

Media Release

for immediate release

Joint news item from Central Desert Regional Council and
MacDonnell Regional Council released on 24 May 2021 page 1 of 3

Renovation of MacDonnell Regional Council Alice Springs Office supports local economy

The Alice Springs office of MacDonnell Regional Council will be officially opened by the Hon Chanston Paech MLA Minister for Local Government at 5:00pm on Thursday 27 May 2021.

Central Desert Regional Council (CDRC) and MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) were proud to be able to support local jobs and the economy in this large construction project. As construction occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, the boost to the construction industry and supply businesses in the Central Australian region provided certainty in unprecedented times.

Designed by Central Australian architect practice Susan Dugdale & Associates, the building was constructed and project managed by MPH Projects, a well-known Central Australian construction company, who successfully tendered for the project. MPH Projects utilised the services of 29 Alice Springs-based contractors in the build, with over 80 workers employed, including 15 apprentices. Their skills included demolition, concreting, flooring, cabinet making, scaffolding, rigging, rendering, power and data, window tinting and fire systems. MPH Projects sourced 79% of all materials, as determined by value, from 37 local suppliers. The majority of products sourced non-locally were not available in Alice Springs.

In striving towards both Council's objective of increasing Aboriginal employment opportunities through tendered contracts, 3241 hours of Aboriginal employment was achieved during the office redevelopment.

For this building project, the joint owners of the buildings on the Bagot St site, CDRC and MRC received a grant of \$1.5 million from the Northern Territory Government Strategic Local Government Infrastructure Fund (SLGIF) to expand on office space. CDRC and MRC allocated \$1.5 million each, a contribution of one third from all parties.



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Another benefit from the \$4.5 million MacDonnell Regional Council Alice Springs office building project includes the extra office space provided to deliver valued services to constituents of both regional councils. Both regional council teams play an important role in supporting the wide variety of valued services delivered by their great teams located in each of the communities. The new facility also includes an updated Council Chambers providing a space for formal decision-making processes.

The head-quarter based teams of the CDRC and MRC had expanded to outgrow the previous office buildings on Bagot St. Approval was received from the Development Consent Authority to expand office space by building a second story on the existing ground floor office.

Diane Hood, CEO CDRC said there is mutual benefit to both MRC and CDRC of the refit and it is a great example of the sharing of resources and infrastructure, as well as the close working relationship that we have. “Refreshing our shared asset has been worthwhile and demonstrates the close working relationship that both our Councils enjoy.”

Jeff MacLeod CEO MRC said he was proud that the project provided a boost to the local economy through the construction and supply industries. “It is fantastic that the construction of such a great building could support local businesses and the families they support in such uncertain times during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

CDRC background

The Central Desert Regional Council area is located in the central southern section of the Northern Territory, lying north of Alice Springs. Central Desert Regional Council is named to describe its location and geography in the central part of Australia and encompassing the Tanami Desert. The land area is 282,064 Km²

The original inhabitants of the Central Desert Regional Council area were the Anmatjere, Arrernte and Warlpiri Aboriginal people. The communities in the Central Desert are Lajamanu, Ti Tree, Wilora, Nturiya, Pmara Jutunta, Willowra, Laramba, Nyirripi, Yuelamu, Atitjere, Engawala and Yuendumu. There are also several homelands and outstations.

Website: www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au



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MRC background

MRC delivers a wide range of municipal, essential, community and contract services across an area of 268,764 kms² (area larger than Victoria). MRC has service centres located in each of the 13 major remote communities within the Council area and also services numerous outstations.

The delivery of services across the MRC area has seen the organisation grow to be over 500 employees, with 80% being Aboriginal, working and living in their communities. The language groups of Luritja, Pintubi, Pitjantjatjara, Western Arrarnta, Central Arrernte and Eastern Arrernte are strong in the MRC area.

Website: www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au

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