

2022-26 MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLAN INCORPORATING THE

2022-23 REGIONAL PLAN





Cover image: Travion Marshall and Galvin Stockman at the Papunya Fun Day.

The 2022–26 Strategic Plan of the MacDonnell Regional Council incorporates the 2022–23 Regional Plan and is produced in accordance with the Northern Territory of Australia *Local Government Act 2019*.

MacDonnell Regional Council consistently works with its funding partners in an endeavour to achieve shared goals, provide real employment and improve life opportunities for constituents.

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Message from our Council President

I would like to start by thanking the staff at MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) for their patience and diligence during the COVID pandemic.

It took a whole-team approach to keep our communities safe and I am extremely proud to say our efforts have not been in vain.

Now as a sense of normality returns, it's important that we don't let our guard down just yet. We must continue to follow the latest directions from health officials to keep our vulnerable people safe. COVID-19 is unpredictable and we must not underestimate the impact a new variant could have on our region.

As much as I've enjoyed seeing our communities open back up with events back on the planner, I remain cautious that it could also change again with the blink of an eye.

Looking to the future, I am extremely excited about what is on the horizon. I believe our goals and KPIs will ensure Council is prepared, come what may.

We want to support our staff in advancing their knowledge to help attract and retain a skilled team. Council is also developing training programs and a Learning Management System to help prepare the current workforce to meet current and future capability needs.

As always, increasing Aboriginal employment opportunities remains a high priority, especially on community where we aim for 90%. I know how proud people are to take care of their communities.

Council will also continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders on the development of local Aboriginal enterprises. But at the end of the day, the most important step in securing our future is working with and building up the next generation of leaders. We really need more young people to step up and become involved in Council, whether it is through our Youth Boards or our Future Leaders Pilot Program. We will support you and in turn you will support us into the future.

I extend a massive congratulations to the MacYouth and MacKids teams for their continual work with our young people. At a time when some use our differences to tear us apart, your dedication to creating a better future for our kids is commendable.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the work done by our Service Centre Delivery and Community Services teams. You all continue to do an amazing job, taking care of our communities and their residents. I know you will continue to improve our desert lifestyle well into the future.

Finally, I must say thank you to all the dedicated Local Authority members and elected Councillors for their contributions over the past year. I am grateful for all your wisdom and support, as we've guided MacDonnell Regional Council through extremely tough times.

You continue to make your communities proud.

**ROXANNE KENNY, President
MacDonnell Regional Council**

Message from our Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to MacDonnell Regional Council's 2022-2023 Regional Plan. After 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic there is finally a light at the end of the tunnel.

As we navigate our way through the COVID recovery phase, MRC will continue to support all staff to comply with the directions from the Federal and NT Health departments. Sadly, a number of long serving staff have chosen to leave the region during the pandemic. Our Directors, Managers and the dedicated HR team are working extremely hard to deal with the increased recruitment workload. Recruiting quality staff to Central Australia is proving to be very difficult. In spite of the many challenges, we have continued to deliver our valued services, although some have had to be redesigned. I hope our residents and stakeholders understand the situation as we strive to minimise the impact on our services.

As we await the outcome of the May Federal Election, we stand ready to work closely with the elected government. Due to MRC's strong fiscal management, Council is well placed to deliver this Plan. Facing escalating costs, we have made conservative increases to rates and charges.

The Council has set the strategic direction of MRC and approved the Key Performance Indicators to ensure we meet the goals of the 2022-23 Regional Plan.

Council has acknowledged the ever increasing issues around young people as a priority focus area. They are very keen to give youth a voice at the table. A number of strategies to develop and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experience with the next generation of young leaders have been identified.

Our Youth Boards provide the opportunity for young people with a key interest in helping build a better future for their communities. It will give them the chance to develop their decision-making skills, and eventually take part in the Future Leaders Program. A new position called the Community Engagement Project Coordinator has been created and they will facilitate the Youth Leadership Support Program and will also provide support for Youth boards across the MRC region.

Council is extremely proud of our high Aboriginal employment rates on community. Moving forward we will be focusing on providing our Aboriginal staff with the training and development needed to advance their careers to higher-level jobs like coordinators and managers.

We have also committed additional funding for our partnership with Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC). Providing culturally appropriate veterinary services improves the health and wellbeing of companion animals on community and reduces overpopulation.

Keeping our community's healthy remains another major priority. We continue to focus on the development of our waste management facilities and look to improve our recycling rates. Our residents take pride in their communities and we aim to help them celebrate their achievements.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all elected members for their ongoing dedication to the job, especially when acting as positive role models in their respective wards. Our residents look to the Councillors for leadership and guidance in tough times, of which there have been many over the past few years.

**JEFF MACLEOD, Chief Executive Officer
MacDonnell Regional Council**





Left page, from left to right: (back row) Councillor Mark Inkamala, Councillor Peter Turner; (middle row) Councillor Annie Young; (front row) Chief Executive Officer Jeff MacLeod, President Roxanne Kenny

Right page, from left to right: (back row) Councillor Lisa Sharman, Councillor Lynette Ellis, Councillor Patrick Allen; (front row) Deputy President Dalton McDonald

Absent: Councillors Bobby Abbott, Marlene Abbott, Jason Minor and Abraham Poulson

OUR COUNCIL

1

OUR GOVERNANCE

Our Council, Culture and History

MacDonnell Regional Council is situated at the centre of the Australian continent - surrounded by an arid, desert environment. The majestic landscape includes picturesque waterholes, iconic flora and fauna, striking red desert sands and captivating mountain ranges.

Our region is uniquely beautiful, with a powerful cultural and spiritual significance that can only truly be felt when living on or travelling across the land.

Our Communities

Council takes its name from the ancient and spectacular MacDonnell Ranges, and covers 13 major remote communities, as well as many outstations and enterprises in the pastoral, tourism and mining industries.

A total population of 6,029 was recorded in the ABS 2016 Census from all dwellings in the MacDonnell region. The towns of Alice Springs and Yulara are excluded.

At council, we recognise and respect the fact that Aboriginal Australians are the oldest-known continuous culture on the planet and have had their own forms of governance for tens of thousands of years.

We have been able to develop strong governance principles and practices by using effective two-way communication and engagement with the Aboriginal representatives on Council. Our discussions often move easily between the Aboriginal languages spoken in the MacDonnell region (mainly Arrernte, Pitjantjatjara, Pintubi and Luritja) and English. Councillors also explore vastly different perspectives and expectations when weighing up the impacts of their decisions.

Council remains committed to providing quality assistance for all of our residents, operating from Service Delivery Centres in all 13 communities. The coordination of all services and the administration of governance, finance, funding arrangements, program management and human resources are undertaken centrally from our Alice Springs headquarters.

Community	MRC Workforce	Aboriginal Workforce	Community Population*
Amoonguna	34	91%	239
Areyonga	43	90%	195
Docker River	33	89%	290
Finke	29	89%	192
Haasts Bluff	38	89%	138
Hermannsburg	42	88%	605
Imanpa	22	95%	151
Kintore	37	86%	410
Mt Liebig	39	87%	169
Papunya	38	87%	404
Santa Teresa	34	88%	579
Titjikala	36	91%	227
Wallace Rockhole	8	100%	102

*Population figures shown are from ABS 2016 Census

THE COUNCIL

MacDonnell Regional Council was established in 2008, with 12 elected members in four wards. Councillors are elected for four years, with the last election held in August 2021.

Following these elections, newly-elected councillors joined with re-elected councillors to nominate and vote for their principal members. Roxanne Kenny was re-appointed as President of MacDonnell Regional Council and Dalton McDonald was appointed as Deputy President.

Throughout each annual cycle, MRC holds an Ordinary Council Meeting every two months, and Special Council Meetings as required. Meetings are held in Alice Springs, on one of Council's 13 communities, or at a local business within the region.

All Council meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered. MRC encourages attendance from residents of our communities and members of the public.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

- Finance and Risk Committee
- Audit Committee
- Local Authorities (see following)

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

Local Authorities

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.

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

As vacancies arise, potential members nominate themselves for a Local Authority and Council approves the nominations at a Council Meeting. The Chair is chosen from the members of each Local Authority. Each Local Authority meeting is attended by its Ward Councillors and the President, when available, as well as by senior MacDonnell Regional Council staff.

Staff

MacDonnell Regional Council currently employs 462 staff of whom 76% are Aboriginal. 89% of community based positions are filled by Aboriginal staff. Council employs a diverse range of people in a variety of service areas (see the Organisational Structure on page 11 and the detailed list of services in the "Our Services" section).

Our Councillors

LJIRAPINTA WARD



President
Roxanne Kenny
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)



Councillor
Bobby Abbott
Wallace Rockhole



Councillor
Mark Inkamala
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

RODINGA WARD



Councillor
Annie Young
Santa Teresa



Councillor
Lisa Sharman
Titjikala



Councillor
Lynette Ellis
Amoonguna



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
Peter Turner
Mt Liebig

Our Organisational Structure





Works assistant William Godwin at Amoonguna's waste management facility

2 OUR SERVICES

COUNCIL SERVICES

Service Centre Delivery

Service Delivery receives funding from a number of sources and employs almost 200 people on our 13 communities across nine different programs.

NT Operational Funding and Federal Assistance Grants fund the bulk of our employees that enables us to operate our community offices; our Civil Works teams on communities; the Amoonguna community store; as well as some Alice Springs based staff.

Commercial contracts to provide employment opportunities for community-based Essential Services Officers; Centrelink Agents; NDIS Remote Connectors; and collection and delivery of mail services for Australia Post.

Other Grants received are for specific purposes, such as maintaining municipal and essential services on Outstations and to hold community events as part of the NT Healthy Communities program.

Service Delivery consistently has a 90% Indigenous employment rate, with about 75% male and 25% female staff. This is understandable as most workers are in the Civil Works teams in each community and these positions are most often filled by male employees.

Within Service Delivery, we are very proud of the work we do in our communities and generally the feedback has been positive and encouraging.

Service Level Guidelines

In order to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery in our 13 communities, MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) has established service level guidelines for Council service delivery.

These guidelines are linked to multiyear implementation plans and our Strategic Plan to continuously improve the standards. All service level guidelines are accompanied by staff management and training strategies.

More information about MRC standards and service levels can be found on our website at: www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au/about/standards

The standards and service level guidelines are briefly summarised over the following pages:

ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Animal Management Guidelines to improve the health and numbers of dogs and other animals in a culturally-sensitive way; and, to achieve a long term reduction in animal numbers without the need for mass culling.

The success of any animal management plan is based on three factors – Regular and frequent Veterinarian visits; Surgical or medical de-sexing; and a Continual Educational program.

Principally, animal management refers to dog management but can also include cats, horses, etc.

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

12 Council Service Delivery Centres have responsibility for cemeteries. Four service levels have been identified:

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

INTERNAL ROADS MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

MRC has an Internal Roads Management plan that is based on five (5) factors

- 1. Repair damage to existing roads.
- 2. Complete an audit of existing traffic management road furniture (signs, speed bumps, etc.).
- 3. Develop traffic management asset plans in consultation with Local Authorities.
- 4. Implement the traffic management asset plan and install the approved road furniture.
- 5. Maintain repairs to roads, verges, storm/flood damaged areas and replace any damaged road furniture.

Internal Roads Management refers to improving the overall safety of roads within our communities with appropriate signage.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

The MRC Parks and Open Spaces guidelines outline standards to be achieved over a five-year timeframe. This Regional Plan extends that timeframe.

All 13 Council Service Delivery Centres oversee open spaces with widely varying maintenance standards and infrastructure. Six service standards have been developed:

- 1. Site identification and clearing (retaining trees if present)
- 2. Fencing or bollards and carpark installation
- 3. Shade structure and wheelie bins
- 4. Signage, water bubbler, table and seating and BBQ
- 5. Lighting, pathways, landscaping and playground equipment
- 6. Irrigation and grass where feasible

SPORTS GROUNDS

The MRC Sports Ground guidelines outline standards to be achieved over a five-year timeframe. This Regional Plan extends that timeframe.

All 13 Council Service Delivery Centres oversee and maintain sports grounds and infrastructure at widely varying standards. Six service standards have been developed:

- 1. Shade shelters and wheelie bins
- 2. Seating, backstop netting and drinking water
- 3. Shade trees and parking area
- 4. Fencing
- 5. Lighting and irrigation (where funding is available, as these require significant start-up)
- 6. Grass (where funding is available as this requires significant start-up and ongoing funding)

STREET LIGHTING

MRC maintains street lights in the region based on the following five standards:

- 1. Total number of MRC street lights
- 2. Audit of all street lights within the first week of each month
- 3. Restore community street light levels that drop below 70% within 30 days
- 4. Average year to date level of operational street lights in each community at 75%+
- 5. Deliver services on budget



Service Delivery Area Manager Kathleen Abbott, NT Training Services trainer Ged Ryan and Civil Assistant John Palmer at Imanpa



Works Assistant Laurence Webb climbing into heavy machinery

Council Services (cont'd)

WASTE MANAGEMENT

MacDonnell Regional Council Waste Management guidelines provide baseline standards which MRC aims to achieve within three years. All 13 Service Delivery Centres have responsibility for landfill sites of widely varying standards and all provide waste collection services. Four service levels have been identified:

1. Reduce Risk – two wheelie bin collections per week; no burning at landfill and secure storage of waste, plant and equipment
2. Remediate Old Sites – community education about waste management; milestones for management of landfill sites
3. Review and Improve – removal of bulky goods historically dumped around the community; higher level landfill management milestones
4. New waste management facilities as funding becomes available

WEED CONTROL AND FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION

MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Weed Control & Fire Hazard Reduction Guidelines to improve the safety of its communities. At the same time, a Council goal is Healthy Communities – where we work to improve environmental health outcomes.

The success of any Weed Control & Fire Hazard Reduction plan is based on six (6) factors:

1. Slashing
2. Mowing
3. Chemical spraying
4. Clearing
5. Manual control
6. Pruning (tree lopping)

Non-Council Services

AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Aged Care services operate in compliance with eight standards set out in the national Aged Care Quality Standards. These standards were implemented on 1 July 2019 and replaced the Home Care Common standards. These standards are:

1. Consumer dignity and choice
2. Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers
3. Personal care and clinical care
4. Services and supports for daily living
5. Organisation's service environment
6. Feedback and complaints
7. Human resources
8. Organisational governance

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Our Early Learning Program works towards the National Quality Framework (NQF), with a focus on respecting Aboriginal child-rearing practices and ways of learning.

The NQF is divided into seven Quality Areas:

1. Educational program and practice
2. Children's health and safety
3. Physical environment
4. Staffing arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership and service management.

Each service has a Quality Improvement Plan that documents progress against these standards.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The NT Community Safety Operational Framework is based on the principle that all individuals have the right to be safe in their community. This framework outlines the standards that our Community Safety services work to achieve:

1. Service Delivery standards
2. Asset Management
3. Program Administration
4. Training and Development

YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Model standards have been developed for youth services in Central Australia. Our Youth Services operate in accordance with these standards, which are:

1. Resources and Infrastructure
2. Regularity and Consistency of Activities.
3. Gender and Age Status Appropriate Activities
4. Activities which are Meaningful, Stimulating and Culturally Relevant
5. Involvement of Role Models

OTHER SERVICES

Other areas of Council service delivery are developing standards and service levels as relevant and appropriate.



MacYouth workers Rajan Khadka and Waylon Dixon help MacKids Coordinator Helen Meredith at the Papunya Fun day

LIST OF COUNCIL AND OTHER SERVICES

Council Services

Service Centre Delivery - Municipal Services

- Administration
- Animal Management
- Cemeteries
- Internal Roads
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Sports Grounds
- Waste Management
- Weed Control and Fire Hazard Reduction
- Street Lights

Council Infrastructure

- Buildings and Facilities
- Fleet Management
- Swimming Pools

Council Engagement

- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Council and Local Authorities
- Customer Service
- Governance

Support and Administration

- Financial Management
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Records Management
- Staff Training
- Staff Housing
- Workplace Health and Safety

Non-Council Services

Outstation Services

- Infrastructure
- Housing Maintenance Services
- Municipal and Essential Services

Commercial Operations

- Airstrip Maintenance
- Centrelink Agency
- Community Store
- Essential Services Maintenance
- Postal Services
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Remote Community Connectors

Community Services

Aged and Disability Services

- Aged Care Services
- Disability Support Service
- School Nutrition Program

Children's Services

- Early Learning Program

Community Safety

- Community Safety Program

Library Services

- Library Program

Youth Services

- Outside School Hours Learning Program
- Sport and Recreation Program
- Youth Development Program
- Youth Diversion Program

PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

Community

Community members can provide feedback directly to MRC staff, Local Authority members and Ward Councillors. All Local Authority and Council meetings are open to the public. Community members are encouraged to attend these meetings to observe their deliberations and decisions. At the request of the Local Authorities, draft Community Infrastructure Plans were displayed in Council Offices and Community Stores to engage residents.

Local Authorities

Local Authorities exist in each of MRC's 13 communities. The members of Local Authorities work with their communities to find solutions to local issues. They are involved in planning, give feedback on service delivery and identify priority community projects. MRC helps to plan and deliver local projects that have been identified as priorities by each Local Authority. This gives community members more input into the services which affect them. MRC is responsible for ensuring an efficient secretarial and administrative service supports all Local Authority meetings. MRC must also ensure that reports are provided at each meeting to ensure that members are fully informed about services and activities being provided in their communities. Local Authorities are a key component of Council's Goal #3 – Empowered Communities.

Council

MRC reports quarterly to Council on Regional Plan progress against the KPIs, budget performance as well as issues and strategies identified by Council. Councillors monitor and guide Council's spending and progress to ensure that identified objectives are achieved. All directorates report to Council at each Ordinary Council Meeting.

Directorate

Directors are responsible for monitoring, reporting and implementing their Operational Plans to ensure KPIs are achieved. Much of MRC's funding is sourced by agreements or commercial contracts from external agencies that impose detailed performance targets and reporting regimes to monitor outcomes.

Staff

MRC staff are required to contribute to their team's Regional Plan KPIs through their directorate's Operational Plans.

NT Government and General Public

Many Council documents, including agendas, policies, financial reports and plans are available on the Council website. MRC has a principle of transparency wherever possible to ensure our stakeholders, community members and the public are aware of Council operations and key governance measures. MacDonnell Regional Council's Regional Plan and Annual Report must be presented to the Agency responsible for Local Government each year to ensure compliance with our governing legislation and a robust governance framework.

Community Consultation

The 2022-23 Regional Plan has received input from varied sources, including MRC staff, Local Authority members and Councillors. Workshops were held with the elected members in December 2021, February, April and May 2022 and the Executive Leadership Team. The Regional Plan was discussed at all Local Authority meetings.

OUR SERVICES

Services offered by MacDonnell Regional Council by Community

	AMOONGUNA	AREYONGA	DOCKER RIVER	FINKE	HAASTS BLUFF	HERMANNSBURG
Council Infrastructure						
Municipal Services						
Libraries						
Outstations						
Swimming Pools						
Airstrip Maintenance						
Australia Post						
Centrelink						
NDIS Community Connections						
Community Store						
Power Maintenance						
Water Maintenance						
Sewerage Maintenance						
Early Learning Centres						
Outside School Hours Learning						
Community Safety						
Aged and Disability Services						
School Nutrition						
Youth Services						

Offered

Not offered

	IMANPA	KINTORE	MOUNT LIEBIG	PAPUNYA	SANTA TERESA	TITJIKALA	WALLACE ROCKHOLE
Council Infrastructure							
Municipal Services							
Libraries							
Outstations							
Swimming Pools							
Airstrip Maintenance							
Australia Post							
Centrelink							
NDIS Community Connections							
Community Store							
Power Maintenance							
Water Maintenance							
Sewerage Maintenance							
Early Learning Centres							
Outside School Hours Learning							
Community Safety							
Aged and Disability Services							
School Nutrition							
Youth Services							

Offered

Not offered



Recently completed roadworks into Kintore (Walungurru)

3 OUR STRATEGIC PLAN



Community members and youths line up for a Fun Day in Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-26

Our Hierarchy of Plans

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

The Strategic Plan denotes the vision, mission and values of the fourth MacDonnell Regional Council for the period of 2022-26 and describes the goals and objectives as standard indicators of MRC’s performance.

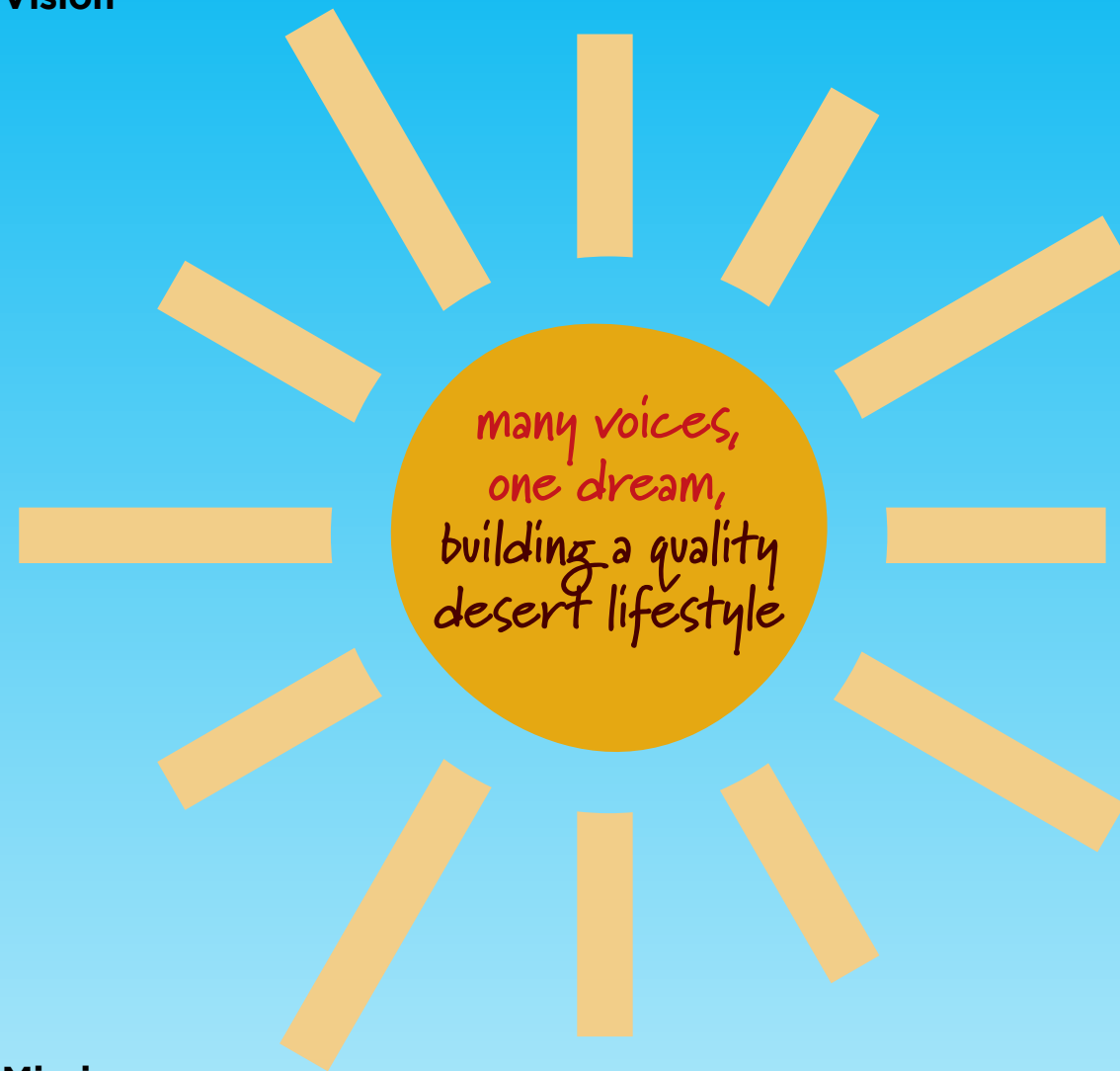
OUR REGIONAL PLAN

The Regional Plan of 2022-23 addresses the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan and defines the specific strategies, associated key performance indicators and targets for the next operational year.

OTHER RELATED PLANS

Informed by community needs and ideas, Community Infrastructure Plans have been developed to guide future planning. Operational Plans are developed for each Key Performance Indicator of the Regional Plan by the responsible directorates.

Our Vision



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

Our Goals and Objectives



- MRC’S infrastructure meets community needs
- Create employment opportunities
- Increase Aboriginal employment opportunities
- Support local Aboriginal enterprise



- Support active and healthy lifestyles
- Improve environmental health outcomes
- Support community and cultural events



- Young people are empowered to be engaged representatives
- Local Authority and Council members are trained and empowered in their roles to lead into the future
- Local Authority and Council members, constituents and stakeholders are engaged and informed



- Support new employees
- Support the development and advancement of our staff
- Improve efficiencies through our use of technology
- Support staff safety and wellbeing
- Staff are empowered to inform MRC decision-making

GOAL #1

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

- MRC’S infrastructure meets community needs
- Create employment opportunities
- Increase Aboriginal employment opportunities
- Support local Aboriginal enterprise



Works Assistant Norm Raggett works on the oval at Papunya

GOAL #1 - Developing Communities

Objective	Strategy	Key Performance Indicator - and Measure	Target Date
1.1 MRC's infrastructure meets community needs	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">target = plans developed and adopted over 5 years	June 2027
	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">target = 90% of MRC's lots have S19 leases100% compliant within 2 years	June 2024
	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
		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 years100% compliant by June 2027	June 2027
	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
	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
	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
	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">target = reports to be provided twice per year100% compliance each year	June 2023
1.2 Create employment opportunities	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">target = one (1) course to be delivered by external services providers in each community per year	June 2023
		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
1.3 Increase Aboriginal employment opportunities	Promote Aboriginal employment within MRC	Community-based positions filled by Aboriginal staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = 90% Aboriginal staff100% compliance each year	June 2023
		Service contracts secured which guarantee Aboriginal employment and training opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = 10% Aboriginal employment/training100% compliance each year	June 2023
		Local Aboriginal labour achieved through delivery of MRC's tendered contracts <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = 10% Aboriginal labour100% compliance each year	June 2023
		Alice Springs based positions filled by Aboriginal staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = 15% Aboriginal staff100% compliance each year	June 2023
1.4 Support local Aboriginal enterprise	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

GOAL #2

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Support active and healthy lifestyles

Improve environmental health outcomes

Support community and cultural events



ABC TV Gardening Australia host Costa Georgiadis shares his knowledge with kids in Santa Teresa

GOAL #2 - Healthy Communities

Objective	Strategy	Key Performance Indicator - and Measure	Target Date
2.1 Support active and healthy lifestyles	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
	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
	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
2.2 Improve environmental health outcomes	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 communities100% compliant	June 2023
	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 2023target = implementation to be completed by June 2024	June 2023
		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 2024target = implementation to be completed by June 2025	June 2024
	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
2.3 Support community and cultural events	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 yeartarget = \$50,000pa100% compliant	June 2023
	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 2023100% compliant	June 2023

GOAL #3

EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

Young people are empowered to be engaged representatives

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

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



MRC President Roxanne Kenny reads the agenda at an ordinary council meeting

GOAL #3 - Empowered Communities

Objective	Strategy	Key Performance Indicator - and Measure	Target Date
3.1 Young people are empowered to be engaged representatives	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 yeartarget = Youth Boards meet 3 times per community / per year	June 2025
		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 2023target = provide one module at each Youth Board meeting	June 2025
		Develop meeting procedures, agendas, minutes appropriate to the Youth Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% compliance by June 2023	June 2023
	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 meetings100% compliance within 3 years	June 2025
		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
	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 2025
3.2 Local Authority and Council members are trained and empowered in their roles to lead into the future	Mandatory governance training is undertaken by all Elected Members	Each Elected Member completes the NTG's governance training within 12 months of being elected <ul style="list-style-type: none">100% compliant with 12 months of 2021 electionsthereafter as new members are elected	Sep 2022
	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
		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
3.3 Local Authority and Council members, constituents and stakeholders are engaged and informed	Local Authority meetings are readily accessible to members and the public	Communities hold LA meeting outdoors which include lunch/shared meal at which all members - appointed and elected - can talk with members of the community <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = each community holds one outdoor meeting per year	June 2023
	Increase community awareness of LA decisions and services	Developed edited version of LA minutes to be posted in each community <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = development to be completed by December 2022target = minutes to be posted within 7 days of LA meetings on an ongoing basis	Dec 2022
	Increase community input to inform Council and Local Authority decision-making	Undertake annual Community Satisfaction Survey, and public consultation on Regional and Strategic Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none">target = 22/23 survey to be completed by June 2023target = 100% compliance on an ongoing basis thereafter	June 2023

GOAL #4

SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATION

- Support new employees
- Support the development and advancement of our staff
- Improve efficiencies through our use of technology
- Support staff safety and wellbeing
- Staff are empowered to inform MRC decision-making



Service Centre Delivery team members Tammy Shields and Stephen Trindle at a snake awareness workshop

GOAL #4 - Supportive Organisation

Objective	Strategy	Key Performance Indicator - and Measure	Target Date
4.1 Support new employees	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 • target = learning system to be finalised by June 2024	June 2024
		Implement online Learning Management System for the delivery of staff training programs • target = implementation completed by June 2024	June 2024
4.2 Support the development and advancement of our staff	Train and retain a skilled workforce	Develop and adopt individual training programs for all positions within MRC resulting from annual performance reviews • target = training programs adopted by December 2022	Dec 2022
	Develop current workforce to meet current and future capability needs	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy • target = Strategy 2 fully implemented by December 2022	Dec 2022
		Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 3: Increase employee engagement • target = Strategy 3 (increase employee engagement) fully implemented by June 2023	June 2023
	Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy • target = Strategy 4 (Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC) fully implemented by December 2023	Dec 2023
4.3 Improve efficiencies through our use of technology	Provide network capability to sustain modern computer systems	Rollout of upgraded network system in association with CouncilBiz, including training of staff and installation of equipment.	June 2022
		Rollout upgrade of software packages and resolution of connectivity and network issues: • target = rollout to MRC Main Office, Papunya and Docker River - 2023 • target = rollout to Ammoonguna and Haasts Bluff - 2024 • target = rollout to remaining communities - 2025	June 2025
4.4 Support staff safety and wellbeing	Develop best practice Work Health and Safety strategy	Establish WH&S Committees in each community • target = 100% compliance by December 2022	Dec 2022
		Work Health and Safety Electronic Management System implemented and all staff have received training • target = 100% compliance by June 2023	June 2023
	Standardise staff housing security to ensure wellbeing	Develop minimum safety standards for staff housing • target = standards finalised by December 2022	Dec 2022
		Implement minimum safety standards for staff housing • target = standards rolled out to all staff housing over two years	June 2024
4.5 Staff are empowered to inform MRC decision-making	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 • target = 70% of staff complete annual survey"	June 2023



Major roadworks have been completed on the 9 kilometre Kintore Access Road with funding provided by the Federal Government through the Roads to Recovery program

MacDonnell Regional Council proposes to adopt its budget for the 2022-23 financial year consistent with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act).

The following information is provided in accordance with the requirements of Part 10.4 Long-term Financial Plan, section 200, and Part 10.5 Annual Budgets, sections 201(2) and 201(3) and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* as applicable. The format of the Tables presented are in accordance with recommendations provided by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

Each legislative requirement is addressed below.

OUR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

A LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN MUST CONTAIN:

s200(3)(a) a statement of the major initiatives the council proposes to undertake during the period to which the plan relates.

The Budget which has been developed for 2022-2023 feeds into the long term financial planning of Council. This planning is restricted by a series of unknowns in regards to a range of commercial and community services related programs and contracts.

Commercial and agency contracts represent a significant revenue stream for the Council in management and administration fees. The programs also assist in subsidising other core service activities such as human resources, administration and infrastructure services.

The sustainability of the Council is dependent upon stable, long term grant funding arrangements with the Australian Government and the Northern Territory Government. Changes in these arrangements and in existing commercial and agency contracts have the potential to disrupt the Council's capacity to deliver core services to the communities.

Key assumptions of the long-term financial plan:

- All current core services will continue to be provided by the Council.

- Grant-funded (community) services have been considered only where experience shows that the funding is recurrent since the Council hasn't been advised, at the time of preparing the long term financial plan, of what funding will be available for the next 4 financial years. Estimates are based on original arrangements provided to the Council.
- There will be no significant adverse change in government policies impacting upon the operation of the Council.
- Overall CPI increases assumed is 2.0% per year.
- The repairs, maintenance, management and development of infrastructure is intended to continue at the same level as detailed in the current year budget with increases in line with inflation.

The new initiatives budgeted for in 2022-2023 are detailed in Table 6. "Budget Initiatives".

s200(3)(b) the projected statement of income and expenditure for each financial year of the period to which the plan relates.

Table 2. "Long Term Financial Plan" contains the required information as specified in the Act.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

THE BUDGET FOR A PARTICULAR FINANCIAL YEAR MUST:

s201(2)(a) outline:

(i) the council's objectives for the relevant financial year.

The objectives for the 2022-2023 financial year are to deliver Council services and programs as outlined in the Regional Plan 2022-2023. The primary focus of the Council is to deliver Core Services such as providing an administration centre in each community and undertaking roads and parks maintenance and waste management.

Regulation 8(1)(b) of the General Regulations states that Council's Budget and Long Term Financial Plan must include a list of budget assumptions. The assumptions used in drafting the Budget for 2022-2023 are shown at Table 5. "Budget Assumptions". The Long Term Financial Plan Assumptions are detailed above.

(ii) the measures the council proposes to take, during the financial year, towards achieving those objectives.

At page 19 of the Regional Plan, Council's Performance Monitoring and Reporting mechanisms are detailed. The Community, Local Authorities, Council, etc, all hold MRC accountable in achieving its Objectives. More specifically each Objective included in the Goals established by Council is assigned to a specific organisational Director. It is the responsibility of each Director to report to Council on a quarterly basis on progress against each Key Performance Indicator and to provide an update against the target and timeline set.

In relation to budget objectives MRC's performance is strictly monitored and reported to Council at each meeting. Variances outside of acceptable limits are quantified and qualified in the report.

(iii) the indicators the council intends to use as a means of assessing its efficiency in achieving its objectives.

The Regional Plan lists the indicators/measures that the Council intends to use to assess the quality and/or effectiveness of the planned outputs/actions.

s201(2)(b) contain the projected statement of income and expenditure for the financial year (differentiating between operating and capital expenditure).

Table 1. "Annual Budget 2022-2023" and Table 3. "Capital Expenditure and Funding Budget" contain the required information as specified in the Act.

Table 4. "Planned Major Capital Works Budget" provides detail of projects that are either in progress, that will continue over more than one financial year or will be completed this current financial year, including those that will be started and completed in the current financial year.

s201(2)(c) list the council's fees for services and the estimates of revenue for each of those fees.

The detailed Schedule of Fees and Charges 2022-2023 is included at Appendix 2.

s201(2)(d) state the amount to be allocated to the development and maintenance of each class of infrastructure for the financial year.

The Budget 2022-2023 includes the following expenditure in relation to Council's infrastructure:

Category	Operating Expenditure	Capital Expenditure
Infrastructure - inc the upgrades listed below:	\$3,342,675.00	\$160,000.00
4604 - Haasts Bluff Remote Oval Upgrades	\$3,585.00	
4605 - Papunya Remote Oval Upgrades	\$104,844.00	
4611 - Amoonguna Remote Oval Upgrades	\$20,507.00	
4621 - ABA - upgrade of various outstations	\$1,951,139.00	
4622 - Hermannsburg oval lighting	\$1,262,600.00	

s201(2)(e) state the amount the council proposes to raise by way of rates, and set out the rates structure, for the financial year.

The full Declaration of Rates and Charges for MacDonnell Regional Council 2022-2023 under Part 11 of the *Local Government Act 2019* is included at Appendix 1 to this report. The précis of rates and charges to be levied is as follows:

RATE OR CHARGE	APPLICATION	RATE OR AMOUNT	TOTAL TO BE RAISED
Rate	Residential	Flat rate of \$957.54 per allotment	\$980,683
Rate	Commercial	Flat rate of \$1,133.16 per allotment	
Rate	Conditional rating (pastoral)	0.000416 cents per dollar/min. charge \$511.97	
Rate	Conditional rating (mining)	0.004726 cents per dollar/min. charge \$1,211.71	
Rate	All other allotments	Flat rate of \$1,133.16 per allotment	\$946,787
Charge	Garbage - Residential	\$848.10pa	
Charge	Garbage - Commercial, industrial or community use purposes	\$1,696.16pa	
TOTAL			\$1,927,470



One of MRC’s completed projects - the new Areyonga playground.

s201(2)(f) include an assessment of the social and economic effects of its rating policies.

MacDonnell Regional Council’s rates and charges are set each year with regard to a number of factors including increases in the cost of providing services, proposed capital works and increases in service levels or other Council initiatives. The Council also considers statistical indicators such as the Consumer Price Index and the Northern Territory Local Government Index, which is prepared by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).

The Council consciously aims to keep the increase in rates to a minimum in order to lessen any impact on ratepayers, while generating enough income to provide adequate levels of service and achieve its objectives.

The rates as a revenue source at MacDonnell Regional Council represent just 3% of revenue so are a minor part of its revenue. The Minister for Local Government will increase Conditional Rates by 36% from 1 July 2022 and the next two subsequent financial years.

To support local businesses recover from challenges they have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC has made conservative increases to rates and charges in comparison to 2019-20 increases.

The Council will cover the shortfall created by the rates relief with its reserves, ensuring that the Council continues to stimulate the local economy.

As such, the Council’s assessment of the social and economic effects of the Council’s rating policy is that the increases in rates are not of sufficient magnitude to have any significant effect on the ratepayers concerned.

Ongoing skill shortages have negatively impacted MRC’s ability to deliver its corporate KPIs. This has been caused by difficulty attaining and retaining remote-based staff.

s201(2)(g) state the allowances for members of the council for the financial year and the amount budgeted to cover payment of those allowances.

The following rates of allowances for Councillors are applicable from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBER	
Base Allowance	\$13,509.96
Electoral Allowance	\$4,943.73
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,753.17
Maximum Extra Meeting Allowance (Paid at the per day rates approved within Council’s policy)	\$9,006.64
Total Claimable	\$31,213.50
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MEMBER	
Base Allowance	\$27,776.12
Electoral Allowance	\$4,943.73
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,753.17
Total Claimable	\$36,473.02
PRINCIPAL MEMBER	
Base Allowance	\$75,116.61
Electoral Allowance	\$19,771.29
Professional Development Allowance	\$3,753.17
Total Claimable	\$98,641.07
ACTING PRINCIPAL MEMBER	
Daily Rate	261.34
Total Claimable (Maximum 90 Days)	23,520.60
LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER PER MEETING	
Local Authority Chairperson Allowance	\$181.00
Ordinary Local Authority Member Allowance	\$135.00

MacDonnell Regional Council’s 2022-2023 budget includes \$312,150 in respect of Members’ Allowances. Elected Members’ Allowances are paid in accordance with Council Policy and in line with the Minister’s Guideline established under the Local Government Act 2019.

s201(2)(h) separately provide for a budget for each local authority established by the council.

Table 7. “Budget for Each Local Authority Area 2022-2023” contains the required information as specified in the Act.



Travis Williams collects garbage in Amoonguna.



New waste management drop off bay at Santa Teresa.

TABLES

TABLE 1. ANNUAL BUDGET 2022-2023

	2022/23 Budget
	\$
OPERATING INCOME	
Rates	980,683
Charges	946,787
Fees and Charges	481,137
Operating Grants and Subsidies	36,074,072
Interest/Investment Income	50,305
Commercial & Other Income	5,231,320
TOTAL INCOME	43,764,305
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	
Employee Expenses	23,327,523
Materials and Contracts	12,792,302
Elected Member Allowances	312,150
Elected Member Expenses	242,000
Council Committee & LA Allowances	93,404
Council Committee & LA Expenses	73,950
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,883,982
Interest Expenses	6,490
Other Expenses	6,916,487
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	46,648,287
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(2,883,982)
Capital Grants Income	253,477
Gain from the sale of assets/other	1,300,000
Council own fund	4,276,200
BUDGETED SURPLUS/DEFICIT	2,945,695
Capital Expenses	(5,829,677)
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	2,883,982
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION	0

TABLE 2. LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING INCOME				
Rates	980,683	1,000,300	1,020,310	1,040,720
Charges	946,787	965,720	985,030	1,004,730
Fees and Charges	481,137	490,760	500,580	510,590
Operating Grants and Subsidies	36,074,072	36,795,550	37,531,460	38,282,090
Interest/Investment Income	50,305	51,310	52,340	53,390
Commercial & Other Income	5,231,320	5,335,950	5,442,670	5,551,530
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	43,764,305	44,639,590	45,532,390	46,443,050
OPERATING EXPENSES				
Employee Expenses	23,327,523	23,794,070	24,269,950	24,755,350
Materials and Contracts	12,792,302	13,048,150	13,309,110	13,575,290
Elected Member Allowances	312,150	318,390	324,760	331,260
Elected Member Expenses	242,000	246,840	251,780	256,820
Council Committee & LA Allowances	93,404	95,270	97,180	99,120
Council Committee & LA Expenses	73,950	75,430	76,940	78,480
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,883,982	2,941,660	3,000,490	3,060,500
Interest Expenses	6,490	6,620	6,750	6,890
Other Expenses	6,916,487	7,054,820	7,195,920	7,339,840
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	46,648,287	47,581,250	48,532,880	49,503,550
OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	(2,883,982)	(2,941,660)	(3,000,490)	(3,060,500)
Capital Grants Income	253,477	258,550	263,720	268,990
Gain from the sale of assets/other	1,300,000	1,326,000	1,352,520	1,379,570
Council own fund	4,276,200	4,361,720	4,448,950	4,537,930
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	2,945,695	3,004,610	3,064,700	3,125,990
Capital Expenses	(5,829,677)	(5,946,270)	(6,065,190)	(6,186,490)
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)				
Less Non-Cash Income				
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	2,883,982	2,941,660	3,000,490	3,060,500
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	0	0	0	0
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding				
Other Inflow of Funds				
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	0			
NET OPERATING POSITION	0	0	0	0

TABLE 3. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING BUDGET

	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land and Buildings	1,375,677	1,403,190	1,431,250	1,459,880
Infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, park furniture)	160,000	163,200	166,460	169,790
Plant and Machinery	4,272,000	4,357,440	4,444,590	4,533,480
Other Assets (including furniture and office equipment)	22,000	22,440	22,890	23,350
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	5,829,677	5,946,270	6,065,190	6,186,500
<i>* Total must equal Capital Expenses amount in the Income and Expenditure Statement</i>				
Total capital expenditure funded by:		0	0	0
Capital Grants Income	253,477	258,550	263,720	268,990
Gain from the sale of assets/other	1,300,000	1,326,000	1,352,520	1,379,570
Council own fund	4,276,200	4,361,720	4,448,950	4,537,930
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	5,829,677	5,946,270	6,065,190	6,186,490

TABLE 4. PLANNED MAJOR CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

CLASS OF ASSETS	BY MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT	Total prior year actuals	Current financial year budget	Financial year budget 23-24	Financial year budget 24-25	Financial year budget 25-26	Total planned budget	Expected completion date
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Land and Buildings	Refurbishment of Staff Housing - Kintore	0	220,000	0	0	0	220,000	30/6/23
	Refurbishment of Staff Housing - Papunya	0	210,000	0	0	0	210,000	30/6/23
	Upgrade of Staff Housing - Installation of Security Systems	0	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	30/6/23
	Upgrade of HQ - Installation of Security Systems	0	250,000	0	0	0	250,000	30/6/23
Plant and Machinery	Acquisition and upgrade of Fleet	0	2,803,000	0	0	0	2,803,000	30/6/23
	Upgrade of Plant and Equipment	0	969,000	0	0	0	969,000	30/6/23
TOTAL		0	4,702,000	0	0	0	4,702,000	

The Projects listed above are new projects for the 2022-2023 financial year. It is anticipated at this time that they will be completed in the 2022-2023 financial year.



Tony Palmer and Leroy Riley of the Civil Works Team installing new bollards at Amoonguna.

TABLE 5. BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Key Assumptions of the Income and Expenditure Budget:

- a) At the time of preparation of this budget Council is engaged in discussions with funding bodies regarding grants for 2022-2023. This budget therefore reflects a combination of known and anticipated funding for its continuing services based on previous experience and known service requirements.

b) Administration fees charged by Council have previously, in general, been set at 15%. Charges are made to income external to Core Services (noting that some grants will not pay 15% and this is a continuing negotiation). It is further recognised that the actual administration fee should be between 19% and 24%, though no change has been made to the budget in relation to this at this stage.

c) Council has reduced the budget for swimming pools to approximately \$350,000 as the management and operation of MRC's pools has been transferred to a third party.

d) All other current services will continue to be provided by Council.

e) Discretionary funds provided to Local Authorities have been set at \$4,000pa. In addition funds resulting from the Northern Territory Government's promise of grants to Local Authorities have again been included as it is believed that these are to be available again in 2022-2023.

f) The budget has been set with the assumption that:
 - The release of the NT Government Plan for Budget Repair in 2019/20 (efficiency dividend) included the application of a 1% for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. The budget incorporates this reduction.
 - In the absence of a significant rates base, the Commonwealth and Territory Governments will continue to fund services.
- g) Council has increased the residential rate by 3.5% and Commercial rate by 3.5%. Waste charges increased 1.95% and Other Fees and Charges have been increased by approximately 2%.

h) An estimated CPI increase of 2% has been applied to the current and outer 3-year budgeted expenses.

i) The council's employee Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) is due for renewal and to avoid pre-empting negotiations a 1.75% rate increase included in budget.

j) Expenses have been estimated to increase by an average of 2.0% over the life of the plan.

k) Council policy is to not capitalise roads, therefore road expenditure is reflected in full in the Council Services line within the budget.

l) Expenditure on plant and equipment has been fully funded, and will cover the expected depreciation for the year. Additionally, Council has resolved to set aside any surplus from operations in the 2021-22 year into its reserve for funding replacement of Council assets and other future projects in 2022-2023.

TABLE 6. BUDGET INITIATIVES

In the deliberation of Council's Objectives, Strategies and Key Performance Indicators for 2022-2023 a comprehensive review of the Regional Plan 2021-2022 was undertaken. Consideration was focused on what was still relevant, what needed refinement and what new initiatives should be introduced.

As a result of this consideration the following new initiatives were established:

- Development and implementation of a long-term road and storm water drainage maintenance plan for Council-controlled roads.
 - Undertake a risk assessment of MRC's facilities to determine areas to be targeted.
 - Undertake a feasibility study and cost benefit analysis into the establishment of an in-house mobile maintenance team.
 - LED lighting, water saving devices and solar panels to be introduced to council buildings to improve energy efficiency and decrease power and water consumption.
 - Using established baseline animal health data develop and implement animal health programs targeting identified health issues.
 - Working in partnership with AMRRIC, develop and implement animal health education and management through schools in the MRC region.
- Develop and maintain Youth Boards in the 9 MacYouth communities.
 - Each Elected Member completes the NTG's governance training within 12 months of being elected.
 - Communities hold LA meeting outdoors which include lunch/shared meal at which all members - appointed and elected - can talk with members of the community.
 - Development and implementation of an 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.
 - Establish WH&S Committees in each community.
 - Develop and implement minimum safety standards for staff housing.
 - Rollout of upgraded network system in association with CouncilBiz, including training of staff and installation of equipment.



Cr Annie Young and CEO Jeff MacLeod try out the new water filling station at Santa Teresa.

TABLE 7. BUDGET FOR EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA

	Regional Office	Amooguna	Areyonga	Docker River	Finke	Haasts Bluff
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING INCOME						
Rates	980,683	0	0	0	0	0
Charges	946,787	0	0	0	0	0
Fees and Charges	90,000	21,215	28,388	25,720	32,478	6,761
Operating Grants and Subsidies	28,476,866	155,141	622,885	634,287	473,990	432,074
Interest/Investment Income	50,305	0	0	0	0	0
Commercial & Other Income	1,668,717	385,939	279,359	292,447	269,740	275,888
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	32,213,359	562,295	930,631	952,454	776,208	714,723
OPERATING EXPENSES						
Employee Expenses	8,892,316	982,718	1,223,262	956,045	992,351	1,202,484
Materials and Contracts	5,093,496	485,315	408,003	758,195	341,605	425,003
Elected Member Allowances	312,150	0	0	0	0	0
Elected Member Expenses	240,000	0	0	0	1,000	0
Council Committee & LA Allowances	40,000	4,108	4,108	4,108	4,108	4,108
Council Committee & LA Expenses	0	5,300	5,300	6,100	5,300	6,700
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,883,982	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Expenses	6,490	0	0	0	0	0
Other Expenses	3,893,162	149,531	371,529	196,364	278,609	235,454
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	21,361,596	1,626,973	2,012,202	1,920,812	1,622,973	1,873,749
OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	10,851,762	(1,064,678)	(1,081,571)	(968,358)	(846,765)	(1,159,026)
Capital Grants Income	0	0	76,790	0	0	0
Gain from the sale of assets	1,300,000	0	0	0	0	0
Council own fund	3,154,000	60,500	111,000	47,500	10,200	142,000
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	15,305,762	(1,004,178)	(893,781)	(920,858)	(836,565)	(1,017,026)
Capital Expenses	(4,454,000)	(60,500)	(187,790)	(47,500)	(10,200)	(142,000)
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)						
Less Non-Cash Income						
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	2,883,982	0	0	0	0	0
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	13,735,744	(1,064,678)	(1,081,571)	(968,358)	(846,765)	(1,159,026)
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding						
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS						
	0	0	0	0	0	0
NET OPERATING POSITION	13,735,744	(1,064,678)	(1,081,571)	(968,358)	(846,765)	(1,159,026)

Hermannsburg	Imanpa	Kintore	Mount Liebig	Papunya	Santa Teresa	Titjikala	Wallace Rockhole
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25,198	11,999	49,750	23,139	75,185	64,853	25,481	970
2,141,729	96,474	355,439	475,246	941,253	633,140	585,827	49,723
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
314,424	246,099	243,058	221,458	344,593	250,765	308,157	130,676
2,481,351	354,572	648,247	719,843	1,361,031	948,758	919,464	181,369
1,541,926	665,557	1,112,087	1,029,332	1,445,042	1,312,930	1,567,880	403,593
1,959,291	282,197	479,923	391,402	904,330	503,565	654,771	105,206
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0
4,108	4,108	4,108	4,108	4,668	4,108	4,108	3,548
5,300	5,300	5,300	6,700	5,300	6,750	5,300	5,300
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
375,918	137,027	194,854	177,707	345,658	225,150	247,255	88,269
3,886,543	1,094,189	1,796,272	1,609,249	2,704,998	2,052,503	2,480,314	605,916
(1,405,191)	(739,617)	(1,148,025)	(889,406)	(1,343,966)	(1,103,745)	(1,560,849)	(424,547)
0	0	72,357	0	0	104,330	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
148,000	0	318,000	75,000	210,000	0	0	0
(1,257,191)	(739,617)	(757,668)	(814,406)	(1,133,966)	(999,415)	(1,560,849)	(424,547)
(148,000)	0	(390,357)	(75,000)	(210,000)	(104,330)	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1,405,191)	(739,617)	(1,148,025)	(889,406)	(1,343,966)	(1,103,745)	(1,560,849)	(424,547)
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1,405,191)	(739,617)	(1,148,025)	(889,406)	(1,343,966)	(1,103,745)	(1,560,849)	(424,547)

TABLE 8. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET FOR EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA

	Regional Office	Amoonguna	Areyonga	Docker River	Finke	Haasts Bluff
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land and Buildings	0	60,500	187,790	47,500	10,200	142,000
Infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, park furniture)	160,000	0	0	0	0	0
Plant and Machinery	4,272,000	0	0	0	0	0
Other Assets (including furniture and office equipment)	22,000	0	0	0	0	0
Other Leased Assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	4,454,000	60,500	187,790	47,500	10,200	142,000

* Total must equal Capital Expenses amount in the Income and Expenditure Statement

Total capital expenditure funded by:

Capital Grants Income	0	0	76,790	0	0	0
Gain from the sale of assets/other	1,300,000	0	0	0	0	0
Council own fund	3,154,000	60,500	111,000	47,500	10,200	142,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	4,454,000	60,500	187,790	47,500	10,200	142,000

Hermannsburg	Imanpa	Kintore	Mount Liebig	Papunya	Santa Teresa	Titjikala	Wallace Rockhole	Total
\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
148,000	0	390,357	75,000	210,000	104,330	0	0	1,375,677
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160,000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,272,000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22,000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
148,000	0	390,357	75,000	210,000	104,330	0	0	5,829,677

0	0	72,357	0	0	104,330	0	0	253,477
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,300,000
148,000	0	318,000	75,000	210,000	0	0	0	4,276,200
148,000	0	390,357	75,000	210,000	104,330	0	0	5,829,677




One of MRC's completed projects - the new fence at the Amoonguna oval.

APPENDIX 1

Rate Assessment Record Certification

I certify to the Council that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the rates assessment record is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the area.



Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer,
MacDonnell Regional Council

Friday 27 May 2022

Rates and Charges Declaration for 2022-23

RATES

MacDonnell Regional Council (the Council) makes the following declaration of rates pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act)

- 1 Pursuant to Section 226 of the Act, the Council declares rates consisting of a combination of fixed charges and valuation based charges including a minimum charge. For valuation based rates, pursuant to Section 227 of the Act, the Council adopts the Unimproved Capital Value (UCV) method as the basis of the assessed value of allotments within the council area.
- 2 The Council intends to raise, for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$980,683 which will be raised by application of:
 - (a) Differential rates with differential minimum amounts being payable in application of each of those differential rates; or
 - (b) A fixed charge (“flat rate”)
- 3 The Council hereby declares the following rates:
 - (a) With respect to every allotment of rateable land within the council area that is used for residential purposes, a flat rate of \$957.54 for each allotment.

- (b) With respect to every allotment of rateable land within the council area that is used for commercial or business purposes, a flat rate of \$1,133.16 for each allotment.
- (c) With respect to every allotment of conditionally rateable land within the council area:
 - (i) A rate of 0.000416 multiplied by the assessed value of land held under a Pastoral Lease, with the minimum amount being payable in the application of the differential rate being \$511.97;
 - (ii) A rate of 0.004726 multiplied by the assessed value of land occupied under a Mining Tenement with the minimum amount being payable in the application of the differential rate being \$1,211.71
- (d) With respect to every allotment of rateable land within the council area not otherwise described elsewhere in this declaration, a flat rate of \$1,133.16 for each allotment.

CHARGES

- 4 Pursuant to Section 239 of the Act, the Council declares the following charges in respect of the garbage collection services it provides for the benefit of all land within the following designated communities within the council area (except such land as Council from time to time determines to be exempt or excluded from the provision of such services or for which the Council has determined it is impractical to provide such services).
- 5 Council intends to raise \$946,787 by these charges.
- 6 Garbage collection services are provided weekly in the designated communities within the council area of Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Titjikala and Wallace Rockhole.

- 7 For the purpose of paragraphs 8:
 - “residential dwelling” means a dwelling house, flat or other substantially self-contained residential unit or building on residential land and includes a unit within the meaning of Unit Titles Act.
 - “residential land” means land used or capable of being used for residential purposes (but does not include land on which there is no residential dwelling).
- 8 The following charges are declared:
 - (a) A charge of \$848.10 per annum per residential dwelling in respect of the garbage collection service provided to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to, each residential dwelling within Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Titjikala and Wallace Rockhole communities.
 - (b) Other than a residential dwelling to which paragraph 8 (a) applies, a charge of \$1,696.16 per annum for each allotment used for commercial, industrial or community use purposes in respect of the garbage collection service provided to, or which Council is willing and able to provide to, each such allotment within Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Titjikala and Wallace Rockhole communities.

PAYMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES

- 9 Pursuant to section 244 of the Act, Council determines that rates and charges for the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 inclusive, shall be due and payable in two approximately equal instalments on the following dates namely:
 - First instalment Friday 07 October 2022
 - Second instalment Friday 10 March 2023

Payment of all or any remaining instalments may be made on or before the due date of the next instalments.

- (b) Details of due dates and specified amounts will be listed on the relevant rates notice under section 242 of the Act (“the Rates Notice”).
- (c) Variations to those options for payment will be administered according to the conditions outlined on the front and reverse of the Rate Notice.
- (d) A ratepayer who fails to abide by such conditions may either be sued for recovery of the principal amount of the rates and charges and late payment penalties; or a charge may be registered over the property or lease prior to potential sale of the property. Costs reasonably incurred by Council in recovering or attempting to recover the rates and charges will be recoverable from the ratepayer.

RELEVANT INTEREST RATE

- 10 The Council fixes relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges in line with Section 245 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum which is to be calculated on a daily basis.



Belinda Urquhart, Director Service Delivery, presents Graham McAndrew with his award on attaining 10 years service with MRC at Docker River.

APPENDIX 2

Fees and Charges Schedule

The following Fees and Charges are correct as at 1 July 2022. Council reserves the right to vary them from time to time and current rates can be found at:

www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au/about/rates-fees-charges

LABOUR HIRE (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY)

Penalties apply for work outside of normal span of work hours.

	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Council Service Coordinator	per Hour	\$115.00
Essential Services Operator	per Hour	\$182.00
Team Leader Works	per Hour	\$103.00
Work Assistant	per Hour	\$70.00
Other Skilled Staff	per Hour	POA*

* price on application

SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION

A purchase order must be received and the booking confirmed prior to arrival on community. All accommodation arrangements to be completed with the Council Services Coordinator in the specific community prior to arrival at that location. All accommodation is un-serviced and based on availability.

	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
All communities except Amoonguna	per Person/ per Night*	\$98.00

*terms greater than 14 days are dependent on availability and fee is subject to change

ADMINISTRATION

Service	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
A4 Photocopying	per Page	\$2.00
A3 Photocopying	per Page	\$5.00
A4 Faxing	per Page	\$4.00
A4 Scanning and Emailing Documents	per Page	\$4.00
Regional Plan	per Copy	\$20.00
Annual Report	per Copy	\$30.00
Rates Search	per Request	\$27.50
Freedom of Information (FOI) application relating to personal information	per Application	No Fee
Freedom of Information (FOI) application relating to non-personal information	per Application	\$30.00
Freedom of Information (FOI) application relating to personal and non-personal information	per Application	\$30.00

MEETING ROOM AND OFFICE USE

Service	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Meeting rooms in Council Offices	per Full Day	\$248.00
Use of office space	per Day	POA*
Use of office facilities	per Person/ per Day	POA*

* price on application

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

	Unit	Fee (gst n/a)
Early Learning Program	per Hour	\$6.00

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

School Nutrition Program (Client Contributions)	Unit	Fee (gst n/a)
Morning Tea & Lunch	per Fortnight	\$60.00
Breakfast, Morning Tea & Lunch	per Fortnight	\$80.00

AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES

	Unit	Fee (gst n/a)
Meal Services (Ingredient Contribution)		
Cost for each service	per Service	\$7.50
Weekend Hampers	per Week	\$29.50

PLANT HIRE

	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Vehicle Hire 4WD day rate (with driver less km rate)	per Hour	\$115.00
Vehicle Hire 4WD km rate	per Km	\$2.00
Backhoe (with operator)	per Hour	\$230.00
Excavator (with operator)	per Hour	\$285.00
Forklift (with operator)	per Hour	\$230.00
Front End Loader (with operator)	per Hour	\$230.00
Front End Loader - Large (with operator)	per Hour	\$285.00
Grader (with operator)	per Hour	\$285.00
Skid Steer (with operator and attachments)	per Hour	\$230.00
Tractor (with operator and attachments)	per Hour	\$230.00
Truck - Articulated (with operator)	per Hour	\$285.00
Truck - HR (with operator)	per Hour	\$285.00
Truck - MR (with operator)	per Hour	\$230.00

EQUIPMENT HIRE

	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Brush Cutter (with operator and fuel)	per Hour	\$90.00
Cement Mixer	per Hour	\$80.00
Chainsaw (with operator and fuel)	per Hour	\$90.00
Generator	per Hour	\$80.00
Lawnmower (with operator)	per Hour	\$90.00

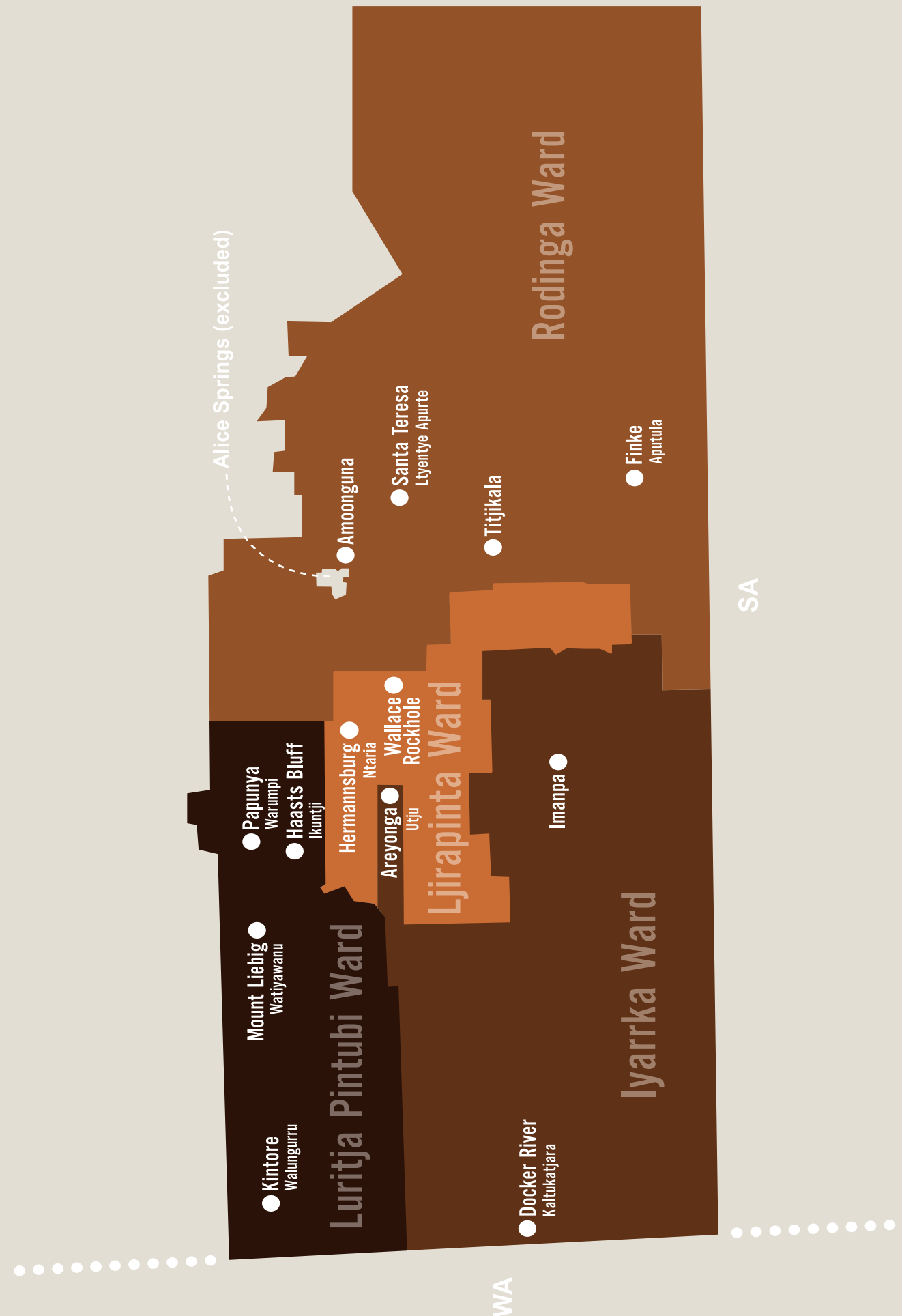
WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES

Municipal Solid Waste (non- commercial)	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Clean Fill	m3	No Charge
General Waste	m3	No Charge
Green Waste	m3	No Charge

Bins	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Replacement 240 litre Wheelie Bin	Each	\$120.00
Replacement parts	Each	POA*
Service fee to supply and fit parts	per Hour	\$66.00
Skip Bin Hire	Each	POA*

* price on application

Commercial and Industrial	Unit	Fee (gst inc)
Unsorted Waste will be charged at m3 rate	m3	\$580.00
Animal Carcasses	Each	\$40.00
Animal Carcasses (feral - camels, donkeys, etc.)	Each	\$230.00
Batteries	Each	\$6.00
Car Bodies	Each	\$300.00
Concrete/Rubble	m3	\$200.00
General Waste	m3	\$55.00
Green Waste	m3	\$55.00
Metal Uncontaminated	m3	\$55.00
Mixed Fill (soil, rock, rubbish)	m3	\$55.00
Solar Hot Water Systems	Each	\$68.00
Timber (untreated)	m3	\$55.00
Timber (treated) includes pallets	m3	\$55.00
Tyre - Vehicle	Each	\$22.00
Tyre - Light Truck 16"	Each	\$38.00
Tyre - Truck Heavy Vehicle	Each	\$70.00
Tyre - Tractor/ Industrial Vehicle	Each	\$195.00
White Goods	Each	\$22.00



MRC Council offices contact information

ALICE SPRINGS HEADQUARTERS

2 / 1 Bagot Street, The Gap
 Local call: 1300 360 959
 Phone: 08 8958 9600 Fax: 08 8958 9601
 Mail: PO Box 5267, Alice Springs NT

Council Service Delivery Centres

AMOONGUNA

Phone: 08 8959 7402 Fax: 08 8959 7401
Mail: PO Box 996 Alice Springs NT 0871
Email: amoonguna@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

AREYONGA (UTJU)

Phone: 08 8956 7877 Fax: 08 8956 7302
Mail: CMB 219 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: areyonga@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

DOCKER RIVER (KALTUKATJARA)

Phone: 08 8954 4102 Fax: 08 8954 4101
Mail: CMB 49 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: dockerriver@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

FINKE (APUTULA)

Phone: 08 8956 0966 Fax: 08 8956 0900
Mail: CMB 184 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: finke@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

HAASTS BLUFF (IKUNTJI)

Phone: 08 8956 8533 Fax: 08 8956 8534
Mail: CMB 211 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: haastsbluff@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

HERMANNSBURG (NTARIA)

Phone: 08 8954 4702 Fax: 08 8954 4701
Mail: CMB 185 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: hermannsburg@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

IMANPA

Phone: 08 8956 7454 Fax: 08 8956 7464
Mail: CMB 119 via Alice Springs NT 0872
Email: imanpa@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

KINTORE (WALUNGURRU)

Phone: 08 8956 8566 Fax: 08 8956 8569
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MOUNT LIEBIG (WATYAWANU)

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Email: mountliebig@macdonnell.nt.gov.au

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MacDonnell
Regional Council