



AGENDA

NGUKURR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022

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

Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at 11:00am
The Conference Room Council Service Delivery Centre, Ngukurr

Or Via Video/Phone Conference

ID #: (03) 9260 6977
Guest Pin: 8475

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marc Gardner', is positioned above the name and title of the Chief Executive Officer.

Marc GARDNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NGUKURR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

Elected Members

1. Mayor Tony JACK;
2. Councillor Owen TURNER (Chairperson);
3. Councillor Jana DANIELS.

Appointed Members

1. Robin ROGERS (Deputy Chairperson);
2. Michelle FARRELL;
3. Tanya JOSHUA;
4. Marcia ROBERTS;
5. Craig ROGERS; and
6. Roxanne ROBERTS.

MEMBERS: 9

COUNCIL: 3

LOCAL AUTHORITY: 6

QUORUM: 5 (minimum requirement)

PROVISIONAL: 3 (minimum requirement)

EXPLANATORY NOTE:

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

If no quorum is achieved, a provisional meeting can be held in one third of the total members (elected members and appointed members) are present.

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 quorum meeting of the Local Authority.

A provisional meeting does not have the power or functions delegated to a Local Authority and 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 lisin 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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CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	7.1
TITLE	Confirmation of the Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting Previous Minutes
REFERENCE	1308491
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held 20 September 2022 including the confidential section and affirms them to be a true and accurate record of that meetings decisions and proceedings.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The Ngukurr Local Authority met on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 and held a meeting with **Quorum**. Attached are the recorded minutes for the Local Authority to review. The confidential minutes are available under separate cover.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

The next Ngukurr Local Authority meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 07 March 2023 at 11:00am.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Ngukurr Local Authority 2022-09-20 [2115] Minutes.DOCX



MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, NGUKURR LOCAL
AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM COUNCIL SERVICE
DELIVERY CENTRE, NGUKURR
ON TUESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 11:00AM

1 PRESENT MEMBERS/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Members

- Mayor Tony JACK (Chairperson) *(via teleconference)*;
- Robin ROGERS (Deputy Chairperson);
- Tanya JOSHUA;
- Craig ROGERS; and
- Roxanne ROBERTS.

1.2 Staff

- Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer;
- Debbie BRANSON, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer;
- John TEREPO, Community Services Coordinator;
- Tolisiale MAHINA, Ngukurr Municipal Services;
- Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator *(via teleconference)*; and
- Rodney HOFFMAN, Aboriginal Liaison Officer *(via teleconference)*.

1.3 Guests

- Melina Davidson, Member for Arnhem Office *(via teleconference)*;
- Amanda HAIGH, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet *(via teleconference)*;
- Sarah Rennie, Northern Land Council;
- Kristen Loffler, Northern Land Council;
- Bobby NUNGGUMAJBARR, Chair Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation;
- Julie-ann BASSINDER, Director of Social Services, Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation; and
- Sharon HEWITT, Australian Bureau of Statistics *(via teleconference)*.

2 MEETING OPENED

The Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting opened at 11:30am with a **QUORUM**. The Chairperson welcomed members, staff and guests to the meeting and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

3 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES

NGU Q-49/2022 (Craig ROGERS/Robin ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) accepts the tendered apologies from Cr Owen TURNER, Councillor Jana DANIELS; Marcia ROBERTS; and
- (b) notes the absence with no apologies from Michelle FARRELL.

PRESENTATION

NGUKURR AIRSTRIP WAITING AREA - ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Representatives from the Wilwarapara Traditional Aboriginal Owners and the Northern Land Council presented a proposal in relation to the Council taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance of the Ngukurr Airstrip Waiting Area to the Ngukurr Local Authority.

NGU Q-50/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) supports the proposal submitted by the Wilwarapara Traditional Aboriginal owners and the Northern Land Council for the Ngukurr Airstrip Waiting Area project; and
- (b) requests a report be prepared for Council in regards to the ongoing maintenance.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil.

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting.

Members Robin ROGERS, Craig ROGERS and Roxanne ROBERTS declared they are employed by Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation however there was it was deemed irrelevant to the presentation.

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE NGUKURR LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING PREVIOUS MINUTES

NGU Q-51/2022 (Tanya JOSHUA/Robin ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held 28 June 2022 and affirms them to be a true and accurate record of that meetings decisions and proceedings.

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION LIST

NGU Q-52/2022 (Roxanne ROBERTS/Craig ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the Action List; and
- (b) is provided with an update on the removal of the feral pigs at the next local authority meeting.

9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

10 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

12 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

12.1 RE-ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

NGU Q-53/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority;

- (a) receives and notes the Re-Election of Chairperson report; and
- (b) elects Tanya JOSHUA as Chairperson for a term of six months; and
- (c) elects Roxanne ROBERTS as Deputy Chairperson for a term of six months.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS

13.1 COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.07.2022 - 31.07.2022

NGU Q-54/2022 (Craig ROGERS/Robin ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Financial (Expenditure) Report for the period 01 July 2022 to 31 July 2022.

13.2 NGUKURR SPORT AND RECREATION HALL - INTERNAL REFUBISHMENT

NGU Q-55/2022 (Roxanne ROBERTS/Craig ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- a) receives and note the report entitled Ngukurr Sport and Recreation Hall – Internal Refurbishment; and
- b) allocates the recent Local Authority Funding amount of \$169,200 towards the internal refurbishment of the Sport and Recreation Hall.

13.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

NGU Q-56/2022 (Tanya JOSHUA/Robin ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority;

- a) receives and notes the Local Authority Member Attendance Report; and
- b) revokes the membership from Local Authority Member Marcia ROBERTS and that the Chief Executive Officer call for a 21 day nomination period to fill the vacancy on the Ngukurr Local Authority.

13.4 NGUKURR LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUND REGISTER

NGU Q-57/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Project Update report.

Tanya JOSHUA left the meeting at 12:45pm and returned at 12:50pm.

Roxanne ROBERTS left the meeting at 12:49pm and returned at 12:50pm.

13.5 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT

NGU Q-58/2022 (Tanya JOSHUA/Craig ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Council Services Report.

13.6 LA PROJECT FUNDING CERTIFICATION

NGU Q-59/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Roxane ROBERTS) **CARRIED**

That Local Authority approves the Certification of Local Authority Project Funding Report for 2021-22.

Robin ROGERS left the meeting at 12:58pm and returned at 1:01pm.

13.7 2023 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS AND CELEBRATIONS

NGU Q-60/2022 (Tanya JOSHUA/Craig ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the 2023 Australia Awards and Celebrations report; and
- (b) celebrates Australia Day by holding a community barbeque and football game.

13.8 FEDERAL DIRECT ENROLMENT UPDATE - TRIAL FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN REMOTE COMMUNITIES

NGU Q-61/2022 (Roxanne ROBERTS/Robin ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Federal Direct Enrolment Update - Trial for People Living in Remote Communities report.

13.9 ELECTED MEMBER REPORT

NGU Q-62/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Roxanne ROGERS) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receive and note the Elected Member Report.

13.10 TRAFFIC SIGNAGE AND FREIGHT HUB USAGE

NGU Q-63/2022 (Robin ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA) **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the Traffic Signage and Freight Hub Usage; and
- (b) support Council in their community consultation to identify appropriate locations for necessary signage.

PRESENTATION

NGUKURR OVAL PRECINCT DEVELOPMENT

Representatives from the Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation presented the Ngukurr Oval Precinct Development proposal.

NGU Q-64/2022 **(Robin ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA)** **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority

- (a) support the prescient Ngukurr Oval Precinct Development;
- (b) reallocate funds of \$293,641 for the Basketball Court and \$166,000 for the Outdoor Stage to the development; and
- (c) authorises a letter be sent to the Numburindi Development Aboriginal Corporation in support of their application for funding through the Aboriginal Benefits Account for the proposed Ngukurr Oval Precinct Development.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH SURVEY – AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

NGU Q-65/2022 **(Craig ROGERS/Roxanne ROGERS)** **CARRIED**

That the Ngukurr Local Authority defers the presentation regarding the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

15 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL

NGU Q-66/2022 **(Craig ROGERS/Tanya JOSHUA)** **CARRIED**

That pursuant to *section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda:-

- 15.1 Confirmation of the Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting Previous Minutes -** *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(e), information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.*

The meeting moved to the Confidential Items at 1:37pm.

RETURN TO OPEN

NGU Q-67/2022 **(Robin ROGERS/Roxanne ROGERS)** **CARRIED**

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be re-opened to the public.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 1:38pm.

15 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 1:38pm.

This page and the proceeding pages are the Minutes of the Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 20 September 2022 and confirmed Tuesday, 06 December 2022.

Tanya JOSHUA (Chairperson)
Confirmed on Tuesday, 06 December 2022.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	8.1
TITLE	Action List
REFERENCE	1297811
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Action List.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The Action List is a summary of tasks that the Local Authority has requested be undertaken by Council staff. The table also identifies the Staff member assigned to the task by the Chief Executive Officer.

The Action List is a **non-authoritative** reference document for Business Arising out of Previous Minutes.

NGUKURR ACTION LIST

NGUKURR AIRSTRIP WAITING AREA - ONGOING MAINTENANCE

NGU Q-1/2022

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- (a) supports the proposal submitted by the Wilwarapara Traditional Aboriginal owners and the Northern Land Council for the Ngukurr Airstrip Waiting Area project; and
- (b) requests a report be prepared for Council in regards to the ongoing maintenance.

Refer to Outgoing Correspondence. Maintenance will be followed up with our action and agreements and as the facility is constructed.

FERAL PIGS

NGU Q-2/2022

That the Ngukurr Local Authority:

- a) receives and notes the Action List; and
- b) is provided with an update on the removal of the feral pigs at the next local authority meeting.

Community meeting was held on Thursday 17th November presentation by Joe Schmidt, a bio security expert from Bio security Australia. He presented about the dangers posed by Japanese encephalitis to the community. He proposed a number of courses of action in relation to the pigs, including their removal from community and relocation to the bush. He also took some samples for testing and will provide the results to RGRC As soon as he has them. A follow up meeting will occur to hear what the community want to do about the pigs.

NGUKURR OVAL PRECINCT DEVELOPMENT

NGU Q-3/2022

That the Ngukurr Local Authority

- (a) support the prescient Ngukurr Oval Precinct Development;
- (b) reallocate funds of \$293,641 for the Basketball Court and \$166,000 for the Outdoor Stage to the development; and
- (c) authorises a letter be sent to the Numburindi Development Aboriginal Corporation in support of their application for funding through the Aboriginal Benefits Account for the proposed Ngukurr Oval Precinct Development.

Refer to Outgoing Correspondence

Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation have been provided with a grant for these amounts for the proposed Ngukurr Oval Precinct development.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 11.1
TITLE Outgoing Correspondence
REFERENCE 1308490
AUTHOR Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority notes the outgoing correspondence.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

Item No.	Date Received	Sender	Sent To	Correspondence Details	InfoXpert Number
01	26/09/2022	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer	Paul FRANCIS Chief Executive Officer Yugul Mangi Development	Multi-Purpose Sporting Precinct	1308478
02	05/10/2022	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer	Northern Land Council	Ngukurr Airstrip Facilities Upgrade and Ongoing Maintenance	1308482

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Yugul Mangi Development Aboriginal Corporation - Letter of Support.pdf
- 2 Ngukurr Airstrip Facilities Upgrade and Ongoing Maintenance.pdf



5 October 2022

Sharon Hillen
General Manager
Projects, Planning and Land Management
Northern Land Council
GPO Box 1222
DARWIN NT 0801

Postal Address:
PO Box 1321
Katherine NT 0850
ABN: 94746956090

Tel: 08 8972 9000
Fax: 08 8972 3714

Dear Sharon

Ngukurr Airstrip Facilities Upgrade and Ongoing Maintenance

In response to your correspondence dated 8 July 2022, Roper Gulf Regional Council considered the proposal and at an Ordinary Council Meeting held 28 September 2022 resolved the following:

That Council

- a) *receives and notes the Ngukurr Airstrip Facilities Upgrade and Ongoing Maintenance report;*
- b) *supports the construction of the new public airport facility at Ngukurr; and*
- c) *authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to negotiate with the Northern Land Council and the Milwarpara Traditional Aboriginal Owners in relation to assuming the facility as an asset of the Council and associated lease/maintenance responsibilities.*

The Ngukurr Local Authority also considered the matter with representation from the Milwarpara Traditional Owners and the Northern Land Council where the members who represent the community's interests, also fully supported the proposal.

The Council looks forward to working with the NLC and the Milwarpara Traditional Owners in the implementation of this exciting project.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Gardner", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Marc GARDNER
Chief Executive Officer





5 October 2022

Sharon Hillen
General Manager
Projects, Planning and Land Management
Northern Land Council
GPO Box 1222
DARWIN NT 0801

Postal Address:
PO Box 1321
Katherine NT 0850
ABN: 94746956090

Tel: 08 8972 9000
Fax: 08 8972 3714

Dear Sharon

Ngukurr Airstrip Facilities Upgrade and Ongoing Maintenance

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The Council looks forward to working with the NLC and the Milwarpara Traditional Owners in the implementation of this exciting project.

Yours Sincerely

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Marc GARDNER
Chief Executive Officer



OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.1
TITLE	Local Authority Review Report
REFERENCE	1304987
AUTHOR	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Review report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Wellbeing: Contribute to the wellbeing of residents individually and communities as a whole; by fostering increased participation in community activities, education, healthy lifestyles, and a safe living environment.

Environment: Protect and care for the physical environment, including developing and maintenance of clean and environmentally focused communities.

Infrastructure: Support building and maintaining community infrastructure which positively contributes to resident needs and aspirations.

Economic Development: Foster strengthening and growing jobs, industries, and investment attraction.

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

In March 2022 Council was provided a copy of the Local Government Desktop Review report which was sent to all regional councils for feedback. Feedback was provided and subsequent discussions took place with CEOs, Elected Members, Local Authority Members and representatives from the Northern Territory Government.

The next draft review report is attached. The document focuses on the core role of Local Authorities, and aims to strip back requirements that might detract from councils' and Local Authority ability to carry out that core role. It also provides flexibility for the Local Authorities to have a broader focus.

As outlined in the reports, Local Authorities were initially established as part of the regional local government structure, to respond to the concerns raised by community members that the creation of regional councils would mean they would lose their voices with local government. They were included in the *Local Government Act 2008*, and their role was strengthened in the 2019 Act. They are part of the regional council structure, and their role is essentially to support their council with two-way communication between their community and the council; to assist their community to have input into the council's planning, prioritisation, service delivery and funding in that community; to advocate for their community with council; recommend (or decide if delegated) where LA project funding should be prioritised, and, in turn, help the council to keep communities informed about planning and services.

Regional councils are encouraged to engage with their Local Authorities in developing feedback. Feedback on the document is to be submitted to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet by 20 January 2023.

A representative from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will be invited to present to the Local Authority and provide assistance.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

For discussion.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 LA Review Report - 12 October 2022 Draft.pdf

Local Authority Review Report

1. Background

Local authorities (LAs) were established in 2014 under section 53B of the former *Local Government Act 2008* (the 2008 Act). LAs were established as a response to concerns from communities that the transition from the former community government councils to regional councils led to a loss of communities' voices in the planning and delivery of council programs and services in their community.

The inclusion of LAs in the structure of regional councils is intended to ensure communities have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, funding and delivery of services and infrastructure for their community; and the provision of information and feedback to communities about the councils' decisions and activities in that community. The ultimate goal is effective, responsive council services for remote communities.

2. Intent of the Legislative Framework

On 1 July 2021, the intent of the 2008 Act was further strengthened when it was replaced with the *Local Government Act 2019* (the 2019 Act). In addition, the previous *Guideline 8: Regional councils and local authorities* (Guideline 8) was replaced by the new *Guideline 1: Local Authorities* (Guideline 1). The provisions in the 2019 Act were in a new chapter entitled Local Decision Making to reinforce the intent and purpose of LAs.

The 2019 Act requires regional councils to seek their LAs' advice and recommendations in relation to the council's budget; their priorities for expenditure; their service delivery; regional plans; strategic directions; and funding. Regional councils must also ensure their strategies and plans are informed by the vision and priorities of the LAs, and must work with their LAs to foster constructive working relationships between the council and community.

The 2019 Act specifically provides for expanded roles for LAs and a mechanism for giving communities a stronger voice in local government matters that affect them. Section 78 defines the functions of a LA:

- to involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government;
- ensure that local communities are given an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government;
- to allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality as well as policies for the area and the region;
- to take the views of local communities back to the council and act as advocates on their behalf;
- to contribute to the development of the regional plan;
- to make recommendations to the council in relation to the council's budget and the part of the council's area within which the LA performs its functions.

Guideline 1 provides how LAs are to operate and be administered by their respective regional councils, including appointments and resignations, meetings, LA member payments and reporting.

3. Local Authority Review

In 2021, before the commencement of the 2019 Act, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) started a desktop review (Review 1) of how well regional councils and LAs were meeting the intent of the 2008 Act and Guideline 8. The aim of Review 1 was to identify good practice across the NT as well as areas that could be further strengthened, and to determine what actions could be considered to better support the delivery of the intent

Local Authority Review Report

of LAs given their expanded roles under the 2019 Act. Review 1 focused on the 66 LAs established across the Northern Territory for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Review 1 was informed by the information available on regional councils' websites, information held and observations made by CM&C and some feedback and insights provided by regional councils. The findings and draft recommendations were provided to councils and other stakeholders in early 2022 for comment.

The Review 1 report acknowledged limitations associated with any desktop process. However it provided a platform for more discussion with councils, LA members and others, resulting in the direction outlined in this report.

Review 1 confirmed that there is noticeable diversity in the functioning of LAs and the way councils work with them, with some LAs engaging strongly with their communities and working with their councils to deliver on community priorities and aspirations, and some others struggling to meet or attain quorum to enable recommendations to be made about community priorities. Some LAs, with their councils' support, consider broader matters than council business, acting as a forum and conduit for community engagement in matters including local, Territory and Commonwealth government priorities.

In addition, feedback from councils and LA members has indicated that some of the requirements placed on them by the NT Government, or interpretations of these requirements, are impeding their ability to achieve their core functions.

Feedback on Review 1 included the following:

Role of LAs:

- a need for greater recognition, promotion and celebration of the strengths of the LA model and more sharing of examples of LAs and their councils successfully achieving the intent of the Act;
- the need for CM&C, councils and LAs to have a clear and common understanding of the definition and scope of their core functions and requirements;

Flexibility:

- the need for flexibility in how LAs and their councils deliver on the core functions (or choose to move beyond the core) to respond to differences between communities, their aspirations and the capacity of LAs;
- providing for flexibility for those communities, LAs and councils who want to have more integrated engagement, not just on local government matters. For example, some communities would like to see a single body coordinating community input into local government and NT Government (or broader) planning, services and prioritisation; while others have indicated a preference that LA members continue to focus on local government and other groups are established or continue to provide input into NT Government and broader matters;
- recognition that some LAs are well established with consistent membership who deliver well-regarded outcomes for their communities and council, and others are less established; and that, over time, LAs may cycle through these stages. This impacts on the levels of support needed from councils for their LAs and the level of autonomy LAs may have, and needs to be accommodated in expectations set by CM&C and required of councils;

Decision making

Local Authority Review Report

- LAs should have as much influence and decision-making power as is appropriate to their stage of development and the delegations of the council; for example, some councils have already delegated decision making in the use of LA Project Funding (LAPF) to their LA, and some have delegated decision making over other community funding. The council is the decision-maker about the level of delegation relevant for their LA/s;

LA Members:

- a need for greater role clarity, capacity building and support for LA members and LA chairs;
- the need to revisit whether proxies should be permitted for LA members;

Administration:

- CM&C should remove any administrative requirements that detract from the ability of the LA and council to deliver on their core function. This needs to be balanced with good governance and accountable administrative process, reflecting that LAs are involved in the use of public resources and should be respected in their communities as informed, well governed and responsive structures;
- performance reporting should be focused on the intended outcome; ie the demonstration by councils of the engagement of communities through their LAs, and of the council's responsiveness to the advice, input and advocacy of their LA, including through the delivery of agreed community priorities;
- LAs should be able to set their own agendas and conduct their own meetings, while recognising the role of councils in managing administration, building capacity and responding to the varying levels of experience and capacity of members;

Resourcing/support

- some LAs and their councils continue to see benefit in having CM&C representatives at meetings at least occasionally, to coordinate responses to questions from community and LAs about NT Government matters, as well as to support engagement with other NT Government agencies;
- LAPF is a valuable resource for LAs and their councils to respond to community priorities. However, some councils struggle to spend these funds in the required time frames. The support role of CM&C is important in helping councils to address any barriers to the timely expenditure of funding on community priorities as determined by the LA and council;
- Accessible information should be provided to enable communities to understand how priorities for the use of LAPF are determined, and where they are spent;
- A need for a review of the LAPF guidelines to ensure their alignment with the core intent of the LAs;
- Any changes to the LA model should avoid requiring additional council resourcing. For example, where communities and their LAs want to have a broader role than council matters, there may need to be negotiation of partnering with NTG or others to share costs.

As a result of feedback and further discussions, the focus of the Review 1 report changed considerably into this report. This report emphasises the intent of the legislative framework for LAs and provides a principles-based direction for how this intent will be strengthened across the diverse councils of regional NT.

This review does not anticipate a change in the 2019 Act in relation to the role of LAs; LAs will remain part of their regional council structure, and continue to be subject to the control and direction of their relevant regional council.

4. Principles

Local Authority Review Report

The following principles have been developed to guide the way in which CM&C, regional councils and LAs will support the effective integration and involvement of communities in the system of local government, as intended in the 2019 Act. An amendment to Guideline 1 will be required to fulfil the aspirations below.

PRINCIPLE: Flexible governance	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	<p>All LAs have a core role: to enable their community to have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, budgeting, and service delivery for their community; and to support the provision of regular feedback to their communities about council activities and the achievement of LA priorities.</p> <p>Councils and their LAs, with their communities, will determine how they deliver the role so it is adaptable to different locations, community aspirations, and capacity. CM&C will facilitate the sharing of examples of good practice from LAs across the NT</p>
<i>What does this look like?</i>	<p>LAs, with their councils, decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether they and their community prefer that the LA focus on council business or take a broader approach with a wider range of community matters. If a broader approach is agreed this may need negotiation of support from CM&C or other partners for non-council activities. Also, if a broader approach is agreed community input should ensure it avoids duplicating other community structures, authority or roles and that the role is understood and supported; • how the LA will conduct meetings and engage with their community; • how the LA will prioritise LAPF funds including how community input will be heard, how priorities will be decided, and how decisions and outcomes will be communicated to the community; • whether delegated decision making will be requested from the council; • the nomination process for LA members, with councils seeking LA and community input into their policy on criteria for selecting LA members; • the number of appointed members up to a maximum of 14; • whether the Mayor/President will be a member of LAs beyond their own ward; • the frequency of LA meetings (minimum four per year, with timing to enable input into, and feedback from, council planning); • the location of LA meetings - they should be held in public places to maximise opportunity for community members to attend; and • whether attendance at meetings via phone/video conference will be allowed. <p>First LA meetings to recommend to council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nomination of LA chair; • the kinds of priorities the LA would like to focus on for their community; • how information about meetings and decisions will be publicised. This must be at least on the council website for transparency for community members; and • the use of interpreters

PRINCIPLE: Community-centred, place based engagement***What does this mean?***

The way the council and LA engage with each other and the community is place-based and adapts to local needs, languages, time frames and cultural protocols to encourage community involvement.

What does this look like?

- LAs will recommend to their council the process for community engagement and two-way communication between the council, LA and community
- Community engagement is supported by principles of the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy
- Communication is clear and accessible.
- LAs with their councils decide the nature and format of reports to be provided by councils to LAs – brief, diagrammatic reports are enough
- LAs and their councils decide how the feedback about priorities is given to the LA and community in a timely way such as through the Council Community Based Manager, local council member or LA chair outside of meetings if needed
- Regional councils support their LAs to host at least one community based event each year to support community input into LA priorities, and council planning. These events may be funded through some LAPP. For example, some LAs may hold community barbecues twice per year: to provide input into LA priorities and council plans for their area; and to receive feedback about how the LA and council has responded to that input.
- Information is provided by regional councils in LA meeting agenda papers on:
 - Decisions that council has made based on the LA's recommendations and advice
 - Council resources and service delivery in the community.
 - Progress / status updates on LA project recommendations.
 - The amount of funding that is available to the LA for community priorities.

PRINCIPLE: Empowerment***What does this mean?***

LAs have authority to effectively carry out their core role as intended in the Act.

What does this look like?

Where LAs seek to do so, regional councils consider opportunities for delegation of relevant decisions to LAs consistent with the *Local Government Act 2019*, including decision making about priorities for LA project funds

Councils, with CM&C assistance, provide training and resources to support professional development of LA chairs and members in governance and the LA role; and clearly communicate the role of LAs and regional councils to communities.

PRINCIPLE: Outcome-focused	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs (and communities) can see that their recommendations to the council, based on community engagement, are being acted on; where this is not the case, they are informed of the reason.
<i>What does this look like?</i>	Council annual reports include information that demonstrates how they have engaged with communities via their LA, and the outcomes delivered in response to LA recommendations/decisions. Compliance activity by CM&C will focus on the intended outcome of LAs

PRINCIPLE: Accountability	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs and their councils continue to demonstrate high standards in governance and the use of public resources
<i>What does this look like?</i>	LAs have opportunities for professional development in governance consistent with their core role through their council and/or with support from CM&C if requested Decision making is transparent, focused on the best interests of the community as a whole, and conflicts of interest are managed. Information is accessible to community members about meetings, meeting proceedings, and opportunities for participation. Meetings are generally open to community members unless there is a defined need for confidentiality consistent with the provisions in the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .

5. Examples of Good Practice

To be discussed with, and provided by, regional councils.

6. Next Steps

This report will be provided to regional councils and other stakeholders for comment and input. Regional councils are encouraged to engage with their LAs in developing feedback. CM&C is available to assist as needed.

An implementation plan will be drafted for feedback from regional councils and LAs through their respective councils. The implementation plan will be developed through a reference group led by CM&C with the Local Government Association of the NT, and council and LA representatives.

The final LA Review report and Implementation Plan will be provided to the Minister for Local Government for consideration and approval. It is intended that this will be completed within the first quarter of 2023.

The LA Project Fund grant funding guidelines will be reviewed in 2022-23 in consultation with regional councils along with Guideline 1. Any recommendations for changes will then be advised to the Minister for Local Government for consideration for implementation in 2023-24.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.2
TITLE	Council Financial Report for the period 01.07.2022 - 31.10.2022
REFERENCE	1307791
AUTHOR	Manisha CHAMKUR, Financial Accountant

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Financial (Expenditure) Report for the period July 2022 to October 2022.

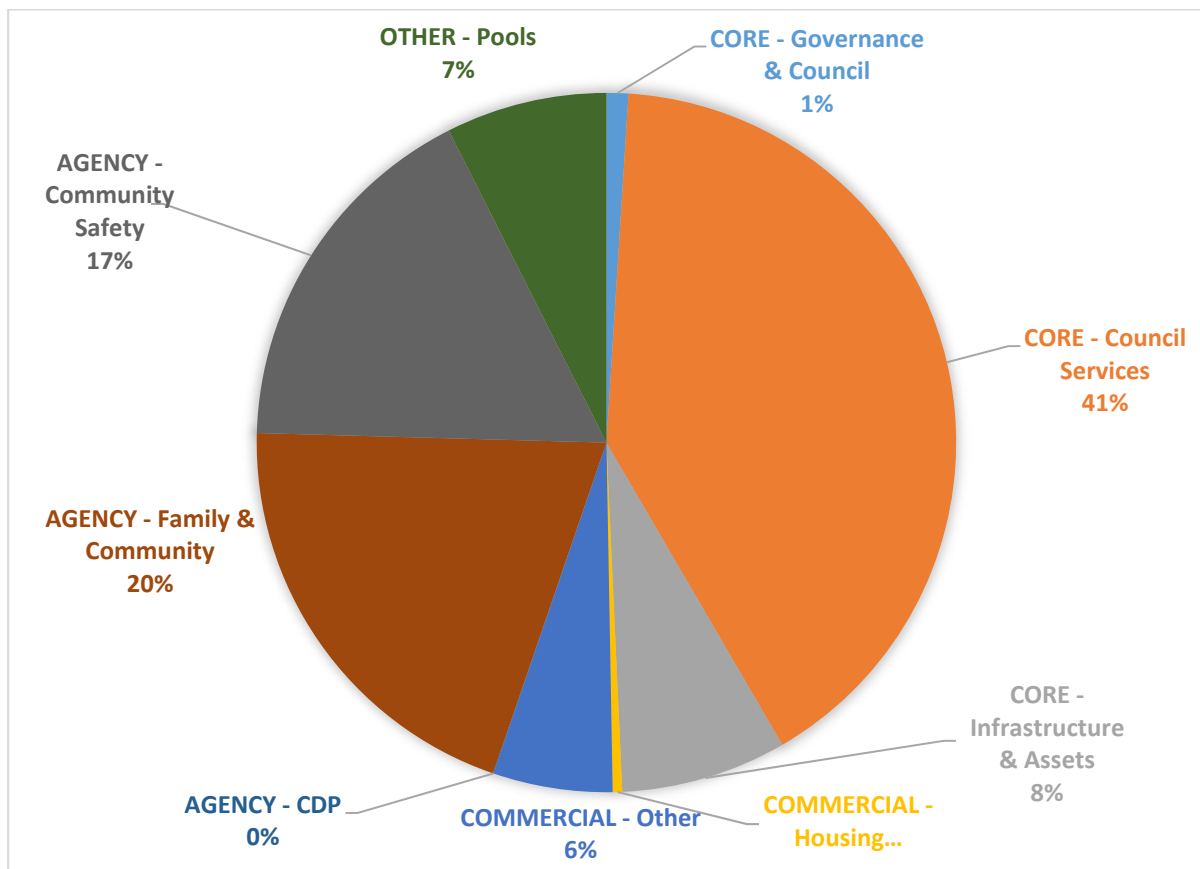
KEY OUTCOME AREA

Economic Development: Foster strengthening and growing jobs, industries, and investment attraction.

BACKGROUND

As per the *Local Government Act 2019* and its statutory instruments, the council is to submit a current financial report of actual expenditure against the latest approved budget for the Local Authority area.

The below graph depicts the proportion of accumulated expenditures by service category in the community.



ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

There are underspends/overspends in few activities as outlined in the attached expenditure report. The brief explanation for these underspends/overspends for each division is as follows:

Operating Income:

Council received \$114,585 in operating income for Ngukurr which is leading to a variance of \$55,554. The major cause in variance is from aged care home care. Income received has been allocated in a consolidated account and the funds are being used accordingly to service clients in the relevant locations.

Operating Expenditure:

The total underspend in operating expenditure is \$107,005. The major cause in underspend is from Contract and Materials due to less expenses incurred for visitor accommodation and road maintenance.

Capital Expenditure:


The total underspend for capital expenditure is \$1,535,744. Please see the project register and attachment for further detail.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

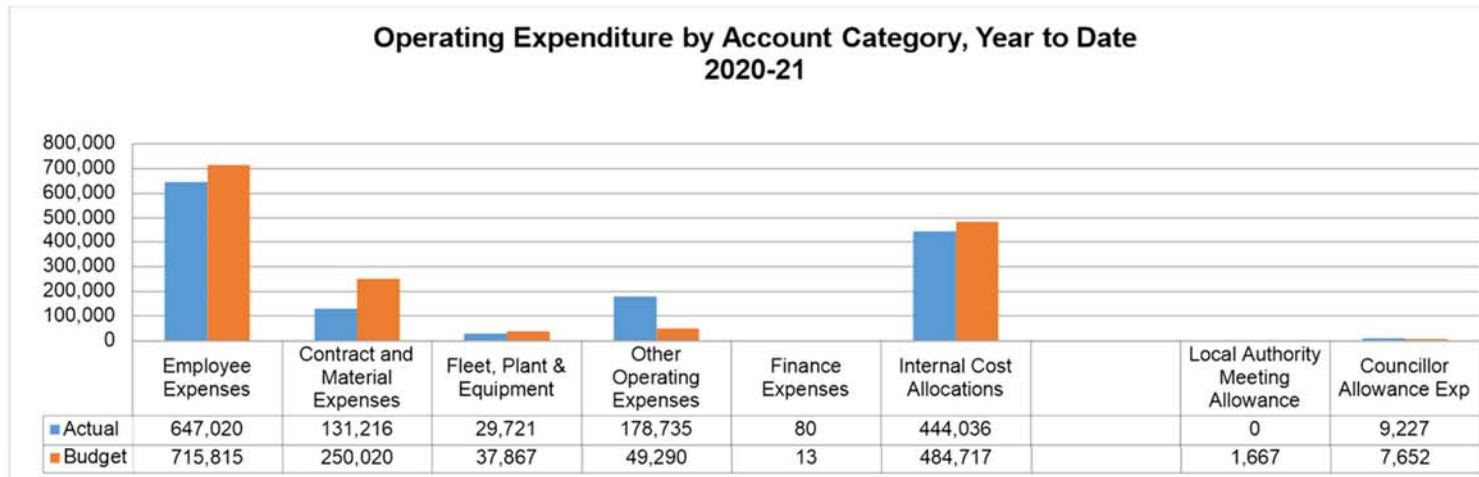
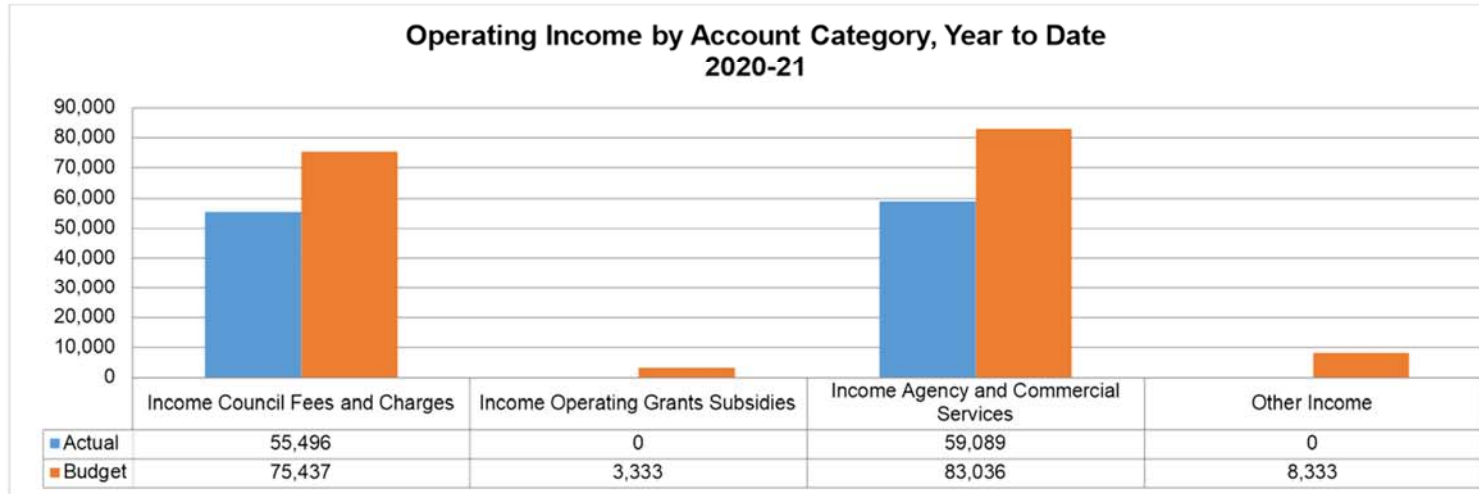
Nil.

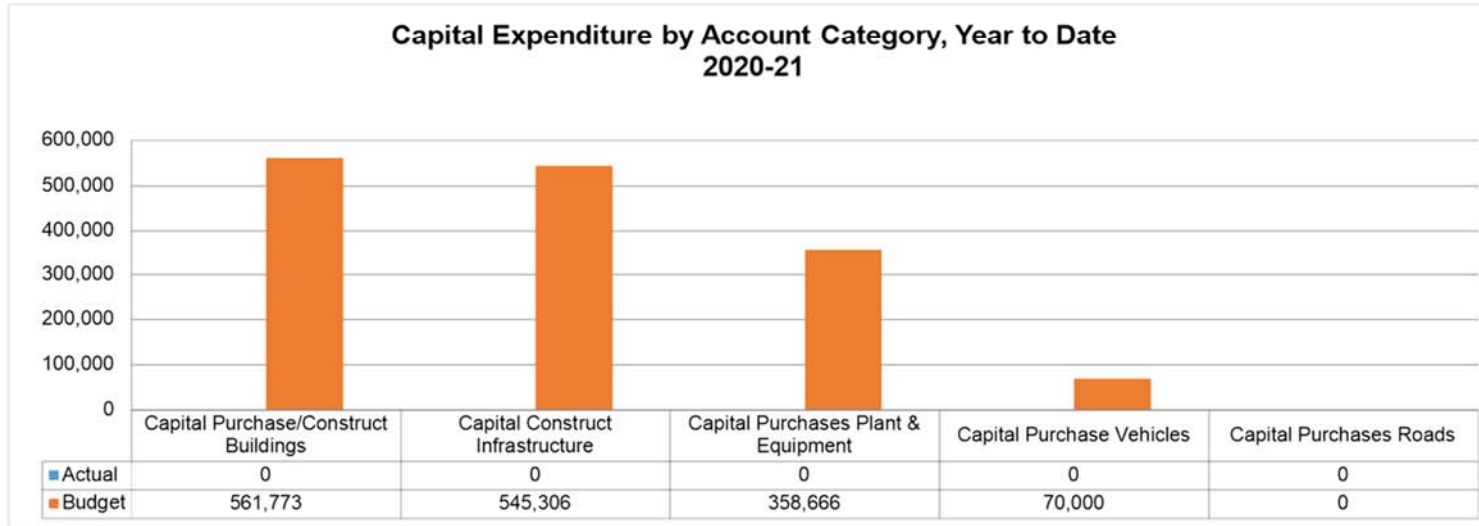
ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Financial Report 31.10.2022.pdf

Roper Gulf Regional Council					
Financial Report as at					
31-October-2022					
Ngukurr					
	Year to Date Actual (\$)	Year to Date Budget (\$)	Variance (\$)	Full Year Budget (\$)	Explanation
Income					
Income Council Fees and Charges	55,496	75,437	-19,940	226,310	The major cause of variance is due to less income received through municipal services and staff housing as compared to the budget.
Income Operating Grants Subsidies	0	3,333	-3,333	10,000	
Income Agency and Commercial Services	59,089	83,036	-23,947	249,108	The major cause in variance is from aged care home care. Income received has been allocated in a consolidated account and the funds are being used accordingly to service clients in the relevant locations.
Other Income	0	8,333	-8,333	25,000	
Total Operating Income	114,585	170,139	-55,554	510,418	
Operating Expenditure					
Employee Expenses	647,020	715,815	-68,794	2,147,444	The underspend is caused to staff absence and vacancy in various positions.
Contract and Material Expenses	131,216	250,020	-118,804	750,059	The underspend is mostly due to less expenses incurred for visitor accommodation and road maintenance.
Fleet, Plant & Equipment	29,721	37,867	-8,146	113,600	
Other Operating Expenses	178,735	49,290	129,445	147,870	The major cause of variance is due to section 19 leases paid upfront and recruitment expense which was not budgeted.
Finance Expenses	80	13	67	40	
Internal Cost Allocations	444,036	484,717	-40,681	1,454,150	

Local Authority Meeting Allowance	0	1,667	-1,667	5,000	
Councillor Allowance Exp	9,227	7,652	1,575	22,955	
Total Expenditure	1,440,035	1,547,040	-107,005	4,641,118	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-1,325,450	-1,376,900	51,451	-4,130,700	
Capital Funding					
	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	
Capital Expenditure					
Capital Purchase/Construct Buildings	0	561,773	-561,773	561,773	The variance is caused due to no capital expenditure incurred as compared to the budget.
Capital Construct Infrastructure	0	545,306	-545,306	545,306	The variance is caused due to no capital expenditure incurred as compared to the budget.
Capital Purchases Plant & Equipment	0	358,666	-358,666	358,666	The variance is caused due to no capital expenditure incurred as compared to the budget.
Capital Purchase Vehicles	0	70,000	-70,000	70,000	The variance is caused due to no capital expenditure incurred as compared to the budget.
Capital Purchases Roads	0	0	0	500,000	
Total Capital Expenditure	0	1,535,744	-1,535,744	2,035,744	
Net Operating Position	-1,325,450	-2,912,645	1,587,195	-6,166,444	





OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.3
TITLE	Ngukurr Local Authority Projects Update
REFERENCE	1308356
AUTHOR	Puspa KARKI, Executive Assistant Community Services and Engagement

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Environment: Protect and care for the physical environment, including developing and maintenance of clean and environmentally focused communities.

Infrastructure: Support building and maintaining community infrastructure which positively contributes to resident needs and aspirations.

BACKGROUND

Since 2014 the Ngukurr Local Authority has received a total of \$1,191,091.00 from the Northern Territory Government, Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development in Local Authority Project Funding. Annual allocations are based on a formula related to population. Council has also allocated \$100,831 to cover the recovery by the NT government of unspent LA project funding.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

- Please refer to the attached.
- On 20 September 2022 LA allocated 2021-2022 funding of \$169,200 towards the internal refurbishment of Sports and Recreation Hall.
- On 15 November 2022 'Grant for Basketball Court and Stage' letter sent to Yugal Mangi Aboriginal Corporation for the grant of remaining \$387,078.33 to Yugal Mangi's Project.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**Unallocated Funds**

Currently there is \$Nil unallocated funds.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Ngukurr LA projects attachment 31.10.2022.pdf

Ngukurr Local Authority Project Funding				31 October 2022
Funds received from Department			\$	1,191,091.00
Allocated by Council			\$	100,831.00
Funds allocated to projects by Local Authority Members			\$	1,300,882.61
Surplus/(Deficit) from completed projects			\$	8,960.61
Remaining Unallocated funds			\$	0.00
Date Approved Project ID	Projects	Project Budget	Actual Expenditure	Project Status
Pre 2017 2013802	Outdoor Stage Area and communal mural/ball wall at Oval & Community Graffiti board <i>(on 20.09.2022 LA reallocated funds of Basketball Court and Outdoor stage to the development of Oval Precinct)</i>	\$ 166,000.00	\$ 4,227.27	\$ 66k allocated 30/4/2018. Project at the design stage. Location included in Oval lot for S19 lease. Support to construct received from NLC.
30/4/2018 2013809	New Basket Ball Court + Outdoor Stage Area and communal mural/ball wall at Oval & Community Graffiti board <i>(Ngukurr Oval Precinct)</i>	\$ 293,641.00	\$ 68,335.40	S19 lease needed. Outdoor court to be resurfaced. LA approved relocating the court to near store. Support received from NLC. Location confirmed to be in the north west corner of Lot 340 Ngukurr.
29/06/2020	Sport Court Project	\$ 170,000.00		\$ 170k allocated June 20 - \$ 150k from RGRC. Council approved in Budget 2020/21. Design for storm water drainage received and under reviewed
24/06/2021	Town Beautification Project	\$ 165,156.61		Initial scoping has identified the need for a S19 lease on the proposed site of the new park
20/09/2022	Refurbishment of Sport and Recreation Hall.	\$ 169,200.00		
Total for current projects in progress		\$ 629,641.00	\$ 72,562.67	
Total for completed projects		\$ 336,885.00	\$ 327,924.39	
Grand Total		\$ 1,300,882.61	\$ 400,487.06	

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	12.4
TITLE	Local Authority Member Attendance Report
REFERENCE	1308492
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Member Attendance Report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 2019*, deals with Local Authority Administration Members may be removed from a Local Authority if they are absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without authorisation.

Ngukurr Local Authority Meetings Member Attendance

Local Authority Meeting Members	06 September 2022	20 September 2022
Mayor Tony Jack	Meeting Postponed	P
Councilor Owen Turner	-	AP
Councilor Jana Daniels	-	AP
Robin Rogers	-	P
Michelle Farrell	-	NO AP
Tanya Joshua	-	P
Marcia Roberts	-	AP
Craig Rogers	-	P
Roxanne Roberts	-	P

Key

P Present at LA

AP Apology given and accepted by LA

NO AP Did not attend LA and did not tender any apologies

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.5
TITLE	Elected Member Report
REFERENCE	1308493
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receive and note the Elected Member Report.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Governance: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation, including in engagement with staff members, residents and external stakeholders.

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 at all the Roper Gulf Regional Council offices.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT**FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING – 23 NOVEMBER 2022**

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee consists of;

- Awais UR REHMAN – Independent Member
- Mayor Tony JACK;
- Deputy Mayor Judy MacFARLANE;
- Councillor Samuel EVANS;
- Councillor Owen TURNER;
- Councillor Helen LEE;
- Councillor Annabelle DAYLIGHT; and
- Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR.

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting discussed roadside memorials in Ngukurr. The committee did not support the instatement of a memorial being constructed on the Roper Highway in Nugkurr and requested the Chief Executive Officer to provide further information and construct a policy regarding memorials on Council owned/controlled reserves.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING – 31 OCTOBER 2022

The Audit and Risk Committee consists of;

- Ian SWAN – Independent Member;
- Carolyn EAGLE – Independent Member;
- Claudia GOLDSMITH – Independent Member;
- Councillor Gadrian HOOSAN; and
- Councillor John DALYWATER.

There were no direct subjects pertaining to the Yugul Mangi Ward discussed at the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting.

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 26 OCTOBER 2022

Council approved the recommendations from the following Local Authority meetings:

- Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting held on 20 September 2022 with **quorum**
- *Noted* the recommendations from the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on 20 September 2022 as a **provisional**

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

Council noted that there were no current recommendations from the Yugul Mangi Ward to be approved and that Council made the resolution to hold the October 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council in Ngukurr Community. More details regarding this event will be made available closer to the meeting date.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

14 December 2022 at 8:30am	Ordinary Meeting of Council	RGRC Support Centre Katherine
18 January 2023 at 10:00am	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	RGRC Support Centre Katherine
25 January 2023 at 8:30am	Ordinary Meeting of Council	RGRC Support Centre Katherine

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.6
TITLE	Council Services Report
REFERENCE	1309281
AUTHOR	Jessica DOWNIE, Acting Council Services Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Council Services Report.

**BACKGROUND
CORE SERVICES**111 – *Councils Services General*

- Road shoulder work has commenced in Community. When work load allows the Municipal team are assisting.
- Wet season prep has commenced. Working on town storm water drains and the Council office drainage and gutters.

160 – *Municipal Services*

- Municipal team are spear heading the wet season prep. This includes;
 - Storm water drain clearing
 - Office drains and gutters cleared
 - Mowing and up keep of public and vacant lands
- The team has been working with housing to remove unwanted cars from community members' houses.
- Assisting Aged Care clients with yard maintenance on a fortnightly or monthly basis
- When time permits some staff have been assisting the road shoulder team

AGENCY SERVICES346 – *Indigenous Broadcasting*

- Keith continues to deliver content relevant to the community. We would love more community/stake holder involvement. This could be done in either interview form or paperwork handed to Keith to broadcast

348 – *Library*

- Library continues to be a hit with youth. With the public computers and arts and craft being the main draw card.
- The Library has a weekly booking with the FAFT program bringing mums and bubs to the library for story time.

350 – *Centrelink*

- *Agents continue to provide assistance with customers on the below;*
 - *Self Service via public computers*
 - *Set up of My Gov*
 - *Acquiring new or replacement Basic Cards*
 - *Fortnightly mandatory reporting*
 - *Interviews with Centrelink agents in town*
- *Still in the works of getting a third agent set up to assist the existing team on busy days and or absence.*

401 – *Community Night Patrol*

- Continues to be delivered 7 days a week between the hours of 6pm-2:36am.

- Night patrol continues with weekly patrols in Urapunga. Night patrol rarely report on any anti social behavior happening with the community. Patrols will continue until/if the road deteriorates to an un safe level.
- Night Patrol reporting continues to show the trend of youth mainly between 13-17yrs of age are walking the streets and on occasion causing disturbances.
- With the school holidays coming up we will look to either changing the night patrol hours or split the team and do all night patrols

404 & 407 – Sport & Recreation

- Staff assist YMDAC in getting the rec hall cleaned and ready for the mens, womens and youth basketball competitions.
- Staff are opening the rec hall over the weekends when possible to give Youth more activities to do and to hopefully prevent less youth wandering the streets at night.
- Staff attendance, Weather and Cultural reasons have impacted on the rec hall's opening hours.
- RGRC are working together with Ngukurr's Stakeholders to create a joint school holiday program

550 – Swimming Pool

- The pool continues to be the biggest draw card within the sport and rec department.
- Staff attendance, lack of Life guards, Weather and Maintenance continues to impact opening hours
- Dave Guy from the Guluman Centre volunteers his time over the weekends to open the pool and have something for the kids to look forward to.
- RGRC were recently in a meeting with the Ngukurr stakeholders with the pool being the focus. YMDAC, MyCDP, Guluman Centre, Ngukurr School and Wanta have agreed to assist RGRC with staff, activities and lifeguard training to have the pool open as much as possible.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

OTHER BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	14.1
TITLE	Update on Fracking the Beetaloo
REFERENCE	1304984
AUTHOR	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That the Ngukurr Local Authority receives and notes the Protect Big Rivers presentation on the Update on Fracking the Beetaloo.

KEY OUTCOME AREA

Environment: Protect and care for the physical environment, including developing and maintenance of clean and environmentally focused communities.

BACKGROUND

Protect Big Rivers have requested to present to Local Authority and provide an update on fracking decisions and their concerns relating to water and climate security within the region.

Sam Phelan, a representative from Protect Big Rivers has been invited to present.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 28102022 RGRC LA Fracking Update .pdf



UPDATE ON FRACKING DECISIONS FROM PROTECT BIG RIVERS GROUP

Protect Big Rivers is a group that has concerns about water and climate security in our region. As the Government rushes towards a '\$40-billion-dollar economy', we are seeing green lights being given to industry that may threaten the long-term sustainability of our region.

The Government is getting closer to a point where they will allow gas companies to begin to frack for profit. This is expected as early as next year. However, they seem to be rushing the process and not listening properly to the science.

1. Water

The Pepper Fracking Inquiry made many recommendations to protect water.

Recommendation 7.7 stated that water allocation plans must be developed for the Beetaloo Basin that "restricts the consumptive use to less than that which can be sustainably extracted without having adverse impacts on other users and the environment". We do not see that this recommendation is being met by the Government, and as a result our regions livelihood is under threat. We have been told the Government wants to declare the Water Allocation Plans for the Beetaloo on Boxing Day 2022. This seems very rushed and may lead to poor decisions being made about water allocations.

- i. **Water Allocation Committees have not been appointed for the Georgina and Wiso Basins (Beetaloo).** This is not normal practice in the NT and breeches the National Water Initiative's requirements regarding the development of water sharing plans. The National Water Initiative Plan states that plans must be "developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders on the basis of best scientific and socio-economic assessment, to provide secure ecological outcomes and resource security for users". Instead, the Beetaloo Regional Reference Group has been appointed as the Beetaloo Water Allocation Committee, through which it seems all consultation is occurring. This role was not in the Beetaloo Regional Reference Group terms of reference.
- ii. **Science of the SREBA water studies is not complete:** the Scope of Works for the water studies for the SREBA states that the ground water/surface water modelling for the Beetaloo region will not be complete until April 2023. It is very important this science is known and considered prior to the Government allocating water to fracking companies in the Beetaloo. If the system is over allocated at the beginning, it will be very hard to get the water back.
- iii. **Water Mining is likely:** The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction that allocates water based on the storage in the aquifer not the recharge of the aquifer. It seems impossible for the Water Controller to allocate enough water to fracking companies

and irrigators and not water mine. When the Water Allocation Plan is released we will have more idea on how much mining the Government will accept.

2. **Land Access Agreements** -in the November Parliament sittings the Government is expected to pass the Petroleum Amendments Bills. This Bill will allow
 - long term fracking under current exploration licences, rather than requiring companies to apply for production licences
 - access to pastoral and Aboriginal lands for effective production without companies having to negotiate new access agreements as would be required with production licencing
 - 'beneficial use agreements' permitting gas companies to sell gas under their current exploration agreements
 - no time limits on how long these exploration licences can be effectively produce gas for commercial profit
 - no volume limit on these exploration licences

3. Climate

Opening the Beetaloo will fuel climate change. It goes against the best international climate science available. If opened the Beetaloo is estimated to create between 60 million and 117 million tonnes of greenhouse gas every year. These greenhouse gases make global warming.

The Pepper Inquiry stated in recommendation 9.8 that the Government had to make sure there is 'no net increase in the lifecycle GHG emissions emitted in Australia from any onshore shale gas produced in the Territory'.

There are not enough carbon credits in Australia to offset the Beetaloo emissions. To get around that problem the Government has now said we can buy carbon credits from overseas to offset these emissions.

Our region will be one of the most severely affected by climate change and we run the risk of becoming 'climate refugees' before 2050 if we do not turn emissions around within the next 8 years.

In 2004 the CSIRO predicted Katherine may experience 35 days over 40 degrees by 2030. In 2019 Katherine experienced 54 days over 40 degrees. We are expected to hit a 1.5 degree warming by 2035-2040. What we experienced in 2019 will become an average year at 1.5 degrees warming.