



# **MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2022**

10:00 AM

Held at the West Daly Regional Council Chambers  
WINNELLIE NT

This meeting is open to the public excluding confidential  
Council business.

Agenda available online and if any queries please contact  
Governance and Quality Assurance Officer on

[info@westdaly.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@westdaly.nt.gov.au)

or phone: 08 7922 6403

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## **AGENDA**

### **West Daly Regional Council Council Meeting**

**THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2022**

**WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
WINNELLIE NT**

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The following agenda items were submitted late and are to be considered by Council as part of ordinary business.

#### **LATE REPORTS**

- 1 NT Environment Protection Authority Expressions of interests  
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- 2 LGANT Submission - Local Government Council member allowances 7



## WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 DECEMBER 2022

#### Report for Agenda Item No 1

Prepared by **Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance  
Officer**

#### NT Environment Protection Authority Expressions of interests invite

##### **Purpose**

The Northern Territory Government is looking for enthusiastic strategic thinkers to become non-executive members of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA). Expressions of interests are invited from a pool of applicants. The appointments will commence in early 2023 for a period of up to 3 years.

##### **Background**

The NT EPA is an independent statutory authority that provides advice to Government on the environmental acceptability of significant development proposals; undertakes regulatory activities to encourage effective waste management, pollution control and sustainable practices; and provides advice to the Northern Territory Government on a range of environmental policy matters. It is supported in its work by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.

To be eligible you must demonstrate skills, knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- environmental science;
- environmental and natural resource management;
- waste management and pollution control;
- economic analysis;
- social analysis;
- business ;
- environmental law; or
- management in a regulatory field.

Ideally, the candidate will also demonstrate expertise and experience in regional areas and issues, Indigenous issues and working with the community. Priority will be given to Territorians, and other applicants with experience working in the Northern Territory.

Successful candidates will be paid an annual remuneration of \$50 000 before tax plus superannuation at 9.5%. Any required travel will be organised by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security and a travel allowance is payable.

Further information is available in the attachment.

### **Statutory Environment**

N/A

### **Impact for Council**

An Elected Member professional development.

### **Strategic Alignment**

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-23:

<b>Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation</b>	
1.2 Governance	
<b>Journey 1.2.3</b>	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That Council note the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority invitation seeking candidates to be non-executive members.**

### **Attachments**

- 1 NT EPA Information paper

# APPLICANT INFORMATION PACKAGE

## NORTHERN TERRITORY ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEMBERS

The Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) is an independent statutory authority that provides advice to Government on the environmental acceptability of significant development proposals; undertakes regulatory activities to encourage effective waste management, pollution control and sustainable practices; and provides advice to the Northern Territory Government on a range of environmental policy matters. It is supported in its work by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security.

The Northern Territory Government is looking for enthusiastic strategic thinkers to become non-executive members of the NT EPA.

Expressions of interests are invited from persons interested in joining the NT EPA. Up to 2 persons may be appointed. Appointments will commence in early 2023 for a period of up to 3 years.

To be eligible you must demonstrate skills, knowledge and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- environmental science
- environmental and natural resource management
- waste management and pollution control
- economic analysis
- social analysis
- business
- environmental law
- management in a regulatory field.

Ideally, you will also demonstrate expertise and experience in regional areas and issues, Indigenous issues and working with the community. Priority will be given to Territorians, and other applicants with experience working in the Northern Territory.

Merit selection will be applied to the selection process.

A person is ineligible to be appointed as a member of the NT EPA if the person:

- is physically or mentally unable to satisfactorily perform the duties of the office
- has been found guilty of an offence that is deemed inappropriate
- is bankrupt
- is a public sector employee.

In addition, elected members of a Commonwealth, State or Territory Parliament, or local government council will not be appointed to the NT EPA.

## Applicant information package

Prior to appointment, successful candidates will be requested to sign a declaration that states they do not have any issues which renders them unsuitable for membership to the NT EPA.

Community and business groups are encouraged to nominate potential candidates; however successful candidates are to be aware that participation on the NT EPA is independent of the membership of any group. For further information refer to the Northern Territory Government Boards Handbook – A guide for board members and administrators of the Northern Territory Government boards and committees (2022) available:

[NT Government boards and committees | Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.](#)

Membership of the NT EPA comprises:

- the Chairperson
- the Chairperson of the Northern Territory Planning Commission
- other members with appropriate qualifications, skills and expertise.

The NT EPA meets 12 times a year (once a month) combining face to face meetings predominantly in Darwin and via video conferencing. Candidates are advised the work load will approximate to 55 days a year.

Successful candidates will be paid an annual remuneration of \$50 000 before tax plus superannuation at 9.5%. Any required travel will be organised by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security and a travel allowance is payable.

Successful candidates may be offered appointment for up to 3 years.

To nominate please submit an expression of interest, copy of your resume and details of three professional referees to:

Executive Director, Environment Assessment and Policy  
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security  
GPO Box 3675  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Email: [environment.policy@nt.gov.au](mailto:environment.policy@nt.gov.au)  
Telephone: 08 8924 4218

Expressions of interest close on 21 December 2022.

More information about the NT EPA is available at: <https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/>





## WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 15 DECEMBER 2022

#### Report for Agenda Item No 2

Prepared by **Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance Officer**

#### **LGANT Submission - Local Government Council member allowances**

##### **Purpose**

LGANT submission in response to the Remuneration Tribunal inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances.

##### **Background**

Allowances are an integral component of ensuring that elected members can perform the roles and responsibilities outlined in the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019*, representing the community and participating in effective and transparent decision-making.

##### **Statutory Environment**

N/A

##### **Impact for Council**

For noting.

##### **Strategic Alignment**

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-23:

<b>Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation</b>	
1.2 Governance	
<b>Journey 1.2.3</b>	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

**Recommendation**

1. That Council note the LGANT submission in response to the Remuneration Tribunal inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances.

**Attachments**

- 1 Submission - LGANT Council member allowances





7 November 2022

Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal  
GPO Box 4396  
DARWIN NT 0801

Via Email: [NTRemunerationTribunal@nt.gov.au](mailto:NTRemunerationTribunal@nt.gov.au)

Dear Michael,

### **Submission – Local Government Council Members Allowances**

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the Remuneration Tribunal inquiry on Local Government Council and Local Authority members' allowances.

LGANT is the single peak body representing and servicing the needs of its 16 local government councils, 63 local authorities and 66 remote communities.

We believe that the current allowances offered to elected members creates a barrier to attracting skilled and diverse candidates to this vital community role and does not reflect the important role these elected representatives play in providing good governance, and as the closest level of government to our communities.

Allowances are an integral component of ensuring that elected members can perform the roles and responsibilities outlined in the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019*, representing the community and participating in effective and transparent decision-making.

Elected members maintain accessibility and support to their communities, providing their mobile telephone numbers and email addresses publicly however the complexity of distance provides members the added challenge of costs and allocating time for engaging with the community across their municipalities. For example, the Barkly Regional Council, the second largest local government area in Australia represents the community across 322,713km<sup>2</sup> of land or almost five-times the size of Tasmania.

Councillors are required to be adequately informed in the decision-making process, with many complex issues and therefore have the responsibility to allocate sufficient time to understand matters presented to them for a judicious outcome.

The time committed to the roles and responsibilities of being an elected member requires balance to members work, family and life commitments and allowances should be reflective of the commitment required by the Councillor to effectively fulfill their roles and responsibilities in representing their community.

Therefore, LGANT, as the peak body representing local government, propose the Base Allowance for each council be moved to the next category in the Table of Maximum Council Member Allowances to better reflect the roles and responsibilities of elected members, with Category 1 also being amended to reflect the proposed increase.

#### **Current table:**

	<b>Category 1:</b>	<b>Category 2:</b>	<b>Category 3:</b>	<b>Category 4:</b>
<b>Base Allowance</b>	22,515.39	15,761.63	13,509.96	4,503.32

**Proposed table:**

	<b>Category 1:</b>	<b>Category 2:</b>	<b>Category 3:</b>	<b>Category 4:</b>
<b>Base Allowance</b>	29,269.15	22,515.39	15,761.63	13,509.96

Whilst we appreciate that the allowance structure is not intended to mimic a salary, the current allowance paid to elected members is not sufficient in recognition of the significant responsibilities they hold.

We understand allowances are reviewed in accordance with Darwin Consumer Price Index (CPI) however this is not instructive for regional and shires councils and another method needs to be determined with the cost of living likely to be significantly different across regions.

Given the important role of LGANT in supporting and building the capacity of elected members, we would also like to ensure that the elected member professional development allowance is permitted to be used to cover the costs to attend training, conferences, courses (including travel, accommodation and meals) offered by LGANT.

LGANT also requests the ability for elected members to rollover unexpended professional development allowances to be used within their term of the council, subject to council policy. This will allow elected members to commit to more expensive training such as the AICD Company Directors course. Such a course would assist in strengthening understanding of duties and responsibilities of elected members and ultimately make a bigger impact for their communities.

We understand that Guidelines 2A - Elected Member Allowances are transitional until the Tribunal makes a determination, LGANT would like to ensure a new Guideline is provided following the review.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Kon Vatskalis  
**President**