
COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

3 WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	6
REPRESENTED BY	6 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	1,448
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	32.4%
2020 POPULATION	1,356
POPULATION CHANGE %	+6.8%

	COUNCILLORS PER WARD	CURRENT ENROLMENT	% ENROLMENT CHANGE 2021-26	VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	AREA SIZE SQ KM
COUNCIL TOTALS		**753**	**19.3%**	**125**	**2,056**
Adelaide River Ward	2	256	18.5%	128	790
Batchelor Township Ward	2	220	27.9%	110	10
Coomalie Rural Ward	2	277	14.0%	138	1,250

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND WARDS



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

SHIRE COUNCIL DATA

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL

AREA SIZE: 6 SQKM

NO WARDS

ELECTED MEMBERS	5
REPRESENTED BY	5 COUNCILLORS INCLUDING A PRESIDENT
CURRENT POPULATION	504
ABORIGINAL POPULATION	10.3%
2020 POPULATION	524
POPULATION CHANGE %	-3.8%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	347
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+16.1%
VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR	69

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

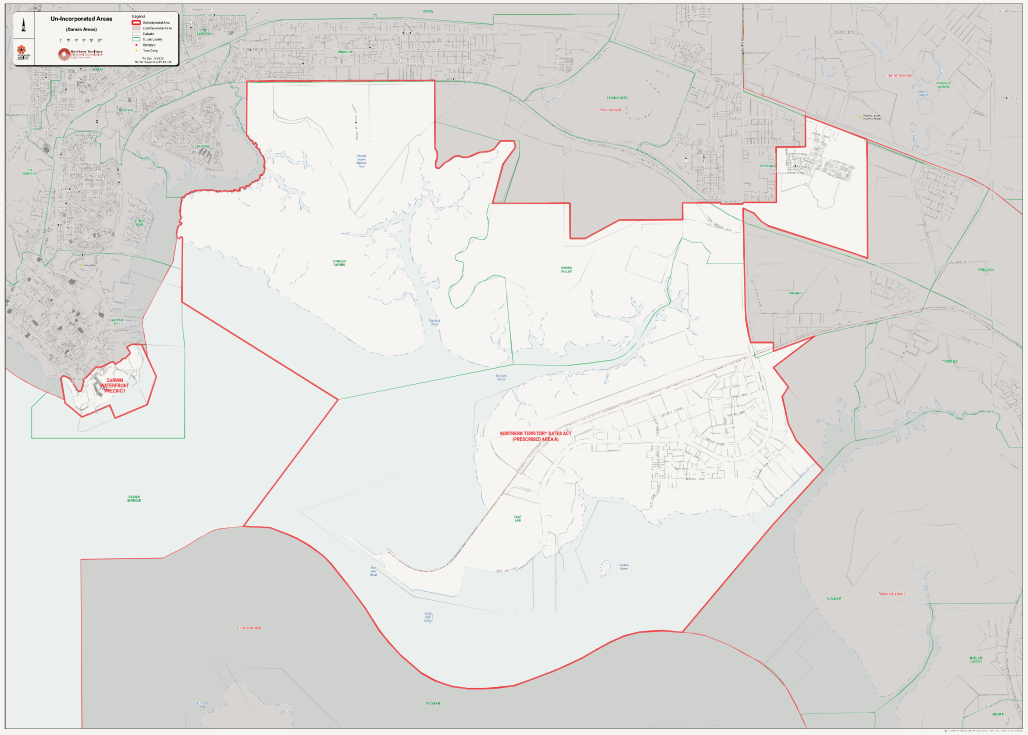
UNINCORPORATED AREAS DATA

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

AREA SIZE 2026	AREA SIZE 2021
19,775 SQKM	19,794 SQKM

ELECTED MEMBERS	0
REPRESENTED BY	NO LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION
CURRENT POPULATION	9,004
ABORIGINAL POPULATION %	17.1%
2020 POPULATION	7,421
POPULATION CHANGE %	+21.3%
CURRENT ENROLMENT	3,768
ENROLMENT CHANGE (2021–26)	+9.7%

DARWIN UNINCORPORATED AREA MAP

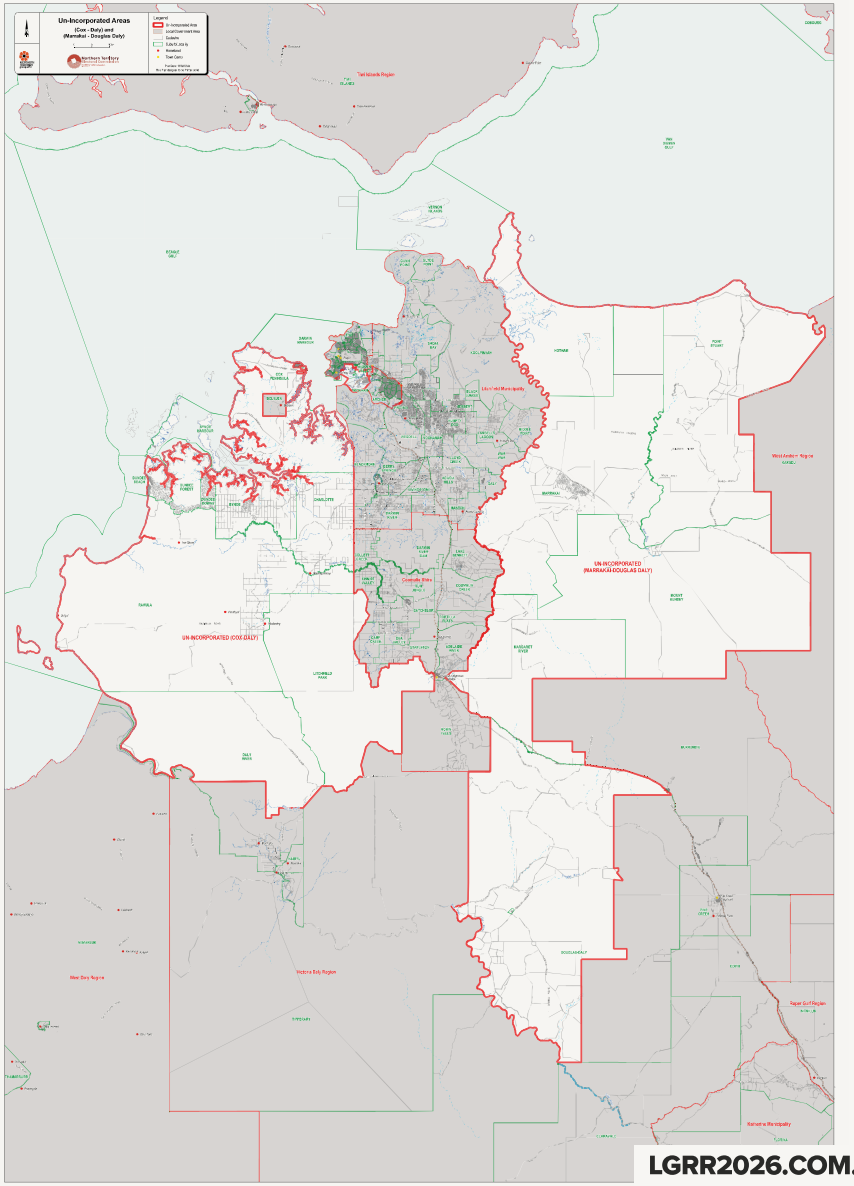


Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

UNINCORPORATED AREAS DATA

COX-DALY AND MARRAKAI-DOUGLAS UNINCORPORATED AREAS MAP

Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.

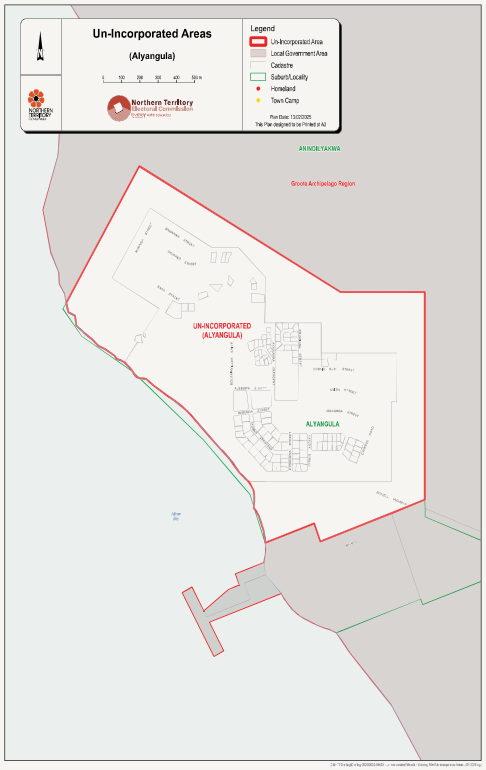


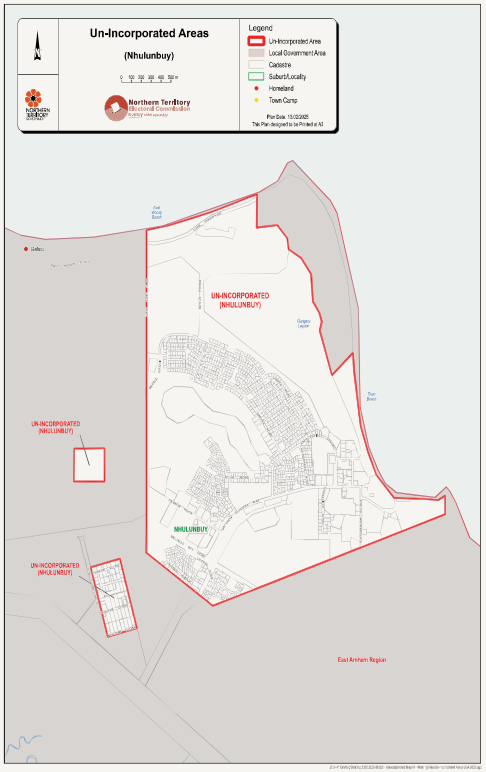
UNINCORPORATED AREAS DATA

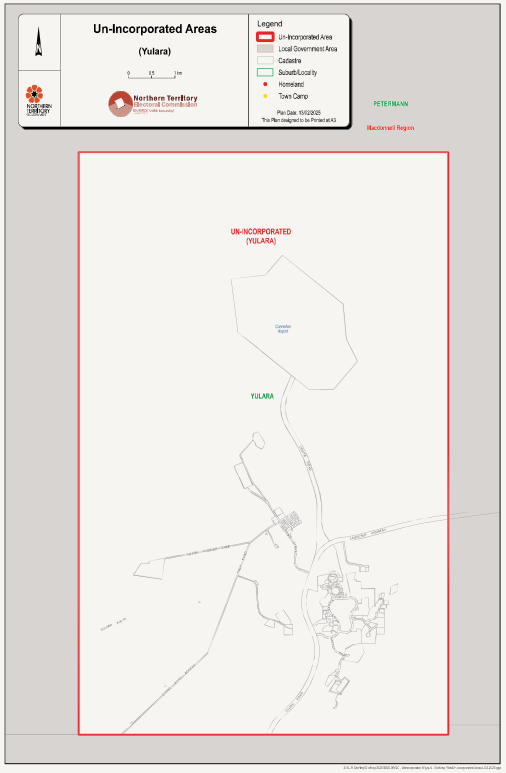
ALYANGULA, NHULUNBUY AND YULARA

UNINCORPORATED AREAS MAPS

Map Source – DLPE Land Information Group.







NT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA DATA

Source of Data			AEC 01.06.26	AEC: 27.07.21	AEC: 2021,25	AEC: 01.06.26	AEC: 22.07.25	AEC: 27.07.21	ABS: ERP 2025	ABS: 2020	ABS: 2021	ABS: 2020 (pop) 2021 (ATSI pop)	DLPE 2026	ABS 2022
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	Elected members	Councillors per ward	Latest enrolment	2021 LGE enrolment	2021-2026 % change enrolment	Latest voters per councillor	2025 LGE voters per councillor	2021 LGE voters per councillor	Latest population	2022 Rep Review population	Aboriginal population	Aboriginal % of population	Area SQ KM	Area SQ KM
Alice Springs Town Council	8 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor	No wards	17,069	15,756	8.0%	2,133	2,127	1,969	30,875	26,448	7,538	28.5%	328	328
Barkly Regional Council	12 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor		4,562	4,072	12.0%	380	383	339	7,448	7,453	5,218	70.0%	322,700	322,710
Alpurrurulam Ward		1	233	181	28.7%	226	241	181					31,870	
Alyawarr Ward		4	1,789	1,555	15.0%	447	448	388					73,010	
Kuwarrangu Ward		2	485	449	8.0%	242	248	224					147,410	
Patta Ward		5	2,055	1,887	8.9%	411	414	377					70,410	
Belyuen Community Government Council	5 councillors including a President	No wards	173	138	25.4%	34	34	27	167	176	164	93.2%	41	41
Central Desert Regional Council	12 councillors including a President		2,709	2,474	9.5%	225	225	206	4,170	4,241	3,422	80.7%	281,338	281,338
Akityarre Ward		2	269	257	4.7%	134	139	128					64,370	
Anmatjere Ward		4	1,009	979	3.1%	252	253	244					40,450	
Northern Tanami Ward		2	483	357	35.3%	241	231	178					92,960	
Southern Tanami Ward		4	948	881	7.6%	237	235	220					83,510	
Coomalie Community Govennment Council	6 councillors including a President		753	631	19.3%	125	125	105	1,448	1,356	439	32.4%	2,056	2,056
Adelaide River Ward		2	256	216	18.5%	128	125	108					790	
Batchelor Township Ward		2	220	172	27.9%	110	110	86					10	
Coomalie Rural Ward		2	277	243	14.0%	138	139	121					1,250	
City of Darwin	12 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor		52,119	51,060	2.1%	4,343	4,309	4,255	90,035	82,030	9,198	11.2%	111	111
Chan Ward		3	12,617	12,537	0.6%	4,205	4,228	4,179					30	
Lyons Ward		3	12,852	13,159	-2.3%	4,284	4,252	4,386					14	
Richardson Ward		3	12,923	12,526	3.2%	4,307	4,271	4,175					52	
Waters Ward		3	13,727	12,838	6.9%	4,575	4,487	4,279					42	
East Arnhem Regional Council	12 councillors includng a President		6,611	5,299	24.8%	550	540	441	8,572	10,369	9,417	90.8%	30,710*	33,310
Birr Rawarrang Ward		2	887	677	31.0%	443	434	338	*ABS ERP 2025 EARC figure is 10,225 which includes GARC. 8,572 = 10,225 minus 1,653*				3,970	
Gumurr Gattjirrk Ward		2	1002	773	29.6%	501	487	386		*includes GARC*	*includes GARC*	*includes GARC*	600	
Gumurr Marthakal Ward		3	1,942	1,558	24.6%	647	641	519					2,550	
Gumurr Miwatj Ward		3	1,782	1,470	21.2%	594	578	490					6,670	
Gumurr Miyarrka Ward		2	998	821	21.6%	499	493	410					16,890	
Groote Archipelago Regional Council	7 councillors including a Mayor		1,140	871	30.9%	162	162	435	1,653	*included above*	*included above*	*included above*	2,600*	-
Central Ward		3	731	-		243	242	-	*Sourced from GARC 2026-27 Annual Plan*				800	
East Ward		2	312	-		156	154	-					1,550	
West Ward		2	97	-		48	48	-					240	
Katherine Town Council	6 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor	No wards	6,852	6,321	8.4%	1,142	1,142	1,053	11,282	10,617	3,629	34.2%	7,417	7,417
Litchfield Council	6 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor		13,969	12,374	12.9%	2,328	2,361	2,062	24,849	25,566	3,611	14.1%	2,903	2,903
Central Ward		2	4,837	4,253	13.7%	2,418	2,429	2,126					370	
North Ward		2	4,441	3,942	12.7%	2,220	2,260	1,971					1,390	
South Ward		2	4,691	4,179	12.3%	2,345	2,395	2,089					1,290	

Data continues on next page.

NT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA DATA

Source of Data			AEC 01.06.26	AEC: 27.07.21	AEC: 2021,25	AEC: 01.06.26	AEC: 22.07.25	AEC: 27.07.21	ABS: ERP 2025	ABS: 2020	ABS: 2021	ABS: 2020 (pop) 2021 (ATSI pop)	DLPE 2026	ABS 2022
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	Elected members	Councillors per ward	Latest enrolment	2021 LGE enrolment	2021-2026 % change enrolment	Latest voters per councillor	2025 LGE voters per councillor	2021 LGE voters per councillor	Latest population	2022 Rep Review population	Aboriginal population	Aboriginal % of population	Area SQ KM	Area SQ KM
MacDonnell Regional Council	12 councillors including a President		3,945	3,541	11.4%	328	330	295	6,978	6,939	5,841	84.2%	268,339	268,339
Iyarrka Ward		2	873	776	12.5%	436	446	388					77,600	
Ljirapinta Ward		3	680	651	4.5%	226	227	217					25,060	
Luritja Pintubi Ward		3	1,119	1,040	7.6%	373	373	346					42,100	
Rodinga Ward		4	1,273	1,074	18.5%	318	317	268					123,550	
City of Palmerston	7 councillors plus 1 elected Mayor	No wards	26,412	23,559	12.1%	3,773	3,702	3,365	42,748	39,032	6,599	16.9%	72*	53
Roper Gulf Regional Council	13 councillors including a Mayor		4,497	3,902	15.2%	345	343	300	7,597	7,458	6,036	80.9%	185,215	185,213
Never Never Ward		3	1,023	811	26.1%	341	336	270					60,560	
Numbulwar Numburindi Ward		2	571	493	15.8%	285	286	246					4,410	
Nyirranggulung Ward		3	1017	889	14.4%	339	335	296					40,140	
South West Gulf Ward		3	1,028	948	8.4%	342	340	316					60,050	
Yugul Mangi Ward		2	858	761	12.7%	429	427	380					19,970	
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	12 councillors including a Mayor		1,831	1,650	11.0%	152	152	137	2,767	2,743	2,485	90.6%	7,483	7,483
Bathurst Island Ward		6	1,178	1,092	7.9%	196	199	182					1,670	
Milikapiti Ward		3	344	298	15.4%	114	114	99					4,260	
Pirlangimpi Ward		3	309	260	18.8%	103	96	86					1,520	
Victoria Daly Regional Council	5 councillors including a Mayor		1,886	1,712	10.2%	377	378	342	3,356	3,175	2,356	74.2%	153,287	153,287
Daguragu Ward		1	500	434	15.2%	500	500	434					43,360	
Milngin Ward		1	366	361	1.4%	366	364	361					10,880	
Pine Creek Ward		1	228	202	12.9%	228	230	202					8,800	
Timber Creek Ward		1	426	407	4.7%	426	433	407					59,220	
Walangeri Ward		1	366	308	18.8%	366	366	308					30,400	
Wagait Shire Council	5 councillors including a President	No wards	347	299	16.1%	69	70	59	504	524	54	10.3%	6	6
West Arnhem Regional Council	12 councillors including a Mayor		4,394	3,735	17.6%	366	368	311	7,608	6,860	6,082	88.7%	49,675	49,675
Gunbalanya Ward		3	1,028	845	21.7%	342	345	281					16,200	
Kakadu Ward		3	557	527	5.7%	185	195	175					15,890	
Maningrida Ward		4	2,252	1,753	28.5%	563	560	438					10,070	
Minjilang Ward		1	200	161	24.2%	200	202	161					320	
Warruwi Ward		1	357	292	22.3%	357	357	292					7,160	
West Daly Regional Council	6 councillors including a Mayor		2,279	1,868	22.0%	379	376	311	3,495	3,735	3132	83.9%	14,070	14,070
Nganmarriyanga Ward		1	261	208	25.5%	261	258	208					230	
Thamarrur/Pindi Pindi Ward		4	1,899	1,571	20.9%	474	469	392					13,560	
Tyemirri Ward		1	119	89	33.7%	119	123	89					230	
Unincorporated Areas	N/A		3,768	3,436	9.7%				9,004	7,421	1,266	17.1%	19,775*	19,794

*Refer LGA data sheet for information about change in area size.



Prepared by the NT Local Government Representation Review Committee

If you need further information phone (08) 8944 9688
or email your enquiry to **submissions@lgrr2026.com.au**