



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

**AMANBIDJI LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022
AT 12:00 PM
AT THE AMANBIDJI COUNCIL OFFICE
VDRC OFFICE**

MEMBERS

Deputy Mayor Shirly Garlett



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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Russell Anderson
Chief Executive Officer



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1. Meeting Opening

2. Welcome

3. Attendance and Apologies

3.1. Community Attendees

3.2. Apologies and Absentees

Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett

4. Disclosure of Interest

- (1) As soon as practicable after a member becomes aware of a conflict of interest in a matter that has arisen or is about to arise before an audit committee, a council, a council committee or a local authority, the member must disclose the interest that gives rise to the conflict (the **relevant interest**):
 - (a) at a meeting of the audit committee, council, council committee or local authority; and
 - (b) to the CEO.
- (2) A member must not:
 - (a) be present at a meeting of the audit committee, council, council committee or local authority while a matter in which the member has a conflict of interest is under consideration; or
 - (b) participate in any decision in relation to the matter; or
 - (c) engage in behaviour that may influence the audit committee, council, council committee or local authority's consideration of or decision in relation to the matter.

5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations

5.1. Resignations

Nil

5.2. Terminations

Nil



5.3. Nominations

Nil

6. Call for Items of General Business

7. Confirmation of Minutes

8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

9. Correspondence

9.1. Incoming Correspondence

Recommendation

That the following in-coming Correspondence be noted.

- Big Rivers Liveability Report VDRC LGA
1. Big Rivers Liveability Report Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA [9.1.1 - 10 pages]
 2. Stronger Futures Sunsetting LA Brief Amanbidji [9.1.2 - 1 page]

The Big Rivers Liveability Report

Victoria Daly Regional Council

Purpose

The perception and reality of how 'liveable' a place is considered critical to attracting and retaining population. It's the key consideration for people when choosing where to live as put simply, liveability equals' quality of life.

'Liveability' can mean many different things to different communities, but we when think about our day to day lives and how we spend our down time, we mostly think; can I access a doctor when I need to? Are there great schools for my kids and playgrounds to keep them entertained? What's the connectivity like? Can I enjoy the great outdoors, rent a house easily or achieve career growth? Is this a good place to have a go with a business start-up?

The Big Rivers Liveability Report conducted by the Northern Territory Government is a regional place based approach to measuring liveability in the Big Rivers Region.

The objectives of the project include:

- Understanding the perceptions and reality of living in the region from residents who live – or have lived – in the Big Rivers Region
- Identifying what is desired in a regional lifestyle to attract and retain people in the region through community ideas for change
- Creating regional baseline data to inform planning, monitoring and evaluation

The liveability survey places our residents at the centre of our planning by seeking to understand what attributes are valued the most, the region's greatest strengths, those that need to be prioritised and areas where we're underperforming.

Liveability was measured against nine core attributes including broadly grouped elements to address a broad range of interpretations of liveability.

Please note the report does not measure performance levels of services. It only captures respondents' perceptions of access to service (the nine core attributes).

Background

Victoria Daly Regional Council (the Council) covers an area of 168,000km² and encompasses seven communities and two villages that includes Pine Creek, and Timber Creek. The estimated resident population is approximately 3,176 people, of which 65% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. ¹

The council is comprised of five wards, however only four wards will be reported on including Daguragu, Walangeri, Timber Creek and Pine Creek.

Defining Liveability

In this project, 'liveability' has been associated with the following core attributes:

Healthcare	Access to hospitals, doctors, pharmacy, dentist, mental health services and specialist services.
Education	Access to childhood education services (e.g. preschool, day care etc.), primary school, secondary school with breadth of curriculum, tertiary options and English language classes.
Amenity	Access to parks and green spaces, walkable town centre/neighbourhood, shopping and dining experiences in a culturally vibrant town, taxi, remote community transport, ease of driving and parking and places to socialise, events and festivals.
Cost of Living	Availability of suitable housing for rent or purchase, cost of fresh produce, access to bulk billing and access to government subsidised childcare and schools.
Natural Environment	Ways to adapt to climate change; preparation for cyclone season, heat mitigation; transitioning to renewable energy such as solar, water security, effective waste management and air quality.
Digital Connectivity	Access to adequate phone coverage, reliable internet and broadband, able to work from home and pay bills online.
Community Connection	Community activities including community-organised events, volunteering, local community groups and organisations which are related to interests or beliefs, a sense of belonging and safety and community diversity.
Employment Opportunities	Access to local job opportunities, career growth opportunities, starting and growing a business.
Great Outdoors	Including access to recreational activities, walking trails, fishing, swimming holes and camping locations.

Our Approach

The liveability survey was developed by the Northern Territory Government on the Survey 123 platform; a form-centric geospatial data gathering system which maps geographical location data to capture place-based perspectives across the region.

The survey was undertaken in March 2022 with an extensive public promotion campaign including geo-mapped, targeted marketing and direct engagement approaches over the phone, online and face to face.

The Northern Territory Government's Aboriginal Interpreter Service was utilised to engage and deliver the survey in language and to accurately interpret the questions for Aboriginal people completing the survey. A 'call back request' service was also facilitated for Aboriginal people who preferred the assistance of an interpreter while responding to the survey.

Population data from the Northern Territory Government's Bushtel, a central point for information about the remote communities of the Northern Territory, was obtained to devise proportionate response targets, based on the overall estimated resident population of the region.

Summary of Key Findings

High quality, accessible health service and quality of schools and education opportunities are the most valued attributes in the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

Being able to access high quality health service and quality of schools and education opportunities are critical across the ward and can strongly influence people's choice to move or not recommend their communities as a great place to live. Respondents believe that quality of healthcare (54%) and education (62%) need to be improved as a priority.

Improving cost of living including availability of suitable housing for rent or purchase, cost of fresh produce, access to bulk billing and access to government subsidised childcare and schools, is critical to lifting liveability.

Almost half of the respondents believe addressing and improving cost of living (49%) will significantly improve liveability across the ward. This attribute is extremely underperforming and is negatively affecting liveability of the ward.

Access to the great outdoors, breadth of employment opportunities and quality of healthcare, and community connectedness and protection of the environment are the ward's key strengths and the top reasons why people won't relocate elsewhere.

When asked to identify the ward's key strengths, access to the great outdoors, employment opportunities and quality of healthcare, and community connectedness and protection of the environment of the community were identified. This makes these attributes both key influencers in the perceptions and reality of living in the region and key drivers for attracting and retaining population.

Responses

37 responses were collected across the ward:

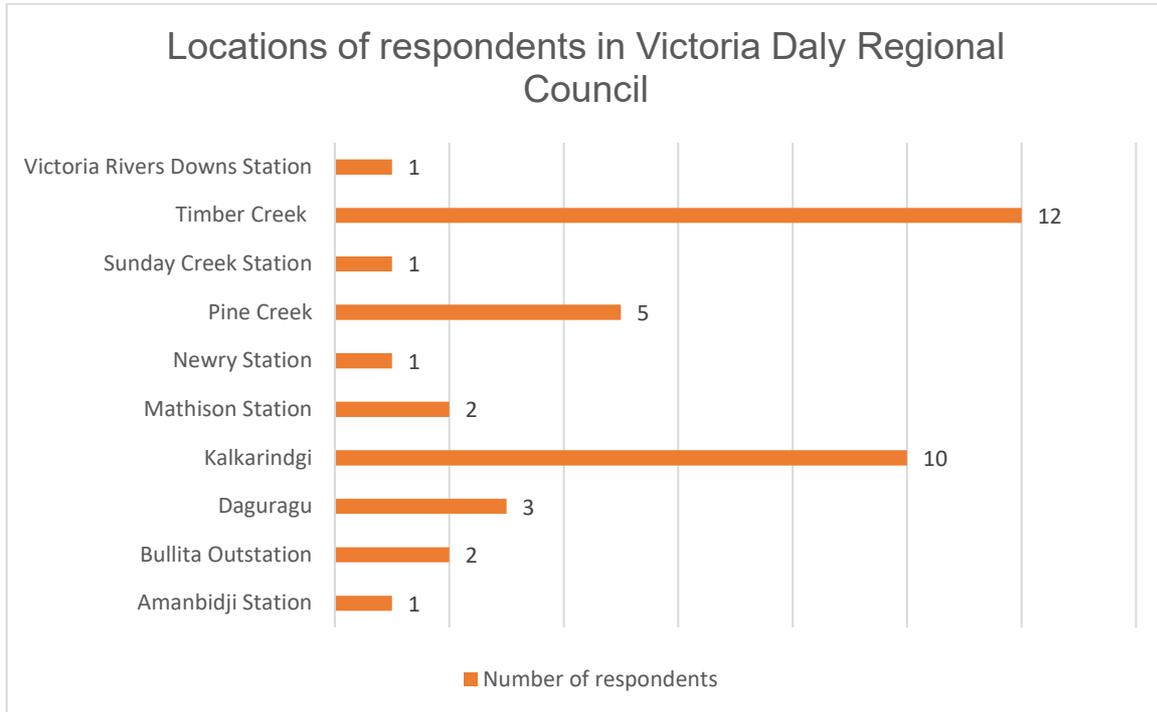


Figure 1. Locations of respondents

Who responded?

24% identify as Male	76% identify as Female	
41% identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait	57% do not identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait	3% did not wish to disclose
3% identify as LGBTQIA	95% do not identify as LGBTQIA	3% did not wish to disclose
38% residents speak a language other than English	61% residents do not speak a language other than English	

How diverse is the ward?

Country of Birth:

- 89% or 33 of respondent was born in Australia
- 3% or 1 respondent was born in Great Britain
- 3% or 1 respondent was born in Spain
- 5% or 2 respondents were born in South Africa

Years lived in the region:

- 14% have lived for < 2 years
- 22% have lived up to 5 years
- 8% have lived up to 10 years
- 49% have lived > 10 years
- 8% were born and bred

Age of Respondents

87% of respondents were between the ages 25 and 54.

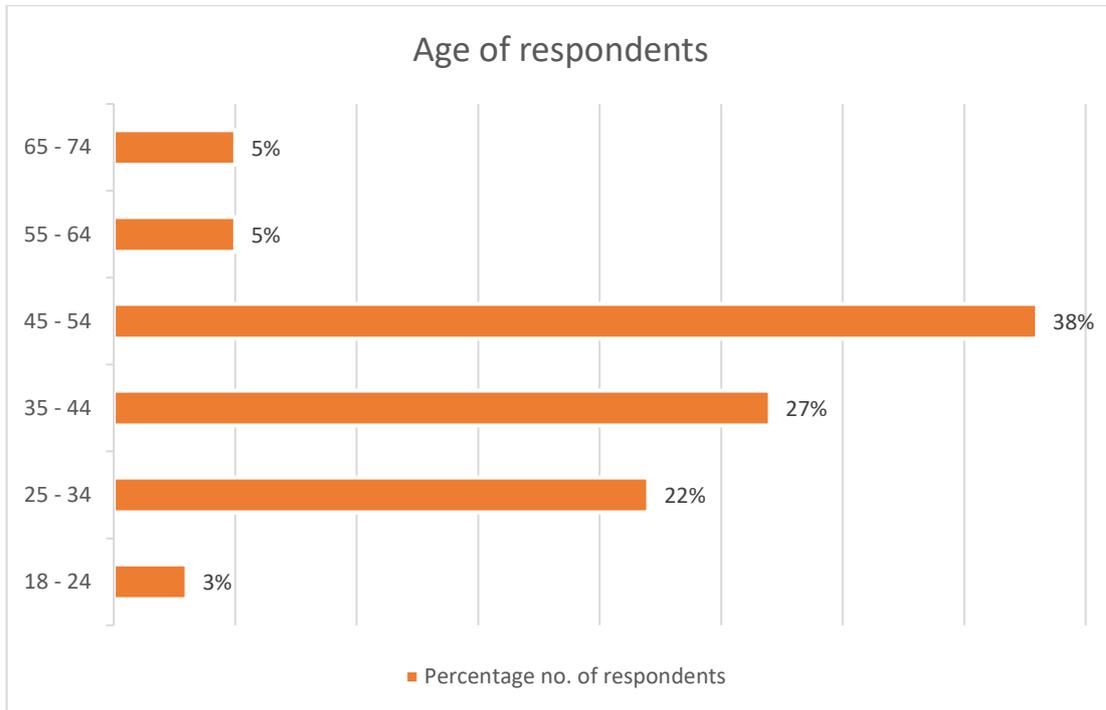


Figure 2. Age of respondents in the Timber Creek Ward

Residents Employment Status

76% of respondent are either employed full-time or part-time.

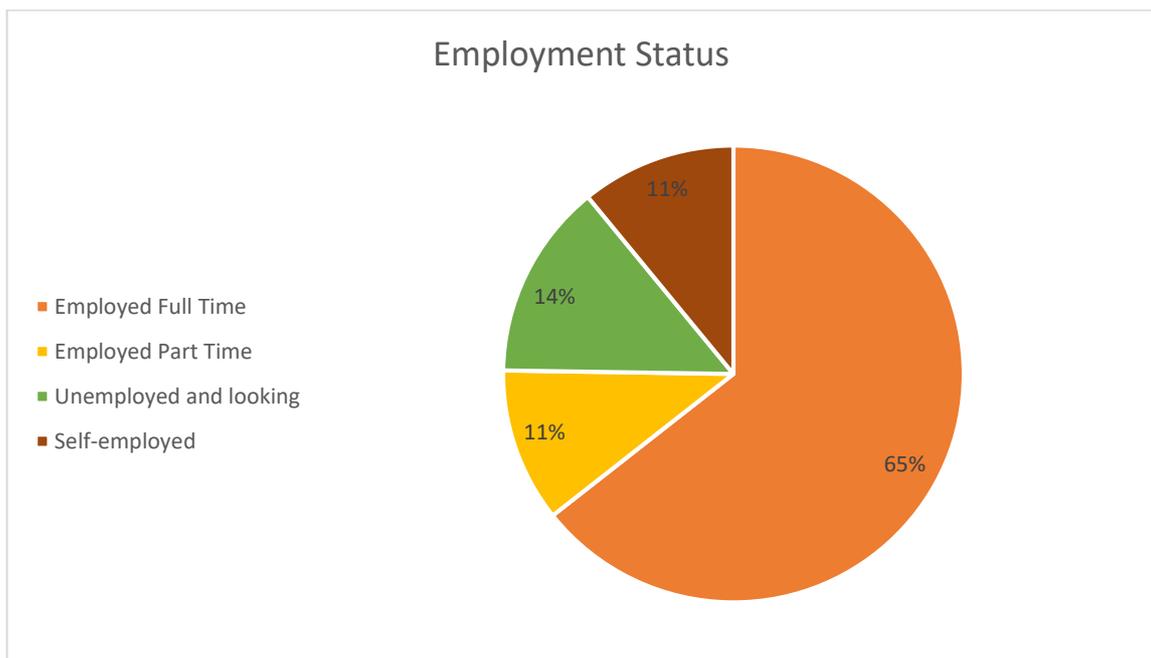


Figure 3. Respondents' employment status

Overall Perceptions of Victoria Daly Regional Council (LGA)

Do our residents love living in the LGA?

89% of our respondents have a positive outlook of living in the LGA.

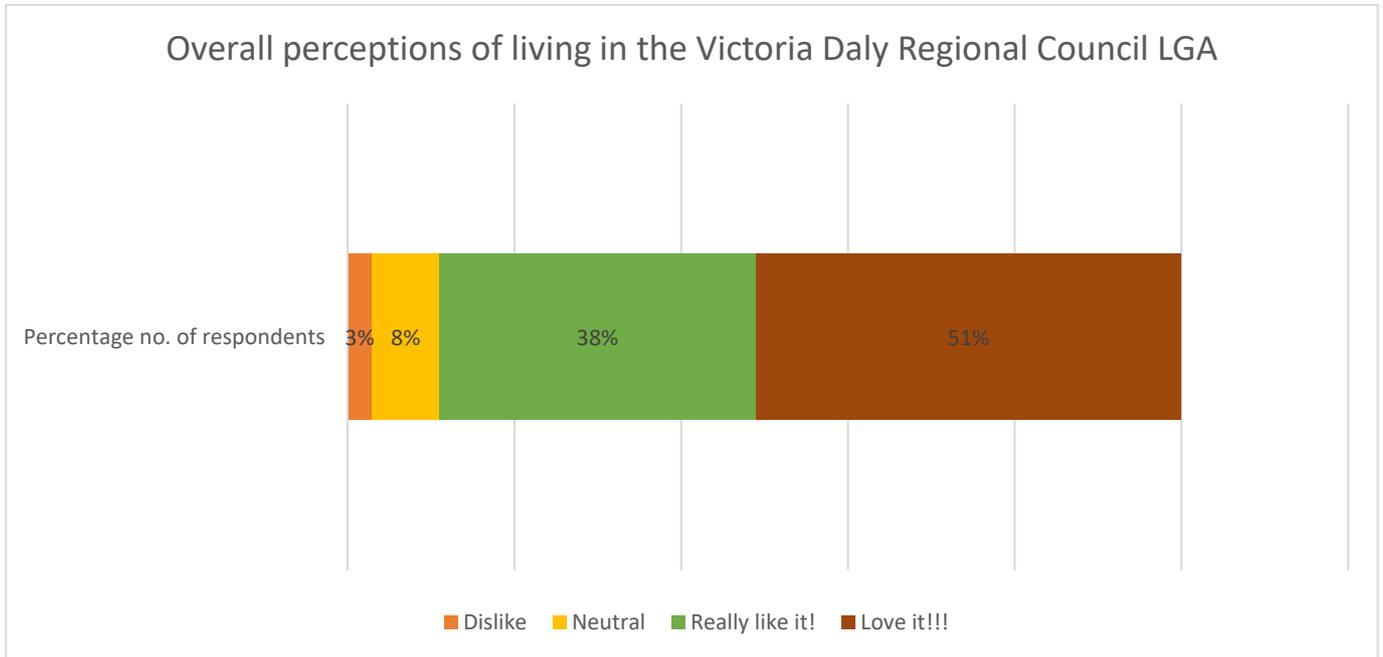


Figure 3. Overall Perception of the Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA.

What do residents value the most?

There may be identified gaps in key liveability attributes, but do our residents value these in terms of their perceptions of whether the region is a great place to live? Do the gaps affect whether people would relocate outside the region?

Respondents were requested to select the three most important attributes in making the ward a great place to live.

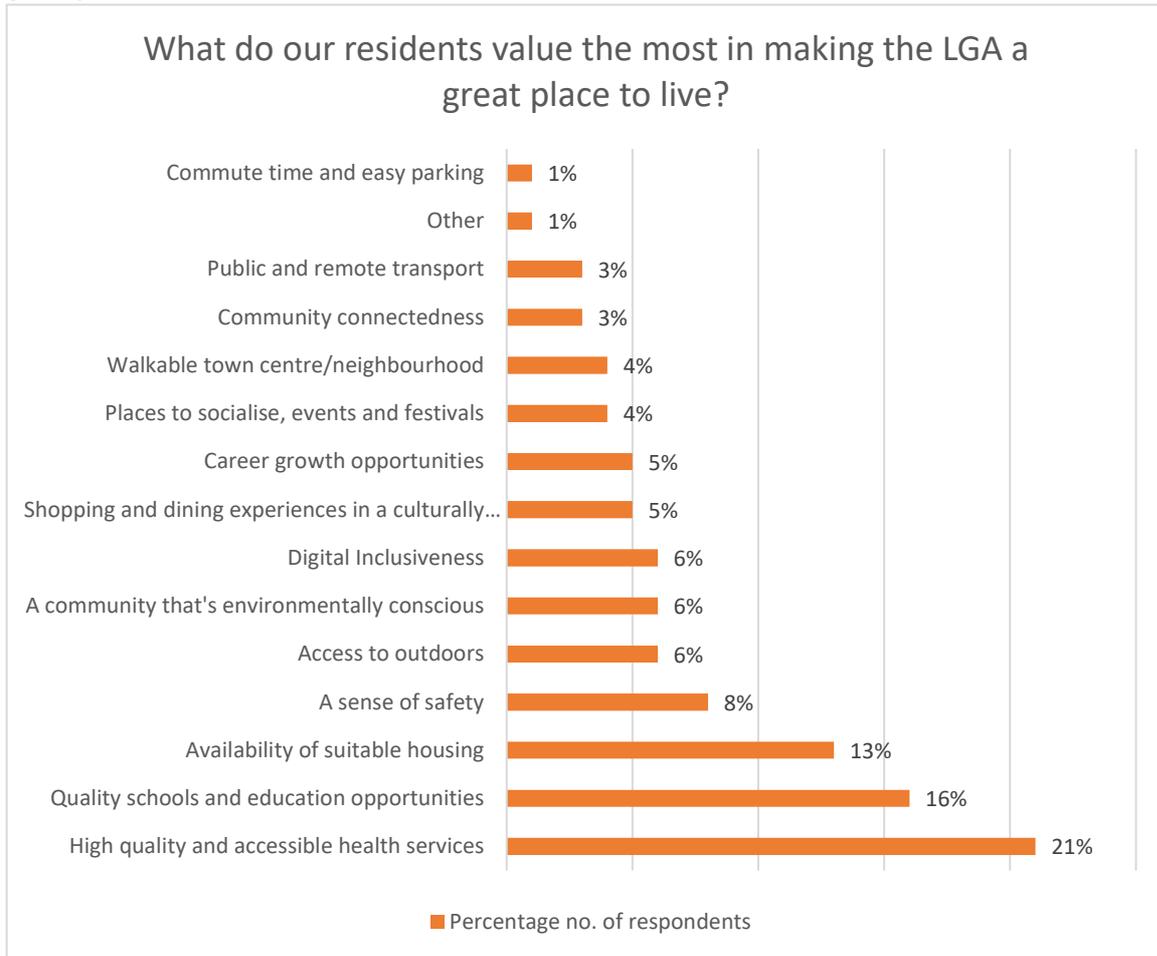


Figure 4. What do residents value in making the LGA a great place to live.

High quality and accessible health service, quality of schools and education opportunities and availability of suitable housing were identified as the most valued attribute in the region.

What respondents have suggested in "Other":

- "More housing and renovations on houses and build new houses and fences around yards."

Would you recommend your LGA to others as a great place to live?

- 70% or 26 responses agreed
- 30% or 11 responses disagreed

Perceptions of liveability in the Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA

What are our strengths, what do we need to prioritise and what is negatively affecting perceptions and the reality of living in the region?

Respondents were asked to rate their perception of each of the nine liveability attribute as being either:

Great: these attributes are the strengths in the region and should be maintained and protected.

Could be improved: these attributes need to be addressed as a priority.

Poor: these attributes are underperforming and need to be addressed in long term planning. They negatively affect the perception of living in the region.

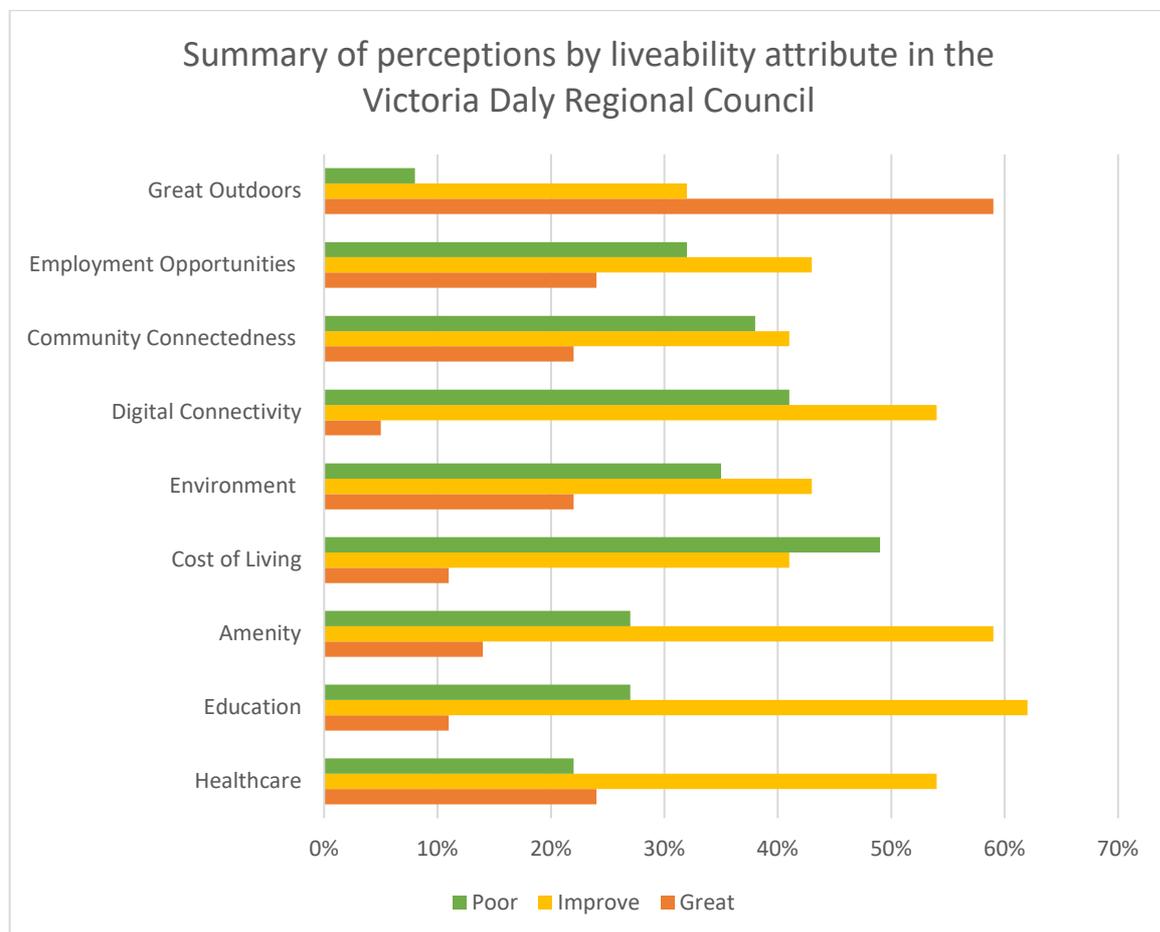


Figure 5. Summary perceptions of liveability in the LGA.

The best reason to live in the Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA

Protecting and maintaining these key attributes will have a positive impact on the liveability of residents in the region.

The following were identified as the top three strengths in the region:

- Access to the great outdoors (59% or 22 responses)
- Quality of healthcare (24% or 8 responses) and employment opportunities (24% or 8 responses)
- Community connection (22% or 8 responses) and protection of the natural environment (22% or 8 responses)

These three attributes are identified as performing well and are considered key strengths in the region. Although residents rated access to the great outdoors as the fifth most valuable attribute in making the region a great place to live (6% or 6 responses), their experience and access to this attribute is rated the highest. Quality of healthcare was rated the most valued attribute in the region (21% or 22 responses) and employment opportunities sixth (5% or 5 responses), however both were equally rated as the second greatest experience.

Priority areas to improve liveability in the Victoria Regional Council LGA

These attributes need to be improved as a priority.

Of total responses, the three attributes identified as the highest priority for improvement were included:

- Quality of education (62% or 23 responses)
- Amenity (59% or 22 responses)
- Quality of healthcare (54% or 20 responses) and digital connectivity (54% or 20 responses)

The quality of education in the region was rated as both the highest priority for improvement and ranked the second most valued attribute in the region (16% or 17 responses). While amenity was ranked the sixth most valuable attribute (5% or 5 responses), respondents prioritised the need to make improvements to amenity including access to parks and green spaces, walkable town centre/neighbourhood, shopping and dining experiences in a culturally vibrant town, taxi, remote community transport, ease of driving and parking and places to socialise, events and festivals.

The poorest liveability attributes in the Victoria Regional Council LGA

These attributes are underperforming and are negatively affecting the perception of living in the ward.

Of total responses, the poorest rated attributes included:

- Cost of Living (49% or 18 responses)
- Digital connectivity (41% or 15 responses)
- Community connectedness (38% or 14 responses)

Approximately half of the total responses received identified the cost of living including access to suitable housing for rent or purchase, the cost of fresh produce, access to bulk billing and access to government subsidised childcare and schools as the poorest attribute of living in the region. This attribute is negatively affecting liveability, and respondents identify it as a top priority to improve how liveable the ward is.

Community Ideas for Change

37 ideas were collected across the ward:

Housing affordability and availability	Infrastructure and essential services	Opportunities
Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase land release to improve access to housing availability 	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve access to quality education Improve telecommunications 	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More access to youth activities More opportunities to develop youth (e.g. youth engagement programs) More opportunities for community connection such as community events or activities

What we heard:

- “Health care has gone down in the last 12 months. The clinic is not as accessible or as helpful as they used to be due to being short staffed due to Covid.” – Timber Creek
- “Land to be put up for sale as there are young families wanting to buy land (that has been spoken of for ages) and build their forever homes” – Timber Creek
- “We should be looking at developing the youth to ensure there is a future for them within the district.” – Timber Creek
- “Bringing children together for play and learning brings the town together and make for a happier community” – Timber Creek
- “We need a community that is thriving and affordable, a place ppl can rise their family's in” – Mathison Station
- “Have more community events, in the last few years we no longer have fireworks” – Timber Creek
- internet connection could be better” – Kalkaringi
- “Better internet and phone service. Availability of land for housing. Housing for rentals.” – Pine Creek

References

- Victoria Daly Regional Council, 2021. *Annual Report*. [Online].
<https://www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/plans-and-reports/annual-reports/>

Stronger Futures Act Sunsetting

Key terms

- Alcohol Protected Areas: Commonwealth Government areas which prohibit the drinking of alcohol and finish on midnight 16 July 2022.
- General Restricted Areas: Northern Territory Government areas which prohibit the drinking of alcohol, these remain indefinitely.

Background

- The *Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Act 2012* (Cth) (the SF Act) uses Alcohol Protection Areas (APAs) to prohibit the sale of alcohol in the Northern Territory.
- The SF Act has been in place from July 2012 and finishes on midnight 16 July 2022.
- Many communities are also covered by General Restricted Areas (GRAs) under the *Liquor Act 2019* (NT).
 - Once the SF Act finishes, these communities will still be covered as GRAs, which will continue liquor restrictions.

APA only communities

- Some communities are only covered by APAs.
- These communities have two options:
 - Opt-in: with support from the registered land owner (e.g. Land Trust, Aboriginal Corporation, etc.), these communities can continue current restrictions for up to two years.
 - Do nothing: they can choose to let the APA end, and become an unrestricted community.
- Communities have up until 31 January 2023 to opt-in.
- All APA only communities are still able to negotiate a GRA whether they opt-in or not.

What this means for Amanbidji

- Amanbidji is still covered by a GRA and current alcohol restrictions will remain



10. Reports

10.1. Electing a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Report Type Local Authority Reports
Department Executive Services Chief Executive Office
Prepared by Manager of Executive Services

Recommendations

1. That the Amanbidji Local Authority appoint [enter name] as Chairperson.
2. That the Amanbidji Local Authority appoint [enter name] as Deputy Chairperson.
3. That the positions of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson be for a period of:
 - A. Six (6) months
 - B. Twelve (12) months

BACKGROUND

The Chairperson of the Kalkarindji - Daguragu Local Authority is a position that requires dedication and passion. The Chairperson is entitled to an increased sitting fee amount. Chairperson duties include:

- Checking there is a quorum
- Declaring the meeting open and closed
- Receiving and noting apologies
- Working with the CEO or Council staff to set the agenda
- Announcing agenda items
- Keeping the meeting on track

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Local Authority Policy (LGP026)

2.4.11 Each local authority must appoint a Chairperson for a period of no less than six (6) months and no more than twelve (12) months by resolution of the local authority.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Eligible members of local authorities are entitled to the respective local authority payment for each local authority meeting or provisional meeting they attend:

- (a) for an eligible chairperson – 143 revenue units;
- (b) for other eligible members – 107 revenue units.



COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

Nil



10.2. Amanbidji LA Financial Report March 2022

Report Type Finance Report
Department Financial Services Corporate Services
Prepared by Senior Accountant

Recommendations

- A. That the report Amanbidji LA Financial Report March 2022 is received and noted

Regional Plan

Goal 1: Quality Leadership

1.1 - Ensure effective community leadership and representation to Council of local issues through Local Authority Committees

Risk statement

No risk assessment has been carried out at this stage.

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

1. Amanbidji LA reporting [**10.2.1** - 1 page]

Amanbidji LA reporting

Fund Carried forward from last financial year	12,800
Funds received this financial year	12,800
	25,600
Funds allocated to Project	-8,946
Funds available for future projects	16,654

Project ID	Project Name	Resolution	Budget amount	Actual Amount spent	Status
61LB001	Phone box shade cover & seating	08092021-03	8,946	-	PO raised and issued to Gangulu Enterprises. Project will be completed when access to Amanbidji is available
			8,946	-	



10.3. Timber Creek Community Report

Report Type Council Operations Manager Report.
Department Community Council Operations.
Prepared by Council Operations Manager Timber Creek.

Purpose

Updating Council on Timber Creek Project priorities

Recommendations

- A. That the Timber Creek Report is received and noted
- B. That Council accept this report

Regional Plan

Goal 1: Quality Leadership

- 1.3 - Comply with all statutory, regulatory and reporting requirements
- 1.6 - Develop an overall responsible reporting structure to enable Council to review the implementation and success or otherwise of the Strategic Plan and its objectives

Goal 2: Financial Sustainability

- 2.3 Improve efficiencies within the Council to minimize resource wastage
- 3.1 Invest in training through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Training Plan covering all staff
- 4.2 Support and or Facilitation of local and regional cultural and festival events
- 5.1 Develop and implement an Asset Maintenance and Replacement Program
- 5.4 Develop and implement an Environmental Plan which will minimize Council's foot print and maximize recycling opportunities

Key Issues

No LA meetings for up to 12 weeks due to sorry business and other commitments.

Timber Creek-

- Special meeting. Timber Creek Festival 30th July to go ahead.
- Sewerage system for town. Letter written to the minister.
- Bird hides project. Pending applications.
- Stage upgrade complete. VDRC funded.
- Dump point is a Tourism NT responsibility.



Main road and Wilson Street erosion control going ahead

Bulla-

Shelter by the phone box was no longer required due to new cell phone coverage.

Community street signs. Installed VDRC funded.

Due to sorry business and other commitments no meeting held.

Amanbidji-

Phone box shelter. Awaiting planning agreements.

Community visit in early May to acquire Covid vaccination forms and offering memberships for Local Authorities. Proof of Vaccination drive was successful.

Background

These project priorities have not been adopted by council but were raised at the LA Regional Plan meeting.

Risk statement

No risk assessment has been carried out at this stage.

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

Nil



10.4. Regional Plan 2022-23 Workshop (Amanbidji)

Report Type Local Authority Reports
Department Executive Services Chief Executive Office
Prepared by Manager of Executive Services

Purpose

The objective of the 2022-23 Regional Plan workshop is to seek input from Local Authority and community members regarding priority projects for the 2022-23 Financial Year.

Recommendations

- A. That the Regional Plan 2022-23 Workshop (Amanbidji) is received and noted

Outcomes:

- Identify achievements from 2021-22FY
- Identify and prioritise proposed projects for 2022-23FY

Time allocated	Item/Activity	Responsible
5 mins	Welcome and introduction – 5 mins	COM
5 mins	Overview of workshop and desired outcomes	Facilitators
10 mins	2021-22 Regional Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on projects completed • Highlight projects not completed/not commenced and provide reasons 	COM
10 mins	Provide an example of a project which aligns with council’s strategic plan and meets funding guidelines	Councillor
45 mins	Activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brainstorm projects for 2022-2023FY 2. Prioritise projects 	ALL
5 mins	Close workshop	Facilitators

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

Attachments

1. Amanbidji - Timber Creek Ward 2021-22 FINAL (1) [10.4.1 - 1 page]
2. VDRC Strategic Plan Outline 2020 - 2024 [10.4.2 - 2 pages]



3. local-authority-project-funding-guidelines [**10.4.3** - 4 pages]

Timber Creek Ward

AMANBIDJI

Location: 450 km south-west of Darwin
Population: 70 (Homelands Service Provider Report 2020)
Languages: Ngarinyman / Kriol
Road access: The community is serviced by an unsealed road to the Victoria Highway (62 km). Timber Creek is the nearest settlement in the Northern Territory and is 107km east of Amanbidji.

Homelands Service Provider:
Ngaliwurri-Wuli Association

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Chair:
Elaine Humbert

Appointed members:
Raelene Raymond, Rosie Sadler, Alice Leering,

Natasha Waterloo, Ross Roberts, Sharon Lurda, Veronica Leering

Elected members:
Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett

Ex-Officio:
Mayor Brian Pedwell

BRIEF HISTORY

The Ngarinyman people are the Traditional Owners of the community. Amanbidji (formerly Kildurk) have a lease agreement with two independent third parties.

Amanbidji has a school, store, health clinic and council office which is mainly used for the Community Development Program activities. There is a good quality unsealed airstrip that can be accessed most of the time. The Ngaliwurru Wuli Association services the community, focusing on housing, municipal and essential services.

2021-22 Amanbidji Project Priorities

**asterisk identifies key community priorities*

Outcome	2021-22 Project Priority	Responsibility/ Stakeholders	Strategic Plan	Funding obtained
Advocacy				
Sports and Recreation	* Cover over basketball court and installation of led lights	NWA	G4, G5	No
Roads and Infrastructure	* Upgrade roads around the community	NWA, VDRC, funding body	G4, G5	No
	Install street lights and repair damages from the last wet season rains	NWA	G1, G5	No
	* Cemetery - upgrade the surroundings and clear overgrown bushes, repair fence	NWA	G1, G5	No
Playgrounds and Family Space	Playground in middle of community near basketball court and upgrade playground near clinic	NWA	G1, G4, G5	No
Community Engagement	Gardening shed and equipment - (issue is lack of water with community)	NWA	G1, G4, G5	No

VISION

TO STRENGTHEN OUR REGION THROUGH FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT,
GROWTH AND SOCIAL WELL BEING "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER"

AGENDA
Ahanbidji Local Authority Meeting Wednesday 15 June 2022



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

THE KEYS TO OUR SUCCESS

CAPABLE LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF



QUALITY LEADERSHIP

Provide proactive leadership with transparent and accountable governance

KEY PRIORITIES

- Ensure effective community leadership and representation to Council of local issues through Local Authority Committees.
- Support and train elected regional representatives and members of the local Authority
- Comply with all statutory, regulatory and reporting requirements
- Create and implement an external communications plan which informs stakeholders of Council's activities
- Advocate on behalf of the region to address regional disadvantage
- Develop a reporting structure to enable Council to review the implementation and success or otherwise of the Strategic Plan

BE RESPECTFUL



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Enhance the Council's financial sustainability to enable quality services and assets across the region

KEY PRIORITIES

- Diversify the Council's Business division's contracts and activities to provide a wide range of income sources
- Work with on-ground personnel to develop innovative budget solutions to minimise expenditure and maximise income streams
- Improve efficiencies within the Council to minimise resource wastage
- Creation of reserve to address Council's short, medium and long-term infrastructure requirements

TREAT ALL EQUALLY



INVEST IN OUR PEOPLE

Grow our people through investment in training, skills recognition and developing regional opportunities for employment

KEY PRIORITIES

- Invest in training through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Training Plan covering all staff
- Review the current organisational structure to improve communications, maximise inter departmental support and to grow staff capabilities and remuneration
- Create and implement an internal communications and visitation plan which builds understanding between all divisions of the Council
- Grow local employment through the development and delivery of programs and contracts in communities and across the region.

BE ACCOUNTABLE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SYSTEMS



INFRASTRUCTURE

Continually improve Council's assets and infrastructure through good forward planning

KEY PRIORITIES

- Develop and implement an Asset Maintenance and Replacement Program
- Identify, plan and implement a comprehensive ITC Plan
- Create and implement a structured vehicle and plant replacement program
- Develop and implement an Environmental Plan that will minimise Council's foot print and maximise recycling opportunities
- Maximise grant income through targeting critical initiatives within the plans

BE TRUSTWORTHY & HONEST



SYSTEMS

Improve the operating systems, policies and procedures

KEY PRIORITIES

- Review all policies and procedures to ensure compliance and consistency of implementation within 12 months
- Overhaul the Council's Knowledge Management system within 18 months to improve work efficiency
- Upgrade software and hardware within 12 months to assist in improving staff efficiency and access to records

ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT CULTURE

OUR REGION



LIVEABILITY

Enhance the liveability of our communities and our regional lifestyle

KEY PRIORITIES

- Delivery of quality programs which support resident's well being
- Support the facilitation of local and regional cultural events and festivals
- Facilitate the provision of services which improve residents' lives
- Be business friendly to encourage the development of business and industry investment into the region
- Enhance the local sport and recreational environment within each community

PROTECT HERITAGE

VISION

TO STRENGTHEN OUR REGION THROUGH FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH AND SOCIAL WELL BEING "MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER"

AGENDA
Amanbidjji Local Authority Meeting Wednesday 15 June 2022



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2024

OUR PURPOSE

The primary role of a Regional Council is to ensure the delivery of local government services to our Region to meet current and future needs. The Regional Council also provides Australian and Northern Territory Government services and programs which benefit and add to the lives of those living in the Region.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Council's Strategic Plan sets out the short, medium and long term vision for the next four years. The Plan provides a guiding framework for the region of what strategies are needed to improve the way the Council works, to improve the delivery of services, to improve the infrastructure and life style in our Region.

The Plan is a resource to assist in guiding planning, policies, strategies and actions undertaken by Council for the benefit of communities and the Region

The Plan is a living document which needs to be reported against and reviewed regularly.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN

OBJECTIVES

are the overarching statements which describe what the Regional Council wants to achieve for the Region.

STRATEGIES

define how the Council will achieve its objectives to ensure the outcomes are met.

OUTCOMES

detail what Council wants to achieve through implementing the Strategic Plan. Our Outcomes are measurable and will assist Council in monitoring their activities and successes.

IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Council will use the Plan in a range of ways including:

- Guiding the Council by setting priorities within the Council and external to the Council
- Providing a base level framework to measure success of the implementation of the Plan to achieve the Council's Vision for the Region
- Provide a framework for the development of Council's Regional Plan
- Informing the Region's residents of the future direction and initiatives of Council
- Assisting in the development of Action Plans for the various divisions of Council
- A guide to assist Local Authorities to implement plans for their communities
- Accessing grants and sponsorship for initiatives which align with the Council's Strategic direction.
- Informing our stakeholders, partners and the various agencies and Government at all levels of Council's strategic priorities and future directions.
- Improving Council resources including human resources, IT, physical infrastructure and equipment.

OUR VALUES

RESPECT

respect for each other's opinions and ideas

EQUALITY

We are all equal

ACCOUNTABILITY

being accountable for our own actions and behaviours

TRUSTWORTHY

being trustworthy and honest with one another and with our community members

CULTURE

acknowledge and respect the cultures of our people

HERITAGE

we acknowledge and protect our heritage

MISSION

Council will achieve our vision through:

- Advocating on behalf of our region and its communities
- Sound governance and proactive leadership at regional and local levels
- Having a sound financial base which has at its core, a diversity of income streams
- Investing in growing the ability and wellbeing of our staff
- Continuously improving our services, planning, ITC systems, policies and procedures
- Having consistency in our service delivery
- Communicating effectively within the Council and external to the Council
- Supporting community officers to enable them to deliver appropriate services into communities
- Ensuring that we are continually addressing our environmental sustainability and waste management
- Striving towards developing and maintaining Councils assets and resources
- Working in a united manner with all communities towards a strong, safe, healthy future
- Providing employment opportunities and growing the local talent pool within the region
- Having inclusive engagement strategies
- Working with environmentally sound businesses to invest in the region
- Being resilient and adaptable to future challenges

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Council will work with Stakeholders to assist in creating Council's regional Visions. Our stakeholders are many and varied and all are important to the fabric of life in our Region.

- Local Authorities
- Community members
- Employees
- Business Units within the Council including CDP, Community Services, Assets and Infrastructure, Finance, Human Resources, Administration
- Australian Government Agencies
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Community Stakeholders
- Indigenous organisations and corporations
- Regional Councils across NT
- CouncilBiz
- The Northern Land Council and Central Land Council
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
- Maintenance and Transport Contractors
- Wholesale suppliers of retail products
- Schools
- Aboriginal controlled Health Organisations
- NTG Health Clinics
- Developers being individuals, Corporations, or Companies
- Mining Companies
- Sporting Organisations
- Agricultural Industry
- Pastoral Industry
- Tourism and accommodation operators

Funding Guidelines

Local Authority Project Funding

Purpose

To encourage the continued development of local authorities and their respective communities through the provision of funding to undertake priority community projects that are in line with these guidelines.

Objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

- Assist in building stronger communities and assist community priority projects as recommended by local authorities.
- To assist local governing bodies and the constituent communities they represent to become stronger and self-sustaining.
- Assist in the provision of quality community infrastructure that facilitates community activity and integration.
- Assist in developing local government capacity to provide legitimate representation, effective governance, improved service delivery and sustainable development.

Funding Pool

The Local Authority Project funding pool is non-application based and is distributed through a methodology developed by the Northern Territory Grants Commission to regional councils.

This funding is only available for those local authorities published in the guidelines made by the Minister under Part 5.1 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Local Authority Project Approvals

Individual local authorities must formally resolve each initiative this funding will be used for. A copy of this resolution is to be recorded in the minutes of the relevant local authority meeting.

At each local authority meeting, a report is to be submitted detailing the total amount of funding available and spent on local authority projects under this program in each financial year.

The report is to include details and amount spent on each project of the relevant local authority for which funding has been provided.

Examples of Acceptable Purposes for Expenditure

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. For example:- office upgrades, fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. For example:- trailers, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures /stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community sporting facilities. For example upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation.
- Festivals or other events – but must only be conducted within a council's own Local Authority area.

Employee costs

If council employees are utilised as general labour to assist with approved projects, the value of such labour that can be expensed to the project is a maximum of \$30 per hour. The maximum amount that can be costed to general labour hours is 5% of the total annual local authority funding.

Risk Management

Where funds are to be used for a purpose outside the council's control or on an asset that is not owned or controlled by council, the council should consider the liability and insurance requirements associated with that project. Councils should consider each project on its merit before progressing with the project. All risks associated with the project are to be considered and met by the council. The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will not be held responsible for any liability arising out of the use of these funds.

Pre-conditions

If the proposed project relies on pre-conditions (such as the acquisition of a section 19 lease under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976*), then the project should not be undertaken until there is conclusive evidence that the condition will not hinder the progress of the project for which funds have been allocated.

Examples of Unacceptable Purposes for Expenditure

- Purchase of vehicles and fuel expenses
- Payment of salaries, cash prizes or recurrent operating costs of council
- Meeting costs and payments to local authority members
- Sponsorship by way of uniforms, travels cost and allowances
- Purposes that are not related to local government services and that should be addressed by another government agency.

Administration and/or project management fees are not to be levied on this grant funding.

Process for Grant Payment

Once the respective allocations for each local authority have been calculated regional councils will receive a letter of offer and acceptance documentation from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.

This advice will comprise the total grant amount being offered to the regional council as well as a breakdown of the amount to be made available to each local authority.

Regional councils eligible to receive these grants will need to comply with the following:-

- Ensure that there are no outstanding grant acquittals relevant to this Department's local government grants, otherwise there will be no payment made of approved grant/s
- Return the signed acceptance form back to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet with appropriate authorisation.

These grants will be released around mid-September once the signed acceptance and the previous year's certification reports are received.

Annual Certification

- The grant must be fully expended within two years of receipt of funding. Failure to do so may result in the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet taking action, including but not limited to: withholding further grant payments under this program or requesting unspent funds to be repaid.
- Councils are to submit a certified income and expenditure report (financial report) for the year ended 30 June for each of its local authorities.
- The financial report must be completed in the format as required by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet and formally approved by Council. The financial report is to be submitted to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet on or before 31 August in each year. Failure to provide the financial reports by 31 August will result in delays in paying further funds.
- All approved projects are required to be procured in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2019* and, as far as practical under the NT Government's Buy Local Plan.
- Requests to carry-over unspent funds remaining after two consecutive years is to be submitted via email to: lg.grants@nt.gov.au. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis and approval is not automatic.

- The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet reserves the right to request the full value of the grant to be returned if the council disposes of an asset acquired with this funding within four years of the payment of the grant.

Contact Details

For further information please contact lg.grants@nt.gov.au or by phone:

Donna Hadfield
Manager Grants Program
08 8999 8820

Omor Robin
Grants Officer
08 8999 8576



11. Questions from the Public

12. General Business

13. Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Amanbidji Local Authority will be held on 17th August 2022.