



LGANT ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

This report is the 30th Annual Report of LGANT and it is for the financial year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 and is prepared for members of LGANT, stakeholders 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 4-5 November 2021 at the Ellery Room, Alice Springs Convention Centre, Alice Springs.

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 as per below:

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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 and an associate member in the Northern Territory. LGANT is established as an incorporated body under section 242 of the *Local Government Act 2008*.

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 issues.







LGANT is the voice of local government in the Northern Territory. It represents all 17 municipal, shire, and regional councils, 63 local authorities, 66 remote communities with a physical council presence and 614 homelands with over 100 Aboriginal languages and dialects. We provide leadership, support, representation, and advocacy on behalf of our member councils for the benefit of their communities.

Local government makes a significant contribution to the Northern Territory economy. Collectively, councils employ around 3,000 Territorians, is the largest employer of Indigenous people in remote and regional areas, manages and controls assets and infrastructure valued at \$2.57 billion, and is responsible for over 13,000 kilometres of roads. The sector receives and expends over \$505 million in the Northern Territory annually.

LGANT Provides:

- Advocacy to the Commonwealth and Territory governments
- Collaborates with the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA)
- Research and policy development
- Infrastructure project management (2,000 kms of local roads)

- Elected member training
- Industrial Relations advice
- · Human Resources advice
- Support for procurement processes
- Waste management expertise

The Executive and staff review the LGANT strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2020-2021.

LGANT's goals as stated in the 2019-2020 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



Vision

For LGANT to lead, represent and be influential for the benefit of local government in the Northern Territory



Our Business

To provide leadership, support, and influential representation for the local government sector on all issues in the Northern Territory.



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
- innovation

- responsiveness
- flexibility
- accessibility





CEO's Message

This is my second Annual Report since commencing as LGANT Chief Executive
Officer on 04 November 2019. As required under Section 22.2 of the LGANT
Constitution, the report includes the audited annual financial statements for the 2020-2021 financial year.
The financial position and performance of LGANT was sound as of 30 June 2021.

The Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect on our journey over the past year. And what a year it has been. In February 2020, the world was introduced to COVID-19 and our lives have not been the same since. The threat posed by the virus has dominated the thoughts of us all, personally, and professionally.

At the time of writing, while national leaders call for an opening up of inter-state and international borders, the NT is struggling to reach its vaccination targets, especially in some remote regions. Misinformation has inhibited vaccination programs especially among our most vulnerable communities. The threat to our communities is very real. A countryman at the Elected Member Symposium in October observed that the virus could not only take the lives of traditional people in communities, but that culture and languages could also be lost, perhaps forever.

LGANT represents the sector on the NT COVID-19 Regional & Remote Taskforce. We have made deputations to the NT Government to bring the concerned voices of those communities to decision-makers at the highest levels. We will continue to do so. I know that each of our member councils will continue to show outstanding leadership in their local communities as we combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local Government is one of the three spheres of government. The 'local' in Local Government is all important. Our seventeen councils five municipal, nine regional councils, two Shires and Associate member The Nhulunbuy Corporation, are representative of all inhabitants and many councils are advised by Local Authorities, who in turn represent smaller areas. Our members are there on the front lines in the communities they serve, building resilient, engaged, and sustainable communities. LGANT, as the Local Government peak body conducts advocacy and policy on behalf of the sector and is an effective conduit between councils and the other two spheres of government.

We appreciate the contribution of our Executive members and those elected council members and council staff members who serve on LGANT's Reference Groups and Working Groups or who represent the sector on Territory level committees. The investment of your expertise, enthusiasm, and time into these forums is outstanding and helps us better understand the issues you are all dealing with.

Many people are unaware that a large majority (88%) of the elected members of our regional councils are Aboriginal. Three regional councils have 100% Aboriginal elected members (Tiwi Islands Regional Council, West Arnhem Regional Council and MacDonnell Regional Council). In many regions, local government councils are the largest employers of Aboriginal people.

Our regional councils provide a range of key services and community-based programs on behalf of NT Government and Commonwealth Government agencies to Aboriginal communities in remote areas. These are funded through a combination of interagency contracts for services and grants for community programs. Regional councils take pride in their delivery of services to Aboriginal communities despite having to operate within very tight budgets.

Municipal councils have not dissimilar challenges and opportunities as their regional and remote colleagues but perhaps it is in their relationships with local businesses that they differ slightly. More than three-quarters of all small businesses in the NT are contained in the Greater Darwin Area. For example, during the height of COVID-19 and related restrictions, securing the survival of those businesses and assisting in the recovery was a focus of the City of Darwin. They developed the MyDarwin app to stimulate small businesses and local economies. It was so successful that Alice Springs, Katherine, Litchfield, and Palmerston, with the NT Government, use the same platform to roll out their own versions. This cross-jurisdictional collaboration is a fantastic demonstration of how we are stronger together.

I am very proud of the LGANT staff who have been outstanding under some pretty demanding circumstances and have produced some outstanding results and the following captures some of it.

Our Director Member Services & Infrastructure, Peter McLinden is the Deputy CEO and over-saw \$8M and over 2,000 kilometres of regional and remote carriageways via the Roads to Recovery and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Programs which has allowed LGANT to improve access and road safety to communities. Peter has carriage of the Rates Symposium to be held next Feb/March 2022, the Local Government Conditional Rating Benchmarking Report and advocacy document. His corporate knowledge across our broad policy scope is unsurpassed from 23 years working for and with regional and remote communities in the NT.

In 2022 Peter will be working closely with ALGA and other State Associations, on" Our Watch", a national leader in the primary prevention of violence against women and their children in Australia, in policy development and resources for member councils to preventing violence against women in Australia.

Maree McLinden Manager Finance and HR has nailed it again and ensured we received an unqualified opinion from the Auditors. She orchestrated the no small task as it turns out to transition our finances to the cloud and to the online Xero accounting platform. Maree also engaged an independent consultant to review our HRM practices and policies to ensure we are not only compliant but providing a safe and enjoyable environment in which to work.

Developing a workforce development plan for the local government sector is a prime objective and promotion of vacancies on LGNSW Career's at Council platform is a service we encourage all councils to sign up to. LGANT via Maree, participates in the National HR Working Group (all LGAs) and the Federal Government Workforce Skills Development Project via ALGA with SGS the consultants appointed. LGANT is partnering with Local Government Professionals NT (LGPANT) to provide professional development, networking, and mentoring opportunities for our sector with Litchfield Council CEO Daniel Fletcher its President.

Meredith Newall, Environment & Waste Officer has carriage of our priority on adapting to the effects of climate change, manage waste and preserve the natural environment. She has had a very busy twelve months and has contributed a great deal in an area that continues to grow in significance, complexity, and sophistication. The completion, with NTEPA approval, of the Waste Management Plan for West Arnhem project has the potential to be replicated across the Territory and even nationally it is that good! Her work on holding the NT Government to account on illegal dumping has resulted in a change to their procurement

tender contracts resulting in contractors having to prove proper disposal of waste before payment for services will be made.

Jo Ann Beckwith joined us in January as our Senior Policy Advisor and has the lead on local government and Closing the Gap, Aboriginal Decision Making, the Local Government 2030 Strategy, implementation of the Local Government Act 2019, LGANT Constitution and Incorporation, the Reconciliation Action Plan, LGANT's nominations campaign and the LGANT General Meeting, Conference, AGM, and Forum's water security to name but a few. She has very quickly earned a reputation as highly skilled, very professional, hardworking, and sincere operator for local government. She handles all the tough stuff with great care and aplomb. With a background in bushfire risk management, emergency services and environment planning Jo will coordinate the Northern Australia Resilience and Recovery Conference in 2022.

Sheridan Rose is our Member Services Officer Business Development and is driving our Local Buy member procurement service that for councils reduces risk, saves time, saves money, and improves governance. She has visited seven councils so far to show how Local Buy can allow them to access pre-qualified/preferred supplier arrangements, negate the need to undertake a full and open tender and enables purchasing staff to focus on planning strategic procurement activities. Her push is for more and more local businesses to get on our panels as suppliers to our sector. Sheridan coordinated the brilliant Procurement Symposium that included nationally accredited training via partner Charles Darwin University for forty council officers.

Over the next 12 months Sheridan will be providing "Meeting Essentials" training, a procurement trade show next year, visit each council and update them on a new Local Buy practices and initiative accredited training with Registered Training Organisations in procurement and project management.

I am very fortunate to have the amazing support of my EA Elaine McLeod who has kept me to task and makes sure that we get everything out to members and stakeholders in a timely fashion. Her rapport with the local government family means that our members feel at ease with her ready smile, and nothing is too difficult attitude. Thank you, Elaine.

Sindy Chea started with us in January under the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program, and she has proven to be an outstanding asset already. She produces the monthly newsletter and graphic design for our various publications including programs for our general meetings, conferences, and symposiums. Perhaps her greatest achievement so far has been the coordination and production of the NT local government election promotion kits *Enrol. Nominate. Vote.*

I cannot over-state just how important our sponsors are to LGANT and members. Thank you to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Easi, IT Vision, JLT Marsh, Market Creations, MinterEllison, Mead Perry Group, Statewide Financial Management Services and Regional Development Australia Northern Territory. Without your generous contribution, LGANT would not be able to host major events for its members.

At the next Annual General Meeting in 2022, I look forward to presenting our progress against the LGANT Strategic Plan. The Strategy talks to five priority areas: (a) Aboriginal disadvantage, (b) financial sustainability and workforce development, (c) strengthening the reputation of the local government sector, (c) taking a leading role in economic development, and (d) climate change, waste management and preserving the natural environment.

The Federal Election provides the local government sector with an opportunity to tell the story of its contribution to everyday people's everyday life. With you, we will be seeking funding for improving health, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal people, greater financial sustainability for our councils and monies for social infrastructure and roads and housing. Local Government will not be passive bystanders and with you, our members, we will be messaging not to leave local government behind and invest in our councils so that they can provide the services people need and expect.

Disaster recovery and resilience measures including cyclone evacuation centres, flood mitigation infrastructure, addressing the effects of climate change, the environment, waste management and representation at the national level to give Territorians a direct voice into Canberra are also election priorities.

Strategically and operationally, we set ourselves an ambitious agenda for change within our main roles of member services, advocacy, policy, governance and events, roads and procurement and connecting to external stakeholders.

Our big ticket items were to develop a new strategic plan, a new constitution for LGANT and a Reconciliation Action Plan. With the NT Government and member councils, we committed to assist in the implementation of the new Local Government Act and to the completion of the Local Government 2030 Strategy.

In the past year, we have advocated to political parties and candidates during the NT House of Assembly Elections last August, coordinated the campaign to increase nominations for the NT Local government elections this August, contributed to the Closing the Gap implementation plan, grown Local Buy, and maintain over 2,000 kilometres of regional and remote roads. By April next year we will have wiped the outstanding policy items slate clean and set ourselves and sector up for the next ten years.

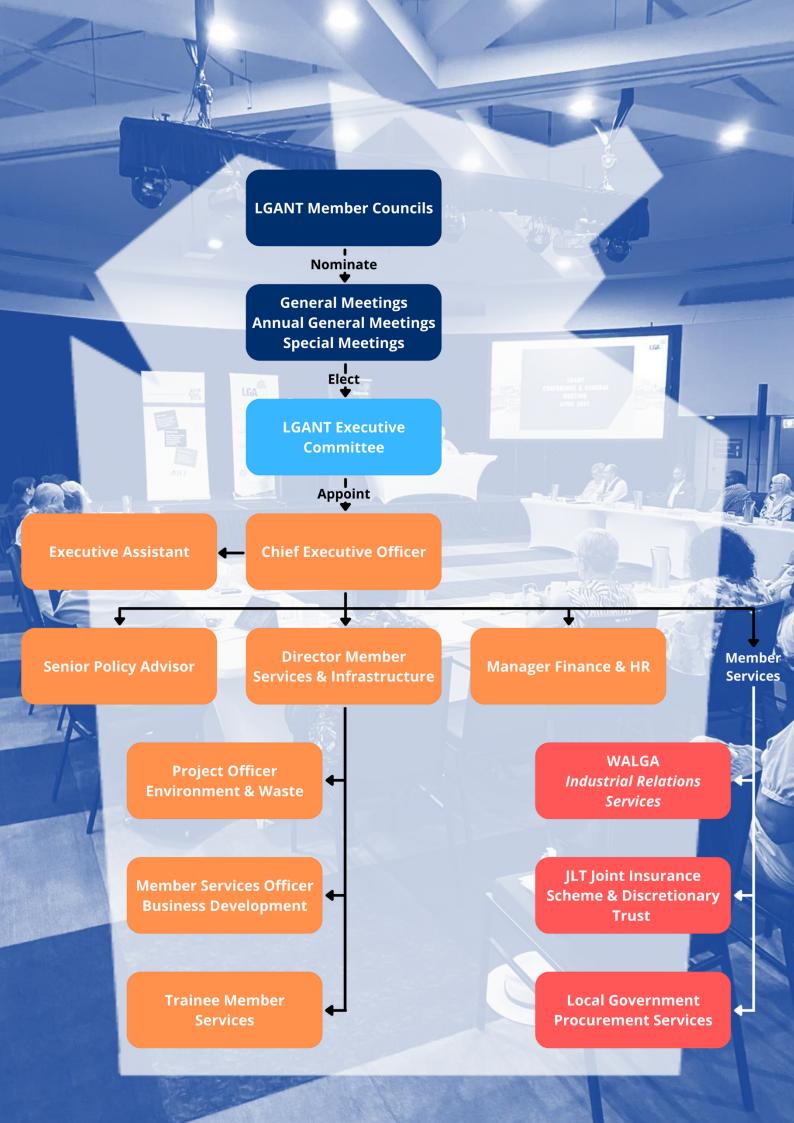
In the next twelve months we will be strengthening our relationship with the other two levels of government, collaborating at a greater level across all industry sectors, including the CDU, and focussing on economic development and local government profile and reputation.

We will be pressing home the importance of better systems of social services and infrastructure planning in the NT for more locally and culturally appropriate services that are more closely matched to need. So too the concept of shared leadership and strong partnerships through coordinated government investment.

Sean G Holden

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER









President's Message

Dear Members,

In my first year as LGANT President I was very keen to send the message to the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government decision-makers that we will not accept anything that is unfair, leads to inequality and does not pass the pub test. That is, we will demand transparency and consistency in decision-making.

In an uncertain year, LGANT has certainly been busy providing policy advice, advocacy on your behalf to the Federal and Territory governments, connecting with influential stakeholders, expanding our member services, and exploring own source revenue opportunities to put downward pressure on member subscriptions.

A key role of LGANT is positioning the local government sector as an important partner of the NT and Commonwealth governments. If the local government sector is better respected, trusted and it is understood that we are more than "roads, rates and rubbish" we will have greater bargaining power. We can do this in many ways. One of them is to demonstrate our value to the other levels of government through working together on projects, programmes, initiatives, reforms, and legislative requirements.

We are invested in the Local Government 2030 Strategy, in terms of its development with our NT Government counterparts and in its agency for clarification of roles and for change. Through this process we will define better what "local", what "voice" is and how local government councils can better tell its story and that of its people.

The elections at the AGM in November 2020 in Alice Springs saw a new Executive elected with Councillor Peter Clee (Vice President Regional and Shires) Councillor Kirsty Sayers-Hunt (Vice President Municipal) Mayor Judy MacFarlane, Alderman Peter Gazey, Alderman Peter Pangquee, Councillor Kris Civitarese, Councillor Georgina Macleod, and Councillor Bobby Wunungmurra. I sincerely thank them for their contribution to LGANT and the Local Government sector over the past twelve months.

Thank you to departing Executive members Damien Ryan, Gary Haslett, Fay Miller AM, Steve Edgington, Matty Ryan and Maree Bredhauer.

In January your LGANT Executive with the Secretariat engaged a consultant, and we developed a new Strategic Plan for the next three years. Together we are working on:

- Finance, governance, and workforce
- Profile and reputation
- Economic development
- Climate, waste, and environment
- · Aboriginal outcomes

I see a major part of my job is to advocate not only once the policy has been determined but to be at the table as the policy is being developed. This requires local government connecting to other stakeholders, developing relationships, and identifying not only the pain points but the things of mutual advantage. Of course, we will not always agree and that is to be expected but we certainly need to respect each other.

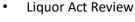
The LGANT CEO and I have met with many peak bodies including: the NT Chamber of Commerce, Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT, NIAA, NT Emergency Service, NT EPA, ICACNT, NT Police, NT Property Council of Australia, NT Public Libraries, NT Road Transport Association, CouncilBiz, Local Government Professionals Association NT, NBN, Telstra, National Resilience and Recovery Agency and National Disability Services discussions focused on a wide range of strategic issues such as:

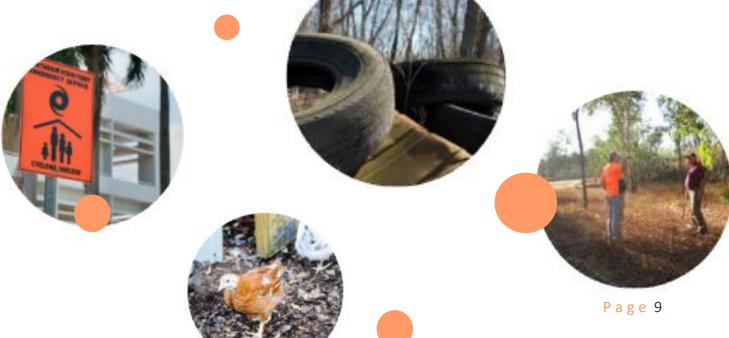
- NT Land Development Process Review
- NT Operational Subsidy continuation
- NT Water Security Plan
- · Shale Gas Industry and consulting with local government councils
- Meeting the Needs of Homelessness
- · Gamba Grass eradication and management
- 5G and its implementation
- De-amalgamation of the East Arnhem Regional Council

Some examples of what we have lobbied and advocated for include:

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- Facilitated the TOPROC 2020 NT House of Assembly Elections Leaders Event
- Fair Remuneration and Superannuation for Mayors, Presidents, Aldermen and Councillors
- Prevention of Illegal Dumping
- Regulations around Livestock on Residential House Blocks







We met with NT Government Ministers on Behavioural Issues in Communities, Policing and anti-social behaviour, COVID-19 Vaccination roll-out, Housing, Uniform Companion Animal Legislation, Amalgamation and De-Amalgamation of Councils, Review of the Local Decision Making Policy Framework and improving vaccination rates of countrymen and interstate tourists.

Over the next eighteen months we will be exploring the five strategic priorities via our general meetings and conferences. The theme of the April 2021 General meeting was *Aboriginal Disadvantage and Representation*, the November 2021 General meeting *Water Security*, in April 2022 it will be *Local Government Councils and Economic Development*, November 2022 *Local Government Profile & Reputation* and in April 2023 it will be *Local Government Sustainability*, *Governance and Workforce Development*.

Your Executive has renewed its investment in the completion of the Local Government 2030 Strategy, and I look very much forward to getting it finalised and implemented and also a consultant's report on the inequity of conditional rating of pastoral properties and mining tenements which will inform ongoing advocacy on removing the legislation. Final report due end of 2021.

We have been working collaboratively with the Australian Local Government Association on a Federal Election campaign for local government. Some key "asks" will include but are not limited to:

- Full membership for Local Government of the National Cabinet
- Return Financial Assistance Grants to 1% of Commonwealth Taxation Revenue
- A continuation of the local roads and community infrastructure program \$500m/annum
- A strategic local roads investment program of \$300m/annum over four years
- An increase in Roads to Recovery to \$800m per annum (an additional \$300m per annum) and the Black Spot Program to \$200m per annum over four years to manage Local Government's 75% share of the national road network more sustainably
- Continuation of the Stronger Regional Digital Connectivity Package \$55m
- A targeted disaster mitigation program \$200 million/annum for 4 years
- A Local Government Climate Response Partnership Fund of \$200m over four years
- \$100m/annum over four years to fund local government circular waste innovation projects

With the CEO, we committed to visiting all seventeen members and so far, have visited eight of our member councils and the recurring themes of housing, anti-social behaviour, roads and lack of reliable internet and mobile services. We have followed up on these and have reported back to the LGANT Executive and councils via the Executive Agenda and papers.

My sincere gratitude to our LGANT team CEO Sean Holden, Peter McLinden, Maree McLinden, Jo Ann Beckwith, Elaine McLeod, Meredith Newall, Sheridan Rose and Sindy Chea for their support and commitment to our sector.

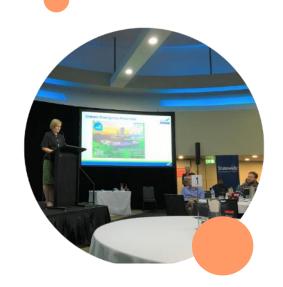
In terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not out of the woods yet, far from it. What will harm us most now is complacency, when in fact we should be dialling up efforts to immunise and protect all vulnerable people. We choose to live in the Territory, but we don't choose to be vulnerable.

In the inspirational words of Tiwi Islands Regional Council Mayor Pirrawayingi to the Elected Member Induction Symposium attendees. At a time when critical voices abound in society, it is important that councils choose to take an optimistic outlook and that we, as a sector, walk the path together to a stronger future.



Kon Vatskalis LGANT PRESIDENT







Executive Members 2020-21

President



Lord Mayor the Hon. Kon Vatskalis **City of Darwin**

Kon has been a resident of Darwin for 28 years, originally arriving to manage the NT Health Department's Environmental Health Office. He was elected Lord Mayor of Darin in 2017.

He was a Member of the Legislative Assembly from 2001-2014 and was a Cabinet Minister for 12 of those years. He served as Minister of Health, Minister of Mines and Primary Industry and Minister for Families and Child Protection.

Kon is Chair of the Bombing of Darwin and Military History Committee and the International Relations Advisory Committee. His portfolio also includes Northern Australia Capital City Committee, Top End Regional Organisation of Councils, Administrative Review Committee and Council of Capital Cities lord Mayors.

Vice President Regionals and Shires



Councillor Peter Clee Wagait Shire Council

Peter Clee has served as a member in Local Government as a councillor and as President and Vice President for over 22 years.

During Peter's time on council, he served on several committees and groups including the Emergency Management Committee, NT Emergency Committee, and the local bush fire brigade. He has previously represented council on the Local Government Association executive committee and the Local Government Disciplinary Committee. He was a member and chair of Top End Shire Steering Committee at the time of the 2007 local government reforms.

He has worked in Banking, Law and is currently working in Information Technology which has taken him to all parts of the Northern Territory. He has also been involved in several NT remote and regional business ventures.

Vice President Municipal



Councillor Kirsty Sayers-Hunt **Litchfield Council**

Kirsty moved to the Northern Territory from Port Hedland in 2002 and has lived in the rural area for the past ten years.

Currently employed in the electoral office for the Federal Member for Lingiari, Kirsty enjoys working closely with the community to address their concerns and provide assistance on a range of matters related to the Federal Government.

She has previously worked for her family's solar installation business, has managed the Tourist Accreditation Program within Tourism NT and as a Senior Contract Manager for the Federal Government's Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

Executive Member Municipal



Alderman Peter Pangquee BM

City of Darwin

Peter was elected as Alderman to City of Darwin Council in 2017 and joined the Executive as the City of Darwin appointed representative in November 2018.

Peter has a Bachelor's Degree in Aboriginal Community Management and Development. This degree is based on community development and policy.

He has worked in NT Health for over 30 years based in Darwin and Nhulunbuy as well as most Aboriginal Communities in the Top End. He has also worked in Community Development and Correctional Services.

Peter is a registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner and was the Chair of the NT Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) Registration Board and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner (ATSIHP) Board of Australia for 16 years. Member of the LGANT RAP Committee and the Constitution Committee.

Executive Member Regionals and Shires



Mayor Judy MacFarlane
Roper Gulf Regional Council

Prior to being elected to Roper Gulf Regional Council in 2012, Judy was with the previous Community Government Council for six years as a councillor. She was Deputy Mayor of Roper Gulf Regional Council from 2012 until 2017 and Mayor for four years after that. She is now the Deputy Mayor once more.

Judy has lived in the NT her whole life, predominately within the Roper area. She spent 18 years working for the Department of Education and the rest of her working life within the rural industry running small businesses and managing cattle stations.

She is a strong advocate for rural and remote community residents and businesses. She is particularly passionate about ensuring that there are adequate and appropriate services in remote communities in particular aged care and aged services.

Judy shares her experiences of a large regional council with the LGANT Executive and is a strong voice within the Executive on regional and remote issues.

Executive Member Regionals and Shires



Councillor Kris Civitarese Barkly Regional Council

A Councillor with the Barkly Regional Council since 2017, Kris was a Telecommunications Technician with the Australian Army for four years and has been the President of the RSL Tennant Creek Sub-branch since 2006.

Heavily involved in the community he is Vice- President of the Tennant Creek & District Show Society, Barkly Regional Committee Member of the Chamber of Commerce NT, and Board Member Barkly Regional Arts.

After spending over thirteen years with T&J (NT) in Operations and more recently as Senior Manager, Kris is now the Managing Director of KNC (NT) who deliver business support services and project management.

Executive Member Regionals and Shires



Councillor Georgina Macleod Victoria Daly Regional Council

Georgina Macleod grew up in the Douglas Daly region before her family moved to the Victoria River Region in the Northern Territory, where she worked on several cattle stations. She settled in Kalkaringi in 1983, after living and working in the Victoria River Region for many years.

Georgina has worked as the manager of a retail store, as an owner of a small business and pastoral manager, in addition to serving as a Corrections Officer and a Community Housing Officer in more recent roles.

With a background in raising her family remotely, Georgina understands the challenges faced by rural families in gaining access to quality educational outcomes and services that urban families often take for granted.

While residents in remote areas face many challenges gaining access to equitable services, Georgina is proud to represent the interests of Councils on the LGANT Executive Committee.

Executive Member Regionals and Shires



Councillor Bobby Wunungmurra East Arnhem Regional Council

Bobby was elected as councillor to East Arnhem Regional Council in 2018 and joined the Executive in November 2018.

He is a member of the Northern Land Council, elected in November 2016, having also previously served at the Executive level, and was a member of the NLC in the late 1980s.

Bobby was born at Blue Mud Bay and lives in Gapuwiyak. He completed his schooling at Shepherdson College and has six children, enjoying fishing and hunting in his spare time. As well as his work on various boards and Council, Bobby provides small business consultancy services to Yolngu wanting to start their own business.

Bobby is a strong advocate for education and passionate about Yolngu people standing on their own, economic growth and development in East Arnhem Land, led by Yolngu for Yolngu.

Executive Member Municipal



Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey
Katherine Town Council

Peter has lived in Katherine for over 20 years and is married with three teenage children who all attend school in Katherine. Peter is a Registered Nurse and holds a management position in a local AMS. Peter also co-facilitates childbirth, breastfeeding and parenting sessions at the Katherine Hospital as he is passionate about the importance of a father's role in a child's development.

Peter has been an elected member of Katherine Town Council since 2014 and has held the position of Deputy Mayor for one and a half years during that time.

During his time in council Peter has gained an understanding of local government proceedings and is aware of current issues within Katherine and to some degree the Northern Territory.

What we did in 2020-21

Strong, responsive, well governed local governments have an essential role to play as the third sphere of government in building resilient, engaged, and sustainable communities. The existence of a peak local government body which is able to effectively engage in advocacy and policy debate can also lead to better, more community-responsive policy in the three spheres of government.

LGANT works to the four way play of:

- Being Solvent
- Being Compliant with relevant legislation
- Achieving the goals and objectives of the strategic plan
- · Representing and servicing our members

2020-2021 Highlights include:

- Represented the sector on the NT COVID-19 Regional & Remote Taskforce
- The development of a NEW LGANT Strategic Plan
- The development of the Draft Local Government 2030 Strategy
- Implementation of the new NT Local Government Act 2019, associated regulations, and guidelines
- Coordination and promotion of 2021 NT Local Government elections
- Preparation of the first NT Closing the Gap Implementation Plan in collaboration with the NT Government and the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT
- Maintained over 2,097 kilometres of regional and remote roads

LGANT works in the following key areas:

- Advocacy
- Policy
- · Governance and Events
- Connecting to Stakeholders
- Roads and Procurement







The following captures activities in each area.

Advocacy

Our advocacy activities include:

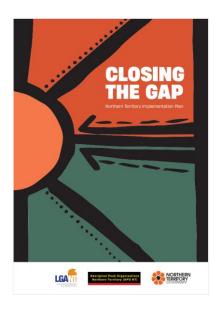
- Development of working relationships with key stakeholders on shared issues
- Serving on multi-stakeholder committees
- Making submissions on NT and Commonwealth Government legislation, policy and programs impacting the local government sector
- Lobbying Commonwealth and NT Government agencies and Ministers

Some examples of what we have lobbied for or have been involved in include:

- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA)
- Facilitated the TOPROC 2020 NT House of Assembly Elections Leaders Event
- Fair Remuneration and Superannuation for Mayors, Presidents, Aldermen and Councillors
- Prevention of Illegal Dumping
- Regulations around Livestock on Residential House Blocks
- Community Safety
- Liquor Act Review
- Member of 2021 NT Local Government Elections Steering Group with NT Government and NTEC
- National Resilience and Recovery Agency
- National Reform Taskforces
- NT Land Development Process Review
- NT Minister for Health for greater numbers of vaccination of countrymen and interstate tourists
- NT Operational Subsidy continuation
- NT Water Security Plan
- Shale Gas Industry
- Submission Territory Economic Recovery Commission (TERC)
- Submission Recycling and Waste Reduction (Product Stewardship-Televisions & Computers) Rules
 2021
- Meeting the Needs of Homelessness
- · Gamba Grass eradication and management
- 5G
- Reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour

Policy

- Closing the Gap Implementation Plan
- Local Government 2030 Strategy
- Local Government Skills and Capability Working Group
- NEW LGANT Strategic Plan 2021-2024
- NT Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee
- Place Names Engagement and Consultation Working Group
- Regional Prioritisation Steering Group
- COVID-19 Regional and Remote Taskforce
- Local Government Training and Learning Steering Committee





Governance and Events

- Annual General Meeting
- Annual Report
- CEO Forum
- Executive meetings
- General meetings
- JLT (NT Councils)
 Discretionary Trust

- LGANT monthly newsletters
- LGANT Strategic Plan
- Mayors and Presidents Forum
- Regional and Shires Forum
- Municipals Forum

- Procurement Training and Symposium
- Reference Group meetings
- Special General meetings
- Working Group meetings
- Environment and Waste Management Symposium

Climate Change, Waste, and the Environment

- Submissions to NT Government climate change discussion papers
- Successful implementation of 'Snapshot' in 2020 that provides all NT councils climate emission profiles for their individual region
- Participate in the Big Rivers Region Waste Management Group and the previous Central Australia Waste Management Group.
- Annual waste management symposium involving local government, NT government, industry and not for profit groups
- Liaison with Tyre Stewardship Australia to develop a business plan for recycling tyres in NT including remote communities
- Local Government Councils annual waste management forum based on council identified issues
- Provide support to WRINT Legacy Waste Pilot Project in Central Australia that seeks to determine viability of removing materials for recycling.

Highlights include:

• 15 Local Government Councils, 9 not for profits, 12 industry and NT Government representatives attending the Waste Management Symposiums

Current Work

- West Arnhem Regional Council Waste Management Strategy 2021-2026
 - Worked with Council staff and workshop facilitator to develop a council led strategy which was finalised in January 2021
- Meeting with Minister for the Environment
 - Issue of illegal dumping by NT Government contractors in remote communities was topic of interest and the NT Government provided an undertaking to withhold contractors' final payment until receipts of appropriate waste disposal were produced
- · Reviewed the first draft Business Case for the Processing of End of Life Tyres in the NT
 - Identified three potential centres for a processing facility and the costs for processing of tyres in each scenario presented for each council
- Tiwi Islands Regional Waste Management Strategy
 - Commenced collaboration with Council staff and communication consultant
- Healthy Soils Fund
 - A Federal Government initiative providing funds to divert food and other organics from landfill on a tri-partisan basis
 - Initial meeting held with NT Government and NT Farmers with a working group to be established with other interested parties

- Waste Management Strategies for Regional Councils
 - Finalise strategy for Tiwi Islands Regional Council and commenced working with other interested Regional Councils
- Waste Management Symposium
 - To be held May/June 2022with the theme will be Setting our Own Agenda the NT Experience
 - All NT Local Government Councils will be asked to send in suggestions for presentations
- Waste Management Forum
 - Will be held day before the Waste Management Symposium
- Business Case for the Processing of Tyres in the NT
 - Report to be finalised and liaise with industry as well as NT and Federal Governments for opportunities to establish a tyre processing plant in the NT







Connecting to Stakeholders

- Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT
- CouncilBiz
- Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (Local Government and Regional Development Unit; Aboriginal Affairs)
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Local Jobs Program)
- Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security
- Department of Health
- Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics
- Local Government Professionals Association NT
- National Broadband Network
- National Disability Services

- National Indigenous Australians Agency
- NT Chamber of Commerce
- NT Electoral Commission
- NT Emergency Service
- NT Environment Protection Authority
- NT Office of Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
- NT Police
- NT Property Council of Australia
- NT Public Libraries
- NT Road Transport Association
- Other Local Government Associations





Table 1. Key issues raised at Executive Meetings

Date	Key issues from Executive Meetings
20 July 2020	 LGANT nominations to Local Government Disciplinary Committees Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant and Roads to Recovery Program Community Safety Improving voter turnout at council elections
21 September 2020	 The Hon Chansey Paech, Minister for Local government attended the meeting and was alerted to the top issues concerning Local Government including: Operational Subsidies for regional councils being included in budget discussions Special Purpose Grants and programs that were deferred due to COVID-19 Water security for NT communities Improving voter turnout at council elections LGANT Draft Youth Policies Councils' legal obligation to manage and Maintain Aboriginal Land Trust Land
19 October 2020	 LGANT Draft Children and Youth Policies Councils' legal obligation to manage and Maintain Aboriginal Land Trust Land Strengthening of LGANT Climate Change Policy Productivity Commission Indigenous Evaluation Strategy
8 December 2020	 Nomination to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee Nomination to the Heritage Council LGANT rebranding
22 February 2021	 Revised 2021-2021 LGANT budget Construction and demolition waste disposal LGANT Reconciliation Action Plan Rating of mining and pastoral properties across Northern Australia Cost of delivering services to remote communities
16 March 2021	 LGANT 2021-2022 Draft budget including member subscriptions Nominations to Place Names Committee 2021 Local Government Elections Uniform companion animal legislation in the NT and dangerous dogs Commonwealth and Territory Aboriginal policy initiatives
18 May 2021	 Housing and land use planning Elected Member Symposium 2021 National Recovery and Resilience Agency
15 June 2021	 Nominations to Minister's Advisory Council for Senior Territorians NT government Homelands Policy 2021-2022 Federal Budget NT Waste Symposium

Table 2. Key issues from General and Annual General Meetings and CEO Forums

Meeting/Date	Issues
CEO Forum 4 November 2020	 Elected member training SCALE Program Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grants Program Proposed strengthening of Climate Change Policy 2021 Local Government Elections
General Meeting 5 November 2020	 Cost of delivering services to remote communities 5G access rights and responsibilities Local government area service boundaries NT Government meeting with councils in the first year NT Government Homelands Policy Strengthening of LGANT Climate Change Policy Development of shale gas industry in the NT Mandatory training program for Elected Members
Annual General Meeting 6 November 2020	 2019-2020 Annual Report LGANT Executive Elections Local Government Long Service Awards Reports from Delegates on committees outside of LGANT
CEO Forum 21 April 2021	 2021 Local Government Elections Cyber Security
General Meeting 22 April 2021	 LGANT 2021-2022 Draft Budget including member subscriptions Accountability for the management of invasive weeds Unreliability of telecommunications and internet services in regional and remote areas Behavioural issues in communities Closing the Gap Amalgamation and de-amalgamation of councils Review of Local Decision-Making Policy framework NT government employment housing Economic development and land availability
Special General Meeting 30 June 2021	Revised 2021-2022 member councils' annual subscriptions

Table 3. Reference Group Meetings

Reference Group/Date	Key Issues	
Environment, Transport, and Infrastructure 14 August 2020	 Local Procurement We Connect LGANT Waste Management Symposium Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant Water security plans for the Northern Territory 	
Finance 31 July 2020	 Local Government Rates Workshop Review of NT Local Government rating system Insurance premiums and managing risk Regulations and guidelines associated with the Local Government Act 2019 and SCALE National Redress Scheme 	
Finance 16 June 2021	Local Government rating in the Northern Territory	
Community Services 7 August 2020	 LGANT Draft Youth Policies Community Service sector portable Long Service Leave Scheme Reconciliation Action Plans NT Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee 	
Governance and Human Resources 21 August 2020	 Careers at Council Federal Industrial Relations Reform WALGA Industrial Relations Services Agreement update National Local Government Training Package Language, Literacy and Numeracy Policies 	

Table 4. Council Visits by LGANT President and Chief Executive Officer (2020-21 FY)

Date visited	Council
28 April 2021	Victoria Daly Regional Council
28 April 2021	Roper Gulf Regional Council
24 May 2021	Katherine Town Council
27 May 2021	Barkly Regional Council
27 May 2021	Central Desert Regional Council
27 May 2021	MacDonnell Regional Council
28 May 2021	Alice Springs Town Council
1 June 2021	City of Palmerston

Table 5. Local Government Long Service Awards (Elected Members)

Nominee	Council	Category of Years of Service
Alderman Toni Tapp- Coutts	Katherine Town Council	20
Councillor Sue Bulmer	Coomalie Community Government Council	15
Judy MacFarlane	Katherine Town Council	15
Councillor Selina Ashley	Roper Gulf Regional Council	10
Alderman Elizabeth Clark	Katherine Town Council	10
Alderman Robin Knox	City of Darwin	10
Mayor Fay Miller	Katherine Town Council	10

Roads and Procurement

LGANT project managed over 2,097 kilometres of road works in the Barkly, Central Desert, East Arnhem, MacDonnell, Roper Gulf, and Victoria Daly regional council areas. These works were completed with a Federal Assistance Grant of \$1,587,181 via the NT Commonwealth Grants Commission.

In collaboration with ALGA, LGANT secured an extension of the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant (LRCI) which is a COVID-19 response stimulus initiative. The NT allocations are \$11,583,305 (2021-22FY) and \$15,937,506 (2022-23FY).

LGANT continued a program of erecting road signs in response to the findings of a road safety audit in 2014-2015. Local contractors installed the signs using the Central Australian Remote Community Traffic Management Manual developed in collaboration with the Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils, with the technical assistance of the Australian Road Research Board.

LGANT participated in 'Local Buy Arrangements Active' with the technical and professional support of Local Buy. This initiative promotes and supports regional service providers and contractors to be on preferred panel contracts which provides efficiencies and exposure for all parties.

Table 6. Roads to Recovery Projects (2020-2021 FY)

Road	Regional Council Area	Project	Amount
Canteen Creek Road	Barkly	Road alignment and gravel sheeting	\$214,208.00
10 Mile Creek Road	Barkly	Gravel sheet and drainage	\$134,450.00
Mata Mata Road	East Arnhem	Road alignment and gravel sheeting. Box out of causeway.	\$157,318.00
Wandawuy Road	East Arnhem	2 x culverts and lift of pavement with associated drains and blocks	\$86,000.00
Baniyala Road	East Arnhem	Concrete causeway	\$135,000.00







In January 2021 the new LGANT Executive developed the LGANT Strategic Plan and set the Top Five Priorities for the next three years. Our Annual Plan aligns Staff Position Descriptions with the LGANT Strategic Plan.

Our vision is for LGANT to help local government councils create the most valued, culturally diverse, sustainable, and liveable communities in Australia.

Strategic Plan Priorities

Our strategic priorities are to support member councils via...



SP1 - Finance, governance & workforce

Strengthen financial sustainability and governance and develop the workforce.



SP2 - Profile & reputation

Build the profile and reputation of the local government sector.



SP3 - Economic development

Take a leading role in economic development.



SP4 - Climate, waste & environment

Adapt to the effects of climate change, manage waste, and preserve the natural environment.



SP5 - Aboriginal outcomes

Assist Aboriginal people to have greater voice to achieve better social, cultural, and economic outcomes.









For LGANT to be able make good on the Strategic Plan we need to ensure our own back yard is clean and the following shows some of what we will be doing.

Governance Best Practice and Sustainability

- LGANT will review its governance processes including the preparation of business papers and the setting of Executive Meeting agendas.
- The review and development of a new LGANT Constitution will include examining voting procedures.
- Financial management will need to accommodate the transition from LGANT's current structure to a new model of incorporation.
- We received an unqualified auditor's report for 2019/20 and indications are that we are on course for the same this year.
- We will be implementing the recommendations of an independent review of our HRM conducted in June 2021.
- Conduct a Member Satisfaction Survey

2021-2022 Key Activities include:

- NT Local Government Elected Member Symposium October 5 & 6 2021
- GM AGM and Conference November 3, 4 & 5 2021
- NT Housing Summit February 2022
- LGANT GM & Conference April 2022
- Adoption of NEW LGANT Constitution April 2022
- The completion of the Draft Local Government 2030 Strategy
- NT Disaster Recovery and Resilience Conference

- Environment and Waste Management Symposium
- Procurement Symposium
- Governance Review
- LGANT Re-brand and new Website
- Federal Election Campaign Advocacy
- Federal Budget Advocacy
- NT Budget Advocacy
- Maintain over 2,097 kilometres of regional and remote roads

Membership 2020-2021

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 2020-2021, 17 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT and were made up of (see Table 7):

- 5 municipalities
- 9 regional councils
- 3 shires

The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member during 2020-2021 because of its role as an organisation involved in the delivery of local government-type services.

Table 7. LGANT Members as of 30 June 2021

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

Table 8. Executive Member Attendance Record July 2020 – June 2021

Executive Member	Meetings eligible	Meetings
	to attend	attended
Mayor Damien Ryan	3	3
Mayor Maree Bredhauer	3	2
Mayor Judy MacFarlane	7	6
Mayor Fay Miller	3	3
Alderman Peter Pangquee	7	7
Mayor Matthew Ryan	3	1
Councillor Bobby Wunungmurra	7	4
Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis	5	5
Councillor Peter Clee	5	5
Councillor Kirsty Sayers-Hunt	5	5
Alderman Peter Gazey	5	4
Councillor Georgina Macleod	5	5
Councillor Kris Civitarese	5	0





Financial Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2021



Independent auditor's report to the members of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

Auditor's Opinion

We have audited the accompanying special purpose financial report of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory ("the Association"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the Statement by the President and the Statement by the Chief Executive Officer.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report.

We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material Uncertainty Regarding Continuation as a Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 16 of the financial report, which indicates that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, and therefore, the Association may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Emphasis of matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the needs of the members. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory and should not be distributed to parties other than the members of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory. Our opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer for the Financial Report

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal controls as the CEO determines necessary to enable the preparation of a

financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the CEO is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Executive Committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit
 procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an
 opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the
 disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events
 in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Merit Partners

Merit Partners

MunLi Chee Director

Darwin

1 October 2021



STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I, Konstantine Vatskalis, 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 2021 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

1 October 2021

PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, Sean Holden, 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 2021 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

1 October 2021

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 301		2021	2020
	Notes		
ACCETC		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	7,076,115	5,936,276
Trade and other receivables	3	12,502	444,335
Other assets	0	11,115	23,492
Other assets	-	7,099,732	6,404,103
	-	1,000,102	0,404,103
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	2,078,018	2,107,368
	_	2,078,018	2,107,368
	-	_,,	_,,
Total Assets	-	9,177,750	8,511,471
	y -	-,,-	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
LESS LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	1,946,900	1,257,607
Borrowings	6	116,120	108,166
Provisions	7	206,847	225,530
	_	2,269,867	1,591,304
Non-Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	6	291,407	330,000
Provisions	7 _	43,816	53,700
	_	335,223	383,700
	_		
Total Liabilities	_	2,605,090	1,975,004
	_		
NET ASSETS	=	6,572,660	6,536,467
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Accumulated Surplus		2,142,759	1,736,435
Asset Revaluation Reserve		213,505	213,505
Property, Mobile Equipment & Other Assets Reserve		352,384	336,032
Other Reserves	17	3,864,012	4,250,495
Balance at the end of the year	_	6,572,660	6,536,467
	=		

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME			
User Charges and Fees	8	1,042,180	1,025,192
Interest		28,113	91,978
Other Revenues from ordinary activities		12,500	12,500
NT Government Contributions for Operating Purposes	9	220,309	3,684,297
Federal Government Contributions for Operating Purposes	10	2,561,248	2,299,025
Total Income		2 964 250	7 442 002
i otal income		3,864,350	7,112,992
EXPENDITURE			
Employee Costs		808,894	851,823
Materials and contracts		2,524,228	5,871,701
Depreciation		86,871	86,570
Other operating expenses	11	392,561	232,533
Interest Charges		15,603	23,999
Total Expenditure		3,828,157	7,066,626
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		36,193	46,366
Surplus (Delicit) for the year		30, 133	40,300
Other comprehensive income		•	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		36,193	46,366

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		· •	
Receipt of grants Receipts from members Other Charges and User Fees Sponsorship - Association Interest received Payments to suppliers and employees Borrowing costs Other expenses Finance costs		3,455,056 750,344 694,485 35,227 28,114 (3,495,449) (15,603) (222,895) (1,279)	2,201,452 712,607 (66,317) 44,545 91,978 (6,446,216) (23,999) (232,533) (777)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	12	1,228,000	(3,719,260)
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(57,522)	(9,710)
Net cash flows (used in) investing activities		(57,522)	(9,710)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Loans - Parap Building Principal Repayments Loans - Motor Vehicle Additions/(Principal Repayments)		(75,000) 44,361	(100,000) (15,819)
Net cash flows (used in) financing activities		(30,639)	(115,819)
Net Decrease in cash held Cash at the beginning of the year Cash at the end of the year		1,139,839 5,936,276 7,076,115	(3,844,789) 9,871,065 5,936,276

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

This special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards for distribution to the members.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by measurement of fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

b) Economic Dependence

The Association is reliant upon the receipt of government grants and members' subscriptions to operate as a going concern. Further information regarding the Association's ability to continue as a going concern is provided in note 16.

c) 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

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity satisfies performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to receive the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Grants received in advance are recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position.

Where the Association receives contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value, these assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the statement of financial position, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in profit or loss.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Other income

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

d) Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses.

Office Buildings

Office buildings is shown at their fair value based on periodic valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

In periods when the property is not subject to an independent valuation, the directors conduct directors' valuations to ensure the carrying amount for the property is not materially different to the fair value. Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of property are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the revaluation surplus in equity. Revaluation decreases that offset previous increases of the same class of assets shall be recognised in other comprehensive income under the heading of revaluation surplus. All other decreases are recognised in profit or loss.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of the revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Plant & Equipment

Plant and equipment, which included motor vehicles and furniture, fittings and equipment, are measured on the cost basis and are therefore carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised either in profit or loss or as a revaluation decrease if the impairment losses relate to a revalued asset.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over the asset's useful life to the entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Class of fixed asset
Office Building
Furniture, fittings and equipment
Motor Vehicles
Depreciation Rate
2-10%
5-20%
10-20%

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they arise. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation surplus relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

e) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and Cash Equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

f) Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the entity's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Association's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as part of current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

Other long-term employee benefits

The entity classifies employees' long service leave and annual leave entitlements as other long-term employee benefits as they are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Association's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current liabilities in its statement of financial position, except where the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current liabilities.

g) Taxation

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

h) Trade and Other Receivables

Receivables are carried at nominal values less any allowance for doubtful debts. An allowance for doubtful debts is recognised (and re-assessed annually) when collection is no longer probable.

Receivables are unsecured, and do not bear interest.

i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

j) Trade and Other Payables

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services to the end of the financial year and remain unpaid. Creditors are normally paid within 30 days after receipt of the invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

k) Superannuation

The Association makes employer superannuation contributions to the superannuation funds nominated by its employees. Contributions are based on a fixed percentage of ordinary time earnings in accordance with the superannuation guarantee legislation.

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.

The contribution made to employee nominated superannuation funds was at the rate of 11.50% for contributory Association employees and 9.50% for non-contributory Association employees.

I) Borrowings

Vehicles:

The Association has a loan with the National Australia Bank for a new vehicle purchased in the 2020-2021 financial year. 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.

m) Leases

Lease payments for short-term leases and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value are recognised as expenses on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

For all other leases the entity recognises a right-to-use asset that is measured at cost and a lease liability measured at the present value of the lease payments not paid. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease.

n) Financial Instruments

A financial asset is recognised at amortised cost if the objective is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows. All other financial assets are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost calculated using the effective interest method.

o) Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank at 30 June 2021 at National Australia Bank Darwin comprised the following:

Note	2021	2020 \$
LGANT Reserve Term Deposit Account	409,737	408,830
Transport, Infrastructure & Environment Account	1,566,062	855,819
Infrastructure Holding Term Deposit Accounts	3,427,723	3,405,531
Projects, Legal & Procurement Term Deposit Account	796,499	791,888
Tied & Committed Funds Account	416,802	366,642
Operating Account	459,269	107,156
	7,076,092	5,935,866
Petty Cash	23	410
	7,076,115	5,936,276
3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Trade receivables	12,502	444,335
Provision for Doubtful Debts		-
	12,502	444,335
4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
to schedule to register day or methodologic schedules singuisterate transcription	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Motor Vehicles, at cost	148,733	94,859
Accumulated Depreciation	(77,755)	(62,844)
Total Motor Vehicles	70,978	32,015
Furniture, fittings and equipment, at cost	137,159	133,511
Accumulated Depreciation	(110,169)	(100,407)
Total Furniture and Fittings	26,990	33,104
Office Building - Parap, at valuation Revaluation adjustment	2,552,953	2,552,953
Accumulated Depreciation	(572,903)	(510,704)
Total Office Building - Parap	1,980,050	2,042,249
Total Office Building - Farap	1,300,030	2,042,243
Total property, plant and equipment	2,078,018	2,107,368

Asset Valuations

Colliers International performed a revaluation of the office building in Parap on 26 August 2019. The Association reviewed the key assumptions adopted by the valuers and do not believe there has been a significant change in the assumptions between 26 August 2019 and 30 June 2021. The Association therefore believes the carrying amount of the office building correctly reflects the fair value less costs of disposal at 30 June 2021.

5 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
	74,827	37,011
15	1,019,211	385,539
15	838,917	812,735
	13,945	=
	=	22,321
	1,946,900	1,257,607
		\$ 74,827 15 1,019,211 15 838,917 13,945

220,309

3,684,297

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

C DODDOWINGS			
6 BORROWINGS	Note	2021	2020
CURRENT		\$	\$
Bank Loan - Vehicles		16,120	8,166
Bank Loan - Parap Building Purchase **		100,000	100,000
		116,120	108,166
NON-CURRENT			
Bank Loan - Vehicles		36,407	220,000
Bank Loan - Parap Building Purchase **		255,000 291,407	330,000
Total Borrowings		407,527	438,166
** This loan was renegotiated in March 2021 with the National Australia three years with a fixed component of \$380,000 and a floating compost \$75,000 were made against the loan in the 2020-21 financial year.			
The status of this loan is as follows:		2021	2020
		\$	\$
Current Liability - Fixed & Variable Components Flexible Rate Loan		100,000	100,000
Non current liability - Fixed & Variable Components Flexible Rate Loa	n	255,000 355,000	330,000 430,000
			400,000
7 PROVISIONS			
		2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT			
Employee Entititlements - Annual Leave		95,932 110,015	140,768
Employee Entititlements - Long Service Leave		110,915 206,847	84,762 225,530
			, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
NON-CURRENT Employee Entititlements Long Service Long		32,522	42,406
Employee Entititlements - Long Service Leave Bond Units 3 & 4		11,294	11,294
		43,816	53,700
Total Provisions		250,663	279,231
Total Flovisions		230,003	219,231
8 USER CHARGES AND FEES		2004	
		2021 \$	2020 \$
Subscriptions, Meeting Charges and Sponsorship		825,164	782,389
Rental Charges		164,600	107,412
Project Management, Consultancy and Training Charges Total User Charges and Fees		52,416 1,042,180	135,391 1,025,192
Total Osel Charges and Fees		1,042,100	1,025,192
9 NT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS			
		2021	2020
2021 LG Election & Elected Member Training & Support		25,371	\$ -
Senior Policy Officer		27,364	-
Local Government Environment Officer		167,574	133,528
Health, Safety & Security Initiatives		-	3,505,712
Waste Management Programmes			24,600
Regional Infrastructure Development Fund Elected Member AICD Courses		5	14,157 6,300
Total NT Covernment Contributions		220.200	2 694 207

Total NT Government Contributions

10 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS		
Note	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Local Roads Federal Assistance Grants	1,594,166	1,587,181
Roads to Recovery - LGANT	195,982	711,844
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Programme	771,100	-
Total Federal Government Contributions	2,561,248	2,299,025
11 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES		
	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Internal Management, Advocacy, Representation and Information Services	248,393	193,261
Human Resource Support and Development	109,000	7,687
Engineering and Environment Project Management	29,168	8,222
Business Development	6,000	-
Natural Resource Management	-	23,362
Total Other Operating Expenses	392,561	232,533
12 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS		
12 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2021	2020
12 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2021 \$	2020 \$
12 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS a) Reconciliation of Cash		
a) Reconciliation of Cash	\$ 7,076,092 23	\$
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank	\$ 7,076,092	\$ 5,935,866
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from	\$ 7,076,092 23	\$ 5,935,866 410
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest	\$ 7,076,092 23	\$ 5,935,866 410
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities	7,076,092 23 7,076,115	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities Operating result	\$ 7,076,092 23 7,076,115 36,193	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276 46,366
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities	7,076,092 23 7,076,115	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities Operating result Depreciation	\$ 7,076,092 23 7,076,115 36,193 86,871 123,064	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276 46,366 86,570 132,936
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities Operating result Depreciation Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	\$ 7,076,092 23 7,076,115 36,193 86,871 123,064 689,293	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276 46,366 86,570 132,936 (3,478,389)
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities Operating result Depreciation Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	\$ 7,076,092 23 7,076,115 36,193 86,871 123,064 689,293 (28,567)	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276 46,366 86,570 132,936 (3,478,389) (14,393)
a) Reconciliation of Cash Cash at Bank Petty Cash Imprest b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities Operating result Depreciation Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	\$ 7,076,092 23 7,076,115 36,193 86,871 123,064 689,293	\$ 5,935,866 410 5,936,276 46,366 86,570 132,936 (3,478,389)

13 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.

14 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Assocation is not aware of any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2021 (30 June 2020: \$nil).

15 UNEXPENDED GRANT MONIES CARRIED FORWARD TO THE 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Association has recognised liabilities for grants received but not fully expended at year end for projects of \$1,858,128. Included in this figure are unexpended grants totaling \$838,917 being income received in advance for the 2021-2022 financial year.

	2 310	Moven	nents	
	Opening	55.000.000.000		Closing
	Balance			Balance
	1 July 2020	Received	Expended	30 June 2021
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Roads Funding received in advance (refer note 5)	812,735	838,917	812,735	838,917
Grant income unexpended at end of 2020/21 fin (refer note 5)	l nancial year			
Community & Infrastructure Grant Stage 2	.=	332,195	130,440	201,755
Roads to Recovery		515,862		515,862
Local Government Environment Officer Council Election Support & Elected Member	145,288	144,659	175,870	114,077
Symposium	110,889	-	25,371	85,518
Senior Policy Officer	129,363	-	27,364	101,999
TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS	1,198,275	1,831,633	1,171,780	1,858,128

16 GOING CONCERN AND EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Association recognised a net surplus of \$36,193 from operations during the year (2020: net surplus of \$46,366). Furthermore, the Association also generated positive cash inflows from operating activities amounting to \$1,228,000 million during the year as opposed to negative operating cash flows of \$3,719,260 in previous year. The positive outcome was mainly due to the timing when grant monies are received and expended. This event increased the Association's cash balance to \$7,076,115 as at 30 June 2021 from \$5,936,276 in previous year. This also improved its net working capital to \$4,829,865 as at that date from \$4,812,799 in previous year.

The above factors indicate that the Association has sufficient cash and reserves to continue to operate on existing levels of operation for at least the next 12 months from the date of the financial report.

The Association is dependent on grant funding from the Australian Government for the majority of its revenue used in its roads operations. Should grant funding not be received, the Association will not be able to generate sufficient other revenue to meet future road expenditure. In this instance the Association would not provide this service.

Under the new Local Government Act, which will be effective on 1 July 2021, the Association will no longer be part of the new Local Government Act. In view of this, the Association will have at least 12 months from effectivity date to transition from being an Association under the previous Local Government Act to an incorporated company limited by guarantee. The change in incorporation will be finalised by 1 July 2022. It is envisaged that all assets and liabilities will be transferred from the Association to the new Company once it is established. These financial statements have not taken into account the impact of this change.

The above condition to remove the Association from the Local Government Act indicates the existence of a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt about the Association's ability to continue as a going concern and therefore the Association may be unable to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of business.

Notwithstanding that there is a material uncertainty the Executive believes that the Australian and Territory governments will continue to provide funding to the Association. There are also continued plans for control of costs as well as plans to increase self-generated revenue. The executive believes that the Association will continue as a going concern for the ensuing 12 months from the date of this report.

17 RESERVES

	2021	2020
OTHER RESERVES	\$	\$
Local Roads Replacement and Renewal Reserve	2,000,000	2,000,000
Local Roads Future Works Reserve	1,025,000	1,200,000
Legal and Research Reserve	200,000	200,000
Project and Policy Reserve	470,000	470,000
Procurement Services Reserve	144,012	180,495
Property Loan Principal Reserve	25,000	200,000
Total Other Reserves	3,864,012	4,250,495

These are quarantined funds set aside for the above activities and held in separate term deposit accounts

Local Roads Replacement and Renewal Reserve

The reserve is for the renewal or upgrade of the Local Roads managed by the Association.

Local Roads Future Works Reserve

The reserve covers operational and maintenance expenditure on local roads that is carried forward from previous financial years.

Legal and Research Reserve

This reserve is for obtaining legal advice and to commission research on issues.

Project and Policy Reserve

This reserve assists the Association to continue ongoing project delivery and policy development.

Procurement Services Reserve

This reserve assists in the development of procurement services and associated training.

Property Loan Principal Reserve

This reserve will be used to reduce the principal portion of the Association's building loan on the occasion of the loan being renegotiated.

18 IMPACT OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 crisis continues to lead to more variability and uncertainty underlying the preparation of each of their respective financial statements. As the Association engages in developing and advocating policy positions on behalf of its member councils, the COVID-19 continues to impact the Association as follows:

* Given the social distancing regime and the inability for a number of its members to travel, the majority of organised events continue to be conducted via video or teleconferencing as part of the Association's COVID-19 plan.

It was possible to hold both the Annual General Meeting in November and the General Meeting in April, face to face, with the majority of members attending in person.

- * All committed road maintenance and capital works were delivered. Project management of the majority of these projects was carried out off site. As restrictions to the remote communities in the Northern Territory ease travel to inspect and manage these works will resume;
- * Reduced cash flows from training fees and meeting charges have been offset by a reduction in the travel and venue costs associated with these activities;
- * As part of the Australian Government "Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant" (LRCI) COVID-19 recovery, the Association received the following allocations: 2020-2021 Phase 1 \$711,844; 2021-2022 Phase 2 \$474,563; 2022-2023 Phase 3 \$1,423,688.

As with the previous year, the Association has not identified any write-offs, postponements or waivers, or expected credit or impairment losses due to COVID-19.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

18 IMPACT OF COVID-19 - CONTINUED

The Association continues to maintain an excellent working relationship with the Northern Territory Government and its agencies that meant greater consultation and collaboration allowing the Association to influence policy direction. This became critical as the Association continues to navigate the response to COVID-19. There are many moving parts with parameters that change daily making decision-making more complex for all concerned but at the heart of what the Association does is what is best for its members, for their communities, individuals, businesses, service providers and the environment.

The most challenging area of consideration from the COVID-19 crises is impairment of assets and the supportable estimates of future cash flows. Although current estimates suggest limited volatility in cash flows projections and growth rates, there continues to be increased volatility as a result of the crises.

Service Providers

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National Australia Bank
Smith Street

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