

TRANSITION COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE – MEETING 2

The Victoria Daly Regional Council Transition Committee held its second meeting in Darwin on Monday 10 March 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Mr Tony Jack, Vice President, Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).

The second meeting included critical discussion, debate and planning around a range of transition topics, with 6 recommendations agreed regarding:

- Financials, assets and liabilities;
- Service delivery arrangements;
- Administration, systems and information and communications technology;
- Restructuring orders;
- Communications and engagement; and a
- Workshop to be held in Wadeye on 27-28 March 2014.

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 Baumann (Naiyu)
- 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.

TRANSITION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 3 – Financials, Assets and Liabilities

1. That the proposed methodology for splitting assets between the new and continuing councils (based on current geographical location or as negotiated between the Manager Prospective Council and CEO Victoria Daly Regional Council) is endorsed in principle, subject to an audit reconciliation and more detailed asset information being provided at a workshop in Wadeye on 27-28 March 2014.

Agenda Item 4 – Service Delivery Arrangements

2. That the proposed traditional local government services (including waste management, local roads management, parks and gardens, library centre, animal management, street lights and cemetery) transitioning to service provision by the new council from commencement on 1 July 2014, is endorsed.
3. That agency and commercial services may transition to the new council over time, subject to agreements being reached with relevant individual funding agencies, as and when existing service contracts fall due, evaluated on their merits, on a case by case basis.

Agenda Item 5 – Administration, Systems and ICT

4. That options and timeframes for the initial provision of corporate services be further explored, including the possibility of contractual arrangements with an external service provider (Victoria Daly Regional Council or other providers) for a period of 12 months.

Agenda Item 6 – Restructuring Orders

5. That the proposed content and timing of Restructuring Orders (using a two-phased approach, firstly, to establish a Prospective Council and secondly, to formally constitute the new council, continue relevant wards and councillors and apply transfers) is endorsed.

Agenda Item 7 – Communications and Engagement

6. That the proposed approach to communication and engagement activities regarding the new council (including key messages, meetings, website, fact sheets, advertising and use of material in language) is endorsed.

Agenda Item 8 – Other Business

7. That a workshop be arranged for stakeholders from the West Daly region to be held in Wadeye on 27-28 March 2014 to discuss transition issues in more depth, which is to be facilitated by the Department of Local Government and Regions.