



## Scullion visits Ali Curung for community safety report

In early April the Federal Government Minister of Indigenous Affairs Nigel Scullion came to Ali Curung for an important visit.

I was there, along with the Mayor Steve Edgington and Councillor Lucy Jackson, to welcome Minister Scullion to the community.

His visit follows on from the alleged sexual assault of a young boy in Ali Curung, along with reports of social dysfunction and a marked increase in alcohol consumption, violence and criminal activity.

During the day-long visit Minister Scullion, who is also a Senator for the Northern Territory, met with local police, members of the Ali Curung Local Authority and representatives from Barkly Regional Council, including staff from Night Patrol and Sports & Recreation, to talk about community safety.

It was a good opportunity for the Minister to hear



**KEY COLLABORATION:** Minister Nigel Scullion, second on the left, met with Deputy Mayor Noel Hayes, far left, the Mayor Steve Edgington, second from right, and Council staff.

about some of the challenges faced by Council's committed Night Patrol team, including working long and irregular hours, dealing with dangerous situations, and cultural differences within the patrol team.

He also heard about the great work they are doing. The team has formed a positive working partner-

ship with police to help prevent and minimise crime and anti-social behaviour and keep community members out of the judicial system.

We also discussed the Council's five-year community infrastructure program which has been driven and developed through the Local Authorities of each community in the Barkly.



**DISREPAIR:** The Sport and Recreation building.

Priorities for Ali Curung include the need for:

- a new multi-purpose Sports and Recreation building;
- an upgrade to the basketball courts; and
- sealing of the airstrip

The Sports and Recreation building is one of those old Nissen huts which were designed as light aircraft hangars during the First World War and used extensively throughout the Second World War.

Unfortunately, this one is

in a state of disrepair and not fit for purpose as a sports and recreation facility.

The basketball courts are also in a similar state.

Focusing on community infrastructure, such as a new sport and recreation building and enclosed basketball courts, provides an opportunity to increase out-of-school-hours activities for young people.

It is important to provide programs that lean towards early intervention

and prevention and divert young people away from the criminal justice system.

The community has also been calling for the airstrip to be sealed for a number of years.

Minister Scullion has agreed to write to the NT Government to find out where Ali Curung is placed on the priority list for airstrip upgrades.

Minister Scullion also heard about the opportunity to reform the School Council to have greater community involvement in their children's education. Later, Sharen Lake, Catholic Care Regional Manager Tennant Creek, gave everyone a tour of the new childcare facility.

Council continues in its collaboration with both the Northern Territory and Australian governments to represent the interests of our residents and advocate for improved facilities and community safety and better living conditions and support.



**FORWARD THINKING:** Mayor Steve Edgington with Senator Nigel Scullion and CEO Steve Moore.

## Exploring for the future

The Mayor Steve Edgington and Council CEO Steve Moore went to Geoscience Australia in Canberra for a presentation and update on the Northern Australia survey.

While in the capital city the Mayor and CEO met with the Barkly Regional Council's counterparts from the Mt Isa City Council, Mayor Joyce McCulloch and CEO Sharon Ibardolaza, as part of the Tennant Creek and Mt Isa Cross Border Commission.

Both councils joined forces last year in a cross border alliance designed to bolster economic development and jobs creation for both regions.

This alliance dovetails into a multi-million dollar Australian Government initiative dedicated to boosting investment in resource exploration in northern Australia and parts of South

Australia.

Other information presented during the day included:

- an update on the Mt Isa Super Basin by the Department of Energy and Environment;
- briefing on the Mining Investment Outlook from the Minerals Council of Australia;
- briefing about Northern Australia by the Office of Northern Australia; and
- an update on water infrastructure by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Council is committed to working collaboratively with the Mt Isa City Council and both the NT Government and the Australian governments to help develop the economy in relation to tourism, mineral resources, roads, rail, logistics, agriculture and water.

## Meet Cr Jane Evans

Councillor Jane Evans joined the Council in September last year after the NT local government elections and represents the Kuwarrang Ward.

Cr Evans worked in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of South Australia for many years. She moved to Elliott four years ago where she is the manager of the Elliott Store.

Having grown up in the small outback town of Oodnadatta in South Australia, Cr Evans has a strong understanding of the challenges and issues faced by living remotely.

She is passionate about the town and the region and is committed to supporting local youngsters with more youth programs and activities.



### WHAT'S NEW...



● NO MORE signage is set to be installed in Purkiss Reserve as part of an ongoing collaboration between Council and the NO MORE Domestic Violence Campaign.

● Fencing to the new extension of the Tennant Creek Cemetery is well underway and nearing completion. The next stage will involve the commencement of a beautification program.

● The Mayor Steve Edgington and Regional Director Martin Plumb (Department of the Chief Minister) met with Jemena staff - Paul Adams, Managing Director, Kin Wah Yew, Deputy Managing Director and Jonathan Spink, NGP Project Director - to discuss the progress of the Northern Gas Pipeline and the construction of the Compressor Station at Warrego.

### BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



**Working together with local communities**  
Ali Curung, Alpurrurulam, Arlparra, Ampilatwatja, Elliott, Tennant Creek, Wutunugurra

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