



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# **AGENDA**

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 28 JUNE 2022  
AT 9:00 AM  
AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE - KATHERINE  
29 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE EAST NT 0850**

## **COUNCILLORS**

Mayor Brian Pedwell - Walangeri Ward  
Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett - Timber Creek Ward  
Councillor Yvette Williams - Pine Creek Ward  
Councillor Georgina Macleod - Daguragu Ward  
Councillor Andrew McTaggart – Milngin Ward

## **Chief Executive Officer**

Russell Anderson



## Our Vision

Council's vision for the Victoria Daly region is ***"Moving Forward Together"***, becoming a well respected and recognised leader within Australia's Local Government. Council aims to work towards developing a broad range of strategies that will help shape its vision for the region through excellent service delivery and community engagement; assisting to build one of the most sustainable, vibrant and diverse regions in Australia. The Council strives to form partnerships that ensure strategic goals are met.

## Our Values

The key core values and principles that are integral in achieving our vision are Respect, Integrity, Honesty, Openness and Equality

## Our Goals

The Council aims toward ensuring all communities are strong, safe and healthy; abundant with respect for culture and heritage. The Council aspires to provide good governance, leadership and advocacy and work towards building a strong regional economy by promoting local employment and high quality services within financial resources. The Council is also striving towards maintaining and developing Council assets, natural resources and country.



The Council strives to foster partnerships that will deliver our strategic goals. Council's goals for 2020-2021 are –

- **Quality Leadership**

Provide proactive leadership with transparent and accountable governance

- **Financial Sustainability**

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

- **Invest in our people**

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

- **Infrastructure**

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

- **Systems**

Improve the operating systems, policies and procedures

- **Liveability**

Enhance the liveability of our communities and our regional lifestyle



## **Schedule 1 - Code of conduct Local Government Act 2019** **section 119**

- 1 Honesty and integrity** A member must act honestly and with integrity in performing official functions.
- 2 Care and diligence** A member must act with reasonable care and diligence in performing official functions.
- 3 Courtesy** A member must act with courtesy towards other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.
- 4 Prohibition on bullying** A member must not bully another person in the course of performing official functions.
- 5 Conduct towards council staff** A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of, council staff.
- 6 Respect for cultural diversity and culture**
  - 6.1 A member must respect cultural diversity and must not therefore discriminate against others, or the opinions of others, on the ground of their cultural background.
  - 6.2 A member must act with respect for cultural beliefs and practices in relation to other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.
- 7 Conflict of interest**
  - 7.1 A member must avoid any conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, when undertaking official functions and responsibilities.
  - 7.2 If a conflict of interest exists, the member must comply with any statutory obligations of disclosure.
- 8 Respect for confidences**
  - 8.1 A member must respect the confidentiality of information obtained in confidence in the member's official capacity.
  - 8.2 A member must not make improper use of confidential information obtained in an official capacity to gain a private benefit or to cause harm to another.
- 9 Gifts**
  - 9.1 A member must not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.
  - 9.2 A member must not accept a gift from a person that is given in relation to the person's interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.
- 10 Accountability** A member must be prepared at all times to account for the member's performance as a member and the member's use of council resources.
- 11 Interests of municipality, region or shire to be paramount**
  - 11.1 A member must act in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.
  - 11.2 In particular, a member must seek to ensure that the member's decisions and actions are based on an honest, reasonable and properly informed judgment about what best advances the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.
- 12 Training** A member must undertake relevant training in good faith.





## **VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL DISCLAIMER**

No responsibility is implied or accepted by the Victoria Daly Regional Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Victoria Daly Regional Council during the Course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Victoria Daly Regional Council shall obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Victoria Daly Regional Council in respect of the application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Anderson', written in a cursive style.

Russell Anderson  
**Chief Executive Officer**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<b>1. Present.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. Apologies.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. Presentations - Deputations - Petitions.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Public Question Time .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. Disclosure of Interest - Councillors and Staff.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. Confirmation of Minutes.....</b>	<b>9</b>
6.1. Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 May 2022 .....	9
<b>7. Call for Items of General Business.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>8. Mayoral Report.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>9. CEO Update .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>10. Reports to Council.....</b>	<b>24</b>
10.1. Reports for Council Decision.....	24
10.1.1. Regional Plan and Budget 2022-23 .....	24
10.1.2. Gamba Legal Requirements Leaflet .....	27
10.2. Reports for Information.....	55
10.2.1. Financial Report month ended May 2022 .....	55
10.2.2. Progress Report on Grant Applications.....	68
10.2.3. Corporate Services Quarterly Report.....	71
<b>11. Action Sheet .....</b>	<b>74</b>
11.1. Action Sheet .....	74
<b>12. Correspondence In &amp; Out.....</b>	<b>79</b>
12.1. Incoming Correspondence .....	79
12.2. Outgoing Correspondence .....	117
<b>13. Notices of Motion .....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>14. General Business.....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>15. Supplementary Reports.....</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>16. Confidential .....</b>	<b>118</b>
16.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 31 May 2022 .....	118
16.2. Leave of Absence Request .....	118



16.3. CEO Contract .....118

16.4. Lease Agreements - Pigeon Hole .....119

16.5. Nauiyu River Pump .....119

16.6. Homelands .....119



## 1. Present

## 2. Apologies

Nil

## 3. Presentations - Deputations - Petitions

Nil

## 4. Public Question Time

## 5. Disclosure of Interest - Councillors and Staff

- (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.



## **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **6.1. Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 May 2022**

#### **Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 May 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### **Attachments**

1. 2022-05-31 Ordinary Meeting of Council UNCONFIRMED Minutes [6.1.1 - 13 pages]



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# MINUTES

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 31 MAY 2022  
AT 9:00 AM**

**AT THE REGIONAL OFFICE - KATHERINE**  
29 Crawford Street, Katherine East NT 0850



## **VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL DISCLAIMER**

No responsibility is implied or accepted by the Victoria Daly Regional Council for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or committee meetings.

Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without detracting in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Victoria Daly Regional Council during the Course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Victoria Daly Regional Council.

The Victoria Daly Regional Council advises that anyone who has any application lodged with the Victoria Daly Regional Council shall obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Victoria Daly Regional Council in respect of the application.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Anderson', written over a large, faint, diagonal watermark that says 'UNCONFIRMED'.

Russell Anderson  
**Chief Executive Officer**



*The meeting opened the time being 9:01 am.*

## 1. Present

### Elected Members Present

Mayor (Chair)	Brian Pedwell
Councillor	Yvette Williams
Councillor	Georgina Macleod
Councillor	Andrew McTaggart

### Staff Present

Chief Executive Officer	Russell Anderson
Director of Corporate Services	Trudy Braun
Director of Operations	Matthew Cheminant
Manager of Executive Services	Michelle Will (minute taker)
Council Operations Manager (Timber Creek)	Paul Buckley
Council Operations Manager (Pine Creek)	Jocelyn Moir
Council Operations Manager (Yarralin)	Alicia King

### Guests

NIAA	Patrick Flemming
Green River Aboriginal Corporation	Wayne Buckley
The Department of the Chief Minister & Cabinet	Amanda Haigh

## 2. Apologies

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett, Pat Hollowood

## 3. Presentations - Deputations - Petitions

Nil

## 4. Disclosure of Interest - Councillors and Staff

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

## 5. Confirmation of Minutes





### 5.1. Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 April 2022

Amendments required: Add Councillor Georgina Macleod and Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett as apologies.

#### **Motion**

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 April 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Yvette  
Williams

**Resolution:OCM-2022/53:** Carried 5 / 0

### 5.2. Special Meeting of Council held on 9 May 2022

#### **Motion**

That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 9 May 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Yvette  
Williams

**Resolution:OCM-2022/54:** Carried 4 / 0

## 6. Call for Items of General Business

Pine Creek Auto Repairs  
Timber Creek Minutes - Special Meeting

## 7. Mayoral Report

Mayor Brian Pedwell provided a verbal update at the meeting.

- Met with John Horgan (NWA) regarding 4G small cell satellite
  - Walangeri agreed to proceed with applications
  - NWA will proceed with groundworks if successful
  - Kneebone community has been included in proposal
  - John De Koning investigated and advised Mayor that Councils can apply for ABA grants
- Mayor has been working with VDRC Media Officer to develop stories, which included:
  - Buchanan Highway
  - Get Active Program
  - Yarralin Bicycle story
  - Sandy Creek road surface



- Mayor and CEO met with Jake Quinlivan and Amanda Haigh at 18 Pearce Street
  - Building Better Regions grants could be explored

***Amanda Haigh joined the meeting, the time being 9:21am***

**Motion**

The Mayor will circulate a Mayoral report at the meeting and provide a verbal update.

**Mover:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Second:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/55:** Carried 4 / 0

## 8. CEO Update

### 8.1. CEO Report to Victoria Daly Regional Council

CEO, Russell Anderson, addressed council to provide an update since the last council meeting.

- CEO discussed the local authority projects as identified by the local authorities at the regional plan workshops
  - Councillor Macleod commented: Even though council may not be able to afford certain projects, VDRC can still provide advocacy on behalf of the local authorities and community. Members appeared to be in agreeance.
- Independent Commissioner against Corruption visited VDRC last month
  - A visit can be arranged for the ICAC Commissioner to present to Council
  - Manager of Executive Services to arrange a visit from ICAC commissioner
- Waste Management Workshop
  - Director of Operations addressed council regarding the waste management workshop
    - the platform discussed was based on engaging communities for waste management
    - presentation can be distributed to council for their information
- Mount Todd

**Motion**



A. That the CEO Report to Victoria Daly Regional Council be received and noted.		
<b>Mover:</b>	Cr Georgina Macleod	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Cr Andrew McTaggart	<b>Resolution:OCM-2022/56:</b> Carried 4 / 0

## 9. Reports to Council

### 9.1. Reports for Council Decision

#### 9.1.1. Finance Report for month ended April 2022

***Senior Accountant joined the meeting, the time being 9:39am***

A detailed verbal update was provided to council.

<b>Motion</b>		
A. That the Finance Report for month ended April 2022 is received and noted		
<b>Mover:</b>	Cr Andrew McTaggart	
<b>Seconded:</b>	Cr Georgina Macleod	<b>Resolution:OCM-2022/57:</b> Carried 4 / 0

***The meeting adjourned for a short break, the time being 9:55am***

***The meeting resumed, the time being 10:01am***

***The Finance Department and other staff joined the meeting, the time being 10:00am to present a brief PowerPoint on progress made in regard to ICT projects.***

***Discussion:***

CEO provided a verbal update to council, staff and guests.

- Council has implemented Microsoft 365 E5, which provides the highest standard of security
- IT team has installed Meraki, which has improved access to internet and monitoring of data usage
- Additionally, Meraki provides firewall
- Upgrades to cloud based systems allow for two step sign in to improve security further

Finance Project Coordinator presented to the room on the following topics:

- current systems and services
- system replacements
- expectations of cloud system



- enterprise resourcing planning (ERP)
- How new ERP works

Finance Project Coordinator handed over to the Senior Accountant to present costings, and savings.

Finance Project Coordinator presented a timeline of assessing, mapping, training and implementation of all new programs.

***The meeting adjourned for morning tea, the time being 10:45am***  
***The meeting resumed, the time being 11:08am***

### **9.1.2. Draft Regional Plan 2022-23**

#### **Feedback:**

##### ***Local Authority***

Sections for Local Authority project tables to include three sections

- projects possible with LAPF money
- projects possible with additional sources of funding
- advocacy

##### ***Homelands***

- Add a section for Wooliana Homelands
- Add line to Lingarra - 1.6million additional funding required for project (check with CEO).
- Update heading for Homeland page 54
  - add Wooliana to the Homelands page
  - add housing and same points as Lingarra

##### ***Fees and Charges***

- Fees and charges to be reviewed and updated.
  - aged care meals fees and charges (are they sufficient to cover the cost of fuel and travel)
- Fax domestic charge - \$1.00
- Remove - Fax International charge
- Receiving faxes - \$1.00
- Scanning - \$1.00

Publish in Katherine Times Paper online and print

#### **Motion**

- A. That the report Draft Regional Plan 2022-23 is received and noted
- B. That Council approves the commencement of a 21 day public consultation for the draft 2022-23 Regional Plan in accordance with Section 35(3)(a)(b),



& (c) of the *Local Government Act 2019*, commencing Wednesday, 1 June 2022.

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Seconded:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/58:** Carried 4 / 0

#### 9.1.3. Approval to Affix Common Seal to Form 32's - Kalkarindji Subleases

##### **Motion**

- A. That the report Approval to Affix Common Seal to Form 32's - Kalkarindji Subleases is received and noted
- B. That Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the form 32's which are required to be submitted to the Land Titles Office for the subleases for lots 90 and 97, Kalkarindji

**Mover:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Seconded:** Cr Andrew  
McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/59:** Carried 4 / 0

#### 9.1.4. Affixing of Common Seal to Libraries NT Library Systems User Deed

##### **Motion**

- A. That the report Affixing of Common Seal to Libraries NT Library Systems User Deed is received and noted
- B. That Council approves affixing of Common Seal to the LibrariesNT Library Systems User Deed

**Mover:** Cr Yvette Williams

**Seconded:** Cr Andrew  
McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/60:** Carried 4 / 0

### 9.2. Reports for Information

#### 9.2.1. NDIS Program Report May2022

##### **Motion**

- A. That the report NDIS Program Report May2022 is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart



**Seconded:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/61:** Carried 4 / 0

### 9.2.2. CDP Council Report

**Motion**

A. That the report CDP Council report is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Seconded:** Cr Andrew  
McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/62:** Carried 4 / 0

*The meeting adjourned for lunch, the time being 12:01pm  
The meeting resumed, the time being 1:00pm*

### 9.2.3. Progress Report on Grant Applications

**Motion**

A. That the report Progress Report on Grant Applications is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Seconded:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/63:** Carried 4 / 0

### 9.2.4. Update on Outstanding Rates

**Motion**

A. That the report Update on Outstanding Rates is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Seconded:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/64:** Carried 4 / 0

## 10. Community Reports

### 10.1. Pine Creek Community Report

Discussion took place regarding the COM reports and the Local Authority projects.



**Motion**

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

**Mover:** Cr Yvette Williams

**Second:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/65:** Carried 4 / 0

**10.2. Timber Creek Community Report**

**Motion**

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

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/66:** Carried 4 / 0

**10.3. Yarralin Community Report**

**Motion**

- A. That the Yarralin Community Report report is received and noted

**Mover:** Mayor Brian Pedwell

**Second:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Resolution:OCM-2022/67:** Carried 4 / 0

**10.4. Kalkarindji Community Report**

**Motion**

- A. That the report Kalkarindji Community Report is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Second:** Mayor Brian Pedwell

**Resolution:OCM-2022/68:** Carried 4 / 0

**10.5. Nauiyu Community Report**



**Motion**

- A. That the Nauiyu Community report is received and noted
- B. That Council accept this report

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Mayor Brian  
Pedwell

**Resolution:OCM-2022/69:** Carried 4 / 0

## 11. Local Authority

### 11.1. Local Authority Minutes

#### 11.1.1. Kalkarindji - Daguragu Regional Plan Workshop held on 11 April 2022

**Motion**

That the minutes of the Kalkarindji - Daguragu Regional Plan Workshop held on 11 April 2022 be adopted as a resolution of Ordinary Council.

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/70:** Carried 4 / 0

### 11.2. Local Authority Resignations/Nominations

Nil

## 12. Action Sheet

### 12.1. Action Sheet

**Motion**

- A. That the Action Sheet report is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/71:** Carried 4 / 0

**Action Item: Research to be conducted on what has gone before parliament regarding the draft burial and cremation bill (CEO to action)**





## 13. Correspondence In & Out

### 13.1. Incoming Correspondence

**Motion**

A. That the Incoming Correspondence is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/72:** Carried 4 / 0

### 13.2. Outgoing Correspondence

**Motion**

A. That the Outgoing Correspondence is received and noted

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Yvette  
Williams

**Resolution:OCM-2022/73:** Carried 4 / 0

## 14. Notices of Motion

Nil

## 15. General Business

### 13.1 Pine Creek Auto Repairs

Councillor Williams provided an update to Council regarding the letter sent to Maree De Lacey.

Councillor Williams will respond to Maree De Lacey when Council decides whether VDRC will continue to utilise the services.

### 13.2 Timber Creek Special Meeting minutes

**Motion**

That the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Timber Creek Local Authority be read and accepted.

**Mover:** Cr Andrew McTaggart

**Second:** Cr Georgina  
Macleod

**Resolution:OCM-2022/74:** Carried 4 / 0



## 16. Confidential

### **Motion**

Members of the press and public to be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act, 2019

**Mover:** Cr Georgina Macleod

**Seconded:** Cr Andrew  
McTaggart

## 17. Next Meeting

***The meeting was closed by the Mayor, the time being 3:12pm***

The next Ordinary General Meeting of Victoria Daly Regional Council will be held 28 June 2022.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the meeting of Ordinary Council held on 31 May 2022.



## **7. Call for Items of General Business**

## **8. Mayoral Report**

The Mayor will circulate a Mayoral report at the meeting and provide a verbal update.



## 9. CEO Update

## 10. Reports to Council

### 10.1. Reports for Council Decision

#### 10.1.1. Regional Plan and Budget 2022-23

**Report Type** Report for Decision

**Department** Executive Services Chief Executive Office

**Prepared by** Manager of Executive Services

---

#### Recommendations

- A. That the Regional Plan and Budget 2022-23 report is received and noted
- B. That Council receives and accepts the Chief Executive Officer certification of the assessment record of all rateable land within the Victoria Daly Region.
- C. That Council declare the Rates as per page 62-63 of Regional Plan pursuant to Part 11.5 of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- D. That Council resolves to adopt the 2022-23 Elected Member Allowances in line with Guideline 2A provided by the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet.
- E. That Council adopts the 2022-23 budget pursuant to section 203(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- F. That Council adopts the 2022-23 Regional Plan pursuant to Section 35(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.
- G. That Council approves the submission of the Victoria Daly Regional Council 2022-23 Regional Plan to the Agency pursuant to Section 35(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

#### Regional Plan

##### **Goal 1: Quality Leadership**

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

1.3 - Comply with all statutory, regulatory and reporting requirements

1.5 - Advocate on behalf of the region to address regional disadvantage

#### Key Issues

A council must, by resolution, adopt its municipal, regional or shire plan between 1 March and 30 June in each year.



At the May Ordinary Council Meeting held on 31 May 2022 Council approved that the draft 2022-23 Regional Plan be made accessible on council's website and made available at council's public offices.

A notice was published seeking written submissions on the draft Regional Plan. The public consultation period commenced on 2 June 2022 and ceased 23 June 2022.

### **Background**

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet will be providing feedback by 23 June 2022.

No feedback has been received to date by members of the public.

The Regional Plan will be distributed separately due to its large file size.

### **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. CEO Rates Assessment Record Declaration 2022 [**10.1.1.1** - 1 page]
2. VDRC 2022-23 Regional Plan [**10.1.1.2** - 70 pages]

22 June 2022

Mayor and Councillors  
Victoria Daly Regional Council  
29 Crawford Street  
Katherine, NT, 0850



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Regional Office  
29 Crawford Street,  
KATHERINE NT 0850

PO Box 19  
KATHERINE NT 0851

Telephone 08 8972 0777  
Facsimile 08 8971 0856  
admin@vicdaly.nt.gov.au  
www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au

To the Councillors,

Pursuant to section 29 of the *Northern Territory of Australia Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, I, Russell Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of the Victoria Daly Regional Council, certify that, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the rates assessment record maintained under section 230 of the Local Government Act 2019 is a comprehensive record of all rateable land within the Victoria Daly Region.

Signed

Russell Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022



### **10.1.2. Gamba Legal Requirements Leaflet**

**Report Type**    **Officer Report For Decision**

**Department**    **Executive Services Chief Executive Office**

**Prepared by**    **Manager of Executive Services**

---

#### **Purpose**

For Council to review gamba grass communications leaflet for inclusion rates notices in 2022.

#### **Recommendations**

- A. That the Gamba Legal Requirements Leaflet report is received and noted
- B. That Council approves the attached gamba grass communications leaflet, produced by the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, to be distributed with rates notices.

#### **Key Issues**

If you are a landowner or occupier with gamba grass on your land, you are legally responsible for controlling it.

#### **Background**

For information, attached is a guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses.

#### **Budget implications**

Minimal cost of printing colour communications leaflets.

#### **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. Gamba Grass Content Vic Daly v 3 [**10.1.2.1** - 1 page]
- 2. F W\_ Gamba legal requirements leaflet - council rates [**10.1.2.2** - 2 pages]
- 3. A guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses [**10.1.2.3** - 24 pages]

## ARE YOU AWARE OF YOUR GAMBA GRASS REQUIREMENTS?

Under the Gamba Grass Weed Management Plan 2020-2030, the new requirements are:

### CLASS A ERADICATION ZONE

All gamba plants must be destroyed by July 2023 (unless already under permit). All regrowth must be destroyed.

### CLASS B CONTROL ZONE

- All outlier gamba grass plants and infestations must also be destroyed as a priority.
- For properties less than 3 hectares (7.4 acres), land owners/occupiers must destroy all gamba by July 2023.
- For the larger blocks, you must be actively reducing your gamba infestations year on year.
- For all properties, you must have a 15m gamba grass free buffer around land parcel boundaries, around infrastructure and on both sides of the track into your property.



To find out more, contact the  
Weed Management Branch  
P: 8999 4567 W: [nt.gov.au/gamba](http://nt.gov.au/gamba)





**From:** Russell Anderson  
**Sent:** Thu, 9 Jun 2022 06:00:56 +0000  
**To:** Michelle Will  
**Subject:** FW: Gamba legal requirements leaflet - council rates  
**Attachments:** Gamba Grass Content Vic Daly\_v3.pdf

Hi Michelle,  
Please include as an agenda item for Council consideration.  
Also advise Emma of the process.  
Thanks,  
Russell

**Russell Anderson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
*Moving Forward Together*  
E: [CEO@vicdaly.nt.gov.au](mailto:CEO@vicdaly.nt.gov.au)  
M: 0400362680 | 0413805877



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

---

**From:** Emma Burcher <Emma.Burcher@nt.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** Russell Anderson <CEO@vicdaly.nt.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Gamba legal requirements leaflet - council rates

You don't often get email from [emma.burcher@nt.gov.au](mailto:emma.burcher@nt.gov.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Russell,

Further to our discussion a few weeks ago, please find attached the gamba grass communications leaflet for Council's review.

Please let me know if Council are happy with the attached leaflet and to include the leaflet in with the Vic Daly Council rates to be issued this year.

If so, please let me know how we should proceed. We are happy to work directly with the company that prints and distributes the Vic Daly Council rates.

If you would like to discuss, please feel free to give me a call.

Thank you.  
Kind Regards,

Emma Burcher  
Weeds Planning Officer  
Weed Management Branch  
Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security  
Northern Territory Government

Floor 3, Goyder Building, 25 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston  
PO Box 496, Palmerston, NT 0831

P: **+61 8 8946 5217**  
E: [emma.burcher@nt.gov.au](mailto:emma.burcher@nt.gov.au)

W: [Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security](#)  
W: [Parks and Wildlife Commission](#)

**Stay up to date and connect with us:**



Use or transmittal of the information in this email other than for authorised NT Government business purposes may constitute misconduct under the NT Public Sector Code of Conduct and could potentially be an offence under the NT Criminal Code. The information in this e-mail is intended solely for the addressee named. It may contain legally privileged or confidential information that is subject to copyright. If you are not the intended recipient you must not use, disclose copy or distribute this communication. If you have received this message in error, please delete the e-mail and notify the sender. No representation is made that this e-mail is free of viruses. Virus scanning is recommended and is the responsibility of the recipient.

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

# A guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses

[nt.gov.au/gamba](https://nt.gov.au/gamba)





**Gamba grass inflorescence**

# Gamba grass and allies

Without reproductive plant parts, vegetative identification of gamba grass (*Andropogon gayanus*) is challenging, even for experienced botanists. Separating gamba grass from northern cane grass (*Mnesithea rottboellioides*) and, to a lesser extent, some of the lemon-scented grasses (*Cymbopogon* spp.), is particularly challenging. A range of leaf characteristics should initially be considered to identify your grass:

- How broad is the leaf?
- Do the leaves have a distinct white midrib?
- Is the leaf hairy?
- Are the leaf edges rough to touch?

Other characteristics to consider:

- How easily does the plant pull out of the ground?
- When I pulled the plant, did it have prickly hairs?

Ideally, your grass will include reproductive parts to further aid identification:

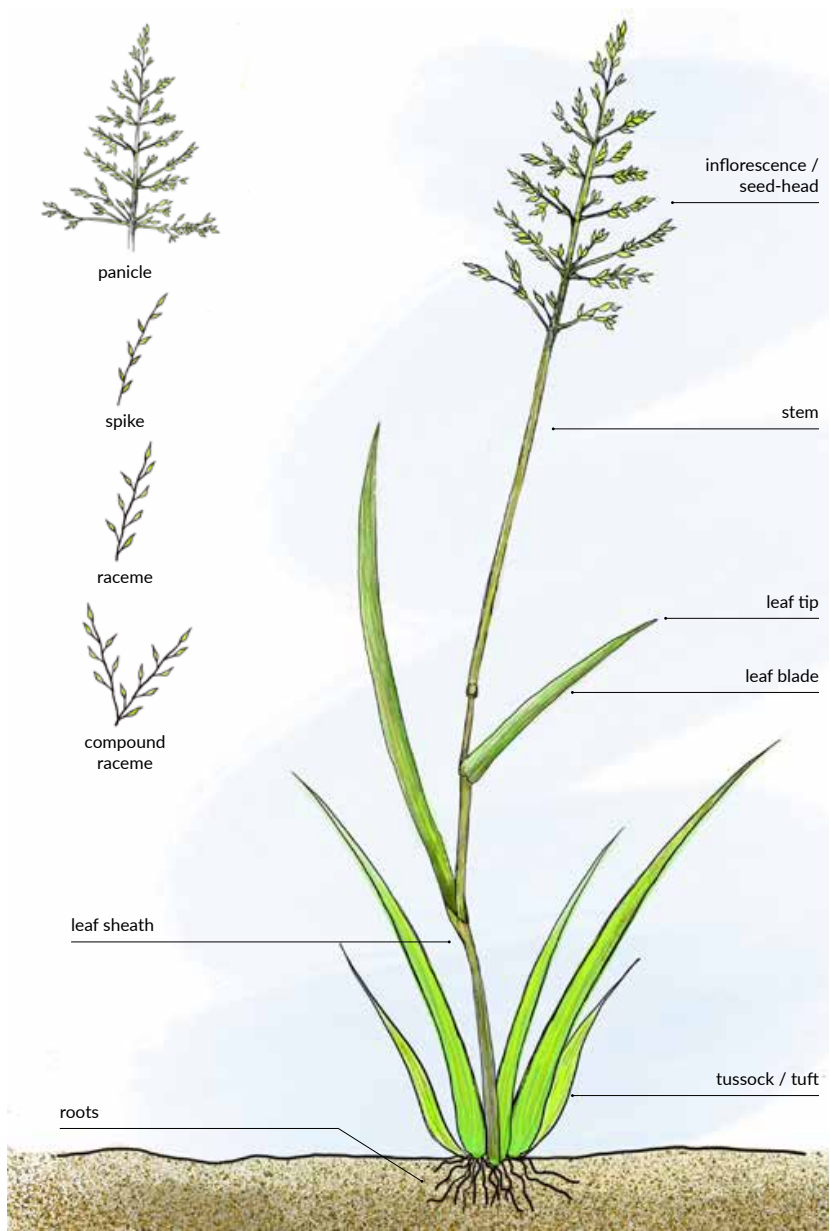
- What is the colour, shape and size of the inflorescence?

Through paying some attention to your grass, and developing experience, this guide should allow you to separate gamba grass from its many superficially-similar-looking Top End tussock grasses. Good luck!

# Glossary

<b>Annual</b>	completing a life-cycle in 1 year. Annual grasses have a relatively weak root system and can be easily pulled out of the ground
<b>Awn</b>	the hair or bristle extending from the spikelet
<b>Compound</b>	(of an inflorescence) with several orders of branching
<b>Declared Class A</b>	means a plant declared to be a declared weed for eradication under section 7 of the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>
<b>Declared Class B</b>	means a plant declared to be a declared weed for prevention of growth and spread (controlled) under section 7 of the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>
<b>Declared Class C</b>	means a plant declared to be a declared weed for prevention of entry to the NT under section 7 of the <i>Weeds Management Act 2001</i>
<b>Inflorescence</b>	the flower-head or seed-head of a grass
<b>Leaf blade</b>	the usually broad, flattened part of a leaf
<b>Leaf margin</b>	the edge or border of the leaf
<b>Leaf midrib</b>	central rib or vein of a leaf
<b>Leaf sheath</b>	the basal part of a grass that encircles the stem
<b>Panicle</b>	an inflorescence with compound branching
<b>Pedicellate</b>	having spikelets with stalks
<b>Perennial</b>	with a life-span of more than 1 year. Perennial grasses have an extensive root system and are difficult to pull out of the ground. Look for dead leaves or burned-off leaf bases from previous years
<b>Pruinose</b>	with a waxy or powdery surface; frosted in appearance
<b>Raceme</b>	an unbranched inflorescence in which the main axis produces a series of paired spikelets, one sessile and one pedicellate, the oldest at the base and the youngest at the top
<b>Scabrid</b>	rough to touch
<b>Sessile</b>	without a stalk
<b>Spike</b>	an unbranched inflorescence in which the main axis produces a series of stalkless spikelets
<b>Spikelet</b>	small flowering unit of a grass seed-head
<b>Tussock grass</b>	grass forming discrete open tussocks (clump, bunch, tuft or hummock), usually with distinct individual shoots







Gamba grass dense soft hairs on robust stems



# Gamba grass and allies – key

1. Leaf blade without distinct white midrib.....2  
    Leaf blade with distinct white midrib.....5
2. Crushed fresh leaves and leaf stalks lemon-scented.....**lemon-scented**  
    Crushed fresh leaves and leaf stalks not lemon-scented .....3
3. Leaf margin rough tip to base, smooth base to tip.....4  
    Leaf margin very rough tip to base and slightly rough base to tip.....**Guinea**
4. Annual; flower spike white to off-white, pinkish-tinged.....**annual mission**  
    Perennial; flower spike yellow..... **perennial mission**
5. Stem with stiff prickly hairs, painful to touch..... **itch**  
    Stem smooth, hairy or prickly, not painful to touch.....6
6. Broad leaf blade (30mm).....7  
    Narrow leaf blade (≤16mm).....8
7. Leaf blade softly flexible with downy hairs.....**gamba**  
    Leaf blade stiff and smooth (hairless).....**cane**
8. Base of stems round.....9  
    Base of stems flat, fan-like ..... **spear**
9. Annual, often with stilt roots..... **annual sorghum**  
    Perennial, stilt roots absent..... 10
10. Slender, smooth stem segments distinctly alternate green and yellow .....**thatch**  
       Robust stems, smooth or hairy, indistinct colour alternation...**perennial sorghum**

## Caveats/Disclaimers

Leaf blade characters refer to the upper leaf blade surface and are generally accurate for mature plants.

Leaves of all species may be red to purple, usually due to high levels of direct sunlight.

	Gamba	Itch	Guinea	Cane	Perennial mission
	<i>Andropogon gayanus</i>	<i>Rottboellia cochinchinensis</i>	<i>Megathyrsus maximus</i>	<i>Mnesithea rottboellioides</i>	<i>Cenchrus polystachios</i>
<b>height</b>	4m	3m	2m (up to 4.5m)	3m	2-3m
<b>habit</b>	very large, dense tussock	large, dense tussock with stiff, painful, prickly hairs; can have stilt roots	medium-sized dense tussock with robust stems, short harmless prickly hairs	large dense tussock with bulky leaf matter at base	erect tussock with robust stems
<b>stem</b>	robust and round with downy hairs	round with stiff, painful, prickly hairs	robust and round, short harmless prickly hairs	hairless or sparsely hairy, round and slender	smooth, robust, leaf sheath margin with fine hairs
<b>leaf</b> length	30-60cm	15-50cm	40-100cm	20-50cm	10-40cm
width	broad (30mm)	broad (30mm)	broad (35mm)	broad (30mm)	(18mm)
distinct white midrib	yes	yes	rarely, not as distinct as gamba grass	yes	no
hairy	downy hairs	no	no and yes	no	smooth to softly hairy
margin	slightly rough tip to base	very rough tip to base	very rough tip to base, slightly rough base to tip	slightly rough tip to base	rough tip to base
<b>inflorescence</b>	compound racemes	solid raceme	panicle	compound racemes	spike
<b>notable characters</b>	dense soft hairs on stems and broad leaves, distinct white midrib on leaves, leaves can be purplish	leaf blade scabrid with a distinct white midrib, stiff prickly painful hairs on stems, can have reddish young stems and stilt roots	leaf midrib indistinctly light green (sometimes white), harmless prickly hairs at base of plant	broad leaves have prominent stiff thick white midrib	flower spike is yellow; leaves can have a reddish-purple colour

	Annual mission	Lemon-scented	Thatch	Annual sorghum	Perennial sorghum	Spear
	<i>Cenchrus pedicellatus</i>	<i>Cymbopogon procerus, C. bombycinus</i>	<i>Hyparrhenia rufa</i>	<i>Sorghum intrans, S. stipoides</i>	<i>Sorghum plumosum</i>	<i>Heteropogon triticus</i>
<b>height</b>	1.5m	2m	3m	3.6m	3m	1.8m
<b>habit</b>	moderate sized erect tussock with slender stems	erect tussock	densely bunched slender stems	individual stems rather than a clump, often with stilt roots	dense tussock of robust stems	dense tussock, flattened stems fan-out from the base
<b>stem</b>	smooth, slender, leaf sheath margin with fine hairs	smooth (hairless), round	slender, alternate green and yellow segments	slender, smooth (not hairy)	robust, smooth to softly hairy	slender, smooth with long leaf sheaths
<b>leaf</b> length	5-25cm	25-50cm	10-60cm	15-50cm	15-40cm	20-80cm
width	(15mm)	5-15mm	narrow (8mm)	narrow (15mm)	narrow (16mm)	narrow (16mm)
distinct white midrib	no	not distinct through the length of the leaf	yes	yes	yes	yes
hairy	smooth to softly hairy	no	no	yes and no	yes and no	smooth to softly hairy
margin	rough tip to base	slightly rough tip to base	smooth in both directions	slightly rough tip to base	slightly rough tip to base	slightly rough tip to base
<b>inflorescence</b>	spike	compound racemes	compound racemes	panicle	panicle	solid raceme
<b>notable characters</b>	white to off-white flower spike can have a pink tinge; leaves can have a reddish-purple colour	crushed fresh leaves and leaf stalks have a lemon scent	white midrib on very narrow leaves, alternating green and yellow stem segments	distinct white midrib on narrow leaves, often with stilt roots	smooth or hairy stems, distinct white midrib on narrow leaves, leaves can appear pruinose	smooth to softly hairy flattened stems fan-out from the base, narrow leaves with white midrib, inflorescence with characteristic bend

# GAMBA GRASS

*Andropogon gayanus*

Introduced - Declared Class A/B/C

Erect perennial  
tussock grass to 4m  
tall and 70cm in  
diameter



V-shaped fluffy  
inflorescence  
on thick stems  
above the  
leaves



Distinct white  
mid-rib, broad  
and softly  
hairy



Robust stems  
densely  
covered with  
soft white hairs



Erect annual tussock  
grass to 3m tall

# ITCH GRASS

*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*

Native to NT



Cylindrical  
inflorescence



Hairless broad  
leaves with  
distinct white  
midrib, margin  
very rough to  
touch from tip  
to base



Robust round  
stems with stiff  
prickly hairs, hurt  
when touched,  
occasionally with  
stilt roots





# GUINEA GRASS

*Megathyrsus maximus*

Introduced

Erect perennial  
tussock grass to  
4.5m tall, usually 2m

Large  
inflorescence  
develops on  
slender stems  
above the  
leaves



Broad leaf,  
without  
distinct white  
midrib, with or  
without hairs,  
margin rough  
to touch in  
both directions



Robust stems,  
short harmless  
prickly hairs



2 to 4.5m

# NORTHERN CANE GRASS

Erect perennial  
tussock grass to 3m  
tall

*Mnesithea rottboellioides*

Native



Inflorescence of  
several spike-like  
branchlets, up to  
10cm long



Broad leaf with  
stiff thick white  
midrib, margin  
slightly rough tip  
to base



Hairless or  
sparsely hairy  
base and stems



3m



# MISSION GRASS, PERENNIAL

*Cenchrus polystachios*

Introduced - Declared Class B/C

Erect perennial  
tussock grass to 3m  
tall, usually 2m



Flower spike is  
yellow, densely  
packed seed-  
head dries to  
yellow-brown/  
cream



Narrow to  
broad leaves  
without  
distinct white  
midrib



smooth, robust  
stems, leaf  
sheath margin  
with fine  
hairs, leaves  
can have a  
reddish-purple  
colour





# MISSION GRASS, ANNUAL

Moderate sized erect  
tussock grass to  
1.5m tall

*Cenchrus pedicellatus*

Introduced



Flower spike is  
white to  
off-white and can  
have a pinkish  
tinge



Leaves hairless  
or softly hairy, no  
white midrib, can  
have a reddish-  
purple colour



Slender stems,  
leaf sheath with  
a margin of fine  
hairs



# LEMON-SCENTED GRASS

*Cymbopogon procerus*, *C. bombycinus*

Native

Erect perennial  
tussock grass to  
2m tall



Fluffy seed  
heads, often  
throughout  
the height of  
the leaves



Crushed  
leaves and leaf  
stalks smell  
like lemon/  
citronella



Smooth stems,  
vague white  
midrib at base  
of leaf



Credit: Tom Lawton - Anindilyakwa Land  
Council Land and Sea Rangers



Densely bunched erect  
perennial tussock grass  
to 3m tall, usually 2m

# THATCH GRASS

*Hyparrhenia rufa*

Introduced - Declared Class A/C



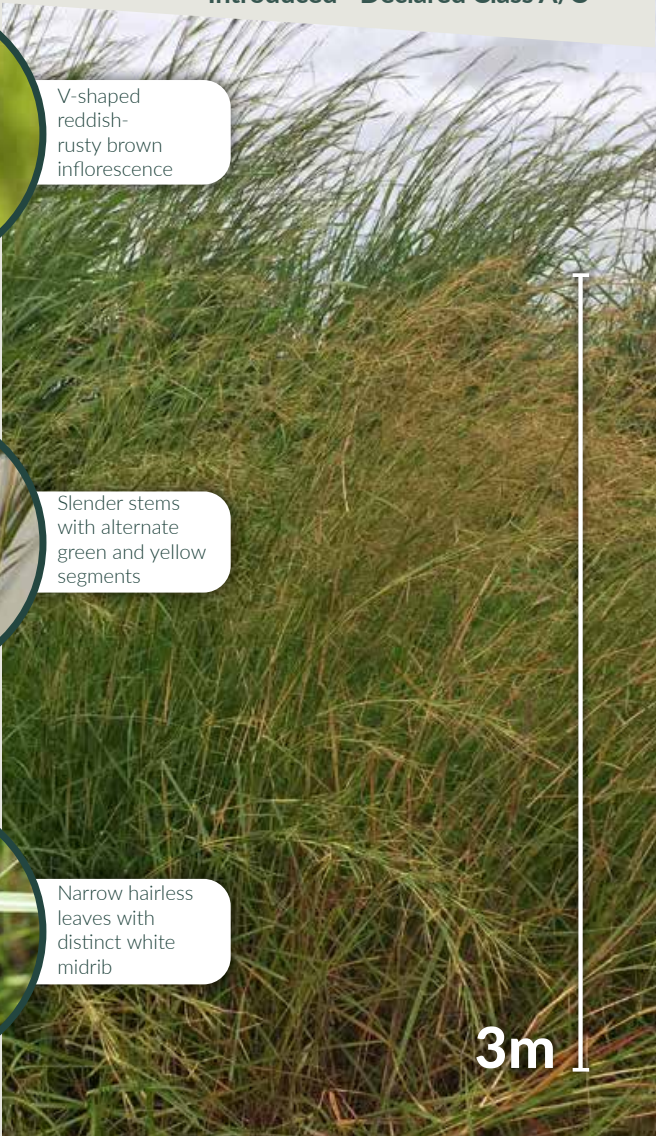
V-shaped  
reddish-  
rusty brown  
inflorescence



Slender stems  
with alternate  
green and yellow  
segments



Narrow hairless  
leaves with  
distinct white  
midrib



3m

# SORGHUM, ANNUAL

*Sorghum intrans*, *S. stipoides*

Native

Erect annual tussock grass of individual stems to 3.5m tall. One of the common wet season 'spear' grasses



Large rusty brown inflorescence



Distinct white midrib on narrow leaves



Slender individual stems, rather than a clump



Stilt roots are common





Erect perennial  
tussock grass to  
3m tall

# SORGHUM, PERENNIAL

*Sorghum plumosum*

Native



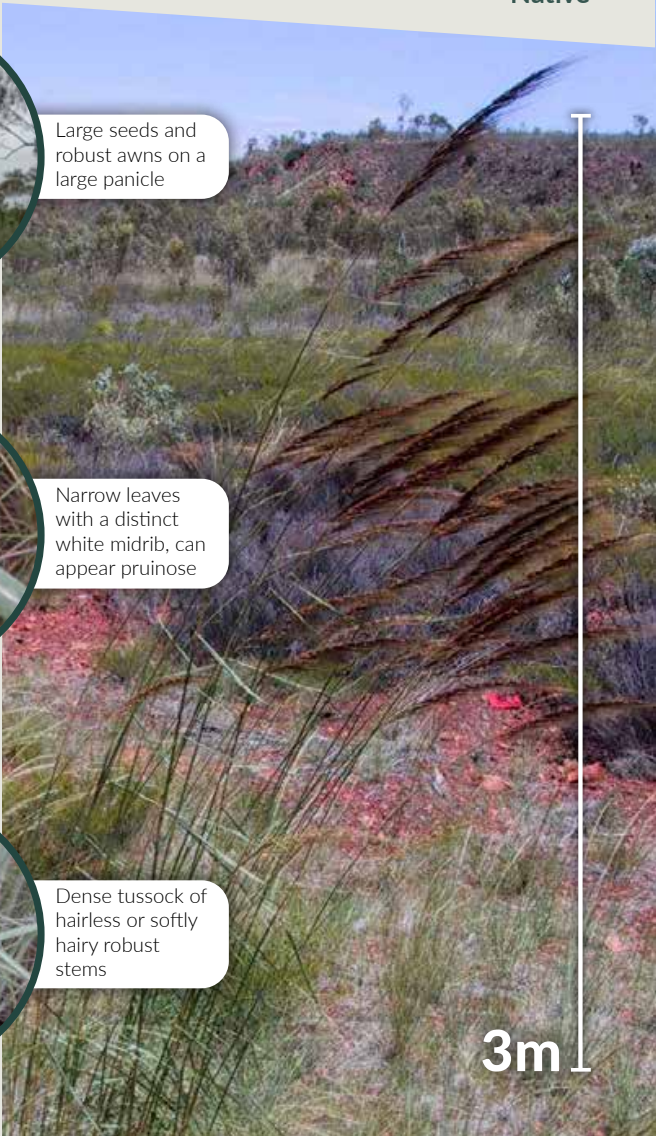
Large seeds and  
robust awns on a  
large panicle



Narrow leaves  
with a distinct  
white midrib, can  
appear pruinose



Dense tussock of  
hairless or softly  
hairy robust  
stems



3m

# SPEAR GRASS

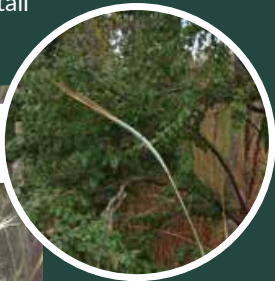
*Heteropogon triticeus*

Native

Erect densely clumping  
perennial tussock grass to  
2m tall



Characteristic  
bent  
inflorescence



Narrow leaves  
with distinct  
white midrib,  
margin slightly  
rough tip to  
base



Slender,  
smooth stem  
with long leaf  
sheath



Fan-like  
flattened base  
of stems



# NOTES

A guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses

# NOTES

A guide to identifying gamba grass and other Top End tussock grasses





Gamba grass

## Contact

Weed Management Branch  
8999 4567  
[weedinfo@nt.gov.au](mailto:weedinfo@nt.gov.au)  
[nt.gov.au/weeds](https://nt.gov.au/weeds)



## **10.2. Reports for Information**

### **10.2.1. Financial Report month ended May 2022**

**Report Type** Report for Information  
**Department** Financial Services Corporate Services  
**Prepared by** Senior Accountant

#### **Purpose**

For Council to receive and note the monthly finance report.

#### **Recommendations**

- A. That the report Financial Report month ended May 2022 is received and noted

#### **Regional Plan**

##### ***Goal 1: Quality Leadership***

1.3 - Comply with all statutory, regulatory and reporting requirements

#### **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. CEO Certification [**10.2.1.1** - 1 page]
2. Finance report for the month ended May [**10.2.1.2** - 11 pages]



**VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ABN 66 931 675 319**

**MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION**

To the Councillors,

I, Russell Anderson, Chief Executive Officer of Victoria Daly Regional Council ('the Council'),  
certify that to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

- (i) The internal controls implemented by the Council are appropriate; and
- (ii) The accompanying finance report best reflects the financial affairs of Council.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Russell" and last name "Anderson" clearly distinguishable.

Russell Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

**VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ABN 66 931 675 319**

**MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF May 2022**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)**

	31-May-22	30-Apr-22	Movement
	\$	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	7,091,084	7,208,533	(117,449)
Term deposits	11,900,000	11,900,000	0
Receivables:			0
- Rates & charges	677,158	693,743	(16,585)
- Accounts receivable	158,733	218,478	(59,745)
- Provision for doubtful debts	-271,878	-271,878	0
- Bonds receivable	8,276	8,276	0
- Amount receivable from ATO	52087	53,740	(1,653)
- Clearing accounts	171,571	110,593	60,978
Prepayments	162,949	164,401	(1,452)
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>19,949,980</b>	<b>20,085,886</b>	<b>(135,906)</b>
<b>Property, plant and equipment:</b>			
- Land	3,860,228	3,860,228	0
- Buildings	13,185,662	13,295,353	(109,691)
- Road infrastructure	10,003,154	10,044,758	(41,604)
- Plant and equipment	1,460,322	1,376,957	83,365
- Structures	1,882,297	1,909,445	(27,148)
- Motor vehicles	1,515,771	1,503,247	12,524
Right to use Assets	150,189	150,189	0
Works in Progress	353,362	322,084.00	31,278
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>32,410,985</b>	<b>32,462,261</b>	<b>(51,276)</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>52,360,965</b>	<b>52,548,147</b>	<b>(187,182)</b>

**VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ABN 66 931 675 319**

**MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)**

<b>Payables:</b>	<b>31-May-22</b>	<b>30-Apr-22</b>	<b>Movement</b>
- Deposits held	14,634	13,494	(1,140)
- Amounts payable to the ATO	148,030	72,971	(75,059)
- Trade payables	5,551	5,551	0
- Trade payables SUPERFUND	42,940	1,123	(41,817)
- Sundry payables	86,156	86,156	0
- Income in advance (rates & charges)	36,290	37,392	1,102
- Other liabilities	76,885	76,885	0
Employee provisions	1,152,029	1,086,437	(65,592)
Lease liabilities	89,129	89,129	0
Contract liabilities	1,763,319	1,763,319	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>3,414,963</b>	<b>3,232,457</b>	<b>(182,506)</b>
Employee provisions	151,871	151,871	-
Lease liabilities	94,920	94,920	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>246,791</b>	<b>246,791</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>3,661,754</b>	<b>3,479,248</b>	<b>(182,506)</b>
<b>Net asset (total Asset -total Liabilities)</b>	<b>48,699,211</b>	<b>49,068,899</b>	<b>(369,688)</b>
	<b>31-May-22</b>	<b>30-Apr-22</b>	
	\$	\$	
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus	15,881,538	15,881,538	-
Surplus (Deficit) during the period	2,925,380	3,295,068	369,688
Reserves:			-
- Asset revaluation reserve	27,100,631	27,100,631	-
- Asset replacement reserve	442,365	442,365	-
- Unexpended grant liability reserve	2,349,297	2,349,297	-
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>48,699,211</b>	<b>49,068,899</b>	<b>369,688</b>
	-		
Current Ratio	5.84	6.21	

**VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**ABN 66 931 675 319**

**MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2022**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE (UNAUDITED)**

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance	Annual Budget
Rates and Waste charges	1,661,867	1,664,330	(2,463)	1,675,358
Grants and subsidies	10,677,075	10,687,257	(10,182)	11,191,339
Contract income	7,036,188	6,911,063	125,125	8,030,480
Fees and charges	332,410	294,676	37,734	334,145
Interest income	24,276	21,210	3,066	37,493
Other income	701,375	790,773	(89,398)	990,717
Reclass Unexpended Grant	156,947	156,947	0	156,947

<b>Total income</b>	<b>20,590,138</b>	<b>20,526,256</b>	<b>63,882</b>	<b>22,416,479</b>
---------------------	-------------------	-------------------	---------------	-------------------

Employee benefits expense	(8,917,512)	(11,851,608)	2,934,096	12,926,132
Other employee expenses	(296,285)	(391,149)	94,864	426,603
Councillor and LA expenses	(334,125)	(367,422)	33,297	400,824
Materials and contracts	(2,208,490)	(2,424,892)	216,402	2,642,284
Fleet and plant expenses	(619,588)	(686,374)	66,786	748,666
Utility and ICT expenses	(1,350,412)	(1,361,053)	10,641	1,484,756
Other expenses	(1,316,134)	(1,849,093)	532,959	2,017,132
Depreciation	(2,622,212)	(2,657,932)	35,720	2,899,558

<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>(17,664,758)</b>	<b>(21,589,523)</b>	<b>3,924,765</b>	<b>23,545,955</b>
--------------------------	---------------------	---------------------	------------------	-------------------

<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>2,925,380</b>	<b>-1,129,476</b>
--------------------------	------------------	-------------------

Add:

<b>Capital Exp</b>	2,419,150
--------------------	-----------

<b>Transfers from Reserves for ERP</b>	227,700
--	---------

<b>Depreciation</b>	2,622,212	2,880,534
---------------------	-----------	-----------

<b>Net surplus / (Deficit)*</b>	<b>5,547,592</b>	<b>4,397,907</b>
---------------------------------	------------------	------------------



\*Excludes brought forward grant funding and CAPEX program. Capital expenditure of \$102,799.06 was paid in May. Total expenditure to date of \$465,382.34 capital works have been charged to Income and expenditure. The amount will be transferred to fixed asset register upon completion of the projects.

<b>Capital works/Motor Vehicles/plants and Equipments</b>	<b>Budgeted amount</b>	<b>Expenditure Incurred in Feb</b>	<b>Expenditure to date</b>	<b>Status</b>
Pine Creek waste management facility	1,300,000.00	48,679.04	204,222.79	Tender awarded
Timber Creek waste management facility	1,148,179.00		1,821.60	Tender awarded
Other waste management facility upgrades	300,000.00	-	8,696.60	Out to tender
Install led streetlights in Pigeon Hole & Yarralin	52,950.00	-	52,950.00	Completed
Libanagu Road Drainage	194,000.00	-	-	Retention Monies
Yarralin Fencing and lighting	254,200.00	-	220,083.62	Completed
Solar Streetlights	168,293.00		169,628.24	Completed
Duplex - Yarralin	700,000.00	-	24,738.22	Tender preparation stage
Installation of Small cell Mobile Booster-Lingara	168,000.00	-	120,000.00	Small cell work to be completed by 30 June
Demountables (2x)	320,000.00	-	133,277.87	Kalkarindji demountable delivered and installed
Motor vehicles (x)	560,556.30	54,120.02	495,726.29	one vehicle to be delivered by 30th June
Zero turn mowers (2x)	60,000.00	-	20,137.00	Purchased one mower. Second mower on order
Pine Creek Dump-Fencing	160,000.00	-	5,147.00	Tender awarded
Garbage Compact-Isuzu	181,446.87	-	181,446.87	Completed
Cab tractor(2x)	320,000.00	-	102,000.00	Purchased one Cap tractor. Second tractor on order

5,887,625.17	102,799.06	1,739,876.10
--------------	------------	--------------



### Commentary on Actual vs Budget

In May, council received \$1, 348,351 in revenue and spent \$1,519,647.06. The deficit for the month was \$369,688 and accumulated surplus decreased to \$2,925,380.

### Operating revenue

Council has accounted for 92% (20.433m) of its annual budgeted revenue. Commentary on each revenue category is provided below.

Category	Summary	Comments
Rates and Waste Charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.66m (99%) of annual budget of 1.675 has been earned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates of \$956,016 was levied</li> <li>General waste charges of \$737,039 was levied</li> <li>Council has given out a discount of \$28,723 for those ratepayers who paid in full on or prior 31/10/2021</li> </ul>
Grants and subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.677m (95%) of annual budget of \$11.191m has been received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, Council received \$426k</li> </ul>
Contract income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.036m (88%) of annual budget of \$8.030m has been received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, Council received \$722k</li> </ul>
Fees and charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.332m of annual budget of \$0.334m has been received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, Council received \$88k</li> </ul>
Interest income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.024m of annual budget of \$0.037 has been received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, Council received \$3.5k</li> </ul>
Other income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.701m of annual budget of \$0.99 have been received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, Council received \$109k</li> </ul>

### Operating revenue for the month of May 2022

Rates and statutory changes	-	2,465
Grants and subsidies		426,139
Contract income		722,967
Fees and charges		88,317
Interest income		3,554
Other income		109,840
		<hr/>
		1,348,351
		<hr/>

## Operating expenditure

Actual operating expenditure is currently 75% (\$ 17.664mm)) of annual budgeted expenditure of \$23.545m.

Commentary on each revenue category is provided below.

Category	Summary	Comments
Employee benefits expense	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% of annual budget has been expended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditure is on track. \$1.062m was paid in May. 2.934 million variance is due to vacant positions</li> </ul>
Other employee expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1k was incurred in May</li> </ul>
Councilors and LA expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditure is on track. \$30k was paid in May. Council spent 33k less than budgeted on Councilor's development and LA sitting allowance expenses.</li> </ul>
Materials and contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>84% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In May, material and contract was negative 42k. This was due to capitalization of capital works. In general, Council has underspent on material and contract expenses by 216k</li> </ul>
Fleet and plant expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditure is on track. \$59k was paid in May. Council spent 64k less budgeted on Regos (plants and MV) and repair and maintenance of plant and MV expenses.</li> </ul>
Utility and ICT expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditure is on track. \$109K was paid in May</li> </ul>
Other expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$61K was incurred in May. Variance largely contributed by underspent on Indigenous Employment Initiative training budget. \$418k remain unspent</li> </ul>
Depreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of annual budget has been expended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$238k was incurred in May</li> </ul>

### Operating Expenditure for the month of May 2022

Employee benefits expense	1,062,466.50
Other employee expenses	1,009.50
Councillor and LA expenses	30,943.23
Materials and contracts	- 42,000.33
Fleet and plant expenses	59,283.04
Utility and ICT expenses	108,758.25
Other expenses	60,512.15
Depreciation	238,674.72
	<u>1,519,647.06</u>

### **Note 1: Cash and cash equivalents**

As of 31 May, the Council's cash and cash equivalent balances (excluding term deposits) amounted to \$7.091m. A breakdown of the Council's cash and cash equivalent balances and whether these funds are tied and/or untied, including a comparison to April 2022 and June 2021 is as follows:

	May-22	Apr-22	Jun-21
Transaction Account	-4,722	172,722	231,052.00
Trust account	4,394,343	4,334,791	443,515.00
Business Saver	2,699,764	2,699,320	2,593,038.00
Petty Cash	1,700	1,700	1,200.00
	<u>7,091,085</u>	<u>7,208,533</u>	<u>3,268,805</u>

Term deposits	11,900,000	11,900,000	11,900,000
Tied Funds	3,542,084	4,548,780	2,340,062
Untied funds	15,449,001	14,559,753	12,828,743

### **Note 2: Term Deposits**

As of 31 May, the Council held \$11.9M term deposits with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Deposit Amount	Interest Rate	Maturing date	Mature term
3,600,000.00	2.31%	28-Nov-22	6 months
1,500,000.00	1.97%	21-Nov-22	6 months
1,500,000.00	1.60%	24-Oct-22	6 months
2,300,000.00	0.33%	28-Jul-22	12 months
3,000,000.00	0.31%	19-Aug-22	12 months

11,900,000.00

### Note 3: Accounts and Other Receivables

The Council's trade receivables balance on 31 May was \$158,733 of which \$120,805 or approximately 60% per cent was more than 90 days old.

Trade Debtors Age Analysis		
	Current Month	
	Amount	%
Current	17,094	9%
30 Days	20,659	10%
60 Days	175	0%
90 Days	120,805	60%
<b>Total Receivable</b>	<b>158,733</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Council's rates and charges balance on 31 May 2022 was \$677,158 of which \$466,890 or approximately 69% per cent was older than 1 year.

Outstanding Rates Age Analysis		
	Amount	%
2021/22	210,268	31%
2020/21	96,575	14%
2019/20	175,532	26%
2018/19	76,632	11%
2017/18	41,515	6%
2016/17	20,091	3%
Prior	56,545	8%
Total rates outstanding	<u>677,158</u>	100%

#### Note 4: Accounts and Other Payables

There were no outstanding creditors as of 31 May 2022.

Settlement of the Council's trade payables is generally within 30 days.

The Council does not have any trade payables for which it classifies as non-current i.e., not payable within 12 months.

Trade Creditors Age Analysis		
	Current Month	
	Amount	%
Current	-	0%
30 Days	-	0%
60 Days	-	0%
90 Days	-	0%
<b>Total Payable</b>	-	<b>100%</b>
<b>Less: Unapplied Debits *</b>	\$ -	
<b>Net Outstanding</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	

#### Note 5: Corporate credit cards

The Council has a credit card facility of \$200,000 of which \$75,000 of that has been allocated to a total of 13 cardholders.

For the month of May 2022 there was an aggregate spend of \$37,275.91

#### Note 6: Reporting and payment obligations with the Australian Taxation Office

The Council has the following reporting and payment obligations with the Australian Taxation Office:

- (i) Goods and Services Tax – Amounts are reported and remitted monthly.
- (ii) PAYG Income Tax Withheld – Amounts are reported and remitted fortnightly as part of Single Touch Payroll (STP) arrangements; and
- (iii) Fringe Benefits Tax – Instalment amounts are paid quarterly with an FBT return for the 12-month period ended 31 March required to be lodged each year.

As at the date of this report, May BAS was outstanding, and payment will be made before 21st June 2022.

#### Note 7: Superannuation

Employees are paid defined superannuation contributions in accordance with the superannuation legislative framework. Superannuation contributions are paid to either an employee's choice of complying fund or the Council's default fund, which is currently Statewide Super.

Council contributes 10 per of employee's ordinary time earnings into their selected/default super account. Some employees of the Council receive an additional superannuation contribution as part of their agreed remuneration package.

Superannuation payments are due to be remitted on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month following the previous quarter, however the Council elects to remit superannuation accrued on a fortnightly basis in line with its Single Touch Payroll process.

As at the date of this report, all superannuation contributions that had accrued up to 31 May had been subsequently remitted to employees' respective superannuation funds.

The Financial Services division of the Council is not presently aware of any late and outstanding superannuation obligations due to current or former employees.

**Note 8: Other operating expenses.**

Below is breakdown of expenses categorized in Income and expenses as other operating expenses

Insurance Premium Exp Industrial Special Risk	(683,104)
Insurance Premium Exp General	(17,752)
Insurance Premium Exp Public Liability	0
Travel Allowance	(94,361)
Accommodation	(37,663)
Road/Air Fares	(1,912)
Training / Seminar and Professional Development	(53,841)
Staff Relocation Expenses	(29,924)
Employee Amenities	(8,229)
Licence and Registration - Other than MV & PE	(5,586)
Subscriptions and Memberships	(61,072)
Publications and Information Resources	(16,361)
Printing, Postage (stamps) & Stationery	(32,391)
Venue Hire	479
Equipment and Vehicle Hire	(1,428)
Catering - Council, Committees, Seminars	(6,541)
Fee and Charges	(68,903)
Audit Expenses - Other	(10,500)
Audit Fee Expenses	(46,500)
Advertising	(112,653)
Legal Fees & Charges	(12,000)
Other Sundry Expenses	(195)
Bank Fee and Charges	(5,423)
Interest Loans/Borrowings	(10,274)
	(1,316,134)

### Insurance for financial year 2021/22

Details of the Council's current insurance arrangements for the 2021/22 financial year are as follows:

	Amount \$	GST	Net	Date paid	Due
Workers' Compensation	\$ 100,415.40	\$ 9,128.67	\$ 91,286.8	23/07/2021	
Workers' Compensation	\$ 1,971.38	\$ 174.46	\$ 1,796.92	6/08/2021	
Personal Accident - CDP	\$ 907.50	\$ 75.00	\$ 832.50	23/07/2021	
Travel	\$ 907.50	\$ 75.00	\$ 832.50	23/07/2021	
Fee	\$ 12,234.06	\$ 1,112.18	\$ 11,121.88	23/07/2021	
Motor vehicle	\$ 67,345.14	\$ 5,565.71	\$ 61,779.43	23/07/2021	
Councillors and Officers	\$ 14,117.22	\$ 1,166.71	\$ 12,950.51	6/08/2021	
Personal Accident	\$ 2,226.62	\$ 184.02	\$ 2,042.60	23/07/2021	
Public and products liability	\$ 57,237.92	\$ 2,481.96	\$ 54,237.92	17/08/2021	
Property	\$ 683,341.74	\$ 57,475.36	\$625,866.38	01/09/2021	
	<u>\$ 940,704.48</u>	<u>\$159,597.12</u>	<u>\$781,107.36</u>		

Period of cover is for the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

#### Note 10: Contract liabilities.

Contract liabilities are Unspent grants brought forward from financial year 2021. Specific conditions have not been met and the grants is treated as liabilities.

Grants for	Amount
replacement of existing grid powered street lighting with solar streetlights in the communities of Daguragu and Kalkarindj	4,227
Grant to improve waste management facility at Timber creek	-1,148,179
Construction of a building to house aged care activities in Yarralin	-79,599
Demolition and replacement of staff house at lot 55 Yarralin. VDRC will contribute \$350,000 to fund replacement of a dwelling in Yarralin with a duplex	-344,696
Funding for specific construction of shady communal meeting place for Lingarra.	-43
ABA homeland project- upgrade sewerage system, Yarralin.	-102,554
Provide a sport and recreation program to encourages community members for all age group to participate in activities that promote a healthy active lifestyle	-92,476
	<u>-1,763,320</u>



## **10.2.2. Progress Report on Grant Applications**

**Report Type**    **Officer Report For Information**

**Department**    **Council Operations**

**Prepared by**    **Contracts Manager**

---

### **Purpose**

To present Council a progress report on grant applications for noting

### **Recommendations**

- A. That the report Progress Report on Grant Applications is received and noted

### **Regional Plan**

#### ***Goal 1: Quality Leadership***

1.5 - Advocate on behalf of the region to address regional disadvantage

#### ***Goal 2: Financial Sustainability***

2.1 - Further develop and diversify the Council's Business division's contracts and activities to provide a wide range of income sources

#### ***Goal 4: Liveability***

4.1 Delivery of quality programs which support resident's well being

#### ***Goal 5: Infrastructure***

5.5 Maximize grant income through targeting critical initiatives within the plans

### **Background**

Council has requested regular updates on grant applications

### **Considerations**

Grant applications are submitted by Council to various funding bodies in support of Council activities and strategic direction. Grant applications recently awarded include:

- CBF (Major) – Upgrades and repairs to playground at Pine Creek

### **Policy implications**

Nil implications regarding policies





**Budget implications**

The success of the grant applications will impact, to varying degrees, on Council's ability to implement defined projects and activities.

**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. Current Grant Applications as at 20 June 2022 [**10.2.2.1** - 1 page]



## Report to Council as at 20th June 2022

### Grant Applications (submitted)

Grant name	Project description	Govt / Agency	Date Submitted	Outcome	Total Value Ex GST
Community Benefit Fund - Major	Pine Creek Playground Upgrades	NTG	28/02/2022	Successful	\$150,000



### 10.2.3. Corporate Services Quarterly Report

**Report Type**    **Officer Report For Information**

**Department**    **Corporate Services**

**Prepared by**    **Director of Corporate Services**

---

#### **Purpose**

To ensure Council is informed of the activities within the Corporate Services department.

#### **Recommendations**

- A. That the report Corporate Services Quarterly Report is received and noted

#### **Regional Plan**

##### ***Goal 3: Investing in our people***

3.1 Invest in training through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Training Plan covering all staff

3.2 Review the current organizational structure to improve communications, maximize inter departmental support and to grow staff capabilities and remuneration

##### ***Goal 5: Infrastructure***

5.2 Identify, plan and implement a comprehensive ITC Plan

##### ***Goal 6: Systems***

6.3 Upgrade software and hardware to improve work efficiency within 18 months

#### **We Welcome New Staff**

NDIS Manager

NDIS Program Support

Community Care Coordinator

Council Operations Support Officer

Council Operations Manager

Council Operations Assistant Manager

#### **Training and development**

Aged Care / NDIS – Cert III Individual Support

COAMS – Cert IV in Local Government

Frontline Administrative staff – Dealing with Difficult Clients

First Aid Training to commence

Fire Training to commence

#### **Employee Management**



Our annual salary budget is \$13,000,000 with current expenditure to date being \$9,277,104.

**MARCH 2022**

*Council Employee Count:* 164

**FTE Rate:** 139.48

**ATSI: 107 = 65.2 %**

*Program employees:* 95

**Core employees:** 69

*New commencement:* 5

**Resignations:** 9

Location	Employee Count	FTE	Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Kalkarindji	28	25.22	21	1	6
Lajamanu	6	5.06	2	2	2
Naiyu	18	14.58	8	10	
Pine Creek	12	9.22	3	7	2
Timber Creek	24	19.46	12	11	1
Yarralin	41	31.28	16	16	9
Regional Office	35	30.30	29	1	5

**APRIL 2022**

*Council Employee Count:* 161

**FTE Rate:** 137.82

**ATSI: 103 = 63.9 %**

*Program employees:* 92

**Core employees:** 69

*New Commencement:* 3

**Resignations:** 3

Location	Employee Count	FTE	Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Kalkarindji	26	24.37	20		6
Lajamanu	6	5.06	2	2	2
Naiyu	18	14.58	8	10	
Pine Creek	12	8.75	3	7	2
Timber Creek	24	19.39	13	10	1
Yarralin	39	30.35	15	15	9
Regional Office	36	35.30	30	1	5

**MAY**

*Council Employee Count:* 161

**FTE Rate:** 138.82

**ATSI: 102 = 63.35%**

*Program employees:* 93

**Core employees:** 68

*New Commencement:* 5

**Resignations:** 6

Location	Employee Count	FTE	Full Time	Part Time	Casual
Kalkarindji	27	25.37	21		6
Lajamanu	6	4.58	2	3	1
Naiyu	19	15.37	9	10	
Pine Creek	13	9.75	4	7	2
Timber Creek	23	18.39	12	10	1
Yarralin	36	29.05	15	12	9
Regional Office	35	34.30	29	1	5

**Work Health and Safety**

- Regular visits to all communities to ensure compliance with WHS and to assist staff.
- VDRC WHS policies and procedures to be updated.



- Site inspections carried out in all communities including offices, aged care facilities and workshop areas. Individual Site Inspection Reports completed identifying issues to be resolved and working with individual COM's and managers to resolve these issues.
- Testing and tagging of electrical items have commenced and, in some areas, has already been completed.
- Testing and tagging of fire safety equipment including fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire hoses commenced. Fire extinguishers have been updated and fire safety signage updated or in the process of being updated.
- Drug and Alcohol certification completed, and testing will recommence shortly.
- Minor incidents have been reported in different communities and enquiries conducted into these incidents and resolved satisfactorily.
- Dangerous Incident reported (minor grass fire, which spread to lawnmower) nil injuries/nil damage. Incident reported to NT WorkSafe as per legislative requirements.
- Smoking in/near VDRC buildings in several locations identified. As a result, several staff were spoken to and reminded of VDRC requirements. Memo with VDRC workplace smoking policy provided to all staff via e-mail.
- Kitchen registrations in all areas completed and all registrations updated for 12 months
- Emergency Evacuation Plans (EEP) in all areas currently being updated.
- Fire extinguishers to be fitted to all VDRC vehicles. This has already started and will be rolled out to all vehicles over a period.

### **Information Technology**

The current IT migration project across Council is running on schedule with the project in its ending of the final stages. Those systems currently running parallel with the target go live date of 1 July 2022 will successfully go live on schedule. Training in the systems currently live and those going live 1 July 2022 has occurred and follow up are being undertaken.

A huge amount of work has gone into this transition and the team of Sai Mokkaapati, Tanya Brown, Jackson Bernard, Rebecca Jang, Sunil Neupane and Samantha Parker should be commended for all their hard work and efforts to ensure Council successfully achieved our desired outcome.

### **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



## 11. Action Sheet

### 11.1. Action Sheet

**Report Type** Report for Information

**Prepared by** Manager of Executive Services

#### Purpose

To provide an update on the status of action items since the last ordinary Council meeting.

#### Recommendations

- A. That the Action Sheet report is received and noted

#### Discussion

The following actions have been removed due to their completion or other reasons.

#### Meeting 31 May 2022

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
OCMC-2022/11	Homelands letter to be reproduced and delivered in person to Senator Selena Uibo	Manager of Executive Services and Mayor	Completed	<b>Letter generated and delivered</b>

#### Meeting 27 April 2022

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
GB 13.2	Council Operations Manager and Pine Creek Councillor to investigate possibility of zebra crossing (to ensure safety of children crossing)	Pine Creek COM, Pine Creek Councillor	Analysis required	<b>This requires a full analysis and report to council for consideration</b>

#### Meeting 22 February 2022

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
GB-20220222-5	Council requests a follow up on discussion with Dheran Young at previous Council meeting regarding Lot 2 Wooliana Road	Manager of Executive Services	Completed	<b>Second invitation sent. Response received and Mr. Young will attend the June OCM.</b>

#### Meeting 28 September 2021

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
31.1	Investigate the process for naming of internal streets of Bulla and Amanbidji	Timber Creek COM & DM	Completed	<b>Project Completed</b>





<b>31.1</b>	That Council endorse the request from Amanbidji Local Authority for the Mayor to write to the Ministers office—NWA requesting improvement to street lighting.	Manager of Executive Services	Completed	<b>Letter sent to NWA 06/04/2022. John Horgan has been invited to Amanbidji Local Authority meetings to continue discussions.</b>
-------------	---	-------------------------------	-----------	---

Meeting 8 July 2021				
Item/Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
<b>General Business item 21.1</b>	Timber Creek Ward Councillor to pursue additional elected member.	Deputy Mayor	No progress	<b>A full report to be provided if and when this action is pursued</b>

### **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. 2022 05 31 ACTION SHEET MAY [11.1.1 - 3 pages]



## Victoria Daly REGIONAL COUNCIL

### ACTION SHEET TASK LIST

AS A RESULT OF THE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD on 31 May 2022

These Actions are a result of discussion within Council toward the operations of, to provide more information, reports, or progress to Councillors so they can deliver feedback to their constituents.

Send updates to [executive@vicdaly.nt.gov.au](mailto:executive@vicdaly.nt.gov.au)

Meeting 31 May 2022 .....	2
Meeting 27 April 2022.....	2
Meeting 31 March 2022.....	2
Meeting 22 February 2022 .....	2
Meeting 28 January 2022 .....	2
Meeting 22 October 2021 .....	2
Meeting 28 September 2021 .....	3
Meeting 8 July 2021 .....	3
Meeting 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2020.....	3
Meeting 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 .....	3
Meeting 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2017 .....	3

Meeting 31 May 2022				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
OCM-2022 12.1	Research to be conducted on what has gone before Parliament regarding the draft burial and cremation bill	CEO	-	<b>CEO has been in Canberra</b>

Meeting 27 April 2022				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
OCM-2022/34	Council writes a letter of support for Walangeri to apply for the ABA grant.	Grants Manager	In progress	<b>Letter of support currently being drafted</b>

Meeting 31 March 2022				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
CGB (pg.6)	A letter be sent to Maree De Lacey from Cr Williams acknowledging Council's receipt of letter	Cr Williams	Awaiting external response	<b>Letter sent to the Department. Awaiting response.</b>

Meeting 22 February 2022				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
Item 10) 034/2022	Aged Care & NDIS Audit to be conducted every six months by external provider	Community Services Manager	-	<b>Awaiting permanent appointment of staff</b>
Item 13)	Contracts Manager to obtain cost estimates for portable office options.	Contracts Manager	Awaiting external response	<b>Awaiting external response</b>

Meeting 28 January 2022				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
<b>Item 14) &amp; GB 14.1 [189/2021]</b>	(28/02/22) Letter to be sent to LGANT regarding the urgent need for upstream flood notification for Upper Victoria River (above Kalkarindji) and the Humbert River (above Lingarra) (22/10/21) Email to be sent from CEO to Peter McLinden concerning motions from previous Council meetings regarding advocacy for upstream notification system on Victoria River.	CEO	Ongoing	<b>Motion submitted to LGANT for discussion at General Meeting in April. Actions from 21-01-21 and 22-10-21 combined.</b>

Meeting 22 October 2021				
Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Comments
<b>Item 12 [196/2021]</b>	An info sheet to be developed covering a breakdown of rates and charges, including use of funds across the Victoria Daly	Senior Accountant	In progress	<b>Document finalised. Letters to be sent to rate payers.</b>

Region. Info sheet to be distributed with rates notices

**Meeting 28 September 2021**

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
<b>31.4</b>	That a business plan be prepared to outsource waste management at Nauiyu	Director of Operations	Ongoing	<b>GHD studies part A in draft form complete, part B will commence soon.</b>

**Meeting 8 July 2021**

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Updates
<b>[104/2021]</b>	Operations team to investigate street lighting, fencing, and roads in Amanbidji	Timber Creek COM	Re-assigned	<b>John Horgan is invited to attend the next meeting to discuss these concerns.</b>

**Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Comments
<b>374/2020</b>	Director of Financial Services to seek additional funding for postal services across Kalkarindji, Nauiyu, Yarralin and Pigeon Hole communities	Senior Accountant	On hold	<b>Will be investigated following budget review</b>

**Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Comments
<b>General Business 26.1</b>	Technical Services dept. to look in to the issue on roads and speed humps in the Pigeon Hole community	Director of Operations	Ongoing	<b>Action item addressed in the Yarralin Community Report. Council requested to look at other sections in community where speed humps are required.</b>

**Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

Item/ Resolution	Description	Reporting Officer	Status	Comments
<b>#4 (3) Kalkarindji Landfill (052/2017)</b>	CEO to identify ownership (through Land Council) of suitable future dump land sites. Apply for external fencing funding for Kalkarindji. Civil Works to ascertain dump site requirements for inclusion of project in the community plan.	CSM Kalkarindji – Identification of land sites  Grants Coordinator – Funding application	Ongoing  Ongoing	<b>25 June 2019 Since March 2017 a waste management strategy has been established. The only outstanding land tenure issues are at Kalkarindji. The area where the landfill is located is subject to a land title claim. CLC are investigating a way forward. Funding has been provided to develop shovel ready documentation and cost estimates for all Council landfills. Ongoing.</b>



## 12. Correspondence In & Out

### 12.1. Incoming Correspondence

**Report Type** Report for Information

**Prepared by** Manager of Executive Services

---

#### Purpose

To present to Council a list of incoming correspondence received since the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

#### Recommendations

- A. That the Incoming Correspondence is received and noted

#### INCOMING REGISTER

DATE	ADDRESSED TO	FROM	REGARDING	DOCUMENT ID
02/06/2022	VDRC	The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	Big Rivers Liveability Report – Victoria Daly Regional Council	<a href="#">DOCID-423691570-1097288</a>
20/06/2022	Mayor Brian Pedwell	Wayne Buckley General Manager Green River Aboriginal Corporation	RE: Response to River Pump	<a href="#">DOCID-423691570-1097272</a>
22/06/2022	VDRC	The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet	Big Rivers Liveability Report	<a href="#">DOCID-423691570-1097404</a>

#### Attachments

- 2022-06-02 INCOMING Big Rivers Liveability Report Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA [12.1.1 - 10 pages]
- The Big Rivers Liveability Project 2022 [12.1.2 - 27 pages]

# 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 when we 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 168,000km<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>1</sup>

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:

<b>Healthcare</b>	Access to hospitals, doctors, pharmacy, dentist, mental health services and specialist services.
<b>Education</b>	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.
<b>Amenity</b>	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.
<b>Cost of Living</b>	Availability of suitable housing for rent or purchase, cost of fresh produce, access to bulk billing and access to government subsidised childcare and schools.
<b>Natural Environment</b>	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.
<b>Digital Connectivity</b>	Access to adequate phone coverage, reliable internet and broadband, able to work from home and pay bills online.
<b>Community Connection</b>	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.
<b>Employment Opportunities</b>	Access to local job opportunities, career growth opportunities, starting and growing a business.
<b>Great Outdoors</b>	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:

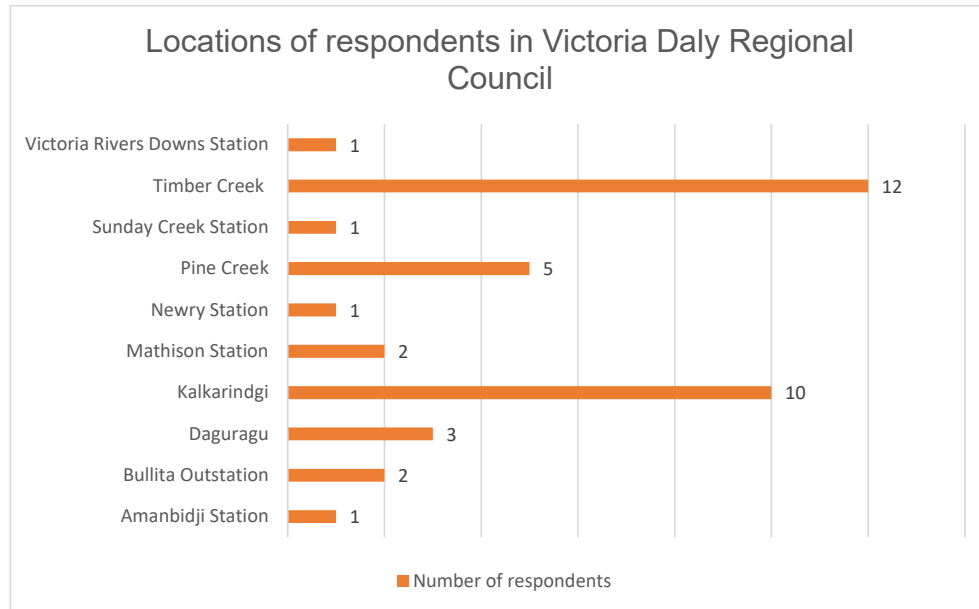


Figure 1. Locations of respondents

### 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.

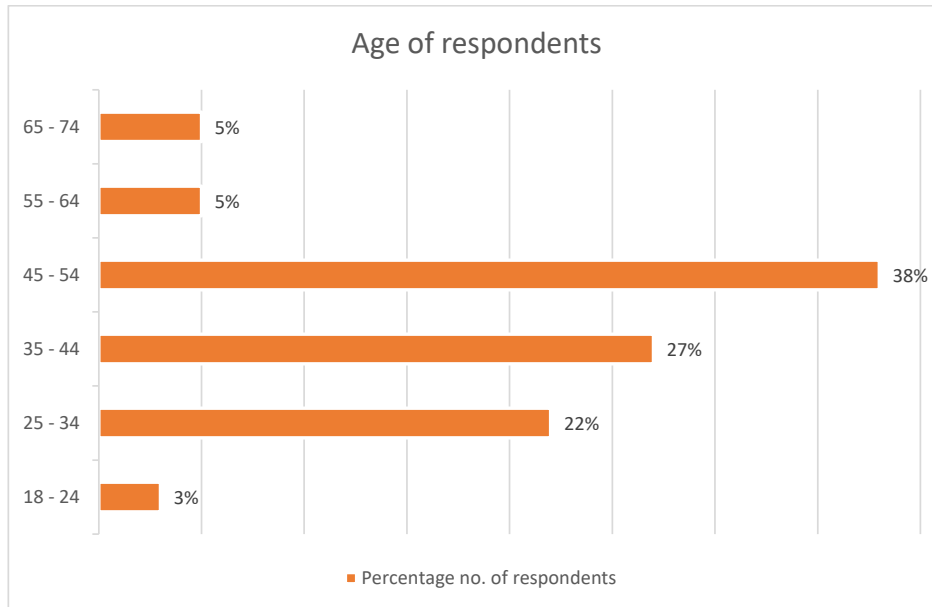


Figure 2. Age of respondents in the Timber Creek Ward

### Residents Employment Status

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

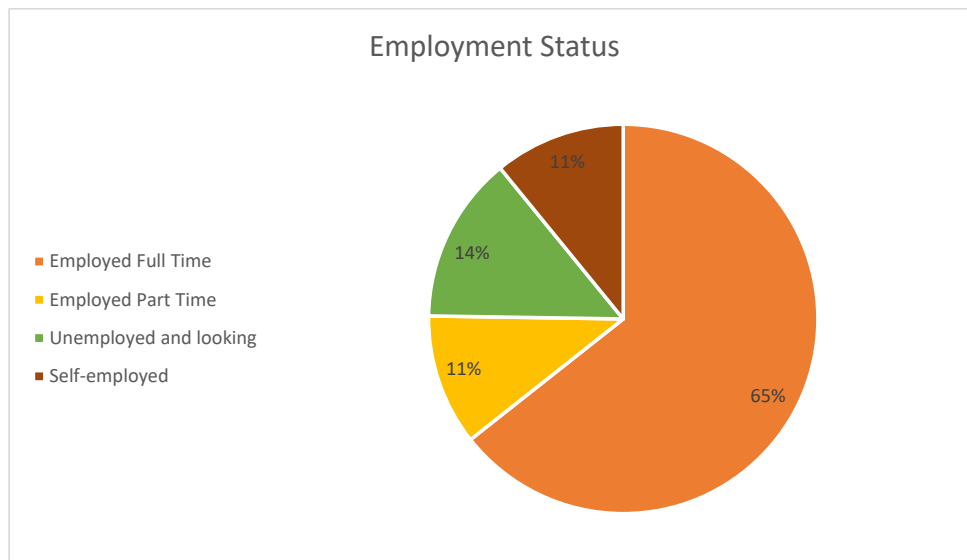


Figure 3. Respondents' employment status

## 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.

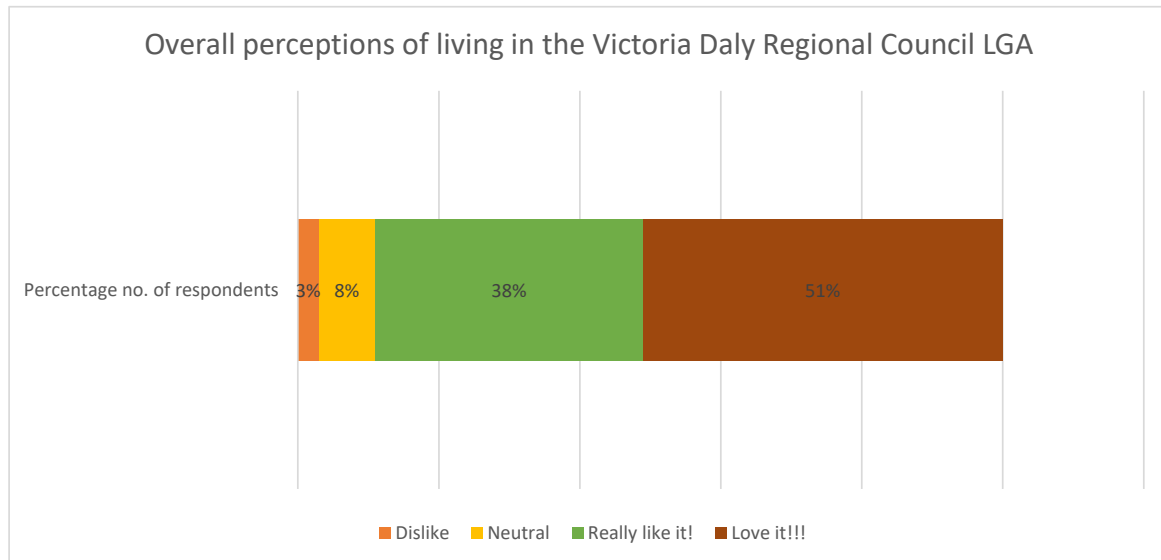


Figure 3. Overall Perception of the Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA.

### **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.

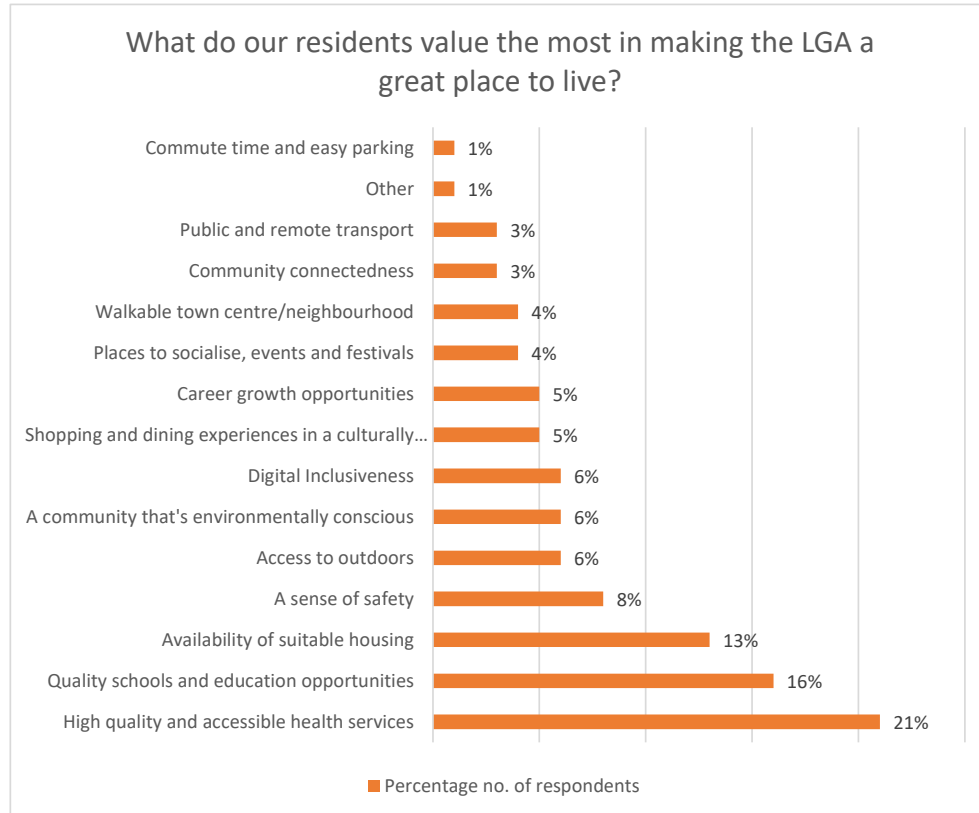


Figure 4. What do residents value in making the LGA a great place to live.

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.

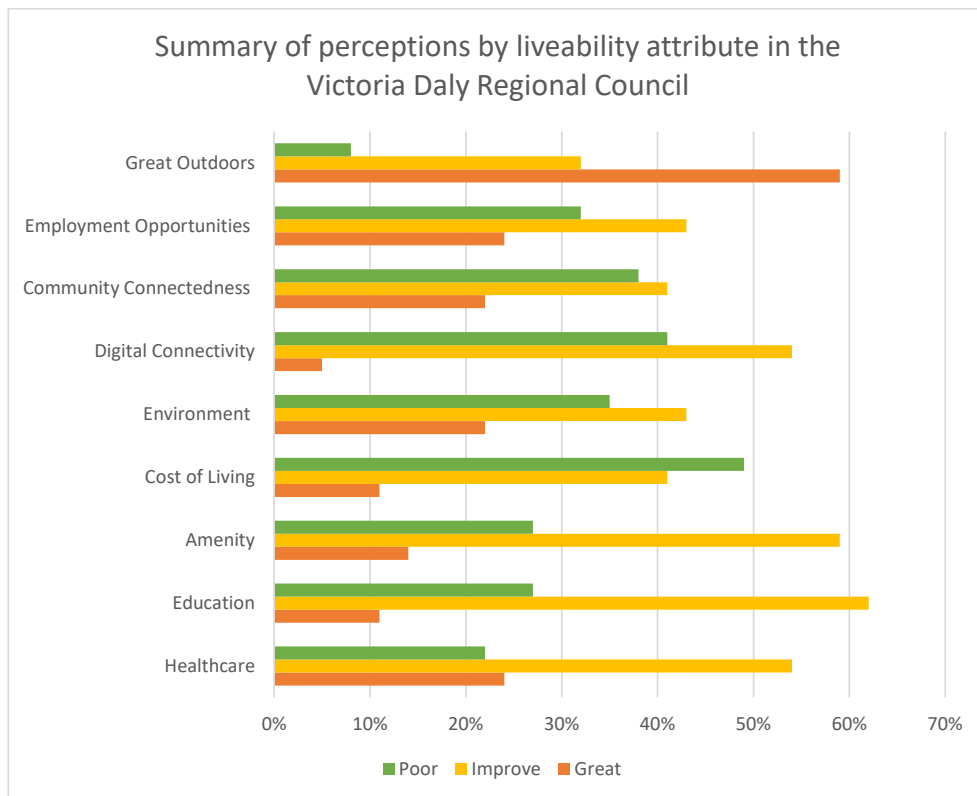


Figure 5. Summary perceptions of liveability in the LGA.

### 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
<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase land release to improve access to housing availability</li> </ul>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to quality education</li> <li>• Improve telecommunications</li> </ul>	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More access to youth activities</li> <li>• More opportunities to develop youth (e.g. youth engagement programs)</li> <li>• More opportunities for community connection such as community events or activities</li> </ul>

### 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

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

THE BIG RIVERS  
**LIVEABILITY**  
**PROJECT**  
2022

---

A REGIONAL PLACE-BASED APPROACH  
TO MEASURING LIVEABILITY IN THE BIG  
RIVERS REGION.

BIG RIVERS



## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Traditional Owners of country throughout the Big Rivers Region and recognise their continuing connection to land and sea. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; and to elders, past, present and emerging.



Nitmiluk National Park





Ngukurr Arts Centre

# TABLE OF CONTENT

About the Big Rivers Region .....	2
Local Government Areas .....	4
Purpose .....	7
Defining Liveability .....	8
Our Approach .....	9
Responses .....	10
Who responded? .....	14
Summary of findings .....	18
Overall perception of living in the Big Rivers Region .....	22
What do we value? .....	24
Perceptions of liveability in the Big Rivers Region .....	30
Community ideas for change .....	38
Next steps .....	44

## Copyright information

© Northern Territory Government 2022  
This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 (Commonwealth).

## Disclaimer

This report is for information purposes only. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate, the Northern Territory Government will not accept any liability for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any person acting in reliance upon the information.

## Acknowledgements

The Northern Territory Government would like to acknowledge the support and guidance of the Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Committee, Katherine Town Council, Victoria Daly Regional Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council and the Aboriginal Interpreter Service in the development of this project.



# ABOUT THE BIG RIVERS REGION

The Big Rivers Region covers approximately 25 per cent of the Northern Territory's total land area at over 340,000km<sup>2</sup> and includes 2,360 kilometres of coastline. The region extends 170 kilometres south of Darwin to the Western Australia border, the Gulf of Carpentaria along the Queensland border to the east, and over 500km to the south. The geostrategic location of the region positions it as critical to Australia's northern defence capacity and the abundance of natural resources, vast land mass and unique landscapes drives world class capability in agriculture, energy, resources and tourism. At the heart of the region is Katherine. Outside of the Greater Darwin, Litchfield and Palmerston Local Government Areas, Katherine is the closest major regional centre to the Port of Darwin; the only major

multimodal port located in the Northern Territory and strategically located as Australia's gateway to the Asia Pacific. Katherine is located at the crossroads of the top end, connecting the Perth-Darwin national highway link from the west to the intermodal Adelaide-Darwin north-south highway and rail corridor. It's the critical cross road of Northern Australia. Over 21 000 people live in the Big Rivers Region with approximately half of the resident population residing in the Katherine township and RAAF Base Tindal (51 percent) and the remainder in the 23 Aboriginal communities, 110 family outstations, 105 pastoral properties and smaller villages.

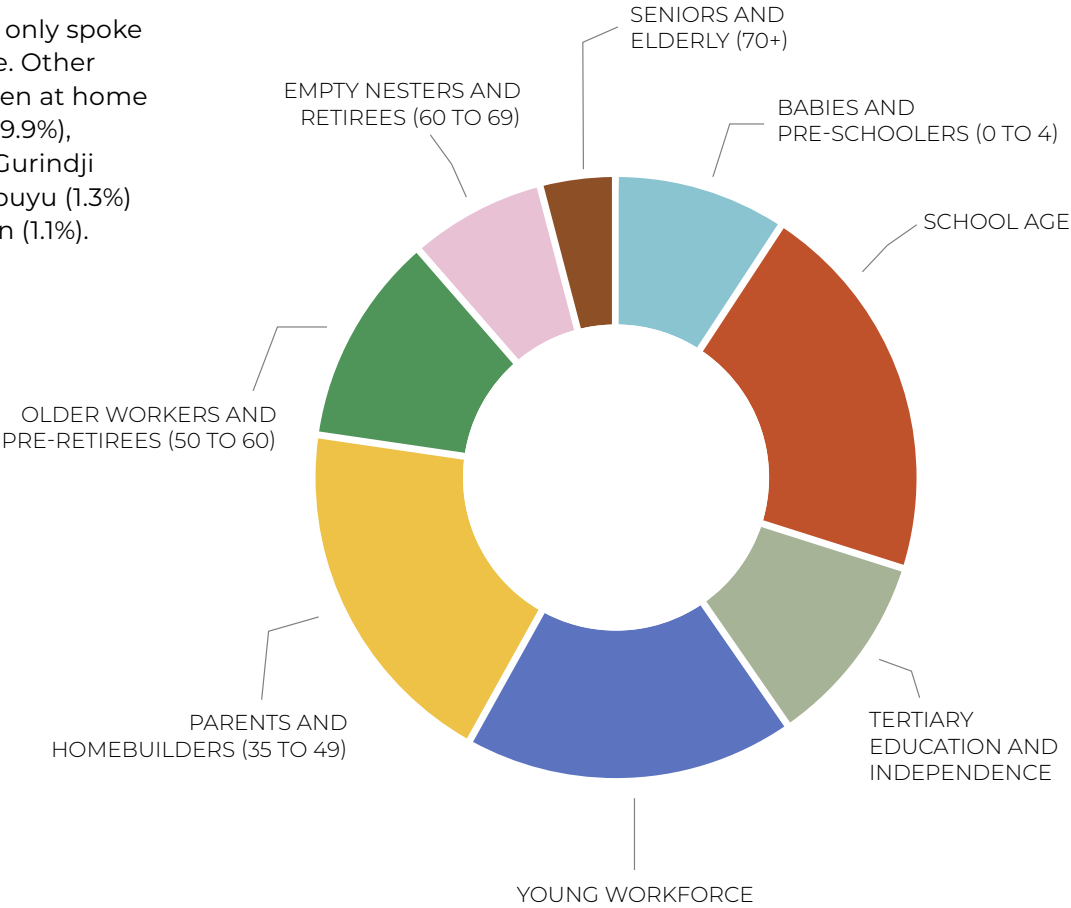


Nitmiluk National Park

## Who are we?

- The estimated population of the Big Rivers Region is 21,250. Of these 51.6% are male and 48.4% are female.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people make up 48.9% of the population.
- The median age of people in the region is 29 years.
- Of the families in the Big Rivers, 7.4% are couple families with children, 31.3% are couple families without children and 19.1% are one parent families.
- 78.2% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were Philippines (1.2%), New Zealand (1.1%), England (1.1%), India (0.6%) and United States of America (0.3%).
- The most common ancestries in the region were Australian Aboriginal (32.0%), Australian (20.8%), English

- (13.7%), Irish (4.2%) and Scottish (4.0%).
- 46.3% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Kriol (19.9%), Warlpiri (2.8%), Gurindji (2.0%), Nunggubuyu (1.3%) and Ngarinyman (1.1%).



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

The region encompasses three Local Government Areas (LGAs) including Katherine Town Council, the Victoria Daly and Roper Gulf Regional Councils.

Although serviced by the Central Desert Regional Council, the community of Lajamanu is located within the Big Rivers Region.

## Katherine Town Council LGA

The Katherine Town Council Local Government Area is located approximately 310 kilometres south of Darwin, extending over 20 kilometres to the south including RAAF Base Tindal. The resident population is approximately 10,600 people with 22% of residents identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

The Katherine Town Council LGA services Katherine, Rockhole, Miali Brumby (Kalano), Binjari and Geyulkgan (Walpiri camp).

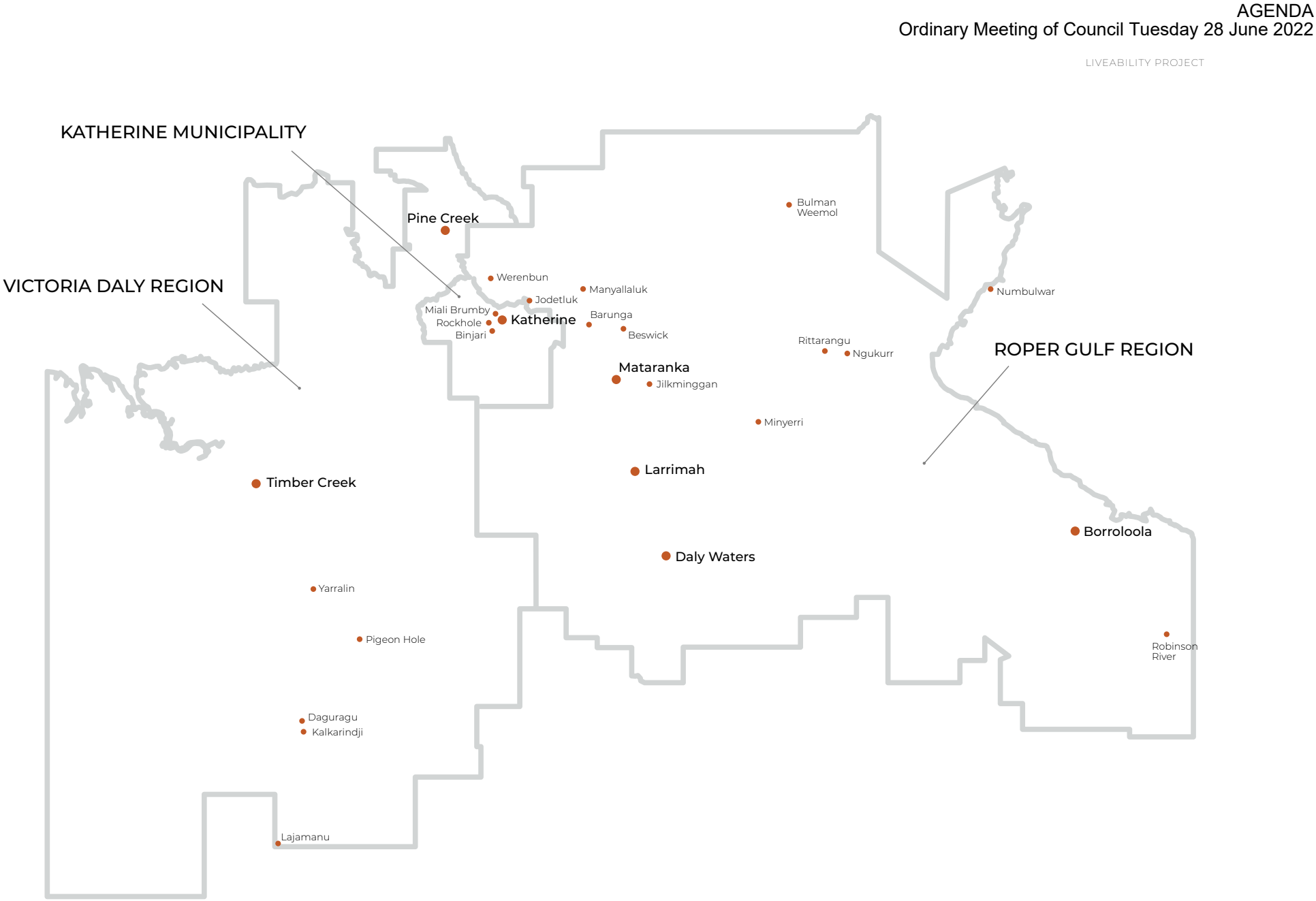
## Victoria Daly Regional Council LGA

Victoria Daly Regional Council covers an area of 168,000km<sup>2</sup> and encompasses seven communities and two villages that includes Pine Creek, and Timber Creek. The estimated resident population is approximately 3,170 people, of which 65% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

## Roper Gulf Regional Council LGA

Roper Gulf Regional Council covers more than half of the

Big Rivers Region land mass, an area of approximately 201,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The resident population is approximately 7,500 people of which 80% identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Roper Gulf Regional Council services 13 communities, with major centres including the communities of Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Barunga, as well as the village of Borroloola.





“  
Put simply,  
a *liveable*  
community is one  
in which it is easy  
and comfortable  
to carry out day to  
day life’

The Territory Economic  
Reconstruction Commission  
Final Report, 2020

Foxalicious Fruits, Katherine

## PURPOSE

The Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (TERC) Final Report released in 2020 emphasised the importance of liveability in its ability to attract and retain people to the Northern Territory. The report suggested targeted improvements to lift liveability through place-based approaches are needed to make growth hubs, such as the Big Rivers Region, more attractive to retain population.

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 when we 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?

Liveability is a core focus of the Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Committee; a regional-based independent, advisory committee to the

Northern Territory Government comprising local government, community leaders, business owners, Aboriginal corporations and industry representatives.

The Big Rivers Liveability Project 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.



# 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**

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.



Barunga Festival - Tourism NT / Peter Eve



Nitmiluk National Park

# RESPONSES

517

Total responses to the survey received across the region

399

Responses received through the online survey



10

Responses received via phone



with the assistance of the Northern Territory Government Aboriginal Interpreter Service

108

Face to face surveys conducted



Responses received by *survey modality*

347

Responses received from within the Katherine Town Council Area including RAAF Base Tindal

40

Responses received from the Victoria Daly Regional Council Area

130

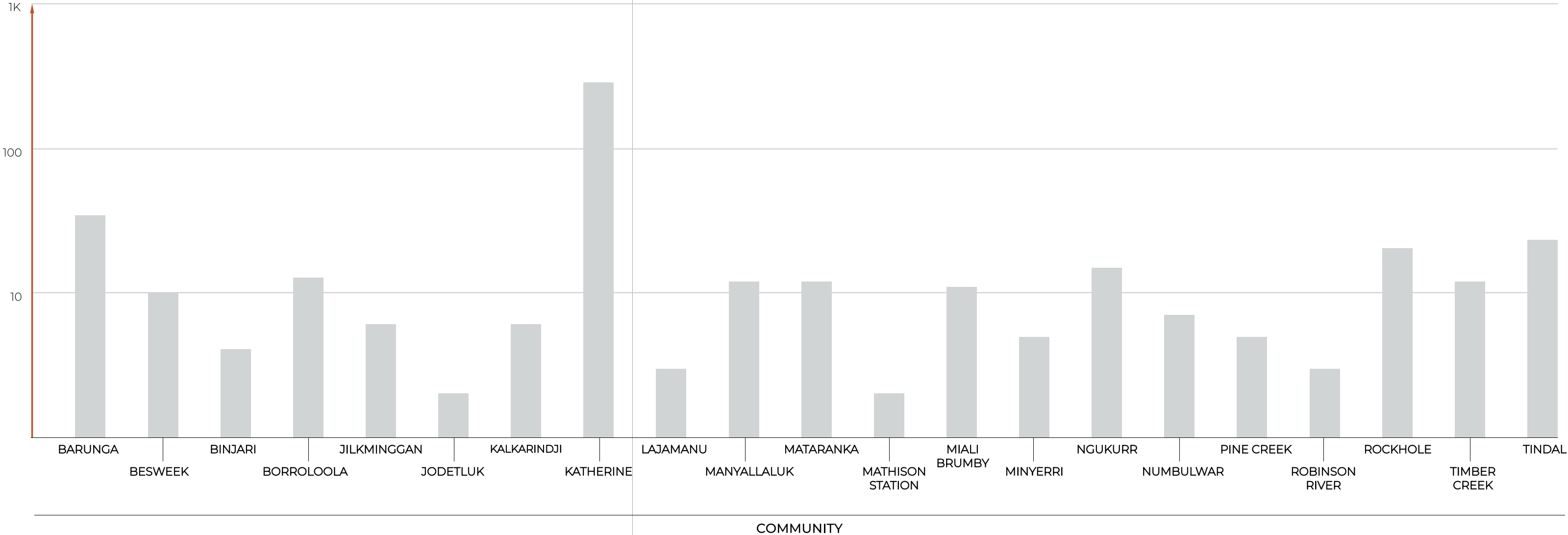
Responses received from the Roper Gulf Regional Council Area

Responses received by *Local Government Area*



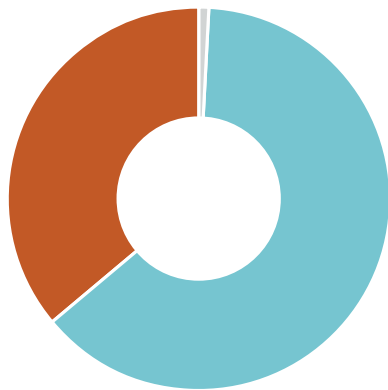
Number of responses by location:

Approximately 60 per cent of respondents reside in the Katherine Town Council Local Government Area (including RAAF Base Tindal) and 40 per cent reside in remote communities, outstations, pastoral properties and villages throughout the region.



# WHO RESPONDED?

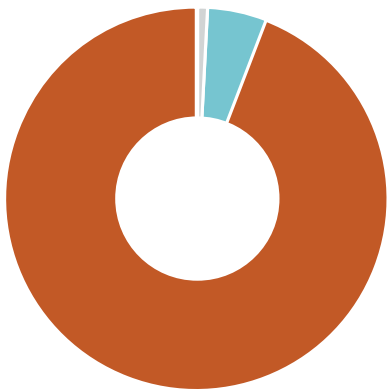
Of all respondents:



- 36% identify as Male
- 63% identify as Female
- 1% did not wish to disclose



- 65% do not identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait
- 34% identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait
- 1% did not identify

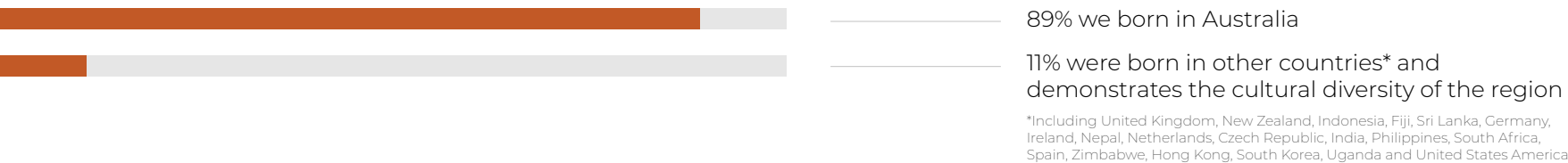


- 94% do not identify as LGBTQIA
- 5% identify as LGBTQIA
- 1% did not identify

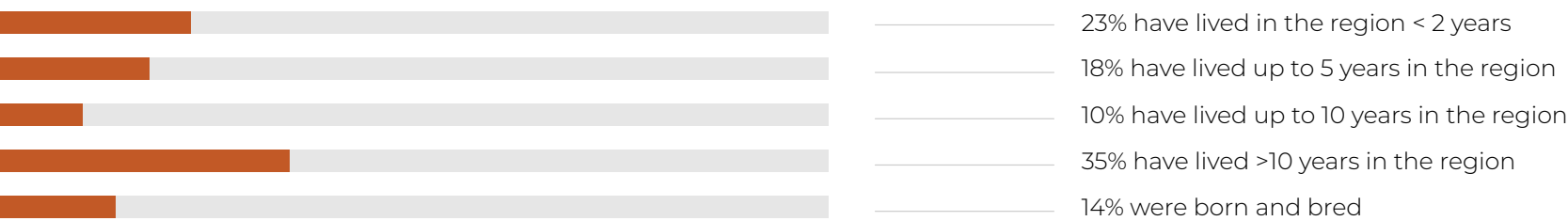
Language spoken at home:



Birthplace:

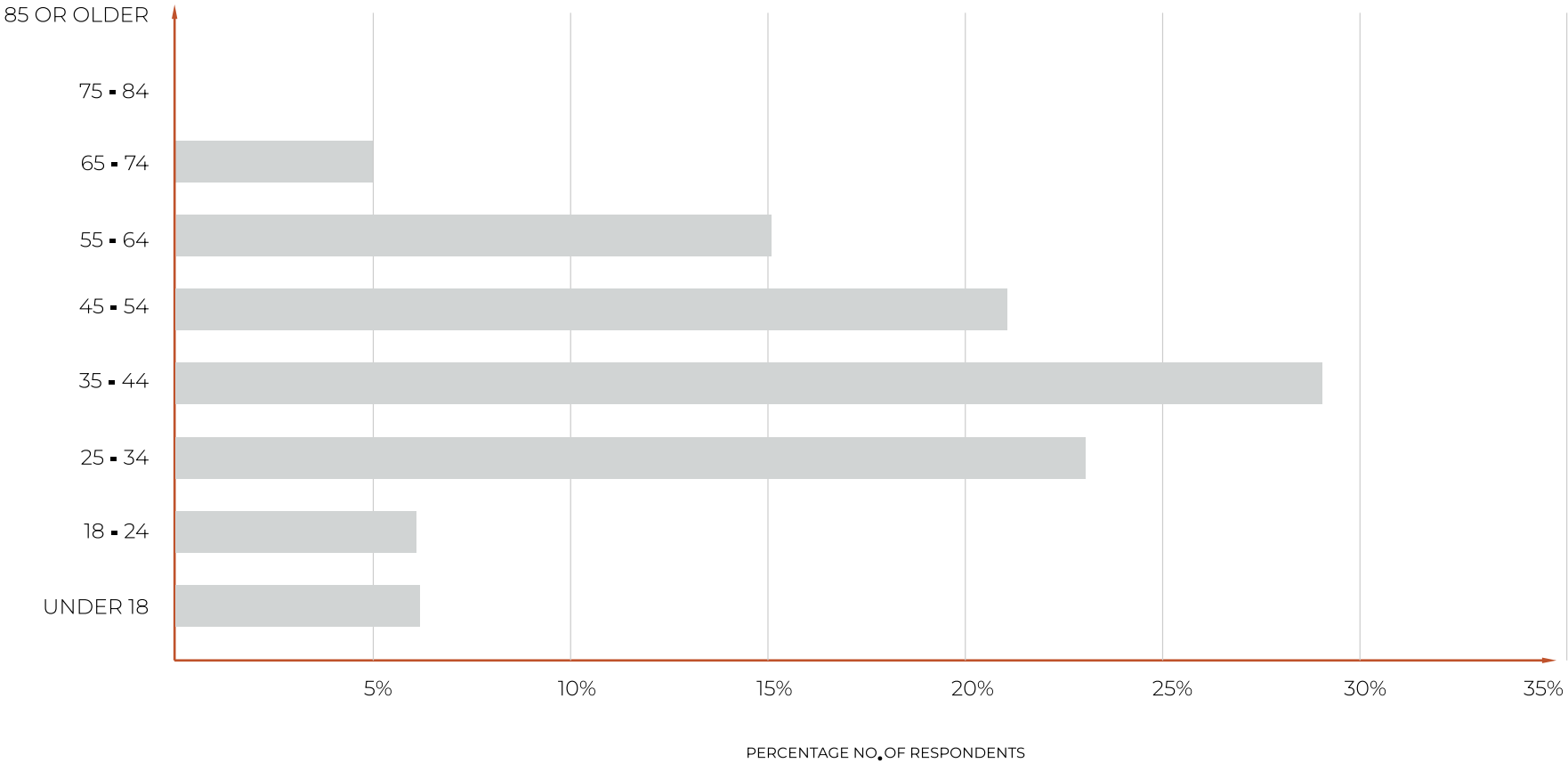


Length of time living in the region:

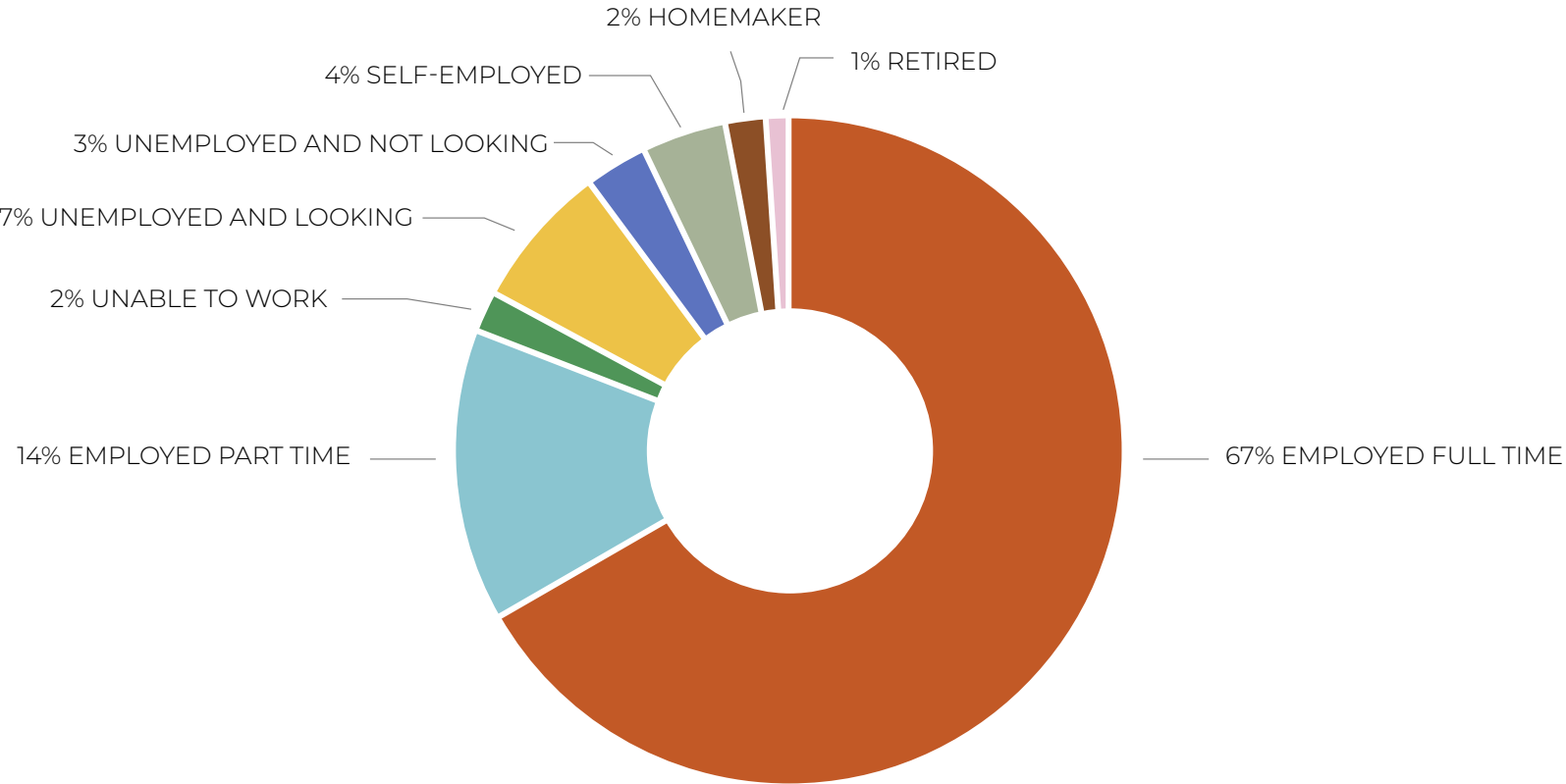




Respondents Age:



Respondents Employment Status:



# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## Key themes

**1. Quality healthcare and education are the most valued attributes in the region.**

Being able to access quality healthcare, education and schools are highly valued throughout the region and strongly influence whether residents would relocate or not recommend the region as a great place to live. Over half of all respondents' surveyed believed the quality of education (64% or 332 respondents) and the quality of healthcare (56% or 288 respondents) needs to be improved as a priority in the region.



**2. Improving the cost of living including access to suitable housing is critical to lifting liveability.**

Over half of all respondents' surveyed (52% or 268 responses) believed the cost of living to be the leading attribute that negatively affects the perception and reality of living in the region. Specifically, access to suitable housing – as an included element in this attribute - was identified amongst the top three highly valued attributes in each local government area and was the most reoccurring theme identified in responses given to community ideas for change. Given its significance, this is an area that should be given priority consideration.



Numbulwar Communit



**3. Access to the great outdoors, the breadth of employment opportunities and a sense of community connection are the region’s key strengths and the top reasons why people won’t relocate elsewhere.**

When asked to identify the region’s key strengths and why respondents would continue to live in the region, access to the great outdoors, employment opportunities and the inclusiveness and connection of the community were identified consistently across both questions. 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.

“

Tindal is a safe inclusive environment for Defence members and their families. A great place to raise a young family

— Respondent



Baruwei Lookout, Nitmiluk Gorge

**4. The community would like to see improved streetscapes with shaded spaces and aquatic leisure facilities.**

The visual aesthetic of streets (streetscapes) and the functionality of public spaces and recreational areas throughout the region were reoccurring themes identified by respondents in community ideas for change. This included the beautification of townships and communities, new and improved green spaces for leisure and socialising and aquatic leisure activities for young families. The construction of a children’s water play park and the refurbishment of the aquatic centre were consistently raised. Heat mitigation remained central to all suggestions, particularly shading structures, to allow people to better utilise green (parks, gardens, recreational areas and playgrounds) and blue (outdoor environments featuring water) spaces.



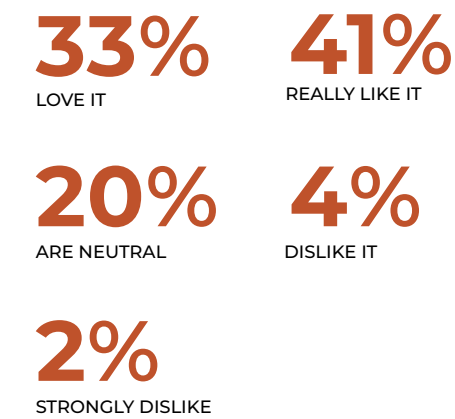
Katherine Hot Springs Playground



## OVERALL PERCEPTION OF LIVING IN THE BIG RIVERS REGION

Do our residents  
love living in the  
region?

Over 70% of respondents have a  
positive opinion of living in the  
region. Of total responses:



The Meeting Place, Katherine Town Square

“  
In my experience  
there's something  
for anyone here -  
except shoppers!  
But that can be  
done online. It's  
friendly and people  
are generous with  
their info. I feel safe  
and purposeful  
in my work.  
Life is easy and  
simpler than the  
big city

— Respondent





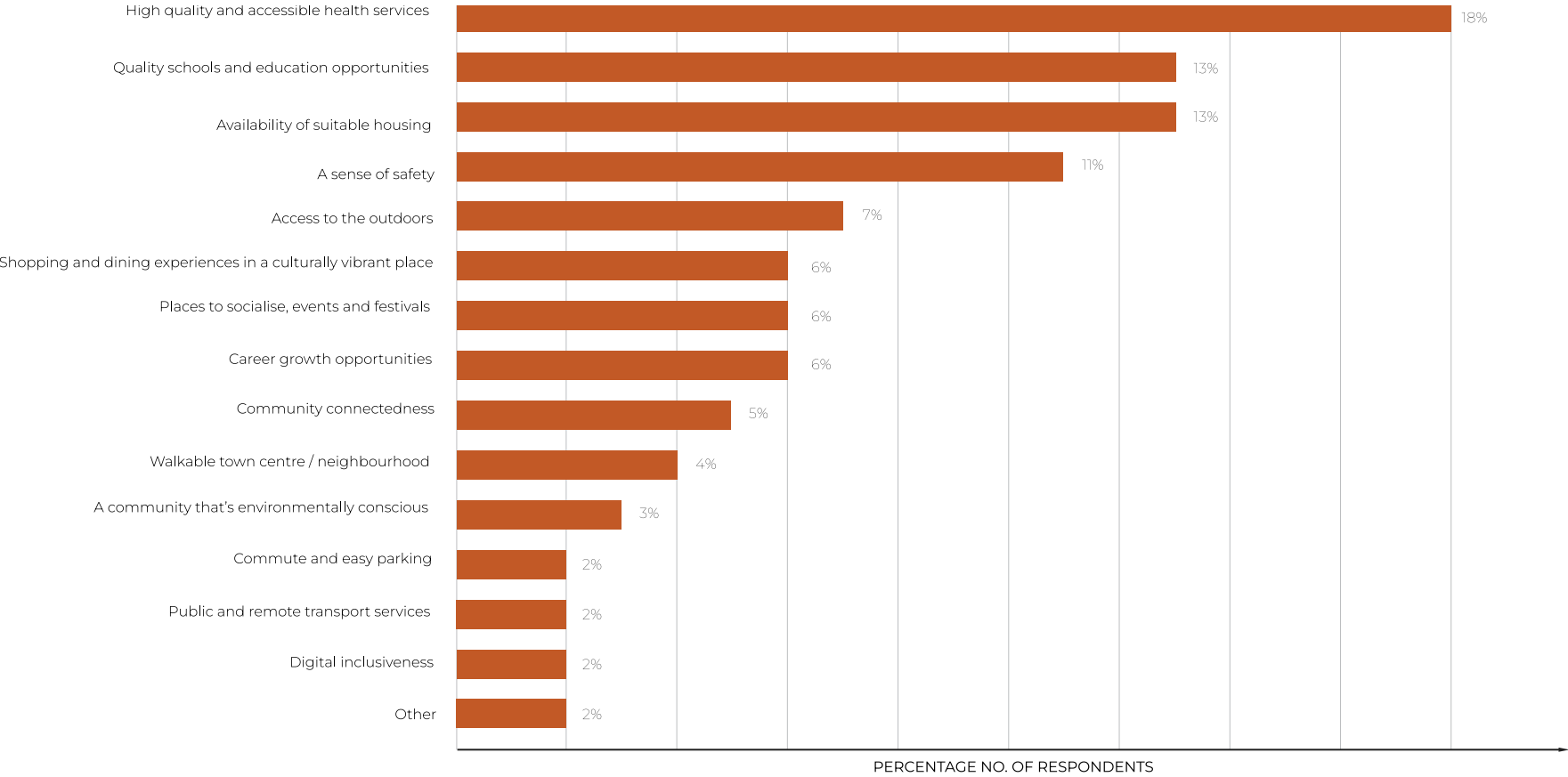
# WHAT DO WE VALUE?

## What do our residents value the most in making the region a great place to live?

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?

High quality and accessible health services (18%), the quality of schools and education opportunities (13%) and the availability of housing for rent (13%) were identified as the three most valued attributes in the region.

## What do our residents value?



“

Would you recommend the region  
to others as a great place to live?

65%

or 337 respondents agreed they  
would recommend the region.

35%

or 180 respondents would not  
recommend the region.

Of total responses, the three  
highest attributes identified as  
reasons why respondents would  
not recommend the region as a  
great place to live included:

- the lack of access to  
quality healthcare (2% or 11  
responses)
- the lack of quality education  
(3% or 15 responses)
- the lack of retail and  
shopping options (3% or 15  
responses)



The Black Russian, Katherine Visitor Information Centre



“

Will you continue to live in the region for next three years?

Of total responses, the three highest attributes identified as being the reasons respondents will continue to live in the region included:

68%

stated YES, due to the following themes:

- great access to the outdoors
- the community is inclusive and connected
- employment opportunities

32%

stated NO, because of the following themes:

- the poor quality of education
- limited opportunities for youth
- affordability of decent housing
- lack of access to quality healthcare services



Numal Numal Station





Moroak Station

# PERCEPTIONS OF LIVEABILITY IN THE BIG RIVERS REGION

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

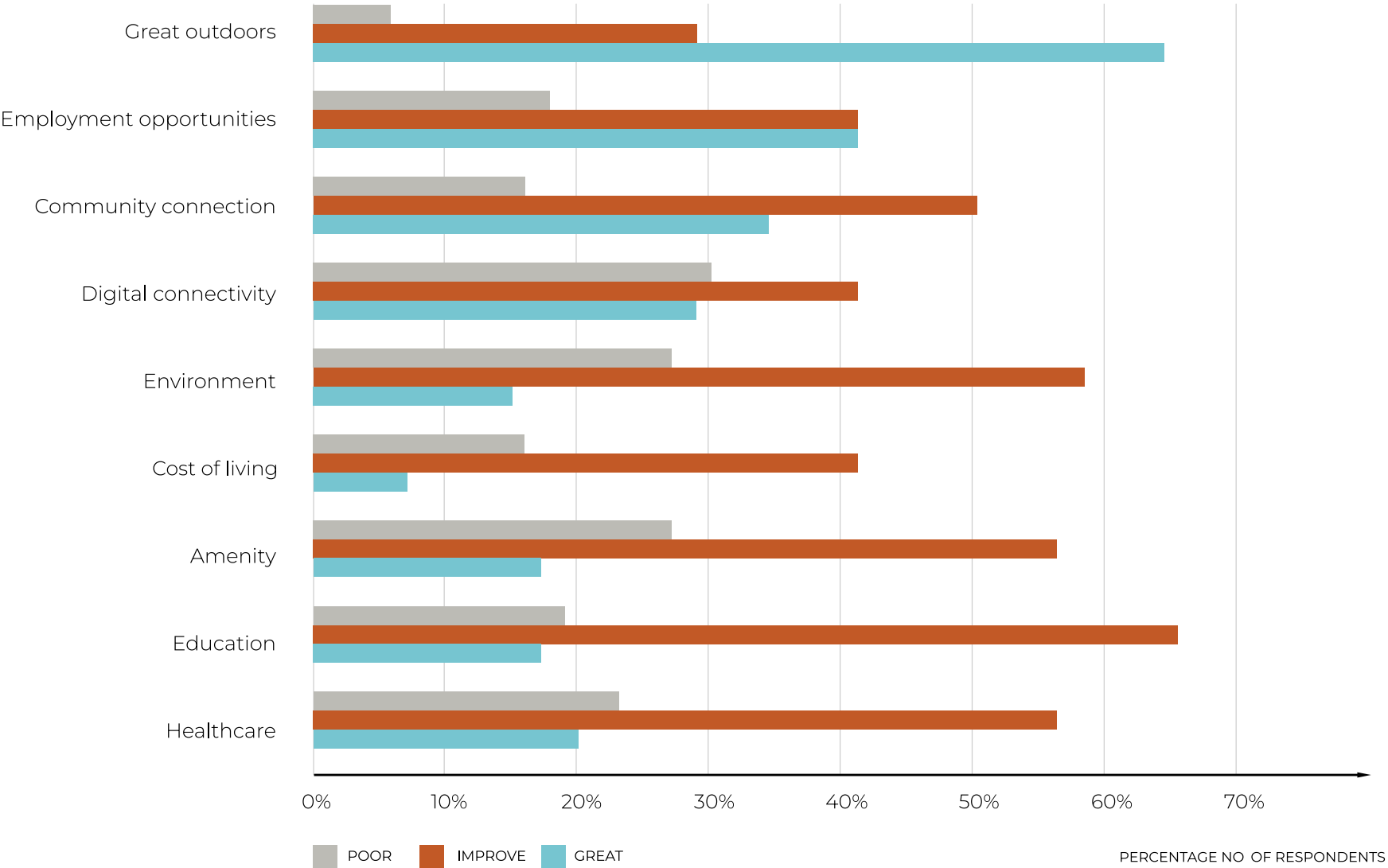
Respondents were asked to rate their perception of each of the nine liveability attributes as being either:

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

**Poor:** these attributes are identified weaknesses and negatively affect the perception of living in the region.

**Could be improved:** these attributes are considered by the community to be priority areas for improvement.

## Summary of perceptions by liveability attribute in the Big Rivers Region:







Judbarra National Park - Tourism NT

## The best reasons to live in the Big Rivers Region

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 (64% or 331 responses)
- Employment opportunities (41% or 213 responses)
- Community connection (34% or 178 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 (7% of responses), their experience and access to this attribute is rated the highest. Employment opportunities rated as the eighth most valued attribute in the region (13% of responses) and is an identified strength, as is community connectedness which rated 9th in regional value (5% of responses).

“

Nice people, beautiful outdoors lifestyle, spectacular countryside, opportunities for camping and hiking and fishing, beautiful and fascinating Indigenous culture

— Respondent

## The poorest liveability attributes in the Big Rivers Region

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

Of total responses, the three poorest rated attributes included:

- Cost of living (52% or 268 responses)
- Digital Connectivity (30% or 153 responses)
- Protection of the natural

environment (27% or 141 responses)

Over 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 liveability attributes for the region.



Ngukurr Police Housing



### Priority areas to improve liveability in the Big Rivers Region

These attributes need to be improved as a priority. Of total responses, the three attributes identified as the highest priority for improvement included:

- Quality of education (64% or 332 responses)
- Protection of the natural environment (58% or 300 responses)
- Quality of healthcare (equally at 56% or 288 responses) and amenity (equally at 56% or 292 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 (13% of responses). While 'the protection of the natural environment' was rated lower in terms of value, respondents prioritised the need to make improvements to protect the natural environment including adapting to climate change; preparation for cyclone season, heat mitigation; transitioning to renewable energy such as solar, water security and effective waste management.

“  
If I didn't have to send my kids to boarding school and they had access to a good education here, that would be amazing.

— Respondent



Ngukurr Primary School

Summary of findings by Local Government Area:

	What do we value? Highly valued liveability attributes	Where our are strengths? Highest rated liveability attributes	Where are our weaknesses? Poorest rates liveability attributes	What are our priority opportunities for improvement? Highest rates priorities for improvement
KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL LGA	<div><div>1.</div>High quality and accessible health service (19% or 194 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Quality schools and educations opportunities (12% or 123 responses), and Availability of suitable housing (12% or 119 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>The great outdoors (8% or 77 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>The great outdoors (62% or 215 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Employment opportunities (50% or 172 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Community connection (36% or 124 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Cost of living (60% or 207 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Digital connectivity (29% or 101 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Natural Environment (27% or 94 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Education (65% or 226 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Natural Environment (61% or 212 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Healthcare (60% or 207 responses)</div>
ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL LGA	<div><div>1.</div>Availability of suitable housing (17% or 60 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>High quality and accessible health service (15% or 54 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Quality schools and education opportunities (14% or 50 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>The great outdoors (72% or 93 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Digital connectivity (42% or 54 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Community connection (35% or 46 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Cost of living (32% or 42 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Digital connectivity (28% or 36 responses) and Amenity (28% or 36 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Natural Environment (25% or 33 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Education (62% or 80 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Amenity (55% or 71 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Natural Environment (54% or 70 responses)</div>
VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL LGA	<div><div>1.</div>High quality and accessible health service (22% or 25 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Quality schools and education opportunities (16% or 18 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Availability of suitable housing (12% or 14 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>The great outdoors (58% or 23 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Employment opportunities (25% or 10 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Healthcare (23% or 9 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Cost of living (48% or 19 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Community connection (40% or 16 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Natural Environment (35% or 14 responses)</div>	<div><div>1.</div>Education (65% or 26 responses)</div> <div><div>2.</div>Healthcare (58% or 23 responses) and Amenity (58% or 23 responses)</div> <div><div>3.</div>Digital Connectivity (53% or 21 responses)</div>





Casuarina Park Estate, Katherine

# COMMUNITY IDEAS FOR CHANGE

## Summary of ideas

## 1. Housing affordability and availability

### Including:

- Increased land release for housing (and industry) development
- Improved maintenance for remote and public housing
- Aged care facilities and service
- Improve homeless shelter facility and capacity

### Examples of what we heard:

“To open up the vacant land to be able to be purchase for people to build and grow in Timber Creek”



Railway Terrace Street Art, Katherine - Tourism NT / Elise Derwin

## 2. Public green, blue and recreational spaces

### Including:

- Improved streetscaping and revitalisation of town centres
- Improved footpaths and street lighting
- Upgrade the Katherine Aquatic Centre
- Construct a water play park for children
- More shaded BBQ facilities and picnic tables for families
- Better utilisation of the river corridors
- Maintaining tidiness and appeal of streets including weed management
- Improved or more sporting ovals for local competitions

### Examples of what we heard:

“Katherine deserves a decent water park as good as the Leanyer Water Park, it will give the kids somewhere else to go, and improve their health, as well as being a draw card for tourists, potentially increasing the length of their stay by one night.”

“Upgrade the Main Street... needs a major overhaul. Visibility is poor, shop facades a mixed bag of poor unattractive architecture”

“Make streets and public spaces cleaner”





Retail gallery at Djilpin Arts - Tourism NT / Elise Derwin

### 3. Retail and local business

#### Including:

- More retails options
- Another grocery supermarket
- Enhanced dining experiences
- Upgrades to the Katherine shopping complex including improving cleanliness
- Improved regional transport options

#### Examples of what we heard:

“We need another shopping outlet, another supermarket! Woolworths is the only supermarket in Katherine, not only for locals, but for all the outlying areas, remote communities and stations.”



### 4. Improved heat mitigation

#### Including:

- Shade structures over children's playgrounds
- New infrastructure planning considerate of heat mitigation

#### Examples of what we heard:

“ Greater green spaces and shaded areas within the town centre and the hot springs”

“More sports facilities with shaded spectator areas and cooler parking areas”





Barunga Festival - Tourism NT / Stephen Parry

## 5. Community-based events and social cohesion

### Including:

- Farm markets
- Social outlets for young families
- Activation of Katherine CBD
- Enhanced nightlife economy through family-friendly events
- More community based events and activities for youth and young children (e.g. sports, bowling etc.)
- Improved police presence in known hotspots
- Improved coordination of anti-social behaviour and outreach programs

### Examples of what we heard:

“Create more recreational activities for kids, for example, a large swimming pool. More out of school activities. More festivals”

“More spaces for the children and teenagers to be entertained e.g. Skate park, water park, community garden, bike tracks”



Katherine Town Square

## 6. Infrastructure and essential services

### Including:

- Kerbside recycling and an upgraded waste management facilities
- Improved roads
- Upgraded telecommunications coverage and service quality

### Examples of what we heard:

“[We] need to have internet that is of 21st century standard. Currently it is sub standard.”

“Better roads, it costs an average person thousands of dollars per year on repairs to vehicle”

“Better telecommunications is No. 1.”



# NEXT STEPS

The Big Rivers Liveability Survey Project is the first regional-led, place-based approach to improving liveability in the region. The baseline findings present an opportunity for collaborative, coordinated action through regional planning across government and communities and an ability to benchmark progress by reengaging the community through the use of the survey tool at agreed intervals.

The Northern Territory Government Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet Regional Network Group – Big Rivers will lead the development of a regional liveability coordination plan in collaboration with partners to collectively address the suggested priorities, to do more of what we do well and to improve the attributes that negatively affect the perception of living in the region.



Pop Rocket Café, Katherine Hot Springs



## References

Katherine Town Council (2022). Katherine Town Council Annual Report. Retrieved from Katherine Town Council: <https://www.katherine.nt.gov.au/documents/353/20202021-annual-report>

Roper Gulf Regional Council (2022). Annual Report. Retrieved from Roper Gulf regional Council: [http://ropergulf.nt.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RoperGulf\\_AnnualReport\\_2020\\_21\\_FINAL.pdf](http://ropergulf.nt.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RoperGulf_AnnualReport_2020_21_FINAL.pdf)

Victoria Daly Regional Council (2022). Victoria Daly Regional Council Annual Report 2020-21. Retrieved from Victoria Daly Regional Council: <https://www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/plans-and-reports/annual-reports/>

Regional Australia Institute (2022). STRENGTHENING LIVEABILITY A toolkit for Rural and Regional Communities Looking to Grow. Retrieved from Regional Australia Institute: <https://www.regionalaustralia.org.au/Web/Toolkits-Indexes/Livability-Toolkit>

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016). Katherine SA3 Census All Persons QuickStats. ABS Website, accessed May 2022.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016). Census of Population and Housing. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions), accessed May 2022.

Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission (2020). Final Report: A Step Change to Win Investment and Create Jobs. [https://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/952301/terc-final-report.pdf](https://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/952301/terc-final-report.pdf)

Northern Territory Government (2022). Bushtel. Bushtel Website, accessed February 2022.

THE BIG RIVERS LIVEABILITY PROJECT

BIG RIVERS





## 12.2. Outgoing Correspondence

**Report Type** Report for Information

**Prepared by** Manager of Executive Services

---

### Purpose

To present to Council a list of outgoing correspondence sent since the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

### Recommendations

- A. That the Outgoing Correspondence is received and noted

### OUTGOING REGISTER

DATE	ADDRESSED TO	FROM	REGARDING	DOCUMENT ID
19/05/2022	Wayne Buckley General Manager, GRAC	CEO Russell Anderson	RE: Resolution of Council regarding Pump and Pipes (Naiiyu)	<a href="#">DOCID-423691570-1092523</a>
1/06/2022	Hon Selena Uibo Minister for Housing and Homelands	Mayor Brian Pedwell	RE: Inadequate Homelands Funding	<a href="#">DOCID-423691570-1093840</a>

### Attachments

Nil





## 13. Notices of Motion

Nil

## 14. General Business

## 15. Supplementary Reports

## 16. Confidential

THAT pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and section 51(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

### 16.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 31 May 2022

**Status 51(1)(c)(iv)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the council or some other person*

### 16.2. Leave of Absence Request

**Status 51(1)(a)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.*

### 16.3. CEO Contract

**Status 51(1)(a)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, information about the employment of a particular individual*



*as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.*

#### **16.4. Lease Agreements - Pigeon Hole**

**Status 51(1)(c)(iv)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the council or some other person*

#### **16.5. Nauiyu River Pump**

**Status 51(1)(c)(iv)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the council or some other person*

#### **16.6. Homelands**

**Status 51(1)(c)(iv)** - *This item is considered 'Confidential' pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(c)(iv) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, which states a council may close to the public only so much of its meeting as comprises the receipt or discussion of, or a motion or both relating to, Information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: subject to subregulation (3) - prejudice the interests of the council or some other person*