



WEST DALY
Regional Council

REGIONAL PLAN

2020 – 2021

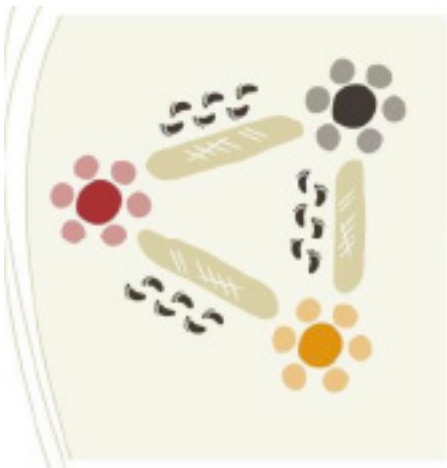
**The West Daly Regional Council acknowledges
the Traditional Owners of our region, past and present**



THE WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL



WEST DALY
Regional Council



The communities within the West Daly region are represented by the colours of their ceremony dance group. Wadeye is black (Thanta), Peppimenarti is red (Wangga) and Nganmarriyanga is yellow (Lirrga). 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.

Designed by Annunciata Wilson from Peppimenarti.

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the West Daly Regional Council's Regional Plan 2020-21.

The COVID-19 Pandemic presented an unimagined crisis and serious challenges to people, governments and businesses world-wide.

Council heeded advice from the Australian and NT governments, health experts and the local government sector and responded. Council's measures focused on the best interests of Council, the safety of staff and residents, and projects to help boost the economy and jobs.

Our region is protected through border closures, and we don't yet know when measures are to be eased and our borders, the NT and West Daly, re-opened.

What is assured is that our world is changed, and how our Council does business is not the same.

Prior to the crisis, progress was being made in our region in delivering improved services and infrastructure in our remote communities. Some of our roads were upgraded, some new footpaths, shaded seats and water bubblers, and our waste, parks and gardens and patrols were maintained.

As evidenced through the crisis, our homelands are important, and the power, water and house infrastructure projects and upgrades support people to stay where they choose to be.

Council has a series of projects scheduled in 2020-21 that include new sports infrastructure, water parks, playgrounds, toilets and waste upgrades at Wadeye, Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti, and road upgrades at Wadeye, Merrepen, Emu Point and Woodycupildya.

Council partners across local organisations on infrastructure projects and community development programs, to support Council's vision: supporting regional development including local jobs for local people; delivering quality services; and improving the quality of life for residents across our region.

Our region is the most disadvantaged in the Northern Territory, and the second most disadvantaged in Australia. We must work together, as partners, to turn this around, in our region, and beyond including the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.

I encourage people in the West Daly region to talk to Councillors, talk to your Local Authority members and talk to Council staff so that we can further improve our services and our infrastructure, and to make a difference.

John Wilson, Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



We are pleased to present the West Daly Regional Council Plan.

While most core business operates, Coronavirus caused serious effects to Council projects due to border closures, which means that schedules are pushed out. Council has responded in a responsible manner in the best interests of the organisation, staff, and residents, as has the Australian and NT governments through measures to address serious hardship to businesses and jobs.

Our plan sets out how Council is to deliver services across our communities of Wadeye, Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti and importantly, surrounding homelands.

Council aims to provide the best possible services that support Council's goals to be achieved: Developing our Region; Servicing our Residents; Engaging our Communities; and Strengthening our Organisation.

To achieve our goals, we engage our stakeholders, further build collaborative partnerships and pursue shared servicing and co-funded delivery. We collaborate through organisations on roads maintenance, waste management, and animal management programs, and corporate services.

Council's values guide us in the way we are to work together:

- Respect
- Integrity
- Openness
- Innovation

The year ahead presents much greater challenges than we are used to, but in that there are opportunities too. Council members and staff work towards achieving the goals and strategies in this year's Regional Plan and better outcomes in our region.

Mr Shaun Hardy, CEO

COVID-19

The COVID-19 Pandemic presented an unimagined crisis and serious challenges to the population, governments and businesses world-wide.

As part of the COVID -19 Pandemic Biosecurity restrictions, the West Daly region was declared a designated area and closed to non-essential travel. Emergency and essential services staff can enter the area but those who leave the area for non-essential reasons are required to undergo a two week quarantine period prior to return.

Council services are deemed “essential” so work on waste collection and roads maintenance have continued, but work on other non-essential services and some projects has been suspended or schedules postponed.

Council heeded advice from the Australian and NT governments, health experts and the local government sector and responded through a range of measures to support Councillors, staff and residents safety, Indigenous jobs and the local economy such as:

- **Council** – meetings via video and phones (each month).
- **Local Authorities** – postponed.
- **Management Team** – focus on COVID-19 and meetings via video and phones (3 per week).
- **Staff Measures** – in support of the closure of West Daly region as a designated area, use of Council resources and policies and procedures to ensure the safety of staff and residents, which include hand wash, Personal Protective Equipment, and work from home.
- **Swimming Pools** – closed.
- **Wadeye Bus** – suspended.
- **Public Libraries** – closed.
- **Rates, Fees and Charges, and Rents** – hardship measures assessed as part of the 2020-21 Regional Plan and Budget.
- **Road Upgrades** – Peppimenarti, Emu Point and Merrepen Roads and Wadeye internal roads – \$1 million – awarded to a local company and Indigenous jobs. Woodycupildya and other homelands road upgrades to ensure food, fuel and medicine access.
- **Homelands Upgrades** – power, water, sewerage and mobile phone boosters to be fast-tracked.
- **Landfill Waste Upgrades** – Wadeye and Peppimenarti – \$1.5 million – scope study to be fast-tracked.
- **Other Infrastructure Projects** – upgrades to homelands MES, public toilets, sports grounds and shade structures to be fast-tracked, and greater weight to be assigned to local companies and Indigenous jobs
- **Memorandums of Understanding** – Council, CDEP providers and Rangers to support local Indigenous jobs.

OUR COUNCIL

The West Daly Regional Council commenced operation on 1 July 2014 in response to an identified need to present a stronger voice and greater control over the delivery of services in the West Daly region. The Council area covers the communities of Wadeye (Port Keats), Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa) and Peppimenarti and surrounding region and exists to serve and strengthen the community through the policies and programs of Council and governments.



The Council area covers 14,000 square kilometres and has a population of more than 3,000 community members throughout the communities of Wadeye, Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti. Wadeye is the largest remote community in the Territory and the fifth largest town.

There are a total of 33 homelands in the West Daly region of which Council delivers municipal and essential services and housing maintenance services for 11 homelands (Fossil Head, Deleye, Kuy, Merrepen, Mulingi, Nama, Namarluk, Old Mission, Perrederr, Uminyuluk and Wudapuli).

Council meets monthly to deal with a wide range of Council business matters. These meetings are open to community members as part of Council's commitment to openness and transparency. Community members are encouraged to attend these meetings and speak to Council about concerns they may have about their community, hopes for the future or any issues they wish to bring to Council. Council publishes all meeting agenda papers, minutes including resolutions and other relevant policies and plans on its website www.westdaly.nt.gov.au.

COUNCILLORS

The role of Councillor is to represent the interests of all community members within the local ward for which they were elected. They participate in discussion and decision making at Council's monthly Ordinary Council Meetings and must act in the best interests of the Council.

Councillors are elected for a fixed term and may stand again for election at the expiry of that term.

For West Daly, the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are determined by appointment by the majority of Councillors following each general election, for the term of Council.

The last local government general election was held on 26 August 2017 and the next local government general election will be held in August 2021. By-elections are held whenever Council vacancies arise and calls for candidate nominations are advertised widely.

COUNCILLORS



John Wilson - Mayor

Tyemirri Ward

Elected: August 2017



Terry Sams - Deputy Mayor

Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

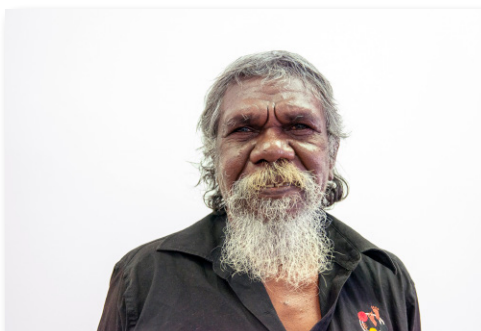
Elected: August 2017



Ralph Narburup - Councillor

Nganmarriyanga Ward

Elected: August 2017



Wally Minjin - Councillor

Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

Elected: August 2017



Mark Martin - Councillor

Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

Elected: November 2017 By Election



Mark Tunmuck-Smith - Councillor

Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi Ward

Elected: August 2017

COUNCIL ALLOWANCES

West Daly Regional Council's allowances for 2020-21 for Elected Members and Local Authority Members are in accordance with Local Government Guideline 2 and Guideline 8 as follows.

Elected Members Allowances 2020-21 (as per Guideline 2).

	Mayor	Deputy Mayor	Councillor
Base Allowance	\$75,116.61	\$27,776.12	\$13,509.96
Electoral Allowance	\$19,771.29	\$4,943.73	\$4,943.73
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,753.17	\$3,753.17	\$3,753.17
Maximum Extra Meeting Allowance per year			\$9,006.64
Total Claimable	\$98,641.07	\$36,473.02	\$31,213.50

- Daily rate of \$261.34 for a Councillor to act as Principal Member (Mayor), maximum claimable \$23,520.60 (90 days).
- Per meeting allowance of \$261.34 for a Councillor to attend an extra meeting.

Local Authority Members Allowances 2020-21 (as per Guideline 8).

Local Authority Members receive a per meeting allowance for attending a Local Authority meeting.

The allowances for Local Authority Members are based on revenue units for 2020-21 as determined by the Northern Territory Government as follows:

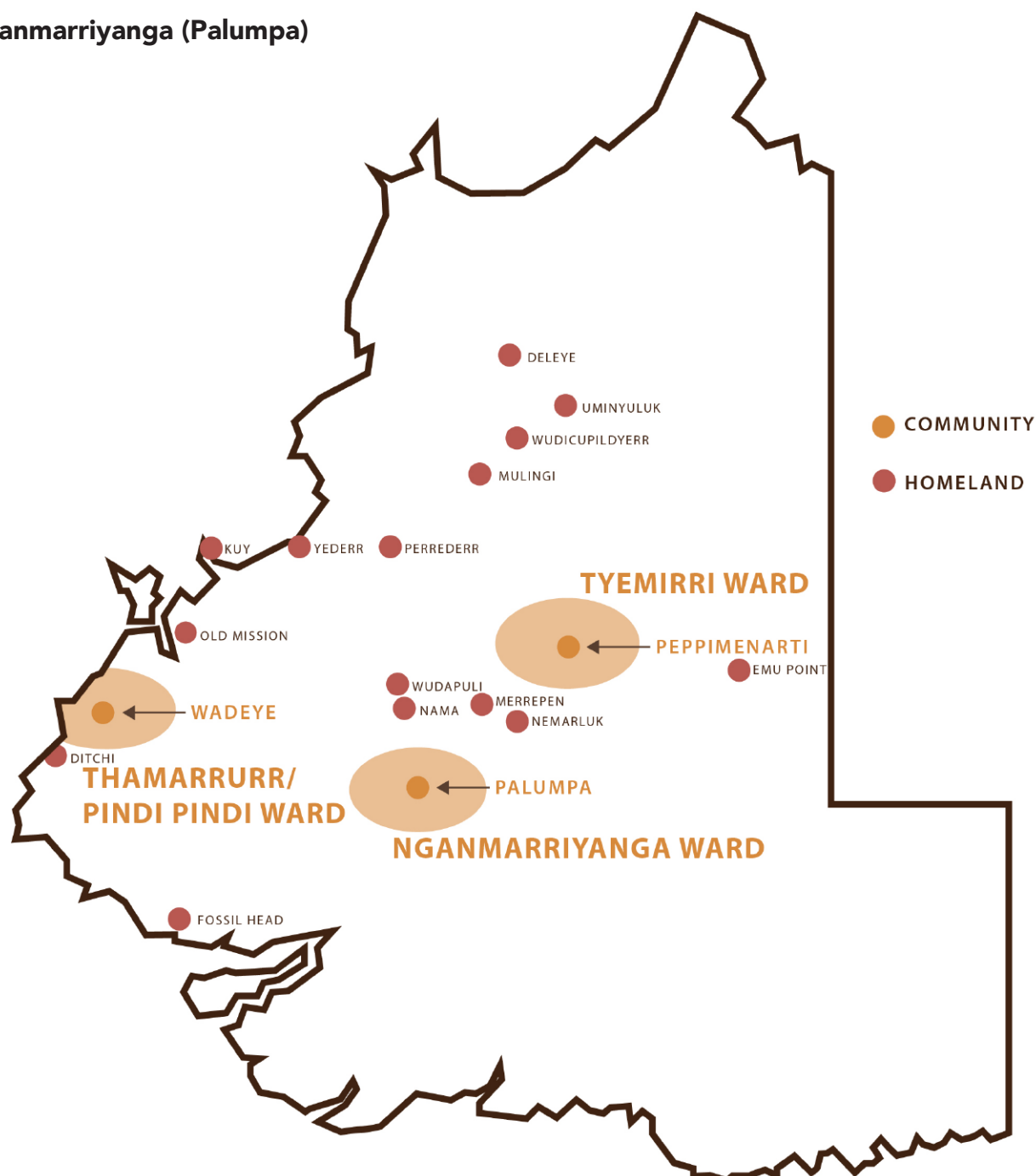
Chair, if eligible, 143 revenue units @ \$1.21 = \$173 per meeting; and other eligible Members 107 revenue units @ \$1.21 = \$129 per meeting.

COUNCIL WARDS

West Daly Regional Council is divided into three wards.

The wards and their principal communities are:

- **Thamarrurr / Pindi Pindi (Wadeye)**
- **Tyemirri (Peppimenarti)**
- **Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa)**



CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Council area is divided into three wards, with six elected members (including the Mayor). The current ward structure was developed to provide direct representation to the three main communities, taking into account the remoteness and the vastness of the Council area.

Ward	Members	Electors	Member / Elector Ratio
Nganmarriyanga	1	216	1:216
Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi	4	1,560	1:390
Tyemirri	1	91	1:91
Total	6	1,867	1:311

Thamarrurr/ Pindi Pindi Ward covers the majority of Council's area with 1,560 electors (84%). The remaining 307 electors reside in Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti. One of the tasks of Council in consultation with communities is to determine how many elected members are required to fulfil the roles and responsibilities of Council and provide fair and equitable representation of the electors. As the newest created Council in the Northern Territory, the West Daly Regional Council will continue to develop and meet its challenge of providing effective representation to its communities.

As per Section 23 of the *Local Government Act 2008*, the West Daly Regional Council is required to assess the adequacy of constitutional arrangements once during each term.

In November 2019, Council reviewed:

Current constitution arrangements including council boundary, ward boundaries, and elector representation; and

Determine whether these provide the most effective elector representation

Based on the review in 2015, and that there were no major changes since 2015, Council assessed they were satisfied that the Council and ward boundaries and elector representation were adequate. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission was involved during the review and updated elector numbers.

2019 ELECTORAL REPORT

Review of constitutional arrangements for council representation – West Daly Regional Council

In accordance with section 23(2) of the *Local Government Act 2008* (Act) councils are required to complete an electoral review during the council term and 12 months before the next general election. The mandatory review is to assess whether the present constitutional arrangements provide the best electoral representation for the local government area of the council. However, given that this term of council is an unusual one, with new legislation anticipated in the near future, councils have been given the option to consider providing a short report that briefly addresses the matters outline in regulations 63(2) and (3) of the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008*. The 2015 Review of Constitutional Arrangements is attached as an Appendix on pg49

Report of Council Officer to Elected Members in Relation to Constitutional Arrangements

	Consideration in accordance with regulation 63(2) and (3) of the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008</i>	Assessment of the effectiveness of constitutional arrangement for electoral representation of the council area																																																
1.	63(2)(a) – community interests in the local government area including economic, social and regional interests.	No major change since last report (attached).																																																
2.	63(2)(b) – types of communication and travel in the local government area with special reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance.	No major change since last report (attached).																																																
3.	63(2)(c) – the trend of population changes in the local government area.	No major change since last report (attached).																																																
4.	63(2)(d) – the density of population in the local government area	No major change since last report (attached).																																																
5.	63(2)(e) – the physical features of the local government area Consideration in accordance with regulation 63(2) and (3) of the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008</i>	No major change since last report (attached). Assessment of the effectiveness of constitutional arrangement for electoral representation of the council area																																																
6.	63(3)(a) – the desirability of the number of electors for each ward being as near to equal as practicable at the next general election.	No major change since last report (attached). Please see below. <table><tr><td></td><td colspan="3">2015</td><td colspan="3">2019</td></tr><tr><td>Ward</td><td>Enrolled</td><td>Members</td><td></td><td>Enrolled</td><td>Members</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Thamurru/Pindi Pindi</td><td>1,470</td><td>4</td><td>1: 368</td><td>1,560</td><td>4</td><td>1: 390</td></tr><tr><td>Nganmarriyanga</td><td>188</td><td>1</td><td>1: 188</td><td>216</td><td>1</td><td>1: 216</td></tr><tr><td>Tyemirri</td><td>93</td><td>1</td><td>1: 93</td><td>91</td><td>1</td><td>1: 91</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>1,751</td><td>6</td><td>1: 292</td><td>1,867</td><td>6</td><td>1: 311</td></tr></table>								2015			2019			Ward	Enrolled	Members		Enrolled	Members		Thamurru/Pindi Pindi	1,470	4	1: 368	1,560	4	1: 390	Nganmarriyanga	188	1	1: 188	216	1	1: 216	Tyemirri	93	1	1: 93	91	1	1: 91	Total	1,751	6	1: 292	1,867	6	1: 311
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Total	1,751	6	1: 292	1,867	6	1: 311																																												
7.	63(3)(b) – the desirability of keeping the area of each ward containing rural and remote areas as small as practicable.	No major change since last report (attached).																																																

2019 ELECTORAL REPORT

	Consideration in accordance with regulation 63(2) and (3) of the <i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008</i>	Assessment of the effectiveness of constitutional arrangement for electoral representation of the council area
8.	63(3)(c) - the desirability of keeping the demographic and geographic nature of each ward as uniform as practicable.	No major change since last report (attached).
9.	63(3)(d) – the desirability of including an identifiable community wholly within 1 ward if practicable	No major change since last report (attached).

Having duly considered all matters relevant to the current electoral representation arrangements under the *Local Government Act 2008* and *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008* it is recommended that the current arrangements still provide effective representation of the council area with no changes to the constitutional arrangements for council representation proposed. This report has been compiled in consultation with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.



Council Chief Executive Officer

Date: 21 / 11 / 2019

Proposed motion for council

That Council resolves to approve the report with no changes recommended to the constitutional arrangements for council electoral representation.

This report can now be included in the Council plan in accordance with section 23(2) of the *Local Government Act 2008*.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Council has established Local Authorities to facilitate community input on issues that affect the communities within the Council area. Local Authorities are maintained at Wadeye, Nganmarriyanga and Peppimenarti. Local Authorities meet at least 4 times per year and interested residents can nominate for vacancies as they arise. Please visit Council's offices or website for more information.

Local Authorities have the following roles:

- Advise Council on and have input into Service Delivery Plans for communities or local regions;
- Input into Regional Plans and Management Plans;
- Advise Council on specific Council community and social projects that impact on their community or region;
- Alert Council to new and emerging issues affecting communities; and
- Ensure Council considers the needs of the local community or region.

Council is committed to supporting the many issues of importance raised by its Local Authorities and each Local Authority has a budgetary allocation to use at its discretion to fund priority local projects.

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

Local Authorities are governed in accordance with the provisions of Ministerial Guideline 8: Regional Councils and Local Authorities.

As at July 2019, the appointed members of Council's Local Authorities are as follows:

Wadeye	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti
Leon Melpi (Co-Chair)	Amy Narburup (Co-Chair)	Karl Lukanovic (Chair)
Wilfred Harris (Co-Chair)	Andrea Cameron (Co-Chair)	Leanne Black
Ken James	Rosemary Fraser	Anthony Thomas
Mr A. Kungul (dec).	Alec Jacky	Annunciata Wilson
Cyril Ninal	Sandra Jacky	Henry Wilson
Damien Tunmuck	Jeff Wodidj	Nathon Wilson
Mark Ninal	Jill Wodidj	Leaya Smith
Timothy Dumoo	John Paul Wodidj	Chelsea Collins
	Moses Wodidj	Anastasia Wilson
	Roger Wodidj	
	Warren Wodidj	

In addition to the above appointed members, Local Authorities also include elected members representing the relevant Ward of the Local Authority's area and the Council Mayor.

GOVERNANCE

The governance structure and framework for Council is based upon:

- Representation from all areas and local cultural identities;
- Opportunities for local community issues and concerns to be raised;
- Policies, procedures and practices by which decisions are made and held to account.

This framework is what allows an organisation to provide efficient and effective services and maintain strong relationships with stakeholders.

Council's policies and procedures provide a framework to guide our service delivery and to ensure consistency in applying Council's values in the way that we work:

- Respect – we are respectful of our local cultures and in the way we work together;
- Integrity – we are honest and accountable for our work and outcomes;
- Openness – we are open in our engagement and involve our local communities;
- Innovation – we actively seek out new approaches to improve our work.

Council's governance framework provides an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Council staff. This system of checks-and-balances ensures Council's operational business can be conducted in a way that best serves community members.

As part of its commitment to provide best-practice good governance for the organisation, Council maintains an Audit and Risk Management Committee. The Audit Committee is Council's mechanism for the monitoring and oversight of Council's financial management, risk management and operational activities.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee's role is to identify and suggest appropriate actions to remediate risk practices in the organisation. They are tasked with financial oversight, as well as strategic and operational risk management framework including work health and safety.

An Independent Committee member is chosen for their skills and experience in a range of fields, particularly Council finances and business operations in a remote community context. Their independence from Council ensures they will act in the best interests of Council due to their impartiality. In March 2020, Council appointed Ms Cathryn Hutton as the Independent Chairperson and Mr Brendan Dowd as the Independent Member. Deputy Mayor Terry Sams and Councillor Mark Tunmuck-Smith are Members of the Committee.

In January 2020, Council requested expressions of interest to provide Audit Services. After a rigorous selection process, Council appointed Deloitte as Council's Auditor to 2021-22.

CONTACT DETAILS

WADEYE

Lot 463 Perdjert Street, Wadeye NT 0822
C/ Wadeye Post Office, Wadeye NT 0822
(08) 8977 8702

NGANMARRIYANGA

Lot 27, Palumpa NT 0822
CMB 30 Palumpa NT 0822
(08) 8977 8500

PEPPIMENARTI

Lot 16, Peppimenarti, NT 0822
PMB 56 Peppimenarti NT 0822
(08) 8977 8600

DARWIN

1/70 Cavenagh Street, Darwin, NT 0822
PO Box 3775, Darwin, NT 080
(08) 7922 6403

ABN: 259 665 795 74
info@westdaly.nt.gov.au
www.westdaly.nt.gov.au



OUR COMMUNITIES

WADEYE — THAMARRURR/ PINDI PINDI WARD

Wadeye (also known as Port Keats) is located on the far west coast of the Daly River region approximately 360kms south-west of Darwin. At around 2,500 people, the town is one of Australia's largest remote Indigenous communities, and the fifth largest town in the Northern Territory.

Wadeye is predominantly Indigenous (90 per cent) and the most spoken languages are Murrinh Patha and English. From the 2016 Census results, the West Daly region, including Wadeye, is the most disadvantaged local government region in the NT, and the second most disadvantaged region in Australia.

The Port Keats Road between the Daly River Bridge and Wadeye is unsealed and access during the wet season is often cut due to flooding. The community has an all weather aerodrome to support aircraft year round and a barge service to support the provision of supplies. The town has a Health Clinic, Police Station, School, Creche and large Store.

Wadeye is on the land of the Kardu Diminin, whose clan group comprises the Perdjert, Narburup, Pultchen, Bunduck, Dulla, Mollinjin, Kurrawul, and Kolumboort families. There are more than 20 clan groups in the broader Wadeye region.

There are a number of Aboriginal Associations, and Government and Non-Government organisations who support services. Thamarrurr Development Corporation provides economic development programs including housing, training and employment. Thamarrurr Youth and AFLNT provide youth, sport and recreation programs including AFL, Softball and Basketball.

Working together with Local Authority members and community stakeholders, projects identified to progress in 2020-21 include:

- **Water Park**
- **Swimming Pool Fence**
- **Playgrounds**
- **Barbecues**
- **Community Toilets**
- **Street Bollards**
- **Solar Lights**
- **Bus Upgrade**
- **Road Upgrades**
- **Support to Fossil Head, Old Mission and Kuy Homelands**
- **Manthatpe Bridge**
- **BMX Track**
- **Cemeteries**

OUR COMMUNITIES

NGANMARRIYANGA — NGANMARRIYANGA WARD

Nganmarriyanga is located south west of Darwin on the Daly River/Port Keats Aboriginal Land Trust. By road the Community is 375 km from Darwin and approximately 140km from the Daly River Bridge via the Port Keats road between the communities of Peppimenarti and Wadeye. The Nganmarriyanga access road is unsealed. Nganmarriyanga is cut off during the wet season for extended periods. The road between Nganmarriyanga and Port Keats though only 45km away, is also often impassable during the wet season.

Nganmarriyanga community was founded by the Wodidj family and has an Aerodrome located 3km from the community center providing support for visiting medical practitioners and Care Flight. Top End Health Service delivers primary health care while NT Police travel from Wadeye Community located 45kms or Peppimenarti Community which is located approximately 30km away. There is a Government School and a Store.

Nganmarriyanga has proven themselves to be a strong sporting community in both Softball and AFL, winning premiership titles in the region in both sports.

Working together with Local Authority members and community stakeholders, projects identified to progress in 2020-21 include:

- **Football Oval Fence**
- **Softball Field**
- **Basketball Court**
- **Community Toilets**
- **Playground Refurbishment**
- **Street Bollards**
- **Cemetery Seating**
- **Airstrip Fence**
- **Water Splash Pad**
- **Support to Merrepen, Namarluk, Nama and Wudapuli Homelands**



OUR COMMUNITIES

PEPPIMENARTI – TYEMIRRI WARD

Peppimenarti is located on Tom Turner Creek 320kms south-west of Darwin, and 120kms west of Daly River. In language, 'Peppi' translates as rock and 'menarti' as large, and refers to the rock formation that overlooks the community. The area is surrounded by flood-plains and is popular to bird-watchers from around Australia. Slim Dusty wrote a popular song called 'The Plains of Peppimenarti' after visiting the area and stated as one of his favourite places to visit.

A group of local artists created Durrmu Arts, and is renowned for acrylic painting and weaving work. Peppimenarti art has been shown across Australia and overseas with Regina Wilson being awarded the General Painting Prize at the 2003 Telstra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

While approximately 90kms from Wadeye, Peppimenarti is often cut off from both there and Darwin during the Wet season. An all weather airstrip supports access and services when the road is closed.

A community store, health clinic, Government School and Police Station are operated and the local Aboriginal association is Deewin Kirim. There is a women's softball team and a men's AFL team who often travel to Wadeye and Nganmarriyanga to play games in the local competitions.

Working together with Local Authority members and community stakeholders, projects identified to progress in 2020-21 include:

- **Sporting Hub**
 - **Playground**
 - **BMX Track**
 - **Splash Pad**
 - **Gymnasium - subject to funding**
- **Community Toilets**
- **Waste Upgrade**
- **Picnic Shelters**
- **Arts, Culture & Language Services**
- **Sports Fields**
- **Roads Upgrades**
- **Food Ladder - subject to funding**
- **Conference Centre - subject to funding**
- **Support to Delye, Uminyuluk, Mulingi and Perreder homelands**



OUR COMMUNITIES

HOMELANDS

Homelands play a significant role in Aboriginal life, serving to enable clan groups to maintain and develop their connections to country and their spiritual past as well as providing the opportunity to pass on cultural practices and bush knowledge to younger generations.

There are over 30 homelands in the West Daly region, 11 of which Council is funded to deliver Municipal and Essential Services and Housing Maintenance Services (MES and HMS).

- Deleye
- Fossil Head
- Kuy
- Merrepen
- Mulingi
- Nama
- Namarluk
- Old Mission
- Perrederr
- Uminyuluk
- Wudapuli

In addition, the large homelands of Emu Point and Woodycupuldiya are located in the Council's local government area but serviced by another provider.

Council receives Municipal and Essential Services (MES) and Special Purpose Grants (SPGs) funding to build, repair and maintain homelands. These programs provide services such as:

- **Airstrip maintenance**
- **Waste disposal**
- **Power systems**
- **Water systems**
- **Sewage systems**

Council's also receives some funding for Housing Maintenance Services (HMS) and delivers planned and emergency maintenance to all homeland houses.

The Homelands Extra Allowance (HEA) program provides additional funding for houses that can be used for minor upgrades and repairs and maintenance work that is agreed between Council and homelands house occupants.

The occupation of homelands and outstations varies due to a number of factors including weather and road access.

DARWIN OFFICE

Council's Darwin Office provides corporate, human resources, governance, grants, assets, procurement and financial processing services and co-ordinates a range of services to ensure that communities have the staffing, plant and equipment, and infrastructure required to deliver services.

CouncilBIZ provides Information and Communications Technology and a range of financial management and processing services to Council on a fee for service basis. CouncilBIZ is a Local Government subsidiary of all nine Regional Councils, including West Daly Regional Council, and the Local Government Association of the NT, who are all members.

For more information visit www.councilbiz.nt.gov.au



WEST DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Service Delivery 2020-21

	Darwin	Wadeye	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Homelands
Municipal Services					
Cemetery		•	•	•	
Road Maintenance		•	•	•	•
Sporting Facilities		•	•	•	
Parks and Gardens		•	•	•	
Waste Management		•	•	•	•
Council Infrastructure		•	•	•	
Council Engagement					
Local Authorities		•	•	•	
Community Services					
Night Patrol		•	•	•	
Library		•			
Swimming Pool		•		•	
Administration Support Services					
Asset Procurement	•				
Governance and Compliance	•				
Financial Services	•				
Human Resources	•				
Work Health & Safety	•	•	•	•	
Information Technology	•				
Records Management	•				
Grant Management	•				
Other Services					
Airstrip Maintenance		•	•	•	•
Centrelink			•	•	
Post Office Agency			•	•	
Street Lights		•	•	•	
Homelands Services					
Municipal & Essential Service					•
Housing Maintenance Services					•
Homeland Jobs					•
Homeland Extra Allowance					•

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

COUNCIL VISION

The **Vision** of the West Daly Regional Council is to:

- Deliver quality services to communities and homelands;
- Support development opportunities including local jobs for local people; and
- Improve the quality of life for residents in our region.

COUNCIL VALUES

The key **Values** of Council are:

- Respect – we are respectful of our local cultures and in the way we work together
- Integrity – we are honest and accountable for our work and outcomes
- Openness – we are open in our work and involve our local communities
- Innovation – we actively seek out new approaches to improve our work

COUNCIL GOALS

Council's current and long term **Goals** are:

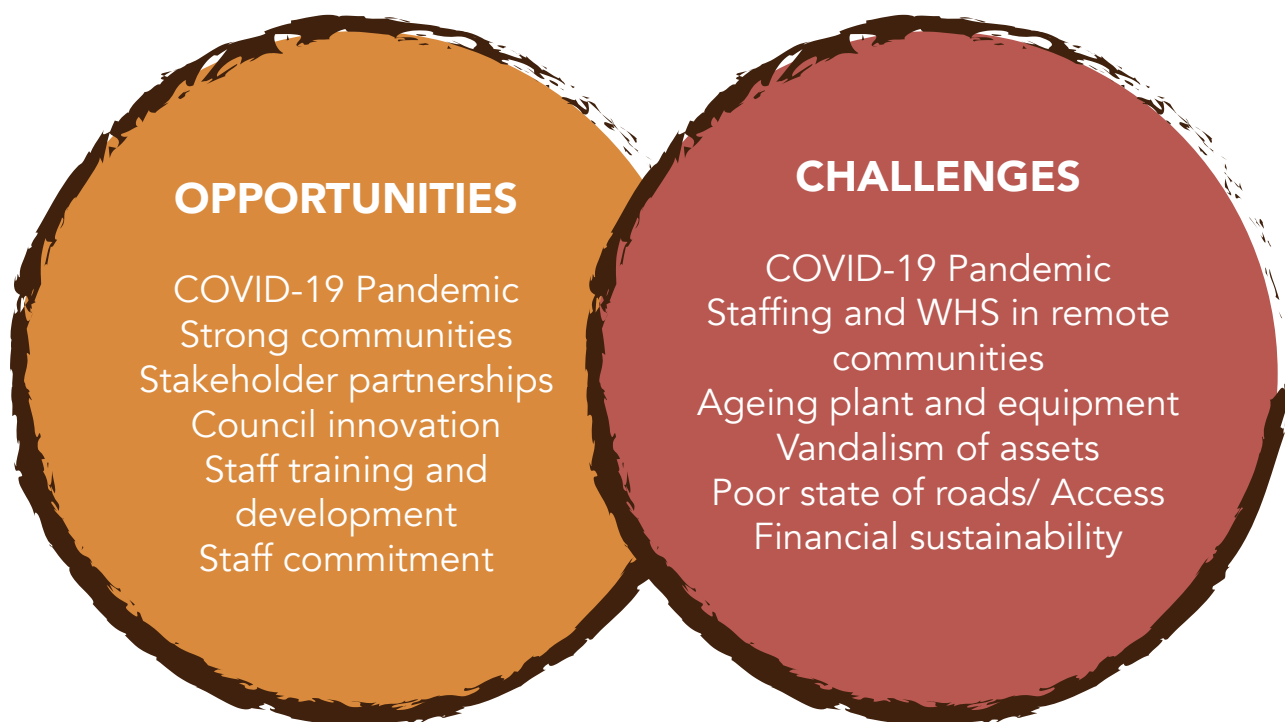
- Developing our Region;
- Servicing our Residents;
- Engaging our Communities; and
- Strengthening our Organisation.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Council's key opportunities and challenges for local government service delivery in the West Daly region for 2020-21 are identified as follows:



Further to Council's opportunities, Council will proactively engage with external organisations to pursue greater efficiencies in service delivery including collaborative funding initiatives, service delivery partnerships and outsourcing (where cost-effective to do so). In line with Council's goals and objectives, local Aboriginal employment will remain a particular focus.

Areas to be proactively engaged with external organisations around shared servicing in 2020-21 include waste management, animal management, roads maintenance, plant and equipment, staff and office accommodation, and corporate services-related initiatives.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Goal 1. Developing our Region

- 1.1 Promote local Aboriginal employment
- 1.2 Partner with local stakeholder organisations
- 1.3 Support local economic development

2 Goal 2. Servicing our Residents

- 2.1 Improve service delivery standards
- 2.2 Develop community infrastructure
- 2.3 Lead community and cultural events

3 Goal 3. Engaging our Communities

- 3.1 Involve Local Authorities in decision making
- 3.2 Consult with communities and homelands
- 3.3 Engage with local and external stakeholders

4 Goal 4. Strengthening our Organisation

- 4.1 Develop Council's staff, assets and equipment
- 4.2 Support good governance and compliance
- 4.3 Encourage innovation, shared servicing and collaboration



OUR REGIONAL PLAN

GOAL 1. DEVELOPING OUR REGION

Objectives	Strategies	Indicators
1.1 Promote local Aboriginal employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high percentage of local Aboriginal staff • Engage with stakeholder organisations to identify entry level candidates • Support local Aboriginal employment through Council's policies and practices • Train and upskill employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percentages of local Aboriginal staff • Number of placements through stakeholders • Staff turnover rates • Number of employees trained/upskilled
1.2 Partner with local stakeholder organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local stakeholder organisations to identify regional development opportunities • Sub-contract local stakeholder organisations for service delivery if in Council's best interests • Improve relationships with community and homelands residents through local stakeholder organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and nature of regional development initiatives created and supported • Number and value of outsourced services and outcomes • Community and homelands residents feedback • Protocols/MOUs established
1.3 Support local economic development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and deliver services and infrastructure that support economic development • Engage with government and private sector organisations to identify economic development opportunities • Increase awareness of West Daly region as the most disadvantaged in the NT and second most disadvantaged in Australia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and value of services and infrastructure delivered by category • Number and nature of local economic development initiatives created and supported • Number and nature of awareness initiatives

OUR REGIONAL PLAN

GOAL 2. SERVICING OUR RESIDENTS

Objectives	Strategies	Indicators
2.1 Improve service delivery standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services and infrastructure delivered are in line with community and homelands residents' priorities Develop a framework for Council service standard levels Engage with other Councils around service delivery methods, plant and equipment and innovative approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and value of services and infrastructure delivered by category Community and homelands residents feedback Service standards framework completed Service delivery efficiencies LGANT feedback
2.2 Develop community infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with community and homelands residents around infrastructure priorities Engage with stakeholder organisations to collaborate on co-funding and co-delivery of community infrastructure projects Investigate energy efficient technologies for infrastructure projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and homelands resident's feedback Number and value of co-funded and co-delivered projects and outcomes Number and value of energy efficiency initiatives
2.3 Lead community and cultural events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage across communities to identify and coordinate community and cultural events Council supports providing direct and in-direct assistance for community and cultural events Local Authorities support providing direct and in-direct assistance for community and cultural events Develop a central information and coordination resources for funerals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of community and cultural events Value of assistance for community and cultural events Funerals information and coordination resources developed

OUR REGIONAL PLAN

GOAL 3. ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Objectives	Strategies	Indicators
3.1 Involve Local Authorities in decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate Local Authorities input into local service delivery decisions Facilitate Local Authorities local priority projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authorities meetings and outcomes Number and value of Local Authorities projects
3.2 Consult with communities and homelands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop community beautification plans in consultation with residents Develop local infrastructure plans in consultation with communities and homelands residents Action a program for regular joint visits by Councillors and staff to communities and homelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and homelands residents feedback Beautification plans completed Infrastructure plans completed Number of joint visits completed Protocols established
3.3 Engage with local and external stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate regional stakeholders meetings to discuss collaboration on community development and economic development Further develop collaborative relationships with government and non-government organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of regional stakeholder meetings and outcomes Stakeholders feedback

OUR REGIONAL PLAN

GOAL 4. STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANISATION

Objectives	Strategies	Indicators
4.1 Develop Council's staff, assets and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop staff capacity and capabilities through targeted internal and external training and development programs • Review assets and equipment, update registers and action preventative maintenance schedule • Replace ageing assets and equipment on a rolling basis and standardise fleet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of training and development programs completed • Assets and equipment reviewed • Assets and equipment condition status • Fleet profile
4.2 Support good governance and compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Constitutional arrangements (electoral representation review) • Maintain effective compliance monitoring and be proactive in seeking advice • Review risk management framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Constitutional arrangements review completed • Internal and external compliance review findings • Risk management framework reviewed
4.3 Encourage innovation, shared servicing and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a staff incentive program for innovative service delivery proposals • Explore further options for shared servicing and collaboration initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff incentive program developed and implemented • Number and value of shared servicing and collaboration initiatives and outcomes

OUR FRAMEWORK

ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

All local government Councils are regulated by the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2008*, *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2008*, *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2008*, *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008*, a series of specific Local Government Guidelines and General Instructions. In addition, all local government Councils are regulated by the requirements of the *Cemeteries Act 1952* and *Cemeteries Regulations 1967*. These are all accessible via the Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development website at www.dlghcd.nt.gov.au.

Every Municipal, Regional or Shire Council must have a plan for its area (Section 22 of the *Local Government Act 2008* (the Act) refers). West Daly Regional Council's plan is called a Regional Plan. Council must adopt their plan between 1 April and 31 July each year and undergo a minimum of 21 days public consultation.

West Daly Regional Council is also required to prepare an annual budget in accordance with the requirements of Part 10.5 of the Act. This legislation is the framework which governs the content and approval process of the budget. Consistent with the Regional Plan, the annual budget must be adopted by Council by 31 July in the relevant financial year.

The following Council information can be accessed from Council's website:

- Declaration of Election Results
- Code of Conduct
- Register of Interests
- Reviewable Decisions
- Rates and Charges
- Regulatory Orders
- Council Policies
- Regional Plans
- Annual Reports

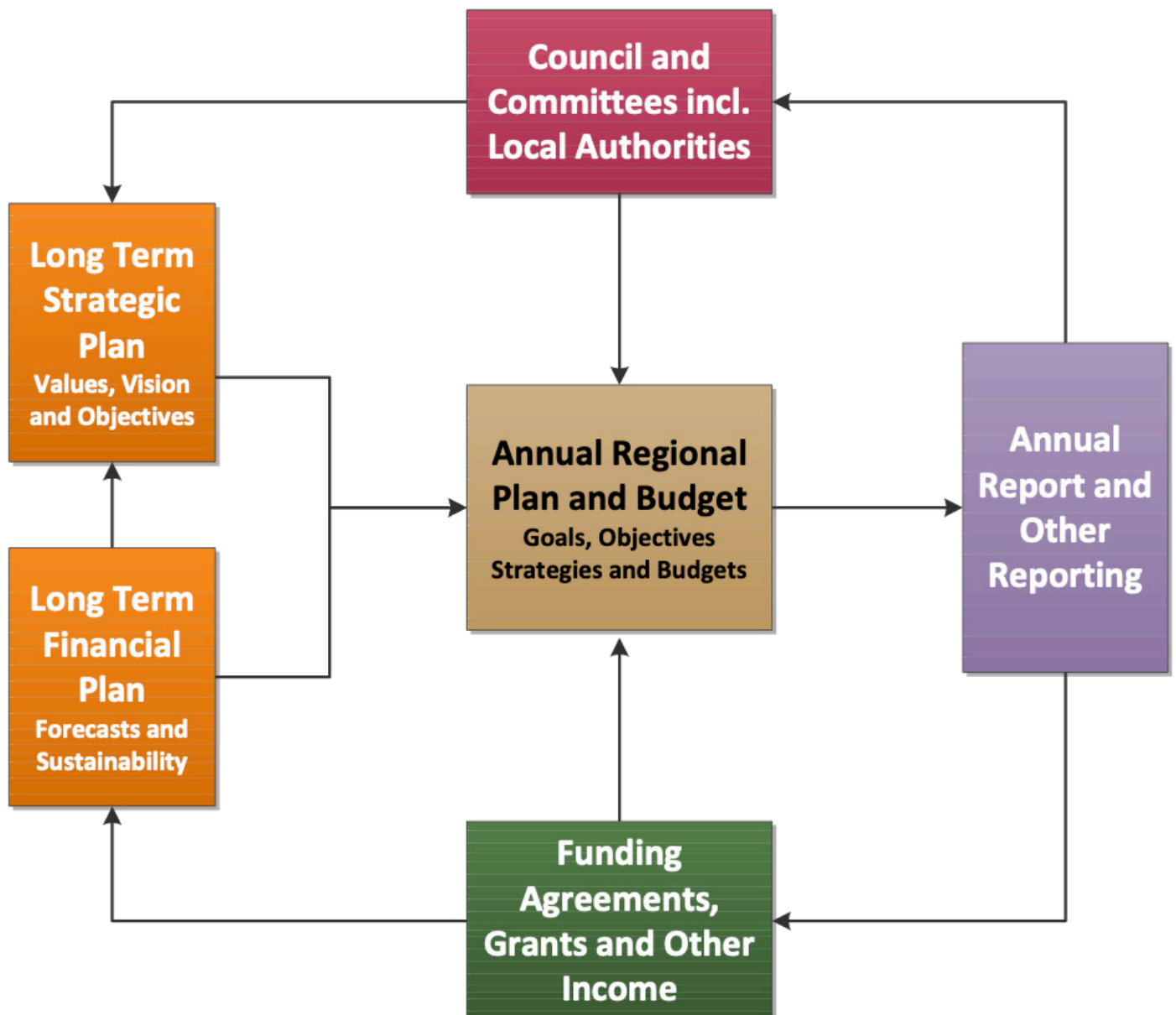
Hardcopies of Regional Plans and Annual Reports are available at Council's Darwin Office. Printed copies are available for purchase.

In assessing possible changes to West Daly Regional Council's administrative and regulatory framework for delivering local government services, it is considered that proposed changes to both the new *Local Government Act 2019* and the new *Burial and Cremations Act 2019* will have operational impacts on Council.

The Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development has provided Council with summaries of proposed changes to both the new *Local Government Act 2019* and the new *Burial and Cremation Act 2019* and Council will continue to monitor progress and prepare for anticipated implementation.

OUR FRAMEWORK

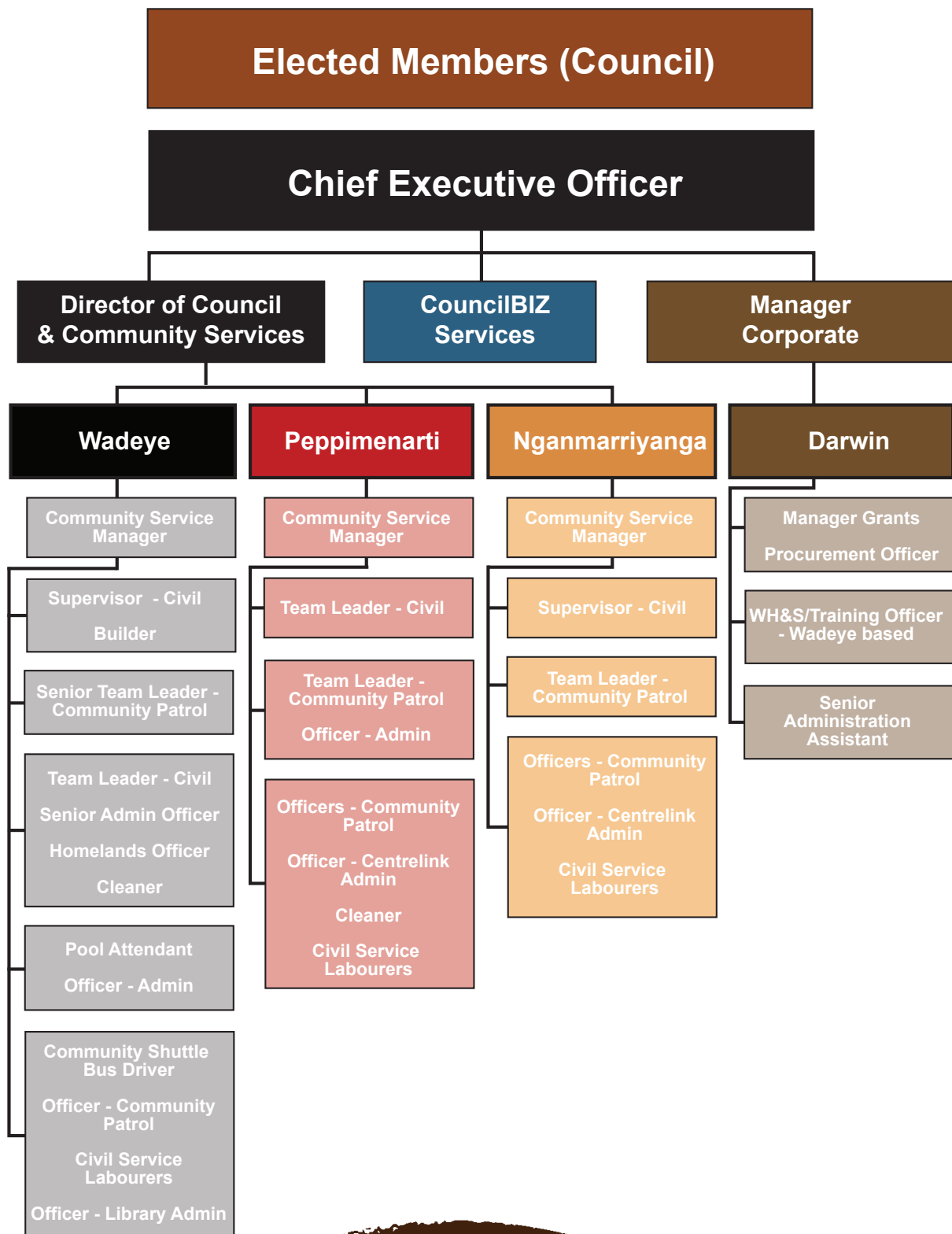
PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK



OUR FRAMEWORK

STAFFING FRAMEWORK

Council's employment conditions are determined by the West Daly Regional Council Enterprise Agreement 2017, which remains current until 30 June 2021.
Council's high level organisational structure for 2020-21 is as follows:



OUR FRAMEWORK FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Rate Assessment Record Certification

Certificate in Terms of Regulation 24 (1) of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations

This is to certify that assessments numbered 1 to 775 declared pursuant to *Sections 155-157 of the Local Government Act*, 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 15TH Day of April 2020

Rates and Charges Declaration for 2020/21

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 158 of the *Local Government Act 2008* ("**The Act**"), that the following rates and charges were declared by the West Daly Regional Council ("**Council**") pursuant to Chapter 11 the *Local Government Act 2008*, in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

Rates

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

Pursuant to Section 148 the bases of the rates will be differential valuation-based and differential fixed charges.

- In the case of valuation-based charges, the assessed value will be the unimproved capital value (UCV) of an allotment as it appears on the valuation roll prepared by the Valuer General under the *Valuation of Land Act 1963*.
- In the case of fixed charges, it is taken to be if an allotment is divided into separate parts or units that are adapted for separate occupation or use, a minimum charge may consist of a fixed amount to be multiplied by the number of parts or units.

Pursuant to Section 149 of the *Local Government Act 2008*, the unimproved value of a **mining tenement** will be its assessed value; and the unimproved value is taken to be 20 times the annual rental payable under the tenement.

Council intends to raise \$910,208 for general purposes by way of rates.

Residential rate

Ratable allotments which are not rated under any other class and are used for **residential** purposes.

- A differential rate of 0.0322 of the assessed value (UCV), with a minimum charge of \$1,090.38 per allotment, whichever is greater.

Commercial rate

Ratable allotments which are not rated under any other class and are used for **commercial** purposes.

- A differential rate of 0.1075 of the assessed value (UCV), with a minimum charge of \$1,290.28 per allotment, whichever is greater.

Temporary Accommodation rate

Ratable allotments which are not rated under any other class and are used for **temporary** accommodation.

- A minimum charge of \$654.23 per transportable dwelling.

Other rate

Ratable allotments not described elsewhere in this declaration.

- A differential rate of 0.0322 of the assessed value (UCV), with a minimum charge of \$1,090.38 per allotment, whichever is greater.

Pastoral Leases

Crown leases of pastoral land under the *Pastoral Land Act 1992*

- Will be 0.000306 of the assessed value (UCV) or a minimum of \$376.45, whichever is greater.

Mining Tenements

Mining tenements as defined in the *Local Government Act 2008*

- 0.003475 of the assessed value or a minimum of \$890.96, whichever is greater.

Charges

Pursuant to Section 157 of the *Local Government Act 2008* 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 land within the Council area and the occupiers of such land.

Council intends to raise \$555,455 by way of these charges.

Council declared the following charges in respect of garbage collection services and waste management.

Garbage Collection Services

A charge for which council is willing and able to provide a collection service of one 240 litre bin per allotment collected weekly. The standard service is one bin per week but a ratepayer may request additional bins and additional weekly services, an additional service request will be considered by Council on a case by case basis.

Garbage collection service charge for **residential** allotments =

- \$868.24 multiplied by the number of 240 litre bins.
- \$434.13 multiplied by each additional weekly kerbside service.

Garbage collection service charge for **commercial** allotments =

- \$1,573.51 multiplied by the number of 240 litre bins.
- \$786.75 multiplied by each additional weekly kerbside service.

Garbage collection service charge for **all other** allotments =

- \$868.24 multiplied by the number of 240 litre bins.
- \$434.13 multiplied by each additional weekly kerbside service.

Landfill Access Service

A charge of each allotment for which council is not able or not willing to provide a garbage collection service. This charge provides access to landfill facilities within the Council boundaries.

- Landfill access service charge = \$272.78 for **residential** allotments.
- Landfill access service charge = \$715.21 for **commercial** allotments.

Relevant interest rate

The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with Section 162 of the Act at the rate of 8% (based on ATO GIC rates FY 2019-20) per annum and is calculated on a daily basis.

Payment dates

The Council determined that rates and charges in the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 are due to be paid prior to or on 30 September 2020.

A ratepayer who does not meet this date could be sued to recover the rates, charges and interest and any expenses, costs or disbursements incurred in the recovery of the rates, charges and interest, including debt collection and legal costs.

Assessment of the Social and Economic Effects of Council's Rating Policies


West Daly Regional Council's rates and charges are set each year in a process that factors in employee costs, infrastructure projects, council services, the Consumer Price Index and the Northern Territory Local Government Index.

The 2020-21 rates increase of 2 per cent is assessed as modest, minimises impact on ratepayers, and maintains adequate service standards.

Council has introduced rates reduction measures to assist businesses whose revenue has been impacted as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic including discounts and an interest waiver. The rates base is low and is less than 5% of budgeted revenue.

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SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES

	SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES	each/per	FEES/CHARGES FOR FY 2019/20 (GST inclusive)
ADMINISTRATION			
Rate & Property Services			
Change of Ownership Advices - Rates	Advice		\$50.00
Copies of Rates Notices	Notice		\$40.00
Late Payment Fees			
Late fees on Invoice Payment (more than 30 days)	Per		\$50.00
Documentation Assistance			
Filling up forms, application etc	Hour		\$60.00
Photocopying			
A4 – single sided	copy		\$1.00
A4 – double sided	copy		\$1.00
A3 – single sided	copy		\$1.00
A3 – double sided	copy		\$2.00
Scanning			
Domestic charge – within NT (send)	Page		\$1.00
Domestic charge – Interstate (send)	Page		\$1.00
International charge (send)	Page		\$2.00
Receiving Scanned Documents – A4	Email		\$1.00
Laminating			
A4	Page		\$4.00
A3	Page		\$7.00
Printing			
Black and white only	Page		\$1.00
Internet Access Library			
per hour	hour		Free
ACCOMMODATION –VOQ			
Accommodation (Nganmarriyanga)			
<i>Visitor's quarters – per person/per night</i>			
Visitor's quarter	Night		\$240.00
Accommodation (Peppimenarti)			
<i>Visitor's quarters – per person/per night</i>			
Visitor's quarters (2 bedroom)	Night		\$350.00
Visitor's quarters (1 bedroom)	Night		\$240.00
Accommodation (Wadeye)			
<i>Visitor's quarters – per person/per night</i>			
Visitor's quarters - Apartment	Night		\$260.00
Visitor's quarters	Night		\$240.00
Donga	Night		\$170.00
Long term accommodation booking will be discounts (subject to availability); 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%			
Work Space / Conference Room			

Nganmarriyanga / Peppimenarti		
Meeting Room	Full Day	\$120.00
	Half Day	\$70.00
	Hourly	\$20.00
Wadeye		
Conference Room	Full Day	\$400.00
	Half Day	\$250.00
	Hourly	\$70.00
PLANNING		
Temporary Road Closure		
ECONOMIC SERVICES		
Lawn Mowing		
Domestic Lawn	Hour	\$60.00
Domestic Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$60.00
Commercial Lawn	Hour	\$100.00
Commercial Whipper Snipper	Hour	\$100.00
Vehicle Hire		
Toyota Land Cruiser Wagon 4x4	Hour	\$65.00
Toyota Land Cruiser Wagon 4x4	Day	\$300.00
Toyota Dual Cab Utility 4x4	Hour	\$55.00
Toyota Dual Cab Utility 4x4	Day	\$250.00
Other Refuse		
Replacement of bin (GST included)	Bin	\$150.00
Repairs to bin	Bin	n/a
Non Residence Waste Disposal Charges		
Other Charges – Clearing Vehicle & Parts		
Towing abandoned vehicle	Vehicle	Recovery Cost + 15% admin fees
Car bodies	Car body	\$150.00
Car tyres	Tyre	\$10.00
4WD tyres	Tyre	\$15.00
Truck tyres	Tyre	\$35.00
Earthmoving tyres	Tyre	\$100.00
Deposit to repair Damage to Footpath, Kerb, Road reserve/Sinking fund		
Single Residential block, having one street boundary	Residential block	\$385.00
Single Residential block, having two street boundaries	Residential block	\$530.00
Duplex Block, having one street boundary	Duplex Block	\$530.00
Duplex Block, having two street boundaries	Duplex block	\$690.00
Multi residential block, up to maximum	Residential block	\$1,200.00
Services Trades and commercial, up to maximum	Commercial block	\$2,300.00
PLANT HIRE – all on a wet hire basis – must include WDRC employee as Driver With operator & fuel		
Grader	Hourly Rate	\$250.00
Dingo and attachments	Hourly Rate	\$100.00
Loader	Hour	\$270.00

John Deere Tractor – 5093E	Hour	\$150.00
Land Pride Slasher – Large 8ft	Hour	\$40.00
Slasher – 6ft	Hour	\$25.00
Bobcat and operator	Hour	\$170.00
Backhoe	Hour	\$150.00
2.5 Tonne Excavator	Hour	\$170.00
Caterpillar Skid Steer Loader	Hourly Rate	\$90.00
LED Screen on Trailer	Hourly Rate	\$75.00
LED Screen on Trailer	Daily Rate	\$550.00
Trailer Tandem Wheels	Daily Rate	\$120.00
2018 Hino Tip Truck	Hour	\$150.00
2018 Hino Tip Truck with Water Unit	Hour	\$250.00
2010 Volvo Flat Top Truck (tilt tray)	Per KM	\$3.50
2010 Volvo Flat Top Truck (tilt tray)	Daily Rate	\$1,250.00
Labour		
Unskilled Labour	Hour	\$60.00
Semi-Skilled Labour	Hour	\$80.00
Skilled Labour	Hour	\$100.00
Supervisor	Hour	\$120.00
Workshop Materials	Per	Cost + 10%
Mobilisation/Demobilisation charges also apply		Actual cost + 15% admin fee
Tyre Plug		\$25
Patch repair		\$50
New Tyre / Tube		\$80
Airport Charges		
<9,000kg	Per landing	\$22.90/t
≥9,000kg	Per landing	\$31.50/t
Heli<2,500 kg	Per landing	\$22.90/t
Heli≥2,500 kg	Per landing	\$31.50/t
minimum	Per landing	\$22.90/t

Terms, Payments & Recourse

1. All fees are inclusive of GST.
2. All accounts for the purchase of goods or services, provide by the West Daly Regional Council are to be settled in full within 30 days from date of Invoice.
3. Should the Customer default in the payment of any monies due under this Agreement, then all monies due to West Daly Regional Council shall immediately become due and payable, and shall be paid by the Customer within fourteen (14) days of the date of written demand from West Daly Regional Council.
4. In the event an account is not settled, West Daly Regional Council 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 shall be calculated on a daily basis from the due date for payment until the date that West

Daly Regional Council receives payment with 10% per annum. Late payment processing fees of \$35 will be charged on top of interest.

5. Any expenses, costs or disbursements whatsoever incurred by West Daly Regional Council 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Debit card and Credit card (MasterCard / Visa) attracts Surcharge of 1%.
9. Staff and councillors are entitled for discount of 35% on listed price.

2020/21 BUDGET

West Daly Regional Council

Budget 2020-21

Balance Sheet

		Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance	Closing Balance
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Assets						
	Current Assets					
	Cash on Hand	5,120,282	6,533,874	6,665,386	6,064,732	4,794,849
	Short term Investments	4,120,000	4,240,000	4,280,000	4,322,000	4,322,000
	Receivables	277,070	285,382	288,236	291,118	294,029
	Inventories	121,276	124,914	126,163	127,425	128,699
	Other Current	6,225	6,225	6,287	6,350	6,414
	Total Current Assets	9,644,853	11,190,395	11,366,072	10,811,625	9,545,991
Liabilities						
	Current Liabilities					
	Payables	852,534	878,110	904,453	913,498	922,633
	Grant Liabilities	194,981	200,830	206,855	208,924	211,013
	Provisions	2,365,372	3,436,333	3,539,423	3,574,817	3,610,565
	Total Current Liabilities	3,412,886	4,515,273	4,650,731	4,697,239	4,744,211
Net Current Assets		6,231,966	6,675,122	6,715,341	6,114,387	4,801,780
Non Current Liabilities	Provisions	56,249	57,936	59,674	60,271	60,874
Fixed Assets	Assets at Cost	11,087,627	9,652,972	8,268,804	6,933,832	5,511,176
	Depreciation Reserve	0	0	0	0	0
Net Asset Equity		17,263,344	16,270,157	14,924,470	12,987,948	10,252,082
	Accumulated Surplus	17,263,344	16,270,158	14,924,470	12,987,948	10,252,082
	Asset Revaluations	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Equity	17,263,344	16,270,158	14,924,470	12,987,948	10,252,082
Cash Ratio		2.83	2.48	2.44	2.30	2.01

		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Income	Rates and annual charges	1,488,549	1,533,205	1,579,202	1,626,578	1,675,375
	User Charges and fees	1,201,804	1,237,859	1,274,994	1,313,244	1,352,641
	Investment income	134,002	138,022	142,163	146,428	150,820
	Grants and Contribution	14,260,482	14,688,297	15,128,946	15,582,814	16,050,298
		17,084,838	17,597,383	18,125,304	18,669,063	19,229,135
Expenditure	Employee benefit expenses	5,237,713	5,342,468	5,449,317	5,558,303	5,725,052
	Material and Contracts	1,956,101	2,093,028	2,239,540	2,396,308	2,611,976
	Other expenses	7,468,257	7,991,035	8,710,228	9,668,353	10,731,872
	Other gains and losses	45,124	46,478	47,872	49,309	50,788
	Total	14,707,196	15,473,009	16,446,958	17,672,273	19,119,688
Depreciation		1,606,990	1,558,780	1,512,017	1,466,656	1,422,657
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		770,652	565,594	166,330	(469,866)	(1,313,209)

OUR BUDGET

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Key Assumptions of Budget 2020-21

1. At the time of Budget 2020-21 preparation, Council and agencies are engaged in discussions regarding program grants, which are not yet complete. The Budget reflects a combination of known and anticipated funding of services based on experience and what is known, and is to be adjusted in future as required.
2. Repairs and maintenance of infrastructure are scheduled as required and mechanic services are to be outsourced on a trial basis through a panel of providers.
3. Expenses are estimated to increase on an average of 1.5 to 3 per cent and Administration fees are set at 15 per cent.
4. Depreciation is not funded and any budget surplus goes toward assets.
5. Roads are not capitalised and are reflected in full.
6. Swimming Pools operating costs are a serious impact on Budget and operate at a loss.
7. Some costs of elections to be held in August 2021 are included in this Budget (\$25,000)
8. Subject to grant funding, major projects over the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 include waste management upgrades, roads upgrades, community infrastructure, fleet upgrades and projects noted in the Regional Plan.
In 2020-21, budgeted expenditure is \$12.34 million of which \$9.92 is core and \$2.4 million is agency funded programs.
9. Council's payroll is budgeted to cost \$4.1 million (33 per cent of budget), repairs and maintenance \$3.1 million (25 per cent), leases \$1.8 million (15 per cent) and operating \$1.7 million (14 per cent).

West Daly Regional Council
 Budget 2020-21
 Core vs Agency - Without Depreciation

Row Labels	Sum of Budget 20/21	Sum of Budget 19/20	Sum of Actual 19/20 (March 2020)
Core			
Income	(9,919,291)	(13,396,538)	(11,143,039)
Expenditure	9,919,291	13,049,262	7,265,731
Agency			
Income	(2,420,321)	(4,546,352)	(4,593,348)
Expenditure	2,420,321	4,562,556	2,948,033
Grand Total	(0)	(331,073)	(5,522,623)

Core vs Agency - With Depreciation

Row Labels	Sum of Budget 20/21	Sum of Budget 19/20	Sum of Actual 19/20 (March 2020)
Core			
Income	(9,919,291)	(13,396,538)	(11,143,039)
Expenditure	9,919,291	13,049,262	7,265,731
Depreciation	1,606,990	1,507,000	1,187,014
Agency			
Income	(2,420,321)	(4,546,352)	(4,593,348)
Expenditure	2,420,321	4,562,556	2,948,033
Balance Sheet			
Equity	(1,606,990)	361,073	0
Grand Total	(0)	1,537,001	(4,335,609)

West Daly Regional Council
 Budget 2020-21
 Untied vs Tied - without Depreciation

Row Labels	Sum of Budget 20/21	Sum of Budget 19/20	Sum of Actual 19/20 (March 2020)
UNTIED	(1)	(347,277)	(1,453,354)
Income	(8,161,150)	(9,006,888)	(8,035,159)
Expenditure	8,161,149	8,659,611	6,581,806
TIED	0	16,205	(4,069,269)
Income	(4,178,462)	(8,936,002)	(7,701,228)
Expenditure	4,178,462	8,952,207	3,631,959
Grand Total	(0)	(331,073)	(5,522,623)

Untied vs Tied - with Depreciation

Row Labels	Sum of Budget 20/21	Sum of Budget 19/20	Sum of Actual 19/20 (March 2020)
UNTIED	(1)	1,520,796	(266,340)
Depreciation	1,606,990	1,507,000	1,187,014
Equity	(1,606,990)	361,073	0
Expenditure	8,161,149	8,659,611	6,581,806
Income	(8,161,150)	(9,006,888)	(8,035,159)
TIED	0	16,205	(4,069,269)
Expenditure	4,178,462	8,952,207	3,631,959
Income	(4,178,462)	(8,936,002)	(7,701,228)
Grand Total	(0)	1,537,001	(4,335,609)

Note: The budget is balance without depreciation, depreciation expenses funded by equity.

	Darwin	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Total
Income	(579,262)	(1,776,026)	(1,811,048)	(8,173,272)	(12,339,612)
Administration Fees Cost Allocation				(326,134)	(326,134)
Agency Income		(8,700)	(7,800)		(16,500)
Aust Gov - Capital Grants				(500,000)	(500,000)
Aust Gov - Operational Grants		(439,553)	(427,960)	(1,510,788)	(2,378,301)
Commercial Services Income		(15,000)	(22,000)	(75,000)	(112,000)
Council Rates		(93,436)	(78,643)	(699,656)	(871,735)
Fuel Rebate Income				(12,000)	(12,000)
Garbage General		(60,000)	(52,000)	(432,000)	(544,000)
Grant Income Opening Balance Brought Forward (Cr)				(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Hire of Council Assets		(257,321)	(500)	(32,000)	(289,821)
Interest Received				(60,000)	(60,000)
Landing Fee Income		(10,000)	(10,000)	(100,000)	(120,000)
Materials & Services Recovery		(15,000)	(15,000)	(60,000)	(90,000)
NTG - Operational Grants	(579,262)	(461,516)	(748,729)	(1,531,979)	(3,321,486)
NTG Special Purpose Grants (Operational)			(22,966)	(102,869)	(125,835)
Other Current Income				(150,000)	(150,000)
Period Contracts - Airports		(45,000)	(50,000)	(100,000)	(195,000)
Period Contracts Other		(68,000)	(65,000)		(133,000)
Plant & Vehicle Cost Recovery		(120,000)	(112,950)	(553,900)	(786,850)
Property Lease Cost Recovery		(163,000)	(186,000)	(701,950)	(1,050,950)
Rent and Leases Property		(15,000)	(10,000)	(215,000)	(240,000)
Rent Employee Housing		(4,500)	(1,500)	(10,000)	(16,000)
Expenditure	579,262	1,776,026	1,811,048	8,173,276	12,339,612
Accommodation	1,000	3,000	2,300	13,500	19,800
Administration Fees		123,636	81,360	121,138	326,134
Advertising				5,000	5,000
Annual Leave	47,925	77,516	77,848	238,186	441,475
Audit Expenses (external)				50,000	50,000
Catering - Council, Committees, Seminars	500	4,750	5,450	4,000	14,700
Cleaning Products and Contractors	5,100	1,250	8,500	11,500	26,350
Committee Sitting Fees		3,500	2,500	2,500	8,500
Conferences, Seminars and Ceremonies	2,000		250	500	2,750
Consulting Fees		3,500		67,000	70,500
Consumable Items	500	11,001	7,050	16,000	34,551
Contractor Materials and Labour		372,374	155,520	2,027,934	2,555,828
Contractors Electrical		3,500		3,009	6,509
Contractors Pest Control	300				300
Contributions				10,500	10,500
Councillors - Fares Air / Road		750	750	8,000	9,500
Councillors Accommodation		1,500	1,500	6,000	9,000
Councillors Electoral Allowances		18,454	94,888	88,082	201,424
Councillors Extra Meeting Allowances		9,007		27,018	36,025
Councillors Professional Development		3,753	3,753	15,012	22,518
Councillors Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals		2,000	2,000	8,000	12,000
Councillors Uniform		150	150	600	900
Counselling and Rehabilitation				5,000	5,000
Fares - Air/Road	4,000			15,250	19,250
Freight Expenses	150	4,000	18,150	17,000	39,300
Fuel Diesel /ULP		4,500	30,400	128,750	163,650
Health and Safety Expenses	800	7,503	15,000	5,500	28,803
Hire of Plant, Equipment and Motor Vehicles		9,000		5,000	14,000
ICT - Consultants / Service Providers				190,000	190,000
ICT - Phone/Fax/Internet	62,000	15,000	21,000	103,500	201,500
ICT Hardware < \$5,000	2,000	7,500	11,175	5,000	25,675
ICT Mobile/ Modem Telephone	2,500	2,500	3,800	12,750	21,550
ICT Satellite Telephone		3,000	3,550	18,000	24,550
Insurance Premiums				600,000	600,000
Levy, Fees and Charges	2,900	1,500	1,000	11,500	16,900

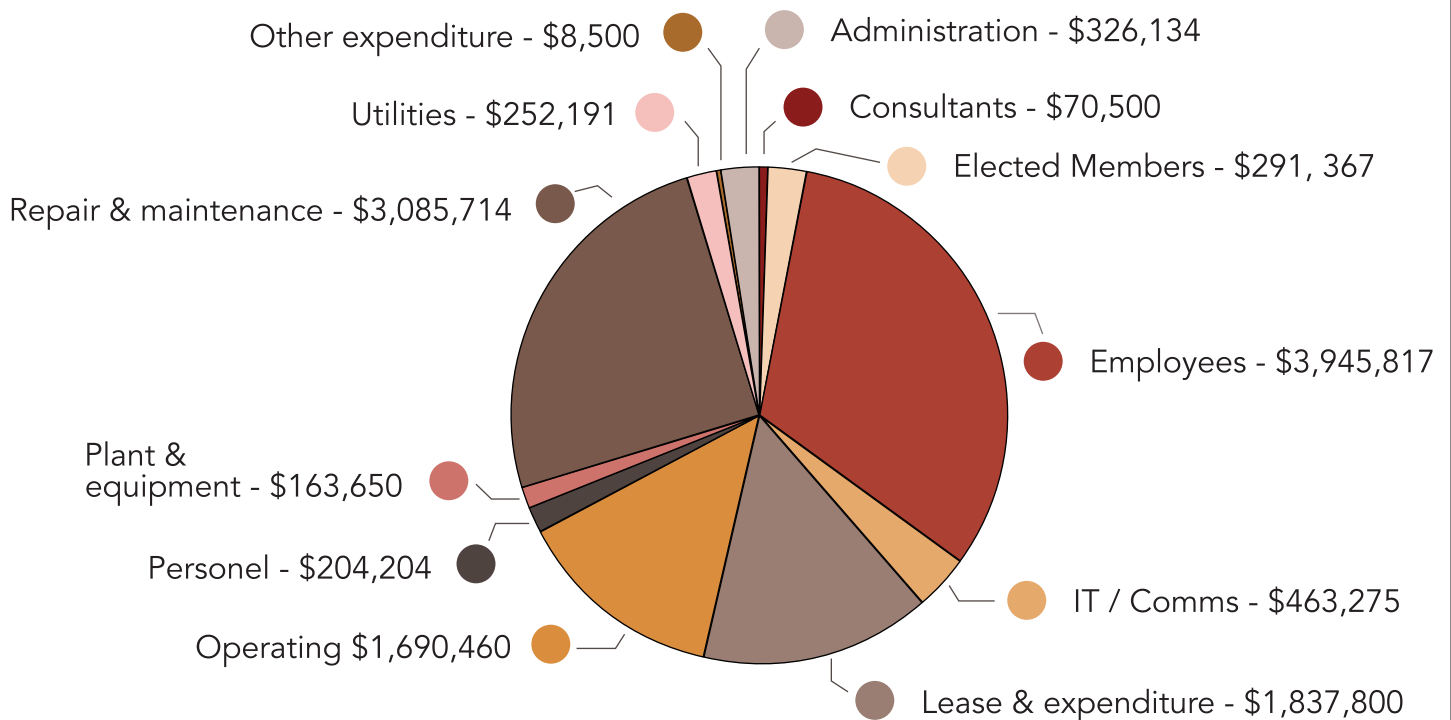
	Darwin	Nganmarriyanga	Peppimenarti	Wadeye	Total
Licenses and Registrations - MV & PE			1,500	30,000	31,500
Long Service Leave	4,405	7,125	7,155	21,892	40,577
Materials - Furniture & Office Equipment	2,000	750	11,700	1,500	15,950
Materials - Tools		2,500	6,000	12,500	21,000
Materials Minor Assets < \$5,000	5,000	9,000	15,900	20,500	50,400
Materials Roadbase/Gravel		10,000		10,000	20,000
Minor Assets Replacement <5000			3,006		3,006
Office Amenities	2,000	3,500	6,000	8,000	19,500
Office Uniforms	600	500	2,500	5,000	8,600
Operating Leases - MV, Plant & Equipment	17,000				17,000
Operating Leases Office Equipment	3,500	750	1,800		6,050
Operating Leases Property	42,000	32,000	48,000	165,000	287,000
Outsourced Services				365,000	365,000
Personal Protective Equipment		6,500	7,000	16,000	29,500
Plant and Vehicle Cost Alloc		120,000	112,950	553,900	786,850
Printing, Postage (stamps) & Stationery	4,000	3,500	2,900	9,000	19,400
Professional Development	3,000				3,000
Property Lease Cost Allocation		163,000	186,000	701,950	1,050,950
Recruitment & Relocation				10,000	10,000
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Others		1,000	24,000	161,540	186,540
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Servicing			9,000	20,000	29,000
Repairs & Maint MV & PE - Tyres			2,000	20,000	22,000
Repairs & Maintenance Buildings		62,500	48,359	52,500	163,359
Repairs & Maintenance Plant (Small Plant Items)		750	2,500	6,750	10,000
Repairs & Maintenance Roads		2,500	39,978	50,000	92,478
Salary Allowances		47,000	60,500	69,000	176,500
Salary Normal	311,864	504,427	506,581	1,549,958	2,872,831
Salary Overtime		1,750			1,750
Screening and License Checks			500	500	1,000
Sports Equipment - Inc Uniforms, trophies etc			6,000	0	6,000
Street Light Electricity Payments		1,500	1,200	19,000	21,700
Subscriptions and Memberships	0			22,000	22,000
Superannuation	34,182	55,287	55,524	169,882	314,875
Taxi/Hire Car Fares	400			1,500	1,900
TOIL				750	750
Training		500	1,500	56,954	58,954
Travel Allowance - Meals and Incidentals	2,500	6,000	4,700	17,500	30,700
Utilities - Electricity	4,600	9,000	37,650	57,000	108,250
Utilities - Water & Sewerage		13,500	33,636	75,105	122,241
Workers Compensation	10,536	17,042	17,115	52,366	97,059

Row Labels	Sum of Budget 20/21	Sum of Budget 19/20
Expenditure	3,085,714	6,450,896
Administration	40,500	27,198
Aged & Disability Services	-	1,448
Asset Management	200,540	216,617
Chief Executive	-	-
Civil Services	-	-
Commercial Arrangement	37,859	1,025
Community Patrol	15,000	26,834
Community Program	-	4,559
Elected Members	7,000	4,863
Housing - Staff Housing	121,000	424,472
Libraries	-	56,011
Local Authorities	462,340	1,117,396
Outstations and Homelands	512,924	954,329
Parks and Gardens	20,750	12,768
Pools	8,759	818
Roads	612,478	1,827,603
Special Purpose Grants	-	649,422
Sport and Rec	-	-
Vacation Care	46,564	74,641
Waste Management	-	-
Special Projects	1,000,000	1,050,893
Grand Total	3,085,714	6,450,896

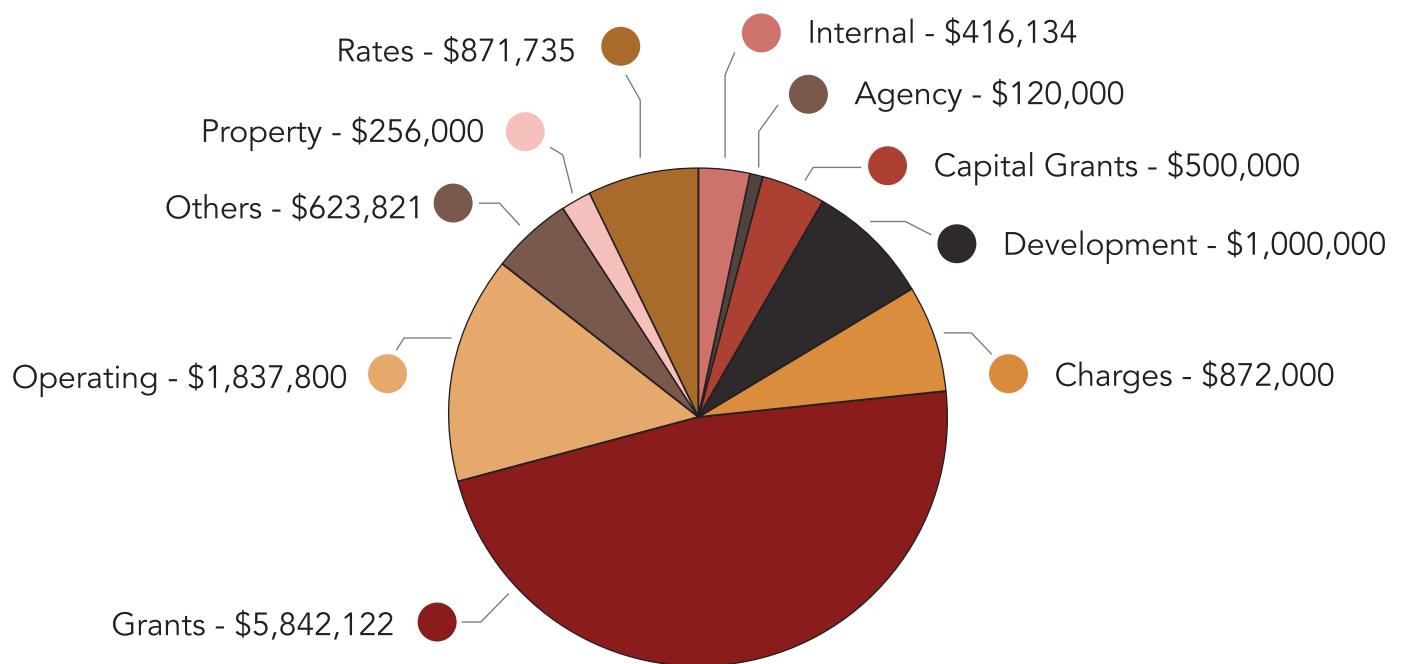
Infrastructure Development & Maintenance			
Assets Class	Development	Maintenance	Total
Building and facilities	1,000,000	297,432	1,297,432
Fleet	0	200,540	200,540
Roads	0	612,478	612,478
Other Infrasutres	0	975,264	975,264

OUR BUDGET

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE 2020-2021



BUDGETED INCOME 2020-2021





Review of Constitutional Arrangements

A report to the Minister for Local Government and Community Services

Pursuant to the provisions of
Section 9 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008

June 2015

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1. Introduction

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 23(1)(c) of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008 (the Act), the West Daly Regional Council has undertaken a review of all aspects of its composition and structure so as to ensure the adequacy of the constitutional arrangements presently in force and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the council area.

The key issues addressed during the course of the review included:

- whether the principal member of Council should have the title of mayor or president;
- whether the principal member should be elected by the community or appointed by (and from amongst) the elected members;
- the title of the elected members;
- the level of elector representation (i.e. the number of elected members required to provide effective representation of the electors and adequately perform the roles and responsibilities of Council);
- whether the council area should continue to be divided into wards or whether wards should be abolished;
- if wards are to be retained, the identification of the optimum ward structure and determination of the level of representation for each ward;
- the names/titles of any proposed future wards;
- the name of Council; and
- the municipal boundaries of Council

This report is presented for consideration under the provisions of Section 9 of the Act. It provides details pertaining to the review process; includes copies of all documents relevant to the review; outlines the review process undertaken by Council; and explains the rationale behind Council's decisions.

2. Background

The West Daly Regional Council was formally established on the 1st July 2014 following the "restructuring" of the then Victoria Daly Regional Council which was divided into two councils (i.e. Victoria Daly Regional Council and West Daly Regional Council). From that point in time the West Daly Regional Council has comprised six (6) councillors representing three wards, (including the principal member (mayor) who is appointed from (and by) the elected members.

A map depicting the current ward structure has been provided in Appendix A and elector data pertaining to the existing ward structure is provided in the following table.

Table 1: Elector details - existing ward structure

Ward	Members	Electors	Elector Ratio	% Variation
Nganmarriyanga	1	188	1:188	- 35.6
Thamarrurr/Pindi Pindi	4	1,470	1:368	+25.9
Tyemirri	1	93	1: 93	- 68.1
Total/Average	6	1,751	1:292	

Source: Northern Territory Electoral Commission (as at 4th February 2015)

Whilst the current ward structure was developed taking into account such issues as the desire to provide direct representation to the various existing communities, the remoteness of the communities and the vastness of the council area, Council was aware that the existing imbalance in the elector distribution needed to be addressed.

The West Daly Regional Council formally commenced its review in January 2015 and conducted the review with references to the provisions of Sections 11, 23 and 44 of the Act; and the provisions of Regulation 63 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations). Elector data utilised during the review process was provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission.

The review undertaken by Council was concluded at a meeting held on the 20th May 2015, at which time it was resolved that the current composition and structure should be retained.

3. Proposal

Having duly completed a review of its composition and structure, pursuant to the provisions of Section 23 of the Act, the West Daly Regional Council proposes that its existing constitutional arrangements be retained at the next scheduled Local Government election. This being the case, the future constitutional arrangements of Council should be as follows.

- The principal member of Council will bear the title of mayor and will be appointed by, and from amongst, the elected members.
- Council will comprise a total of six elected members.
- The elected members of Council (excluding the mayor) will continue to bear the title of Councillor.
- The council area will continue to be divided into three wards, as per the current ward structure.
- The existing ward names will be retained.

In addition, there will be no changes to the existing name and/or boundaries of Council.

4. Review Process

The following is a summary of the review process undertaken by Council, and associated occurrences, in chronological order.

Date	Event
14 December 2014	Council engaged the services of C L Rowe & Associates Pty Ltd ("the consultants") to assist with the conduct of the review.
21 January 2015	The consultants met with Council; discuss the review key issues and process; and presented a draft copy of a Discussion Paper (for public consultation). (Discussion Paper - Appendix B)
17 February 2015	The review was discussed at the Local Authority meeting held at Peppimenarti.
March 2015	Electronic versions of the Discussion Paper and the Elector Survey document were placed on the Council webpage.
5 March 2015	The review was discussed at the Local Authority meeting held at Wadeye.
14 March 2015	A public notice was published in the "NT News" newspaper advising that the review was being undertaken by Council; the Discussion Paper was available for consideration; and written submissions were being accepted until close of business on the 23 rd March 2015. (Public Notice – Appendix C)
21 March 2015	A public notice was published in the "NT News" newspaper advising that the review was being undertaken by Council; the Discussion Paper was available for consideration; and written submissions were being accepted until close of business on the 23 rd March 2015. (Public Notice – Appendix C)

Date	Event
23 March 2015	At the close of the public notification period, two submissions were received by Council. (Submissions – Appendix D)
20 May 2015	Council considered a report by the consultants regarding the submissions and formally resolved to receive and note the submissions; retain its existing name, ward boundaries, composition, ward structure, level of ward representation and ward names; and not pursue any changes to its external boundaries at this time. (Submissions Report – Appendix E; Council Report & Minutes - Appendix F)

5. Public Consultation

Public consultation effectively commenced in February 2015 with a meeting with the Local Authority meeting at Peppimenarti and concluded at the close of business on Monday 23rd March 2015, at which time Council had received two submissions, these being in the form completed Elector Surveys.

Council considered the receipt of two submissions to be disappointing but not unexpected given the short duration of the consultation period; the inability of Council to meet directly with the community of Palumpa; and the difficulties generally experienced in respect to consulting with the local communities (due primarily to the remoteness of the communities and the impacts of inclement weather). Whilst the two submissions were not considered to reflect the attitudes of a community which comprises more than 1,750 electors, they did provide some insight into the thoughts of a very small sample of community members.

A summary of the submissions received is provided hereinafter and copies thereof have been provided in Appendix F. Please note, the names and addresses of the respondents have been withheld for confidentiality reasons, however these details are available and will be provided upon request. Investigations revealed that all of the respondents appeared to reside in the council area (based on the information provided).

Name	Comments
Respondent 1 Wadeye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain the title of mayor.• Principal member should be appointed by Council.• Retain the title of councillor• Council should comprise a total of six members.• In favour of abolishing wards• Retain existing ward structure• Do not amend the existing council boundaries.
Respondent 2 Wadeye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain the title of mayor.• Principal member should be appointed by Council.• Retain the title of councillor• Council should comprise a total of six members.• In favour of abolishing wards• Retain existing ward structure• Do not amend the existing council boundaries.

6. Proposal Rationale

6.1 Primary Issues

Council's comments and opinions, as they relate to the issues relevant to the future composition and structure of the West Daly Regional Council, are provided hereinafter.

6.1.1 Principal Member

In the brief history of Council the principal member has held the title of mayor and has been appointed by the elected members. Both of the submissions received favoured the retention of this arrangement.

The elected members believe that the current arrangement (i.e. an appointed mayor) has served Council well in its short history. The appointment of the principal member by Council is becoming known and accepted by the community; serves to reduce the overall number of elected members by one (at a cost benefit to Council); and provides flexibility in (and opportunity for) different elected members to gain experience as the principal member.

In addition, the appointment of a principal member avoids the need for an election and, under the circumstances whereby a supplementary election is required, costs will only be incurred by Council to fill the vacancy of a ward councillor (rather than conduct a council-wide election for a new principal member).

The decision of Council to retain an appointed mayor as its principal member is also considered to be consistent with the constitutional arrangements of the other regional Councils within the Northern Territory, five of which have appointed presidents and another four have appointed mayors.

6.1.2 Title of the Elected Members

The elected members of the West Daly Regional Council have always held the title of councillor, as do the elected members within all of the other regional councils throughout the Northern Territory.

In reaching its decision to retain the title of councillor, Council was mindful that the use of the title is becoming more prevalent in Local Government throughout the nation with only eight councils (i.e. the City of Darwin, the Katherine Town Council and six councils in Tasmania) having aldermen; the two submissions received supported the retention of the title of councillor for the elected members; and the alternative title of alderman is gender specific.

6.1.3 Wards/No Wards

The West Daly Regional Council has always been divided into wards.

Whilst both of the submissions received indicated that the council area should not be divided into wards, they both also indicated a preference for the existing three ward structure.

Council considered the option of abolishing wards, recognising that the benefits included:

- the electors being afforded the opportunity to vote for all of the positions on Council;
- the most supported candidates from across the council area will likely be elected, rather than candidates who may be favoured by the peculiarities of the ward based electoral system;
- the elected members should be free of parochial ward attitudes;
- candidates for election to Council will require the genuine desire, ability and means to succeed and serve on Council; and
- the lines of communication between Council and the community should be enhanced, given that members of the community would not feel obliged to necessarily consult with their specific ward representatives.

Notwithstanding the above, Council favoured the retention of wards over the “no wards” option because the alternative:-

- could enable a single interest group to gain considerable representation on Council;
- did not ensure direct representation of communities and/or areas within the council area;
- did not guarantee that elected members will have any empathy for, affiliation with, all parts of, or communities within, the council area;
- could discourage potential candidates due to the resources required to contest council-wide elections;
- could result in considerable costs (to Council) through the conducting of council-wide elections and supplementary elections; and
- could cause difficulties and disenchantment in respect to the casting and counting of ballot papers under the current exhaustive preferential system.

Having resolved to continue to divide the council area into wards, Council considered a number of ward structure options but agreed to retain the existing ward structure.

Whilst the alternative ward structure options incorporated beneficial features such as prominent physical ward boundaries (e.g. rivers and roads) and a more equitable balance in the elector ratios and the physical areas within the proposed wards, the elected members were concerned that change at this time would likely be difficult for the community to accept, given the short history of Council and its current structure. In addition, cultural issues such as traditional clan land served to complicate the identification of an alternative ward structure which would be readily acceptable to the various communities within the council area.

Council acknowledges that there is an imbalance in the elector numbers between the existing wards, however, it considers this imbalance to be acceptable given that the ward structure serves to provide direct representation to all three of the major communities/settlements; the vastness of the council area; the remoteness of, and distance between, the existing communities; and the spasmodic distribution of electors throughout the council area. In addition, the elected members believe that a greater period of time is required to stabilize what is a new and developing Council (and council area) and that amendments to the composition and/or ward structure of Council may be detrimental at this time.

6.1.4 Elected Members

Section 23(1)(c) of the Act requires Council (through the review process) to determine “the most effective possible representation for the area”, but does not give any guidance in regards to what constitutes an appropriate number of elected members.

In its Discussion Paper Council expressed the belief that six elected members could continue to provide fair, adequate and direct representation of the existing communities located throughout the council area, but also indicated a preparedness to consider an increase in elected members if there were elector representation benefits to be achieved. Both of the submissions received indicated a preference for a total of six elected members (i.e. the status quo).

The West Daly Regional Council covers approximately 14,000 km² and contains only 1,751 electors. Due to the small number of electors and elected members, Council has an elector ratio of 1:292, this being mid-range when compared to the other regional councils. By comparison, East Arnhem Regional Council covers approximately 33,300 km² and contains 5,848 electors (at an elector ratio of approximately 1:418).

Council is of the opinion that a decrease in the number of elected members is simply not practicable, as there needs to be a certain minimum number of elected members to meet the demands and legislative requirements associated with the conduct of Council business.

Whilst a decrease in elected members would result in some cost savings to Council (e.g. member's allowances), it is considered that such action would have adverse impacts upon the lines of communication with the community; the demands placed upon, and the workloads of, the elected members; and the experience, expertise, opinions and skill sets within Council.

On the other hand, Council is aware that an increase in the number of elected members at this time may serve to enhance the level and quality of representation and may reduce the demands of the elected members in the short-term. Obviously any increase in elected members will come at a cost to Council but should afford greater opportunity for a closer relationship between the elected members and their constituents; and a greater diversity in terms of the member's expertise, experience and opinions.

Notwithstanding the above, the elected members have opted to maintain the status quo for at least another four years as this will afford stability within the Council (and council area) as well as provide the opportunity for the elected members and the community to assess how Council functions over an extended period of time under its current arrangements.

6.1.5 Level of Ward Representation

Council considered single-member and multi-member ward representation options.

Council believes that single-member wards allow the local community to elect their representative; afford the ward councillor the opportunity to be more accessible to their constituents; and enable the elected member to concentrate on issues of local importance in addition to the larger, council-wide issues.

Further, the decision of Council to retain a ward structure with single councillor representation in two wards reflects the distribution of electors; is a structure which is known to the community; and ensures balance and continuity in elector representation throughout the council area.

6.1.6 Ward Identification

The current ward names are longstanding, having been utilised in the previous Victoria Daly Regional Council prior to restructuring in July 2014.

Given that Council resolved to retain the existing ward structure, and that neither of the submissions received offered any alternative ward names/titles, it was considered appropriate that the current ward names be retained.

The allocation of names of local significance (geographical and/or heritage), as per the current arrangement, is a conventional means of ward identification which is generally accepted by the community.

6.1.7 Council Name

Council indicated in its Discussion Paper that it was not contemplating a change to its name and both submissions received supported this position.

The West Daly Regional Council was only established in July 2014 and it is considered that the council name generally befits the geographical location of the council area. To change the name of Council after such a short period of time was considered to be imprudent as it would achieve little (if any) benefit; may prove to be an expensive exercise; and could be perceived as both unnecessary and/or a sign of instability in local government within the region.

6.1.8 Council Boundaries

Throughout the review process Council indicated that it was not contemplating any changes to its external boundaries at this time. This position was supported by the two survey respondents.

6.2 Regulation 63, Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008

Throughout the course of the review, specific attention was paid to those provisions of Regulation 63(2) and 63(3) of the Regulations which were considered to be relevant to the circumstances of the West Daly Regional Council. Brief comments pertaining to Council's findings and opinions in respect to the various issues covered by these provisions are provided hereinafter.

6.2.1 Communities of Interest - Regulations 63(2)(a) and 63(3)(d)

For the purpose of the review, Council determined "communities of interest" to be generally defined as aspects of the physical, economic and social systems which are central to the interactions of communities in their living environment. These can be identified by considering factors relevant to the physical, economic and social environment; regional communities; history and heritage communities; and environmental and geographic interests.

For the sake of this exercise, the obvious communities of interest within the council area are the communities of Palumpa, Peppimenarti and Wadeye and their surrounding outstations.

Given the complexities of the "community of interest" concept, the Council decision to retain the existing ward structure (in preference to a number of alternative ward structures) is considered to be a practical solution which should have no detrimental impact upon the local community (or any "communities of interest" therein).

6.2.2 Communication and Travel - Regulation 63(2)(b)

Regulation 63(2)(b) seeks consideration of the issues of communication and travel in the council area, with specific reference to disabilities arising out of remoteness or distance. Such problems can easily arise in a council area which covers approximately 14,000 km².

Unfortunately, communication and travel throughout the council area can be difficult during the "wet" season, however, access to information and communication technology through mobile telephones, the internet and electronic media has increased exponentially during the recent past, and these advances generally serve to overcome many previous communication difficulties.

At the very least the retention of the existing ward structure, as proposed, should not exacerbate any existing travel and/or communication problems.

6.2.3 Population Density and Trends - Regulation 63(2)(c) & (d)

Given the short history of the West Daly regional Council, limited information is available regarding population trends and/or fluctuations in elector numbers. Notwithstanding this, elector data provided by the Northern Territory Electoral Commission (refer Shires and Rural Councils Elections Report 2008 and 2012 NT Council Elections Report) indicated that:

- the total elector numbers within the three wards which comprise the West Daly Regional Council increased by 214 (13.6%) between the 2008 and 2012 Local Government elections, with the fluctuations in elector numbers being +235 (+18.6%) in the Thamarurr/Pindi Pindi Ward, -1 (-0.5%) in the Nganmarriyanga Ward and -21 (-20.4%) in the Tyemirri Ward; and
- by contrast, during the period March 2012 to February 2015 the total elector numbers decreased by 37 (or -2.1%), with growth (11 electors) only being recorded in the Tyemirri Ward.

Whilst this information suggested that the elector numbers had increased marginally over recent years, it was considered that, if maintained, the trend should not have a significant impact upon the current (preferred) ward structure within the foreseeable future.

6.2.4 Physical Features - Regulation 63(2)(e)

The council area covers more than 14,000km² and incorporates mainly undeveloped bush land (plains and escarpments); coastline (including large mangrove swamps and salt marshes); three major river systems (i.e. the Daly, Moyle and Fitzmaurice Rivers) which have vast flood plains; and a main (secondary) road (i.e. the Daly River Road).

The aforementioned prominent physical features were taken into account when reviewing the existing ward structure and assessing the appropriateness of alternative ward structures.

6.2.5 Equitable Distribution of Electors - Regulation 63(3)(a)

The current ward structure exhibits a significant imbalance in the distribution of electors between wards.

As previously indicated, Council is of the opinion that the imbalance in elector numbers is acceptable because the existing/proposed ward structure continues to meet a primary objective of Council, that being to provide direct representation to each of the three existing main communities on a scale which reflects (to some degree) the distribution of elector numbers.

6.2.6 Demographic and Geographic Nature of the Wards – Regulation 63(3)(c)

As Council proposes to retain the existing ward structure there will be no changes to the existing character and/or geographic nature of any of the wards.

7. Conclusion

The West Daly Regional Council has completed a review of its constitutional arrangements, as required by the provisions of Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2008.

Having duly considered all matters relevant to the current elector representation within the West Daly Regional Council and undertaken consultation with the community, Council formed the opinion that the current arrangements still provide the most effective possible representation for the council area. This being the case, Council proposes that the following arrangements remain in effect as at (and after) the next scheduled Local Government election.

- The principal member of Council bear the title of Mayor and be appointed by the Council.
- The elected members (excluding the principal member) bear the title of Councillor.
- The future Council (elected body) of the West Daly Regional Council comprise a total of six (6) elected members.
- The existing wards structure, level of ward representation and ward names be retained.

In addition, it should be noted that West Daly Regional Council does not propose any change to its name at this time; nor does it intend to pursue any changes to its external boundaries.

Whilst the West Daly Regional Council is not proposing any changes to its current constitutional arrangements, this report is referred to the Minister for Local Government and Community Services (pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2008) to demonstrate the comprehensive nature, process and outcomes of the review undertaken by Council.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss the review, please do not hesitate to contact Glenda Teede, Chief Executive Officer, on telephone (08) 8979 9444 or 0475 814 960.

Glenda Teede
Chief Executive Officer

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Shaun Hardy
Chief Executive Officer

