



AGENDA

BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2019

Notice is given that the next Barunga Local Authority Meeting of the Roper Gulf Regional Council will be held on:

- Thursday, 24 October 2019 at
- The Conference Room Council Service Delivery Centre, Barunga
- Commencing at 10:00am

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

Phillip LUCK
Chief Executive Officer

BARUNGA CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

List Members of LA

Elected Members

1. Mayor Judy MacFARLANE
2. Deputy Mayor Helen LEE - Chairperson
3. Cr Selina ASHLEY – On Leave until 17 December 2019
4. Cr Deanna KENNEDY

Appointed Members

1. Anita PAINTER
2. Nell BROWN
3. Vita BRINJEN
4. Anne-Marie LEE
5. Jeffrey McDONALD
6. Freddy SCRUBBY
7. Mavis JUMBIRI
8. Joyce BULUMBARA

MEMBERS: 12

COUNCIL: 4

LA: 8

QUORUM: 7 (minimum requirement)

PROVISIONAL: 5

Explanatory Note:

Meetings must meet a 'quorum' of 50% + 1 of all members.

If no quorum, but a majority of appointed members (50% + 1) a 'provisional meeting' can be held.

During a 'provisional meeting', all agenda items may be discussed, and minutes must be kept.

Members at a 'provisional meeting' may by majority vote make recommendations to Council, however the recommendations shall be considered as those of a 'provisional meeting' rather than a Local Authority.

A 'provisional meeting' does not have the powers or function delegated to a Local Authority, and it cannot approve minutes of a Local Authority meeting.

Local Authority appointed members are paid for attending meetings, (not for Informal Meetings or Roper Gulf Regional Council Employees during their hours of work).

PLEDGE

“We pledge to work as one towards a better future through effective use of all resources.

We have identified these key values and principles of Honesty, Equality, Accountability, Respect and Trust as being integral in the achievement of our vision, that the Roper Gulf Regional Council is Sustainable, Viable and Vibrant”.

PRAMIS BLA WI

“Mela pramis bla wek gudbalawei bla meigim futja bla wi wanwei, en bla yusim ola gudwan ting bla helpum wi luk lida.

Mela bin luk ol dijlod rul, ebrobodi gada tok trubalawei, wi gada meik so wi gibit firgo en lisiin misalp, abum rispek en trastim misalp bla jinggabat bla luk lida, Roper Galf Rijinul Kaunsul deya maindim en kipbum bla wi pramis , dum wek brabli gudbalawei, en im laibliwan”

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	<i>Nil</i>	
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CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER 5.1
TITLE Confirmation of Previous Minutes
REFERENCE 860227
AUTHOR Ashleigh Anderson, Local Authority Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority confirms the minutes taken at the Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 02 October 2019 to be a correct record of that meetings decisions and proceedings.**

BACKGROUND

The Barunga Local Authority met on Wednesday 02 October 2019 at 10:13am and achieved Quorum on that day.

Attached are the recorded minutes from that meeting.

The next Barunga Local Authority Meeting is scheduled on Monday 25 November 2019 at 10:00am.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 Barunga Local Authority 2019-10-02 [852259].DOCX



MINUTES OF THE BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY CENTRE, BARUNGA
ON WEDNESDAY, 02 OCTOBER 2019 AT 10:00AM

PRESENT/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Elected Members

- Deputy Mayor Helen LEE – **Chairperson**;
- Councillor Deanna KENNEDY.

1.2 Appointed Members

- Nell BROWN;
- Vita BRINJEN;
- Anne-Marie LEE;
- Freddy SCRUBBY;
- Joyce BULUMBARA;

1.3 Staff

- Marc GARDNER – General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability;
- Ashleigh ANDERSON – Local Authority Coordinator;
- Brodie BISHOP – Regional Sport and Recreation Coordinator;
- Susan GILLES – Council Services Coordinator;
- Samantha PHELAN – Veterinarian

1.4 Guests

- Moira McCREESH – Department of Health

MEETING OPENED

The Barunga Local Authority Meeting opened at 10:13am with **QUORUM**. The Chairperson welcomed members, staff and guests to the meeting and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

30/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Vita BRINJEN)

CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority accepts the apologies from Mayor Judy MacFARLANE, Local Authority Members Anita PAINTER and Mavis JUMBIRI noting that Local Authority Member Jeffrey McDONALD was absent without apology and Councillor Selina ASHLEY's leave of absence.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

31/2019 RESOLVED (Deanna KENNEDY/Joyce BULUMBARA)

CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority confirms the draft minutes taken at the Barunga Local Authority on Tuesday 30 April 2019, to be a correct record of its decisions and proceedings.

CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Next Local Authority Meeting Date;

12.2 Dark Spots in Community;

12.3 Tap at Heritage Park;

12.4 Leaking Septic at Lot 214;

12.5 Fencing Issues;

12.6 Local Authority Projects for 2019-20;

12.7 Toilets and Water for Cemetery;

12.8 Toilet and Shower Block for Norforce Park.

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Barunga Local Authority.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION LIST

32/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Vita BRINJEN)

CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Action List;
(b) That the Barunga Local Authority approves the removal of all completed Action List items;

33/2019 RESOLVED (Joyce BULUMBARA/Vita BRINJEN)

CARRIED

- (c) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council supports the Youth Café Project and makes it a Community Priority;
(d) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council investigates options for the Youth Café to be held, with the suggestion being that the Sport and Recreation Hall and outdoor staged be considered as the primary location.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

32/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Freddy SCRUBBY) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Animal Management Report for June 2019;
- (b) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the information regarding the introduction of Animal Management By-Laws;
- (c) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that a Community Meeting be held relating to the possible introduction of Animal Management By-Laws.

11.2 ELECTED MEMBER REPORT

33/2019 RESOLVED (Joyce BULUMBARA/Neil BROWN) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Elected Member Report.

11.3 LA001 - LOCAL AUTHORITY POLICY

34/2019 RESOLVED (Vita BRINJEN/Anne-Marie LEE) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the updated Local Authority Policy.

11.4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING ATTENDANCE

35/2019 RESOLVED (Freddy SCRUBBY/Deanna KENNEDY) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the attendance records for the members of the Barunga Local Authority between 24 April 2018 to 30 April 2019.

11.5 CHAIRPERSON FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

36/2019 RESOLVED (Joyce BULUMBARA/Freddy SCRUBBY) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the information regarding the appointment of a Chairperson of the Barunga Local Authority;
- (b) That the Barunga Local Authority appoints Deputy Mayor Helen LEE as Chairperson for a period of 12 Month(s), with Vita BRINJEN to act as Chairperson in the absence of Deputy Mayor.

11.6 REMOTE SPORT VOUCHER SCHEME (RSVS)

37/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Neil BROWN) CARRIED

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Remote Sports Voucher Scheme Report.

11.7 ANNUAL CIVIC EVENTS AND FESTIVAL COMMITMENTS**38/2019 RESOLVED (Vita BRINJEN/Freddy SCRUBBY)****CARRIED**

(a) That the Barunga Local Authority reviews the relevant Council confirmed list of annual Civic Events and Festivals:

- Australia Day
- Clean Australia Day
- ANZAC Day
- NAIDOC Week
- Barunga Festival
- Yugul Mangi Festival
- Borroloola and District Show
- Great Northern Clean Up
- Never Never Festival
- Walaman Festival
- Citizenship Ceremonies
- Numbulwar Numbirindi Festival

11.8 COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT - 31 AUGUST 2019**39/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Joyce BULUMBARA)****CARRIED**

(a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Financial (Expenditure) Report for the month of August 2019-20 financial year;

(b) That the Barunga Local Authority requests a full costing for the oval lights be followed up and presented to the Local Authority.

11.9 2018-19 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING**40/2019 RESOLVED (Deanna KENNEDY/Freddy SCRUBBY)****CARRIED**

(a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the signed Certification for 2018-19 Local Authority Project Funding.

11.10 GOVERNANCE REPORT - LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT REGISTER UPDATE**41/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Vita BRINJEN)****CARRIED**

(a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the updated report on Local Authority Project Funding as at 15 September 2019;

(b) That the Barunga Local Authority allocates \$12,236.39 of Local Authority Project Funding towards upgrades of the playground including fencing installation, roof installation and additional equipment.

OTHER BUSINESS**12.1 NEXT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING DATE****42/2019 RESOLVED (Freddy SCRUBBY/Deanna KENNEDY)****CARRIED**

(a) That the Barunga Local Authority elected to move the Barunga Local Authority Meeting date on the 15 October 2019 to Thursday 24 October 2019 at 10:00am.

12.2 DARK SPOTS IN COMMUNITY

43/2019 RESOLVED (Joyce BULUMBARA/Freddy SCRUBBY) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that a Map of the Dark Sports in Community be made in consultation with the Local Authority Members.

12.3 TAP AT HERITAGE PARK

44/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Deanna KENNEDY) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council investigate the installation of a Tap in Heritage Park.

12.4 LEAKING SEPTIC AT LOT 214

45/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Vita BRINJEN) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council send a letter to the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development regarding a leaking septic tank on Lot 214, raising the Health concerns about children swimming in the swimming hole near the leaking septic tank.

12.5 FENCING ISSUES

46/2019 RESOLVED (Joyce BULUMBARA/Neil BROWN) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council raise concerns regarding fencing in the Barunga Community with the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development and advocate on behalf of the Community to have those fencing issues resolved.

12.6 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS FOR 2019-20

47/2019 RESOLVED (Freddy SCRUBBY/Joyce BULUMBARA) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority makes the resurfacing and irrigation of the Football Oval and Softball Oval as a priority project for the 2019-20 Local Authority Projects.

12.7 TOILETS AND WATER FOR CEMETERY

48/2019 RESOLVED (Deanna KENNEDY/Joyce BULUMBARA) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council investigate costings for installation of a Toilet block and access to water at the Cemetery.

12.8 ABULTION BLOCK FOR NORFORCE PARK

49/2019 RESOLVED (Anne-Marie LEE/Joyce BULUMBARA) *CARRIED*

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority requests that Council obtains costings for the installation of a Toilet/Shower block in Norforce Park.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 2:17pm.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Barunga Local Authority Meeting HELD ON Wednesday, 02 October 2019 AND CONFIRMED Thursday, 24 October 2019.

Chairperson

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER	8.1
TITLE	Action List
REFERENCE	860806
AUTHOR	Ashleigh Anderson, Local Authority Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Action List;
 (b) That the Barunga Local Authority approves the removal of all completed Action List items.

Date	Agenda Item #	Item Description	Responsible Person	Status	Update
24.04.18	11.6 GOVERNANCE REPORT - BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE	Install new Tap at Norforce Park	Area Manager/ CSC	In Progress	Projects to follow up on PowerWater Corporation Response
24.04.18	11.6 GOVERNANCE REPORT - BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE	Install more Speed bumps and Install a Pedestrian crossing at Lot 243.	Area Manager/ CSC	Ongoing	Preferred Speedbump are Metal, Consultation with Community required on placement of additional speedbumps
24.04.18	11.6 GOVERNANCE REPORT - BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE	Install Fence around the Football oval	Area Manager/ CSC	Ongoing	Fencing has been mapped out and gate placement has been selected.
21/08/18	12.1 KNOWLEDGE GARDEN	Knowledge/ memorial Garden	LA members	Ongoing	Projects to follow up on seating

Date	Agenda Item #	Item Description	Responsible Person	Status	Update
21/08/18	12.2 MEMORIAL PARK	Memorial Park	LA Members / CSC / CDP / CEO	Ongoing	Designs Drafted
12.02.19	FAMILY PLAQUE ON MEMORIAL GARDEN	Family Plaque	CSC/SASO	Ongoing	Consultation meeting with community members for information to go on the plaques
12.02.19	HEALTHY COMMUNITY WALKING TRAIL	Walking Trail	Chief Executive Officer/Council Service Coordinator	In Progress	Trail Completed. Name of walking trail to be selected and metal seasonal calendar costing to be provided.
30.04.19	19.5 WEEDS	Information Posters / Flyers to be created and displayed about weed control	CSC/SASO	Completed	Posters and Information displayed on notice board
30.04.19	19.6 PLAYGROUND UPGRADE (Near Council Office)	CSC to seek quotes for playground upgrade including fencing repairs, shade sails and new equipment	CSC/SASO	Ongoing	Barunga LA allocates \$12,000 towards playground.
02.10.19	8.1 YOUTH CAFÉ	Council investigates options to hold Youth Café	Projects	NEW	
02.10.19	11.1 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – ANIMAL MANAGEMENT BY-LAWS	Community Consultation and Survey to be conducted regarding the introduction of Animal Management By-Laws	CSC / Vets	NEW	
02.10.19	11.7 OVAL LIGHTS	Full costing of the Oval Light Project to be provided to the LA	Finance / Projects	NEW	
02.10.19	12.2 DARK SPOTS	CSC to meet with LA members and map out black spots	CSC / LA	NEW	
02.10.19	12.3 TAP IN HERITAGE PARK	Investigate options for tap at Heritage Park	Projects	NEW	

Date	Agenda Item #	Item Description	Responsible Person	Status	Update
02.10.19	12.4 LEAKING SEPTIC	CEO to send letter to DLGHCD regarding leaking septic	CEO	NEW	
02.10.19	12.5 FENCING	CEO to send letter to DLGHCD regarding fencing issues	CEO	NEW	
02.10.19	12.7 TOILET/WA TER IN CEMETER Y	Investigate costings for toilet block and water for cemetery	Projects	NEW	
02.10.19	12.8 TOILET / SHOWER BLOCK IN NORFORC E PARK	Investigate costings for Toilet/Shower block in Norforce Park	Projects	NEW	

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	11.1
TITLE	Roper River Water Resource Assessment
REFERENCE	858695
AUTHOR	Pethie Lyons, CSIRO

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the presentation from CSIRO Land and Water pertaining to the Roper River Water Resource Assessment and the indigenous water values, rights, interests and development goals.**

BACKGROUND

The Roper River Water Resource assessment is a research project being led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in partnership with the Australian Government. Scientists from the CSIRO are investigating opportunities for water, agricultural, and other related development in the catchment. The work includes research focused on Indigenous people – the water values they have, the rights they hold, and the development goals that are important to them.

Pethie Lyons will be leading the research that will gather these vital indigenous views, values, interests and ideas. The team is interested in talking to Indigenous people with cultural connections to the Roper catchment who are living in and around towns and communities like Mataranka, Jilkminggan, Ngukurr, Beswick and Barunga. The main research will happen from late 2019 and in 2020, with results shared in early 2021.

Additional information can be found in the attached factsheets.

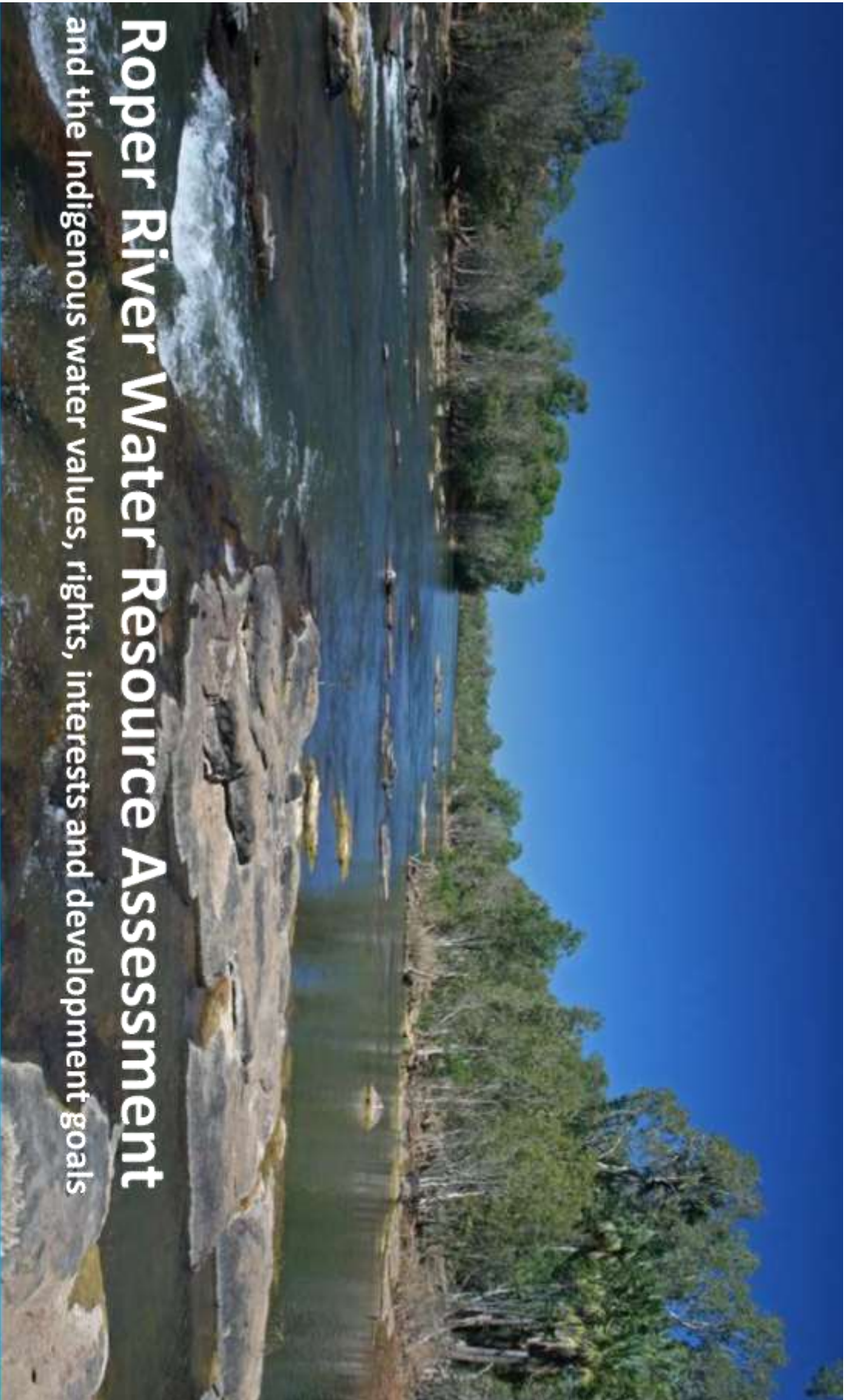
Presenter: Pethie Lyons from CSIRO will conduct a presentation and answer any questions or concerns the Local Authority may have.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil determined.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 Community Meetings 20191021.pdf
- 2 Indigenous_sub-project_factsheet .docx
- 3 RoWRA_factsheet_overview.pdf
- 4 RoWRA_land suitability_factsheet_v4.pdf



Roper River Water Resource Assessment and the Indigenous water values, rights, interests and development goals

CSIRO
www.csiro.au

Pethie Lyons

Pethie Lyons



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Cities and Regional Development



Roper River Water Resources Assessment

- CSIRO research project funded by the Federal Government
- Responds to the Commonwealth White Papers
 - Agricultural Competitiveness
 - Northern Australia
- Focused on understanding water resources and development options in the Roper catchment
- Not a development proposal

Roper Water Resource Assessment: Aims

- What soil and water resources are available?
- What is the scale and type of opportunity for irrigated and dryland agriculture:
 - physically suitable
 - commercially viable
 - socially and culturally acceptable
 - openings for other water-dependent development (e.g. tourism)
- What are the risks and trade-offs?

Roper Water Resource Assessment: Aims

To assist government, investors, and communities with information to make decisions about future development – costs, benefits, impacts



RowRA Coordination

- State department projects
- Development ideas and initiatives
- Scoping water needs and water planning

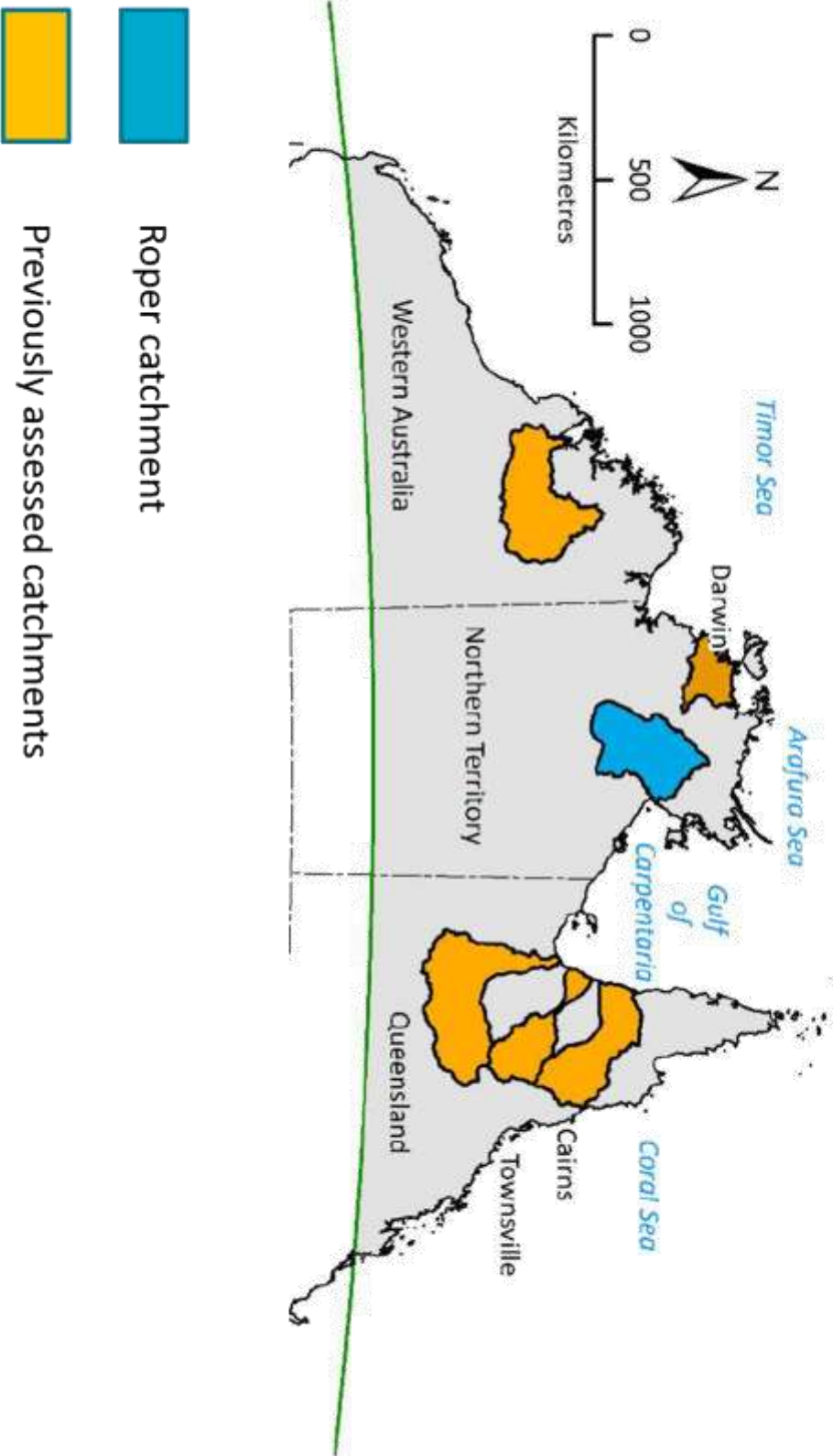


Parts of RowRA

- NAWRA has different parts or subprojects that focus on different areas of science:
 - Soil
 - Surface water and climate
 - Agriculture and crops
 - Groundwater
 - Ecology
 - Social and economic issues
 - Indigenous values, rights and development goals



Water Resource Assessments in Northern Australia



ROWRA Indigenous sub-project

- Give an overview of key Indigenous water:
 - values
 - rights
 - interests
 - development goals
- This project wants to work with Indigenous people, regional governance bodies and local corporations

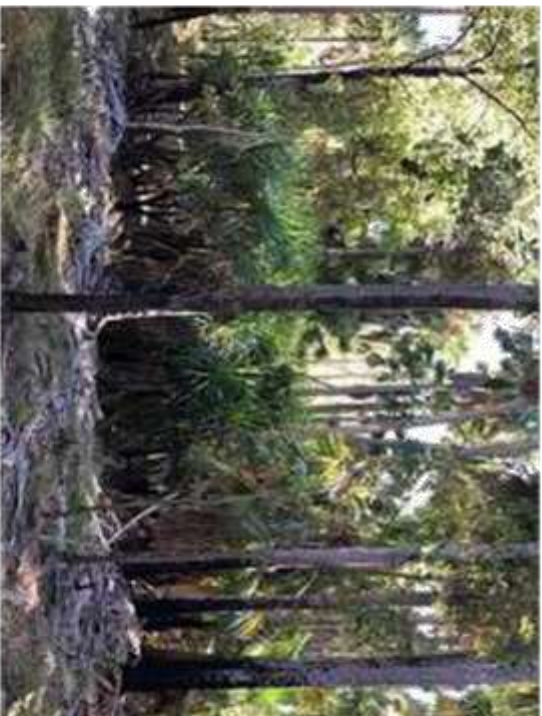


Roper River Water Resource Assessment - Indigenous subproject

- Indigenous water values, rights, and development goals
- Not a development proposal
- Don't need agreed position within or across TO groups
- Show the spread of values, ideas, and goals found across TOs and long-term Indigenous residents
- Information to assist planning for future development by TOs, government, and developers

Project Timeframe

- Find the best models for participation
- Information meetings from October 2019
- Complete work in 2021
- Information to be shared in 2022 – ‘two way flow’ and a report



Project Plan

- Preliminary scoping and preparatory work this year
 - Methods Report
 - Ethics Approval
 - Work with NLC regional boards and the permit system



Project Process:

- Consultations guided by:
 - CSIRO ethics
 - Free, prior and informed consent
 - NLC regional governance and research permit system



Project Process:

- Intellectual property to remain owned by Indigenous participants
- It is a public process - no need to provide restricted information
- Participants have the final say about what information is made public

Roper River Water Resource Assessment - Indigenous subproject

- RowRA helps understand what might be possible in the landscape, and what might limit or stop it
- All RowRA information is made public
- Opportunity for TOs to share with public
 - What is important about the country and its people
 - Indigenous developments goals
 - Perspectives about water resource development by others
- Any major future development would require more discussion, funding, research work and agreements by landowners, communities and governments

Thank you

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Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Cities and Regional Development

Indigenous water values, rights and development goals in the Roper catchment

An activity within the Roper Water Resource Assessment

The Roper River Water Resource Assessment is a research project being led by the CSIRO in partnership with the Australian Government. Scientists from the CSIRO are investigating opportunities for water, agricultural, and other related development in the catchment. The work includes research focused on Indigenous people – the water values they have, the rights they hold, and the development goals that are important to them.

Indigenous people have lived on the country for many thousands of years. Throughout that time they have developed knowledge of the landscape and strong connections with it. Ongoing economic development can provide jobs and income opportunities for people. However, it can also put new pressure on the country as the number of people and businesses grow and water use increases.

The CSIRO is looking at development possibilities, but the CSIRO is not a developer and it is not proposing or promoting water development. Its role is to provide better information for the government and communities when considering future water, agricultural and other related water-dependent development options such as tourism and bush foods. One part of this role is listening to interested Indigenous people about what water issues exist and what kind of future development path they want for themselves and their communities.

Indigenous views might include the need to protect important or sacred places and to keep enough water in the rivers for Indigenous hunting and fishing.

It might also include goals and ideas for Indigenous economic development. This could be an Indigenous-run business that needs a secure water supply or Indigenous employment in businesses run by others that also need water. This valuable information will provide foundations for better future communication between Indigenous people, government planners, and private developers in the future.

Pethie Lyons will be leading the research that will gather these vital Indigenous



views, values interests, and ideas. She is supported by Marcus Barber, who has worked in the catchment in the past and on water rights and interests elsewhere in the Northern Territory. The team is interested in talking to Indigenous people with cultural connections to the Roper catchment or who are living in and around towns and communities like Mataranka, Jilkminggan, Ngukurr, Beswick, and Barunga. The main research will happen from late 2019 and in 2020, with results shared in early 2021.

As part of their work, the CSIRO team will consult with local Indigenous leaders, organisations, pastoral stations, and land councils about the best way for local people to communicate with them. The team will follow free, prior and informed consent processes at all times during their work. They can meet with interested people in formal meetings, smaller groups, or as individuals. Visits with Indigenous people to important places are also valuable as they will assist in better understanding the country and its people.

Near the end of the project, the Indigenous research project team will write a report about the Roper catchment and hold community workshops to share the information and invite feedback. They will also share what other CSIRO staff have learnt through their studies of soil, water, and agriculture. If you are interested in participating or have any questions about this research, you can contact Pethie using the contact details at the bottom of this factsheet.

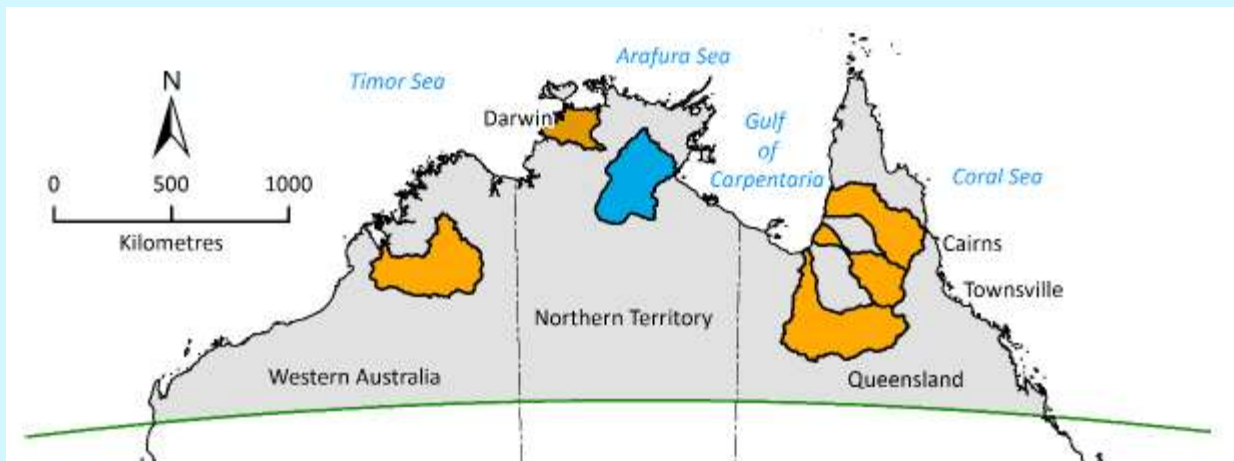


Marcus Barber



Pethie Lyons

The CSIRO team has conducted similar work in other priority areas. These are the Mitchell, Flinders and Gilbert catchments in Queensland, catchments surrounding Darwin in the Northern Territory (the Adelaide, Finniss, Mary and Wildman catchments), and the Fitzroy catchment in Western Australia.



In each area, the CSIRO investigated soil and water resources, water capture and storage options, agriculture, aquaculture, and other possibilities, and the risks and impacts of development. The Assessment will not assume any particular development pathway or recommend one form of development over another. It does not seek to replace any planning processes, and will not recommend changes to existing plans or planning processes. The results, however, can be used to inform planning decisions by citizens, communities, councils, investors and state and federal governments.

The Roper River Water Resource Assessment is an initiative of the Australian Government.

CONTACT

CSIRO

Land and Water

Pethie Lyons

Phone: 07 4059 5017

Mobile: 0477 755 076

E-mail: Pethie.Lyons@csiro.au

Roper River Water Resource Assessment

The Australian Government and CSIRO are partnering to investigate opportunities for water and agricultural development in the Roper River catchment, Northern Territory.

Northern Australia makes a substantial contribution to the Australian economy, particularly through agriculture, mining and tourism.

There are opportunities to unlock significant new investment in the north. This will require confidence about the scale and nature of the opportunities and understanding of the risks involved.

Millions of hectares of soil are potentially suitable for irrigated agriculture across northern Australia but access to water is one of several constraints to development.

Following the successful Flinders and Gilbert Agricultural Resource Assessment and the Northern Australia Water Resource Assessment, CSIRO has been engaged by the Australian Government to assess the opportunities for water and agricultural development in the Roper River catchment in the Northern Territory.

We will work with the Northern Territory government, research partners and communities to complete this assessment by June 2022.

About the Assessment

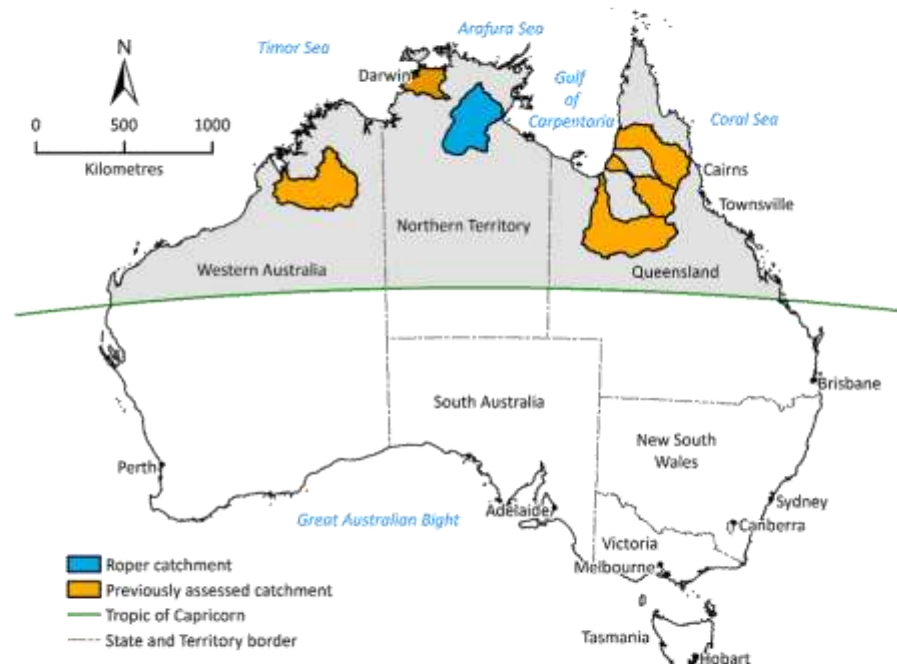
The Roper River Water Resource Assessment will provide a comprehensive and integrated evaluation of the feasibility, economic viability and sustainability of water and agricultural development in the Roper River catchment.

Assessment goals

The Assessment seeks to:

- evaluate the soil and water resources
- identify and evaluate water capture and storage options
- identify and test the commercial viability of irrigated agricultural and aquaculture opportunities
- assess potential environmental, social and economic impacts and risks of water resource and irrigation development.

While agricultural developments may be the most likely to proceed in the foreseeable future, the Assessment will also consider opportunities for and intersections between different types of potential water-dependent development. For



example, the Assessment will explore the nature, scale, location and impacts of developments relating to tourism and agriculture development in relevant locations.

Supporting regional decision making and investment

The Assessment aims to support decision making about sustainable regional development by clarifying the scale and nature of the opportunities for agriculture, reducing the uncertainty of investors and regulators, reducing enterprise start-up costs and enhancing the capacity for investors to attract capital.

Where previous assessments have focused on single development activities or assets – without analysing the interactions between them – this Assessment will consider the opportunities presented by the simultaneous pursuit of multiple development activities and assets. By this means, the Assessment will use a whole-of-region (rather than an asset-by-asset) approach to considering development.

Importantly, the Assessment seeks to lower the barriers to investment in regional development by:

- explicitly addressing local needs and aspirations
- meeting the needs of governments as they regulate the sustainable and equitable management of public resources with due consideration of environmental and cultural issues
- meeting the due diligence requirements of private investors by addressing questions of resource reliability and profitability at a broad scale.

The Assessment will not recommend one development over another nor assume any particular development pathway. It will provide a range of possibilities and the information required to interpret them, consistent with regional values and aspirations. The Assessment does not seek to replace any planning processes, and will not recommend changes to existing plans or planning processes. The results, however, can be used to inform planning decisions by citizens, councils, investors and state and federal governments. Please contact the relevant government department to discuss matters such as water allocation, clearing, change of land use including diversification permits, and land development approval processes.

Assessment activities

This is a complex project, drawing on the capabilities of scientists across Australia. Key activities include:

- Surface water modelling to assess the volume and reliability of river flow
- Topographic mapping and automated terrain analysis to identify and evaluate water storage and development options
- Mapping land and soil suitability and production risks across agricultural, horticultural, bush foods and pastoral systems and for aquaculture developments
- Assessing cropping and crop-forage-livestock systems with potential to generate attractive investment returns
- Cost-benefit analysis for multiple uses and users of water
- Identifying logistical and value chain assets, opportunities and bottlenecks
- Understanding the trade-offs between water resource development and freshwater environments
- Identifying Indigenous aspirations and water values
- Examining the potential for co-benefits to other industries (i.e. tourism) arising from irrigated agriculture
- Information and data distribution through Web-based information products, reports and regular community-based information sessions.

The Roper River Water Resource Assessment is an initiative of the Australian Government.

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LAND AND WATER

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Assessing the suitability of land for irrigation

Part of the Roper River Water Resource Assessment

The Roper River Water Resource Assessment involves different activities that will provide a comprehensive overview and integrated evaluation of the feasibility, ecological, social, cultural, economic viability and sustainability of water, aquaculture and agricultural development across the Roper River catchment. Our researchers will be working with the Northern Territory Government, industry, primary producers and traditional owners to deliver on this project.

This factsheet explains one of these activities – the land suitability assessment.

There are potentially thousands of hectares of soil suitable for irrigated agriculture across northern Australia.

However, access to sufficient water is a constraint for development in this vast region that stretches from the Pilbara to Rockhampton and comprises 40 per cent of Australia's land mass.

In recognition of some of the challenges and opportunities facing northern communities and primary producers, the Australian Government initiated the Roper River Water Resource Assessment.

We will produce maps of soil attributes that help manage the land resources and understand development potential such as erosion, soil water holding capacity, permeability, infiltration. Examples of these data can be found at this website presenting work completed to date in other parts of northern Australia <https://nawra-explorer.csiro.au/>

Land suitability assessment activity

Assessing the suitability of land is critical to the development and sustainability of productive and economically viable irrigated agriculture. This activity will collect information on soil attributes such as type, structure, pH, carbon and salt content, water holding properties and erodibility. This knowledge of soil types and their attributes will make it possible to evaluate how different soils and parts of the landscape could be economically and sustainability developed for irrigated agriculture.



While some soil and land use assessments have been carried out in the past, key recommendations stated that further soils data were needed before detailed suitability assessments could be conducted, particularly for irrigated agriculture.

What does the activity involve?

The soil survey component of this activity will include the collection of new field observations and samples to complement the relatively small amount of existing soils data. This will result in the production of new maps indicating the type and extent of soils and their attributes across the region.

A statistical method will be used to identify the best locations to sample soil for the purpose of assessing the scale of the opportunity for irrigation across the area. To interpolate between soil sampling locations requires an understanding of how the broader landscape formed. This requires soil to be assessed not just in the valleys, but also mid-slopes and ridge tops.

Following field collection, the samples will be sent to government scientific laboratories for a range of chemical and infrared analyses of soil properties. The existing and new soils data will then be used, in combination with remotely sensed data collected from satellites, to:

- Develop digital soils and soil attribute maps for the region; and
- Inform the land suitability assessment on a range of irrigated and dryland agricultural production opportunities. This will use land resource information gathered during soil surveys, the results of soil laboratory analysis, and information on flood inundation to assess the suitability options.

Land suitability assessment is based on the underlying assumption that the most limiting factor for each crop and irrigation type is used to determine the overall land suitability rating. The activity will evaluate the land suitability for specific agriculture uses (including aquaculture) within broad enterprise types such as irrigated annual crops, perennial crops and improved pasture. These broad enterprise types were selected because they cover a range of establishment, management and harvest practices.

Investigation of the suitability of specific crop types will also be undertaken. Specific crops are likely to include enterprises such as mangoes, cotton, maize, sugar, peanuts, rice, trees, wheat and sorghum as well as improved pasture and standing fodder.

Outcomes

One of the goals of the Assessment is to lower barriers to investment in the area by addressing many of the questions that potential investors would have about production systems and methods, yield expectations and benchmarks, and potential profitability and reliability.

However, the Assessment does not seek to replace any planning processes, and will not recommend changes to existing plans or planning processes. The results, however, can be used to inform planning decisions by citizens, councils, investors and state and federal governments.

Please contact the relevant government department to discuss matters such as water allocation, clearing, change of land use, including diversification permits, and land development approval processes.

The land suitability assessment will build on knowledge of soil and land suitability to provide all levels of government and current and potential farmers with an understanding of the irrigation potential of the soils in the catchment. The key products from this activity will be publically available:

- Soils and soil attribute maps. The uncertainty associated with the mapping will also be produced and vary between locations in a particular region according to sampling density
- Land use suitability maps for different crops and irrigation types (again with variable uncertainty).



The Northern Australia Water Resource Assessment is part of the Australian Government's Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

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GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	11.2
TITLE	Your Voice, Your Community Campaign
REFERENCE	860808
AUTHOR	Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the feedback from the Your Voice, Your Community Campaign by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development.**

BACKGROUND

Prior to the Election, the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development ran the Your Voice, Your Community campaign to increase electoral enrolments in Community and advise Community members of the benefits of ensuring that their Medicare details are up-to-date.

The Department would like feedback on the Campaign from the Local Authority.

Attached is an executive summary of the campaign as well as a report.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1** Your Voice Your Community Executive Summary - Attachment C2 - Dashboard
_.pdf
- 2** Your Voice. Your Community Campaign Report - Barunga.docx

Your Voice Your Community - Remote campaign dashboard



Your Voice. Your Community Campaign Report

- The Your Voice Your Community campaign was very successful.
- The aim of this project was
 - To let people know the importance of voting, because it gives people a voice in who represents them in government
 - To increase the number of people on the Northern Territory electoral roll and
 - To encourage people to update their Medicare details
- Why were we keen to undertake this project?
- Because we earn funding from the Commonwealth Government in Canberra based on how many people register on the electoral roll and update their Medicare details.
- **We involved 79 communities, and visited 63 communities** across the Territory between 6 March to 18 April 2019
- Across the Territory we spoke to over **3,658** people
- **267** were enrolled for the first time
- This means that the possible increase in funds for us is around **Three** Million Dollars from this project.
- We had lots of help from your Council – both councillors and Council staff like the CSM's, community leaders, non-government organisations in your community. They all encouraged people to enrol and collected forms so we could get people on the roll.
- We visited your community on the 15 March and we met with approximately 10 people and got 1 person enrolled.
- The work isn't over yet.
- Moving forward, it is important that we encourage our friends and family to enrol with us and update their Medicare details at the clinic or at Centrelink.
- If the Northern Territory Government gets more funding from Canberra – it means more services in community – like roads, repairs to homes, community projects like your local authority does.
- Also important that we encourage people to vote – this is your community, voting means you have a voice in choosing who speaks for you in government.

GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	11.3
TITLE	Draft Local Government Bill
REFERENCE	860809
AUTHOR	Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the presentation pertaining to the draft *Local Government Bill* from the Department of Local Government, Housing, and Community Development.**

BACKGROUND

The current *Local Government Act 2008* is currently under review.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

The proposed changes to the *Local Government Act 2008* are presented by the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

The new Act shall be known as the *Local Government Act 2019*.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 Local Authorities - New Local Government Legislation.pdf

New Local Government legislation

Legislation and Policy Branch

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2019

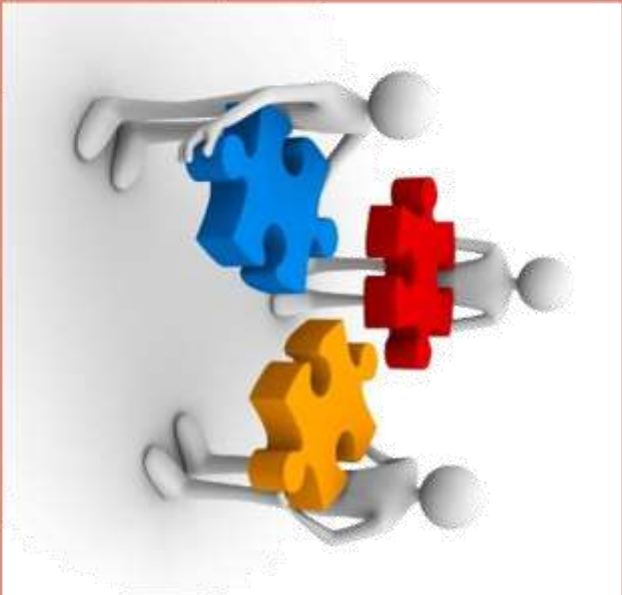


Strengthening local decision making

Local councils to
seek advice and
recommendations from
Local Authorities



Council delegations to Local Authorities



Councils can
delegate to
Local Authorities



Elected member appointments to Local Authorities



No longer automatic
Minimum of one and
maximum of two elected
members



New independent representation review panel



Annual plan and annual report



Plan must be adopted
by 30 June each year
(no longer 31 July)

All delegations made
to Local Authorities
must appear in
annual report



Conflict of interest definition clarification



Offence for misleading information

Expanding the range of
people affected



Some other changes to the Local Government Act



New CEO eligibility requirements

New council member eligibility requirements



To view all the changes to the Local Government Act

Please visit our website:

<http://dlghcd.nt.gov.au/our-services/local-government2/local-government-bill-consultation>



Downloadable copies of the consultation draft and information sheet are available



Questions??



HAVE YOUR SAY / ASK A QUESTION / REQUEST THE BILL / INFO SHEET

Email

LGLaw.DLGHCD@nt.gov.au

ASK QUESTIONS



Hugh 8995 5118
Michaela 8996 8831

CONSULTATION IS
OPEN AND CLOSES 18
JULY 2019

WE ARE HAPPY TO
COME AND GIVE MORE
PRESENTATIONS



GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM NUMBER	11.4
TITLE	Elected Member Report
REFERENCE	860810
AUTHOR	Ashleigh Anderson, Local Authority Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Elected Member Report.**

BACKGROUND

The Elected Member Report provides Local Authorities with a summary of the decisions made at Ordinary Meetings of Council and Committee meetings since the previous Local Authority Meeting. The aim of this report is to convey the information from those meetings to the Local Authority members, and then from the Local Authority to the wider community.

Complete details of all Council, Committee and Local Authority agendas and minutes, are publicly available at www.ropergulf.nt.gov.au and can be provided upon request and all the Roper Gulf Regional Council offices.

The Ordinary Meeting of Council held in Numbulwar on Wednesday 25 September 2019 were unavailable on the Local Authority Meeting held on 02 October 2019, decisions from the Ordinary Meeting of Council include:

- That Council receives and notes the Nyiranggulung Ward Report;
- That Council approves the recommendations from the provisional Bulman Local Authority meeting held on 22 August 2019;
- That Council approves \$45,000 from the \$2,000,000 budget allocated for Roads to carry out the shoulder repairs required in Larrimah;
- That Council sends a letter to the Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development to invite him or his delegate to meet with Council in relation to Territory Housing property rental amounts;
- That Council delegates the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to negotiate with the Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of Katherine Town Council and Barkley Regional Council on a strategy to seek greater input into the requirements for:
 - i. A Social Impact Assessment of all stakeholders of the affected area; and
 - ii. Extension of time to respond to the Strategic Regional Environmental and Baseline Assessment (SREBA) before it is accepted into legislation; and
 - iii. That Council approves the letter of support for the Mayor of Katherine to take this matter to the next Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) to lobby the Northern Territory Government on behalf of Councils.
- That Council invites the Commissioner of the Northern Territory Police Fire and Emergency Services or their delegates to attend the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to brief and discuss:
 - i. Call Centre and emergency response; and
 - ii. Rotation of Members (Police Officers) in Community;
- That Council approves the prioritization for applications of Special Purpose Grants to be:
 - \$200,000 for Sport and Recreation Hall upgrades in Bulman

ATTACHMENTS:

GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM NUMBER	11.5
TITLE	Barunga Knowledge Garden - cost estimate for seating
REFERENCE	858697
AUTHOR	Jerod Amato, Assets Manager (acting)

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the estimated cost of the seating and propose a more cost effective style/type.**

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2019-20 budget Barunga Local Authority has approved \$10,000.00 for the establishment of a knowledge garden. Part of this garden includes seating which was requested to resemble a snake form.

There is nothing available off the shelf so a cost estimate has been gained from a Darwin based company to custom build a mold and cast segments as per below advice.

“The sizes used are as follows:

Internal radius 2000mm

Bench width 400mm

Height 400mm

Segment angular size 60 degrees (6 pieces would make a full circle)

Taper to bottom = 50mm all-round

Mass is about 900kg

Unit cost excluding transport and GST would be about \$5500 should you only need 5

Should the quantity change to 10 the unit price should come down to about \$3500.

In summary a seat of this type at 10m long will cost approximately \$32,000.00 supplied and delivered to Barunga.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Budget allocated does not support purchasing of the seats.

ATTACHMENTS:

GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	11.6
TITLE	Barunga bottom camp track around lots 208,209 and 210
REFERENCE	858696
AUTHOR	Vikrant JAGARLAMUDI, Roads Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) **That Local Authority receives and notes the updates on sealing bottom camp track to mitigate dust issues.**

Local Authority has informed the Council about the dust issues around the bottom camp area, and has requested that Council seal the road and provide drainage to the area. Investigations identified the track as a road which has not been gazetted as per *Local Government Act 2008* s.185(e). The road and the fences to the nearby properties were not built to the surveyed plans.

Council will only be responsible for sealing the surveyed road reserve to the entry of the 'battle axe block' as the remaining area is under the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community land tenure.

Council is liaising with the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development to resolve the issues and seek approvals to construct drainage and seal the track. Council will work towards survey and designs for the works after confirmation from the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

ATTACHMENTS: