

BARKLY SHIRE COUNCIL

SHIRE PLAN 2011-2012



("The Three Sisters" left of the gap in the McDouall Ranges on the Stuart Highway and immediately north of the 'Great Northern Mine' owned by Charles Henry Windley who discovered gold in the ranges in 1926.)

Photo and comment by Pamela Hodges

Barkly Shire Council

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Tennant Creek Local Advisory Board: Chairman: Mr. Kevin Diflo

Meets 7pm first Tuesday each month at Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek

Ali Curung**Telephone:** (08) 8964 1520 **Fax:** (08) 8964 1975

Ali Curung Local Board: Chairman: Mr. Noel Hayes

Shire Service Centre: CMB 188; Via Alice Springs NT 0872 Manager: Mrs. Christine Verbis

Ampilatwatja**Telephone:** (08) 8956 9966 **Fax: (08) 8956 9914**

Ampilatwatja Local Board: Chairman: Mr. Banjo Morton

Shire Service Centre: PMB 68; Via Alice Springs NT 0872 Manager: Mr. Troy Koch

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Arlparra Local Board: Chairman: Position Vacant

Shire Service Centre: PMB 127; Via Alice Springs NT 0872 Manager: Mr. Jerry Pena

Alpurrurulam**Telephone:** (07) 4748 4800 **Fax:** (07) 47484913

Alpurrurulam Local Board: Chairman: Position Vacant

Shire Service Centre: PMB 23 Via Mt Isa Qld 4825 Manager: Mr. Jeff Iversen

Canteen Creek**Telephone:** (08) 8964 1515 **Fax:** (08) 8964 1508

Shire Service Centre: PMB 116; Via Alice Springs NT 0872 Manager: Mr. Tom Kauripan

Elliott**Telephone:** (08) 8969 2056 **Fax:** (08) 8969 2076

Elliott Local Board: Chairman: Position Vacant

Shire Service Centre: C/- Post Office Elliott NT 0862 Manager: Mr. Brian Phillips

Epenarra/Wutunugurra**Telephone:** (08) 8964 1668 **Fax:** (08) 8964 1901

Wutunugurra Local Board: Chairman: Position Vacant

Shire Service Centre: PMB 148; Via Alice Springs NT 0872 Manager: Mr. Russell Billings

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1 FOREWORD

Barkly Shire acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Barkly Region.

The Barkly Shire came into being on 1st July 2008 when it became a legal entity under the Northern Territory *Local Government Act* replacing the smaller local governments of Tennant Creek Town Council, Elliott District Community Government Council, Aherrenge Association Inc., Ali Curung Council Inc., and Alpururulam Community Government Council. By agreement the Council also took responsibility for the Local Government functions of the Urapuntja Council Aboriginal Corp. which provided services to their communities over many years.

The Shire was created by the Northern Territory Government to provide local government services to the Barkly Region. It was generally accepted the smaller authorities were often struggling to be viable and provide meaningful services. With spiraling costs of capital equipment, operational expenditure and salaries, they were often in poor shape and represented a service liability. This legacy has been passed onto the newly formed shires and is one of the issues being addressed.

Of principal interest to the Shire Council has been the opinions and views of constituent communities. Council was well aware that a major change following establishment of the shires was been the absence in each community of a local government body elected from within that community to reflect and act upon community needs. Many communities had difficulties in accepting that an elected Council sitting in another community, could effectively consider the needs of their particular area. Council has chosen to address this by strongly supporting the work of Local Boards and by rotating scheduled Council meetings between the larger communities and Tennant Creek.

A great deal of work has been put into establishment and fostering of Local Boards in all of the major communities within the shire's area. The Boards are recognized as a forum wherein community wishes and opinions are passed onto the elected Council. Council has also adopted a policy of ensuring that elected members and senior staff attend all Board meetings and are able to report back to each Board the actions taken by Council in respect to their recommendations. This policy is being well received by constituent communities.

Council has also worked to achieve realistic training outcomes, especially in remote communities. Wherever possible in conjunction with Group Training NT, Council has indentured young people to undergo trade training in areas ranging from heavy plant operation, mechanics and construction.

Overall the Shire remains in its infancy with many areas such as animal health still to be tackled. This plan which has been derived from various discussions involving Elected Members and staff, is a further step towards achieving community priorities.

Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM
President

David Shoobridge
Chief Executive Officer

2 VISIONS, GOALS AND ESSENTIAL VALUES.

VISION

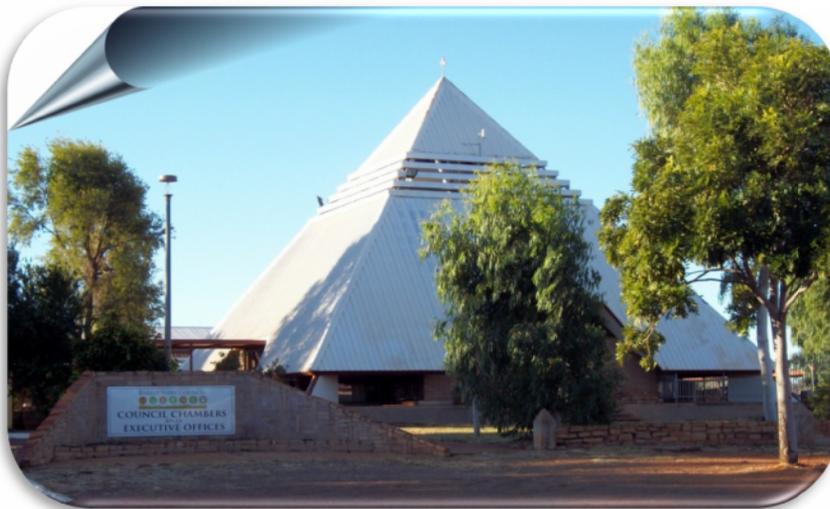
The Barkly is a strong and vibrant shire that values and respects its cultural diversity.

GOALS

Barkly Shire Council is committed to physically, socially, culturally and economically develop the Barkly region for the benefit and best interest of the community.

ESSENTIAL VALUES

- H Honesty
- E Equity and equality
- A Accountability and transparency
- L Leadership – strong and committed
- T Trust between all people
- H Harmony and Social Justice
- Y Youth as the future



(Barkly Shire Council's Civic Chambers – officially commenced June 6th 1982 with the embedding of a time capsule of history and events of the day. Officially opened August 5th 1983 by Ian Lindsay Tuxworth, Member for Barkly)

Photo and comment by Pamela Hodges

3 LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

It is a requirement under the *Local Government Act* that the Barkly Shire Council will develop a forward regional plan that will lay out the goals of the organisation for the 2010/2011 year.

Section 23 of the *Local Government Act 2008* states:

(1) *A municipal or shire plan:*

(a) *must contain:*

- (i) *a service delivery plan for the period to which the municipal or shire plan relates prepared in accordance with planning requirements specified in a relevant regional management plan; and*
- (ii) *the council's budget and*

(b) *must contain, or incorporate by reference*

- (i) *any long term community or strategic plans adopted by the council or a local board and relevant to the period to which the municipal or shire plan relates; and*
- (ii) *the council's long term financial plan; and*

(c) *must contain, or incorporate by reference, the council's most recent assessment of:*

- (i) *the adequacy of constitutional arrangements presently in force for the council under this Act and, in particular, whether they provide the most effective possible representation for the area; and*
- (ii) *the opportunities and challenges for local government service delivery in the council's area; and*
- (iii) *possible changes in the administrative and regulatory framework for delivering local government services in the council's area over the period for which the plan relates; and*
- (iv) *where the possibilities exist for improving local government service delivery by cooperation with other councils, or with government agencies or other organisations; and*

(d) *must define indicators for judging the standard of its performance.*

4. PURPOSE

This strategic plan has been developed to provide a clear direction leading to improved and integrated services that deliver positive outcomes for the people of Barkly Shire. It will also ensure that the Shire, as an organisation, will continue to provide continuous improvement in leadership and management in a complex, challenging and changing environment.

Local government undertakes strategic planning to achieve a desired vision (where we want to be) for our community. This can only be achieved through close cooperation, support and partnerships with those individuals and external stakeholders/partners that can influence decision making and delivery of services. Successful development and implementation of this plan relies on effective engagement with all communities and residents within the Shire. This plan presents the ideal outcomes in services and facilities valued by each community.

The establishment of a common vision and organizational goals has enabled the development of key goals for the organisation that, in turn, will provide the framework for development of outcomes and strategies.

Specific actions and projects have been developed to implement the plan strategies. These are defined at the Business Unit Level on an annual basis against the financial capacity of the shire.

The strategic plan is reviewed on an annual basis. Management uses the strategic plan to formulate priorities in the delivery of services. The plan also assists staff in linking their professional performance and development to the goals of the organisation.

This strategic plan will only succeed with the cooperation of all stakeholders. It is therefore imperative that all within the Barkly Shire work efficiently to achieve more with the same energy.

5. SHIRE OVERVIEW

Demography

The Barkly Shire Council came into existence on 1st July, 2008 following a major reform of Local Government. The Shire includes the former local government bodies of:

- Tennant Creek Town Council
- Elliott District Community Government Council
- Aherrenge Association Inc.
- Ali Curung Council Inc.
- Alpururulam Community Government Council

By agreement the Shire Council also undertook local government responsibilities for the Urapuntja Council Aboriginal Corporation and a large area of previously unincorporated land that includes the Barkly Tablelands, numerous land trusts and pastoral properties.

The Barkly Shire is the second largest local government area in the world, being 42% larger than Victoria. Victoria is considered the second most populous Australian state with a density of 2,431 persons per one hundred square kilometres compared to the Barkly Region which contains 2 persons in the same area. The shire stretches from the Queensland border over 620 kilometres to west of the Stuart Highway and from north of Elliott 570 kilometres southwards on each side of the Stuart Highway to Barrow Creek. The largest town in the shire is Tennant Creek located on the Stuart Highway approximately one thousand kilometres south of Darwin and five hundred kilometres north of Alice Springs.

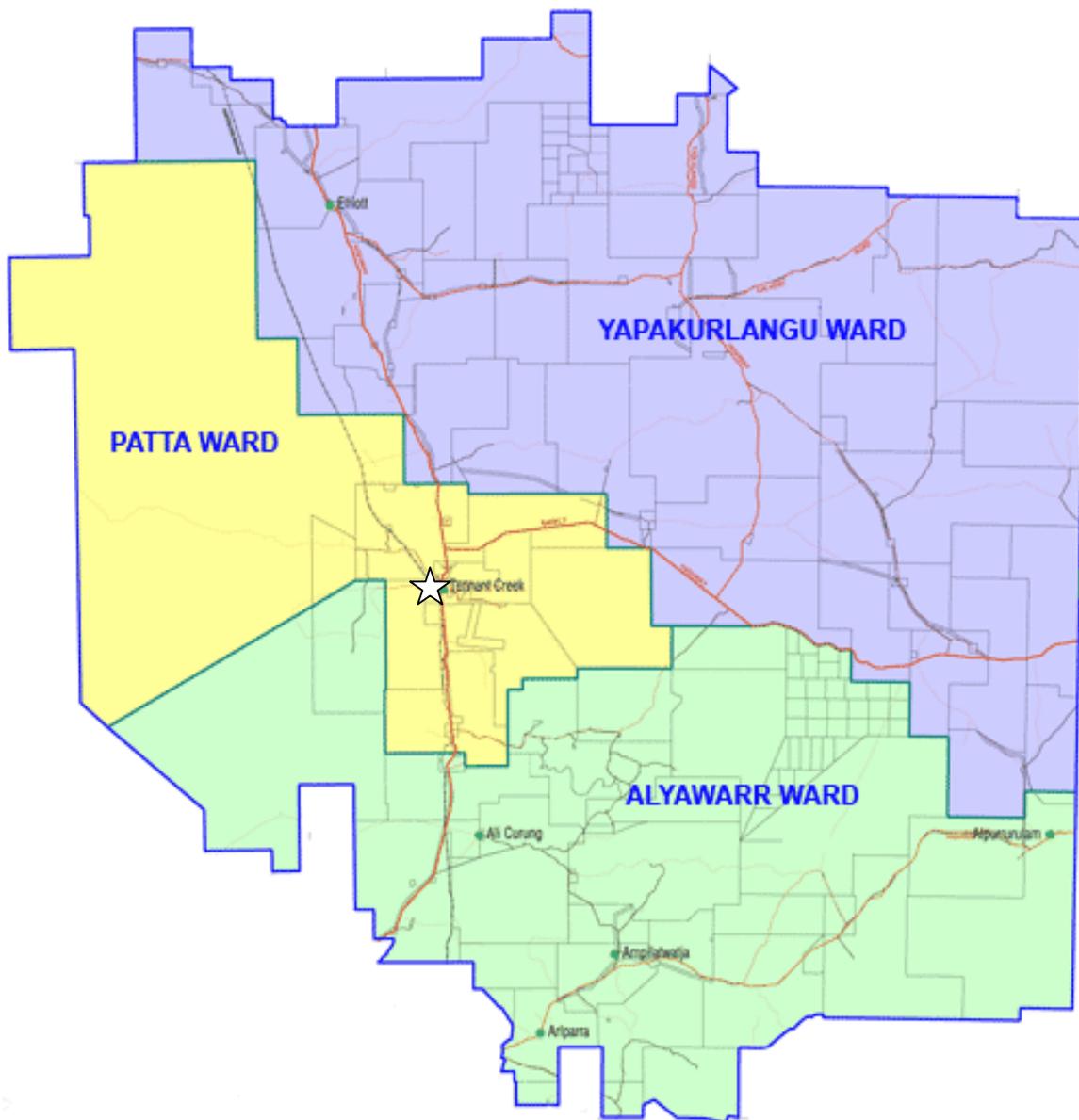
The resident population of the Barkly Shire Council is estimated at 8,137 which include a population in Tennant Creek of 3,560, (which includes also the Urban Living Areas of Kargaru, Tinkarli, Wuppa, Marla Marla, Village Camp and Munji-Marla, Ngalpa Ngalpa.) Followed by the open town of Elliott and its surrounding district and the major communities and outstations of Ampilatwatja, Urapuntja, Alpururulam, Ali Curung, Canteen Creek and Wutunugurra (Epenarra). In addition to these major populations, the Shire also consists of approximately eight minor communities the largest of which include Tara and Mungkarta, seventy family outstations, forty nine pastoral stations, mining operations and commercial properties.

The level of cooperation between people in the various communities and towns with the Shire varies across programs and relies on the trust and understanding of communities and key individuals. Shire Service Managers and their staff throughout the shire area cooperatively supported by program managers and head office staff are critical to the success and achievements of the shire.

The work of the shire is carried out in a cross cultural atmosphere that can represent a major challenge to achieve a common shared vision. Acceptance and achievement of this vision will take time, especially

on remote communities where it is imperative the needs of those communities are correctly identified and met. The very large size of the shire and the differing priorities of the various stakeholders create challenges that need to be addressed. Additionally identified objectives and priorities can be included as the strategy is developed, implemented, reviewed and assessed over time.

Figure 1. Map of shire wards.



Towns and Communities within the three wards.**Patta**

Blue Bush; Junkaji; Hingstons Place; Kalinjarri; Kargaru; Kalumpurlpa; Kumunu; Kurraya; Likkaparta; Marla Marla; Mungalawurru; Mungkarta; Munji-Marla; Murtulki; Napagunpa; Ngalpa Ngalpa; Ngurrutiji; Nguyarramini; Nuradidgee; Pakulki; Pingala; Punjarriji; Tennant Creek; Tinkarli; Village Camp; Wiitin; Wuppa.

Alyawarr

10 Mile; Ali Curung; Alpururulam; Amengernterneath; Ampilatwatja; Ankerrapw; Annerre; Arawerr; Arlparra; Arrawajin; Artekerr; Atheley; Atnarara; Atneltyey; Atnwengerrpe; Camel Camp; Canteen Creek; Hatches Creek; Illeuwurru; Imangara; Imperrenth; Indaringinya; Inkawenyerre; Inkwelaye; Irrmarne; Irrultja; Iylentye; Jemelke; Kalpitapta; Kunayungku; Kurinelli; Miyikampi; Ngappamilarnu; Ngkwarlerlanem; Partnparinji; Pungalindum; Purrukuwurru; Tara; Tommyhawk Swamp; Wakurlpu; Welere; Wunara; Wutunugurra.

Yapakurlangu

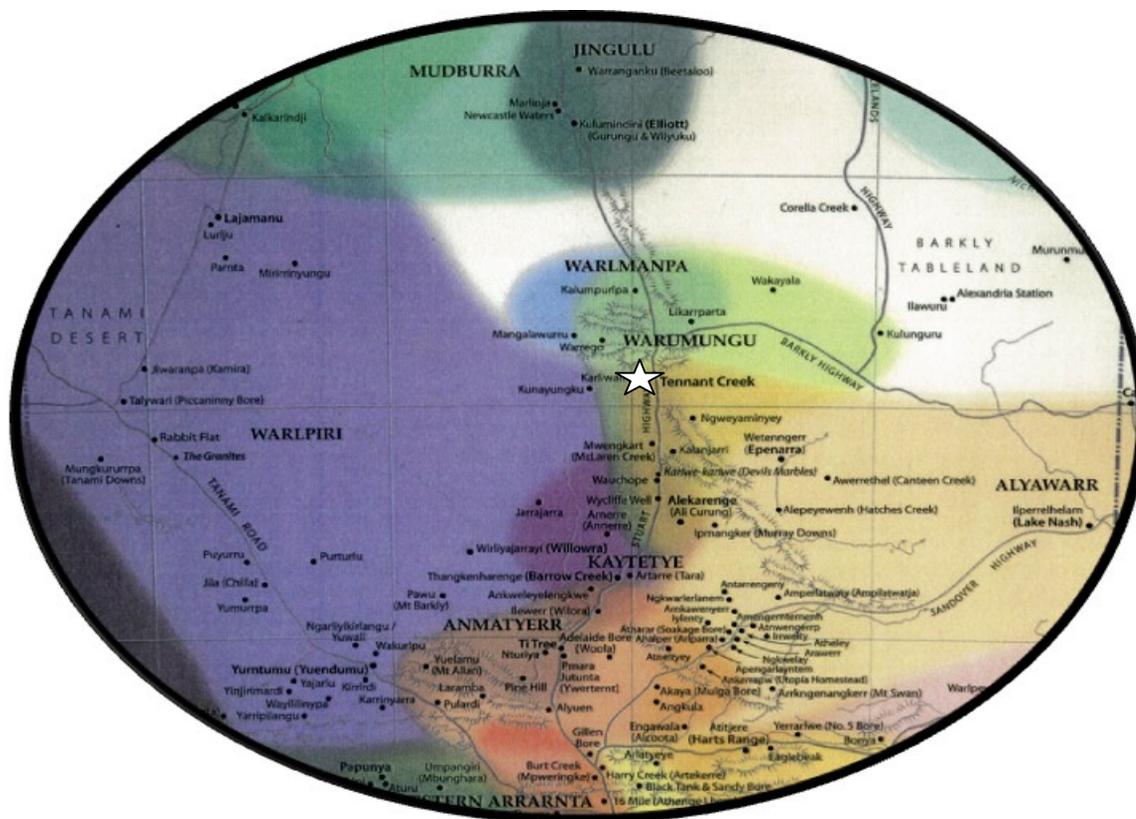
Bajaminyi; Burrumburru; Burudu; Connells Lagoon; Corella Creek; Elliott; Elliott North Camp; Elliott South Camp; Gulunguru; Gumuluji; Iluwurru; Jangirulu; Jilundarina; Jingaloo; Kulumpurlpa; Kurntapurra; Lija Mukumparla; Marlinja; Muckaty; Murrnji; Murun Murula; Namerinni; Newcastle Waters, Ngunarra; Ngurrara; Nudjabarra; Wangalinji; Wogyala.

Languages:

Many Aboriginal people speak several indigenous languages with English frequently being a third or even fourth language. 50.5% of the total population over 15 years speaks a language other than English at home (ABS National Regional Profile 2006). In addition to English, there are a range of different indigenous languages used throughout the region and include:

- Warumungu
- Warlmanpa
- Warlpiri
- Jingulu
- Garawa
- Mudburra
- Kaytetye
- Alyawarr
- Anmatyerr
- Wambaya

Many Aboriginal people speak several indigenous languages with English frequently being a third or even fourth language.



6. LOCAL BOARDS

Complementary to Council, many communities have Local Boards that meet approximately every two months. Local Board members are nominated to Council by their community.

These Boards are critical conduits for community concerns to be channeled to the Shire Council and provide a forum for local residents to raise local issues, express opinions and make recommendations on local government matters affecting their community. These comments are considered by the Shire Council and acted upon as required. Elected Members regard the outcomes of Local Boards quite seriously and value local input into local government matters.

Local Shire Services Managers often act as the Honorary Secretary to their Local Board with Councillors and senior staff from the Shire attending as often as possible. All Local Boards have met enthusiastically over the past two years developing a strong local involvement.

Local Boards have identified five major challenges relating to core services:

- Administration;
- Civic cultural and sporting events;
- Companion Animal Welfare and Control ;
- Maintenance and upgrade of Council services; and
- Waste management [including litter control.

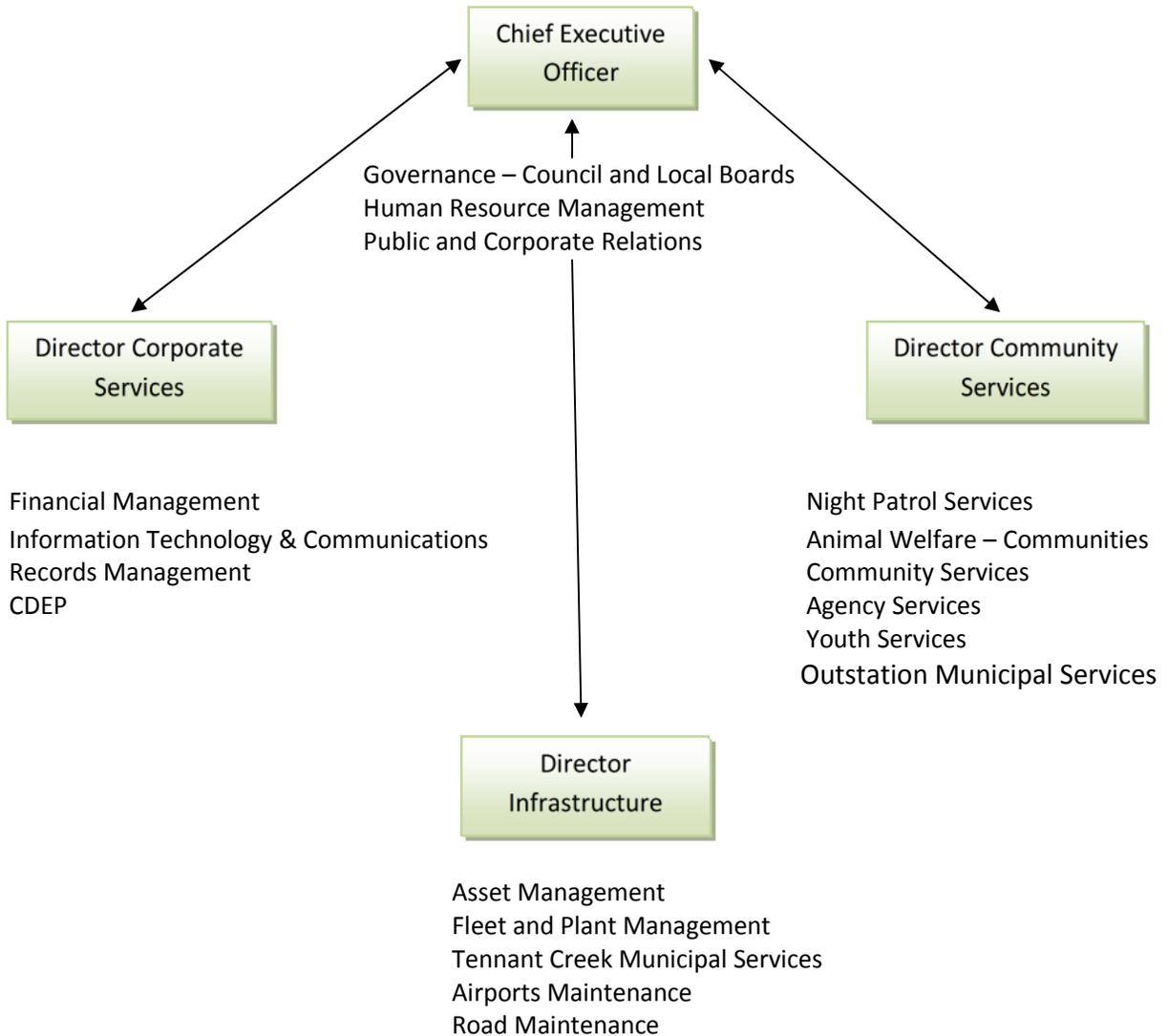
7. GOVERNANCE

The Barkly Shire Council consists of eleven Elected Members and a popularly elected President. In accordance with the *Local Government Act* Council recently considered its electoral representation and was concerned that the current representation was somewhat inequitable especially in respect to the Shire's more remote area around Alpururulam. Following general discussions and consultations at Alpururulam, on 20th May 2011 Council recommended the following changes to the current constitutional arrangements to the Minister for Local Government, The Hon. Malarndirri McCarthy MLA:

- (i) *No change be made to the current arrangements for the popular election of the Shire President;*
- (ii) *No change be made to the names of the existing wards and the number of elected members to be elected from each;*
- (iii) *The existing Alyawarr ward be split to form a new ward covering the community of Alpururulam and the boundaries of the new ward are taken to be:
 - *from the Northern Territory Queensland border at a point where the boundaries of the present Yapakurlangu and Alyawarr wards meet follow westwards along the southern boundary of Yapakurlangu Ward to the southwest corner of NT Portion 3771, then westwards along the southern boundaries of NT Portions 3771, 3770 and 3769 then along the north west boundary of NT Portion 4247 southwards until it reaches the north west boundary of NT Portion 581 then south along the western boundaries of NT Portions 581 and 1094 (Annitowa) then westwards then southwards along the western boundaries of NT Portions 1094 (Annitowa) and 2981 (Ooratippra) to a point on the Bunday River then west along the course of the Bunday River to the north eastern corner of NT Portion 757 (Derry Downs) then south along the eastern boundary of NT Portion 757 (Derry Downs) to the northern boundary of NT Portion 481 (Arapunya) then eastwards along the southern boundaries of NT Portions 2981, 370 (Argadargada) and 3115 (Lake Nash) to the Northern Territory Queensland border then north along that border to the commencement point located at the south eastern corner of NT Portion 1605 (Austral Downs).**
- (iv) *The new ward to be named Alpururulam and that it be represented by a single member, this bringing the total composition of the Council to 12 elected Members plus a popularly elected President.*

8. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Barkly Shire operates with three directorates, as indicated below.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Corporate Services

- Financial Sustainability
Desirable Outcome: Surplus financial result for 2011/2012
Clear Audit process
Capital Resources

- Efficiency in operation
Desirable Outcome: Reduced staff turnover
Policies and Procedures en situ
Unit budgeting

Community Services

- Increased community employment
- Upgrade of environmental health services including all landfills, upgrade of septic systems at Ampilatwatja, creation of new landfill and effluent disposal facilities at Wutunugurra
- Clean and attractive communities and facilities
- Upgraded plant and equipment

Infrastructure

- Upgraded plant and equipment at all centres
- Creation of civil engineering unit
- Commencement of realistic training to provide relevant employable skills to community members

9. TENNANT CREEK.

Director Infrastructure: Erich Schoppe



Brief history of Tennant Creek

The town is named after a nearby watercourse of the same name. European history of this area began in 1860 when explorer John McDouall Stuart passed this way on his unsuccessful first attempt to cross the continent from South to North. He named a creek to the north of town after John Tennant, a financier of his expedition and a pastoralist from Port Lincoln, South Australia, in gratitude for the financial help Tennant had provided for Stuart's expeditions across Australia.

With a population of 3,560, Tennant Creek is located on the Stuart Highway almost 1000 kilometres south from Darwin and 500 kilometres north from Alice Springs at the junction of two great arterial highways, the Barkly and the Stuart Highway.

The town itself was declared in 1934, in the midst of Australia's last significant gold rush, and the gold industry became the driving force of the local economy. Mining has always been the backbone of the local economy; the Tennant Creek area contains many known deposits of gold, silver and copper. Tennant Creek was the site of Australia's last gold rush and was the third-largest gold producer in Australia. Gold was discovered in the area in the 1927. The gold rush in Tennant Creek carried on until 1999 when the last mine closed down. "Battery Hill", which

overlooks the town of Tennant Creek is the site of one of the last three operating ten-head stamp batteries, a Government owned ore crushing machine. The largest open cut gold mine in Australia, Nobles Knob, ceased production in 1985.

A telegraph repeater station was erected near the watercourse of Tennant Creek in 1872. The Overland Telegraph linking Adelaide to London forged a communication corridor through the middle of the continent. In 1946 Constantine Perry grazed stock on the Telegraph Station Reserve and built up a thriving butcher business, supplying meat to Tennant Creek and the goldfields.

Of the Aboriginal languages spoken in the area, the main two are Warumungu and Walpiri. The other main languages in the region are Walmanpa, Alyawarra, Kaytete, Wambaya and Jingili.



While Tennant Creek is the largest town in the shire and a major service centre as well as the head office of Barkly Shire Council. Tennant Creek is the fifth largest town in the Northern Territory. The town has a variety of small businesses, government agencies, hospital, secondary and primary schools, sporting and recreation facilities as well as campuses of Charles Darwin University and Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

There are several Urban Living Areas within the town, tourist sites including Mary Ann Dam, the Pebbles (Kunjarra) and the old Telegraph Station, Battery Hill and many mining sites. With a golf course, bowling green, swimming pool and Purkiss Reserve with its floodlit oval, basketball and softball facilities and a gymnasium, Tennant Creek is considered to be well serviced. There are three caravan parks, two hotels, four motels and several restaurants.

Mining has been a major part of the economy since the 1930s. Currently there is intensive exploration for metals (gold and base metals). A major phosphate deposit is being developed at Wonorah, near Barkly Homestead, approximately 300km north east of Tennant Creek. When this is fully operational, there will be a rail loop developed at Tennant Creek to transport concentrate to Darwin.

A main Aboriginal body within the town, the Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation, plays a major role in providing training and employment services. Julalikari Council also provides community services within the town such as Homemakers, Aged Care, CDEP and Night Patrol. Additional medical and other health services are provided in Tennant Creek by Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** Tennant Creek Local Board now meets monthly and alliances with other key organisations within the township have been formed. [There remains a need to get more involvement from the Tennant Creek community.](#)
- **Shire Accommodation.** Shire offices currently are large enough for the effective administration of the Shire with its current staff but storage of equipment, archives and additional staff accommodation will need to be addressed in the immediate future. [It is intended to commission design work during 2011/2012.](#)
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets.** [The Council Chambers, Administration Offices, Library and Civic Centre require refurbishment while the Tennant Creek swimming pool is now 40 years old and is in urgent need of replacement or upgrade. A consultancy study into this is underway.](#)
- **Council depot facilities and storage.** [The council depot needs weather-proof garages for its vehicles and undercover storage for materials arriving for local use or distribution to other centres.](#) One additional storage shed is being erected.
- **Animal control:** Animal control has undergone upgrade with employment of an additional Ranger for Tennant Creek, regular patrols throughout larger communities and negotiation for a full time veterinarian service in Tennant Creek and communities. Council Rangers also work closely with the Life Skills Program provided in Tennant Creek by Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation. [Council is committed to supporting commencement of a full time veterinary practice in Tennant Creek during 2011/2012.](#)
- **Waste management:** A new entrance is being established for the Tennant Creek landfill. Council has sought assistance from the NT Government to carry out a waste management study for the community.
- **Library services;** [The Tennant Creek library needs addition of a Youth Room. A mobile library service for remote communities is planned.](#)
- **Recreation facilities;** Tennant Creek has a reasonable level of recreational facilities. Purkiss Reserve needs refurbishment and a Purkiss Reserve Users Advisory Group be established to advise Council. [The electrical system for Purkiss reserve needs refurbishment to conform to current building standards.](#)
- **Road and drain network:** The shire is responsible for non-strategic roads in Tennant Creek. This responsibility will increase as the six Urban Living Areas transfer to the Shire increasing levels of appropriate equipment to manage this situation. [An engineering consultant has been engaged to advise Council during negotiations with NT Government during 2011/2012.](#)
- **Transport (including airstrips and improved public transport.** Tennant Creek airstrip is owned and managed by NT Airports Corporation. Public transport is limited to the Central Bush Bus service that travels each fortnight to Ampilatwatja, Arlparra and Ali Curung and a daily

Greyhound service to and from Alice Springs, Darwin and Mount Isa. Fly Tiwi has commenced a tri-weekly air service to and from Darwin.

Regional and Economic Development. New mining ventures are exploring the area and are resulting in expanded mining ventures. The rock phosphate mine at Wonorah (east of Barkly Homestead) will impact on Tennant Creek.

10. ELLIOTT.

Shire Service Manager: Brian Phillips



With an estimated population of 650, Elliott lies almost in the middle of the Northern Territory between Darwin and Alice Springs. Barkly Shire Council operates a Shire Service Centre with workshop yards to service the communities of Wilukyu (previously known as South Camp), Gurungu (previously known as North Camp) and Marlinja. Elliott is a Territory Growth Town that has various outstations including Jingaloo, Muckarty, Powell Creek, Upper and Lower Maranji and Lily Creek Waterhole. Local indigenous languages include Mudburra, Jingili, Wombaya and Warumungu.

Brief History

As a community Elliott began as a staging camp for Allied forces moving through the interior during World War 2. The town took its name from Lieutenant Elliott, a soldier of the period. The recently replaced war memorial stands on the site of the former military camp and directly adjacent to the bore used to supply water to troops.

Wilukyu started about 25 years ago when people left the Barkly Tablelands following introduction of award wages while Gurungu was formed in 1968 when workers left Newcastle station following a dispute.

Elliott has a caravan park, and hotel, and some rooms behind the hotel. It is a few kilometres south of the massive Newcastle Waters crossing which, until a bridge spanned the several kilometres, caused long delays when the Newcastle River flooded.

The old township of Newcastle Waters is just west of the crossing and Newcastle Waters Homestead was owned by media entrepreneur, the late Kerry Packer. Both are visible from the road.

Incredible numbers of water birds gather at Newcastle Waters as the rivers subside after rains. Nearby is Lake Woods, a popular swimming and fishing lake.

Community Facilities

The community has the following facilities

- Art Centre located in Gurungu
- Elliott Remote Area school
- Newcastle Remote Area school
- Aboriginal Inland Mission Church
- Safe house
- Sport and Recreation Centre located in Elliott Central Park
- Playgroup located in Gurungu
- Football oval. Basketball courts
- Gymnasium
- Police station – 3 Residential Officers
- Library
- Post Office
- 9 hole Golf course
- Nature Walk
- Mini golf
- Health clinic
- Fire Emergency Rescue Group

Kulumindini is the traditional Aboriginal name for Elliott which lies on important traditional Dreaming tracks. Educational walks through the Jim Rennie Memorial Park offer insight into the area's indigenous heritage. The Kulumindini Arts centre is being upgraded to provide a centre and outlet for local indigenous arts. The main Aboriginal languages are Jingili and Mudburra.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** Elliott's Local Board meets regularly.
- **Accommodation.** Accommodation for at least eight staff is needed.
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** The Shire Service Centre needs refurbishment. There is a need for 8 additional staff houses at this community.
- **Depot facilities and storage:** The depot needs refurbishment.
- **Animal control:** Animal control is an issue that has come up at Local Board meetings on four (4) occasions over the past two years. During 2011/2012, Elliott will have scheduled veterinary visits in addition to an animal control program by Council Rangers travelling from Tennant Creek.
- **Waste management:** Elliott had a training course in 2010 that resulted in an excellent waste dump which is now being completed.
- **Services**
- **Tidy Town.** It is proposed that Tennant Creek, Elliott and Ali Curung investigate the opportunity to become part of the Tidy Town Program. This would help address litter abatement, minimize the graffiti problems and improve the image of these towns.
- **Employment and training:** Additional staff are required in housing repairs and maintenance, the works depot, safe house workers and an indigenous tenancy officer. CDEP has stationed a Mentor and Site Manager at this community.
- **CDEP:** CDEP has changed focus and now aims to prepare participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training. Relocation of the upgraded training centre at Marlinja to Elliott is currently being investigated.
- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** Services are functioning but under constant review.
- **Environmental health facilities;** Elliott relies on a septic system that needs urgent refurbishment. A sewerage system is included under the Territory Growth Towns program.
- **Housing services;** Many houses require urgent attention.
- **Library services;** The library needs review.
- **Natural resource management programs;** Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group (NT).
- **Night Patrol;** Use of bicycles has proved successful. All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. A working protocol with the NT Police has been negotiated. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.
- **Recreation facilities;** Sporting facilities need upgrading.

- **Road and drain network:** The local road and drain systems need to be reviewed with the NT Department of Construction and Infrastructure.

11. ALI CURUNG

Shire Service Manager: Christine Verbis



With a population of approximately 960, Ali Curung (Alekaenge) is 22kms inland east of the Stuart Highway and almost 150kms south of Tennant Creek. Wycliffe Wells and Wauchope are its closest neighbours. Ali Curung is a Kaiditch (Kaytetye) word meaning "Country of dogs" or "Dog Dreaming". A local legend relates to the local area being visited by ancestral dogs travelling around the country. The

community adopted the emblem of a dog to signify the importance of the ceremonial story.

The people who traditionally occupied this area were Kaiditch. During the late 50's, small groups of people were relocated at Warrabri Settlement as Ali Curung was originally called. Kaiditch people from Barrow Creek, Warlpiri people from Bullocky Creek areas and Alyawarra people from Murray Downs and Hatches Creek populated Ali Curung in its early days. The community changed its name to Ali Curung in 1978. There are 4 main language groups: Warlpiri, Warumungu, Kaiditch and Alyawarra.

The main local industries are horticulture (Centrefarm has a large project in the area) and arts and crafts. There is an outstation at Imangara (Murray Downs).

Ali Curung has also been selected as a "Territory Growth Town". As such, it will develop a town plan, encourage private investment, seek upgraded community infrastructure and commercial centre all with the aim to increase development, create jobs and bring indigenous Territorians into a broader economic development.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** Ali Curung has a Local Board that meets regularly.
- **Shire Accommodation.** Additional staff accommodation will need to be addressed in the immediate future.
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** The shire service centre needs refurbishment.
- **Depot facilities and storage:** The depot needs refurbishment.
- **Animal control:** Animal control is an issue that has been raised by Local Board meetings. Ali Curung will benefit by regular veterinary visits and animal control programs scheduled by Council Rangers from Tennant Creek during 2011/2012.
- **Waste management:** At present, rubbish is dumped in a large area that requires specific waste management. A training program is needed to improve current facilities and practices and establish an ongoing program for waste management.
- **Housing Repair and Maintenance** Ali Curung is a principal shire base for Repair and maintenance services to it and adjoining communities. Council is eager to secure funding to provide a suitable base facility which will also incorporate training facilities.
- **Tidy Town.** It is proposed that Tennant Creek, Elliott and Ali Curung become part of the Tidy Town Program to help address litter abatement, minimize graffiti problems and improve the image of the towns.
- **Employment and training:** There are funded aged and disabled care worker and school nutrition workers at Ali Curung and Imangara. Additional trade staff for building repairs and maintenance and ability to offer local training and apprenticeships need to be recruited.
- **CDEP:** CDEP aims to prepare participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training. A Mentor and Coordinator have been recruited for this community. During 2011/2012, various projects aimed at creating economic opportunities are planned including local building

- extensions and renovations by CDEP participants, coffin building services and similar proposals.
- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** The Shire operates a safe house, aged and disabled care and crèche at this community. These facilities, especially the crèche, are being upgraded and staff recruited and trained. [Staffing and general operation of the crèche is an urgent priority for 2011/2012.](#)
 - **Environmental health facilities;** Ali Curung relies on a sewage system. [Landfill facilities require upgrade.](#)
 - **Housing services;** Although Ali Curung was the site of a SIHIP program by New Futures Alliance, community housing requires continuous upgrade.
 - **Library services;** [The shire is planning a mobile Library Service for remote communities.](#)
 - **Natural resource management programs;** [Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group \(NT\).](#)
 - **Night Patrol;** All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. A working protocol with the NT Police has been signed. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.
 - **Recreation facilities;** [Sporting facilities need upgrading.](#)
 - **Road and drainage network (including airstrips:** [The road and drain system is due to be upgraded under the Territory Growth Towns program. The airstrip was resurfaced in September-October 2010 but requires re-alignment.](#)
 - **Transport (including airstrips and improved public transport).** The shire manages the airstrip under contractual arrangements with the NT Government. [An all weather sealed airstrip is part of the Territory Growth Towns program.](#)

12. ALPURRURULAM

Shire Service Manager: Jeff Iverson



Alpurrurulam with its estimated population of 620, is near the Queensland border on the Sandover Highway and is based upon a 9km² excision from Lake Nash station. The local industries are arts and crafts. The nearest town is Mt Isa, 260km to the east. Alpurrurulam is 560km east of Tennant Creek. The community is constructed around a large loop road with houses on large blocks allowing space between dwellings. During the wet season, Alpurrurulam is often isolated for up to three months at a time. The main language is Alywarr. This community has a sealed airstrip and fuel outlet.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** The Local Board meets regularly. An additional ward to be called Alpurrurulam has been recommended by Council to the Minister. If successful this will include an additional Elected Member from the Alpurrurulam area.
- **Staff Accommodation.** Additional accommodation will need to be addressed.
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** The Shire Service Centre needs refurbishment.
- **Depot facilities and storage:** The depot needs refurbishment.
- **Animal control:** Animal control is an issue that has been raised by the Local Board meetings. Alpurrurulam will benefit by regular veterinary visits and animal control programs scheduled by Council Rangers from Tennant Creek during 2011/2012.
- **Waste management:** A training program is needed to improve current facilities and practices and establish an ongoing program for waste management.
- **Housing Repair and Maintenance** Council is eager to apply the Housing Maintenance Program to this community.

- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** The Shire operates a safe house, aged and disabled care and youth services at this community. [Staffing and general operation of the crèche is an urgent priority for 2011/2012.](#)
- **Environmental health facilities;** Alpururulam has a sewage system [but this will require attention to ensure efficient operation in 2011/2012.](#) Landfill facilities require upgrade.
- **Housing services;** Alpururulam was the site of a SIHIP program by New Futures Alliance.
- **Library services;** [The shire is planning a mobile Library Service for remote communities.](#)
- **Natural resource management programs;** [Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group \(NT\).](#)
- **Night Patrol;** All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. A working protocol with the NT Police has been signed. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue. [There is a need to determine protocols with Queensland agencies in respect to Night Patrol and to concentrate on continuing introduction of alcohol into the community.](#)
- **Recreation facilities;** [Sporting facilities need upgrading.](#)

13. AMPILATWATJA

Shire Service Manager: Troy Koch



The community of Ampilatwatja with a population of approximately 450 is located on the Sandover Highway almost 300 km south of Tennant Creek. This community has three outstations about 50km away from the main community. This community is well known for its distinctive painting style. The main language on this community is Alyawarr.

[2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges](#)

- **Governance:** Ampilatwatja Local Board was re-established in September 2010 and meets regularly.
- **Staff Accommodation.** Additional accommodation needs will need to be reviewed..
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** The Shire Service Centre needs refurbishment.
- **Depot facilities and storage:** The depot needs refurbishment and the external fence improved for security.
- **Animal control:** Animal control is an issue that has been raised at Local Board meetings. The community will benefit by regular veterinary visits and animal control programs scheduled by Council Rangers from Tennant Creek during 2011/2012.
- **Waste management:** Landfill facilities urgently need upgrade during 2011/2012.
- **CDEP:** CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training. A training centre including staff accommodation is to be established during 2011/2012.
- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** Shire provides school nutrition, as well as aged and disabled services to this community.
- **Environmental health facilities;** Septic systems are at an end stage and urgently require upgrade or replacement. Based on continual failure, advice from Environmental Health regarding disease risks and unsuitability of septic systems in this area, Council has sought \$6M funding through the Regional Development Australia Fund in partnership with NT Housing. In the event this is unsuccessful, will continue to seek additional funding during 2011/2012.
- **Housing services;** The shire's ability to provide housing repairs and maintenance at Ampilatwatja and other communities is currently being reviewed.
- **Library services;** The shire is planning a mobile library service for remote communities.
- **Natural resource management programs;** Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group (NT).
- **Night Patrol;** All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. A working protocol with the NT Police has been signed. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.
- **Recreation facilities;** Facilities need upgrading. Local parks and gardens and sporting oval are to be irrigated and grassed.
- **Road and drainage network:** Internal roads and drainage requires upgrading. Funding has been obtained to fence the community to keep feral horses and donkeys out of the community. This is ongoing.
- **Transport (including airstrips and improved public transport.** There are continual problems with the surface of the Ampilatwatja airstrip, especially during the wet season. Requires urgent upgrade to an all weather airstrip.

14. ARLPARRA (URAPUNTJA HOMELANDS)

Shire Service Manager: Jerry Pena



This dispersed community (population [ABS 2006] 747– now estimated to be approximately 1,200) is 70 km south of Ampilatwatja and consists of 16 outstations. There is a health clinic, primary and middle school, a community store and police station. There is considerable change occurring at this community as more people move to the administrative centre (Arlparra). The clinic is reasonably close to this central community. The main language is Alyawarr.

The dispersal of the community causes problems in accessing local staff. A local bus service is needed to assist the community with a range of issues, aged and disabled care, shopping and access to the Health Clinic. This service could also allow people living on remote outstations to work at the Arlparra Shire Services Centre. The Jack Thompson Foundation is working with Urupuntja Aboriginal Corporation and the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments to erect new housing and provide appropriate training to local people. The Barkly Shire is assisting through the CDEP program in particular.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** Urupuntja Aboriginal Corporation is operational. [The Local Board requires assistance to meet regularly.](#)
- **Staff Accommodation.** [Requirements to be reviewed.](#)
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** [The Shire Service Centre needs refurbishment.](#)
- **Depot facilities and storage:** [The depot needs refurbishment and secure storage established for tools and materials.](#)
- **Animal control:** [The community will benefit by regular veterinary visits and animal control programs scheduled by Council Rangers from Tennant Creek during 2011/2012.](#)
- **Waste management:** [Landfill facilities needs to be fenced and staffed. Evaporation trenches need to be constructed and maintained.](#)
- **Employment and training:** CDEP and Community Services will be providing training.

- **CDEP:** CDEP prepares participants for realistic employment through provision of transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training. The Shire and CDEP will continue to play a pivotal role with the Jack Thompson Foundation project.
- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** The Shire operates aged, youth and disabled care programs on this community.
- **Environmental health facilities;** The septic system and evaporation trenches on this community are in need of major improvement and will be addressed with NT Housing. Required upgrades will be addressed urgently by the shire in conjunction with NT Government.
- **Housing services;** Most houses are at a sub-standard condition. There are four (4) derelict houses in need of removal.
- **Library services;** The shire plans to develop a mobile library service for remote communities.
- **Natural resource management programs;** Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group (NT).
- **Night Patrol;** All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.

15. WUTUNUGURRA (EPENARRA)

Shire Service Manager: Russell Billings



This is the smallest community (pop 250) managed by the shire. It is about 205km south east of Tennant Creek. The major language is Alyawarr.

2010/11 Activities – 2011/12 Challenges

- **Governance:** The Local Board has been re-established.
- **Shire Accommodation.** Additional staff accommodation is required.
- **Refurbishment of fixed assets:** The shire service centre require upgrade to include CDEP, Centrelink, Aged and Disabled Care and a Housing Tenancy activities.
- **Depot facilities and storage:** The small CDEP yard is due to be expanded plus there will be erection of a secure shed for basic community tools and materials.
- **Animal control:** The community will benefit by regular veterinary visits and animal control programs scheduled by Council Rangers from Tennant Creek during 2011/2012. Funding has been obtained for an community perimeter fence and this will be erected with cattle grid entrances to the community during 2011/2012.
- **Waste management:** Wutunugurra workers need a waste training course.
- **Employment and training:** CDEP mentor position is established.
- **CDEP:** CDEP prepares participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training. **A training centre including staff accommodation is to be established during 2011/2012.**
- **Aged and disabled care, childcare services:** The shire has commenced the School Nutrition Program and this will continue through 2011/2012.
- **Environmental health facilities;** All 23 Territory Housing dwellings need weekly pump outs. Upgrades will be sought through NT Housing including provision of a new landfill and effluent disposal area sufficient distance from the community.
- **Library services;** The shire is planning a mobile library service for remote communities.
- **Natural resource management programs;** Opportunities are being investigated with the Integrated Natural Resource Management Group (NT).
- **Night Patrol;** All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. **Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.**
- **Recreation facilities;** Sporting facilities require upgrade. Vacation programs are being arranged for this community. There is sufficient sports material and enthusiasm in the community to run a sports program.
- **Road and drainage network:** Extra support will be provided to reconfigure the drains on the side of the road and other issues as identified. Directional and traffic control signage will be provided throughout the community in 2011/2012.

16. OTHER COMMUNITIES BARKLY SHIRE PROVIDES PARTIAL SERVICES

16 A Canteen Creek

Canteen Creek [Owairtilla] (pop 218 [ABS 2006]) was Crown Land granted to the community under the NT Land Rights Act. It is a separate community that has elected to remain outside Barkly Shire. It is 285km south east of Tennant Creek. Barkly Shire manages the CDEP and Night Patrol at this community. The major language is Alyawarr.

Night Patrol. All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.

CDEP. CDEP has changed focus and now aims to prepare participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training.

16B Tara

Barkly Shire provides limited services including Night Patrol, CDEP and the School Nutrition Program.

CDEP: CDEP has changed focus and now aims to prepare participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training.

Aged and disabled care, childcare services: The shire provides a school nutrition program. At present there is no suitable site from which to run this service which requires appropriate kitchen facilities capable of preparing meals for 30 school children. The community is seeking a HAAC meal program for the community.

Night Patrol: All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.

16 C Mungkarta

Mungkarta is 80km south of Tennant Creek and has an estimated population of approximately 100 people. The only service provided by the shire is CDEP.

Night Patrol. All Shire Night Patrol services are radio controlled. Night Patrol staff training is ongoing with Charles Darwin University and has included First Aid and Occupational Health and Safety, use of radios and Traffic Control to permit Night Patrol staff to better communicate with NT Police. A working

protocol with the NT Police is to be signed in the near future. Volatile substance abuse prevention remains a priority issue.

CDEP. CDEP has changed focus and now aims to prepare participants for realistic employment. CDEP provides participants with transferrable employment skills through a combination of work experience and training.