



MEETING OF COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2023

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

or phone: 08 7922 6403

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AGENDA

West Daly Regional Council Council Meeting

28 JUNE 2023

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

West Daly Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work, paying our respect to Elders past, present and in the future.

PRESENT APOLOGY AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Name	Title	Present	Apology	Absent
Ralph Narburup	Mayor			
Wilfred Harris	Deputy Mayor			
Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Councillor			
John Wilson	Councillor			
Terry Sams	Councillor			
Jake Clark	Councillor			

Staff:

Name	Title	Present	Apology	Absent
Matthew Eastham	Chief Executive Officer			
Andrew Everingham	Chief Operations Officer			
David Glover	Executive Director Corporate Services			
Sharon Binns	Governance			
Julianne Wylie	EA to CEO and Mayor			

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 1 Confirmation of previous minutes 5

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

Are there members present who wish to declare any conflict or raise any concerns regarding potential conflict that have arisen or may arise in the agenda at this meeting?

GENERAL BUSINESS

Are there any matters of General Business that is not on this agenda?

REPORTS

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CORRESPONDENCE IN AND OUT

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CONFIDENTIAL

- 14 Confirmation of previous confidential minutes

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains 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. (Confidential matters).

15 Confidential Council business

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff. (Confidentiality breach).

16 Wadeye Homelands Emergency Capital Grant Program 2022-23

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential grant documents).

17 Update Councils current Grants situation

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential Grants).

18 Urgent - Peppimenarti Office

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person. (Commercial in confidence).

19 Elected member movements

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(iv) (d) (e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.; AND information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.; AND 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. (Confidential).

20 ALGA Attendance

The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Elected Member confidential matter).



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 1

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

Confirmation of previous minutes

Purpose

To ensure Elected Members of Council have read and understood the minutes of previous meetings when making decisions for the West Daly region.

Background

The Ordinary Council meeting of Elected Members held on the **25 May 2023** are provided for your decision as a true record of the meeting.

If the minutes require amendment or updates, this is the time to make those changes.

The minutes are a record of the decisions made by Elected Members through discussion and debate in order to authorise business of Council. These minutes will then be a living document and stored appropriately for the next seven (7) years then destroyed.

These meeting minutes are submitted to Council for confirmation that the minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting for those in attendance.

The meetings held confidentiality will be provided in the Confidential Agenda of Council.

Statutory Environment

*Local Government Act 2019 (NT) ss 101 and 102.
Code of Conduct*

Impact for Council

Respect for confidences, being accountable and making decisions of paramount importance with transparency in the best interests for the West Daly region.

Strategic Alignment

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

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.2	Continued development of the compliance framework
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

1. That Council approve the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes of 25 May 2023 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Attachments

- 1 OCM Minutes 25 May 2023



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
NGANMARRIYANGA
ON THURSDAY, 25 MAY 2023
AT 10:00 AM

Meeting opened at 9:16am by Deputy Mayor Harris with a quorum present.

PERSONS PRESENT

Elected members:

Name	Title	Present	Apology	Absent
Ralph Narburup	Mayor		X	
Wilfred Harris	Deputy Mayor	X		
Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Councillor	X		
John Wilson	Councillor	X		
Terry Sams	Councillor	Arrived 10:10am		
Jake Clark	Councillor	X		

Staff:

Name	Title	Present	Apology	Absent
Matthew Eastham	Chief Executive Officer	X		
Andrew Everingham	Chief Operations Officer	X		
David Glover	Executive Director Corporate Services	X Via phone		
Sharon Binns	Governance	X		
Julieanne Wylie	EA to CEO and Mayor	X		

Guests:

Chris Moore – Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

There were no declarations of interest at this Council Meeting.

CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business matters were raised to be covered in confidential business.

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**1) Confirmation of previous minutes**

035/2023 Sharon spoke to the report.

Motion:

- 1. That Council approve the Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes of 27 April 2023 as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
Seconded: Cr. Wilson
Resolution: Unanimously

REPORTS**2) Finance Report - April 2023**

036/2023 Matt spoke to the report and referred to David Glover for his financial expertise and input.

Motion:

- 1. That Council notes and approves the Finance report for month ending April 2023.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
Seconded: Cr. Wilson
Resolution: Unanimously

Cr Jake Clark left the meeting, the time being 09:53 AM

Cr Jake Clark returned to the meeting, the time being 09:54 AM

3) DRAFT Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/34

037/2023 Matt spoke to the report and referred to David Glover for his financial expertise and input.

Matt stated there are 2 new charges with animal management charge and an environmental charge which will cover matters that Council have been expending without recoup.

Motion:

- 1. That Council notes and approves the DRAFT Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/24 for inclusion in the DRAFT Regional Plan 2023-24.**
- 2. That Council notes that the final Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/24 will be put before Council for approval at the June OCM.**

Moved: Cr. Wilson
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Harris
Resolution: Unanimously

4) Headstone replacement and Grave identification Wadey/Nilinh sites

038/2023 Sharon spoke to the report. At the meeting where this matter was presented to Council, the information was in the body of the report but was not transferred to the motion, therefore presented to Council for decision.

Motion:

- 1. That Council note that the Wadey Local Authority minutes excluded the request for approval for \$50,000 being Headstone Replacement and Grave identification.**
- 2. That Council approve the Wadey Local Authority to fund \$50,000 for Headstone replacement and Grave identification for Wadey/Nilinh sites.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
Seconded: Cr. Tunmuck-Smith
Resolution: Unanimously

5) JLT Public Sector Risk Report

039/2023 The CEO spoke to the report.

Motion:

- 1. That Council note the JLT Public Sector Risk Report.**

Moved: Cr. Clark
Seconded: Deputy Mayor Harris
Resolution: Unanimously

6) Meeting dates period ending June 2024

040/2023 Sharon spoke to the report.

Motion:

- 1. That Council note and approve the meeting schedule for Elected Members for the period ending June 2024.**
- 2. The Council notes and accepts that as the year progresses the meetings dates may change due to circumstances beyond Councils control.**
- 2. Elected Members note that an apology for non-attendance at any meeting is with three (3) days-notice to the CEO or Mayor otherwise recorded as absent.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
Seconded: Cr. Clark
Resolution: Unanimously

7) Draft Regional Plan 2023-24

041/2023 Julieanne spoke to the report.

Deputy Mayor Harris advised regarding Homelands he would like to suggest:

- Emergency contingencies and supplies during natural disasters and
- Food security through wet season

The CEO advised that Homelands funding is very strict and can seek additional funding as all tied monies. If there is anything that we are aiming for, Council can seek assistance through grant funding.

Out of the 14 Homelands Council services, each can make a request to Council to maintain dangerous trees and request for services.

Motion:

- 1. That Council authorises the release of the draft 2023-24 Regional Plan and Budget for public consultation.**
- 2. That Council approves the draft 2023-24 Regional Plan pending ongoing minor edits.**
- 3. That Council authorises the publishing of a notice on its website and in the NT News inviting written submissions on the draft Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24 for a period of 21 days.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
Seconded: Cr. Sams
Resolution: Unanimously

Deputy Mayor Wilfred Harris left the meeting, the time being 10:12 AM
Deputy Mayor Wilfred Harris returned to the meeting, the time being 10:13 AM

8) Service Delivery

042/2023 Andrew spoke to the report.

Andrew stated that Council is struggling to employ local people in the Civil works area and asked Elected members if they knew of anyone seeking employment and if so, please refer to the CSM in the region.

Cr Clark informed that Norforce (Defence) came to the community and there is interest in people joining, so will promote WDRC employment to those who are attracted in getting regular work.

Roadworks will hopefully be completed by the wet season with our team working to fix potholes but there is much more to do.

Motion:**1. That Council receive and note the Service Delivery report.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris

Seconded: Cr. Wilson

Resolution: Unanimously

Cr John Wilson left the meeting, the time being 10:39 AM

Cr John Wilson returned to the meeting, the time being 10:40 AM

Cr Jake Clark left the meeting, the time being 10:48 AM

Cr Jake Clark returned to the meeting, the time being 10:49 AM

9) Chief Executive Officer Report

043/2023 CEO spoke to the report.

All our VOQ and Staff Housing in Peppimenarti has been broken into a number of times. This has caused trauma to a number of staff and had to make emergency payments to assist as valuables were stolen.

The Council office in Peppimenarti is collapsing and an engineer report is being done in the next few days. We are looking at a grant for a new building, which will take time. We may have to bring in demountables for a council office if the building deteriorates further.

Motion:**1. That Council notes and accepts the CEO report and acknowledges the invitation for Councillors to ask questions of the CEO regarding the report.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris

Seconded: Cr. Wilson

Resolution: Unanimously

Cr Mark Tunmuck-Smith left the meeting, the time being 10:51 AM

Cr Mark Tunmuck-Smith returned to the meeting, the time being 10:58 AM

LATE AGENDA ITEM**21) Elected Member Commitment Statement**

044/2023 Julieanne spoke to the report and advised of key behaviours. Each Elected Member present agreed to sign the statement after the meeting.

Motion:

- 1. That Council approve the Elected Member Commitment Statement and make a commitment to signing the Statement.**

Moved: Cr. Sams
 Seconded: Deputy Mayor Harris
 Resolution: Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE IN & OUT**10) Correspondence Report**

045/2023 Julieanne spoke to the report. There is no attachment to the report as the folder with the correspondence was provided should Council wish to peruse.

Motion:

- 1. That Council notes and accepts the correspondence report for the period April 2023 to May 2023.**

Moved: Deputy Mayor Harris
 Seconded: Cr. Wilson
 Resolution: Unanimously

The meeting closed for lunch at 11:00am.

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION**RECOMMENDATION:**

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 65(2) of the *Local Government Act* as the items listed come within the following provisions:-

- 11 Confirmation of previous confidential minutes** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains 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. (Confidential matters).*
- 12 Appointment of new Auditor for WDRC** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an*

obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential Discussion - RFQ - Appointment of new Auditor).

- 13 Diminin Cemetery Project 2023** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential Contract agreement).*
- 14 2022-23 Capital Grant Funding agreement** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential).*
- 15 Invitation to extend NT Government contract Remote Tenancy** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential Contract).*
- 16 Tender Approval Period Contract - Civil Works** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential).*
- 17 Tender Approval - Wadeye Swimming Pool** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential).*
- 18 Mayors Work Vehicle** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(c)(iv) (d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person.; AND information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Legal Advice - Mayors Vehicle).*
- 19 Grant - Removal of Abandoned vehicles - Common Seal** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential).*
- 20 Grant - Fossil Head shelter upgrades - Common Seal** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51(1)(d) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity. (Confidential).*



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 2

Prepared by **Matthew Eastham, CEO**

CEO Rates Certification 2023

Purpose

To provide the CEO Certification to Council that to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief, the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area.

Background

The CEO is required to provide the Certification under the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* prior to the adoption of the annual budget.

Statutory Environment

Section 29 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

Impact for Council

Compliance with the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Strategic Alignment

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

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation

1.2 Governance

Journey 1.2.3

Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

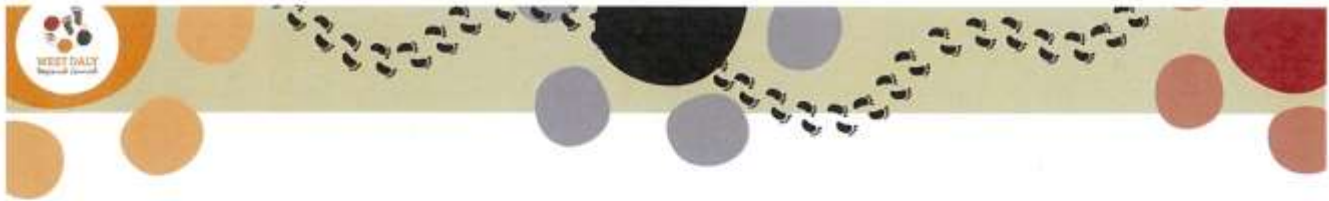
Recommendation

- 1. That Council receives and accepts the attached signed CEO Rates Certification.**



Attachments

- 1 Certificate in Terms of Regulation 29(1) of LG Regulations



Certificate in Terms of Regulation 29 (1) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

This is to certify that assessments numbered 1000001 to 1000798 declared pursuant to *Sections 237-239 of the Local Government Act, 2019* are recorded in the assessment record and to the best of my knowledge, information and belief the assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the West Daly Regional Council.

Signed

 Chief Executive Officer

Dated at DARWIN this 22 Day of JUNE 2023

Regulation 29 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 states that the above certification, must be made before a Council adopts its budget.

DARWIN

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Winnellie NT 0820
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Email: info@westdaly.nt.gov.au

WADEYE

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Telephone: (08) 8977 8702

NGANMARRIYANGA

Address: Lot 27, Palumpa NT
0822
Postal Address: CMB 30
Palumpa NT 0822
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PEPPIMENARTI

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Peppimenarti, NT 0822
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WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 3

Prepared by **David Glover, Executive Director Corporate Services**

Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/34

Purpose

To approve the 2023/24 Declaration of Rates and Charges for inclusion in the Regional Plan 2023/24.

Background

The DRAFT Declaration of Rates and Charges was included in the public consultation for the WDRC Regional Plan 2023/24. No feedback was received relating to the Rates and Charges 2023/24.

The Rates and Charges 2023/24 forms part of Councils yearly income. Council's income is derived from:

- Rates and statutory charges;
- Local Government Operational Grants; and
- Grants provided by other Agencies to undertake specific funded programs (such as Aged Care);

In determining the rating regime for 2023/24, Council has considered its sources of "own source income" as discussed below:

Income from rates and statutory charges

Rates and statutory charges, along with operational grants and any income derived from commercial sources, is referred to as 'own source income' and, is used to fund Councils municipal activities. This income can be used (expended) in any way that the Council directs and is used to fund all basic municipal services and discretionary projects.

Local Government operational grants

Due to uncertainty around grant distribution in the Commonwealth and NT government budgets all operational grants will be reviewed once 2023/24 levels are confirmed.

Grants from other Agencies

The Council undertakes a number of programs on behalf of other government agencies (Agencies). The budgets for these programs are typically defined by the funding agency. Surpluses from these programs are considered 'unexpended grants'. The funding agency may determine whether these funds are returned to the funding agency or carried over into the following year to fund the program. Grants can only be used for the purpose for which the grant is given and thus the Council cannot determine the allocation of these budgets. Within the 2023/24, all agency budgets are self-contained. That is, expenditure is always equal to the income received.

In determining the rating regime for 2023/24, the Council has considered a number of factors, including:

- The Council's statutory and legislative obligations
- The service level expectations of the communities, residents and ratepayers
- The remoteness of the West Daly Region and the cost of providing services
- The security of the West Daly Region and the increased costs of operating in an unstable security environment
- The funding environment and any reductions in income from grant and own source income
- The asset management and asset renewal obligations of the Council
- The Council's priorities with regards to local employment and maintenance of community based employment and training opportunities
- How current and future rating practices will impact on the Council's financial sustainability
- How existing services (particularly waste management) and others can be funded from existing revenue sources
- Mandatory staff cost increment as per EBA
- Federal level CPI index and Local government cost index
- Operational costs of the Wadeye Swimming Pool
- Council's budget obligation to balance the short fall

It is proposed that the relevant interest rate for late payment remains at 18%, which reflects the average credit card rate in Australia and brings the Council in-line with other local government organisations in the Northern Territory.

Statutory Environment

Pursuant to Section 219 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, Council may only levy rates on conditionally rateable land in accordance with a rating proposal approved by the Minister for Local Government at least 1 month before the commencement of the financial year for which the rates are declared. The relevant Interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with Section 245 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Impact for Council

Compliance with the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022/23.

Impact for Council

Council will be in Compliance with Act.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes and approves the attached WDRC Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/24.**
- 2. That Council approves for the Rates and Charges to be included in the WDRC Regional Plan 2023/24.**

Attachments

- 1 Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023-2024

West Daly Regional Council

Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/2024



Notice is hereby given pursuant to *Section 241 of the Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), that the following rates and charges were declared by the West Daly Regional Council ("Council") at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 June 2023 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act, in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

For the purpose of this declaration:

"allotment"	has the meaning set out in section 225 of the Act.
"Commercial purposes"	means rateable land used for commercial, industrial, community or other business purposes and irrespective of any intention to profit from such use.
"Council area"	means the area of Council as defined in the Act.
"garbage collection service"	the "garbage collection service" comprises a kerbside collection service of one garbage collection visit per week with a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin per garbage collection visit. The total garbage collection service charge for an allotment is as follows: Total Garbage Collection Service Charge = garbage collection service charge x #bins assigned x #assigned minimum garbage collection services. The number of assigned collection services are dependent upon the community.
"Mining tenement"	has the meaning set out in section 7 of the Act
"Pastoral lease"	has the meaning set out in section 3 of the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i>
"Rateable land"	as defined at section 218 of the Act.
"Residential dwelling"	means a dwelling, house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building on residential land (whether or not it is exempt from rates) and includes a unit within the meaning of the Unit Titles Act and the Unit Titles Schemes Act;
"Residential land"	means land used or capable of being used for residential purposes (but does not include land on which there is no residential dwelling);
"Residential purposes"	means rateable land used or capable of being used for residential purposes.
"the Act"	means the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> (NT) as in force.

Rates

The Council made the following declaration of rates pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act:

1. Pursuant to section 227 of the Act, the Council adopts, as the basis of determining the assessed value of all allotments in the Council area, the unimproved capital value as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963* (NT).
2. However, consistent with section 227(3) of the Act:
 - (a) the unimproved value of a mining tenement is its assessed value; and
 - (b) the unimproved value is taken to be 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement.
3. The Council, pursuant to section 237 of the Act, declared that it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$1,572,894 which will be raised in accordance with section 226 of the Act. The basis of rates are the valuation-based amounts calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment with which are subject to minimum amounts and/or fixed amounts.
4. The Council declared the following differential rates with minimum amounts being payable in application of each of those differential rates:
 - (a) With respect to every allotment classed as Residential land in the council assessment record, a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$1,714.52 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,whichever is the greater.
 - (b) With respect to every allotment classed as Commercial land in the council assessment record, (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), a differential rate of 16.9048% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$2,028.82 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,whichever is the greater.
 - (c) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Vacant land, a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,714.52 (as set out in section 226 of the Act),
 - (d) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Other land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration] a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,714.52 (as set out in section 226 of the Act),

- (e) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Residential purposes, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
- (f) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Commercial purposes (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$2,028.82 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
- (g) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Vacant Land, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
- (h) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Other Land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration], where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
- (i) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area which is subject to Mining Tenements, the rate will be the assessed value (being 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement) multiplied by 0.006427, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$1,647.93 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
- (j) Note:
 - (i) contiguous tenements or reasonably adjacent tenements held by the same person are to be rated as if they were a single tenement;
 - (ii) if the owner of the mining tenement is also the owner of the land underlying the mining tenement and is liable for the rates for the underlying land tenure, the only rates payable are either the rates for the mining tenement or the rates for the underlying land tenure, whichever is greater.
- (k) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area over which there is a Pastoral Lease, the rate will be the assessed value multiplied by 0.000566, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$696.28 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).

Charges

Garbage Collection charges

5. Pursuant to Section 239 of Act, the Council declared the following charges for the purpose of enabling or assisting Council to meet the cost of garbage collection services and the waste disposal services it provides for the benefit of eligible ratepayers within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services) and the occupiers of such land. The Council intends to raise \$1,076,520 by way of these charges.
6. The following charges were declared by the Council:
 - (a) Residential Garbage Collection Charge:
 - (i) a charge of \$1,365.22 per annum per allotment of Residential dwelling will apply.
 - (ii) the purpose for which this charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Residential land in the Council area;
 - (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a residential dwelling referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste

contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,365.22 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).

(b) Commercial Garbage Collection Charge:

- (i) a charge of \$2,474.18 per annum per allotment of Commercial purposes land will apply;
- (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Commercial purposes land in the Council area;
- (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a Commercial Purposes land referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins, an additional charge of \$2,474.18 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, which charge shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(i).

(c) All Other Garbage Collection Charge:

- (i) a charge of \$1,365.22 per annum per all other allotment will apply;
- (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of all other land not applicable to paragraphs 6(a) and 6(b) in the Council area;
- (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of another allotment referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,365.22 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).

Waste Disposal and Management Charge

7. Pursuant to section 239 of the Act, the Council declared the following charges in respect of Waste Disposal and Management Charge services it provides for the benefit of all land within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services).
8. A charge of every allotment for which the Council is not able to, or not willing to provide a garbage collection service. This charge provides access to landfill facilities within the Council boundaries and is as follows:
 - (a) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$360.64 for residential allotments.
 - (b) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$945.58 for commercial allotments.

Animal Management Charge

9. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used for Residential purposes in the Council assessment record, and for which the rural classification is not applicable, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally for the purpose of "Animal Management" and to assist the implementation of Animal Management in the Council area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$9,100 by way of this special charge. This rate will be levied on all "Residential land" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$20.00 per allotment.

Environmental Charge

10. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally "Environmental Charge" for the purpose of assisting with the implementation of waste facility management in the area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$40,120 by way of this special charge and is as follows:
- (a) This rate will be levied on all "Residential purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$80.00 per allotment; and
 - (b) This rate will be levied on all "Commercial purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$100.00 per allotment.

Relevant interest rate

11. The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with section 245 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum and is calculated on a daily basis.

Payment dates

12. The Council determined that rates and charges for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 inclusive shall be due and payable by the 29th September 2023.
13. Payments falling due on a weekend or public holiday may be paid by the following business day, without incurring any penalty.
- (a) details of due dates and specified amounts will be listed on the relevant rates notice in accordance with section 242 of the Act ("the Rates Notice").
 - (b) variations to those options for payment will be administered according to the conditions outlined on the front and reverse of the Rates Notice.
14. A concession will be provided to eligible residents who qualify under the NT Concession and Seniors Recognition Scheme.
15. A ratepayer and or charge payer who fails to abide by such conditions may be sued for recovery of the principal amount of the rates, charges and interest (if applicable) plus any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by Council in recovering or attempting to recover the rates, charges and interest, including but not limited to, debt collection agency fees and legal costs.

Rates Assessment Record Certification

I certify to the Council that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the rates assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the West Daly Region.



Matthew Eastham
Chief Executive Officer
West Daly Regional Council



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 4

Prepared by **David Glover, Executive Director Corporate Services**

2023 - 2024 Budget

Purpose

Council has completed the budget process for the first budget for the 2023-24 financial year. Council is required to present a balanced budget approved by Council to the Minister by 30 June 2023. The purpose of this report is to present the budget to Council for approval for inclusion in the 2023-24 Regional Plan.

Background

Council is required to adopt an annual budget every financial year. Under the *Local Government Act 2019* the budget must plan for a balanced budget or a budget with an operating surplus.

Management together with CouncilBIZ has undertaken a thorough review of Council's expenditure in the current year, anticipated requirements for the 2023/2024 financial year, and potential revenues.

Council operates in a very restricted financial environment. This budget has been prepared to be as sustainable as possible while still providing a minimum of Council services to our Communities.

Council's financial operating environment means that there is limited scope to fund untied services other than our core service delivery programs.

Management remains committed to delivering Civil hours that provide the services that Community requires.

This budget has been prepared to be financially responsible while enhancing services to our Communities.

The attached budget contains the following items and assumptions:

- Council Civil labour hours to remain consistent with the prior year budget of 608 hours for Wadeye, and 228 hours for each of Peppimenarti and Palumpa.
- Rates and Charges income of \$2.7 million which represents a 13 percent increase from the current year

- Grant income of \$10.456m which represents a 3 percent increase on the current year
- 10 percent increase in Elected Member Allowances and Expenses
- Council has doubled its provision for Committee and Local Authority Allowances and Expenses
- Council has provided additional budget of \$100 000 for security and safety measures within communities
- Council has provided additional budget of \$120 000 for repairs and maintenance.
- Further support and training for staff
- The introduction of a Project Management position
- The introduction of a Procurement specialist position

An increase in Depreciation expense and reduction in Contractor and Materials expense. Both are based on the assumption that Council will amend its asset policy to recognise Infrastructure and Building assets.

All Budgets contain some risk, the main ones for this Budget include:

- Grant income is uncertain until contracts for the 2024 financial year are concluded.
- Capital Grant income will also depend on progress with major construction projects that is subject to potential delays from suppliers, weather conditions, etc.
- Inflation continues to be high throughout Australia and that has the potential to impact costs such as Materials, Tools, Repairs and Maintenance

The attached budget has not assumed an increase in current funding levels. Whilst depreciation is included in the budget it is insufficient to achieve a balanced budget. This means Council remains reliant on NTG grant funding to acquire replacement capital assets, which is increasingly required as our fleet and yellow plant approach the end of their useful lives. Many of our highly utilised assets were transferred from Victoria Daly council in 2014 and require high maintenance and repair expenditure.

Council is requested to approve the transfer of \$381 110 as per the budget from our cash reserves to balance the 2023/24 budget. Management is continue to seek new opportunities to increase revenue and create efficiencies with the aim of a balanced budget at the end of the 2023/24 year.

Statutory Environment

Council is required to present a balanced budget to the Minister by 30 June 2023 under the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Impact for Council

If approved by Council, the budget will be included in the final version of the 2023-24 Regional plan which concluded its 21 day consultation period.

Strategic Alignment

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

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

Recommendation

- 1. Following the conclusion of the 21 day consultation period that Council resolves to approve this 2023-24 Budget for inclusion in the West Daly Regional Council Regional Plan 2023-24.**
- 2. That Council approves the transfer of \$381,110 from reserves to balance the budget.**

Attachments

- 1 Budget 2023-2024

2023/24 BUDGET

Budget 2023/24 - Operating Statement Tied & Untied

Income	Grants and contributions	\$10,456,712
	Interest/Investment Income	\$275,940
	Other Income	\$139,742
	Rates and Annual Charges	\$2,725,097
	User charges and fees	\$1,993,991
	Income Total	\$ 15,590,793
	Expenditure	Council Committee and LA Allowances
Council Committee and LA Expenses		\$1,500
Elected Member Allowances		\$237,801
Elected Member Expenses		\$56,075
Employee benefit expenses		\$7,270,114
Operational Expenses		\$3,587,827
Repair and maintenance		\$798,074
Contractor Materials and Labour		\$2,685,447
Interest Expense		\$250,000
Depreciation		\$1,080,064
Expenditure Total		\$ 15,971,902
Operational Deficit		(\$381,110)

Budget 2023/24 - **Capital Statement Tied & Untied**

Income-Capital	Grants and contributions	\$4,300,000
	Capital Income Total	\$4,300,000
Expenditure	Capital – Wadeye Swimming Pool	\$4,300,000
	Capital Expenditure Total	\$4,300,000
Capital Surplus / Deficit		-
Total Surplus / Deficit		(\$381,110)

Budget 2023/24 - *Operating Statement Untied*

2022/23

Income	Grants and contributions	\$1,868,029
	Interest/Investment Income	\$275,940
	Other Income	\$139,742
	Rates and Annual Charges	\$2,725,097
	User charges and fees	\$1,993,991
	Income Total	\$7,004,799
	Expenditure	Council Committee & LA Allowances
Council Committee and LA Expenses		\$1,500
Elected Member Allowances		\$237,801
Elected Member Expenses		\$56,075
Employee benefit expenses		\$4,835,777
Operational Expenses		\$3,587,827
Repair and maintenance		\$798,074
Contractor Materials and Labour		\$386,464
Interest Expense		\$250,000
Depreciation		\$1,080,064
Expenditure Total		\$11,238,582
Budgeted Surplus/Deficit		(\$4,233,783)

Budget 2023/24 - Income Operational and Capital – Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Income Total	2,123	2,390,256	1,830,847	15,667,568	19,890,793
Garbage General		90,539	88,328	740,415	919,283
Garbage Fee for Service		19,137	0	160,272	179,409
Australia Post Income		12,695	11,525		24,220
Council Rates		128,224	143,591	1,354,590	1,626,405
Rent Employee Housing		5,202	3,131	22,306	30,639
Rent and Leases Property		20,316	7,721	411,212	439,249
Fuel Rebate Income				19,726	19,726
Hire of Council Assets		1,287	20,411	63,822	85,520
Interest Received				275,940	275,940
Income - Airport Transfers	10			9,461	9,471
NTG - Operational Grants		58,985	40,320	3,284,182	3,383,487
NTG - Special Purpose Grants (Operational)	690	302,948	123,131	253,304	680,073
NTG - Capital Grants		203,749	252,786	203,481	660,015
Aust Gov - Operational Grants		1,155,162	736,128	3,838,235	5,729,525
Aust Gov - Capital Grants		-	-	4,300,000	4,300,000
Grant Income Other		3,612			3,612
Period Contracts - Airports		133,477	114,012	249,234	496,723
Period Contracts - Other		188,125	170,275		358,400
Repairs & Maintenance Airports		0	-637		-637
Landing Fee Income		31,031	25,709	192,486	249,225
Commercial Services Income		25,997	71,327	101,420	198,744
Workshop Income - 3rd party customers				27,320	27,320
Builder Third Party Revenue				53,673	53,673
Insurance Claims			1,719		1,719
Other Current Income	1,423	9,770	28	57,309	68,530
Profit / Loss on Disposal of Motor Vehicles			21,342	38,018	59,360
Profit / Loss on Disposal of ROU Assets				11,162	11,162

Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital – Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Expenditure Total	3,647,127	2,148,261	1,827,753	12,648,757	20,271,902
Accommodation	15,004	10,917	5,410	12,507	43,838
Accommodation (not employees or councillors)				511	511
Administration Fees		197,050	110,138	515,938	823,126
Advertising	2,311	630		6,537	9,478
Annual Leave	171,959	56,325	54,679	280,589	563,552
Audit and Risk Management Committee				4,684	4,684
Audit Expenses (external)	37,475			3,166	40,641
Catering - Council, Committees, Seminars	2,541	1,771	1,824	6,718	12,853
Cleaning Products and Contractors	14,327	527	5,127	7,277	27,259
Committee Sitting Fees		9,218	3,243	6,005	18,467
Conferences, Seminars and Ceremonies	7,147			11,238	18,384
Consulting Fees	35,978	0	7,198	152,662	195,837
Consumable Items	9,865	9,664	12,076	24,511	56,116
Contractors Electrical		401,393	44,655	716,710	1,162,757
Contractors Materials and Labour		100,000	50,000	106,246	256,246
Contractors Painting & Tiling				10,507	10,507
Contractors Pest Control		2,662	3,064	4,113	9,839
Contractors Plumbing/Gas		58,567	10,189	30,315	99,071
Councillors Accommodation		1,189	2,459	14,044	17,692
Councillors Electoral Allowances		14,365	50,134	164,752	229,251
Councillors Extra Meeting Allowances				4,334	4,518
Councillors Fares Air / Road		531	2,675	19,397	22,603
Councillors Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals		1,163	2,870	19,313	23,346
Councillors Uniform			1,269	1,657	2,926
Counselling and Rehabilitation				1,290	1,290
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles				185,862	185,862

Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital – Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment				578,431	578,431
Depreciation - ROU Assets				317,930	317,930
Depreciation - Site Improvements				-3,155	-3,155
Fares - Air/Road	23,837		209	15,451	39,498
Freight Expenses	84	30,778	6,308	63,791	100,961
Fringe Benefits Tax			7,339	31,494	38,834
Fuel Diesel /ULP	3,733	21,215	45,290	126,727	196,965
Health and Safety Expenses	7,444	6,585	9,238	10,000	33,267
Hire of Plant, Equipment and Motor Vehicles		28,148	13,886	35,562	77,596
ICT Consultants / Service Providers				200,000	200,000
ICT Hardware < \$5,000	13,208	68		2,637	15,912
ICT Mobile/ Modem Telephone	4,990	3,264	3,604	17,030	28,888
ICT Phone/Fax/Internet	163,311	57,493	60,935	108,309	390,048
ICT Satellite Telephone		2,182	2,597	18,717	23,495
ICT Software	5,178				5,178
Insurance Excess/Payout Expense - MV/ P&E				3,992	3,992
Insurance Premiums				943,978	943,978
Interest on Lease Liability				224,613	224,613
Legal Fees	46,121				46,121
Levy, Fees and Charges	5,608	2,928	4,419	3,419	16,374

Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital – Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Licenses and Registrations - MV & PE		4,073	1,657	32,964	38,694
Long Service Leave	3,612	1,988	1,953	7,188	14,741
Materials Furniture & Office Equipment	33,433	725		2,044	36,203
Materials Minor Assets < \$5,000	1,457	2,032	5,318	44,732	53,540
Materials Roadbase/Gravel		7,742	1,888		9,631
Materials Tools	53	9,680	19,159	20,590	49,481
Minor Assets Replacement < \$5,000		7,413	223	24,132	31,768
Office Amenities	4,442	5,179	1,745	9,005	20,371
Office Uniforms	988	7,285	381	3,130	11,785
Operating Leases MV, Plant & Equipment	-19,697	9,539	9,836	10,503	10,181
Operating Leases Office Equipment	3,391	1,298	1,286		5,976
Operating Leases Property	41,014	0	4,043	0	45,057
Other Leave	8,740	1,917	7,386	9,347	27,390
Outsourced Services	24,383		0	110,427	134,810
Outstation Assets - P & E			0	9,624	9,624
Personal Protective Equipment		599	-88	10,261	10,772
Printing, Postage (stamps) & Stationery	17,459	2,576	3,956	7,879	31,870
Professional Development	5,830				5,830
Recruitment & Relocation	29,994	1,510	4,276	11,586	47,366
Recruitment Advertising	25,202				25,202
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Others	150	40,000	100,000	189,919	330,069
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Servicing		305	12,179	38,107	50,591
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Tyres		1,075	10,161	28,560	39,796
Repairs & Maintenance Buildings		20,000	68,636	100,000	188,636
Repairs & Maintenance Plant (Small Plant Items)		14,002	4,144	9,639	27,786

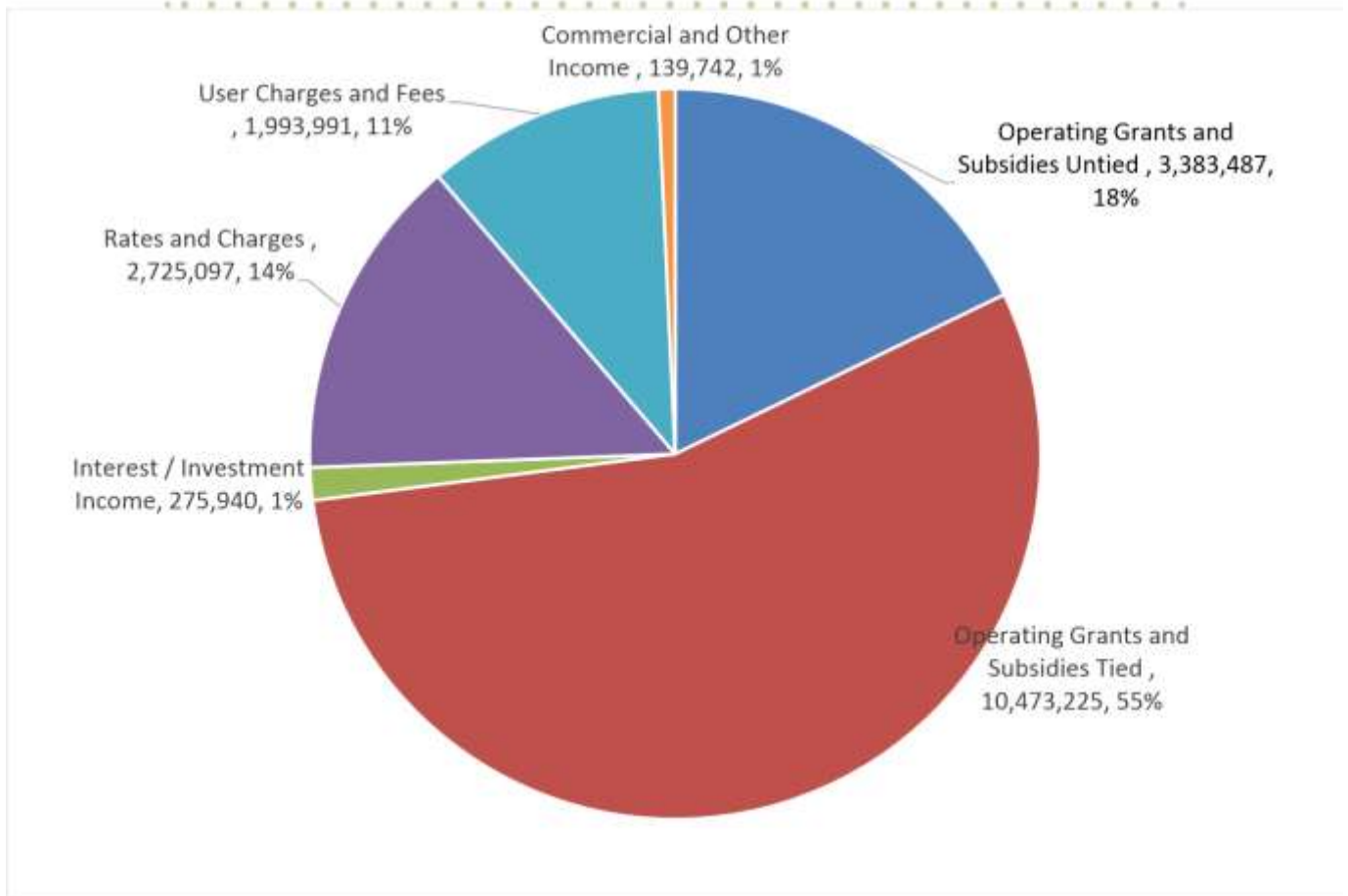
Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital – Tied & Untied

	Darwin	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Repairs & Maintenance Roads		9,044	1,667	228,631	239,342
ROU Assets Expenses Clearing	-36,066	11,991	11,938	12,137	0
Salary Normal	1,817,908	799,302	723,495	2,813,812	6,154,517
Salary On Costs	329,523	144,885	131,144	510,045	1,115,579
Screening and License Checks	1,266	233	163	1,445	3,107
Sports Equipment - Inc Uniforms, trophys etc			754		754
Street Light Electricity Payments		7,652	16,147	42,798	66,598
Street Light Maintenance		41,940			41,940
Subscriptions and Memberships	5,584			23,530	29,114
Taxi/Hire Car/Fares	1,393	53	51	2,413	3,910
TOIL		281		9,979	10,260
Training	32,892	2,280	2,280	13,826	51,278
Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals	25,292	5,326	4,269	27,029	61,916
Travel Allowance - Mileage	23	510	486	670	1,688
Utilities - Electricity	26,053	9,307	11,875	42,911	90,147
Utilities - Water & Sewerage		8,732	19,469	56,287	84,487
Workers Compensation	34,894	19,208	18,865	68,583	141,549
Capital Works - Wadeyes				4,300,000	4,300,000

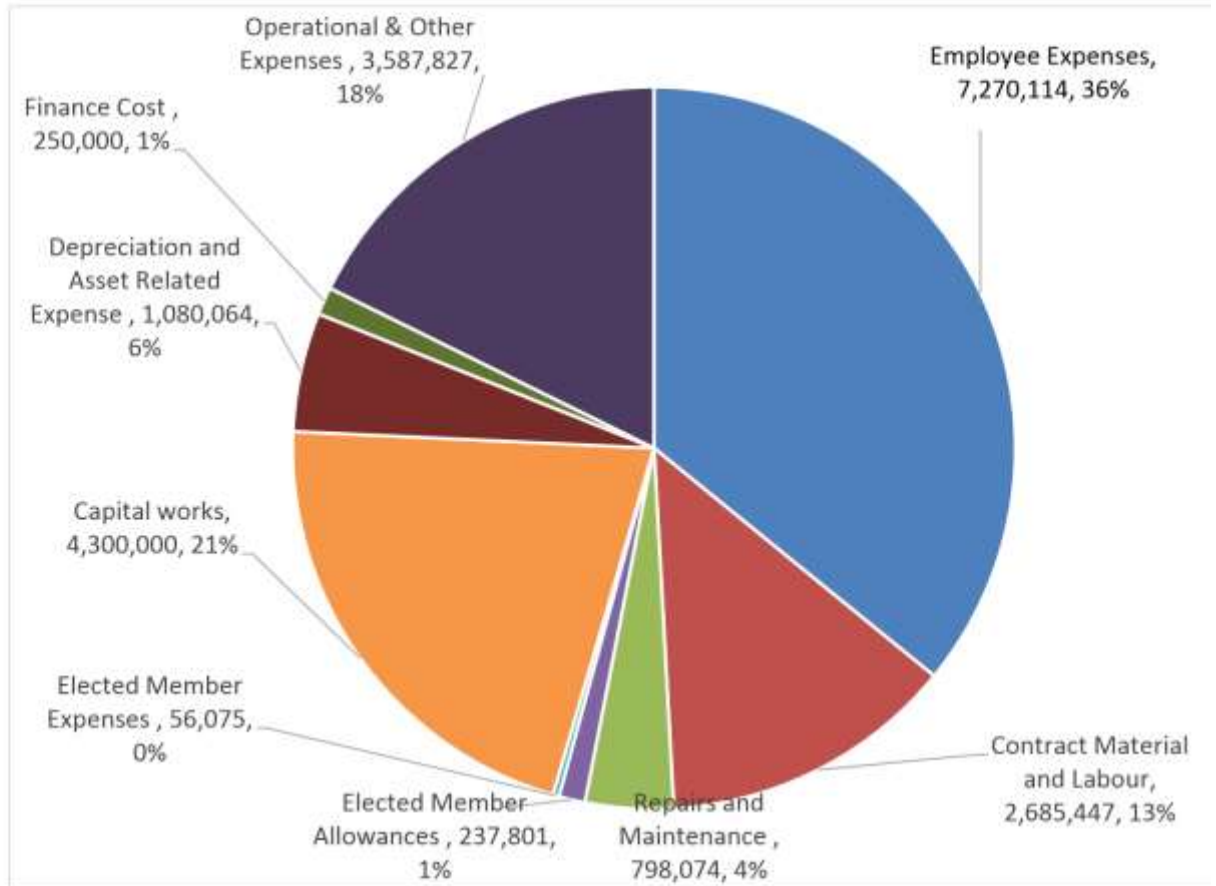
Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure – Tied & Untied (Internal Charges only)

	Darwin/No Location	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Plant and Vehicle Cost Alloc	-434,820	43,200	101,040	290,580	0
Property Lease Cost Allocation	-909,960	163,440	222,720	523,800	0
Plant and Vehicle Cost Recovery	434,820	-43,200	-101,040	-290,580	0
Property Lease Cost Recovery	909,960	-163,440	-222,720	-523,800	0
Administration Fees Cost Allocation	566,810	43,200	101,040	-711,050	0

Income – Operational and Capital



Expenditure Operational and Capital





WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 5

Prepared by **Julieanne Wylie, EA to CEO and Mayor**

Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24

Purpose

Council's Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24 is ready for Council approval.

Background

The Draft Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24 has received valued input from Elected Members and staff over the course of the past few months. The Draft Regional Plan was out for public consultation with feedback received from the Chief Ministers and Cabinet Local Government department.

The Chair of the ARMC has provided feedback.

Craig Ferguson the WDRC Leadership Coach has provided feedback on the Regional Plan.

Elected Members have had opportunities to provide feedback and have had the Draft Regional Plan for the past 5 weeks.

A number of workshops and planning sessions were held to confirm our new Vision, Mission and Values as well as a workshop with Elected Members held on the 16 March 2023. It was at this particular workshop that we landed on our new Vision:

Working together to make a difference in our community.

Improving how we live in our communities by creating places that are respectful, peaceful and safe.

We are pleased with the input from our Local Authorities - specifically Peppimenarti Local Authority, who provided valued input into their future projects wishlist for the Community at the LA Meeting in April.

Councils Draft Budget 2023-24 was also reviewed and approved by Elected Members at the 27 April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting. The Budget is now ready for approval.

Further to the valued contributions outlined above, and in line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act* (Act), Council's Draft Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24 was released for public consultation for a period of 21 days.

The Act also requires that a notice inviting written submissions on the Draft Regional Plan and Budget 2023-24 be published on Council's website and in a newspaper circulating in Council's area and this was completed. No written submissions were received.

Impact for Council

For information and decision.

Recommendation

- 1. That Council approves and adopts the West Daly Regional Council – Regional Plan 2023-24 and all contents contained therein in accordance with section 35(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) and its statutory instruments including:
 - a. Elected Member Allowances in accordance with clause 7 of Ministerial Guideline 2A;**
 - b. Declared Rates in accordance with sections 237 and 238 of the Act;**
 - c. Schedule of fees and charges;**
 - d. Budget for Financial Year 2023-2024 in accordance with section 203 of the Act.****

- 2. That Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to submit the approved and adopted version of the West Daly regional Council - Regional Plan 2023-24 to the Minister for Local Government.**

Attachments

- 1 Regional Plan 2023-2024 - Version 14

WEST DALY
Regional Council

Yu kanhi thimneme da ngarra putek neki
Welcome to Country



Regional Plan

2023-24





West Daly Regional Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the lands on which we live and work, paying our respect to Elders past, present and in the future

Our Brand

Our Council's logo was developed from a concept design created by Annunciata Wilson of Peppimenarti. The communities within the West Daly region are represented by the colours of their dance group.

Communication between communities was sent via message sticks to advise of the passing of a loved one or ceremonies. People would walk to where they needed to be and they would count the number of days it would take by marking the message stick.



Peppimenarti is red (Wangga)

Nganmariyanga is yellow (Lirrga)

Wadeye is black (Thanta)

DARWIN

Address: 1/4 Albatross Street, Winnellie NT 0820
Telephone: (08) 7922 6403
Email: info@westdalynt.gov.au

WADEYE

Address: Lot 463 Ferdjeri Street, Wadeye NT 0822
Postal Address: C/ Wadeye Post Office, Wadeye NT 0822
Telephone: (08) 8977 8702

NGANMARRIYANGA

Address: Lot 108, Nganmariyanga NT 0822
Postal Address: CMB 30 Palumpa NT 0822
Telephone: (08) 8977 8500

PEPPIMENARTI

Address: Lot 16, Peppimenarti, NT 0822
Postal Address: FMB 56 Peppimenarti NT 0822
Telephone: (08) 8977 8600



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ACCESS TO REGIONAL PLAN 2023-24

The West Daly Regional Plan 2023-24 is available on the Councils website www.westdaly.nt.gov.au

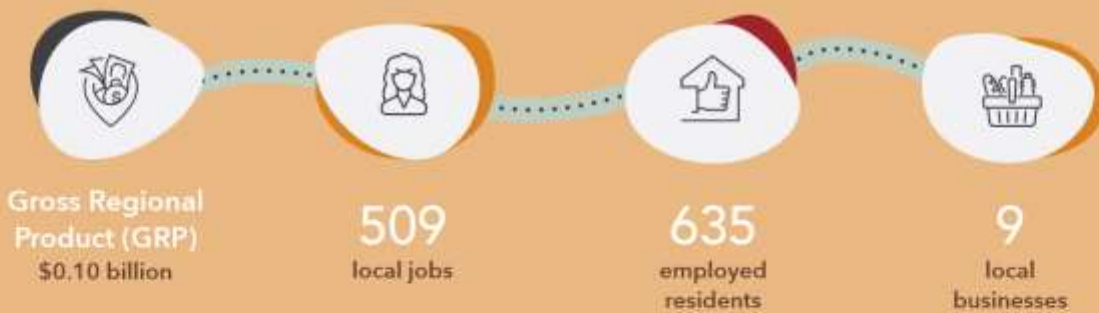
Hard copies are available for public inspection at all of Councils offices (Darwin, Wadeye, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga) as per section 33(3)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.



West Daly Region Overview

Statistics

Economic focus (as at 30 June 2022)



Population focus



Source: RDA Northern Territory economic profile, *id.*, Regional Development Australia NT - Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census 2021 data unless stated otherwise.

Selected subpopulation categories

West Daly Regional Council LGA – Total people (Usual residence)	2021		2016			Change	
Population group	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	Number	%	RDA Northern Territory %	2016 to 2021
Males	1,490	50.1	50.5	1,554	49.1	51.8	-64
Females	1,486	49.9	49.5	1,613	50.9	48.2	-127
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	2,631	88.4	26.3	2,875	90.8	25.5	-244
Australian citizens	2,790	93.8	79.8	3,006	94.9	78.6	-216
Eligible voters (citizens aged 18+)	1,804	60.6	58.3	1,810	57.2	56.9	-6
Population over 15	2,148	72.2	79.0	2,117	66.8	78.4	+31
Employed Population	474	81.3	94.4	453	57.5	93.0	+21

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021 (usual residence)





The West Daly Region is a place of untouched beauty with expansive beaches that meet mangrove and melaleuca forest with savannah reaching out to the floodplains of the fertile Moyle River.

The region has diverse flora and fauna across a spectacular landscape that is the traditional lands of Thamarurr. There are two main languages other than English spoken in the West Daly Region - Murrinh Patha and Kriol.

The West Daly Regional Council covers 14,000 square kilometres and is located about 300 to 420 kilometres south-west of Darwin. The area is mainly rural, with three Indigenous communities at Peppimenarti, Nganmanlyanga and Wadeye which are managed by West Daly Regional Council (Council).

The West Daly region is located in the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Council is aligned with the Northern Territory Government's Top End Regional Economic Growth Plan 2022-2030, which has been developed to enhance social and economic opportunities for people throughout the region.

The Council works with the Northern Territory Government on their 4 key priorities to achieve this:

- 1 identify and construct key infrastructure to support economic growth
- 2 prioritise Aboriginal capability and leadership
- 3 grow existing industry and skilled local workforce
- 4 identify and activate economic opportunity.

The Plan identifies several growth sectors for the region to create economic and social opportunities, including agribusiness, native bush foods, resources, tourism, energy transition and construction and civil works.





The Council plays a key part in the economic and social development of the West Daly region and is extending its services to deliver infrastructure in the region on behalf of the Northern Territory and Australian governments.

Council is also delivering on the Northern Territory Government's focus for a circular economy by upgrading waste management facilities at Wadeye, Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti and an abandoned vehicle recycling project in Wadeye.

With a mission to create real opportunities and provide services and facilities for everyone, our goal is to strengthen Council so it is in a good position to build capability and capacity in our communities, develop a community with good infrastructure, increase jobs, improve wellbeing and support our people to prosper and grow.

Council will continue to provide the free community bus service in Wadeye and roll out the solar lighting project to improve safety in the community.

Further construction to improve housing and infrastructure in our Homelands will also be a priority for this Regional Plan.

West Daly Regional Council will continue to work in partnership with the Northern Territory and Australian governments and community allies, such as Tharnarr Development Corporation, to improve how we live in the community.

Council is focused on strengthening its local decision making and capability of its Local Authorities - working together to make a real difference.

Highlight of key projects for 2023-24



Developing the Peppimenarti Community Hub Proposal



Improving local roads and road infrastructure



Upgrading the community swimming pool in Wadeye



Upgrading waste management facilities in Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Nganmariyanga



Delivering West Daly Regional Council's inaugural Strategic Plan

See pages 35 - 40 for more information and feature stories on these projects.



Message from the Mayor and CEO



Bere mayor's welcome manenneme

Mayor's welcome

Welcome to the West Daly Regional Council Regional Plan 2023-24.

Living in the West Daly region has some challenges.

Our community can be flooded in, roads cut and the only access is by air during the wet season.

We need more jobs, healthier people and better houses.

All of our land covered by the West Daly Regional Council is Aboriginal owned land.

We need to work together to overcome these challenges and make our region peaceful and safe.

This is what we want for our people and for our community. We want to do the right thing, look after each other and respect each other.

Our people need Council to be strong to deliver more services and

advocate for us and what we need as a community at all levels of government.

This Regional Plan gives us a guide for our journey to grow and develop our region.

As an Indigenous led Council, we know it is important to listen to our community.

Please talk to us, your Elected Members and Local Authorities, and put forward your ideas and views on how we can work together to make a difference.

The West Daly region, our people and our Homelands are very important to us.

As the Mayor, I am proud to represent you and the Council to develop strong opportunities for us all.

Ralph Narburup
Mayor



Murrinh nukunu thanguu CEO
 Welcome message from CEO



We are proud to present our Regional Plan 2023-24 with a refreshed focus and vision for the West Daly Regional Council.

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and all peoples living within the West Daly region.

Council has revised our values, and we have a new vision and mission, this will guide us to deliver essential services and improve how we live in our community.

We worked with our Elected Members and consulted our organisation to set this renewed focus and a strong vision to work together to make a difference in our community.

Our Mayor has touched on our values in his welcome message, which have been strengthened to reaffirm our commitment to do the right thing by our community, look after one another and encourage each other.

We are listening to what our people want and learning from each other so we can respect each other's feelings, rights and culture.

Our values underpin how we are going to work together with the community and provide real opportunities, services and facilities that everyone can use.

Whether it is our plans to build a new pool, upgrade roads or improving waste management, the measure of Council's success will be prioritising our time and resources to deliver what is already in our project pipeline.

Our commitment in this Regional Plan is that we are going to deliver on our promises in 2023-24.

A highlight for the community will be the Wadeye swimming pool project which will be the most important infrastructure project Council has embarked on to date. It will have significant benefits for the community and people's health.

Council is building its capacity and capability to deliver road infrastructure and improve local roads that will improve access and safety across our communities in the region.

To achieve our goals, we recognise we can't do this alone. We are here to listen and get people's thoughts and opinions to work towards a better future together.

Council has a strong foundation to help the Northern Territory and Australian governments deliver its projects.

We are strengthening our Local Authorities and working with them to provide more input into our services and projects for 2023-24 and beyond.

We are working together with our community partners and contractors to deliver our projects and improve community assets and infrastructure.

The peoples of the West Daly region are the heart of council and at the centre of everything we do. We will walk alongside culture, country and people to build a stronger community in 2023-24.

Matthew Eastham ASM
 Chief Executive Officer

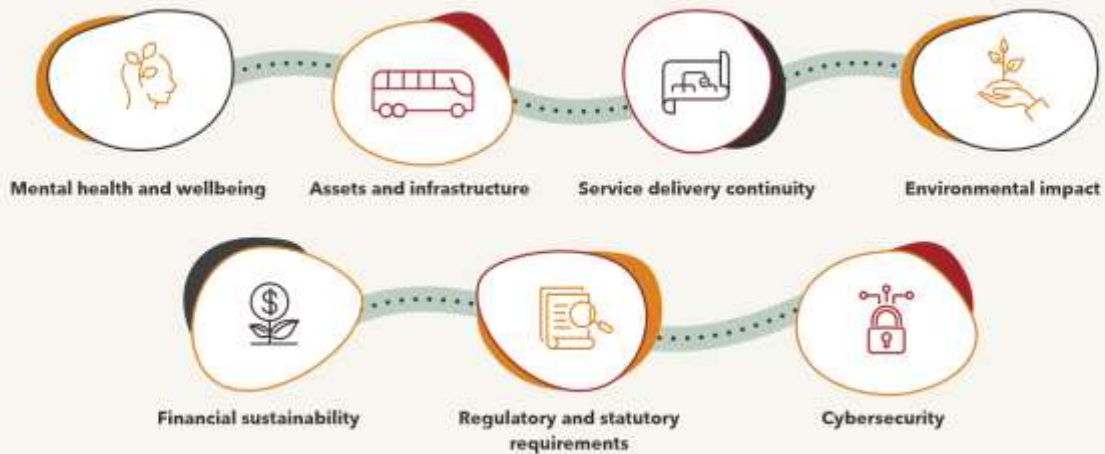


Our Operating Environment

Our risks

Council aims to apply its risk profile to every business, strategic and operational decision it makes into the future.

This risk framework provides us with the architecture to map our Regional Plan and inform reporting on our performance including strategic outcomes, services and project success.





Our opportunities and challenges

West Daly Regional Council experiences unique challenges but also opportunities to focus on specific areas to improve how we provide services and programs in our community.

Social disruption due to community unrest coupled with our remote location present challenges in our ability to deliver services. As a result we are refocusing our organisation to create a respectful, peaceful and safe community.

We are working with our communities, our partners, and the Northern Territory and Australian governments, to come up with local solutions for these complex challenges.

We will listen to what our community want and find the investment opportunities we need to make a difference in our community.

Directing this investment to the right areas, such as our ageing infrastructure, will help Council to build the foundations so our organisation and community can grow.

Our people, their passion, drive and resilience, are what makes our community and Council strong and we will use their local knowledge and skills to grow our services and local jobs.

Opportunities

- > Improve communication and engagement with community
- > Strengthen Local Authorities
- > Increase local employment
- > Train and develop staff
- > Introduce health and wellbeing strategies
- > Create new partnerships
- > Grow grant funding
- > Diversify funding options
- > Grow commercial services
- > Introduce new technology
- > Improve cybersecurity safety

Challenges

- > Maintaining good mental health and wellbeing
- > Managing the financial cost of delivering services in a remote area
- > Dealing with the impact of community unrest and social disruption on our organisation and people
- > Minimising occupational violence
- > Building financial sustainability
- > Maintaining ageing assets and infrastructure
- > Providing continued service delivery
- > Providing environmental health services and animal management
- > Managing impacts of seasonal accessibility
- > Providing a safe working environment
- > Retaining staff
- > Managing inefficient information technology services



Our Council

Welcome deyida ngumamnara

Welcome to our region

The West Daly Regional Council covers about 14,000 square kilometres along the western coast of the Top End, bordering the Timor Sea.

The land in which our Elected Members live and work is known as Thamarrurr, which in local Murrinh-Patha language means 'coming together to work as one people'.

The traditional lands of Thamarrurr has significant natural, cultural and spiritual values for its people.

Council sees its role as working together with local people to build a stronger community.

We embrace our rich history and natural environment while working towards opportunities for economic and social development.

Three wards make up the West Daly Regional Council - Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi, Nganmariyanga and Tyemiri.

Council's headquarters are located on the main street of Wadeye and is the hub from which we deliver operational and support services to Wadeye, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga and the surrounding areas. Our Homelands service centre in Wadeye delivers municipal, essential and housing maintenance services to 14 Homelands across the West Daly region.

Additional Council offices are located in Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti, while a small team of administrative, financial and support services are provided at the Council's office in Darwin.

Council uses Local Decision Making as a key way to listen and engage with the community. Council works with each of the Local Authorities in our three main communities to identify priority projects and services to involve the community and hear what they need and want to improve their lives and their community.

We deliver our services in partnership with government and local non-for-profit organisations.

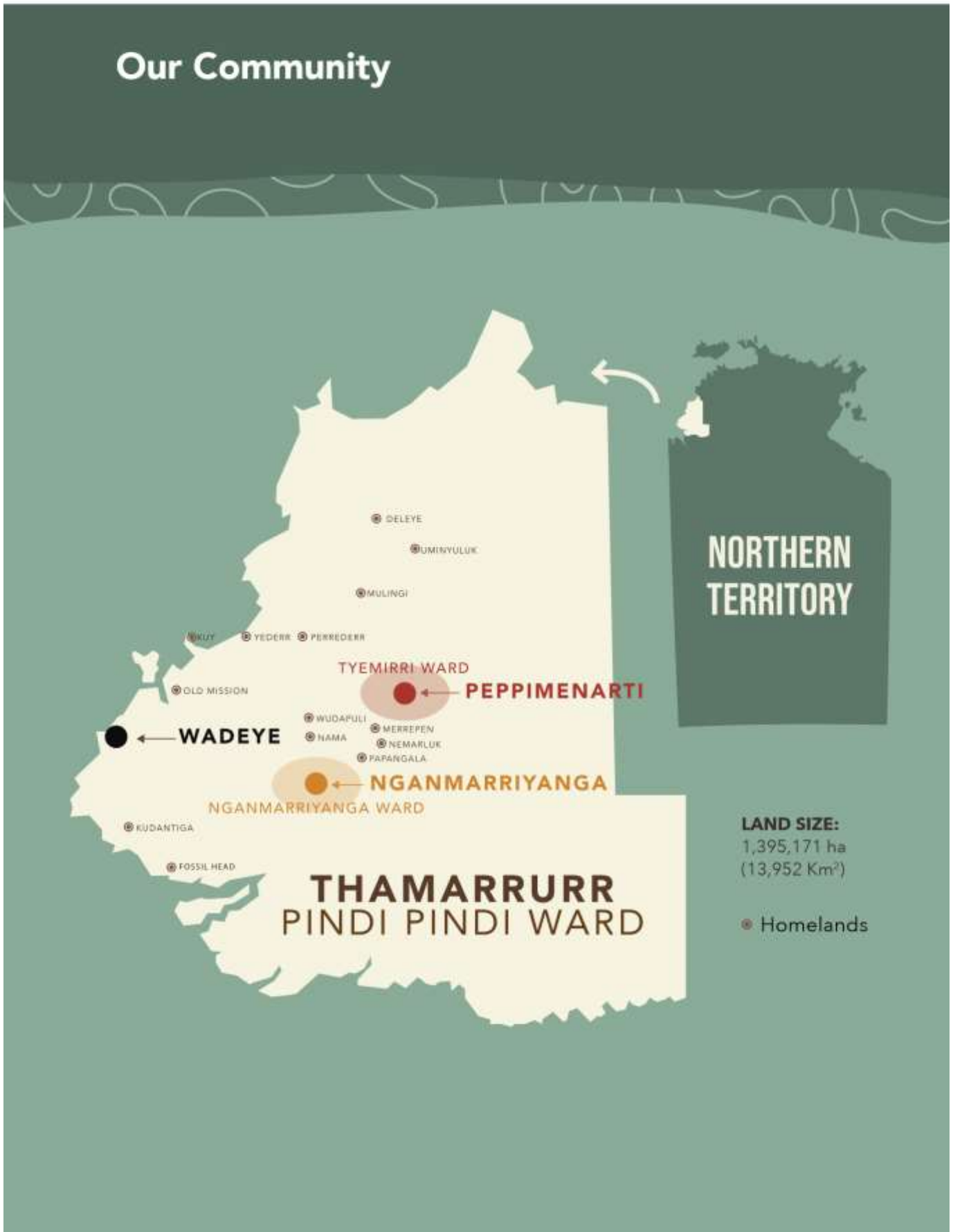
Our Elected Members represent Council across the West Daly region and are involved in a range of local committees and organisations.



Council's Wadeye civil crew



Our Community





Our Elected Members

**Kardu kanhi ngarra thumampunkungkarat-neme
welcome puyemamka-neme da ngarra putek kanhi**

The Elected Members of the West Daly Regional Council welcome you to Country

West Daly Regional Council is made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 4 Councillors who are elected for a 4 year term. There are 3 electoral wards, with each ward represented by Elected Members based on their population size, including:

- *Nganmariyanga Ward - one representative*
- *Thamarrur/Pindi Ward - 4 representatives*
- *Tyemirr Ward - one representative.*

Role of members

according to the *Local Government Act 2019*

The role of a member of a council is:

- (a) to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers of the council area; and
- (b) to provide leadership and guidance; and
- (c) to facilitate communication between the members of the council's constituency and the council; and
- (d) to be properly informed to enable participation in the deliberations of the council and its community activities; and
- (e) to ensure, as far as practicable, that the council acts honestly, efficiently and appropriately in carrying out its statutory responsibilities; and
- (f) to ensure that council resources are used prudently and solely in the public interest; and
- (g) to actively monitor the financial affairs of the council.

However, a member of the council has no power to direct or control staff of the council, or to interfere with the management of staff of the council.

A member of the council has a duty to act, at all times, in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the council's constituency.



Elected Member

Commitment Statement

As elected members of West Daly Regional Council we commit to:

- 1 Uphold the values of West Daly Regional Council
- 2 Working together and not undermining each other
- 3 Holding each other accountable for our behaviours
- 4 Respecting each other's views and working together for the benefit of the community and Homelands
- 5 Unanimously supporting the organisation and staff at all times

We commit to honour this statement and hold ourselves and each other to account

Ralph Narburup
Mayor

Wilfred Harris
Deputy Mayor

John Wilson
Councillor

Terry Sams
Councillor

Mark Tunmuck-Smith
Councillor

Jake Clark
Councillor



Elected Members



Ralph Narburup - Mayor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Wilfred Harris - Deputy Mayor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



John Wilson - Councillor
Tyemirri Ward



Terry Sams - Councillor
Nganmarriyanga Ward



Mark Tunmuck-Smith - Councillor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Jake Clark - Councillor
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward



Vision

Working together to make a difference in our community.

Improving how we live in our communities by creating places that are respectful, peaceful and safe.

Mission

To walk alongside culture, country and people to build a stronger community. We do this by working together, creating real opportunities and providing services and facilities that everyone can use.



Values



We do the right thing



We work together



We look after and encourage each other



We respect each other's feelings, rights and cultures



We listen and learn from each other





Our Governance

The West Daly Regional Council is a local government entity governed by several laws but primarily by the *Local Government Act 2019* and its regulations and guidelines, as well as the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and *Fair Work Act 2009*.

Council uses best practice governance to meet its legal and ethical compliance obligation, demonstrate a strong corporate responsibility and deliver services in a timely manner.

Council makes sure its decisions are made within budget and allocates resources appropriately to provide the greatest benefit to our communities.

Our governance structure is designed to enable Council to implement its vision and values with internal controls in place to fulfill its commitments.

This structure holds the Elected Members of Council and our Chief Executive Officer to account by defining their responsibilities and Council's policies, processes and practices. This ensures we can meet our strategic direction and the performance standards set by legislation and governance standards.

Councillors meet every 2 months to discuss and debate local issues, projects and services in our region at an Ordinary Council Meeting, which is open to the public unless dealing with confidential business matters.

Local Authority meetings are held in the community throughout the year to allow community members to attend and have input into services and opportunities to improve their community.

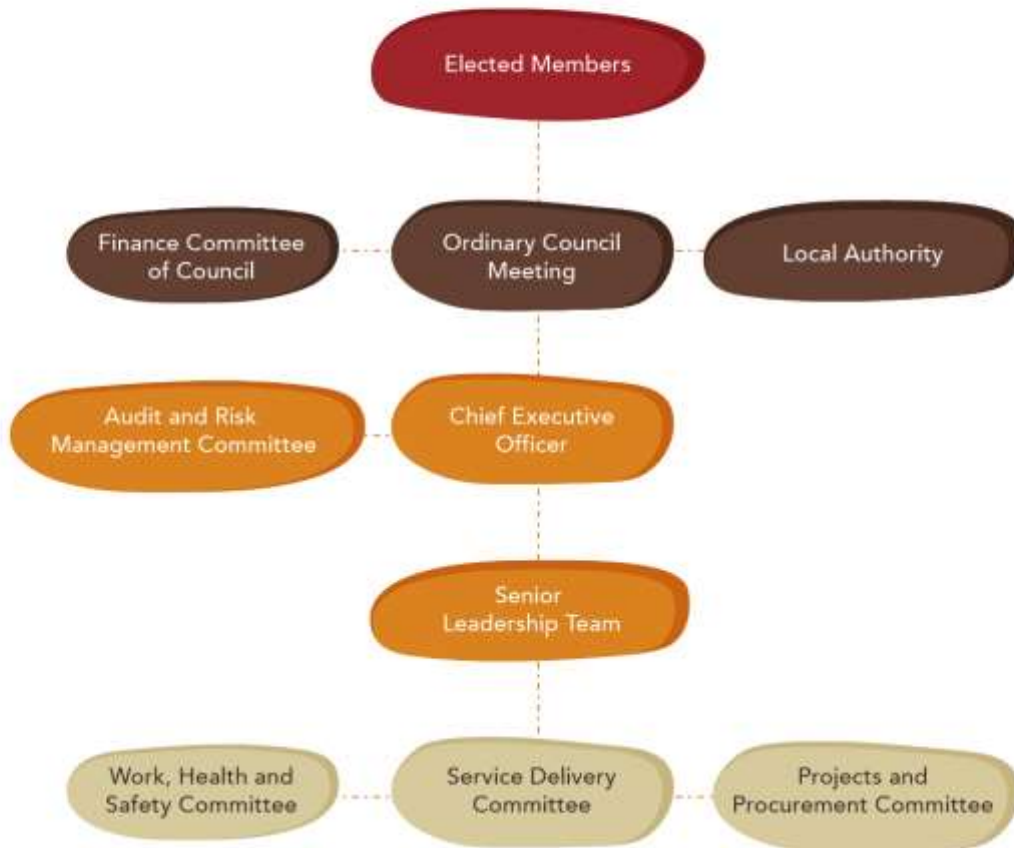
Council is committed to keeping our people informed by being open and transparent.

Council publishes all meeting agenda papers, relevant policies, plans and minutes, including resolutions, on its website www.westdaly.nt.gov.au





Our Governance Framework



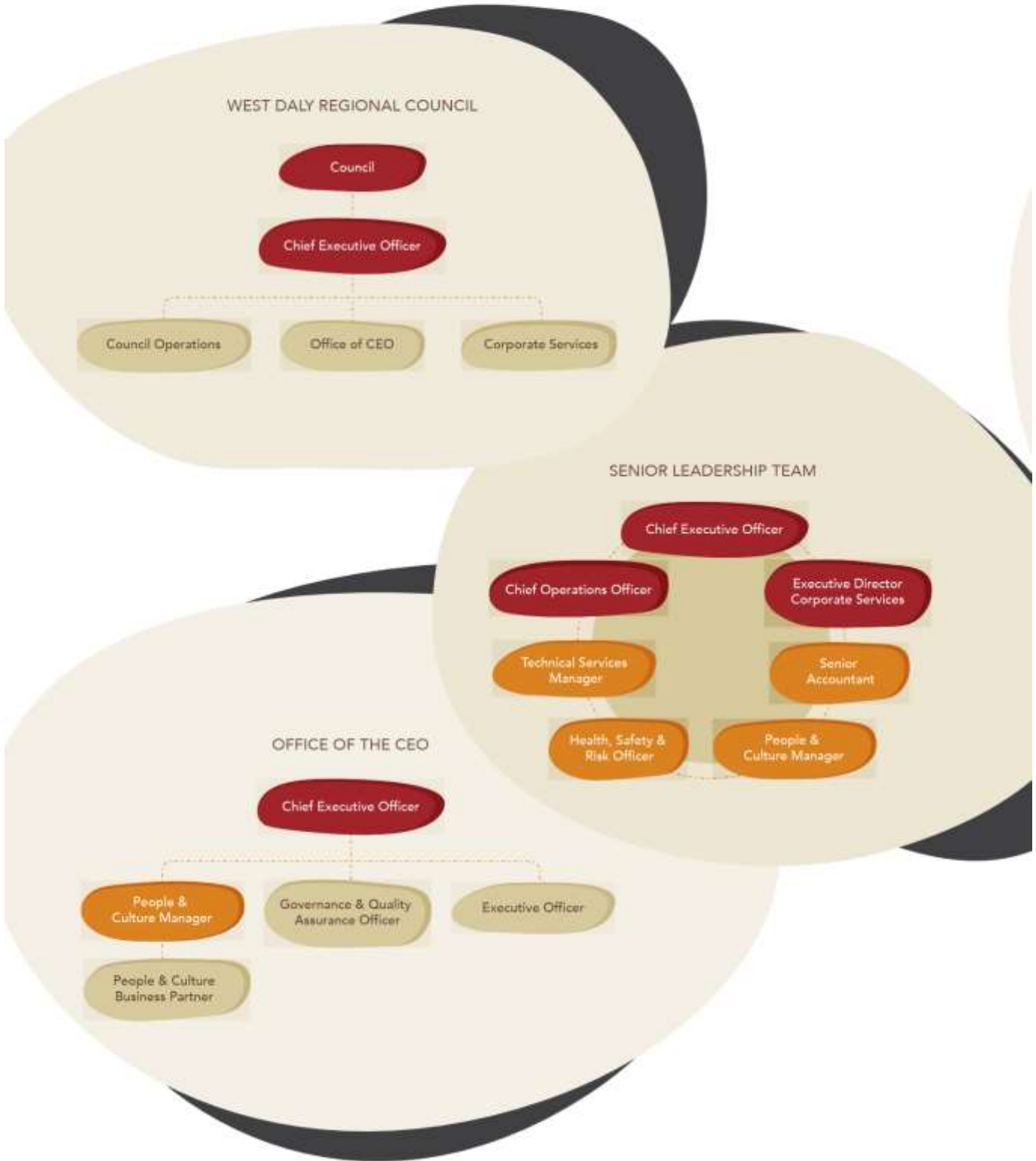
The purpose of the West Daly Regional Council's governance framework is to provide a clear focus on regulatory outcomes, demonstrate a risk-based approach to regulation, inform organisational improvement and improve engagement with stakeholders.

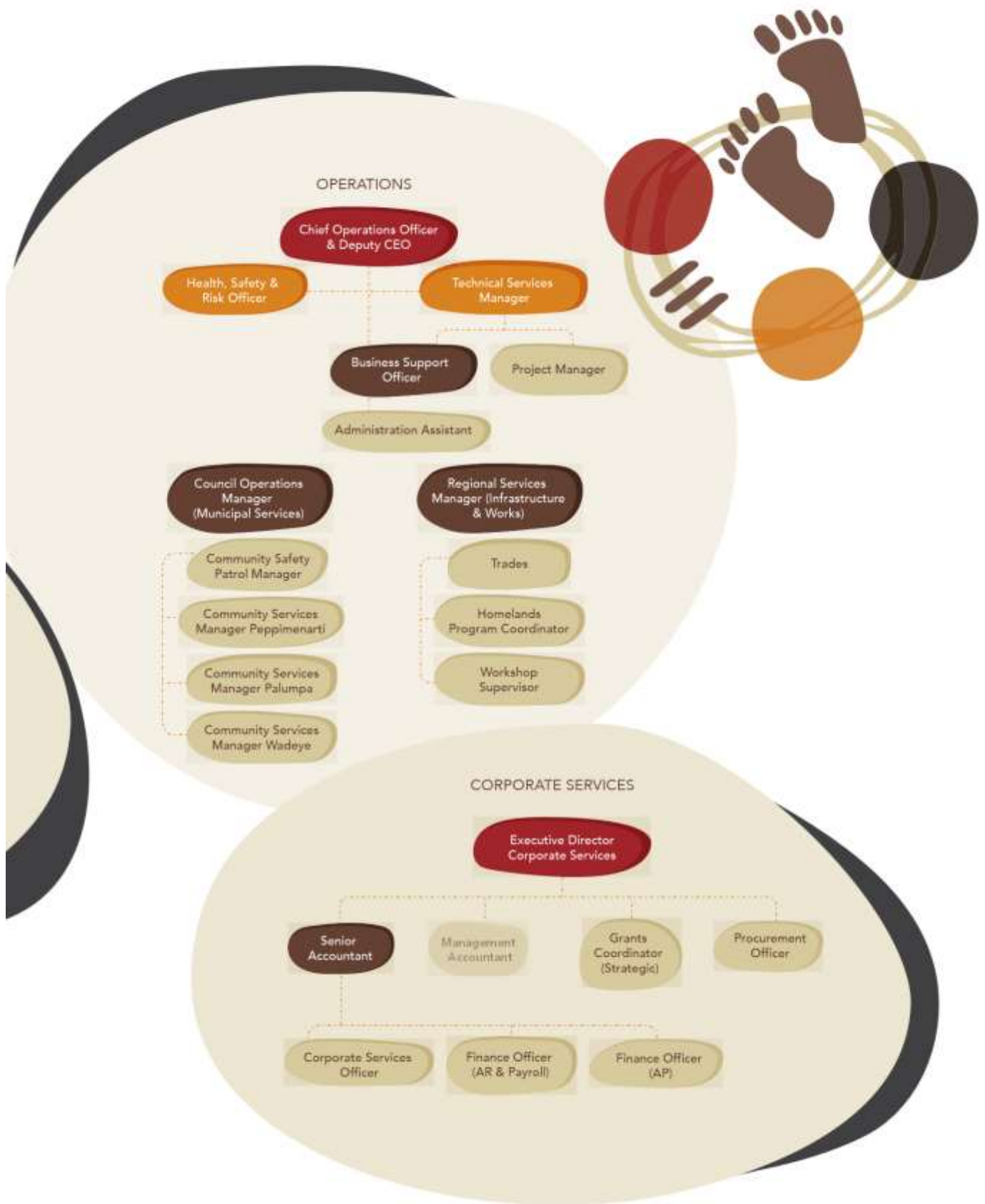
Potential influences on Council's administration and regulatory framework include:

- Local Government Act 2019
- Council's policy and procedures
- Council's Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Council's Finance Committee.



Our People





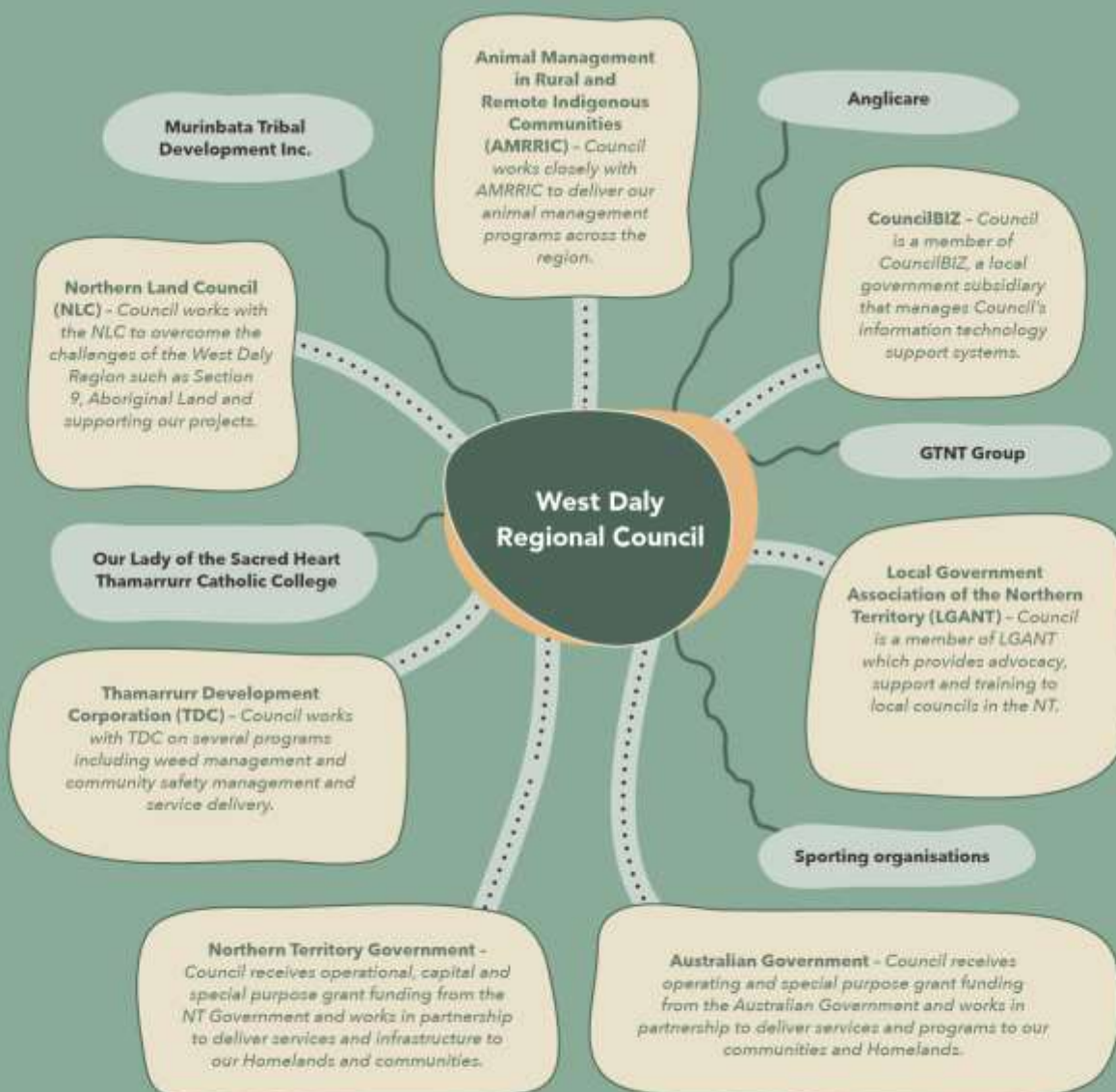


Our Cooperative Opportunities

The West Daly Regional Council has collaborative partnerships with a wide range of community, business and government organisations to support our community and help deliver services and investment in our region.

Elected Members represent Council on a range of committees and organisations and Council is committed to expanding these cooperative opportunities in 2023-24.

Our partners include:



Local Authorities

The West Daly Regional Council has 3 Local Authorities to give people a strong local voice in their community.

Local Authorities are created under the *Local Government Act 2019* to represent regional and remote areas in the Northern Territory to help councils listen and work with community residents.

They give community members more control over the services that affect them and involve people in planning projects and services the community need and want.

Local Authorities represent people in Wadeye, Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti and meet 4 times a year to give feedback on service delivery and identify priority community projects.

For the West Daly Regional Council, the 3 local authorities:

- enable communities to be closely involved in issues related to local government
- ensure local communities have an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government
- act as advocates for the local community by taking their views directly back to Council
- advise Council and contribute to Service Delivery Plans for local communities and the region

- contribute to developing Regional Plans
- recommend priorities for expenditure in Council's budget
- advise Council on its specific community and social projects that impact their community or region
- alert Council to new and emerging issues affecting the community.

Each Local Authority has a budgetary allocation to fund priority local projects based on community need and want.

Local Authorities are governed in accordance with the provisions of Ministerial Guideline 1, Local Authorities.

Council publishes all Local Authority meeting agendas, papers, relevant policies, plans and minutes, including recommendations, on its website.





Local Authority members

WADEYE

- Mayor Ralph Narburup
- Deputy Mayor Wilfred Harris
- Councillor Jake Clark
- Chairperson Steven Pultchen
- Councillor Tunmuck-Smith
- Damien Tunmuck
- Ken James
- Mark Ninnal
- Timothy Dumoo
- Cyril Ninnal
- Basil Parmbuk
- Margaret Perdjert
- Anne Marie Nudjulu
- Gregory Munar

PEPPIMENARTI

- Mayor Ralph Narburup
- Cr John Wilson
- Chairperson Karl Lukonavic
- Henry Wilson
- Annunciata Wilson
- Leaya Smith
- Nathan Wilson
- Anastasia Wilson

NGANMARRIYANGA

- Mayor Ralph Narburup
- Councillor Terry Sams
- Chairperson Amy Narburup
- Jack Wodidj
- Lorraine Keringbo
- Jimmy Murielle
- Moses Wodidj
- Jeff Wodidj
- Roger Wodidj
- John Paul Wodidj
- Warren Wodidj
- Alex Jacky
- Sandra Jacky
- Mary Wodidj

Local Authority projects

Wadeye
Community safety
Improved solar lighting
Footpaths
Safety video messaging from elders
Redesign of speed humps
Community enhancements
Redevelop park area
Shade and seating across community
Animal management
Planting of mature trees
Upgrade cemetery
Strategic projects
Manthathpe walkway

Peppimenarti
Community safety
Improved solar lighting
Footpaths
Fencing
Community enhancements
Community seating and shade
Shade structures
- Cemetery
- Basketball court
Drainage
Animal management
Water tank at the cemetery
Strategic projects
Sporting hub
Community Activity Centre (Youth, Mens Shed, Cultural Centre)

Nganmariyanga
Community safety
Improved solar lighting
Bollards and rocks around speed humps
Advocate for permanent police presence
Footpaths
Community enhancements
Planting of mature trees
Planting fruit trees
Planting shade trees at cemetery
Shade and seating across community
Animal management
Upgrade cemetery
Strategic projects
Community arts centre
Community garden



Our Homelands

Homelands are where small populations of people live, whose rightful homes are located on ancestral lands that have cultural and spiritual significance.

The West Daly Regional Council is committed to improving outcomes for all Aboriginal people and recognise Homelands as being intimately connected to social, cultural and emotional wellbeing.

Also sometimes referred to as outstations, Homelands are the traditional country of groups of Aboriginal people, often families or closely related people that vary in population and size.

There are more than 30 Homelands in the West Daly region, 14 of which the West Daly Regional Council is funded to deliver a range

of municipal, essential and housing maintenance services under 4 different grant programs.

These include:

- Municipal and Essential Services (MES) - repairs and maintenance, minor works and general operational costs for delivering municipal and essential services to Homelands
- Housing Maintenance Services (HMS) - conducting urgent, general and routine repairs and maintenance to extend the life of houses and minimise deterioration so Homelands residents can live in a safe and healthy environment
- Homelands Jobs - employ local Aboriginal people in Homelands to help deliver Homelands programs to increase economic participation by offering employment and training opportunities to residents
- Homelands Capital Grants (HCG) - to buy and build capital infrastructure that supports the delivery of municipal and essential services to Homelands not covered by Northern Territory Government leases.

Homelands services by West Daly Regional Council:





Our Service Delivery

The West Daly Regional Council delivers a range of municipal and essential services across three communities, Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga and Wadeye, and surrounding Homelands. These services create many local employment opportunities and support developing and maintaining community infrastructure, assets and programs to meet our communities' needs.

	DARWIN	WADEYE	NGANMARIYANGA	PEPPIMENARTI	Homelands
Municipal services					
Cemetery maintenance		☑	☑	☑	☑
Road infrastructure and maintenance		☑	☑	☑	☑
Sporting facilities		☑	☑	☑	
Homelands municipal services					☑
Parks and gardens		☑	☑	☑	
Waste management		☑	☑	☑	☑
Council infrastructure		☑	☑	☑	
Animal management		☑*	☑*	☑*	☑*
Council engagement					
Local authorities		☑	☑	☑	
Council engagement					
Community night patrol		☑	☑	☑	
Bus services		☑			
Library services		☑		☑	
Swimming pool		☑		☑	
Airstrip maintenance services		☑	☑	☑	
Centrelink services			☑	☑	
Post office agency			☑	☑	
Street lights		☑	☑	☑	
Support services					
Administration support	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Asset procurement	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Governance and compliance	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Financial services	☑				
People and wellbeing	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Health, safety and risk	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Information technology	☑*				
Records management	☑				
Grant management	☑				

* in collaboration



The West Daly Regional Council delivers a range of municipal and essential services across the three communities: Peppimenarti, Nganmariyanga, Wadeye and surrounding Homelands.

These services create many local employment opportunities and help to develop and maintain infrastructure, assets and programs to meet our community's needs. The scope and type of services provided have been developed in conjunction with community needs and legislative requirements.

Council currently delivers a range of core services across the region.

Internal and Homeland access road network

Council maintains an extensive network of internal roads across the West Daly Region. Council also coordinates the maintenance and upgrade of a vast network of formed and gravel Homeland access roads. An aging internal road network within the communities and a shift to a higher standard for rural roads is a major budgetary consideration for Council. Limited funding, extreme environmental impacts due to wet season rains, and the need to source materials and specialist road crews from major urban centres contribute to the challenges, cost and complexity.

Improving the overall safety and condition of the road network remains a key operational focus for Council.

Waste management

Council provides a range of waste management services for residents, businesses and community-based organisations, including regular waste collection services, kerbside garbage collection, litter patrol, regular hard waste removal, community and pre-cyclone clean-up days, waste management facilities management, planning and developing operational policy and strategy, and community education and engagement.

Waste management is critically important across the West Daly region. Our community recognises the link between effective waste management, environmental sustainability, our country, and our people's health.

Council's waste management practices and policies are guided by the *Northern Territory Waste Management Strategy 2015-2022*, the *National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019*, and the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 2007*.

The key focus for Council surrounding effectively managing solid waste is to adopt an integrated approach, including avoidance, recycling, minimisation, treatment and disposal.

This is supported by a national shift in thinking around waste as a resource and applying the principles of a circular economy, including:

- avoid waste
- improve resource recovery, increase use of recycled materials and build demand and markets for recycled products
- better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
- improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.



Waste management cont.

Achieving this desired approach presents a significant and ongoing challenge to our Council. Our remote and isolated region with vast distances of unsealed roads, high transport costs, and limited waste infrastructure creates barriers to efficiently separating and transporting recyclables and hazardous wastes. The historical practices of waste burial and incineration continue across some parts of our region where limited alternative options are available. Failure to demonstrate the economic incentives and positive environmental impacts surrounding resource recovery will continue to undermine any incentive for the community to engage in more sustainable practices.

Cemetery management

Council maintains responsibility for managing and maintaining cemeteries within our region. This is coordinated under the *Burial and Cremation Act 2022* and *Burial and Cremation Regulations 2022*, with strong support from Local Authorities and Traditional Owners.

Council regularly maintains and upgrades these sacred and culturally significant areas.

Several cemeteries and burial sites located within the three communities and throughout the Homelands are currently managed by the Council.

Council is currently working on a project with the Northern Land Council and the Wadeye Local Authority to upgrade and repair the cemetery at Wadeye.

Parks and open spaces

Parks and open spaces are vital places for communities within the West Daly Region to connect, socialise and play. Coming from often crowded living conditions, community parks and open spaces are seen as a refuge and communal meeting places to share stories and enable culture to exist and flourish in a contemporary setting. Council's civil crews take great pride in ensuring these places are well maintained with regular mowing, spraying, irrigation and general maintenance and upgrade activities subject to available funding.

Developing more children's play areas continues to be a priority for the Council and community, with several projects scheduled for the 2023 dry season.

Sports Grounds

Sport continues to play an essential part in the lives of community members within our region.

This passion is reflected in Council's commitment to maintaining and improving our sporting grounds and facilities. The main sports within the region remain Australian Rules Football and softball. Council maintains both sporting code ovals in each community and continues to invest in upgrades in these sporting fields. Civil crews regularly undertake lighting, irrigation and mowing maintenance programs to maintain the playability of these grounds. The 'supporting healthy communities through sports and recreation programs' report showed there are many benefits to Aboriginal

communities participating in sport and recreation programs. These include improving school retention and attitudes to learning, social and cognitive skills physical and mental health and wellbeing, increased social inclusion and cohesion, increased validation of and connection to culture, and crime reduction. Council aims to be more involved in on the ground delivery of sporting programs.

Animal management

Dogs and other animals are very important to the people within our region, and dogs occupy a vital place in the culture of our communities. Living conditions in our remote communities impact animal and human health. There are clear links between the health of the local dog populations and their human companions. Large unmanaged dog and cat populations can cause problems for our communities, including overpopulation, Zoonosis (transfer of disease from animal to human, i.e. scabies and hookworm), noise, litter, dangerous and threatening behaviour, and loss of food and livestock.

Council understands the need for a culturally sensitive and appropriate Animal Management Strategy. Animal management practices focus on three key areas, including regular and frequent veterinarian visits, medical or chemical sterilisation, and a continual educational program. Principally, animal management refers to companion animals such as dogs and cats but may include larger animals such as horses.

Council works in partnership to deliver animal management programs across the region.



Weed control and fire hazard reduction

Weeds severely impact the Northern Territory's environmental, economic, social and cultural values. Under the *NT Weeds Management Act 2001*, Council works closely with Weed Management Branch of the Northern Territory Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security and the Thamarurr Development Corporation (TDC) Ranger Program to prevent, monitor, notify and dispose of declared weeds within our region.

Fire hazard reduction activities reduce the fire risk to our communities and Homelands.

Bushfires are part of the Northern Territory landscape. The fire season within the West Daly region runs from April to November. Council ensures pre-season maintenance mowing, spraying, clearing fire breaks, and pruning are completed to reduce the fire risk and effectively manage weed control.

There are five management zones across the Northern Territory under the *Bushfires Management Act 2016* and within Bushfires NT jurisdiction, with the West Daly region under the Vernon Arafura Bushfire Management Zone. The Vernon Arafura Regional Bushfire Management Plan supports community-wide fire management within our region and guides our response to and management of fire prevention activities.

Increased fuel loading due to the spread of gamba grass remains an extreme risk and a key focus of Council hazard reduction programs.



Commercial services

Council offers commercial services to several Australian Government agencies and private businesses to deliver contracts in remote communities in the West Daly region.

Providing these vital services helps to increase further support for the residents within our region.



Australia Post

On behalf of Australia Post, Council delivers postal services to two communities in the West Daly region:

- Nganmariyanga
- Peppimenarti

Council staff collect, sort, and distribute mail at each location. Council staff also redirect uncollected mail. All mail is secured in the Council office until collected.



Centrelink

Services Australia contracts Council to provide the Agents and Access Program in Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti. As an Agent, Council is committed to providing and improving the quality of Services Australia services available to customers in the region.

Across the region, Council staff work as Agents and Specified Personnel.

They provide culturally appropriate customer services, monitor and report on service consumption and manage service equipment on

site. All service access equipment is housed inside Council offices and accessible to customers during Council hours of operation. Services accessed by clients include Centrelink, Medicare, accessing MyGov, and general assistance by Council Agents to access self-service equipment and referral to the Services Australia call centre.



Aerodrome management

Council conducts inspections, and facilitates maintenance work and reporting for 3 aerodromes of Nganmariyanga, Peppimenarti and Wadeye on behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL).

Council employs Aerodrome Reporting Officers (ARO) for each aerodrome to respond to after-hours calls and ensure the safety of the airstrip before landing. Works Safety Officers (WSO) complete regular inspections and maintenance activities.



Remote tenancy management

Council is contracted by the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities to provide Tenancy Management Support Services for Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti (including the Homelands of Nama and Wudapuli).

Council Community Housing Officers deliver education to tenants around the living strong program, provide assistance with administrative support, and report repairs and maintenance requests to contractors.



Our Focus

West Daly Regional Council's focus areas are strategic objectives that develop and change with the needs of our community.

Our focus areas for 2023-24 are outlined below.

Focus area

Objective

1. A strong Council

We strengthen our organisation by ensuring we have strong foundations: Continuously improving our governance, planning and systems, and building capability to create a sustainable organisation.

2. Strong, safe and healthy people

We build capability and capacity in our communities, supporting our leaders and our people by investing in their growth and wellbeing.

3. Developing Council for community

We aim to provide greater long-term opportunities for our communities through improved infrastructure, increased employment, and community cultural and social events.

4. Delivering on our promises

We continue to grow our services by seeking new opportunities, working alongside others to support our communities and our environment, today and in the future.



Focus area 1: A strong Council

Objective

We strengthen our organisation by ensuring we have strong foundations: Continuously improving our governance, planning and systems, and building capability to create a sustainable organisation.

Destination	Journey (Key Performance Indicator)	Completion Target
1.1 New strategies	1.1.1 Publish and implement a Strategic Plan	100% - 6 months
	1.1.2 Develop a long-term Financial Plan (3 years projected)	100% - 6 months
	1.1.3 Publish and implement a Regional Plan	100%
	1.1.4 Publish and implement a Circular Economy Strategy	100%
	1.1.5 Publish and implement a People and Culture Strategy	100%
1.2 Improved governance	1.2.1 Develop and implement an organisational risk framework	100%
	1.2.2 Publish a procurement manual and train all supervisors and managers	100%
	1.2.3 Review policies against legislative requirements	100%
1.3 Our people, our culture	1.3.1 Survey staff - organisational pulse check	100% - 6 months
	1.3.2 Publish updated Vision, Mission and Values	100% - 6 months
	1.3.3 Implement cultural awareness training (with a target of 50% of staff to complete)	100%
1.4 Our finances	1.4.1 Continue to investigate commercial opportunities as part of business and competitive organisational strategies	100%
	1.4.2 Seek collaborative partnerships that secure financial sustainability	100%
	1.4.3 Increase 'opportunity' grant based funding by 20%	100%
	1.4.4 Establish period contracts with preferred contractors (electrical and plumbing)	
	1.4.5 Develop Asset Management Plans	100%
1.5 Local decisions	1.5.1 Participate in Local Decision-Making agreements	100%



Focus area 2: Strong, safe and healthy people

Objective

We build capability and capacity in our communities, supporting our leaders and our people by investing in their growth and wellbeing.

Destination	Journey (Key Performance Indicator)	Completion Target
2.1 Strong leadership	2.1.1 Publish a Senior Leadership Statement	100% - 6 months
	2.1.2 Undertake leadership training or coaching (target of 50% of staff in managerial and supervisory positions)	100%
	2.1.3 Undertake Elected Member governance training (target of 6 Elected Members)	100%
2.2 Safe workplace	2.2.1 Protect our people's health and safety in community (target of 0 workplace injuries)	100%
	2.2.2 Continue to develop and implement the WHS continuous improvement plan	100%
	2.2.3 Provide occupational violence training (target of 12 staff)	100%
	2.2.4 Provide 4WD training (target of 12 staff)	100%
	2.2.5 Provide First Aid training (target of 12 staff)	100% - 9 months
	2.2.6 Provide Hazard & Risk Management training (target of 12 staff)	100% - 6 months
2.3 Strong minds	2.3.1 Submit Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy	100% - 6 months
	2.3.2 Increase Employee Assistance Program support by establishing simple and clear accessibility processes for all staff	100%
	2.3.3 Provide Mental Health First Aid training (target of 20 staff)	100%





Focus area 3: Developing Council for community

Objective

We aim to provide greater long-term opportunities for our communities through improved infrastructure, increased employment, and community cultural and social events.

Destination	Journey (Key Performance Indicator)	Completion Target
3.1 More jobs	3.1.1 Establish mechanical and carpentry apprenticeship positions	100%
	3.1.2 Establish an administrative traineeship	100%
	3.1.3 Secure additional contracts that create employment opportunities	100%
	3.1.4 Increase civil hours (target of 10% increase across Wadeye, Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga)	100%
3.2 Better buildings	3.2.1 Upgrade security lighting at all buildings	100%
	3.2.2 Improved fencing at Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga civil yards	100%
3.3 Better machinery	3.3.1 Replace 4 pieces of yellow plant (new grader, loader, tilt tray, 5 tonne excavator)	100%
	3.3.2 Provide training or upskilling opportunities to Civil staff (target of 25% of Civil staff)	100%
3.4 Homelands	3.4.1 Fully expend Municipal Essential Service (MES) and Housing Maintenance Services (HMS) budget	100%
	3.4.2 Develop and implement a forward works program (2 years)	100%
3.5 Community, cultural and social events	3.5.1 Partner with community to run dry season movie nights	100% - 6 months
	3.5.2 Deliver a NAIDOC event	100%





Focus area 4: Delivering on our promises

Objective

We continue to grow our services by seeking new opportunities, working alongside others to support our communities and our environment, today and in the future.

Destination	Journey (Key Performance Indicator)	Completion Target
4.1 Transport services	4.1.1 Continue to develop the Wadeye bus service by providing bus stops / shelters (target of 5)	100%
	4.1.2 Investigate the viability and community benefits of bus services to Homelands	100%
4.2 IT projects	4.2.1 Implement a new Records Management System	100%
	4.2.2 Implement a new ERP / Finance System	100%
	4.2.3 Develop interconnectivity between work sites to improve speed and reliability	100%
	4.2.4 Implement centralised system to capture road asset data (GIS)	100%
4.3 Waste management	4.3.1 Finalise the Waste Management Strategy	100%
	4.3.1 Continue to upgrade the Wadeye landfill site	100%
	4.3.2 Implement a dedicated Waste Management Officer for Wadeye landfill site	100%
	4.3.3 Implementation of Circular Economy Fund - Wadeye Abandoned Vehicle pilot program	100%
4.4 Healthy animals	4.4.1 Work with service providers to establish an Animal Management Plan	100% - 6 months
4.5 Big projects	4.5.1 Complete the Wadeye swimming pool replacement (refurbishment) project	100% - 6 months
	4.5.2 Complete the Manthathpe walkway project	100% - 6 months
	4.5.3 Complete the solar street light safer communities initiative	100% - 6 months
	4.5.4 Continue Road Infrastructure Delivery program across the region	75%
4.6 Future projects	4.6.1 Continue to develop the Peppimentari community hub proposal	100%
	4.6.2 Continue to develop the Peppimenarti and Nganmariyanga accommodation hub proposal	100%
	4.6.3 Continue to develop the Wadeye accommodation hub proposal	100%
	4.6.4 Undertake a socio-economic investigation and analysis of West Daly region	100%
4.7 Local Authority projects	4.7.1 Complete Local Authority funded projects	100%





Developing the Peppimenarti Community Hub Proposal

Delivering on our promises



Peppimenarti is small community with a strong connection to culture and tradition.

The community is surrounded by flood plains and located on Tom Turner Creek. In language 'Peppi' translates as rock and 'menarti' as large, and refers to the large rock formation that overlooks the community. It is the primary service centre for nearby Homelands with a combined population of over 500 people.

In recent years Peppimenarti has seen increasing levels of community unrest due to conflict. This has highlighted the need for significant investment in infrastructure that promotes community engagement, bringing peoples together and providing access to services in a safe and neutral space.

In 2023-24 Council is committed to prioritising research and analysis into the proposed Peppimenarti Community Hub, which will bring existing Council services together with other community essential services. The Hub will include:

- Centrelink services
- Australia Post services
- a community centre
- a local art centre to promote learning and culture
- improved access to essential Council services
- meeting rooms to promote programs and initiatives
- office space to be leased by private and public enterprise
- the opportunity for pop up health and learning clinics
- community gathering area for improved engagement and recreation.



Proposed Peppimenarti Community Hub



Wadeye swimming pool refurbishment

Delivering on our promises



The Wadeye swimming pool refurbishment is Council's largest infrastructure project to date.

Wadeye is a large Indigenous community in the Northern Territory and the town swimming pool is a central part of the community. It is an asset that brings people together and encourages healthy lifestyles, providing vital health and wellbeing benefits to users.

The pool was constructed in 2003 and is currently decommissioned due to defects and damage commonly seen in ageing infrastructure.

This exciting refurbishment project is set to transform the existing 25m 'L' shaped "Myrtha" swimming pool and children's play area. It will also include upgrades to the shade

structures, replacing solar lighting, new landscaping and upgrades to all supporting infrastructure.

This is a major project for West Daly Regional Council, and with a budget of \$4.9 million, is a key strategic priority in improving social outcomes and the health and wellbeing of the local community.

It directly links to Council's vision to improve how we live in our communities by creating places that are respectful, peaceful and safe.

The refurbishment is set for completion by January 2024.



Artist's impression of the refurbished swimming pool



Strategic Plan

A strong Council

The West Daly Regional Council Strategic Plan 2023-2027 will be the inaugural Strategic Plan for Council. It will be a vibrant and informative publication that will guide the strategic direction of Council over the next 4 financial years.

The Strategic Plan outlines Council's vision, mission, objectives and strategic approach. It will set the framework for Council decision-making, regional planning and reporting.

The plan will represent a strategic direction that is tailored to Council's unique operating environment, and the challenges and opportunities that it presents.

Council will be guided by the plan in setting our priorities and conducting business in a pragmatic and action-based way.

It is an exciting development towards the sustainability of our organisation with a focus on good governance and capacity building, and by looking for improvements in everything we do.

West Daly Regional Council's planning framework





Waste Management Strategy

Delivering on our promises

The West Daly Regional Council Waste Management Strategy will focus on developing improved waste management practices across the region.

This will be Council's first Waste Management Strategy and is an important step forward for our organisation in outlining our approach to waste management.

A key focus of the Waste Management Strategy is developing strategies to build and strengthen our circular economy. For example, the Abandoned Vehicle Program has been established to provide employment opportunities for local staff while also addressing waste and risks associated with abandoned vehicles, such as vermin, fires,

and oils, fuels and other fluids. A conservative audit was conducted that estimates there are over 300 abandoned vehicles in Wadeye as well as over 400 at the Wadeye landfill to be readied for crushing.

Other key elements of the Waste Management Strategy will include:

- engineering and technical studies
- resourcing a dedicated Waste Management Officer
- further upgrades to Wadeye landfill including CCTV monitoring and formal signage

- waste management machinery training for staff
- developing Environmental Management Plans
- education programs for staff and community members
- installing community bin holders
- waste management procedures for commercial operators.

The Waste Management Strategy will be finalised by June 2024 with many key elements to be introduced throughout the year.





Road infrastructure delivery

Delivering on our promises



Road infrastructure is an integral part of facilitating services, safety and accessibility for the West Daly Region. West Daly Regional Council will undertake several large capital works projects to improve the region's infrastructure, targeting specific roads in conjunction with a supporting Road Safety Plan.

Wadeye Internal Road repairs will focus on shoulder repairs and installation of kerb and channel on several internal roads in Wadeye. This will improve road safety and accessibility for the local community and visitors.

Road works on Fossil Head Access Road will include construction of floodways, formation grading and gravel re-sheeting and will reduce the risk of flooding and improve accessibility to various Homelands.

Road works on Perdjert Street will improve road safety and accessibility for the local community and visitors.

This project includes earthworks, pavement stabilisation, installation of kerb and channeling, and bitumen sealing of approximately 500 meters of road.

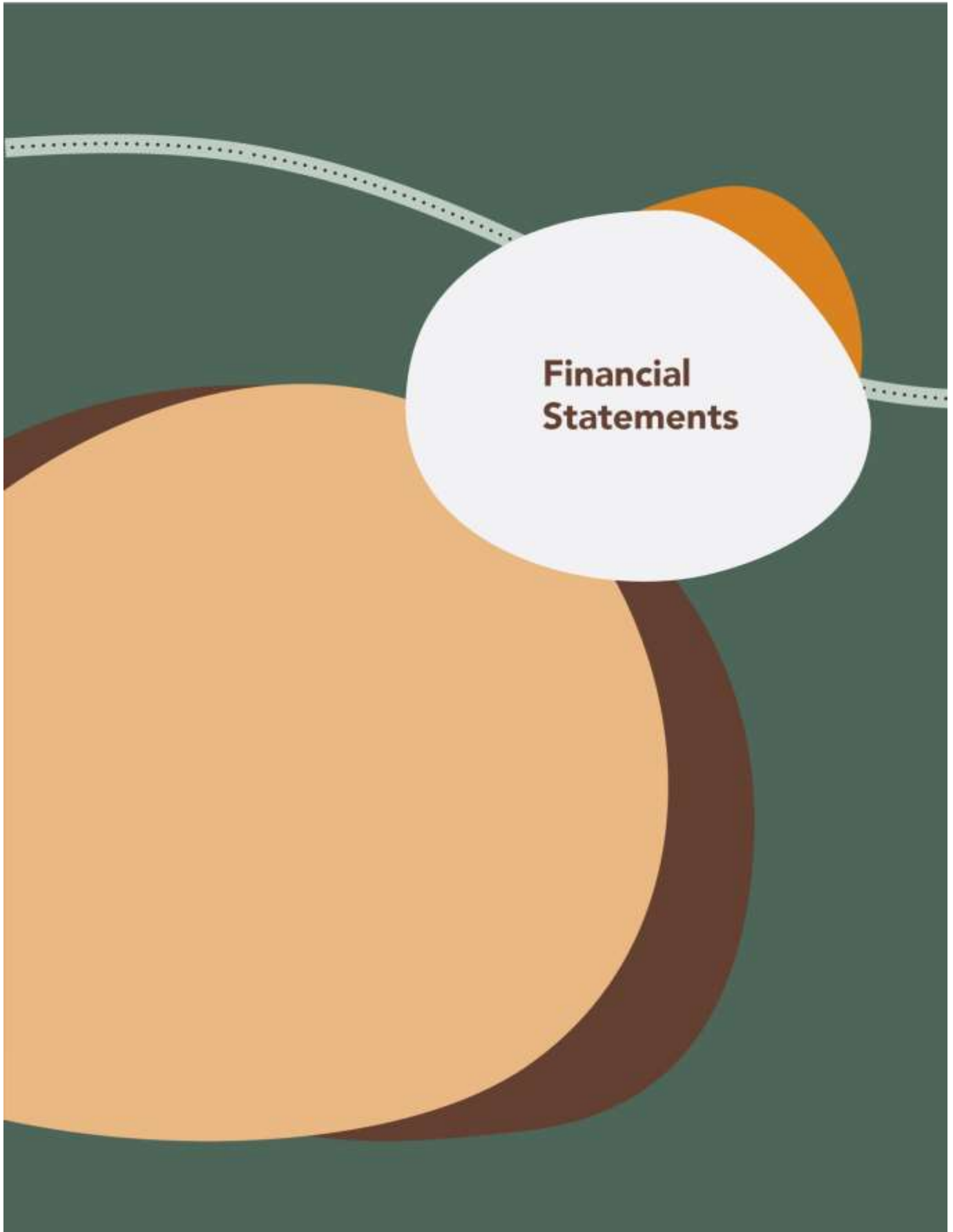
Council will also be upgrading **Peppimenarti Access Road** with earthworks, pavement stabilisation and floodway construction.

Our **community focused Road Safety Plan** will support all road repairs and roadworks and is aimed at improving road safety in the region and the reducing in the number of road accidents.

The Road Safety Plan will confirm that Council's internal road networks are compliant with minimum Austroads requirements and identify road hazards which will be incorporated into our annual road maintenance program.

These exciting and integral road infrastructure projects are set for completion by June 2025.







Our Financial Plan

2023–2024

Budget Introduction

The West Daly Regional Council proposes to adopt its budget for the 2023-24 financial year consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Objectives

The objectives for the 2023-24 financial year are to deliver sustainable services to the West Daly region in line with our Regional Plan 2023-24 and community priorities. A key focus remains to deliver core services, including civil services to our communities by maintaining a minimum level of service delivery hours and standards.

Measures

Council will continue to invest in our people and services to deliver on the objectives within this Regional Plan.

Council also continues to control operating costs in order to remain viable and to maintain plant and equipment. To that end, Council continues to rationalise fleet, dispose of plant and equipment beyond its useful life, and identify asset renewal opportunities.

Council is committed to reversing previous declining civil service delivery hours and has budgeted for a minimum level of service delivery consistent with or exceeding the 2022-23 financial year.

Council continues to grow our own source revenue by developing building and mechanical commercial services, with the goal of being cost-neutral, and building to a net return to Council.

The 2023-24 budget has not assumed an increase in current funding levels. Depreciation has not been funded, and is disclosed in the budget. This means Council is reliant on Northern Territory Government grant funding to acquire replacement capital assets, which is increasingly required when fleet and yellow plant approach end of life. Many of our highly utilised assets were transferred from Victoria Daly Regional Council some 9 years ago, in 2014. These require high maintenance and repair expenditure. Council has not funded any major capital initiatives planned over the next four years. This is discussed further in the long term plan.

The administrative fee Council applies to our funded programs and capital infrastructure projects has been set at the assumed rate of 15%, which is unchanged from last financial year.

Indicators

The 2023-24 Focus Areas are discussed within this Regional Plan. They list the KPI's that Council intends to use in assessing the effectiveness of our outputs or actions.

Estimates of Revenue and Expenses

The combined budget 2023-24 as shown in this Regional Plan contains the required information as specified.



2023/24 Budget

Budget 2023/24 - *Operating Statement Tied & Untied*

Operating Statement Tied & Untied		
Income	Grants and contributions	\$10,456,712
	Interest/Investment Income	\$275,940
	Other Income	\$139,742
	Rates and Annual Charges	\$2,725,097
	User charges and fees	\$1,993,991
	Income Total	\$15,590,793
Expenditure	Council Committee and LA Allowances	\$5,000
	Council Committee and LA Expenses	\$1,500
	Elected Member Allowances	\$237,801
	Elected Member Expenses	\$56,075
	Employee benefit expenses	\$7,270,114
	Operational Expenses	\$3,587,827
	Repair and maintenance	\$798,074
	Contractor Materials and Labour	\$2,685,447
	Interest Expense	\$250,000
	Depreciation	\$1,080,064
	Expenditure Total	\$15,971,902
	Operational Deficit	(\$381,110)

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Budget 2023/24 - *Capital Statement Tied & Untied*

Capital Statement Tied & Untied		
Income-Capital	Grants and contributions	\$4,300,000
	Capital Income Total	\$4,300,000
Expenditure	Capital - Wadey Swimming Pool	\$4,300,000
	Capital Expenditure Total	\$4,300,000
	Capital Surplus / Deficit	-
	Total Surplus / Deficit	(\$381,110)



2023/24 Budget

Budget 2023/24 - *Operating Statement Untied*

2022/23		
Income	Grants and contributions	\$1,868,029
	Interest/Investment Income	\$275,940
	Other Income	\$139,742
	Rates and Annual Charges	\$2,725,097
	User charges and fees	\$1,993,991
	Income Total	\$7,004,799
Expenditure:	Council Committee and LA Allowances	\$5,000
	Council Committee and LA Expenses	\$1,500
	Elected Member Allowances	\$237,801
	Elected Member Expenses	\$56,075
	Employee benefit expenses	\$4,835,777
	Operational Expenses	\$3,587,827
	Repair and maintenance	\$798,074
	Contractor Materials and Labour	\$386,464
	Interest Expense	\$250,000
	Depreciation	\$1,080,064
	Expenditure Total	\$11,238,582
Budgeted Surplus/Deficit		(\$4,233,783)

Budget 2023/24 - Income Operational and Capital - Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmarrilyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Income Total	2,123	2,390,256	1,830,847	15,667,568	19,890,793
Garbage General	-	90,539	88,328	740,415	919,283
Garbage Fee for Service	-	19,137	-	160,272	179,409
Australia Post Income	-	12,695	11,525	-	24,220
Council Rates	-	128,224	143,591	1,354,590	1,626,405
Rent Employee Housing	-	5,202	3,131	22,306	30,639
Rent and Leases Property	-	20,316	7,721	411,212	439,249
Fuel Rebate Income	-	-	-	19,726	19,726
Hire of Council Assets	-	1,287	20,411	63,822	85,520
Interest Received	-	-	-	275,940	275,940
Income - Airport Transfers	10	-	-	9,461	9,471
NTG - Operational Grants	-	58,985	40,320	3,284,182	3,383,487
NTG - Special Purpose Grants (Operational)	690	302,948	123,131	253,304	680,073
NTG - Capital Grants	-	203,749	252,786	203,481	660,015
Aust Gov - Operational Grants	-	1,155,162	736,128	3,838,235	5,729,525
Aust Gov - Capital Grants	-	-	-	4,300,000	4,300,000
Grant Income Other	-	3,612	-	-	3,612
Period Contracts - Airports	-	133,477	114,012	249,234	496,723
Period Contracts - Other	-	188,125	170,275	-	358,400
Repairs & Maintenance Airports	-	-	-637	-	-637
Landing Fee Income	-	31,031	25,709	192,486	249,225
Commercial Services Income	-	25,997	71,327	101,420	198,744
Workshop Income - 3rd party customers	-	-	-	27,320	27,320
Builder Third Party Revenue	-	-	-	53,673	53,673
Insurance Claims	-	-	1,719	-	1,719
Other Current Income	1,423	9,770	28	57,309	68,530
Profit / Loss on Disposal of Motor Vehicles	-	-	21,342	38,018	59,360
Profit / Loss on Disposal of ROU Assets	-	-	-	11,162	11,162



Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital - Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Expenditure Total	3,647,127	2,148,261	1,827,753	12,648,757	20,271,902
Accommodation	15,004	10,917	5,410	12,507	43,838
Accommodation (not employees or councillors)	-	-	-	511	511
Administration Fees	-	197,050	110,138	515,938	823,126
Advertising	2,311	630	-	6,537	9,478
Annual Leave	171,959	56,325	54,679	280,589	563,552
Audit and Risk Management Committee	-	-	-	4,684	4,684
Audit Expenses (external)	37,475	-	-	3,166	40,641
Catering - Council, Committees, Seminars	2,541	1,771	1,824	6,718	12,853
Cleaning Products and Contractors	14,327	527	5,127	7,277	27,259
Committee Sitting Fees	-	9,218	3,243	6,005	18,467
Conferences, Seminars and Ceremonies	7,147	-	-	11,238	18,384
Consulting Fees	35,978	-	7,198	152,662	195,837
Consumable Items	9,865	9,664	12,076	24,511	56,116
Contractors Electrical	-	401,393	44,655	716,710	1,162,757
Contractors Materials and Labour	-	100,000	50,000	106,246	256,246
Contractors Painting and Tiling	-	-	-	10,507	10,507
Contractors Pest Control	-	2,662	3,064	4,113	9,839
Contractors Plumbing/Gas	-	58,567	10,189	30,315	99,071
Councillors Accommodation	-	1,189	2,459	14,044	17,692
Councillors Electoral Allowances	-	14,365	50,134	164,752	229,251
Councillors Extra Meeting Allowances	-	-	-	4,334	4,518
Councillors Fares Air/Road	-	531	2,675	19,397	22,603
Councillors Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals	-	1,163	2,870	19,313	23,346
Councillors Uniform	-	-	1,269	1,657	2,926
Counselling and Rehabilitation	-	-	-	1,290	1,290
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	-	-	-	185,862	185,862
Depreciation - Plant and Equipment	-	-	-	578,431	578,431
Depreciation - ROU Assets	-	-	-	317,930	317,930
Depreciation - Site Improvements	-	-	-	-3,155	-3,155

Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital - Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmarrinyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Fares - Air/Road	23,837	-	209	15,451	39,498
Freight Expenses	84	30,778	6,308	63,791	100,961
Fringe Benefits Tax	-	-	7,339	31,494	38,834
Fuel Diesel/ULP	3,733	21,215	45,290	126,727	196,965
Health and Safety Expenses	7,444	6,585	9,238	10,000	33,267
Hire of Plant, Equipment and Motor Vehicles	-	28,148	13,886	35,562	77,596
ICT Consultants/Service Providers	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
ICT Hardware < \$5,000	13,208	68	-	2,637	15,912
ICT Mobile/Modem Telephone	4,990	3,264	3,604	17,030	28,888
ICT Phone/Fax/Internet	163,311	57,493	60,935	108,309	390,048
ICT Satellite Telephone	-	2,182	2,597	18,717	23,495
ICT Software	5,178	-	-	-	5,178
Insurance Excess/Payout Expense - MV/P&E	-	-	-	3,992	3,992
Insurance Premiums	-	-	-	943,978	943,978
Interest on Lease Liability	-	-	-	224,613	224,613
Legal Fees	46,121	-	-	-	46,121
Levy, Fees and Charges	5,608	2,928	4,419	3,419	16,374
Licenses and Registrations - MV & PE	-	4,073	1,657	32,964	38,694
Long Service Leave	3,612	1,988	1,953	7,188	14,741
Materials Furniture & Office Equipment	33,433	725	-	2,044	36,203
Materials Minor Assets < \$5,000	1,457	2,032	5,318	44,732	53,540
Materials Roadbase/Gravel	-	7,742	1,888	-	9,631
Materials Tools	53	9,680	19,159	20,590	49,481
Minor Assets Replacement < \$5,000	-	7,413	223	24,132	31,768
Office Amenities	4,442	5,179	1,745	9,005	20,371
Office Uniforms	988	7,285	381	3,130	11,785
Operating Leases MV, Plant & Equipment	-19,697	9,539	9,836	10,503	10,181
Operating Leases Office Equipment	3,391	1,298	1,286	-	5,976
Operating Leases Property	41,014	-	4,043	-	45,057



Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure Operational and Capital - Tied & Untied

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmariyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Other Leave	8,740	1,917	7,386	9,347	27,390
Outsourced Services	24,383	-	-	110,427	134,810
Outstation Assets - P&E	-	-	-	9,624	9,624
Personal Protective Equipment	-	599	-88	10,261	10,772
Printing, Postage (stamps) and Stationery	17,459	2,576	3,956	7,879	31,870
Professional Development	5,830	-	-	-	5,830
Recruitment & Relocation	29,994	1,510	4,276	11,586	47,366
Recruitment Advertising	25,202	-	-	-	25,202
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Others	150	40,000	100,000	189,919	330,069
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Servicing	-	305	12,179	38,107	50,591
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Tyres	-	1,075	10,161	28,560	39,796
Repairs & Maintenance Buildings	-	20,000	68,636	100,000	188,636
Repairs & Maintenance Plant (Small Plant Items)	-	14,002	4,144	9,639	27,786
Repairs & Maintenance Roads	-	9,044	1,667	228,631	239,342
ROU Assets Expenses Clearing	-36,066	11,991	11,938	12,137	-
Salary Normal	1,817,908	799,302	723,495	2,813,812	6,154,517
Salary On Costs	329,523	144,885	131,144	510,045	1,115,579
Screening and License Checks	1,266	233	163	1,445	3,107
Sports Equipment - Inc Uniforms, trophies etc	-	-	754	-	754
Street Light Electricity Payments	-	7,652	16,147	42,798	66,598
Street Light Maintenance	-	41,940	-	-	41,940
Subscriptions and Memberships	5,584	-	-	23,530	29,114
Taxi/Hire Car/Fares	1,393	53	51	2,413	3,910
TOIL	-	281	-	9,979	10,260
Training	32,892	2,280	2,280	13,826	51,278
Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals	25,292	5,326	4,269	27,029	61,916
Travel Allowance - Mileage	23	510	486	670	1,688
Utilities - Electricity	26,053	9,307	11,875	42,911	90,147
Utilities - Water & Sewerage	-	8,732	19,469	56,287	84,487
Workers Compensation	34,894	19,208	18,865	68,583	141,549
Capital Works - Wadeye	-	-	-	4,300,000	4,300,000



Budget 2023/24 - Expenditure - Tied & Untied (Internal Charges only)

Account Description	Darwin	Nganmarrinyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Grand Total
Plant and Vehicle Cost Allocation	434,820	43,200	-101,040	290,580	0
Property Lease Cost Allocation	-909,960	163,440	222,720	523,800	0
Plant and Vehicle Cost Recovery	434,820	-43,200	-101,040	-290,580	0
Property Lease Cost Recovery	909,960	-163,440	-222,720	-523,800	0
Administration Fees Cost Allocation	566,810	43,200	-101,040	-711,050	0

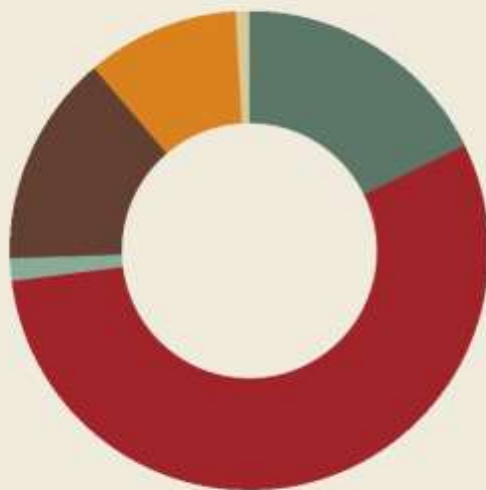
Estimated capital and non cash adjustments

For the Financial Year	2023-24
Budgeted Operating surplus/deficit	(\$381,110)
Remove NON CASH ITEMS	
Less non cash revenue included in operating income	\$70,522
Add back non cash expenses included in operating expenses	\$1,082,223
TOTAL NON CASH ITEMS	\$1,011,701
Prior year funding carried forward	-
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	
Capital Expenditure	\$4,300,000
Transfers to Reserves	-
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	
Capital Grant Income	\$4,300,000
Transfers from Reserves	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	\$4,300,000
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION	\$1,011,701

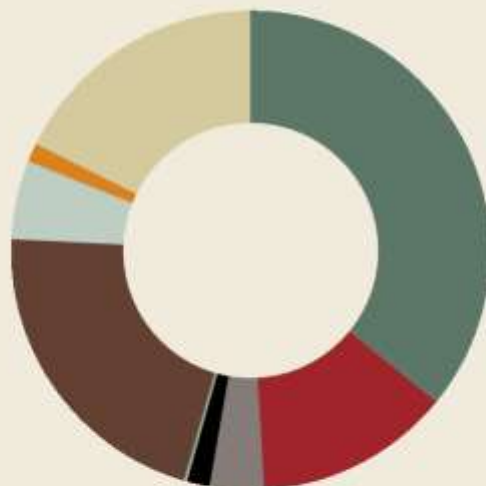


2023/24 Budget

Income - Operational and Capital



Expenditure - Operational and Capital





Proposed allowances for 2023/24

Allowance	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
Base Councillors allowance	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Principal members allowance	\$82,000	\$16,000	-
Total Allowance	\$102,000	\$36,000	\$20,000
Professional Development	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Extra Meeting allowance**	-	\$10,000	\$10,000
Vehicle allowance if no vehicle provided	\$40,000	-	-
Capped allowances total	\$44,000	\$14,000	\$14,000

** Extra Meeting allowance is paid if the activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:

- Up to 2 hours \$200
- Between 2 and 4 hours \$300
- More than 4 hours \$500

The Chair of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$450
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$600

A Member of a Local Authority will be paid as follows:

- If the meeting is held up to 2 hours \$200
- If the meeting is held between 2 to 4 hours \$300
- If the meeting is held for more than 4 hours \$400



Schedule of fees and charges

Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges for FY 2023-24
ADMINISTRATION		
Rate & Property Services		
Change of Ownership Advices - Rates	Advice	\$50.00
Rates Search	Property	\$50.00
Copies of Rates Notices	Notice	\$40.00
Late Payment Fees		
Late fees on Invoice Payment (>30 days)	Month	\$50.00
Documentation Assistance		
Completing forms, application, etc.	Hour	\$60.00
Printing	Page	\$2.00
Photocopying	Page	\$2.00
Scanning	Page	\$2.00
Laminating		
A4	Page	\$5.00
A3	Page	\$10.00
Internet Access Library - Wadeye Only		
Computer hire	Hour	Free
ACCOMMODATION - Visitor's Quarters (VOQ)*		
Nganmarriyanga		
VOQ	Night	\$240.00
Peppimenarti		
VOQ - 2 Bedroom	Night	\$350.00
VOQ - 1 Bedroom	Night	\$240.00
Wadeye		
VOQ Unit	Night	\$300.00
VOQ single person Accommodation	Night	\$240.00
<p>Long term accommodation bookings (subject to availability) will be discounted as follows: Booking more than 2 weeks less than 4 weeks - 15% Booking more than 4 weeks less than 6 weeks - 20% Booking more than 6 weeks - 25% *VOQ rate is per person, per night</p>		

Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges for FY 2023-24
CONFERENCE ROOM HIRE		
Winnellie	Full Day	\$800.00
	Half day	\$400.00
Wadeye	Full Day	\$450.00
	Half day	\$250.00
Nganmariyanga	Full Day	\$450.00
	Half Day	\$250.00
Peppimenarti	Full Day	\$200.00
	Half Day	\$125.00
PLANNING		
Temporary Road Closure		
	Per Occasion	\$300.00
ECONOMIC SERVICES		
Lawn Mowing (minimum charges)		
Domestic		
Lawn	Hour	\$110.00
Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$110.00
Commercial		
Lawn	Hour	\$170.00
Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$170.00
Vehicle Hire - Wadeye Only		
Toyota Prado Wagon 4x4 (or similar)	Day	\$300.00
	Hour	\$65.00
Toyota Dual Cab Utility 4x2 (or similar)	Day	\$250.00
	Hour	\$55.00
Airport Pickup/Drop-off to Council VOO	Trip	\$50.00
Airport Pickup/Drop-off (min. 1 Hour)	Hour	\$115.00
Cleaning Charge	Hire	\$100.00
Equipment Hire		
LED Screen on Trailer	Hour	\$75.00
	Day	\$500.00
BBQ Trailer	Day	\$100.00
Mobilisation/Set-up/Return	Occasion	\$75.00
SWIMMING POOL		
Out of Hours Hire	Hour	\$100.00



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges for FY 2023-24
Waste Management Fees		
Municipal Solid Waste (non-commercial)	Unit	Fee (GST Inc)
Clean Fill	m ³	No charge
General Waste	m ³	No Charge
Green Waste	m ³	No Charge
Bins (non-commercial)	Unit	Fee (GST inc)
Replacement 240 litre Wheelie Bin	Each	\$145.00
Commercial and Industrial	Unit	Fee (GST inc)
Unsorted Waste will be charged at m3 rate	m ³	\$360.00
Animal Carcasses	Each	\$50.00
Batteries	Each	\$20.00
Car/vehicle bodies dumping only	Each	\$20.00
Car/vehicle bodies removal and dumping	Each	\$380.00
Concrete/rubble	m ³	\$200.00
General waste	m ³	\$55.00
Green Waste	m ³	\$55.00
Metal Uncontaminated	m ³	\$55.00
Mixed Fill (soil, rock, rubbish)	m ³	\$55.00
Solar Hot Water Systems	Each	\$68.00
Timber (untreated)	m ³	\$55.00
Timber (treated) includes pallets	m ³	\$55.00
Tyre - vehicle	Each	\$22.00
Tyre - Light Truck 16"	Each	\$40.00
Tyre - Truck Heavy Vehicle	Each	\$80.00
Tyre - Tractor/Grader/Loader	Each	\$195.00
White Goods	Each	\$22.00
TRADES CHARGE		
Labour (within Community)*		
Unskilled/Semi Skilled Labour	Hour	\$80.00
Skilled Labour	Hour	\$120.00
Supervisor	Hour	\$220.00
Administration Services	Hour	\$100.00
Cleaner	Hour	\$80.00

Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges for FY 2023-24
Trades*		
Mechanic	Hour	\$170.00
Carpenter	Hour	\$160.00
Builder	Hour	\$180.00
Trades Assistant	Hour	\$120.00
Travel	KM	\$3.00
<i>*Minimum charge is 1 hour; 50% rate increase after 4:30PM and 100% rate increase for weekends.</i>		
Others		
Workshop Materials	Per	Cost + 30%
Mobilisation/Demobilisation charges	Occasion	Actual cost + 15% admin fee
Workshop Consumables	Per	\$35.00
Key Cutting	Key	\$20.00
Vehicle Inspection - not exceeding 4.5 tonnes	Per	\$59.40
Trailer - not exceeding 4.5 tonnes (Aggregate trailer mass)	Per	\$59.40
Vehicles - Over 4.5 tonnes	Per	\$136.40
AIRPORT CHARGES		
<9,000kg	Landing	\$25.19/t
≥9,000kg	Landing	\$34.65/t
Heli<2,500 kg	Landing	\$25.19/t
Heli≥2,500 kg	Landing	\$34.65/t
minimum	Landing	\$25.19/t



Schedule of fees and charges	Each/per	Fees/charges for FY 2023-24
PLANT HIRE*		
Description	Rate per Hour	Rate per Day # (7 hours)
Grader	\$270.00	\$1,700.00
Loader	\$270.00	\$1,700.00
Volvo Flat Top Truck (tilt tray)**	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
John Deere Tractor 5093E inc slasher	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Hino Tip Truck	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Roller	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Backhoe	\$220.00	\$1,400.00
Bobcat	\$200.00	\$1,400.00
Excavator 2.5 Tonne	\$220.00	\$1,540.00
Trailer Tandem Wheels	NA	\$120.00
8FT Slasher	\$40.00	NA
6FT Slasher	\$25.00	NA
Forklift	\$180.00	NA
Ride on Mower	\$160.00	NA
<p>* All on a wet hire basis - must include WDRC employee as Driver, with operator and fuel; A mobilisation/set-up/return fee of \$75 per occasion is charged if plant hire is required outside the Community.</p> <p>** Volvo Flat top truck (tilt tray) can also be hired per kilometre basis at \$3.50/KM. Minimum charge \$500 for out-of-community collection.</p> <p># Day rate is from 8 am to 4 pm (7 hours maximum)</p>		

Terms, Payments & Recourse

- All fees are inclusive of GST.
- All accounts for the purchase of goods or services, provided by the West Daly Regional Council (WDRC) are to be settled in full within 30 days from date of Invoice.
- Should the Customer default in the payment of any monies due under this Agreement, then all monies due to WDRC shall immediately become due and payable, and will be paid by the Customer within fourteen (14) days of the date of written demand from WDRC.
- In the event an account is not settled, WDRC reserves the right to withhold any further supply of goods and services and shall be entitled to charge interest on all amounts not paid by the due date for payment and the Customer undertakes to pay any interest so charged. Such interest will be calculated on a daily basis from the due date for payment until the date that WDRC receives payment with 10.0% per annum. Late payment processing fees of \$35.00 will be charged on top of interest.
- Any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by WDRC in recovering any outstanding monies, including debt collection agency fees and legal costs, shall be added to the original monies owed and will be paid by the Customer on an indemnity basis and all such costs shall be recoverable as a liquidated debt.
- For Fees & Charges not mention in above list, Council authorised CEO to determine reasonable fees & Charges and inform council with updated Fees and Charges table.
- These fees & Charges are for short-term (daily / weekly) purpose and for any long term and commercial activities, separated fees & charges will be negotiated with each client.
- Debit card and Credit card (MasterCard / Visa) attracts 1.0% Surcharge.
- Staff and councillors are entitled to 35% discount on listed labour rate.



West Daly Regional Council

Declaration of Rates and Charges 2023/2024



Notice is hereby given pursuant to *Section 241 of the Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), that the following rates and charges were declared by the West Daly Regional Council ("**Council**") at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 June 2023 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act, in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

For the purpose of this declaration:

"allotment"	has the meaning set out in section 225 of the Act.
"Commercial purposes"	means rateable land used for commercial, industrial, community or other business purposes and irrespective of any intention to profit from such use.
"Council area"	means the area of Council as defined in the Act.
"garbage collection service"	<p>the "garbage collection service" comprises a kerbside collection service of one garbage collection visit per week with a maximum of one 240 litre mobile bin per garbage collection visit. The total garbage collection service charge for an allotment is as follows:</p> <p>Total Garbage Collection Service Charge = garbage collection service charge x #bins assigned x #assigned minimum garbage collection services.</p> <p>The number of assigned collection services are dependent upon the community.</p>
"Mining tenement"	has the meaning set out in section 7 of the Act
"Pastoral lease"	has the meaning set out in section 3 of the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i>
"Rateable land"	as defined at section 218 of the Act.
"Residential dwelling"	means a dwelling, house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building on residential land (whether or not it is exempt from rates) and includes a unit within the meaning of the <i>Unit Titles Act</i> and the <i>Unit Titles Schemes Act</i> ;
"Residential land"	means land used or capable of being used for residential purposes (but does not include land on which there is no residential dwelling);
"Residential purposes"	means rateable land used or capable of being used for residential purposes.
"the Act"	means the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> (NT) as in force.

Rates

The Council made the following declaration of rates pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act:

1. Pursuant to section 227 of the Act, the Council adopts, as the basis of determining the assessed value of all allotments in the Council area, the unimproved capital value as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer-General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963* (NT).
2. However, consistent with section 227(3) of the Act:
 - (a) the unimproved value of a mining tenement is its assessed value; and
 - (b) the unimproved value is taken to be 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement.



3. The Council, pursuant to section 237 of the Act, declared that it intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$1,572,894 which will be raised in accordance with section 226 of the Act. The basis of rates are the valuation-based amounts calculated as a proportion of the assessed value of each allotment with which are subject to minimum amounts and/or fixed amounts.
4. The Council declared the following differential rates with minimum amounts being payable in application of each of those differential rates:
 - (a) With respect to every allotment classed as Residential land in the council assessment record, a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$1,714.52 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,
 whichever is the greater.
 - (b) With respect to every allotment classed as Commercial land in the council assessment record, (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), a differential rate of 16.9048% of the assessed value of such land will apply with a minimum amount being payable in the application of this rate being \$2,028.82 multiplied by:
 - (i) the number of separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use on each allotment (pursuant to section 226(5) of the Act); or
 - (ii) the number 1,
 whichever is the greater.
 - (c) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Vacant land, a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,714.52 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (d) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is classed as Other land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration] a differential rate of 5.0624% of the assessed value with a minimum amount being payable in the application of that charge being \$1,714.52 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (e) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Residential purposes, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (f) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used or occupied for Commercial purposes (excluding Pastoral leases and mining tenements), where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$2,028.82 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (g) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Vacant Land, where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (h) With respect to every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is Other Land [not listed elsewhere in this declaration], where there is no Unimproved Capital Value assessed for the allotment, a fixed charge of \$1,714.52 will apply (as set out in section 226 of the Act).
 - (i) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area which is subject to Mining Tenements, the rate will be the assessed value (being 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement) multiplied by 0.006427, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$1,647.93 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).

- (j) Note:
 - (i) contiguous tenements or reasonably adjacent tenements held by the same person are to be rated as if they were a single tenement;
 - (ii) if the owner of the mining tenement is also the owner of the land underlying the mining tenement and is liable for the rates for the underlying land tenure, the only rates payable are either the rates for the mining tenement or the rates for the underlying land tenure, whichever is greater.
- (k) With respect to every allotment of land within the Council area over which there is a Pastoral Lease, the rate will be the assessed value multiplied by 0.000566, with the minimum amount payable in the application of this rate being \$696.28 (as set out in section 226 of the Act).

Charges

Garbage Collection charges

5. Pursuant to Section 239 of Act, the Council declared the following charges for the purpose of enabling or assisting Council to meet the cost of garbage collection services and the waste disposal services it provides for the benefit of eligible ratepayers within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services) and the occupiers of such land. The Council intends to raise \$1,076,520 by way of these charges.
6. The following charges were declared by the Council:
 - (a) Residential Garbage Collection Charge:
 - (i) a charge of \$1,365.22 per annum per allotment of Residential dwelling will apply.
 - (ii) the purpose for which this charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Residential land in the Council area;
 - (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a residential dwelling referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,365.22 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).
 - (b) Commercial Garbage Collection Charge:
 - (i) a charge of \$2,474.18 per annum per allotment of Commercial purposes land will apply;
 - (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of Commercial purposes land in the Council area;
 - (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of a Commercial Purposes land referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(i), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins, an additional charge of \$2,474.18 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, which charge shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(b)(i).



(c) All Other Garbage Collection Charge:

- (i) a charge of \$1,365.22 per annum per all other allotment will apply;
- (ii) the purpose for which this Charge is to be imposed is to assist Council in meeting the cost of the garbage collection service it provides to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to each allotment of all other land not applicable to paragraphs 6(a) and 6(b) in the Council area;
- (iii) where, in response to a written request from a person liable to pay a charge in respect of another allotment referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(ii), Council approves the request and provides an additional service in the form of a weekly collection of waste contained in additional garbage bins. An additional service fee of \$1,365.22 per annum in relation to the collection of waste from each additional garbage bin collected through the use by rateable properties of more than one (1) council specified garbage bin. The additional service shall be the provision and collection of waste contained in the number of additional garbage bins approved by Council in response to such written request, and the additional service fee shall be levied and paid in conjunction with the charge for the weekly collection service referred to in paragraph 7.(a)(i).

Waste Disposal and Management Charge

7. Pursuant to section 239 of the Act, the Council declared the following charges in respect of Waste Disposal and Management Charge services it provides for the benefit of all land within the Council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services).
8. A charge of every allotment for which the Council is not able to, or not willing to provide a garbage collection service. This charge provides access to landfill facilities within the Council boundaries and is as follows:
 - (a) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$360.64 for residential allotments.
 - (b) Waste Disposal and Management charge = \$945.58 for commercial allotments.

Animal Management Charge

9. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, every allotment of Rateable land within the Council area that is used for Residential purposes in the Council assessment record, and for which the rural classification is not applicable, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally for the purpose of "Animal Management" and to assist the implementation of Animal Management in the Council area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$9,100 by way of this special charge. This rate will be levied on all "Residential land" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$20.00 per allotment.

Environmental Charge

10. Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, the Council declared a special charge to be imposed on Rateable land generally "Environmental Charge" for the purpose of assisting with the implementation of waste facility management in the area. The Council intends to raise the amount of \$40,120 by way of this special charge and is as follows:
 - (a) This rate will be levied on all "Residential purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$80.00 per allotment; and
 - (b) This rate will be levied on all "Commercial purposes" allotments by application of a fixed charge of \$100.00 per allotment.

Relevant interest rate

11. The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with section 245 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum and is calculated on a daily basis.

Payment dates

12. The Council determined that rates and charges for the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 inclusive shall be due and payable by the 29th September 2023.
13. Payments falling due on a weekend or public holiday may be paid by the following business day, without incurring any penalty.
 - (a) details of due dates and specified amounts will be listed on the relevant rates notice in accordance with section 242 of the Act ("the Rates Notice").
 - (b) variations to those options for payment will be administered according to the conditions outlined on the front and reverse of the Rates Notice.
14. A concession will be provided to eligible residents who qualify under the NT Concession and Seniors Recognition Scheme.
15. A ratepayer and or charge payer who fails to abide by such conditions may be sued for recovery of the principal amount of the rates, charges and interest (if applicable) plus any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by Council in recovering or attempting to recover the rates, charges and interest, including but not limited to, debt collection agency fees and legal costs.

Rates Assessment Record Certification

I certify to the Council that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the rates assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the West Daly Region.



Matthew Eastham ASM
Chief Executive Officer,
West Daly Regional Council



Long Term Financial Plan

The Budget which has been developed for 2023-24 feeds into the long term financial planning of Council. This planning is restricted by a series of unknowns regarding community and commercial service related programs and contracts.

Commercial, user charges, and agency contracts represent a further revenue stream for the Council in its overall budget. These programs also assist by subsidising other core service activities of Council including administration, human resources, and infrastructure services. They also assist with revenue toward capital upgrades.

The sustainability of Council is dependent upon stable, long term grant funding arrangements with the Australian Government and with the Northern Territory Government. Changes in these arrangements and also in existing commercial and agency contracts have the potential to disrupt the Council's capacity to deliver its core services to the communities.

Key assumptions of the long-term financial plan:

- All current core services will continue to be provided by the Council.
- Grant-funded (community) services have been considered only where it is known that the funding is recurrent. Council has not been advised, at the time of preparing the long term financial plan, of what funding will be available for the next 4 financial years. Estimates are based on original arrangements provided to the Council, and an allowance for increases through CPI, or other known factors about significant events.
- There will be no significant adverse change in government policies impacting upon the operation of the Council.
- Overall CPI increases between 3% and 7.2% in the long term plan, acknowledging the high March 2023 ABS data for Darwin, which is assumed to stabilise over the four year period.
- Unless included into the long term plan, there are no additional major initiatives planned over the next four years outside this Regional Plan. This is due to major initiatives being wholly dependent on additional funding. There is currently no indication of significant increases that would enable other major initiatives to be considered.
- The repairs, maintenance, management and development of infrastructure is intended to continue at the same level as detailed in the current year budget with increases in line with the inflation figures used.

Long Term Financial Plan

		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Income	Grants and contribution	\$10,456,712	\$10,770,413	\$11,093,526	\$11,426,332
	Interest/Investment Income	\$275,940	\$284,218	\$292,745	\$301,527
	Other Income	\$139,742	\$143,934	\$148,252	\$152,700
	Rates and Annual Charges	\$2,725,097	\$2,806,850	\$2,891,055	\$2,977,787
	User charges and fees	\$1,993,991	\$2,053,811	\$2,115,425	\$2,178,888
	Income Total		\$15,590,793	\$16,059,226	\$16,541,003
Expenditure	Council Committee and LA Allowances	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$5,305	\$5,464
	Council Committee and LA Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,545	\$1,591	\$1,639
	Elected Member Allowances	\$237,801	\$244,935	\$252,283	\$259,852
	Elected Member Expenses	\$56,075	\$57,757	\$59,400	\$61,275
	Employee benefit expenses	\$7,270,114	\$7,488,217	\$7,712,864	\$7,944,250
	Operational Expenses	\$3,587,827	\$3,695,462	\$3,806,326	\$3,920,515
	Repair and maintenance	\$798,074	\$822,016	\$846,677	\$872,077
	Contractor Materials and Labour	\$2,685,447	\$2,766,010	\$2,848,991	\$2,934,460
	Interest Expense	\$250,000	\$257,500	\$265,225	\$273,182
	Depreciation	\$1,080,064	\$1,112,466	\$1,145,840	\$1,180,215
Total		\$15,971,902	\$16,451,059	\$16,944,591	\$17,452,929
Operational deficit		(\$381,110)	(\$391,833)	(\$403,588)	(\$415,695)
Capital					
Income	Grants and Contributions	\$4,300,000	-	-	-
Expenditure	Capital Works - Wadeye Pool	\$4,300,000	-	-	-
	Total Capital surplus / deficit	-	-	-	-
Budgeted Surplus/ Deficit		(381,110)	(391,833)	(\$403,588)	(\$415,695)



Capital Expenditure	Current 2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Land and Buildings	\$451,000	-	-	-
Infrastructure - Wadeye Swimming Pool refurbishment. To be completed November 2023	-	\$4,300,000	-	-
Plant & Machinery	\$451,643	-	-	-
Fleet - Vehicles	\$424,011	-	-	-
Other Assets	\$13,174	-	-	-
Leased Land Buildings	-	-	-	-
Other Leased Assets	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Expenditure	\$888,829	\$4,300,000	-	-
Total Capital Expenditure Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Operating Account	-	-	-	-
Capital Grants	\$888,829	\$4,300,000	-	-
Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Expenditure Funding	\$888,829	\$4,300,000	-	-

Disclaimer

No responsibility is implied or accepted by the West Daly Regional Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation contained in the document.

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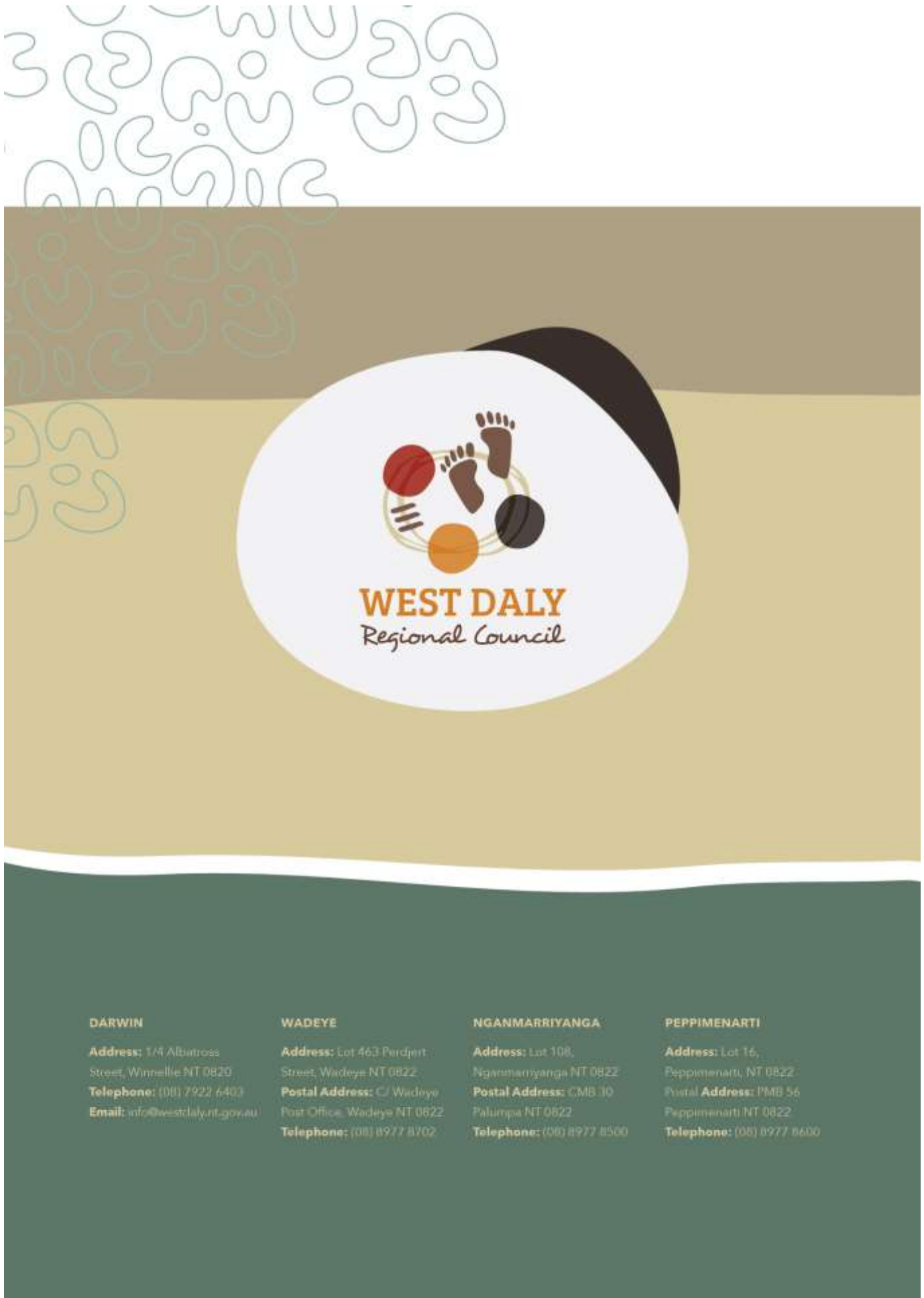
Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the West Daly Regional Council

during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the West Daly Regional Council.

The West Daly Regional Council advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the West Daly Regional Council shall obtain and should only rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the West Daly Regional Council in respect of the application.

Matthew Eastham ASM
Chief Executive Officer,
West Daly Regional Council



DARWIN

Address: 1/1 Albatross Street, Winnellie NT 0820

Telephone: (08) 7922 6400

Email: info@westdaly.nt.gov.au

WADEYE

Address: Lot 463 Perdjeri Street, Wadeye NT 0822

Postal Address: C/ Wadeye

Post Office, Wadeye NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8702

NGANMARRIYANGA

Address: Lot 108, Nganmariyanga NT 0822

Postal Address: CMB 30

Palumpa NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8500

PEPPIMENARTI

Address: Lot 16, Peppimenarti, NT 0822

Postal Address: PMB 56

Peppimenarti NT 0822

Telephone: (08) 8977 8600



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 6

Prepared by **Tinos Rushwaya, Senior Accountant**

Finance Report - May 2023

Purpose

To provide the Financial Management Reports for the period ended 31 May 2023.

Background

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, Division 7, require that Council receive a report setting out:

- (a) the actual income and expenditure of the council for the period from the commencement of the financial year up to the end of the previous month; and
- (b) the most recently adopted annual budget; and
- (c) details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council and the most recently adopted annual budget.

Council has continued to meet its financial obligations for the period, as per the attached report.

CouncilBIZ has assisted WDRC in the preparation of this finance report.

WDRC has continued its transition of financial responsibilities from CouncilBIZ back to the WDRC which is a 4-6 week process and is currently progressing well.

Internal financial audits continue to be conducted across WDRC financial accounts and grant accounts.

After the appointment of the Auditors Nexia Edwards and Marshall NT, the interim audit is scheduled for the 19th– 30th June 2023 and Final Audit on the 11th – 29th September 2023.

Statutory Environment

Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.

Impact for Council

Under Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* Council must receive the Financial Report.

Strategic Alignment

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

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

Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes and approves the Finance report for month ending May 2023.**

Attachments

- 1 Finance Report - May 2023



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT

For the period ended 31 May 2023

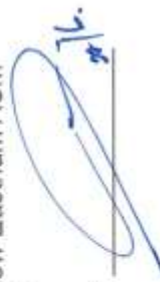


Certification by the Council CEO










Council Name: **WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL**
Reporting Period Ended: **31 May 2023**

To the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:
(1) the internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
(2) the monthly reports best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

Matthew Eastham ASM
CEO

Date:


Snapshot - Financial Report

Revenue	\$ 12.281 M	
Current Ratio	1.23	
Cash at Bank	\$ 7.65M	
Expenditures	\$ 13.233 M	
Unspent Tied Funds	\$ 6.301M	
Net Current Assets	\$ 1.6 M	
Operating Result	\$ -951K <small>(including tied grants)</small>	
Local Authority	\$ 542 K	
Capital Expenditures	\$ 2.73 M	

Income and Expense Statement - Actual v Budget

	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	Note Reference
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
OPERATING INCOME					
Rates	1,411,366	1,439,297	(27,931)	1,439,297	
Charges	969,712	972,294	(2,581)	972,294	
Fees and Charges	1,229,123	1,661,659	(432,536)	1,812,719	
Operating Grants and Subsidies	8,274,275	9,305,521	(1,031,246)	10,151,478	
Interest / Investment Income	228,109	235,397	(8,288)	257,888	
Commercial and Other Income	169,219	121,997	47,222	133,088	
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	12,281,805	13,737,165	(1,455,360)	14,766,763	(1)
OPERATING EXPENDITURE					
Employee Expenses	5,552,357	5,382,283	(170,073)	5,871,582	
Operational & Other Expenses	3,504,552	3,150,237	(354,314)	3,436,622	(2)
Elected Member Allowances	203,488	198,168	(5,320)	216,183	
Elected Member Expenses	53,705	46,729	(6,976)	50,977	
Council Committee & LA Allowances	4,518	8,852	4,334	9,657	
Council Committee & LA Expenses	1,152	8,464	7,312	9,233	
Interest Expenses	243,668	203,857	(39,811)	222,389	
Repair and Maintenance	677,923	820,201	142,278	894,765	
Materials and Contracts	2,992,171	2,611,687	(380,484)	2,849,113	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	13,233,532	12,430,478	(803,054)	13,560,522	(3)
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(951,727)	1,306,687	(2,258,414)	1,206,241	
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	990,432	1,043,734	(53,302)	1,138,619	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) INCLUDING DEPRECIATION	(1,942,159)	262,954	(2,205,112)	67,623	

WDRG Financial Management Report May 2023

Monthly Balance Sheet Report

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 May 2023		YTD Actuals	Note	BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 May 2023		YTD Actuals	Note
		\$	Reference			\$	Reference
ASSETS							
Cash at Bank		7,652,215	(4)	Accounts Payable		205,571	(6)
Tied Funds		6,302,372	(5)	Other Payables		77,744	
Untied Funds		1,349,842		ATO & Payroll Liabilities		13,898	
Accounts Receivable		596,954		Current Provisions		465,010	
Accounts Receivables and		197,040		Accruals		0	
Other Receivables		100,252		Other Current Liabilities		6,245,601	
Rates & Charges Debtors		299,662		TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		7,005,825	
Other Current Assets		361,864					
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		8,611,033		Non-Current Provisions		27,448	
				Other Non-Current Liabilities		5,755,950	
Non-Current Financial Assets				TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		5,783,398	
Right-of-Use Assets		5,310,777					
Property, Plant and Equipment		2,968,111		TOTAL LIABILITIES		12,789,223	
Other Non-current Assets		1,835,058		NET ASSETS		5,935,757	(7)
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		10,113,947		EQUITY			
TOTAL ASSETS		18,724,980		Asset Revaluation Reserve			
				Reserves			
				Accumulated Surplus		5,935,757	
				TOTAL EQUITY		18,724,980	

Variance Analysis

Income/Expense or Balance Sheet Item	Note Ref	Comments
Total Operating Income	(1)	Total Operating Income is less than budgeted due to revenue recognition for Grant Income that is coded to liability
Operational & Other Expenses	(2)	Variance to budget is less than prior periods
Operating Surplus	(3)	Operating Deficit will vary compared to previous report due to change in treatment of income.
Cash at Bank	(4)	Cash position largely unchanged from previous period
Tied Funds	(5)	Tied Funds amount has been re-classified to incorporate unspent grant liability. Balance varies from prior periods. Further analysis will take place on basis of 2022 Audit Report.
Accounts Payable	(6)	Liability largely unchanged from previous period
Net Current Assets	(7)	Balance varies from prior periods due to change treatment Tied Funds

WDRRC Financial Management Report May 2023

Monthly Balance Sheet Report Details of Cash and Investments Held

Cash and Investments Held	May-23
11110 - Bank Operations	271,350
11130 - Cash at Bank High Interest Savings	2,410,017
11210 - Petty Cash	7
12110 - Term Deposit	5,000,000
TOTAL CASH	7,681,374

Cash and Investments Held	May-23
Tied Funds	6,302,372
Untied Funds	1,379,002
Cash at Bank	7,681,375

* 11110 Balance due to bank reconciliation delay
Details of Cash Investment - Fixed Term

Product	Actual Balance	Available Balance	Interest Rate	Maturity
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.06%	6/06/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.06%	6/06/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.27%	26/06/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.25%	19/07/2023
Fixed Term Deposit	\$1,000,000	\$0	4.25%	19/07/2023

WDIRC Financial Management Report May 2023

Current Ratio

“How many dollars do we have for every dollar we owe?”

Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash in Bank	7,652,215	Accounts Payable	283,316
Less: Grants to be refunded	0	Other Current Liabilities	476,508
	7,652,215		
Trade and Rates Debtors	596,954		
Other Current Assets	361,864		
Less:		Unspent Grants	6,245,601
Staff Liability		(Agency & Core)	
	8,611,033		7,005,825

1.23

Current Ratio for FY2022/23

PERIOD	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
FY22/2023	1.50	1.72	2.07	1.77	1.63	1.41	1.57	1.82	1.46	1.27	1.23
FY21/2022	1.36	1.63	1.91	1.78	1.74	1.69	1.83	1.63	1.87	1.65	1.57

**Monthly Balance Sheet Report
Statement on Debts Owed to Council (Accounts Receivable)**

Trade Debtors Ageing Analysis	
Current	18,137
Unapplied	-3,595
Over 30 days	14,610
Over 60 days	94,108
Over 90 days	73,780
Total	197,040

Monthly Balance Sheet Report
Statement on Debts Owed by Council (Accounts Payable)

Trade Creditors Ageing Analysis	
Current	115,413
Unapplied	-12,991
Over 30 days	97,849
Over 60 days	2,711
Over 90 days	2,590
Total	205,571

Monthly Balance Sheet Report
Highest 10 Contractor Payments/ Items paid in the month

	Supplier	Territory	Interstate
10376	COUNCILBIZ	\$108,565.62	
13461	TOA Construction Pty Ltd	\$46,348.50	
13479	Sitzler Pty Ltd	\$33,996.88	
12623	HAYS SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY LTD	\$23,101.38	
12535	NT-IT PTY LTD T/A FUJI XEROX BUSINESS CENTRE NT	\$14,264.80	
13483	C.Jimarin	\$12,187.50	
13231	De Marchi & Pollon G & S Pollon and DeMarchi Pollon Investments	\$11,330.00	
10137	POWER AND WATER	\$11,207.74	
13505	True North Strategic Communication Pty Ltd	\$10,494.68	
13342	TITAN PLANT HIRE PTY LTD t/ Territory Plant Hire	\$9,680.00	
		\$281,177.10	\$0.00

Financial Report for each Local Authority Area

	Regional Office/Unallocated Darwin 200			LA1 Nganmarrinyanga 300		
	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$
OPERATING INCOME						
Rates	0	0	0	106,776	108,890	(2,113)
Charges	215,055	215,627	(572)	71,055	71,244	(189)
Fees and Charges	385,612	521,312	(135,699)	66,644	90,096	(23,452)
Operating Grants and Subsidies	0	0	0	690,656	776,734	(86,078)
Interest / Investment Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial and Other Income	(599,855)	(432,461)	(167,394)	207,923	149,900	58,023
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	812	304,478	(502,666)	1,143,053	1,196,864	(53,810)
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
Employee Expenses	1,482,761	1,437,343	(45,418)	538,373	521,883	(16,491)
Operational & Other Expenses	636,480	572,131	(64,349)	267,687	240,624	(27,063)
Elected Member Allowances	0	0	0	14,509	14,130	(379)
Elected Member Expenses	3,432	2,987	(446)	12,168	10,588	(1,581)
Council Committee & LA Allowances	705	1,381	(676)	1,963	3,846	(1,883)
Council Committee & LA Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Expenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repair and Maintenance	1,768	2,139	(371)	130,728	158,165	(27,436)
Materials and Contracts	257,866	225,076	(32,790)	302,272	263,835	(38,437)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2,383,013	2,241,057	(141,956)	1,267,701	1,213,069	(54,632)
OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(2,382,201)	(1,936,579)	(445,622)	(124,648)	(16,206)	(108,442)
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	904,964	418,542	(486,422)	0	0	0
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) INCLUDING DEPRECIATION	(2,382,201)	(1,936,579)	(445,622)	(124,648)	(16,206)	(108,442)

WDRC Financial Management Report May 2023

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Income and Expense Statement - Actual v Budget

	LA2 Peppimenard 400			LA3 Wadeye 700			TOTAL		
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
	120,256	122,636	(2,380)	1,184,333	1,207,771	(23,438)	1,411,366	1,439,297	(27,931)
	71,143	71,332	(189)	612,460	614,090	(1,630)	969,712	972,294	(2,581)
	123,310	166,704	(43,394)	653,557	883,548	(229,991)	1,229,123	1,661,659	(432,536)
	1,095,145	1,231,635	(136,491)	6,488,475	7,297,152	(808,676)	8,274,275	9,305,521	(1,031,246)
	0	0	0	228,109.33	236,397	(8,288)	228,109	236,397	(8,288)
	174,562	125,849	48,713	386,590	278,709	107,881	169,219	121,997	47,222
	1,584,416	1,718,157	(133,741)	9,553,524	10,517,667	(964,143)	12,281,805	13,737,165	(1,455,360)
	810,808	785,972	(24,836)	2,720,414	2,637,086	(83,328)	5,552,357	5,382,283	(170,073)
	265,432	238,597	(26,836)	2,334,952	2,098,885	(236,066)	3,504,552	3,150,237	(354,314)
	27,237	26,525	(712)	161,741	157,513	(4,229)	203,488	196,168	(7,320)
	8,715	7,583	(1,132)	29,389	25,571	(3,817)	53,705	46,729	(6,976)
	725	3,421	696	1,125	2,204	1,079	4,518	8,852	4,334
	0	0	0	1151.82	8,464	7,312	1,152	8,464	7,312
	0	0	0	243,668	203,857	(39,811)	243,668	203,857	(39,811)
	143,954	174,166	30,212	401,473	485,732	84,259	677,923	820,201	142,278
	82,753	72,230	(10,523)	2,349,280	2,050,547	(298,734)	2,992,171	2,611,687	(380,484)
	1,339,624	1,306,494	(33,131)	8,243,194	7,669,858	(573,336)	13,233,532	12,430,478	(803,054)
	244,792	411,664	(166,871)	1,310,330	2,847,808	(1,537,478)	(951,727)	1,306,687	(2,258,414)
	0	0	0	85,468	625,192	0	990,432	1,043,734	0
	244,792	411,664	(166,871)	1,224,862	2,222,616	(1,537,478)	(1,942,159)	262,954	(2,258,414)

* Peppimenard results affected by closure of services throughout the month of May 2023

WDR: Financial Management Report May 2023

Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions

Where a council credit card has been issued to an Elected Member and/or the CEO, a list per cardholder of all credit card transactions in the month is to be published including the name of the supplier, the amount for each transaction and the reason for the transaction.

Cardholder Name: M Eastham

Transaction Date	Amount	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
23/05/2023	\$720.00	Murin Association	Flight booking
19/05/2023	\$17.99	Arlo	Security Camera's
18/05/2023	\$16.00	News Limited Surry Hills	Newspaper subscription
5/05/2023	\$6.00	Wilson Parking	Parking
Total	\$759.99		



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 7

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

Policy approval

Purpose

To confirm the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) endorsement of policy that is presented to Council for approval.

Background

With the changes mandated by the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal, the Mayors Work Entitlement policy required amendment. As there is no longer a mobile phone allowance and an allowance should the Mayor not have a Council issued vehicle this policy is provide to Council for final approval.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act

Impact for Council

Compliance with policy

Strategic Alignment

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

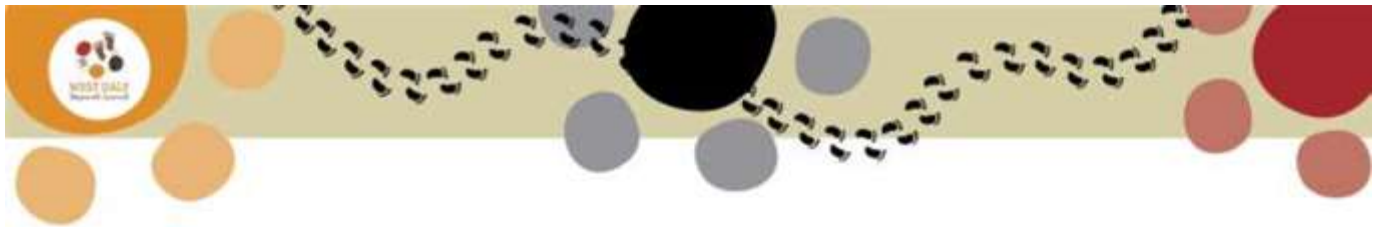
Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

1. That Council approves GOV07 Mayor Work Entitlement Policy which will come into effect from 1 July 2023.

Attachments

- 1 GOV07 Mayor Work Entitlement policy



GOV07	Mayor's Work Entitlements Policy
Approval Date:	
Council Decision Reference:	
Policy Type:	Governance
Policy Custodian:	Chief Executive Officer
Review Date:	28/6/2025
Version (Revision Number):	3.0

Purpose

This policy outlines the facilities and resources that will be provided to the Mayor of the West Daly Regional Council to enable them to carry out their role efficiently and effectively, and in accordance with the legislative requirements.

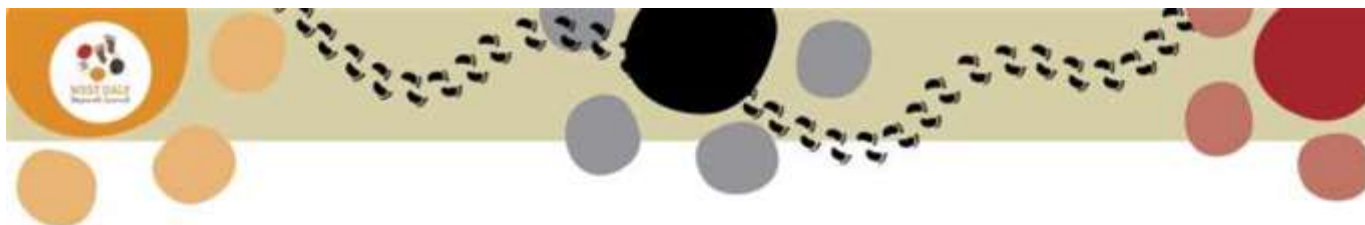
Scope

This policy applies to the Mayor of the West Daly Regional Council, and to Council staff with responsibilities for implementing this policy.

Policy Statement

1. Policy Principles

- 1.1. The Mayor will be provided with adequate and reasonable facilities and resources to enable them to carry out their role under the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- 1.2. Facilities and resources will be provided to the Mayor in a manner that complies with the legislative and regulatory requirements, that is transparent and accountable, and that meets the expectations of the community.
- 1.3. Equipment, facilities, and other resources supplied to the Mayor under this Policy, will be compatible with and of the same standard as other Council equipment and services.
- 1.4. All equipment and resources provided to the Mayor under this policy, remain the property of Council. Upon ceasing to hold the position of the Mayor, use of all equipment and facilities must cease immediately. On request, equipment and facilities must be returned to Council no later than 14 days from the date the Mayor ceases to hold office, or such other time frame as may be specified.
- 1.5. Facilities and equipment provided to the Mayor are not to be converted or modified in any way, and may only be used for carrying out official duties and responsibilities.
- 1.6. The Mayor's use of Council provided facilities and resources must at all times comply with the *Code of Conduct (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members)*.



2. Provisions for Mayoral Allowances and Benefits

- 2.1. Council must ensure sufficient allocation in the annual budget for the provision of the Mayoral Allowance/s and any associated insurances.
- 2.2. Expenditure on these allowance/s will be reported in Council's monthly and annual financial reports.

3. Office Space, Computers and Equipment

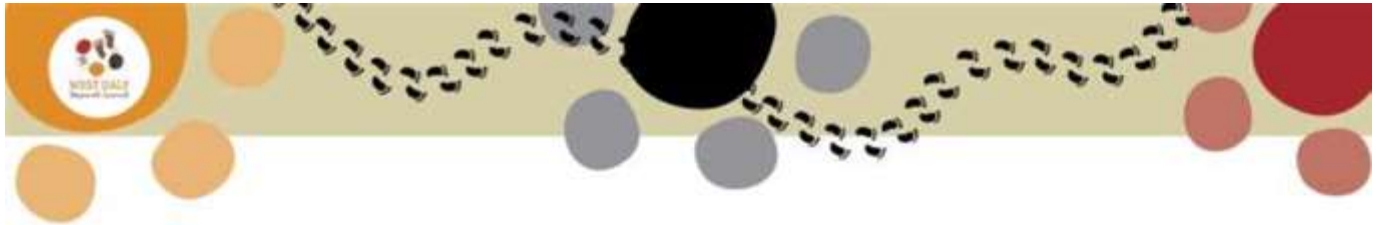
- 3.1. The Mayor will have access to shared office space both at the West Daly Regional Council Office in Darwin and the Council office of their home community.
- 3.2. The office space will be equipped with access to a telephone, computer and internet facilities.
- 3.3. The office space will not be exclusive to the Mayor and may be a shared workspace when the Mayor is not in the Darwin or the Community office.
- 3.4. The Mayor may be provided with a laptop and computer equipment required to enable them to undertake their official duties.
- 3.5. The Mayor will be provided with a dedicated email address for the purpose of attending to Council business and performing official duties in their role. When communicating via the Council provided email account, the Mayor must adhere to all relevant legislation and Council's policies and procedures, including the *Code of Conduct (Elected, Local Authority, and Council Committee Members)*.
- 3.6. The Mayor will not be provided with an allowance or able to claim reimbursement for IT Support or maintenance of equipment that is not supplied by Council. Council will not provide IT support or maintenance for any equipment or services that are not a Council asset.

4. Motor Vehicle

- 4.1. The Mayor is entitled to exclusive use of a motor vehicle for personal and private use, purchased through public monies.
- 4.2. In the context of this policy "personal and private use" means year-round access to the vehicle. The Mayor can use the vehicle in the Northern Territory, whether on official council business or not. This includes private use within the Northern Territory during leave approved by Council.
- 4.3. Daily running costs of the Mayors vehicle including petrol, maintenance and insurance of the vehicle will be covered by the Council.
- 4.4. The Mayor must ensure that scheduled servicing of the motor vehicle is maintained in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. It is the Mayors responsibility to ensure that any service bookings are coordinated through Council who will coordinate a suitable time for the car to be booked in.
- 4.5. The CEO will determine the type of vehicle required for the Mayor.



- 4.6. In lieu of a Council provided vehicle, the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal has determined that Council will pay the Mayor a private vehicle allowance paid in fortnightly instalments, recognising the high cost of maintaining vehicles in remote areas of the Northern Territory.
- 4.7. All Council motor vehicles are to be driven responsibly, complying with the *Traffic Act (NT) 1987* and associated rules or regulations which are to be observed at all times.
- 4.8. The Mayors vehicle is to be driven only on Northern Territory roads and not used for off-road purposes.
- 4.9. As part of "personal and private use", the Mayors vehicle is not to be equipped with a weapon or be used for hunting purposes as the motor vehicle is not fit for that purpose.
- 4.10. The designated driver of the motor vehicle is the Mayor or the Mayor's spouse/partner who are to hold a current driver's license. As Council owns the motor vehicle, the Mayor or the Mayor's spouse/partner are the only approved users to drive the vehicle.
- 4.11. The CEO has authority to confiscate and/or suspend the use of the Mayors vehicle indefinitely should there be any reports of 'illegal use', dangerous, criminal or inappropriate use or misuse of the vehicle where the Mayor or the Mayor's spouse/partner have not used the motor vehicle appropriately. The CEO is to report to Council of the confiscation or suspension.
- 4.12. The Mayor must immediately advise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) if the Mayor or the Mayor's spouse/partner have their license suspended. In the event that either person's license is suspended then that person must not at any time drive the vehicle.
- 4.13. A copy of the Mayor's and the Mayor's spouse/partner current drivers licenses must be kept on the Mayor's personnel file and updated yearly or on expiration.
- 4.14. The Mayor and the Mayor's spouse/partner are prohibited from driving under the influence of any illegal drug or intoxicating liquor in excess of the prescribed limit.
- 4.15. In terms of driver fatigue, it is the responsibility of the Mayor or Mayor's spouse/partner to ensure they take appropriate steps to combat the effects of fatigue due to extended driving periods (i.e. regular rest stops).
- 4.16. The vehicle and its use will be subject to Council's *Motor Vehicle Policy*.
- 4.17. Use of the vehicle for interstate travel for official Council business may be permitted and only with the approval from Council before travel commences.
- 4.18. The Mayor will at all times ensure that the vehicle is kept in a clean condition and apply due care and caution when driving the motor vehicle.
- 4.19. The Council will not pay for any repairs or maintenance that are deemed by the CEO to be due to neglect or misuse of the motor vehicle. These repairs will be paid for by the Mayor.
- 4.20. For serious matters regarding the Mayors motor vehicle, Council will be presented with the facts in order to make a decision based on the recommendations of the CEO.
- 4.21. In the event of a dispute in relation to a decision or action by the CEO under this policy, the Mayor may by written request to the CEO, request the review and determination of the disputed matter in accordance with Council's *Grievance Resolution Procedure*.



4.22. If the Mayor’s vehicle is involved in an accident the Mayor will report the accident to the CEO at the earliest opportunity and to provide full details of the incident by completing the necessary paperwork including an incident report.

5. Breach of Policy

5.1. The Mayor is responsible for adhering to the provisions of this policy. A breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the *Code of Conduct (Elected Member, Local Authority and Council Committee)*, and will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the *Code of Conduct (Elected Member, Local Authority and Council Committee)Policy*.

6. Responsibilities

- 6.1. The Mayor is responsible for complying with this policy.
- 6.2. The CEO is responsible for ensuring the Mayor is provided with the facilities and resources outlined in this policy.

References


- Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*
- Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 (NT)*

Definitions

In the context of this policy the following definitions apply:
Breach means an act of breaking or failing to observe a law, agreement, or code of conduct.
Council refers to the West Daly Regional Council, a regional council that delivers essential local government services to remote communities and supports development opportunities in the region.

Related Documents

- Allowances and Expenses (Elected Members) policy
 - Code of Conduct (Elected Member, Local Authority and Council Committee) Policy
 - Motor Vehicle Policy
 - Guideline and Procedures for Payment of Allowances and Expenses (Elected Member, Local Authority and Council Committee)
 - Grievance Resolution Procedure
- For more information, contact the Policy Custodian.

Signature of Endorsement:	
Position:	Chief Executive Officer



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 8

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

Councillors attendance at conferences

Purpose

Councillors have the opportunity, as part of their Council duties, to attend conferences to further their knowledge and understanding of issues affecting local government and the West Daly region.

Background

Elected Members who are nominated to represent Council at conferences, have a history of not attending these types of functions.

Attendance and participation at conferences can provide a valuable insight into best practice in the efficient, effective and equitable delivery of services to residents, which can then be applied to the Council's service delivery program.

It is important that the knowledge that is gained be shared with fellow Councillors, Council officers, and others, where appropriate.

Where a Councillor attends a conference, at the expense of the Council, that Councillor will from this point forward provide a report to Council, which includes the following:

- An outline of Conference proceedings and the reason for attendance.
- Details of the Councillor's attendance and their participation in the conference.
- A discussion on how the information gained at the conference will assist Council in furthering its objectives and strategies contained in the Councils Regional and Strategic Plan.
- A discussion on issues raised at the conference that could directly affect or benefit the West Daly region.
- The Councillor's plans for applying the knowledge gained for the betterment of Council policy and/or practice.
- Details of where further information may be obtained including copies of conference proceedings and other papers.

Where two or more Councillors attend a conference, at the expense of the Council, a joint report by those Councillors is to be submitted to Council.

A report on the attendance of a conference is to be submitted to Council, by the relevant Councillor/s, within 2 Council meeting cycles of that attendance.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act

Impact for Council

Accountability to constituents.

Strategic Alignment

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

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings
1.4 Sustainability	
Journey 1.4.1	Continue to investigate commercial opportunities as part of business and competitive organisational strategies
Journey 1.4.2	Seek collaborative partnerships that secure financial sustainability
Journey 1.4.4	Seek commercial opportunities as part of growing a sustainable trades division
Focus 2 - Supporting our People	
2.1 Leadership	
Journey 2.1.2	Commit and uphold ethical, transparent and culturally sensitive leadership

Recommendation

- 1. That Council approve the requirement for Elected Members to provide a report on conferences and activities performed as part of their duties as representatives of the West Daly region.**

Attachments



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 9

Prepared by Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance
Officer

Local Authority - What are Elected Members to do?

Purpose

To provide Elected Members with the opportunity to how they can improve the functioning and commitment of their Local Authorities.

Background

The people who voted each elected member into office did so as their representatives for leadership and guidance. Councillors can provide this by putting forward options and presenting arguments or possible solutions to problems at Council meetings.

To be effective, council members need to understand the views of the people they represent. Communication needs to flow both ways to be effective. Councillors provide information to the community about the policies and decisions of council, and the community relays its desires, concerns, and opinions to the council through the councillors. To represent both electors and the council effectively, a councillor needs to be a good communicator and keep in touch with the local community.

Local Authorities are one way that communication can occur with elected members.

The issues that have been identified during elected member's term are Local Authority meetings are cancelled with no notice and elected members are not attending as expected. This is a real problem and reflects on elected members to function as part of their Local Authority and as leaders in the community.

Since elected to Council, the administration of Council has coordinated and organised Local Authority meetings in each region providing ample notice. This is a real challenge, as responsibility to chase Local Authority Chairpersons and members to attend meetings rests with the elected members, not Council staff.

Peppimenarti Local Authority requires further membership and recommend Councillor Wilson promote Local Authority membership to his community and report back to Council on his activities as covered in the base allowance.

The attached report provides Elected Members with an indication on the meetings cancelled, attendance and vacancies.

Elected Members are responsible for engaging with the Chairperson of Wards being the spokesperson for the Local Authority, to discuss matters in community and provide feedback from Council.

Name	Ward	LA Chairperson
Mayor Ralph Narburup	Wadeye, Nganmariyanga and Peppimenarti	Stephen Pultchen
Deputy Mayor Harris	Wadeye	
Cr Jake Clark	Wadeye	
Cr Mark Tunmuck-Smith	Wadeye	
Cr Terry Sams	Nganmariyanga	Amy Narburup
Cr John Wilson	Peppimenarti	Karl Lukonavic

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act s21

Impact for Council

For information

Strategic Alignment

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

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

Recommendation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council note the attendance report for all Local Authorities 2. That Councils elected members will promote Local Authorities to the community so their voice is heard

Attachments

- 1 Meeting attendance report

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP ATTENDANCE

Local Authority member	11/11/2021	9/12/2021	21/04/2022	28/05/2022	17/06/2022	19/10/2022	8/02/2023	12/04/2023	15/08/2023
1 Mayor Ralph Burburup	Present	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
2 Deputy Mayor Willfred Harris	Present	Apology	Present	Apology	Present	Apology	Present	Present	
3 Cllr John Clark	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
4 Cllr Maria Turmuck-Smith	Apology	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Apology	Present	Present	
5 Steven Bullock	Absent	Present	Present		Present	Chairperson elected	Present	Present	
6 Cllr Noreal	Present	Apology	Absent		Present	Absent	Present	Present	
7 Damien Turmuck	Present	Present	Apology		Present	Present	Apology	Cancelled urgent	
8 Ken James	Present	Apology	Present		Present	Apology	Present	Cancelled urgent	
9 Mart Ninnal	Present	Present	Absent		Present	Absent	Absent	Present	
10 Timothy Dunnoo	Present	Apology	Absent		Present	Absent	Absent	Present	
11 Paul Fureback	Absent	Apology	Present		Present	Present	Present	Present	
12 Margaret Beckett	Absent	Present	Present		Present	Apology	Apology	Present	
13 Anne Marie Medulla	Absent	Present	Present		Present	Absent	Apology	Present	
14 Gregory Munn	Absent	Apology	Present		Present	Present	Present	Present	
15 Leon Malpas Chairperson	Apology	Present	Present		Present	Present	Present	Present	

15 members!

15 members!

Local Authority member	12/11/2021	9/12/2021	22/04/2022	29/05/2022	18/06/2022	20/10/2022	8/02/2023	13/04/2023	17/08/2023
1 Mayor Ralph Burburup	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
2 Deputy Mayor Willfred Harris	Present	Apology	N/A	N/A	N/A	Present	Present	Present	
3 Cllr Terry Seams	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
4 Amy Ashburp Chairperson	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
5 Sarah Leach, Medall	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
6 Lorraine Kirriego	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
7 Jeremy McArdle	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
8 Alison Woodall	Present	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
9 Ian Woodall	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
10 Roger Woodall	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
11 John Paul Woodall	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
12 Warren Woodall	Present	Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present	Present	Present	
13 Ane Leahy	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
14 Sandra Leach	Present	Apology	Absent	Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
15 Mary Woodall	Present	Apology	Absent	Present	Apology	Present	Present	Present	

15 Members!

Local Authority member	9/12/2021	20/04/2022	5/05/2022	24/06/2022	30/06/2022	18/06/2022	21/10/2022	10/02/2023	13/04/2023	18/08/2023
1 Mayor Ralph Burburup	N/A				Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
2 Deputy Mayor Willfred Harris	Apology				Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
3 Cllr John Wilson	Apology				Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
4 Karl Lohmeyer Chairperson	Present				Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
5 Antonia Clark Wilson	Present				Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
6 Hilary Wilson	Apology				Apology	Present	Present	Present	Present	
7 Laura Smith	Present				Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
8 Nathan Wilson	Present				Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
9 Anastasia Wilson	Apology				Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	
10 Vacancy	Vacancy				Vacancy	Present	Present	Present	Present	
11 Vacancy	Vacancy				Vacancy	Present	Present	Present	Present	
12 Vacancy	Vacancy				Vacancy	Present	Present	Present	Present	
13 Vacancy	Vacancy				Vacancy	Present	Present	Present	Present	
14 Vacancy	Vacancy				Vacancy	Present	Present	Present	Present	



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 10

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

Do's and Dont's on Social Media

Purpose

To provide Elected Members with guidance and provide information on their responsibilities when it comes to Social Media usage.

Background

Elected Members may mistakenly assume that their social media interactions and comments are private and anonymous, especially if they have set the highest level of privacy or security settings for their accounts. However, there is no guarantee of privacy.

When Elected Members use social media as part of their role, they may receive posts or comments from community members, such as requests for services, administrative inquiries, complaints, or compliments. It's important to remember that the community sees these communications as equivalent to letters or emails, and they expect a response.

If Elected Members are using social media to connect with their community, they should discuss and agree with the CEO on how to forward community requests to the council's administration for action. They should regularly review their social media and promptly forward community requests to the administration and provide information of council channels available to ensure requests or complaints are dealt with efficiently.

If inappropriate comments or content become public, Elected Members will be accountable under the Code of Conduct and the *Local Government Act 2019*. Additionally, there are risks to Elected Members personal well-being, such as harassment and trolling, that they may face as a council member associated with a council or other organisations or issues.

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet have provided resources providing the Do's and Dont's for Elected Members.

Statutory Environment

Local Government Act

Impact for Council

To provide a better understanding on risks whilst using social media.

Strategic Alignment

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

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

Recommendation

- 1. That Council note the information provided regarding Social Media usage.**
- 2. That each Elected Member understands their behavioural obligations in order to protect themselves from unavoidable risks associated with the use of Social Media.**

Attachments

- 1 Information Sheet on Social Media
- 2 Guide to Social Media Do's and Dont's

Information sheet

Personal use of social media

Social media is a powerful communication and networking tool that has become part of our everyday life.

This information sheet is designed to assist local government council members understand their obligations when using social media.

Quick tips – think before you post and ask yourself these questions

- Could my comments cause the council, the community, residents, ratepayers or other stakeholders to lose confidence in my ability to perform my role in an impartial and professional manner?
- Are my comments consistent with how the community expects a council member to operate and behave?
- Can I share this information? You cannot share information that is confidential, or share a council decision that hasn't been publicly released by council administration.
- Could my comments damage or undermine the reputation of the council?
- Could my comments break the law? For example, do they comply with anti-discrimination legislation and laws relating to defamation?
- Would I be comfortable if the person am I commenting about read my comments?
- Would I change my comment if it was printed in a newspaper or news page on social media?
- Think and rethink before you post. Sometimes you can unintentionally say something hurtful or upsetting when you do not mean to. Consider how someone else may interpret what you say.

What is social media

Social media consists of tools such as websites and applications that allow users to create and share content and to participate in social networking. Social media may include:

- Social networks such as Yammer, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- Media sharing networks such as YouTube, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Pinterest, Vimeo and Soundcloud.
- Bookmarking and content curation networks such as Pinterest.
- Corporate networks such as SharePoint and Skype.
- Blogging networks such as WordPress and Newshub.
- Micro-blogging networks such as Twitter, Mastodon and Tumblr.
- Discussion forums such as Reddit and Whirlpool.

Personal use of social media

- Wikis such as Wikipedia.
- Online gaming networks such as World of Warcraft, Call of Duty and Fortnite.
- Sharing economy websites, such as Gumtree and Uber.

The term "post" in this guide refers to any shared or created content put on social media.

What to do if you become a victim of online bullying

- Keep evidence of the offensive or harmful content (screenshots). This may be needed for an investigation.
- Contact the social media service provider and ask them to block the offensive content.
- You could contact the person who posted the offensive content and ask them to remove it.
- Seek advice and support from someone you trust. A family member, friend, fellow council member, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the council or a counselling service may help you to cope with particularly difficult or ongoing concerns.
- Take a stand. If someone is being disrespectful or offensive, let them know that you find their comment / content offensive. Remember, regardless of the severity of the content to which you are responding, an offensive response by you may still constitute a breach of the law.
- If the post is from a council member then you may want to lodge a Code of Conduct complaint. Always be respectful and model behaviours that align with the Code of Conduct for council members yourself.
- Posts which are threatening or imply unlawful activity should be reported to police.

Purpose of personal and professional accounts

You may already have a number of personal social media accounts that allow you to connect with family and friends across the world. Social media can be an excellent way to stay in touch with people you may have lost contact with over the years and share your personal experiences, hobbies, and passions outside of work. Your personal account might use your real name or a nickname and have either a private profile or strict privacy settings.

A professional profile, on the other hand, is like an online resume. It can help give the public an idea of your role, provide a platform to build professional connections, and allow you to engage with the community, raise awareness about what's happening in your area, and share your professional interests or views. Your professional accounts should include your real name, position title, council / ward name, and location.

It's important to keep your personal and professional accounts separate, while treating both spaces as opportunities to present yourself in a positive light and maintain respectful and appropriate behaviour at all times. Remember that the Code of Conduct applies to both accounts and any posts, likes, shares, or interactions.

What is public and what is private

You might mistakenly assume that your social media interactions and comments are private and anonymous, especially if you have set the highest level of privacy or security settings for your accounts. However, there is no guarantee of privacy.

Personal use of social media

It is important to note that the content you create on some third-party sites is the property of the site where it is posted and may be reused in ways that you did not intend. Therefore, before posting anything on a social media site, it is crucial to understand the platform you are using, read the terms of service and user guides, and familiarize yourself with posting etiquette and cultural and behavioural norms associated with the site.

It is also important to remember that what you post online can stay there for a long time and can be shared beyond the intended audience, potentially causing damage to your reputation, another person's reputation, or your council's reputation. As a council member, it is crucial to maintain a clear distinction between your private online identity and your councillor identity.

If inappropriate comments or content become public, you will be accountable under the Code of Conduct and the *Local Government Act 2019*. Additionally, there are risks to your personal well-being, such as harassment and trolling, that you may face as a council member associated with a council or other organisations or issues.

This guide aims to provide you with information that will help you understand your behavioural obligations as a council member and support you in protecting yourself from avoidable risks.

Council members expressing personal opinion

Council members have the right to express their personal opinions in public comments. However, they are prohibited from making any statements that could be interpreted as representing the official stance of their council. To avoid any confusion, it is suggested that council members preface any personal comments regarding matters or activities related to their council with a statement similar to the following: "As a [name of council] Councillor, the views expressed here are solely my own."

It is also worth checking your council media and social media policy to make sure your posts are compliant.

Receiving works requests or community feedback

When council members use social media as part of their role, they may receive posts or comments from community members, such as requests for services, administrative inquiries, complaints, or compliments. It's important to remember that the community sees these communications as equivalent to letters or emails, and they expect a response.

However, council members are not responsible for finding answers or resolving community members' requests. That is the role of the council's administration. Council members should only receive the community member's communication and ensure that it is directed to the council's administration for action.

If council members are using social media to connect with their community, they should discuss and agree with the CEO on how to forward community requests to the council's administration for action. They should regularly review their social media and promptly forward community requests to the administration and provide information of council channels available to ensure requests or complaints are dealt with efficiently.

Council members should inform community members how their communication has been received and actioned. For example, they could say: "Thank you for contacting us. Your request has been forwarded to the [name of council] for response, and you can expect to hear back from us soon. For more information, please contact our Customer Service Team at [phone number] or [email address]."

Personal use of social media

Do's and Don'ts for using photos, videos, images and infographics

Do:

- Use relevant, engaging and high quality images or videos to draw more attention to your post.
- Ask permission from each person before taking their photo and explain the intended use of the photo.
- Ask permission to use an image or video that someone else created, even if you are pictured.
- Consider obtaining written consent to use a photo or video on your social media.
- Credit the person that took the photo or acknowledge the original source.
- Remove an image or video immediately on request.
- Request for photos of yourself to be removed from accounts if you did not give permission or feel it is no longer appropriate. Report the person if your image or video has not been removed after 48 hours.

Don't:

- Use the image or video if you don't know the creator.
- Post stock photos without a caption or giving credit to the owner.
- Use the photo or video if you did not obtain permission from every person pictured.
- Use images from the internet without double checking the terms of use.
- Take or use photos or videos where the site, event or venue explicitly prohibits photo and video.
- Use inappropriate images or videos that may embarrass yourself, another person or your council.
- Use images that go against the platform's terms and conditions, council's policies or governing legislation.

What happens if I have breached the requirements?

If you believe that you have previously posted comments or content that may breach your obligations, it is recommended that you remove (delete) the offending material as soon as possible after you become aware that the material may constitute a breach.

Legislation

Council member behaviour and activity, including when using social media for professional or personal purposes is governed by:

- *Local Government Act 2019*
 - Code of Conduct at Schedule 1
- *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*
- *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2021*
- *Information Act 2002*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 (NT)*

Personal use of social media

- Defamation Act 2006.

Check your council's policies too as there may be specific policies which apply to communications and social media which you must comply with. For example:

- Public Relations / Media
- Election Caretaker Period.

For more information

You will find answers to the most commonly asked questions on the page below. For further queries, please contact your council staff or alternatively you can contact the Local Government Unit, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet via LGQuestions.CMC@nt.gov.au.

Personal use of social media

Frequently asked questions

Why can't I say what I want if I post anonymously?

Are you sure you are anonymous? You may not have identified yourself as a council member but many of us now have a digital footprint that makes it easy to find out who we are. Posting material anonymously or using a pseudonym does not guarantee your identity will stay hidden. Even if you do not identify yourself you can still be identified by someone else.

It is simply common sense to assume that anything you write or post can be linked to you and your council - whether you intend it or not.

What if I have posted after hours?

Your capacity to affect the reputation of your council does not stop when you leave the council chamber. The comments you make at any time can make people question your ability to be impartial, respectful and professional when you are acting as a council member.

The community expects council members to uphold the Code of Conduct behaviours at all times.

What if I posted material from my private computer/tablet/phone?

Posting material from your private equipment means that you do not have to worry about whether or not you've properly used the council information and communication technology (ICT) resources provided to council members. It does not; however, affect whether what you've said is acceptable or not. In the same way that posting material after hours will not always protect you, neither will using your own equipment.

Having said that, remember that any material posted or sent from ICT devices provided by your council may be accessed by the council. This right to access any material received or created by you when performing your duties as a council member is established in law through the council's obligations under the following legislation:

- *Local Government Act 2019*
- *Information Act 2002*
- *Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 (NT)*
- *Defamation Act 2006.*

Use of your council's ICT equipment must be in line with your council's policies and procedures.

What about my right to freedom of speech?

The common law recognises an individual right to freedom of expression and the Australian Constitution contains a right to freedom of political communication. For council members, these rights are subject to limitations imposed by the council's policies.

Why can't I rely on privacy settings on my social media platforms?

It is prudent to restrict the publication of your comments to those people who you actually want to see the comments.

You can set the privacy settings as high as you like. But it is not a complete protection, and it is a bad idea to rely on it. It will not stop another person deciding that something you wrote is particularly funny or insightful, taking a screenshot, and making it available for everyone to see.

Personal use of social media

What about 'liking', sharing and reposting?

If you 'like' something on a social media platform, it will generally be taken to be an endorsement of that material as though you had created that material yourself.

'Sharing' a post has much the same effect. If, however, you are sharing something because you disagree with it and want to draw it to someone else's attention, make sure that you make that clear at the time in a way that does not breach the Code of Conduct. It may not be enough to select the 'angry face' icon, especially if you are one of thousands that have done so.

If my social media pages are locked to friends only but one of my friends reposts one of my posts, could this be a breach?

Yes. The breach occurs at the time you made your post. The fact that one of your friends chose to repost it does not create the breach, it just makes it easier to identify.

Public comment includes anything that you say in public or which ends up in public. This can include something you have said or written to one person. If your comment has an audience, or a recipient, it is a public comment.

Will I breach the Code of Conduct if I send content in a private email to a friend?

Potentially, yes. There is nothing to stop your friend forwarding the email or taking a screenshot of it, including your personal details, and sending it to other people or posting it all over the internet. Again, the breach of the Code of Conduct is not in their subsequent publication of your material, but in your emailing that material in the first place.

Am I responsible for nasty comments made by someone else on my social media pages?

Doing nothing about objectionable material that someone else has posted on your page can be seen in some circumstances as your endorsement of that material. If someone does post material of this kind, it may be sensible to delete it or make it plain that you do not agree with it or support it.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct would not come from the person making the post. It would come from how you reacted to it.

Is it okay to share a petition about a political topic?

It depends. The factors affecting this judgment might include the subject of the petition, or the terms in which it is expressed. The principles set out elsewhere in this guide and in your council's policies may help you come to a view in each case.

In any case, if a council member has been actively involved in a petition or has been a signatory to the petition, the council member will have a conflict of interest to disclose when the petition is presented to the council for consideration.

Is posting to a closed mailing list making a public comment?

Yes. The same principles apply in this case as posting to locked social media pages or sending private emails.

What about just joining a Facebook group (or similar)?

People will draw conclusions about you from a range of factors. This can include the nature of any online communities that you join.

Personal use of social media

Can I post comments about politics, issues and events in other council areas?

Usually, yes, but the same concerns still apply. For example, council members may be seen to be commenting on behalf of their council and need to exercise sensible care in their comments.

You should think carefully before making comments about politics, issues and events in other council areas that might lead others to thinking less of your council.

What about posts or comments I have made in the past prior to becoming a council member?

These principles do not apply to posts made prior to you becoming a council member. However past posts could still affect the council's or your reputation, therefore it would be best to consider the appropriateness of your past posts on any social media accounts and remove any posts that are not appropriate.

If I resign from being a council member, am I free to post anything I want?

Former council members continue to remain bound by a duty of confidentiality in respect of information obtained in confidence during their time as a council member and cannot use the information to gain a benefit or cause harm to another. You should think about whether something you wish to post after leaving your council role might breach this duty.

SOCIAL MEDIA DON'TS



If you are a council member, it is really important to think about what you put on social media or what you say on social media.

- Maybe you do not need to post on social media, every day or week.
- Do not post things, do not comment on things, or do not share information that is gossip or will lie to people.
- Do not post / say bad comments about other people. Do not post / say bad things about people who work or used to work at council.
- Do not post things that maybe will embarrass you, embarrass other people or embarrass your council.
- Do not get involved with requests or feedback from people in the community, unless the CEO says yes first.
- Do not post anything that will make people think it is from the Council.
- Do not post personal / things that are not about work on your work account.
- Do not post anything confidential / secret, even if you don't work for council anymore.
- Stay away from / do not do anything illegal / against the law online. Do not post if you are not sure.

SOCIAL MEDIA DO'S



- Do read the RULES. They are called the Code of Conduct, the council policies and governing legislation (law for councils). These will say what you should do and how you should act online. Make sure the things you do online (actions and behaviour) are the same as what these RULES talk about / say. Check if you are unsure.
- Do keep your work social media account away from your personal social media account.
- Do look for questions and messages from community and tell them that their questions will be sent / passed on to council.
- Do ask your followers for their ideas on how to make the community a better place.
- Do say that you are saying just what YOU think and make sure that you say you are NOT speaking for the council.
- Do check what you are going to say first in your work posts - will community or council be upset by your post?
- Do / always think about the things that you say / put on your personal social media accounts. Your personal social media posts can be mixed up with your work / position as a council member.
- Do delete any posts or comments from your accounts that might cause trouble / harm as soon as possible.
- Do think carefully about what you will say / comment about politics, issues and events in other council areas.
- You must always keep secret council information secret / not talk about it. It is a rule / law called a duty of confidentiality. Even after you leave that job.
- Do report any posts which are bad trouble/ threatening to police.
- Do talk to someone / get advice if you are getting bullied online.



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 11

Prepared by Sharon Binns, Governance & Quality Assurance
Officer

The voice to Parliament

Purpose

To seek Councils position on the Indigenous Voice to Parliament.

Background

In 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to update the Constitution to include an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

The Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP committed to this in his election night speech on 21 May 2022, when he said the Government would implement the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

At the Garma Festival on 30 July 2022, the Prime Minister announced a draft referendum question and draft words to be added to the Constitution. The draft question and draft amendment are the basis for discussion ahead of the referendum.

On 17 August 2022, a meeting of Indigenous affairs ministers from all states and territories and the Commonwealth agreed to support the Government's work for a Voice to Parliament.

On 29 September 2022, Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Linda Burney MP, announced two First Nations referendum advisory groups working with the Government.

These are the:

- First Nations Referendum Working Group.
- First Nations Referendum Engagement Group.

A third group, the Constitutional Expert Group, is providing legal support to the Referendum Working Group on the draft constitutional amendment and other issues relating to the referendum.

These three groups are meeting regularly and reporting the outcomes of their discussions.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) is leading preparation for the referendum through First Nations engagement, coordination across the Australian Public Service and supporting government processes.

The Indigenous Voice to Parliament (the Voice), is the proposed new representative advisory body containing separately elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Enshrined in the Constitution of Australia, it will provide a permanent means to advise the Australian Parliament and Government on the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the matters that affect them.

A set of principles that describe how the Voice will work were agreed to by the First Nations Referendum Working Group. The Voice is a body that will:

- provide independent advice to Parliament and Government
- be chosen by First Nations people based on the wishes of local communities
- be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- be empowering, community led, inclusive, respectful, and culturally informed and gender balanced, and include youth
- be accountable and transparent
- Work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures.

The Voice will not have a program delivery function, or a veto power.

The structure and role of the Voice would be decided by Parliament through legislation, with members to be chosen by First Nations people.

The request for creating the Indigenous Voice to Parliament was a result of the May 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, delivered by the First Nations National Constitutional Convention which met at Uluru.

The referendum is part of the Government's commitment to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

In an act of support, 38 Mayors representing urban, regional and remote communities, have come together to make a joint statement in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament - to build the referendum from the grassroots up.

The signing mayors are now equipped to inform and educate the communities about the Uluru Statement of the Heart and create conversations about the referendum in communities, towns and suburbs throughout the country.

The Mayors for the Voice to Parliament Public Statement reads,

"We the undersigned endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament.

"As local leaders, we are committed to building awareness in our communities about the upcoming referendum.

"Our citizens should be informed about what constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament will mean for Indigenous people and Australian society as a whole.

"Local government must play an important role in holding civic forums, promoting dialogue, and providing a platform for Indigenous voices to be heard in the debate.

"We believe that a successful referendum can be a unifying achievement for Australia.

"We are ready to work with all levels of government to educate and inform our communities about why this referendum is such an important moment for our nation."

A First Nations community toolkit is provided to assist Elected Members to become more informed in order to assist their constituents.

Statutory Environment

N/A

Impact for Council

For information only

Strategic Alignment

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

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

Recommendation
1. That Council agrees / does not agree with the First Nations Voice to Parliament and the proposed law to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia.

2. That Council supports / does not support the active engagement of Council, Local Authorities and Communities for a better understanding of the Referendum and the Voice to Parliament.

Attachments

- 1 First Nations Community toolkit
- 2 The Voice



Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

First Nations community toolkit

Get informed.
[Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au)



Australian Government

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

This toolkit is to support First Nations communities. In it you'll find information to share with your networks about the upcoming referendum.

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Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice



Introduction

This toolkit is to support First Nations communities. In it you'll find factual information to share with your networks about the upcoming referendum.

Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.

It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

This toolkit is not about a Yes or No decision. It is about:

- why we are having a referendum
- what the Voice is about
- how to share information.

First Nations community networks and organisations are key to sharing this important information so people can make an informed decision. You can help make sure people receive the information they need to make their decision.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Actions you can take to help inform people

You can help people be informed about the facts of the Voice referendum.

- **Share the facts** about the Voice and the referendum from this kit with your communities. Use the channels and methods you know will reach them best.
- **Download and share** the written, audio and visual materials from this kit with your networks.
- **Print materials** so people can take them away to read in their own time.
- Use the materials to **guide a conversation with your community** about the facts.
- **Encourage people to be ready** for the conversation about the Voice referendum and get informed at [Voice.gov.au/community-toolkit/first-nations](https://voice.gov.au/community-toolkit/first-nations).

Background information

Australia's Constitution

A referendum is when Australian citizens who are 18 or older, vote on whether to change something in Australia's Constitution.

The Constitution is a document that outlines the rules for governing Australia. The only way to change it is through a referendum.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

Australia has been talking about recognising First Nations peoples in the Constitution for more than a decade.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart has informed the referendum to:

- recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia
- establish a Voice to Parliament.

More than 1,200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people informed the Uluru Statement during a series of regional dialogues.

On 26 May 2017, 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people presented the Uluru Statement at the First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

The Uluru Statement

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a *spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.*

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet.

We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the *torment of our powerlessness.*

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a *rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: *the coming together after a struggle.* It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice



Conversation guide

People will be talking about the Voice and what it means for them, their families and their communities.

There are different ways to have **conversations** about the Voice.

- **Ask** people what they know about the referendum and the Voice.
- **Give** the toolkit materials to people and yarn about them.
- **Discuss** the facts through some key questions.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Key questions – About the referendum

What is the referendum?

The referendum is an Australia-wide voting process. It will happen in late 2023.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and older must vote in the referendum. You must be enrolled to vote.

The Australian Electoral Commission will manage the referendum. Visit aec.gov.au to enrol or update your details.

Why do we need a referendum?

Only a vote by the people – a referendum – can change the Constitution.

This makes it Australia's choice to add some words to the Constitution about:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being the First Peoples of Australia
- setting up an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

When will the referendum be held?

The Government has said the referendum will be held in late 2023. We don't know the exact date yet, but the Prime Minister has said it will be between October and December.

What will we vote about?

You will be asked to vote either 'yes' or 'no' to a single question.

The referendum will pass if:

- most voters in at least 4 out of 6 states vote yes, and
- most voters in Australia vote yes.

Subject to the Parliaments approval, the question Australian people will be asked to vote on at the 2023 referendum will be:



“A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

Do you approve this proposed alteration?”

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

This proposed law would add a new section into the Constitution.

The new section would say:

'Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;*
- ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;*
- iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.'*

What happens if the referendum passes?

After the referendum, the government will consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader public to design the Voice. The Government will then introduce legislation to Parliament to establish the Voice. Once Parliament approves the legislation to establish the Voice, the legislation comes into effect and the work to set up the Voice begins.

What would happen if the referendum does not pass?

If the referendum does not pass, the Australian Constitution will not be changed to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice.

Key questions – About the Voice

How would we choose who's in the Voice?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people would choose who is in the Voice.

Their choice would be based on what they want for their communities.

The members of the Voice would not be appointed by the Government.

Members would be from a mix of genders, places and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

What would the Voice do?

Some principles were already developed by a First Nations Referendum Working Group, made up of First Nations leaders from across Australia. The Government agreed these principles would underpin the shape and function of the Voice.

You can read the design principles in full on the [Voice.gov.au](https://www.voice.gov.au) website.

The principles include that the Voice would be separate to the Government. But it would give important advice to the Government and the Parliament on issues that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

And the Voice would:

- empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community voices
- be led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- value all views and voices
- be informed by culture
- include young people.

The Voice would not:

- make policies or laws
- stop policies and laws being made.

How would the Voice work with existing governance and community structures?

- Meaningful connections at the local level would be a key feature of discussions about the Voice model if the referendum passes, however the detail is yet to be determined.
- There is scope for the design of the Voice to align and connect with existing and emerging arrangements currently supported by states, territories and the Commonwealth.
- Regional connections in each jurisdiction may be different, reflecting the different needs of First Nations communities, states and territories instead of a one-size-fits all approach.
- The Voice would be representative of First Nations peoples and local communities.
- Members of the Voice would be expected to connect with – and reflect the wishes of – their communities.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Resources

These resources are to help share the facts about the Voice and referendum so your community can make an informed vote later this year.

The National Indigenous Australians Agency developed the resources. New resources, including translations will be added to the website.

Key messages

- Australia is having a conversation about the Voice referendum being held later this year.
- It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.
- The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The Voice would provide advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lives.
- The Voice referendum will be held in late 2023. All Australian citizens aged 18 years and older must vote.
- Be ready for the conversation, get informed at [Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au).



You can use this QR code with your phone to access the First Nations resources on the [Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au) website.

Information booklet, poster/s and factsheet

You can download the:

- [information booklet](#)
- [posters](#)
- [factsheets](#).

You can print and share these with your networks.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Videos

Animations are an engaging way to explain the referendum process.

There are 3 videos:

1. What is the Voice referendum?
2. Why is the Voice referendum happening now?
3. When is the Voice referendum?

Translated content

Access content in language with translated audio and documents. A plain English factsheet has been developed and recorded in audio. Translated audio will be added to the website over the coming weeks.

Website banners and email signature

You can use the website banner and signature in your emails to share the Voice website with people you communicate with.







Social media files

You can download the social media files and share them on your organisation or community Facebook pages to reach people with key information.

TOPIC	IMAGE	SUGGEST POSTS
Referendum date	 A social media banner with a dark blue background. It features a photo of three people looking at a laptop. Text reads: 'There will be a referendum this year. Your vote will decide if a voice will be added to the Australian Constitution.' The Voice.gov.au logo is at the bottom.	Australia will decide later this year if we'll recognise First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution by setting up an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Referendum words explained	 A social media banner with a dark blue background. It features a graphic of a ballot box with a hand putting a ballot in. Text reads: 'At the referendum, you will be asked to vote either 'yes' or 'no' to adding the words to the Constitution.' The Voice.gov.au logo is at the bottom.	The words would recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia and set up a body called the 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice'. The Voice would be a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who represent First Nations communities across Australia. Find out more at Voice.gov.au

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

TOPIC	IMAGE	SUGGEST POSTS
Referendum words explained		The Voice would be separate to government, but give advice to the government and Parliament on issues that affect the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Referendum passes		If the referendum is passed, the next step is to talk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the broader public about how the Voice would work. The Parliament would then make a law to set up the Voice. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Voice principles: accountability		Being accountable and transparent is one of the principles of the Voice. The Voice would have standard procedures and ways of working so Voice members will be clear about their roles. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Voice principles: existing structures		Working with existing organisations and traditional structures is one of the principles of the Voice. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Voice principles: Independent to government		The Voice would be separate to the Government. The Voice would give independent advice to the government and Parliament about issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Find out more at Voice.gov.au
Voice principles		First Nations Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will choose members of the Voice based on the wishes of their communities. The government will not choose who's in the Voice. Find out more at Voice.gov.au

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

TOPIC	IMAGE	SUGGEST POSTS
<p>Voice principles: Balanced representation</p>		<p>Members of the Voice would be from a mix of genders, places, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and include youth.</p> <p>Find out more at Voice.gov.au</p>
<p>Voice principles: Empowering and inclusive</p>		<p>The Voice would empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community voices, be led by community, be inclusive and be informed by culture.</p> <p>Voice.gov.au</p>

Newsletter copy

You can share these words in your organisation or community newsletter:

Later this year, Australia will have a referendum. It's about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

The Voice would be an independent and permanent advisory body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It would give advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect their lives.

You can find out more at [Voice.gov.au](https://voice.gov.au).

Voting in the referendum is compulsory for all eligible Australian citizens aged 18 years and over.

It's important that everyone is enrolled to vote to have a say.

Find out more about enrolling to vote at aec.gov.au/indigenous.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au

Recognition through an Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Looking after wellbeing

The referendum is a hard conversation. It can affect people in different ways.

Seeing, hearing or talking about the referendum may be triggering for some people.

It's important to look after our own mental health and support community wellbeing and safety.

Places to go for help

Office of the eSafety Commissioner

The eSafety Commission has tips and resources to help connect with each other safely online.

There are **things you can do** if someone's sharing harmful content on the internet.

You can visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

13 YARN

This line is for confidential, culturally safe crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Available all day, every day. **Call 13 92 76.**

Wellmob

Wellmob is a social, emotional and cultural wellbeing online resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. **You can visit [wellmob.org.au](https://www.wellmob.org.au).**

More info on enrolling to vote and how to vote

The AEC has a range of **resources and materials** for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities about enrolling to vote.

Or you can call the general enquiries line on **13 23 26**.

If you require assistance in a language other than English please call **1300 720 153**.

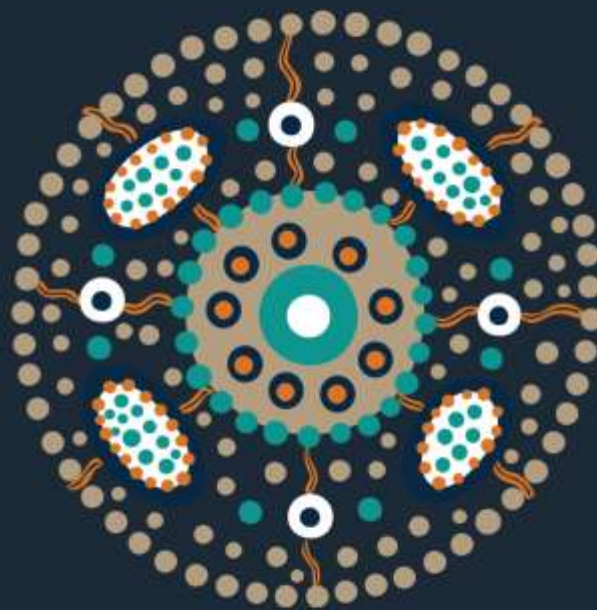
Get informed.
Voice.gov.au



Australian Government



Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through a Voice



Information Booklet

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Referendum to enshrine a Voice

In late 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice enshrined in our Constitution.



What is the Constitution?

The Australian Constitution is the set of rules by which Australia is governed.

The only way to change the Constitution is by holding a referendum. It is up to the Australian people to decide if the Constitution should change.

What is a referendum?

A federal referendum is a national vote on a question about whether part of the Constitution should change.

Just like a federal election, all Australian citizens aged 18 and over must vote.

Did you know?

To be eligible to vote you must be enrolled with the AEC. Enrol here: www.aec.gov.au/referendums/enrolling.htm

How is the result decided?

For a referendum to pass, a majority of voters need to vote 'yes' nationally, plus a majority of voters in at least 4 out of 6 states. This is known as a double majority.



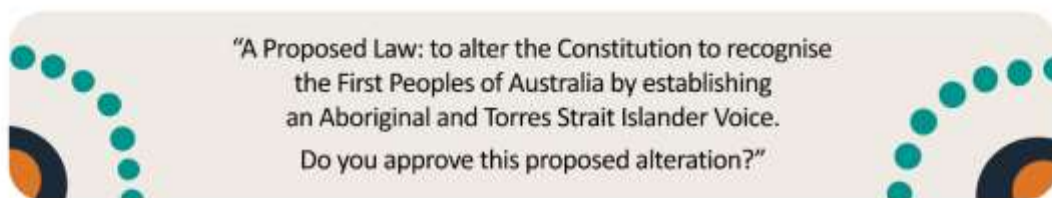
Referendum question and constitutional amendment

On 30 March 2023, the referendum question and constitutional amendment were introduced into Parliament through the Constitution Alteration Bill.

Both the question and terms of the constitutional amendment may change as a result of consideration in Parliament.

Referendum question

On referendum day, voters will be asked to vote 'yes' or 'no' on a single question. Subject to the Parliament's approval, the question on the ballot paper will be:



Constitutional amendment

The 'Proposed Law' that Australians are being asked to vote upon is set out in the Constitution Alteration Bill and is subject to Parliament's approval. If approved at the referendum, the Bill would add the following words to the Constitution:

Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- i. there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- ii. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- iii. the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.



What is the Voice and what would it do?

There has been a lot of work over many years to define what a Voice could look like. The following Voice design principles were agreed by the First Nations Referendum Working Group and were drawn from this work.

The Voice will give independent advice to the Parliament and Government



- The Voice would make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- The Voice would be able to make representations proactively.
- The Voice would be able to respond to requests for representations from the Parliament and the Executive Government.
- The Voice would have its own resources to allow it to research, develop and make representations.
- The Parliament and Executive Government should seek representations in writing from the Voice early in the development of proposed laws and policies.

The Voice will be chosen by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people based on the wishes of local communities



- Members of the Voice would be selected by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, not appointed by the Executive Government.
- Members would serve on the Voice for a fixed period of time, to ensure regular accountability to their communities.
- To ensure cultural legitimacy, the way that members of the Voice would be chosen would suit the wishes of local communities and would be determined through the post-referendum process.

The Voice will be representative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, gender balanced and include youth

- Members of the Voice would be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, according to the standard three part test.
- Members would be chosen from each of the states, territories and the Torres Strait Islands.
- The Voice would have specific remote representatives as well as representation for the mainland Torres Strait Islander population.
- The Voice would have balanced gender representation at the national level.



The Voice will be empowering, community-led, inclusive, respectful and culturally informed

- Members of the Voice would be expected to connect with – and reflect the wishes of – their communities.
- The Voice would consult with grassroots communities and regional entities to ensure its representations are informed by their experience, including the experience of those who have been historically excluded from participation.



The Voice will be accountable and transparent

- The Voice would be subject to standard governance and reporting requirements to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Voice members would fall within the scope of the National Anti-Corruption Commission.
- Voice members would be able to be sanctioned or removed for serious misconduct.



The Voice will work alongside existing organisations and traditional structures

- The Voice would respect the work of existing organisations.



The Voice will not have a program delivery function

- The Voice would be able to make representations about improving programs and services, but it would not manage money or deliver services.

The Voice will not have a veto power

What happens if the referendum passes?

Did you know?

If the referendum passes, the Voice won't exist until legislation is enacted. There would be a process to consult on and finalise the Voice with the steps outlined below.



Referendum

In late 2023, Australians will have their say in a referendum on whether to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia in the Constitution through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.



Consultation

If the referendum passes, there will be a process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader public to design the Voice.



Introduce Voice establishment legislation to Parliament

A bill will then be developed to establish the Voice. This would be introduced to Parliament and may be referred to a parliamentary committee to suggest ways to improve it. Parliament decides if it becomes law.



Implementation

Once Parliament approves the legislation to establish the Voice, the legislation comes into effect and the work to set up the Voice begins.





About the artist and cover artwork

The Voice logo is a section of the artwork 'Working together for a future of equality' by Jordana Angus for the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet – Indigenous Affairs. This section of the work represents the well-being of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people being equal.

Get informed.
Voice.gov.au



Mayors for the Voice to Parliament Public Statement

We the undersigned endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart and support constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through a Voice to Parliament.

As local leaders, we are committed to building awareness in our communities about the upcoming referendum.

Our citizens should be informed about what constitutional recognition through a Voice to Parliament will mean for Indigenous people and Australian society as a whole.

Local government must play an important role in holding civic forums, promoting dialogue, and providing a platform for Indigenous voices to be heard in the debate.

We believe that a successful referendum can be a unifying achievement for Australia.

We are ready to work with all levels of government to educate and inform our communities about why this referendum is such an important moment for our nation.

Signed by the following mayors:

Heather Holmes-Ross - City of Mitcham (SA)	Dylan Parker - Randwick City Council (NSW)
Dr Mary Duniam - Waratah-Wynyard Council (Tas)	Maree Statham - Lithgow City Council (NSW)
Chris Homer - Shellharbour Council (NSW)	Tony Bleasdale OAM- Blacktown City Council (NSW)
Anna Reynolds - Hobart City Council (Tas)	Peter Castaldo - Banyule City Council (Vic)
Ben Ramcharan - Nillumbik Shire Council (Vic)	Zoe Baker - North Sydney Council (NSW)
Lisa Lake - Cumberland Council (NSW)	Donna Davis - City of Parramatta (NSW)
Kenrick Winchester - Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (NSW)	Michael Kerr - Douglas Shire Council (Qld)
Danny Gibson - City of Launceston (Tas)	Andrew Zbik - Lane Cove Council (NSW)
Isabelle Tolhurst - Borough of Queenscliffe (Vic)	Tony Jack - Roper Gulf Regional Council (NT)
Rhys Williams - City of Mandurah (WA)	Nuatali Nelmes - City of Newcastle (NSW)
Keri Tamwoy - Aurukun Shire Council (Qld)	Mark Greenhill - Blue Mountains City Council (NSW)
Charlie Sheahan - Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (NSW)	Des Hudson - City of Ballarat (Vic)
Christina Curry - Bayside Council (NSW)	Jay Suvaal - Cessnock City Council (NSW)
Nick Katris - Georges River Council (NSW)	Stephen Allan - Bellingen Shire Council (NSW)
Michael Whelan - Bass Coast Shire Council (Vic)	Sarah Carter - Maribyrnong City Council (Vic)
Clover Moore - City of Sydney (NSW)	Kevin Beatty - Cabonne Council (NSW)
Paula Masselos - Waverley Council (NSW)	Jason Hamling - Orange City Council (NSW)
Peter Scott - Cook Shire Council (Qld)	Hon George Gear JP - City of Melville (WA)
Darcy Byrne - Inner West Council (NSW)	Khal Asfour - Canterbury Bankstown (NSW)



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 12

Prepared by **Matthew Eastham, CEO**

Chief Executive Officer Report

Purpose

To update Council on matters related to governance and management.

Background

Key goals for Council in the 2022/23 Regional Plan are:

1. Strengthen our Organisation
2. Support our People
3. Develop our Community
4. Grow our Services
5. Build our Region

Key risks identified for Council in the 2022/23 Regional Plan are:

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Assets and Infrastructure
3. Service Delivery Continuity
4. Environmental Impact
5. Regulatory and Statutory Requirements

Social unrest has continued to impact Council and its employees. There have been multiple unlawful entries to Councils administrative buildings and homes over the past week. This has included damage to vehicles, damage to a new Community Services Patrol vehicle at Nganmariyanga and the theft of a Council truck and ram raid of civil yard fencing at Nganmariyanga. Staff have reported sporadic social issues at Wadeye. Other agencies are suffering from similar impacts.

The CEO has significant concerns for the safety and wellbeing of WDRC staff across the West Daly region. WDRC currently has a staff member on workers compensation and other staff reporting to be *traumatised* due to the most recent events. WDRC is also facing increased stress on employees. Impact statements have been provided by two staff. It has been reported to the CEO that many staff are concerned for their security and safety.

CEO attended a meeting with NTG CMC and Departmental representatives with a Ministerial to be drafted regarding the current situation.

WDRC WHS Officer is working with staff on safety plans and our P&C Manager is heading up a project around safety and wellbeing to improve awareness and access to care as required.

The ongoing issues at Peppimenarti and Nganmarriyanga continue to be damaging for the WDRC especially relating to the safety and security of our people, homes, equipment and infrastructure. Council continues to work with all stakeholders and the CEO, manager and senior staff are offering all of the support available.

The CEO encourages Elected Members to take a strong stand against the current social unrest and violence and to demonstrate support for Council and its people. Strong leadership is required by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor working closely with the NTG and all stakeholders.

Council's service delivery across the West Daly region is increasing with the emergence of the dry season and opening of roads. Road conditions remain poor especially on the main road from Daly River to Wadeye and this does impact Councils fleet (mechanically wear and tear) as well as access for contractors to move machinery into the West Daly Region. DIPL have been contacted regarding these matters.

Recovery post flood at Nganmarriyanga continues. Insurance claims continue to be assessed.

Audit of Councils finances by Nexia has commenced.

A report has been prepared relating to the Peppimenarti Council Office and the requirement to relocate staff at the earliest opportunity.

Meetings with Chief Ministers Department were held to discuss the West Daly Region and matters occurring across the Region. Council continues to advocate for improved services and access to grants for additional security and safety proposals.

Regional Planning is finalised. Next steps are to continue with the Strategic Plan.

RFQ has been released for the Annual Report.

Work continues with the NTG/DIPL around the Wadeye Swimming Pool.

CEO and D/Mayor Harris and Cr Tunmuck-Smith attended ALGA national assembly in Canberra. Councils met with Linda Burney MP, Marion Scrymgour MP regarding LG matters and concerns relating to the Northern Territory. The Prime Minister attended the meeting and valuable discussions were held. CEO raised matters relating to the new CDEP program. Follow up meeting being

arranged with Marion Scrymgour regarding election commitments and the West Daly region in general.

CEO and D/Mayor Harris and Cr Tunmuck-Smith attended a meeting with NTG Chief Minister and Cabinet / LGANT meeting. High level discussions regarding policy and social matters.

CEO has had increased involvement and time commitments as D/Chair of CouncilBiz and this continues to be an important period for CouncilBiz and Regional Council in relation to support services and transitional proposals.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Impact for Council

Information purposes only.

Strategic Alignment

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

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation	
1.2 Governance	
Journey 1.2.2	Continued development of the compliance framework
Journey 1.2.3	Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes and accepts the CEO report and acknowledges the invitation for Councillors to ask questions of the CEO regarding the report.**
- 2. That Council notes the serious issues regarding the safety and wellbeing of WDRC staff and the health and wellbeing impacts the ongoing environmental situation in the West Daly communities is having on staff.**
- 3. That Council agrees and accepts that stronger leadership for the West Daly Regional Council from Elected Members is required relating to all matters affecting the West Daly region.**

Attachments



Communique

National General Assembly 2023

Over 1,100 local government leaders from across Australia gathered in Canberra from 13 – 15 June for the 29th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) to share innovations to support the public good and to speak to the Federal Government with one voice.

We acknowledged the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognised any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. The Assembly paid its respects to their elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledged the vital and ongoing contributions First Nations peoples continue to make to our nation.

Opening the NGA, the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley thanked and acknowledged local governments for their dedication and work for local communities especially responding to natural disasters. His words, noting councils were the level of government that looked communities in the eye, resonated with delegates.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to work in partnership with the Federal Government for the public good, while at the same time addressing the local and regional challenges faced by communities across the nation.

We welcomed and thanked the many federal members of parliament who attended and spoke at the NGA or associated events, including the Hon



Catherine King, the Hon Kristy McBain, the Hon Peter Dutton and the Hon Darren Chester.

Councils also welcomed His Excellency, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, Ukraine Ambassador, who provided an update on the Ukrainian people's progress to protect their national sovereignty; and welcomed and encouraged sister city arrangements between Australian and Ukrainian regions.

In response to ALGA's advocacy, councils thanked the Federal Government for its re-establishment of the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) which will be held on Friday 16 June 2023. The ACLG was first established in 2008 as a physical and symbolic acknowledgment of the respect and mutual interest of both levels of government and need to work together.

This year's Assembly program included consideration of 260 notices of motions submitted by councils. These motions identify opportunities where a strong partnership between the Federal Government and local government can progress our mutual policy interests, and the ALGA Board will now consider these in forming its policy positions and federal advocacy.

These motions included solutions to address the financial sustainability of councils, climate change adaptation and renewable energy, improved transport and communications, improved natural disaster preparedness and management, Closing the Gap and the Voice, enhancing the circular economy and improving housing and homelessness outcomes through partnerships.



On behalf of Australia's 537 local governments, the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) will continue to work with the Federal Government to deliver better outcomes for all Australian communities.



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 28 JUNE 2023

Report for Agenda Item No 13

Prepared by **Julieanne Wylie, EA to CEO and Mayor**

Correspondence Report

Purpose

To confirm a standard administrative process and best practice for West Daly Regional Council in the management of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Background

A list of the incoming and outgoing correspondence Council receives is reported on at each Ordinary Council Meeting to provide our Elected Members with an overview – and copies can be made available on request.

Statutory Environment

Section 94 *Local Government Act 2019* is relevant to this matter.

Impact for Council

To bring Council into line with best practice amongst Northern Territory Regional Councils.

Strategic Alignment

This report is aligned to the West Daly Regional Plan 2022-2023.

Focus 1 - Strengthen our Organisation

1.2 Governance

Journey 1.2.3

Continue to strengthen the governance framework and encourage active contribution at all meetings

Recommendation

- 1. That Council notes and accepts the correspondence report for the period May-June 2023.**

Attachments

- 1 Correspondence Register - May-June 2023

Correspondence Register – May/June 2023				
Type	Date	Author	Recipient	Title/Content
Incoming	2 May 2023	CouncilBiz	CEO	Agreement of Services for Financial Processes
Incoming	19 May 2023	Dept Territory Families, Housing and Communities	CEO	Renewal of Public Library Funding Agreement
Incoming	23 May 2023	CEO	DCM	Community Place for People Grant 2022-2023
Incoming	24 May 2023	CEO	Noel Clifford – Nexia	Audit of Statement of Income and Expenditure
Incoming	29 May 2023	CEO	DCM	Infrastructure Grants Project 2022-23
Outgoing	30 May 2023	COO	TOA Construction Pty Ltd	NOA – WDRC 2023-02 Civil Works Period Contract
Outgoing	1 June 2023	CEO	Mayor	Mayors Work Vehicle – Suspension of Use
Incoming	2 June 2023	NTG	Elected Members	Topo End Regional Economic Growth Committee – Expressions of Interest
Incoming	5 June 2023	DIPL	CEO	Enhanced Development Assessment Forum
Incoming	9 June 2023	DCM	CEO	Local Authority Project Funding Second Offer – 2022-23
Incoming	23 June 2023	Minister for Local Government	CEO	Approved – Community Places for People Grant