

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT





MacDonnell
Regional Council

Cover Image: Dirtgirl and Milpa the Goanna join with members of the MRC Civil team to spread the healthy communities message to children in Finke Oct 2022.

2022-23 Annual Report of the MacDonnell Regional Council is produced in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019. It is a report on MacDonnell Regional Council's progress against the 2022-23 Regional Plan.

At MacDonnell Regional Council we work with our funding partners in an endeavour to achieve our shared goals, provide meaningful employment and to improve life and opportunities for those who live in our communities.

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Message from Council President

Roxanne Kenny

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to everyone at MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) for their dedication and hard work this year. Whether staff, councillors, or local authority members, you are the backbone of this organisation and the reason why we can provide quality services and improve the well-being of the remote communities we serve.

MRC has again shown its commitment to strong leadership, collaboration with local authorities, community engagement, and evidence-based decision making. I appreciate the valuable insights that our Local Authorities contribute to our governance and planning processes. They help us understand the needs and aspirations of our communities and ensure that our services are culturally appropriate and responsive.

I also recognise the importance of community development and professional development for our staff, councillors, and all members of MRC. We want to build the capacity of our people and offer employment opportunities to community members. We also want to support our staff and councillors to grow professionally and personally. I know that we face some challenges, such as staff retention issues, but I am confident that we can overcome them with our resilience and determination.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Northern Territory and Federal Government in our achievements. They play a vital role in funding our programs and projects and enabling us to deliver services that meet the standards and expectations of



our communities. We value their partnerships and look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

I want to reiterate my commitment to working together with all of you to benefit the communities served by MacDonnell Regional Council. I am proud of what we have accomplished this year and optimistic about what we can achieve in the future. Thank you to all of the staff, Councillors and LA members for your hard work, dedication, and passion.

Finally, I want to thank someone who has shown the passion to work for the benefit all of MRC's residents since the first day of operation. Jeff MacLeod stepped down as CEO at the end of this financial year. Jeff has worked hard as CEO and I have been lucky to have worked alongside him delivering for the communities. I am sure that you all, like me, wish him the best in his retirement. Going forward we are pleased to have Belinda Urquhart as our new CEO and I ask you all to make her welcome when you see her in community.



Above: View from Memory Hill, near Haasts Bluff.

Message from Chief Executive Officer

Belinda Urquhart

It is a privilege to share this overview of the accomplishments, challenges, and vision of MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) for the 22-23 Annual Report. This is my first Annual Report as CEO and it is evident that the dedication of MRC staff have contributed to significant positive changes within the organisation and across the communities we serve. I will break down my observations into eight key points:

Commitment to Community: The heart of MacDonnell Regional Council's mission is to serve the people and deliver the best possible services to residents. The importance of listening to the voices of the community through Local Authorities and elected members is highlighted as a fundamental aspect of our decision-making. The council's efforts to support relationships through regular face-to-face meetings with Council and Local Authorities demonstrate a commitment to open communication and personal interaction.

Pride in Mission and Vision: Witnessing the council's mission and vision being realised, fills me with pride and serves as a strong motivation for my work. This pride drives my ongoing dedication to serving the community and leading the staff to achieve continued success. The leadership of President Kenny and the Elected Members has been crucial for the organisation in meeting our obligations.

Continuous Service Delivery: Despite obstacles and challenges, the executive leadership group has overseen the consistent delivering of services across



the entire period. Our emphasis on policy development and adherence to correct procedures underscores our commitment to quality results. MRC continues to provide a highly committed response to core services, focusing on improved liveability across all thirteen communities.

Workforce and Generational Change: MacDonnell Regional Council has experienced shifts in its workforce, including the loss of long-term staff. However, efforts to recruit and develop a stronger team indicate our commitment to maintaining institutional knowledge and fostering new talent. The shift towards providing real jobs is a notable achievement that enhances community members' sense of purpose and self-reliance. There has been a huge focus on training staff across the organisation with the intent to empower staff in community and build community development.

Comprehensive Community Services: The council's focus on providing services for all age groups, from children, to youth and the

elderly, demonstrates a holistic approach to community well-being. Efforts to improve perceptions of education and encourage parental involvement are particularly noteworthy in shaping future development. Staffing in our childcare centres has been a particular challenge and we continue to work with funding providers and stakeholders, seeking initiatives and strategies to overcome this.

Financial Stability: Recognising the importance of a strong financial basis, the council's commitment to financial responsibility ensures the ability to sustainably pay staff, cover bills, and improve assets. This foundation is crucial for future development and growth.

Supply Chain Challenges: Like many other organisations, MacDonnell Regional Council faces challenges related to shortages of tradespeople and supply chain disruptions. Our team's acknowledgment of these nationwide issues and our community's understanding underscores MRC's

transparency and responsiveness.

Looking Forward: The council's efforts to rebuild relationships post pandemic through regular face-to-face meetings with Local Authorities demonstrate a commitment to open communication and personal interaction. I am mindful of the need to build on solid foundations and plan for the future and aim to ensure the council's continued growth and success. Nothing changes, if nothing changes and whilst MRC has been a constant and stable service provider, it is important that we as an organisation remain relevant and progressive.

In closing, I'd like to acknowledge the previous, long serving, CEO Jeff MacLeod. After many years of leading the MRC organisation, Jeff made the decision to retire. His leadership vision, the progress he made, and the challenges he overcame during his tenure are inspirational. Jeff will be greatly missed and the organisation wishes him the best in his retirement.



Above: Cr Young and Jeff MacLeod try the new water refill station in Santa Teresa.

01

THE COUNCIL

Covering 268,329 km² of the southernmost part of Australia's Northern Territory, MacDonnell Regional Council provides local government services to some of the continent's most remote communities. The council takes its name from the MacDonnell Ranges, which dominate much of the landscape and from where the Todd and Finke rivers flow out; giving life to the arid desert environment.

Right: The October 2022 Council meeting in the Council Chambers.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

THE COUNCIL

MacDonnell Regional Council was established in 2008, taking over from a number of smaller community councils and local boards. During its first 15 years of operation, The Council has established strong governance procedures that respect and utilise traditional indigenous governance practices. The Council serves the residents of 13 remote communities and associated outstations.

About Council

MacDonnell Regional Council is led by 12 elected members, selected from four wards. Councillors are elected for four years, with the most recent election held in August 2021.

There were three by-elections held during the 2022-23 financial year to fill vacant positions on council. This resulted in three new councillors, two in Rodinga Ward and one in Luritja Pintubi Ward.

Throughout its annual cycle, Council holds Ordinary Council Meetings every two months, and Special Council Meetings as required. Meetings may be held on any of the 13 communities within the Council, at a local business within the Council region or in Alice Springs. Residents of our communities and members of the public are encouraged to attend Council meetings. All Council meetings are open to the public, unless confidential business is being considered.

MacDonnell Regional Council has a Finance and Risk Committee, Audit Committee and Local Authorities in each of its 13 remote communities. Dates, times, agendas and minutes for all Council and committee meetings, including Local Authority meetings, are available on the MacDonnell Regional Council website: www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au/meetings.

Our Communities

MRC covers 13 major remote communities, as well as many outstations and enterprises in the pastoral, tourism and mining industries. The towns of Alice Springs and Yulara are excluded from the MRC. The 2022 Estimated Resident Population for MacDonnell Regional Council LGA is 6,640, with a population density of 0.02 persons per square km.

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

Having strong and effective Aboriginal representatives on the Council has provided an opportunity to discuss and develop effective two-way communication and engagement as well as strong governance principles and practices. Councillor discussions are multi-lingual, moving easily between the Aboriginal languages spoken in the MacDonnell region (mainly Luritja, Pintubi, Pitjantjatjara and Arrernte) and English.

In weighing-up the impacts of their decisions made, councillors explore vastly different perspectives and expectations.

Local Authorities

Local Decision Making (LDM) is a Northern Territory Government commitment to provide opportunities to transfer government service delivery to Aboriginal Territorians and organisations, based on their community aspirations. It sets out a 10 year plan aiming to provide a pathway towards communities exercising greater control over their own affairs.

Local Authorities are established under the Local Government Act 2019 and have the following functions:

- To involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government
- To ensure local communities have an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government
- To allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality, as well as policies for the area and the region
- To take the views of local communities back to council and act as advocates on their behalf
- To develop a Local Authority Plan for their community and contribute to the Regional Plan.

MacDonnell Regional Council recognises that building, supporting and investing in strong governance is necessary to ensure local people drive local solutions, and that the members of our communities are supported in managing local decision making. To this end Council is a strong supporter of its Local Authorities.

Local Authorities may also from time to time represent their community on other matters, with governments and other organisations able to approach them for advice and consultation on a range of issues.

The table, below, shows the outcome of scheduled meetings by communities throughout the financial year. 60% of meetings were held successfully with a quorum, 21% were provisional; held but without a quorum and 19% were cancelled.

Of the cancelled meetings, 7 were due to a lack of a quorum, 2 were due to sorry business and one was because of a conflicting meeting schedule.

	July-Sep 2022	Oct-Dec 2022	Jan-Mar 2023	Apr-June 2023	
Amoonguna					<div>Quorum</div> <div>Provisional meeting held without quorum</div> <div>Deferred meeting held, with quorum, in following quarter</div> <div>Cancelled</div>
Areyonga					
Docker River					
Finke					
Haasts Bluff					
Hermannsburg					
Imanpa					
Kintore					
Mt Liebig					
Papunya					
Santa Teresa					
Titjikala					
Wallace Rockhole					

Across the 13 communities, a number of projects have been recommended to Council by the Local Authorities. These are currently being actioned or are in the process of being costed with resources to be allocated.

These projects include initiatives such as:

- Landscaping at community spaces including planting trees and shrubs, installing benches, providing fencing and building BBQ facilities.
- Erecting bus shelters and other shade structures.
- Construction projects to enhance community facilities.
- Installing solar lights at playgrounds.
- Redevelopment and repair of sporting facilities.
- Community beautification, including murals.

L.A. Projects

	Funds Expended 22/23	Balance of Funds
Amoonguna	\$18302	\$28220
Areyonga	\$17010	\$58690
Docker River	\$30024	\$74600
Finke	\$1944	\$30285
Haasts Bluff	\$3323	\$20309
Hermannsburg	\$4561	\$187670
Imanpa	\$16851	\$49323
Kintore	\$2752	\$193907
Mt. Liebig	\$29248	\$40328
Papunya	\$5662	\$125245
Santa Teresa	\$46049	\$88001
Titjikala	\$14710	\$85286
Wallace Rockhole	\$8938	\$24384

Our Workforce

	MRC Workforce	Aboriginal Workforce	Community Population
Alice Springs	89	7.9%	N/A
Amoonguna	26	96%	228
Areyonga (Utju)	35	91%	236
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)	23	86%	195
Finke (Aputula)	22	95%	191
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)	29	86%	118
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)	42	95%	551
Imanpa	17	94%	124
Kintore (Walungurru)	25	84%	420
Papunya (Warumpi)	39	89%	438
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)	36	94%	609
Titjikala	38	94%	196
Wallace Rockhole	8	100%	87

Elected Councillors

Ljirapinta Ward



President
Roxanne Kenny
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)



Councillor
Bobby Abbott
Wallace Rockhole



Councillor
Mark Inkamala
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Rodinga Ward



Councillor
Andrew Davis
Amoonguna
elected 19 June 2023



Councillor
Aloysiois Hayes
Titjikala
elected 19 June 2023



Councillor
Lisa Sharman
Titjikala



Councillor
Patrick Allen
Finke (Aputula)

Iyarrka Ward



Councillor
Abraham Poulson
Areyonga



Councillor
Marlene Abbott
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Luritja Pintubi Ward



Deputy President
Dalton McDonald
Papunya (Warumpi)



Councillor
Jason Minor
Mt Liebig



Councillor
Tommy Conway
Kintore (Walungurru)
elected 19 June 2023

Former Councillors



Councillor
Annie Young
Until 2 Jan 2023



Councillor
L Ellis
Until 5 Jan 2023



Councillor
Peter Turner
Until 2 Feb 2023

Photo used with family permission

Our Services

Services offered by MacDonnell Regional Council in each community.

	AMOONGUNA	AREYONGA	DOCKER RIVER	FINKE	HAASTS BLUFF	HERMANNSBURG
Council Infrastructure						
Municipal Services						
Outstations						
Swimming Pools						
Airstrip Maintenance						
Australia Post						
Centrelink						
NDIS Community Connections						
Community Store						
Indigenous Essential Services (Power Maintenance)						
Indigenous Essential Services (Water Maintenance)						
Sewerage Maintenance			*			
Early Learning Centres						
Community Safety						
Libraries						
Aged and Disability Services						
School Nutrition						
Youth Services						
Sport and Recreation						
Justice/Youth Diversion						

Service Offered

Service NOT Offered

* Community has a mix of mains sewerage and septic systems.

	IMANPA	KINTORE	MOUNT LIEBIG	PAPUNYA	SANTA TERESA	TITJIKALA	WALLACE ROCKHOLE
Council Infrastructure							
Municipal Services							
Outstations							
Swimming Pools							
Airstrip Maintenance							
Australia Post							
Centrelink							
NDIS Community Connections							
Community Store							
Indigenous Essential Services (Power Maintenance)							
Indigenous Essential Services (Water Maintenance)							
Sewerage Maintenance						*	
Early Learning Centres							
Community Safety							
Libraries							
Aged and Disability Services							
School Nutrition							
Youth Services							
Sport and Recreation							
Justice/Youth Diversion							

Service Offered

Service NOT Offered

* Community has a mix of mains sewerage and septic systems.

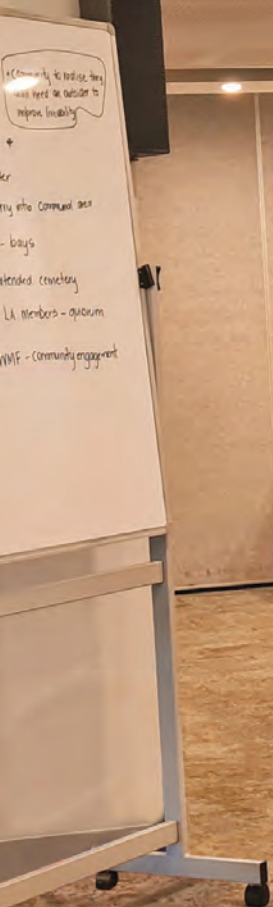
02

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our Strategic Planning is guided by the vision, mission and values of the MacDonnell Regional Council. Council assesses our performance against our goals, objectives, and key performance indicators; as laid out in our 2022-23 Regional Plan.


Right: Service Centre Delivery staff get together for a planning workshop.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

Our Vision



Many voices,
one dream,
building a quality
desert lifestyle

Our Mission



to improve the lives of Council residents
by delivering valued and relevant services

Our Values

open

We will build strong relationships
and seek feedback and input on our work

accountable

Our work must be transparent and accountable to
MacDonnell Regional Council residents

respectful

We will respect and support our diverse
cultures and heritage

inclusive

We will value and incorporate local knowledge
experience and perspectives into the work we do

innovative

We will seek new ideas and ways to achieve
our outcomes and improve our services

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*. To fulfil our mission and accomplish our vision we set goals, objectives, and strategies that are supported by key performance indicators which provide a measure of our progress.

The 2022–23 financial year was one of building on solid foundations established from previous years whilst working within a challenging fiscal environment.

MRC is faced with increasing constituent expectations against what is overall a shrinking income stream and rising costs. To address this, we have had to look to other sources of income and a reduction in expenditure. Our performance measures should be seen in that context. As a whole we remain very proud of our performance.

MRC acknowledges the financial assistance of both Federal and Northern Territory governments in their support of services provision to MacDonnell Regional Council communities and the importance of this funding in the support of our continued delivery of quality services.

In order to measure progress across all our goals, outcomes (sub-goals) strategies and key performance indicators (KPIs), MacDonnell Regional Council has again used the following ratings system to quickly show the progress.

Strategic Rating Key



Still to be achieved










Partially achieved

Achieved completely



Goal 1. Developing communities




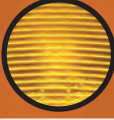
Objective 1.1 MRC's infrastructure meets community needs

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Develop MRC Community Infrastructure Plans to guide infrastructure investment and development	Develop and adopt 10 year MRC Community Infrastructure Plans for each community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plans developed and adopted over 5 years 	June 2027		Works are ongoing and on schedule.
Secure long term land tenure for lots used in the delivery of MRC services	Community based lots that utilised by MRC to deliver services are leased under Section 19 leases <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of MRC's lots have S19 leases 100% compliant within 2 years 	June 2024		100% of Council's core services now leased. Discussions regarding funded services ongoing.
Internal roads that support community development	Develop a long-term road and storm water drainage maintenance plan for council-controlled roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliant by June 2023 	June 2023		The Infrastructure team has completed road logging the entire funded network. Maintenance plan is not yet complete.
	Implement a long-term road and storm water drainage maintenance plan for council-controlled roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be rolled out over 5 years 100% compliant by June 2027 	June 2027		Awaiting development of plan as above.
Implement funding decisions of Local Authorities	Complete LA projects within 2 years of funding allocation being released <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliance for all local authority projects 	June 2025		100% of the funding allocation received 2 years ago has been spent and acquitted.
Focus on ensuring MRC's facilities are safe and secure	Undertake a risk assessment of MRC's facilities to determine areas to be targeted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliant by June 2024 	June 2024		12 of the Council's community facilities have been inspected by the WHS team.
Improve Council's responsiveness to maintenance issues	Undertake a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis into the establishment of an in-house mobile maintenance team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliant by June 2023 	June 2023		Completed.
Partner with the NT Government to drive the Local Government 2030 Strategy	CEO to report to Council on progress made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reports to be provided twice per year 100% compliance each year 	June 2023		Completed.
Improve energy efficiency	LED lighting, water saving devices and solar panels to be introduced to council buildings to improve energy efficiency and decrease power and water consumption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to be rolled out over 5 years 100% compliant by June 2027 	June 2027		Light audits have been commenced. Finke reviewed and now 100% LED. Solar has been installed on Papunya and Amoonguna.


Objective 1.2 Create employment opportunities

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Collaborate with training providers and funding partners	Create in-community training opportunities through collaboration with training providers and funding partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one course to be delivered by external services providers in each community per year 	June 2023		Numeracy and Literacy training with Ninti One has been available to staff across MRC. Aged Care delivered Cert III to all staff members. Children Services delivered Cert III and First Aid to communities. ESO Water Chlorination Cert II undertaken. SCD partnered with NTTs To upskill civil staff in Cert II P&E and Cert II in Civil Construction.
	The ELT is to convene meetings with relevant agencies to clearly define MRC's employment gaps and job-ready requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliant by December 2022 	Dec 2022		Recent meetings held with Catholic Care, Nguratjuta and Tjwampa.

Objective 1.3 Increase Aboriginal employment opportunities

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Promote Aboriginal employment within MRC	Community-based positions filled by Aboriginal staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 90% Aboriginal staff 100% compliance each year 	June 2023		92.2% of community based positions are filled by Aboriginal staff.
	Service contracts secured which guarantee Aboriginal employment and training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 10% Aboriginal employment/training 100% compliance each year 	Dec 2022		New Airstrips contract has been negotiated. Australia Post contract 100% Aboriginal staff.
	Local Aboriginal labour achieved through delivery of MRC's tendered contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 10% Aboriginal labour 100% compliance each year 	June 2023		Successful Audit Tender has 4% indigenous staff Hermannsburg light project, company has 25% indigenous staff.
	Alice Springs based positions filled by Aboriginal staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 15% Aboriginal staff 100% compliance each year 	Dec 2022		Target was met in the 3rd quarter, but staff changes have reduced the percentage in the 4th quarter.

1.4 Support local Aboriginal enterprise

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Engage with stakeholders to develop a collaborative approach to enterprise development	Convene meetings with relevant stakeholders to identify clear pathways and coordinated approaches to Aboriginal enterprise development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 2 meetings to be held each year with the CEO to report to Council on progress made 	June 2023		Meetings held with NT Tourism.

Goal 2. Healthy communities

2.1 Support active and healthy lifestyles

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Collaborate with community stakeholders to promote health initiatives	Implement NT Healthy Communities project to encourage healthy hygiene and eating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 13 MRC communities over 5 years 	June 2027		Four Healthy Community events undertaken in the year.
All MRC facilities are 'smoke-free' zones	Develop 'smoke-free' policy and campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = policy and campaign approved by June 2023 	June 2023		Development in progress to be finalised in Q1 2023/24.
Promote healthy eating through MRC's services, meetings, functions and events	Policy developed and approved on MRC provided food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = policy and campaign approved by June 2023 	June 2023		Development in progress to be finalised in Q1 2023/24.

2.2 Improve environmental health outcomes

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Promote sustainable communities through waste management awareness and education	MRC to participate in the NT Tidy Towns program each year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation by all 13 MRC communities 100% compliant 	June 2023		All communities entered and Mt Liebig won the NT awards, moving on to the National Finals where they won 4 awards.
Improve the health of animals living in communities	Using established baseline data develop and implement animal health programs targeting identified health issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = development of program to be completed by June 2023 target = implementation to be completed by June 2024 	June 2023		Development has been finalised, Implementation due next year.
	Working in partnership with AMRRIC, develop and implement animal health education and management through schools in the MRC region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = development of program to be completed by June 2024 target = implementation to be completed by June 2025 	June 2024		Program rolled out to all 13 community schools.
Recycling at MRC's waste management facilities	Consider opportunities for recycling at MRC's waste management facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = undertake recycling trials at two communities 	June 2023		Recycling trials completed in target communities.

2.3 Support community and cultural events

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Provide in-kind support for community and cultural initiatives	Develop templates which capture in-kind support provided in assisting with community events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = one significant event in each ward in each calendar year target = \$50,000pa 100% compliant 	June 2023		Template developed and events held in all wards including sports weekends, Papunya family day, bush bands and help with washing machine installation.
Provide support and assistance with the conduct of major cultural events	Engage with stakeholders to coordinate the development of an event checklist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = checklist to be completed by June 2023 100% compliant 	June 2023		Checklist developed.

Goal 3. Empowered communities

3.1 Young people are empowered to be engaged representatives

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Provide support for youth leadership across the MRC region	Develop and maintain Youth Boards in the 9 MacYouth communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 3 Youth Boards established per year target = Youth Boards meet 3 times per community per year 	June 2025		Ongoing meetings held throughout the year.
	Develop a governance training plan including formal meeting procedures, agendas, minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = training plan to be developed by June 2023 target = provide one module at each Youth Board meeting 	June 2025		Work commenced on development of training plan.
	Develop meeting procedures, agendas, minutes appropriate to the Youth Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliance by June 2023 	June 2023		Developed on paper, currently being merged into MacYouth app for ease of use.
Local Authorities engage with Youth Boards	A Youth Board chairperson is appointed as a member of the respective Local Authority in their community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = chairperson attends all LA meetings 100% compliance within 3 years 	June 2025		Coordinator Engagement has been working with the Youth Teams to identify suitable candidates from Youth Boards to attend LA meetings. Work still to be done to get representatives along to meetings.
	Local Authority Project Funding continues to be allocated to local Youth Board identified projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 10% of LA Project Funding per year 	June 2023		\$27748, 5% of LA funding for the 2022/23 year, was allocated to Youth projects in 4 communities.
Provide support for 25-40 year olds residents to be leaders	Future Leaders pilot program in a community (Titjikala) completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% compliance within 3 years 	June 2023		Through meeting the Youth Gap, Young People up to 30 are being developed to become leaders.

3.2 Local Authority and Council members are trained and empowered in their roles to lead into the future

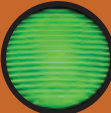
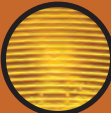
Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Mandatory governance training is undertaken by all Elected Members	Implement NT Healthy Communities project to encourage healthy hygiene and eating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 13 MRC communities over 5 years 	Sept 2022		Since recent by-elections, 2 out of 3 recently elected members have attended NTG training.
Governance training is delivered to all appointed members of Local Authorities	Local Authority governance training program developed and approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = compliant by June 2024 	June 2024		Work has progressed on developing a training package, however, this needs to be reviewed in light of recent changes to the LA Guideline.
	All Local Authority members complete the governance training program within 12 months of appointment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 100% compliance on an ongoing basis 	June 2023		This is awaiting the above development of the training modules.

3.3 Local Authority and Council members, constituents and stakeholders are engaged and informed


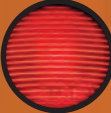
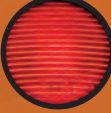

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Local Authority meetings are readily accessible to members and the public	<p>Communities hold LA meeting outdoors which include lunch/shared meal at which all members - appointed and elected - can talk with members of the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = each community holds one outdoor meeting per year 	June 2023		Nine communities held outside meetings between April and June 2023, 2 outside LA meetings were scheduled but failed due to lack of quorum. One LA is scheduled to hold their outside meeting at their next meeting and one LA is yet to agree on a date for their outside meeting.
Increase community awareness of LA decisions and services	<p>Developed edited version of LA minutes to be posted in each community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = development to be completed by December 2022 target = minutes to be posted within 7 days of LA meetings on an ongoing basis 	Dec 2022		A poster has been developed and is now posted on community notice boards after each LA alongside a copy of the LA finance report.
Increase community input to inform Council and Local Authority decision-making	<p>Undertake annual Community Satisfaction Survey, and public consultation on Regional and Strategic Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 22/23 survey to be completed by June 2023 target = 100% compliance on an ongoing basis thereafter 	June 2023		A Community Satisfaction Survey has been completed in some communities. Results will be collated and reported on, once all communities have been covered.

Goal 4. Supportive Organisation

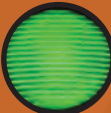

4.1 Support new employees

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Develop induction and orientation processes that ensure new starters settle in quickly and become productive in their jobs	Development of online, self-paced learning system to assist with orientation of new staff to explain MRC's policies, guidelines, processes and the completion of all required documentation and the setup of computers/phones, etc - first week of employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = learning system to be finalised by June 2024 	June 2024		New system developed and implemented for new staff.
	Implement online Learning Management System for the delivery of staff training programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = implementation completed by June 2024 	June 2024		Implemented for new staff, due to be rolled out for existing staff.

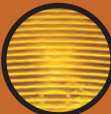
4.2 Support the development and advancement of our staff

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Train and retain a skilled workforce	Develop and adopt individual training programs for all positions within MRC resulting from annual performance reviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = training programs adopted by December 2022 	Dec 2022		Individual and corporate training needs have been identified. Appropriate training packages need to be sourced.
Develop current workforce to meet current and future capability needs	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = Strategy 2 fully implemented by December 2022 	Dec 2022		Has been included in 2023/24 Regional Plan to review Workforce Development Plan.
	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 3: Increase employee engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = Strategy 3 (increase employee engagement) fully implemented by June 2023 	June 2023		MRC's Workforce Development Plan to be reviewed and new implementation targets set.
Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = Strategy 4 (Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC) fully implemented by December 2023 	Dec 2023		MRC's Workforce Development Plan to be reviewed and new implementation targets set.

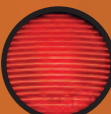
4.3 Improve efficiencies through our use of technology

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Provide network capability to sustain modern computer systems	Roll-out of upgraded network system in association with CouncilBiz, including training of staff and installation of equipment.	June 2022		Roll-out completed in Q4.
	Roll-out upgrade of software packages and resolution of connectivity and network issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = roll-out to MRC Main Office, Papunya and Docker River – 2023 target = roll-out to Amoonguna and Haasts Bluff - 2024 target = roll-out to remaining communities - 2025 	June 2025		Upgraded office software commenced in MRC Main Office.

4.4 Support staff safety and wellbeing

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Develop best practice Work Health and Safety strategy	Establish WHS Committees in each community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 100% compliance by December 2022 	Dec 2022		Consultation had with all staff.
	Work Health and Safety Electronic Management System implemented and all staff have received training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 100% compliance by June 2023 	June 2023		Expectation is that WHS monitoring will be undertaken in new ERP system.
Standardise staff housing security to ensure wellbeing	Develop minimum safety standards for staff housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = standards finalised by December 2022 	Dec 2022		Standards developed.
	Implement minimum safety standards for staff housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = standards rolled out to all staff housing over two years 	June 2024		Implementation commenced.

4.5 Staff are empowered to inform MRC decision-making

Strategy	KPI	Target Date	Rating	Comment
Consult staff on MRC's strategic direction	Staff are surveyed annually or complete an employee survey annually so that the views of staff can be appreciated and to improve operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> target = 70% of staff complete annual survey" 	June 2023		Technical issues have delayed implementation.

03

SERVICE CENTRE DELIVERY

The Service Centre Delivery is responsible for providing local government, municipal, and essential services, along with delivering commercial contracts, to each of MRC's thirteen communities.

Right: Service Centre Delivery staff celebrating the numerous awards MRC won at the NT Tidy Town awards in Darwin.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

SERVICE CENTRE DELIVERY

The Directorate of Service Centre Delivery employs approximately 160 people. Funding for these programs comes from various sources, including NTG Operational Funds, Federal Assistance grants, commercial contracts from Services Australia, PowerWater, Australia Post, and DIPL, as well as other NTG grants and agreements.

Service Centre Delivery is comprised of a Director and four Area Managers of Service Centre Delivery; three of whom are based in Alice Springs, and one working remotely from Mt. Liebig. Each of our 13 remote communities has a Council Services Coordinator with administrative support staff, as well as a civil works team responsible for undertaking municipal services. Additionally, Council employs a Store Operator to run the store at Amoonguna.

Commercial services enable Council to employ people for specific jobs and services in communities or to provide particular services to the community. This includes Essential Services Officers (ESOs) in 13 communities, Centrelink Agents in 11 communities, and Council's mail collection and delivery services in 12 of our communities.

Grants funding ensures that Council can undertake specific initiatives. For example, MRC receives a grant to manage municipal and essential services at outstations located around 7 of our communities. This grant also covers limited housing repairs and maintenance for

outstations.

The Service Centre Delivery directorate has also received a grant to organise a Healthy Communities event at each of our communities over a 5-year period. This event aims to promote healthy living and messaging, along with culturally appropriate ways of consuming healthy foods. Dirtgirl, Scrapboy, and Costa the Garden Gnome will promote the message in each community.

The core objective of Service Delivery is to contribute to Council's vision of "building a quality desert lifestyle" and its mission "to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services." The Service Delivery Directorate takes the Council's vision and mission seriously and strives to maintain healthy, clean, and safe communities, while continuously seeking improvement.

The SCD Directorate takes pride in its achievements, particularly in having almost 90% Indigenous staff. This inclusivity isn't limited to our civil teams; 7 of 13 Council Services Coordinators are Indigenous (over 50%). Within our Essential Services commercial contract, MRC is proud that 7 of 13 ESOs are also indigenous, with two female ESOs. In terms of our Civil Team leaders, 10 out of 11 are currently indigenous. These examples exemplify how Service Delivery is actively working to meet one of Council's goals: fostering community development by increasing Aboriginal employment opportunities.



Left: Service Centre Delivery staff on the steps of NT Parliament House.

Animal Management

The MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Animal Management Guidelines to improve the health of companion animals in a culturally sensitive way and to achieve long-term management of companion animal numbers. The success of any animal management plan is based on three factors: regular and frequent veterinarian visits, surgical or chemical de-sexing, and a continual educational program. Principally, animal management refers to dog management, but it can also include cats, horses, etc.

The MacDonnell Regional Council currently delivers its animal management services to all communities in the Council's region and utilises the services of contracted veterinarians. These veterinarians visit remote communities to treat animals for internal parasites and to conduct sterilization treatments. MRC also conducts an animal education program, in partnership with Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities, in the schools in all 13 communities.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Animal education program delivered to schools in all 13 MRC communities.
- Veterinary visits twice a year to all communities and outstations.
- Reduction in the total dog and populations across all MRC communities.
- Increase in the uptake of de-sexing.
- Reduction in the number of adult breeding dogs.

KEY CHALLENGES:

A significant challenge for the Council is the level of funds available to deliver animal management services. Currently, the Council fully funds these services from its operational budget.

Increased funds would enable improved veterinary services, including enhanced education and more vet visits, to be provided to communities.



Top: Civil worker Laurence Webb performing checks on the backhoe before starting work.

Left: MRC Animal education program taking place at the school in Imanpa.

Cemetery Management

Cemetery management services are conducted in 12 MacDonnell Regional Council communities. 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.

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.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Purchasing of coffin lowering devices for some of our communities.
- Upgrades to cemeteries at Mt. Liebig and Papunya.
- Approval for an extension to the cemetery at Finke.
- New entrance sign installed at Papunya.

Internal Roads Maintenance and Traffic Management

MRC's Internal Roads Management Guidelines are designed to improve the safety of internal roads and road signage in its communities. The success of any Internal Roads Management plan is based on five (5) factors:

- Repair of damage to existing roads; Completing an audit of existing traffic management road furniture (signs, speed bumps, etc.).
- Developing a traffic management asset plan for each community in consultation with their Local Authority.
- Implementation of the traffic management asset plan and installation of the approved road furniture.
- Maintenance repairs to roads, road verges, storm/flood damaged areas and replacement of any damaged road furniture.

Principally, Internal Roads Management refers to improving the overall safety of roads within our communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- New sealed road for Amoonguna entrance.
- Potholes maintained in all communities.
- New road furniture installed in MRC communities.
- New signs installed across MRC communities.



Right: Finke Civil Team installing bollards.

Parks and Open Spaces

Development of our Parks and Open Spaces Guidelines, provides the basis for a six level implementation plan for parks and open spaces. This outlines the service level standards that we will aim to achieve within the various time frames, taking into account the Council's Goals of Developing Communities and Healthy Communities; and in accordance with the NT Local Government Act and Australian Standards.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Planting of trees and shrubs in parks and other open spaces.
- New shade structures installed at parks in Imanpa and Titjikala.
- Solar lights installed at parks in Santa Teresa and Kintore.



Above: Children play on the playground in Mt Liebig.

Sports Grounds

MRC's Sports Grounds Guidelines have set out a six level implementation plan for Sports grounds. This outlines the service level standards that we will aim to achieve within the various time frames, taking into account the Council's Goal of Healthy Communities; and in accordance with the NT Local Government Act.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Trees planted across our sports grounds, over time these will provide shade for residents.
- New electronic scoreboards for Santa Teresa and Docker River.
- New gym equipment near sports grounds at Haasts Bluff.



Above: Service Centre delivery staff doing the weekly rubbish run.

Waste Management

The Council has produced its own Remote Waste Management Facility Operating Manual. MRC continues to work on refining this manual. The guidelines in this manual form the basis of an ongoing waste management plan; the baseline standards which we will aim to achieve in compliance with the Waste Management and Pollution Control Act, and other legislation.

Five top priority actions have been identified for all communities in the MacDonnell Region. These are primarily based on the outcomes of Public Health and Environmental Risk Assessments. These actions are to be achieved in every community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- A total of 1352 waste collections occurred throughout 2022/2023 across 13 locations. Waste collections are conducted twice weekly at each of our 13 communities.
- 850 new wheelie bins were distributed to communities.
- 13 Public Drop of Area's with tipper bins are in operation at each community Waste Management facility which is best practice waste operations for the region.

- A new Waste management facility site has been identified for Finke and a project plan generated and commenced.
- There have been upgrades to Waste Management facilities across all 13 communities.

KEY CHALLENGES:

- Monitoring landfills and who accesses them on a daily basis again proved challenging due to their locations.
- Improved waste separation achieved via the implementation of waste management best practice is seeing stockpiles of recycled material stored at community Waste Management Facilities. The removal of stockpiles from these communities continues to be challenging with the challenges of distance, road conditions, and access to markets.

Commercial Services

Australia Post

Mail services are provided weekly to MRC communities and are usually delivered by air. Where airstrips are not available, the Council organises mail collection from Alice Springs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- All mail delivered to communities.
- Contract extended for a further 2 years.

Centrelink

Council is contracted by Services Australia to deliver remote Centrelink Agent services on behalf of the Commonwealth. These services are provided in 11 communities and include:

- Accepting claim forms and other required documents.
- Responding to customer inquiries and provision of assistance, guidance, or referral if needed.

- Assisting customers to access self-service facilities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- All sites have at least 2 trained Centrelink agents.
- Creating employment for local people.

Community Store

Council operates the community store in Amoonguna, the closest community to Alice Springs. This “corner store” ensures residents have access to basic grocery items and other goods.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Local Indigenous Store Team Leader.

Indigenous Essential Services

The Council delivers essential services across all 13 Council communities under contract to the Power and Water Corporation (PowerWater). Council employs Essential Service Officers (ESOs), with a strong focus on training and developing local Indigenous employees in the role. Two of our smaller communities have the Team Leader Works provide limited essential services on those communities. On each community, MRC is working on succession planning and training staff in order to have relief

ESOs available.

Currently, there are 37 qualified ESOs within the Council. They are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of power, water, and sewerage infrastructure in their community.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Creating jobs on community.
- 65% of qualified ESOs are Indigenous.

Airstrips

The council has been awarded a three year maintenance contract for 9 airstrips in our region.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Creates Indigenous employment.
- Staff receive training and get upskilled.

Grant Funding

Outstations

Council is contracted and funded by the NT Government to deliver services to some occupied outstations or homelands. Services include municipal and essential services, housing maintenance services, and special purpose infrastructure projects. The Council's focus is to ensure reliable delivery of power, water, and sewerage and to provide a safe and healthy environment for outstation residents. Regular inspections of outstations are conducted by the SCD team.

Municipal services provide waste collection, road maintenance, animal control, fire breaks, and environmental activities. Essential services maintain power, water, and sewerage provision. Housing maintenance services include both urgent repairs, to address electrical risks, loss of power, sewerage issues, or loss of water, and

general structural, plumbing, electrical, and gas repairs.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Major servicing of Gen-sets on Outstations.
- New Waste pit at John Holland.
- New water pipes installed at John Holland.
- New Generator installed at Wataru.
- Solar bore installed at Lizard Bore.
- Firebreaks maintained on all funded outstations.
- Compound maintenance completed on all outstations.

Healthy Communities

In July 2019, NT Health provided funding over 5 years for MRC to work with the *Get Grubby* program and Ethical Nutrition "Bush Wok" to promote the healthy messages of "No Germs on Me" and "Wash your Face", while at the same time, introduce healthy eating and demonstrating to people how they can grow their own veggies in their gardens.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Four events took place this year at Kintore, Mt. Liebig, Imanpa, and Finke.
- All events were a great success.

Tidy Towns

MacDonnell Regional Council continued its success at the Tidy Town competition. All of the 13 Communities that form MacDonnell Regional Council participated in the 2022/23 Keep Australia Beautiful (NT) Tidy Town Competition. MRC has gone from strength to strength in the Territory Tidy Town Awards. At this year's ceremony, held in Darwin, MacDonnell Regional Council emerged as the major winner for the third year in a row.

Mount Liebig won the Major Territory Tidy Town Award and went on to represent the Northern Territory at the National Tidy Town Awards in King Island. At the national awards, Mount Liebig was awarded joint winner of the Heritage and Culture category and highly commended in the Environmental Sustainability - Energy, and Environmental Sustainability - Water categories. Travis Baliva was highly commended in the Young Legends - Individual category. Cedric Dixon received a special acknowledgement from the judges as "Mount Liebig's Litter Champion".

The Australian Tidy Town Sustainability Awards judging panel commended Mount Liebig and MacDonnell Regional Council on their effective partnerships to tackle a range of environmental and community issues, making the community one of the Northern Territory's sustainability leaders. Other awards that MRC won at the Territory Tidy Town included:

2022 MRC Winners:

- Overall Winner - Mount Liebig.
- Best Regional Council Award - MacDonnell Regional Council for the ninth year in a row.
- Best Medium Community Award - Mount Liebig.
- Waste Management Award - Docker River.
- Environment Action Award - MacDonnell Regional Council.
- Citizens Awards - Darren Young and Cr Ellis.
- 4 Gold Stars Award - Aputula Finke.



Above: Mt. Liebig Staff win big at the National Tidy Town awards held in King Island Tasmania.

Left: Dirtgirl and Scrapboy with Service Centre Delivery civil worker Cedric Dixon with seedlings being prepared for planting.

04

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Technical Services Directorate serves the residents of the region through the management of Council's Building Infrastructure, Transport Infrastructure and Fleet.

Right: Fleet workshop staff with one of council's fleet of vehicles; outside the Elder St Depot.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The overarching role of the Technical Services Directorate is to manage Council's Building Infrastructure, Transport Infrastructure and Fleet. Incorporated in this management is responsibility for:

- Section 19 Leasing.
- Staff Housing Capital Works and repairs and maintenance.
- Building and Facility Capital Works and repairs and maintenance.
- Outstation Housing Repairs and Maintenance.
- Staff and Visitor Accommodation.
- Swimming Pools.
- Project Management.
- Repairs and Maintenance and Capital Upgrades of the Road Network.
- Waste Management Facility Capital Works.
- Fleet Planning and Procurement.
- Mobile Mechanical Workshop and Team.

Building Infrastructure

The Building Infrastructure team are responsible for repairs, maintenance, upgrades and capital works for all MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) buildings and facilities as well as tenancy services for staff housing.

Our buildings include Service Delivery Centres, Home Care and Childcare Centres, depots, recreation halls, staff and outstation housing as well as swimming pools and other sporting facilities. The team also deliver commercial and grant funded projects on behalf of both the Northern Territory Government and Federal Government Departments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In addition to successfully delivering both responsive and preventative repairs and maintenance to our thirteen locations, the team also delivered many capital projects this year as shown below;

- Security upgrades and cage installation at six properties in Papunya using MRC capital works funds.
- Property upgrades (bathroom, flooring, painting, kitchen etc.) at four properties in Docker River due to flood damage.
- Amoonguna Council Office, Security cameras and alarm system.
- Finke Lot 9, New decking fitted to front of property.
- Haasts Bluff Lot 84, Installation of new septic system.
- Imanpa Lot 22, Replace solar hot water system.
- Kintore Lot 4/1, Replace damaged carport roof with new.
- Papunya Lot 467, Installation of new septic system.
- Papunya Council Office, Security cameras and alarm system.
- Santa Teresa Lot 277, Installation of vinyl planks.
- Titjikala Lot 107b, Installation of new septic system.
- Works completed at MRC outstations that were funded by the Northern Territory Government:
 - Atji Creek Outstation House 1, Installation of new septic system and standalone solar power system.
 - Blackwater Outstation Houses 5 & 2, Replace solar hot water system.
 - Blackwater Outstation House 2, Installation of new septic system.
 - Blackwater Outstation Ablution Block, Replace solar hot water system.
 - Mbunghara Outstation House 6, Installation of new septic system.
- The continuation of ABA Homelands Infrastructure Projects to:
 - Mbunghara, supply new trailer and installation of fencing around houses.

- Ulambara, installation of new stockyard fencing.
- Browns Bore, solar bore upgrade, new header tank and water mains and plumbing hardware upgrades to houses.
- Ngankiritja, supply new trailer new trailer and purchase of solar lights, shed and playground to be installed in 2024.
- Ngunpa, installation of new shed.
- Warren Creek, new shade structure and stable to be installed in 2024 and repairs to the existing generator.
- Ngutjul, new solar bore installation and two water tanks.
- Phillipson's Bore, new shed.
- Wataru, supply of new trailer, fencing around homeland and purchase of two sheds to be installed in 2024.
- Waju, new solar power systems and generators to two houses, upgrade to bore and supply of new water tank and installation of water mains from bore to tank.
- Atji Creek, new header water tank.

- Blackwater, relocation of stockyard and installation of new shade structure, installation of fencing to three houses.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Availability of trade contractors and escalation of building material costs continued to be a major issue in the remote context that MRC operates in. Many of the contractors that are on our panel are concentrating on work in Alice Springs and are no longer prepared to travel to our communities.

Swimming Pools

YMCA have managed and operated Areyonga and Santa Teresa Pools. The 2022-23 pool season was very positive, with the pools open consistently, minimal interruptions and high community utilisation. Kintore, Areyonga and Santa Teresa Pools have had fencing upgrades which was funded via Northern Territory Government Local Priority Infrastructure grant.



Above: Santa Teresa Pool, as seen from a drone.

Fleet Services

The Fleet Services team operate from the Alice Springs based workshop where they maintain Council vehicles and carry out major works on larger fleet items.

The team includes our coordinator, fleet officer and four mobile mechanics who travel to communities every week to maintain MRC's large fleet of more than 300 items including vehicles, trucks, garbage compactors, buses, tractors, skid steers, backhoes and large earthmoving plant. During this past year the team has covered over 65,000 km to deliver this vital service and perform over 1,950 individual services. The team use a web based application called Fleetio to assist with the task of managing the fleet. This is a collaborative tool which has been used by MRC for 10 years. The data collected in that time has been invaluable for understanding usage patterns and costs for forward planning and record keeping.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

MacDonnell Regional Council has purchased through a competitive tender process, a new 140 Road Grader as well as a new 20Tonne John Deere Wheel Loader, modernising our heavy vehicle fleet with the latest and safest mobile Plant to ensure the safety and efficiency of our team.

Technical Services has installed 107 tracking units into its vehicles across the region. Using these trackers has given MRC a wider range of

safety for both the user and the asset.

Fleet Servicing has continued consistently throughout the region despite major weather events and lack of staff. We have had the inception of the new generation of Ford Rangers into the fleet that has provided MRC with better safety and fuel economy.

Navman has proven to be a much better solution to assist with staff safety and compliance. The system includes a driver activated 'duress button' feature which goes to relevant staff via SMS for action when an emergency arises. Additionally, the team have added a phone based vehicle checklist system to the Fleetio database. Fleet users can now perform weekly vehicle checks, pre journey checks and the like which will go directly to the fleet item in Fleetio where a record is kept for safety and compliance purposes.

Over the coming year the Fleet team will be moving to our new workshop in Sargent Street. The Elder Street workshop has served MRC as a great Workshop for many years and we now look forward to creating a safe, new and appealing place to service our fleet.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Supply of new fleet items continues to be a challenge with very lengthy delays from time of order until delivery. The problem is being experienced globally and has been caused by COVID 19 related supply chain issues.



Left: Mechanic Jamie Smith in the Elder St workshop, with an MRC vehicle on the hoist.

Transport Infrastructure

The Transport Infrastructure team is responsible for management of the 1,555km MRC road network, and capital upgrades to our waste management facilities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

This year the Plant crew achieved fantastic results with waste management remediation Work to Papunya, Haasts Bluff, Wallace Rockhole, Hermannsburg and Imanpa.

The team constructed a brand new waste management facility at Finke. The project lasted 16 weeks from start to finish. The new WMF will give the Finke community 20 years of successful waste management.

The Infrastructure team has successfully completed road logging the entire funded network. Giving us the opportunity to upgrade, reseal and repair our roads.

KEY CHALLENGES:

The key challenge the team faced this year was extensive rainfall. Machinery was in transit which had to be turned around and scheduling had to be adjusted to account for roads being out of action for heavy vehicles. The combination of poor weather and heavy Plant and Equipment have made consistent works challenging to schedule, but our Transport team have managed to overcome all challenges successfully.



Construction of Finke's new Waste Management Facility.

05

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services directorate delivers: Aged Care, Community Safety, Childcare, Library Services, and Youth Services across MRC communities.

Right: Michael Mitchell of MacYouth warms up the players before a soccer tournament in Papunya.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services directorate delivers intentional, sustainable, community led services that seek to positively impact the lives of our residents. These services are in addition to Councils core services, and are delivered across the four Wards within MacDonnell Regional Council. These services include:

- MRC's Aged and Disability Services (MacCare) provided in 8 remote communities.
- School Nutrition Program provided in 5 remote communities.
- Children's Services (MacKids) provided in 10 remote communities.
- Community Safety (MacSafe) provided in 12 remote communities.

- NT Library Services (MacConnect) provided in 13 remote communities.
- Youth Services (MacYouth) provided in 12 remote communities.

These programs are delivered by our team of 286 dedicated staff, of which approximately 80% are Aboriginal.

Our Community Services programs are culturally sensitive programs that meet the needs of community residents through innovative service delivery models. We are committed to investing in our local Aboriginal staff and seeing them progress into senior roles within the organisation.

Aged and Disability Services



Our Aged & Disability Service, known as MacCare, delivers services across 8 of our remote communities. Through a client-centred approach, MacCare supports clients to live in their own communities and provides choice and flexibility in the way their care and services are delivered.

Services include: meals, personal care, and domestic assistance, transport, shopping assistance, social support, equipment coordination, package management and referrals with Allied Health services to further assist clients are connected with their community.

The service also delivers a School Nutrition Program across 5 remote communities within the region, promoting health and nutritious eating, contributing to school attendance while achieving positive educational outcomes. Programs delivered by MacCare Aged & Disability services in 2022-23 include:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP) - funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
- Commonwealth Home Support Program

(CHSP) - funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

- School Nutrition Program (SNP) - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Services (NDIS) - funded through a fee-for-service model (Brokerage).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 102 elderly clients were supported to live in their community.
- 48,396 meals delivered.
- 2,808 transports provided.
- 2,495 hours of domestic care provided.
- 422.5 hours of personal care provided.
- 6,314 hours of social support provided which included bush trips, centre-activities, individual social support, money business and speaking up.
- 772 hours of package management provided.
- 28,616 meals were delivered through SNP with an average of 76 students fed per day across 5 communities and 6 locations.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT:

- 12 staff from the 8 communities completed a 2-day non-accredited dementia specific workshop based in Alice Springs.
- July-August 2022, 11 staff completed ATSI Mental Health First Aid accreditation.
- 9 staff completed non-accredited training in Leadership Styles & Techniques workshop.
- 10 coordinators completed non-accredited training in Compliance Essential Audit and Quality Review in a 3-day workshop.
- 13 staff from Titjikala and Amoonguna attended a dietician's workshop in October 2022.
- In November-December 2022, 8 staff completed units in HLTWS002 - Workplace & Safety; 9 staff completed units in CHCLEG001 - Work Legally & Ethically; 6 staff attended Older Persons Mental Health Workshop; 20 staff completed units in CHCCOM005 - Communicate & Work in Health and Community Services; 4 staff completed units in CHCCCS023 - Support Independence & Well Being; Aged Care Coordinators & Management attended a SIRS reporting and changes in home care workshop; and, 6 staff completed units in HLTWHS002 - Follow Safe Work Practices for Direct Client Care.

- In early 2023, Coordinators and the manager, attended Managing the Performance of the Team and Emotional Resilience Workshops across 2 days.
- Across February, 14 staff attended Standards training with CDCS in Alice Springs across 2 days; the MacCare leadership team attended a 1-day workshop in dietitians training.
- From March-June 2023, multiple staff attended workshops in MHFA training, Cert III - Individual Support, Snake Awareness training, First Aid & CPR, Aged Care Quality Review and Cultural Awareness training.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Building and Infrastructure for safe and secure service.

Lack of skilled staffing.

There has been significant increases in the freight charges and cost of food items. This has impacted the budget to purchase food for aged care clients as well as the School Nutrition Program.

The collection of parental contributions continues to be a significant factor in managing the daily operation of the School Nutrition Program in communities.



Left: MacCare Team with trainer Barbara Clifford at a three day leadership workshop.

Children's Services

Children's Services programs, known on community as MacKids, delivers Early Learning programs for children from birth to school age, in 10 of MRC's remote communities.

The Early Learning program is play-based and reflective of children's interests, abilities, and culture. The programs' operational hours vary between 6 to 7.5 hours, dependent on the needs of working families in each community.

Our programs are open to all children under school age and we provide a quality planned program alongside healthy nutritious meals for participating children. We value a safe and nurturing environment. We share stories and information from the Centre with families and encourage parent involvement in our program to ensure we are culturally responsive. Through Open Days and community events we support community engagement in the early learning program. Families are invited to stay and be involved in their child's learning where possible. This scaffolds parent understanding of our program and provides parents with opportunities to build on their skills. This helps support the wrap around approach to children's learning and development in both the early learning and home environment.

Programs delivered by MacKids in 2022/2023 were:

- Early Learning Program – funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education (DoE).

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 20,100 hours of Early Learning programs delivered.
- 60 children accessed the Early Learning programs across the ten centres.
- 85% Aboriginal employment across all services.
- 20% of families have successfully completed their registration for the Child Care Subsidy.
- 14 Educators are enrolled and working towards the Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care.
- 6 services were visited by Quality organisations from the Federal and NT government on



behalf of Department of Education (DoE) as part of 2 Safety and Quality audits. We received positive reports about our program on the basis of these audits.

MacKids Team took part in many Professional Development trainings this year, including:

- Completion of Stage 1 of a mandatory professional development training on Quality and Safety delivered by ACECQA (Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority) and Department of Education over the course of 12 months.
- Working towards Stage 2 Safety and Supervision ACECQA training (expected completion November 2023).
- Completion of Child Safe Organisations, and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ Mandatory Reporting workshops delivered by NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child abuse and Neglect).
- 4 Staff members attended ECA (Early Childhood Australia) National Conference in Canberra, October 2022.
- One staff member attended ECAREconciliation Symposium, Hobart, June 2023.
- Multiple professional development sessions organised by ECA, including regular monthly catch-ups with Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) providers in Alice Springs and



Above: Virginia Doolan, Finke Educator, working on her Educational Program diary.



Above: Coordinator Ainsley Roscrow and Christine Allen work on training material in Finke.

surrounding region.

- Regular ECA Inclusion support community visits to assist quality program delivery.

All Compliance Reports were successfully submitted and all operational policies were updated according to the requirements of ACECQA. Quality improvement Plans have been reviewed for all services and MacKids Team is making an enormous effort to progress towards meeting the National Quality Standards (NQS) for Early Childhood Education and Care.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Under the Jobs for Families funding package, MacKids funding is dependent on families registering for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS). This requires extensive work from MacKids staff to educate families about the process and the benefits of registering for the CCS.

Families can be reluctant to engage in the CCS process, affecting our capacity to collect fees. When further assistance, or additional CCS is required to cover fee gaps, referrals and information from third parties (NT Health, NPY Women's Council, Territory Families) is required. This can be problematic. Due to the fact that families are not registering for Child Care Subsidy the income of MacKids Department was greatly reduced.

Multiple services had to remain closed and children's attendances in the open centres were disrupted this year due to recruitment and retention challenges, general staff shortages which has been compounded by the lack of qualified staff. Funding constraints have impacted on the delivery of programs due to lack of available staff in community.

Recruitment of qualified staff both in Alice Springs and in communities has been a challenge as MRC works to review pay and banding structure to remain competitive in the Early Childhood Industry.

Top: Healthy practices in Finke.

Middle: NAIDOC Week in Hermannsburg.

Bottom: Hermannsburg educator Shajira Walker supports students.

Community Safety

MacDonnell Regional Council's Community Safety Program, known as MacSafe, is delivered in 12 of the MRC's remote communities. MacSafe provides a proactive and preventative approach to divert Aboriginal people away from contact with the criminal justice system, increase personal and community safety, and support school attendance by transporting children home, or to a safe location at night.

MacSafe is a responsive service working collaboratively with the community. We continue ongoing community consultation & engagement, via the Local Authority meetings, ongoing engagement with internal and external stakeholders & consistent consultation with MacSafe teams & community members. This enables the program to provide specifically targeted services, sometimes unique to individual communities, while meeting the objectives & core deliverables contained in the Project Description, ensuring a partnership approach to addressing issues that the community identify as impacting the safety of residents.

Having said this, we are sometimes asked to do longer hours and/or additional days in a service,

but we can be prevented from doing this for any extended periods of time, due to limited staff and financial capacity.

Programs delivered by MacSafe in 2022-23 included:

- MacSafe Community Safety Service – funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) as a part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). The program received a new 3 year contract, including the replacement of the vehicle fleet over the next 3 years.
- The successful Yarning Circles Program funded by the Harm Minimisation Unit, NT Department of Health, expanded this year to include the 4 communities of: Areyonga, Haasts Bluff; Hermannsburg and Imanpa.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 13,227 hours of Community Safety services were delivered across 12 communities.
- 94% Aboriginal staff in whole Department.
- 39% of MacSafe staff are female, with 9



Above: MacSafe Team at the 2023 MacSafe Conference.

women being in leadership positions.

- 13,227 hours of patrolling.
- 113 hours of school engagement.
- 21,878 engagements with community residents, providing assistance with community safety issues.
- 17,739 engagements with young people, providing transport home or to a safe location at night.
- 4 Yarning Circles were completed. They're in Areyonga, Imanpa, Hermannsburg and Haasts Bluff).
- 75% of all MacSafe staff received some formal training, which included Digital Literacy and Numeracy; First Aid & Fire Safety; and Fire Warden Training.
- Men's Business went for an extended period, impacting services across the region.
- There is always ongoing Staff Development by visiting Coordinators, with each visit they make to their communities.
- MacSafe delivered services for a min of 5 nights/ week; and in three communities, 6 nights/week (Hermannsburg, Papunya & Santa Teresa). Delivery times vary & adjusted

based on community needs; & requests from Local Authorities e.g. some Patrols finish later on Fridays & Saturdays. This targeted flexible approach has led to MacSafe improving community safety & better manage conflicts due to positive community relations. MacSafe continues to address key community safety issues, including assisting young people to organised Youth programs & taking them home at night, assisting vulnerable residents to a safe place, working at community events (community sport weekends, funerals etc.), working closely with stakeholders, especially NT Police. MacSafe has been proactive in supporting Community Safety Action Plan (CSAPS) Meetings. The Manager continues to attend the fortnightly Remote Interagency Tasking and Coordination Group (RITCG) meetings hosted by the Police.

- The new MacSafe Reporting App, has been rolled out in all 12 communities; and the staff feedback has been extremely positive, especially in how easy and effective reporting has become. The Alice Spring's team is receiving data on daily basis through the App, decreasing the amount of paper used



Above: MacSafe Teams sitting around the Yarning Circle at Finke Sports Weekend.



Right: Clive and Shekayla of MacSafe Papunya, during a patrol.

and sent in.

- The annual MacSafe Conference was in Alice Springs in May 2023, which 38 staff attended. There is always a focus to build a spirit of teamwork and common purpose; and the feedback from participants was very positive and united. In addition to a number of guest speakers, over the course of the 3 day Conference, the teams were continually trained to use the new MacSafe App, so that they became very familiar with it. The Conference finished on a very positive note, when outgoing CEO Jeff MacLeod, came and spoke to everyone and handed out specific awards to each team. All MacSafe staff felt very honoured when Jeff said he thought their job was the hardest of all the jobs in community, acknowledging how difficult it is sometimes for Night Patrollers having to deal with family, or opposing families, during incidents of fighting. He also talked about them being first responders to incidents such as accidents and suicides; and how distressing that is.
- MacSafe continued to be pro-active in providing additional services at big community events, to maximise the safety of community

residents. When community leaders engage MacSafe early in their planning of events such as Sports Carnivals, the better we can plan and work with all stakeholders involved, particularly the Police and CAFL. Multiple Teams travelled to assist in Community Sporting Events in Haasts Bluff, Santa Teresa x 2, Finke and Papunya.

- The Manager has continued working with the NT Life Promotion Network, addressing issues of Suicide Prevention, assisting in developing and running the NT 2-day NT Suicide Prevention Forum, which 6 MacSafe staff attended.
- The Manager continues to attend the Remote Indigenous Taskforce Group (RITCG) fortnightly meetings, hosted by the Police, on behalf of MRC.

KEY CHALLENGES:

- There was only two Coordinators for first 3 months of this financial year. They worked very hard until two new coordinators commenced in September. They have proven to be very valuable members of the team; and are working very well with their respective communities.



Above: Jeff MacLeod addresses the 2023 MacSafe Conference.

- There has been excessive youth crime in the west, particularly in Papunya.
- There has also been some more outbreaks of Volatile Substance Abuse (VSA) in some communities, particularly in the west. MacSafe has worked closely with community members, MacYouth, CAYLUS, the Police and the Dept. of Health, in coordinating a consistent response to support the young people and communities.
- Lhere Artepe was funded by NIAA to create a Night Patrol in Alice Springs in 2023. They were able to offer significantly higher wages and many staff left MacSafe from Amoonguna and Santa Teresa to work for Lhere Artepe. This had a substantial impact on those services.



Above: Areyonga community BBQ.

Left: MacSafe Yarning Space, Areyonga.

Youth Services

MacYouth delivered a range of innovative youth programs for young people aged 5 to 25 years, across 12 communities throughout the MacDonnell region.

Programs delivered by MacYouth in 2022–23 included:

- Youth Development Program - funded by National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- Outside School Hours Learning Program - funded by National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- Remote Sport Program - funded by Northern Territory Government.
- Active Communities - funded by Northern Territory Government.
- Community Youth Diversion - funded by Northern Territory Government.
- Volatile Substance Abuse Program - funded

by the NT Department of Health.

- Menstrual Hygiene Management - funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service.
- Camps - funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 97 employees with 83% Aboriginal employment (increase by 13 % than previous years).
- 14,115 total hours of programs, average 30 hours of programming per week per community.
- 6,054 unique activities delivered with more than 73,144 engagements for 1,600 individuals.



Above: MacYouth team at Ross River.

Below: All teams at MacYouth Basketball in Hermannsburg pose for a post-match photo.



- 25 young people supported through formal Youth Diversion, with an additional 156+ youth supported through preventative measures from entering the criminal justice system across 343 activities and additional 1,000 hours of non-funded engagement
- 203 young people met across 9 Youth Boards.
- 369 students were supported into education pathways at local and boarding schools.
- 52 participants age 16-30 completing Meeting the Youth Gap program and 30 of the participants provided ongoing employment.
- 32 employees completing their Certificate II in Sport and Recreation.
- 1,254 sport activities and 45 regional sports competitions.
- 93 training opportunities to our employees.
- 11 weeks of school holiday programs across each community.

MacYouth have successfully achieved its goal of being 100% youth led and community driven. MacYouth continues to empower, uplift and support young people's voices and provide young leaders with opportunities to guide service delivery, discuss community issues and present agenda items to Local Authority meetings.

MacYouth provided a wide range of training opportunities to our employee's including First Aid, Restorative Justice, Trauma Informed Practice, Numeracy and Literacy training, Certificate in Sport and Recreation, Four Wheel Drive, Bronze Medallion swimming, and in-house youth services training.

MacYouth continues to partner with a wide range of stakeholders to improve outcomes for young people including Department of Education, Department of health, Northern Territory Police, Central Land Council, Ranger Groups, CAYLUS, NAAJA, WILD1, Red Dust, Charles Darwin University, NT Basketball, NTAFL and more.

MacYouth continue to work towards our strategic targets and documents our process for achievement.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Young people in the MacDonnell region continue to be at an increased risk of Volatile Substance Misuse, Alcohol and other Drugs, declining mental health and high risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

Supporting disengaged young people and providing the necessary programs for re-engagement due to our funded capacity.

Buildings and infrastructure require additional investment to improve the conditions and functionality for use.



Above: Staff taking part in round-table discussions at MacYouth training.

Digital and Library Services

MacDonnell Regional Council's MacConnect, is a free service offered for all communities which delivers training in Digital Literacy and more. Topics include: accessing Government services such as MyGov; learning to use digital devices; using Social Media safely; and searching for information for educational purposes.

The Free Membership allows residents access to a variety of online resources at any time. When residents join the MRC library they are able to use eBooks, audio books and online magazines. The service also provides training and videos on how to access the internet, make video calls, set up devices and stay safe from potential scammers.

Even though lockdowns, biosecurity zones, travel restrictions meant the MacConnect Program only ran during seven months of



the year, the following achievements can be reported.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Reading areas set up in MacYouth Rec Halls. Couches, bookshelves, room dividers, lamps coffee tables and mats set up. Books provided by ILF and South Pacific School Aid.
- VR Gaming program initiated.
- 360° Video project initiated.
- New equipment purchased to augment digital media training.
- Five year program concluded successfully and funding was renewed for a further 12 months.
- Papunya Tjupi and MRC Art camp facilitated.



Above: Felix Meyer of MacConnect using the 360° video equipment in Areyonga.

06

CORPORATE SERVICES

The Corporate Services directorate provides professional support to MRC's service delivery across the region through the provision of administrative, information technology, human resources, accounting, finance, budgeting, customer services, insurance and risk, governance, compliance, engagement and planning services.

Right: Local Authority Meeting in Docker River, October 2022.





MacDonnell
Regional Council

CORPORATE SERVICES

The activities of the Corporate Services directorate ensure that Council and its 13 Local Authorities have a strong governance framework and are compliant with the Local Government Act, other relevant legislation and related regulations and guidelines. This is achieved by good regional planning, consistent and accurate secretariat support for Council and Local Authority meetings,

training for Councillors and Local Authority members, and the development and review of a wide range of policies to guide MRC operations and services in communities. Strong human resource practices, financial management and reporting systems, and IT management, provide critical support for the Council and help enable it to deliver services across the region.

Human Resources

The Human Resources department of MacDonnell Regional Council manages employee end-to-end employment cycles through recruitment, staffing records management, inductions & onboarding, performance management, employee relations, training & development, and exit processes. The HR team is engaged with HR policy and procedure development; workplace health and safety guidance, and overall employee wellbeing.

MRC continues to be a consistent and significant employer of Aboriginal people. At the end of the 2022-2023 financial year, the council had a total of 428 employees, 347 of which are based in communities - where 92.2% of the roles are occupied by aboriginal staff. Overall, employees that identify as ATSI make up 76.6% of all council employees.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Human Resources Team continued to work towards HR Excellence through the project initiatives. Talent Acquisition has become a major area of focus with the Council as previous reporting periods saw increased turnover rates through the pandemic and subsequent recovery periods.

HR Staffing:

The HR team was bolstered by the recruitment and placement of an Executive Manager People and Organisational Culture to take on recruitment and performance issues through a holistic Council approach to address workplace culture and development. HR Processes were streamlined and internal customer needs were addressed through continuous process improvement initiatives across broad categories of performance, accountability, development, and access to training opportunities.

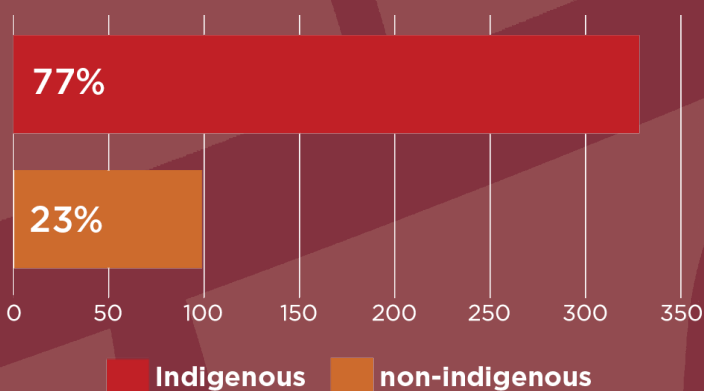
Child-Safe Council:

An HR Projects Officer position was recruited and assigned to take on the task of ensuring all appropriate council staff held and maintained a Working with Children Clearance (OCHRE Card) by SAFE NT. While a great deal of compliance progressed in this space, MRC is still experiencing a long wait period in issuing OCHRE Cards due to SAFE NT processing backlogs.

Increased Capability through Technology:

The HR Team was successful in acquiring a survey software package that will increase council employee's ability to provide feedback

Staff

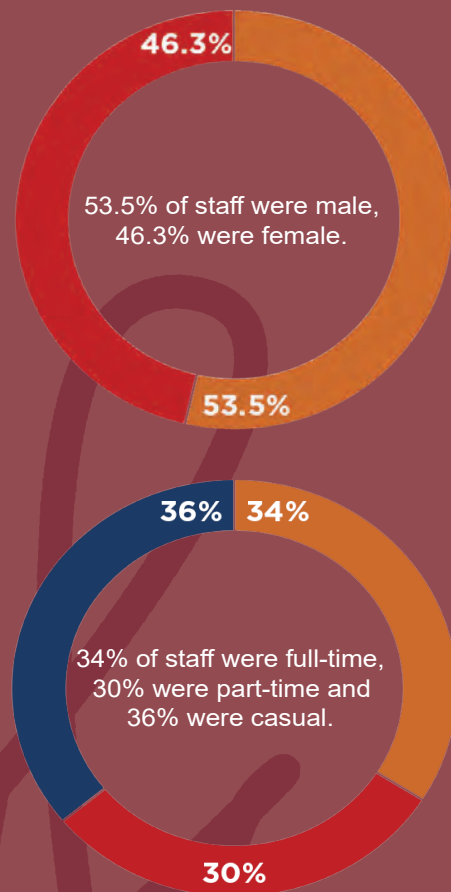


through digital means, with the initial rollout anticipated to go live in the coming financial year. The Coordinator for Learning and Development has completely revamped the Council Induction process and ensured MRC is providing access to Inductions in community as well as in the Alice Springs office.

Additionally, HR was engaged with MRC Directors in pursuit of an updated HR Information System (HRIS) to increase workflows and employee self-service opportunities across HR, Payroll, Training and Development, and Workplace Health and Safety.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Key challenges of HR continue to be addressing staffing talent and turnover levels - particularly in community positions, as we look at staffing models and bridging cultural expectations surrounding work-life balance and ongoing development of local staff to become leaders within their respective community service areas.



Above: Cloud formations over the West MacDonnell Ranges along Larapinta Drive.

Work Health and Safety

In the aftermath of the COVID19 pandemic, with business returning to a new normal, Territory and local restrictions have been relaxed. MacDonnell Regional council are continuing to encourage our staff to follow simple steps to minimise the spread of infection, in particular for our most vulnerable community members and clients in Aged care and Disability. Our staff are aware of their duty of care towards each other and community members and continue to set standards within our work culture to ensure people are looking after themselves and others.

Work Health and Safety has been working hard to continue to provide high level training to our staff to ensure they are equipped with the required knowledge and qualifications. We are working on growing our partnerships and are currently collaborating with Central Desert Regional Council to provide 4WD courses to our staff. This enables MRC to provide regular 4WD courses coinciding with staff induction at a more cost effective price.

As part of our Emergency Control Organisation (ECO), nominated staff from all departments have completed Fire Warden and Fire Extinguisher training. To further support our Wardens, Safety has started to visit offices across communities and assisting departments to conduct emergency evacuation drills. This has been well received and has improved the readiness of staff to deal with any emergencies. To ensure our purchases are cost effective and supporting local companies we are always looking out for new suppliers in the market and forming new relationships and expanding on what we already have. Vests, hats and alert whistles have been purchased based on our experience with remote evacuation training.

As part of maintaining high safety standards within MRC we have trained 5 staff as Work Health and Safety representatives, this is a great achievement and excellent support to our workforce.

Safety has also noticed an increase in regular tool box talks across all of MRC and encourage this to continue.

Training outcomes for 2022-2023 are as follows:

- 4WD training - over sixty staffed completed the course.
- 1st Aid training - over sixty staff completed the course.
- Fire Warden & Fire extinguisher training – 56 staff completed the courses.
- Mental Health First Aid Training – twelve staff completed the course.
- Health & Safety Representative training – 4Staff completed the course.
- Work Health & Safety have liaised with various departments and developed the following:
 - Evacuation Plans.
 - Emergency Response procedure, work in progress.
 - WHS Community inspection, audits and action plans.
 - Rehabilitation and return to work plans.
 - Consultation surrounding Building inspections checklist and Incident and accident form – updating in progress.
 - Policies, new, amendments and reviewing to be in line with legislation.
 - Educating staff on guidelines.
 - Volatile and abuse management plan ensuring we are in compliance with regulations and codes of practice.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Safety has been working with limited staff in the team, however has been receiving overwhelming support from across all of MRC. Safety has continued to monitor incidents and hazards throughout the year and have been able to identify and provide trends via its monthly Governance reporting. Overall Safety has seen a big improvement to the safety culture within MRC and looks forward to working with all departments to achieving great outcomes in the future.

Governance and Engagement

A small team delivers governance, policy, customer service, communications and engagement services for the entire MRC organisation.

The governance team ensures the organisation complies with all statutory, legal, and policy requirements. The team specifically offers assistance to the 13 Local Authorities and the Council, as well as stewardship for the creation of MRC and operational policies, procedures, and supporting materials.

Through chosen media outlets, an engagement team handles the organisation's communications both internally for the workforce and outside for stakeholders. Along with assisting the organisation's planning and reporting procedures, the team implements community engagement initiatives that foster communication between local residents, MRC services, council members, and members of the local authority.

KEY CHALLENGES:

Engagement with the communities at times have challenges and acknowledging cultural awareness so that there was minimal impact to the progression of the Regional Plan KPIs for which the Governance and Engagement team is responsible for.

The team experienced a significant increase in workload as a result from a number of staff movements and vacancies within the Department.



Above: Street signs in the centre of Docker River.

Customer Service

Our Alice Springs Customer Service team, are the first contact for many people visiting council. Our Customer Service Team collaborate closely with clients and employees both inside and externally, which creates a very efficient and effective workplace.

Their professional and friendly services also include;

- Greeting, welcoming and communicating with guests.
- Correspondence phone enquiries.
- Receive letters, packages and appropriate redirection.
- Prepare and manage outgoing mail.
- Monitor office and cleaning supplies.
- Answer customers' questions and complaints.
- Place supply orders when necessary.
- Council's document control systems.
- Connecting our remote communities with Council services.

Information and Communications Technology

The information Communications Technology and Records department is supported by 3 Staff Members, and has remained stable for the past 12 months. Manager, ICT Assistant and Records Officer supporting 15 Locations and up to 220 Users with access to the MRC Systems and Infrastructure.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Maintaining all ICT Equipment serviceability especially with supply shortages across the globe.
- Managing and maintaining network connectivity – reporting all faults to service providers for repair to ensure continuity of services and operations.

- Providing feedback to service providers on major and minor outages for resolutions.
- Monitoring all ICT Expenses to ensure correct accountability of services are maintained.
- Cancelling and creating services as necessary to ensure standards are met.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Transition to Office 365 – Is in the final stages of completion, all authorised staff have Office 365 applications via CBIZ Servers.

All equipment for Community Offices has been purchased and is being prepared for installation. Starlink has been installed at various communities within the MRC region.



Records

MRC key roles and responsibilities is to meet legislative, systems and policy requirements and maintain network connectivity to achieve the necessary processes. The process of digitalising all of MRC's records is still ongoing this financial year. With the implementation of Office 365 this will assist with the storage of records.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Distances will always be one of the biggest challenges. Remote access has alleviated some of the issues but does not negate all of the requirements for solutions. Program updates and infrastructure requirements to meet the technology required as again this year has increased expenses.

Below: MRC's Head Office on the corner of Bagot St and South Terrace Alice Springs.



Finance

The Finance Department ensures that MRC's income, payments and financial reporting is done in a timely and accountable manner. The Finance department manages all payments and

receipts across the 14 offices of MRC, as well as the acquittal of all grant money received.

COMPARISON OF ACTUAL PERFORMANCE AGAINST BUDGET

For the Period Ending 30 June 2023

	June 2023 \$	Financial Year Final Budget \$	Financial Year Original Budget \$	Variance between Final Budget and Actual \$
OPERATING INCOME				
Rates	1,032,195	1,076,926	980,683	(44,731)
Charges	980,631	980,631	946,787	0
Fees and Charges	1,029,194	442,297	481,137	586,897
Operating Grants and Subsidies	29,244,236	36,148,306	36,074,072	(6,904,070)
Interest/Investment Income	619,493	456,401	50,305	163,092
Commercial/Other Income	5,161,001	8,298,151	5,231,321	(3,137,150)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	38,066,750	47,402,712	43,764,305	(9,335,962)
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Employee Expenses	22,657,860	24,212,676	23,327,523	1,554,816
Materials and Contracts	8,454,819	14,090,111	12,792,302	5,635,292
Elected Member Allowances	281,830	295,681	312,150	13,851
Elected Member Expenses	228,720	230,212	242,000	1,492
Council Committee & LA Allowances	58,785	67,347	93,404	8,562
Council Committee & LA Expenses	43,195	71,500	73,950	28,305
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	8,868,658	3,214,735	2,883,982	(5,653,923)
Interest Expenses	24,538	6,498	6,490	(18,040)
Other Expenses	4,577,919	7,635,125	6,916,487	3,057,206
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	45,196,323	49,823,885	46,648,288	4,627,562
OPERATING SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	(7,129,573)	(2,421,173)	(2,883,983)	(4,708,400)
Capital Grants Income	1,650,000	0	253,477	1,650,000
Gain from the sale of assets	690,528	1,081,000	1,300,000	(390,472)
Council own fund	4,399,200	4,399,200	4,276,200	0
SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	(389,845)	3,059,027	2,945,694	(3,448,872)
Capital Expenses	(4,282,674)	(6,273,763)	(5,829,677)	1,991,089
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)				0
Less Non-Cash Income				0
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	83,894,985	3,214,735	2,883,982	80,680,250
NET OPERATING POSITION	79,222,466	0	0	79,222,466

COMMENTS

MacDonnell Regional Council finished the year with an operating surplus of \$1.7m before Depreciation of \$8.9m and a Gain of \$86.4m following the Revaluation of its Assets.

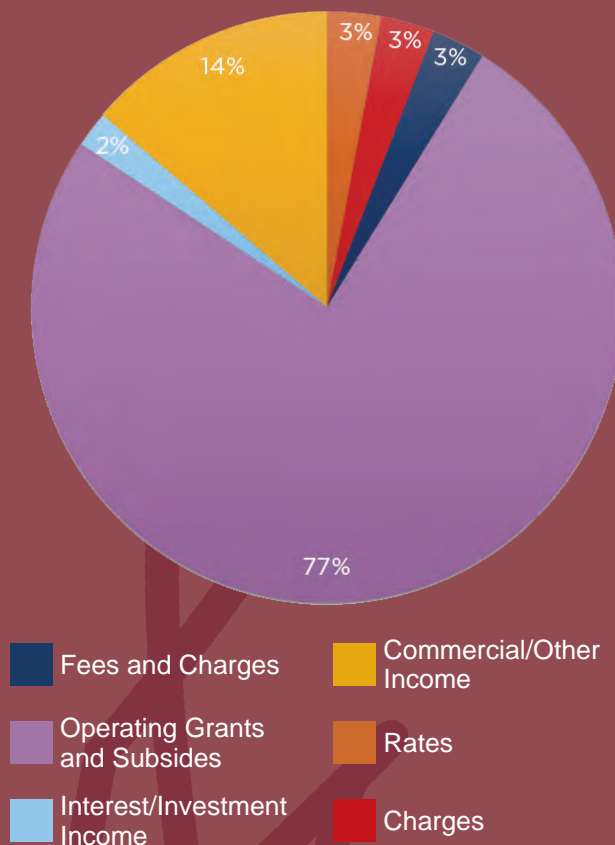
MRC undertook a revaluation in accordance with the relevant accounting standards and its accounting policy – refer Note 6 of the Audited Financial Statements which follows.

MRC's Non-Current Assets increased from \$15.0m in 21/22 to \$96.8m in 22/23 as a result of this revaluation. This will result in a significant increase in future in the rate of Depreciation which was only \$3.3m in 21/22.

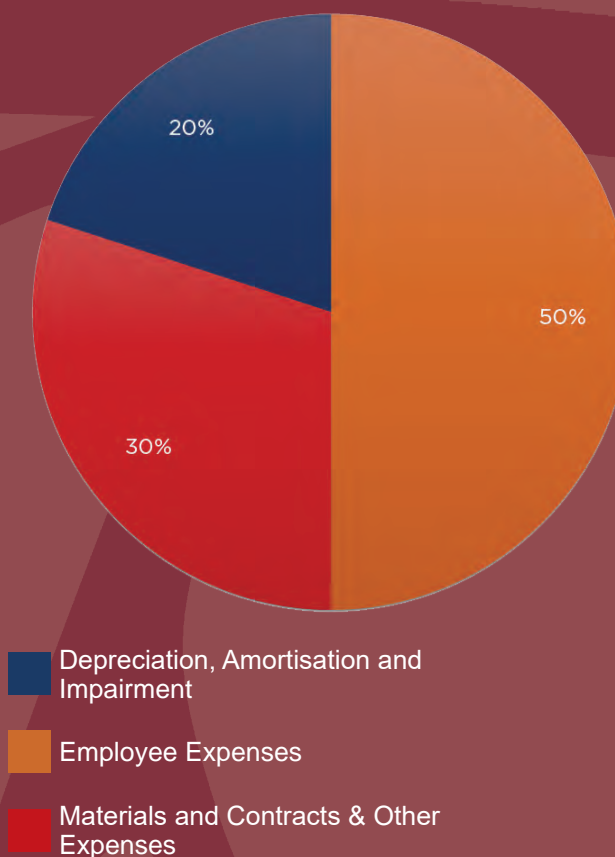
At 30 June 2023 MRC employed 497 staff and is the biggest employer in the region.

The staff of MRC are engaged in delivering civil, infrastructure and community services to its 13 major remote communities.

SOURCES OF INCOME 2022/23



SOURCES OF EXPENDITURE 2022/23



Above: Dirtgirl and a neighbourhood Spiderman help out with tree planting in Imanpa.

07

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

For the year ended
30th of June 2023.



Right: Council wins big at the 2022 NT Tidy Towns Award.



MacDonnell
Regional Council

MacDonnell Regional Council

General Purpose Financial Reports

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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MacDonnell Regional Council
Chief Executive Officer's Certificate
for the year ended 30 June 2023

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

- The Financial Statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act 2019, and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2023, and
- The Financial Statements are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council, and
- There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Council will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable.



Belinda Urquhart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 31 October 2023

MacDonnell Regional Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME			
Rates & Statutory charges - waste management		2,012,826	1,865,012
User charges	2a	1,029,194	1,009,446
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2d	29,244,236	30,504,645
Income from commercial operations	2b	4,029,773	4,582,589
Reimbursements and other income	2c	440,700	600,532
Net gain from disposal of property, plant & equipment	4	690,528	356,629
Investment income		619,493	76,768
Total Income		<u>38,066,750</u>	<u>38,995,621</u>
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3a	22,657,860	21,660,471
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3b	13,669,805	13,869,108
Total Expenses		<u>36,327,665</u>	<u>35,529,579</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS BEFORE DEPRECIATION		<u>1,739,085</u>	<u>3,466,042</u>
Depreciation and amortisation	3c	8,868,658	3,263,987
NET (DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS FROM BEFORE OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>(7,129,573)</u>	<u>202,055</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Gain on Assets Revaluation	6b	86,352,039	-
		<u>86,352,039</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>79,222,466</u>	<u>202,055</u>

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

MacDonnell Regional Council
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5a	19,163,364	22,825,325
Trade & other receivables	5b	1,204,895	2,656,873
Inventories	5c	106,725	132,811
Total Current Assets		<u>20,474,984</u>	<u>25,615,009</u>
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	6a	96,762,481	14,960,230
Capital Work In Progress	6c	10,091	85,595
Total Non-current Assets		<u>96,772,572</u>	<u>15,045,825</u>
Total Assets		<u>117,247,556</u>	<u>40,660,834</u>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	7a	965,098	1,007,267
Employee benefits	7b	2,071,452	2,234,983
Lease liabilities	7c	222,712	264,390
Grant advance	15b	-	157,166
Unearned grant income	15b	6,547,538	8,438,207
Total Current Liabilities		<u>9,806,800</u>	<u>12,102,013</u>
Non-current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	7b	345,946	419,048
Lease liabilities	7c	354,450	621,879
Total Non-current Liabilities		<u>700,396</u>	<u>1,040,927</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>10,507,196</u>	<u>13,142,940</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>106,740,360</u>	<u>27,517,894</u>
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		12,923,094	10,140,458
Unexpended Grant Reserve	15a	2,465,227	2,465,227
Assets Revaluation Reserves	6b, 8	86,352,039	-
Other Reserves	8	5,000,000	14,912,209
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>106,740,360</u>	<u>27,517,894</u>

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

MacDonnell Regional Council
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Notes	Accumulated Surplus \$	Unexpended Grant Reserve \$	Assets Revaluation Reserves \$	Other Reserves \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
30 June 2023					
Balance at beginning of year	10,140,458	2,465,227	-	14,912,209	27,517,894
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for Year	(7,129,573)	-	-	-	(7,129,573)
Gain on Assets Revaluation	-	-	86,352,039	-	86,352,039
Total Comprehensive Income	(7,129,573)	-	86,352,039	-	79,222,466
Transfers between Accumulated Surplus and Reserves	9,912,209	-	-	(9,912,209)	-
Balance at end of Year	12,923,094	2,465,227	86,352,039	5,000,000	106,740,360
30 June 2022					
Balance at beginning of year	24,395,855	1,868,586	-	1,051,398	27,315,839
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for Year	202,055	-	-	-	202,055
Gain on Assets Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	202,055	-	-	-	202,055
Transfers between Accumulated Surplus and Reserves	(14,457,452)	596,641	-	13,860,811	-
Balance at end of Year	10,140,458	2,465,227	-	14,912,209	27,517,894

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

MacDonnell Regional Council
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Rates - general and other		1,882,593	1,863,090
User charges		1,029,194	1,009,446
Income from commercial operations		5,611,984	3,690,837
Grants, subsidies and contribution		27,196,401	31,111,381
Reimbursements and other income		440,700	600,532
<i>Payments:</i>			
Employee costs		(22,894,493)	(21,740,002)
Materials and contracts		(5,341,506)	(3,799,711)
Other operating expenses		(8,344,382)	(10,519,659)
Net Cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	9b	(419,509)	2,215,914
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Interest received		619,493	76,768
Proceeds on sale of property, plant and equipment		690,528	434,323
<i>Payments:</i>			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		(4,282,675)	(2,437,755)
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		(2,972,654)	(1,926,664)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
<i>Payments:</i>			
Repayments of lease liabilities	13	(269,798)	(253,194)
Net Cash used in Financing Activities		(269,798)	(253,194)
Net (Decrease)/Increase in cash held		(3,661,961)	36,056
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	5a, 9a	22,825,325	22,789,269
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	5a, 9a	19,163,364	22,825,325

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

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and Interpretations, the requirements of the Local Government Act 2019, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, and the relevant Northern Territory legislation.

The date the general purpose financial report were authorised for issue is as shown on the Chief Executive Officer's Certificate.

1.2 Historical Cost Convention

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for the revaluation of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The Council is a not for profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial

1.4 Rounding

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

2 The Local Government Reporting Entity

MacDonnell Regional Council has its principal place of business at 2/1 Bagot Street, The Gap NT. This general purpose financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all cost centres through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and cost

3 Income recognition

3.1 Revenue

The Council recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

3.2 Construction Contracts

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues are recognised over time using the input method, with costs incurred compared to total expected costs used as a measure of progress. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

3.3 Rates and levies

Rates are recognised at the commencement of rating period. Rates overpaid at the reporting period are classified as current liability.

3.4 Rendering of Services

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised when the Council satisfies the performance obligation by transferring the promised services. The Council typically satisfies its performance obligations when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

3.5 Fees and Other Charges

Other revenue includes fees for services provided to community and other organisations. These fees charged for providing ongoing services are recognised as income over the period the service is provided.

3.6 Interest

Interest received from term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Instruments

4.1 Cash, Cash Equivalent Assets

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

4.2 Other Financial Instruments

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined by the Council. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form part of Note 11.

5 Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment

6.1 Initial Recognition

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value. All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred. The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

6.2 Materiality

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 6. No

6.3 Subsequent Recognition

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Formal revaluations are at fair value, being re-valued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class. Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

Additions acquired subsequent to initial recording are recognised as cost. These costs are deemed to be the fair value at 30 June 2023. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 6.

At each reporting date, the Council 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 Council estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

6.4 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 6. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

6.5 Impairment

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

7 Payables

7.1 Goods & Services

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

8 Provisions

8.1 Employee Benefits

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make

8.2 Superannuation

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the contributions MRC makes to the superannuation plans which provide benefits to its employees plus provision for superannuation in respect of leave entitlements owed.

The Council does not have any employees who are members of defined benefit funds.

All superannuation schemes to which the Council makes contributions on behalf of employees are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further

8.3 Provisions

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 Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

9 Leases

Leases The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Council as a lessee:

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying

i) Right-of-use assets

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the leased asset.

Right of use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the

- Office Accommodation 5 to 10 years
- S19 Aboriginal Land 6 to 12 years

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies in section 6.5 - Impairment of non-financial

ii) Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the

iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

10 GST Implications

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 "Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax"

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

11 New and amended standards and interpretations

Standards and interpretations effective from 2022-23

Several amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no or minimal impact on Council financial reporting.

Standards and Interpretations Issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been early adopted for 2022-23.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have limited impact on Council reporting.

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 - INCOME

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
a) USER CHARGES		
Equipment Hire	19,422	9,835
Landfill Tipping Fees	102,534	144,432
Property Fees	442,308	367,182
Service Fees	464,930	487,997
	<u>1,029,194</u>	<u>1,009,446</u>
b) INCOME FROM COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS		
Contract Fees	3,830,965	4,376,439
Fuel Sales	-	1,208
Sales - Amoonguna Store	198,808	204,942
	<u>4,029,773</u>	<u>4,582,589</u>
c) REIMBURSEMENTS & OTHER INCOME		
Fuel Tax Rebate	18,009	38,680
Fundraising & Donations	-	150
Insurance Recoveries	191,745	160,186
Reimbursements	196,846	293,821
Other Income	34,100	107,695
	<u>440,700</u>	<u>600,532</u>
d) GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS		
Commonwealth of Australia Government Agencies		
Operating Grants	14,797,885	17,404,600
Capital Grants	1,400,000	-
Northern Territory Government Agencies		
Operating Grants	10,358,544	14,885,421
Capital Grants	250,000	253,500
Other Agencies		
Operating Grants	645,597	309,397
Add: Grants collected in previous year realised as income in the current year	8,595,384	6,620,463
Less: Grant refunded during the year	(258,144)	(530,530)
Unearned grant income as at end of year	<u>(6,545,030)</u>	<u>(8,438,206)</u>
	<u>29,244,236</u>	<u>30,504,645</u>

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 2 - INCOME (cont'd)

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
<i>e) Conditions over grants & contributions</i>		
Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:		
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	8,595,373	7,541,947
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods:		
Less: expended during the current period from grant collected in previous reporting periods:	(5,383,259)	(1,753,984)
Less: amounts recognised as liabilities in current reporting period due to obligation to pay back the funding body	-	(1,405,577)
Prior year unexpended grants repaid to funding bodies	(258,144)	(530,880)
Subtotal	(5,641,403)	(3,690,441)
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		
Plus: amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions	3,593,568	4,743,867
Subtotal	3,593,568	4,743,867
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	6,547,538	8,595,373
Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	(2,047,835)	1,053,426

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 - EXPENSES

Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
a) EMPLOYEE COSTS		
Salaries, Wages, Leave and Allowances, including On-Costs	19,658,922	19,000,446
Employer's Superannuation Contributions	2,033,638	1,868,758
Workers Compensation paid	150,618	118,455
Protective Clothing	4,225	6,779
Recruitment Expenses	189,287	104,932
Training Programs	486,177	449,360
Employee Benefits & Other Employee Costs	134,993	111,741
Total Operating Employee Costs	22,657,860	21,660,471
 <i>Total Number of Employees</i>	 <i>497</i>	 <i>483</i>
b) MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES		
<u>Other Operating expenses</u>		
Advertising & Promotional Activities	23,649	15,256
Audit Services	80,592	52,000
Computer Services	818,418	426,017
Consulting Fees	67,561	179,077
Contract Labour	2,125,984	4,280,091
Elected Members' Allowances & Training	174,682	193,949
Freight Charges	136,063	107,190
Fuel for Plant & Vehicles	701,486	559,110
Gas, Power, Sewerage & Water	672,312	706,481
Insurance Premiums & Fees	1,856,333	1,466,036
Legal & Professional Services	13,823	16,994
Local Authority Members' Allowances	20,712	17,608
Memberships & Subscriptions	92,240	83,944
Operating Leases	52,326	46,245
Interest on Leased assets	24,538	34,900
Telephone & Internet Services	882,658	921,923
Materials, Consumables and Supplies	123,119	202,793
Travel, Accommodation & Entertainment	450,363	409,961
Vehicle Registration, Repairs & Maintenance, others	648,510	556,724
	8,965,369	10,276,299

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 3 - EXPENSES (cont'd)

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
<u>Other Materials & Contracts Expenses</u>		
Buildings Repairs & Maintenance	2,439,934	1,131,458
Cleaning Services & Materials	59,953	123,543
Community Infrastructure	344,144	585,767
Food for Services & Catering Costs	591,497	565,607
Furniture & Fittings	91,571	109,368
Plant & Equipment	235,417	125,953
Purchases - Amoonguna Store	185,054	199,058
Road Furniture & Signage	10,508	2,247
Tools, Equipment & Minor Assets	699,030	646,644
Other Materials & Consumables	47,328	103,164
	<u>4,704,436</u>	<u>3,592,809</u>
	<u>13,669,805</u>	<u>13,869,108</u>
 c) DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION		
Depreciation		
Buildings & Facilities	6,541,174	1,100,793
Furniture & Fittings	471,604	74,074
Plant & Equipment	621,762	641,623
IT Equipment	94,920	0
Vehicles	882,034	1,181,278
Right-to-use	257,164	266,219
	<u>8,868,658</u>	<u>3,263,987</u>

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 4 - NET GAIN FROM DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
<i>Plant and Equipment</i>		
Proceeds from disposal	73,904	55,021
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	-	(1,647)
Gain on disposal	73,904	53,374
 <i>Vehicles</i>		
Proceeds from disposal	616,624	379,302
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	-	(76,047)
Gain on disposal	616,624	303,255
 NET GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	 690,528	 356,629

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
a) CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	19,163,364	2,825,325
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc.	-	20,000,000
	<u>19,163,364</u>	<u>22,825,325</u>
b) TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Rates - General & Other	698,946	568,713
Accrued Revenues	54,562	757,930
Debtors - general	338,324	1,379,877
GST Recoupment	130,072	(7,135)
Total	<u>1,221,904</u>	<u>2,699,385</u>
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts	<u>(17,009)</u>	<u>(42,512)</u>
	<u>1,204,895</u>	<u>2,656,873</u>
c) INVENTORIES		
Goods for Sale Held at Community Stores	11,614	14,597
Other inventory	95,111	118,214
	<u>106,725</u>	<u>132,811</u>

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6a - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (IPP&E)

	2022 \$				2023 \$			
	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount
Land	-	404,250	0	404,250	520,000	-	-	520,000
Buildings & Facilities	-	31,590,493	(21,728,508)	9,861,985	90,284,827	1,891,071	(9,763,167)	82,412,730
Furniture & Fittings	-	1,210,115	(1,012,170)	197,945	1,763,286	18,345	(707,361)	1,074,270
Plant & Office Equipment	-	8,020,311	(6,414,416)	1,605,895	6,905,610	897,063	(1,041,224)	6,761,449
Vehicles	-	8,441,315	(6,372,595)	2,068,720	4,202,000	2,475,615	(1,208,545)	5,469,070
Right-to-use - Note 13	-	1,906,978	(1,085,543)	821,435	-	1,555,854	(1,030,892)	524,962
Total IPP&E	-	51,573,462	(36,613,232)	14,960,230	103,675,723	6,837,948	(13,751,190)	96,762,481

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6b - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2022	Net Movement						2023
	Carrying Amount \$	Revaluation Increment \$	Additions		Disposals \$	Dep'n \$	Remeasurement \$	Carrying Amount \$
			New / Upgrade \$	Transfer from WIP \$				
Land	404,250	115,750	-	-	-	-	-	520,000
Buildings & Facilities	9,861,985	77,708,529	1,297,795	85,595	-	(6,541,174)	-	82,412,730
Furniture & Fittings	197,945	1,347,929	-	-	-	(471,604)	-	1,074,270
Plant & Equipment	1,605,895	5,181,202	691,034	-	-	(716,682)	-	6,761,449
Vehicles	2,068,720	1,998,629	2,283,755	-	-	(882,034)	-	5,469,070
Right-to-use - Note 13	821,435	-	-	-	-	(257,164)	(39,309)	524,962
Total IPP&E	14,960,230	86,352,039	4,272,584	85,595	-	(8,868,658)	(39,309)	96,762,481

Note 6c - CAPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Building	10,091	85,595

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 6 – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (cont'd)

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than \$10,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, including any necessary make good provisions.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Formal revaluations are at fair value, being re-valued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

The Fair Value measurement of the Council's Prescribed Buildings and Infrastructure as at 1 July 2021 was performed by AssetVal (JLL), who are independent valuers not related to the Council. Assets are members of the Australian Valuers Institute, and have the appropriate qualifications and recent experience in the fair value measurement of the properties in eleven locations.

Valuation of Assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Depreciation rate

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%

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 7 - LIABILITIES

		2023		2022	
		\$		\$	
	Notes	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
a) TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES					
Creditors		-		6,678	
Unearned income		3,611	-	1,981	-
Accrued expenses & other payables		895,387	-	975,623	-
Audit fee and FBT payable		66,100	-	22,985	-
		<u>965,098</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,007,267</u>	<u>-</u>
b) EMPLOYEES BENEFITS					
Long Services Leave - employee entitlements		647,997	345,946	586,481	419,048
Annual Leave - employee entitlements		1,423,455	-	1,648,502	-
		<u>2,071,452</u>	<u>345,946</u>	<u>2,234,983</u>	<u>419,048</u>
c) LEASE LIABILITIES					
Leases Liabilities		<u>222,712</u>	<u>354,450</u>	<u>264,390</u>	<u>621,879</u>
		222,712	354,450	264,390	621,879

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 8 - RESERVES

	Opening Balance 1 July 2022 \$	Net Increments/ (Decrements) \$	Transfers, Impairments \$	Ending Balance 30 June 2023 \$
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE				-
Assets Revaluation Reserves	-	86,352,039	-	86,352,039
TOTAL	-	86,352,039	-	86,352,039

	Opening Balance 1 July 2022 \$	Transfers to Reserve \$	Transfers from Reserve \$	Ending Balance 30 June 2023 \$
OTHER RESERVES				
Vehicle, plant & equipment replacement	11,051,398	-	(11,051,398)	-
Civil - infrastructure upgrade	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000
Building capital upgrade	2,360,811	-	(2,360,811)	-
Future Works	-	3,500,000	-	3,500,000
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	14,912,209	3,500,000	(13,412,209)	5,000,000

PURPOSES OF RESERVES

Vehicle, plant and equipment replacement reserve is used for future capital upgrade or replacement of the Council's motor vehicle, plant and equipment.

Civil - infrastructure upgrade reserve is used for future upgrade of waste management system, drainage and footpaths with the council area.

Building capital upgrade reserve is used for future capital upgrade or replacement of the Council's building and facilities.

Future work reserve is used for future capital upgrade or replacement of the Council's property, plant and equipment.

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets and available-for-sale financial assets.

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 9 - RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2023	2022
Notes	\$	\$
Total cash & equivalent assets	5a 19,163,364	22,825,325
Balances per Cash Flow Statement	<u>19,163,364</u>	<u>22,825,325</u>
(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities		
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(7,129,573)	202,055
Non-cash items in Income statement		
Depreciation and amortisation	8,868,658	3,263,987
Interest received	(619,493)	(76,768)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	<u>(690,528)</u>	<u>(356,629)</u>
	429,064	3,032,645
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	1,451,978	(1,340,362)
Net (increase) decrease in inventories	26,086	(113,163)
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	(42,169)	(337,098)
Net increase (decrease) in other provisions	(236,633)	(79,531)
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	<u>(2,047,835)</u>	<u>1,053,423</u>
Net Cash provided by operations	<u>(419,509)</u>	<u>2,215,914</u>

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 10 – FUNCTIONS

The MacDonnell Regional Council commenced operations on 1 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

Community Safety, Companion animal management.

Economic affairs

Centrelink services, Essential services, Local roads maintenance, Amoonguna Community store. Postal services, Commercial fuel sales.

Environment Protection

Waste management, litter control, open drains, street cleaning

Housing and Community

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 Program, Home Care

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 10 - FUNCTIONS (cont'd)

	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES			PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY			ECONOMIC AFFAIRS			ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			HOUSING & COMMUNITY		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates	1,076,926	1,032,195	948,905	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	980,631	980,631	916,108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
User Charges & Fees - Other	101,870	175,556	183,448	7,727	25,182	35,636	-	-	2,324	-	-	-	332,700	363,527	300,198
Grants - Cth Operational	(2,496)	-	-	3,547,541	3,569,905	3,470,356	5,018,431	2,748,782	612,603	(873)	-	(873)	-	-	(507)
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - NT Operational	9,429,157	9,637,372	9,709,857	18,218	23,218	62,601	1,967,647	1,983,492	3,101,840	468,752	719,979	37,193	491,262	490,609	422,174
Grants - NT Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250,000	457,380	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Other Operational	-	9,702	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Other Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	456,401	619,493	76,768	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial operations	-	627	1,208	-	-	-	4,365,954	4,029,146	4,581,380	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reimbursement and other income	1,391,273	978,118	630,317	-	44,609	11,373	-	16,580	157,764	-	-	-	386,200	61,997	51,928
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	13,433,762	13,433,694	12,466,611	3,573,486	3,662,913	3,579,966	11,352,032	10,428,000	8,913,291	467,879	719,979	36,320	1,210,162	916,133	773,793
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	10,595,716	9,676,877	9,306,828	2,174,374	2,301,375	2,269,521	2,909,319	2,675,077	2,131,059	156,660	109,711	77,877	253,695	228,835	280,831
Materials, Contracts & Other	9,229,281	6,745,607	6,013,329	277,890	213,344	283,706	6,429,325	2,421,595	3,500,831	519,879	181,454	87,557	1,788,779	1,386,609	1,231,622
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,214,735	8,873,185	3,263,986	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	23,039,731	25,295,670	18,584,143	2,452,264	2,514,719	2,553,227	9,338,644	5,096,672	5,631,890	676,540	291,165	165,434	2,042,474	1,615,444	1,512,453
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,605,969)	(11,861,975)	(6,117,532)	1,121,222	1,148,194	1,026,739	2,013,387	5,331,328	3,281,401	(208,660)	428,814	(129,114)	(832,312)	(699,311)	(738,660)

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 10 - FUNCTIONS - (cont'd)

	HEALTH			RECREATION, CULTURE & RELIGION			EDUCATION			SOCIAL PROTECTION			TOTAL		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022	2023	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,076,926	1,032,195	948,905
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	980,631	980,631	916,108
User Charges & Fees - Other	158,400	112,363	99,349	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	981,290	1,029,194	1,009,446
Grants - Cth Operational	410,000	449,560	394,024	-	-	(7,000)	-	-	-	380,593	352,567	388,491	20,535,449	12,755,167	14,906,853
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,562,846	5,986,920	10,438,250	-	1,400,000	-
Grants - NT Operational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	900,494	1,038,297	1,064,208	13,432,638	14,050,782	14,545,077
Grants - NT Capital	-	-	-	157,108	157,813	147,203	-	-	-	520,361	778,586	595,335	-	250,000	457,380
Grants - Other Operational	7,618	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	527,979	788,288	595,335
Grants - Other Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	456,401	619,493	76,768
Commercial operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,365,954	4,029,773	4,582,589
Reimbursement and other income	-	1,391	1,948	75,495	25,699	56,390	-	-	-	-	2,834	50,442	1,852,968	1,131,228	957,161
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	576,019	563,314	495,320	232,603	183,513	196,593	-	-	-	13,364,293	8,159,203	12,536,726	44,210,236	38,066,750	38,995,621
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	-	-	-	79,271	90,227	98,476	-	-	-	7,653,667	7,900,041	7,495,879	23,822,703	22,982,143	21,660,471
Materials, Contracts & Other	197,521	114,145	113,822	386,353	374,745	430,472	-	-	-	2,148,232	1,905,533	1,798,846	20,977,261	13,343,033	13,869,109
Depreciation & Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,214,735	8,873,185	3,263,986
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	197,521	114,145	113,822	465,625	464,972	528,948	-	-	-	9,801,900	9,805,574	9,294,725	48,014,699	45,198,361	38,793,566
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	378,497	449,169	381,498	(233,022)	(281,460)	(332,355)	-	-	-	3,562,394	(1,646,370)	3,242,001	(3,804,463)	(7,131,611)	202,056

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 11 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	<p>Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Terms & conditions: Short term deposits have an average maturity of 90 days and an average interest rate of 3.50% (2022: 90 days, 0.50%).</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.</p>
Receivables - Rates & Associated	<p>Accounting Policy: initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Unsecured, and do not bear interest (2022: Nil%). Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	<p>Accounting Policy: Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the</p> <p>Terms & conditions: Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.</p> <p>Carrying amount: approximates fair value.</p>
Liabilities - Finance Leases	<p>Accounting Policy: accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in note 13</p>

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 11 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (cont'd)

Liquidity Analysis

	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$
30 June 2023				
<u>Financial Assets</u>				
Cash	19,163,364			19,163,364
Trade Receivables	338,324	-	-	338,324
	19,501,688	-	-	19,501,688
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>				
Payables	895,387	-	-	895,387
Lease Liabilities	222,712	354,450	-	577,162
	1,118,099	354,450	-	1,472,549
30 June 2022				
<u>Financial Assets</u>				
Cash	2,825,325	-	-	2,825,325
Term deposits at Bank	20,000,000	-	-	20,000,000
Trade Receivables	1,379,877	-	-	1,379,877
	24,205,202	-	-	24,205,202
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>				
Payables	1,007,267	-	-	1,007,267
Lease Liabilities	264,390	621,879	-	886,269
Total	1,271,657	621,879	-	1,893,536

Net Fair Value

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

Risk Exposures:

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.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

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.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Council has no material exposure to interest rate risk.

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 12 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Capital Commitments			
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Buildings		278,006	423,243
Furniture and Fitting		-	-
Plant & Equipment		112,429	203,909
Vehicle		228,505	744,615
		<u>618,940</u>	<u>1,371,767</u>
These expenditures are payable:			
Not later than one year		618,940	1,371,767
Later than one year and not later than 5 years		-	-
Later than 5 years		-	-
		<u>618,940</u>	<u>1,371,767</u>

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 13 - LEASES

Council as a Lessee

Right of Use Assets

The Right-of-Use Assets includes all assets leased under s19 lease and two leased properties in Alice Springs. The net carrying value of these right-to-use assets as at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

Set out below are the carrying amounts (written down value) of right of use assets recognised within Infrastructure Property.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Right-of-Use Assets - S19 Aboriginal Land and Office Accommodation		
At 1 July 2022	821,435	1,087,654
Modification of lease	39,309	-
Other movement	(78,618)	
Depreciation Charge	(257,164)	(266,219)
At 30 June 2023	524,962	821,435

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (including under interest bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Opening Balance 1 July 2022	886,269	1,139,463
Modification of lease	39,309	-
Other movement	(78,618)	34,900
Payments	(269,798)	(288,094)
At 30 June 2023	577,162	886,269
Current	222,712	264,390
Non Current	354,450	621,879

The following are amounts recognised on profit or loss:

Depreciation expense right of use asset	257,164	266,219
Interest expense on lease liabilities	24,538	34,900
Expenses relating to short term leases	52,326	45,722
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	334,028	346,841

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 14 - UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME

The following grants and other income have been paid to the Council for specific purposes. Any unearned amounts are treated as unearned grant income at the end of the financial year. This is because funding bodies will require either that the unused funds be returned or be applied against activities undertaken in future periods.

Where grant agreements do not meet criteria above, it is accounted for under AASB 1058 and income is recognised upon receipt. Any unexpended portion as recognised as unexpended grants reserves in the equity section of the Council's statement of financial position. It is the policy of the Council to present grant monies separately as a reserve where the Council is contractually obliged to provide the services in a subsequent financial period.

The following unexpended grant reserves and unexpended grant are as follows:

14(a) UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE

Untied grant income

FAA General Purpose	-
FAA Roads	-
FAA Roads 2023 advance payment	344,663
Total	344,663

Movements			
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2022
\$	\$	\$	\$
-	-	(1,607,881)	1,607,881
-	-	(857,346)	857,346
344,663	344,663	-	-
344,663	344,663	(2,465,227)	2,465,227

14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME

Youth Development - CAYLUS 2022 advance payment

Other Grant Recognised as liability

ABA outstation capital upgrade ¹	986,187
Aged Care Food CSHP - 5411	74,732
Aged Care Food Flexible - 5446	(27,078)
Building Stronger Communities Workshops	854
CAYLUS - Case Management	64,000
CAYLUS - Training AOD & VSU	35,000
CAYLUS - Recruitment Support	1,040
CAYLUS - CAYLUS Campus	31,600
CAYLUS - Meeting the Youth Gap	247,113
Children's Services - DoE	502,999
CLC Titjikala Youth Excursion	-
Community Home Support Covid19 Emergency Support	155,223
Community Home Support Program	10,656
Community Safety Program	-
Community Safety Vehicles, Core, LLN, Cert III	16,020
COVID19 - Workforce Retention Bonus	720
Disability in Home Support Services (DIHS) - DOH	6,380

Total

Movements			
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2022
\$	\$	\$	\$
3	-	(157,163)	157,166
3	-	(157,163)	157,166
986,187	1,400,000	(1,705,413)	1,291,600
74,732	162,396	(134,819)	47,155
(27,078)	152,534	(184,809)	5,197
854	-	-	854
64,000	64,000	-	-
35,000	35,000	-	-
1,040	7,970	(6,930)	-
31,600	40,000	(8,400)	-
247,113	436,800	(189,687)	-
502,999	2,919,661	(2,951,331)	534,669
-	29,048	(5,570)	(23,478)
155,223	-	-	155,223
10,656	578,524	(603,415)	35,547
-	3,514,178	(3,634,300)	104,496
16,020	-	-	16,020
720	-	-	720
6,380	-	-	6,380

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 14 - UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME (cont'd)

14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME - cont'd

Movements			
Closing balance as at 30 June 2023	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2022
\$	\$	\$	\$
-	-	(7,602)	7,602
435	3,077	(2,673)	31
-	-	-	(13,311)
-	-	(4,411)	4,411
-	144,072	(204,484)	60,412
5,292	9,702	(4,410)	-
80,929	1,949,868	(2,523,224)	654,285
4,055	195,553	(191,498)	-
69,981	70,756	(149,824)	149,049
604,220	-	(695,780)	1,300,000
-	-	(50,000)	50,000
6,459	-	-	6,459
118,275	-	-	118,275
-	-	(253,500)	253,500
(7,602)	262,172	(308,510)	38,736
7,601	1,161,546	(1,304,211)	150,266
245,140	250,000	(4,860)	-
1,556,528	551,460	(200,553)	1,205,621
755	755	-	-
(4,350)	-	(4,350)	-
(8,709)	-	(8,709)	-
(1,749)	-	-	(1,749)
(770)	-	-	(770)
14	20,000	(22,057)	2,071
4,526	-	-	4,526
6,794	-	-	6,794
139,766	-	-	139,766
1	-	(380,079)	380,080
-	91,015	(157,614)	66,093
-	557,500	(647,043)	89,543
-	-	(51,122)	51,122
17,564	328,510	(421,924)	110,978
44,770	-	(66,451)	111,221
191,033	694,678	(604,558)	100,913
-	241,828	(241,828)	-
145,100	-	(154,900)	300,000
20,507	-	-	20,507
-	-	-	(4,586)
36,915	-	(59,469)	96,384
-	490,479	(490,813)	-
67,067	130,000	(62,933)	-
169,739	-	-	169,739
5,000	-	-	5,000
2,496	-	-	2,496

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 14 - UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME (cont'd)

14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME - cont'd

School Nutrition Program	39,592	410,000	(402,349)	31,941
Self Funded Sport & Rec	186	-	-	186
Shade Picnic Area Titjikala	595	-	-	595
Shade Shelter - Santa Teresa	9,108	-	(40,892)	50,000
SLGIF Projects	1,282	-	-	1,282
SNP food ingredient - 5530	31,079	113,754	(90,293)	7,618
Softball field upgrades - Papunya	50,000	-	-	50,000
Solar Park Lighting in 13 Communities	100	-	-	100
SPG 8m Side Loading Compactor Truck	162	-	-	162
SPG Re-vegetation Project	10	-	-	10
Titjikala Kitchen upgrade	13	-	-	13
Try Test Learn - CAYLUS	106,470	-	(7,842)	114,312
Waste and Resource Management Program	664,459	252,100	(55,520)	467,879
Yarning Circles Finke & Titjikala	11,251	5,000	(11,113)	17,364
Youth Development - COVID-19 Booster Package	-	-	(32)	32
Youth Development Program	-	1,297,336	(1,184,207)	(113,129)
Youth Diversion Program	-	206,851	(210,814)	-
Total	6,547,535	18,778,123	(20,707,126)	8,438,212
Total Unearned Grant Income	6,547,538	18,778,123	(20,864,289)	8,595,378

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 15 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

15 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The related parties of the Council include:

- the key Management persons because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council directly; and
- spouses, children and dependents who are close family members of the key Management persons; and
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by key Management persons' or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Council President, Council Vice President, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers as per the Related Party Disclosure policy, AASB 124 and regulation 13 of the Local Government Act 2019. In all, 26 persons including the CEO were paid the following total compensation:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	973,054	985,256
Post-employment benefits	129,427	93,797
Long term benefits	21,224	41,233
Termination benefits	99,529	101,051
TOTAL	1,223,234	1,221,337
Local Government Act 2019 regulation 13 requires a separate line for total remuneration provided to the CEO for financial year. The total remuneration provided to the CEO was \$227,255, comprising of:		
	2023 \$	2022 \$
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	179,267	191,946
Post-employment benefits	26,764	23,724
Long term benefits	21,224	-
Termination benefits	-	-
TOTAL	227,255	215,670

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 15 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES (cont'd)

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

14 close family members of key management personnel are employed by Council in accordance with the terms of the Award, and in accordance with Local Government Act 2019.

(a) Retirement Benefits

No retirement benefits have been made by the Council to key management personnel during the reporting year.

(b) Loans to Responsible Persons

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a key management personnel during the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

(c) Other Transactions

No other transactions, other than remuneration payments and the reimbursement of approved expenses, were entered into by Council with key management personnel during the reporting year.

(d) Outstanding Amounts

Other than those relating to accrued salaries and provision for employee entitlements, there are no outstanding receivables or payables from / to the Council's key management personnel as at 30 June 2023.

Note 16 AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Audit or review services	60,000	52,000
Other services	-	-
TOTAL	60,000	52,000

Note 17 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Under the terms and conditions of the Constitution of CouncilBiz, the Council and other members have guaranteed the debts and liabilities of CouncilBiz. As at 30 June 2023, the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability, and has not been recognised in the financial statements.

Note 18 EVENTS AFTER THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DATE

There are no events after the statement of financial position date that should be disclosed.



Independent audit report to the Chief Executive Officer of MacDonnell Regional Council

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council ("the Council"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Chief Executive Officer's Certificate.

In our opinion, the financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council is in accordance with the *Northern Territory Local Government Act*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of MacDonnell Regional Council as at 30 June 2023 and of the Council's performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Local Government (General) Regulations*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report.

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008* and the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standard)* (the 'Code') that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Northern Territory Local Government Act* and for such internal control as the CEO determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the CEO is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

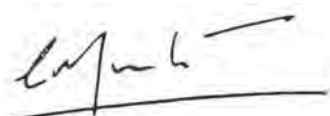
As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the CEO.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the CEO's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Merit Partners

Merit Partners



MunLi Chee
Director

DARWIN

31 October 2023

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