

CONTENTS PAGE

Chief Executive Officer’s Report.....	2
About this Report.....	3
About the Association	4
High Level Elements of LGANT’s Strategic Plan	5
Vision	5
Mission.....	5
Core Values.....	5
Goals	5
Membership 2013 - 2014.....	6
Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory	7
Executive Committee Members	8
Organisational Structure	11
Service Providers and Sponsors	12
President’s Report on Behalf of the Executive	13
Strategic Plan Achievements 2013 - 2014	15
Financial Reports as at 30 June 2014.....	39

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Dear President

This Annual Report ('the Report') and audited financial statements for the 2013-14 financial year are presented in accordance with my obligations under section 22.2 of the LGANT constitution.

LGANT remains viable and is able to pay its debts when they fall due. LGANT altered its loan arrangements by drawing down on its reserves for constitutional recognition payments which were held against the loan in a bid to achieve savings of interest. LGANT is repaying the loan in accordance with its obligations.

As in previous years the financial contributions of the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments to LGANT were gratefully received as they assist LGANT to coordinate activities amongst councils and to provide them with support largely in areas of improvement.

Throughout the year LGANT held many of its meetings at the City of Darwin and the Alice Springs Town Council meeting rooms without cost and this support was greatly appreciated in enabling LGANT to fulfil its functions with member councils.

LGANT acknowledges the work of firms and individuals that support it with its plans including Peter Anderson (local government index), Cridlands (legal services), the Western Australian Local Government Association (industrial relations and human resource services) Sue Davey (human resources and training).

I also acknowledge the great support of the LGANT Executive and staff in helping to achieve LGANT's goals and thank all those in councils for their collaborative efforts.

Tony Tapsell
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report is the 23rd Annual Report of LGANT covering the financial year 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 and is prepared for members of LGANT and other parties.

This report has been prepared in compliance with clause 22.3 of the LGANT constitution which requires it to be tabled for the members of LGANT at an Annual General meeting. This meeting will take place on 6-7 November 2014.

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

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

Telephone: (08) 8944 9688

Facsimile: (08) 8941 2665

Email: info@lgant.asn.au

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

Business Overview

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

LGANT has been in existence since 1992 and is the single peak body representing and servicing the needs of its 16 local government councils in the Northern Territory. LGANT is established as an incorporated body under section 242 of the *Local Government Act 2008* of the Northern Territory.

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

The Executive and staff review LGANT's strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2013/2014.

LGANT:

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

HIGH LEVEL ELEMENTS OF LGANT's STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision

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

Mission

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

Core Values

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

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

Strategic Goals

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

- to enhance the status and performance of local government in the Northern Territory
- to effectively advocate for and represent member councils
- to promote communication between our members, stakeholders and the broader community
- to provide effective and efficient services to our members.

Membership

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 2013-2014 LGANT had one associate member. A list of members can be found on the following pages.

LGANT MEMBERSHIP 2013 - 2014

During 2013-2014, 16 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT including:

- 5 municipalities
- 8 regionals
- 3 shires

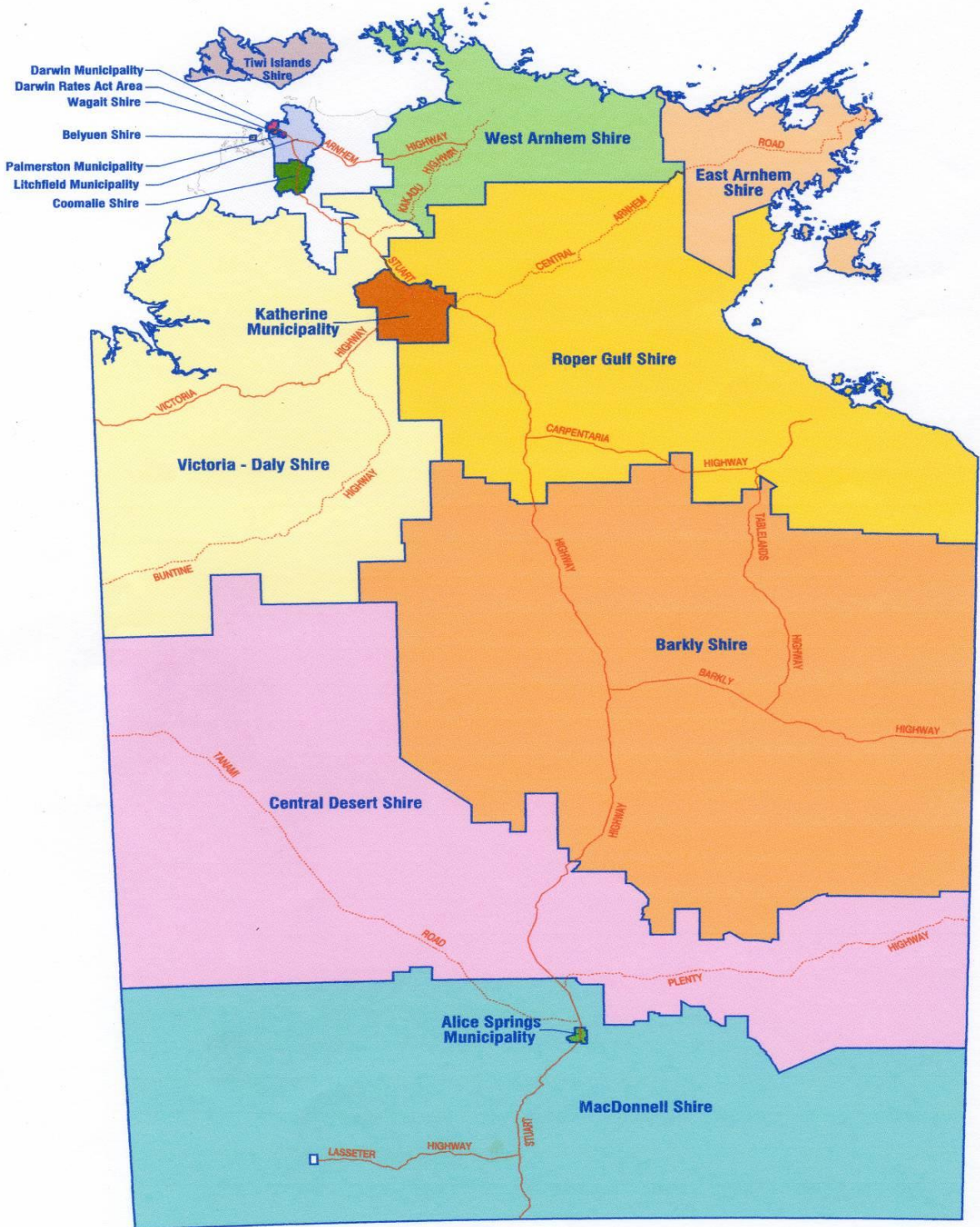
The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member through 2013-2014. This organisation is involved in the delivery of local government-type services.

Member organisations as at 30 June 2014

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

AS AT 30 JUNE 2014



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2013-2014

Clause 14.4 of the constitution requires LGANT's Executive to be made up of eight (8) members. Member councils elect seven (7) members and one (1) is appointed by the City of Darwin all for two year terms. Of the eight (8) member Executive, four (4) members (three elected and one appointed), make up the representation from municipal councils and the other four (4) members are elected from regional and shire councils. The next election for the Executive will be held at the Annual General meeting in Darwin on 6-7 November 2014.

As at 30 June 2014 the Executive consisted of the following members:

President	Mayor Damien Ryan (Alice Springs Town Council)
Vice President – Regions & Shires	Mayor Tony Jack (Roper Gulf Regional)
Vice President – Municipals	Alderman Helen Galton (City of Darwin)
Executive Members	Mayor Fay Miller (Katherine Town Council), President Barb Shaw (Barkly Regional), Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis (City of Darwin), Councillor Kaye Thurlow (East Arnhem Regional) and Deputy President Norbert Patrick (Central Desert Regional).

Mayor Damien Ryan President of the Association

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



Damien is the Chair of Regional Development Australia – Northern Territory (RDA-NT), Chair of Central Australian Hospital Network (CAHN), Northern Territory Grants Commissioner representing municipal councils, Co-Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council and, a Director of ALGA, a Patron of Squash NT and Holyoake Alice Springs and a Vice President of the Finke Desert Race Committee.

Committee positions within the Alice Springs Community include some of the following - Indigenous Employment Education Taskforce, Tourism Central Australia, Centralian Girls Academy Advisory, Alice Springs Masters' Games Advisory, Desert Knowledge Australia Alice Springs Leadership Advisory, Alice Springs Regional Development Committee and Girls at the Centre Community Reference Group.

Mayor Tony Jack Vice President of the Association representing regional and shire councils

Tony was elected to the Roper Gulf Shire in November 2008. Tony holds positions on a number of boards and committees including the Mungoorbada Aboriginal Corporation, the MacArthur River Mines Community Benefit Trust and the Mawa Association in Borroloola (an economic development organisation). He was a member of the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Regional Council, Indigenous Housing Authority of the NT and played an active part as the chair of the Shire Transitional Committee from 2006-2008. He was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee at the March 2009 annual general meeting and was elected Vice President in April 2012.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Tony runs a 300 head cattle station on his homeland 60kms from Robinson River (South West Gulf Ward). He has a strong understanding of business, employment opportunities for local people, housing issues and many other issues surrounding Roper Gulf Regional service delivery.

Alderman Helen Galton

Vice President of the Association representing municipal councils

Helen commenced as the appointed City of Darwin representative on the LGANT Executive Committee in October 2004. Elected to the council in the Lyons Ward in 1988-1992 (did not seek re-election) and 2004, Helen holds positions on a number of council committees including Chairman of the Town Planning Committee, Chairman of the Arts and Cultural Development Advisory Committee, CBD Parking Advisory Committee and Council's representative on the Tourism Top End Executive Committee. Helen is also Secretary of the Australian Local Government Women's Association – NT Chapter and held the position of Deputy Lord Mayor at City of Darwin for 2005-2006. Helen is a former General Manager of Tourism Top End.



Mayor Fay Miller

Executive member representing municipal councils

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



Fay was elected as Mayor of Katherine in the March 2012 local government elections and was elected to the LGANT Executive in May 2012. Positions held within the Katherine community have included Chairman of the Katherine Region Tourist Association, Chairman Katherine Hospital Board, Director Bendigo Bank and committee member of Neighbourhood Watch. Fay holds positions on a number of Katherine Town Council committees, is the Chairperson of the Katherine Regional Economic Development Committee and a board member of Savannah Way Ltd.

President Barb Shaw

Executive member representing regional and shire councils

Barb has served as a Councillor on the Barkly Shire following amalgamations in 2008. Barb was elected by popular vote to the position of President at the 24 March 2012 local government elections. She was elected to a casual vacancy on the LGANT Executive in May 2012.

Barb was born and raised in Alice Springs and has spent the last twenty years living and working in the Barkly region. With tertiary qualifications in management and health, Barb has vast experience with both the public and private sectors. Until recently she was CEO of the Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation based in Tennant Creek, before resigning to take on the Presidency of the Barkly Regional Council on a full time basis.



Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis

Executive member representing municipal councils

Jeanette was elected to the City of Darwin Council in March 2012 and serves on various council committees. Jeanette was nominated by the City of Darwin as an alternate member for the Darwin Division of the Development Consent Authority and was subsequently appointed by the Minister for Lands and Planning NT to the position until June 2014.



Jeanette was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee representing municipals at the Annual General Meeting in May 2012 and represents the City of Darwin on the Local Government (Administration and Legislation) Advisory Committee as well as the Corporate and Economic Development Committee.

Jeanette became a member of the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) in 2012 and looks forward to assisting in the promotion and support of women in local government as a career choice for women of all ages. Jeanette is committed to supporting regional, shire and municipal councils where possible.

Councillor Kaye Thurlow

Executive member representing regional and shire councils

Kaye is currently serving her second term on East Arnhem Regional Council. Kaye relishes the opportunities and challenges of being a councillor representing the people of the Gumurr Marthakal Ward. Kaye was elected to the inaugural Council in 2008, and has served as Deputy President and an active member on a number of stakeholder and council committees.



Kaye is a retired school principal living at Galiwin'ku, on picturesque Elcho Island. Kaye has had extensive teaching experience across the NT, punctuated by a couple of short teaching stints interstate. Kaye's community interests of over 40 years, lie in supporting cross-cultural links between the people of Elcho Island and the broader East Arnhem Region with the wider Australian community. She is particularly focused on encouraging the Yolŋu in maintaining their self-respect and cultural integrity, while at the same time finding positive pathways to embrace living in the 21st century.

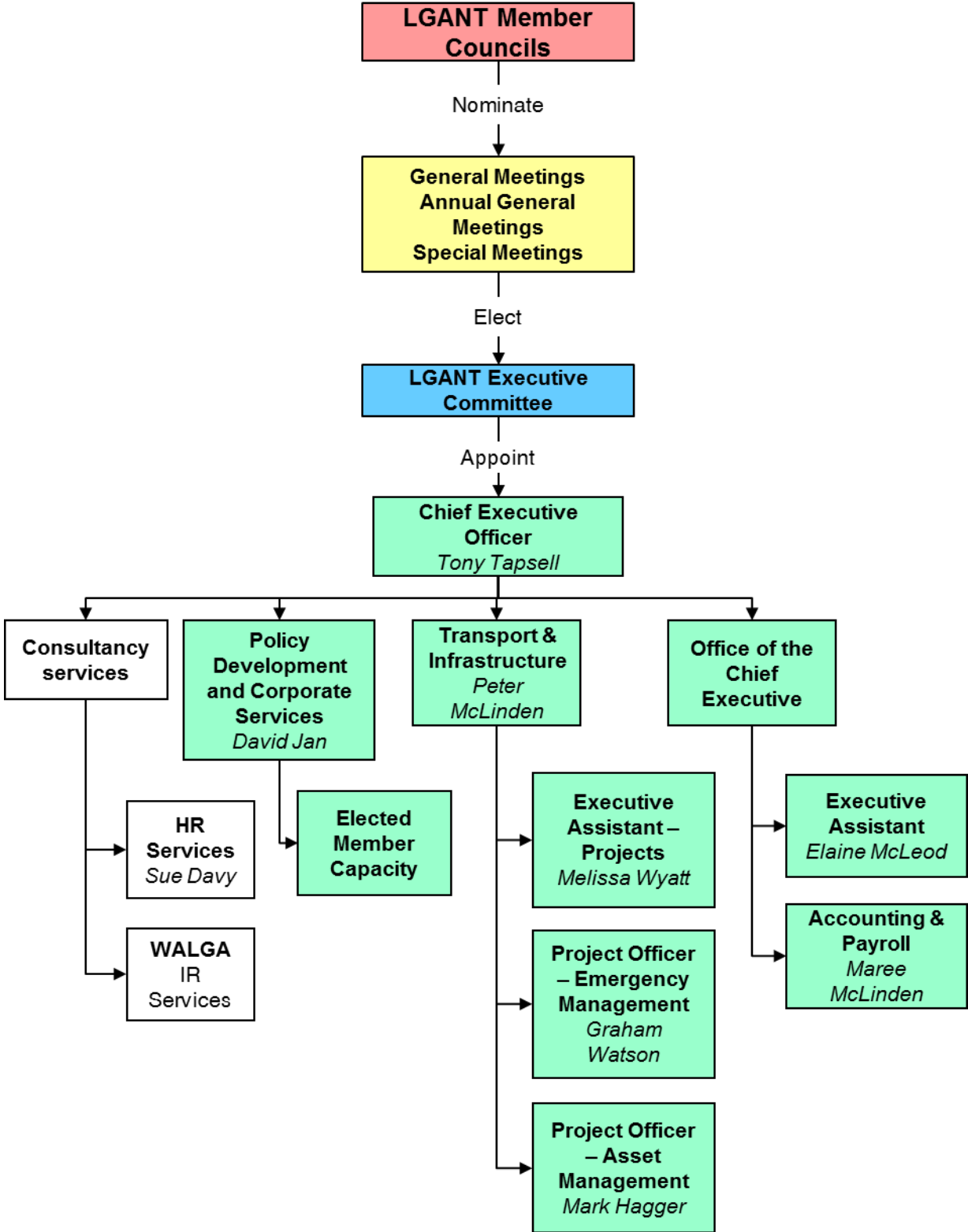
Deputy President Norbert Patrick

Executive member representing regional and shire councils

Norbert resides in Lajamanu and was elected President for the Central Desert Shire Council in September 2009 and Vice President in March 2012. He has been employed as a Community Liaison Officer and as a Sport/Recreation Officer for the Lajamanu Community Government Council and has undertaken training in education, office administration, community management, first aid and fire safety. Norbert's vision is to get people and organisations to work together to make their places better for everyone. He was elected to the Executive Committee in May 2010.



LGANT ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AS AT 30 JUNE 2014



SERVICE PROVIDERS AND SPONSORS TO LGANT

Auditor Kevin Blacker & Associates
PO Box 38170
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Bankers Westpac Bank
Smith Street
DARWIN NT 0800

Insurance Jardine Lloyd Thomson
PO Box 2321
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC QLD 4006

Association Sponsors

LGANT offers thanks and acknowledges the assistance provided to it by sponsorships in the 2013-2014 year.

Platinum:



.Gold:



Silver: Statewide Super, Altiform Pty Ltd and Maloney Field Services.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dear members,

Local government faced many challenges during 2013/14 and I am once again pleased to report on some of them in my report.

One significant activity that came to a sudden halt was the decision by the Federal government not to proceed with the referendum on the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution. Local government welcomed the announcement at the time by the then Prime Minister of Australia the Hon Julia Gillard MP that the referendum on local government would be held on the same day as the Federal election of 24 September 2013. Unfortunately, the referendum was not able to go ahead because the election date was changed to 7 September 2014 which made it impractical for it to proceed.

Following the Federal election the incoming Liberal Party government indicated that a referendum of this matter was not being considered. The good news for local government however, was that the funds that it had expended on the campaign were able to be refunded following the support of the Federal government. LGANT also was therefore able to return all of the contributions that councils in the Northern Territory had made towards it over the past two financial years.

The outcome was obviously disappointing for councils not only in the Northern Territory but right around Australia. A great deal of research and effort over many years had gone into the referendum process commencing with the Australian Local Government Association holding a constitutional convention for councils in 2008. I acknowledge the work and support of Northern Territory councils on constitutional recognition over the past six years and thank them for their willing involvement. Most credit however lies with the Australian Local Government Association which carried most responsibility for it on behalf of the sector and almost got there in the end. The future of the issue is most uncertain but is likely to be raised with political parties in the lead up to the 2016 Federal election.

During the financial year LGANT continued its efforts in representing the interests of councils and in coordinating activities within the sector. LGANT's 2014/15 budget submission to the Northern Territory Government had some successes with Ministers announcing increases in:

- operational subsidies for public libraries
- funding for local authorities established by regional councils
- funding to LGANT to provide local government support services to councils
- plans for the rating of properties in unincorporated areas
- funds for the establishment of the demerger of the Victoria Daly Shire Council
- confirmation of the continuation of funding for Indigenous employment in regional councils
- funding for the review of local governments across the Northern Territory

all of which were welcome.

The Vice President of LGANT and Mayor of Roper Gulf Regional Council, Tony Jack chaired the Regional Governance Working Group (on which I was also a member) which oversaw the demerger of the Victoria Daly Shire into the Victoria Daly Regional Council and the West Daly Regional Council. It was pleasing to have local government representation involved in working through the exacting process of organising the demerger. It is also a credit to all the people involved from both local government and the Department of Local Government and Regions, that the new councils will commence operations on 1 July 2014.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

LGANT's continued coordinating activities with councils with the many reference groups and government committees bringing a wide range of attention to local government issues. The active participation that councils give to these committees is very much appreciated and assists immensely in advancing local government reforms and improvements despite the long term nature of some of them and the resourcing issues it presents for councils.

LGANT continued to hold meetings with the Minister for Local Government the Hon David Tollner MLA during the year and LGANT was grateful that he was able to speak at both general meetings in November 2013 and April 2014 and to meet occasionally with us to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Minister's announcement at the April 2014 general meeting that he wanted to see LGANT take on more responsibility with support services to councils was welcome news and arrangements for this to occur will be pursued enthusiastically next financial year.

There is much to anticipate in the year ahead particularly in respect of the Commonwealth Government's reforms on taxation, the Federation and Northern Australia, the proposed Northern Territory electoral reforms and LGANT's support service delivery. I thank all councils for working with LGANT on many issues and I am cheered at the prospect of witnessing the sector continue this effort during 2014/15.

Lastly, I want to thank all members of the LGANT Executive for their valuable contributions and efforts and wish them well in their endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damien Ryan', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Damien Ryan
President

STRATEGIC PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-2014

Key achievements against outcomes for 2013-2014

1 To enhance the status and performance of local government in the Northern Territory

1.1 *Outcome: Elected members and council staff participate in professional development and capacity building activities.*

Achievements:

On request from councils LGANT ran the following training courses:

Council	Training Undertaken	Training Dates
Alice Springs Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	20 May 2014
Barkly Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	18 July 2013
Central Desert Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	20 May 2014
City of Darwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	21 May 2014
City of Palmerston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigated potential conflict resolution training Council by-election – briefing session for prospective candidates Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	<p>July 2013</p> <p>3 October 2013</p> <p>21 May 2014</p>
Katherine Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance - Separation of Powers CEO Performance review process Governance – Code of Conduct 	<p>August 2013</p> <p>October 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Council	Training Undertaken	Training Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management Policies – development of content and format • Workshop for prospective elected members 	<p>28 February 2014</p> <p>11 February 2014</p>
Litchfield Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibilities for Councillors • Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	<p>September 2013</p> <p>21 May 2014</p>
MacDonnell Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop • Local Authority Chairpersons Training - Intro to Local Government, Separation of Powers, Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct. Plus assist with three days workshop facilitation 	<p>20 May 2014</p> <p>2-5 June 2014</p>
Roper Gulf Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate III Business Administration Unit – Communication • Certificate III Business Administration Unit – Code of Conduct • Certificate III Business Administration Unit – Separation of Powers • Elected Member training – Understanding financial reports • Local Authority training – Intro to Local Government, Separation of Powers, Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct (Barunga, Beswick, Numbulwar, Nugkurr and Borroloola) • Local Authority training – Intro to Local Government, Separation of Powers, Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct (Mataranka and Jilkminkan) 	<p>July 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>25 March 2014</p> <p>27 April-2 May 2014</p> <p>5 May 2014</p> <p>June 2014</p>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Council	Training Undertaken	Training Dates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Leaders Forum - Facilitation 	
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop Local Authority and Elected Member training – Intro to Local Government, Separation of Powers, Roles and Responsibilities 	<p style="text-align: right;">21 May 2014</p> <p style="text-align: right;">18-19 March 2014</p>
Victoria Daly Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	21 May 2014
West Arnhem Regional Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning – Introduction/refresher workshop 	27 February 2014

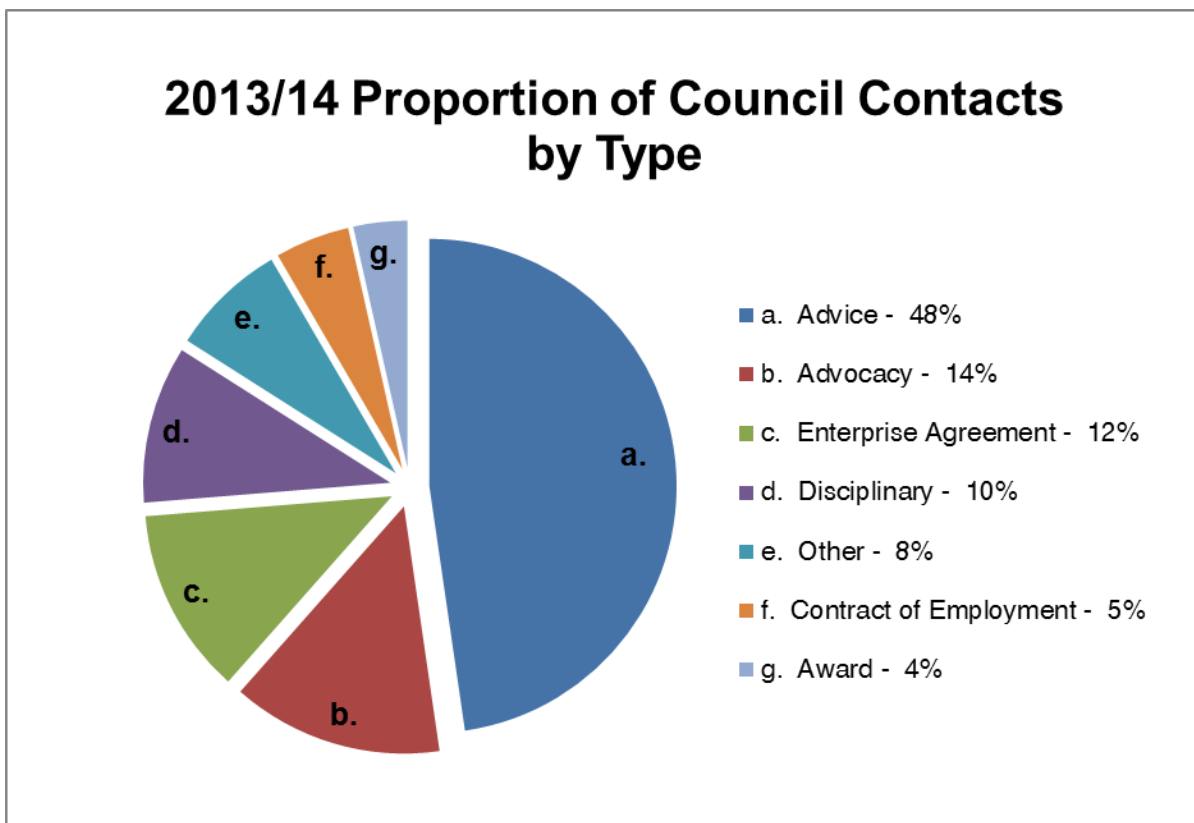
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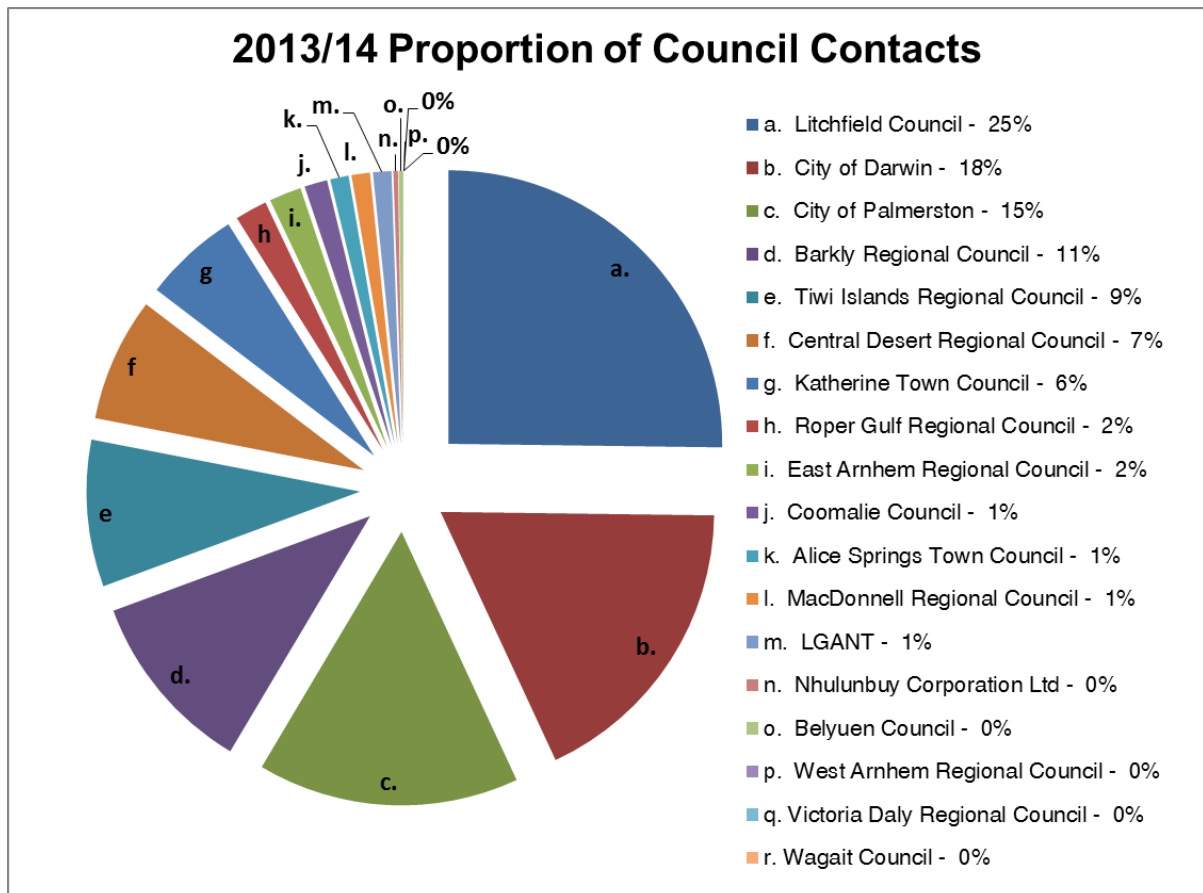
- partnered with other state associations to convene the National Local Government Human Resources conference in Surfers Paradise in November 2013. Northern Territory local government was well represented with attendance by three member councils. A LGANT officer facilitated two sessions on performance management and workforce issues in rural and remote Indigenous councils and actively participated in the organising committee
- convened and facilitated a rates workshop for member councils which focused on rating declarations, rates recovery, valuations and rating equity. Attended by the majority of members it was held in conjunction with the Finance Reference Group meeting in October 2013
- provided details to member councils to allow access needed for elected members standard online training materials
- updated governance training and curriculum materials
- assisted with council recruitment of:
 - CEO's (Barkly Regional Council – November 2013, Mungoorbada – July 2013)
 - Mungoorbada Language and Literacy Officer (November 2013)
- Conducted CEO performance reviews
 - Barkly Regional Council (July 2013)
 - Katherine Town Council (October 2013)
 - Tiwi Islands Regional Council (March 2014)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- maintained the relationship with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Workplace Solutions with the MOU renewed in July 2013, enabling LGANT to meet its constitutional requirements for contributing to member councils' human and industrial relations capacity. Throughout the year WALGA provided human resource and industrial relations advice and policy materials as well as representing councils in the Fair Work Commission.

For the 2013/2014 financial year a total of 369 individual contacts were made with WALGA making use of the WALGA/LGANT contract at an average of 31 contacts per month. The charts below show the spread of topics addressed and proportional usage by member councils with the Workplace Solutions service being used by the majority of members





1.2 Outcome: Policies are formulated, implemented and reviewed.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- updated the following policies:
 - electronic voting
 - libraries
 - revenue sources and conditionally rateable land
 - Roads to Recovery
- developed and adopted the following policies regarding:
 - the transfer of responsibility of barge landings, boat ramps and airstrips to local government
 - the standard of airstrips in major towns
 - the national guide to designing places for healthy living as best practice for councils to consider as policy
 - the banning of smoking in local government buildings and open space areas
 - representation reviews for local government areas
 - election plans and NT Electoral Commission service level agreements
 - local government self-assessment data collection
 - asset and financial management
- commenced collecting data using a self-assessment template for compiling a local government state of sector report which is due for release next financial year

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- researched policy regarding escort services in local government areas in relation to councils receiving notification about the issue of licenses
- worked with WALGA workplace solutions
- assisted member councils with policy development:
 - City of Palmerston regarding human resources policies (August 2013)
 - City of Darwin regarding the transfer of long service leave (September 2013)
 - Victoria Daly Regional Council regarding Local Authorities (January 2014)

1.3 Outcome: Local government revenues are boosted, costs are reduced.
Achievements:

LGANT:

- completed a budget submission to the Northern Territory Government in October 2013 with support demonstrated in the areas of:
 - NT operational subsidies
 - public library funding
 - local government reformsfollowing the release of the NT Budget 13 May 2014.
- submitted a special purpose grant submission to fund a regulatory orders manual (unsuccessful)
- sent letters of support for East Arnhem Regional Council for:
 - Indigenous cadetship program
 - research into councils reliance on grant funding
- continued to provide access to member councils to the National Procurement Network through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government Association Queensland (Local Buy Ltd).

The following, mainly fleet contracts were available during the year to member councils:

 - fuel – bulk & card services
 - oil and lubricants
 - mobile garbage bins, containers, bins, compactors
 - construction site caravans
 - motor vehicles
 - truck vehicles
 - truck bodies and trailers
 - tyres and batteries
 - earthmoving equipment
 - road and bridge making equipment
 - small plant – tractors and mowers
 - telecommunications.

1.4 Outcome: Local government has tenure on the land on which it has assets.
Achievements:

LGANT:

- continued to encourage councils to obtain leases from land councils for their properties on Aboriginal land
- discussed with councils their progress in securing leases with many advising that the process is taking a long time to complete.

1.5 Outcome: Local government is recognised in the Australian Constitution and in a future Northern Territory Constitution.
Achievements:

LGANT:

- played a significant role in coordinating activities on the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution including:
 - issued the final levies to councils so as to make contributions towards the national advertising campaign for the referendum
 - paid one third of the cost of the Northern Territory share of the national campaign
 - provided regular updates to councils on progress with the campaign
 - requested councils take local action raising awareness and organising supporters in the event a referendum took place
 - reimbursed councils their contributions once the referendum was cancelled due to the calling of an early Federal election.

1.6 Outcome: Councils are actively engaged in reform initiatives.
Achievements:

LGANT undertook a number of reform activities with councils including:

- asset and financial management and planning practices
- structural change to do with the creation of regional councils and local authorities
- boundary changes in respect of unincorporated land
- evaluating and monitoring governance performance through commencing the development of a governance self-assessment tool
- changes to arrangements in respect of street lighting ownership, maintenance and energy use
- local government electoral reform
- changes proposed in respect of council subdivision guidelines

with all of the above being works in progress that councils themselves had to implement or were the subject of decision by the Northern Territory Government.

1.7 Outcome: Councils are assessed for their financial sustainability.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- requested resources in its annual budget submission to the Northern Territory Government for completing of council financial sustainability studies
- the Department of Local Government and Regions commissioned the firm of Deloitte to undertake an assessment of the financial sustainability of 11 regional and shire councils in the Northern Territory with the report expected to be released next financial year
- urged councils to include details of financial sustainability ratios in their annual reports.

1.8 Outcome: Extensive plans are in place to effect an orderly, appropriately funded transfer of local roads from the Territory Government to local government.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- continued to lobby the Northern Territory Government to formally start negotiations and planning around the transfer of local roads to local government
- represented Northern Territory local governments alongside government agencies and NT Grants Commission on the new Local Roads Partnership Board established by the Chief Minister on 11 August 2013
- informed member councils at the 3 April 2014 general meeting of the full scope of activities for progressing the transfer of local roads to local government.

The following table provides a breakdown of road kilometres proposed for transfer to individual councils from the Northern Territory Government:

Council	LGANT Road Length to Transfer	NT Government Road Length to Transfer	Current Road Length	Future Total Road Length
West Arnhem Regional Council		68	1179	1247
East Arnhem Regional Council	442	55	1070	1567
Roper Gulf Regional Council	117	760	933	1810
Victoria Daly Regional Council	37	757	1125	1919
Barkly Regional Council	1085	1725	621	3431
Central Desert Regional Council	156	1036	1780	2972

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Council	LGANT Road Length to Transfer	NT Government Road Length to Transfer	Current Road Length	Future Total Road Length
MacDonnell Regional Council	279	1976	1732	3987
Katherine Town Council		175	185	360
Unincorporated Lands		488		488
Total Road Length	2116	7040	8625	17781

1.9 Outcome: Councils are implementing recognised asset and financial management practices.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- continued to employ a Project Officer – Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning who assisted councils throughout the year to develop asset and financial management data and reporting.

Activities undertaken include:

- chairing the Central Australian and Big Rivers Asset Management Working and Long Term Financial Planning Working groups
- providing assistance with the collection of relevant data and preparation of asset management policies, strategies and plans to the following councils:
 - Alice Springs Town Council
 - Barkly Regional Council
 - Belyuen Shire Council
 - Central Desert Regional Council
 - Katherine Town Council
 - MacDonnell Regional Council
 - Roper Gulf Regional Council
 - Victoria Daly Regional Council
 - Wagait Shire Council
 - West Arnhem Regional Council
- provided assistance to all councils with the completion of the Asset Management Maturity Self-Assessment template in support of the National Assessment Framework for Local Governments developed by the Australian Centre of Excellence in Local Government (ACELG)
- correlated information from member councils to produce an inaugural self-assessment report on their progress which was reported to members at the November 2013 general meeting in Alice Springs.

1.10 Outcome: The identified LGANT local road network is serviced and engineering works are performed on behalf of local government.

Achievements:

LGANT is responsible for the maintenance of a 2,116km local road network on behalf of local government in the Northern Territory in the Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly, East Arnhem, Victoria Daly and Roper Gulf Regional Council areas.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission has determined that these roads will transfer to regional councils when all other local roads in their areas (which the Northern Territory Department of Transport is currently looking after) are also transferred to these councils.

The identified local road grant from the Northern Territory Grants Commission currently paid to LGANT is \$1,324,606 per annum and is paid in quarterly payments. In 2008 following local government reforms, all the roads fell within what are now regional council local government areas.

LGANT's Road Types and Road Lengths

Road Type	Road Length
Sealed	3.5 km
Gravel	301 km
Formed	457 km
Flat Bladed Track	1,355 km

Road lengths managed by LGANT by Regional Council Areas

Council	Road Length
Central Desert Regional Council	156km
MacDonnell Regional Council	279km
East Arnhem Regional Council	442km
Roper Gulf Regional Council	117km
Victoria Daly Regional Council	37km
Barkly Regional Council	1085km

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Other works completed by LGANT on this network are as follows:

- appointed consultants and completed road safety audits on the Canteen Creek and Robinson River access roads which led to:
 - regulatory and warning signs being erected on the Canteen Creek and Robinson River access roads
 - the framework and strategy for conducting future road audits in other areas
- partnered with Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional Councils and appointed the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) to develop a set of common standards for road signage for remote roads and community internal roads.

During the 2013-14 financial year LGANT carried out the following projects using local contractors and funds from the Roads to Recovery Program:

East Arnhem Regional Council	Work Undertaken	Project Cost
Mata Mata community access road	box culvert chainage 12.8km	\$32,190
Mata Mata community access road	box culvert chainage 17.3km	\$33,630
Mata Mata community access road	concrete floodway chainage 22.8km	\$22,200
Mata Mata community access road	Contributed towards reinstatement of eroded road pavement and construction of causeway (total cost \$ 163,800)	\$88,944

1.11 Outcome: LGANT is recognised as the peak representative body for local government and has a strong relationship with the Northern Territory Government.

Achievements:

The President, Mayor Damien Ryan maintained active communications with both the Minister for Local Government and the Chief Minister

Northern Territory Government representatives attended all of LGANT’s reference group meetings as detailed in Outcome 2.2.

LGANT:

- maintained a position on the Remote Service Delivery Board of Management comprising both Northern Territory and Commonwealth government representatives until it was dissolved at a meeting in July 2013
- met with the Northern Territory Government representatives regarding a remote Indigenous communications project

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- resolved at its general meeting on 3 April 2014 for the LGANT President, Mayor Damien Ryan to sign the Statement of Intent between the Minister for Local Government and Regions, the Hon David Tollner MLA and LGANT for negotiations to commence on a service delivery agreement.

2 To effectively advocate for and represent member councils

2.1 Outcome: The position of Northern Territory Local Government is considered in the development and/or amendment of Northern Territory and Australian government legislation or policy.

Achievements:

LGANT either completed submissions or pursued the progress of submissions done in the previous financial year on the following legislation and policy issues:

<i>Legislation or Policy</i>	<i>Date</i>
Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory – Implementation approach for community night patrol	6 August 2013
<i>Local Government Act</i>	
clarification amendments, local authorities and regional councils	8 October 2013
conditionally rateable land	30 October 2013
mid-term elections for councils	29 July 2013
<i>Valuation of Land Act</i>	10 December 2013
The Indigenous Training and Employment Review	13 December 2013
NT Domestic and Family Violence Reduction Strategy	31 January 2014
Mobile Black Spots Road Program	28 February 2014
Northern Territory Integrated Transport Planning and Investment Roadmap	3 April 2014
<i>Local Government (Electoral) Regulations</i>	
Submission on 2012 Council Elections Report	8 April 2014
NT Licensing Authority	30 June 2014
<i>Local Government Award</i>	
Contributed to the four year review through WALGA	Provided input throughout the year

2.2 Outcome: Member councils are provided with networking opportunities and engage with LGANT on key issues.

Achievements:

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

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon David Tollner MLA, addressed members at LGANT's general meeting in November 2013 and April 2014.

The President and CEO, and in some cases the Vice Presidents, attended council meetings throughout the year, including:

- West Arnhem Regional Council on 12 February 2014
- Litchfield Council on 12 June 2014.

The following reference groups met:

- **CEO Forums** – meetings were held on 30 August 2013 in Darwin and on 2 April 2014 in Katherine and dealt with matters including:
 - local government reform
 - recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution
 - 2014 streetlight assets and maintenance charges
 - damage to council infrastructure in shire areas
 - the National Local Government Cultural Forum
 - the proposed legislative amendments to do with local government
 - the National Broadband Network
 - public libraries funding
 - making informed decisions in local government based on data
 - superannuation
 - reports from the Reference Groups
 - updates from the Local Government Managers Australia

all of which were suggested as possible activities for councils to pursue as best practice or as items for future consideration and planning and were included in the minutes sent to councils.

- **Mayors and Presidents** – a meeting was held on 2 April 2014 in Katherine alongside LGANT's general meeting. The meetings are organised as a forum for Mayors and Presidents to canvass, amongst themselves, opinion and advice about their work including involvement with the media.
- **Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group (ETIRG)** - Two ETIRG meetings were held during 2013-14:
 - 5 September 2013 in Alice Springs Town Council's Andy McNeil Room
 - 6 and 7 March 2014 in City of Darwin's Council ChambersPresentations on issues of common interest and collaboration with government agencies were:
 - Department of Health

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- funding for a Central Australian Waste Management Coordinator to work with councils
- legislative changes to the *Health Act* and associated regulations
- Department of Transport
 - road safety – with presentations on the Commonwealth’s Road Safety Black Spot Program
 - National Heavy Vehicle Regulations
 - operational and strategic directions
 - NT Integrated Transport Planning and Investment Roadmap submission
- NT Environment Protection Authority
 - NT Waste Management Advisory Committee
- Power and Water Authority
 - street lighting maintenance and ownership of assets
- Department of Community Services
 - removal and disposal of asbestos in buildings

Other results included:

- policy development and recommendations for legislative change were done on:
 - aerodromes
 - long term asset and financial management
 - regulatory orders covering derelict vehicles
 - asset management assessment tools with LGANT to report annually on the aggregated local government sector results
 - Healthy Spaces and Places proposals for policy adoption
 - statutory immunity – road authorities
 - Central Australian Waste Management Operational Guidelines
- information and advice on:
 - national heavy vehicle legislative change
 - heavy vehicle safety and productivity program
 - regional aviation
 - street lighting consultancy
 - heavy vehicle access to industrial subdivisions
 - waste management
 - Australian road rules.
- **Human Resource Reference Group** – one meeting was held on 9 April 2014 and outcomes from it were:
 - members confirmed their commitment to working with LGANT to collect and collate sector wide local government workforce data
 - training from WALGA Workplace Solutions on:
 - how to protect councils against bullying claims, including an Alice Springs Town Council case study presented by Tony Jenison
 - clauses and trends in enterprise agreement negotiations

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

- navigating the new flexible working arrangements and what that means for councils
 - presentation by Government Skills Australia covering:
 - streamlining of the Local Government Training Package (LGA04)
 - local government careers website and careers poster
 - workforce planning assistance to councils (uptake by four member councils)
 - local government environmental scan
 - as a result there is increased use by member councils of the workforce planning resources
 - members were informed of the updates to legislation regarding the transfer of long service leave.
- **Governance Reference Group** – meetings were held on 20 November 2013 and 14 March 2014 in Darwin and outcomes from them were:
 - recommended LGANT policy regarding NT Electoral Commission service level agreements and election plans
 - recommended that councils work with LGANT to develop governance self-assessment tool and participate in the annual data collection process
 - recommended calling on the NT government to initiate accepted changes to management processes when implementing structural change reforms
 - discussed the use of retention and disposal schedules for council
 - set up the self-assessment working group, which met three times to work on the governance self-assessment tool
 - confirmation by members to use the same consultant to do representation reviews in accordance with the *Local Government (Electoral) Regulations*
 - **Finance Reference Group** – meetings were held on 18 October 2013 in Alice Springs and 1 April 2014 in Katherine, the outcomes of which were that members:
 - were invited to provide input to a paper on local government borrowings by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government
 - endorsed the 2013/14 LGANT Budget Submission
 - provided input to the 2013 Local Government Cost Index
 - provided input into the development of local government financial sustainability ratios
 - worked with the Department on the accounting treatment of Section 19 leases on Aboriginal land
 - endorsed the report on the portability of long service leave
 - provided advice on the review of the *Valuation of Land Act*
 - worked on a course of action to assist councils in the treatment of local authority member allowances
 - adopted amendments to the *Local Government Act*.

LGANT also collaborated on the City of Darwin's involvement in an NT Careers Advisers Seminar Industry Day.

2.3 Outcome: Local government is represented on relevant boards and committees.

Achievements:

Throughout the year LGANT called for **nominations from councils to be representatives on Territory and Commonwealth government committees** including the:

- NT Waste Management Advisory Committee
- NT Ministerial Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs
- NT Grants Commission
- Minister's Disciplinary Committee.

LGANT representatives on committees were required to present reports at the LGANT 2013 annual general meeting with the following received:

- Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
- National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee
- NT Weeds Advisory Committee
- NT Heritage Council
- NT Grants Commission
- NT Tobacco Control Advisory Committee
- NT Water Safety Advisory Committee
- Place Names Committee for the NT

LGANT Officers were also members of the following committees:

- Governance and Leadership Development Strategy Steering Committee – which provided a local government context to the Northern Institute for its research
- Government Skills Australia – participated on the Industry Advisory Committee and provided reports to the Executive (see Outcome 2.5)
- Local Government Workforce Development Group (see Outcome 2.5) – national group of policy officers which:
 - coordinated the 2013 National Local Government Human Resources Conference
 - provided policy advice to ALGA related to workforce development and funding opportunities
 - coordinated a national response to the review of the local government industry award modernisation review and Fair Work Commission Equal Remuneration case
 - provided feed back to ACELG on workforce related papers
- Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC) held meetings which were attended by the LGANT President and CEO at which updates on LGANT activities were provided to members
- National Local Government Cultural Forum – attended two meetings at which the following matters were pursued:
 - local government data and cultural indicators
 - local government working with peak arts organisations
 - developing and managing arts infrastructure

all of which are works in progress which the committee will continue.

LGANT:

- joined with delegated representatives from City of Darwin, Alice Springs Town Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council and Central Desert Regional Council to be representatives on the **NT Waste Management Advisory Committee** formed by the NT EPA (The Committee met to discuss the Northern Territory Waste Management Strategy with the draft made public in September 2014 and final advice going to the Minister in December 2014.)
- represented Northern Territory local governments alongside NT Treasury, Departments of Transport and Local Government and NT Grants Commission on new **Local Roads Partnership Board** established by the Chief Minister on 11 August 2013
- chaired the **Central Australian Waste Management Working Group** which is represented by Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional Councils, Department of Health and NT EPA to oversee the Central Australian Waste Management Coordinator Project funded by Department of Health. Key outcomes achieved through the initiative and the collaboration of all participants have been:
 - the upgrade of three identified waste facilities at Yuendumu, Ali Curung and Papunya
 - progressing the legislative requirements and relevant licencing of the three identified waste facilities
 - training of council staff in best practice and management of waste management facilities
 - development and publication of the *Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual* that has been made available to all member councils and can be accessed on the LGANT website.

2.4 Outcome: There is agreement between the Territory government and local government as to which government will retain responsibility for barge landings, boat ramps and airports.

Achievements:

At the LGANT general meeting 2008 the Northern Territory Government advised members they would be transferring barge landings, boat ramps and airstrips to local government in 2018.

In response to this LGANT developed the following policy that was adopted at the general meeting held in Katherine 3 April 2014.

“LGANT does not support the transfer of responsibility of barge landings, boat ramps and airstrips to local government principally because:

- they entail classes of infrastructure that are, and have always been, the rightful responsibility of the Northern Territory Government
- local government does not have the financial capacity to manage all of them sustainably
- the particular infrastructure of barge landings and airstrips is not infrastructure that local government generally has responsibility for.

LGANT wrote to The Hon Peter Styles, Minister for Transport on 4 June 2014 informing him of the policy.

2.5 Outcome: The interests of Northern Territory local government are promoted at the national level.

Achievements:

LGANT's CEO, President and Vice President Regions and Shires (or Alternate Directors) participated in the following **ALGA meetings**:

- the ALGA Post General Assembly Teleconference 25 July 2013
- the National Local Roads and Transport Congress 13-14 November 2013
- all general meetings and the annual general meeting
- ALGA strategic planning meeting 20-21 February 2014
- the National General Assembly of Local Government 17-18 June 2014

Outcomes from these meetings and the processes that flowed from them included:

- the adoption of the **ALGA strategic plan and annual budget** for 2013/14
- the endorsement of **resolutions from the June 2013 National General Assembly**
- the issuing of the **ALGA 2014/15 Federal Budget Submission**
- the production of **reports to the LGANT Executive and LGANT members** on ALGA general meeting issues and activities
- the request in May 2014 from the ALGA President, Felicity-ann Lewis for councils to call on the Commonwealth government to restore the indexation of the Local Government Financial Assistance Grants
- continued to progress steps for **supporting a referendum on the recognition of local government in the Australian Constitution**
- notification of communiques arising from Ministerial councils
- **continuation of the Roads to Recovery Program for local government roads throughout Australia with a doubling of funds in the 2015/16 financial year.**
- **ALGA endorsing its key priority areas for action under its strategic plan and as part of its Federal Election document:**
 - constitutional change to support continued direct Commonwealth payments to local government
 - more sustainable funding to meet local community priorities, including Financial Assistance Grants
 - better and safer roads through a permanent Roads to Recovery program
 - agreement that funding should accompany new responsibilities and an end to cost shifting
 - support for community infrastructure
 - help to adapt to climate change
 - a coordinated approach to national biodiversity
 - better arrangements for natural disaster mitigation
 - investment to improve online business capacity
 - adequate funding to deliver municipal services to Indigenous communities

- **production of the State of the Assets Pilot Report on the local roads funding gap throughout Australia.**

LGANT has represented and promoted the interests of local government at the national level in such forums as:

- **the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG):**
 - 3rd Local Government Indigenous Roundtable (2-4 December 2013)
 - National Education and Professional Development Forum (18 November 2013)
- **the Government Skills Australia Industry Advisory Committee:**
 - input into updates to the local government training package including streamlining
 - received updates on access to national funding programs such as Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL), Skills Connect and Workforce Development funding
 - as a member of the Foundation Skills Technical Reference Group ensured NT input into materials promoting the Foundation Skills Training Package for Local Government Employees
 - input into the development of a local government careers website
- **the Local Government Workforce Development Group:**
 - participated in discussions regarding the updating of the local government industry award
 - on behalf of the group LGANT developed a business paper for the National CEOs and ALGA board meetings to successfully get ALGA to recognise the group as an avenue for policy advice on national workforce development issues
 - provided input into ACELG national workforce strategy and local government workforce census
- **LGANT staff provided input to a number of ACELG reports including:**
 - Leadership in Local Government: Factors affecting the Appointment of CEOs (June 2014)
 - Guidelines for the Planning and Development of Child Care Facilities (April 2014)
 - Debt is not a dirty word: Role and use of Debt in Local Government. (February 2014)
 - Local Representation in Australia: A review of the legislation and literature (December 2013)
 - Profile of the Local Government Workforce (November 2013)
 - Future-Proofing Local Government: National Workforce Strategy 2013-2020 (August 2013)
 - Long Term Integrated Planning Manual for Local Government – Unpublished
- provided a submission to the **2013/1014 Local Government National Report** on 3 September 2013
- commenced discussion with Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding local government involvement in the 2016 Census
- attended the Darwin consultation meeting for the Indigenous Employment and Training Review (20 November 2013)

- participated in a national teleconference with Association policy officers regarding aged care services (6 August 2013)
- provided local government input into the National Alcohol and Other Drugs Workforce Development Strategy (13 November 2013)
- contributed to the costs and content through WALGA to develop a national local government submission to the Equal Remuneration Tribunal.
- facilitated City of Darwin participating in ALGA teleconference regarding the Emissions Reduction Fund Green Paper (5 February 2014)
- met with Vodafone representatives to discuss the potential for increased regional remote mobile telephone coverage (15 April 2014).

2.6 Outcome: Local government has influence in the Northern Territory land use planning process.

Achievements:

LGANT participated in meetings of the reference group that was established by the Department of Lands, Planning and the Environment for the purpose of developing uniform subdivision guidelines for new developments in local government areas. The guidelines are expected to be finalised next financial year.

2.7 Outcome: Funding is secured to bring infrastructure in urban Aboriginal living areas in the Northern Territory up to standard before local government assumes long term responsibility for it.

Achievements:

LGANT has well established policies on this issue and continued to make them known at the national level through the Australian Local Government Association as well as at the Northern Territory level through various government departments. Issues of land tenure, infrastructure standards and the rateability of land have led to progress being slow in this area.

2.8 Outcome: The interests of local government are promoted at the Territory level.

Achievements:

Through its representation on various committees LGANT promoted the interests of local government at the Territory level including those to do with:

- **Local Government (Administration and Legislation) Advisory Committee:**
 - endorsement of the proposed amendments to the *Local Government Act*
 - advice to the Minister on conditionally rateable land
 - review of the *Information Act* – Retention and Disposal Schedules
 - revision of the draft Borrowing Policy and Guidelines
 - input to the Cost Allocation Methodology Paper

- input to the drafting of methodology for calculation and transfer of long service leave
- input to the Draft Financial Accounting Policy papers

all of which were either dealt with by the Committee, will continue to be researched or were recommended for change as advice provided to the Minister for Local Government.

• **Local Government (Accounting) Advisory Committee:**

- Ministerial guidelines for audit committees
- council borrowing policies and guidelines
- the standardisation of grant acquittal processes across government
- the recognition of revenue

all of which were either dealt with by the Committee, will continue to be researched or were recommended for advice provided to the Minister for Local Government.

LGANT further promoted the interests of local government through:

- meeting with the Regional Development Authority regarding Digital Capacity Project
- **meetings with the Department of Local Government and Regions** in August, September, November and December 2013 and February, March, April, May and June 2014 to discuss **the following local government issues:**
 - Regional Governance Committee
 - structural reform
 - legislative change
 - LGANT's budget submission
 - human resource issues
 - local government support

all of which were progressed to the extent possible given their status in government decision making

- developed a business paper for CouncilBiz and facilitated a presentation regarding local government access to NT LIS, Google EC and land valuation information
- LGANT employee attended the Regional Institute's seminar regarding its data and research projects.

2.9 Outcome: Indigenous people are engaged with the local government sector and continue to maintain high levels of employment within it.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- through the 2014/15 budget submission lobbied for an extension to the funding for Indigenous employment for regional councils
- all regional councils continued their high levels of employment as indicated in their annual reports and following confirmation by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon David Tollner in his letter of 23 December 2013 to the President.

3 To promote communication between our members, stakeholders and the broader community

3.1 Outcome: Member councils and LGANT keep each other informed on issues relevant to either of them.

Achievements:

LGANT receives many requests for information and advice from its members most of which are answered by telephone or email. Other information and advice LGANT provided included:

- **publishing a 2014 calendar** which was circulated to member councils in 2013. This calendar highlights dates of significance to local government and the Northern Territory and is a promotional tool for both member councils and external organisations
- **publishing a fortnightly newsletter, This Week @ LGANT**, which is distributed on-line to over 300 recipients. Whilst the number of subscribers fluctuated over the year it has increased by 3 overall. Average open rate is 29% which is above the industry opening rate of 21% and a click rate of 3% (an increase on last year)
- **publishing media releases as needed** – five media releases were distributed online to 180 recipients (which is six less than last year) and list subscribers increased by seven. (The average open rate is 29%.)
- **issuing a member satisfaction survey to councils** in July 2013 with results reported in November 2013 at the Association’s general meeting. The results were also used as part of the review of LGANT’s strategic plan for 2014
- **subscribing to the EasyGrants Newsletter** which is emailed to member councils
- **paying the annual Austroads subscription** so member councils have access to expertise and publications to assist them in managing their local road networks
- subscribing, on behalf of its members, to the IPWEA Queensland Chapter to bring engineering expertise to member councils
- distributed training information via Local Government Training Network eight times with the number of subscribers increasing by 59%. Topics included:
 - long day care professional development programme
 - IAP2 community engagement training in February 2014
 - ACELG/ANZSOG 2014 Excellence in Local Government Leadership Program
 - Government Skills Australia activities and its Careers Website
 - work health and safety workshop
 - workforce development fund webinar
 - other local government specific webinars
- confirmed with Workforce Planning Australia that member councils do not have to pay an annual subscription to access the firm’s workforce gap analysis tool
- forwarded information to HR Managers on subjects including:
 - Long Day Care Professional Development Programme Guidelines (May 2014)
 - Salary Increments (April 2014)
 - ACELG National Education and Professional Development Forum (October 2014)

- Skills Connect Funding and Workforce Gap Analysis Tool (August 2014)
- National Local Government Human Resources Conference (August 2013)

3.2 Outcome: Council activities are better understood and supported.

Achievements:

LGANT organised the following opportunities for networking amongst members:

- meeting between member councils and Power and Water officers on street lighting charges
- briefing and discussions with the appointed consultants who were providing LGANT with a negotiating position to take to Power and Water on street lighting charges
- general meetings of members were held on 11 November 2013 at the Alice Springs Town Council and on 3-4 April 2014 in Katherine at the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Cultural Centre
- Mayors and Presidents and CEO Forums were held on 11 November 2013 and 2 April 2014

along with the other reference group meetings that are documented under Outcome 2.5. LGANT initiated the capture of stock local government images for local government publications. Images were captured for the greater Darwin area.

4 To provide effective and efficient services to our members

4.1 Outcome: Internal systems and processes are in place and operating effectively.

Achievements:

LGANT:

- held weekly/monthly **managers and staff meetings** held over the 2013/2014 period
- the Association's **Executive Committee reviewed LGANT's strategic plan** in February 2014. The plan and annual budget were adopted by member councils at the general meeting on 3 March 2014
- **completed financial reports** to each meeting of the Executive
- **completed performance appraisals** for staff members
- **processed body corporate issues** in terms of security alarms, parking, signage, cleaning, tenancy management and participation in an emergency fire drill
- **adopted or updated operational policies and procedures for its:**
 - agenda development
 - document management
 - website management
- continued with annual maintenance and upgrading of InfoXpert along with training for staff
- continued to review and revise the LGANT folder structure and maintain contract with Territory Technology Solutions to provide IT support
- reviewed the strategic plan reporting process and established updated system
- investigated potential for LGANT to adopt InfoCouncil

- coordinated building certification for all LGANT units at 21 Parap Road and commissioned new carpet in units 3 and 5
- conducted a security audit and set up a self-managed system for keys and fobs
- employed a new Executive Assistant to the CEO
- decommissioned Interplan as the LGANT strategic planning tool.

4.2 Outcome: LGANT promotes its activities to its members and key stakeholders

Achievements:

LGANT:

- maintained the LGANT website:
 - front page of website was updated regularly with latest news
 - a secure area set up for member access to restricted documents
 - the website had 10,972 visitors with 7,052 (64%) identified as new users, visiting an average of 2.51 pages per visit
 - 56% of visits came from internet searches, 14% from referrals and 21% from direct traffic (bookmarks)
 - reports were published on the LGANT web page
 - new pages added to website
 - secure pages for LGANT meeting documents (CEO, Executive and reference groups)
 - local government fact sheets
 - the top 10 pages visited were:
 1. LGANT Home Page
 2. Current Vacancies
 3. Contact Us
 4. Council Contacts
 5. The Executive
 6. LGANT Newsletter
 7. Organisational Structure
 8. About Local Government
 9. Downloads
 10. About LGANT
- **issued media releases** as per 3.1 and the **LGANT President and Vice President Shires engaged in radio and television interviews on local government issues**
- **published the annual report for the 2012/2013 financial year** which was endorsed at the annual general meeting on 11 November 2013
- **published a President's report in the Local Government Focus newspaper in November 2013.**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I, Damien Ryan, President of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, state that in my opinion, the financial statements (as set out) are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2014 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

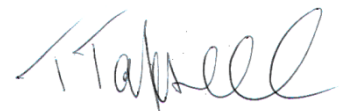
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damien Ryan', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

July 2014

PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I, Tony Tapsell, being the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory, state that to the best of my knowledge and belief the financial statements (as set out) present fairly the state of affairs of the Association as at 30 June 2014 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Tapsell', with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

July 2014

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER