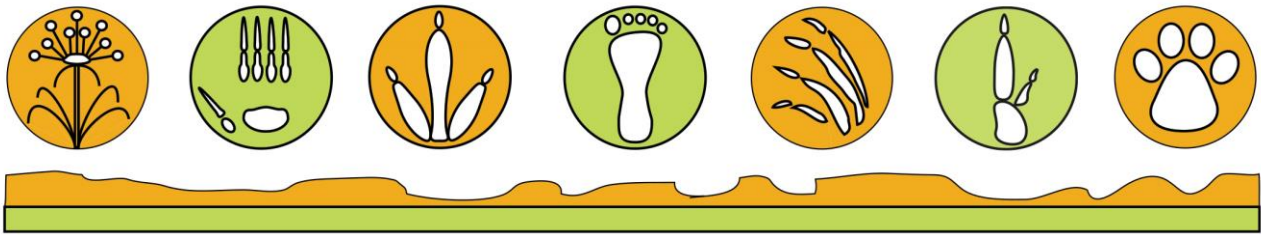


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



AGENDA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023

Barkly Regional Council's Ordinary Council Meeting will be held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Thursday, 23 February 2023 at 8:30am.

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be responsive, progressive, sustainable council which respects, listens and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policy and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

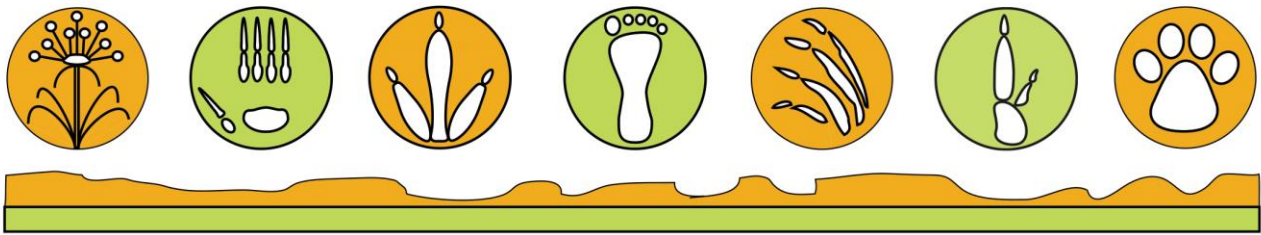
We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent and accountable.

BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Warumungu, Mudberra, Jingili, Wakaya, Wambaya, Waanyi, Walpiri, Warlmanpa, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye Country on which Barkly Regional Council live and work, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to the ancestors and elders of these lands, past, present and emerging.

May we continue to work together to
Deliver sustainable outcomes through a process
Based on mutual respect and understanding.

COUNCIL PRAYER

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust you will guide and bless this meeting of the Barkly Regional Council. We pray that you will ensure that all discussions and decisions made today are just and fair as they will affect all people within the Barkly Region. We also pray for your guidance to ensure that all our dealings are appropriate to all those whom we represent and will reflect an equitable and honest approach to the issues to be discussed today.

Amen

AGENDA

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1.2	Staff Members Present	
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	<i>Nil</i>	
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	<i>Nil</i>	
	Next Meeting Date	
19	CLOSE OF MEETING	

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER	2.1
TITLE	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
REFERENCE	379447
AUTHOR	Karen Legge, Corporate and Community Planner

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Minutes of the January 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council as a true and accurate record of that Meeting.

SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an opportunity to review the Minutes of the previous Council Meeting to confirm that they accurately record the proceedings and decisions of that Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The previous Ordinary Council Meeting was held on 12 January 2023 in Tennant Creek.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

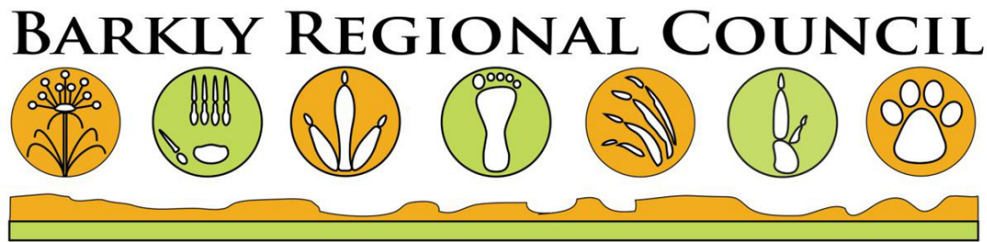
Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

1 Ordinary Council 2023-01-12 [1448] Minutes.pdf



MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Barkly Regional Council was held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 1:00 pm.

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be responsive, progressive, sustainable council which respects, listens and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policy and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent and accountable.

Meeting commenced at 1.04 pm with Mayor Jeffrey McLaughlin as Chair.

1. OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 Elected Members Present

- Cr. Jeffrey McLaughlin (Mayor)
- Cr. Russell O'Donnell (Deputy Mayor)
- Cr. Dianne Stokes
- Cr. Greg Marlow
- Cr. Lennie Barton
- Cr. Heather Wilson (joined Meeting at 1.09 pm)
- Cr. Pam Corbett (joined Meeting at 1.18 pm)

1.2 Staff Members Present

- Emma Bradbury – Chief Executive Officer
- Damien Burton – Acting Director of Corporate Services
- Troy Koch – Director of Operations
- Gillian Molloy – Acting Director of Community Development
- Romeo Mutsago – Chief Financial Officer
- Jaymie Coleman – Assets & Contracts Coordinator
- Karen Legge – Corporate & Community Planner

1.3 Visitors Present

Nil

1.4 Apologies

- Raghavendra Upadhyaya – Director Infrastructure

1.5 Absent Without Apologies

- Cr. Anita Bailey
- Cr. Jack Clubb

1.6 Disclosure Of Interest – Councillors And Staff – Under Section 116(1) of the Local Government Act 2019

1.7 Review of disclosure of interests – Councillors and Staff (to be done at each council meeting)

Cr. McLaughlin declared an interest in item 18.2, and will manage this by abstaining from the discussion relating to his interest.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**2.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES****MOTION**

That Council receive and note the minutes of the December 2022 Ordinary Meeting of Council as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

RESOLVED

Moved: Councillor Lennie Barton

Seconded: Councillor Greg Marlow

CARRIED UNAN.

Resolved OC 1/23

3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**3.1 UPDATE OF PROGRESS OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS****MOTION**

That Council receive and note the update of progress of actions arising from previous Council meetings.

RESOLVED

Moved: Councillor Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Councillor Heather Wilson

CARRIED UNAN.

Resolved OC 2/23

3.2 RATES CONCESSIONS FOR RATEPAYERS IMPACTED BY 2021-2022 REVALUATION**MOTION**

That Council:

- i. Receive the late report relating to rates concessions
- ii. Notes that in September 2022 the council approved a rate concession to ratepayers impacted by significant rate increase
- iii. Authorises the CEO to provide a further concession upon application from ratepayers impacted by the recent revaluations that have had their rates increase by more than 15 per cent from the 2021-22 year, to waive any amount of rates that is in excess of 15 per cent above the 2021-22 rates for the lot. Applications must be made in writing and addressed to the CEO at ceo@barkly.nt.gov.au.
- iv. Adopt the attached amended Rates Exemption and Concession Policy to allow the hardship concession to all types of ratepayers.
- v. Waive the application of penalty interest rates for late payment of 2022-2023 rates for properties impacted by the recent revaluations, provided that the rates for that period are paid no later than 30 June 2023.
- vi. Notify ratepayers of this resolution.

RESOLVED**Moved: Councillor Greg Marlow****Seconded: Deputy Mayor Russell O'Donnell****CARRIED UNAN.***Resolved OC 3/23*

Action: The Meeting requested that the CEO replace the word "individual" with "ratepayer" in section 2 of the revised policy.

4. ADDRESSING THE MEETING**4.1 PRESENTATION FROM FORTUNE AGRIBUSINESS****MOTION**

That Council receive and note the presentation from Fortune Agribusiness.

RESOLVED**Moved: Councillor Greg Marlow****Seconded: Councillor Lennie Barton****CARRIED UNAN.***Resolved OC 4/23*

This Item was postponed until 2.00pm for discussion.

Mr Wood noted that he will be in Tennant Creek on 30 January and in Ali Curung on 31 January if Council wished to discuss any issues further.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC*Nil***6. MAYOR'S REPORT***Nil***7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS****7.1 CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MEETING DATES - 2023****MOTION**

That Council agree to hold an Ordinary Meeting of Council each month, and confirm the following dates for 2023:

MONTH	MEETING DATE	MONTH	MEETING DATE
JANUARY	Thursday, 12 January	JULY	Thursday, 27 July
FEBRUARY	Thursday, 23 February	AUGUST	Thursday, 31 August
MARCH	Thursday, 30 March	SEPTEMBER	Thursday, 28 September
APRIL	Thursday, 27 April	OCTOBER	Thursday, 26 October
MAY	Thursday, 25 May	NOVEMBER	Thursday, 30 November
JUNE	Thursday, 29 June	DECEMBER	Thursday, 14 December

RESOLVED

Moved: Councillor Dianne Stokes

Seconded: Councillor Lennie Barton

CARRIED UNAN.

Resolved OC 5/23

The Meeting agreed to bring forward the December meeting to 14 December. It was agreed to conclude the meeting with a dinner for Councillors and the Executive Team to mark the end of 2023.

8. CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Nil

9. INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Nil

10. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Nil

11. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

Nil

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nil

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

14. RESCISSION MOTIONS

Nil

15. OPERATIONS

Nil

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 The Meeting acknowledged receipt of Cr Ronald Plummer's resignation on Friday, 16 December 2022.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

18. MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

18 MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL

MOTION

That Council resolve to move into Closed Session.

RESOLVED

Moved: Deputy Mayor Russell O'Donnell

Seconded: Councillor Dianne Stokes

CARRIED UNAN.

Resolved OC 6/23

18.1 APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT TO UNDERTAKE BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL 2023-2024 RATING STRATEGY REVIEW	
<i>The report will be dealt with under Section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Regulation 51 (c(ii)) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.</i>	
MOTION	
That Council	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) approve the engagement of Mead Perry to undertake Barkly Regional Council 2023-2024 Rating Strategy Review ii) move this resolution into the open section of the Council minutes. 	
RESOLVED	
Moved: Councillor Lennie Barton	
Seconded: Councillor Pamela Corbett	
CARRIED UNAN.	
<i>Resolved OCCS 7/23</i>	
The CEO noted that the recommendation arising from the Auditor's Management Letter relating to asset revaluation will be addressed at the same time as this rating review.	

19. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 2.38 pm.

This page and the proceeding 5 pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday, 12 January 2023 and are unconfirmed .

Jeffrey McLaughlin

Council Mayor

[Enter Date](#)

Emma Bradbury

Chief Executive Officer

[Enter Date](#)

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER	3.1
TITLE	Update of progress of actions arising from previous meetings
REFERENCE	379450
AUTHOR	Karen Legge, Corporate and Community Planner

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the update of progress in implementing the actions arising from previous Council Meetings.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a status update to Council of the progress in implementing actions arising from previous Council Meetings.

A comprehensive update will be tabled at the Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Decisions of Council and other actions agreed at each Council Meeting are implemented by staff following the Council Meetings. This report provides a status update to Council of the progress in implementing those actions.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

A comprehensive update will be tabled at the Council meeting.

ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER	3.2
TITLE	Juno EOI Status Update
REFERENCE	379465
AUTHOR	Damien Burton, Director of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note receipt of the Juno Expression of Interest (EOI) status update.

SUMMARY:

This report is to inform Council of current status of the Juno EOI.

BACKGROUND

In 2021 Council called for expressions of interest to lease NT Portion 1918, commonly referred to as the Juno land. Four (4) proposals were received and on 7 September 2022 Council received presentations from each of the proponents.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

It is essential Council ensure absolute reliability in the process and outcome of awarding the successful tenderer for the property identified as Juno.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Inconsequential pending a final decision. Council policy no. CP 45 *Juno Usage* acknowledges the lessee must provide Council with an annual income. A commercial arrangement to be determined in a separate commercial agreement between Council and the lessee.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Due to staff changes and the vacancy of the Compliance and Governance Officer position, Current staff members are to review status of Juno EOI and acknowledge questions raised by the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC) and Tenderers.

CONSULTATION & TIMING

It is important for the Barkly Regional Council to provide further community consultation where practicable.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

ADDRESSING THE MEETING

ITEM NUMBER	4.1
TITLE	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey.
REFERENCE	379467
AUTHOR	Damien Burton, Director of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the address from Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics (CoATSIS) - Australian Bureau of Statistics.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of the survey is to produce data that identifies the current health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Information produced is used to develop or refresh policies that impact on the lives of Indigenous Australians, such as Closing the Gap. In addition, and more importantly, communities (or community service providers) can use the information to tailor programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to live healthier lives.

BACKGROUND

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSINPAS) is a survey that collects information about the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The ABS will be working in the field from January 2023 to December 2023, with results being published from late 2024 onwards.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil organisational risk identified. Positive opportunity for proactive support throughout the region for Barkly Regional Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil identified.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil identified.

CONSULTATION & TIMING

CoATSIS commenced consultation with the wider Barkly Region with multiple community engaged and survey dates being confirmed. It is committed to working with its stakeholders to ensure Community is well informed. CoATSIS consultation is to be transparent and open, to achieve a quality outcome that works with community.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 RITM0210116 - NATSINPAS Stakeholder Toolkit_FA.pdf
- 2 RITM0210116 - NATSINPAS Stakeholder toolkit_FA.pdf
- 3 RITM0206223 - NATSINPAS 2022_Guide_D225-G.pdf
- 4 RITM0206223 - NATSINPAS 2022_Guide_D225-G.pdf
- 5 Damien Tunmuck.pdf
- 6 Second Social Media Tile-Ashanti (1080x1920).jpg



Our Story.
Our Future.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey Stakeholder Toolkit

Your guide to support your community's
participation in upcoming surveys.

'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist Luke Penrith and Maluililgal people, Badu Island artist Naseli Tamwoy.



The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is planning two surveys in your community:

The National
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander Nutrition
and Physical
Activity Survey
(NATSINPAS)



The National
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait
Islander Health
Measures Survey
(NATSIHMS)

Understanding our health is important to all of us. The Intergenerational Health and Mental Health Study (IHMHS) is the largest health study undertaken in Australian history. It will provide the most complete picture we have ever had of the country's physical and mental health. The NATSINPAS and NATSIHMS form part of the IHMHS.

We want to work with you to support your community in taking part in these surveys. A good response supports better data to help our future health by getting the right support for our communities.

The ABS will always comply with COVID-19 restrictions. This includes withdrawing from a community, if necessary.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSINPAS)

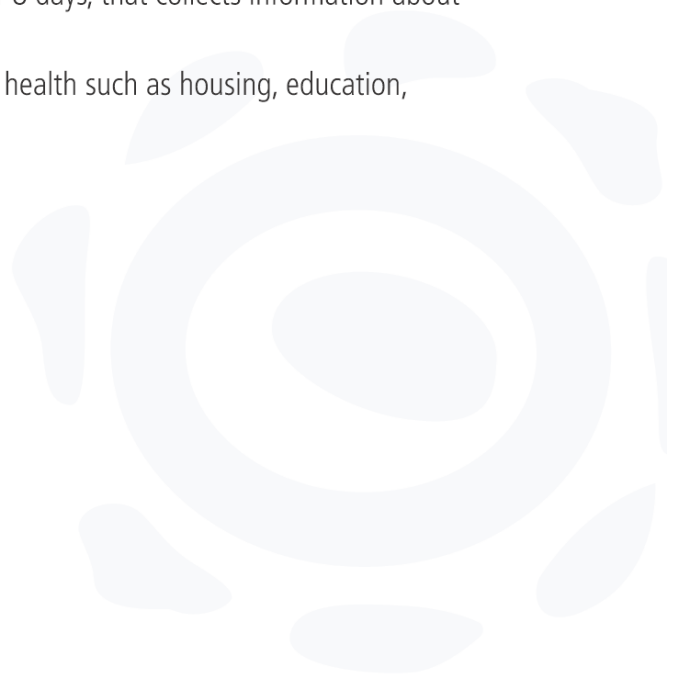
What is the NATSINPAS?

- The NATSINPAS is a survey that collects information about the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- It will be in the field from January 2023 to December 2023. Results will be published from late 2024 onwards.

What kind of questions are asked?

There are questions about:

- long-term health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease) and disability
- risk factors such as smoking, food security, barriers to accessing water and food, and physical measurements
- food and drink consumption over the past 24 hours, using a food recall tool called Intake24
- physical activity, exercise, time spent sitting or lying down, and sleep, including voluntary participation to wear an activity wristband for 8 days, that collects information about physical activity and sleep patterns
- other factors that can be key determinants of health such as housing, education, employment and income.



What physical measurements are taken? (voluntary)

- With the permission of participants, the ABS Interviewer will take the participant's blood pressure, height, weight and waist measurements.

Who gets selected for the survey?

- About 2,700 households are selected across Australia. Houses are randomly selected in the community and can't be swapped with another.
- Once a house is selected, the ABS will randomly select up to one adult and one child to be interviewed.

Is the NATSINPAS compulsory?

- Ultimately, yes. The questions included in this survey are being asked under the authority of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which has provisions to make surveys compulsory.

How long will it take to do the survey?

- It depends on the individuals and the size of the household, but the average time for a household is 85 minutes.

Where do people do the survey?

- Trained ABS Interviewers will conduct the survey at the participant's home.
- This can be done inside or outside – whichever is the most comfortable for the participant.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS)

What is the NATSIHMS?

- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS) will collect blood and urine samples, and is **voluntary**.

Who gets selected for the NATSIHMS?

- People who are selected for the NATSINPAS (aged 5 years and over) are invited to also participate in the NATSIHMS.

What is collected in the NATSIHMS?

- If a respondent (or parent/guardian) agrees to participate in the NATSIHMS, they will be asked to provide blood and/or urine samples, depending on their age.

Age group	Sample collection
Children aged 5–11 years	Urine only
People aged 12 years and over	Blood and/or urine

- The samples will be used to produce estimates of the number (and percentage) of people with markers of chronic disease (e.g. kidney disease) and certain levels of nutrients.
- All samples will be destroyed after seven days.

What is the ABS testing for?

Tests will be done on blood and urine samples, including testing levels of:

- glucose, which can indicate diabetes risk
- cholesterol, which can indicate risk of heart disease
- protein in urine, which indicates kidney health
- a range of other vitamins and nutrients which act as indicators, such as for blood and bone health.



Where will the samples be collected?

- The ABS has contracted Sonic Pathology Australia (Sonic) to deliver pathology services for the NATSIHMS. Where a Sonic site is available, samples will be collected there.
- Where a Sonic site is not available, samples will generally be taken at a local health service or clinic. Sonic will work with participating clinics to collect the samples.

Has the NATSIHMS been approved by an ethics committee?

- Yes. For a full list of ethics approvals, please visit www.abs.gov.au/NATSIHMS.

What happens when your community is selected for the NATSINPAS and NATSIHMS?

NATSINPAS (compulsory for those selected)

- An ABS engagement manager will contact you about your community participating in the NATSINPAS and to see how we can work with you.
- During this conversation, they will work with you to arrange dates, key contacts, and possibly accommodation and transport for Interviewers. When the time for the survey comes, ABS Interviewers will arrive and make contact. They will seek out the key contact you provide and establish their bearings in the community.
- The ABS will be guided by local communities and, where appropriate, will engage Community Advisors to work with the interviewers. Interviewers will rely on advice as to how they work in the community.
- Interviewers will visit selected houses to conduct the NATSINPAS interviews face-to-face, using a laptop computer.
- The information collected is then used to produce statistics. People's names and addresses will always remain private.



The 2012–13 NATSINPAS collected data on nutrition, physical activity, and other health-related factors. If you are interested in what those results told us, you can access the data here:



Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Physical activity, 2012-13



Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Nutrition Results - Food and Nutrients, 2012-13



NATSIHMS (voluntary for those selected)

- When a participant has finished the NATSINPAS, they will be asked if they want to participate in the NATSIHMS.
- **The NATSIHMS is voluntary.** The ABS will seek free and informed consent from participants. Written and video material will be available to inform consent, and participants can withdraw consent at any time (until personal IDs are removed from the data). All materials have been developed with reference to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. The ABS will continue to consult and engage extensively to ensure concerns have been addressed in conducting the NATSIHMS.
- Participants will generally provide blood and urine samples at a local clinic.
- Providing samples should take about 10–20 minutes.
- Participants will receive a gift card (or store credit) to help with the costs of participating.
- All participants will have the option of receiving their test results and can also have their results provided to their nominated health practitioner. Procedures will be in place to manage follow-up of any results of concern.
- The information collected is then used to produce statistics. People's names and addresses will always remain private.

Previous NATSIHMS statistics (biomedical results) from 2012-13 can be found here:



Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Biomedical Results, 2012-13



How does it benefit the community?

Why do the NATSINPAS or NATSIHMS?

- Participants of the NATSIHMS can find out more about their health by receiving test results.
- Data from both surveys can help improve services and health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Why does the ABS need to collect the data?

- To measure the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- To compare the information – for example, to look more closely at different populations, like people living in remote and non-remote areas.

Who uses the data?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations (e.g. Lowitja Institute) and service providers (e.g. local health organisations and clinics).
- Federal, State and Territory health authorities (e.g. Department of Health).
- Other government, health industry and professional organisations (e.g. The Heart Foundation, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare).

How is the data used?

- To learn more about what people are eating and drinking, and their levels of physical activity and how it affects their health.
- To support the development of health and wellbeing programs, services and policies to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- To understand the prevalence of health conditions.
- To monitor changes in the health and health-related issues of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population over time.
- To support grant applications by community health services and clinics.

Do people see their NATSIHMS test results?

- Yes. Participants will be able to see their results if they want to. They will be provided within three weeks of sample collection.
- Participants can also have their results provided to their nominated health practitioner. Procedures will be in place to manage the follow-up of any results of concern.



How can you support the surveys?

You can support the surveys in a few ways. You can:

- assist in identifying suitable people who could work as Community Advisors
- work with the ABS engagement manager to communicate clear messages to the community
- display posters promoting the NATSINPAS and the NATSIHMS
- answer questions from the community about the surveys (using this toolkit)
- provide support and advice in any community information sessions.

Options for health services and clinics to support the NATSIHMS include:

- providing a letter of support
- providing space and services to support Sonic staff to collect, prepare and deliver the samples at the health service/clinic.

Health services that are able to support the NATSIHMS by providing space for Sonic staff can enter into an agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with the ABS and receive some financial compensation.

More information about these surveys can be found at:

- www.abs.gov.au/NATSINPAS or call **1800 654 937** (NATSINPAS)
- www.abs.gov.au/NATSIHMS or call **1800 225 437** (NATSIHMS)





Our Story.
Our Future.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey

Users and Uses

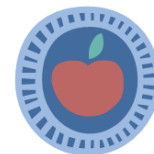
What is the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS)?

- The survey collects information about nutrition and physical activity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- It focuses on what people eat and drink, their physical activity, activities done while sitting or lying down, and sleep.
- The survey includes people of all ages living in both non-remote and remote areas of Australia.



Why collect this information?

- To learn more about what people are eating and drinking and their levels of physical activity and how it affects their health.
- To support the development of health and wellbeing programs, services and policies to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- To monitor changes in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Who uses this information?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and community organisations, and service providers
- National health industry and professional organisations
- Health and social researchers
- Government departments and agencies



'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist **Luke Penrith** and Maluiliigal people, Badu Island artist **Naseli Tamwoy**.

Key findings from 2012-13 NATSINPAS

Physical and Sedentary Activity

Children 5-17 in non-remote areas

48% met the recommended 60 minutes or more of physical activity on all three days prior to interview.

43% met the recommendation to spend no more than 2 hours on screen-based activity for entertainment and non-homework purposes per day.



Adults



In non-remote areas, about seven in 10 adults did less than 30 minutes of physical activity, and about two in 10 did an hour or more.



In remote areas, just over half of adults did more than 30 minutes of physical activity on the day prior to the interview.



Children 5-17 in remote areas

82% did more than the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity on the day prior to interview.

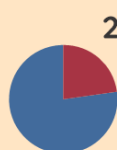
The most common sedentary activities other than eating meals were yarning with family or friends (78%) and watching TV, videos, Blu-ray or DVDs (78%).

Diet and Nutrition



In the past 12 months, more than one in five people were living in a household that had run out of food and had not been able to buy more.

Those in remote areas derived a greater proportion of their daily energy intake from meat, poultry, and game products and dishes (23%) compared with those living in non-remote areas (15%).



23%



15%

remote areas

non-remote



78% of children aged 2-14 years met the guidelines for daily fruit intake.

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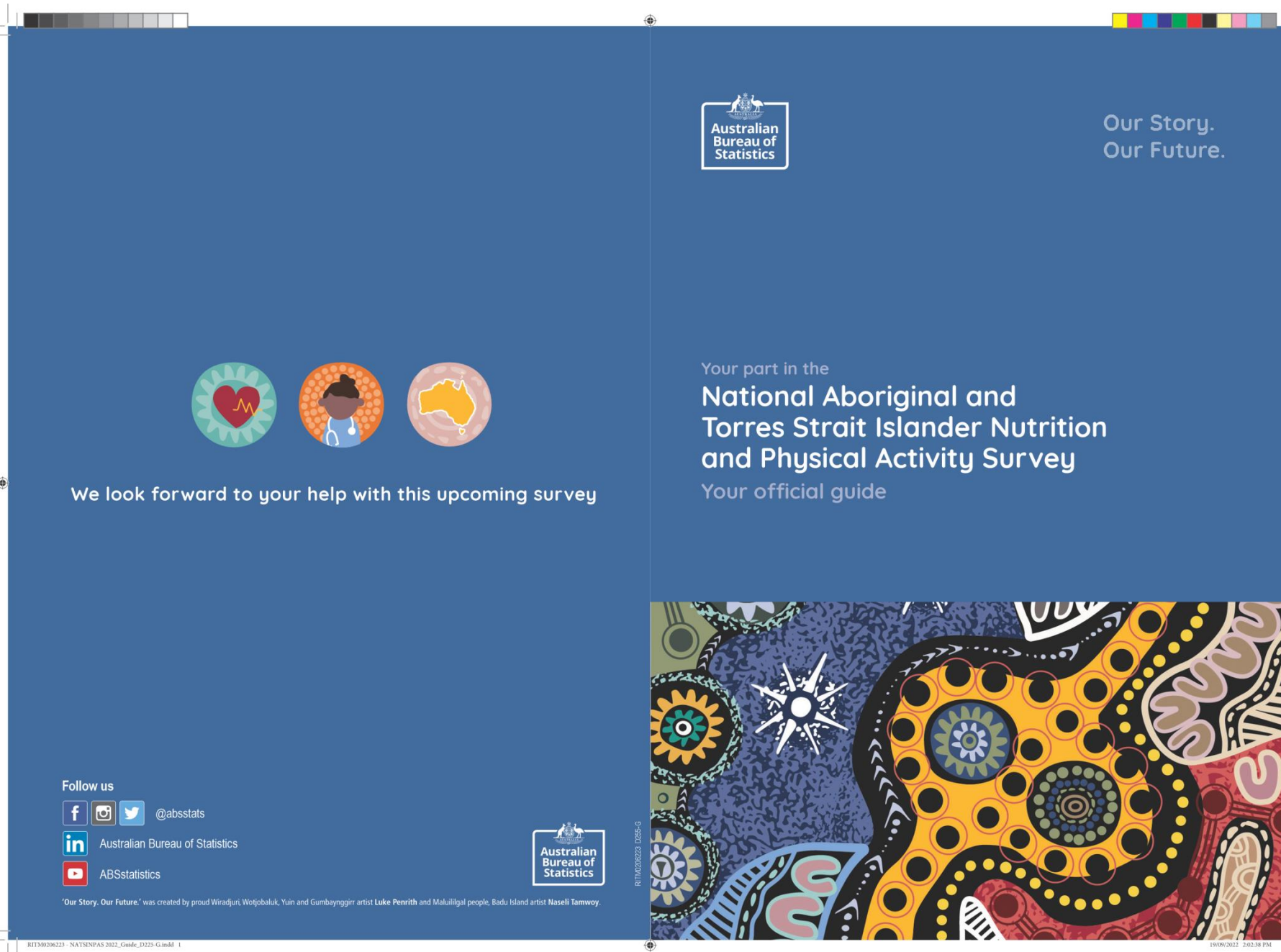
Our Story.
Our Future.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey



To find out more visit
abs.gov.au/NATSINPAS





Australian Bureau of Statistics

Our Story.
Our Future.

Your part in the
**National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Nutrition
and Physical Activity Survey**
Your official guide


We look forward to your help with this upcoming survey

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'Our Story. Our Future.' was created by proud Wiradjuri, Wotjobaluk, Yuin and Gumbaynggirr artist **Luke Penrith** and Maluiligal people, Badu Island artist **Naseli Tamwoy**.


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Your official guide to the

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey



You have been selected for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey

It's important you take part to make your story count!

Your household has been selected in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

This is your chance to provide information that will help you, your family, and your community for years to come.

What do I need to do?

An ABS Interviewer will ask for the names of the people living in your household. You can all remain anonymous if you choose to.

The Interviewer will then complete the survey with up to one adult, and one child (if there are any), in your household. Children aged 15-17 years can answer the questions for themselves or the parent/guardian can do it for them. A parent/guardian will answer the survey questions for any children aged under 15 years.

If this time is not suitable, the Interviewer will organise a more suitable time to come back and complete the survey.

Your obligation

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* authorises the ABS to ask the questions included in this survey. Under the Act, you are obliged to provide the information being requested.

Your Interviewer will ask you some questions about your food intake and physical activity

This information will be used to identify the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

What will we ask you?

We will ask a range of questions about your health, food intake and physical activity such as:

- health risk factors (smoking and sedentary behaviours)
- general health and wellbeing
- what you eat and drink
- exercise

Your ABS Interviewer will ask for your permission to take measurements of your height, weight, waist and blood pressure. It's important we get these measurements on the day of your interview to ensure our statistics are accurate.

Your Interviewer will ask if you are willing to provide voluntary biomedical (blood and/or urine) samples by visiting a local collection centre.

At the interview, the interviewer will tell you about other voluntary parts of the study.

What happens to my information?

Under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* your privacy is protected. No information that can identify you or your household is given to anyone, including police, Centrelink or housing officers.

The ABS privacy policy outlines how you can access and correct the personal details that you provide to us and our privacy complaints handling process. For the ABS privacy policy please see www.abs.gov.au/privacy

Completing the survey means the right services can be planned for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Your survey answers will be combined with others to produce statistics

How will the information be used?

Information from the survey will be used to help improve services and health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The information will be used to find ways to help people live healthier and happier lives.


The ABS is committed to getting the most value out of data and statistics. To do this, we may combine your data with other sources. This is known as data integration. The ABS does this to create new statistics and insights that help address important questions about Australia's communities and environment.

For example, using linked demographic, health and other data along with weather observations, we've learned how certain health conditions and where people live can increase their risk during a heatwave. These findings have led to local changes, such as the development of forecast warning systems.

For more information please visit www.abs.gov.au/dataintegration

Did you know?

Of those aged 2-14 years, more than three-quarters (78%) met the guidelines for daily fruit intake in 2012-13



Need more information?

We're here to help!

Your Interviewer will be able to answer any questions you have.


We will share the results so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities can use the results in a way that helps them.

If you need any further information about the survey, please call us on **1800 654 937** (free call, excluding mobiles). You can also visit www.abs.gov.au/NATSINPAS for more information on the survey.

Thank you!

The ABS acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community, and pay our respects to their cultures and Elders, past, present and emerging.

We appreciate your time in providing this important information to the ABS. It is only with your support that we can continue to produce quality statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



For more information you can contact:

.....



Our Story.
Our Future.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey

Users and Uses

What is the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition and Physical Activity Survey (NATSINPAS)?

- The survey collects information about nutrition and physical activity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- It focuses on what people eat and drink, their physical activity, activities done while sitting or lying down, and sleep.
- The survey includes people of all ages living in both non-remote and remote areas of Australia.



Why collect this information?

- To learn more about what people are eating and drinking and their levels of physical activity and how it affects their health.
- To support the development of health and wellbeing programs, services and policies to improve the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- To monitor changes in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Who uses this information?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and community organisations, and service providers
- National health industry and professional organisations
- Health and social researchers
- Government departments and agencies



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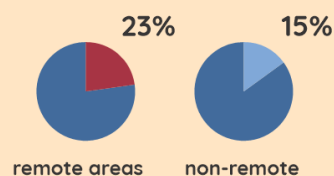
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Our Story.
Our Future.

What's your health story?

*"Our health
is our future"*

Damien Tunmuck
Wadeye, NT



Take part in the **National Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
health surveys** – visiting your
community soon


abs.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-surveys

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Australian Bureau of Statistics 


ABSstatistics 

Take part in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health surveys



"Let's help look after our mob"

Ashanti Bush
Bagala woman – Beswick, NT
AFLW player, Gold Coast Suns



MAYOR'S REPORT

ITEM NUMBER	6.1
TITLE	Mayor's Report - February 2023
REFERENCE	379451
AUTHOR	Karen Legge, Corporate and Community Planner

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Mayor's report for the period to February 2023.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a summary of Mayoral activities to February 2023.

January was a very eventful month.

A big thank you goes to all the staff and team for a wonderful Australia Day. This year's event was well organised and it was great to see local legends recognised. The morning started with the Triathlon, where I was lucky enough to compete, and won first prize in the Open race.

The Australia Day breakfast in the Civic Hall went down seamlessly, and once again I thank Councillor Dianne Stokes for her heartfelt Welcome to Country. I would also like to thank our local MP, the Hon Steve Edgington, for MCing the breakfast event.

The highlight of the day was welcoming our new citizens and awarding our local legends.

Lake Mary Ann saw a great community gathering, and I would like to give a big thank you to Councillor Greg Marlow for cooking what might be the best barbeque ever!

I understand there were celebrations in communities across the Barkly.

Once again, thank you to all the Operations team and to new staff member, Tash Adams (Council's Media and Communications Officer) for helping to make it a great day.

Later in the month, the CEO, local Mike Nash and I met with the Bureau of Meteorology to discuss the status of the Barkly Weather Radar.

I would like to acknowledge Councillor Marlow's assistance in following up and arranging meetings with member of the Jubilee Trust.

I also attended the Rossy Williams Shield on the weekend of 11 February. This was another great event, and I thank Tom for all the hard work in organising the event. I managed to hit my first ever six on the weekend! Everyone was a winner, and we thank NT Cricket for their support of the event.

Coming activities include:

- Travelling to Darwin for the Memorial for the Bombing of Darwin
- Traveling to Alice Springs for the Tourism Central Australia strategic planning day, and participating in the Tourism Central Australia General Meeting.
- Attending a Tourism Expo to present Territory Sounds with Music NT.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Council staff over recent weeks to support our local communities following the heavy rains that have closed roads and airstrips.

Clr Jeffrey McLaughlin.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	7.1
TITLE	Short term contract: Service Delivery Special Projects Manager
REFERENCE	379475
AUTHOR	Emma Bradbury, Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY:

This report is provide to advise Council of an arrangement for a short-term contract to be utilised to create a Service Delivery Special Projects Manager role within Council. This temporary arrangement will enable Council to address some long-standing issues and emerging risks.

BACKGROUND

The Service Delivery Special Projects Manager will review and develop the delivery of operational and community services, developing the cross-functional linkages necessary to build a strong multi-disciplinary approach to the delivery of municipal and programmed services to all communities across the Barkly Shire.

The position has been created for a fixed six-month contract, and the job description was designed in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team. In addition, the Director Operations and Elliott's Area Manager provided input into the role design to best reflect the long-term issues related to the difficulty in recruiting to remote Area Manager roles, and the service delivery impacts of ageing plant, fleet and equipment. The job description for the role is attached for information.

This role will enable Council how to best engage with the Northern Territory Government and other stakeholders to enhance community service delivery outcomes and respond to community concerns.

In the meantime, Council will continue to vigorously pursue recruitment to a number of vacant roles which are contributing to service delivery disruptions.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Without an interim measure such as this short-term Special Projects Manager contract, service delivery impacts and sub-optimal community outcomes will continue.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

1 PD_Special Projects Service Delivery Manager - version 3EB (002).pdf



Service Delivery Special Projects Manager Position Description

1. Position Objectives

The Service Delivery Special Projects Manager will review and develop the delivery of operational and community service, developing the cross-functional linkages necessary to build a strong multi-disciplinary approach to the delivery of municipal and programmed services to all communities across the Barkly Shire.

2. Key Responsibilities

Council:

- Build and establish functional working networks across all Barkly Regional Council directorates, communities and Local Authorities.
- Facilitate the development of cross-functional linkages necessary to build a multi-disciplinary approach to the delivery of municipal and programmed services across the Barkly Regional Council.
- Identify areas for improvement, provide solutions & collaborate with all Council directorates on implementation of chosen solutions (to include financial impacts & projections),
- Facilitate the coordination and distribution of information relating to the Council's demographic profile and local support services across the Barkly Shire.
- Ensure compliance with all Local/State/Federal WHS policies across all functional directorates.
- To communicate the policies of the Council to the appropriate staff while ensuring accuracy in their interpretation and application.

Government:

- To establish and maintain effective relationships with stakeholders in Local, Territory and Federal Government departments relevant to the position.
- To ensure the maintenance of high standards of communication with all appropriate agencies of Government in pursuit of the Council's decisions and policies.
- To ensure that Council is delivering services consistent with service level agreements and obligations for Communities across the Barkly Region and ensure that they are monitored and appropriate action taken and that information is provided to the CEO and Council.

Community:

- Promote and use contemporary community engagement strategies.
- Foster good relationships with stakeholders and program/facility users to ensure the maximum use of council infrastructure.
- Develop opportunities to share services with other Barkly enterprises delivering similar services.
- To respond when appropriate to enquiries or requests by individuals or groups within the community.
- To ensure that the ideal of service to the community is the principal goal of the staff of the Community Development Directorate.

Finance:

- To advise the CEO and the Senior Management team on financial projections for municipal and community services costs and commitments both current and for the future.

Service Delivery and Contracts:

- Apply collaborative and partnership approaches as appropriate to deliver, facilitate and /or advocate for services that promote community well-being.

- Manage, monitor, and review community service department contracts.

Other Duties:

- Perform, as directed, other duties that are within the limits of the incumbents' skills, competence, and training.
- Exercise a duty of care for self and others in accordance with current Workplace Health and Safety legislation.

3. Key Accountabilities

As the Service Delivery Special Projects Manager, you will be required but not limited to:

- Work collaboratively with the Director of Community Development to develop and grow Council-funded programs through a range of proactive community services, activities and projects which will enhance community life within the Barkly Region.
- Supporting the Director of Infrastructure to develop and implement the strategic asset management plan and manage the successful delivery of infrastructure maintenance and construction projects across the Barkly Region.
- Work with the Director of Operations to ensure that the core delivery services are delivered in Barkly Region communities, outstations and homelands.
- Develop effective relationships within the Council to support the Health and Safety Officer to lead and facilitate the development, implementation and monitoring of Workplace Health and Safety processes throughout the Barkly Regional Council's many work locations.
- Engage with the communities across the Barkly Region to identify services required within the communities and report it back to the CEO and Directorate for review and implementation.
- Assess and evaluate assets, plant and equipment used within the Barkly Region and report back to the CEO and Directorates of working order and recommendations where required to ensure a safe working environment.
- Provide a quality risk evaluation to the CEO to identify any potential risks and what measures will be required to be undertaken to eliminate the risks.
- Review and consider services that require to be reinstated within the Barkly Region and how the services can be delivered.
- Work with the Directorates to establish a service delivery plan and ensure the successful delivery of services needed across the Barkly Region.
- Strong communications, relationships, and management support within the Senior Management team and in other key areas of the organisation.
- Carry out other duties as directed and determined by the CEO.

4. Organisational Relationship

Reports to:	Chief Executive Officer
Title:	Service Delivery Special Projects Manager
Classification:	Contract (6 months) - \$95,000 to \$125,000 (plus other benefits)
Department:	Office of the CEO
Internal Liaison:	CEO Executive Team Managers and Coordinators Area Managers Other staff
External Liaison:	Federal & Territory Government Departments Local aboriginal entities External Businesses / Suppliers / NGO Contractors Other local government entities General community members

5. Organisational Context

Service Delivery Special Projects Manager
Created: 13/01/2023

Page 2 of 4

Reporting to the CEO. The role is responsible for providing leadership, strategic direction and high-level operational advice and actions that support all communities within the Barkly Region. This position will review and work to reinstate the delivery of services consistent with the Council's service level agreements and obligations for Communities across the Barkly Region including:

- Tennant Creek
- Ali Curung
- Elliott
- Alpururulam
- Alparra
- Ampilatwatja
- Wutunugurra
- Homelands

6. Knowledge and Skills

Organisational:

- Knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal Culture
- High level of tact, diplomacy, and confidentiality
- Highly developed computer skills
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- The ability to cope with high volumes of work, set and meet deadlines and determine priorities.
- Ability to work within a team environment whilst also producing results working independently.
- Ability to manage multiple tasks effectively with a high degree of flexibility within a changing work environment.

Interpersonal:

- Proven ability to successfully interact with people at all levels.
- Ability to source cooperation and assistance from other staff and management to achieve position objectives.
- Demonstrated ability to work within tight timeframes and regularly monitor deliverables.
- Ability to identify, discuss and resolve issues with all levels of staff.
- A high degree of judgement, initiative, confidentiality, and sensitivity.

Change Management:

- Ability to recognise issues and use initiative to identify and discuss proposed solutions.
- Ability to promptly respond to changed circumstances and make sound decisions to ensure the ongoing efficient and effective delivery of key deliverables within the role in the best interests of the Barkly Regional Council
- Always ensure compliance with and adherence to all legislative requirements and best business practices.
- Commitment, Attitude and Application to duties:
- Provide courteous and prompt attention to requests for information.
- Demonstration of a positive and proactive attitude with strong initiative.
- Always promote Barkly Regional Council in a positive manner.
- Demonstrated commitment to accuracy and high-quality outputs.
- Demonstrated commitment to work outside of normal business hours on those occasions required by the CEO.
- Promote and encourage continuous quality improvement strategies for the delivery of accurate and timely documentation.
- Take reasonable care to ensure one's own safety at work and that of other staff within the workplace.
- Observe all safe working practices.

7. Special Conditions

- Demonstrated experience (minimum 3 years) within a Senior Management role and/or experience in Service Delivery.
- Current Driver's licence is essential.

- A Working with Children (OCHRE) Card is essential.
- Police Clearance is required to be maintained with this position and held current every three (3) years.

8. Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated knowledge and experience in risk management through the improvement of service delivery.
2. Demonstrated ability in the successful implementation of municipal and community services in communities with a range of different cultural backgrounds.
3. Strategic and creating thinking capability and demonstrated track record in developing new strategies and solutions to complex organisational issues and customer and stakeholder challenges.
4. Demonstrated negotiation and conflict resolution skills and people management skills to successfully negotiate across a wide range of community and industrial scenarios to a positive outcome for the Barkly Regional Council.
5. Facilitate the development of cross-functional linkages necessary to build a multi-disciplinary approach to the delivery of municipal and community services.
6. Ability to identify areas for improvement, provide solutions & collaborate with all Council directorates on implementation of chosen solutions (to include financial impacts & projections),
7. Demonstrated experience in successfully reporting to the Council, Government department or other stakeholders, and ensuring appropriate written and oral briefings and presentations.
8. Understanding or the ability to quickly become familiar with, all relevant local government and other relevant legislation, bylaws and organisational policies.

9. Desirable Criteria

1. Demonstrated track record in leading and driving organisational cultural change to better position the organisation to meet the needs of its customers and stakeholders.
2. Capabilities to lead, develop, coach, mentor and motivate a multi-disciplined team into a cohesive high-performance team capable of exceeding the expectations of the community and other stakeholders.
3. Ability to understand, appreciate and respect cultural differences and culturally based aspirations in developing and implementing community programs and services.
4. Experience and knowledge with the development and implementation of occupational health, safety and environmental systems, policies, and procedures and in ensuring the adoption and adherence to such policies and procedures.
5. An ability to motivate, lead and manage staff to maximize their performance and their job satisfaction.

10. Certification

The details contained in this document are an accurate statement of the responsibilities and other requirements of the position.

Emma Bradbury
Chief Executive Officer

____/____/_____
Date

9. Acceptance

I, _____, have read and understood the requirements of this position and hereby agree to the responsibilities as outlined above

Signature

____/____/_____
Date

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	7.2
TITLE	Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils
REFERENCE	379476
AUTHOR	Karen Legge, Corporate and Community Planner

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY:

This report provides advice of a recent determination of the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal relating to allowances for Members of Local Councils.

The purpose of the report is to provide this recently-issued advice to enable councillors the opportunity to consider it ahead of a more comprehensive discussion at the March Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

On Wednesday, 15 February 2023, the embargo was lifted on the Northern Territory Remuneration Tribunal's Determination No.1 of 2023: Allowances for Members of Local Councils.

The determination is attached for Council's information and consideration. It is proposed that a full discussion and any necessary action arising from the Tribunal's determination be discussed at the March Meeting of Barkly Regional Council.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

To be determined.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 tabled paper 755 - nart report and determination no. 1 of 2023 allowances for members of local councils.pdf

ORIGINAL PAPER

No. 755
Laid on the Table
14 / 2 / 2023NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL COUNCILS

REPORT ON DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

As a result of amendments to the *Local Government Act 2006* and the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006* (AMSORE Act), on 29 June 2022, the Administrator of the Northern Territory, Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Halloran AO CVO, issued a request to the Remuneration Tribunal to inquire into and determine the allowance or allowances payable to a member of a local council pursuant to section 7B(1) of the AMSORE Act.

The resulting Report and Determination must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of receipt by the Minister.

Under section 7B(7) of the AMSORE Act, the allowances determined are effective from either:

- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.

Emails were sent to all Local Councils in July 2022 advising them of the Inquiry. The Remuneration Tribunal then emailed each Council on Friday, 16 September 2022 and invited submissions and offered to hold a discussion with each Council either in person or through a video link. The Remuneration Tribunal received six submissions and met with all Councils, with the exception of two Councils.

2. EQUITY

The Remuneration Tribunal considers that equity should be the major principle applied in establishing levels of remuneration for elected Councillors throughout the Territory. The Remuneration Tribunal found the existing allowance covering base, electoral allowance and extra meeting fees does not meet this principle as there is a disparity of what is paid to Councillors across the Northern Territory. This disparity has been addressed in this Inquiry and consequent Determination.

3. CATEGORISATION

The Remuneration Tribunal has recognised three categories of Councils being Municipal, Regional and Community Councils.

Municipal Councils are defined as the following:

- Alice Springs;
- Darwin;
- Katherine;
- Litchfield; and
- Palmerston.

Regional Councils are defined as the following:

- Barkly;
- Central Desert;
- East Arnhem;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

Community Councils are defined as the following:

- Belyuen;
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

4. ELECTORAL ALLOWANCE

Presently there is a differential electoral allowance paid to Councillors where the larger electorates, in a geographical sense, are paid less than the three major Municipal Councils in Darwin, Alice Springs and Palmerston. It is unclear among Councillors with whom the Remuneration Tribunal met, as to the purpose of the Electoral Allowance and the Remuneration Tribunal has been advised that in some cases Councillors see this as part of their remuneration to attend statutory meetings. There is one Council that appears not to pay this allowance to its Councillors.

The Remuneration Tribunal believes the Electoral Allowance should be included with the current base amount to establish a Councillor's Allowance.

5. COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal believes there should be a base Councillor Allowance established. The Remuneration Tribunal considers that this allowance should be lower for Community Councils based on population and geographical size.

In addition to this Allowance, a Professional Development Allowance will be maintained. However, this will now be more flexible to allow Councillors to either bring forward the allowance into a future year or roll it over from a past year.

Finally, the Remuneration Tribunal is concerned that the extra meeting allowance has been restricted and this will now be restructured and more readily accessed by Councillors and Deputy Principal Members.

6. BUILDING ON THE COUNCILLOR'S ALLOWANCE

The base Councillor's Allowance will be \$20,000 per year, but this will be increased based on factors including population, electors, number of wards and geographical size. The Remuneration Tribunal, taking into account these factors, has determined the following allowances:

• Darwin	\$31,000
• Alice Springs	\$22,000
• Litchfield	\$22,000
• Palmerston	\$22,000
• All other Municipal and Regional Councillors	\$20,000
• Coomalie	\$7000
• Belyuen	up to \$5000
• Wagait	up to \$5000

7. COVERAGE OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal acknowledges that it is important to clearly state what is covered by the Councillor Allowance as there is confusion among Councillors as to the purposes of Allowances.

As such, the Councillor's Allowance is to cover:

- any cost to Councillors of attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies;
- allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area;
 - including, but not limited to:
 - donations;
 - organisation sponsorship;
 - membership fees;
 - patron expenses; and
 - constituent support.

8. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE FOR USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE

Councillors are entitled, in some circumstances, to Vehicle Allowance when attending statutory meetings of Councils and Council approved activities with a cap of \$5000 in a financial year.

This Vehicle Allowance recognises that there are significant travel requirements for some Regional Councillors to attend statutory meetings and it was noted that, at least one Councillor, has a 1500km round trip to attend their meetings.

The Remuneration Tribunal believes that a capped amount should be set aside, and Councillors will be eligible to apply for a vehicle allowance each time they travel to statutory meetings, local authority meetings and approved Council business up to this capped amount. It is recommended that Council staff calculate the distance of travel for Councillors to attend these meetings and use this amount for the provision of each vehicle allowance.

Councillors will be eligible for a vehicle allowance if the Councillor must travel more than 50kms from their home to attend a meeting/activity for a minimum round trip of 100kms, and travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle.

Vehicle Allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance which will be paid at rates set by the Australian Tax Office each year. The current rate for 2022-23 is 78 cents per kilometre.

Vehicle Allowance will be paid in the following circumstances:

- travel to and from statutory council meetings;
- travel to and from official council approved meetings;
- travel to and from approved function representing a Principal Member;
- travel to and from Local Authority meetings;
- travel to and from all meetings of the Council or their sub-committees; and
- travel to and from any additional activity where extra meeting/activity allowance has been approved.

9. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

The Remuneration Tribunal is also concerned that some Councillors do not have access to funds that properly reimburse their travel time when attending extra meetings or activities of the Council.

Presently, there are three differential amounts for extra meeting allowance and the Remuneration Tribunal cannot find justification as to why one Council receives up to 50% more for this allowance than others. The Remuneration Tribunal has determined an Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$10,000 for all Deputy Principal Members and Councillors throughout the Territory. This allowance may be accessed by Deputy Principal Members and Councillors as follows:

- additional meetings of a full Council or established sub-committees of council;
- attendance at Local Authority Meetings within the Ward that Councillors represent;
- attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official council duties;
- attendance at functions as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval;
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meeting;

Allowances to be paid to eligible members (excluding Principal Members) are:

1. Fee if activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:

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

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined an Extra Meeting / Activity allowance for Councillors of Community Councils of up to \$1000 a year, if the extra meeting / activity is approved by Council.

10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE

The Professional Development Allowance is increased to \$4000 in a financial year, and will now be more flexible. The total amount claimable in a year, is the total of two years being based on the annual allowance, plus one year drawn in advance or one years remaining balance from a previous year. The maximum amount claimable by any Councillor, is the sum total of one year for each year of the elected term.

The Professional Development Activity must be specifically related to the role of a Councillor and approved by the Council. Courses to be encouraged are:

- AICD Company's Director Course; and
- Professional Activity conducted by Local Government Association Northern Territory.

Proof of completion for each stage of the course / activity is required before further payments can be claimed.

11. DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE

Currently, Deputy Principal Members are paid Base and Electorate Allowance in three groups:

- Darwin;
- Alice Springs and Palmerston; and
- Others.

If the same methodology is also applied to a Deputy Principal Member's Allowance and a Councillor's Allowance is maintained, this allowance will be:

Council	Deputy Principal Member Allowance	Councillor Allowance	Total Allowances
Darwin	\$23,800	\$31,000	\$54,800
Palmerston	\$17,200	\$22,000	\$39,200
Alice Springs	\$16,500	\$22,000	\$38,500
Litchfield	\$16,000	\$22,000	\$38,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$36,000

There is no additional Allowance for Deputy Principal Members of Community Councils.

12. PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ALLOWANCE

Currently, Principal Members are paid Mayoral and Electorate Allowance in three groups:

- Darwin;
- Alice Springs and Palmerston; and
- Others.

Applying the same methodology for Councillor Allowance, and building on the Councillor Allowance, the Principal Member Allowance has been calculated as follows:

Council	Principal Member Allowance	Councillor Allowance	Total Allowance
Darwin	\$127,200	\$31,000	\$158,200
Palmerston	\$92,000	\$22,000	\$114,000
Alice Springs	\$89,000	\$22,000	\$111,000
Litchfield	\$83,000	\$22,000	\$105,000
Others Town and Regional	\$82,000	\$20,000	\$102,000
Coomalie	\$18,000	\$7,000	\$25,000
Belyuen	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Wagait	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000

13. VEHICLES FOR PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF TOWN AND REGIONAL COUNCILS

In discussions with Councils, the Remuneration Tribunal was advised that some Principal Members are provided with a Council maintained vehicle. It is considered that this allowance should be included in the Determination.

The Remuneration Tribunal has determined that if the Principal Members has not been given a vehicle by the council, they are entitled to an allowance. The Remuneration Tribunal has determined the vehicle allowance of \$25,000 per financial year.

Principal Members of Regional Councils are to be offered a Council maintained vehicle or a vehicle allowance of \$40,000 per financial year. This recognises the high cost of maintaining vehicles in the Regional areas.

The Vehicle Allowance will be paid each fortnight or monthly.

14. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on Council approved business will be entitled to Travel Allowance.

The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of Taxation Determination TD 2021/6 or any subsequent Taxation Determination made in substitution of that Determination.

15. FUTURE INQUIRIES

This is the first inquiry into Members of Local Government Council Allowances by an independent body and it would be enhanced if a follow up inquiry by the Remuneration Tribunal can be conducted in 2023, to review the impact of the allowances that have been established. Such an Inquiry will also allow Councils and Councillors to raise any issues that have resulted from the implementation of this Determination.

16. APPENDIX A

Appendix A provides a comparison between existing and new allowances.



Mr Michael Martin OAM
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Syd Stirling AM
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Mr Gary Higgins
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 24 January 2023

APPENDIX A to the Report on Allowances for Members of Local Councils

Comparison of Existing Allowances with New Allowances

Municipal and Regional Councils

ALLOWANCE COUNCIL	CURRENT	NEW
Councillors Katherine & Regional	\$18,454	\$20,000
Alice Springs	\$21,430	\$22,000
Palmerston	\$21,430	\$22 000
Litchfield	\$21,430	\$22,000
Darwin	\$30,706	\$31,000

Mayor Total Allowance

Katherine & Regional	\$94,888	\$102,000
Litchfield	\$94,888	\$105,000
Alice Springs	\$110,704	\$111,000
Palmerston	\$110,704	\$114,000
Darwin	\$158,144	\$158,200

Deputy Mayor Total allowance

Katherine & Regional	\$32,720	\$36,000
Litchfield	\$32,720	\$38,000
Alice Springs	\$38,173	\$38,500
Palmerston	\$38,173	\$39,200
Darwin	\$54,531	\$54,800

Community Councils

Councillors Belyuen	\$4,503	\$5,000
Coomalie	\$4,000	\$7,000
Wagait	\$653	\$5,000
Mayor Belyuen	\$25,039	\$25,000
Coomalie	\$27,848	\$30,000
Wagait	\$3,631	\$10,000



**NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA
REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL**

*Assembly Members and Statutory Officers
(Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

**DETERMINATION OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS**

DETERMINATION NO. 1 OF 2023

Under section 7B of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the Tribunal determines as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

Municipal Councils are the following:

- Alice Springs;
- Darwin;
- Katherine;
- Litchfield; and
- Palmerston.

Regional Councils are the following:

- Barkly;
- Central Desert;
- East Arnhem;
- MacDonnell;
- Roper Gulf;
- Tiwi Islands
- West Arnhem;
- West Daly; and
- Victoria Daly.

Community Councils are the following:

- Belyuen.
- Coomalie; and
- Wagait.

Financial Year is the period from 1 July to the 30 June.

Councils are defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as an area, and means the Local Council constituted for that area under section 14(b).

The role of Mayor is defined in section 58 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and is prescribed as:

- (1) The Principal Member of a municipal council is to have the title Mayor.
- (2) However:
 - (a) in the case of the council for the City of Darwin local government area – the principal member is to have the title Lord Mayor; and
 - (b) in the case of the Litchfield Council – the council may, by resolution, decide the principal member instead has the title President.
- (3) The Council may, by resolution, decide the principal member of a regional or shire council has the title Mayor or President.

Deputy Mayor is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Councillor is defined in the *Local Government Act 2019* as an elected member of a Local Council:

2. ALLOWANCES

The following allowances will be paid annually.

COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$31,000
Palmerston	\$22,000
Alice Springs	\$22,000
Litchfield	\$22,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$20,000

Community Councils

Coomalie	\$7000
Belyuen	up to \$5000 as approved by Council
Wagait	up to \$5000 as approved by Council

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$23,800
Palmerston	\$17,200
Alice Springs	\$16,500
Litchfield	\$16,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$16,000

PRINCIPAL MEMBERS ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE

Darwin	\$127,200
Palmerston	\$92,000
Alice Springs	\$89,000
Litchfield	\$83,000
Other Municipal and Regional	\$82,000

Community Councils

Coomalie	\$23,000
Belyuen	up to \$20,000 as approved by Council
Wagait	up to \$5000 as approved by Council

3. INCLUSIONS OF ALL ALLOWANCES

The Allowances are to cover:

- any cost to Councillors of attending meetings and activities of Council where these costs are not reimbursed by Council;
- contribution towards phone and internet usage;
- contribution towards any home office and supplies;
- allowance towards costs incurred in servicing constituents in Ward or Council Area:
 - Including, but not limited to:
 - donations;
 - organization sponsorship;
 - membership fees;
 - patron expenses; and
 - constituent support.

4. EXTRA MEETING / ACTIVITY ALLOWANCE

- 4.1. An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$10,000 per financial year, may be accessed by all Municipal and Regional Councillors and Deputy Principal Members of those Councils. The allowance may be accessed as follows:

- additional meetings of full Council or established sub-committees of Council;
- attendance at Local Authority Meetings within the Ward the member represents;
- attendance at any functions representing the Principal Member on official Council duties;
- attendance at functions as an invited representative of Council and with Council's approval; and
- attendance at any approved extra meetings of Council for planning, briefing or information sessions of council meetings.

- 4.2. Allowances to be paid to eligible members (not including Principal Members) are:

- Fee if activity takes place during normal business hours as follows:
 - up to 2 hours \$200
 - between 2 and 4 hours \$300
 - more than 4 hours \$500
- An Extra Meeting / Activity Allowance of up to \$1000 per financial year, can be paid to Councillors of the Community Councils, when attending an extra meeting / activity approved by the Council.

5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE \$4000 PER YEAR

- 5.1. Professional Development Allowance is \$4000 per person, per financial year and will be paid to all Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members, Councillors of Municipal and Regional Councils.
- 5.2. Professional Development Allowance up to \$1000 per financial year, may be claimed by all Principal Members and Councillors of Community Councils if approved by the Council.
- 5.3. Any course or professional development activity must be specifically related to the role of the Councillor and be approved by the Council. The AICD Company's Director Course should be encouraged, as well as professional development activity that is arranged by the Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT).
- 5.4. Total amount claimable each year is the total of two years, being based on an annual allowance, plus one year drawn in advance or one year's remaining balance from a previous year. The maximum amount claimable by any Councillor is the total sum of one year for each year of the Councillor's elected term.
- 5.5. Proof of completion for each stage of the course is required before further payments can be claimed.

6. VEHICLE ALLOWANCE

- 6.1. Vehicle Allowance will be available for travel undertaken by all Councillors when the travel involves 50kms from home base, and is capped at \$5000 per financial year, travel does not occur in a Council supplied and maintained vehicle, and the Councillor is not in receipt of a motor vehicle provisions in Clause 7 below.
- 6.2. Vehicle Allowance will be in the form of kilometre allowance which will be paid at rates set by the Australian Taxation Office each year and is 78 cents a kilometre in 2022-23.
- 6.3. Vehicle Allowance will be available in the following circumstances:
 - travel to and from statutory Council meetings;
 - travel to and from official Council approved meeting;
 - travel to and from approved function representing the Principal Member;
 - travel to and from Local Authority Meetings;
 - travel to and from all meetings of Council or their sub-committees; and
 - travel to and from any additional activity where Extra Meeting/Activity Allowance has been approved.

7. PROVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE

- 7.1. If Principal Members of Municipal and Regional Councils are not given a Council maintained vehicle they can receive a Vehicle Allowance.
- 7.2. The Vehicle Allowance, which will be paid fortnightly or monthly, will be:
 - \$25,000 per year for Municipal Principal Members; or
 - \$40,000 per year for Regional Principal Members.

8. TRAVEL ALLOWANCE


Principal Members, Deputy Principal Members and Councillors who are required to stay away from home overnight on approved Council business, will be entitled to Travel Allowance.

The applicable rates to be paid are found in Table 1 of Taxation Determination TD 2021/6 or any subsequent Taxation Determination made in substitution of that Determination.

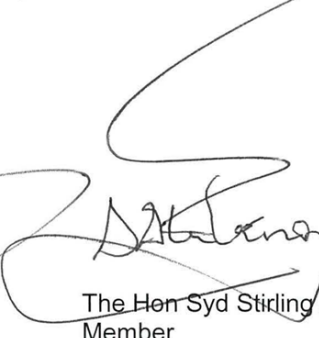
9. GENERAL

9.1. Pursuant to section 7B(7) of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*, the allowances determined are effective from either:


- the next financial year if the report is made on or before 1 February; or
- from the financial year after the next financial year if the report is made after 1 February.



Mr Michael Martin OAM
Chairperson
Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Syd Stirling AM
Member
Remuneration Tribunal



Mr Gary Higgins
Member
Remuneration Tribunal

Dated 24 January 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	7.3
TITLE	Report on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer
REFERENCE	379482
AUTHOR	Karen Legge, Corporate and Community Planner

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY:

This report has been prepared on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer.

BACKGROUND

CEO leave:

The Chief Executive Officer, Ms Emma Bradbury, has taken leave from 1 February 2023 to 17 February 2023. The period of leave may be extended. Chief Financial Officer, Mr Romeo Mutsago, has been Acting CEO during Ms Bradbury's leave.

Ali Curung Local Authority:

The CEO will provide a full report to the March Council Meeting in relation to the Chair of the Ali Curung Local Authority. The Ali Curung Local Authority Chair is Mr Noel Hayes, who recently resigned from his role as a councillor on Barkly Regional Council. The Local Authority has sought clarification about whether Mr Hayes may continue as Chair of the Local Authority now that he is no longer a councillor. The CEO has sought advice from the NT Government, and will provide a full report to the Local Authority, and to the March Meeting of Council.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

NII

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

NII

CONSULTATION & TIMING

NII

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	8.1
TITLE	People & Culture Report - February 2023
REFERENCE	379462
AUTHOR	Emily Wells, Manager People & Culture

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the report.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a brief update to Council in relation to the activities of the People & Culture unit.

BACKGROUND

Emily Wells commenced in the role of People & Culture Manager on Monday, 23 January 2023.

Since commencing in the role, the key priority has been recruitment. Talent acquisition has been the priority during February, with a focus on filling leadership roles. By establishing leadership appointments in key roles, stability of the workforce can be more readily achieved through support, coaching and direction.

Key workforce statistics as at 31 January 2023 include:

- Workforce headcount = 175.00
- Workforce FTE = 109.04
- Workforce labour FTE = 113.65
- Number of full time employees = 65

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Resourcing risks associated with vacancies are being actively managed through a focus on recruitment.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	8.2
TITLE	Finance Directorate Report - year to date: 31 January 2023
REFERENCE	379466
AUTHOR	Romeo Mutsago, Chief Financial Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Finance Report for the year-to-date 31 January 2023.

SUMMARY:

This report summaries the Finance Directorate activities for the year-to-date 31 January 2023.

A comprehensive update will be tabled at the Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

Acquittals

All FY2022 acquittals have been prepared, audited, and lodged with respective funding agencies. Lately we have been attending to requests from funding agencies for plans around significant underspends.

We resolved to revisit all acquittals where reported underspend exceeds 10 percent of FY2022 grant funding to re-evaluate that cost allocation was appropriate. For instance, NIAA (that funds Night Patrol) has been very understanding with giving BRC an opportunity to revise previous year acquittals to charge eligible costs appropriately – the revision will save BRC roughly \$1m in potential liability.

ATO lodgements

As at 31 January 2023, all statutory obligations are up to date – Business Activity Statements (BASs), Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT), Taxable Payments Annual Returns (TPARs), PAYG and Superannuation. The ATO has since refunded \$615k relating to GST.

Finance training

The finance team had 2 weeks of tech one training conducted by Councilbiz. The intent behind the training was to improve integrity of our financial reporting against a background of previous reporting the NTG LG Compliance Unit alleges lacked integrity.

Staff compliment for Finance

As at 13 February 2023, finance directorate was reasonably staffed to enable normal independent checks of work to enhance internal controls within finance and BRC broadly. We still do not have Rates Officer and Grant Accountant but have advertised. In the interim, we have trained 2 finance officers to handle rates inquiries.

FY2023 budget

Using audited financials for FY2022, we considered 2 percent increase in income and 4,5 percent increase in expenses as reasonable & conservative enough to arrive at FY2023 budget for consideration by Council. Budget result achieves a conservative \$400k surplus against \$931k actual surplus attained in FY2022.

	FY2023 proposed budget	FY2022 actual	Percentage change
Total Income	\$28,3m	\$27,7m	2%
Total Expenses	\$27,9m	\$26,7m	4,5%
Surplus	\$400k	\$931k	

FY2024 budget process will follow normal consultations with all stakeholders culminating in a draft budget to be presented for Council's consideration in June for adoption from 1st July 2023.

Accounting system

Councilbiz officially advised that current tech one system will be discontinued and cease to exist within 12 months. Accordingly, all Councils have been requested to use their discretion based on their understanding of reporting needs to choose a replacement financial reporting system they consider fit for purpose as a matter of urgency.

Options recommended are:

- MYOB Advance
- Xero
- Newer version of tech one

Apparent reasons for considering reporting systems other than tech one include:

- Poor customer service record by Councilbiz
- Failure by Councilbiz to upgrade tech one system over the years (last upgrade was in 2016)
- Poor user training record (failure to arrange user training for 3 months despite repeated requests due to understaffing at Councilbiz)

A business case on the recommended accounting system will be presented separately for Council's consideration.

YTD January 2023 financial statements

Financials will be presented separately.

Results indicate a healthy financial position as at 31 January 2023.

BRC is evidently solvent and can meet its contractual obligations for a couple of months as and when they fall due and payable.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Continuing with tech one represents material risks to the integrity of our financial reporting as follows:

- Untimely reporting due to lack of support and training
- Potentially misstated financials due to reports produced from outdated modules – e.g. fixed assets register was confirmed non-functional per Councilbiz's own admission

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Currently BRC pays Councilbiz for IT support – total \$484k annually broken down as follows:

- \$94k quarterly

- \$9k monthly

Change from tech one will result in material savings, magnitude of which will depend on what services we continue outsourcing from Councilbiz – e.g.:

- Payroll
- Rates

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

NIL

CONSULTATION & TIMING

NIL

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

A comprehensive update will be tabled at the Council meeting.

INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER	9.1
TITLE	Report on feasibility of Hydrogen Refuelling Station site in Tennant Creek for ARENA - Future Fuels Program
REFERENCE	379454
AUTHOR	Raghavendra Upadhyaya, Director Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the report;**
2. **Confirm its commitment to transition towards renewable energy in the future;**
3. **Acknowledge FutureBus Pty Ltd's proposal for an unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS);**
4. **Monitor developments related to this issue and consider future grant opportunities if they arise that would enable further consideration of the proposal.**

SUMMARY:

As a part of the Federal Government's Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) program, FutureBus Pty Ltd (a private company) has approached Barkly Regional Council on 18th January 2023 with a proposal to enter into an energy supply agreement to apply for an "equal share" grant that helps to supply zero-emission electricity, and green hydrogen power for sustainable transport. FutureBus Pty Ltd proposes that Barkly Regional Council pays for the operations and maintenance of solar panels, PEM water electrolyser and containerised reverse osmosis plant. This report provides a summary of the requirements and the risks associated with procurement, cost-benefit and service delivery of an unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station.

BACKGROUND

If Council were to proceed with this proposal in the future, the requirements proposed by FutureBus Pty Ltd for Council are listed below. These are contingent on ARENA awarding the Barkly Regional Council grant funding for an "equal share", and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) offering the Barkly Regional Council a Principal & Interest loan for the "equal share". It is unclear what contribution, if any, FutureBus Pty Ltd will make to the proposed unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station. However, this would need to be identified prior to any future commitment by Council. FutureBus Pty Ltd's proposal is that Council's contribution includes the following:

- Barkly Regional Council to ask Land Development Corporation (NT) to license the Barkly Regional Council, approximately 125 square metres of land (with direct access to the Hudson Creek, East Arm).
- Barkly Regional Council to procure 3,820 x 570w solar panels, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to procure a containerised reverse osmosis plant (6-metre long shipping container), capable of filtering 63,000 litres of saltwater, every twenty-four hours, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to procure 8 x 34,000 litre above-ground "poly" rainwater tanks, and 8 x supply pumps, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to procure a dual gun hydrogen dispenser (one gun at 30 Mpa & one gun at 70 Mpa), with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to call for Tenders for local solar panel installer to ground-mount 3,820 x 570w solar panels – adjoining the unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS)

with frontage to Irvine Street - with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.

- Barkly Regional Council to call for Tenders for a local Concreter to pour a reinforced concrete slab - with the dimensions 20 metres x 30 metres with frontage to Irvine Street - for a proposed unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS) - with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to call for Tenders for a local Concreter to pour 4 x 25 square metre reinforced concrete plinths for a 34,000 litre above-ground “poly” rainwater tanks, and a 15 square metre reinforced concrete plinth for a 6-metre long shipping container accommodating a PEM water electrolyser, a 15 square metre reinforced concrete plinth for a 6-metre long shipping container accommodating a balance-of-plant, a 15 square metre reinforced concrete plinth for a 6-metre long shipping container accommodating a hydrogen compressor, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to call for Tenders for a Concreter to pour 4 x 25 square metre reinforced concrete plinths for 4 x 34,000 litre above-ground “poly” rainwater tanks, and a 15 square metre reinforced concrete plinth, to accommodate the containerised reverse osmosis plant – which direct access to Hudson Creek, East Arm - with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to call for Tenders for a local fencing contractor to erect 180 liner metres of 2 metre-high fence, around the PEM water electrolyser & containerised balance-of-plant, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to employ a local Electrician to connect the solar panels, to the containerised electrolyser, containerised balance-of-plant, the hydrogen dispenser, the pumps with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.
- Barkly Regional Council to employ a local Plumber / Gas-Fitter to connect the water tanks, and pumps to the PEM water electrolyser and the containerised balance-of-plant, with the grant funding from ARENA and Principal from the CEFC.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

- The proposed Hydrogen Refuelling station will require specialist contractors to be employed for construction and maintenance of the plant and equipment. There is no such local expertise around the Barkly region as it is one-of-a-kind project.
- It was proposed that Barkly Regional Council license (for twenty years) FutureBus Pty Ltd a parcel of land with dimensions of 44 metres x 48 metres – that shares a boundary with the proposed 3,820 x 570w solar panels, and the unmanned Hydrogen Refuelling Station (HRS).
- There is a corporate risk with reputation damage on whether the community requires this unmanned plant; community consultation for site clearances (cultural sensitivity and damage to native vegetation); whether it will be put to use efficiently.
- There is financial risk in procurement of land, solar panels, PEM water electrolyser, containerized reverse osmosis plant and lease for twenty years. There is also financial risk if the private company is dismantled in the future and we will be left with no option but to shut down operations.
- There is a greater safety risk in hydrogen generation, handling and storage as it is volatile in nature and can potentially cause major explosions that could damage infrastructure and impact neighbourhood areas. There is still a lot of international research going on to determine how best to manage these risks.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

- The works proposed are contingent on ARENA awarding the Barkly Regional Council grant funding for an “equal share”. If not, this project will have to be funded by Barkly Regional Council which will have a huge financial impact on delivering the operational and maintenance services. There are no other grant funding arrangements to cater for this purpose at the moment.
- There is a huge financial impact depending on whether Council is able to recover funds from this fuel station and how it will charge for the use of transport refueling.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

- Renewable energy is a developing space and there is a huge scope for Barkly Regional Council to contribute to this in the near future. The Northern Territory Government is prioritising clean energy and renewables with its target of 50% renewables for electricity supply by 2030 and an aspirational vision of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Singapore- and Australia-based multinational Sun Cable has chosen the Northern Territory as the site of its flagship renewable energy infrastructure project, the A\$30 billion Australia-Asia PowerLink. Featuring the world's largest solar farm, battery and undersea cable, the AAPowerLink will supply renewable energy to Darwin and meet 15% of Singapore's total energy needs. The current trend will be to tap into electric vehicle charging station when the opportunity arises and to watch out for the development of infrastructure around hydrogen-powered vehicles when they come onto the market.
- The Northern Territory Renewable Hydrogen Master Plan (the master plan) provides a framework for the development of a renewable hydrogen industry in the Northern Territory with a focus on enabling activities required to secure private sector investment. The master plan builds on the Renewable Hydrogen Strategy's vision to be a leader in the transition to renewable hydrogen as the Territory continues to adapt its priorities to the accelerating pace of renewable hydrogen industry development. The master plan provides an analysis of the Territory's renewable hydrogen aspirations and describes the foundational work required to build a renewable hydrogen industry that benefits the whole of the Territory. There are potential future opportunities for Barkly Regional Council to tap into the Hydrogen refueling market as Aqua Aerem's US\$10,75 billion 10GW Desert Bloom Hydrogen project will produce commercial quantities of green hydrogen for domestic and export use from 2023. The Northern Territory outback will be the perfect strategic location, with access to the world's highest solar irradiation, as well as key pipeline, transport, and port infrastructure.

Source: <https://territoryrenewableenergy.nt.gov.au/strategies-and-plans/hydrogen>

CONSULTATION & TIMING

As discussed above, significant consultation will be required with land procurement, site clearance and physical risks (during employment and operation of the plant) with our community, key stakeholders and Traditional Owners. Therefore, it is recommended for Barkly Regional Council to watch this space and work with key stakeholders to tap into any future grant opportunities.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

ITEM NUMBER	10.1
TITLE	Community Development Directorate Report: December 2022 - January 2023
REFERENCE	379461
AUTHOR	Gillian Molloy, Regional Community Development Manager

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Community Development Directorate Report for the period December 2022 – January 2023.

SUMMARY:

This report summarises the Community Development Directorate activities for the period December 2022 – January 2023.

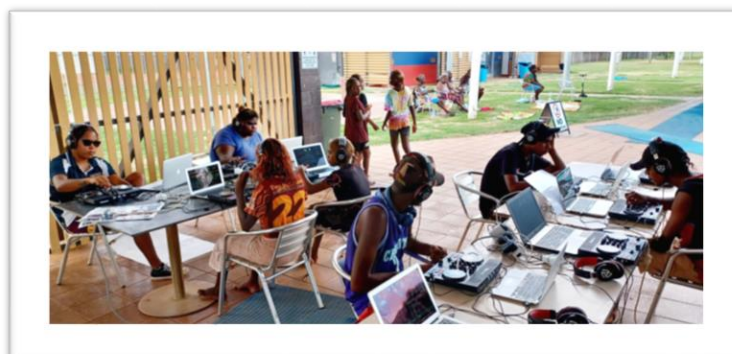
BACKGROUND

The Community Development Directorate includes the following service delivered across the Barkly Region. Community Development has a substantial number of vacancies in communities and Tennant Creek. As the largest directorate with a large proportion of funded programs, this has the potential to impact the level of service delivery.

- Youthlinx
- Ali Curung & Elliott Safe Houses
- Community Safety
- Youth, Sport & Recreation
- Tennant Creek Swimming Pool
- Animal Management
- Community Care
- Fitness & Wellbeing Centre
- Tennant Creek & Elliott Libraries

Youthlinx Program

During the Christmas & New Year period, the team delivered many activities. Participant numbers were high over both months, with over 1100 children attending in January. The Youthlinx team provided over 22 Key holiday program events. The highlight of the School Holiday program was a 3-day DJ Workshop delivered by DJ Carly from Dream Impact Inspire.





Youth, Sport & Recreation

School Holiday programs ran across most communities in December & January, with a large number of children accessing the calendar of events. Due to YS & R vacancies at Wutunugurra, there have been no programs, and Alpururulam has provided some activities, but this needs to be consistent. Delivering community programs has been challenging with the current vacancies, including the Regional Youth, Sport and Recreation Coordinator and in community Team Leader positions. The vacant positions have been advertised, and once we can recruit a Regional Coordinator, we can deliver a greater range of programmed activities. The Tennant Creek team has been assisting all communities in developing scheduled programs.

December 2022- January 2023 Elliott School Holiday Program					
Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5:00pm - 5:30pm	Movie on inside	Kick ball	Stuck in the mud	Capture the flag	Basketball
4:50pm	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
4:50pm - 4:55pm	Basketball	Basketball	Arts and Crafts	Arts and Crafts	Basketball
4:00pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
4:00pm - 7:00pm	Kids Basketball	Kids Basketball	Kids Basketball	Kids Basketball	Kids Basketball
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Adults Basketball	Adults Basketball	Adults Basketball	Adults Basketball	Adults Basketball

Community: Arlparra				
Monday 9 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	VOLLEBALL			
	MOVIES XBOX			
	BBQ LUNCH			
Tuesday 10 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	HOT DOGS			
Wednesday 11 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA POOL FOOTBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	MOVIES XBOX			
	BAKING CAKES			
Thursday 12 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	PASTA			
Friday 13 th Dec				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA FOOTBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	BBQ LUNCH			
Monday 16 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA FOOTBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	XBOX POOL			
	HOT CHIPS			
Tuesday 17 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	HOT DOGS			
Wednesday 18 th Jan				
10AM TO 4PM	BIKE SA SOCCER			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	XBOX POOL IPADS			
	PASTA			
Thursday 19 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA FOOTBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	XBOX IPADS POOL			
	PASTA			
Friday 20 th Jan				
	SWIMMING WITH			
	URAPUNTJA			
Monday 23 rd Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	HOT CHIPS			
Tuesday 24 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA FOOTBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	HOT DOGS			
Wednesday 25 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA BASKETBALL			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	BBQ LUNCH			
Thursday 26 th Jan				
	CLOSED			
	AUSTRALIA DAY			
Friday 27 th Jan				
10AM - 4PM	BIKE SA SOCCER			
	MUSIC ROOM			
	ARTS N CRAFTS			
	BBQ			

Safe Houses

- Ali Curung

There are over one hundred extra people in Ali Curung due to Ceremony.

There has been an increase in the drinking of alcohol in the community.

Due to all the rain, many people have been "stuck" in Ali Curung, unable to return to their communities.

The Safe House works closely with Corrections and the police to keep the women and children safe.

The funded programme Circle of Creation has begun with great success. Two of the on-call staff have resigned and left the community, and we are looking for replacements.

Workshops

Circle of creation is a funded series of art workshops designed to turn the father's/mother's heart back to the children and the children's heart back to the father/mother. It is a 12-week programme with a celebration in week 13, comprising a fashion parade, art exhibition and BBQ. The safe house works in conjunction with the Art Centre and Youth, Sport and Rec. We have completed 2 workshops: tie-dying and canvas painting, with 4 remaining. We have 3 group's 7-12 boys, 7 -12 girls and 12-19 women with a parent. We have had 171 participants, including 4 generations within families.

- **Elliott**

Due to ongoing staff illness and other issues affecting the Elliott community, client intake has been low and raised by community members with NTG. We are working towards returning to structured service delivery as we recruit and train additional workers.



Community Care & NDIS

Clients/ Consumers: 3 new CHSP consumers, 1 in Ali Curung, 2 in Elliott and 2 new NDIS participants, 1 in Ampilatwatja and 1 in Tennant creek. Total 43 CHSP clients, 30 NATSIFAC and 28 NDIS participants/clients are getting service from BRC community care.

Staff: Recruitment is ongoing, with some interviews held. Along with 3 community care officer position, we have 2 Zone Managers, 2 Team leader positions are to be filled.

Complaints: None received during this period.

Service Delivery: Due to the rain in the Barkly region, our service delivery was affected as follows:

Arlpurrurulam has been getting their food flown in till now since Christmas. The service delivery to the client is standard there.

Elliott has 1 client in Newcastle Water was getting meals with the help of the local people as the road was flooded and had to use the boat in between the road, which is back to normal now.

Ali Curung has 1 client in Murray Downs is getting meals via the Murray Downs Store. Aged care will resume the service at Murray Downs once the road is accessible.

Ampilatwatja has 1 client at Irrultja missed meals for a week due to the flood. Services are back to normal. The aged care missed some food delivery from Alice Springs due to the inaccessible road; the service was normal as we had stocked the food before the wet season.

Arlparra has 9 clients at camel camp got their meals from the local store. All the services are back to normal at this stage.

Training delivery: Response training is resuming their services, which were paused due to the holidays and wet season. They will travel to Ali Curung, Ampilatwatja, Alpurrurulam and Arlparra to deliver Certificate III in aged care to community care staff.

Major Challenge: The primary challenge the community care team is currently facing is the staffing issue. We are desperately looking for staff to fill vacant positions and increase service delivery to people in need. Only Elliott Community care is fully staffed, delivering full service among 5 different community care.

Community Safety

All Community Safety Staff are doing well on Communities and patrolling and helping with Community members who need assistance and those who need assistance on roads leading into the community. They also help out with Stakeholders in Community when asked in their Community also, there have been a lot of Sorry Business happening in most of the communities and some of our staff are family members. But the big priority is the recruitment drive for Community Safety on Communities. Community Safety is doing an excellent job around the community despite the sixteen vacant positions.

Fitness & Wellness Centre

Overall the Gym has been busier due to all our patrons coming back from the holiday break with our busiest periods being early in the morning and late afternoon. On our busiest day, the Gym saw around 100- 120 unique members attending. The Arrente Boxing Academy from Alice Springs used the facilities to run 2 boxing sessions with 10 participants. Several maintenance issues have been reported, which we hope to have fixed within two weeks.

Membership Activity

New memberships signed up 102 memberships

Renewed memberships 33 memberships

Animal Management

The Local Laws Manager has recently returned from a month's leave.

Alice Springs RSPCA Shelter has bounced back from being inundated with dogs after COVID. We can continue routinely working with the shelters to help rehome dogs.

The frequency of several snake callouts has increased due to long grass from the wet season. A Western Brown was removed from the Primary School. The Local Laws manager is to audit vacant lots for grass-cutting. To reduce harbouring of snakes and pests and potentially flammable undergrowth.

Feral Cat trapping:

Woman's Shelter, Barkly Court, Thompson Street, Outback Caravan Park

Dogs:

4 Taken to Alice Spring shelter for adoption

2 Rehomed locally

1 Currently fostered

Tennant Creek & Elliott Libraries

December & January has been slow month for both libraries. Tennant Creek Library has been closed due to staff shortages and the Library Coordinator having to man reception until a suitable person is recruited.

As previously discussed with the Information Services Manager, the Public use Wi-Fi and Computers are still not fully operable. We are still waiting on CouncilBiz to back to the library about connecting what computers do start, up to a separate internet connection away from BRC.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER	13.1
TITLE	Commonwealth Postal Saving Bank
REFERENCE	379403
AUTHOR	Damien Burton, Director of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes that:
 - Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
 - Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
 - A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
 - For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
 - Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
 - With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from lack of real banking competition.
2. That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal saving bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services – including deposit taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash- are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.
3. That Council will write to the Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.
4. That a community consultation engagement strategy to be developed and submitted within 10 days of the endorsement of the Notice of Motion by Council 23 February 2023.

SUMMARY:

With the recent closure of the Westpac branch in Tennant Creek, our community has joined the ranks of the growing regional communities within Australia, without sufficient banking facilities to meet the communities daily and business needs.

Accessing banking services has become much harder for people in regional Australia over the past five years, leaving many customers practically cut off from the institutions that hold their money.

For senior citizens, people with disabilities and particularly disadvantaged people, the banking industry's cost-cutting measures have turned financial management into an onerous undertaking.

Establishing a Post Office - People's Bank, guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government would, at a minimum, enable the general community accessibility to basic banking functionality requirements within our region.

BACKGROUND

Since 2021 local government councils across Australia have commenced lobbying Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament for the establishment of a Commonwealth Postal Saving Bank to our support rural Australian towns. As at 6 December 2022 such councils as Narrabri Shire Council NSW, Banana Shire Council QLD, Shire of Yigarn WA, Cobar Shire Council NSW, Strathfield City Council, Sydney NSW, Shire of Flinders QLD, City of Wagga Wagga NSW, District Council of Cooper Pedy SA, LaTrobe City Council Vic, Livingstone Shire Council QLD, Shire of Dowerin WA, Ballina Shire Council NSW has all passed motion supporting the CPSB.

The following information has been researched from multiple media sites and supports the need for a Commonwealth Postal Saving Bank in Tennant Creek to address the insufficient banking services within town and the Barkly region;

Data from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority shows banks, building societies and credit unions cut the number of branches across Australia from 5816 in June 2017 to 4491 in June 2021 – almost 23 per cent of branches² and a massive 64% of all Australian branches since 1975.³ There were 447 branch closures just in the 12 months to June 2021, but the major banks have continued to shut down branches since then², with the addition of a 34% reduction of ATM machine availability.¹

Regional community bank customers are being forced to drive long distances to do what they used to be able to do in their local area – often because their internet connections aren't strong or stable enough to support online banking or do not have access availability to complete online banking.

These closures mean people have to withdraw funds from their banks in supermarkets and other retailers, which put low limits on how much money they can take out. They may also have to pay as much as a \$3 fee just to check their balance or withdraw cash from a local ATM that's not affiliated with their bank.²

Despite recent advances in technology with online banking, many sectors of the population are still in great need of physical banking services including Indigenous people, elderly persons, disabled persons, the small business sector, local schools and charitable organizations.

Bank branch closures have been further exacerbated by the removal of ATM machines from these regional communities, forcing many to travel to other towns to access cash and/or banking services.

Small business that cannot physically bank their cash are forced to keep it on their premises creating serious security risks, likewise our general public in many cases are keeping cash at their premises which exacerbates their personal risk exposure.

Many regional communities and local government council's around Australia are calling on the Commonwealth Government to establish a Post Office People's Bank, guaranteed by the Commonwealth, which will ensure that basic banking services are available for all Australians.

Although banking through Australia Post is often touted as the best replacement of bank branches, a spokesperson for Australia Post said the local post office doesn't offer the business services needed for large amounts of cash, and internet banking isn't a realistic alternative.

Other shire councils and community groups across Australia, such as Tom Price in Western Australia's Pilbara region are exploring options of opening a community bank to fill the gap caused by the closure of the towns Westpac Bank.

Tennant Creek and the Barkly Region will need to continue to explore further options to support our communities and business sectors. Now, more than ever, people moving to regional Australia towns, bank closures are robbing our communities of the ability maintain their current population, but also inhibiting our communities ability grow a sustainable future for our regions.

A cost effective proposal, is to establish a Postal Bank is using the existing infrastructure of post offices.

Australia Post has the biggest retail footprint of any business in Australia, and is required and mandated by law to maintain services to all Australians.

Post offices already have limited banking infrastructure via the provision of the Bank@Post service. Bank@Post is a commercial agreement between Australia Post and the 4 major banks, and according to data within the information provided from our colleagues in local government councils across Australia, the agreement has the option to withdraw the banking services from Australia Post at any point within the term of the agreement.

From a socioeconomic prospective, the banking industry has clearly defined the line between profits and consumer, with the service offering to their customers at a minimum. This is no longer acceptable position for communities across Australia and here in Tennant Creek and the greater Barkly Region.

It is logical to lobby the Commonwealth Government to establish a public bank utilising the existing Australia Post infrastructure. This would restore the desperately needed face-to-face customer service banking requirements to meet the needs of demographics of our communities.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

The associated risk of submitting written support to the Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament supporting the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament is inconsequential.

The associated risk of poor community public consultation is medium to high, with potential dissatisfy media from constituents and local Barkly MLA.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

The associated costs for the public consultation strategy, implementation and final draft conclusions, is estimated at less than \$3,000.00.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

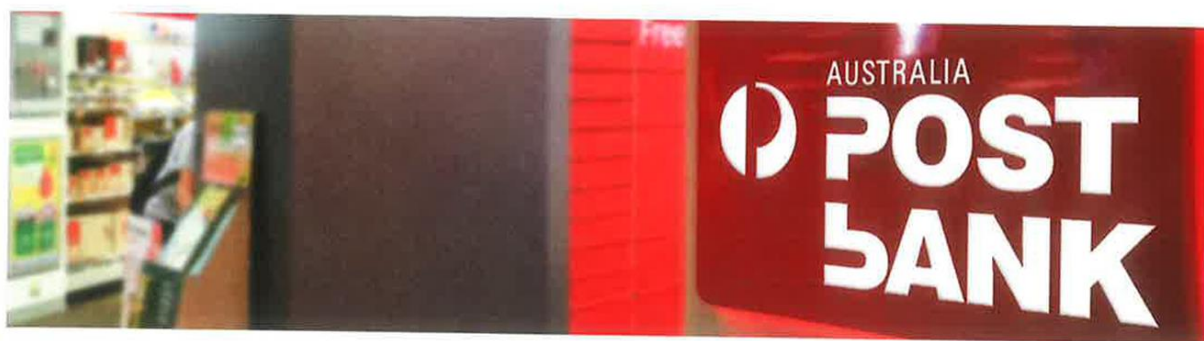
It is important for the Barkly Regional Council to engage in public consultant prior to submitting written support to the Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament supporting the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

Consultation with the wider community provides the opportunities for the diversity of our constituents to be heard, and allowing the Council to gain a sound understanding of the communities position with regards to rural banking requirements and the proposed written

submission to the Local, State and Federal Members of Parliament, supporting the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

ATTACHMENTS:

1 Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank



**Minutes, motions, correspondence and discussions within
Local Councils that have endorsed a Commonwealth Postal
Savings Bank as at 6 December 2022**

27 July 2021:	Narrabri Shire Council in NSW unanimously passed a motion supporting the CPSB;	Page 3
28 July 2021:	Banana Shire Council in QLD carried a similar motion with no opposition;	Page 6
18 November 2021:	Shire of Yilgarn in WA unanimously carried a motion supporting the CPSB;	Page 7
25 August 2022:	Cobar Shire Council in NSW passed a Mayoral Minute resolution in support of CPSB;	Page 14
5 September 2022:	Strathfield City Council in Sydney, NSW unanimously passed motion supporting CPBB;	Page 15
20 September 2022:	Shire of Flinders in QLD resolved to write to Robbie Katter (QLD State MP for Traeger) in support of the CPSB;	Page 19
17 October 2022:	City of Wagga Wagga in NSW unanimously carried a motion urging the Government to consider a Post Office people's bank;	Page 22
25 October 2022:	District Council of Coober Pedy in SA passed a motion in support of the CPSB;	Page 27
7 November 2022:	LaTrobe City Council in VIC unanimously carried motion calling for the CPSB to be passed;	Page 30
15 November 2022:	Livingstone Shire Council in QLD carried a motion supporting the CPSB;	Page 32
15 November 2022:	Shire of Dowerin in WA carried a unanimous motion in support of the CPSB;	Page 39
24 November 2022:	Ballina Shire Council in NSW carried a motion similar to that passed by the City of Wagga Wagga.	Page 46



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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

(Narrabri Shire Council)

Page 3

27 JULY 2021

13.6 NOTICE OF MOTION - RURAL BANKING OPTIONS (WEE WAA)

Attachments: Nil

I, Councillor Maxine Booby, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council be held on 27 July 2021, I intend to move the following motion:

MOTION**1. That Council notes that:**

- a. Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia.
- b. Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all.
- c. A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services despite advances in technology.
- d. For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community Post Office.
- e. Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation.

2. That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

RATIONALE

As Councillors would be aware Wee Waa has recently lost both banks and their services.

This has disadvantaged many people and businesses and charity groups in town. Businesses have had to allow an employee to travel to Narrabri to do business banking. This involves 1-2 hours of lost time. Businesses need to bank daily takings and or access cash to service customers in their shopping. Not everyone uses eftpos cards.

Charities do not have local access for cash for functions and these functions run on cash, ie: raffles, street stalls, Christmas carnival etc. A Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank would ensure these services that are so important to the smooth functioning of a community.

The present arrangement between the National Australia Bank and Commonwealth Banks can change at the banks' whim. Already charges for transactions have increased to \$4.50.

The situation in Wee Waa is exacerbated by the removal of the town's ATM. Eftpos is available for limited cash at IGA and the Bowling Club if you are a member. When the internet went down last week for 3 days people could not access their money and businesses could not service cards or cash outs.

A Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank (CPSB) would permanently secure the financial viability of Australia Post and the LPOs, based on a legislated agreement with Australia Post that guarantees the LPOs share the revenue - their income will not be at the mercy of the private banks deciding whether or not to renew their Bank@Post deals.

It would guarantee financial services for all Australians. The private banks have abandoned small towns in regional Australia and low-income suburbs, but they all have post offices, through which they will be able to bank with CPSB.

It would guarantee bank deposits. The CPSB will be a public bank, owned by the government, which will guarantee all deposits, so Australians who bank at the postal bank will know they won't lose their savings in a financial crisis or deposit "bail in".

There would be no "de-banking". As a public bank the CPSB will not be allowed to discriminate by de-banking lawful businesses.

It would support cash payments. The private banks are trying to do away with cash, which would be a disaster. The CPSB would allow people to always access cash.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMENT

It should be noted that the above motion is a template motion drafted by the Australian Citizens Party.

<https://citizensparty.org.au/media-releases/unite-australia-support-commonwealth-postal-savings-bank>

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

(Narrabri Shire Council)

Page 5

27 JULY 2021

13.6 NOTICE OF MOTION - RURAL BANKING OPTIONS (WEE WAA)

MINUTE 131/2021

Moved: Cr Maxine Booby Seconded: Cr Ron Campey

1. That Council notes that:

- a. Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia.
- b. Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all.
- c. A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services despite advances in technology.
- d. For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community Post Office.
- e. Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation.

2. That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. That Council write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

In Favour: Crs Ron Campbell, Maxine Booby, Ron Campey, Lloyd Finlay and Robert Kneale

Against: Nil

CARRIED 5/0

At 2:24 pm, Cr Catherine Redding returned to the meeting.

12.1.7 POSTAL SAVINGS BANK

Date: 22 July 2021
Author: Thomas Upton – Chief Executive Officer
File ID:
Letter ID:
Attachment: Doc. 1639582
Minute No: OM005068

Resolution:***Council resolves that:***

- 1. The reduction in bank branches has reduced access to banking and financial services in rural communities.***
- 2. Access to banking services through existing commercial arrangements between banks and Australia Post do not offer long term security of access to services in rural communities.***
- 3. Banana Shire Council supports the establishment by the Commonwealth, of a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank as the more reliable and secure way to ensure continued access to banking services for rural communities.***

Moved: Cr Pender***Seconded: Cr Leo******Carried***

Report

Attached to this report is correspondence from the Australian Citizens Party including draft legislation to establish a Postal Savings Bank in Australia. The Australian Citizens Party is seeking Council support for the establishment of the Postal Savings Bank.

Councillors would be well aware of the withdrawal of banking services across Australia over the last 30 years and how the adverse effect of this has been disproportionately felt by small rural communities.

Three commercial banks currently banking have banking service arrangements with Australia Post (National Australia Bank, Commonwealth Bank and Westpac Bank). The National Australia Bank and Commonwealth Bank have agreements extending through to 2030 with Westpac Bank currently negotiating longer term arrangements with Australia Post.

The existing commercial arrangements between the major banks and Australia Post does not offer the same level of security of access to banking services as government mandated services such as that proposed by the proponents of the Postal Savings Bank.

Council endorsement of the proposal is recommended.

Executive Service General Business

Mayor Ferrier provided an update on Central Queensland Beef Corridors and a discussion followed.

Cr Pender raised the matter of Shovel Ready Projects with the CEO and a discussion followed.

Banana Shire Council – Minutes of Ordinary Meeting – 28 July 2021



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes
Thursday, 18 November 2021

9.1 Officers Report – Chief Executive Officer

9.1.3 National Postal Saving Bank

File Reference	1.3.5.12
Disclosure of Interest	None
Voting Requirements	Simple Majority
Attachments	Email Correspondence from Melissa Harrison

Purpose of Report

To present to Council a request from the Australian Citizens Party regarding the establishment of a national Postal Savings Bank.

Background

As discussed at the October Councillor Discussion Session, Councillors received an email from a Melissa Harrison, who introduces herself as a researcher and reporter for the Australian Alert Service, the weekly magazine of the Australian Citizens Party.

The correspondence (attached) speaks about the “steady erosion of banking services in regional and rural Australia”, and details the following:

Access to local banking services is critical in our regional communities. With the banks pulling out of regional Australia at a record pace, the public is increasingly relying on Australia Post to provide banking services. However, Australia Post is too vulnerable to the whims of the government of the day and commercial decisions from the Big Four banks.....

...Alarming, there are no written guarantees that the banking deal with the Licensed Post Offices will continue. The LPOs are vulnerable to the banks pulling out unexpectedly, leaving them where they were before the Bank@Post deal—on the edge of bankruptcy and being exploited by the government and the banks. The big banks are already throwing their weight around by charging exorbitant fees for their customers who want to bank through Australia Post. Without the banking services provided by Australia Post, many parts of regional Australia would not have access to banking at all.

We are calling on local councils and organisations to ask them to join us in fighting for federal legislation to create a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. A public postal savings bank will guarantee banking services at Australia Post, and support the Licensed Post Offices to provide financial services for regional and rural Australians.



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes
Thursday, 18 November 2021

We have drafted legislation for a public postal bank, the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 2021.

Councillors sought to have the matter referred to the November Council meeting for a determination.

Comment

The correspondence seeks Councils to support the bill, and provided a suggested resolution as follows;

1. **The Council notes that:**
 - *Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;*
 - *Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;*
 - *A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;*
 - *For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;*
 - *Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;*
 - *With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;*
2. *The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.*
3. *The Council will write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament. .*

The Yilgarn district has lost two banks in the last few years and the community, including the Shire, are reliant on the local Australia Post outlet, or must travel over 200km round trip for depositing and in person banking needs.

As requested by Council, the resolution has been provided for their consideration.



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes
Thursday, 18 November 2021

Statutory Environment

Nil.

Strategic Implications

Nil.

Policy Implications

Nil.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Risk Implications

Risk Category	Description	Rating (Consequence x Likelihood)	Mitigation Action
Health/People	Nil	Nil	Nil
Financial Impact	Nil	Nil	
Service Interruption	Nil	Nil	Nil
Compliance	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reputational	Nil	Nil	Nil
Property	Nil	Nil	Nil
Environment	Nil	Nil	Nil

Risk Matrix						
Consequence Likelihood		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
		1	2	3	4	5
Almost Certain	5	Moderate (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (25)
Likely	4	Low (4)	Moderate (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Extreme (20)
Possible	3	Low (3)	Moderate (6)	Moderate (9)	High (12)	High (15)
Unlikely	2	Low (2)	Low (4)	Moderate (6)	Moderate (8)	High (10)



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes
Thursday, 18 November 2021

Risk Matrix						
Consequence		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Likelihood		1	2	3	4	5
Rare	1	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Moderate (5)

Officer Recommendation and Council Decision

209/2021

Moved Cr Close Seconded Cr Nolan

1. The Council notes that:

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

2. The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. The Council will write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

CARRIED (5/0)

From: Melissa Harrison <melissah@citizensparty.org.au>
Date: 15 September 2021 at 4:05:36 pm AWST
To: Cr Wayne Della Bosca <cr_wdellabosca@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>
Cc: Cr Suzy Shaw <Cr_Shaw@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>, Cr Gary Guerini
<cr_guerini@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>, Cr Phil Nolan
<cr_nolan@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>, Cr Jodie Cobden
<cr_cobden@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>, Cr Linda Rose
<cr_rose@yilgarn.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Att Councillors: In regards to a Postal Savings Bank

Dear Councillors,

My name is Melissa Harrison. I am a researcher and reporter for the Australian Alert Service, the weekly magazine of the Australian Citizens Party. I'm writing to you because we are part of a grassroots campaign which is fighting for the establishment of a national Postal Savings Bank.

I am writing to local councils in Western Australia which have been impacted by the steady erosion of banking services in regional and rural Australia. Research by independent journalist Dale Webster has documented that since 1975, Australia's regional banking footprint has dwindled alarmingly, to a total loss of 60 per cent of the network. [1] The banking regulator, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), is shielding the big banks from the ire of the public by publishing false and distorted data about the scale of bank closures in regional Australia. [2]

Access to local banking services is critical in our regional communities. With the banks pulling out of regional Australia at a record pace, the public is increasingly relying on Australia Post to provide banking services. However, Australia Post is too vulnerable to the whims of the government of the day and commercial decisions from the Big Four banks. Although it was recently announced that the historic Bank@Post deal had been renewed, Australia Post is refusing to reveal the financial details of the deal that was struck with the Big Four banks. The Citizens Party has made freedom of information requests for clarity on these matters, but these have been rejected. The Citizens Party understands from reputable sources that the Community Access Fee to be paid by the big banks is now only \$10 million per year, half the amount that former Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate negotiated for the original deal. Alarmingly, *there are no written guarantees* that the banking deal with the Licensed Post Offices will continue. The LPOs are vulnerable to the banks pulling out unexpectedly, leaving them where they were before the Bank@Post deal—on the edge of bankruptcy and being exploited by the government and the banks. The big banks are already throwing their weight around by charging exorbitant fees for their customers who want to bank through Australia

Post. Without the banking services provided by Australia Post, many parts of regional Australia would not have access to banking at all.

We are calling on local councils and organisations to ask them to join us in fighting for federal legislation to create a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. A public postal savings bank will guarantee banking services at Australia Post, and support the Licensed Post Offices to provide financial services for regional and rural Australians.

We have drafted legislation for a public postal bank, the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 2021*.

On 27 July, councillors at the Narrabri Shire Council (NSW) unanimously passed a resolution supporting the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill*, and called on Parliament to pass the legislation. On the 28 July, the Banana Shire Council (QLD) passed a similar resolution. [3] We have been informed that the action of these local councils has made a strong impression on members of federal parliament.

We have drafted the following motion/resolution as a guide, which I am asking you to consider discussing and moving at your next meeting, to endorse the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill*.

Draft motion/resolution for a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank

1. The Council notes that:

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

2. The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill* to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. The Council will write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill* through Parliament.

I live in a regional town myself, in Winneup Western Australia. The nearby towns of Boyup Brook, Balingup and Donnybrook have lost their last 'Big Four' bank. Access to banking services is essential for the functioning of our local businesses and tourism—markets, artists, craftspeople and local producers. A public postal bank would ensure these community businesses are supported in perpetuity.

If you would like more information, please feel welcome to contact me. We have been reporting on this matter for some time—numerous articles, background information and video content can be found here: [An Australia Post 'people's bank'—a win-win solution for the nation](#)

Kind regards,
Melissa Harrison

[1] Dale Webster: [Why I spent a year counting every bank in regional Australia; 'Big four' banks casting a dangerous shadow in regional Australia; The Regional](#)

[2] Citizens Party: ['Bank regulator shielding Big Four from scrutiny over regional branch closures'](#)

[3] Citizens Party: [An Australia Post 'people's bank'—a win-win for the nation, Narrabri Shire Council Motion and Rationale, Banana Shire Council Motion](#)

MAYORAL MINUTE

FILE C13-1-5 AOP REFERENCE: 3.1 ATTACHMENT: NO

AUTHOR: Mayor, Peter Abbott

123.08.2022 RESOLVED: 1. That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licenced post offices, which will ensure a basic banking services – including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash- are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

2. That Council writes to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

3. That the motion be forwarded to the next Local Government NSW conference for consideration and support.
Clr Abbott /Clr Payne

124.08.2022 A Division was called
Clr Payne/ Clr Marsden

CARRIED

For: Clr Toomey, Clr Maxwell, Clr Simpson, Clr Neale, Clr Marsden, Clr Abbott.

Against: Clr Winders, Clr Payne, Clr Prince, Clr Lea-Barrett.

CARRIED

**CLAUSE 1 – STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES FUND
ROUND 5**

FILE: G4-17 AOPREFERENCE:4.4.2.1 ATTACHMENT: NO

AUTHOR: Project Coordinator, Carly Hunter

125.08.2022 RESOLVED: That the following project proposals be endorsed by Council for the Stronger Country Communities Funding Round Five

1. WARD OVAL LED LIGHTING UPGRADE - \$972,000.00
Scope of Works – Upgrade the luminaries and supply six new poles.

2. PROJECTS FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC
PLAN – \$200,000.00

Scope of Works – Projects will be identified from the strategic plan up to the value of \$200,000.00.

*Clr Lea- Barrett /Clr Payne***CARRIED**

THIS IS PAGE 3 OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE SHIRE OF COBAR HELD ON THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2022


GENERAL MANAGER


MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING
6 SEPTEMBER 2022

14.6 NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR CAI
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH POSTAL SAVINGS BANK (CPSB)

I MOVE:

That Council write to the relevant Federal Ministers and all Federal Members of Parliament urging that they support the *Commonwealth Postal Saving Bank Bill 2021* for:

- (i) the betterment of every Strathfield and Australian citizen; and
- (ii) the betterment of Strathfield Council's and all Australian Councils' finances.

Rationale

Why is postal banking a local government issue?

- The financial bottom line of councils, can benefit from increased banking competition and low-cost loans, is a local government issue.
- Improving the quality of life for constituents is a responsibility that connects all levels of government.

Why the need for a post office bank?

- The Big 4 banks particularly have been closing branches at an alarming rate throughout Australia over the last few decades. Post Offices have a public mandate to remain open to communities everywhere.
- The Big 4 banks particularly have been moving away from face-to-face services and towards electronic services leaving traditional customers, including elderly and disabled, behind.

How does it work?

- Local banking and local lending keeps money circulating within the local economy.
- Raises more investment for local, state and federal infrastructure.
- By funding more infrastructure through low-cost loans, there will be more surplus federal and state government revenue that can be utilized for expenditure on health, welfare, education, and public services.

What are the benefits for Strathfield Council?

- Lower-cost finance for infrastructure investment is better for Council's bottom line and reduces financial risk.
- A greater slice of rates left for services as a consequence of long-term works being funded with lower cost finance.
- More community aspirations can be included in the Community Strategic Plan and other high-level documents. The CSP can contain more community visions since there will be more effective and more reasonable funding opportunities.

What are other benefits to residents?

- More physical locations to access banking services will boost trade and maintain face-to-face banking.
- Better regulation of banks through real competition.
- Far more local infrastructure and consequential increases in the community standard of living.
- Bank retribution fear (debanking) can be eliminated as a government provider is obligated to serve all constituents.
- Lower banking fees and lending cost through absence of the need for the postal bank to pay dividends to shareholders.

Precedents?

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COUNCIL MEETING
6 SEPTEMBER 2022

- Japan, with far less natural resources, has virtually built its high standard of living (e.g. totally rebuilt its industrial economy) using public investment funded by its postal bank, Japan Post Bank.
- New Zealand in 2002 started a postal bank, Kiwibank, which quickly overtook its Australian-owned private banks to become the most trusted banking brand in NZ, because its priority is providing a service to the community over the usual demands to pay shareholders a dividend.
- Australia had a government bank, the original Commonwealth Bank, which also started as a postal bank in 1912, and was successful straight away at lending money to councils for local infrastructure projects; later it was very important for financing industry during and after WWII, including the car industry, and it also financed the biggest expansion of social housing in Australian history in the decade after WWII.

Why do public banks disappear?

- Public banks are created to fill a public need, but since the 1970's the private commercial banking lobby grew stronger, eventually overpowering the government's commitment to public banking.
- The public bank is taken for granted while it operates (business as usual) and the general citizenry are rarely aware of its importance. However, public banks are the bane of existence of the private banks because they force real competition across the banking sector to service the wider community.

Other benefits of a public post office bank?

- Full guarantee of all deposits since the public national bank is government-owned (no \$250,000 limit) as compared with private commercial banks.
- Maintain cash availability and ensure cash payments for customers as the Big 4 banks drift further toward online services.
- Lend to local small business, boosting the ailing "backbone of our economy".

Other benefits of a public post office bank?

- A lift in banking conduct standards is inevitable with a Post Bank which will exist to provide a true banking service.
- The viability of Australia Post will be ensured due to the guaranteed extra revenue post offices will receive from also operating as bank branches (the current service, Bank@Post, is not guaranteed, as it depends on fees from the private banks, which they are increasingly reluctant to pay).
- As mentioned earlier surplus deposits in the Post Bank could be invested in national economic development projects, where even the Federal and State governments could borrow funds from the public national bank (as in Japan).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council write to the relevant Federal Ministers and all Federal Members of Parliament urging that they support the *Commonwealth Postal Saving Bank Bill 2021* for:

- (i) the betterment of every Strathfield and Australian citizen; and
- (ii) the betterment of Strathfield Council's and all Australian Councils' finances.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.



**COUNCIL MEETING
6 SEPTEMBER 2022**

8.10 United Indian Association – 75th Anniversary Independence Day Celebration – Councillor Raj Datta

I wish to congratulate the United Indian Association, a peak body of community organisations of the Australians from Indian Heritage, and its President Dr Vyas, for organising the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence Day, azadi ki Mahotsav. It was an important event and would contribute to the relationship building between Australia and India. Moving forward the bilateral relationship between India and Australia will become increasingly more important for peace and prosperity of all Australians. Events like this will contribute to building an increasingly stronger relationship between Australia and India.

8.11 NSW Train and Bus Drivers – Industrial Action – Councillor Sharangan Maheswaran

That NSW train and bus drivers, more specifically the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) and Transport Workers' Union (TWU) be acknowledged.

Strathfield residents would've been affected by industrial action taken over the last month this action has been taken because the NSW Government has demanded that the train and bus drivers that saw us this State through the Covid-19 crisis take a pay cut. More than that, the train and bus drivers are striking, despite an offer of an \$18,000 pay increase, due to tremendous safety concerns regarding foreign made trains and buses being operated across NSW.

Whilst Strathfield residents may have been inconvenienced in the last month, our residents should be assured that this action has been taken for their best interests.

9. DEFERRED/OUTSTANDING MATTERS AWAITING REPORT

Nil.

Items by Exception - Section 13 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice

187/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

That in accordance with Section 13 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice:

1. Council alters the Order of Business in accordance with Clause 8.1, and
2. The items listed below be dealt with by exception and that they be adopted as recommended by a single Motion:

- 10.1 Mayoral Minute 20/22 - Trees for Marie Bashir Public School
- 13.1 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 16 August 2022
- 13.2 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 August 2022
- 14.1 Pedestrian Crossing at Hampstead Road - Councillor Raj Datta

- 14.6 Support for the draft Bill to establish a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank (CPSB) - Councillor Cai
- 14.9 Sponsorship of Chalmers Road Public School Trivia Night - Councillor Karen Pensabene
- GM1 Delivery Program Report - January to June 2022
- GM2 Community Gardens Policy Public Exhibition
- GM3 Draft Small Grants Policy Public Exhibition
- GM4 Event Calendar FY22/23
- GM5 Council Tenders Advertised and Awarded
- CC1 Investment Report - July 2022
- CC2 Councillor Workshop 16 August 2022
- CC6 The Development of Guidelines and a Model Policy on The Lobbying of Councillors
- PE3 Local School Traffic Safety Program
- PE5 Arthur Street Bus Stop Shelter/Shade
- PE6 Car Space Width Increase at Homebush West Car Park
- EO1 Town Hall Renovations

10.1 Mayoral Minute 20/22 - Trees for Marie Bashir Public School

188/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

That Council, as part of its environmental education program (Enviro Squad), partner with Marie Bashir Public School to increase shade and reduce the thermal mass footprint by way of installing three mature trees within the school's grounds.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

13.1 Report from Traffic Committee meeting on 16 August 2022

189/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

That the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on 16 August 2022 be noted and the recommendations be adopted.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

13.2 Report from Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee meeting held on 17 August 2022

190/22

RESOLVED: (Blackmore / Hall)

That the minutes of the Multicultural and Diversity Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17

MINUTES
20 SEPTEMBER 2022 – 9:00 AM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Attendance – Cr Clarence Haydon returned to the meeting at 10.24am.

2.01.04 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION COMMISSION

Background – The Local Government Remuneration Commission is commencing the annual remuneration review process to determine the remuneration to be paid to Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Councillors from 01 July 2023. The Commission is inviting email submissions in relation to remuneration for Councillors of local governments to inform the Commission's deliberations.

The Commission will also be available during the LGAQ 126th Annual Conference for a meeting with Council on Monday 17 October 2022 only, for deputations.

Officer's Recommendation – For Council discussion.

Resolution No: 3573

Moved Cr Kelly Carter

Seconded Cr Trevor Mitchell

That Council note the invitation received from the Local Government Remuneration Commission, and no further action is required.

CARRIED 7/0

2.01.05 LETTER FROM HAZEL KLEINAU – COMMONWEALTH POSTAL SAVINGS BANK

Background – Letter received seeking Council's support in relation to the establishment of a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank.

Officer's Recommendation – For Council discussion.

Resolution No: 3574

Moved Cr Arthur Bode

Seconded Cr Kelly Carter

That Council write a letter of support for the proposed project and await further information on the matter.

CARRIED 7/0

2.01.06 HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM POLICY

Background – The Housing Grant Program Policy will be presented at Council Meeting for consideration by Council.

Officer's Recommendation – For Council discussion.

Resolution No: 3575

Moved Cr Kim Middleton

Seconded Cr Trevor Mitchell

That Council adopt the Housing Grant Program Policy as presented.

CARRIED 7/0

Attendance – Cr Kelly Carter left the meeting for personal reasons at 10.38am and returned to the meeting at 10.42am.

28 August 2022: Flinders Shire Council

Dear Mayor McNamara,

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW BANK?

Enclosed please find a flyer about the proposed Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. The flyer fleshes out some details of the key points about this proposed new Bank.

Herewith too, a summary of the 4 key points (a half-minute read):

1. The Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Act 2021, (to be tabled by Bob Katter in Federal Parliament) would be a permanent solution to secure the long term viability of the LPOs (Licensed Post Offices). It would be good for the LPOs to be free of having to negotiate payment contracts for services rendered to the big four banks. (Since Christine Holgate left, those contracts are not as good a deal as they should be for the LPOs.) This new entity would provide all financial products and banking services, including short and long-term loans and including long-term financing of infrastructure projects to support business, economic growth and increased productivity, especially in Regional Australia. The Post Offices would no longer simply be agents facilitating deposits and withdrawals for the big four banks.
2. The government-backed Postal Savings Bank would fill the vacuum being left by the never-ending bank closures all over the country.
3. There are seven main reasons to establish a public post office bank.
4. Are you able to pass a Council resolution in support of the establishment of a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank? If so, please forward that resolution to your federal representative, to your Qld State Representative/s and to all Queensland Senators of all parties.

Regards,

Hazel Kleinau



hazel.kleinau@bigpond.com

P.S. We look forward to seeing the re-vamped Flinders Discovering Centre on our next trip to Hughenden. We also particularly enjoyed the Holden Cafe on our trip. It was great!



HB:JC
Trim: R22/10094

29 September 2022

Mr Robbie Katter
PO Box 1968
MT ISA QLD 4825

P. 07 4741 2900 F. 07 4741 1741
PO Box 274 Hughenden Q 4821
34 Gray St, Hughenden Q 4821
flinders@flinders.qld.gov.au
www.flinders.qld.gov.au

Dear Robbie

RE: COMMONWEALTH POSTAL SAVINGS BANK

Council recently received the attached letter and flyer from Hazel Kleinau in relation to the proposed Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank.

The letter was presented at Council meeting held on 20 September 2022 for information. At this meeting Council resolved to write to you in support of the establishment of this bank to provide basic banking opportunities for the residents of our Shire, as a solution to the many banking and financial problems confronting rural and remote communities at present with the ongoing closure of many of the big bank's branches in the smaller communities and Australia wide.

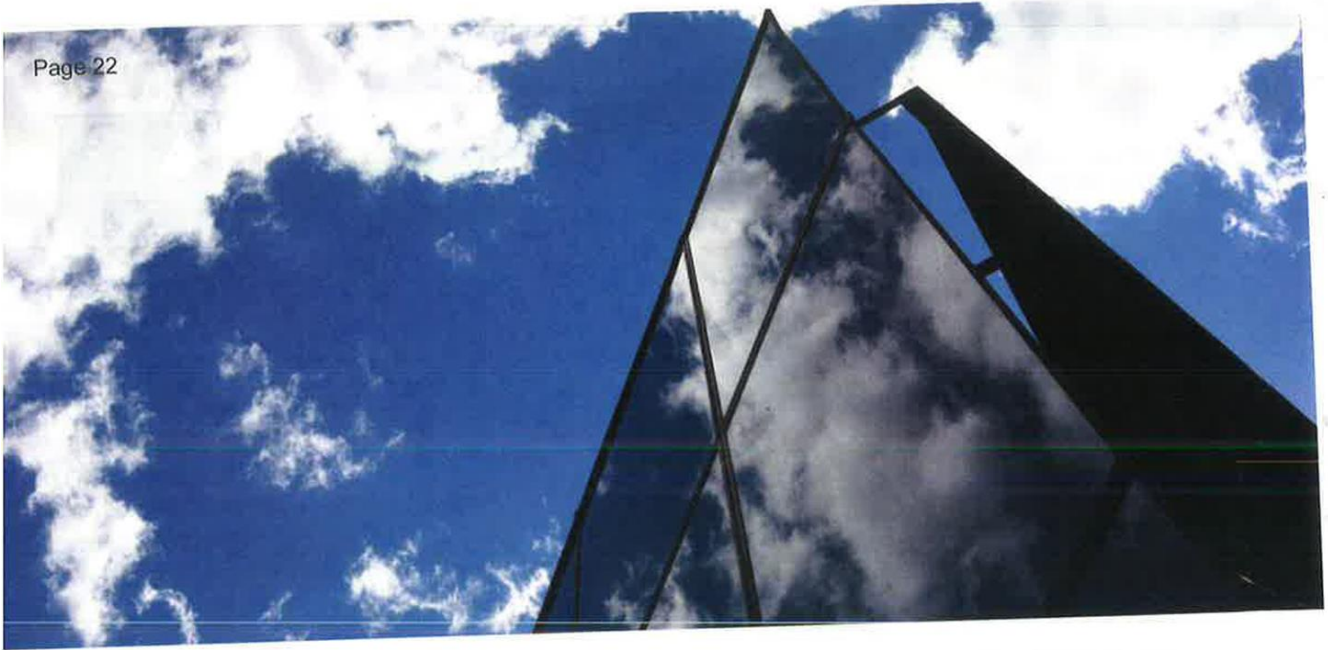
Yours sincerely



Hari Boppudi
Chief Executive Officer

Discovery • Opportunity • Lifestyle

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Agenda and Business Paper

Ordinary Meeting of Council

To be held on
Monday 17 October 2022
at 6.00pm



Civic Centre cnr Baylis and Morrow Streets,
Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 (PO Box 20)
P 1300 292 442
P council@wagga.nsw.gov.au

wagga.nsw.gov.au

NOM-2 NOTICE OF MOTION - POST OFFICE PEOPLES BANK

Author: Councillor Richard Foley

Summary: In light of recent bank branch closures in the Riverina and throughout regional Australia, this Council calls on the Commonwealth Government to establish a Post Office peoples bank, guaranteed by the Commonwealth, which will ensure that basic banking services are available for all Australians.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a supports the establishment of a Post Office peoples bank, guaranteed by the Commonwealth Government, which will ensure that basic banking services are available for all Australians
- b requests that the Mayor writes to all relevant Federal Ministers regarding this motion within seven (7) days

Report

Throughout the past three decades banking services across regional Australia have been withdrawn from numerous regional centres and small rural communities. These ongoing bank closures have adversely disadvantaged and disproportionately affected these communities particularly aged members of these communities and small businesses.

The following are just some of the reasons why our regional communities need access to physical banking services:

1. Since the early 1980's the number of bank branches across Australia has fallen by more than 60%. These closures have impacted more than 1500 communities across regional Australia leaving them with no access to bank branches.
2. Despite recent advances in technology with online banking many sectors of the population are still in great need of physical banking services including elderly persons, disabled persons, small business sector, local schools and charitable organisations.
3. Bank branch closures have been further exacerbated by the removal of ATM machines from these regional communities forcing many to travel to other towns to access cash and/or banking services. This is now the case for the people of nearby Junee who now do not have access to a Commonwealth Bank branch leaving citizens in Junee to travel to Wagga Wagga to access physical banking services.
4. There is an agenda to completely eliminate cash entirely from our society in order to lock the savings of Australians into the major big four banks forcing us all to transact electronically for everything. This is an attack on the financial privacy of all Australians.

5. Small businesses that cannot physically bank their cash are forced to keep it on their premises creating serious security risks likewise, elderly Australians end up keeping cash on their premises which is also risky.

The most straight forward and cost effective way to establish a Postal Bank is using the existing infrastructure of post offices. Australia Post has the biggest retail footprint of any business in Australia which is required and mandated by law to maintain services to all Australians. Post offices already have limited banking infrastructure via the provision of the Bank@Post service which is an agreement Australia Post has with the big four banks for serving their customers many of which they rejected by closing their bank branches. The big four banks can withdraw from this agreement at their whim.

Clearly none of the above is acceptable anymore to most Australians at a time when these big four banks are raking in massive record profits at the expense of regional Australian communities. Therefore, it seems logical that calling upon the Commonwealth Government to re-establish a public bank using the Australia Post infrastructure would be an ideal answer to provide face to face banking services to more Australians than any of the big four banks combined which collectively are continuing to withdraw these services from regional Australians.

I propose that this council endorses and supports the following motion:

1. The reduction and continuing closure of bank branches in our local regional communities has had detrimental effects to these communities.
2. The current existing commercial arrangement between the big four banks and Australia Post via Bank@Post does not provide surety or any real long term access to physical banking services to regional and rural Australians.
3. Wagga Wagga City Council supports the establishment by this Commonwealth Government, a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank as a solid, reliable and secure way to ensure access to physical banking services for regional and rural Australians.
4. Upon the passing of this Notice of Motion that the Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga writes to the appropriate Federal Ministers expressing our support as a council for the above three points. This correspondence is to be written and submitted within 7 days of the passing of this Notice of Motion by council on the 17 October 2022.

Financial Implications

N/A

Policy and Legislation

N/A

Report submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 17 October 2022

NOM-2 Page 25

Link to Strategic Plan

Community leadership and collaboration

Objective: Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future

Our leaders represent our community

Risk Management Issues for Council

N/A

Internal / External Consultation

N/A

Ordinary Meeting of Council - Monday 17 October 2022

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Business Papers and Minutes

https://meetings.wagga.nsw.gov.au/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2022/10/OC_17102022_MIN_4903_WEB.htm

Extract from: *MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL, held on Monday 17 October 2022*

NOM-2 NOTICE OF MOTION - POST OFFICE PEOPLES BANK

Councillor T Koschel declared a Pecuniary Interest and remained vacated from the chamber, the time being 7:58pm.

22/338 RESOLVED:

On the Motion of Councillors R Foley and J McKinnon

That Council writes to the relevant Federal Minister expressing our concern about ongoing regional bank closures and request the Government to consider policies and programs such as Post Office people's bank or other options that will enable regional and rural communities suitable access to meet their banking needs.

CARRIED

RECORD OF VOTING ON THE MOTION

For the Motion

D Tout
G Davies
D Hayes
M Henderson
R Foley
R Kendall
J McKinnon
A Parkins

Against the Motion



District Council of Coober Pedy

A G E N D A **Ordinary Council Meeting 25 October**

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 7:00pm. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers situated in Hutchison Street, Coober Pedy, and the meeting broadcast will be on the internet. The link will be posted on Council's website.

To participate in this meeting online, you will need to copy the following link into your URL or click on it and register your email address and password with Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83440516691>

Recordings of Meetings

Council is required to keep minutes of each Council meeting. The minutes contain details of proceedings which may include personal information about members of the public that have been disclosed in presentations, submissions, and questions. The minutes of Council meetings are a public record and can be inspected by members of the public. Council makes visual and audio recordings of Council meetings to improve transparency and accuracy of minutes. In some circumstances, Council may be compelled by a court of law or an Act of Parliament, such as the Freedom of Information Act, to disclose these recordings. It should be noted that Council has limited power to prevent other people from making their own recordings of Council meetings.

David Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

7 Strategic Direction Settings

7.1 Strategic Management Plans

Author: David Kelly, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

Purpose of Report: The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's strategic Management Plans.

Type: Matter for Decision

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest in this matter.

Discussion

The District Council of Coober Pedy currently does not have a Strategic Management Framework plan in place. Given the State Government has announced the formation of a task force that will include resolving the ownership of the water and electricity assets and operations, as well as considering whether the Department for Education or a private entity will take over the Mini Gems childcare centre, the Strategic Management Framework has been put on hold and will be produced after the results of the task force.

Please note however that two other strategic reports will be produced by 12th November 2022, being the Infrastructure and Asset Management Plan, and the Long-Term Financial Plan. The Council also has produced and communicated its Annual Business Plan for FY23 and is reviewing charges for the airport and Mini Gems in order to transform them from a deficit to breakeven position.

8 Advocacy

8.1 Public Post Office Bank

Author: David Kelly, Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: Nil

Purpose of Report: The purpose of this report is for Council to consider endorsing the option of Public Post Office Bank in Coober Pedy.

Conflict of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest in this matter.

Type: Matter for Decision

Discussion

The Australian Citizens Party is part of a nationwide campaign to establish a new government bank, like the original Commonwealth Bank, to operate in post offices, which would guarantee face-to-face financial services for all communities, and force the Big Four banks to compete on both cost and service.

The post office bank would also:

- Guarantee deposits, because it is a government bank;

- Maintain cash payments and processing, which the private banks are trying to do away with;
- Increase lending to individuals and small businesses in regional communities;
- Invest in more infrastructure, including through local government.

This campaign is supported by the Licensed Post Office Group (LPOG), which represents the interests of the almost 3,000 community post offices which are run as small businesses, the majority of the Australia Post network.

And it is supported by Katter's Australian Party, One Nation, the Greens, senior members of the National Party, and members of the Liberal and Labor parties.

Bob Katter MP is preparing a bill to introduce into Parliament, called the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill.

Local Councils are being invited to pass motions to endorse the bill and communicate the endorsement to their local federal Member of Parliament.

Five Councils have now passed motions:

1. Narrabri Shire Council (NSW)
2. Banana Shire Council (QLD)
3. Yilgarn Shire Council (WA)
4. Cobar Shire Council (NSW)
5. Strathfield City Council (NSW)."

Financial Implications: Not applicable

Consultation: Not applicable

Options

Option 1: Approve the recommendation.

Option 2: Amend the recommendation.

Option 3: No resolution.

Recommendation

That Council pass a motion to endorse the bill.



LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD IN NAMBUR WARIGA MEETING ROOM
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, MORWELL AND VIA AUDIO-
VISUAL LINK
AT 6.00PM ON 07 NOVEMBER 2022
CM584

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Cr Kellie O'Callaghan, Mayor	East Ward
	Cr Dan Clancey, Deputy Mayor	East Ward
	Cr Darren Howe	East Ward
	Cr Graeme Middlemiss	Central Ward
	Cr Melissa Ferguson	South Ward
	Cr Brad Law	West Ward
	Cr Sharon Gibson	West Ward
Officers:	Steven Piasente	Chief Executive Officer
	Georgia Hills	General Manager Community Health & Wellbeing
	Jody Riordan	General Manager City Planning & Assets
	Nathan Kearsley	General Manager Organisational Performance
	Kendrea Pope	Executive Manager Office of the CEO
	Peter Schulz	Coordinator Council Business
	Kaitlyn Boram	Governance Officer

Apologies: Tim Ellis

Leave of Absence: Cr Dale Harriman, Cr Tracie Lund

13.2 BANKING SERVICES IN LATROBE CITY

Cr Melissa Ferguson

MOTION

Moved: Cr Ferguson

Seconded: Cr Gibson

That Council calls on members of the Federal Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services – including deposit-taking, business and personal lending and access to cash – are available to all Australians and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Attachments

Nil



ORDINARY MEETING

AGENDA

15 NOVEMBER 2022

Your attendance is required at an Ordinary meeting of Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 4 Lagoon Place, Yeppoon on 15 November 2022 commencing at 9.00am for transaction of the enclosed business.

Cale Dendle
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
10 November 2022

Next Meeting Date: 20.12.22

Please note:

In accordance with the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, please be advised that all discussion held during the meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, staff member or a member of the public.

ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA

15 NOVEMBER 2022

9 COUNCILLOR/DELEGATE REPORTS**9.1 POSTAL SAVINGS BANK**

File No: GV13.05.07

Attachments: 1. Further Correspondence Dated 7 October 2022

Responsible Officer: Cale Dendle - Chief Executive Officer

Author: Andrew Ireland - Mayor

SUMMARY

Correspondence was received by the Australian Citizens Party seeking support for the establishment of a Postal Savings Bank in Australia.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.
2. Write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

BACKGROUND

The reduction in bank branches has resulted in reduced access to banking and financial services particularly in rural communities. Arrangements such as those with Australia Post do not provide long-term security of access to services. The establishment of a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank would provide a secure way for rural communities to access banking services.

COMMENTARY

Council received the below correspondence from the Australian Citizens Party on 16 August 2021, including draft legislation, seeking support for a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. This comes as a response to the withdrawal of banking services across Australia.

Dear CEO of Livingstone Shire Council,

My name is Jan Pukallus. I am an organiser with the Australian Citizens Party. I am emailing you today because we are campaigning for the establishment of a Postal Savings Bank. I spoke to Lucy and request a deputation to address councillors, however, please note that I will only be in Livingstone Shire region on Tues 24 & Wed 25 August.

I am contacting Councillors and organisations to inform them, and to call upon them, to join me in fighting for federal legislation to create a Postal Bank. The legislation for such a bank has been drafted by the Citizens Party, the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 2021.

There are many reasons why, but this is an important local issue because local access to banking services is critical to every community. With the banks increasingly withdrawing their face-to-face services and also ATMs, the reliance on the Post Office offering those services is critical, but that too is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks. I know you probably already know this but the withdrawal of these services disproportionately affects rural and regional communities.

On 1 July, Australia Post announced CBA and NAB had agreed to renew their Bank@Post deals for ten years although since the details are not being made public there is no knowledge of what the agreement actually contains and this makes a great many people nervous. Speculation is that it's far less than the \$20 million per year that Christine Holgate negotiated and may contain exit clauses. The Citizens Party has it on good authority that the Community Access Fee to be paid by NAB and CBA is \$10 million per year, half of the original deal and there are no written guarantees that the Licenced Post Offices will continue to receive the same fee structure they have currently. Freedom of information requests by the Citizens Party for clarity on those issues have been rejected.

Whilst it's important that post offices can provide Bank@Post services, the banks currently have the upper hand—they pay Australia Post what they like, they can pull out unexpectedly, and they charge whatever fees they like. A public postal savings bank will guarantee banking services at post offices in perpetuity.

On 27 July, Councillors at the Narrabri Shire Council in NSW unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill, calling on the Parliament to pass the legislation and on 28 July, the Banana Shire Council in QLD carried a similar resolution with no opposition.

We have also just been informed that on 3 August, the Licensed Post Office Group endorsed the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill.

The Citizens Party has drafted the following motion/resolution as a guide, which I am asking you to discuss and move at your next meeting, to endorse the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill.

Draft motion/resolution for a Post Office People's Bank:

3. That Council notes that:

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

2. That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. That Council write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

ORDINARY MEETING AGENDA**15 NOVEMBER 2022**

I wanted to keep this email brief as possible, as I know your busy, so I have attached are some additional documents that I hope you will find useful when you get some time to look at them.

Looking forward to discussing this with you further.

Regards,

Jan Pukallus

QLD State Secretary

Australian Citizens Party

Further correspondence was received in relation to this matter on the 3rd October 2022. This correspondence is included as an attachment and contains links to the motions passed by other Councils.

PREVIOUS DECISIONS

NA

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

NA

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

NA

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

NA

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

NA

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

NA

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NA

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

NA

RISK ASSESSMENT

NA

CORPORATE PLAN REFERENCE***Future Livingstone***

Community Plan Goal 5.2 - Connected places, people and services

5.2.1 Implement an integrated transport strategy which encourages alternative transport usage to maximum economic, environmental, and liveability outcomes.

CONCLUSION

THAT Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.



Robert Barwick
Research Director
Australian Citizens Party
M: 0409 014 265
E: robbie@citizensparty.org.au

Dear Mayor Ireland,

I am writing to ask you and your Council for your support for the growing campaign for a public post office bank in Australia, like those which operate successfully in many countries around the world.

As a local councillor, you would know the impact that the wave of closures of bank branches is having on communities, especially regional communities.

This impact is compounded by the reduction in bank lending into regional communities.

The Australian Citizens Party is part of a nationwide campaign to establish a new government bank, like the original Commonwealth Bank, to operate in post offices, which would guarantee face-to-face financial services for all communities, and force the Big Four banks to compete on both cost and service.

The post office bank would also:

- Guarantee deposits, because it is a government bank;
- Maintain cash payments and processing, which the private banks are trying to do away with;
- Increase lending to individuals and small businesses in regional communities;
- Invest in more infrastructure, including through local government.

Please note: This policy is different to the existing banking service in post offices, Bank@Post, because it is a dedicated postal bank that will increase competition, whereas Bank@Post is just an agency service for the existing banks which can withdraw any time. It is also different to community banks, which do an admirable job, but, again, they don't increase competition.

This campaign is supported by the Licensed Post Office Group (LPOG), which represents the interests of the almost 3,000 community post offices which are run as small businesses, the majority of the Australia Post network.

And it is supported by Katter's Australian Party, One Nation, the Greens, senior members of the National Party, and members of the Liberal and Labor parties.

On 7 September, the [LPOG hosted a public forum in Parliament House on the postal bank policy](#), which was attended by Member for Kennedy Bob Katter, Liberal Senator Gerard Rennick, Nationals Senator Ross Cadell, One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts, and staffers

Item 9.1 - Attachment 1

Further Correspondence Dated 7 October 2022

representing MPs from all the parties in Parliament. You can view the entire forum at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWizMx7BgJs>

The featured speaker was former New Zealand Cabinet Minister Matt Robson, whose party started NZ's postal bank, called Kiwibank, in 2002.

Mr Robson recounted Kiwibank's immediate success, including how New Zealanders flocked to open accounts, and how the private banks, suddenly having to compete, announced a moratorium on branch closures.

A public postal bank would have a similar impact in Australia.

We are seeking local government support for this campaign, to send a message to Canberra that this policy is what local communities need to improve essential services and investment.

The Citizens Party has produced the following short videos to explain benefits of the policy:

1. **CREATE A PUBLIC POST OFFICE BANK! – The solution to the closure of local bank branches** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMiwrVyNnP0>)
 The major banks have closed more than 350 bank branches in the last two years and research shows that since 1975, regional Australia has lost 62% of its banks!

2. **CREATE A PUBLIC POST OFFICE BANK! The solution to the financing needs of local government**
 This second video shows how a postal bank, because it is a public bank, could be a source of long-term, low-interest, flexible credit for local governments to meet their infrastructure responsibilities, as the Commonwealth Bank was when it started in post offices in 1912. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNve8bPPNAM>)

How Councils can support

Bob Katter MP is preparing a bill to introduce into Parliament, called the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill.

We are asking local Councils to pass motions to endorse the bill, and communicate the endorsement to your local federal Member of Parliament.

Five Councils have now passed motions:

1. Narrabri Shire Council (NSW)
2. Banana Shire Council (QLD)
3. Yilgarn Shire Council (WA)
4. Cobar Shire Council (NSW)
5. Strathfield City Council (NSW)

You can see the motions on our website: <https://citizensparty.org.au/campaigns/public-post-office-bank/post-bank-resolutions>.

Alternatively, download a PDF of the five motions:

<https://citizensparty.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-09/202209-Post-Office-Bank-PASSED-Council-Motions.pdf>

Please raise this policy for consideration by your council, with a view to passing a motion of support.

I am available for a phone call and to address your council and answer questions on the policy. Please don't hesitate to contact me on the numbers below.



Yours sincerely,

Robert Barwick
Research Director
Australian Citizens Party

03 9354 0544

0409 014 265

robbie@citizensparty.org.au

Australian Citizens Party, 595 Sydney Rd, Coburg, Vic 3058, Australia, 1800 636 432

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
13 Cottrell Street, Dowerin WA 6461
Tuesday 15 November 2022



ABN: 35 939 977 194
P (08) 9631 1202 E dowshire@dowerin.wa.gov.au
13 Cottrell Street, Dowerin WA 6461
www.dowerin.wa.gov.au

13. OFFICER'S REPORTS - WORKS AND ASSETS

Nil

14. Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision

Nil

15. Elected Members' Motions

15.1 National Postal Saving Bank

15.1 National Postal Saving Bank**Elected Members Motion**

Date:	7 November 2022
Location:	Not Applicable
Responsible Officer:	
Author:	Linley Dreghorn, Executive & Governance Officer
Legislation:	Local Government Act 1995
SharePoint Reference:	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Attachments:	Attachment 15.1A - Email Correspondence from Melissa Harrison

Purpose of Report

Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Summary

This Item presents to Council a request from the Australian Citizens Party regarding the establishment of a national Postal Savings Bank and, if satisfactory, endorsement.

Background

As discussed at the October Workshop, Councillors received an email from Melissa Harrison, who introduces herself as a researcher and reporter for the Australian Alert Service, the weekly magazine of the Australian Citizens Party.

The correspondence (attached) speaks about the "steady erosion of banking services in regional and rural Australia", and details the following:

Access to local banking services is critical in our regional communities. With the banks pulling out of regional Australia at a record pace, the public is increasingly relying on Australia Post to provide banking services. However, Australia Post is too vulnerable to the whims of the government of the day and commercial decisions from the Big Four banks.....

Alarming, there are no written guarantees that the banking deal with the Licensed Post Offices will continue. The LPOs are vulnerable to the banks pulling out unexpectedly, leaving them where they were before the Bank@Post deal—on the edge of bankruptcy and being exploited by the government and the banks. The big banks are already throwing their weight around by charging exorbitant fees for their customers who want to bank

Council Minutes
Tuesday 15 November 2022

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through Australia Post. Without the banking services provided by Australia Post, many parts of regional Australia would not have access to banking at all.

We are calling on local councils and organisations to ask them to join us in fighting for federal legislation to create a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. A public postal savings bank will guarantee banking services at Australia Post and support the Licensed Post Offices to provide financial services for regional and rural Australians.

We have drafted legislation for a public postal bank, the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 2021.

Comment

The correspondence seeks Councils to support the bill, and provided a suggested resolution as follows:

1. The Council notes that:
 - Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
 - Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
 - A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
 - For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
 - Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
 - With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;
2. The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services— including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.
3. The Council will write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

As requested by Council, the resolution is provided for their consideration.

Consultation

Council Workshop, October 2022

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Nil

Strategic Implications

Strategic Community Plan

Community Priority: Our Community

Objective: We live in a diverse, healthy, and connected community

Outcome: 1.1

Reference: 1.1.1

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Tuesday 15 November 2022

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Asset Management Plan

Nil

Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

Risk Implications

There is no risk implications for this motion.

Financial Implications

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Members' Recommendation/Resolution - 15.1**Moved:** Cr Trepp**Seconded:** Cr Hudson**0693 That with regard to the Elected Members' Motion - National Postal Saving Bank:****1. The Council notes that:**

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

2. The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services— including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. The Council will write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill through Parliament.

CARRIED 6/0

Ordinary Council Meeting 15 November 2022

Attachment 1 Page 43

From: Cr Rob Trepp <crtrepp@dowerin.wa.gov.au>
Date: 17 October 2022 at 11:53:53 am AWST
To: rmmcall@dowerin.wa.gov.au
Subject: Fwd: Att: Councillors, regarding a Public Postal Bank

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Harrison <melissah@citizensparty.org.au>
Date: 14 September 2022 at 12:03:41 pm AWST
Subject: Att: Councillors, regarding a Public Postal Bank

Dear Councillors,

My name is Melissa Harrison. I am a researcher and reporter for the Australian Alert Service, the weekly magazine of the Australian Citizens Party. I'm writing to you because we are part of a grassroots campaign which is fighting for the establishment of a national Postal Savings Bank.

I am writing to local councils in Western Australia which have been impacted by the steady erosion of banking services in regional and rural Australia. Research by independent journalist Dale Webster has documented that since 1975, Australia's regional banking footprint has dwindled alarmingly, to a total loss of 60 per cent of the network. [1] The banking regulator, the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), is shielding the big banks from the ire of the public by publishing false and distorted data about the scale of bank closures in regional Australia. [2]

Access to local banking services is critical in our regional communities. With the banks pulling out of regional Australia at a record pace, the public is increasingly relying on Australia Post to provide banking services. However, Australia Post is too vulnerable to the whims of the government of the day and commercial decisions from the Big Four banks. Although it was recently announced that the historic Bank@Post deal had been renewed, Australia Post is refusing to reveal the financial details of the deal that was struck with the Big Four banks. The Citizens Party has made freedom of information requests for clarity on these matters, but these have been rejected. The Citizens Party understands from reputable sources that the Community Access Fee to be paid by the big banks is now only \$10 million per year, half the amount that former Australia Post CEO Christine Holgate negotiated for the original deal. Alarmingly, *there are no written guarantees* that the banking deal with the Licensed Post Offices (LPO) will continue. The LPOs are vulnerable to the banks pulling out unexpectedly, leaving them where they were before the Bank@Post deal—on the edge of bankruptcy and being exploited by the government and the banks. The big banks are already throwing their weight around by charging exorbitant fees for their customers who want to bank through Australia Post. Without the banking services provided by Australia Post, many parts of regional Australia would not have access to banking at all.

We are calling on local councils and organisations to ask them to join us in fighting for federal legislation to create a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank. A public postal savings bank will guarantee banking services at Australia Post and support the Licensed Post Offices to provide financial services for regional and rural Australians.

Support for a postal bank is rapidly expanding. The Councils of Strathfield (NSW); Cobar (NSW); Narrabri (NSW); Banana (QLD); and Yilgarn (WA) have passed motions in support of a postal bank. On 7 September, the Licensed Post Office Group (LPOG), which represents the interests of 3,000 small business community post offices around Australia, hosted a public forum on a postal bank proposal at Parliament House in Canberra. This event featured former New Zealand Cabinet Minister Matt Robson, who served in Helen Clark's Labour Party-led Coalition government from 1999-2002, and whose party started NZ's postal bank, called Kiwibank. Parliamentarians who support the postal bank also spoke, including Bob Katter MP, Senator Malcolm Roberts (One Nation) and Senator Gerard Rennick (Liberal Party). Genuine grassroots support for a postal bank is having a significant impact on politicians from all of the major parties.

Legislation for a public postal bank, the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 2021*, has been drafted and Bob Katter MP is preparing to introduce the Bill into parliament.

We have drafted the following motion/resolution as a guide, which I am asking you to please consider discussing and moving at your next meeting, to endorse the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill*.

Draft motion/resolution for a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank

1. **The Council notes that:**

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their local post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

2. **The Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament** to pass the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill* to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. **The Council will write** to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of Councils desire to support the passage of the *Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill* through Parliament.

I live in a regional town myself, in Winneup Western Australia. The nearby towns of Boyup Brook, Balingup and Donnybrook have lost their last Big Four bank. Access to banking services is essential for the functioning of our local businesses and tourism—markets, artists, craftspeople and local producers. A public postal bank would ensure these community businesses are supported in perpetuity.

If you would like more information, please feel welcome to contact me. We have been reporting on this matter for some time—articles, background information and video content can be found here: [An Australia Post 'people's bank'—a win-win solution for the nation](#)

Kind regards,
Melissa Harrison

[1] Dale Webster: [Why I spent a year counting every bank in regional Australia; 'Big four' banks casting a dangerous shadow in regional Australia; The Regional](#)

[2] Citizens Party: ['Bank regulator shielding Big Four from scrutiny over regional branch closures'](#)

UNCONFIRMED



Agenda

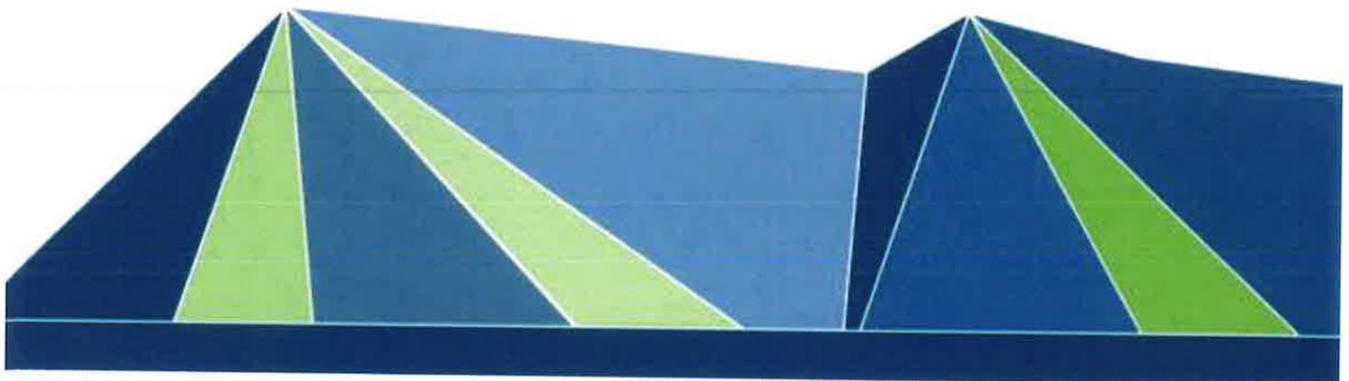
Ordinary Meeting 24 November 2022

An Ordinary Meeting of Ballina Shire Council will be held in the Ballina Shire Council Chambers, 40 Cherry Street Ballina on **24 November 2022 commencing at 9.00am.**

1. Australian National Anthem
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Declarations of Interest and Reportable Political Donations
6. Deputations
7. Mayoral Minutes
8. Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports
9. Corporate and Community Division Reports
10. Civil Services Division Reports
11. Notices of Motion
12. Advisory Committee Minutes
13. Reports from Councillors on Attendance on Council's behalf
14. Confidential Session

Paul Hickey
General Manager

A morning tea break is taken at 10.30am and a lunch break taken at 1.00pm.



7.2 Mayoral Minute - Support for Public Post Office Bank

7.2 Mayoral Minute - Support for Public Post Office Bank

Councillor

Sharon Cadwallader

I move

That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash— are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

Mayoral Comments

Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia.

Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all.

A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services despite advances in technology.

For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community Post Office.

Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash— are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

Attachment(s)

Nil

Ballina Shire Council
24/11/22

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
40 CHERRY STREET BALLINA,
ON 24/11/22 AT 9.00AM**

7.2 Mayoral Minute - Support for Public Post Office Bank

A **Motion** was moved by Cr Eoin Johnston

That Council calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

The **Motion LAPSED.**

241122/4 RESOLVED

(Cr Stephen McCarthy/Cr Simon Chate)

That Council writes to the relevant Federal Minister expressing our concern about ongoing regional bank closures and request the Government to consider policies and programs such as Post Office people's bank or other options that will enable regional and rural communities suitable access to meet their banking needs.

FOR VOTE - Cr Kiri Dicker, Cr Simon Chate, Cr Eoin Johnston, Cr Stephen McCarthy, Cr Nigel Buchanan and Cr Eva Ramsey
AGAINST VOTE - Cr Phillip Meehan and Cr Rodney Bruem
ABSENT. DID NOT VOTE - Cr Sharon Cadwallader and Cr Jeff Johnson

8. Planning and Environmental Health Division Reports

8.3 Planning Proposal Request - Ballina Heights Commercial Centre

241122/5 RESOLVED

(Cr Kiri Dicker/Cr Rodney Bruem)

1. That Council endorses the finalisation of the Voluntary Planning Agreement on the basis of Attachment 3 to this report, and subject to final legal advice for the purposes of proceeding to Gateway determination and public exhibition of the planning proposal.
2. That subject to Vixsun agreeing to the Voluntary Planning Agreement, the Planning Proposal, provided as Attachment 2 to this report, to amend the Ballina Local Environmental Plan 2012, be referred to the Department of Planning and Environment for Gateway Determination.

OPERATIONS

ITEM NUMBER	15.1
TITLE	Director of Operations Report
REFERENCE	379459
AUTHOR	Troy Koch, Director of Operations

RECOMMENDATION

That Council Receive and note Director of Operations Report for the months of January and February 2023.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2023 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR REPORT

Summary:

With some recent resignations my workload has increased substantially' as it has for several other staff also. With the new Director of Infrastructure starting this shall, in time, ease the workload somewhat. In the last month I have spent time in Wutunugurra covering the vacant Community Coordinator position which Ray Hocking , Tim Hema and I have been rotating through whilst recruitment takes place.

Local Authority:

Elliott, Alpururulam, Ali Curung held Local Authority Meetings this month, Ampilatwatja did not achieve a quorum.

The Communities:

Elliott:

Elliott has had several pieces of Plant and Equipment break down, including the rubbish truck and backhoe. This has led to an interruption to core services particularly rubbish collection.

While the Tennant Creek staff are doing their best to repair the P & E, access to and delivery of parts adds time to the repairs, which in turn adds angst to community members who expect rubbish to be collected in a timely manner.

The Elliott municipal team are doing what they can manually to address the rubbish collection while awaiting return of the equipment and should be applauded for their efforts.

There is growing enthusiasm for a women's AFL team to compete in the AFL Barkly competition in 2023, and it would be great to see this occur and the Elliott Football oval get regular use.

Unfortunately a storm ripped the shade sail at the waterpark in half, and took out the depot shed lighting.

The Barkly vets visited and treated numerous dogs for a variety of ailments and the Deadly Hair Dude continues his training visits, as well as DASA who ran a course to help community members obtain their drivers license.

Ali Curung:

Staff numbers returning to normal since football carnivals finished.

The airstrip was closed on a few occasions due to adverse weather and flooding.

CDU currently running Traffic Management and Plant ticket course in community over period 14 – 25 Nov 2022. Ten BRC staff are attending from Tennant Creek, Ampilatwatja and Ali Curung with extra numbers made up from RN CDP provider.

Fire compliance, pest control and air-conditioning servicing has been done on all council buildings and accommodations.

Area manager covered out at Wutunugurra for week.

Aged Care homemakers building have had new CCTV equipment and external security lighting installed since the break-in and have only some building infrastructure repairs left to do.

Aged care staff received training from external trainer, 1 staff resigned with another resigning end of November, this will effect x2 vacancies at the aged care.

Municipal Team currently stand at x2 vacancies.
We received the three new skip bins for community purchased by the Local Authority.
Demolition works have started at the old mission house.
PAW media / regional music area programs running a music workshop to include a concert and potential employment of casual radio broadcaster. With the hot weather the waterpark has been the main attraction however waterpark needs serious maintenance works.
The Coloured Stone Band looking at visit to community between 9 – 16 December 2022 to conduct workshops and do a concert performance for community.

Alpurrurulam:

Still some staffing attendance issues in Municipal but settling down overall. Staff permitting, there have been twice weekly garbage collections most weeks along with airstrip maintenance, grass cutting around the community, general community maintenance, and general plant, vehicle and building minor maintenance.
Customer Service staff continue with Centrelink and Australia Post as well as general administrative and customer service duties.
Visits to community from Police, various health and allied health personnel, Power and Water, general contractors, market truck from Mt Isa, ABC Transport, Education, Shine Lawyers for Stolen Wages, housing installation contractors, Rainbow Gateway (CDP) visitors.
Vet visit cancelled due to wet weather causing road closures.
There was a serious dog attack on nurse and her dog near her home in the community. The Nurse Medevacked out to Mt Isa for medical treatment and is now back in community and recovering (along with her dog). One dog was put down by police as a result with the consent of the owner.
New housing installations continue.

Ampilatwatja:

October/ November have been a busy with sports carnivals at Ampilatwatja, Arlparra and harts Range.
All core business of council has been conducted to regular program.
We have had the vets visit and we have had a lot of outside agency's attend Ampilatwatja in preparation for the new housing that is going in next year.

We have had Vikki Sherrah (Age Care) resign this month with her last day the 11th of November hopefully to have her position advertised in the coming weeks and we have secured a sport and rec Team leader Elizabeth McDonald to start on the 16th of November.

We have had staff attend a traffic control course and plant ticket training based at Ali-Curung.

With the carnival taking place in Ampilatwatja there has been an influx of rubbish in the community there is a push to get on top of this by the municipal crew once the community is back to satisfactory standard the area of concern will be the surrounding bush land between the landfill and the community where a legacy of illegal dumping has occurred.

Schedule maintenance visits from workshop or outsource a mechanic for Ampilatwatja's needs from Alice Springs.

There is ongoing concern with no scheduled visits from the workshop crew for maintenance on Plant and Vehicle's currently we have had the Skid steer, Firetruck not operational for the last six months at all and we have ongoing issues with the

backhoe and grader needing urgent maintenance and preventative maintenance on a more regular basis.

Sports Carnival

After witnessing the sports carnival first hand there will have to be a more planned approach regarding our involvement whether it be Night Patrol or Sport and Rec and the Municipal crew there were a few concerns that will be easily addressed for next year's carnival with a combined planned approach channeling through the Area Manager on the ground instead of what has happen this year with it being a every person for themselves approach which resulted no communication between our working groups and outcomes that could have been more successful not achieving what I would call satisfactory standard.

We had damage to the disabled toilets over the sports carnival which has resulted in them being closed for repairs.

Toilets and facility's based in Ampilatwatja that are under Barkly were strained during this time with the new ablution block toilets and the basketball court amenities failing under the sheer number of people attending the carnival this will have to be brought to the attention of the carnival organisers and funding body Ampilatwatja store as it will have to be addressed before next year's carnival for the council give it the go ahead due to health concerns.

Due to the ongoing Carnivals staff unapproved absences have caused difficulty in delivering council services.

Arlpara

Arlpara has had a very busy sports carnival with it scheduled to go for 5 days turning out to be 7 days.

All core business of council has been conducted to regular program.

We had the handover of the new subdivision and road infrastructure from DIPL to Barkly Regional Council last week with further discussions about future works around a truck turnaround bay near the store at Arlpara.

Shirley Kunoth has been participating in training Cert 3 in Aged Care.

Identify 2 municipal workers locally based in Arlpara to assist Greg Carney the ESO based there with council core services including airport maintenance, rubbish collection and general up keep of council areas of responsibility (These are currently vacant positons).

Night Patrol did not attend the sports carnival at Arlpara due to road conditions at the time which has had negative feedback from stakeholders in Arlpara raising their concerns about our commitment to Arlpara as a whole.

Toilets and facility's based in Arlpara that are under Barkly were strained during this time with 4 portable toilets and the basketball court amenities failing under the sheer number of people attending the carnival this will have to be brought to the attention of the carnival organisers and funding body Arlpara store as it will have to be addressed before next year's carnival for the council give it the go ahead due to Health concerns.

TC Depot:

Peter and The Team at the Depot continue to do a good job keeping on top of the extra works that have arisen due to the recent rains. The mechanical team are doing a good job in difficult circumstances as parts supply is very slow and affecting the timely turnover of mechanical repairs, and example of this would be parts for the steering box on the Mack truck and the PTO for the rubbish truck for Elliott.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil.

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

GENERAL BUSINESS

ITEM NUMBER	16.1
TITLE	Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team Report - December 2022 to January 2023
REFERENCE	379453
AUTHOR	Joanne McPhee, Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team Report for the period December 2022 – January 2023.

SUMMARY:

An outline of the progress and achievements of the Barkly Regional Deal during the reporting period.

BACKGROUND

The Barkly Regional Deal Governance Table last met in Tennant Creek on 2 December 2022. The Governance Table is due to meet again on 2 March 2023 at Ali Curung. The Barkly Aboriginal Alliance met on 7 and 8 February and will meet again on 1 March 2023.

The Backbone Team has employed Warren H Williams as its Community Engagement Lead.

An interim working group has been formed to progress the Student Boarding Facility and consultation re the design will commence in March. DIPL is engaging a consultant to undertake this work.

Remediation and related earth works are underway to progress the Tennant Creek Visitor Park initiative. Representatives from TFHC attended the Backbone Office on 8 February to present at a community engagement forum to discuss the design and operation of the facility. Remediation works will take 12 months. Construction is due to commence in 2024.

The Economic Growth Strategy was endorsed at the December Governance Table Meeting. A launch of the Strategy will occur concurrent with the opening of the Business Hub in the first half of 2023. A working group will be re-engaged to progress the actions from the strategy.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Nil

BUDGET IMPLICATION

Nil

ISSUE/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

Nil

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.