



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

AGENDA

**AMANBIDJI LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING
TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022
AT 12:30 PM
AT THE AMANBIDJI COUNCIL OFFICE
VDRC OFFICE**

MEMBERS

Councillor Shirly Garlett	Cassandra Ahwon
Ross Roberts	Raylene Raymond
Joy Mikamon	Rhonda Lurda
Toni-Maree Waterloo	Aldus (Rupert) Aldus
Sharon Lurda	June Lurda



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Anderson'.

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

5.2. Nominations

5.2.1. Nomination of Andrew Leering to the Amanbidji Local Authority



Report Type Nomination
Prepared by Assistant Manager

Recommendation

That the Nomination of Andrew Leering to the Amanbidji Local Authority is received and accepted.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - LA Nomination Form - Andrew LEERING
[5.2.1.1 - 2 pages]



5.2.2. Nomination of Shenja Leering to the Amanbidji Local Authority

Report Type Nomination
Prepared by Assistant Manager

Recommendation

That the Nomination of Shenja Leering to the Amanbidji Local Authority is received and accepted.

Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL REDACTED - LA Nomination Form - Shenja LEERING
[5.2.2.1 - 2 pages]



6. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Amanbidji Local Authority Meeting held on 17th August 2022 be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the meeting.



Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

**AMANBIDJI LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 2022
AT 12:30 PM
AT THE AMANBIDJI COUNCIL OFFICE
VDRC Office**

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Russell Anderson
Chief Executive Officer



1. Meeting Opening

The Amanbidji Local Authority Meeting 17 August 2022 opened, the time being 12:59 pm.

1. Present

Appointed Members

Present

Sharon Lurda Chairperson

Rhonda Lurda

Raelene Raymond

Toni-Maree Waterloo

Joy Mikamin

Staff Present

Jocelyn Moir Regional Council Operations Manager - VDRC

Renee Croton Council Operations Assistant Manager - VDRC

Patricia McGillivray CDP Regional Manager - VDRC

Lisa Robertson CDP Employment Coordinator - VDRC

Guests

Nil

2. Welcome

Jocelyn Moir welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

3. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies: Ross Roberts

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 - Nil

5.2. Terminations - Nil

5.3. Nominations - Nil

6. Call for Items of General Business - Nil

7. Invitation for Deputations to Present/Speak - Nil

8. Confirmation of Minutes- Nil

9. Councillor Update – Nil (Deputy Mayor apology)

10. Business Arising from Previous Minutes - Nil

11. Reports

11.1. ALA Financial Report

Jocelyn Moir went over Finance Report with LA members.

11.2. 2022-23 Regional Plan

Jocelyn Moir went over Regional Plan with LA members.

11.3. Timber Creek Community Report.

Jocelyn Moir went over Timber Creek Community Report with LA members.

12. Questions from the Public - Nil

13. General Business

Motion

The Amanbidji Local Authority members unanimously voted Sharon Lurda as Chairperson.

Mover: Sharon Lurda

Seconder: Rhonda Lurda

Resolution:{resolution-number}: Carried 6 / 0

13.1 Amanbidji Basket Ball Court Lights need Fixing

Action: Paul Buckley to contact NWA and advise of Basket Ball court's lights needing repairs.

13.2 Revised Quote for Shelter over Phone Box



Action: Paul Buckley to follow up revised quote.

13.3 Cover/Shed over the Basket Ball Court

Action: Paul Buckley to discuss Basket Ball cover/shed with NWAC that the Amanbidji LA members requested.

13.4 Brainstorming Ideas for LAPF

- Solar lights for playground
- Vandal proof cage around Basket Ball Court lights

Action: Paul Buckley to source quotes and bring to next Amanbidji Local Authority meeting.

14. Next Meeting

The next Meeting of Amanbidji Local Authority will be held on Wednesday 16th November 2022.

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. Amanbidji 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 Amanbidji Council Report activities.

Recommendations

A. That the Amanbidji 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 residents' well-being

Goal 5: Infrastructure

5.4 Develop and implement an Environmental Plan which will minimize the Council's footprint and maximize recycling opportunities

Events and Activities

Not noted at this point

Community Events

Not noted at this point.

Local Authority Meetings

Next meeting on the 16th of November at the CDP (Community Development Program) building.

Vacant Positions (VDRC in Community)

CDP liaison Office.

Maintenance Buildings and Fixed Assets

Lot 61 council house currently leased.



CDP building with water tank.

Plant and Equipment

NA

Regional Plan Project Priorities

With Local Authority Project Funding.

Shade shelter beside phone box. Decision on start dates to be discussed.

Project requires grant funding and or co-funding.

Basketball court roof cover with a lighting system upgrade. This may not be possible due to the project's inflated cost due to structural integrity and with other services requiring funding e.g.-basic living standards such as housing, roads, water supply, electricity, clinic facilities.

Advocacy.

Lighting, roads, phone and water facilities of park and town areas through NWAC (Ngaliwurru Wuli Aboriginal Corporation), NT Power and Water and Telstra.

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. ALA Financial Report

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

Recommendations

A. That the report ALA 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. Amanbidji [8.2.1.1 - 1 page]

Amanbidji LA reporting

Fund Carried forward from last financial year	25,600
Grant expected to be received this financial year	12,800
	38,400
Funds allocated to Project	-8,946
Funds available for future projects	29,454

Project ID	Project Name	Resolution passed on	Committed amount to the project	Amount spent to date	Remaining funds available	Status
LA meeting resolution 08092021-03	Phone box shade cover & seating	08-Sep-21	8,946	-	8,946	Purchased order issued to Gangulu Enterprise on 13/10/2021
			8,946	-	8,946	



8.3.1. Actions Update

Report Type Local Authority Reports

Prepared by {position}

Purpose

To provide an update on the status of action items since the last ordinary Council 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. Amanbidji Local Authority Meeting Action List Register [8.3.1.1 - 1 page]



Action List Register

Amanbidji Local Authority

Victoria Daly
REGIONAL COUNCIL

A#	Action Item	Assigned to	Due Date	Outcome
A4	Source quotes and bring to the November Amanbidji Local Authority Meeting for Brainstorming Ideas	Paul Buckley	November LA Meeting: 16/11/2022	Not Started/Incomplete
A3	Discuss Basket Ball cover/shed with NWAC that the Amanbidji LA members requested	Paul Buckley	November LA Meeting: 16/11/2022	Not Started/Incomplete
A2	Revised Quote for Shelter over Phone Box	Paul Buckley	November LA Meeting: 16/11/2022	Completed
A1	Contact NWA and advise of Basket Ball courts lights needing repairs.	Paul Buckley	ASAP	Not Started/Incomplete



8.4.1. 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 [8.4.1.1 - 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 LAMPF. 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>

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>	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. Compliance activity by CM&C will focus on the intended outcome of LAs

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>	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 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> .

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 Amanbidji Local Authority will be advised shortly.