**TRANSITION COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 1**

The Victoria Daly Regional Council Transition Committee held its first meeting in Katherine on Monday 17 February 2014. As flooding prevented the Chair of the Transition Committee, Mr Tony Jack, from attending the meeting, the Minister for Local Government and Regions, Mr David Tollner, requested the Chief Executive of the Department of Local Government and Regions, Mr Allan McGill, to chair the first meeting.

The first meeting included very important and constructive discussion around a range of topics with 20 recommendations agreed by consensus regarding:

* Overarching principles of the reform;
* Committee governance including arrangements and Terms of Reference;
* Overview of the transition process including consultation, roles and responsibilities, transition phases, project tasks and timelines;
* Ward and Regional Council boundaries and elections;
* New council name; and
* Human resources and industrial relation matters including employee consultation.

The purpose of the Transition Committee is to provide advice to the Minister on:

* new regional council name, boundaries and elections;
* transition methodology;
* proposed interim governance and operational frameworks;
* continuity of service delivery during the transition period; and
* implementation of the transition processes.

Members of the Transition Committee include:

* Gary Ariuu (Councillor, Palumpa)
* Miriam Rose Baumann (Nauiyu)
* Veronica Birrell (Councillor, Pine Creek)
* Andrew Brown (Councillor, Wadeye)
* Mark Coffey (Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet)
* John De Koning (NT Department of the Chief Minister)
* Stuart Duncan (CEO, Victoria Daly Regional Council)
* Steven Hennessy (Acting Mayor, Victoria Daly Regional Council)
* Tony Jack (Vice President LGANT, Mayor, Roper Gulf Regional Council)
* Georgina Macleod (Councillor, Daguragu-Kalkarindji)
* Wally Minjin (Councillor, Wadeye)
* Tobias Nganbe (Board Member, TRAAC, Wadeye)
* Joseph Parry (Councillor, Woodycupaldiya)
* Brian Pedwell (Councillor, Yarralin)
* Damien Ryan (President LGANT, Mayor, Alice Springs Town Council)
* Harold Wilson (Councillor, Peppimenarti)
* Gerry Wood MLA (Member for Nelson, NT Legislative Assembly)

The Transition Committee will keep communities and stakeholders informed during the transition process. For more information please visit [www.localgovernment.nt.gov.au](http://www.localgovernment.nt.gov.au) .

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Agenda Item 2 – Committee Governance**

1. Committee Governance arrangements be amended to allow for proceedings to be recorded by digital voice recorder.
2. Committee Governance arrangements be amended to allow for media enquiries to be directed to the Chair of each meeting.
3. Committee Governance arrangements, incorporating the above amendments, be adopted.
4. Committee Terms of Reference, as drafted, be endorsed.

**Agenda Item 3 – Transition Overview**

1. Transition process and approach, as drafted, be endorsed.
2. Governance training be arranged for both councils, at the earliest possible stage in transition.

**Agenda Item 4 – Council Boundaries and Elections**

1. Current boundaries for wards within the new council area (Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward, Tyemirri Ward and Nganmarriyanga Ward) will remain as is, for now.
2. A full review of electoral representation and boundaries will be undertaken by March 2015 for both the Victoria Daly Regional Council and the new council as required under section 23(1)(c)(i) and 23(2) of the *Local Government Act*.
3. Current councillors for wards within the new council area will continue, without new elections.
4. The means of selection of the principal member of the new council will be determined through further consultation, whether it is to be on the basis of direct appointment by councillors or by popular election.

**Agenda Item 5 – Council Name**

1. The interim name of the new council will be the West Daly Regional Council, with the ongoing name to be confirmed after further consultation with the community.
2. The name of the continuing council will be the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

**Agenda Item 6 – Human Resources and Industrial Relations**

1. The existing Victoria Daly Regional Council will continue but with changed boundaries under section 9(1)(e) of the *Local Government Act*.
2. A new West Daly Regional Council will be constituted under section 9(1)(a) of the *Local Government Act.*
3. As there is a transfer of business, the existing Victoria Daly Regional Council Enterprise Agreement is a transferrable instrument and will apply to the new West Daly Regional Council, all transferring employees and new employees engaged after 1 July 2014.
4. All consultation obligations under the existing Victoria Daly Regional Council’s Enterprise Agreement will be met.
5. Any redundancy/ redeployment requirements under the *Fair Work Act* will be met.
6. The NT Government will seek further expert advice regarding a possible 12 month employment guarantee to be provided to relevant existing staff of the Victoria Daly Regional Council.
7. An interim Transfer Manager will be appointed by the Minister for Local Government and Regions through a Restructuring Order, pending the appointment of a Chief Executive Officer by the new West Daly Regional Council.
8. An interim shared services arrangement may be developed between the continuing Victoria Daly Regional Council and the new council, subject to approval by the Victoria Daly Regional Council, to provide some corporate-related services for a period of 2 years, with an options paper to be presented to the Committee for discussion.
9. An interim staffing structure for the new council will be developed collaboratively with relevant stakeholders, including Victoria Daly Regional Council, with a proposal to be presented to the Committee for discussion.