Annual Report

2014 / 15 Annual Report

and General Purpose Financial Report

of the MacDonnell Regional Council

MacDonnell Regional Council

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Council Service Delivery Centres

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Imanpa

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Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu)

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Papunya (Warumpi)

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Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

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Wallace Rockhole

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Message from our Council President

Welcome to the 2014-15 Annual Report for MacDonnell Regional Council. When I look back at the achievements of the Council since its establishment I can't help but be proud of how far we've come. While we've still got some way to go, and new challenges always come along, I feel confident that we have the right Councillors, Local Authority members and staff to face the challenges head on.

The most important thing we can do at the Council is to make sure we're working with our communities and focusing on their priorities. This is beginning to see results, with a record number of partnerships with other organisations, and better processes for seeking feedback on our services.

In particular, our Councillors, Local Authority members, staff and residents have been working in partnership to make our communities tidy. All efforts were qualified when MacDonnell Regional Council won the inaugural Best Regional Council at the Territory Tidy Towns awards. This not only reflects the massive achievements of our two-time winner – Titjikala, but also the effort that all communities across the Council have put in to meet our goal of *Liveable communities*.

This was the first full year of our Local Authorities, and I am very proud of how far they have come in that year. Through the enthusiam of the members and a strong development program our Local Authority members are doing an excellent job of representing their communities.

Another advantage of having our Local Authorities is their ability to input into the Council's planning decisions. In particular, the Local Authority Project Funding, provided by the Northern Territory Government, has allowed Local Authorities to choose projects that are important to their communities, such as playgrounds, football oval upgrades and cemetery upgrades.

Our greatest challenge this year was uncertainty over funding. This made it difficult to plan activities and employ staff. Despite this, we were very successful in achieving most of our KPIs under the Regional Plan. We are grateful now to also have funding certainty that will allow us to continue delivering in the future.

Another key challenge, which requires a long-term solution, is growing our Indigenous employees into leadership positions. We continue to make progress on this item, with training (particularly training that offers formal qualifications), making our staff more likely to progress into leadership roles. The fact that we are continually increasing our number of staff in leadership positions and moving forward is something to be proud of, as long as we continue on this path I feel confident we will meet these goals.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their time and commitment to our residents. The changes to Local Authorities have meant a much bigger time commitment, which can be difficult to balance with our Councillors' other commitments. In particular, I would like to congratulate Barry Abbott and Greg Sharman who made every single meeting last year.

Finally, I pass on my congratulations to our CEO, Jeff MacLeod, and all our Council staff for another successful year.

Palya!

Sid Anderson

Sid Anderson, President, MacDonnell Regional Council

Message from our Chief Executive Officer

MacDonnell Regional Council has continued its ongoing mission *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services* during the 2014/15 year. The Local Government sector continues to operate in a very dynamic space and faces the ever increasing challenge of meeting increased constituent expectations in a contracting fiscal environment. Council set itself a number of challenging targets for the 2014/15 year and this report reflects the outstanding success which has been attained in all areas of service delivery.

Council has continued to develop and consult with Local Authorities. They continue to provide feedback from a grass roots level and highlight community priorities. The development of Local Authority Plans has seen a number of high priority community projects completed. Many communities have identified social infrastructure as a priority, which has included the development of parks, playgrounds, shade shelters with seating, sporting facilities and footpaths. MacDonnell Regional Council acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the Northern Territory Government through Local Authority and Special Purpose Grants which have made these projects possible.

MacDonnell Regional Council continues to have a strong focus on increasing opportunities for local indigenous employment. Council is extremely proud of its Indigenous workforce participation rate of nearly 80% and has committed considerable resources into staff development, which has resulted in employees across Home Care, Night Patrol, Children's Services, Youth Services, Governance, Essential Services and Service Delivery attaining nationally accredited certificate level qualifications. Council recognises that our staff are our most important resource and will continue to provide a supportive environment to enable progression to higher levels for all employees.

Council's fiscal position continues to strengthen, delivering a healthy operating surplus in the 2014/15 year. The highly professional and hard working Finance team provided accurate and timely information, which allowed Council to make informed strategic decisions. MacDonnell Regional Council acknowledges the financial assistance provided by the Australian Government through Financial Assistance Grants and the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

MacDonnell Regional Council is committed to improving economic development opportunities within the region. Council works with stakeholders at all levels to facilitate new business ventures and create opportunities for local employment and economic independence for community members. Council itself is a heavy contributor to the local economy. During the 2014/15 year, Council invested over $12.8m in wages/allowances for community staff and purchased goods/services to the value of $6.5m in the Central Australian region. MacDonnell Regional Council applauds the decision by the Northern Territory Government to increase the mandatory levels of indigenous employment in NTG tenders and the facilitation of joint projects between Indigenous organisations and private enterprise.

In closing I acknowledge our 12 Councillors, led by President Sid Anderson, who continue to advocate for their constituents and provide a clear vision for Council's future. I thank the staff for their dedication and hard work in delivering on the Council's goals and objectives, often under difficult conditions. It is through their ongoing commitment that MacDonnell Regional Council continues at the forefront of Local Government and community service delivery in Central Australia, delivering on our vision of *many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*.
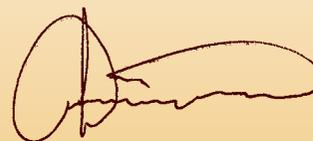
Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council

About the Council
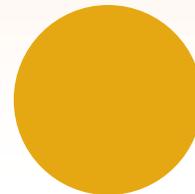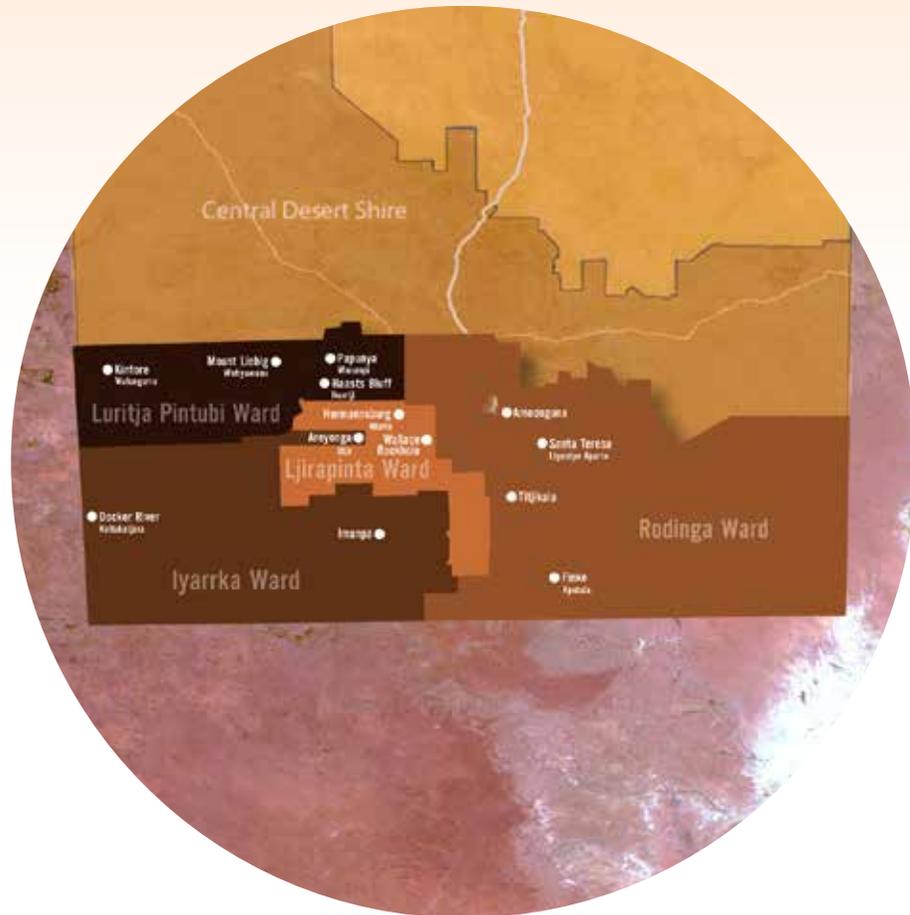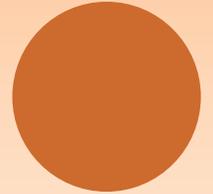
Situated in an arid desert environment at the centre of the Australian continent, MacDonnell Regional Council features many iconic, panoramic landscapes which are easily accessed from Alice Springs. The picturesque swimming holes, magnificent flora and fauna, captivating mountain ranges with changing hues and red desert sands are reasons why the MacDonnell Region is uniquely beautiful and has a deep and powerful strength that can only be felt when travelling across the land.

MacDonnell Regional Council was established in 2008 and its area of 268,887 km^2 covers our 13 major remote communities as well as many outstations and numerous established and emerging enterprises in the

pastoral, tourism and mining industries. The towns of Alice Springs and Yulara are excluded from the Council. The total estimated population of MacDonnell Regional Council is 6,988 (based on the 2014 Estimated Resident Population Census Data).

Our communities

	Council Workforce	Community Population*	Distance(km) from Alice Springs
Amoonguna	27	275	21
Areyonga (Utju)	32	235	240
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)	23	295	670
Finke (Aputula)	29	162	434
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)	28	150	250
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)	45	625	130
Imanpa	20	185	200
Kintore (Walungurru)	33	454	530
Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu)	27	156	325
Papunya (Warumpi)	37	418	240
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)	32	555	85
Titjikala	32	201	130
Wallace Rockhole	7	67	120

*Population figures shown are from ABS 2011 Census of residents living on each community.

At MacDonnell Regional Council we recognise and respect the fact that Indigenous culture is the oldest continuing culture in the world and that Indigenous people have had their own form of governance for tens of thousands of years.

Having strong and effective Indigenous representatives on the MacDonnell Regional Council has provided an opportunity to discuss and develop effective two-way communication and good governance principles and practices. Council discussions are multi-lingual, moving easily between one of the Indigenous language groups spoken in the MacDonnell region (Luritja, Pintubi, Pitjantjatjara and Arrernte) and English. Councillors explore vastly different perspectives and expectations, and analyse the impacts of decisions made.

We are committed to delivering quality services for all of our residents with service delivery operating from Service Delivery Centres in all 13 communities. The coordination of all services and the administration of governance, finance, funding arrangements, program management and human resources is undertaken centrally in our Alice Springs office.

Our Council

MacDonnell Regional Council has 12 elected members in 4 wards. Councillors are elected for 4 years and the last election was in March 2012. A President and Deputy President are elected from and by the Council.

The Council holds an Ordinary Council Meeting every 2 months, and Special Council Meetings as required. Meetings are held in Alice Springs, in one of the 13 communities or elsewhere within the Council's area. All Council meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered. Along with our Local Authority members' attendance at Council meetings, we encourage attendance by residents of our communities, our region and other members of the public. Agendas and minutes are available on the MRC website.

Luritja Pintubi Ward

Council President
Sid Anderson
via Papunya (Warumpi)
Service Delivery Centre

Lance Abbott
via Kintore (Walungurru)
Service Delivery Centre

Irene Nangala
via Kintore (Walungurru)
Service Delivery Centre

Ljirapinta Ward

Deputy President
Roxanne Kenny
via Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
Service Delivery Centre

Barry Abbott
via Wallace Rockhole
Service Delivery Centre

Braydon Williams
via Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
Service Delivery Centre

Iyarrka Ward

Marlene Abbott
via Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
Service Delivery Centre

Selina Kulitja
via Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
Service Delivery Centre

Rodinga Ward

Louise Cavanagh
via Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte) Service Delivery Centre

Richard Doolan
via Finke (Aputula)
Service Delivery Centre

Jacob Hoosan
via Finke (Aputula)
Service Delivery Centre

Greg Sharman
via Titjikala
Service Delivery Centre

MacDonnell Regional Council

MacDonnell Council administration

Chief Executive Officer

Jeff MacLeod

Director Technical Services

Simon Murphy

Director Service Centre Delivery

Graham Murnik

Director Community Services

Rohan Marks

Director Corporate Services

Chris Kendrick

Manager Property		Manager Infrastructure Projects	Area Managers x 3 positions	Manager Children's Services	Manager Youth Services	Manager Home Care Services	Manager Community Safety	Manager Information Services	Manager Human Resources	Manager Finance and Accounting	Manager Governance and Planning
Council Buildings, Council Housing, Fencing Projects	Fleet and Plant, Workshops	Roads, Civil Contracts, Swimming Pools	Office Administration, Waste Management, Animal Control, Parks and Gardens, Cemeteries, Outstations, Project Management, Stores, Centrelink, Postal Services, Power and Water	Child Care, Outside School Hours Care	Youth Development, Sport and Recreation	Home Care, School Nutrition, Disability Services	Community Safety, Night Patrol	Information Services	Recruitment, Workplace Health and Safety, Employee Relations, Training and Development, Performance Management	Grants, Rates, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Procurement, Payroll,	Governance, Planning, Media and Public Relations, Policy, Records Management

Strategic Planning Assessments

MacDonnell Regional Council's mission is *to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services* and our vision is *many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*. In order to achieve this we set goals, outcomes and actions, supported by key performance indicators that provide a measure of our progress in fulfilling our mission and accomplishing our vision.

The 2014/15 financial year has been one of increasing service standards, alongside a better focus on communications, engagement and training and development. Part of this has been working on our relationships with our most important stakeholders, our staff, our Local Authorities and our community members.

We are also particularly grateful for financial support from the Australian Government through their Financial Assistance Grants and other grants, and the Northern Territory Government through their grants processes.

In order to measure progress across all of our Goals, Outcomes and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) developed a ratings system that can be used to quickly show progress against our commitments. Making such good progress during the year despite funding reductions and uncertainty is something that every employee of MRC should be proud of.

Strategic Rating Key

A Achieved completely or almost completed

B Partially achieved

C Not achieved or very little achieved

When committing to ambitious targets, success is not always guaranteed. Of a total of 44 KPIs, we achieved 32 As, 11 Bs and 1 C. Of 10 Outcomes, we achieved 6 As and 4 Bs.

Rating Summary

KPIs	44 total
A	32 achieved
B	11 achieved
C	1 achieved
Outcomes	**10 total**
A	6 achieved
B	4 achieved

Goal 1 Developing Communities

A **Outcome** (total rating)
Develop Partnerships that support MRC and the community's vision

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Seek opportunities for shared funding on projects	**A**	Projects under Local Authority Plans with shared funding
	A	Other community-supported projects with shared funding
Improve relationships with key stakeholders	**A**	Stakeholder engagement included in Communications Strategy
Support Economic Development across the region	**A**	Facilitate Local Authorities' engagement with economic development opportunities

We had a very successful year in improving our relationships with our key stakeholders. The development of our Communications and Engagement Plan has helped focus our efforts in improving stakeholder relationships. Our Council made it a clear goal for the 2014/15 year that working with others for the benefit of our communities should be our priority, and our staff have taken that message seriously.

Key successes in this area have included our increased use of Local Authority Plans as the focal point for our community-based projects. Through funds granted by the Northern Territory Government, supported by our Civil Works and Governance areas, we have been able to co-fund a number of projects that the Local Authorities have ranked as most important in their community. Other partners on projects included the Aboriginal Benefits Account (ABA), Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service (CAYLUS) and Indigenous Community Volunteers (ICV).

Developing communities
COUNCIL GOAL #1

B **Outcome** (total rating)
Services Build Community Strength

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
More use of local employees	A	Increase in Contractors' use of local labour
Local Authority Plans or other community-specific plans are used to guide work in communities	A	Number of projects identified in Local Authority Plans that are developed
Youth Committees continued or established to create future leaders	B	Four existing Youth Committees are maintained
	B	Number of new Youth Committees established

While there have been a number of successes in this area, limited staffing for our youth development team (due to funding uncertainty) meant we had to suspend meetings for our Youth Committees (now called Youth Boards) for the second half of the financial year. However, with thanks to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's Indigenous Advancement Strategy, we will be able to support our Youth Boards for the coming years.

Increasing local employment is one of the primary goals of MacDonnell Regional Council, and while we will only ever have a certain number of jobs, we have developed procurement processes to favour organisations that employ local people. We have also been able to provide local staff to support projects that are being delivered by other organisations. Through the new Local Authorities, we were also able to commence the development of 15 local projects chosen by the Local Authorities. These actions help us to build strong, locally-engaged communities.

Goal 2 Liveable Communities

A **Outcome** (total rating)
Community members are proud of where they live

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Maintaining or exceeding service level standards across roads, street lighting and waste management	A	Roads maintained according to the Transport Asset Management Plan
	A	Street lights maintained as per service levels
	A	Waste Management increase in service level standards
Ensure the work of Council is valued by the community	A	Service satisfaction high in surveys of Local Authorities
	A	Communications Strategy covers Council work in communities

MacDonnell Regional Council has continued its commitment to increasing our service levels. Each year we continue to see improvements in the services we deliver to our residents, increasing their pride in the community.

Our ability to maintain and increase our service level standards across these areas has been reflected in increased satisfaction amongst our Local Authorities with our service delivery. This is illustrated in the table below:

Service	2014 / 15			2013 / 14		
Parks	78%	19%	3%	66%	19%	15%
Animal Control	67%	24%	9%	56%	21%	23%
Cemetery Management	74%	24%	2%	70%	14%	16%
Waste Management	77%	20%	3%	63%	24%	13%
Customer Service	67%	24%	9%	49%	27%	24%

Satisfaction ratings indicated by 😊 Very Happy 😊 Mostly Happy 🙁 Unhappy

Liveable communities
COUNCIL GOAL #2

A **Outcome** (total rating)
Sport and Recreation areas are developed

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Sporting facilities developed	A	Sporting facilities upgraded or maintained as per Local Authority Plans
Parks maintained or developed	A	Planning for parks reflects the priorities of Local Authorities
Seek funding opportunities for pools or splash pads	B	Ongoing funding for pools
	C	New funding for splash pads where identified in Local Authority Plans

Many Local Authorities across the Council rated sporting facilities and parks as their number one priorities for their communities. Through our commitment to continual improvement across parks and recreation areas, the allocation of Local Authority Project funding and the support of Special Purpose grants, we were able to make upgrades in all of our communities. Special thanks go to the Northern Territory Government for providing funding to make this happen.

Unfortunately, covering the ongoing costs for our swimming pools remains challenging. Funding reductions across the Northern Territory means that finding funding sources for pools is difficult. We continue to work hard to ensure that our pools can remain open over summer, while recognising that we have to maintain our core services across our 13 communities. A number of Local Authorities also introduced the idea of splash pads, which at the moment is unsustainable for the Council. We will continue to look into lower-cost alternatives, though we note that while a number of Local Authorities requested splash pads, none prioritised it.

A **Outcome** (total rating)
People's health and safety is improved

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Develop and implement animal management service level standards	A	Service level 1 achieved
Develop Night Patrol partnerships with community stakeholders	A	Night Patrol working closely with Police and community to increase safety
Improve infrastructure safety and security	A	Number of safety and security audits developed and implemented for Council buildings and playgrounds
Continuous improvement in quality of home care and children's services	A	Home Care has prepared and implemented National Aged Care Reforms
	A	Quality Improvement Plans implemented in each Home Care centre
	A	Progress made towards childcare national standards

The Council made great progress in improving community health and safety. Services such as animal management, Night Patrol, Home Care and children's services are a vital part of the community and make an enormous contribution to community wellbeing. We have made great advances across these areas, in particular as Home Care and Children's Services continue to make progress towards meeting national standards.

Our community Night Patrols have finalised memoranda of understanding with the police across all of our communities, ensuring that these services are working in partnership to deliver community safety.

Goal 3 Engaged Communities

B **Outcome** (total rating)
Increase community involvement with Local Authorities

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Supporting Local Authority members to engage with the community	**A**	Indications from surveys of Local Authorities and Council are that community engagement is improving
Develop governance capacity within the community	**B**	Train local staff in governance
	B	Train community members in governance training
Increase numbers of non-members at Local Authority meetings	**A**	50% of Local Authority meetings have non-members from the community in attendance

While we have overall only achieved a B for this item, we have been making steady progress in helping Local Authorities to represent their communities. As Local Authority members grow into their roles and participate in training, this increases their ability to be strong representatives for their communities.

We were also very proud to have conducted training for our community administration staff, providing an introduction to Governance and improving their understanding of the role of Council. Our local staff help build relationships with communities, so our support in training and developing them is key. We were unable to provide the follow-up training we aspired to provide as training for Local Authority members took precedence, though we hope to support further training and development for staff in the future.

A Outcome (total rating)
Build Relationships with Communities

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Develop and implement a community engagement plan	**A**	Plan developed
	A	Plan implemented
Develop and implement a communications strategy	**A**	Strategy developed
	A	Strategy implemented
Maintain Council involvement in key community events	**A**	Number of community events Council is involved in

The development of our Communications and Engagement Plan was a fundamental next step in our Council's development. It has allowed us to focus on where we need to communicate and engage the most. Through our extensive research across a number of stakeholder groups, we were able to see that our number one focus should be on engaging our staff and our communities, while still taking steps to enhance our profile and improve relationships with other key stakeholders. A copy of our Communications and Engagement Plan can be found at www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au.

We continue to support community events by a number of means, through providing in-kind support through our civil works team, putting on additional night patrols and through sponsorship from Local Authorities. This assists us in building relationships with communities.

Goal 4 A Supportive Organisation

A supportive organisation
COUNCIL GOAL #4

A **Outcome** (total rating)
Supporting our Leaders

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Strengthen the capacity of Councillors and Local Authorities	**A**	Improved self-assessment of Local Authorities and Councillors about their own capacity
Training package implemented for Local Authorities	**A**	Number of Local Authorities trained
Positive feedback received from Local Authority members	**A**	Increased Local Authority satisfaction with Council services

All Local Authorities in the Council received training on the code of conduct and their role on the Local Authority. 6 Local Authorities had workshops and all communities except one had policies and procedures training. This training has been positively received, and a lot of fun. The success of the program is backed up by our data, with survey results showing that Councillors and Local Authority members feel more capable of carrying out their role.

Furthermore, Local Authorities' ratings of overall Council performance was rated very good in 2014/15 by 73% of respondents; an increase of 43% since 2013/14. Survey results of Council activities can be found on page 11 and a case study with further survey results of Local Authorities are shown on page 39.

B **Outcome** (total rating)
Supporting our Staff

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Indigenous employees are attracted, retained and developed	**B**	Maintain an Indigenous staff rate of 80% or increase
	B	Pathways for development and promotion of Indigenous staff are implemented
	B	50% of team leaders and above are Indigenous
Staff receive quality, culturally-appropriate accredited and non-accredited training as needed across the workforce	**A**	Workforce Development Plan is developed and actions implemented
	A	Other training delivered across directorates as needed
MacDonnell Regional Council is a safe workplace	**A**	Reduction in lost time injury days

Our lower ratings in this item were caused by staffing fluctuations towards the end of the financial year. For most of the year we achieved an 80% rating for Indigenous staff numbers, however in the final quarter of 2014/15 this dropped to 77%. Similarly, for most of the year our rate of team leaders and above who were Indigenous was 46%, but this dropped to 36% in the final quarter as some new positions were filled. This does not decrease our commitment to Indigenous staffing and leadership. Our commitment to training has remained strong during the year, with staff across all of our service areas having a chance to do training. For example, across Home Care, Night Patrol, Children's Services, Youth Services, Governance and Service Delivery, staff were all given the opportunity to carry out certificate-level training, the majority of these being Indigenous staff. These formal qualifications allow staff to progress in their jobs and career, and increases the quality of Council's services.

A supportive organisation
COUNCIL GOAL # 4

B **Outcome** (total rating)
Strong financial management and compliance

Actions	Rating	Key Performance Indicators
Opportunities found to reduce reliance on grant funds	**B**	Percentage of self-generated income
Compliance with all relevant legislation, with a particular focus on Workplace Health and Safety and Records Management	**B**	Compliant Workplace Health and Safety Policy and Processes
	B	Compliant Records Management System in place

In a time of funding uncertainty, it is important that Council finds ways to generate our own income. While we continue to strive towards a target of 27% of self-generated income, we fell just short for the year at 23%. In the next year we will put more focused effort into finding innovative ways of generating our own income.

We also fell short of our targets for Workplace Health and Safety and Records Management, with items such as the new Enterprise Agreement and Local Authority training requirements, requiring the devotion of large amounts of resources. A small restructure to devote more staffing resources to these areas, through the employment of a Work Health and Safety officer and a part-time records officer, will allow us to better address this area in future.

Services Offered by MacDonnell Regional Council by Community

Service	Amoonguna	Areyonga	Docker River	Finke	Haasts Bluff	Hermannsburg	Imanpa	Kintore	Mount Liebig	Papunya	Santa Teresa	Titjikala	Wallace Rockhole
Council Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Municipal Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Libraries											✓		
Outstations					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swimming Pools		✓						✓			✓		
Airstrip Maintenance		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Australia Post	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centrelink	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Community Store	✓												
Power		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sewerage	✓	✓	½*	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	⊕	
Early Learning Centres		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Outside School Hours Care		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Community Night Patrol	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Home Care and Disability Services	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
School Nutrition		✓		✓	✓		✓					✓	
Youth Development	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

*Half the community recieves mains sewerage and half is on septic. ⊕ Army commencing installation of mains sewerage system.

Service Centre Delivery

Greater Tidy Towns Success

2014/15 saw all MacDonnell Regional Council communities supporting and participating in the Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Tidy Towns Awards. Five communities in the Council region were category winners at the Territory Tidy Towns Award ceremonies held on 24 October 2014 in Darwin. On the night, Macdonnell Regional Council was named the winner of the inaugural "Best Regional Council" award.

Finke, a previous Tidy Towns winner won the "Community Participation Award"; Haasts Bluff won the "Most Improved Community Award"; Wallace Rockhole became the first community to win the inaugural "Four Gold Star Tourism Award"; and Titjikala won the "Best Medium Community Award". Titjikala was then named the winner of the highest award of being overall Territory Tidy Town for the second year in a row.

Following the awards, the Chief Minister and Minister for Local Government and Community Services visited Titjikala to join in a celebration of the small community's great success. At the celebratory barbeque they announced that the MacDonnell Regional Council was to receive a NT Local Government Special Purpose Grant for the purchase of two new Compactor Trucks, similar to the one in Titjikala that had been demonstrated to them.

Another great supporter of the Titjikala community, the establishing local salt mining company Tellus Holdings also attended the celebration and presented a cheque to support community members attending the national Tidy Towns Awards.

Being named the Territory Tidy Town qualified Titjikala to go on and represent the Northern Territory at the Tidy Towns national awards held in Sheffield, Tasmania during February. Participating for a second consecutive year in the national awards provided another opportunity to showcase the great work being done by MacDonnell Regional Council in all areas of Service Delivery and the positive engagement the Council has with the Titjikala community as a whole.

Upon awarding Titjikala community the 2015 Heritage and Cultural Award, the National Tidy Town Judge, Jill Grant explained "the strong community pride and demonstrated effort of the Civil Works crew combined with two consecutive Territory Tidy Town wins has given Titjikala a strong incentive to do more and has also encouraged other communities in the McDonnell Regional Council to emulate their successes."

The MacDonnell Regional Council acknowledges the support of Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Council which has been instrumental in assisting communities throughout the Council's region to improve their litter practices and work towards becoming cleaner and tidier places for their constituents to live.

Santa Teresa Library

MacDonnell Regional Council is funded through the NT Department of Arts and Museums to provide library services at the community of Santa Teresa. The service at Santa Teresa is operated in partnership with the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre. The funding facilitates the employment of a part time indigenous Library Officer at the education centre where the service operates, and allows for purchases of minor capital equipment.

This year the Macdonnell Regional Council was able to help support the library, the school and community by using some surplus operational funding to help with much need upgrades and equipment purchases for the library.

The new additions to the library included a 70 inch multi touch BenQ LED Screen TV/monitor with height adjustable trolley, specialised room dividers, educational readers, six new computers including twenty wireless headsets, a new printer, six new computer desks and chairs. A total of $34,800.00 was invested in the library service of which Ltyentye Apurte Catholic Education Centre and Santa Teresa community were extremely grateful.

Service Delivery Centre Summary

The Service Delivery directorate is responsible for the effective delivery of Council's Municipal Services relating to Local Government Service Delivery, including some non-Council services such as, Commercial Operations or Agency functions, delivered on behalf of other government agencies and stakeholders.

Council Services

Waste Management

The Council delivers best practice waste management services to the thirteen remote communities in its region. Services include general waste collection, landfill management, litter management and staff training. Domestic kerb side collections are conducted twice weekly in all communities, with landfill sites effectively managed and maintained across all thirteen remote locations.

Waste management operations are delivered in accordance with the 'Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual' which was developed by MacDonnell, Central Desert & Barkly Regional Councils, LGANT and the NT Department of Health who make up the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group. This manual provides the best practice methods of operations for managing landfills in the Central Australian region.

Key Achievements

A key achievement for the Council was as a joint category winner in the 2015 National Awards for Local Government. The Regional Waste Management Working Group consisting of the three Regional Councils of MacDonnell, Central Desert and Barkly submitted a joint application in the National Local Government Awards. The three Councils were successful as the winner in the "boosting productivity through infrastructure" category for its efforts in improving landfills across the region. LGANT, along with funding provided by the NT Department of Health, were instrumental in the Councils achieving such recognition at a national level.

Indigenous employees working in the area of waste management were provided with training through the Certificate II Rural Operations delivered on

behalf of the Council by the Centre for Appropriate Technology. Participants completed two accredited waste management modules. As part of the training a site visit was arranged with Alice Springs Town Council for participants to experience and gain first hand knowledge of the Municipal Council's operations of their Regional Waste Management facility.

New signage has been installed at each landfill facility notifying contractors and general public of the terms and conditions for the use of landfill facilities. Council has introduced contractor waste estimation forms to record volumes of waste entering the landfill, and to determine appropriate charges.

Two new waste trenches were excavated at Papunya with the surrounding area fenced and used for general household and putrescible wastes. The existing landfill area at Papunya was remediated as a recycling point and hard waste storage area.

The Papunya Landfill Environmental Management Plan was developed as a best practice model that outlines the procedures during the operation and post closure phase of a landfill site to mitigate any adverse impacts to the environment.

Four new compactor trucks were delivered to the communities of Hermannsburg, Finke, Titjikala and Wallace Rockhole. Funding for the new compactor trucks was provided by the Department of Local Government and Community Services through the Special Purpose Grant application process.

Key Challenge

A key challenge in the area of waste management has been the illegal dumping at Amoonguna community landfill by local residents of the municipality of Alice Springs. The Council undertook to install motion sensor cameras and install appropriate signage at the landfill to address the issue and mitigate the amount of illegal disposals at the site.

Animal Management

The MacDonnell Regional Council currently delivers its Animal Management services to all communities in the Council's region. The primary objective of the program is to improve health and safety in indigenous communities by implementing effective control measures and better develop the health of animals in a culturally, sensitive and sustainable way.

The Council contracts two veterinarians, Dr Robert Irving BVSc, and Dr Colin Gulbrandson BVSc. Both vets visit communities on a quarterly basis and treat animals for internal parasites.

Education is an essential component of dog health, welfare and control. Both formal and informal educational campaigns are administered by the vets when they visit, which includes engagement with schools, health centres, working with local providers and or community stakeholders. Vets are often accompanied and supported by MRC Civil Works employees when they are on community.

Key Achievements

A total of 130 animals were de-sexed for the period July 2014 – June 2015

Dr Gulbrandson introduced and used the Australian Veterinary Associations Pet Pep Program at schools in Docker River, Santa Teresa, Imanpa, Finke, Titjikala, Amoonguna and Wallace Rockhole. The program was designed to fit in with the curriculum of primary and middle school learning.

Key challenges

A key challenge for Council is the level of funds available to deliver the Animal Management program. Council currently fully funds this program from its operational funding. Increased funds would enable improved veterinary

services, which would allow for much needed enhanced education and de-sexing programs to be delivered to communities. The Council has lobbied for funding to deliver an enhanced program that would see a dedicated Animal Welfare Officer, including thirteen Indigenous Animal Officers employed across the Council region.

Cemeteries, Parks and Open Spaces

Cemetery management services are conducted in twelve communities in the MacDonnell Regional Council. Services include general maintenance of cemetery reserves and surrounds, preparation of burial plots, upkeep of burial details and identification of burial places within the cemetery.

The MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Cemetery Management Guidelines, providing the basis of a four level implementation plan for cemeteries. This outlines the service level standards that Council aims to achieve, taking into account the Council's Goal of Developing Communities and relevant legislation.

Service levels for the development of cemeteries include:

- Site identification and clearing including fencing, car parks and grave shoring
- Shade structures, seating, wheelie bins and water
- Signage and plot markers, including a cemetery register and grid plan of grave locations
- Pathways and landscaping

Parks and public spaces in each community are the responsibility of Council and work in this area includes, upgrades and maintenance of facilities, such as shade structures, park furniture, signage and playground equipment. It also includes the provision of lighting for public safety, carrying out safety audits on playground equipment, litter control and ensuring grass is kept short to mitigate fire risks.

Community ovals are maintained by the Council. Many of the ovals received upgrades throughout the year including the installation of shade structures and seating.

Key Achievements

A key achievement made by Council in the area of cemetery maintenance includes the provision of grave markers to each community to assist with burial identification. The Finke community made grave markers and identification at their cemetery a main community priority and allocated funding under their Local Authority Plans to purchase a further 100 grave markers for existing plots.

A strong focus on parks across the Council has seen many communities develop parks and playground areas to the standards set in the Councils Service Level Guidelines. Santa Teresa, Finke and Papunya all completed community park upgrades that included installing bollards around the perimeter, shade structures with seating, provision of public place bins, appropriate signage and new playground equipment.

Under their Local Authority Plans, seven out of the thirteen communities identified playgrounds as a top priority for their community. Funding provided by the NT Government Department of Local Government and Community Services, enabled Local Authorities to allocate funds towards community projects important to them. This enabled playground equipment to be purchased for communities with new playground equipment installed at the communities of Hermannsburg (x 2), Santa Teresa, and Titjikala. While playground equipment was purchased, further work is planned at Kintore, Docker River and Haasts Bluff in 2015/16 where the installations could not be completed. The Council provided in-kind support to these projects and provided all labor and equipment to complete the installations. Amoonguna Community allocated an amount of their community priority funds to upgrading their oval to include shade structures, three tier grandstand seats and the purchase of an electronic scoreboard.

Additional shade structures were provided at Kintore community with four new shade structures being erected, and three new shade structures supplied at Santa Teresa for the oval and softball pitch.

Papunya oval received a much needed upgrade with the playing surface being lifted using clean fill that was extracted from the development of the Councils landfill trenches. The project was completed in partnership with the Council, Local Community Store and CLC Community Development

Non–Council Services

Outstations

Council is contracted and funded by the NT Government to deliver services to 21 occupied Outstations. Services include Municipal and Essential Services, Housing Maintenance Services and Special Purpose Infrastructure projects. The Council's focus is to provide a program that ensures reliable delivery of power, water and sewerage and to provide a safe and healthy environment for homeland residents. Regular inspections of Outstation homelands are conducted by Outstation works team members who are employed in the program.

Municipal services provide:
- waste collection, roads maintenance, animal control, fire breaks, environmental activities

Essential service activities provide:
- power, water and sewerage maintenance services

Housing maintenance services provide
- urgent repairs – electrical danger, loss of power, sewerage issues or loss of water
- general repairs – structural, plumbing, electrical and gas

Key Achievements

Supply and installation of a 7kva generator housed in 10ft secure shipping container, 100 litre fuel cell, secure battery box, external fuel filler for outstation residents – Ngunpa and Tjintirtjintirpa (Willy Wagtail) Outstations

Install new water storage tanks and generator – Oak Valley Outstation

Install new water storage tanks – Green valley Outstation

Upgrade solar array – Town Bore

Replace solar battery banks – Mbunghara, Atji Creek and Walkabout bore Outstations

Commercial Operations

Australia Post

The Council is the service provider of Australia Post services at all of its remote community locations, apart from Hermannsburg. Mail services are provided to each location weekly and are usually delivered to the community by air services. Where airstrips are not available the Council organises a weekly mail collection from Alice Springs.

Centrelink

Council is contracted by the Department of Human Services to deliver remote Centrelink Agent services on behalf of the Commonwealth. These services are provided in twelve locations and include:

- accepting claim forms and documents required to be lodged
- responding to customer enquiries and provide assistance, guidance or referral if needed
- assisting customers to access self service facilities

All sites are staffed by local Indigenous employees who receive remote agent training from the Department of Human Services.

Community Store

One community store is currently operated by the Council at Amoonguna community. The store ensures the community has access to fresh produce and offers a range of well-priced goods and healthy food with a strong focus on fresh fruit and vegetables.

Essential Services Operations

Council delivers Indigenous Essential Services across all thirteen locations under contract to PowerWater. Council has 13 Essential Service Officers with a strong focus on training and developing local indigenous employees in the role. The Essential Service Officers (ESO's) are responsible for the day to day maintenance and upkeep of power, water and sewerage infrastructure in their community.

Key Achievements

The Certificate II in Remote Area Essential Service commenced and was delivered on community with 27 ESO and relief ESO participants currently enrolled. The training delivered by Centre for Appropriate Technology is tailored to remote essential services activities and covers units related to power generation, water and sewerage systems.

Mandatory training requirements under the contract ensured all first on call ESO's had completed training in the areas of Safe Working at Heights, 4WD Awareness, Senior First Aid and Cross Cultural Training.

Technical Services

Observant Remote Telemetry

MRC manages power and water services in many outstations on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. Many of these outstations are very isolated and are a long way from our communities.

During the year MRC were able to add to our exiting telemetry system installed the previous year to improve its efficiency and reach.

Telemetry enables us to see what is going on at outstation bores and generators without needing to be on site. We are able to check on many crucial issues including bore flow, generator fuel levels, tank levels, generator run times and even solar panel tracking via on site cameras. The information is transmitted by High Frequency Radio to Papunya then uploaded to the Observant website where users can view all of the data to base decisions on.

The benefits of the telemetry system are huge for the outstation residents and Council staff. We are able to see issues as they arise and deal with them immediately without waiting for a report to come in and response planning to take place. If we see that there is a problem we can send parts, fuel or specialist contractors to make repairs saving both time and money.

We now have telemetry set up at M'Bungara, Atji Creek, New Bore, Warren Creek, Green Valley and Black Water. We can add to this system in the future to help monitor other outstations if funds are made available.
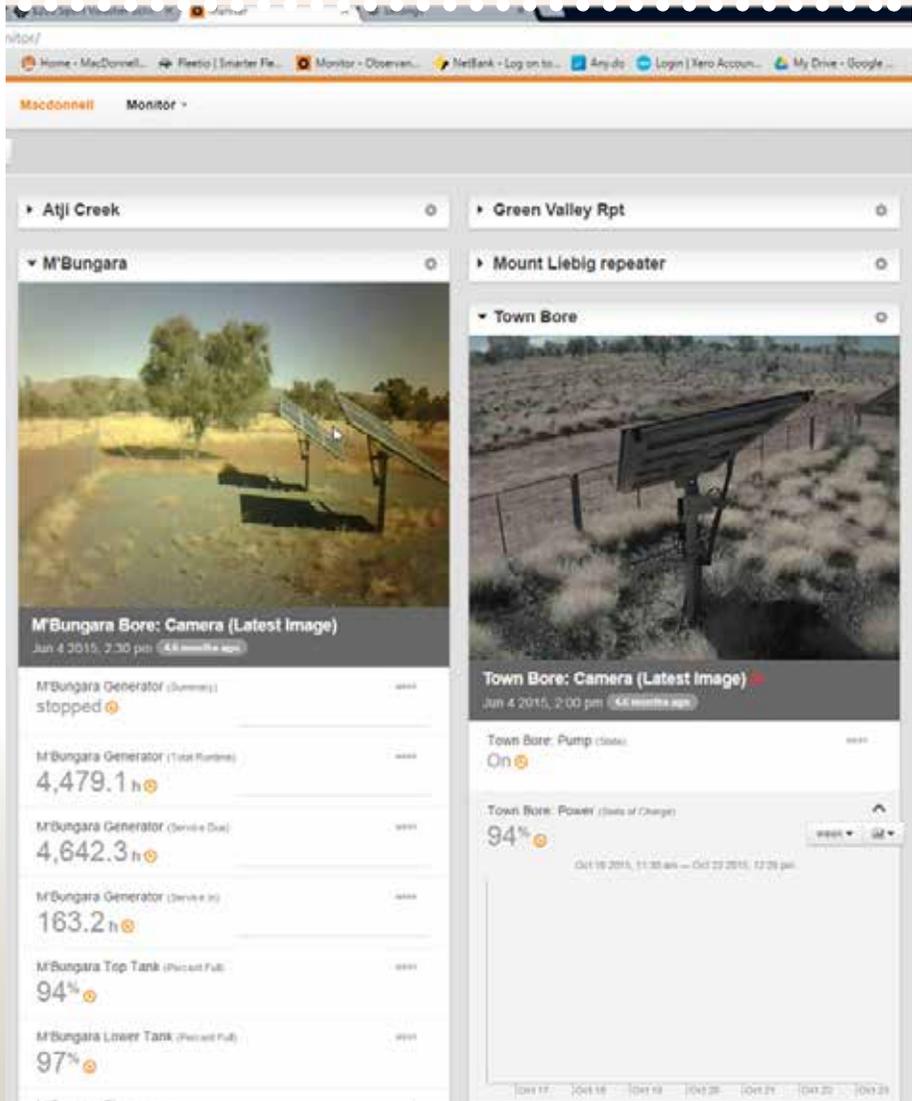
Technical Services Summary

Technical Services is responsible for the management and delivery of a range of services within Council including, Fleet and Mechanical Services, Road and Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, Property and Tenancy maintenance and upgrades and Project Management throughout all of these areas.

Property and Tenancy
(Staff housing, Council buildings)

The property and tenancy team are responsible for the repairs, maintenance, upgrades and tenancy of all MRC staff houses and facilities such as Council offices, Early Learning centres etc. We also have some responsibility for outstations through outstation housing repairs and maintenance and delivering the Homeland Extra Allowance program. We deliver some housing services: the Housing Management Employment Sustainability Program (HMESP) – Housing fencing program using local employees and delivered on behalf of Territory Housing; and housing upgrades under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH) on behalf of Territory Housing

Key Achievements

Completion of Stage 1 NPARIH housing upgrades at Docker River to six houses on behalf of Territory Housing.

We were also awarded the tender for further NPARIH works at Areyonga, Docker River, Kintore and Mt Liebig to 153 houses

37 of 55 Homelands Extra applications for outstation houses had building

works completed including veranda enclosures, water tanks, carports and internal paint.

Key sustainability initiatives were undertaken, such as the installation of timers on air conditioners in MRC facilities to reduce power consumption

Section 19 leasing was satisfactorily negotiated in seven of our communities.

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Additional financial burden of leasing fees for staff housing and Council buildings impacting on scarce Council funds for repairs, maintenance and upgrades.

Installation of timers on air conditioners in MRC facilities to reduce power consumption.

Targeting essential repairs and maintenance only and maximising visitor accommodation income potential to augment funds.

Fleet

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The fleet team looks after all Council vehicles, including the management of annual capital budget and purchasing of vehicles and plant according to priority, need and utilisation requirements, undertaking quarterly in-community mechanical service by our workshop mechanics and carrying out Alice Springs workshop mechanical services for town based vehicles and larger fleet repairs and maintenance. Collaborative day to day management of the council fleet using 'Fleetio' web based fleet management system.

Key Achievements

Ongoing in-house and college training and development of William Foster, our Indigenous apprentice who is now in the 3rd year of his apprenticeship.

Supporting Indigenous employment through supporting two Alice Spring based Indigenous work experience participants worked with the mechanical team for a week each.

Improvement in the standard of care and general maintenance of community fleet by works staff as a result of instruction and coaching by mechanical staff during their community visits.

The successful use of Fleetio by all designated staff users resulting in up-to-date information means that we have been better able to plan our maintenance and upgrades of Council vehicles, leading to more efficient fleet services.

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Driver accountability for vehicle usage and condition

Close monitoring of Fleetio odometer and issue updates to ensure reporting is taking place. Follow up by fleet staff if reporting needs improvement.

Infrastructure and Projects

(roads, pools, street lights, project management)

The Infrastructure and Projects team is responsible for carrying out the Council's commercial operations and other projects such as:

- Repairs, maintenance and upgrades of our community access and internal roads, firebreaks and sporting ovals
- Operation of our swimming pools at Areyonga, Kintore and Santa Teresa
- Maintenance of airstrips in all relevant communities on behalf of NTG Department of infrastructure
- Repairs and maintenance of street lights to the MRC operational standard of 70% or above
- Management and delivery of numerous projects on behalf of both MRC departments and external agencies.

Key Achievements

Major upgrade to the Wallace Rockhole access road

Implementation of traffic management plans in all of our communities

Grading of unsealed internal and outstation roads by the MRC grader team (made up of 66% indigenous staff) was successfully completed based on frequency schedule, priorities, annual plans and programs

Completion of a full engineering internal roads audit. Data will be used as a tool to prioritise and allocate resources for road upgrade projects based on their condition

Streetlights maintained at 87% average overall throughout the year, exceeding our operational standard

Delivery of a number of small projects on behalf of MRC Children's Services during the year.

Successful delivery and conclusion of all Outstation Capital Infrastructure grants at many Council-serviced outstations.

Opening all of our pools for the season on a very limited budget with the Santa Teresa pool being supervised by a local Indigenous man, Barry Cavanagh. There were no major incidents or injuries at any of the pools during the season.

All airstrip maintenance performance standards were met, audits and requests were submitted to Department of Infrastructure within agreed timeframes and all authorised works were completed within agreed timeframes

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Street light electricity costs rose by 40% which had to be absorbed by council. We are investigating the use of LED lighting to alleviate power usage.

Staff recruitment for swimming pools continues to be an issue. These positions are required to have high qualification levels that need to be renewed annually. We have been successful at Santa Teresa with a local indigenous pool operator and will continue to engage and train local people in Areyonga and Kintore to help with this issue.

Compliance for pools is a high priority – we are updating manuals and providing signage in accordance with our audit procedure.

Community Services

Community Services

case study

Staff and Services Development

One of the focuses for Community Services this year has been developing the quality and sustainability of our services through providing relevant training for our staff. This has been done through developing partnerships with multiple training providers including Charles Darwin University (CDU), Coonara Community House (CCA) and Eagle Training.

March to April 2015 saw staff from all Community Night Patrol teams undertaking a Certificate III in Community Night Patrol. The course was delivered in three, week-long intensive sessions, which were held at the Ross River Homestead. Eagle Training delivered the course which included maintaining and protecting cultural values, recognising and responding to the suspected abuse of vulnerable people, conflict negotiation, report preparation, and first aid. Thirty six staff members completed the course.

MacYouth continued to up-skill their teams through the delivery of Certificate II, III and IV in Community Services between July and December, 2015. Charles Darwin University delivered this training over six, three day blocks held on their campus in Alice Springs. The course focused on identifying children at risk, legal and ethical frameworks,

advocating for clients, using communication to build relationships, organising and completing daily work activities and participating in workplace health and safety. Twenty three staff completed the course.

MacYouth have also supported sixteen staff members to undertake a Certificate II in Sport and Recreation through Charles Darwin University, with the view to improve the delivery of Sport and Recreation for all community members. This course began in March 2015 and is due to be completed in September 2015.

Additionally MacYouth have provided training to staff members in Youth Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention and in Management and Leadership. MacYouth's ongoing commitment to professional development has delivered marked improvements in the delivery of programming for young people.

February saw the Home Care team commence a Certificate II in Community Services. After a long period of being unable to access

training, staff have been enjoying the on site delivery being provided by Charles Darwin University. The course focuses on developing the capability of staff to provide individualised care to vulnerable clients, while working safely in the workplace. Thirty-three staff members are progressing in the course and are expected to complete it in March 2016.

From September 2013 to June 2015, Children's Services partnered with Coonara House to deliver a Certificate III in Children's Services. This training was delivered and assessed in our centres, by our own Children's Services Coordinators and was a credit to them. Twenty-five staff members successfully completed this course.

All of these training programs not only provided an opportunity for our teams to learn and develop their skills, but also an environment where they can get to know team members from other communities and share stories and experiences. The investment in these staff members can already been seen in the program delivery, and will continue to be seen well in to the future.

Community Services Summary

The Community Services Directorate delivers Children's Services, Community Safety, Home Care Services, and Youth Services across twelve of our remote communities. These programs are delivered by our team of 232 dedicated staff, of which 192 (83%) are Indigenous.

Community Services strives to deliver culturally sensitive programs that meet the needs of community residents, through innovative and sustainable service delivery models. We are committed to investing in our local Indigenous staff

and seeing them progress into senior roles within the organisation.

The implementation of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) the year by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), resulted in MRC having to re-apply for over 50% of our Community Services program funding. Through the hard work and dedication of staff and Council, MRC was successful in re-securing all program funding, where many other service providers were not.

Children's Services

Children's Services delivers Early Learning programs in ten of our remote communities and Outside School Hours and Vacation Care programs in eight of those communities.

The Early Learning programs provide a play based program that is reflective of the children's interests, abilities, and culture. The program exists to provide all children from birth to school age access to quality early childhood education and care, and provides parents with opportunities to develop their parenting skills to support continued learning in the home environment.

The Outside School Hours and Vacation Care program provides stimulating developmental, social and recreational activities for children aged 5-12 years old.

Programs delivered by Children's Services in 2014/15 include:

Early Learning Program - funded by Department of Social Services

Early Childhood Education and Care Program (Areyonga, Docker River, Papunya) – funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outside School Hours and Vacation Care program - funded by the Department of Social Services

Key Achievements

Twenty-five staff members completed a Certificate III in Children's Services which was delivered in our centres by our Children's Services Coordinators

Quality Improvement Plans were developed and implemented in all centres. The quality of the programming and planning documentation was significantly improved

Children's Services workshops have been held quarterly to support the ongoing professional development of Team Leaders and senior Educators

Secured additional funding though Department of Social Services to purchase additional resources and to undertake much needed repair and maintenance works at seven of our centres

Community consultation "Yarning Circles" have been held in nine of our communities to gain and understanding of the community's vision and desires for their children. This has been invaluable in the development of stronger programs across all communities that reflect local aspirations and culture

Developed and implemented "The Hand" model for sharing the Early Years Learning Framework outcomes with parents and families in a relevant, easily understandable way

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Retention of staff members in Team Leader positions has been a challenge and support and supervision models are being reviewed

Recruitment of appropriately qualified staff to fill Team Leader vacancies has also been very difficult. Local Indigenous staff members who have competed the Certificate III in Children's Services, now have the opportunity to complete a Diploma of Children's Services. This training will provide the experience and qualification required to progress to the Team Leader role

Community Safety

Community Safety oversees the delivery of the Community Night Patrol program in twelve of our remote communities. This program is funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and exists to divert Indigenous people away from contact with the criminal justice system, increase personal and community safety, and to improve school attendance by ensuring that children are at home or in a safe location at night, so they are able to go to school every day.

The Community Night Patrol teams are all local Indigenous staff members, who work collaboratively with the community and with Northern Territory Police, to ensure a partnership approach to community specific issues.

Key Achievements

Maintained 96% Indigenous employment across the program

Achieved 45% female employment across the program

Thirty six local Indigenous staff members completed a Certificate III in Community Night Patrol

Secured a funding variation to enable the purchase of five new vehicles

Revised Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the nine Northern Territory Police stations that service our communities

Developed a strong working partnership with the Remote School Attendance Strategy program

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Uncertainty around the continuation of program funding created challenges for both staff retention and recruitment and in turn, service delivery. Effective, regular communication with both staff and the funding body was maintained

Community based IT infrastructure has caused significant challenges over the past year and has hindered local program administration and reporting. All IT equipment has now been upgraded and where possible satellite internet hardware has also been replaced

Home Care

Home Care Services provide aged and disability services to clients in eight of our remote communities. These services help clients to be able to live in their own communities and provide choice and flexibility in the way their care and services are provided. Services include personal care, meals, transport, domestic assistance and social activities to assist clients to connect with their community.

Home Care Services also delivers School Nutrition Programs in five of those locations. This program aims to promote school attendance and achieve positive educational outcomes.

Programs delivered by Home Care in 2014/15 include:

Community Aged Care Packages – funded by the Department of Social Services

Home and Community Care Program – funded by the Department of Social Services

Disability in Home Support – funded by the Northern Territory Department of Health

School Nutrition Program – funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Key Achievements

Maintained 93% Indigenous employment across the program

Workforce Development Plan was finalised and implemented. This included a restructure within the team which has led to stronger leadership from local Indigenous staff and a more culturally safe service delivery model

Staff turnover reduced from 40% in 2013/14 to 13% in 2014/15

Two clients were successfully re-abled. Through their self-determination and the provision of quality care, these clients achieved independence and no longer require services

Thirty-eight staff members commenced a Certificate II in Community Services. This training has been delivered on site in each of our Home Care centres and is ongoing

Program reforms have been implemented to achieve compliance with the National Aged Care reforms. This required significant changes to program administration and service delivery procedures

Renovations were completed to the Finke and Imanpa Home Care Centres to improve the functionality of the sites and enable improved service delivery

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Program funding levels for Home Support and Disability in Home Support, limit the opening hours of our Home Care centres and the variety of services that we can provide. Services have been structured to maximise efficiencies and MRC is negotiating with funding providers to try and increase funding and service levels

Uncertainty around the continuation of funding for the School Nutrition Program created challenges for staff retention and recruitment and, in turn, service delivery. Effective, regular communication with both staff and the funding body was maintained

Youth Services

MacDonnell Regional Council's Youth Service is known on community as MacYouth. The service operates in nine of our remote communities and exists to deliver structured activities and programming for young people that provides effective diversion from at risk behaviours and meaningful opportunities for development.

Programs delivered by MacYouth in 2014/15 included:

Youth in Communities - funded by the former Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

Jobs Creation Package – funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Indigenous Sport and Active Recreation Program – funded by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Active Remote Communities – funded by the Northern Territory Department of Sport and Recreation

Youth Diversion – funded by the Northern Territory Department of Corrections

Volatile Substance Abuse Program (Kintore) – funded by the Northern Territory Department of Health

Youth Engagement Strategy (Kintore & Papunya) – funded by Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS)

Hermannsburg Holiday Programs – funded by Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation (facilitating partner for Stronger Communities for Children)

Key Achievements

Progression of two Indigenous staff members from the position of Senior Officer to Team Leader

Completion of Certificate II, III and IV Community Services qualifications for 23 staff members

Commencement of Certificate II and III Sport and Recreation qualifications for 16 staff members

Delivery of three intercommunity sporting competitions for Basketball, Softball and Indoor Soccer

Regional Women's Basketball team winning the Southern Regional championships held in Tennant Creek

Kintore's Softball team competed in the Territory Championships held in Darwin

Hermannsburg Basketball team attended Barunga Festival to compete in the Regional Basketball Competition

Delivery of four "Deadly Adventures" Outdoor Education programs for young people at risk of disengaging with education

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Uncertainty around the continuation of program funding for the Youth in Communities program created challenges for both staff retention and recruitment and in turn, service delivery. Effective, regular communication with both staff and the funding body was maintained

Staff knowledge of and adherence to key Council policies and procedures continued to present as a challenge. The need for an improved, quality induction process was identified. MacYouth developed the "Youth Development Program handbook" to serve as a guide for new and existing Team Leaders

Corporate Services

Corporate Services

case study

Local Authority Surveys

For the past two years, MacDonnell Regional Council has sought to understand community perceptions of the Council through gathering feedback and information from our Local Authorities (previously Local Boards). Understanding how people experience your service is the first step in making any improvements.

The Council sought to prove that it took feedback seriously. While the results of our first survey with Local Boards were positive, they did identify room for improvement. In 2014/15, respondents were very satisfied with parks (78%), animal control (67%), cemetery management (74%), waste management (76%) and customer service (67%). This shows a strong result in all areas compared to 2013/14, when respondents were very satisfied with parks (66%), animal control (56%), cemetery management (70%), waste management (63%) and customer service (49%).

This is a result of both increases in our service level standards and increased understanding of what the Council does and what to expect from our services.

The effects of an increased focus on training and development for Local Authorities were also felt. The Council conducted at least two training packages

for every Local Authority and for six of our Local Authorities we held additional training workshops over 2 days. This training covered their roles and responsibilities, council policies and finance, as well as community engagement and confidence-building.

The number of Local Authority members who felt they had all of the skills they need rose to 36% in 2014/15, from 19% in 2013/14. Members were also asked if Council supports them well, in 2014/15 67% of respondents said we support them very well, a strong increase from 2013/14 when just 32% said we support them very well.

Further questions were then asked about the Council's overall performance. This year 54% said we were a very good employer, while last year only 31% of respondents said we were a very good employer for the community. Those who said they knew what the Council was

doing all the time rose to 62%, from 30%. Their overall view of Council's performance increased with 73% saying it was very good in 2014/15, up from 30% saying it was very good in 2013/14.

These results are a ringing endorsement of the Council's approach and services from one of our most important stakeholders (our community representatives). We know that there is always room for improvement, and that we need to seek wider feedback from community residents moving forward. However, we believe these results provide proof that we are making excellent progress of fulfilling our vision of *many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*.

Service	2014 / 15			2013 / 14		
Are Local Boards/Local Authorities reports helpful?	Very helpful 51%	Quite helpful 44%	Not helpful 5%	Very helpful 51%	Quite helpful 34%	Not helpful 15%
Do you have the skills to perform your role?	All skills 36%	Most skills 40%	Little or no skills 24%	All skills 19%	Most skills 47%	Little or no skills 34%
Does MRC support you in your role?	Very well 67%	Quite well 28%	Not well 5%	Very well 32%	Quite well 46%	Not well 22%
Is Council a good employer?	Very good 54%	Good 34%	Average or bad 12%	Very good 31%	Good 41%	Average or bad 28%
Do you know what Council is doing in your community?	All the time 62%	Most of the time/sometimes 38%	Rarely/never 0%	All the time 30%	Most of the time/sometimes 61%	Rarely/never 9%
How do you rate Council's performance?	Very good 73%	Good 25%	Average* 2%	Very good 30%	Good 49%	Average* 21%

Note: more survey results are shown on page 13

* nobody rated the Council's performance as bad

Corporate Services Summary

The 19 members of the team in the Corporate Services Directorate are responsible for the Human Resources, Governance and Engagement, Information Technology and Finance of the Council.

The activities of the directorate include ensuring the Council has strong governance and that they are compliant with the requirements of the NT Local Government Act, the NT Local Government Regulations and the related Guidelines. This is achieved through ensuring Council's Elected Members have the tools and training to understand and take ownership of their responsibilities, that they provide guidance to the Council's staff through clear and understandable policies and that all decisions of the Council are recorded and followed by the operational side of the organisation. Strong Human Resource practices, Financial systems and management of IT, support these aims and ensure, within the Council's limited financial environment, the Council's resources are available and supported to deliver the services Council provides.

Human Resources

The Human Resources team of MacDonnell Regional Council manages staffing, performance development and other aspects of employment within MacDonnell Regional Council. In 2014/15, the Council employed an average of 423 employees per month.

Key Achievements

MRC continues to focus on increasing the percentage of indigenous staff with an average of 78.5% indigenous employment and a peak of 80% in May 2015

Total staff terminations during the period were 260 showing a reduction in turnover from 289 in 2013/14 and 324 in 2012/13

Council undertook a survey of all staff across our 14 locations to help understand where the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation lie. The results of this survey enabled the Council to improve the frequency and style of communications to ensure staff know and live up to Council's Mission, Vision and Values

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

The number of indigenous employees in supervisory positions is still below the aim of 50%. Processes were designed and commenced to review all employee's performance including ensuring accurate position descriptions and developing individual development plans to identify training requirements

Lengthy recruitment processes were creating a delay in filling vacant positions. The HR team have streamlined the recruitment process so all aspects are now handled by the same staff member. A new recruitment management system has also been implemented to manage externally advertised applications for Alice Springs-based and some community-based positions

Governance and Engagement

The Governance and Engagement team carries out a number of functions across the Council, including strategic and secretariat support to the Council and 13 Local Authorities, Communications, Records Management, Policies and Procedures, Strategic Planning, Reporting and Customer Service.

Compliance Statement

Once again, Records Management was a priority for MacDonnell Regional Council in the 2014/15 year and further progress was made in transitioning to an Electronic Documents Records Management System in order to maintain compliance with the Information Act. Changes during the year included updating our Records Management Policy, Framework and associated documents, and devoting additional staffing resources to Records Management. While the Council still has progress to make, this has put them in a strong position for 2015/16.

Key Achievements

Development of a whole of Council Communications and Engagement Plan, involving consultation with community members, Local Authorities, Councillors, staff, ratepayers and NT Government

An increased focus on communications and rebranding as 'MacDonnell Regional Council' has led to the development of consistent signage and materials to increase understanding of all communities being part of one Council

Training sessions held with all Local Authorities and workshops held with 6 Local Authorities, supported by funding from the Department of Local Government and Community Services. Further training will be undertaken with the remaining Local Authorities in the coming financial year

Survey carried out of Local Authorities showing significant improvements across the communities

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Achieving the required number of meetings per year has been difficult. Local Authority members are often active members of their community and sit on other panels or boards. Coupled with cultural activities, work and other community events, meeting six times a year can be difficult. However, the governance staff and Council Services Coordinators have been working closely with Local Authority members and Councillors to find times that work for them. The Council have also been working with the Department of Local Government and Community Services to find ways of making the guidelines more responsive to the needs of the Local Authorities

Managing the workload has been difficult with a small team, due to the number of meetings per year (76 Local Authority meetings, 6 Council meetings, 1 Special Council meeting and 6 Finance and Risk Committee meetings) taking up the majority of staff member's time. This makes it difficult to manage other aspects of the workload. Council are hopeful that changes to the Local Authority guidelines will take some of the pressure off and allow staff to focus on other aspects of their work

Information Technology

The Information Technology area takes care of all the Council's Information and Communications Technology across 14 locations. This includes ensuring connectivity issues are managed through working closely with providers such as Telstra, and CouncilBiz, the computer network provider.

Key Achievements

The focus for 2014/15 has been on standardising all equipment across the Council to ensure a smooth transition to a new operating environment (Citrix)

This included purchasing the following equipment:

- Standardised laptops and desktops for Council offices, this is now nearly completed. Council has also purchased Lenova 'Tiny's' for the Night Patrol, Youth Offices, and other Council Offices
- Fuji Xerox Docuprint CM305DF Multi Function Devices – these were a major cause for concern as there were numerous varieties of Multi function devices across the Council. This has been nearly standardised to Fuji Xerox Models which are very compatible with the Citrix environment. It has also cut down on the costs of replacement toners and parts as they are inter-changeable

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

It has been difficult to provide better Satellite Services across the Council, 1 November is the final rollout of satellite services for community staff houses. A plan has been devised to ready ourselves for the release of the NBN. Estimated time for final roll out is approximately 3 to 6 months so it should be completed in March or April 2016

The performance of all networks across such a large and remote area remains difficult. The process for improvement is ongoing and with improvements to satellite system we hope to have a much more stable environment across all offices, with access to Voice Over IP telephony, a consistent phone system across the Council and Video Conferencing capability at all Council offices

Finance

The Finance team ensures that Council income, payments and financial reporting is done in a timely and accountable way. They manage all payments across 14 offices of the Council.

Key Achievements

The MacDonnell Regional Council finished the year with a healthy operating surplus of $813,150

At the end of the financial year the Council holds $1.75 in current assets for every $1 owed in current liabilities. This result shows a strong improvement from the 2013/14 year when Council had $1.47 in current assets for every $1 owed in current liabilities. The result providing a clear indication that Council is in a good position to pay its debts as and when they fall due

Working Capital
(Current Assets for each dollar owed)

2008/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
1.84	1.35	1.25	1.18	1.19	1.47	1.75

Asset Refresh Rate

2008/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
1.99	1.56	1.10	1.03	1.34	1.25	1.07

The Council's Asset Refresh or Depreciation ratio of 1.07 was down on the previous year when expenditure on new assets was at a rate of $1.25 for every $1 of depreciation. Despite this reduction the ratio continues to show that the replacement of assets has kept pace with depreciation, indicating that Council is replacing its assets as they wear out, helping to provide sustainability in this area

Key Challenges and steps taken to address them

Rates continue to only provide a modest amount of Council's revenue, being just 2.4% of income. The income received from rates and charges has increased from the previous year due to a modest increase in the charges levied but also as a result of an audit of all rateable properties in the Council area.

The MacDonnell Regional Council's audited Financial Reports are shown overleaf.

Sources of Income 2014 / 2015

10.6% = $3,530,749
Commercial Operations

2.4% = $810,403
Rates

2.3% = $774,649
Waste Management Charges

1.6% = $524,534
Interest

2.4% = $811,296
Reimbursements and Other Income

2.6% = $853,445
User Charges and Fees

78.1% = $26,115,372
Grants and Subsidies

100% = $33,420,448
Total Income
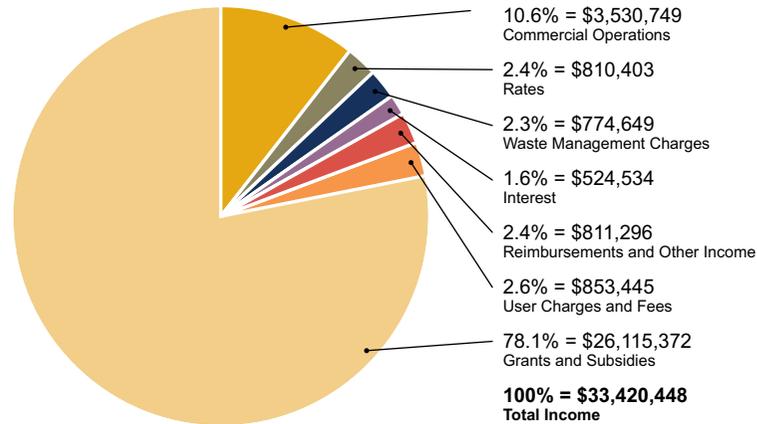
Operating Expenditure 2014 / 2015

12.5% = $4,078,041
Materials and Consumables

5.3% = $1,735,265
Depreciation, Impairment and Amortisation

22.5% = $7,335,093
Other Operating Expenses

59.7% = $19,458,899
Employee Costs

100% = $32,607,298
Total Expenditure
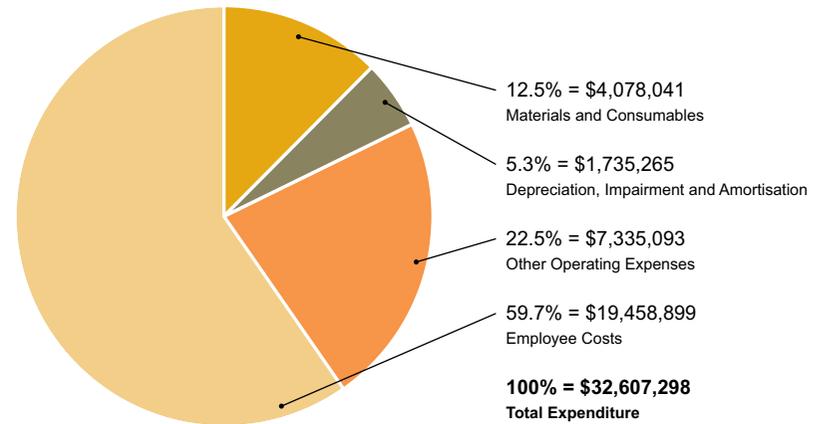
MacDonnell Regional Council

General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

MacDonnell Regional Council

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For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

MacDonnell Regional Council

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief:

a) The Financial Statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act, and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2015, and

b) the Financial Statements are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council, and

c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Council will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable.
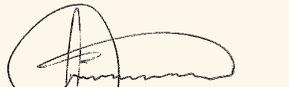
_____
Chief Executive Officer

23.9.15
Date

Deloitte.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL.

We have audited the accompanying financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council (the "Council"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, and the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity for the year ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the Chief Executive Officer's certificate, as set out on pages 5 to 26.

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report
The chief executive officer of the Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Northern Territory Local Government Act and for such internal control as the chief executive officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the chief executive officer, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Deloitte.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO

MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL (continued)

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council presents fairly, in all material respects, the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Northern Territory Local Government Act.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

E Dry
E Dry
Partner
Chartered Accountants

Alice Springs, 25 / 09 / 2015.

MacDonnell Regional Council

INCOME STATEMENT
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	Notes	2015 $	2014 $
INCOME			
Rates		810,403	747,758
User charges - waste management		774,649	704,148
User charges & fees - other		853,445	1,725,611
Grants, Subsidies and contributions	3a	26,115,372	24,245,166
Interest		524,534	608,724
Income from commercial operations		3,530,749	4,371,573
Reimbursements & other income		811,296	557,364
Total Income		**33,420,448**	**32,960,344**
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	4a	19,458,899	18,703,273
Materials & Consumables		4,078,041	4,478,306
Interest charges		-	-
Depreciation & amortisation	4b	1,735,265	1,677,473
Other operating expenses	4c	7,335,093	6,545,844
Total Expenditure		**32,607,298**	**31,404,896**
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		**813,150**	**1,555,448**

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

		2015	2014
OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		**813,150**	**1,555,448**
Add: Donated assets		-	434,760
Change in net assets attributable to restructure of local government		**-**	**434,760**
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	*	**813,150**	**1,990,208**

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.
* This includes amounts transferred to reserves see the Statement of Changes in Equity.

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MacDonnell Regional Council

BALANCE SHEET
At 30th June 2015

	Notes	2015 $	2014 $
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on Hand and at Bank	5	2,085,847	1,982,148
Investments	6	11,000,000	12,000,000
Trade and Other Receivables	7	1,079,239	758,314
Inventories & Work in Progress	8a	377,649	128,365
		14,542,735	**14,868,827**
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and Other Receivables		-	535,381
Capital Work in Progress		-	135,001
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	6,020,720	5,927,059
		6,020,720	**6,597,441**
TOTAL ASSETS		**20,563,455**	**21,466,268**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables & Accruals	10a	2,363,794	2,212,386
Employee Benefits	10b	1,840,275	1,666,215
Borrowings	10d	2,313	(1,338)
Deferred Grant Income	13	4,090,401	6,217,310
		8,296,783	**10,094,573**
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Benefits	10c	431,805	349,978
		431,805	**349,978**
TOTAL LIABILITIES		**8,728,588**	**10,444,551**
NET ASSETS		**11,834,867**	**11,021,717**
EQUITY			
Accumulated Funds		10,624,867	9,903,717
Future Capital Works Reserve		1,210,000	1,118,000
TOTAL EQUITY		**11,834,867**	**11,021,717**

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

MacDonnell Regional Council

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
Accumulated funds at the beginning of the year	9,903,717	8,636,509
Total Comprehensive Income	813,150	1,990,208
Transfers (to) / from other reserves	(92,000)	(723,000)
Accumulated funds at the end of the year	**10,624,867**	**9,903,717**
Capital Infrastructure Reserve at the beginning of the year	1,118,000	395,000
Transfers to / (from) reserve	92,000	723,000
Capital Infrastructure Reserve at the end of the year	**1,210,000**	**1,118,000**
Total Equity	**11,834,867**	**11,021,717**

MacDonnell Regional Council

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	Notes	2015 $	2014 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Rates & Annual Charges		2,025,762	1,382,348
Grants received		24,846,674	20,103,686
Interest received		524,534	608,724
Other receipts		5,308,663	7,788,551
Payments			
Employee Costs		(19,337,014)	(18,053,899)
Other operating payments		(12,734,720)	(12,032,054)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Operating Activities	11a	**633,899**	**(202,644)**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Sale of Property, Plant, Equipment and Vehicles		192,609	588,790
Work in Progress		135,001	(135,001)
Payments			
Purchase of Property, Plant, Equipment and Vehicles		(1,861,461)	(1,658,452)
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Investing Activities		**(1,533,851)**	**(1,204,663)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Proceeds from Borrowings		-	-
Payments			
Repayments of Borrowings		3,651	2,205
Net Cash provided by (or used in) Financing Activities		**3,651**	**2,205**
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		(896,301)	(1,405,102)
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of the Reporting Period		13,982,148	15,387,250
Cash & Cash Equivalents at End of the Reporting Period	11b	**13,085,847**	**13,982,148**

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

1   SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial reporting framework
The financial report is a general purpose report, which has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act, Local Government Regulations and Australian Accounting Standards. The entity is a not for profit entity.

Accounting Standards include Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards ('A-IFRS') as they apply to "not for profit" entities. AIFRS include certain specific provisions relating to not for profit entities that are not included in the International Financial Reporting Standards.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and except where stated, does not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The date the financial statements were authorised for issue is as shown on the Chief Executive Officer's certificate.

Significant accounting policies
In the application of A-IFRS management is required to make judgments, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments made by management in the application of A-IFRS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustments in the next year are disclosed, where applicable, in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

It is anticipated that the adoption, in future periods, of standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective, will have no material financial impact on the financial statements.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report.

Adoption of new and revised Accounting Standards
In the current year, the entity has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (the AASB) that are relevant to their operations and effective for the current annual reporting period.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

The adoption of these new and revised Standards and Interpretations has not resulted in changes to the entity's accounting policies and has not affected the amounts reported for the current or prior years.

Standards and Interpretations in issue not yet adopted
At the date of authorisation of the financial statements, the Standards and Interpretations listed below were in issue but not yet effective. These standards are not expected to result in any changes in recognition or measurement.

Standard/Interpretation	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Expected to be initially applied in the financial year ending
AASB 9 'Financial Instruments' and the relevant amending standards	01 Jan 2017	30 Jun 2018
AASB 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' and AASB 2014-5 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15'	01 Jan 2018	30 Jun 2019
AASB 2014-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2014-4 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2014-9 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2014-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2015-1 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2015-2 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101'	01 Jan 2016	30 Jun 2017
AASB 2015-3 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality'	01 Jul 2015	30 Jun 2016

Accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective
It is anticipated that the adoption, in future periods, of standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective, will have no material financial impact on the financial statements.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
There were no critical judgements (apart from those involving estimations, which are dealt with below), that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that are likely to have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

Because the major assets and liabilities of the entity are carried at historical cost, there are no key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

Accounts payable
Trade payables and other accounts payable are recognised when the entity becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

Depreciation
Items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight line method. The main rates used are:

Buildings	10%
Plant	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture and equipment	20%

Economic dependency
A significant proportion of the Council's revenue is derived from Government grants.

Employee benefits
Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

The current portion of employee benefits is the portion to which employees are unconditionally entitled at balance date.

Provisions made in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and other employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Provisions made in respect of other employee benefits which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the contributions the entity makes to the superannuation plans which provide benefits to its employees.

Financial instruments
Debt and equity instruments are classified as either liabilities or as equity in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement.

Trade receivables, loans, trade payables and other financial liabilities are measured at cost.

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each balance sheet date. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that as a result of one or more events that the estimated future cash flows of the investment have been impacted. The amount of the impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

The carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced by the impairment loss directly for all financial assets with the exception of trade receivables where the carrying amount is reduced through the use of an allowance account.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

Held-to-maturity investments
Held-to-maturity investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective yield basis.

Goods and services tax (GST)
Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST. Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables. Operating receipts and payments in the cash flow statement are stated inclusive of GST.

Government grants
Grants, contributions and donations are recognised as revenues when the entity obtains control over the assets comprising the contribution.

Where contributions recognised as revenues during the reporting period were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged as at the reporting date, the amounts pertaining to those undischarged conditions are included as a liability for Deferred Grant Income.

Unexpended grants at year end which are refundable to the funding body are also transferred to current liabilities.

Impairment of assets
At each reporting date, the entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years.

A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the relevant asset is carried at fair value, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

Income tax
The entity is not subject to income tax.

Inventories
Finished goods are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs have been assigned to inventory on hand at balance date using the first in first out basis.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

The local Government reporting entity
All funds and entities through which the entity controls resources to carry on its functions have been included in the financial statements forming part of this financial report.

In the process of reporting on the local government as a single unit, all balances between activities have been eliminated.

Revenue recognition
Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets is recognised when the entity has passed control of the goods or other assets to the buyer.

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the services have been provided.

Revenue from investments is recognised on an accrual basis.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

2a ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The MacDonnell Regional Council commenced operations on 1st July 2008, it undertakes all local government functions in the following communities:

Amoonguna
Areyonga (Utju)
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
Finke (Aputula)
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
Imanpa
Kintore (Walungurru)
Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu)
Papunya (Warumpi)
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
Titjikala
Wallace Rockhole

The major functions undertaken are:

General public services
Corporate management, administrative support and governance.
Public order and safety
Night patrol, Companion animal management.
Economic affairs
Centrelink services, Essential services, Local roads maintenance, Community store.
Postal services, Commercial fuel sales.
Housing, Community Amenities
Outstation and Staff Housing repairs and maintenance, Fencing.
Health
Child nutrition program.
Recreation, Culture & Religion
Provision of sports, recreation and leisure facilities, Swimming pools.
Social Protection
Children's Services Public Behaviour & Youth Programme, Aged care.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

2b FUNCTION RESULTS

	General Public Services	Public Order & Safety	Economic Affairs	Environmental Protection	Housing & Community	Health	Recreation, Culture & Religion	Social Protection	Total
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
OPERATING REVENUES									
Rates	810,403	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	810,403
User charges - waste management	774,649	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	774,649
User charges & fees - other	247,344	28,364	212,472	-	172,093	109,857	8,450	74,865	853,445
Grants - NT Operational	7,655,132	-	1,172,718	-	515,041	-	65,435	748,130	10,156,456
Grants - NT capital	1,211,458	10,001	372,806	9,101	1,711,265	-	34,734	-	3,349,365
Grants - Cwlth Operational	(86,967)	3,145,250	984,220	-	-	356,446	-	8,060,264	12,459,213
Grants - Cwlth capital	-	36,500	113,838	-	-	-	-	-	150,338
Interest	524,534	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	524,534
Income from commercial operations	6,981	-	3,335,288	-	-	-	-	188,480	3,530,749
Reimbursements & other income	330,551	-	1,814	-	72,322	108,251	54,075	244,283	811,296
	11,474,085	3,220,115	6,193,156	9,101	2,470,721	574,554	162,694	9,316,022	33,420,448
OPERATING EXPENSES									
Employee costs	9,540,950	2,374,560	1,891,013	-	276,801	206,784	236,357	4,932,434	19,458,899
Materials & Consumables	174,483	126,707	1,201,257	7,601	750,433	227,256	90,777	1,499,527	4,078,041
Depreciation & amortisation	1,735,265	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,735,265
Other operating expenses	(124,355)	718,848	1,908,191	1,500	1,801,356	140,442	73,505	2,815,606	7,335,093
	11,326,343	3,220,115	5,000,461	9,101	2,828,590	574,482	400,639	9,247,567	32,607,298
TOTALS	147,742	-	1,192,695	-	(357,869)	72	(237,945)	68,455	813,150

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

		2015 $	2014 $
3a	**GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**		
	From Commonwealth of Australia Government Agencies		
	Operating grants	338,054	287,473
	Special Purpose grants	17,526	40,958
	Capital grants	150,338	794,759
	Agency services grants	12,103,633	11,257,765
	Sub-total	12,609,551	12,380,955
	From Northern Territory Government Agencies		
	Operating grants	9,422,871	9,357,868
	Special Purpose grants	2,839,595	689,548
	Capital grants	509,770	1,167,747
	Agency services grants	733,585	649,048
	Sub-total	13,505,821	11,864,211
	Total Grants Revenue	**26,115,372**	**24,245,166**
3b	**OTHER OPERATING REVENUE**		
	Rates	810,403	747,758
	User charges - waste management	774,649	704,148
	User charges & fees - other	853,445	1,725,611
	Income from commercial services	3,530,749	4,371,573
	Fundraising & donations	54,075	105,047
	Reimbursements	597,147	126,671
	Gains from disposal of plant, equipment and vehicles	160,074	181,412
	Gain on assets after insurance claims	-	144,234
	Total Other Operating Revenue	**6,780,542**	**8,106,454**
4a	**EMPLOYEE COSTS**		
	Salaries, wages and allowances, including on-costs	17,005,912	16,656,565
	Employer's Superannuation contributions	1,534,095	1,504,958
	Employee benefits and other employee costs	330,411	284,479
	Training programs	522,691	215,447
	Recruitment expenses	57,562	33,026
	Protective clothing	8,228	8,798
	Total Employee Costs	**19,458,899**	**18,703,273**

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

		2015 $	2014 $
4b	**DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION**		
	Buildings	130,553	130,553
	Furniture & Equipment	45,270	49,175
	Plant & Equipment	428,125	404,445
	Vehicles	1,131,317	1,093,300
	Total Depreciation	**1,735,265**	**1,677,473**
4c	**OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES**		
	Advertising & Promotional Activities	28,486	24,905
	Audit Services	90,988	66,000
	Computer Services	476,029	531,229
	Consulting Fees	182,122	84,737
	Contract Labour	2,342,365	1,762,762
	Elected Members' Allowances	348,426	329,337
	Freight charges	266,264	193,660
	Fuel for Plant and Vehicles	610,514	458,244
	Gas, Power, Sewerage & Water	843,082	801,341
	Insurance Premiums and Fees	473,040	503,331
	Legal & Professional Services	114,657	23,474
	Local Authority Members' Allowances	30,309	-
	Memberships & subscriptions	54,943	72,438
	Operating Leases	321,485	379,283
	Provision for Bad & Doubtful Debts	612	100,000
	Repayment of unaccrued grant liabilities	73,316	184,654
	Telephone & Internet services	602,436	633,454
	Transaction Fees & Taxes	15,898	18,989
	Travel, Accommodation & Entertainment	460,121	378,006
	Total Other Operating Expenses	**7,335,093**	**6,545,844**
5	**CASH ON HAND AND AT BANK**		
	Westpac Operating Account	443,989	320,851
	Westpac Trust Account	1,633,646	1,656,265
	Westpac Territory Housing Account	21	165
	Bank Accounts for community stores	3,636	670
	Westpac Centrelink Processing Account	555	101
	Petty Cash	1,000	1,096
	Amoonguna Store Float	3,000	3,000
	Total Cash on hand and at Bank	**2,085,847**	**1,982,148**

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
6 INVESTMENTS		
Interest earning term deposits at trading banks.	11,000,000	12,000,000
7 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Trade Receivables	590,533	309,491
Allowance for Doubtful Debts	(150,000)	(150,000)
Rates & Charges Receivable	243,552	148,881
GST Receivable	241,010	166,248
Sundry Receivables	153,718	244,905
Accrued Income	426	38,789
Total Trade & Other Receivables	1,079,239	758,314

The average credit period on sales of goods and rendering of services is 60 days.
No interest is charged on the trade receivables.

Ageing of past due but not impaired trade debtors		
30-90 days	36,505	-
90-180 days	5,095	17,622
Greater than 180 days	5,268	535,381
	46,868	553,003

Movement in the allowance for doubtful debts		
Balance at the beginning of the year	150,000	50,000
Amounts written off as uncollectible	-	100,000
Balance at the end of the year	150,000	150,000

8a INVENTORIES & WORK IN PROGRESS		
Goods for sale held at community stores & in bulk fuel tanks	66,281	128,365
Work in progress	311,368	-
Total Inventories & Work in Progress	377,649	128,365

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and Forming Part of the General Purpose Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

9   PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Year Ended 30th June 2015	Land $	Buildings & Facilities $	Furniture & Fittings $	Plant & Equipment $	Vehicles $	Total $
Gross Carrying Amount at Cost						
Opening balances at 1st July 2014	404,250.00	19,841,550	408,249	6,049,448	7,346,994	34,050,491
Additions	-	-	395,709	520,986	944,766	1,861,461
Less: Disposals	-	-	-	(142,019)	(260,024)	(402,043)
Adjustment to correct asset classification	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30th June 2015	404,250	19,841,550	803,958	6,428,415	8,031,736	35,509,909
Accumulated Depreciation						
Opening balances at 1st July 2014	-	19,273,414	316,619	4,681,962	3,851,437	28,123,432
Charge for the year	-	130,553	45,270	428,125	1,131,317	1,735,265
Less: Accumulated depreciation on disposals	-	-	-	(142,019)	(227,489)	(369,508)
Adjustment to correct asset classification	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30th June 2015	-	19,403,967	361,889	4,968,068	4,755,265	29,489,189
Net Book Value						
Carrying value at 1st July 2014	404,250	568,136	91,630	1,367,486	3,495,557	5,927,059
Carrying value at 30th June 2015	404,250	437,583	442,069	1,460,347	3,276,471	6,020,720

Year Ended 30th June 2014	Land $	Buildings & Facilities $	Furniture & Fittings $	Plant & Equipment $	Vehicles $	Total $
Gross Carrying Amount at Cost						
Opening balances at 1st July 2013	404,250	20,143,593	303,727	5,365,995	6,796,837	33,014,402
Additions	-	-	40,552	460,160	1,592,500	2,093,212
Less: Disposals	-	-	-	(18,189)	(1,038,934)	(1,057,123)
Adjustment to correct closing balance *	-	(302,043)	63,970	241,482	(3,409)	0
Balance at 30th June 2014	404,250	19,841,550	408,249	6,049,448	7,346,994	34,050,491
Accumulated Depreciation						
Opening balances at 1st July 2013	-	19,179,139	244,721	4,279,202	3,536,876	27,239,938
Charge for the year	-	130,553	49,175	404,445	1,093,300	1,677,473
Less: Accumulated depreciation on disposals	-	-	-	(18,189)	(775,790)	(793,979)
Adjustment to correct opening balance	-	(36,278)	22,723	16,504	(2,949)	0
Balance at 30th June 2014	-	19,273,414	316,619	4,681,962	3,851,437	28,123,432
Net Book Value						
Carrying value at 1st July 2013	404,250	964,454	59,006	1,086,793	3,259,961	5,774,464
Carrying value at 30th June 2014	404,250	568,136	91,630	1,367,486	3,495,557	5,927,059

* Adjustments represent correction in line with transfer of assets onto accounting system

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
10a PAYABLES & ACCRUALS		
Creditors	1,443,290	1,325,935
PAYG payable	-	113,677
Unearned Income	7,137	-
Accruals & Other payables	913,367	772,774
Total Trade and Other Payables	**2,363,794**	**2,212,386**
10b CURRENT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Annual leave, including on-costs	1,269,436	1,251,191
Sick leave	275,448	240,982
Long service leave	295,391	174,042
Total Current Employee Benefits	**1,840,275**	**1,666,215**
10c NON CURRENT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Long service leave	431,805	349,978
Total Non Current Employee Benefits	**431,805**	**349,978**
10d BORROWINGS		
Westpac credit card liability	2,313	(1,338)
Total Borrowings	**2,313**	**(1,338)**

11 RECONCILIATION OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2015	2014
Operating Surplus (Deficit) for the year	**813,150**	**1,990,208**
(Profit) loss on disposal of assets	(160,074)	(325,646)
Depreciation of non-current assets	1,735,265	1,677,473
Impairment of net assets	-	-
Donated assets received	-	(434,760)
Increase (decrease) in doubtful debts provision	-	100,000
Changes in Net Assets:		
Change in assets and liabilities		
(Increase) / Decrease in trade and other receivables	214,456	567,901
Decrease / (Increase) in Inventory	(249,284)	(107,397)
Increase / (Decrease) in trade and other payables	151,408	683,102
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	255,887	555,257
Increase / (Decrease) in unexpended grant liability	(2,126,909)	(4,908,782)
11a Net cash provided by operating activities	**633,899**	**(202,644)**

Reconciliation of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2015	2014
Cash on Hand and at Bank	2,085,847	1,982,148
Investments - Term deposits	11,000,000	12,000,000
11b Cash & Cash Equivalents at End of the Reporting Period	**13,085,847**	**13,982,148**

12 EXPENDITURE COMMITMENTS
There were no other expenditure commitments at the balance sheet date.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
13 DEFERRED GRANT INCOME		

The following unexpended grants that have been paid to the Council for specific purposes are treated as deferred income at the end of the financial year. This is because funding bodies will require either that the unused funds be returned or that they be carried forward to be applied against activities undertaken in future periods.

	2015	2014
2008 Sport & Rec Ltyentye Apurte	17,031	17,031
11/12 DOHA Purchase of Medical Equipment Docker River CO-4	9,906	9,906
11/12 CTG-Strengthen Governance Capacity	-	17,757
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Areyonga	-	54,732
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Docker River	-	28,290
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Finke	-	45,163
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Ikuntji	-	40,950
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Kintore	-	14,648
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Papunya	-	19,867
12/13 DEEWR Child Care Titjikala	-	17,960
13/14 DCS Youth Diversion Service	-	2,237
13/14 Indigenous Women in Sport Program	-	14,545
13/14 DEEWR Minor Works	6,878	155,405
13/14 DEEWR Upgrade Child Care Centres	-	5,004
13/14 Apatula Creche Establisment Funds- Landscaping & Shade Structures	-	31,068
13/14 Santa Teresa Establishment Grant	-	54,221
13/14 Local Government Energy Efficiency Program (LCEEP)	-	(4,253)
13/14 Emergency Equipment Sheds	-	(7,537)
Five Mile Bore Project	-	1,153
13/14 Maintenance and Facility upgrades to swimming pools	-	30,566
Unfunded Pool Donation Income	-	23,195
13/14 Capital Infrastructure Grant 2013/01606-16	-	72,890
13/14 Matching Funds	-	52,365
13/14 SPG Purchase Compactor Trucks Santa Teresa & Papunya	-	20,806
13/14 SPG Purchase two rear loading compactor trucks (Agreement 2)	-	22,460
13/14 SPG upgrade parks at Aputula and Imanpa	-	4,168
13/14 SPG Territory Rebranding	-	180,611
CACP Community Aged Care - DOHA	(38,576)	(19,427)
Childcare Support Program - PM&C	458	-
Children's Services - DSS	140,047	-
CLC Cemetery	127	-
Community Night Patrols - AGD	160,682	265,766
Complete Personnel Children Services	188,420	-
FAA Roads	105,304	222,651
Governance Training Workshops - CTG	113,885	113,885

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $
Homelands Extra Allowance	239,871	65,868
Housing Management Program - Fencing Grant	1,852,705	3,563,971
HR Community Info Induction Package	63,350	63,350
Youth Governance & Leadership Program	36	7,604
Local Authority Project Funding	233,211	-
Local Authorities Strengthening - CTG	40,666	-
NT Closing the Gap Strengthen Governance Capacity - 13/14	124,375	124,375
NT Converted Jobs Program - NTG	5,877	-
NT Establishment of Local Authorities	31,860	121,929
NT Library Grant Santa Teresa	144	27,228
OHSC Service - DEEWR	16,310	-
Outstations - Housing Maintenance Program	19,342	45,338
Outstations - Municipal and Essential Services Program	10,519	120,480
Papunya Football Oval Lighting - ABA	81,721	-
Papunya Hazardous Waste - NTEPA	899	-
Recreational Infrastucture Papunya - 12/13	154,000	154,000
School Nutrition Program - DEEWR	18,147	49,640
Self Funded Sport & Rec	513	(3,740)
SPG Community Oval Upgrades	80,520	-
SPG Purchase of Hino Trucks	484	-
Workforce Mentoring	67,831	293,604
Youth In Communities (YIC) - FAHCSIA	198	-
Other Committed Funds	250,166	-
Social Club Funds	1,217	385
	3,998,124	**6,142,115**
2013/14 Grants Received in Advance		
Aged Care WIN Enterprise Tailored Grant Reform Ready Review	-	16,000
Caylus	88,082	-
Local Area Traffic Management Grants	-	55,000
Quick Response Grant Papunya Community	2,000	2,000
VSA Program 2013-14 SACS Award Payment	2,195	2,195
Sub-total	**92,277**	**75,195**
Total Deferred Grant Income	**4,090,401**	**6,217,310**

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2015

	2015 $	2014 $

14   OTHER INFORMATION

The entity is a not-for-profit local government authority incorporated under the Local Government Act 2008 of the Northern Territory of Australia. The principal place of business and registered address of the entity is:

1 Bagot Street, Alice Springs, NT, 0870.

MacDonnell Regional Council is a member of CouncilBiz, a local subsidiary operating under the auspices of the Local Government Act (NT). The other members are Barkly, Central Desert, East Arnhem, Roper Gulf, Tiwi Islands, Victoria Daly and West Arnhem Regional Councils and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.

CouncilBiz provides an Information Technology support service and charges its members on a user-pays basis based on a formula agreed to by all members.

Information regarding CouncilBiz can be found on the MacDonnell Regional Council Web Site: www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au

15   POST BALANCE DATE EVENTS

There were no Post Balance Date Events

MacDonnell Regional Council

16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS
The Council is exposed through its financial instruments to liquidity risk, credit risk, and interest rate risk.

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be in a position to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Council manages its liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows and through budget management. Liquidity is also supported by the fact that a high proportion of government subsidies and grants are received before the activities and projects to which they relate are undertaken.

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Council in the event of the failure by a commercial debtor or funding agency to meet its contractual or statutory obligations. Credit risk is greatly mitigated by the fact that the only parties with whom the Council has material dealings are agencies of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments.

Interest rate risk management

The entity has no material exposure to interest rate risk, its only borrowing was a mortgage over 50% of its HQ building. The Bank Bill Business Loan facility, with the options redraw facility was cancelled effective close of business on the 30th June 2014. Prior to this, the redraw balance available during the year had been $810,000, but was not used during the year. The interest rate of the loan was 4.92%.

2015	Ave. Int. rate %	Variable Int. rate $	Fixed Interest rate Less than 1 year	Fixed Interest rate 1 to 5 years	Non-Interest Bearing	Total
Financial Assets						
Cash *	2.50	2,085,847				2,085,847
Term deposits at bank	3.32		11,000,000			11,000,000
Trade receivables					440,533	440,533
Rates Receivable					243,552	243,552
Total financial assets		2,085,847	11,000,000	-	684,085	13,769,932
Financial Liabilities						
Trade payables					1,443,290	1,443,290
Unexpended grants					4,090,401	4,090,401
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	5,533,691	5,533,691

2014	Ave. Int. rate %	Variable Int. rate $	Fixed Interest rate Less than 1 year	Fixed Interest rate 1 to 5 years	Non-Interest Bearing	Total
Financial Assets						
Cash *	2.50	1,982,148				1,982,148
Term deposits at bank	3.92		12,000,000			12,000,000
Trade receivables					694,872	694,872
Rates Receivable					148,881	148,881
Total financial assets		1,982,148	12,000,000	-	843,753	14,825,901
Financial Liabilities						
Trade payables					1,325,935	1,325,935
Unexpended grants					6,217,310	6,217,310
Total financial liabilities		-	-	-	7,543,245	7,543,245

MacDonnell Regional Council

* Interest is calculated on the closing daily balance on each account in excess of $2,000. Tiered rates of interest apply to the credit balance. Interest is calculated daily and credited monthly in arrears on the last business day of each calendar month.

There is no foreign exchange risk.

MacDonnell Regional Council