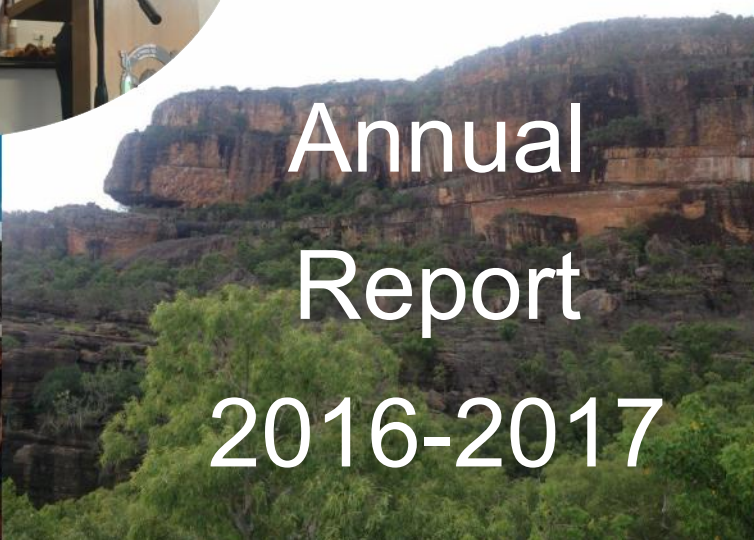




Local Government Association
of the Northern Territory



Annual
Report
2016-2017

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Chief Executive Officer's Report | 5 |
| President's Report on Behalf of the Executive | 7 |
| About this Report | 9 |
| About the Association | 10 |
| High Level Elements of LGANT's Strategic Plan | 11 |
| Membership 2016-2017 | 12 |
| Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 2017 | 13 |
| Executive Committee Members 2016-2017 | 14 |
| LGANT Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2017 | 22 |
| Service Providers and Sponsors | 23 |
| Annual Priority Achievements 2016-2017 | 24 |
| <i>Goal 1 – To enhance the status of local government</i> | 24 |
| 1.1 Prepare and disseminate information products to member councils | 24 |
| 1.2 Work with councils to ensure communication materials are up to date and online | 24 |
| 1.3 Promote the 2017 Local Government elections | 25 |
| 1.4 Improve councils' knowledge and use of social media | 27 |
| <i>Goal 2 – To enhance the performance of local government</i> | 28 |
| 2.1 Provide councils with specialist human resources and industrial relations services | 28 |
| 2.2 Facilitate training and professional development activities for elected and local authority members and staff | 30 |
| 2.3 Review LGANT policies, research and develop new policies for submission to the Executive and General meetings for approval | 32 |
| 2.4 Assist member councils with their policy and by-law development | 33 |
| 2.5 Assist councils to implement policies and procedures that facilitate financial sustainability | 35 |
| 2.6 Work towards the full incorporation of the Northern Territory under the <i>Local Government Act (2013)</i> with the exception of special purpose areas | 35 |
| 2.7 Work with councils to gather relevant data including the development of checklists, for the production of an annual 'State of the Local Government Sector' report for the Northern Territory | 35 |
| 2.8 Convene appropriate meetings with member councils to facilitate collaboration, sector policy development and provide networking opportunities | 36 |
| 2.9 Assist member councils to develop reconciliation action plans | 47 |
| <i>Goal 3 – To effectively advocate for and represent member councils</i> | 48 |
| 3.1 Work with councils to secure tenure on land with council assets | 48 |
| 3.2 Submit proposals in response to legislation, policy or programs which are enacted or proposed by the Territory and Commonwealth Governments | 48 |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 3.3 Ensure appropriate Local Government representation on relevant boards and committees | 49 |
| 3.4 Provide information and support to ALGA and other State associations | 52 |
| 3.5 Facilitate engagement and collaboration between Local and Northern Territory governments in relation to Local Government matters | 54 |
| <i>Goal 4 – Maintain an effective and efficient service</i> | <i>57</i> |
| 4.1 Maintain the servicing of the LGANT local road network as identified by the Northern Territory Grants Commission | 57 |
| 4.2 Review and refine LGANT’s internal systems and processes | 59 |
| 4.3 Adopt a long term asset and financial management plan and ensure processes are in place for integration with annual budget and financial reporting | 59 |
| 4.4 Manage the leasing and maintenance requirements for Units 1 – 5, and contribute to the effective management of 21 Parap Road through the body corporate | 60 |
| Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2017 | 61 |

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mayor Damien Ryan
President
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
PO Box 2017
PARAP NT 0804

Dear President

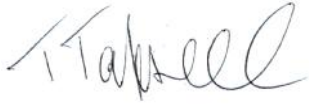
Section 22.2 of the LGANT constitution requires me to present you with this annual report which includes the audited annual financial statements for the 2016-17 financial year.

The financial position and performance of LGANT was sound as at 30 June 2017 in that it:

-) had a manageable cash flow
-) could pay its debts as they fell due
-) met its obligations in respect of one of its largest liabilities (bank loan) for its office premises
-) had no major irregularities to report
-) was a going concern largely due to financial support from:
 - o **member councils** for:
 - member subscriptions
 - payment of service charges
 - the provision of venues by the Alice Springs Town Council, City of Darwin, Central Desert Regional Council, MacDonnell Regional Council, City of Palmerston and CouncilBIZ for LGANT's general and reference group meetings
 - o **the Northern Territory government** in respect of grants for:
 - local government excellence and reform
 - disaster relief recovery
 - waste management
 - o **the Commonwealth government** in respect of grants for:
 - local roads – financial assistance grant
 - roads to recovery
 - o **sponsors** contributing to the cost of LGANT meetings:
 - Jardine Lloyd Thompson
 - Territory Insurance Office
 - Maloney Field Services
 - Statewide Financial Management Services
 - Altiform.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

I thank the LGANT staff for their wonderful contributions throughout the year as well as the consultants and service providers that have assisted LGANT meet its objectives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tapsell', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tony Tapsell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

President's Report on Behalf of the Executive

Dear members,

The 2016-17 financial year contained some welcome highlights and challenges for LGANT and its member councils.

Restoration of indexation for financial assistance grants

The Federal government's announcement during its May 2016 budget deliberations that it would be restoring indexation to financial assistance grants was outstanding news for local government in the Northern Territory and the rest of Australia. Commencing in the 2017-18 financial year, indexation means these grants will increase overall by some \$1.34M which is a great boost for Northern Territory councils striving to remain or attain financial sustainability and as general support for the Northern Territory economy.

Our thanks goes to all councils that contributed to the campaign over the last three years in which the freeze on indexation took place. Councils that took up the mantle with their Federal representatives by acknowledging receipt of the grants and publishing details in their annual reports are to be congratulated.

The Australian Local Government Association was instrumental in leading the campaign for restoration and it must be given great credit for its efforts because the case for change had to be won at the national level. For the Federal government to agree to restoration was indeed pleasing and is something that councils should never take for granted with the work of acknowledging grants and recording details about them in annual reports needing to continue.

Local government elections

Much was done towards the end of the financial year to promote the 26 August 2017 council elections and with LGANT, councils, the Northern Territory Electoral Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development all playing roles in alerting people to such matters as election timetables, information on being an elected member and the processes for nominating for election. These tasks were well underway before the end of the year and thanks go to all those involved.

Local government training

The effort that went into local government training for the year was remarkable with only four months of the year in which LGANT was not involved in delivering or helping to coordinate a training course. It is most satisfying when you see councils taking up the offer of training and even advocating for it to happen. It was also most pleasing to have the support of the Department of Housing and Community Development with the training through its Local Government Excellence in the NT program.

Elected member service awards

It was great to witness 11 elected members collect their local government long service awards from the Minister for Housing and Community Development, the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA at the LGANT Annual General Meeting on 2 December 2016. All 11 members served in excess of 10 years in office with two members, Cr Bruce Jones of Coomalie Community Government Council and Cr Bob Bagnall of the Barkly Regional

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Council both serving 25 years. I heartily congratulate all members for their long standing commitments to their communities.

Australian Local Government Association

As Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) I represented ALGA on the Australian and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation ('the Forum') in Adelaide on 28 April 2017 which was a meeting of Australian Ministers (Federal, State and Territory) and the New Zealand Minister. The Forum is responsible for maintaining a strong food regulation system and is one of a number of Ministerial councils that ALGA has representation on. These Ministerial councils are one of the few forums where local government elected members are represented alongside State, Territory and Federal Ministers.

General meeting

General meetings are the ideal forum for councils to come together and decide on issues as well as to gain insight as to how others are faring in the sector.

One aspect of the agenda for the meetings that I was particularly pleased to see happen during the year was the number of motions from councils on issues of relevance not only to their own area but for other councils as well. This type of engagement from councils is much appreciated as it helps with LGANT policy development and general advocacy and I encourage councils to continue to submit them not only for general meetings but for Executive meetings as well.

Local government insurance scheme

Establishing an insurance scheme in the Northern Territory for councils that can deliver potential savings and lead to better risk management practices amongst councils is something the Executive supported during the year with a fair body of work completed. All councils have been involved along with insurance industry experts and it is expected that arrangements will come into place next financial year.

Executive and reference group meetings

A great deal of work went into organising and holding Executive and reference group meetings throughout the year as evidenced by the material contained in this report. These meetings are crucial mechanisms for engaging with councils and getting traction on issues both within and external to the sector and progressing to the LGANT Executive for decision if needed.



Damien Ryan
President

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

About This Report

This report is the 26th Annual Report of LGANT and it is for the financial year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 and is prepared for members of LGANT and other parties.

This report has been prepared in compliance with clause 22.3 of the LGANT constitution which requires it to be tabled for the members of LGANT at an Annual General meeting. This meeting will take place on 2-3 November 2017.

The report details the financial position and performance of LGANT for the financial year, as well as background material on local government in the Northern Territory, LGANT's membership, directions and achievements during the year.

If anyone has any queries about the report they can contact LGANT, details are as follows:

Telephone: (08) 8944 9688
Facsimile: (08) 8941 2665
Email: info@lgant.asn.au



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

About The Association

The office of LGANT is located at the Parap Business Centre, 21 Parap Road, Parap, Northern Territory.

LGANT has been in existence since 1992 and is the single peak body representing and servicing the needs of its 17 local government councils in the Northern Territory. LGANT is established as an incorporated body under section 242 of the *Local Government Act*.

LGANT has a nine member Executive Committee which has overall carriage of the Association's affairs as detailed in the Association's constitution and governance charter. LGANT's policy statements are regularly updated and reflect the local government sector response to particular issues.

The Executive and staff review the LGANT strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2016/2017.

LGANT:

-) **exists as a provider of support services, a coordinator of collective effort and as an advocate for its members and forms part of the system of local government in Australia** which includes:
 - 1. Councils
 - 2. State and Territory Local Government Associations
 - 3. the Australian Local Government Association
-) **undertakes advocacy work for councils in the Northern Territory by being a 'voice' for member councils or representing their collective views to other spheres of government and the public.** This helps increase their understanding of the views and positions of local government in the Northern Territory
-) **obtains views from its members through various communication channels,** most importantly at meetings where it calls for resolutions on a range of policies and actions. Progress reports are circulated regularly to members through minutes of meetings and reports
-) **is a member of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA),** along with other State local government associations. ALGA is local government's voice at the national level with the Commonwealth government
-) **has a strong interest in the development of local government.**

High Level Elements of LGANT's Strategic Plan

Vision

For LGANT to lead, represent and be influential for the benefit of local government.

Our Business

To provide leadership, support and influential representation for the local government sector on all issues pertaining to local government.

Core Values

To achieve the mission and vision identified, the guiding principle of LGANT is to be responsive and supportive to the needs of its members. Our values are:

-) transparency
-) honesty
-) accountability
-) responsiveness
-) accessibility
-) flexibility
-) innovation.

Strategic Goals

LGANT's goals as stated in the strategic plan are:

-) *to enhance the status of local government (Local Government Understanding)*
-) *to enhance the performance of local government (Local Government Capacity)*
-) *to effectively advocate for and represent member councils (Local Government Influence)*
-) *to maintain an effective and efficient service (Maintaining and Improving LGANT Capacity).*



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Membership 2016-2017

Membership of LGANT is voluntary and open to all local governments in the Northern Territory and it is also able to admit associate members under Clause 6.4 of its constitution.

During 2016-2017, 17 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT and were made up of (see **Table 1**):

-) 5 municipalities
-) 9 regional councils
-) 3 shires

The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member during 2016-2017 because of its role as an organisation involved in the delivery of local government-type services.

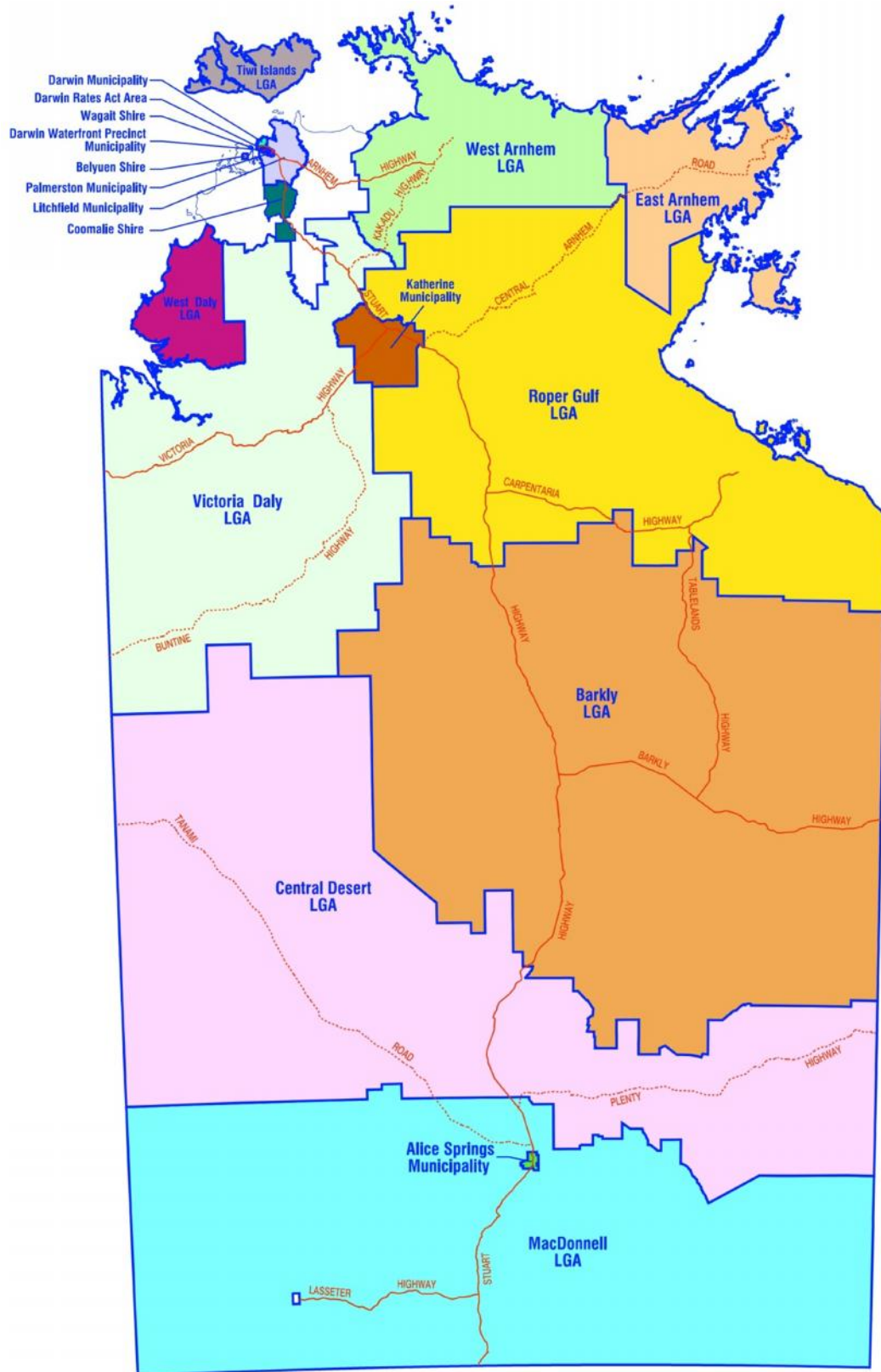
Table 1

The 17 LGANT Member and Associate Member Organisations as at 30 June 2017 were as follows:

| Member | Type |
|---|------------------|
| Alice Springs Town Council (Municipal Council) | Local Government |
| Barkly Regional Council | Local Government |
| Belyuen Community Government Council | Local Government |
| Central Desert Regional Council | Local Government |
| City of Darwin (Municipal Council) | Local Government |
| City of Palmerston (Municipal Council) | Local Government |
| Coomalie Community Government Council (Shire Council) | Local Government |
| East Arnhem Regional Council | Local Government |
| Katherine Town Council (Municipal Council) | Local Government |
| Litchfield Council (Municipal Council) | Local Government |
| MacDonnell Regional Council | Local Government |
| Roper Gulf Regional Council | Local Government |
| Tiwi Islands Regional Council | Local Government |
| Victoria Daly Regional Council | Local Government |
| Wagait Shire Council | Local Government |
| West Arnhem Regional Council | Local Government |
| West Daly Regional Council | Local Government |
| Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (associate member) | Corporation |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 2017



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Executive Committee Members 2016-2017

Clause 14.4 of the constitution requires LGANT's Executive to be made up of nine (9) members listed in **Table 2**. Member councils elect eight (8) members and one (1) is appointed by the City of Darwin all for two year terms. Of the nine member Executive, four (4) members (three elected and one appointed), make up the representation from municipal councils and the other four (4) members were elected from regional and shire councils and one (1) from all councils. The next general election for the Executive will be held at the Darwin Annual General meeting in November 2018. **Table 3** lists attendances at LGANT Executive meetings.

Table 2
LGANT Executive members as at 30 June 2017

| LGANT Executive Committee | |
|---|---|
| President | Mayor Damien Ryan (Alice Springs Town Council) |
| Vice President – Regional and Shires | Mayor Tony Jack (Roper Gulf Regional Council) |
| Vice President – Municipals | Alderman Bob Elix (City of Darwin) |
| Executive Members | Mayor Fay Miller (Katherine Town Council) President Barb Shaw (Barkly Regional Council) Alderman Gary Haslett (City of Darwin) Mayor Lynette De Santis (Tiwi Islands Regional Council) Councillor Steven Hennessy (Victoria Daly Regional Council) Mayor Ian Abbott (City of Palmerston) |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Table 3
Executive Member Attendance Report**

| Meeting Date | Present | Apologies |
|--------------|---|--|
| 19/07/2016 | Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert | Mayor Damien Ryan Mayor Tony Jack President Barb Shaw Councillor Kaye Thurlow |
| 16/08/2016 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert | Mayor Tony Jack Alderman Gary Haslett President Barb Shaw Councillor Kaye Thurlow |
| 20/09/2016 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Councillor Kaye Thurlow | President Barb Shaw Mayor Lothar Siebert Mayor Tony Jack |
| 18/10/2016 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert Councillor Kaye Thurlow | Mayor Fay Miller President Barb Shaw Mayor Tony Jack |
| 22/11/2016 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert President Barb Shaw | Councillor Kaye Thurlow Mayor Tony Jack |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Meeting Date | Present | Apologies |
|--------------|--|---|
| 17/02/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Lynette De Santis Mayor Ian Abbott | President Barb Shaw |
| 15/03/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Ian Abbott | President Barb Shaw Mayor Lynette De Santis |
| 27/03/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Lynette De Santis Mayor Ian Abbott | President Barb Shaw Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett |
| 18/04/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Ian Abbott | President Barb Shaw Mayor Lynette De Santis Mayor Tony Jack |
| 23/05/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Ian Abbott Mayor Tony Jack | President Barb Shaw Mayor Lynette De Santis Mayor Fay Miller |
| 13/06/2017 | Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Councillor Steven Hennessy Mayor Ian Abbott President Barb Shaw | Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Mayor Lynette De Santis Mayor Tony Jack |

Executive Member Biography

Mayor Damien Ryan

President of the Association

Damien was elected Mayor of Alice Springs in March 2008. He was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee as Vice President representing municipals at the Annual General Meeting in November 2010 and took on the position of President in April 2012.



Damien is Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association, Northern Territory Grants Commissioner, Co-Deputy Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council and Chair of Alice Springs Alcohol Management Group.

Other positions within the Alice Springs Community include; various Alice Springs Town Council Committees, Centralian Girls Academy Advisory Committee, AFL Central Australia Advisory Board and Vice President of the Finke Desert Race.

Mayor Tony Jack

Vice President of the Association representing Regional and Shire councils

Mayor Jack is the Roper Gulf region's inaugural Mayor after being elected to lead the then-Roper Gulf Shire Council in 2008.

He is a strong advocate for Indigenous Territorians and holds positions on a number of boards and committees across the region, including the Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation, the McArthur River Mines Community Benefits Trust and the economic development-focused Mawa Association in Borroloola.

He was a member of the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Regional Council, and played an active part in reshaping local government in the Northern Territory as the chair of the Shire Transitional Committee from 2006 until 2008.

He was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee at the March 2009 Annual General meeting and demonstrated his commitment to supporting better local government by being elected Vice-President in April 2012.

A passionate cattleman, Mayor Jack also runs a 300-head station on his homeland, 60 kilometres from Robinson River, in Roper Gulf Regional Council's South West Ward.

He has an influential understanding of the issues surrounding Roper Gulf Regional Council's service delivery, including business and employment opportunities for locals, and the need for suitable, available housing.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Alderman Bob Elix

Executive Member representing Municipal councils

Bob commenced as the appointed City of Darwin representative on the LGANT Executive Committee in November 2014. Bob was first elected to Council in 1983 and has served as Deputy Mayor and Acting Lord Mayor during that time. He serves on various committees and represents LGANT on the NT Water Safety Advisory Council.



He has been involved with AFL in the NT for years and has recently retired after 13 years as the Chairman of AFLNT, having previously performed many roles including coach, umpire and administrator.

Bob has been Chairman of the Environment & Infrastructure Committee and a member of the Development Consent Authority NT for 12 years. He has been involved in upgrading parks and gardens in this Ward and the whole Darwin Municipality. He is passionate about taking care of the things that affect us every day like our roads, our playgrounds and our recycling scheme.

In June 2014 Bob was awarded an AM for significant service to local government through leadership roles in the community of Darwin and sporting and horseracing organisations.

After 34 years on the City of Darwin Bob has decided to retire from Council, it is with some regret but he feels it is time for others to step up.

Mayor Fay Miller

Executive Member representing Municipal councils

Fay was first elected as Alderman to Katherine Town Council in 2001. She was then elected as the Member for Katherine to the NT Legislative Assembly in 2003 (a by-election) and again at a general election in 2004. She held the position of Deputy Leader of the Opposition and seven Shadow portfolios in addition to five Select Committees until her retirement in 2008 following serious injury in a vehicle accident.



Fay was elected as Mayor of Katherine in the March 2012 local government elections and was elected to the LGANT Executive in May 2012. Positions held within the Katherine community have included Chairman of the Katherine Region Tourist Association, Chairman Katherine Hospital Board, Director Bendigo Bank and committee member of Neighbourhood Watch, committee member of the Katherine Flood Mitigation Committee.

Fay holds positions on a number of Katherine Town Council committees, is the Chairperson of the Big Rivers Regional Economic Development Committee, a board member of Savannah Way Ltd, a member of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Senior Territorians and the NT Seniors Advisory Council, Katherine Cancer Working Group, Katherine Accommodation Action Group, Katherine Alcohol Action Group, Katherine Local Tourism Advisory Committee, Katherine Emergency Committee and board member of Nitmiluk Tours.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

President Barb Shaw

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Barb has served as a councillor for the Barkly Regional Council since amalgamations in 2008 and was elected by popular vote to the position of president at the 24 March 2012 local government elections. She was also elected to a casual vacancy on the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) in May 2012 and still remains an Executive Member.



Over the years, Barb has held a range of memberships on boards and committees across the government and non-government sectors, including the chair of the former Barkly Regional Development board and co-chair of the Shire's Financial Sustainability Review Taskforce in 2012. Former member of the Regional Economic Development Committee for the Barkly region, former member of the NT Regional Development Australia and for two years was chair of the Tennant Creek Regional Alcohol Reference Group (ARG). Barb was appointed as the General Manager of Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation in 2015. Barb is currently a Board member of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT and CDU Vice Chancellor Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

Born and raised in Alice Springs, Barb has spent the last 20 years living and working in the Barkly region. She is both passionate about and committed to community and regional development and believes change can only occur through meaningful community relations.

Mayor Lynette De Santis

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Born and raised in Darwin, Lynette moved to the Tiwi Islands in 1985 where she became involved in community issues. She was elected Mayor of Tiwi Islands Regional Council in 2008.



Formerly a member of the NT Statehood Committee and a director of the Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board, Lynette is currently President of the Milikapiti Community Indigenous Corporation.

Lynette was first elected to the LGANT Executive in November 2014 and then re-elected in December 2016.

Lynette is passionate about her community and in particular in mentoring its young people.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Councillor Steven Hennessy

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Steven served as a councillor for the Victoria Daly Regional Council since October 2008. In October 2011 he was elected as Deputy Mayor and served as Mayor from October 2013 to September 2016.

He was elected to the LGANT Executive in December 2016 and currently represents LGANT on the NT Grants Commission, NT Water Safety Advisory Committee, NT Heritage Council and the National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee.

Born and raised in South Australia, Steven has lived in Timber Creek from 2005. He received a Citizen of the Year award in 2007 for service to the community of Timber Creek.

Apart from his work in local government, he has worked on a casual basis with the Timber Creek School, and at the Katherine West Health Board clinic.

Steven is committed to working with the NT government on drug and alcohol issues.



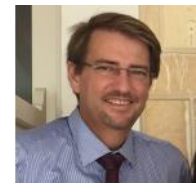
Alderman Gary Haslett

Executive Member representing Municipal councils

When Gary first came to Darwin in 1966 as a baby, his mother was adamant she was only staying for 3 years – they all still live here today. This is a very common story.

Alderman Haslett attended Rapid Creek Primary, Nightcliff Primary and after Cyclone Tracy NiMiRa Primary (for one year Nightcliff, Millner and Rapid Creek schools were combined). Later Alderman Haslett attended Nightcliff High School and Northern Territory University (now Charles Darwin University).

In 1982 Gary started his working life at Channel Eight (now Channel 9). In the 1990s he worked for ABC TV here in Darwin. His roles included directing local ABC news, 7.30 Report, Stateline NT and Australia Television News (ATV) – broadcast both nationally and internationally nightly. Gary received a silver medal at the prestigious New York Festival for his efforts directing ATV News.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Mayor Ian Abbott

Executive Member representing All councils

Ian Abbott was first elected as Alderman to the Palmerston Town Council through a by-election held in August 1999. Ian continued to hold the position of Alderman up to the March 2012 general election where he was elected as Mayor. During Ian's 16 years of service to local government in Palmerston, he has also served two terms as Deputy Mayor in 2003/2004 and 2007/2008.



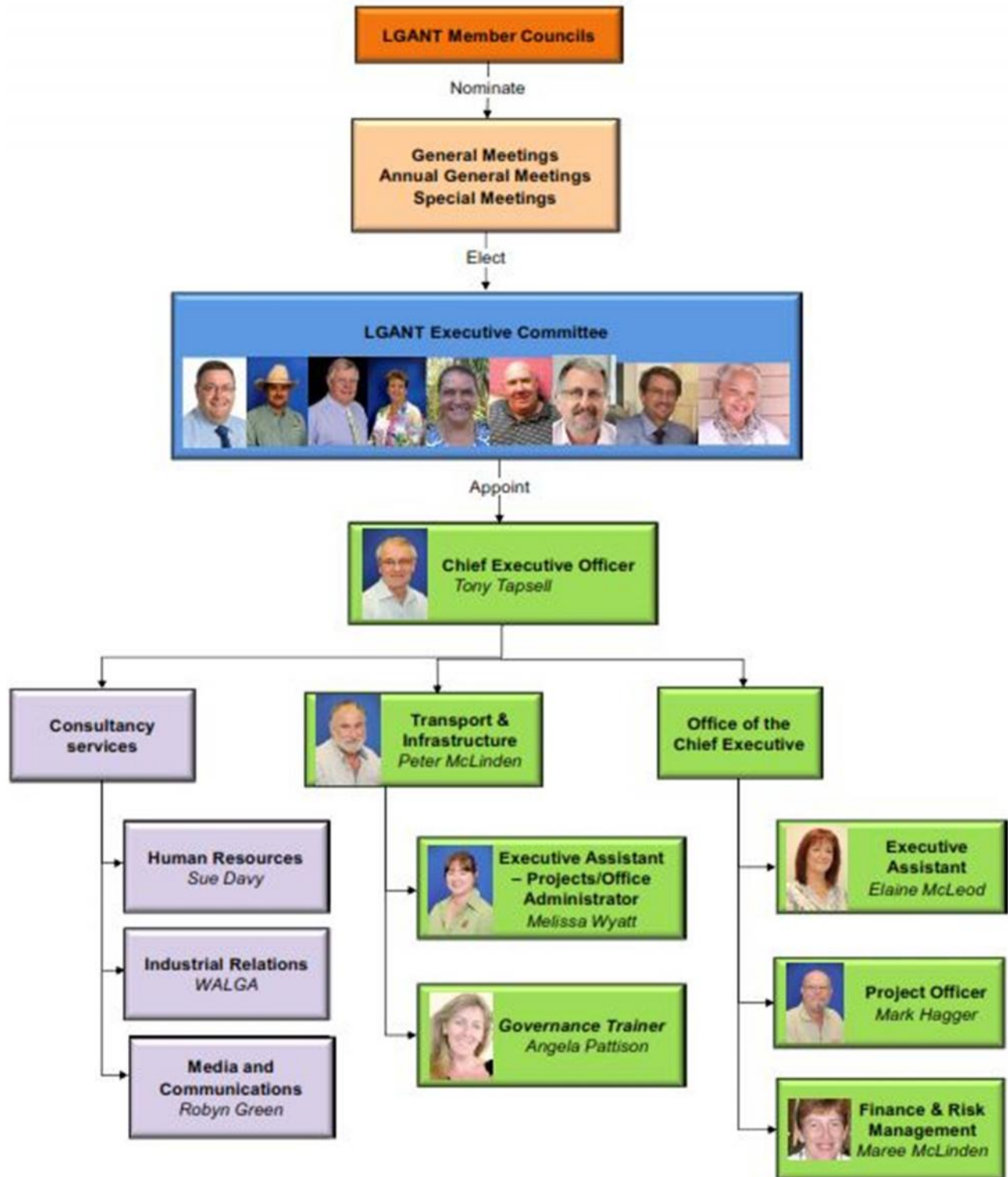
Ian has previously represented Palmerston on the Development Consent Authority and maintains a keen interest in the growth and development of Palmerston – one of the fastest growing cities in Australia.

A passionate NT Thunder sponsor and supporter, Ian has been associated with numerous community and sporting groups in Palmerston and is always prepared to lend a hand by fundraising for local charitable organisations.

Ian fully represents his local community and has a particular interest in youth related issues and ensuring the survival of small community and sporting groups. Economic growth and the redevelopment of the Palmerston CBD are also important to Ian. The creation of job opportunities and the development of a functional CBD is a key focus for Mayor Ian Abbott and the City of Palmerston.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

LGANT Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2017



Service Providers and Sponsors

Auditor

Kevin Blacker & Associates
PO Box 38170
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Bankers

National Australia Bank
Smith Street
DARWIN NT 0800

Insurance

Jardine Lloyd Thomson
PO Box 2321
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

Association Sponsors

LGANT offers thanks and acknowledges the assistance provided to it by sponsorships in the 2016-2017 year.

Platinum:



Jardine Lloyd Thomson

Gold:



Territory Insurance Office

Silver: Statewide Super, Maloney Field Services and Altiform.

Annual Priority Achievements 2016-2017

The **2016-2017** financial year is the **third** of LGANT's updated five year Strategic Plan ('the Plan') goals, outcomes, annual priorities and performance measures. These priorities are reviewed and updated each year to ensure they meet member expectations and the capacity of LGANT officers to deliver.

The Strategic Plan is available on the LGANT website: www.lgant.asn.au

Goal 1 – To enhance the status of local government

Local Government Understanding

LGANT shall pursue the improved standing of local government in the Northern Territory. LGANT will do this on behalf of, and in conjunction with its members through fostering effective communication between LGANT, member councils and all local government stakeholders. We will use available resources to disseminate information which assists all parties to better understand matters relating to local government.

1.1 Prepare and disseminate information products to member councils.

Material provided to councils during the course of this financial year included:

-) monthly Executive agendas and minutes
-) reference groups agendas and minutes
-) monthly LGANT newsletter
-) EasyGrants newsletter
-) media releases
-) LGANT website
-) social media
-) training materials and guidelines
-) 2016-17 Local Government Directory
-) 2017 LGANT calendar
-) Territory and Federal budget summaries

1.2 Work with councils to ensure communication materials about local government are up to date and online.

LGANT officers made contact with councils about the currency of any information published online. LGANT assisted councils to disseminate information through its regular newsletters, business papers and media releases.

Work was completed during the course of this financial year to upgrade LGANT's website to make it more responsive to developments and more user friendly. The website was launched on 15 May 2017. Outdated documents continue to be culled and current ones uploaded to reflect updated information.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

1.3 Promote the 2017 Local Government elections.

LGANT:

-) Promoted councils and elections at Katherine Library during *2016 Adult Learners Week* - 6-8 September 2016 through information sessions '*Get to know your Council*' available for the public. Produced posters and a range of products through Adult Learners' Week Grant funded by the Department of Business.
-) Developed a '*Local Government Elections*' brochure to promote updating and enrolling to vote including important election dates.
-) Renamed and distributed '*So you want to be on Council*' publication to '*Why council? Stand up for your Community*' candidate information booklet.
-) Worked with the NT Electoral Commission on a '*Democracy Dash*' initiative to inform middle and senior school students on the local government sector and elections (6 April 2017).

-) Promoted elections at Fred's Pass Show 13-14 May 2017. LGANT staff fielded questions from members of the public on councils and the local government elections and distributed relevant information on elections and the local government sector.



-) In collaboration with City of Palmerston and the NT Electoral Commission produced candidate information videos for interested persons wishing to nominate for the 2017 local government elections (June 2017).



-) Distributed local government resources to the public and private school system throughout the NT for teacher '*Civics and Citizenship*' curriculum support.
-) Promoted election information and updated candidate information sessions in the LGANT newsletter, webpage and via email to NT councils.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

-) In collaboration with the NT Electoral Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development delivered ‘*Why Council? Stand up for your community*’ candidate information sessions throughout various regions as detailed in **Table 4**.

Table 4
Candidate information sessions

| Council Region | 2017 Dates | Interest attendees |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Wagait Shire Council | 18 April | 5 |
| Litchfield Council | 11 May | 4 Elected members only |
| City of Palmerston | 16 May | 8 |
| Victoria Daly Regional Council | 22 May | 5 elected members only |
| Katherine Town Council | 23 May | 3 |
| East Arnhem Regional Council | 29 May | Elected members only |
| Tiwi Islands Regional Council | 21 May | 10 |
| Coomalie Community Government Community | 20 June | 5 |
| Alice Springs Town Council | 24 June | 14 |
| Barkly Regional Council | 26 June | 8 |
| City of Darwin | 12 July | 35 |
| Belyuen Community Government Council | 14 July | 14 |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**



East Arnhem Regional Council

Many councils continued to deliver information on the elections by carrying out their own sessions at local authority meetings or through community visits and events with the assistance of the NT Electoral Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

1.4 Improve councils' knowledge and use of social media.

A representative from Jardine Lloyd Thompson gave a presentation to members on Cyber Security at the LGANT Conference on 1 December 2016.

LGANT President, Mayor Damien Ryan did much to encourage elected members in the use of social media. Most councils make good use of it.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Goal 2 – To enhance the performance of local government

Local Government Capacity

LGANT shall pursue the continued improvement of local government performance in the Northern Territory. LGANT will do this on behalf of, and in conjunction with, its members and will coordinate and run activities which focus on members council issues and assist with professional development.

2.1 Provide councils with specialist human resources and industrial relations services.

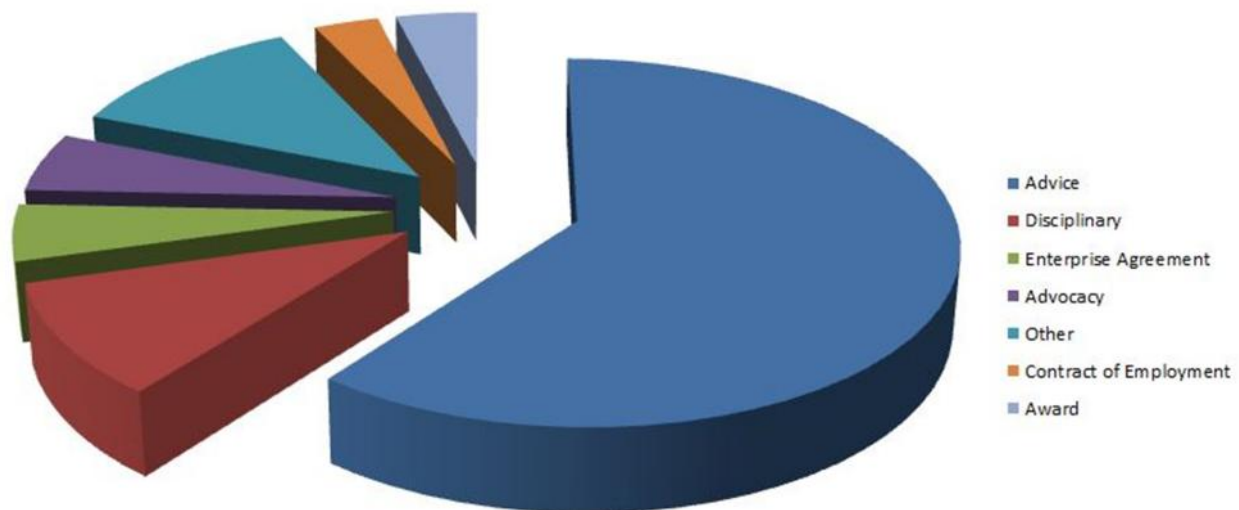
LGANT is required under its constitution to provide industrial relations services to its members. LGANT contracted the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Workplace Solutions to do this work which included amongst other things:

-) human resource and industrial relations advice
-) issue of policy materials
-) representing councils in the Fair Work Commission.

Individual contacts from councils totalling 378 were made throughout the year at an average of almost 32 contacts per month.

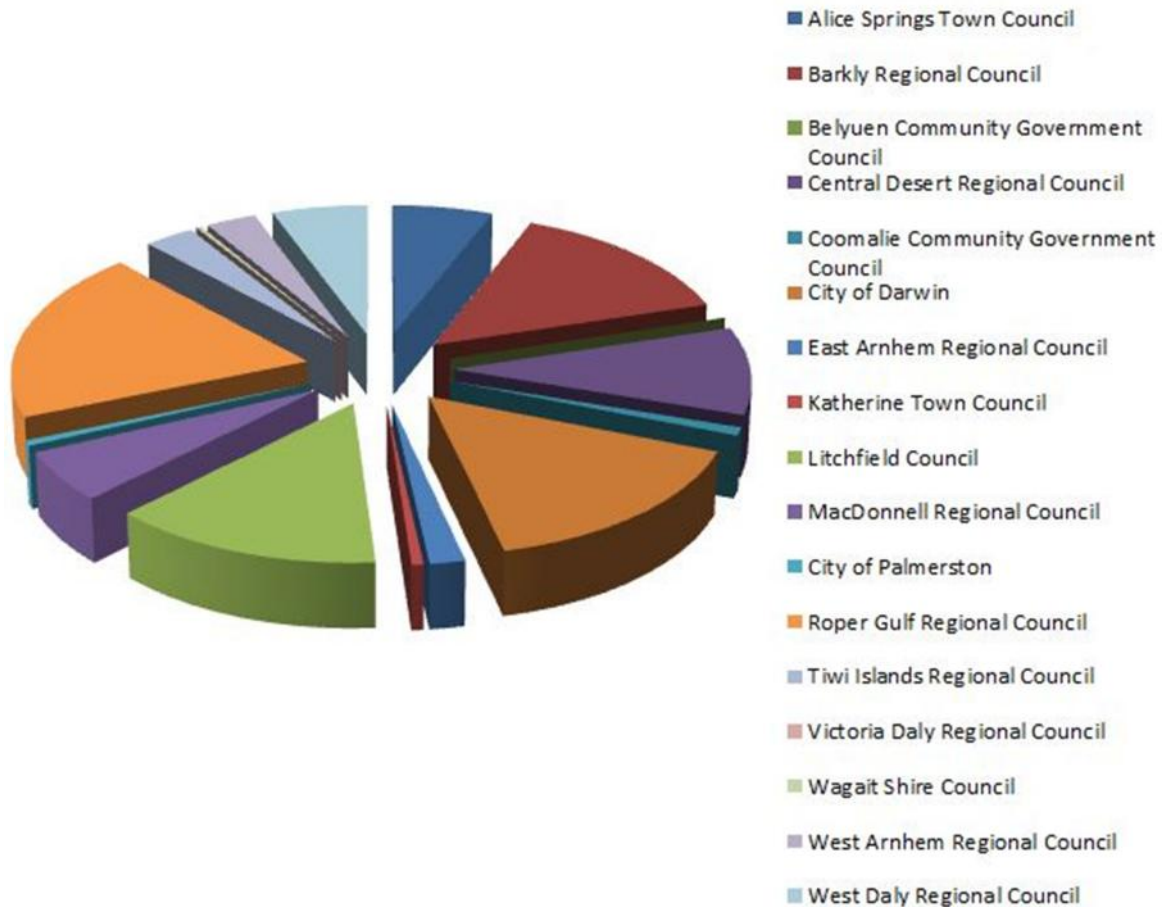
Tables 5 and 6 show the spread of topics addressed and proportional usage by member councils.

**Table 5
2016/17 Proportion of council contacts with WALGA Workplace Solutions by type**



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Table 6
2016/17 Proportion of council contacts with WALGA Workplace Solutions**



In addition to the industrial relations service provided through the WALGA agreement, LGANT also responded to queries on:

-) delegations register from City of Palmerston
-) closed meetings and public access on briefing days to Katherine Town Council
-) local authority allowances from Barkly Regional Council.
-) induction manual and production of elected member package for Alice Springs Town Council

LGANT:

-) participated in a series of meetings with WALGA training staff and developed a meeting procedures e-learning module
-) negotiated further seed funding for the e-learning proposal from the Department of Housing and Community Development on 13 September 2016

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

-) attended GrantNT information session conducted by the Department of Corporate and Information Services on 14 November 2016 and circulated information to councils.

2.2 Facilitate training and professional development activities for elected and local authority members and staff.

LGANT:

-) worked with governance managers and consultants on contextualising training for councils
-) facilitated external consultants for specialist training for councils
-) clarified and assisted council staff and members on information regarding provisional meetings powers and functions as amended under Guideline 8 for Local Authorities
-) sought funding from the Department of Business for remote e-learning but was unsuccessful due to LGANT not being a Registered Training Organisation
-) acquired software to develop training courses and videos that councils can access online or via a USBs in the future
-) reviewed training modules to incorporate elected member training on compliance issues
-) carried out training for local authorities, elected members and council staff throughout the year. Refer to **Table 7** for details:



Table 7
List of training delivered during the year by LGANT officers and consultants

| Council | Audience and Training | Location | Date |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| East Arnhem Regional Council | Local Authority training of 36 elected members and council staff: | Milingimbi | 8 August 2016 |
| |) roles and responsibilities | Ramingining | 9 August 2016 |
| |) meeting procedures | Gapuwiyak | 10 August 2016 |
| |) conflict of Interest | Umbakumba | 25 August 2016 |
| | | Milyakburra | 26 August 2016 |
| | | Galuwin'ku | 27 August 2016 |
| | | (cancelled due to sorry business) | |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Council | Audience and Training | Location | Date |
|---|--|--|--|
| Various Councils | Procurement Workshop and Training | Darwin | 11-12 August 2016 |
| Katherine Town Council Roper Gulf Regional Council and Victoria Daly Regional Council | 23 staff and elected members <i>Introduction to Leadership</i> course delivered by Beyond IQ Allan Adams | Katherine – Roper Gulf training rooms | 11 November 2016 |
| East Arnhem Regional Council | 9 elected member and staff <i>Leadership Teamwork and Community Engagement</i> | Nhulunbuy EARC council office | 21 November 2016 |
| Various councils | 26 participants Australian Institute of Company Directors – <i>Governance Essentials for Local Government</i> course | Darwin Alice Springs | 18-19 November 2016 25-26 November 2016 |
| West Arnhem Regional Council | 17 elected members and council staff <i>Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest and Confidential meetings</i> | Jabiru - WARC council office | 6-7 December 2016 |
| Roper Gulf Regional Council | 58 local authority members and council staff <ul style="list-style-type: none">) <i>Introduction to Local Government</i>) <i>Roles and Responsibilities</i>) <i>LG Elections – enrolments and nominations</i> | Beswick Barunga Jilkminggan Mataranka Minyerri Borroloola Numbulwar Ngukurr | 30 January 2017 30 January 2017 31 January 2017 31 January 2017 1 February 2017 2 February 2017 7 February 2017 8 July 2017 |
| Litchfield Council Katherine Town Council Roper Gulf Regional Council | 15 elected members and council staff <i>Meeting Procedures</i> course delivered by Allan McGill | Katherine Town Council chambers | 19 April 2017 |
| Various councils | 32 participants Australian Institute of Company Directors – <i>Governance Essentials for Local Government</i> course | Alice Springs Darwin | 20-21 April 2017 27-28 April 2017 |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

2.3 Review LGANT policies, research and develop new policies for submission to the Executive and General meetings for approval.

Throughout the year the following LGANT Policy Statements were approved as additions or changes at Executive and General meetings:

**Table 8
Changes to the LGANT Policy Statements**

| Section | Policy Statements |
|----------------|--|
| 1.2 (d) |) Recognition of local government in the NT government ministerial structure (<i>updated</i>) |
| 1.12 (a) |) Candidates release their policy positions prior to polling in the Northern Territory election (<i>updated</i>) |
| 2.1 (c) |) Local government position in respect of morgue facilities in remote communities (<i>updated</i>) |
| 2.11 (a) |) Shared services in local government (<i>new policy</i>) |
| 2.9 (e) to (k) |) Local government position in respect of alcohol (<i>new policies</i>) |
| 4.4 (f) |) Australian Broadcasting Corporation commitment to services in rural and regional Australia (<i>updated</i>) |



General Meeting and AGM Alice Springs – December 2016

2.4 Assist member councils with their policy and by-law development.

Table 9 below contains a report on by-law development for the year.

LGANT acknowledges the assistance of the Department of Housing and Community Development ('the Department') to progress by-law development particularly with assisting councils with drafting instructions.

**Table 9
Councils' By-law Development
(as at 30 June 2017)**

| Council | By-law | Activity | Remarks |
|--|---|-----------------------|---|
| Barkly Regional Council (BRC) | Barkly (Animal Management) By-laws | New By-laws | The Department is assisting BRC to prepare drafting instructions. |
| Central Desert Regional Council (CDRC) | Central Desert Regional Council Dog Management By-laws | New By-laws | The Department is working with CDRC to complete instructions. |
| City of Darwin | City of Darwin By-laws | Amendment By-laws | Drafting instructions were provided to Office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) in May 2017. |
| City of Palmerston | Palmerston (Animal Control) By-laws | New By-laws | OPC commenced drafting of the By-laws in 2016. Comments to OPC queries and additional drafting instructions were provided to OPC in April 2017. |
| East Arnhem Shire Council | Angurugu Community Government Council (Offensive Weapons) By-laws | Repeal of the By-laws | Council has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed with drafting. |
| | Angurugu Community Government Council (Water Pollution) By-laws | Repeal of the By-laws | Council has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed with drafting. |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Council | By-law | Activity | Remarks |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Katherine Town Council | Katherine Town Council By-laws | Amendments to the By-laws | Drafting instructions were sent to OPC in May 2017. |
| Litchfield Council | Litchfield Council (Animal Management) By-laws | New By-laws | The Department is assisting Litchfield Council in enacting the By-laws. |
| | Litchfield Council (Meeting Procedures) By-laws | New By-laws | Preparation of drafting instructions has commenced but is on hold until council's Animal Management By-laws are enacted. |
| MacDonnell Regional Council | Wallace Rockhole (Litter) By-laws | New By-laws | Council has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed with drafting. |
| Nhulunbuy Corporation | Nhulunbuy (Animal Management) By-laws | New By-laws | The Nhulunbuy Corporation has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed. |
| Roper Gulf Regional Council | Roper Gulf Regional Council By-laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Litter) Waste Management) Dogs | New By-laws | The Department has provided drafting instructions to Council. |
| Tiwi Islands Regional Council | Tiwi Islands Regional Council By-laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Meetings) Dogs) Litter | New By-laws | The OPC has begun drafting the proposed By-laws. |
| Wagait Shire Council | Wagait Dog By-laws | New By-laws | Drafting instructions were sent to the OPC in November 2016. |

2.5 Assist councils to implement policies and procedures that facilitate financial sustainability.

LGANT:

-) worked with Barkly Regional Council and Litchfield Council to implement asset management policies and develop management plans for transport and buildings categories of assets
-) produced the 2015-16 local government cost index for use by councils as one part of their exercises in determining appropriate rates and charges for the 2016-17 financial year
-) gained agreement with councils to adopt a standard format of annual financial statement reporting incorporating specific financial sustainability indicators
-) continued the MOU with Local Buy Pty Ltd which enables councils to access procurement services
-) received, dissected and distributed to councils, bi-monthly information provided by the Department of Primary Industry and Resources relating to mining tenements for use by councils in levying rates on conditionally rateable properties.

2.6 Work towards the full incorporation of the Northern Territory under the *Local Government Act (2013)* with the exception of special purpose areas.

LGANT:

-) continued to provide input to the Northern Territory government on boundary reforms through meetings
-) included requests in its 2017-18 budget submission for additional funding to work towards broader incorporation of the Northern Territory under the *Local Government Act*
-) made known its policy position to the Northern Territory government on full incorporation.

2.7 Work with councils to gather relevant data including the development of checklists, for the production of an annual 'State of the Local Government Sector' report for the Northern Territory.

LGANT continued to work with the Australian Local Government Association and other local government associations throughout Australia to progress a state of local government sector report.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

2.8 Convene appropriate meetings with member councils to facilitate collaboration, sector policy development and provide networking opportunities.

Meetings are the primary mechanism LGANT uses to both engage with councils and coordinate work with them. The main meetings during the year included executive, general, annual general and reference group meetings.

At any one time LGANT deals with numerous agenda items at its meetings.

Some agenda items are not referenced in the following tables however a portion of them are reported in other sections of this Annual Report.

**Table 10
LGANT Executive meetings**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings |
|-------------------|---|
| 19 July 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) agreed to proceed to incorporate LGANT under the <i>Commonwealth Corporations Act</i>) acknowledged work performed by WALGA Workplace Solutions) acknowledged outcomes arising from the Human Resource Reference Group meeting |
| 16 August 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) acknowledged Mayor Jack's resignation in order to run in the NT Election) endorsed the Local Government Excellence Project Service Level Agreement and program budget) agreed to seek inclusion of LGANT in the <i>Local Government Act</i>) requested a meeting with the new Minister for Local Government after the August 2016 Northern Territory election) rescinded LGANT's policy on CouncilBIZ and agreed to develop new policies on shared services and collaboration) agreed to encourage councils to make application to Round 3 of the Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund |
| 20 September 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed the inaugural meeting of the Community Services Reference Group) adopted policy on shared services and collaboration) discussed options around a disposal levy for abandoned cars) endorsed a nomination to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings |
|------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">)] acknowledged action taken over cyber security breach of LGANT business system)] acknowledged outcomes from the ALGA Indigenous Policy Forum meeting)] discussed the lack of ministerial representation for local government in the NT government |
| 18 October 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">)] approved a policy on political parties and independent candidates making their policy positions known prior to polling)] endorsed a submission to the Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing of Unconventional Reservoirs Onshore)] agreed to adopt the 2015-16 LGANT annual report and annual financial statements)] discussed the proposed review of public library funding and strategies)] acknowledged outcomes arising from the September 2016 ALGA board meeting)] acknowledged outcomes from the ALGA Indigenous Policy Forum)] approved the Service Level Agreement for the Local Government Excellence Program)] discussed LGANT's involvement in the NT government's remote housing strategy |
| 22 November 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">)] endorsed a submission to the Inquiry into Opening Parliament to the People)] acknowledged outcomes arising from the November 2016 ALGA board meeting)] reviewed outcomes from the 2016 National Local Roads Congress)] acknowledged input that the LGANT CEO gave to the Inquiry into the Future of Australia's Aged Care Sector Workforce)] noted the report on participation of members in Local Buy contracts)] acknowledged outcomes to do with boundary reforms of the Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait Local Government Advisory Group |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings |
|------------------|---|
| 17 February 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed the draft 2017-2018 LGANT strategic plan and annual priorities) endorsed the draft 2017-2018 annual budget including member subscriptions) appointed an alternate director to ALGA for the LGANT Vice President Regional and Shires) endorsed the submission to the 2015-16 Local Government National Report) approved LGANT Executive, general meeting and annual general meeting dates) agreed to write to the Minister for Planning about planning matters impacting on local government) endorsed the 2017/18 LGANT budget submission to the Northern Territory government) approved the development of a submission to the Department for the continuation of the Local Government Excellence Project for the 2016/17 financial year) endorsed LGANT's nomination to the Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee) approved a policy on holding a regional and shire forum after April general meetings) endorsed the submission to the Senate inquiry into the termination of ABC shortwave radio transmission services) endorsed the submission on whistleblower protection for the proposed Independent Commissioner Against Corruption for the NT |
| 27 March 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed LGANT's nomination to the NT Weeds Advisory Committee) endorsed LGANT's nomination to the NT Planning Commission) approved a Code of Conduct policy) endorsed five nominations to be members of a local government disciplinary committee) discussed tax deductability of election expenses) approved a LGANT policy on ABC Shortwave Radio Transmission Services |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings |
|---------------|---|
| 18 April 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ） endorsed LGANT's nomination to the Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee ） endorsed LGANT's nomination to the Coastal and Marine Management Partnership Group ） considered actions for LGANT and councils to follow up that have arisen from the Economic Summit ） approved LGANT making a submission to the Renewable Energy Expert Panel ） approved changes to the LGANT housing policy |
| 23 May 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ） adopted new LGANT policies on alcohol management ） approved LGANT lodging a submission to the expert panel on the Review of the <i>Liquor Act</i> ） endorsed an alternate director to ALGA for the Vice President Regional and Shires ） approved a LGANT submission on conditional rating ） endorsed LGANT's nomination to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee ） acknowledged outcomes from the National Local Government Cultural Forum |
| 13 June 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ） acknowledged outcomes from the ALGA CEO Forum meeting ） noted outcomes of the ALGA Indigenous Policy Forum ） discussed progress with NT subdivision guidelines including their application in remote area towns ） reviewed a report on the 2017/18 Federal Budget and Regional Australia ） endorsed LGANT calling for tenders for the continuous service of industrial relations ） discussed the 'vision' for NT Public Libraries including the principles upon which it will be based and its six outcome areas |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Table 11
General and Annual General Meetings**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from General and the Annual General Meetings |
|---|---|
| 1-2 December 2016 General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed proposed changes to the LGANT Constitution on the incorporation of LGANT) requested councils consider the finance options available to them through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation) agreed to the LGANT Executive meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to raise issues of concern to local government on planning and land use) called on relevant councils to undertake assessments on the transfer of local roads within their local government area from the NT government to their councils) called on councils to give due consideration to providing assistance to the NT and Australian Electoral Commissions with respect to the NT Electoral Roll) discussed the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants and the 2016 Census) called on the NT government to recognise local government in its ministerial structure) adopted the LGANT draft policy on NT elections) endorsed a change to the format of LGANT general meetings |
| 2 December 2016 Annual General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed the 2015/2016 Annual Report) conducted elections for the Executive with the support of the NT Electoral Commission) appointed an auditor for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years) accepted reports from LGANT representatives on eleven external boards and committees) the Minister for Housing and Community Development, the Hon Gerry McCarthy MLA and the LGANT President presented local government long service awards to eleven councillors having more than ten years' service in local government |
| 6 April 2017 General Meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) adopted the 2017-18 annual priorities for the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan) adopted the LGANT 2017-2018 annual budget including member subscriptions) conducted an election for the casual vacancy of Vice President – |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from General and the Annual General Meetings |
|------|--|
| | <p>Regional and Shires with the support of the NT Electoral Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">) discussed councils' legal obligation to manage and maintain Aboriginal Land Trust land) sought changes to the conditions of National Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements) requested further work be done on the impacts of workforce substance abuse on regional and remote local government in the NT) called on the NT government to commit to the ongoing support of remote Indigenous communities, including the provision of appropriate support services, remote health and police services) called on the Commonwealth government to restore indexation related to Financial Assistance Grants as a part of its 2017/18 Federal Budget) requested LGANT work with land councils in the NT to identify rateable portions of Indigenous land to assist councils to apply rates and charges as per the <i>Local Government Act</i>) discussed the Local Government Excellence Program |



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Table 12
CEO Forum**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from CEO Forum Meetings |
|------------------|--|
| 30 November 2016 | <p>LGANT convened the following CEO forums which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed the actions and recommendations arising from subordinate reference group meetings) reviewed the LGANT general meeting agenda and conference program) acknowledged presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Justine Searle, Statewide Super on the investment market o Iain Loganathan, NT Electoral Commissioner on voter enrolments and the 2017 council elections o Shaun Hardy, Department of Housing and Community Development on the department restructure and roadmap for the future o Patrick Gregory, NT Library on public library directions and agreements) acknowledged the report from Local Government Managers NT) discussed recent key initiatives and events occurring in NT local government areas) endorsed the draft 2017/18 LGANT Budget submission) supported LGANT progressing asset management and long term financial planning with councils. |
| 5 April 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) endorsed the actions and recommendations arising from subordinate reference group meetings) reviewed the LGANT general meeting agenda and conference program) acknowledged the report from Local Government Professionals NT) discussed recent key initiatives and events occurring in NT local government areas) acknowledged presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Debbie Sterrey, Richard Nunn and David Smelt, Statewide Super on the investment climate and economic outlook in Australia o Iain Loganathan, NT Electoral Commissioner on local government elections o Terry O'Neill, Universal Subdivision Guidelines Committee and Graeme Finch, Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment on uniform subdivision guidelines in the NT |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from CEO Forum Meetings |
|------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clinton Parker, Local Government Infrastructure Services (LGAQ) on street lighting and innovation) endorsed LGANT employing a dedicated officer to work with councils in addressing their asset management and long term financial planning issues) endorsed progression of the NT Local Government Joint Insurance Scheme. |

Table 13

Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group (ETIRG)

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group Meetings |
|-----------------|--|
| 14 October 2016 | <p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">) adopted a strategic directions strategy for 2017) supported the Council Municipal Works Conference hosted by Katherine Town Council) requested councils pursue MOUs with rail operators over where roads and rail crossings interface with and fall within a local government area) finalised street lighting agreements with the Power and Water Corporation) reported on the local government procurement forum conducted on 11-12 August 2016. |
| 16 March 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) continued to collaborate and share information in preparation of the transfer of street lighting assets and their operations, maintenance and repairs) discussed the Federal Road Safety Black Spot Program with a view to advocating the Australian government to allow consultancies and as part of the eligibility criteria for the program) approved and supported LGANT fee-for-service proposal for training and asset management planning for member councils) supported the restoration of indexation for Federal Assistance Grants) discussed the review of <i>Liquor Act</i> NT and endorsed LGANT's policies. |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**Table 14
Finance Reference Group (FRG)**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Finance Reference Group Meetings |
|------------------|--|
| 6 October 2016 | <p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">) formulated responses and recommendations for LGANT to provide as a submission to the review of the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations being conducted by the Department of Housing and Community Development) reviewed the FRG governance charter and made recommendations for amendments to individual clauses of the charter) identified common projects that councils could collaborate over, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o seeking statutory immunity from litigation for councils over events on local government roads o negotiating with Power and Water and Jacana over the tariff system rates being used to charge for power provided to councils' street lights) directed that the Model Financial Statements Working Group meet to investigate the appropriate sustainability ratios and report back to the next FRG) requested that LGANT seek, on behalf of councils, land titles search fee relief from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics until such time as the inquiry software program being developed by the Department becomes accessible. |
| 16-17 March 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) reported the 2016/17 Local government Cost Index as being 0.7%, compared to a Darwin CPI of 0%) disbanded the Local Government Cost Index Working Group following the successful completion of reviewing and amending the methodology by which the index is calculated) ratified the amendments to the FRG governance charter) endorsed the LGANT proposal to employ a dedicated officer to assist councils on a user pays basis to prepare long term asset management plans, associated financial projections and annual performance improvement self-assessment reports) endorsed the Model Financial Statements Working Group approaching the Department of Corporate and Information Services to collaborate in developing standardised funding agreements and grant acquittal |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Finance Reference Group Meetings |
|------|---|
| | <p>processes for use by all councils in reporting to NT government funding agencies</p> <p>) nominated Greg Arnott (Roper Gulf) and Silke Reinhardt (Litchfield) as the FRG nominees to the Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee</p> <p>) requested LGANT to further investigate (including facilitating future workshops) the accounting treatment of Section 19 leases following the presentation and discussion by David Edgerton of APV Valuers and Asset Management.</p> |



Finance Reference Group, Alice Springs – March 2017

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Table 15

Community Services Reference Group

| Date | Key Actions Arising from Community Services Reference Group Meetings |
|---|---|
| 4 November 2016 (<i>inaugural meeting</i>) | <p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">) approved a governance charter for the group) acknowledged financial reporting of community and cultural events in order to demonstrate the amount of expenditure in this area) discussed the Northern Territory Remote Housing Strategy) reported on the work of the ALGA Indigenous Reference Group) requested councils be informed about parameters for developing policies on the NT Public Library vision and funding agreement review) distributed the National Disability Guide for Local Government. |
| 1-2 March 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) set the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o alcohol reduction consumption/harm and selling outlets o domestic violence focus on women and children) introduced the “<i>Our watch program</i>” strategy and policy development) distributed the <i>National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010-2020</i>. |

Governance Reference Group and Human Resources Reference Group

Following a number of requests from council, it was decided to combine the above groups due to a number of factors including LGANT’s human resources and the overlap of agenda with the two groups. Preparations were made for a meeting of the above groups with the first meeting scheduled for early next financial year.

One item listed on the agenda for the first meeting of the group is the work that LGANT and other local government associations throughout Australia completed for holding the National Local Government Human Resources Conference 2017 in November 2017.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**2.9 Assist member councils to develop reconciliation action plans as per CEO
reference group item 4.1, 5 November 2014.**

A number of councils have commenced work on these plans although to date only the East Arnhem Regional Council has a formal plan in place. Some councils have indicated that whilst a formal plan may not exist many of the actions one would expect to find in a reconciliation action plan are spread throughout their planning and policy documents.



Goal 3 – To effectively advocate for and represent member councils

Local Government Influence

LGANT shall represent the interests of local government in the Northern Territory as a sector and in doing so we will act as the conduit to other spheres of government, non-government organisations, media, industry groups and other relevant individuals and organisations through our activities and those of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).

3.1 Work with councils to secure tenure on land for council assets.

LGANT:

-) continued to:
 - update the list of Section 19 leases councils hold on Aboriginal land
 - encourage councils to take out leases on Aboriginal land.

3.2 Submit proposals in response to legislation, policy or programs which are enacted or proposed by the Territory and Commonwealth governments.

LGANT completed the following submissions:

Table 16
LGANT 2016-17 Submissions

| Date Submitted | Submission Topic |
|-----------------------|---|
| 19 July 2016 | New Local Government Legislation Consultation Paper |
| 27 September 2016 | NT Government Fracking Inquiry |
| 29 November 2016 | Inquiry into Opening Parliament to the People |
| 15 December 2016 | Remote Housing Review |
| 12 January 2017 | 2015-16 Local Government National Report |
| 13 January 2017 | 2017-18 LGANT Budget Submission |
| 20 January 2017 | Joint Kimberley and NT Local Government Forum and Workshop |
| 2 February 2017 | Big Rivers Waste Management Coordinator |
| 7 February 2017 | Inquiry into the ABC's Termination of its Shortwave Radio Transmission Services |
| 20 February 2017 | Whistleblower Protection for the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption for the NT |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date Submitted | Submission Topic |
|-----------------------|---|
| 21 February 2017 | Australian Airports Association Submission to the Commonwealth Budget 2017-18 |
| 27 April 2017 | LGANT Road Map to Renewables |
| 14 June 2017 | Environmental Regulatory Reform |
| 14 June 2017 | Conditionally Rateable Land |

As of 30 June 2017 the only submissions for which outcomes were known were:

- ☐ the report of the Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People was released in March 2017 and supported some of the suggestions that LGANT advocated
- ☐ 2017-18 LGANT Budget Submission – the Northern Territory Budget was released on 2 May 2017 and a report was provided to the Executive at its meeting on 23 May 2017.

All other submissions remain outstanding in terms of LGANT knowing what government intends to do with them.

LGANT supported the Australian Local Government Association to have the restoration of indexation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants which was confirmed during the May 2016 Federal Budget announcements.

3.3 Ensure appropriate local government representation on relevant boards and committees.

LGANT was represented on the following committees during the year:

- ☐ Administration and Legislation Advisory Committee
- ☐ Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- ☐ Coastal and Marine Management Strategy Partnership Group
- ☐ CouncilBIZ
- ☐ Employment Assistance Service NT (EASA)
- ☐ Heritage Council
- ☐ Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee
- ☐ Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs
- ☐ Minister's Advisory Council on Senior Territorians
- ☐ National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee
- ☐ NT Grants Commission
- ☐ NT Library Community Reference Group
- ☐ NT Neighbourhood Watch Board
- ☐ NT Place Names Committee

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

-)] NT Planning Commission
-)] NT Water Safety Advisory Council
-)] NT Weeds Advisory Committee
-)] Regional Development Australia NT
-)] Road Safety Black Spots Committee.

Throughout the year LGANT managed processes which required calling for nominations from councils to be representatives on Territory and Commonwealth government committees as detailed in **Table 17**.

Table 17
Nominations submitted and approved during 2016-17

| Nominee | Committee | Date of Executive Meeting |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Councillor Neil Price (Barkly Regional Council) | Animal Welfare Advisory Committee | 20 September 2016 |
| Councillor Jamie De Brennie (Alice Springs Town Council) | Administration and Legislation Committee | 17 February 2017 |
| CEO Robert Jennings (Katherine Town Council) | NT Planning Commission | 7 March 2017 |
| President Peter Clee (Wagait Shire Council) Councillor Jacinta Price (Alice Springs Town Council) Councillor Gaye Lawrence (Victoria Daly Regional Council) Alderman Emma Young (City of Darwin) Alderman Garry Lambert (City of Darwin) | Local Government Disciplinary Committees | 27 March 2017 |
| Alderman Robin Knox (City of Darwin) | Coastal and Marine Management Strategy Partnership Group | 18 April 2017 |
| Officer Kerry Whiting (East Arnhem Regional Council) | Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee | 18 April 2017 |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

LGANT officers represented local government on the following committees and provided reports at Executive meetings:

-) the Top End Regional Organisation of Councils held meetings which were attended by the LGANT CEO (and when available, the President) at which updates on LGANT activities were provided to members
-) the ALGA National Local Government Cultural Forum
-) the Local Government Workforce Development Group – National group of policy officers
-) the CouncilBIZ Board
-) the ALGA Roads and Transport Advisory Committee
-) the ALGA Local Government Indigenous Reference Group



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

3.4 Provide information and support to ALGA and other State associations.

In addition to attending to standard governance matters at ALGA Board meetings, the LGANT CEO, President and Vice President Regional and Shires participated in the following ALGA meetings:

-) the ALGA Post General Assembly Teleconference
-) the National Local Roads and Transport Congress
-) all ALGA general meetings and the annual general meeting
-) the ALGA strategic planning meeting
-) the National General Assembly of Local Government

Some of the issues dealt with at ALGA Board meetings included those listed in **Table 18** below about which reports were provided at Executive meetings:

Table 18
Significant issues deliberated at the ALGA Board meetings

| Date | Highlights |
|-------------------|---|
| 21 July 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Processing of the resolutions of National General Assembly of Local Government (teleconference) |
| 22 September 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Reform of Federal funding of local government) Native title and Indigenous issues) Women in local government) Joint advocacy initiative with peak bodies) Climate change and legal liability) Commonwealth Cities program |
| 9 November 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Road reform and State of the Assets) 2017/18 Federal Budget Submission) Implementation of COAG e-invoicing initiative) Digital seniors literacy and online safety program) Regional development |
| 23 March 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Indigenous Constitutional Recognition) Smart cities and digital transformation) Value Capture and City Deals) Road user charging |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

| Date | Highlights |
|--------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Local government asset data |
| 17 June 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">) Restricted access vehicle route assessment tool) Stormwater utilities in local government) Housing and homelessness – Federal Budget considerations) Diversity in local government) Proposed disbursement of Government Skills Australia funding) 2017 National General Assembly of Local Government report) Federal Budget 2017-18 update |

LGANT also provided email advice to ALGA policy officers on the following subjects:

-) National Disability Insurance Scheme
-) National Heavy Vehicle Legislation and Regulation
-) renewable energy
-) climate change
-) natural resource management
-) waste management
-) Federal Assistance Grant indexation
-) review of the ALGA Governance charter
-) independently governed and regulated water and sewerage
-) advocacy with peak bodies
-) Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessment Tool funding.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

National General Assembly of Local Government, Canberra – June 2017

3.5 Facilitate engagement and collaboration between Local and Northern Territory governments in relation to local government matters such as:

-) electoral matters**
-) land use and town planning proposals**
-) a service level agreement for the operation, maintenance and energy charges for street lighting**
-) transfer of transport assets (roads, airstrips, barge landings and boat ramps) from the Northern Territory government to local government**
-) regional waste management.**

Electoral Matters

LGANT continually engaged with councils, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Northern Territory Electoral Commission on actions that assisted with the August 2017 council elections (see Table 4). This included having presentations organised as detailed in Table 12.

Land Use and Town Planning Proposals

LGANT's helped to progress the work that is being done by the Northern Territory Government for establishing subdivision guidelines for land developments throughout the Northern Territory.

A Service Level Agreement for the Operation, Maintenance and Energy Charges for Street Lighting

LGANT alerted councils to the Federal Government's 'Smart Cities' initiative and organised a presentation at the April 2017 CEO Forum (see Table 12).

Transfer of Transport Assets (Roads, Airstrips, Barge Landings and Boat Ramps) from the Northern Territory Government to Local Government

LGANT officers met on a number of occasions with Northern Territory Government (NTG) agencies regarding the above issue and matters that are being addressed by the NTG are:

-) land tenure (this is likely to take some time to resolve)**
-) business plans**
-) governance**
-) operations.**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Regional Waste Management

Central Australia

LGANT:

-) with the support of the Department of Health, continued for the Central Australian region the employment of a Waste Management Co-ordinator that was hosted by the MacDonnell Regional Council
-) chaired and provided secretarial support to the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group (CAWMWG) whose membership comprised of the following councils:
 - o Barkly Regional Council
 - o MacDonnell Regional Council
 - o Central Desert Regional Council
-) CAWMWG outputs and achievements included:
 - o a review of the *Central Australian Landfill Operating Guidelines*
 - o continued to provide Certificate II in Rural Operations in partnership with the Centre of Appropriate Technology (CAT)
 - o the *Community Litter Action Plan* framework for participating regional councils of Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional councils
 - o continued funding for two years with the Department of Health and Department of Housing and Community Development for the Central Australia Coordinator with the Department providing \$50,000 and the balance being funded by the three participating councils
-) made presentations at the Waste Recycling Industry NT conference on 9-10 March 2017
-) agreed to be represented at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference in Cairns on 4-7 September 2017 presenting on the Waste Management App developed in partnership with the CAT and Spinifex Valley Pty Ltd.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Big Rivers

LGANT:

-) along with the Department of Health, continued for the Big Rivers region, the employment of a Waste Management Co-ordinator that was hosted by the Katherine Town Council
-) chaired and provided secretarial support to the Big Rivers Waste Management Working Group (BRWMWG) whose membership comprises of the following councils:
 - o Katherine Town Council
 - o West Daly Regional Council
 - o Victoria Daly Regional Council
 - o Roper Gulf Regional Council
-) BRWMWG outputs and achievements included:
 - o quarterly meetings with LGANT as the chair and providing administration support
 - o regional councils contributing to the employment of a Regional Waste Management Coordinator
 - o the completion of waste management audits for eight waste facilities within the three regional council areas
 - o continued improvements to facilities servicing constituents from participating councils
 - o assisted the small communities at Minyerri and Robinson River in developing work plans for their waste facilities at the request of government agencies
 - o made presentations at the Waste Recycling Industry NT conference in 9-10 March 2017
 - o continued review and improvements to the *Big Rivers Remote Landfill Operating Guidelines*
-) implemented the *Guidelines for the Closure of Legacy Waste Sites* funded by the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NTEPA) which assists member councils to learn what is required to rehabilitate abandoned waste sites
-) collaborated with the Australian Government, the CAWMWG and BRWMWG in dealing with and identifying illegal dumping of asbestos

LGANT in collaboration with the Waste Recycling Industries NT (WRINT) convened the inaugural *Northern Territory Waste Management and Resource Recovery Conference* on 9 and 10 March 2017. 63 delegates heard from local government, industry and Northern Territory government on issues around legislative reform, stewardship programs, opportunities in technology and innovation, leadership and job growth in waste management and resource recovery sector in the NT.

Goal 4 Maintain an effective and efficient service

Maintaining and improving LGANT capacity

LGANT shall ensure quality management services including human, financial and physical resources to achieve successful outcomes.

4.1 Maintain the servicing of the LGANT local road network as identified by the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

LGANT is responsible for the maintenance of a 2,121km local road network on behalf of local government in the Northern Territory in the Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly, East Arnhem, Victoria Daly and Roper Gulf Regional Council areas.

The LGANT road network consists of the following road length by type as recorded in **Table 19** below:

Table 19
LGANT's Road Types and Road Lengths

| Road Type | Road Length |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sealed | 11 km |
| Gravel | 372 km |
| Formed | 477 km |
| Flat Bladed Track | 1,261 km |



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

LGANT allocated funds and performed road maintenance work in the following local government areas:

Table 20
Allocation of Expenditure in Regional Council Areas

| Council | Road Length | Allocation |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Central Desert Regional Council | 156km | \$76,440 |
| MacDonnell Regional Council | 279km | \$136,710 |
| East Arnhem Regional Council | 442km | \$216,580 |
| Roper Gulf Regional Council | 121km | \$59,290 |
| Victoria Daly Regional Council | 38km | \$18,620 |
| Barkly Regional Council | 1085km | \$531,650 |

The projects completed during 2016-17 under the Roads to Recovery Program were as listed in **Table 21**:

Table 21
**Roads to Recovery Projects and Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund
completed during 2016/17 financial year**

| Road | Council Area | Amount | Project | Funding |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Baniyala Road | East Arnhem | \$756,193 | Realignment, resheeting and culverts | REIF |
| Mata Mata Road | East Arnhem | \$225,000 | Rainbow Creek Crossing | R2R |
| Robinson River Road | Roper Gulf | \$339,752 | Road alignment and resheeting | R2R |

The identified local road grant, through the Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs), currently paid to LGANT is \$1,395,297 per annum. This was paid with an advance payment in July 2015 of \$710,214 followed by quarterly payments (\$171,270).

Expenditure on the network is in consultation with road users based on an agreed level of service, routine maintenance regime and priorities as determined by the LGANT road hierarchy.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

LGANT continued a program of erecting road signs in 2016/17 following road safety audits in 2014/15 (Robinson River Road and Baniyala Road). Local contractors installed the signs using 'The Central Australian Remote Community Traffic Management Manual' that was developed in collaboration with Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional councils and with technical assistance from the Australian Road Research Board.

LGANT continued to work collaboratively with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics regional offices in planning its maintenance programs and using the Department's appointed contractors.



Construction of causeway at Four Mile Creek, Robinson River

4.2 Review and refine LGANT's internal systems and processes.

LGANT committed to improving its operations and as such implemented the following actions to meet this annual priority:

-) Upgraded the LGANT website to make it more user friendly and current with the assistance of ALTBAT.com.

Staff completed training on the following courses:

-) Moodle platform for developing e-learning
-) software training development package with WALGA
-) Professional Certificate in Asset Management Planning
-) Australian Institute of Company Directors – Governance Essentials for Local Government.

4.3 Adopt a long term asset and financial management plan and ensure processes are in place for integration with annual budget and financial reporting.

Throughout the year a draft asset management plan for roads was prepared.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

4.4 Manage the leasing and maintenance requirements for Units 1 - 5, and contribute to the effective management of 21 Parap Road through the body corporate.

LGANT has one major building asset being its office premises at 21 Parap Rd, Parap NT. The principal activities LGANT undertook with this asset were in relation to the management of the loan, insurance and maintenance of the premises.

LGANT:

-) established the Emergency Planning Committee for 21 Parap Road
-) reviewed emergency evacuation procedures.



LGANT Office, 21 Parap Road, Parap

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2017

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I, Damien Ryan, President of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, state that in my opinion, the financial statements (as set out) are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2017 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Damien Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

30 October 2017

PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, Tony Tapsell, being the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, state that to the best of my knowledge and belief the financial statements (as set out) present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2015 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "T Tapsell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

30 October 2017

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Scope

The financial report and committee members' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements and the executive committee's declaration for **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory** for the period ended 30th June 2017.

The executive committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the executive committee members' financial reporting requirements under the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory's constitution. We disclaim any assumptions of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the association. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatements. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgment, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the association's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows. These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and

assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the committee.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Independence


In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory** as at 30th June 2017 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

KR Blacker & Associates
Public Accountants

Kevin Robert Blacker
Public Practice Certificate 16542



Dated in Darwin on 16th August 2017

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| | Notes | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| <u>Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Cash | (2) | 6,736,738 | 5,669,591 |
| Debtors | (3) | 33,649 | 62,432 |
| Prepayments | | <u>9,769</u> | <u>8,709</u> |
| | | <u>6,780,156</u> | <u>5,740,732</u> |
| <u>Non Current Assets</u> | | | |
| Total income from ordinary activities | (4) | 43,130 | 53,090 |
| Furniture and Fittings | (4) | 26,732 | 17,552 |
| Building | (4) | <u>2,990,737</u> | <u>2,995,068</u> |
| | | <u>3,060,599</u> | <u>3,065,710</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>9,840,755</u> | <u>8,806,442</u> |
| LESS LIABILITIES | | | |
| <u>Current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| Creditors | | 25,578 | 271,222 |
| Payments Received in Advance | (5) | 748,156 | 0 |
| Income Deferral | (5) | 386,444 | 775,345 |
| Accruals | | 14,139 | 7,688 |
| Total expenses from ordinary activities | (6) | 0 | 0 |
| Loans - Building | (6) | 0 | 0 |
| Provision - Annual Leave | | 133,730 | 130,202 |
| Provision - Long Service Leave | | <u>139,977</u> | <u>145,582</u> |
| | | <u>1,448,024</u> | <u>1,330,039</u> |
| <u>Non-current Liabilities</u> | | | |
| Loans - Motor Vehicles | (6) | 0 | 20,709 |
| Loans - Building | (6) | 1,300,000 | 1,300,000 |
| Provision - Long Service Leave | | 18,951 | 40,571 |
| Provision - Capital Equipment Purchases | | 7,785 | 11,076 |
| Provision - Property, Mobile Equipment, other assets | | 298,562 | 289,000 |
| Provision - Bond Units 3 & 4 | | <u>22,944</u> | <u>22,944</u> |
| | | <u>1,648,242</u> | <u>1,684,300</u> |
| Total Liabilities | | <u>3,096,266</u> | <u>3,014,339</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>6,744,489</u> | <u>5,792,103</u> |
| ACCUMULATED FUNDS | | | |
| Balance at the beginning of the year | | 5,792,103 | 6,013,083 |
| (To)/From Reserves | | (9,562) | (20,000) |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the year | | <u>961,948</u> | <u>(200,980)</u> |
| Balance at the end of the year | | <u>6,744,489</u> | <u>5,792,103</u> |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | Notes | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES | | | |
| User Charges and Fees | (7) | 953,264 | 822,466 |
| Interest | | 107,878 | 132,150 |
| Other Revenues from ordinary activities | | 14,025 | 12,500 |
| NT Government Contributions for Operating Purposes | (8) | 1,421,159 | 1,410,940 |
| Federal Government Contributions for Operating Purposes | (9) | <u>1,985,125</u> | <u>2,776,178</u> |
| Total income from ordinary activities | | 4,481,451 | 5,154,234 |
| | | <u>245</u> | <u>7,115</u> |
| Total Income | | <u>4,481,697</u> | <u>5,161,349</u> |
| EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Employee Costs | | 781,151 | 996,036 |
| Materials and contracts | | 2,374,593 | 3,995,500 |
| Depreciation | | 22,364 | 25,662 |
| Other operating expenses | (10) | 279,489 | 284,110 |
| Interest Charges | | <u>62,153</u> | <u>62,050</u> |
| Total expenses from ordinary activities | | 3,519,748 | 5,363,358 |
| Add Net Loss on disposal of assets | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Expenditure | | <u>3,519,748</u> | <u>5,363,358</u> |
| Total Income | | 4,481,697 | 5,161,349 |
| Less Total Expenditure | | <u>3,519,748</u> | 5,363,358 |
| Surplus (Deficit) for the year from ordinary activities | | <u>961,948</u> | <u>(202,009)</u> |
| Add Extraordinary item | | | |
| Insurance Claim | | <u>0</u> | <u>1,029</u> |
| NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR | | <u>961,948</u> | <u>(200,980)</u> |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

| | Notes | 2017 \$ | 2016 \$ |
|---|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Payments to Suppliers | | (2,608,472) | (3,764,952) |
| Payments to Employees | | (804,951) | (982,361) |
| Payment of Interest | | (62,153) | (62,050) |
| Payment of other expenses | | (278,692) | (284,110) |
| Borrowing Costs | | (796) | (1,459) |
| Receipts from members | | 687,067 | 631,208 |
| Interest received | | 21,624 | 23,472 |
| Interest received for other projects | | 86,254 | 108,677 |
| Northern Territory Government | | 1,421,159 | 1,410,940 |
| Commonwealth Government | | 1,985,125 | 2,776,178 |
| Other Charges and User Fees | | 289,733 | 134,321 |
| Other Contributions to Projects | | 0 | 0 |
| Sponsorship - Association | | <u>19,272</u> | <u>20,455</u> |
| Net cash flows used in operating activities | | 755,170 | 10,319 |
| Cash flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Purchase of fixed assets | | (17,252) | (8,931) |
| Revaluation of asset | | 0 | 0 |
| Proceeds from sale of fixed assets | | 245 | 7,115 |
| Bonds held for units 3 and 4 | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Net cash flows used in investing activities | | (17,007) | (1,816) |
| Cash flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Loans - Redraw Facility | | 66,668 | 66,668 |
| Loans - Parap Building | | 0 | 0 |
| Loans - Parap Building Principal Repayments | | (66,668) | (66,668) |
| Loans - Motor Vehicles | | 0 | 0 |
| Loans - Motor Vehicle Principal Repayments | | (20,709) | (26,456) |
| Transfers to Reserves | | (9,562) | (20,000) |
| Income Deferred | | <u>359,255</u> | <u>58,554</u> |
| Net cash flows used in financing activities | | 328,984 | 12,098 |
| Cash flows from Insurance Recoveries | | | |
| Insurance payment - damaged phone | | <u>0</u> | <u>1,029</u> |
| Net Cash flows from insurance recoveries | | 0 | 1,029 |
| Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held | | 1,067,147 | 21,630 |
| Cash at the beginning of the year | | 5,669,591 | 5,647,961 |
| Cash at the end of the year | | <u>6,736,738</u> | <u>5,669,591</u> |

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report are consistent with the previous year and are described below.

- (i) The accounts have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (ii) The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards promulgated by the accounting profession do not have mandatory applicability to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory in relation to the year ended 30 June 2017 because the entity is not a "reporting entity" as defined therein. The Association has, however prepared the financial statements in accordance with all Australian Accounting Standards, with the following exceptions:

AASB132: Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments.

(b) Economic Dependency

The Association is reliant upon the receipt of government grants and members' subscriptions to operate as a going concern.

(c) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are carried at cost.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on all fixed assets recorded in the balance sheet at rates calculated to allocate the cost less estimated residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is calculated on the permanent fixtures in the office building. The building is not depreciated. A sinking fund, to which LGANT contributes, has been established by the body corporate for future maintenance and asset renewals of common areas.

(d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Grants

All grants are brought to account as revenue in the statement of income and expenditure when received and the unexpended portion is taken up as a liability in the Balance Sheet. Unexpended grants received during the 2016/17 financial year being grants recognised as revenues which were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged at year end are taken up as deferred in the Balance Sheet.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are recorded on an accrual basis

User Charges

User charges are recorded on an accrual basis

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2017**

e) Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Association considers cash to include cash on hand and in banks.

f) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for employee entitlement benefits accumulated as a result of employees rendering service up to the reporting date. The benefits include wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave.

g) Taxation

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory is an exempt body under the Income Tax Assessment Act.

h) Superannuation

The contribution made to the Statewide Superannuation Fund was at the rate of 11.50% for contributory Association employees and 9.50% for non-contributory Association employees.

i) Loans

Vehicles:

The Association finalised loans with both the Westpac Bank and the National Australia Bank for its vehicles.

See note 6 for commitment details.

Office Building:

The Association has a Commercial Loan with the National Australia Bank for the purchase of this asset.

See note 6 for commitment details.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (continued)**

2 CASH

Cash at bank at 30 June 2017 at National Australia Bank Darwin comprised the following:

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| LGANT Reserve Term Deposit Account | 678,126 | 659,527 |
| Infrastructure Holding Account | 1,418,287 | 1,381,683 |
| Infrastructure Holding Term Deposit Account | 3,913,193 | 3,094,232 |
| NT Government Contributions for Operating Purposes | 323,183 | 262,186 |
| Federal Government Contributions for Operating Purposes | 243,488 | 217,284 |
| Operating Account | <u>159,961</u> | <u>54,179</u> |
| | 6,736,238 | 5,669,091 |
| Petty Cash | <u>500</u> | <u>500</u> |
| | <u>6,736,738</u> | <u>5,669,591</u> |

3 DEBTORS

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Debtors (includes GST asset awaiting clearance as at 30 June 2017) | 33,649 | 724 |
| Provision for Doubtful Debts | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | <u>33,649</u> | <u>724</u> |

4 FIXED ASSETS

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Motor Vehicles | 96,739 | 96,740 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | <u>53,609</u> | <u>43,650</u> |
| Total Motor Vehicles | <u>43,130</u> | <u>53,090</u> |
| Furniture, fittings and equipment | 132,046 | 114,793 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | <u>105,314</u> | <u>97,241</u> |
| Total Furniture and Fittings | <u>26,732</u> | <u>17,552</u> |
| Office Building - Parap | 3,104,288 | 3,104,288 |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation | <u>113,551</u> | <u>109,220</u> |
| Total Office Building - Parap | <u>2,990,737</u> | <u>2,995,068</u> |
| Total Fixed Assets | <u>3,060,599</u> | <u>3,065,710</u> |

5 INCOME DEFERRED AND RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Regional Economic Infrastructure Development Program | 20,227 | 646,740 |
| Big Rivers Waste Management Program | 39,894 | 33,501 |
| Big Rivers Mentoring Program | 32,478 | 38,052 |
| Central Australia Waste Management Program | 0 | 12,500 |
| Rehabilitation Guidelines | 0 | 11,364 |
| Local Government Excellence Programme | 293,845 | 33,188 |
| Local Roads Funding (received in advance) | <u>748,156</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | <u>1,134,600</u> | <u>775,345</u> |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (continued)**

6 EXPENDITURE COMMITMENT

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------|---------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Bank Loan - vehicles | | |
| not later than 1 year | 0 | 22,059 |
| later than 1 year but not later than 2 years | 0 | 0 |
| later than 2 years but not later than 5 years | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | 0 | 22,059 |
| less future interest charge | <u>0</u> | <u>286</u> |
| loan liability | <u>0</u> | <u>21,773</u> |
| The break-up of this loan liability is as follows: | | |
| current liability | 0 | 21,833 |
| non-current liability | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |
| | <u>0</u> | <u>21,833</u> |

Parap Building Purchase

Commercial Loan:

This loan was renegotiated in November 2014 with the National Australia Bank, as a Flexible Rate Loan to run over three years with \$1,300,000 being fixed interest and \$200,000 being variable interest. The variable portion had a redraw facility of \$200,000 attached to it. Interest payments are made on a quarterly basis. Principal payments of \$66,668 were made against the variable component of the loan in the 2016/2017 financial year:

The status of this loan is as follows:

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Current Liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan | 0 | 0 |
| Non current liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan | 0 | 0 |
| Fixed Component Variable Flexible Rate Loan | <u>1,300,000</u> | <u>1,300,000</u> |
| | <u>1,300,000</u> | <u>1,300,000</u> |
| Redraw Facility (this is a non cash flow item) | <u>33,330</u> | <u>99,998</u> |
| Loan Facility Limit | <u>1,333,330</u> | <u>1,399,998</u> |

7 USER CHARGES AND FEES

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Subscriptions, Meeting Charges and Sponsorship | 703,144 | 633,704 |
| Rental Charges | 177,228 | 158,484 |
| Project Management, Consultancy and Training Charges | <u>72,892</u> | <u>30,278</u> |
| Total User Charges and Fees | <u>953,264</u> | <u>822,466</u> |

8 NT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Local Government Excellence Programme | 648,433 | 711,855 |
| Regional Infrastructure Development Fund | 626,513 | 603,148 |
| Waste Management Programmes | 141,438 | 91,084 |
| Department of Business - Adult Learners Week | <u>4,775</u> | <u>4,853</u> |
| Total NT Government Contributions | <u>1,421,159</u> | <u>1,410,940</u> |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (continued)**

9 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Local Roads Federal Assistance Grants | 1,446,831 | 1,395,297 |
| AusLink Roads to Recovery - LGANT | <u>538,294</u> | <u>1,380,881</u> |
| Total Federal Government Contributions | <u>1,985,125</u> | <u>2,776,178</u> |

10 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

| | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| Internal Management, Advocacy, Representation and Information Services | 194,856 | 154,663 |
| Human Resource Support and Development | 1,587 | 3,668 |
| Engineering and Environment Project Management | 40,389 | 69,818 |
| Local Government Excellence Programme | <u>42,657</u> | <u>55,961</u> |
| Total Other Operating Expenses | <u>279,489</u> | <u>284,110</u> |

11 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

| | 2,017 | 2016 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | \$ | \$ |
| a) Reconciliation of Cash | | |
| Cash at Bank | 6,736,238 | 5,669,091 |
| Petty Cash Imprest | <u>500</u> | <u>500</u> |
| | <u>6,736,738</u> | <u>5,669,591</u> |
| b) Reconciliation of Net Cash Used in Operating Activities to Operating Result | | |
| Operating result | 961,948 | (202,009) |
| Add/(Subtract) non cash items | | |
| Depreciation | 22,363 | 25,662 |
| Profit/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets | <u>(245)</u> | <u>(7,115)</u> |
| | <u>984,066</u> | <u>(183,462)</u> |
| Add/(Subtract) operating flows | | |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors, Accruals | (239,089) | 208,429 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions | (27,091) | 13,675 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Debtors | 28,783 | (48,983) |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments | (1,061) | 660 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves | <u>9,562</u> | <u>20,000</u> |
| Net Cash used in operating activities | <u>755,170</u> | <u>10,319</u> |

12 SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Local Government Association manages some government grants and monies on behalf of councils in the Northern Territory. The Association operates in Darwin, Australia.

13 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Local Government Association is not aware of any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2017.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (continued)**

**14 UNEXPENDED GRANT MONIES CARRIED FORWARD TO THE 2017/2018
FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Association has contingent liabilities to repay grants received but not fully expended at year end for projects of \$4,161,111. Included in this figure are unexpended grants totaling \$1,134,600 being income received in advance or income deferred until the 2017/2018 financial year.

| | Opening Balance 1 July 2016 | Movements | | Closing Balance 30 June 2017 |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | Received/ Receivable | Expended | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Local Roads Funding | 2,245,585 | 1,446,831 | 711,219 | 2,981,197 |
| Local Roads Funding received in advance (<i>refer note 5</i>) | 0 | 748,156 | 0 | 748,156 |
| Community Services Programme | 45,314 | 0 | 0 | 45,314 |
| Local Government Reform - Rates Impact Statements | 872 | 0 | 872 | 0 |
| Grant income deferred to 2017/18 financial year (<i>refer note 5</i>) | | | | |
| Big Rivers Mentoring Program | 38,052 | 0 | 5,574 | 32,478 |
| Big Rivers Waste Management Project | 33,501 | 118,393 | 112,000 | 39,894 |
| Regional Economic Infrastructure Development Fund | 646,740 | 0 | 626,513 | 20,227 |
| Local Government Excellence Programme | 33,188 | 918,474 | 657,817 | 293,845 |
| Central Australian Waste Management Program | 12,500 | 0 | 12,500 | 0 |
| Rehabilitation Guidelines | 11,364 | 0 | 11,364 | 0 |
| TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS | 3,067,116 | 3,231,854 | 2,137,859 | 4,161,111 |

| | Opening Balance 1 July 2016 | Movements | | Closing Balance 30 June 2017 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| | | Received/ Receivable | Expended | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Engineering Management | 1,087,813 | 104,332 | 132,334 | 1,059,811 |
| Environmental Management | 99,387 | 0 | 0 | 99,387 |
| Human Resource and Industrial Relations | 235,357 | 45,428 | 21,658 | 259,127 |
| TOTAL OTHER COMMITTED FUNDS | 1,422,557 | 149,760 | 153,992 | 1,418,325 |

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**
**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2017 (continued)**

15 BUDGET COMPARISON REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

| INCOME | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | Authorised Budget | Actual Income to 30/6/17 | Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under) | Actual Income to 30/6/16 |
| DIRECTORATE | | | | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Office of the Chief Executive | 1,311,888 | 1,283,394 | (28,494) | 1,195,281 |
| People and Development | 584,612 | 346,343 | (238,269) | 382,861 |
| Technical and Environmental Services | 3,996,000 | 2,851,959 | (1,144,041) | 3,584,236 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 5,892,500 | 4,481,696 | (1,410,804) | 5,162,378 |

| | Revised Authorised Budget | Actual Expenditure to 30/6/17 | Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under) | Actual Expenditure to 30/6/16 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| DIRECTORATE | | | | |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Office of the Chief Executive | 1,229,353 | 1,234,710 | 5,357 | 946,844 |
| People and Development | 690,402 | 305,817 | (384,585) | 720,000 |
| Technical and Environmental Services | 3,952,185 | 2,083,828 | (1,868,357) | 3,798,571 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 5,871,940 | 3,624,355 | (2,247,585) | 5,465,415 |

Total income and expenditure figures include capital income and expenditure and internal transfers during the 2016/2017 financial year. See notes 13 and 14 on funds carried forward to the 2017/2018 financial year
Notes to Budget Comparison Report:

People and Development

Income: This figure represents the unused portion of grant funding received from the NT Government transferred to liabilities as "Income Deferred". This income will be recognised in the 2017/2018 operating statement to match the expenditure planned against it.

Expenditure: A change in the direction and outcomes regarding grant funding received from the NT Government resulted in a reduction in the expenditure for the 2016/2017 financial year. This expenditure will now be recognised in the 2017/2018 operating statement in line with income deferred carried forward from the 2016/2017 financial year.

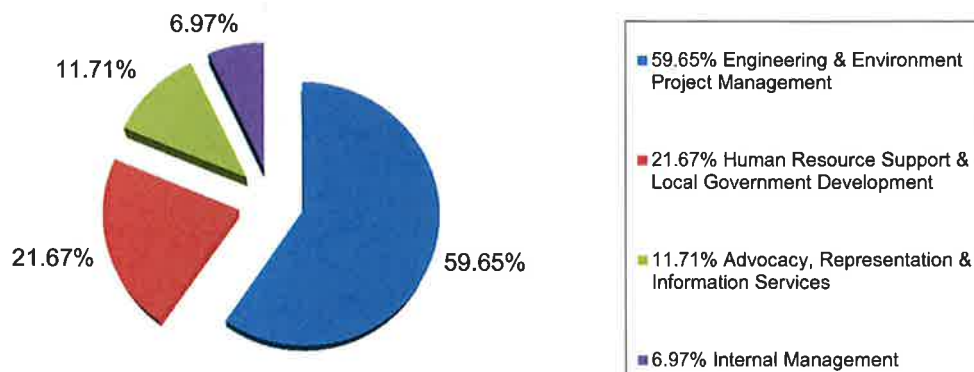
Technical and Environmental Services

Income: Anticipated funding expected in the 2016/2017 financial year was not received.

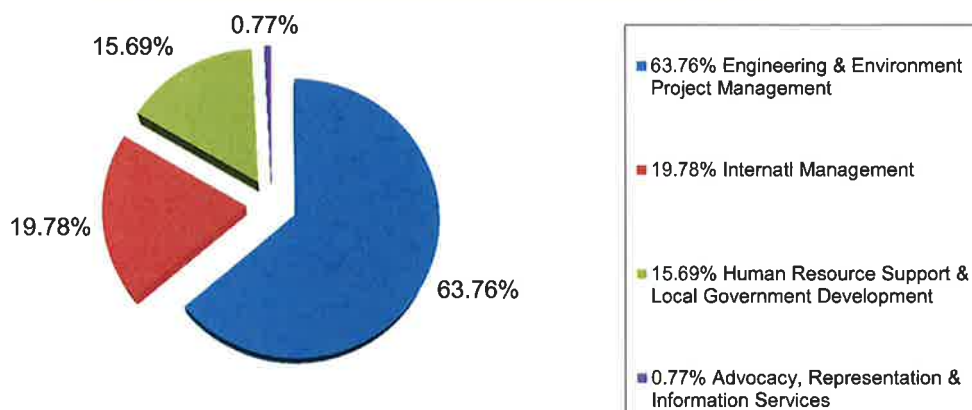
Grant funding received in advance for the 2017/2018 financial year has been transferred to liabilities as "Amounts Received in Advance". This income will be recognised in the 2017/2018 operating statement to match the expenditure planned against it.

Expenditure: Infrastructure projects budgeted for in the 2016/2017 financial year not completed as at 30 June 2017, have been carried forward to the 2017/2018 financial year.

Breakup of Operational Expenditure for the 2016/17 financial year



Breakup of Operational Income including Prepaid and Income Deferred to the 2016/17 financial year



Source of funding for the 2016/17 financial year

