



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# AGENDA

**PINE CREEK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2022  
AT 12:30 PM  
AT THE PINE CREEK MULTI RESOURCE CENTRE  
56 MAIN TCE, PINE CREEK, NT 0847**

## MEMBERS

Juliett Mills	Sam Forwood (Chairperson)
Gaye Lawrence	Tom Phennig (Deputy Chair)
Alan Fountain	Alain Denouel
John Roberts	David Paddy
Edward Ah Toy	Councillor Yvette Williams



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

Russell Anderson  
**Chief Executive Officer**



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## 1. Meeting Opening

## 2. Welcome

## 3. Attendance and Apologies

### 3.1. Community Attendees

### 3.2. Apologies and Absentees

## 4. Disclosure of Interest

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



## 5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations

### 5.1. Resignations

#### 5.1.1. Resignation of Karen Giumelli from the Pine Creek Local Authority

**Report Type** Resignation

**Prepared by** A/Council Operations Assistant Manager

**Recommendation**

That the Resignation of Karen Giumelli from the Pine Creek Local Authority is noted.

**Attachments**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 20220905 PCLA RES GIUMELL I, Karen  
[5.1.1.1 - 1 page]

#### 5.1.2. Resignation of Patricia Cummins from the Pine Creek Local Authority

**Report Type** Resignation

**Prepared by** A/Council Operations Assistant Manager

**Recommendation**

That the Resignation of Patricia Cummins from the Pine Creek Local Authority is noted.

**Attachments**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - Resignation of Patricia Cummins from the Pine Creek LA [5.1.2.1 - 1 page]



## **5.2. Nominations**

### **5.2.1. Nomination of Clare Merritt to the Pine Creek Local Authority**

**Report Type** Nomination  
**Prepared by** **Manager of Executive Services**

#### **Recommendation**

That the Nomination of Clare Merritt to the Pine Creek Local Authority is received and accepted.

#### **Attachments**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 20220908 PCLA NOM MERRITT, Clare [5.2.1.1 - 2 pages]

### **5.2.2. Nomination of John Lee to the Pine Creek Local Authority**

**Report Type** Nomination  
**Prepared by** **A/Council Operations Assistant Manager**

#### **Recommendation**

That the Nomination of John Lee to the Pine Creek Local Authority is received and accepted.

#### **Attachments**

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 20220915 PCLA NOM LE E, John [5.2.2.1 - 2 pages]



## **6. Invitation for Deputations to Present/Speak**

### **6.1. Guests**

1. Representative from the office of Marian Scrymgour MP
2. The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet – LA Training

## **7. Confirmation of Minutes**

### **7.1. Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 2 August 2022**

#### **Recommendation**

That the minutes of the Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 2 August 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

#### **Attachments**

1. 20220802 PCLA MIN Unconfirmed [7.1.1 - 11 pages]





# MINUTES

**PINE CREEK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 2 AUGUST 2022  
AT 12:30 PM  
AT THE PINE CREEK MULTI RESOURCE CENTRE  
56 Main Tce, Pine Creek, NT 0847**



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Anderson', written over a large, light grey 'DRAFT' watermark.

Russell Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES  
Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting Tuesday 2 August 2022

## 1. Meeting Opening

The Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting 2nd August 2022 opened the time being 12.30pm.

## 2. Welcome

Chairperson welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

## 3. Attendance and Apologies

### 3.1. Community Attendees

#### **Appointed Members Present**

Sam Forwood	Chairperson
Tom Pfennig	Deputy Chairperson
Yvette Williams	Councillor, Pine Creek Ward
Karen Giumelli	
Alan Fountain	
Edward Ah Toy	
Pat Cummins	
John Roberts	
Juliet Mills	
Gaye Lawrence	
David Paddy	

#### **Staff Present**

Tanya Brown	Council Operations Manager (COM)
Christy Colling	Council Operation Assistant Manager (COAM)

#### **Guests**

Amanda Haigh	Project Manager, Big Rivers, Dept. of Chief Minister and Cabinet
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#### **Members of the Public**

Clare Merritt

### 3.2. Apologies and Absentees

Apologies: Alain Denouel, Matthew Cheminant

Leave of Absence: Nil

## 4. Disclosure of Interest



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES  
Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting Tuesday 2 August 2022

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

## **5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations**

### **5.1. Resignations**

Nil

### **5.2. Terminations**

Nil

### **5.3. Nominations**

Nil

## **6. Invitation for Deputations to Present/Speak**

Nil

Unconfirmed



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES  
Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting Tuesday 2 August 2022

## 7. Confirmation of Minutes

### 7.1. Confirmation of Minutes - 03.05.2022

#### **Motion**

That the minutes of the Confirmation of Minutes - 03.05.2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**Mover:** Edward Ah Toy

**Second:** Gaye Lawrence

**Resolution:** PCLA-2022/10: Carried 11 / 0

## 8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Gaye Lawrence queried the upgrades to the dump point.

- COM informed the members that it was completed and open.

## 9. Correspondence

### 9.1. Incoming Correspondence

That the following in-coming Correspondence be noted.

1. Fwd\_ Problem dogs [9.1.1 - 1 page]
2. Letter of appreciation [9.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Letter of appreciation Vic Daly2022 (1) [9.1.3 - 1 page]
4. Re\_ Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting 02 08 2022 [9.1.4 - 2 pages]

### 9.2. Outgoing Correspondence - Nil

Nil

## 10. Reports

### 10.1. Council Operations Manager - Pine Creek Water Gardens

That the report Council Operations Manager - Pine Creek Water Gardens is received and noted

Discussion followed about

- Water Weeds
- Water Gardens
- Possible weed management solutions.

### 10.2. Pine Creek Community report

That the Pine Creek Community Report is received and noted



## 11. Questions from the Public

Nil

## 12. General Business

### 12.1. Street Art Murals\_ John Roberts

Discussion: Street Art.

- John Roberts will get more information to present at the next Local Authority Meeting.
- COM will contact KRA for information.

### 12.2. Water Gardens\_ John Roberts

#### **Motion**

That Local Authority commit \$500 to purchase Orange Oil to be trialed in one pond of the Water Gardens to combat Salvinia Weed .

**Mover:** Edward Ah Toy

**Second:** Patricia  
Cummins

**Resolution:**PCLA-2022/12: Carried 11 / 0

### 12.3. Road Train Parking Main Terrace\_ John Roberts

Discussion: Road trains parking on Main Terrace and installing charging stations for electric vehicles in the Water Gardens car parks.

- John Roberts will present more information about installing charging stations at the next meeting.

### 12.4. For Discussion\_ Bird Interpretive Signs\_ Colour Choice.

Discussion: COM opened a discussion about the colour choice of the Bird Interpretive signs being installed in the Water Gardens.

- The general consensus is the colour should be pale turquoise.



### 12.5. Discussion\_ Pine Creek Expenditure

#### **Motion**

- A.** That the report Finance Report is received and noted
- B.** That the PCLA request more detailed finance reports moving forward, and that the finance reports include a breakdown of Plant and Fleet expenses. (Mr. Phennig put forward the motion B which was supported by the Local Authority.)

**Mover:** Alan Fountain

**Seconded:** Patricia Cummins

**Resolution:**PCLA-2022/13: Carried 11 / 0

Due to IT issues the VDRC Pine Creek Expenditure Report was not received until the morning of the meeting.  
This report was tabled at the meeting.

### 12.6. Discussion\_ Waste Management

Discussion: Tom Pfennig opened a discussion about the Waste Management Facility

- Upgrades to the Waste Management Facility.
- The new fence surrounding the waste facility.
- Opening hours.
- Types of waste that can be put at the waste facility.
- Illegal dumping



### 12.7. Discussion\_ Regional Plan

Discussion: Edward Ah Toy opened a discussion about the Regional Plan Project Priority's.

- Develop Pine Creek Community Garden - Not started yet
- Recycle water from the bottom to top ponds - Not started yet
- Develop a Community Mini Golf activity - Not started yet
- International woman's day - VDRC will support IWD events, provided the funding is available and VDRC have community involvement.
- Dedicated space for Arts and Craft - Discussion by some of the local senior citizens artists to take place and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Liaise with Kybrook to investigate job opportunities - VDRC does not manage Kybrook. PCAAA and Aus-projects manage Kybrook and "Town camp"

### 12.8. Discussion\_ Pine Creek Goldrush Funding

Discussion: Edward Ah Toy opened a discussion concerning Goldrush Funding

- Can VDRC assure funding for the Goldrush?
- COM - The Pine Creek Heritage and Tourism association (PCH&T) can submit a letter to Council.
- PCH&T Assoc. Secretary / Treasurer Gaye Lawrence responded, "That the in kind support that Vicdaly gave us to run our Goldrush is invaluable" Gaye stated that if Vicdaly continues to give in kind support, the PCH&T Assoc. can seek and apply for our own grant's or alternatively the PCH&T Assoc. can submit a budget to PCLA to ask for assistance with funding.
- PCH&T Assoc. member John Roberts confirmed the date for next years Goldrush Festival - Friday 30th June and Saturday 1st July.

### 12.9. Discussion\_ Pine Creek Men's Shed

Discussion: John Roberts opened a discussion about the Men's Shed.

- Query about the Advocate for the Pine Creek Men's Shed.
- Alan Fountain to contact Jeff Newton at the Katherine Men's Shed to find out some information about how to form a Men's Shed.





#### **12.10. Discussion\_ Regional Plan - Tree Planting**

Discussion: John Roberts opened a discussion about the Regional Plan - planting native trees.

- The discussion centered on the different types of trees that could be planted and their growth rate.

#### **12.11. Discussion\_ Dogs**

Discussion: Pat Cummins opened a discussion about the dogs in Pine Creek.

- General discussion about the dogs barking, wandering the streets and no dog bylaws in Pine Creek.

#### **12.12. Discussion\_ Water to the Cemetery**

Discussion: Gaye Lawrence opened a discussion about page 10 in the previous minutes, water to the cemetery.

- Gaye requests that at the next meeting of council can they write a letter to the mining company to request permission to run a pipeline from the ponds to the cemetery.
- Inquires need to be made to which company has the mining lease over the land.
- Possible bore being installed?
- Can the water be pumped from the sewer ponds?

#### **12.13. Discussion\_ Up the Creek**

Discussion: Gaye Lawrence opened a discussion about the "Up The Creek" Newsletter

- Gaye queried if there was going to be any more "Up the Creek" Newsletters.
- Gaye's concern was they stopped with no consultation and no notification.
- PCLA was informed of the difficulty and time associated with making the Newsletter that they will only be done every three months.



#### **12.14. Discussion\_ Trains - Railway Precedent**

Discussion: Gaye Lawrence opened a discussion about tourist access to the trains.

- Gaye queried about the safety of the steps of the trains at the railway precedent?
- PCLA was informed that this is a work health issue.
- COM will access the situation and forward the information to Regional Office.

Unconfirmed



### **12.15. Discussion\_ VDRC Covid 19 Vaccination Policy**

Discussion: Clare Merritt opened a discussion about Kybrook Staffing and the VDRC Vaccination Policy

- Referring to the Regional plan, Clare informed PCLA that if Vicdaly wanted to offer jobs to people at Kybrook that Rise will assist with that.
- Discussion followed that Alan Fountain has funding to train people from Kybrook and has been in contact with Rise.
- VDRC has had the Sports and Rec job advertised for a while and no one has applied.
- The question was asked about whether VDRC still has the vaccination policy in place for employed Staff.
- Cr Williams responded that VDRC is in line with the CHO. People do not have to be vaccinated to be employed at VDRC or to be a member of Local Authority.
- This is be confirmed.

### **13. Confidential**

Nil

### **14. Next Meeting Tuesday 1st November 2022 12.30pm MRC**

Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st November 2022 12.30pm at the MRC.  
Meeting Closed 1.44pm.



## 8. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

## 9. Councillor Update

### 9.1. Councillor Update from Cr Yvette Williams For October 2022

**Report Type** Report for Information

**Recommendation**

That the Councillor Update from Cr Yvette Williams For October 2022 is received and noted.

**Attachments**

Nil

## 10. Reports

### 10.1. Pine Creek Financial Report July to September 2022

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

**Purpose**

For the Pine Creek Local Authority to receive and note the quarterly finance report.

**Recommendations**

- A. That the report Pine Creek Financial Report July to September 2022 is received and noted

**Regional Plan**

**Goal 1: Quality Leadership**

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

**Goal 2: Financial Sustainability**

- 2.3 Improve efficiencies within the Council to minimize resource wastage

**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. Pine Creek September 2022 (1) [10.1.1 - 5 pages]

**Victoria Daly Regional Council**  
Income and Expenditure  
For the period ended on 30th September 2022



**Pine Creek**

Description	Year To Date Ended on 30 September		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
<b>Income</b>			
Fees and Charges	2,095	1,021	1,075
Operating Grants and Subsidies	285,246	119,749	165,497
Commercial and Other Income	164	6,117	(5,953)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(287,505)</b>	<b>(126,887)</b>	<b>(160,618)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Employee Expenses	134,915	213,567	78,652
Materials and Contracts	69,624	107,580	37,956
Elected Member Allowances	6,202	6,865	663
Elected Member Expenses	554	4,938	4,384
Council Committee & LA Allowances	1,338	1,500	162
Council Committee & LA Expenses	0	220	220
Depreciation, Amortisation, and Impairment		726	726
Interest Expenses/other expenses		32	32
<b>Total Expenses and Allocations</b>	<b>(212,633)</b>	<b>(335,428)</b>	<b>122,795</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) For the period</b>	<b>74,872</b>	<b>(208,541)</b>	<b>283,413</b>
Structural works-Waste Management facility upgrade	527,272	527,272	0
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit) For the period</b>	<b>-452,400</b>	<b>-735,813</b>	<b>283,413</b>

Variance is due to CDP income is received in arrears.

Grants received earlier period than budgeted

Revenue for July, August, and September from Medicare was received in October

Underspent is due to vacant positions

Underspent on Vet expenses, Contractors expenses and overspent on Rent.

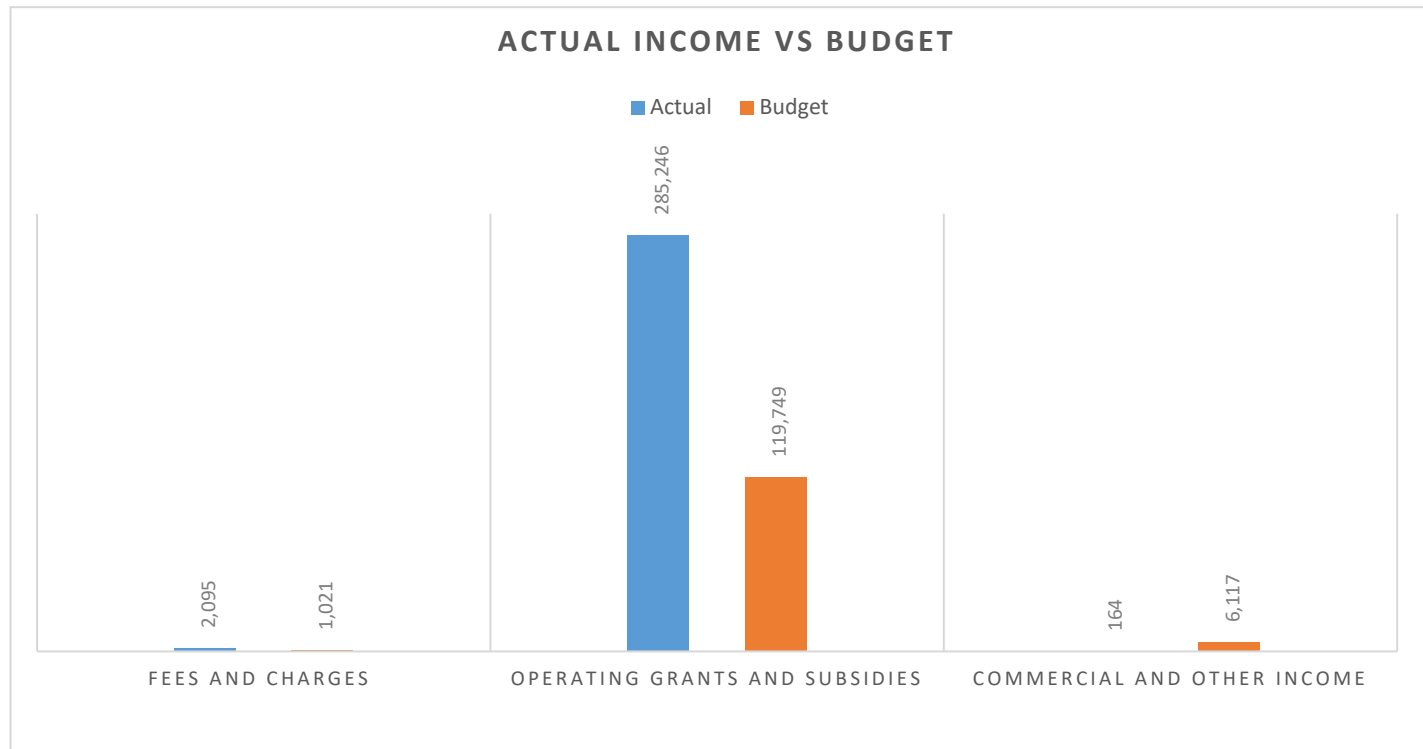
First progress payment of \$527,272 was paid out for stage 1 work completed at waste management

In Pine Creek, Council received \$287,505 in revenue and spent \$212,633 (operating expenses) in the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Capital works expenses for same period:

- \$124,472.73 spent on fencing waste management facility and
- \$527,272 first claim for a progress payment-waste management facility upgrade

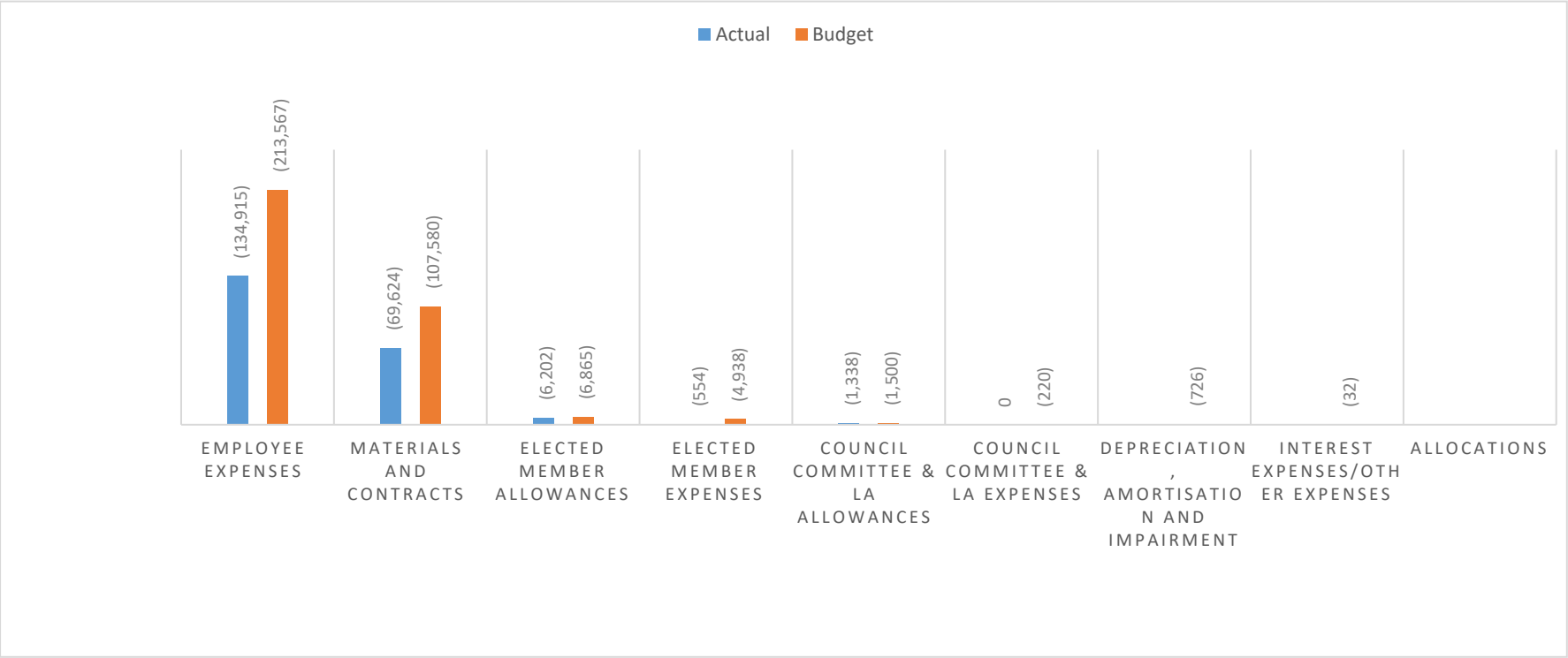
### Income

The graph below shows actual vs budget income for the period July to September.

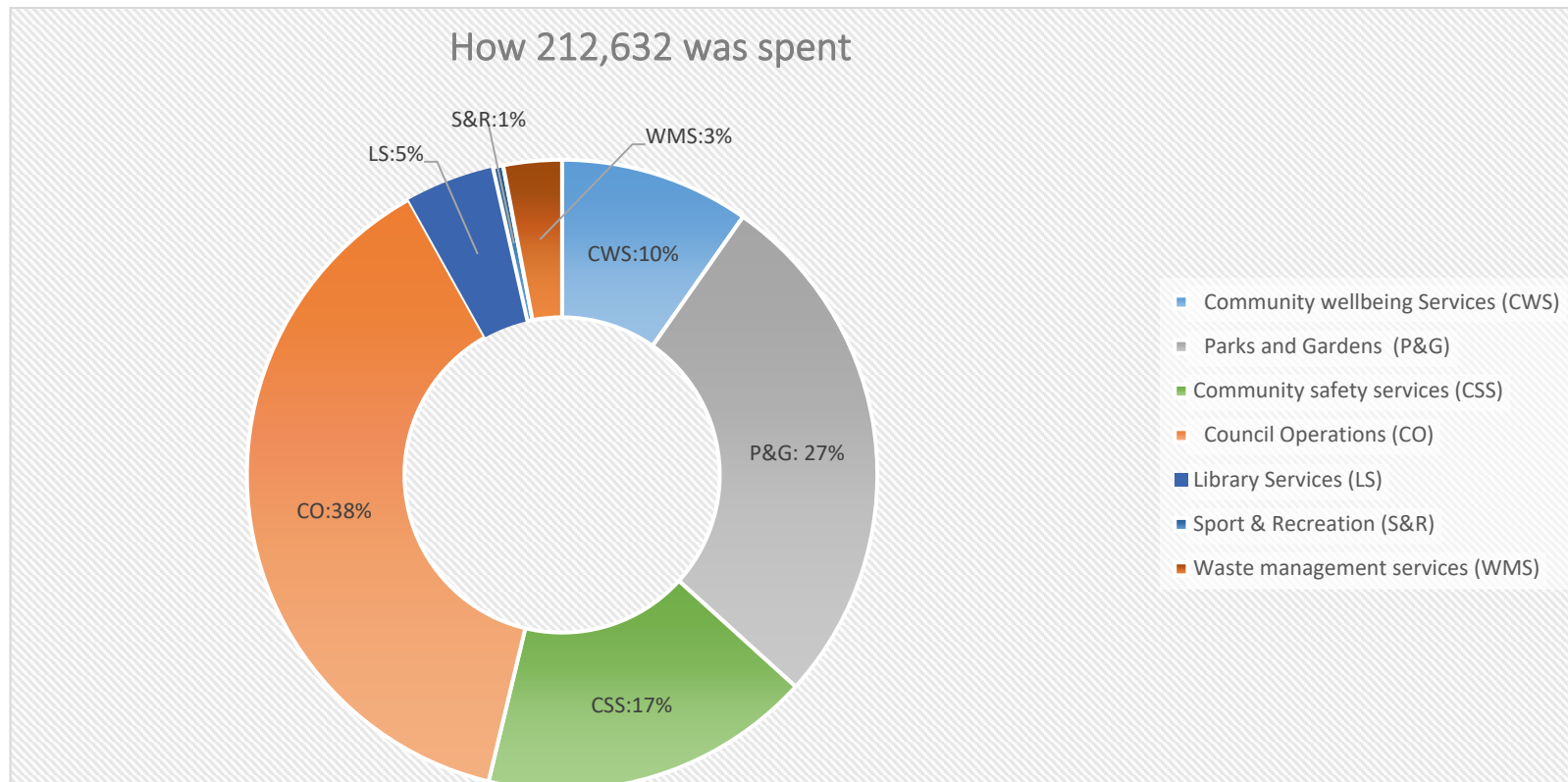


Expenditure

The Graph below shows actual vs Budget expenditure by Account Categories for period July to September



The graph shows how \$212,632 was spent in providing council services.





**Local Authority Funds and project**

Fund Carried forward from last financial year  
Grant expected to be received this financial year

72,504

46,900

119,404

**Funds allocated to Project**

Funds available for future projects

**-20,000**

99,404

Project ID	Project Name	Resolution passed on	Committed amount to the project	Amount spent to date	Remaining funds available	Status
-	Build a signage on the Northern and Southern entrances-Pine Creek	02-Mar-21	20,000		20,000	Not yet started

**20,000**

**-**

**20,000**

**Funds available for future projects      \$99,404**



## 10.2. Local Authority Review Report (12-OCT-22 DRAFT)

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

### Purpose

For the Local Authority to received and note the Local Authority Review Report and discuss and provide feedback to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet if willing.

### Recommendations

- A. That the report Local Authority Review Report (12-OCT-22 DRAFT) is received and noted

### Regional Plan

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

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

### Background

- The LA review report focuses on the core role of LA's and aims to strip back requirements that might detract from councils' and LA's ability to carry out that core role.
- It also provides for flexibility for those LAs and councils, who with their communities, want their LA to have a broader focus.
- Discussion and feedback are welcome (due 20 January 2023).
- CM&C is willing to assist with council and LA discussions if needed.

### 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. LA Review Report 12 October 2022 Draft [10.2.1 - 6 pages]

# Local Authority Review Report

## 1. Background

Local authorities (LAs) were established in 2014 under section 53B of the former *Local Government Act 2008* (the 2008 Act). LAs were established as a response to concerns from communities that the transition from the former community government councils to regional councils led to a loss of communities' voices in the planning and delivery of council programs and services in their community.

The inclusion of LAs in the structure of regional councils is intended to ensure communities have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, funding and delivery of services and infrastructure for their community; and the provision of information and feedback to communities about the councils' decisions and activities in that community. The ultimate goal is effective, responsive council services for remote communities.

## 2. Intent of the Legislative Framework

On 1 July 2021, the intent of the 2008 Act was further strengthened when it was replaced with the *Local Government Act 2019* (the 2019 Act). In addition, the previous *Guideline 8: Regional councils and local authorities* (Guideline 8) was replaced by the new *Guideline 1: Local Authorities* (Guideline 1). The provisions in the 2019 Act were in a new chapter entitled Local Decision Making to reinforce the intent and purpose of LAs.

The 2019 Act requires regional councils to seek their LAs' advice and recommendations in relation to the council's budget; their priorities for expenditure; their service delivery; regional plans; strategic directions; and funding. Regional councils must also ensure their strategies and plans are informed by the vision and priorities of the LAs, and must work with their LAs to foster constructive working relationships between the council and community.

The 2019 Act specifically provides for expanded roles for LAs and a mechanism for giving communities a stronger voice in local government matters that affect them. Section 78 defines the functions of a LA:

- to involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government;
- ensure that local communities are given an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government;
- to allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality as well as policies for the area and the region;
- to take the views of local communities back to the council and act as advocates on their behalf;
- to contribute to the development of the regional plan;
- to make recommendations to the council in relation to the council's budget and the part of the council's area within which the LA performs its functions.

Guideline 1 provides how LAs are to operate and be administered by their respective regional councils, including appointments and resignations, meetings, LA member payments and reporting.

## 3. Local Authority Review

In 2021, before the commencement of the 2019 Act, the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) started a desktop review (Review 1) of how well regional councils and LAs were meeting the intent of the 2008 Act and Guideline 8. The aim of Review 1 was to identify good practice across the NT as well as areas that could be further strengthened, and to determine what actions could be considered to better

## Local Authority Review Report

support the delivery of the intent of LAs given their expanded roles under the 2019 Act. Review 1 focused on the 66 LAs established across the Northern Territory for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Review 1 was informed by the information available on regional councils' websites, information held and observations made by CM&C and some feedback and insights provided by regional councils. The findings and draft recommendations were provided to councils and other stakeholders in early 2022 for comment.

The Review 1 report acknowledged limitations associated with any desktop process. However it provided a platform for more discussion with councils, LA members and others, resulting in the direction outlined in this report.

Review 1 confirmed that there is noticeable diversity in the functioning of LAs and the way councils work with them, with some LAs engaging strongly with their communities and working with their councils to deliver on community priorities and aspirations, and some others struggling to meet or attain quorum to enable recommendations to be made about community priorities. Some LAs, with their councils' support, consider broader matters than council business, acting as a forum and conduit for community engagement in matters including local, Territory and Commonwealth government priorities.

In addition, feedback from councils and LA members has indicated that some of the requirements placed on them by the NT Government, or interpretations of these requirements, are impeding their ability to achieve their core functions.

Feedback on Review 1 included the following:

### **Role of LAs:**

- a need for greater recognition, promotion and celebration of the strengths of the LA model and more sharing of examples of LAs and their councils successfully achieving the intent of the Act;
- the need for CM&C, councils and LAs to have a clear and common understanding of the definition and scope of their core functions and requirements;

### **Flexibility:**

- the need for flexibility in how LAs and their councils deliver on the core functions (or choose to move beyond the core) to respond to differences between communities, their aspirations and the capacity of LAs;
- providing for flexibility for those communities, LAs and councils who want to have more integrated engagement, not just on local government matters. For example, some communities would like to see a single body coordinating community input into local government and NT Government (or broader) planning, services and prioritisation; while others have indicated a preference that LA members continue to focus on local government and other groups are established or continue to provide input into NT Government and broader matters;
- recognition that some LAs are well established with consistent membership who deliver well-regarded outcomes for their communities and council, and others are less established; and that, over time, LAs may cycle through these stages. This impacts on the levels of support needed from councils for their LAs and the level of autonomy LAs may have, and needs to be accommodated in expectations set by CM&C and required of councils;

### **Decision making**

## Local Authority Review Report

- LAs should have as much influence and decision-making power as is appropriate to their stage of development and the delegations of the council; for example, some councils have already delegated decision making in the use of LA Project Funding (LAPF) to their LA, and some have delegated decision making over other community funding. The council is the decision-maker about the level of delegation relevant for their LA/s;

### LA Members:

- a need for greater role clarity, capacity building and support for LA members and LA chairs;
- the need to revisit whether proxies should be permitted for LA members;

### Administration:

- CM&C should remove any administrative requirements that detract from the ability of the LA and council to deliver on their core function. This needs to be balanced with good governance and accountable administrative process, reflecting that LAs are involved in the use of public resources and should be respected in their communities as informed, well governed and responsive structures;
- performance reporting should be focused on the intended outcome; ie the demonstration by councils of the engagement of communities through their LAs, and of the council's responsiveness to the advice, input and advocacy of their LA, including through the delivery of agreed community priorities;
- LAs should be able to set their own agendas and conduct their own meetings, while recognising the role of councils in managing administration, building capacity and responding to the varying levels of experience and capacity of members;

### Resourcing/support

- some LAs and their councils continue to see benefit in having CM&C representatives at meetings at least occasionally, to coordinate responses to questions from community and LAs about NT Government matters, as well as to support engagement with other NT Government agencies;
- LAPF is a valuable resource for LAs and their councils to respond to community priorities. However, some councils struggle to spend these funds in the required time frames. The support role of CM&C is important in helping councils to address any barriers to the timely expenditure of funding on community priorities as determined by the LA and council;
- Accessible information should be provided to enable communities to understand how priorities for the use of LAPF are determined, and where they are spent;
- A need for a review of the LAPF guidelines to ensure their alignment with the core intent of the LAs;
- Any changes to the LA model should avoid requiring additional council resourcing. For example, where communities and their LAs want to have a broader role than council matters, there may need to be negotiation of partnering with NTG or others to share costs.

As a result of feedback and further discussions, the focus of the Review 1 report changed considerably into this report. This report emphasises the intent of the legislative framework for LAs and provides a principles-based direction for how this intent will be strengthened across the diverse councils of regional NT.

This review does not anticipate a change in the 2019 Act in relation to the role of LAs; LAs will remain part of their regional council structure, and continue to be subject to the control and direction of their relevant regional council.

## 4. Principles

## Local Authority Review Report

The following principles have been developed to guide the way in which CM&C, regional councils and LAs will support the effective integration and involvement of communities in the system of local government, as intended in the 2019 Act. An amendment to Guideline 1 will be required to fulfil the aspirations below.

PRINCIPLE: Flexible governance	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	<p>All LAs have a core role: to enable their community to have a say in their regional councils' planning, prioritisation, budgeting, and service delivery for their community; and to support the provision of regular feedback to their communities about council activities and the achievement of LA priorities.</p> <p>Councils and their LAs, with their communities, will determine how they deliver the role so it is adaptable to different locations, community aspirations, and capacity. CM&amp;C will facilitate the sharing of examples of good practice from LAs across the NT</p>
<i>What does this look like?</i>	<p>LAs, with their councils, decide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether they and their community prefer that the LA focus on council business or take a broader approach with a wider range of community matters. If a broader approach is agreed this may need negotiation of support from CM&amp;C or other partners for non-council activities. Also, if a broader approach is agreed community input should ensure it avoids duplicating other community structures, authority or roles and that the role is understood and supported;</li> <li>• how the LA will conduct meetings and engage with their community;</li> <li>• how the LA will prioritise LAPF funds including how community input will be heard, how priorities will be decided, and how decisions and outcomes will be communicated to the community;</li> <li>• whether delegated decision making will be requested from the council;</li> <li>• the nomination process for LA members, with councils seeking LA and community input into their policy on criteria for selecting LA members;</li> <li>• the number of appointed members up to a maximum of 14;</li> <li>• whether the Mayor/President will be a member of LAs beyond their own ward;</li> <li>• the frequency of LA meetings (minimum four per year, with timing to enable input into, and feedback from, council planning);</li> <li>• the location of LA meetings - they should be held in public places to maximise opportunity for community members to attend; and</li> <li>• whether attendance at meetings via phone/video conference will be allowed.</li> </ul> <p>First LA meetings to recommend to council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nomination of LA chair;</li> <li>• the kinds of priorities the LA would like to focus on for their community;</li> <li>• how information about meetings and decisions will be publicised. This must be at least on the council website for transparency for community members; and</li> <li>• the use of interpreters</li> </ul>

Local Authority Review Report

PRINCIPLE: Community-centred, place based engagement	
<b>What does this mean?</b>	The way the council and LA engage with each other and the community is place-based and adapts to local needs, languages, time frames and cultural protocols to encourage community involvement.
<b>What does this look like?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAs will recommend to their council the process for community engagement and two-way communication between the council, LA and community</li> <li>• Community engagement is supported by principles of the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy</li> <li>• Communication is clear and accessible.</li> <li>• LAs with their councils decide the nature and format of reports to be provided by councils to LAs – brief, diagrammatic reports are enough</li> <li>• LAs and their councils decide how the feedback about priorities is given to the LA and community in a timely way such as through the Council Community Based Manager, local council member or LA chair outside of meetings if needed</li> <li>• Regional councils support their LAs to host at least one community based event each year to support community input into LA priorities, and council planning. These events may be funded through some LAPF. For example, some LAs may hold community barbecues twice per year: to provide input into LA priorities and council plans for their area; and to receive feedback about how the LA and council has responded to that input.</li> <li>• Information is provided by regional councils in LA meeting agenda papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decisions that council has made based on the LA's recommendations and advice</li> <li>○ Council resources and service delivery in the community.</li> <li>○ Progress / status updates on LA project recommendations.</li> <li>○ The amount of funding that is available to the LA for community priorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

PRINCIPLE: Empowerment	
<b>What does this mean?</b>	LAs have authority to effectively carry out their core role as intended in the Act.
<b>What does this look like?</b>	<p>Where LAs seek to do so, regional councils consider opportunities for delegation of relevant decisions to LAs consistent with the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>, including decision making about priorities for LA project funds</p> <p>Councils, with CM&amp;C assistance, provide training and resources to support professional development of LA chairs and members in governance and the LA role; and clearly communicate the role of LAs and regional councils to communities.</p>

Local Authority Review Report

PRINCIPLE: Outcome-focused	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs (and communities) can see that their recommendations to the council, based on community engagement, are being acted on; where this is not the case, they are informed of the reason.
<i>What does this look like?</i>	<p>Council annual reports include information that demonstrates how they have engaged with communities via their LA, and the outcomes delivered in response to LA recommendations/decisions.</p> <p>Compliance activity by CM&amp;C will focus on the intended outcome of LAs</p>

PRINCIPLE: Accountability	
<i>What does this mean?</i>	LAs and their councils continue to demonstrate high standards in governance and the use of public resources
<i>What does this look like?</i>	<p>LAs have opportunities for professional development in governance consistent with their core role through their council and/or with support from CM&amp;C if requested</p> <p>Decision making is transparent, focused on the best interests of the community as a whole, and conflicts of interest are managed. Information is accessible to community members about meetings, meeting proceedings, and opportunities for participation. Meetings are generally open to community members unless there is a defined need for confidentiality consistent with the provisions in the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>.</p>

## 5. Examples of Good Practice

To be discussed with, and provided by, regional councils.

## 6. Next Steps

This report will be provided to regional councils and other stakeholders for comment and input. Regional councils are encouraged to engage with their LAs in developing feedback. CM&C is available to assist as needed.

An implementation plan will be drafted for feedback from regional councils and LAs through their respective councils. The implementation plan will be developed through a reference group led by CM&C with the Local Government Association of the NT, and council and LA representatives.

The final LA Review report and Implementation Plan will be provided to the Minister for Local Government for consideration and approval. It is intended that this will be completed within the first quarter of 2023.

The LA Project Fund grant funding guidelines will be reviewed in 2022-23 in consultation with regional councils along with Guideline 1. Any recommendations for changes will then be advised to the Minister for Local Government for consideration for implementation in 2023-24.





### 10.3. Pine Creek Community Report

**Report Type** Community Report for Information

**Department** Council Operations Manager

**Prepared by** Tanya Brown

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#### **Purpose**

To update Council on the activities.

#### **Recommendations**

- A. That the Pine Creek Community Report is received and noted

#### **Regional Plan**

The tender for the new playground has been finalised and the winning tender will be announced by the end of the first week in November 22.

Applications for the Australia Day and Harmony Day events in 2023 have been submitted.

IWD will also be submitted once more information has been obtained for the event  
Grant funding has been applied for the supply and installation of sound-proofing curtains for the MRC building to help reduce the constant problem with acoustics.

#### **Events and Activities**

The council operations officer sprayed the salvinia with the purchase orange oil onto the ponds at the Water Gardens and initially it seemed to work but this was short lived, and the weed has come back. I think the only way this pest is going to be removed is to do so manually and it will be a constant thing to be done.

The waste facility has been completed and a tender for the supply of 2 or 3 30 cubic meter hook skip bins has been released and will close in 2 weeks. Further education is required as there are still items being put into the tip that are noted on the signs as not acceptable. CCTV will be installed to help identify who is dumping items that are not accepted and action taken

The council has finally filled the position of the Sports and rec officer and the new staff member should be arriving before they start on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. We also have a second team member in operations to help with the many jobs to be done. We welcome Barry Bates to our team.

#### **Community Events**

No Community events to report on this report

#### **Vacant Positions (VDRC in Community)**

The aged care position is still vacant, and I am waiting on confirmation and a start date for Dwayne Campbell returning to the position.



Position of Council Operations officer (3<sup>rd</sup>) (waste management) has closed and we had 2 applicants, interviews are being arranged currently.

### **Maintenance Buildings and Fixed Assets**

The public toilet block in front of Lazy Lizard had some minor repairs done to the male toilets and we are still waiting on parts to have the tap fixed in the female basin.

### **Plant and Equipment**

No issues

### **Regional Plan Project Priorities**

- Repair Community footpaths. Due to staff shortage, we have not been able to instigate the start of this project.
- Cemetery upgrade including water supply.
- Water bubblers in parks. Due to a staff shortage, we have not had the opportunity to carry out investigations
- Beautification of the water gardens. The council used the orange oil as instructed and it looked like it worked, but alas it has returned so the next method will be to manually remove it by hand.
- Spotlights on the sports oval. Due to lack of staff, we have not had the opportunity to start investigations.
- Upgrade playing field. Due to lack of staff, we have not had the opportunity to start investigations.
- Waste Facility: the upgrades are completed. A tender has gone out for the 30cubic meter skip bins.

### **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. General Business**

1. John Roberts General Business [11.1.1 - 1 page]

Email: [tanya.brown@vicdaly.nt.gov.au](mailto:tanya.brown@vicdaly.nt.gov.au)



**Victoria Daly**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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**From:** john roberts <[J.C.R@outlook.com.au](mailto:J.C.R@outlook.com.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 November 2022 11:21 AM  
**To:** Tanya Brown <[Tanya.Brown@vicdaly.nt.gov.au](mailto:Tanya.Brown@vicdaly.nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** LA item

Hi Tanya could you forward to Karen the email she gave me keeps getting thrown back .  
Cheers John

Hi Karen  
As discussed, earlier .  
Could you please add the maintenance and construction of existing and new pine creek footpaths .

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**Footpaths**

I've noticed that that this has been on the action plan for many years now with nothing been done about it apart from identifying and painting of hazard area's some have had 4 coats of paint over the past years with what I see as no action to actually fix the problem.

Places I have noticed that are of main concern would be

- the path along Baxter terrace , which is quite a major hazard so close to the clinic and pensioners flats .
- The water gardens pathways are also in a fairly bad way, and have also receive multiple coats of paint.
- There are a few streets that could benefit from installing new foot paths to join up with existing ones  
Bucannon ,McClure ,Jensen and the bottom part of Baxter (near old pub)

I propose that we set aside a small proportion of our allocated funds to actively fix these areas over the next few years .

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Thanks John Roberts  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



## 12. Questions from the Public

## 13. 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.

### 13.1. Reports on Repairs and Maintenance (plant and vehicles) Pine Creek

#### **Reason for Confidentiality**

**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*

## 14. Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Pine Creek Local Authority will be held To Be Advised..