

# LGANT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



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CELEBRATING  
**30**  
YEARS

**LGANT**  
Local Government Association  
Northern Territory

# WELCOME

LGANT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

This is the 31st Annual Report of LGANT for the financial year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.



## ANNUAL REPORT INTRODUCTION

In preparation 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 Friday 18 November 2022 at the Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin.

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

### Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

**Any queries about the report, please contact LGANT as per below:**

**Telephone:** (08) 8944 9688

**Email:** [info@lgant.asn.au](mailto:info@lgant.asn.au)

**Website:** [www.lgant.asn.au](http://www.lgant.asn.au)

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### Special Purpose Financial Report For The Year Ended 30 June 2022





## ● ABOUT THE **ORGANISATION**



### Local Government Association NT

Founded:  
1992

Staff:  
8

Members:  
16 Councils  
1 Corporation



*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 local government member councils and an associate member, Nhulunbuy Corporation in the Northern Territory. LGANT is a company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

LGANT has a nine-member Executive Committee which has overall carriage of the organisation's affairs as detailed in the 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 16 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
- Membership to 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
- Governance Advice
- Support for procurement processes
- Waste management expertise

## ● ABOUT

# LGANT

The Executive and staff review the LGANT strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2021-2022.

**LGANT's goals as stated in the 2021-2023 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 (Local Government Sustainability)
- to maintain and construct over 2,000kms of regional and remote roads, provide road and other infrastructure advice (Local Government Connections)

**Our values are:**

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



### Vision

LGANT helps local government councils to create the most valued, culturally diverse, sustainable and liveable communities in Australia.



### Purpose

LGANT supports and represents member councils to drive economic and social development for NT communities by providing:

- Advocacy and representation
- Capacity building
- Promotion of the sector
  - Governance development
- Service delivery and infrastructure

## ● PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



*"In my second year as LGANT President I have been humbled and heartened by the issues raised passionately and sincerely by elected members and staff particularly when the CEO and I got off the bitumen and visited members."*

After the Local Government elections in August 2021, we saw 77 new Councillors and eight new Mayors and Presidents. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know better the "newbies" in Matt Paterson Alice Springs Town Council, Rex Edmunds Belyuen Shire Council, Sharon Beswick Coomalie Community Government Council, Lapulung Dhamarrandji East Arnhem Regional Council, Doug Barden Litchfield Council, Tony Jack Roper Gulf Regional Council, Pirrawayingi Tiwi Islands Regional Council and Ralph Narburup West Daly Regional Council.

### The number one issue

for our sixteen member councils and of the 537 councils across Australia has always been financial sustainability and it remains so today. LGANT has worked very hard to add value to member subscriptions, and we have, around \$13M more in benefits in twelve months.

2020/2021 – Over \$25M value to LGANT Members Councils.

2021/2022 – Over \$38M value to LGANT Members Councils.

As good as that result is, unfortunately, it is the same secondary issues that keep coming up. Lack of housing, social

connectivity with unreliable back up for electricity and internet outages and antisocial behaviour and crime. For local government councils these factors combined make it near impossible to retain and attract staff. Without people to maintain the roads, collect the rubbish and the other forty different services councils provide including aged care, Centrelink, postal services and youth programs, our communities struggle.

We are working with ALGA to produce a workforce development plan for local government in the Northern Territory in an effort to address this challenge. All of you have told me that you are tired and that you need help. You need help

from the Federal Government, the NT Government and LGANT. With the office based in Darwin it means we have daily access to the senior public service bureaucrats, the Ministers, and the Chief Minister.

Since the general meeting in April 2021 your LGANT Executive and Secretariat have worked very hard developing public policy to address your issues and then advocating on your behalf for the adoption of those policies.

# WE HAVEN'T WON THEM ALL BUT SOME WE HAVE WON...



## COVID-19 and Health

I made a commitment to raise with the then NT Health Minister, the Hon Natasha Fyles, the issues identified by councils around the roll-out of COVID-19 measures and I did this in her own electorate office that included elected members and Council officers. I made it very clear that the vaccination roll-out was too slow and that information wasn't in "language". We saw a marked increase in urgency thereafter and with more information in more language. In a demonstration of the Local Government sector's solidarity in supporting the NT Government's vaccination push, Mayors and Presidents gathered for a socially distanced and masked group photo outside the Alice Springs Convention Centre during the 2021 LGANT AGM and Conference.

## Conditional Rating Increase

LGANT funded a report on "conditional rating" that assisted LGANT and members in the successful advocacy to the Minister for Local Government resulting in the Conditional Rate being increased by 151% over three years. In the 2022-23 financial year, the conditional rate will increase by 33%, and is estimated to be around \$224,007 for mining leases and for pastoral leases \$118,427. This win for local government councils is in fact more about what is fair than it is about money. Put simply, this represents a fairer contribution and much needed additional revenue for our councils that will enable them to deliver additional services and infrastructure for the benefit of the whole community.

## Antisocial Behaviour and Crime

### We have been trying for five years

for the Chief Minister to meet with member councils to talk about antisocial behaviour and crime and finally on 28 August 2022 the new Chief Minister hosted Mayors/Presidents and CEOs at Parliament House. All councils were given the opportunity to present their issues and problems to the CM and her Ministers and CEOs. I am pleased to say that we were heard and now we have secured a second meeting for our members with the CM during our November Convention.

Local government councils and local authorities are the closest to the people, are on the ground and democratically elected to represent their communities on all issues. As the third sphere of government, we should be involved in anything that is going to affect us.

The reason we sought a meeting is to explore what are the plans of the NT Government to address law and order issues AND how local government can be a part of the answer.

The common complaint from our members is that their input is not sought and when they see that law and order issues are not abating, frustration sets in.

We look very much forward to discussing with the Territory government how local government can be more involved in the policy making and not left to advocate back after the fact.

## Incorporation of Unincorporated

Since 2004 LGANT has been prosecuting the case that the whole of the Northern Territory should be incorporated. We support the Northern Territory Government bringing local government to the Cox-Daly and Marrakai-Douglas Daly areas, but we do not have a view on who or what should merge or be incorporated with whom. Again, this is about what is fair and equitable. Why should taxpayers and local government councils pay for individuals' lifestyles who use services that they are not financially contributing to? At the same time, we have advocated for a fair and transparent process to be put in place to ensure that the interests of all affected parties are heard and taken into consideration prior to any decision have been made.

## Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

Following strong lobbying through ALGA at a National level, LGANT with other state associations and councils, the Australian Government have extended the popular Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCI) Phase 3 from \$1 billion by a further \$500 million in the 2022 - 23 budget bringing the allocation for \$1.5 billion. This commitment by the Australian Government to stimulate the Australian Economy during the COVID 19 pandemic through the LRCI program is now \$3 billion. The program, through local government, has continued to support local jobs and resilience of the local economy. This win underscores the value of LGANT membership of ALGA and the power of a united front to affect change.

## Rating of Community and Social Housing

Successfully advocated for councils to be able to continue rating community and social housing, brokering a commitment from the Government to continue paying Council rates for Department owned public housing properties transferred to community housing providers. LGANT member councils understand and welcome the prioritising of growing the Community Housing sector in the Northern Territory to alleviate poverty, homelessness, rental stress, and hardship as housing affordability is a key issue. Exempting Community Housing Providers from these provisions would place significant financial burden on local government councils and serve as a cost shift to a sector already under financial stress and without real opportunity for own-source revenue.

## Governance Training

**At the request of the Mayors and Presidents** LGANT hosted the Elected Members Symposium in Darwin in October last year. One hundred and eight elected council members from 16 different councils attended the Symposium. This included 53 council members newly elected at the August 2021 Local Government Elections.

The event provided a welcomed opportunity for council members to learn about governance best practice from their peers and sector experts.

We thank the NT Government who partnered with us to put on the event. New council members were welcomed into the local government community, while returning members caught-up with colleagues from other councils.

We heard presentations by experienced elected members and those just starting their journey. East Arnhem Regional Council's Kay Thurlow reflected on lessons from over 20 years in local government, while newly elected 19 year old Catherine Ralph from West Arnhem Regional Council inspired with her message on the value of young voices on council.





## Local Government Voice

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The federal election campaign *Don't leave local government behind* was a fantastic opportunity for our member councils to play a meaningful direct and collective role in advocacy. Our local government councils understand the importance of a return of the Financial Assistance Grants to at least one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue, they understand the need for a place on National Cabinet as a direct voice from remote communities like Kaltukatjara on the WA border southwest of Alice Springs or Wurrumiyanga on the southeast corner of Bathurst Island, part of the Tiwi Islands, 80 kilometres northwest of Darwin or Yirrkala in East Arnhem from the 76 Homelands or "Family Outstations", to Canberra via Local Authorities and our local government councils. And it was incredible to travel to Canberra with 56 of you to participate in the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly in June and meet with the new federal government.

Given the broad range of issues and responsibilities of the local government sector we met with federal Ministers covering housing, transport, communications, emergency services and the Hon Linda Burney, Minister for Indigenous Affairs to explore just what the Uluru Statement from the Heart means for local government in the Territory. We pressed home the need for greater resources on the ground and in communities and this includes funding for an Aboriginal Affairs Officer with LGANT and for local government councils to be resourced to play a greater role in achieving Closing the Gap targets.

I am very proud to be involved in the level of government closest to the people with a unique representation structure that allows for all voices to be heard. Almost 80% of elected members in our regional and Shire councils are Aboriginal. Three regional councils are all Aboriginal and should be considered as Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) should they choose to be.

Congratulations to Mayor Matty Ryan of the West Arnhem Regional Council appointed by the LGANT Executive to the national Referendum Engagement Group. The group will work with Government on the next steps to a referendum in this term of Parliament to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Constitution.

I would like to congratulate my LGANT predecessor and former Alice Springs Town Council Mayor Damien Ryan on achieving Life Member status of LGANT.

The elections at the AGM in November 2021 in Alice Springs saw three casual vacancies filled by Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson, Mayor Jeff McLaughlin and Mayor Matt Paterson replacing Kirsty Sayers-Hunt, Peter Gazey and Kris Civitarese. Thank you to them and the other Board members, Councillors Peter Clee, Georgina Macleod, Peter Pangquee and Bobby Wunungmurra for their contribution to LGANT and the Local Government sector over the past twelve months.

My sincere gratitude to our LGANT team CEO Sean Holden, Cindy Chea, Jocelyn Cull, Jessica Eves, Elaine McLeod, Maree McLinden, Peter McLinden, Meredith Newall, John Robins, Acaila Tucker and Mary Watson, for their support of the LGANT Executive, our members and commitment to our sector.

I will continue the fight for better conditions for elected members that reflects the time and effort put in, real movement in Closing the Gap targets, water security and quality, social services coordination, the importance of Local Authorities, better deals for Homelands, community resilience and cyclone shelters, connectivity, illegal dumping, and greater funding to increase electoral enrolment.

**Kon Vatskalis**  
**LGANT President**



# Our Strategic Priorities



## SP1: Aboriginal Outcomes

Assisting Aboriginal people to have a greater voice to achieve better social, cultural, and economic outcomes

**Activities for SP1 2022/2023 include:**

- Implement and review LGANT Reconciliation Action Plan
- Establish partnership with the Torres & Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance (T&CICA) based in Cairns QLD
- Establish partnerships with Northern Queensland and West Australian ROCs
- Develop Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2 in partnership with other signatories
- Work with Australian Government on Uluru Statement of the Heart initiatives for local government



## SP2: Finance, Governance and Workforce

Strengthening financial sustainability and governance, and developing the workforce

**Activities for SP2 2022/2023 include:**

- Develop LGANT Governance Training packages including Training and professional development for nominated persons on the Prescribed Corporation Panel/Code of Conduct, CEOs Performance Review and CEOs Recruitment and Contract Management
- Conduct 2023 Member Satisfaction Survey
- Implementation of NEW LGANT Constitution
- Implementation of the Local Government 2030 Strategy including Principles and Protocols
- GM and AGM and Conference 16-18 November 2022
- GM and Conference April 2023
- Sourcing external funding for FIVE new positions to service our members: Emergency Management Project Officer, Domestic/Family Prevention Project Officer, Closing the Gap Implementation Officer, Road Safety Officer and a Procurement and Business Development Officer
- Review Rates Officers Manual with CouncilBiz
- Implementing Local Government Cost Index
- Assist in the outcomes of the NT Government's incorporation of unincorporated area's initiative
- Continuing Smart Councils Information Share events
- Workforce Development Plan for NT Local Government





## SP3: Infrastructure

Maintaining and constructing over 2,500kms of regional and remote roads, providing road and other infrastructure advice

**Activities for SP3 2022/2023 include:**

- Prioritise maintenance of construction and schedule for regional and remote roads
- Develop project management services support for member councils
- Review of local government infrastructure priorities
- Advocate for \$5 million for regional and remote roads



## SP4: Climate, Waste and Environment

Adapting to the effects of climate change, managing waste, and preserving the natural environment

**Activities for SP4 2022/2023 include:**

- Delivering Environment and Waste Management Forum and Symposium March 2023
- Partner with the NTG to develop the Local Government Sector Circular Economy Strategy
- Collaborate with TSA, NT Government, Local Government and Industry to utilise recycled products in infrastructure projects such as roads, pavements and car parks
- Advocate funding for climate adaptation plans for member councils

# Our Strategic Priorities

# Our Strategic Priorities



## SP5: Economic Development

Taking a leading role in economic development

**Activities for SP5 2022/2023 include:**

- Deliver Procurement Symposium
- Deliver LGANT buyer and supplier directory
- Convene the Sport, Arts and Culture Symposium
- Form new Economic Development Reference Group
- Launch of LocalBuy NT
- Assist in the implementation of the Bringing Land to Market Report
- Deliver the Northern Territory local government sector workforce development plan



## SP6: Profile and Reputation

Building the profile and reputation of the local government sector

**Activities for SP6 2022/2023 include:**

- Develop Federal Budget and NT Budget advocacy platform
- Celebrate LGANT 30-year anniversary November 2022
- Deliver Northern Australia Local Government Summit
- Develop and implement LGANT Marketing and Communications Plan
- Develop and implement LGANT Advocacy Plan
- Review of the 2021 local government council election campaign



## ● CEO'S STATEMENT



*“LGANT is 30 years-old and since 1992 has been representing the sector, developing public policy, and lobbying the Commonwealth and Territory governments for changes to legislation, funding for social services, roads, and other infrastructure.*

As required under Section 22.2 of the LGANT Constitution, this report includes the audited annual financial statements for the 2021-2022 financial year. The financial position and performance of LGANT was sound as of 30 June 2022.

**We are the peak body** for the local government sector representing over 3,000 employees and 150 elected members and 68 local authorities, LGANT in effect is larger than the eight staff and nine Board members at 21 Parap Road, Parap. We work very closely with local government council CEOs and senior staff to address challenges both internally and externally and embrace opportunities to do the good things we do, better.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome our new CEOs in Emma Bradbury Barkly Regional Council, Dave Ferguson Belyuen Community Government Council, Leslie Manda, Central Desert Regional Council, Simone Saunders City of Darwin, Ingrid Stonhill Katherine Town Council, Steve Hoyne Litchfield Council and Marc Gardner Roper Gulf Regional Council.

They bring with them expertise in other industries and sectors and experience in other states and countries. We are richer for their contribution already.

As a membership-based organisation we tread the fine-line between reflecting and leading or doing what our members want us to do and what we know also needs to be done. We often find ourselves responding and reacting to external pressures and events, usually as a result of what the Commonwealth and Territory governments do. It does mean we need to get out of the office more and develop ways to communicate better and more often. This we have done and will continue to do.

The President and I are on our second round of visiting councils to listen and learn. From these trips we quickly get a “in real-time” feel for the front-of-mind

issues. Similarly, it is very important to us to know “how we are going” so we conducted a Member Satisfaction Survey in December 2021 with 79% of members indicating LGANT was meeting or exceeding expectations. The Respondents told us the key challenges councils will face over the next 1-3 years, and they align with the LGANT Strategic Plan 2021/2024:

- Financial sustainability and compliance
- Capable and consistent governance and leadership
- Maintaining a skilled workforce
- Navigating COVID-19
- Remaining relevant despite structural or policy changes
- Delivering services in remote areas.

## THE VALUE OF LGANT MEMBERSHIP TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS IS FOREFRONT AND WE HAVE ORGANISED OUR RESOURCES TO REFLECT THE VERY MANY TASKS WE HAVE TO, NEED TO, AND WANT TO, PERFORM.



**We understand** that whilst there are many common issues, the needs of members vary markedly between regional and shire councils and municipal councils.

This Annual Report is an attempt to show clearly what LGANT does with and for its members. An example is that for the past three-years we have prepared for each member council an annual Member Value Proposition report that captures what the office and Board have done for the sector, what it is has done for each council and what we will do for the sector in the next twelve-months.

I am pleased to report that the return on investment by member councils is around 2:1. That is, a return of over \$38M or on average \$2M for each council. Given LGANT collects around \$700,000 in member subscriptions it actually translates to a 5 dollar return for every 1 dollar local government councils pay in subscriptions. This quantifies the money saved by councils using our services and what our advocacy on behalf of member councils has realised in new money coming in.

The Federal Election provided the local government sector with an opportunity to tell the story of its contribution to everyday people's everyday life. With you, we sought 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 messaged loud and clear to not to leave local government behind and invest in our councils so that they can provide the services people need and expect. We will continue to prosecute our case and keep the Federal government to its funding promises for the NT.

In April this year, LGANT held its General Meeting and Conference themed "Connecting Local Government to Economic Development". We explored enabling economic development through infrastructure projects, closer ties with local business, the Barkly Regional Deal, the role of procurement in stimulating local economies and the regionalisation of the Territory Economic Reconstruction priorities to name only some.

**We launched the Local Government 2030 Strategy**, a document that describes how the NT Government and NT Local Government will work together on issues such as law and order, waste management, roads, housing, homelessness, disaster preparedness, cybersecurity, water security, early and consistent engagement of local government councils in mining, oil, and gas projects. Most importantly it shows the lines of engagement based on principles such as respect and fairness.

It is worth noting that the local government sector receives and expends over half a billion dollars annually and much of that with local suppliers. We can certainly improve in this area and LGANT's procurement platform Local Buy assists councils to use pre-qualified local suppliers. Indeed, we will work with the new Aboriginal Procurement Policy and Aboriginal Economic Participation Framework to increase Aboriginal suppliers to local government council purchasing.

At the General Meeting we presented our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and launched the rebrand of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory. '*We are Local. We Connect.*' is the LGANT tagline that was reintroduced via our rebrand that included a new logo. Connectivity to our members, connectivity to kindred and partner organisations and road connectivity are our bread and butter but it is connectivity via the internet and mobile services that remains the most challenging.

Regional Communications continues to frustrate us all. It isn't so much about bandwidth as it is about reliability and resiliency of service and redundancy, that is consistent access and back-ups if the connection goes down. We welcome the Federal Government committing a record funding of \$1.5 billion to regional telecommunications in recognition of its fundamental role in supporting jobs, development, and quality of life. We also welcome the opportunity to influence where the spend will take place and in what form.

## WE ARE LOBBYING THE NT GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A NORTHERN TERRITORY VERSION OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MULTIPLE LAND USE FRAMEWORK (BUT WITH RECOGNITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS).



To “minimise land use conflict and provide greater certainty for industry, communities, and regulators for the benefit of Territorians. It also seeks to increase transparency and consistency in decision-making.” The key will be clear lines of when and how a proponent should engage with the local government councils.

Solutions could include, but are not limited to, local government councils being recognised as key stakeholders in the development of Territory Benefit Plans, and local government councils being genuinely engaged in discussions on master planning and new significant and major projects.



I would like to recognise and thank the LGANT staff who work above and beyond for our members.

Our Director Member Services & Infrastructure, Peter McLinden is the Deputy CEO and oversaw our 2,000 kilometre, \$8M Local Government Regional and Remote Roads program via Roads to Recovery and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Programs and Federal Assistance Grants (FAGs) which has allowed LGANT to improve access and road safety to communities. Peter has carriage of the sector Reference Groups, NT Local Buy (procurement) Rates Symposium, the Local Government Conditional Rating Benchmarking Report and advocacy document. His corporate knowledge across our broad policy scope is unsurpassed from 45 years working for and with regional and remote communities in the NT.

John Robins Manager Corporate Services joined us in January in time to complete this year's financials and their audit. He has continued the work required with the change of constitution and the transition from an incorporated association to a company limited by Guarantee. John has also overseen the review of our HR/IR policies and is pursuing opportunities to expand our Member Services offerings as per feedback from our Members Survey to develop and build own source revenue further. John inherited the books from Maree McLinden who retired after twenty years with us, ensuring that we were not only solvent but fiscally healthy.

Continued...







Meredith Newall, Project Officer Environment and Waste 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. Meredith coordinated the annual Waste Symposium and has now moved into Circular Economy strategies. Collaborating with Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA), a Business Case for *End of Life Tyre Processing in the NT* was finalised in February 2022. The final report has generated interest from Local Government, the NT Government, the Federal Government, Industry, and other organisations. Continued collaboration with interested parties is making the end of tyre processing in the NT a real possibility soon with demonstration projects (e.g., road reseals) to be put forward to TSA and industry by the end of 2022.

Mary Watson joined us in March as our Senior Policy Advisor and has the lead on local government and Closing the Gap, Aboriginal Decision Making, the Local Government 2030 Strategy, Burial and Cremation Bill and the Reconciliation Action Plan. She has almost twenty years in spacing public policy across federal, state (Qld), local and NTG (for the last nine years). Mary translated seamlessly into local government, she handles all the tough stuff with great care and aplomb. With a background in emergency management and tourism, Mary will coordinate the Northern Australia Local Government Conference in 2023.

Jocelyn Cull is the Senior Governance Advisor who provides governance advice to member councils. She has overseen the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2019*, completion of the new LGANT Constitution including the engagement process. She has also identified on-going member training opportunities and will develop a training calendar for elected members and council staff for 2023. Importantly, she provides the administration support to the Prescribed Panel dealing with Code of Conduct breaches. In 2023 Jocelyn will be the lead in the roll out of DriveAbout.

We are very fortunate to have the amazing support of my EA Jessica Eves 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. And a thank you to Elaine McLeod who retired in January after almost eight years supporting Tony Tapsell and myself and then Terri Hart and Acala Tucker covered briefly before Jess started with us. Thank you to you all.

Sindy Chea has completed her traineeship and has been appointed as the LGANT Marketing and Communications Officer. Sindy has proven to be invaluable coordinating newsletters, events, the rollout of the LGANT re-brand and new website. She also does all our graphic design and will have carriage of our marketing and communications plan in the new year.

I cannot over-state just how important our sponsors are to LGANT and members. Thank you to JLT Marsh, Commonwealth Bank, Mead Perry Group, Hostplus Superannuation, National Drought & Flood Agency, Waste and Recycling Industry Association, IT Vision, CFS Gear, Area 9, HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, Regional Development Australia Northern Territory, Market Creations, SMEC and The Strategic Directions Group. You are all partners and friends of the local government sector.

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.

We enjoy a very good relationship with the Local Government Unit of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet who are not only the sector regulator but a source of advice and a "front-door" to the NT Government and its departments. They have a genuine understanding of and affection for local government and have enjoyed our frank discussions and commitment to working together to solve issues.

There is no doubt there is strength in numbers and for us to overcome the tyranny of distance and the lack of scale we need to band together. To be better heard and for us to develop and determine our own destinies, we need to act and think differently, we need to embrace change. One way is to use technology to do the good things we do, better and LGANT has partnered with DriveAbout Global to roll-out a road rules/road safety program using animation and videos. We need to think bigger, go looking for change and create our very own new normal.

Finally, during the past twelve months our communities lost loved ones to the ravages of COVID-19, and we honour their memory. Whilst the immediate threat seems to have abated, we remain vigilant. I would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank local government leadership, all frontline workers and in particular those working in and with our sector. Your efforts and compassion were heroic and lifesaving.

**Sean G Holden**  
**LGANT Chief Executive Officer**



● MEET OUR 2021-22

# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

## PRESIDENT

### Lord Mayor The Hon. Kon Vatskalis, City Of Darwin

Kon has been a resident of Darwin for 37 years, originally arriving to manage the NT Health Department's Environmental Health Office. He was elected Lord Mayor of Darwin 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 Mayor Matt Paterson, Alice Springs Town Council

Qualified as an electrician, Mayor Paterson has an extensive history of working in various communities in Central Australia. This has given him an intimate knowledge of the community.

A born and bred local, Mayor Matt Paterson is an ardent sportsman and local sporting leader having served as a Cricket Australia Community Ambassador, committee member of the Alice Springs Turf Club and a long-time president of a local cricket club.

Outside of sport, he is also heavily involved in many community events and will often be spotted speaking with members of the community. Mayor Paterson is passionate about providing opportunities for the town's young people to grow and prosper, as well as connecting meaningfully with the senior community of Alice Springs.



## ● MEET OUR 2021-22

# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER – MUNICIPAL** **Councillor Peter Pangquee, 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. He is a member of the LGANT RAP Committee and the Constitution Committee.



### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER – MUNICIPAL** **Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson, Katherine Town Council**

Kym is the Deputy Mayor of Katherine Town Council and has served the Katherine community on Council since February 2021. Kym has also served on LGANT since being elected to the position of Executive - Municipals in November 2021.

Kym moved to the Northern Territory in 1996 with her parents and completed her schooling in Katherine. Since finishing school Kym has completed her degrees in Business Administration, Payroll, Management and Leadership.

Kym's experience and skills extend beyond the structure of business and Government; She is a passionate horse woman and a current coach and mentor at the Katherine Horse and Pony Club, a member of the Katherine and District Show Society and has been the Equestrian Events Coordinator for the previous 4 Katherine shows and she also trains and competes with her dogs in agility and obedience competitions.

Kym's vision for Katherine is for an adaptable, inclusive, and sustainable community. A place where families want to raise their children and settle down, for Katherine to be a leader in innovation and to have the courage to be creative. She hopes to advocate, support and guide the community members to speak up for what they want and work together to achieve a brighter future for Katherine.



### **EXECUTIVE MEMBER – REGIONAL AND SHIRES** **Mayor Jeffrey McLaughlin, Barkly Regional Council**

Mr McLaughlin has been the Mayor of Barkly Regional Council from September 2020. A prominent musician and arts activist, he has previously served on the Council as a Patta Ward Councillor.

Mr McLaughlin has worked at the Barkly Regional Arts since 2005 as a Music Project Officer and then Music Producer, helping to set up the Winanjikari Music Centre and running numerous outreach programs to indigenous communities. Mayor McLaughlin often donates his time to provide the sound or emceeing community events including the Tennant Creek Christmas Tree, school concerts and other public gatherings. He is also actively engaged in the activities of Territory Families and other regional organisations providing community support and services.

● MEET OUR 2021-22

# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

## 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 – REGIONALS AND SHIRES

### Deputy 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.

● TABLE 1.

# EXECUTIVE MEMBERS ATTENDANCE RECORD JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022

Executive Member	Meetings eligible to attend	Meetings attended
Lord Mayor Kon Vatskalis	9	8
Mayor Matt Paterson	7	6
Councillor Peter Clee	9	8
Mayor Judy MacFarlane	9	5
Mayor Jeff McLaughlin	7	7
Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson	7	7
Alderman Peter Gazey	1	1
Councillor Georgina Macleod	9	9
Councillor Peter Pangquee	9	9
Councillor Kirsty Sayers-Hunt	1	1
Councillor Bobby Wunungmurra	9	3



## ● WHAT WE DID IN

# 2021-22



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 five-way play of:

- Being Solvent
- Being Compliant with relevant legislation
- Achieving the goals and objectives of the strategic plan
- Representing and servicing our members
- Creating a positive culture of mutual respect

### 2021/2022 Highlights include:

- Rebranded LGANT to better position the local government sector in the policy and advocacy marketplace
- Represented the sector on the NT COVID-19 Regional and Remote Taskforce
- Completed the Local Government 2030 Strategy in partnership with the Northern Territory Government
- Implemented the new NT Local Government Act 2019, associated regulations, and guidelines
- Coordinated the promotion of the NT local government elections
- Held the Elected Member Symposium with 16 of the 17 member councils represented (108 of the 158 Councillors)
- Prepared the first NT Closing the Gap implementation plan in collaboration with the NT Government and Aboriginal peak bodies
- Successfully advocated for councils to be able to continue rating community and social housing
- Maintained over 1,880 kilometres of regional and remote roads
- Collaborated with Tyre Stewardship Australia, DIPL and City of Palmerston to finalise the Business Case for *Processing End of Life Tyres in the NT*
- Funded a conditional rating report that assisted LGANT and members in the successful advocacy to the Minister for Local Government resulting in the Conditional Rate being increased by 151% over three years
- Endorsement of the LGANT Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan
- Completion of new LGANT Constitution and Incorporation into a company limited by guarantee
- Local Buy NT Preferred Panel Active Arrangements changed with panels now open for local NT business participation every three months
- NT Councils Discretionary Trust producing a \$1M dividend

**As per the Strategic Plan 2021/2024, LGANT supports and represents member councils to drive economic and social development for NT communities by providing:**

- Advocacy and representation
- Capacity building
- Promotion of the sector
- Governance development
- Service delivery and infrastructure

**The following captures activities in each area.**

## ● ADVOCACY AND

# REPRESENTATION

### ***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

### ***Examples of advocacy efforts in 2021/2022 include:***

- Advocating for fair remuneration and superannuation for Mayors, Presidents, Aldermen and Councillors
- Prevention of illegal dumping in remote communities by NT Government contractors
- Reduction of antisocial behaviour and crime - community safety
- Liaison with the National Resilience and Recovery Agency on cyclone evacuation centres and emergency management
- Implementation of the NT Land Development Process Review including Development Subdivision Guidelines
- Continuing advocacy to NT Minister for Health for greater numbers of vaccination of countrymen and interstate tourists
- Ongoing advocacy for continuation of the NT Operational Subsidy
- Coordinated meetings with new federal ministers to continue advocacy efforts
- Supporting the LGANT President and Vice President in their membership on the ALGA Board including analysis of the National General Assembly motions
- Advocacy for the inclusion of local government in mining, oil and gas project consultations

### ***Submissions***

- Product Stewardship Scheme for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products
- NT Circular Economy Strategy discussion paper
- Incorporation of Unincorporated Areas discussion paper
- National Data Security Action Plan discussion paper
- Collaboration with State Associations submission to the Fair Work Commission Family and Domestic Violence Leave Review
- Joint ALGA Submission on the draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022/2023
- NT Strategic Water Plan – Directions Paper
- ALGA Productivity enquiry

### ***External Committee Participation***

- Cattle Grazing on Road Reserves Working Group
- Fatal and Serious Crash Review Working Group
- NT Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee
- Place Names Engagement and Consultation Working Group
- COVID-19 Regional and Remote Taskforce
- Local Government Training and Learning Steering Committee
- Local Government Skills and Capability Working Group
- Closing the Gap Implementation Plan Partnership Working Group
- TERC implementation Regional Prioritisation Steering Group
- Drive Tourism Strategy Project Implementation Team
- Burial and Cremation Bill Steering Group
- Regional Development Australia NT Committee

## ● CAPACITY BUILDING

### *Examples of LGANT's capacity building efforts in 2021/2022:*

- October 2021 Elected member Symposium – 108 participants
- November 2021 Essential Skills Training for council administration officers – 86 participants underwent Minute Taking/Business Writing Essentials and Chairing meetings.
- March 2022 Rates Workshop – 30 participants
- March and April 2022 Smart Cities Information Group sessions
- June 2022 Environment and Waste Management Forum and Symposium – 70 participants
- June 2022 Social Media Training – 30 participants
- Rollout of Australian Regional Tourism Local Government Professional Development Program



## ● PROMOTION OF THE SECTOR

### *Examples of LGANT's promotional efforts in 2021/2022 include:*

- Distribution of newsletters and media releases
- Growing social media profiles e.g. tripled LinkedIn followers
- Conducting a Member Satisfaction Survey and implementing actions
- Employing a Marketing and Communications Officer to implement the first LGANT Marketing and Communications Plan
- Local government election resources and collateral
- Coordinating the promotion of 2021 NT local government elections
- LGANT rebrand soft launch April 2022
- Launch of the inaugural LGANT Photo Competition
- Delivery of 10 LGANT Elected Members Service Awards, 128 LGANT Council Officers Service Awards and the LGANT Public Service Officer Award
- Federal and NTG Budget and federal election advocacy campaign including a Sunday Territorian Opinion Piece and ABC Radio



## ● GOVERNANCE

# DEVELOPMENT

### ***Examples of LGANT's governance development efforts in 2021/2022:***

- Continued exploration and implementation of product stewardship programs
- Held General and Annual General Meetings including the Mayors and Presidents Forum, CEOs Forum, Regional and Shires Forum and Municipals Forum
- Monthly Executive meetings
- Production of the 2020/2021 Annual Report
- Received an unqualified auditor's report for 2020/2021
- Promotion of the JLT (NT Councils) Discretionary Trust, the sector wide insurance scheme
- Review of the LGANT Strategic Plan 2021/2024 which identified LGANT's 6th priority (SP3: Infrastructure)
- October 2021 Elected members symposium
- Administration of a new Prescribed Corporations Panel to review Code of Conduct breaches
- Convened Reference Group meetings
- Held a Special General meeting on member subscription
- Completion of new LGANT Constitution and Incorporation into a company limited by guarantee
- Implementing the recommendations of an independent review of our human resource process and audit review conducted in June 2021.
- Appointed a Senior Governance Advisor
- Appointed a Corporate Services Manager

***The NT Councils Discretionary Trust is the mutual risk protection product available for LGANT Members. Established in June 2018, NT Councils have worked together to protect their organisations and communities through the Trust, in what is the risk protection of choice that understands the complexity and challenges of the sector like no other.***

### ***In 2021/22, the NT Councils Discretionary Trust delivered benefits to its 15 Members through:***

- Access to mutual risk protection and insurance covers that are specific and customised for NT Councils and cannot be replicated.
- Protection for \$800M in declared assets across the Northern Territory.
- Providing the ability to balance the cost of risk over time, even in the face of market volatility and adverse claims experience.
- A local claims management service, provided by JLT Public Sector, with 109 property, motor vehicle and liability claims lodged by Members in 2021/22
- Ability to generate surplus funds that stay within the Trust and not become the profits of insurance companies. As at end of June 2022, there is currently a \$979,432.19 available in surplus, with a further \$173,000 potentially available subject to further claims developments and audited financial statements.
- Application of discretion, which is a unique feature of mutual risk protection that sets it apart from insurance and allows the Trust to be agile in meeting Member's needs.
- Access to customised, topical and relevant risk management services.



## ● SERVICE DELIVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### *Examples of LGANT's service delivery and infrastructure efforts 2021/2022:*

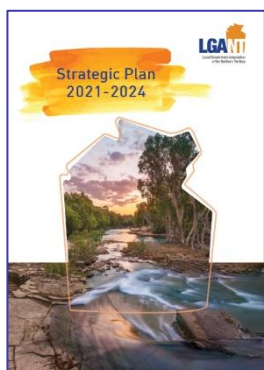
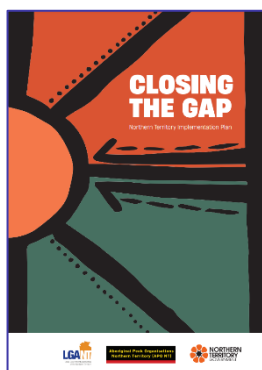
- Project managed over 1,880 kilometres of road works on local government roads managed by LGANT through the Roads to Recovery and Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grants
- Partnered with ALGA to extend the COVID-19 response stimulus initiative Local Road and Community Infrastructure Grant (LRCI) 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. The Northern Territory allocations of the LRCI in 2021/2022 were \$27,520,000
- Participated in "Local Buy Active Arrangements" which promotes and supports regional businesses and contractors to be on preferred panel contracts which provides efficiencies and exposure for all parties
- Provide HR and IR services to member councils through a service level agreement with WALGA
- In partnership with the Local Government Workforce Development Group and LGNSW, developed a local government careers platform, "Careers at Council" to:
  - promote local government as a preferred career path
  - provide a one stop platform for careers in local government.



## ● LGANT

# POLICY

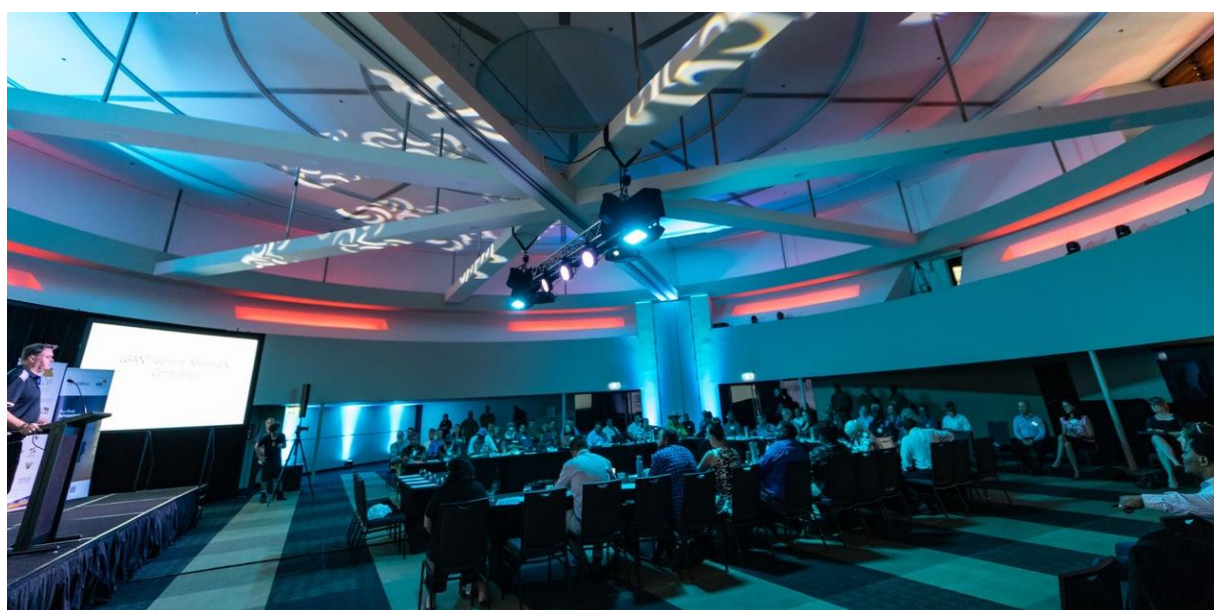
- Closing the Gap Implementation Plan
- Local Government 2030 Strategy
- Local Government Skills and Capability Working Group
- NEW LGANT Strategic Plan 2021-2024
- 10-Year Generational Strategy for Children and Families in the Northern Territory
- Regional Prioritisation Steering Group
- COVID-19 Regional and Remote Taskforce
- Local Government Training and Learning Steering Committee



## ● LGANT

# EVENTS

- Annual General Meeting
- CEO Forums
- Executive meetings
- General meetings
- 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
- Elected Members Symposium



## ● CLIMATE CHANGE, WASTE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- Submission to NT Government Draft NT Circular Economy Strategy
- Submission to Federal Government Stewardship for Consumer and Other Electrical and Electronic Products
- Participate in the Big Rivers Region Waste Management Group
- Annual waste management symposium involving local government, NT government, industry and not for profit groups
- Liaison with Tyre Stewardship Australia to finalise a *Business Plan for Processing End of Life Tyres in the NT* including remote communities
- Local Government Councils annual waste management forum focussed on council identified issues
- Interview with consultants for the Federal Government regarding National Product Stewardship Schemes where the issue of end of life vehicles was raised. Two months later a project regarding the introduction of a Product Stewardship Scheme for end of life vehicles was announced
- Provided support to WRINT Legacy Waste Pilot Project in Central Australia that has now been finalised.

### Highlights include:

- 12 Local Government Councils, 13 industry, 4 NT Government Departments and representatives, and 7 not for profit and peak associations attending the Waste Management Symposium
- Meeting with Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics to discuss illegal dumping in remote communities by NT Government contractors with the result that contractors are now having payments withheld until proof of appropriate waste disposal is provided.

### Current Work:

- Working with Tiwi Islands Regional Council to improve waste management practices at their three landfill sites
  - Providing support, advice and guidelines for operational staff
  - Participating in Waste Management Working Group for their region
  - Conducted on site audits at 4 landfill facilities on the islands
- Advancing the *Business Case for the Processing of End of Life Tyres in the NT*
  - Participating in a working group with TSA members, NT Government and Urban EP that meets regularly
- Improving Waste Management Practices for Regional Councils
  - Provide advice and support on request
  - Regularly update waste management contacts on new opportunities for product stewardship schemes and other solutions
- Waste Management Symposium
  - To be held March 2023 with the theme being *Navigating The Circular Economy in the NT – Clear as Waste*
  - 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



● TABLE 2.

# KEY ISSUES FROM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Date	Key Issues
13 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was postponed due to lack of quorum</li> </ul>
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No meeting held in August 2021 due to Local Government Elections</li> </ul>
30 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive supported LGANT to host a Northern Territory (or Northern Australia) Disaster Recovery and Resilience Conference.</li> <li>Valuation of Units 1-5, 21 Parap Road, Parap</li> <li>Executive supported LGANT obtaining legal advice on behalf of member councils social housing rates exemption and the use of funds from the LGANT Legal Reserves</li> <li>Executive supported a feasibility study based on a trial "Drive About Driver Education System".</li> </ul>
18 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal for LGANT to host a Northern Territory Disaster Recovery and Resilience Conference</li> <li>Local Government and Social Housing Rates Exemptions</li> <li>Business Proposition – Trial "Drive About Driver Education System"</li> </ul>
17 December 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominations to the Northern Territory Grants Commission</li> <li>Nominations to the Northern Territory Heritage Council</li> <li>Nominations to the NT Water Safety Advisory Council</li> </ul>
15 February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Call for a Safe Drinking Water Act and Submission on the NT Strategic Water Plan Directions Paper</li> <li>Nominations to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee</li> <li>Funding for Local Government General Elections and the Elected Member support and training program</li> <li>LGANT's advocacy to remediate the Pine Creek Land Fill Waste facility and construction of the transfer station.</li> <li>LGANT Executive endorsed to start the process and research in applying to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission for incorporation of a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.</li> <li>Code of Conduct Charter and pool of Elected Members for the Prescribed Corporation Panel.</li> </ul>
15 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGANT 2022-2023 Draft budget including member subscriptions</li> <li>LGANT CEO Annual Performance Review</li> </ul>
28 March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LGANT Re-brand Concepts</li> <li>Prescribed Corporation Code of Conduct disciplinary panel</li> </ul>
18 May 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern Australia Local Government Summit 2023</li> </ul>
7 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement Framework for Place naming in the NT</li> <li>Northern Australia Local Government Summit 2023</li> <li>LGANT Environmental Sustainability Policy</li> <li>Legacy Waste Management in Central Australia</li> </ul>



● TABLE 3.

## KEY ISSUES FROM GENERAL AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND CEO FORUMS

Meeting/Date	Key Issues
<b>CEO Forum</b>  <b>3 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social housing rates</li> <li>• Local Government 2030 Strategy</li> <li>• Training &amp; Learning Steering Committee</li> </ul>
<b>General Meeting</b>  <b>4 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates Waivers to Not for Profit Organisations</li> <li>• Social Services Coordination and Social Infrastructure Planning, Prioritising and Funding</li> <li>• Closing the Gap Northern Territory Implementation Plan</li> <li>• Status of the Coomalie Shire and Region</li> <li>• Council Cost Index</li> <li>• 2021 Local Government Elections</li> <li>• Inquiry into Homelessness in Australia</li> <li>• National Recovery and Resilience Agency – National Futures Map 2025 Project Update</li> <li>• Local Authority Desktop Review</li> <li>• ALGA Federal Election Advocacy</li> </ul>
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>  <b>5 November 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020-2021 Annual Report</li> <li>• LGANT Executive Elections</li> <li>• Local Government Long Service Awards</li> <li>• Reports from Delegates on committees outside of LGANT</li> </ul>
<b>CEO Forum</b>  <b>6 April 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling Economic Development through Infrastructure Projects</li> <li>• Waste, Recycling &amp; the Circular Economy...the NEW Economy</li> <li>• Human Resources &amp; Industrial Relations Right Now</li> </ul>
<b>General Meeting</b>  <b>7 April 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022-2023 LGANT Budget and Member Subscriptions</li> <li>• New LGANT Constitution and Incorporation</li> <li>• Recognition of Indigenous Local Government Councils</li> <li>• Draft Burial and Cremation Bill – Funding of Services</li> <li>• Local Government Election Voter Participation</li> <li>• Elected Member Council Allowances</li> <li>• Barkly Regional Council</li> <li>• LGANT Reconciliation Action Plan</li> <li>• Code of Conduct Panel Charter and Nomination Process for the Code of Conduct Panel</li> <li>• Call for a Safe Drinking Water Act and Submission on the NT Strategic Water Plan: Directions Paper</li> <li>• Conditional Rating of Pastoral and Mining Leases</li> </ul>

● TABLE 4.

# REFERENCE GROUP MEETINGS

Reference Group/Date	Key Issues
<b>Governance and Human Resources</b>  <b>28 July 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careers at Council</li> <li>• Federal Industrial Relations Reform</li> <li>• WALGA Industrial Relations Services Agreement update</li> <li>• COVID-19</li> <li>• Unpaid parental Leave</li> <li>• Family and Domestic violence award review</li> <li>• Statewide Super new legislation and reporting requirements</li> <li>• Local Government newly elected member induction symposium</li> <li>• Local Government Workforce and Human Resources Summit</li> </ul>
<b>Environment, Transport, and Infrastructure</b> <b>Issues based subject matter</b>  <b>25 August 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Arrangements – NT Local Buy</li> <li>• IPWEA _ Qld - NT IPWEA Branch and 2022 Conference Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant</li> <li>• Illegal Dumping</li> <li>• Federal Black Spot Program status</li> <li>• Drive About Road Safety Platform</li> <li>• Local Government Act</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Transition arrangements</li> <li>• Regional Roads Committees</li> <li>• Big Rivers 5 August 2021 / 24 November 2021/3 February 2022</li> <li>• Big Rivers Regional Roads Committee 21 July 2021</li> </ul>
<b>Community Services</b>  <b>9 September 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NT Suicide Prevention Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Finance</b>  <b>15 March 2022</b>  <b>27 July 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government Rates Workshop</li> <li>• Review of NT Local Government rating system</li> <li>• Current Financial Outlook, NT, Aust and beyond Superannuation performance and the effects on staff and the sector Financial Mangement and Strategies Compliance and Regulatory Issues Insurance update for the Local Government sector</li> </ul>

● TABLE 5.

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT LONG SERVICE AWARDS (ELECTED MEMBERS)

Elected Member	Council	Years of Service
Councillor Rebecca Want de Rowe	City Of Darwin	10 Years
Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Regional Council	10 Years
Councillor Annabelle Daylight	Roper Gulf Regional Council	10 Years
Councillor Samuel Evans	Roper Gulf Regional Council	10 years
Deputy Mayor Leslie Tungutalum	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	10 Years
Councillor Therese Bourke	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	10 Years
Councillor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council	10 Years
Mayor Brian Pedwell	Victoria Daly Regional Council	10 Years
Councilor Georgina MacLeod	Victoria Daly Regional Council	10 Years
Councilor Andrew McTaggart	Victoria Daly Regional Council	10 Years

## ● LOCAL ROADS

**LGANT project managed over 2,019 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).



Roads to Recovery (2020 – 2022 Allocation \$711,844 per annum)				
Road	Region	Status	Works	Costs
<b>Likkaparta Road</b>	Barkly	Completed	Sealing	\$515,862
<b>Pakulki Road</b>	Barkly	Completed	Gravel formation and compaction preparation for sealing	\$459,572

Pakulki Road Barkly Region has been identified as a potential for a demonstration site to use crumb rubber sealing project.

LGANT continued a program of erecting road signs using the Central Australian Remote Community Traffic Management Manual developed in collaboration with member Councils, with the technical assistance of the Australian Road Research Board.



● TABLE 6.

## ROADS TO RECOVERY

Road	Regional Council Area	Project	Amount
Likkaparta Road	Barkly	Formation and sealing	\$487,772.00
Bukadal Road	East Arnhem	Gravel sheet, alignment, and drainage	\$146,690.00
Pakulki Road	Barkly	Full formation and gravel sheeting including off let drain.	\$459,573.00
Barrikira Road	East Arnhem	Road widening, alignment and formation.	\$119,000

Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Grant – Phase 1 / 2 / 3

**Allocations:**

Phase 1 2019 – 20 \$711,844 totally expended (awaiting final payment)

Phase 2 2020 - 21 \$474,563 Projects completed acquittal in process

Phase 3 2022 - 23 \$1,423,688 Projects forwarded and approved.

● TABLE 7.

## LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT - PHASE 1/2/3

Road	Regional Council Area	Project	Amount
<b>Baniyala Road Completed Phase 1</b>	East Arnhem	Gravel sheeting and realignment	\$253,754
<b>Blue Bush Road Completed Phase 1</b>	Barkly	25km Full formation and verge clearing including off let drain	\$458,090
<b>10 Mile Road Completed Phase 2</b>	Barkly	Gravel Sheetting	\$119,000
<b>Barrikira Road Completed Phase 2</b>	East Arnhem	Road widening, alignment and gravel sheeting.	\$62,720
<b>Bukudal Road Completed Phase 2</b>	East Arnhem	Gravel sheeting 8km	\$287,500

## ● LGANT

# PROCUREMENT



LGANT has teamed up with Local Buy to support Northern Territory Local Government Councils in the way they connect with and support their suppliers.

LGANT were excited to announce that starting in August 2021 participation in 'NT Local Buy Active Arrangements' was made possible 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. All NT Local Buy Arrangements are now being opened every 3 months – instead of every 3 years.

The Active Arrangements is about making sure we can continue to support the broad procurement needs of our buyers in the Northern Territory, and better connect the suppliers in their community to more work opportunities – more often.

14 member councils used NT Local Buy preferred panels with an aggregated spend of \$3,153,046.

## ● LGANT MEMBERSHIP

# 2021-22

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 2022-2023, 16 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT and were made up of (see Table 8):

- 4 municipalities
- 9 regional councils
- 3 shires

The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member during 2021-2022 because of its role as an organisation involved in the delivery of local government-type services.

● TABLE 8.

# LGANT MEMBERS AS OF 30 JUNE 2022

Member	Type
Alice Springs Town Council	Municipal
Barkly Regional Council	Regional
Belyuen Community Government Council	Shire
Central Desert Regional Council	Regional
City of Darwin	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

## ● OUR

## SPONSORS

LGANT sincerely thanks and acknowledges the assistance provided to it by its sponsors.

PLATINUM PLUS		
GOLD	 Commonwealth Bank of Australia	GOLD
GOLD	 Australian Government National Emergency Management Agency	GOLD
SILVER		SILVER
		
		 <i>Organisational excellence in the public sector</i>
		
		
		
		
		



## Honour Board LGANT Executive CEOs and Life Members

<b>July to September 1992</b>		
President	Alderman Bob Kennedy	Alice Springs Town Council
<b>1992 - 1994</b>		
President	Mayor Jim Forscutt	Katherine Town Council
Vice President Municipal	Alderman Joan Small	Tennant Creek Town Council
Vice President Community	Councillor Tim Baldwin	Coomalie Council
Executive Members	Alderman Pat Burke	Darwin City Council
	Councillor Timothy Mangurra	Numbulwar Council
	Councillor Neville Andrews	Borroloola Council
<b>1994 – 1996</b>		
President	Mayor Jim Forscutt	Katherine Town Council
Vice President Municipal	Councillor David Norton	Jabiru Town Council
Vice President Community	Councillor Peter Kavanagh	Yulara Council
Executive Members	Lord Mayor George Brown	Darwin City Council
	Councillor Ron Squires	Elliot Council
	Councillor Dennis Japanangka (Williams)	Yuendumu Council
<b>1996 – 1998</b>		
President	Councillor Peter Kavanagh	Yulara Council resigned September 1997 replaced by
	President Margaret Vigrants	Timber Creek Council
Vice President Municipal	Councillor David Norton	Jabiru Town Council
Vice President Community	Councillor Gaye Lawrence	Pine Creek Council
Executive Members	Lord Mayor George Brown	Darwin City Council
	President Gerry Wood	Litchfield Shire Council
	Councillor Dennis Japanangka (Williams)	Yuendumu Council
<b>1998 - 2000</b>		
President	President Margaret Vigrants	Timber Creek Council
Vice President Municipal	President Gerry Wood	Litchfield Shire Council
Vice President Community	Councillor Geoff Selems	Coomalie Council
Executive Members	Alderman David Elliot	Palmerston Town Council
	Councillor David Norton	Jabiru Town Council
	Councillor Joe Rawson	Tapatatjaka Council
<b>2000 - 2002</b>		
President	Alderman David Elliot	Palmerston Town Council
Vice President Municipal	Lord Mayor George Brown	Darwin City Council
Vice President Community	Councillor David Lane	Wugularr Council resigned 2001 replaced by
Executive Members	President Charles Yunupingu	Galiwinku Community Inc
	President Arthur Turner	Anmatjere Council
	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council
	Councillor David Norton	Jabiru Town Council
	President Gibson Farmer	Milikapiti Council
	President Sid Anderson	Papunya Community Council
<b>2002 - 2004</b>		
President	Alderman Cecil Black	Darwin City Council
Vice President Municipal	Mayor Fran Kilgariff	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Community	Councillor Gibson Farmer	Tiwi Islands Local Government
Executive Members	President Arthur Turner	Anmatjere Council resigned April 2003
	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council
	Mayor Jim Forscutt	Katherine Town Council resigned April 2004
	Councillor John Ingram	Coomalie Council
	President Ray Wooldridge	Pine Creek Council
	Councillor Vic Stow	Cox Peninsula Council elected May 2003

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## Honour Board LGANT Executive CEOs and Life Members

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### 2004 - 2006

President	Mayor Fran Kilgariff	Alice Springs Town Council until May 2005
	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council elected June 2005
Vice President Municipal	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council until June 2005
	Mayor Rod Swanson	Tennant Creek Council elected June 2005
Vice President Community	President Ray Wooldridge	Pine Creek Council
Executive Members	Mayor Rod Swanson	Tennant Creek Council until June 2005
	Alderman Helen Galton	Darwin City Council
	President Gus Williams	Ntaria Council
	Councillor Geoff Selems	Coomalie Council
	Chairman Peter Gunner	Urapuntja Council elected April 2004
	Alderman Jane Mure	Alice Springs Town Council elected June 2005

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### 2006 - 2009

President	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council
Vice President Municipal	Mayor Rod Swanson	Tennant Creek Council until March 2007
	Mayor Anne Shepard	Katherine Town Council elected July 2007
Vice President Community	President Ray Wooldridge	Pine Creek Council
Executive Members	Alderman Helen Galton	Darwin City Council
	Alderman Jane Clark	Alice Springs Town Council
	Councillor Tony Scrutton	Anmatjere Council until March 2007
	President Vic Stow	Cox Peninsula Council March 2007 – October 2008
	Councillor Geoff Selems	Coomalie Council until July 2007
	Councillor Greg Kimpton	Timber Creek Council July 2007 – November 2007
	Councillor Geoffrey Barnes	Lajamanu Council November 2007 – October 2008
	Chairman Charles Yunupingu	Galiwinku Council until June 2007
	Councillor Maurie Ryan	Dagaragu Council June 2007 – September 2007
	Councillor Don Wegener	Timber Creek Council November 2007 – October 2008
	Councillor Ronald Lami Lami	West Arnhem Shire elected November 2008
	President James Glen	Central Desert Shire elected November 2008
	Councillor Maralampuwi Kurrupuwa	Tiwi Islands Shire elected November 2008

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### 2009 – 2010

President	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council
Vice President Municipals	Alderman Jane Clark	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Shires	Councillor Ray Wooldridge	Victoria Daly Shire
Executive Members	Alderman Helen Galton	Darwin City Council
	Mayor Robert Macleod	City of Palmerston
	Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Shire
	Councillor Donna Iddon	West Arnhem Shire until January 2010
	President James Glenn	Central Desert Shire until July 2009
	Vice President Tony Boulter	Barkly Shire elected August 2009
	President Norbert Patrick	Central Desert Shire elected May 2010

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### 2010 - 2012

President	Alderman Kerry Moir	Darwin City Council
Vice President Municipals	Mayor Damien Ryan	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Shires	Councillor Ray Wooldridge	Victoria Daly Shire
Executive Members	Alderman Helen Galton	Darwin City Council
	Mayor Robert Macleod	City of Palmerston
	Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Shire
	President Norbert Patrick	Central Desert Shire
	Councillor David Norton	West Arnhem Shire

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## Honour Board LGANT Executive CEOs and Life Members

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### 2012 - 2014

President	Mayor Damien Ryan	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Municipals	Alderman Helen Galton	Darwin City Council
Vice President Shires	Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Shire
Executive Members	Mayor Fay Miller	Katherine Town Council
	Councillor Kaye Thurlow	East Arnhem Shire Council
	Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis	Darwin City Council
	President Barb Shaw	Barkly Shire Council
	Deputy President Norbert Patrick	Central Desert Shire Council

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### 2014 - 2016

President	Mayor Damien Ryan	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Municipals	Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis	City of Darwin until August 2015
	Alderman Bob Elix	City of Darwin elected November 2015
Vice President Regionals and Shires	Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Regional Council
Executive Members	Mayor Fay Miller	Katherine Town Council
	President Barb Shaw	Barkly Regional Council
	Mayor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council until February 2015
	Mayor Lothar Siebert	West Arnhem Regional Council
	Councillor Greg Sharman	MacDonnell Regional Council elected March 2015
	Councillor Kaye Thurlow	East Arnhem Regional Council elected November 2015
	Alderman Gary Haslett	City of Darwin elected February 2016

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### 2016 - 2018

President	Mayor Damien Ryan	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Municipals	Alderman Bob Elix	City of Darwin until August 2017
	Alderman Gary Haslett	City of Darwin
Vice President Regionals and Shires	Mayor Lothar Siebert	West Arnhem Regional Council until February 2017
	Mayor Tony Jack	Roper Gulf Regional Council April 2017 – August 2017
	Mayor Matty Ryan	West Arnhem Regional Council elected November 2017
Executive Members	Mayor Fay Miller	Katherine Town Council
	President Barb Shaw	Barkly Regional Council until August 2017
	Mayor Lynette De Santis	Tiwi Islands Regional Council
	Councillor Steven Hennessy	Victoria Daly Regional Council until August 2017
	Mayor Ian Abbot	City of Palmerston until May 2017
	Mayor Steven Edgington	Barkly Regional Council elected November 2017
	President Peter Clee	Wagait Shire Council elected November 2017
	Mayor Maree Bredhauer	Litchfield Council elected November 2017
	Alderman Sherry Cullen	City of Darwin elected February 2018

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### 2018 – 2020

President	Mayor Damien Ryan	Alice Springs Town Council
Vice President Municipals	Alderman Gary Haslett	City of Darwin
Vice President Regionals and Shires	Mayor Gawin Tipiloura	Tiwi Islands Regional Council until March 2019
Executive Members	Mayor Steven Edgington	Barkly Regional Council elected May 2019
	Mayor Fay Miller	Katherine Town Council
	Mayor Steven Edgington	Barkly Regional Council until May 2019
	Mayor Maree Bredhauer	Litchfield Council
	Alderman Peter Pangquee	City of Darwin
	Councillor Bobby Wunungmurra	East Arnhem Regional Council
	Councillor Robert George	Central Desert Regional Council until June 2019
	Mayor Matty Ryan	West Arnhem Regional Council elected June 2019
	Mayor Judy MacFarlane	Roper Gulf Regional Council elected June 2019

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## Honour Board LGANT Executive CEOs and Life Members

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### 2020-2022

President	Lord Mayor the Hon Kon Vatskalis	City of Darwin
Vice President Regional & Shires	Councillor Peter Clee	Wagait Shire Council
Vice President Municipals	Councillor Kirsty Sayers-Hunt	Litchfield Council until August 2021
	Mayor Matt Paterson	Alice Springs Town Council elected November 2021
Executive Members	Mayor Jeffrey McLaughlin	Barkly Regional Council elected November 2021
	Deputy Mayor Peter Gazey	Katherine Town Council until August 2021
	Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson	Katherine Town Council elected November 2021
	Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane	Roper Gulf Regional Council
	Alderman Peter Pangquee	City of Darwin
	Councillor Kris Civitarese	Barkly Regional Council until August 2021
	Councilor Georgina Macleod	Victoria Daly Regional Council
	Councilor Bobby Wunungmurra	East Arnhem Regional Council

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### LGANT Chief Executive Officers

1992 – 2002	Jeffrey Michael Hoare
2002 – 2019	Tony Francis Tapsell
2019 –	Sean Gerrard Holden

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### Life Members

2019	Kerry Moir
2022	Damien Ryan

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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#### 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 2022 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.



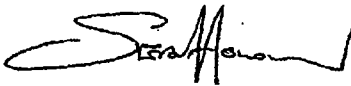
Konstantine Vatskalis

LGANT President

15 November 2022

#### STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, Sean Gerrard 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 2022 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.



Sean Gerrard Holden

LGANT CEO

15 November 2022

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<i><u>Current Assets</u></i>			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	8,054,363	7,076,115
Trade and other receivables	3	24,670	12,502
Other assets		11,407	11,115
		<u>8,090,440</u>	<u>7,099,732</u>
<i><u>Non-Current Assets</u></i>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	3,287,287	2,078,018
		<u>3,287,287</u>	<u>2,078,018</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>11,377,727</b></u>	<u><b>9,177,750</b></u>
<b>LESS LIABILITIES</b>			
<i><u>Current Liabilities</u></i>			
Trade and other payables	5	2,552,651	1,946,900
Borrowings	6	114,975	116,120
Provisions	7	181,125	206,847
		<u>2,848,751</u>	<u>2,269,867</u>
<i><u>Non-Current Liabilities</u></i>			
Borrowings	6	176,390	291,407
Provisions	7	36,200	43,816
		<u>212,590</u>	<u>335,223</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u><b>3,061,341</b></u>	<u><b>2,605,090</b></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><b>8,316,386</b></u>	<u><b>6,572,660</b></u>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>			
Accumulated Surplus		2,589,716	2,142,759
Asset Revaluation Reserve		1,510,274	213,505
Property, Mobile Equipment & Other Assets Reserve		352,384	352,384
Other Reserves	17	3,864,012	3,864,012
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>		<u><b>8,316,386</b></u>	<u><b>6,572,660</b></u>

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 2022**

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
User Charges and Fees	8	1,060,785	1,042,180
Interest		13,215	28,113
Other Revenues from ordinary activities		12,500	12,500
NT Government Contributions for Operating Purposes	9	169,510	220,309
Federal Government Contributions for Operating Purposes	10	3,032,889	2,561,248
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>4,288,899</b>	<b>3,864,350</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee Costs		864,639	808,894
Materials and contracts		2,637,793	2,726,998
Depreciation		92,334	86,871
Other operating expenses	11	235,367	189,791
Interest Charges		11,387	15,603
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>3,841,520</b>	<b>3,828,157</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>447,379</b>	<b>36,193</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>			
(Loss)/Gain on disposal of assets		(422)	-
<b>Other comprehensive (loss)/income</b>		<b>(422)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>446,957</b>	<b>36,193</b>

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 2022**

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipt of grants		3,818,958	3,455,056
Receipts from members		704,928	750,344
Other Charges and User Fees		311,598	694,485
Sponsorship - Association		44,591	35,227
Interest received		13,215	28,114
Payments to suppliers and employees		(3,782,237)	(3,719,623)
Borrowing costs		(11,387)	(15,603)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	12	1,099,666	1,228,000
<b>Cash flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(5,256)	(57,522)
Net cash flows (used in) investing activities		(5,256)	(57,522)
<b>Cash flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Loans - Parap Building Principal Repayments		(100,000)	(75,000)
Loans - Motor Vehicle Additions/(Principal Repayments)		(16,162)	44,361
Net cash flows (used in) financing activities		(116,162)	(30,639)
Net Decrease in cash held		978,248	1,139,839
Cash at the beginning of the year		7,076,115	5,936,276
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>		<b>8,054,363</b>	<b>7,076,115</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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:

<b>Class of fixed asset</b>	<b>Depreciation Rate</b>
Office Building	2-10%
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	5-20%
Motor Vehicles	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.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**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.

**l) 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at bank at 30 June 2022 at National Australia Bank Darwin comprised the following:

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
LGANT Reserve Term Deposit Account		413,993	409,737
Transport, Infrastructure & Environment Account		1,661,357	1,566,062
Infrastructure Holding Term Deposit Accounts		3,433,058	3,427,723
Projects, Legal & Procurement Term Deposit Account		798,189	796,499
Tied & Committed Funds Account		296,870	416,802
Operating Account		1,450,690	459,269
		<u>8,054,157</u>	<u>7,076,092</u>
Petty Cash		206	23
		<b><u>8,054,363</u></b>	<b><u>7,076,115</u></b>

**3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Trade receivables	24,670	12,502
Allowance for Doubtful Debts	-	-
	<b><u>24,670</u></b>	<b><u>12,502</u></b>

**4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Motor Vehicles, at cost	125,333	148,733
Accumulated Depreciation	(77,249)	(77,755)
Total Motor Vehicles	<u>48,084</u>	<u>70,978</u>
Furniture, Fittings and Equipment, at cost	134,997	137,159
Accumulated Depreciation	(112,497)	(110,169)
Total Furniture, Fittings and Equipment	<u>22,500</u>	<u>26,990</u>
Office Building - Parap, at valuation	3,851,466	2,552,953
Accumulated Depreciation	(634,763)	(572,903)
Total Office Building - Parap	<u>3,216,703</u>	<u>1,980,050</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<b><u>3,287,287</u></b>	<b><u>2,078,018</u></b>

**Asset Valuations**

On 30 June 2022, the Association undertook a full review of its office building located in Parap. The fair value of the Association's office building was determined and approved by the Committee on the basis of an independent valuation carried out by Colliers International, who are certified practicing valuers. The office building is valued at market yield and direct comparison approach.

**5 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

		2022 \$	2021 \$
Trade payables		63,698	74,827
Unexpended grants	15	1,211,301	1,019,211
Grants received in advance	15	1,263,386	838,917
Income received in advance		14,266	13,945
		<b><u>2,552,651</u></b>	<b><u>1,946,900</u></b>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**6 BORROWINGS**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>			
Bank Loan - Vehicles		14,975	16,120
Bank Loan - Parap Building Purchase **		100,000	100,000
		<u>114,975</u>	<u>116,120</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>			
Bank Loan - Vehicles		21,390	36,407
Bank Loan - Parap Building Purchase **		155,000	255,000
		<u>176,390</u>	<u>291,407</u>
<b>Total Borrowings</b>		<u><b>291,365</b></u>	<u><b>407,527</b></u>

\*\* This loan was renegotiated in March 2021 with the National Australia Bank, as a Flexible Rate Loan to run over three years with a fixed component of \$380,000 and a floating component of \$125,000. Principal payments of \$100,000 were made against the loan during the year (2021: \$75,000).

The status of this loan is as follows:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current Liability - Fixed & Variable Components Flexible Rate Loan	100,000	100,000
Non current liability - Fixed & Variable Components Flexible Rate Loan	155,000	255,000
	<u>255,000</u>	<u>355,000</u>

**7 PROVISIONS**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Employee Entitlements - Annual Leave	73,593	95,932
Employee Entitlements - Long Service Leave	107,532	110,915
	<u>181,125</u>	<u>206,847</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Employee Entitlements - Long Service Leave	24,906	32,522
Bond Units 3 & 4	11,294	11,294
	<u>36,200</u>	<u>43,816</u>
<b>Total Provisions</b>	<u><b>217,325</b></u>	<u><b>250,663</b></u>

**8 USER CHARGES AND FEES**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Subscriptions, Meeting Fees and Charges	833,772	825,164
Rental Charges	174,472	164,600
Project Management, Consultancy and Sponsorship	52,541	52,416
<b>Total User Charges and Fees</b>	<u><b>1,060,785</b></u>	<u><b>1,042,180</b></u>

**9 NT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Council Election Support & Elected Member Symposium	14,511	25,371
Senior Governance Officer	18,040	-
Elected Member Symposium	2,349	27,364
Local Government Environment Officer	134,610	167,574
<b>Total NT Government Contributions</b>	<u><b>169,510</b></u>	<u><b>220,309</b></u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**10 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Local Roads Federal Assistance Grants		1,657,929	1,594,166
Roads to Recovery - LGANT		1,173,205	195,982
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Programme		201,755	771,100
Total Federal Government Contributions		<u>3,032,889</u>	<u>2,561,248</u>

**11 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Travel and accommodation	62,043	53,345
Rates and body corporate	41,325	51,380
Legal costs	31,894	1,200
Meetings, sitting fees and conference	30,410	26,734
Insurance	19,938	18,759
Professional fees	16,590	15,600
Telephone	9,793	9,734
Office supplies and consumables	4,882	3,677
Other	18,492	9,362
Total Other Operating Expenses	<u>235,367</u>	<u>189,791</u>

**12 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	2022 \$	2021 \$
a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at Bank	8,054,157	7,076,092
Petty Cash Imprest	206	23
	<u>8,054,363</u>	<u>7,076,115</u>
b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities		
Operating result	446,957	36,193
Depreciation	92,334	86,871
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	422	-
	<u>539,713</u>	<u>123,064</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables	605,751	689,293
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	(33,338)	(28,567)
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables	(12,460)	444,210
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>1,099,666</u>	<u>1,228,000</u>

**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 Association is not aware of any contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: \$nil).



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

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

The Association has recognised liabilities for grants received but not fully expended at year end for projects of \$2,474,687. Included in this figure are unexpended grants totaling \$1,263,386 being income received in advance for the 2022-2023 financial year.

	Opening Balance 1 July 2021	Movements		Closing Balance 30 June 2022
		Received	Expended	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Roads Funding received in advance ( <i>refer note 5</i> )	838,917	2,082,398	1,657,929	1,263,386
	838,917	2,082,398	1,657,929	1,263,386
<b>Grant income unexpended at end of 2020/21 financial year</b> ( <i>refer note 5</i> )				
Community & Infrastructure Grant Stage 2	201,755	711,844	201,755	711,844
Roads to Recovery	515,862	714,080	1,173,205	56,737
Local Government Environment Officer	114,077	163,636	134,610	143,103
Council Election Support & Senior Policy Advisor	119,188	-	14,511	104,677
Elected Member Symposium	68,329	-	2,349	65,980
Elected Member Training	-	72,000	-	72,000
Senior Governance Officer	-	75,000	18,040	56,960
	1,019,211	1,736,560	1,544,470	1,211,301
<b>TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS</b>	<b>1,858,128</b>	<b>3,818,958</b>	<b>3,202,399</b>	<b>2,474,687</b>

**16 GOING CONCERN AND EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The Association recognised a net surplus of \$446,957 from operations during the year (2021: net surplus of \$36,193). Furthermore, the Association also generated positive cash inflows from operating activities amounting to \$1,099,666 million during the year (2021: \$1,228,000 positive cash inflows). 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 \$8,054,363 as at 30 June 2022 from \$7,076,115 in previous year. This also improved its net working capital to \$5,562,134 as at that date from \$4,829,865 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 was effective from 1 July 2021, the Association will no longer be included in this new Local Government Act. In view of this, the Association will have at least 18 months from 1 July 2021 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 within 18 months from 1 July 2021. 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 new 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.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

**16 GOING CONCERN AND EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD (Continues)**

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**

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
OTHER RESERVES		
Local Roads Replacement and Renewal Reserve	2,000,000	2,000,000
Local Roads Future Works Reserve	1,025,000	1,025,000
Legal and Research Reserve	200,000	200,000
Project and Policy Reserve	470,000	470,000
Procurement Services Reserve	144,012	144,012
Property Loan Principal Reserve	25,000	25,000
Total Other Reserves	<b>3,864,012</b>	<b>3,864,012</b>

*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.

## **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 2022, 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 2022 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

15 November 2022





21 Parap Road,  
Parap NT 0820



(08) 8944 9688



[info@lgant.asn.au](mailto:info@lgant.asn.au)

### Service Providers

#### **Auditor**

Merit Chartered Accountants  
Level 2, 9 Cavenagh Street  
DARWIN NT 0800

#### **Bank**

National Australia Bank  
Smith Street  
DARWIN NT 0800

#### **Insurance**

Jardine Lloyd Thompson  
PO Box 2321  
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC  
QLD 4006



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