



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

**TIMBER CREEK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022
AT 3:00 PM
AT THE TIMBER CREEK COUNCIL OFFICE
VDRC OFFICE**

MEMBERS

Larry McLaughlin
Cecelia McKenzie
Coralie Myers

Rebecca Myers
John Horgan
Felicity McLaughlin
Councillor Shirley Garlett



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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

Nil

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 Felicity McLaughlin from the Timber Creek Local Authority



Report Type Resignation
Prepared by **Assistant Manager**

Recommendation

That the Resignation of Felicity McLaughlin from the Timber Creek Local Authority is noted.

Attachments

Nil



5.2. Nominations

5.2.1. Nomination of Darryl Darby to the Timber Creek Local Authority

Report Type Nomination
Prepared by Assistant Manager

Recommendation

That the Nomination of Darryl Darby to the Timber Creek Local Authority is received and accepted.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2022 08 16 Darryl Darby - Timber Creek Nomination Form (1) [5.2.1.1 - 2 pages]



5.2.2. Nomination of Christopher Flood to the Timber Creek Local Authority

Report Type Nomination
Prepared by Assistant Manager

Recommendation

That the Nomination of Christopher Flood to the Timber Creek Local Authority is received and accepted.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - 2022 08 16 Chris Flood - Timber Creek LA Nomination Form (1) [5.2.2.1 - 2 pages]



6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Timber Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 16th August 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

**TIMBER CREEK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 16 AUGUST 2022
AT 3:00 PM
AT THE TIMBER CREEK COUNCIL OFFICE
VDRC Office**

VICTORIA DALY REGIONAL COUNCIL DISCLAIMER

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Russell Anderson
Chief Executive Officer



1. Meeting Opening

The Timber Creek Local Authority Meeting 16 August 2022 opened the time being 2:57 pm.

1. Present

Appointed Members

Present

Coralie Myers	Chairperson
Rebecca Myers	
Larry McLaughlin	
Cecelia McKenzie	
John Horgan	

Staff Present

Jocelyn Moir	Regional Council Operations Manager
Renee Croton	Council Operations Assistant Manager
Lisa Robertson	CDP Employment Coordinator
Leanne Buckley	

Guests

Birrigan Young	Representing Chansey Paech MLA
Frank Gardener	Representing Chansey Paech MLA

2. Welcome

Chairperson welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

3. Attendance and Apologies

3.1. Community Attendees

Darryl Darby
Christopher Flood

3.2. Apologies and Absentees

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett, Felicity McLaughlin

Leave of Absence: Nil

4. Disclosure of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.



5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations

5.1. Resignations

5.1.1. Resignation of Elaine Watts from the Timber Creek Local Authority

Motion

That the Resignation of Elaine Watts from the Timber Creek Local Authority is noted.

Mover: John Horgan

Second: Rebecca Myers

Resolution: TCLA-2022/10: Carried 5 / 0

5.1.2. Resignation of Graham Watts from the Timber Creek Local Authority

Motion

That the Resignation of Graham Watts from the Timber Creek Local Authority is noted.

Mover: Coralie Myers

Second: Larry
McLaughlin

Resolution: TCLA-2022/11: Carried 5 / 0

5.2. Terminations

Nil

5.3. Nominations

Nil

6. Call for Items of General Business

LAPF Funding - Paul Buckley

7. Invitation for Deputations to Present/Speak

7.1. Frank Gardiner and Birrigan Young on behalf of Chansey Paech MLA - Meet and Listen to LA Members

The Chairperson thanked Birrigan Young and Frank Gardener from the office of Chansey Paech - MLA.

8. Confirmation of Minutes



8.1. Timber Creek Local Authority Meeting held on 14 June 2022

Motion

That the minutes of the Timber Creek Local Authority meeting held on 22 March 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Mover: Coralie Myers

Seconded: John Horgan

Resolution: TCLA-2022/9: Carried 7 / 0

9. Update from Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett

Deputy Mayor Shirley Garlett tabled apologies due to Special Council Meeting.

10. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Motion

Chairperson read out the composed letter to the Minister to LA members for acceptance to go to Council and be tabled.

Mover: Larry McLaughlin

Seconded: Coralie Myers

Resolution: TCLA-2022/12: Carried 5 / 0

11. Reports

11.1. TCLA Financial Report

Motion

A. That the report Timber Creek Financial Report June 2022 is received and noted.

Mover: Coralie Myers

Seconded: Rebecca Myers

Resolution: TCLA-2022/13: Carried 5 / 0

11.2. 2022-23 Regional Plan

A. That the 2022-23 Regional Plan report is received and noted.

11.3. Timber Creek Community Report.

Timber Creek Community Report - tabled.

12. Questions from the Public

Nil.

13. General Business

13.1 LAPF Update submitted in writing by Paul Buckley, read by Jocelyn Moir

Timber Creek LA

We have had the Timber Creek festival and moving the festival to June as planned allowing \$10 000.00 per festival as standard. Hopefully we can keep it on track with covid in our lives.

I have received quote for the outdoor exercise gym. This has been given as 2 quotes due to the amount. The equipment can be bought the first year and installed the following. Price of installation will go up but the second quote can be used as a guide with pricing.

Action: Paul Buckley to source grant funding for outdoor gym equipment.

13.2 Request for Information from the Office of Chancey Paech MLA - Timber Creek Local Authority Members

The Timber Creek Local Authority requested Birrigan Young and Frank Gardiner to form the Office of Chancey Paech MLA to provide some in-depth information regarding the land release of Timber Creek property near Wilson Street. What is holding this process up and what additional information they can source to give back to the Timber Creek Local Authority. Additionally also the lack of a sewerage treatment plant and no dump point and the impact this is having on Timber Creek residents and small business's.

13.3 Festival Stage Mural - Coralie Myers

Coralie Myers to source quotes on the costings of paint and other materials to re-do the stage mural in conjunction with the Timber Creek Primary School.

Action: Coralie Myers to have quotes at the next Timber Creek Local Authority meeting in November.

13.4 Community Care Coordinator - Leanne Buckley

Leanne Buckley introduced herself and advised what her role is and asked for feedback from the community on Aged Care Services.

13.5 RAAF currently in Timber Creek - Coralie Myers

Coralie advised the RAAF were back in Timber Creek and there may be another cricket match organized - Timber Creek town vs RAAF.



Motion

That \$10,000.00 of the Timber Creek LAPF goes towards The Family Festival 2023.

Mover: Cecelia McKenzie

Seconded: John Horgan

Resolution: TCLA-2022/15: Carried 5 / 0

14. Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Timber Creek Local Authority will be held on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 3:00 pm.

Unconfirmed



7. Councillor Update

7.1. Councillor Update from Cr Shirley Garlett

Report Type Report for Information

Recommendation

That the Councillor Update from Cr Shirley Garlett is received and noted.

Attachments

Nil



8. Reports

8.1.1. Timber Creek Council Report

Report Type Council Operations Manager Report

Department Community Council Operations Council Operations

Prepared by Council Operations Manager, Timber Creek

Purpose

To update Council on the Timber Creek Council Report activities.

Recommendations

- A. That the Timber Creek Council Report report 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

Goal 3: Investing in our people

3.4 Grow local employment through the development and delivery of programs and contracts in communities and across the region

Goal 4: Livability

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

Events and Activities

Not currently

Community Events

Not currently

Local Authority Meetings

Next La Meeting on the 16th of November.

Vacant Positions (VDRC in Community)

Aged care positions.

Operations parks and gardens team.

Night patrol positions.

Maintenance Buildings and Fixed Assets

Inspection checklists are completed monthly by each department for each asset.



Works being carried out by operations manager-
Inspection checklists of council assets completed.
Upgrades to locks and oval facilities have been carried out.
Regular maintenance and cleaning are being done with all park areas including watering and lawns.
Safety standards are being upgraded for fire and general safety within the council buildings as suggested by WHS (Work Health Safety).
Car parks and workshop areas are being upgraded before the wet season starts.

Plant and Equipment

All Plant and equipment are being maintained regularly with all council vehicles being tended to by their programs.
All scheduled maintenance is being carried out.

Regional Plan Project Priorities

Achievable with Local Authority Project Funding.

Timber Creek Festival for next June.

Outdoor gym in the council yards area.

Materials for the Timber Creek School children for Mural at the council stage area.

Project requires grant funding and or co-funding.

Outdoor gym in the council yard area.

Sewer mains supply and dump point for the Timber Creek township, a concern for residents and tourism.

Advocacy.

Land release for new residential blocks in Timber Creek.

Sewer mains and dump supply point for the township.

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



8.2.1. TCLA Financial Report

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

Recommendations

A. That the report TCLA Financial Report is received and noted

Regional Plan

Goal 1: Quality Leadership

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

Risk statement

No risk assessment has been carried out at this stage.

Council officer conflict of interest declaration

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

Attachments

1. Timber Creek September 2022 [8.2.1.1 - 5 pages]

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



Timber Creek

Description	Year To Date Ended on 30 September 2022		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income			
Fees and Charges	131,922	326,667	(194,745)
Operating Grants and Subsidies	436,832	315,148	121,683
Commercial and Other Income	316	54,855	(54,539)
Total Income	(569,070)	(696,670)	127,601
Expenditure			
Employee Expenses	197,606	362,668	420,992
Materials and Contracts	95,885	138,689	74,249
Elected Member Allowances	7,004	8,180	(688)
Elected Member Expenses	635	7,763	(632)
Council Committee & LA Allowances	1,814	3,925	507
Council Committee & LA Expenses	337	660	220
Depreciation, Amortisation, and Impairment		2,050	19,687
Interest Expenses/other expenses		146	1,876
Allocations	39,179		(132,715)
Total Expenses and Allocations	(342,459)	(524,081)	383,496

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

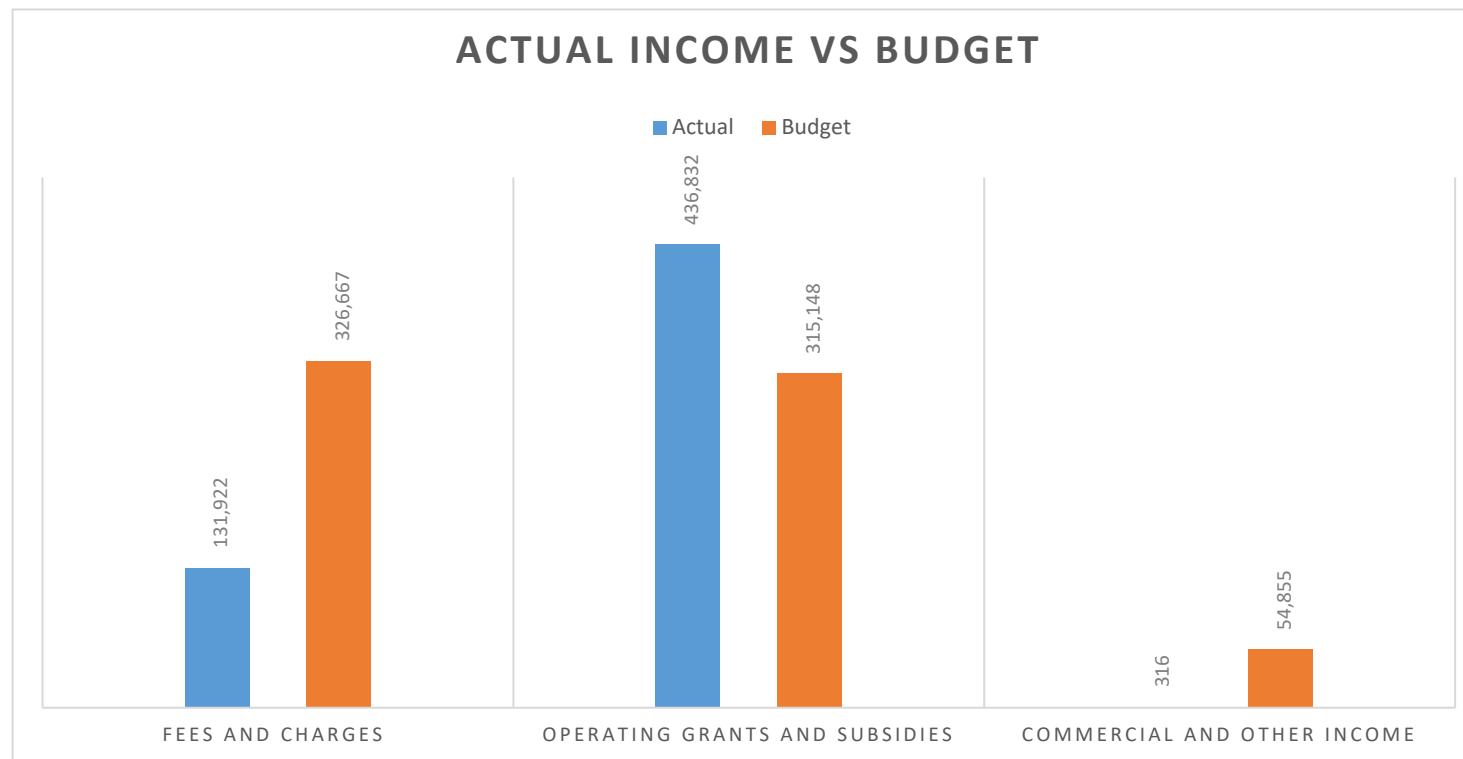
Underspent on Contractors expenses, repair and maintenance-mv and plants, and overspent on food expenses

Surplus (Deficit) For the period	226,611	172,590	255,896
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In Timber Creek, Council received \$569,070 in revenue and spent \$342,459 (operating expenses) in the quarter ending 30th September 2022.

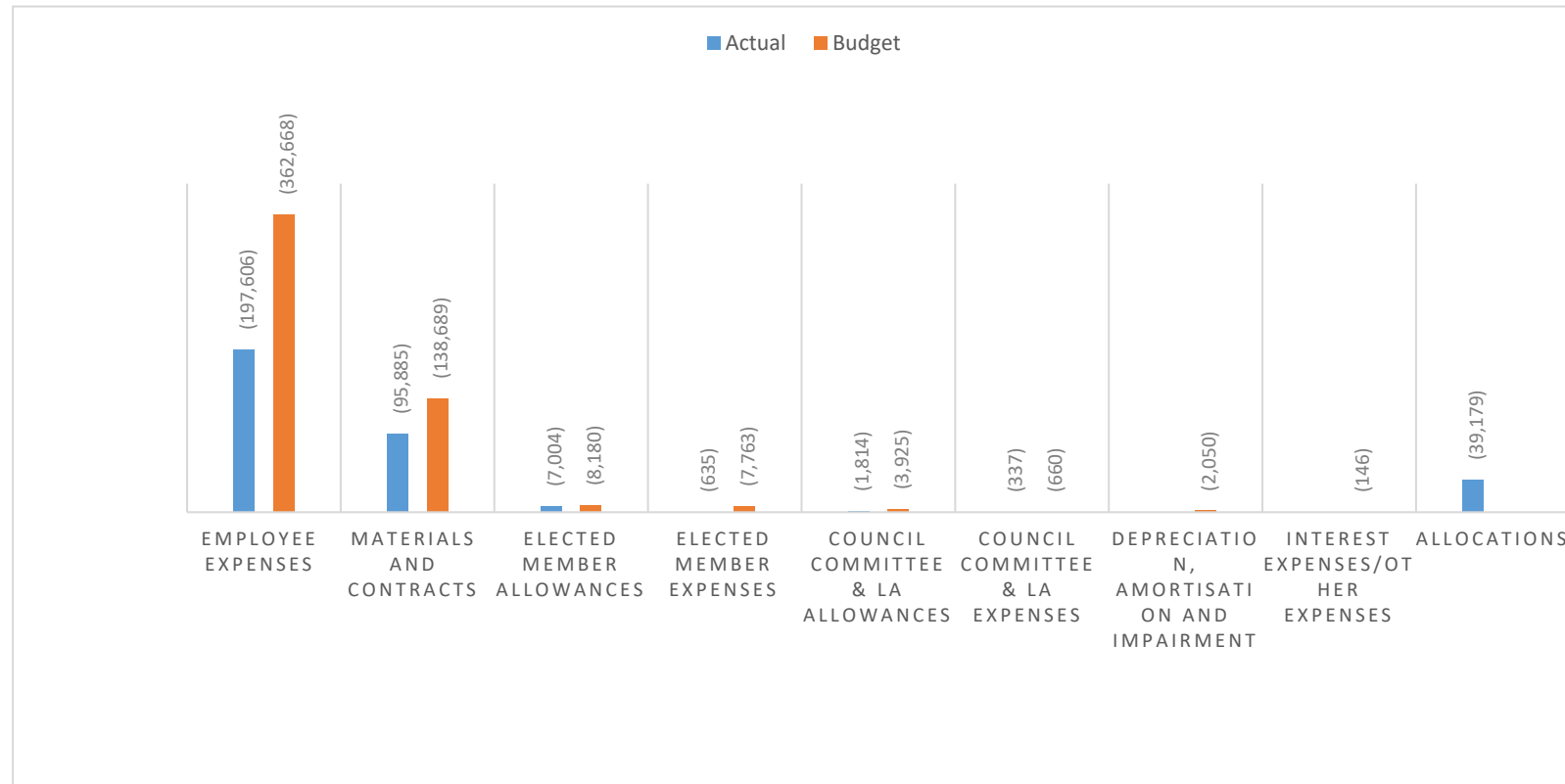
Income

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



Expenditure

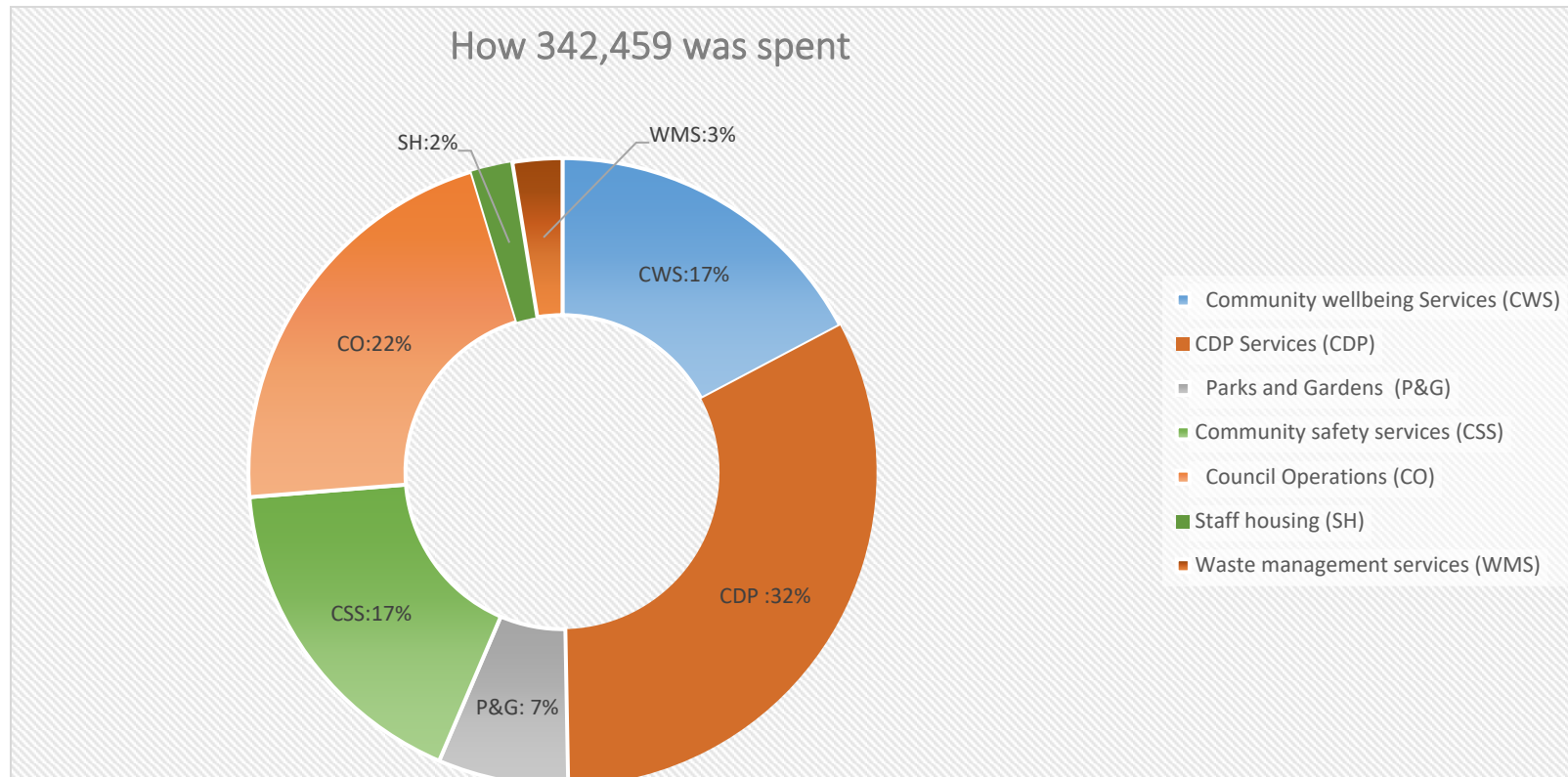
The Graph below shows actual vs Budget expenditure by Account Categories for period July to September



Key Expenses to date-Materials and Contracts

Rent Expenses - Facilities	19,048.15
Food Expenses	10,482.04
	<u>29,530.19</u>

The graph shows how \$342,459 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

3,587

36,600

40,187

Funds allocated to Project

Funds available for future projects

-2,035

38,152

Project ID	Project Name	Resolution passed	Committed amount to the project	Amount spent to date	Remaining funds available	Status
-	Timber Creek Festival	TCLA-2022/0	10,000	7,965	2,035	Completed
-	0				-	
	0		-	-	-	

10,000

7,965

2,035

Funds available for future projects \$38,152



8.3.1. Actions Update

Report Type Local Authority Reports

Prepared by Assistant Manager

Purpose

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

Recommendations

- A. That the Actions Update report is received and noted

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. Timber Creek Local Authority Meeting Action List Register [8.3.1.1 - 1 page]



Action List Register

Timber Creek Local Authority

A#	Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Outcome
A2	Coralie Myers to have quotes at the next Timber Creek Local Authority meeting in November	Coralie Myers	November LA Meeting: 15/11/2022	In Progress
A1	Paul Buckley to source grant funding for outdoor gym equipment	Paul Buckley	November LA Meeting: 15/11/2022	Not Started/Incomplete



8.4.2. 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 [8.4.2.1 - 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&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"> • 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&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; • how the LA will conduct meetings and engage with their community; • 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; • whether delegated decision making will be requested from the council; • the nomination process for LA members, with councils seeking LA and community input into their policy on criteria for selecting LA members; • the number of appointed members up to a maximum of 14; • whether the Mayor/President will be a member of LAs beyond their own ward; • the frequency of LA meetings (minimum four per year, with timing to enable input into, and feedback from, council planning); • the location of LA meetings - they should be held in public places to maximise opportunity for community members to attend; and • whether attendance at meetings via phone/video conference will be allowed. <p>First LA meetings to recommend to council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nomination of LA chair; • the kinds of priorities the LA would like to focus on for their community; • how information about meetings and decisions will be publicised. This must be at least on the council website for transparency for community members; and • the use of interpreters

Local Authority Review Report

PRINCIPLE: Community-centred, place based engagement	
What does this mean?	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.
What does this look like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAs will recommend to their council the process for community engagement and two-way communication between the council, LA and community • Community engagement is supported by principles of the Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy • Communication is clear and accessible. • LAs with their councils decide the nature and format of reports to be provided by councils to LAs – brief, diagrammatic reports are enough • 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 • 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. • Information is provided by regional councils in LA meeting agenda papers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decisions that council has made based on the LA's recommendations and advice ○ Council resources and service delivery in the community. ○ Progress / status updates on LA project recommendations. ○ The amount of funding that is available to the LA for community priorities.

PRINCIPLE: Empowerment	
What does this mean?	LAs have authority to effectively carry out their core role as intended in the Act.
What does this look like?	<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&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>

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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&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&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.



9. Questions from the Public

10. General Business

11. Next Meeting

The next Meeting of the Timber Creek Local Authority will be advised shortly.