



- MEDIA RELEASE -
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New Year message from the CEO

As we look to the new year, I wanted to reflect on the past year. I came to Council 10 months ago and it's been a time of tremendous growth for us here at BRC.

Like everyone, we've faced challenges both global and local - but I've remained committed to Council's focus to serve our community whilst making sure we're an innovative, modern organisation. In 2023 our sights are set on growth and service delivery across all our Barkly communities.

Working with elected Councillors we have formalised a vision for Council's future. This capitalises on the extraordinary opportunity we can see for our region. Our 2022-23 Regional Plan - for the first time - included robust action steps and set targets for the performance of the Council. Our ratepayers shouldn't expect any less than this level of planning and implementing of performance targets.

A key focus of mine has been Council's financial position. When I arrived the projections were concerning for us all, and over the last few months we have worked to turn this around, creating a strong and positive financial outlook for Council.

Importantly, we have developed and implemented new financial reporting systems to ensure our expenditure aligns with adopted budgets. This means, at the bottom line, Council's finances are properly managed, accounting for and reflecting the true cost of delivering the programs and services that are so important to our community.

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We have a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and together we feel confident the foundations are in place for community growth.

Recruitment to key roles has also been a priority. For the first time in a long time, we've filled all our Director roles. Recruitment to key roles continues, and we have been using subject matter experts to support Council to meet its obligations, including in relation to governance, finance, audit and risk, and a detailed rates review.

Our relationships with ratepayers and our community is my ongoing passion as CEO. 2022 was a time of reviewing and resetting, and now is the time to see that work in action. Almost all Local Authorities - which we rely on for the best local information - have been re-established and are functioning after a period of inactivity.

We have been working closely with the NT Government's Local Government Unit to ensure statutory and legislative requirements of the Council are met. This has been part of my focus to build strong internal and external relationships to support the interests of the Council. These include relationships with government agencies and service providers, the Barkly Regional Deal Backbone Team and Governance Table, the Barkly Regional Admin Team (government interagency), with Council's suppliers, and organisations such as Northern Interests, the IGA, as well as with community organisations including Anyinginyi Health and Julalikari Aboriginal corporations.

Last year we were proud to deliver the Tennant Creek Show for the first time in two years due to COVID and we are now focusing very strongly on an Events Calendar to promote all the wonderful events happening throughout the Barkly region.

And no small feat is the delivery of the Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements on time – this is the first for Council for several years!

I am proud of the progress our Council and community has achieved, and genuinely excited to be stepping into the year ahead. With so much more still to be done, this is our time to shine.

I wish all of our community the very best for the coming year and hope we catch up in person at a Council event soon.

Our Australia Day programme will be a great one, so I look forward to seeing many of you then.

- CEO, Emma Bradbury.