



AGENDA

BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2023

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

Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 10:00am
The Conference Room Council Service Delivery Centre, Barunga
Or
Via Video/Teleconferencing
ID #: (03) 9260 6977
Pin: 7830

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

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

Marc GARDNER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BARUNGA CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

Elected Members

1. Councillor Helen LEE;

Appointed Members

1. Anne-Marie LEE;
2. Nell BROWN;
3. Danielle BUSH;
4. Charlane BULUMBARA;
5. Vita BRINJEN; and
6. **Vacant.**

MEMBERS: 7

COUNCIL: 1

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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	Nil.	
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CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	7.1
TITLE	Barunga Local Authority Meeting Previous Minutes
REFERENCE	1313904
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held on 03 November 2022 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 Barunga Local Authority met on Thursday, 03 November 2022 at 10:00am, as a **PROVISIONAL**. Attached are the recorded minutes for the Local Authority to review.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

The next Barunga Local Authority Meeting is scheduled to be held on 03 April 2023.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 BA_03112022_MIN_SAVED.pdf



MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, BARUNGA LOCAL
AUTHORITY MEETING HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM COUNCIL SERVICE
DELIVERY CENTRE, BARUNGA
ON THURSDAY, 03 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 01:30PM

1 PRESENT MEMBERS/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Members

- Councillor Helen LEE;
- Anne-Marie LEE (Chairperson); and
- Danielle BUSH.

1.2 Staff

- Andreea CADDY, General Manager Infrastructure and Planning;
- Cindy HADDOW, General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability;
- Liam FARREL, Council Services Coordinator (Manyallaluk and Beswick);
- Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator (minute taker); and
- Michael McFARLANE, Projects Coordinator.

1.3 Guests

- Will BRIDGEMAN, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet;
- Melina DAVIDSON, Office of Selena UIBO MLA (*via teleconference*); and
- Jessie HILLEN, Office of Selena UIBO MLA (*via teleconference*).

2 MEETING OPENED

The Barunga Local Authority Meeting opened at 1:22pm as a **PROVISIONAL** meeting. 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

BAR P-26/2022

(Helen LEE/Anne-Marie LEE)

CARRIED

That the Barunga Local Authority notes the absence with no tendered apologies from Local Authority Members Nell BROWN, Charlane BULUMBARA, and Vita BRINJEN.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil.

6 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**7.1 BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING PREVIOUS MINUTES**

BAR P-27/2022 (Danielle BUSH/Helen LEE) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority confirms the minutes from the meeting held on 05 July 2022, including the confidential minutes 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**

BAR P-28/2022 (Anne-Marie LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority:

- (a) receives and notes the Action List;
- (b) approves the removal of completed items; and
- (c) approves the naming of the oval to be as below:
 - Phyllis WINJORROTJ.

9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

10 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

11 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**11.1 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

BAR P-29/2022 (Danielle BUSH/Anne-Marie LEE) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence.

12 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Nil.

13 GENERAL BUSINESS**13.1 ELDERS VISITING PROGRAM**

BAR P-30/2022 (Danielle BUSH/Helen LEE) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority;

- (a) requests the Elders Visiting Program report be deferred to the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting; and
- (b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to Jody CLARKE to request her attendance at the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting.

13.2 ELECTED MEMBER REPORT

BAR P-31/2022 (Danielle BUSH/Anne-Marie LEE) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Elected Member report.

13.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER ATTENDANCE REPORT

BAR P-32/2022 (Helen LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

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

13.4 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT

BAR P-33/2022 (Helen LEE/Anne-Marie LEE) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority;

- (a) receives and notes the Council Services Report;
- (b) requests a quote be tabled to the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting in regards to ensuring the Oval meets the Australian Football League Northern Territory (AFLNT) standard.

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

BAR P-34/2022 (Anne-Marie LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

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

13.6 COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01.07.2022 - 31.08.2022

BAR P-35/2022 (Helen LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Council Financial Report for the period July 2022 to August 2022

Local Authority Member Danielle BUSH left the meeting, the time being 02:15 PM

Local Authority Member Danielle BUSH returned to the meeting, the time being 02:16 PM

13.7 BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS UPDATE

BAR P-36/2022 (Anne-Marie LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority;

- (a) receives and notes the Local Authority Project Update report;
- (b) requests a report be tabled to the December 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council in regards to budget allocation to purchase a roof over the Barunga playground; and
- (c) requests a report to be tabled to next Barunga Local Authority in regards to the extent and design of new basketball court perimeter fencing and gates.

13.8 LA PROJECT FUNDING CERTIFICATION

BAR P-37/2022 (Anne-Marie LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

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

13.9 BARUNGA LIBRARY OPERATIONS

BAR P-38/2022 (Helen LEE/Danielle BUSH) **CARRIED**

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Barunga Library Operations Report.

14 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

15 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

Nil.

16 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 02:50 pm.

This page and the proceeding pages are the Minutes of the Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday, 03 November 2022 and confirmed Tuesday, 10 January 2023.

Chairperson Anne-Marie LEE
Confirmed on Tuesday, 10 January 2023.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES



ITEM NUMBER	8.1
TITLE	Action List
REFERENCE	1314055
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga Local Authority:

- (a) Receives and notes the Action List; and
- (b) Approves the removal of completed items.

BACKGROUND

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

BARUNGA ACTION LIST

14.3 BASKETBALL FENCING PROJECT

BAR Q-2/2022

That the Barunga Local Authority requests the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the 11 October 2022 Barunga Local Authority Meeting in regards to the Basketball Fencing Project.

REPORT IN AGENDA?

Update to be provided at meeting

13.1 ELDERS VISITING PROGRAM

BAR Q-30/2022

That the Barunga Local Authority;

- (a) requests the Elders Visiting Program report be deferred to the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting; and
- (b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to Jody CLARKE to request her attendance at the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting.

REPORT IN AGENDA?

Jody CLARKE is on leave at time of the Barunga LA meeting.

13.4 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT

BAR Q-33/2022

REPORT IN AGENDA?

Report not required

That the Barunga Local Authority;

(a) receives and notes the Council Services Report;

(b) requests a quote be tabled to the next scheduled Barunga Local Authority Meeting in regards to ensuring the Oval meets the Australian Football League Northern Territory (AFLNT) standard.

13.7 BARUNGA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS UPDATE

BAR Q-36/2022

That the Barunga Local Authority;

(a) receives and notes the Local Authority Project Update report;

(b) requests a report be tabled to the December 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council in regards to budget allocation to purchase a roof over the Barunga playground; and

(c) requests a report to be tabled to next Barunga Local Authority in regards to the extent and design of new basketball court perimeter fencing and gates.

REPORT IN AGENDA?

Update to be provided at meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS



ITEM NUMBER	12.1
TITLE	Local Authority Review Report
REFERENCE	1304992
AUTHOR	Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

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

KEY OUTCOME AREA

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 LAMP 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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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?	<p>Where LAs seek to do so, regional councils consider opportunities for delegation of relevant decisions to LAs consistent with the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>, including decision making about priorities for LA project funds</p> <p>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.</p>

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	Barunga Local Authority Projects Update
REFERENCE	1313278
AUTHOR	Puspa KARKI, Executive Assistant Community Services and Engagement

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update 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.

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

BACKGROUND

Since 2014 the Barunga Local Authority has received a total of \$400,239.00 from the Northern Territory Government for the Local Authority Project Fund. Annual allocations provided by the Department of Local Government are based on a formula related to population. To date the Barunga Local Authority has allocated \$340,222.32, accounting for surplus funds from completed projects.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

- Refer to the attached LA Project Funding Report.
- Outdoor Library Seating installation completed.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**Unallocated Funds**

The Barunga Local Authority currently has \$68,223.24 to allocate to new projects.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Barunga LA projects attachment 30.11.2022.pdf

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Barunga Local Authority Project Funding				30 November 2022	
Funding received from Department		Funds Allocated			
Funding Received from Department		\$	400,239.00		
Funds Allocated by Local Authorities		\$	340,222.32		
Surplus/(Deficit) from completed projects		\$	8,206.56		
Remaining Unallocated funds		\$	68,223.24		
Date Approved	Project ID	Projects	Project Budget	Actual Expenditure	Project Status
30/4/2019	1113814	Memorial at Council Office (formerly Barunga Knowledge Garden)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	10K Allocated on 30.04.2019; Projects team are sourcing the seating. Concept drawings presented to LA. Project scope changed 6/12/2021. Project now with Barunga statement memorial.
9/02/2021		Playground Softfall	\$ 35,000.00		Quotes being sought. \$ 25,000 allocated 13/7/2021. Scope of work prepared. Works to be conducted in conjunction with Shade Shelter.
8/06/2021		Football scoreboard repairs	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 5,100.00	Council to contribute \$ 10,000. \$7,000 added at LA 5/4/22. Purchased scoreboard trailer.
8/06/2021		Outdoor Library Seating	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,345.00	Seating being installed. Completed.
10/08/2021		2 x Glass Cabinets	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,980.75	1 of 2 Cabinet purchased. \$3,000 added at LA 5/4/22. Purchase Order under process for second cabinet.
Total for current projects in progress		\$	76,500.00	\$	8,280.75
Total for Completed Projects		\$	263,722.32	\$	255,515.76
Grand Total		\$	340,222.32	\$	263,796.51

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	12.3
TITLE	Council Financial Report for the period 01.07.2022 - 30.11.2022
REFERENCE	1313057
AUTHOR	Manisha CHAMKUR, Financial Accountant

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes the Council Financial Report for the period July 2022 to November 2022

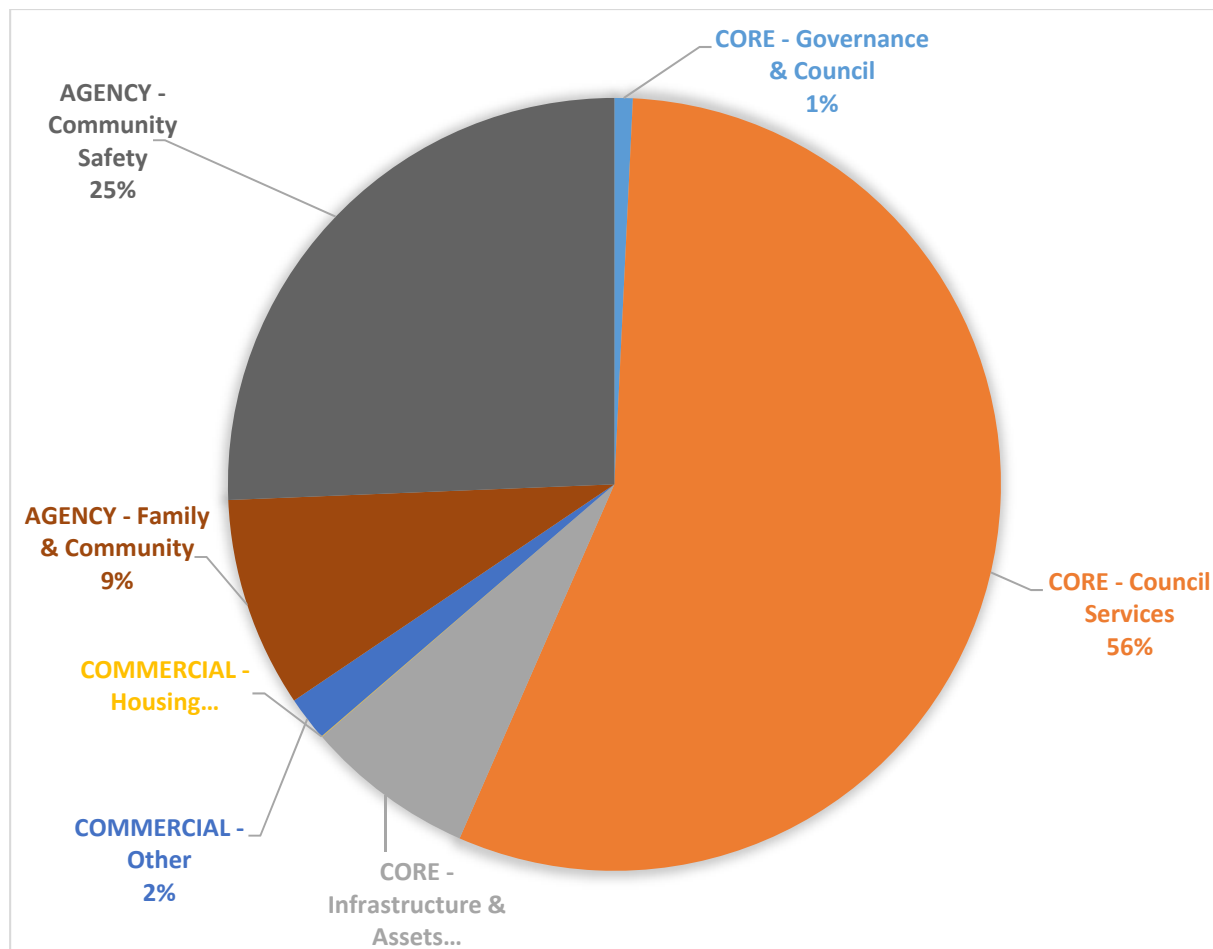
KEY OUTCOME AREA

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 follow:

Operating Income:

Council received \$27,679 in operating income for Barunga which is leading to a variance of \$70,833. The major cause in variance is from Local Authority Funding. As per recent Accounting standards, income can only be recognised from tied funds once projects reach stage of completion.

Operating Expenditure:

The total overspend in operating expenditure is \$46,350. The major cause in overspend is from Internal cost allocations for workshop and building leases as compared to the budget.

Capital Expenditure:


The total underspend for capital expenditure is \$32,900. Please see the project register/ fleet management for further detail.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

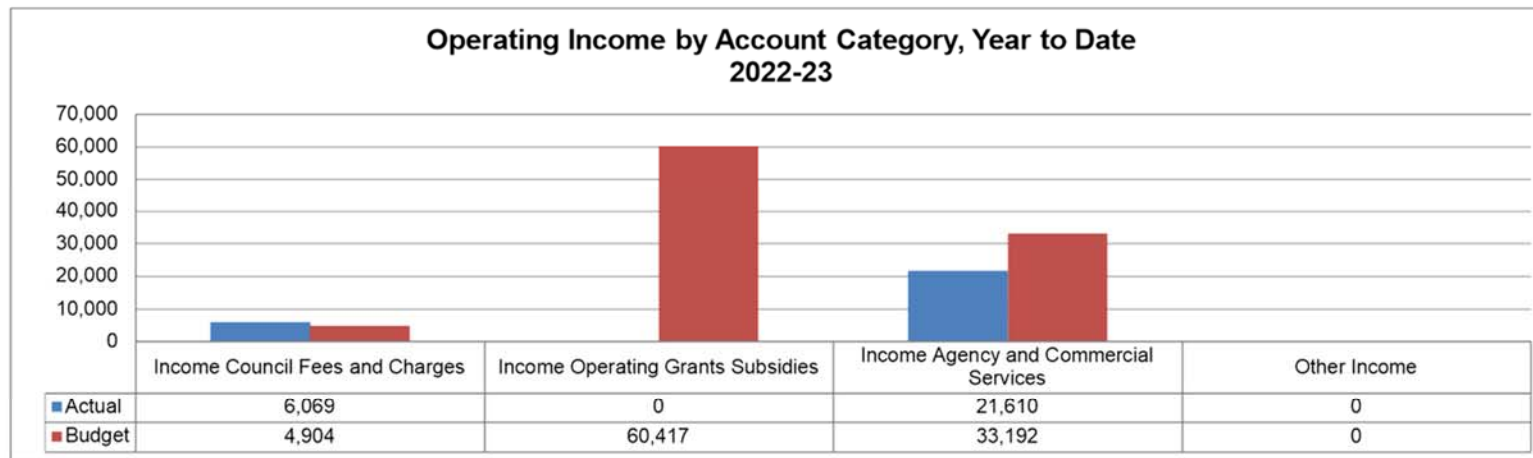
Nil.

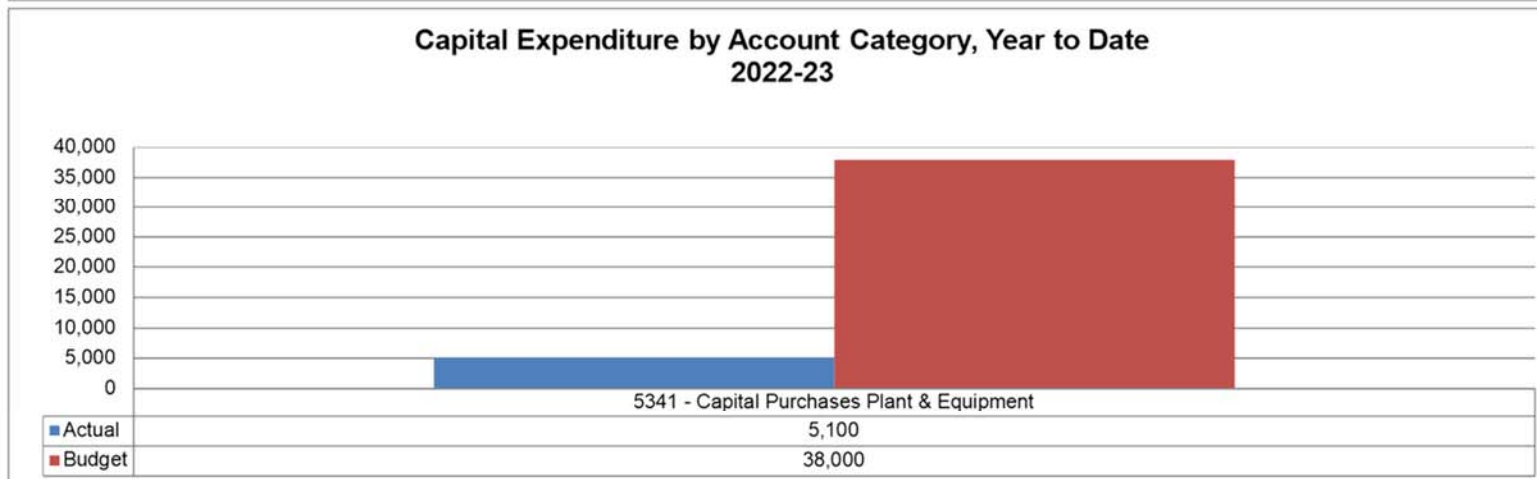
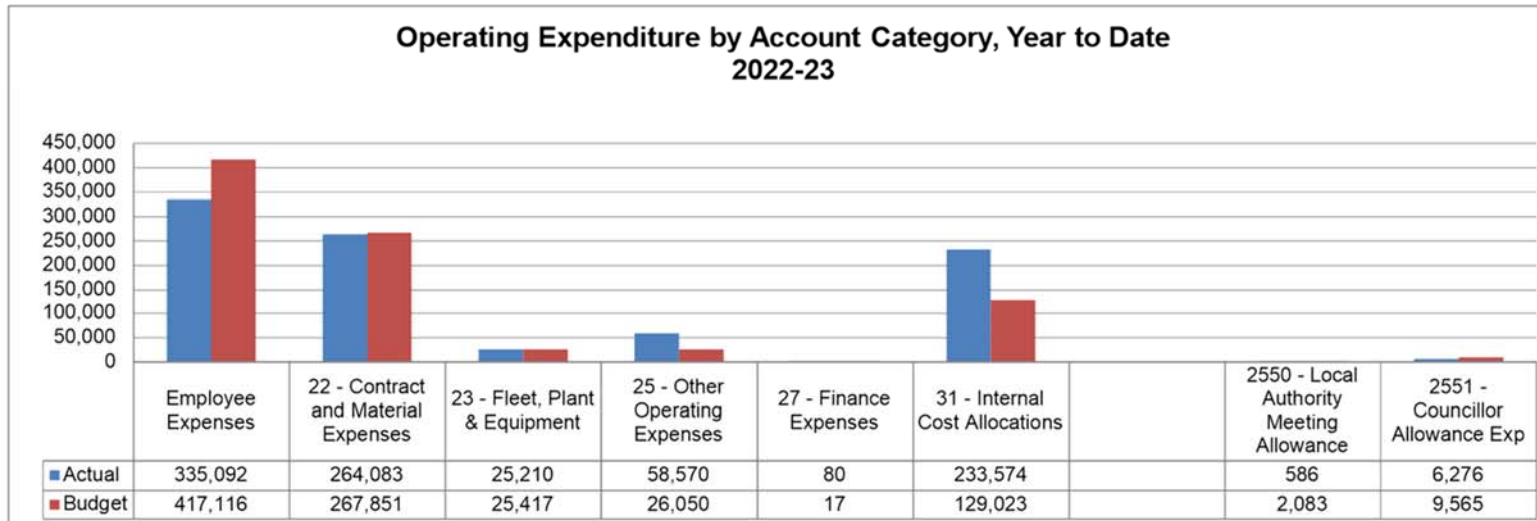
ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Financial Report 30.11.2022.pdf

Roper Gulf Regional Council					
Financial Report as at					
30-November-2022					
Barunga					
	Year to Date Actual (\$)	Year to Date Budget (\$)	Variance (\$)	Full Year Budget (\$)	Explanation
Income					
Income Council Fees and Charges	6,069	4,904	1,165	11,770	
Income Operating Grants Subsidies	0	60,417	-60,417	145,000	The major cause in variance is mostly from Local Authority Funding. As projects reach further stages of completion, income will be recognised from tied funds
Income Agency and Commercial Services	21,610	33,192	-11,582	79,660	The major cause in variance is due to less income received for slashing and litter collection contract jobs as compared to the budget.
Other Income	0	0	0	0	
Total Operating Income	27,679	98,512	-70,833	236,430	
Operating Expenditure					
Employee Expenses	335,092	417,116	-82,024	1,001,079	The main cause in underspend is due to vacant positions and staff absences.
22 - Contract and Material Expenses	264,083	267,851	-3,768	502,841	
23 - Fleet, Plant & Equipment	25,210	25,417	-206	61,000	
25 - Other Operating Expenses	58,570	26,050	32,520	62,520	The main cause in overspend is due to rental expenses incurred to pay section 19 rental leases upfront.
27 - Finance Expenses	80	17	63	40	
31 - Internal Cost Allocations	233,574	129,023	104,551	309,656	The main cause in overspend is due to more internal cost allocated for workshop and building lease as compared to the budget.

2550 - Local Authority Meeting Allowance	586	2,083	-1,497	5,000	
2551 - Councillor Allowance Exp	6,276	9,565	-3,288	22,955	
Total Expenditure	923,471	877,121	46,350	1,965,091	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-895,792	-778,609	-117,183	-1,728,661	
Capital Funding					
	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	
Capital Expenditure					
5341 - Capital Purchases Plant & Equipme	5,100	38,000	-32,900	38,000	Please refer to fleet management for further details.
Total Capital Expenditure	5,100	38,000	-32,900	38,000	
Net Operating Position	-900,892	-816,609	-84,283	-1,766,661	





GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	13.1
TITLE	Elected Member Report
REFERENCE	1314356
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga Local Authority receives and notes 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**Ordinary Meeting of Council – 14 December 2022**

Council approved the recommendations submitted by the following Local Authorities:

- Bulman Local Authority Meeting held on 13 October 2022;
- Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on 03 November 2022; and
- Beswick Local Authority Meeting held on 03 November 2022.

Council called for a '21 day nomination period' for the following:

- Manyallaluk called to fill two (2) open vacancies; and
- Barunga called to fill one (1) open vacancy.

Council approved the contact for the Extension of Grant Agreement for Children and schooling Program – for Bulman and Manyallaluk 2023/2024.

Council discussed the Sport and Recreation – Night Patrol in the Beswick Community regarding a previous resolution made to investigate unsupervised activities, reporting vehicle incidents and safety issues associated with passengers.

Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting – 23 November 2022 2022

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee consists of the following members:

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

There were no matters discussed relating to the Nyirrangulung Ward

Ordinary Meeting of Council – 26 October 2022

There were no current minutes from the Nyirranggulung ward available for Council to consider or approve.

Council accepted and noted the resignation from long term Barunga Local Authority member Freddy SCRUBBY and thank him for his time on the Local Authority. Council then called for a nomination period to fill the vacancy, which currently is still open with no nominations submitted.

A motion was also moved to discuss the Barunga, Mulgan Camp, and Weemol playground shade structures at the December Ordinary meeting of Council.

Council approved the appointment of membership to two new Bulman Local Authority Members, Desmond LINDSAY and Francis MURRAY and approved the request to minimise the total number of memberships on the Bulman Local Authority. The Bulman Local Authority is now full with no vacancies.

Council approved the rescinding of membership from two (2) Manyallaluk Local Authority members, Ben ULAMARI and Sherese DOOLEY. Council then called for a nomination period to fill the two (2) vacancies, which are currently still open with no nominations submitted.

Audit and Risk Committee meeting – 17 August 2022

The Audit Committee consists of the following members:

- Independent Member Ian SWAN;
- Independent Member Carolyn EAGLE;
- Councillor John DALYWATER; and
- Councillor Patricia FARELL

There were no matters discussed relating to the Nyirranggulung Ward

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

**25 January 2023	9:00am	Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting	RGRC Support Centre, Katherine
22 February 2023	8:30am	Ordinary Meeting of Council	Briefing day to be held in Jilkminggan RGRC Office <i>AND</i> OMC to be held in Mataranka Community Hall
12 April 2023	10:00am	Audit and Risk Committee Meeting	RGRC Support Centre, Katherine

Unless indicated otherwise, all Council meetings are open to the public.

** Date subject to change due to Public Holiday

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE MAYOR

November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Mornington Peninsula Shire – Gulf to Peninsula Partnership • Australian Local Government Association – National Local Roads and Transport Congress in Tasmania • Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) annual conference in Darwin 16-18 November 2022. • Finance and Infrastructure Committee Meeting – 23 November 2022
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borroloola Local Authority meeting – 01 December 2022 • Ordinary Meeting of Council – 14 December 2022
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beswick Local Authority meeting – 09 January 2023 • Manyallaluk Local Authority meeting – 09 January 2023

LOCAL AUTHORITY	NUMBER OF VACANCIES
Barunga Local Authority	<i>1</i>
Beswick Local Authority	<i>0</i>
Bulman Local Authority	<i>0</i>
Manyallaluk Local Authority	<i>2</i>

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

GENERAL BUSINESS



ITEM NUMBER	13.2
TITLE	Council Services Report
REFERENCE	1314296
AUTHOR	Liam FARRELL, Council Services Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

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

KEY OUTCOME AREA

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

BACKGROUND**CORE SERVICES**

111 – *Councils Services General*

- All going well, Community is looking clean and tidy

160 – *Municipal Services*

- All Municipal Services are being delivered and are going well
- Municipal Servicers are being kept busy with ongoing mowing and brush cutting
- Weed spraying works are also ongoing
- The football oval will be fertilized over the coming weeks

AGENCY SERVICES

314 – *Community Development Program (CDP)*

- NA

348 – *Library*

- Library position has been fill and the library has been open and operational

350 – *Centrelink*

- Centrelink has been open and operational

404 – *Indigenous Sports and Recreation*

- Barunga youth café continues to operate
- Sport and Recreation actives are having good participation
- School holiday program is having great attendance

OTHER / MISCELLANEOUS

Nil.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Nil.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM NUMBER	13.3
TITLE	Local Authority Member Attendance Report
REFERENCE	1313905
AUTHOR	Chloe IRLAM, Governance Engagement Coordinator

RECOMMENDATION

That the Barunga 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* states that Local Authority Members may be removed from a Local Authority if they are absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without approved apologies.

Barunga Local Authority Meetings Member Attendance

Local Authority Meeting Members	18 January 2022	25 February 2022	05 April 2022	05 July 2022	03 November 2022
Mayor Tony Jack	Meeting Postponed	Cancelled	-	P	AP
Councillor Helen Lee	-	-	P	P	P
Nell Brown	-	-	NO AP	P	AP
Danielle Bush	-	-	P	NO AP	P
Charlene Balumbara	-	-	P	P	AP
Anne-Marie Lee	-	-	P	AP	P
Vita Brinjen	-	-	P	P	AP

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