



Annual Report 2014-2015

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

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Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

Dear President

Section 22.2 of the LGANT constitution requires me to present you with this annual report which includes the audited annual financial statements for the 2014-15 financial year.

The financial position and performance of LGANT was sound as at 30 June 2015 in that it:

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

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I also pay tribute to all LGANT staff that assisted me in being able to meet LGANT's obligations and plans. Their teamwork and dedication was most appreciated. Lastly I thank sincerely the consultants and service providers that have given support to LGANT throughout the year including the West Australian Local Government Association for its work on industrial relations and the Queensland and NSW Local Government Associations for their work on procurement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T Tapsell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tony Tapsell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

President's Report On Behalf Of the Executive

Dear members,

The 2014/15 financial year was an eventful one for local government councils in the Northern Territory. Most significantly, was the state of the Australian economy and its downward impact on council revenues particularly revenue from other spheres of government. Also at play were the increased costs of doing council business with the introduction of new street lighting charges to municipal councils being first and foremost a major hurdle for them to manage. The volatility of grant funding and contract revenue continued also to be challenges for regional and shire councils to manage their cash flows.

The freeze of indexation of council financial assistance grants from the Commonwealth government has led to the Australian Local Government Association mounting a national campaign to which it sought to:

- end the pause (2014-15 to 2016-17) in the indexation of local government financial assistance grants
- maintain the direct funding relationship between the Commonwealth and local government.

The overall loss of indexation to the Northern Territory is just over \$3M for the three years. Indexation has applied to these grants for all but one year since 1992.

Amongst other things, councils were asked to pass resolutions in support of the above and also to acknowledge their use of these grants in their annual reports. Most councils achieved the resolution milestone by 30 June 2015 which was a great effort. It went towards bringing the matter to the attention of Federal Ministers but also all Federal members of parliament. Obviously we need to keep going on this issue in the hope that indexation will be restored in the future so that all councils throughout Australia are given the opportunity to provide a reasonable level of service and infrastructure to local residents.

While the loss of indexation is a reduction in general purpose funding for councils the Commonwealth government is to be congratulated for doubling specific purpose funding under the roads to recovery program and commencing the bridges renewal program. It also assisted councils greatly with specific purpose grants primarily in the human services areas of childcare, aged care and youth services.

The Northern Territory government is also to be congratulated for its financial support for local government primarily in the areas of:

- general purpose operational subsidies for regional and shire councils
- specific purpose matching funding for infrastructure for municipal councils
- specific purpose subsidies and grants to support the operation of local authorities in regional councils
- specific purpose operational grants for library services
- special purpose grants

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- specific purpose matching funding for Indigenous employment for regional and shire councils.
- the introduction of specific purpose funding to LGANT to provide support services to councils under the 'Local Government Excellence' program.

The Local Government Excellence program has enabled LGANT to boost its productivity in areas such as elected and appointed member training, local government by-laws, reforms and communications all of which the LGANT Executive supports and is keen to progress in coming years.

It was pleasing to witness the levels of collaboration within the sector throughout the year with all councils playing a part in sector-wide activities which LGANT helped facilitate. This applies not only at the two general meetings LGANT holds each year but also all of the reference groups and committees that council members and staff participate in. The continued collaborative arrangements that LGANT has in place with interstate local government associations again proved its worth to councils in the Northern Territory during the year and while not detailing them all the two pertaining to industrial relations and procurement were most satisfying in their outcomes.

LGANT is also most grateful to have the Minister for Local Government attend its general meetings and this was achieved during the year with the Chief Minister and Minister for Local Government, the Hon Adam Giles MLA being present at the November 2014 meeting and Minister for Local Government, the Hon Bess Price MLA at the April 2015 meeting. These engagements are important for local government and LGANT because they represent opportunities to hear about government directions at the highest level and they are a convention in LGANT's governance arrangements.

A review of the *Local Government Act* was announced during the year with councils and LGANT gaining representation on the working group charged with undertaking the task of completing the review.

I once again thank and encourage all councils to continue to work with LGANT on issues and I pay tribute to members of the Executive for their input, support and endeavour with LGANT's directions.



Damien Ryan

President

About This Report

This report is the 24th Annual Report of LGANT and it is for the financial year 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 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 12-13 November 2015.

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

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

LGANT has been in existence since 1992 and is the single peak body representing and servicing the needs of its 17 local government councils in the Northern Territory. LGANT is established as an incorporated body under section 242 of the *Local Government Act 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 the LGANT strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2014/2015.

LGANT:

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

High Level Elements of LGANT's Strategic Plan

Vision

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

Our Business

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

Core Values

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

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

Strategic Goals

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

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

Membership 2014 – 2015

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 2014-2015, 17 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT and were made up of (see Figure 1):

- 5 municipality
- 9 regional councils
- 3 shires

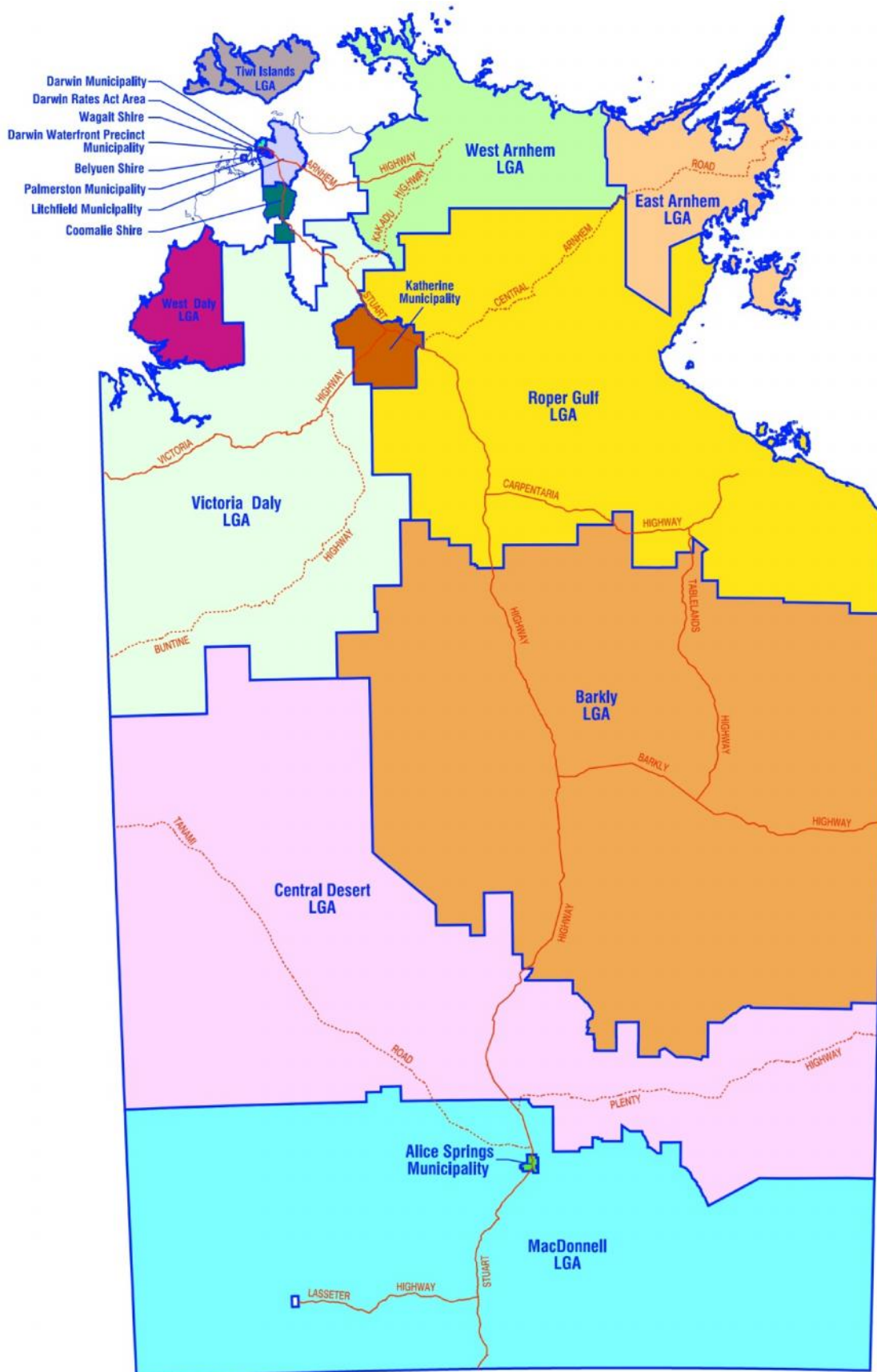
A new member council established during the year was the West Daly Regional Council. The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member during 2014-2015 it being an organisation involved in the delivery of local government-type services in its respective area.

Figure 1: The 17 LGANT Member Organisations as at 30 June 2015 were as follows:

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
West Daly Regional Council	Local Government
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited	Corporation

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Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 2015



Executive Committee Members 2014-2015

Clause 14.4 of the constitution requires LGANT's Executive to be made up of eight (8) members listed in Figure 2. 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 general election for the Executive will be held at the Annual General meeting in Alice Springs in November 2016.

Figure 2: LGANT Executive members as at 30 June 2015 were:

President	Mayor Damien Ryan (Alice Springs Town Council)
Vice President – Regional and Shire councils	Mayor Tony Jack (Roper Gulf Regional)
Vice President – Municipals	Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis (City of Darwin)
Executive Members	Mayor Fay Miller (Katherine Town Council)
	President Barb Shaw (Barkly Regional)
	Mayor Lothar Siebert (West Arnhem Regional Council)
	Alderman Bob Elix (City of Darwin)
	Councillor Greg Sharman (MacDonnell Regional Council)

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 also the Chair of Central Australian Health Service, Director on the Australian Local Government Association Board, Northern Territory Grants Commissioner, Co-Deputy Chair of the Outback Highway Development Council, Chair of Alice Springs Alcohol Management Group, Tourism Central Australia Executive and Chair of Alice Springs Masters Games Advisory Committee.

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

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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.

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 Shire service delivery.

Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis

Vice President of the Association 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 both Regional, Shire and Municipal councils where possible.

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President Barb Shaw

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Barb has served as a Councillor on the Barkly Shire since amalgamations in 2008 and was elected by popular vote to the position of President at the 24 March 2012 local government elections. She was 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 Shire Council on a full time basis.

Mayor Lothar Siebert

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Mayor Lothar Siebert has been engaged in Local Government for over 30 years. Prior to the creation of West Arnhem Regional Council he was a Councillor for the Kunbarllanjnja Community Government Council for over 20 years.



He has been an active member of the Gunbalanya community and for a time was the President of the Gunbalanya Sports and Social Club.

Since being elected Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council in 2012 he has been a strenuous advocate on behalf of the constituents of the region. He was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee in November 2014.

Councillor Greg Sharmen

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

Councillor Greg Sharman has proved his worth as a reliable, accountable and readily available advocate for remote community residents of the MacDonnell Regional Council. He was elected to a casual vacancy on the LGANT Executive in March 2015.



In 2012 Greg stood and was elected to MacDonnell Regional Council by the Rodinga Ward.

Through his role as a Councillor he speaks strongly from his shared experiences and challenges of remote community living while applying the administrative knowledge he acquired over his many years working in Central Australia.

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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, a board member of Savannah Way Ltd, a member of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Senior Territorians and the NT Seniors Advisory Council, Katherine Cancer Working Group, Katherine Accommodation Action Group, Katherine Development Consent Authority.

Alderman Bob Elix

Executive Member representing Municipal councils

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

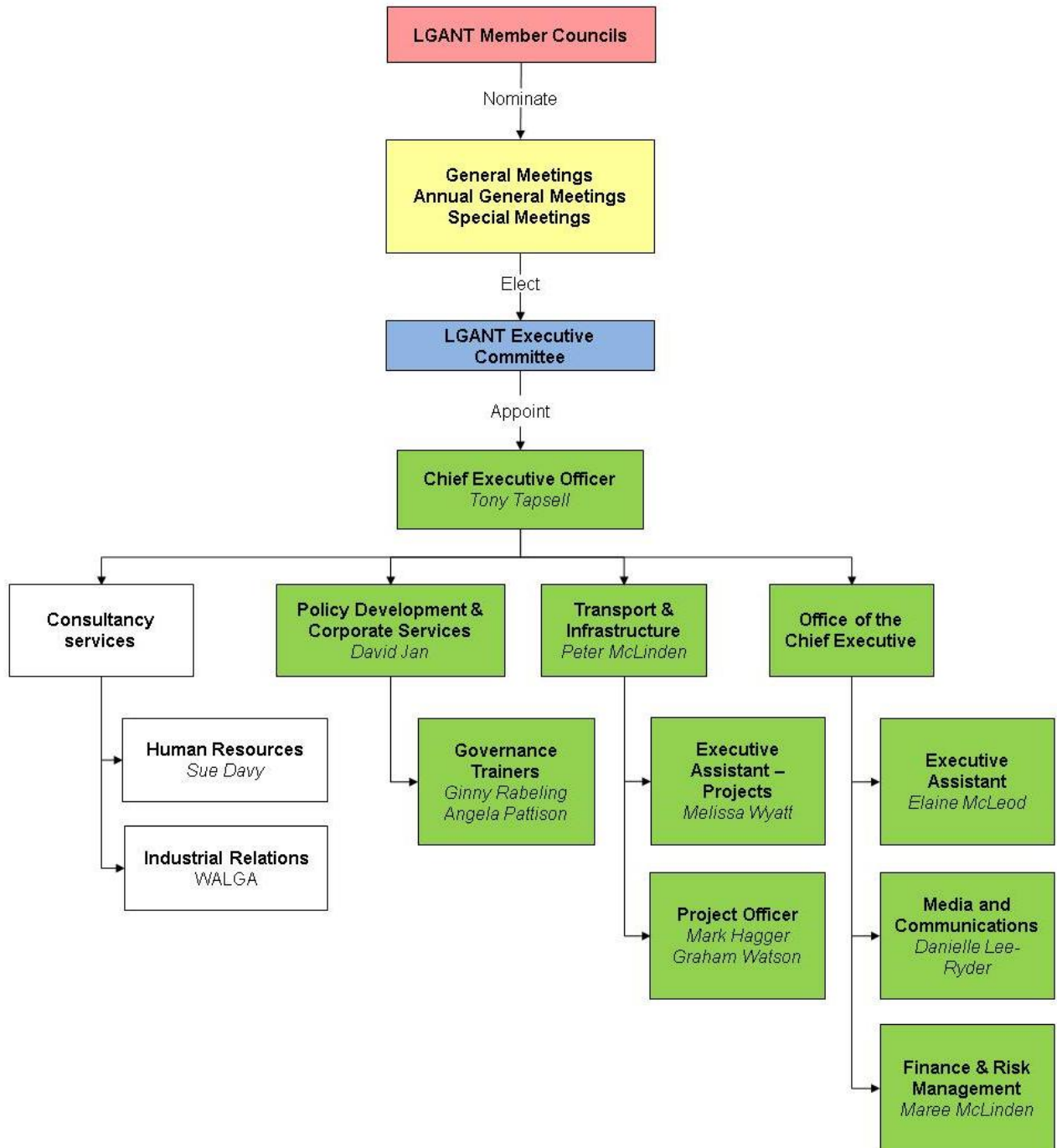


He has been involved with AFL in the NT for years and has recently retired after 13 years as the Chairman of AFLNT, having previously performed many roles including coach, umpire and administrator.

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

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

LGANT Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2015



Service Providers and Sponsors

<i>Auditor</i>	Kevin Blacker & Associates PO Box 38170 WINNELLIE NT 0821
<i>Bankers</i>	Westpac Bank Smith Street DARWIN NT 0800
<i>Insurance</i>	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 2014 - 2015 year.

Platinum:



Gold:



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

Annual Priority Achievements 2014 - 2015

The 2014 – 2015 financial year sees LGANT move to an updated five year Strategic Plan of goals, outcomes and performance measures. The Plan now has an additional focus on annual priorities for each of the identified long term goals. These priorities are reviewed and updated each year to ensure they meet member expectations and the capacity of LGANT officers to deliver.

In some instances there is overlap between annual priorities and for the purposes of this annual report they have been noted and combined. The Strategic Plan is available on the LGANT web site: www.lgant.asn.au

Goal 1 - To enhance the status of local government

Local Government Understanding

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

1.1 Confirm customer service and community engagement practices with councils.

As part of LGANT's support services, training has been held with a number of regional councils in community engagement practices, good customer service as well as a range of other modules to help improve the performance of local government and its relationship with its communities (see annual priority 2.2). LGANT is in regular contact with member councils to see how they can further support them in these areas as well as others.

LGANT has also been working with the Department of Local Government and Community Services' Remote Engagement and Coordination Unit to provide input, advice and support on their NT Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy. This strategy aims to better coordinate the way government engages with remote leaders and governance groups and to reduce the burden of consultation currently faced by remote community leaders. It also aims to upskill public servants on how to better engage with remote residents. LGANT has provided advice in the development and implementation of systems, processes and relationships for government to effectively engage with remote communities.

1.2 Prepare and disseminate information products to member councils.

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:

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- **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 2014-2015 LGANT Directory** which is issued to all councils in the NT and not for profit organisations free of charge. The Directory provides information on all member councils and the local government sector. Commercial organisations are charged a nominal fee to cover delivery costs
- **publishing a fortnightly newsletter, *This Week @ LGANT***, which is distributed on-line to 348 recipients with an increase of 24 from the previous year. This newsletter has an average subscription rate of 2 per month. The newsletter generates an average open rate of 30% and click rate of 2%. The strong open rate indicates that the information provided is of interest to subscribers
- **publishing media releases as needed** - media releases are distributed online to 173 recipients. LGANT produced 7 media releases for the period
- **issuing a member satisfaction survey to councils** in August 2014 with results reported in November 2014 at the Association's general meeting. The results were also used as part of the review of LGANT's strategic plan for 2015
- **subscribing to the EasyGrants Newsletter** which is emailed to member councils so that they can be informed about grants that are on offer
- **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 related information to the Local Government Training Network nine times in relation to events, funding, training and employment opportunities (see also *annual priority 2.2*).
- distributed information for comment to generate sector positions or seek input on:
 - the review of the *Local Government Act*
 - the Indigenous Advancement Strategy
 - the *Cemeteries Act*
 - road traffic management manual
 - guidelines on waste management
 - remote road signage
 - best practice procurement
- distributed materials on 22 September 2015 to Council CEOs for them to use as part of their Anti-Poverty Week efforts in local government areas

1.3 Work with councils to ensure communication materials are up to date and online.

LGANT regularly liaised with member councils on ensuring their websites and other communications materials were current and provided input if required.

1.4 Develop and implement LGANT communication plan.

In January 2015 LGANT appointed a part time media and communications officer as part of the Local Government Excellence project who was responsible for developing an overarching communications strategy, which was endorsed by the Executive on 23 June 2015. This strategy clarifies the Association's goals, targets, communications tools and how its annual plans will be measured and evaluated. The strategy aims to help LGANT meet its Strategic Plan's goals and its obligations to the Local Government Excellence Project, which is supported by the Department of Local Government and Community Services.

The first Communications Action Plan was developed for the financial year of 2015/16, and the Executive will consider it in the new financial year. However, a number of actions were still being implemented. Some of the actions delivered were:

- the content and presentation in the annual Local Government Directory was enhanced
- a suite of handy fact sheets developed and distributed to members and loaded onto the LGANT website
- media releases on pertinent issues distributed
- the LGANT newsletter included more 'good news' about councils across the NT.

The LGANT newsletter's subscription base and readership increased during the year to over 350 subscribers, which include journalists, elected members, council staff, ministerial advisers and the NT Government. Additionally, the process of developing a training video, primarily aimed at local authorities commenced and is expected to be completed in the next reporting year.

Ongoing work to improve the LGANT website also commenced. The majority of content was updated and further investigations were underway at year's end. LGANT also introduced an annual award system (Local Government Long Service Awards) as a way to promote and officially recognise councillors who have contributed a significant length of time to their communities as elected members in Local Government.

Goal 2 - To enhance the performance of local government

Local Government Capacity

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

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

LGANT maintained its relationship with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Workplace Solutions, which enabled it 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 2014/2015 financial year a total of 367 (two less than 2013/2014) 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.

In addition to the industrial relations service provided through the WALGA agreement, LGANT also provided direct advice to councils on issues such as:

- the transfer/portability of long service leave
- reviews of salary and position levels
- Work Health and Safety legislation
- notifications of relevant forums such as the Jobs Australia Forum in Alice Springs.
- enterprise bargaining agreements
- potential funding opportunities such as the Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives programme
- local government performance management
- CEO recruitment
- ensuring member councils had access to WALGA secure online resources
- input on the Local Government Industry Award Review
- participating on selection panels for director positions
- councillor behaviour

As part of its organisational policy reviews LGANT:

- developed a competitive fee for service model and facilitated two CEO performance reviews (Barkly and West Daly – March 2014) and provided independent person for MacDonnell Regional Council CEO review.

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- updated the fee for service model for CEO recruitment and facilitated the recruitment of 2 CEO's for member councils (Wagait – March 2015, Tiwi – June 2015)

Figure 3: 2014/15 Proportion of Council Contact with WALGA Workplace Solutions by Type.

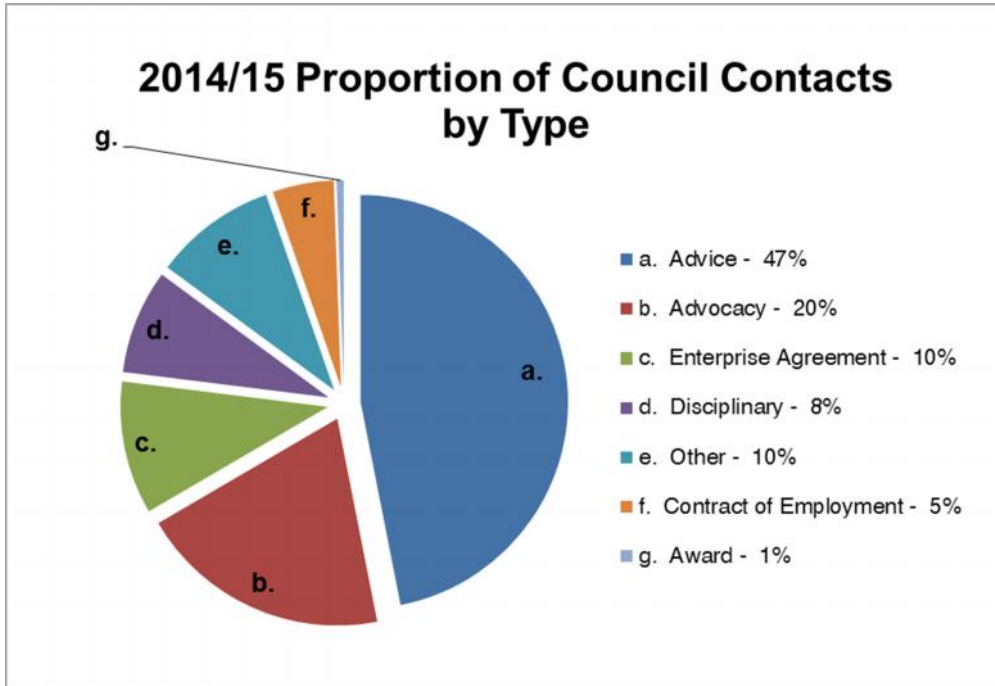
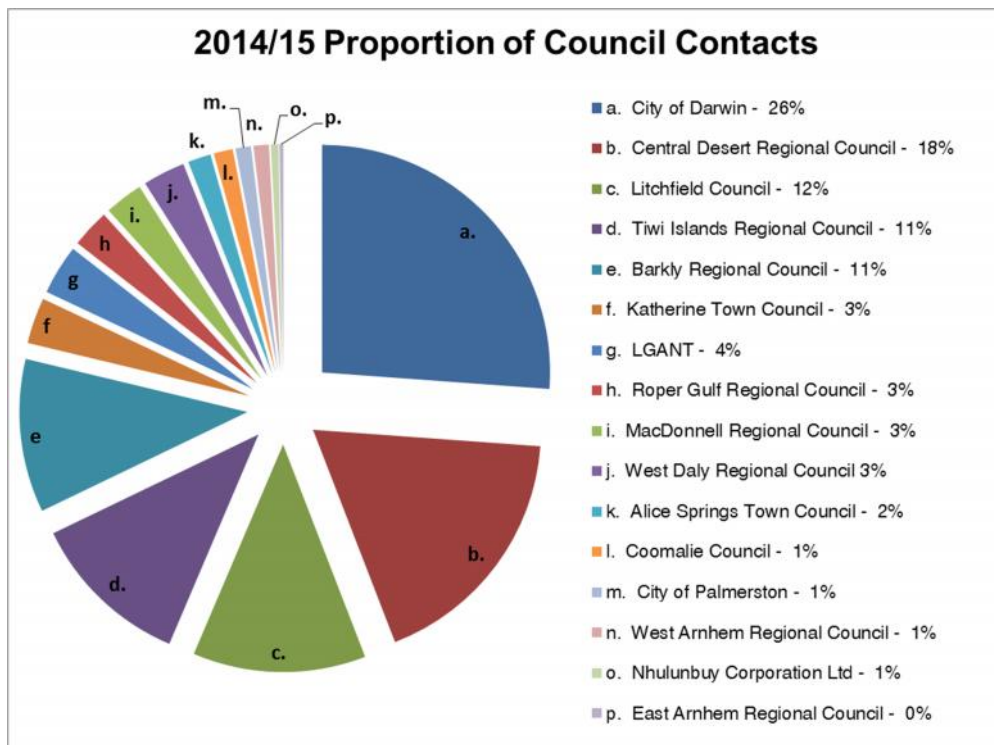


Figure 4: 2014/15 Proportion of Council Contacts with WALGA Workplace Solutions.



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

LGANT:

- distributed emails to the LGANT Training network which is targeted at local government training coordinators distributing training related news. Nine emails were sent with an average open rate of 32% which, according to the list provider is above the industry average of 22%. The LGANT Training network currently has 44 members. Topics included:
 - 2014 Government Skills Australia Conference
 - Two Way Training
 - Update on national VET reform
 - Farm Gate training
 - Funding opportunities for training
 - Indigenous Workforce Participation Initiatives Program
 - Local Government National Human Resources Conference
- facilitated mentoring sessions for two principal members (a Mayor and a President) with the former ALGA President Felicity-Anne Lewis
- participated in the 17-18 June Ordinary Women EXTRA Ordinary Lives Conference in Katherine to promote leadership in local government.
- refined and delivered training to elected and local authority members and staff as listed in Figure 5.

Figure 5: List of training delivered during the year by LGANT officers

Council	Audience & Training Undertaken	Location	Date
Barkly Regional Council	Councillor training – code of conduct and meeting procedures.	Tennant Creek	17-18 February 2015
	Training for Chairpersons of local authorities - introduction to local government and LGANT, roles and responsibilities, separation of powers, conflict of interest, chairing a meeting, reading financial reports.	Tennant Creek	3-5 March 2015
	Follow-up training for individual councillors on the code of conduct and communications.	Tennant Creek	12 May 2015
	Training for local authority members - roles and responsibilities, where local	Alpurrurulam	27 May 2015

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Council	Audience & Training Undertaken	Location	Date
	authorities fit within local government and community engagement practice.		
	Mentoring session with an individual elected member.	Teleconference	1 June 2015
Central Desert Regional Council	Training and advice to the CEO and President on code of conduct matters.	Alice Springs	4-5 June 2015
East Arnhem Regional Council	Councillor training on the code of conduct, separation of powers and what is local government?	Darwin	22 September 2014
	Councillor training on the code of conduct.	Nhulunbuy	27 November 2015
	Training for local authority members on roles and responsibilities, where local authorities fit into local government and community engagement practice.	Umbakumba	6 May 2015
	Training for councillor and local authority members as well as Community Services Managers on meeting procedures and chairing a meeting.	Nhulunbuy	20 May 2015
	Training for local authority members on the code of conduct.	Gunyungara	21 May 2015
MacDonnell Regional Council	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government and roles and responsibilities.	Mt Liebig and Papunya	20-21 August 2014
	Training for Community Coordinators about local authorities and their place in local government.	Alice Springs	22 August 2014
	Training for Chairpersons of local authorities on introduction to local government and LGANT, roles and responsibilities, separation of powers, conflict of interest, chairing a meeting,	Ross River	26-27 February 2015

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Council	Audience & Training Undertaken	Location	Date
	reading financial reports.		
	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government, roles and responsibilities and reading financial reports.	Finke	18 March 2015
	Training for local authority members on reading financial reports.	Docker River	6 May 2015
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Training for local authority members on understanding council reports and introduction to local authorities.	Jilkminggan, Hodgson Downs and Bulman	28-31 October 2014
	Training for councillors on roles responsibilities and community engagement practice.	Beswick; Barunga; Ngukurr; Hodgson Downs; Borroloola	20- 24 April 2015
	Training for councillors on meeting procedures and chairing a meeting.	Katherine	29 April 2015
	Training for local authority members on understanding council reports.	Beswick, Barunga, Numbulwar, Ngukurr	22-25 June 2015
	Training for local authority members on understanding council reports.	Jilkminggan	30 June 2015
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Officer training on the National Asset Management Strategy.	Katherine	6 October 2014
	Councillor training on reading financial reports, separation of powers, conflict of interest, code of conduct and the role of local authorities.	Katherine	20-21 October 2014

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Council	Audience & Training Undertaken	Location	Date
	Councillor training on roles and responsibilities, separation of powers, confidential information and conflict of interest	Katherine	15 December 2014
	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government, roles and responsibilities, community engagement practice and an overview on budgets.	Daly River/ Nauiyu	1 April 2015
	Training for local authority members on roles and responsibilities and community engagement practice.	Timber Creek, Kalkaringi, Yarralin	11-14 May 2015
West Arnhem Regional Council	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government and local authorities, chairing a meeting and roles and responsibilities.	Gunbalanya, Minjalang & Warruwi	2-4 February 2015
	Councillor training on roles and responsibilities, separation of powers and CEO delegations.	Jabiru	17 March 2015
	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government and local authorities and where local authorities fit into local government.	Maningrida	26 March 2015
	Training for local authority members on roles and responsibilities and community engagement practice.	Warruwi	10 April 2015
	Training for local authority members on understanding council reports.	Gunbalunya & Minjilang	3-4 June 2015
West Daly Regional Council	Training for local authority members on introduction to local government and local authorities, where local authorities fit into local government and budgets.	Peppimenarti, Palumpa, Port Keats	7-9 April 2015
	Individual councillor training on conflict resolution.	Darwin	20 May 2015

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Council	Audience & Training Undertaken	Location	Date
Combined training sessions	Officer training - LGANT participation in ACELG Local government research symposium and researchers workshop. (Facilitate session)	Darwin	4-5 September 2014
	Officer training - Award Interpretation for Payroll Officers.	Darwin	14 October 2014
	Officer training - Tender Link E-Procurement	Darwin	24 October 2014
	Councillor and Officer training on understanding asset management	Katherine	2 December 2014
	Officer training on local government procurement	Alice Springs & Darwin	13-14 May 2015

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

LGANT:

- developed and/or updated the following policies on the following matters:
 - climate change policies
 - management and administration fees charged against government grants
 - Commonwealth revenue sharing – removed references to financial assistance grants
 - candidate information sessions for local government elections
- developed and/or updated the following LGANT internal policies and procedures
 - LGANT procurement policy for road maintenance services for local roads managed by LGANT
 - recruitment policy and procedure including induction checklists
 - Work Health and Safety including incident report forms
 - uniform policy
 - conflict of interest
- the LGANT constitution was changed to increase the number on the LGANT Executive committee from eight to nine following the general meeting on 6-7 November 2014

2.4 Assist member councils with their policy making.

LGANT:

- officers fielded numerous emails and telephone calls to provide advice to councils in relation to council policy. Topics covered included:
 - records management
 - delegations
 - photo consent policies
 - style guide advice in relation to electronic signatures and acronyms
 - procurement
 - risk management regarding employees acting as guarantor for services purchased
 - local government growth
 - learning agreement policy
 - code of conduct and disciplinary procedures
 - local authority handbooks
 - meeting procedures for local authority and elected members including status of proxy votes
- through an agreement with the Western Australian Local Government Association sample policies are made available through an online member login section of the WALGA Employee Relations website. Policies that were available include:
 - agreement to postpone long service leave
 - corporate uniform, dress code and hygiene
 - discrimination, harassment and bullying
 - drug and alcohol
 - gratuities
 - grievances and investigations (includes procedures)
 - information and communications technology use
 - leave management
 - probation (guidelines)
 - recruitment, selection and promotion
 - secondary employment (including application procedures)
 - social media.

2.5 Continue to assist councils to reduce costs.

LGANT:

- completed a budget submission to the Northern Territory Government in October 2014 with support requested in the areas of:
 - NT operational subsidies
 - public library funding
 - local government reforms

following the release of the NT Budget on 13 May 2014

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- continued to provide access to member councils to the National Procurement Network whereby LGANT is a party to national local government contracts in which mainly fleet contracts were available to councils for the following items:
 - fuel – bulk & card services
 - oil and lubricants
 - mobile garbage bins, containers, bins, compactors construction site caravans
 - motor vehicles
 - truck vehicles, bodies and trailers
 - tyres and batteries
 - earthmoving equipment
 - road and bridge making equipment
 - small plant – tractors and mowers
 - telecommunications.

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

LGANT:

- participated in community meeting in Wagait Shire on 8 July 2014 to discuss potential reforms in local government including the incorporation of areas into local government boundaries
- participated in three meetings of the Coomalie, Belyuen and Wagait Community Advisory Committee on 5 December 2014, 2 March and 9 June 2015 at which various matters were pursued including:
 - waste management
 - common business systems
 - incorporation of unincorporated land
 - financial sustainability of the three councils
- made overtures to the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield Councils about the need to consider the unincorporated land adjoining their boundaries
- mentioned in its budget submission of October 2014 to the Northern Territory Government the need for support for bringing unincorporated land into local government areas.

2.7 Work with councils to gather relevant data.

See annual priority 2.12

2.8 Work with councils to implement recognised asset and financial management practices.

During 2014/15 LGANT provided support to all councils using a variety of methods to encourage the implementation of asset and long term financial planning.

This assistance comprised telephone conferences and site visits, dissemination of information, facilitation of training and delivery of workshops.

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Details of this assistance included:

- attending various council offices and providing new familiarisation and refresher training on the national asset management system (NAMS) software used to develop asset management policy, strategy and plans and the associated long term financial projections
- convening and facilitating the Big Rivers Region Asset Management Working Group meetings of:
 - 3 October 2014
 - 13 February 2015
 - 19 June 2015
- convening and facilitating the Central Region Asset Management Working Group meetings held:
 - 27 July 2014
 - 10 September 2014
 - 9 December 2014
 - 14 April 2015
- facilitating asset management and long term financial planning training workshop for elected members and officers within the Big Rivers Region in December 2014
- facilitating delivery of procurement training in Alice Springs including providing logistics services to the presenter (in Alice Springs and Darwin) and facilitating the workshop held on:
 - 13 May 2015 (Alice Springs)
 - 14 May 2015 (Darwin)
- conducted preliminary tasks associated with the delivery of “Levels of Service” training workshops planned for September 2015 in Alice Springs and Darwin
- working with all councils to prepare asset management maturity self-assessment surveys for 2014/15
- convening and facilitating the Finance Reference Group bi-annual meetings held on:
 - 17 October 2014
 - 24 February 2015
- convening and facilitating the meetings of the Finance Reference Group Model Financial Statements working group established to develop model financial statements for councils with meetings held on:
 - 10 December 2014
 - 19 December 2014
 - 22 January 2015
 - 12 February 2015
 - 29 June 2015
- convening and facilitating the meetings of the Finance Reference Group Policy Review working group established to review LGANT’s policy on appropriate levels of fees for administration and management of government grants held on:
 - 10 December 2014
 - 22 January 2015

- convening and facilitating the meetings of the Finance Reference Group Local Government Cost Index Review working group established to review the appropriate categories and classes of expenditure to be considered when determining the local government cost index for the Northern Territory held on 19 June 2015

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

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

2014-15 Executive meeting highlights

Apart from internal reports, reports dealing with LGANT compliance issues, including plans, budgets as well as a host of ongoing matters some of the more significant issues dealt with at LGANT Executive meetings are detailed in Figure 6.

Figure 6: LGANT Executive meetings highlights

Date	highlights
22 & 27 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nominations to NT Grants Commission and disciplinary committee • submission on establishment of new licensing authority • submission on television reception in remote areas • action on public library funding agreement
20 August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Darwin Regional Land Use Plan • local government reforms • financial sustainability of regional and shire councils in the NT • election of Vice President municipal councils
16 September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed changes to LGANT's constitution • National State of the Assets Report 2014 • Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Islander Peoples • 2012-13 Local Government National Report
21 October 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Rivers waste management agreement • nominations to the 50:50 Vision National Steering Committee • Review of the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act and the Litter Act</i> • TenderLink – E Tender

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Date	highlights
9 December 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nominations to the NT Place Names Committee • agreement with the Department of Local Government and Community Services • November 2014 ALGA Board report • outcomes from the November 2014 General Meeting and AGM
6-7 February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nominations to the NT Planning Commission • nominations to the NT Weeds Advisory Committee • draft submission on the <i>Cemeteries Act</i> • review of the <i>Local Government Act</i>
10 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local government long service awards • Darwin and Katherine Flood Mitigation Committees • morgues in remote communities • Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait Local Government Advisory Group
19 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural disaster relief recovery arrangements • establishment of an insurance scheme in the NT • financial assistance grants campaign • LGMA National Congress and Indigenous Employment and Leadership in the Local Government Roundtable
23 June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous community engineering guidelines • statutory immunity for road authorities in the NT • National Local Government Cultural Forum • draft Darwin regional transport plan

General and Annual General meeting highlights

Apart from compliance, constitutional, budgets and planning issues some of the more significant issues handled at LGANT's two general meetings are detailed in Figure 7.

Figure 7: General and Annual General meeting highlights.

Date	Highlights
6 & 7 November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/16 budget submission to the Northern Territory Government • Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Islander Peoples • White Paper on the Reform of the Federation • financial assistance grants

Date	Highlights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of LGANT’s climate change policies • Northern Territory Local Government Service Awards • 2012 council elections report
16-17 April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of the <i>Local Government Act</i> • street lighting charges • local government by-laws • council involvement in land development • prospective councillor workshops

Reference Group highlights

Mayors and Presidents

Two meetings were held (Darwin and Tennant Creek) alongside LGANT general meetings. 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.

CEO Reference Group

Meetings were held on 5 November 2014 (Darwin) and 15 April 2015 (Tennant Creek) and dealt with matters including:

- the LGANT agreement with WALGA Workplace Solutions
- reconciliation actions plans in local government
- the Local Government Excellence in the Northern Territory program
- street lighting charges
- land development and flood mitigation in the Northern Territory
- the National Procurement Network
- 2016 Census
- the Indigenous Advancement Strategy tender process
- local government compliance
- public interest disclosure
- updates from the Local Government Managers Association of 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.

Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group (ETIRG)

Two ETIRG meetings were held during 2014-15:

- 11 and 12 September 2014 hosted by the Alice Springs Town Council in the Andy McNeil Room
- 26 and 27 March 2015 hosted by the Katherine Town Council in its chambers.

Presentations on issues of common interest and collaboration with government agencies were:

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- NT Weeds Branch
 - funding opportunities
 - gamba grass strategy
 - opportunities for collaboration with local government on road reserves
- Centre of Appropriate Technology
 - presentation on a course which is a Certificate II in Regional Operations for council employees involved in municipal services in remote areas
- Department of Planning
 - flood mitigation meetings and reports in Katherine and Darwin
 - subdivisional guidelines updates
- Reverse E Waste
 - collaborated amongst local governments in the NT to remove e-waste from waste management facilities
 - disseminated information on:
 - partnership arrangements that existed in other States
 - LED lighting and solar lighting including presentations from LED4Life Pty Ltd and Green Frog Systems Pty Ltd
 - the City of Darwin's Lee Point Road LED lighting trial
- Northern Territory Department of Local Government and Community Services
 - collaboration and opportunities in the delivery of infrastructure projects in remote communities
- Department of Transport
 - airports and associated agency agreements
 - recycling of waste oil and possible partnerships with local councils including a presentation from Southern Oil Pty Ltd
- Local Buy
 - National Procurement Network updates on the status of panel contract reviews.

Governance Reference Group

The Governance Reference group met once this period on 30 March 2015. Key outcomes from this group's meeting included:

- initiating discussions with NT Archives and Department of Local Government to facilitate member councils' use of Northern Territory Government records disposal schedules
- confirmation of the need for a records management workshop/training for records management officers
- collated input from member councils into a submission on the review of the *Local Government Act*
- establish a working party to oversee the development of a by-elections manual
- confirmed the need for common delegation instruments for member councils. LGANT has commenced investigations into the feasibility of a cloud solution
- discussion and advice for members on how to deal with confidential items.

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Finance Reference Group

Meetings were held on 17 October 2014 in Darwin and 24 & 25 February 2015 in Alice Springs.

The outcomes from these meetings were that members:

- commenced investigation into the opportunities (and associated risks) available in establishing a sector wide joint insurance scheme
- resolved to continue to hold rates workshops annually on the day before the Finance Reference Group meetings
- endorsed the 2014-15 LGANT Budget Submission to the Northern Territory Government
- established a working group to
 - review the LGANT policy on management and administration fees charged against government grants; and
 - make recommendation to LGANT Executive regarding the policy content
- endorsed the input to the 2013-14 Local Government Cost Index and established a working group to review the methodology and framework used to determine it
- established a working group to develop NT specific model general purpose financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards and NT Government legislation and include disclosure notes on local government financial sustainability ratios and grants movements reporting
- endorsed a continuation of the collection of asset management and long term financial planning data for use in presenting a Territory-wide perspective of that subject
- continued to work with the Department of Local Government and Community Services on the accounting treatment of Section 19 leases on Aboriginal land
- adopted a position on the portability of employee long service leave
- worked on a course of action to assist councils in the treatment of local authority member allowances.

Others

In addition to the regular meetings highlighted above LGANT officers coordinated, facilitated or attended a number of additional workshops/meetings the key ones of which are listed in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Other meetings / workshops hosted, facilitated or attended by LGANT officers

Date	Meeting	Outcomes
16-10-2014	Rates Workshop	Initiated review of the Rating Guidelines Manual.
10-12-2014 & 22-01-2015	Grants Fees Policy Working Group	Recommended via Finance Reference Group (FRG) a change to LGANT's policy on "Management and Administration Fees Charged Against Government Grants" to vary the nominated rate from 15% to 24%.

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Date	Meeting	Outcomes
19-12-2015, 12-02-2015 & 29-06-2015	Model Financial Statements and Grants Disclosure Content Development Working Group	<p>Created draft model general purpose financial statements incorporating disclosure notes for financial indicators and grants movements with recommendation for receipt and further processing by the Finance Reference Group (FRG) next financial year.</p> <p>Reviewed other disclosure notes and changes proposed by Australian Accounting Standards Board.</p>
26-09-2014 & 13-02-2015	Big Rivers Asset Management Working Group	<p>Participated in completion of the 2013-14 Maturity Self-Assessment survey.</p> <p>Held a training workshop for council participants in December 2014 on asset management and long term financial planning.</p> <p>Obtained agreement from officers that it become an annual event.</p>
22/07/2014, 10/09/2014, 9/12/2014 & 14/04/2015	Central Region Asset Management Working Group	<p>Participated in completion of the 2013-14 Maturity Self-Assessment survey.</p> <p>Obtained agreement from officers that it become an annual event.</p>
12-06-2015	By-Laws Workshop	<p>Guided by the NT Parliamentary Counsel and the legislation branch of the Department of Local Government and Community Services participants (Instructing Officers from councils):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • were updated on the progress of the LGANT by-laws project • were informed of the process of developing by-laws including when not to develop them • discussed potential future by-laws • agreed to submit 'instructions' on by-laws to Parliamentary Counsel.

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Date	Meeting	Outcomes
18-06-2015	Local Government Cost Index Working Group	<p>Investigated alternatives to the existing framework and methodology for formulating the index.</p> <p>Developed a schedule of expenditure categories for consideration at the September 2015 Finance Reference Group (FRG) meeting.</p>
04-09-2014	Local Government Research in Practice workshop (LGANT Partnership with ACELG)	<p>Identified the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research into the true cost of local government services in remote areas • the social/community value of local government services • both qualitative and quantitative methods of enquiry when conducting local government research.
05-09-2014	Local Government Research Symposium at Charles Darwin University (LGANT Partnership with ACELG)	<p>Presentation and subsequent discussion regarding the development of a white paper on reform of the federation by the Australian government and the implications to local government. (Facilitated by LGANT)</p> <p>Presentations on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Planning for Rural Towns and Communities' (LGANT CEO) • The 'Learning community framework and evaluating impact • Local government and housing, national trends and issues, accompanied by an analysis of the SIHIP program • The Indigenous Governance and Leadership Development Project conducted by the Northern Institute.

2.10 Produce sector wide guidelines for use by members (e.g. Local government cost index).

See annual priority 2.9

2.11 Provide elected and local authority member training using appropriate local government specific training resources.

See annual priority 2.2

2.12 Continue to collect data and develop a Northern Territory local government governance self-assessment tool and progress the production of an annual 'State of the Local Government Sector' report for the Northern Territory.

Work on the 'State of the Local Government Sector' report for the Northern Territory continues. Progress has been made with regards to using the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) work force metrics data collection tool to assist with the collection of NT specific workforce data. The coordination and collection of existing information developed by councils for asset management policy, strategies and plans and long term financial implications continues.

The commencement of the Local Government Excellence project will afford LGANT officers the time to dedicate to this action in the next financial year. Feedback forms for the governance training have been refined in order to feed into the governance self-assessment tool.

Continued implementation of this priority will assist with LGANT input into the ALGA project, 'State of Assets' report.

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

LGANT:

- presented at the Australian Centre of Excellence (ACELG) 4th Aboriginal and Torres Straight Island Employment in Local Government Round Table in Perth (July 2014), including mention of the impacts of policy changes and local government reforms on Indigenous employment and facilitated a session on Remote Jobs in Community Program (RJCP)
- emailed CEOs highlighting what to include in funding applications for the Australian Government's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) and met with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to ensure the considerations of Northern Territory Local Government were understood
- presented at the 5th ACELG Indigenous Roundtable in Darwin (April 2015) on the potential for local authorities to be used as a training ground for future elected members
- gave evidence to the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the Australian Constitution (August 2014)
- through LGANT roads maintenance contracts two Indigenous persons were employed by the principal contractor on the Corella Creek Project and with the Wunara contract Phillips Contracting conducted local employment and training
- continued to lobby for a review of housing maintenance contracts in light of reduced local Indigenous employment on communities as a result of contracts being awarded outside local government as noted in annual priority 2.9
- included in the 2015-16 LGANT budget submission was the need for ongoing funding for the NT Matching Jobs Package, a program which provides for the specific employment

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of Indigenous persons in councils. LGANT was able to obtain from the then Minister for Local Government and Regions, the Hon Dave Tollner MLA confirming by letter of 8 July 2014 that the program would continue during the 2014-15 financial year

- recorded in LGANT reports that 60-70% of the total workforces in regional councils are made up of Indigenous employees and 50% of all elected members in all 17 Northern Territory councils are Indigenous
- commenced consideration during the year of a Cultural Advisory Reference Group.

Goal 3 - To effectively advocate for and represent member councils

Local Government Influence

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

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

LGANT continued to encourage councils to use the template leases developed in consultation with Land Councils with terms of 40 years and to negotiate rents for properties that are benchmarked to that charged by the Northern Territory Government.

3.2 Provide input on Statehood.

LGANT's policies on Statehood are on its website and supports it occurring along with mention of the need for the continuance of local government in a future State constitution.

No further work was done on Statehood during the year due to there being no requirement for input from the Northern Territory Government.

3.3 Work with the Territory Government to ensure extensive plans are put in place to affect an orderly and appropriately funded transfer of local roads from the Territory Government to local government.

LGANT:

- continued to lobby and advocate the Northern Territory Government to formally start negotiations and planning around the transfer of local roads to local government as announced in 2008. The proposed kilometres of local roads to be transferred per council are identified in Figure 9. Figure 10 shows estimated funding that is available which was presented at Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group (EITRG) meeting on 27 March 2015
- coordinated a presentation by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Transport, Claire Gardner-Barnes to the 16 April 2015 LGANT General meeting in Tennant Creek where a commitment was made that the Northern Territory Government would look at the transfer of roads to local councils on a council-by-council basis at the request of individual councils. It would not be imposed
- represented local government at the inaugural meeting of the Transport Infrastructure Investment Industry Advisory Group, convened by Department of Infrastructure in November 2014, which provided input on priority projects that assisted in the Northern Territory Governments budgetary deliberations.

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Figure 9: Proposed Road Lengths Identified for Transfer to Northern Territory Councils

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	125	760	933	1818
Victoria Daly Regional Council	30	57	1125	1912
Barkly Regional Council	1083	1725	621	3429
Central Desert Regional Council	156	1036	1780	2972
MacDonnell Regional Council	277	1976	1732	3985
Katherine Town Council		175	185	360
Unincorporated Lands		488		488
Total Road Length	2113	7040	8625	17778

Notes: The current road lengths are taken from the NT Grants Commission Annual Report 2012-13. Tiwi Island Regional Council does not have any roads proposed for transfer to it.

Figure 10: Potential Funding Sources involved in the Local Roads Transfer

Funding Source	Amount \$000
Roads to Recovery – Transfer from the Department	5 000
Roads to Recovery – Transfer from LGANT	483
Financial Assistance – Local Roads Grants – Transfer from LGANT	1 420
Estimated Current Expenditure – Transfer from the Department	10,000
Total Estimated Funding for Councils receiving Road Transfers	17,003

Notes: This does not include the additional Roads to Recovery funds for 2015/16 or 2016/17 financial years and the fuel excise funds.

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

Figure 11: LGANT submissions for 2014 - 15

Date	Submission Topic
24 September 2014	Submission on the issues paper titled ' <i>Propelling the Territory Forward as Australia's Northern Aviation Gateway</i> '
27 October 2014	Review of the <i>Waste Management and Pollution Control Act</i> and <i>Litter Act</i>
16 December 2014	2015-16 LGANT budget submission
16 January 2015	Report for inclusion in the <i>2013-14 Local Government National Report</i>
12 February 2015	Review of the <i>Northern Territory Employment and Training Act</i>
12 February 2015	Submission to Vet Taskforce Industry Engagement in Training Package Development
4 March 2015	Review of the <i>Cemeteries Act</i>
29 April 2015	Review of the <i>Local Government Act</i>

3.5 Ensure appropriate Local Government representation on relevant boards and committees.

LGANT is represented on the following committees:

- Administration and Legislation Advisory Committee[#]
- Animal Welfare Advisory Committee[#]
- ANZAC Centenary NT Advisory Committee
- CouncilBIZ[#]
- Heritage Council[#]
- Human Services Training Advisory Council
- Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee[#]
- National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee[#]
- NT Grants Commission[#]
- NT Place Names Committee
- NT Population Intelligence Working Group
- NT Waste Management Advisory Committee[#]
- NT Tobacco Control Advisory Committee[#]
- Local Government Waste Advisory Board

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- NT Weeds Advisory Committee[#]
- NT Water Safety Advisory Council
- Regional Development Australia NT[#]
- Settlement Planning Committee[#]
- NT Planning Commission[#]
- Minister's Advisory Council on Senior Territorians[#]
- Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs[#]

[#]Reports received at AGM or Executive

Throughout the year LGANT managed processes which required calling for nominations from councils to be representatives on Territory and Commonwealth government committees including:

- Brendan Heenan (ASTC) appointed to NT Place Names Committee 24/04/15
- Brendan Dowd (CoD) appointed to NT Planning Commission 7/04/15
- Kate Worden (CoD) appointed to ALGWA 50:50 Vision National Steering Committee 21/10/14.

LGANT officers were also members of the following committees:

- Governance and Leadership Development Strategy Steering Committee – provided local government context to the Northern Institute for its research
- Government Skills Australia – Provide input into a local government E-Scan, the local government training package, collection of national workforce data
- 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
- Local Government Workforce Development Group – National group of policy officers which:
 - commenced coordination of the 2015 National Human Resources Conference
 - provided policy advice to ALGA related to workforce development
 - continues to coordinate a national response to the 4 year review of the Local Government Industry Award
 - provides input into the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Australia's Workplace Relations System
- Darwin Region Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee. The committee of 9 provided advice and recommendations to Government regarding priority works to assist in flood mitigation in the Ludmilla, Rapid Creek, Wadham and Yarrowonga /Pinelands areas.
- Heavy Vehicle Task Force meeting. LGANT provided local input into integrated approach to the management of heavy vehicle access and operations in the Northern Territory
- NT Flood Plain Management Committee comprises of representatives from NT government agencies and Bureau of Meteorology to discuss prioritisation and needs

around flood monitoring and gauges to assist in flood warnings and mapping for storm surge/tsunami and riverine flooding

3.6 LGANT to confirm local government position as to the Northern Territory Governments responsibility for regional and remote community air strips, barge landings and boat ramps.

The key policy focus for LGANT this year was in relation to aerodromes.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Transport, Claire Gardner-Barnes spoke at the LGANT General Meeting 16 April 2015. Members were advised that the Department was working through a number of issues with the Katherine Town Council and West Arnhem Regional Council on operations on aerodromes in their local government areas.

LGANT:

- worked with and assisted the West Arnhem Regional Council with its deliberations and negotiations with the Department of Transport over a contract agreement for the Maningrida aerodrome
- worked with other state local government associations through the Australian Local Government Association, Roads and Transport Advisory Committee (RATAC) considered issues to do with ownership, excessive regulation and legislative imposts and their impacts on the sustainability and the viability of regional remote airstrips and associated services
- submitted comments to the NTG issues paper on aviation in the NT (see priority 3.4) with the main recommendations in the submission being that:
 - responsibility for remote airports not be transferred to local government on the basis they are not viable and councils do not have the finances to sustain their operations and long term provision
 - the Northern Territory government put the case to the Commonwealth government for greater investment in regional and remote airstrips
 - aviation security measures be based on risk assessments of the individual airport operating environments
 - the Commonwealth and Territory governments coordinate and centralise the training and skill development of personnel employed in airport operations
 - the regulations requiring airport managers to have in place a drug and alcohol management plan (DAMP) be repealed in place of organisations having their own workplace health and safety policies for employees in respect of alcohol and drugs
- met with CASA 20 May 2015 regarding safety issues raised from recent inspections and concerns raised by member councils around liabilities and risks that are being imposed on local councils through agency agreements and legislation surrounding the operations of aerodromes.

3.7 Provide information and support to ALGA.

In addition to the ALGA Board meetings (see Figure 12 for significant issues deliberated); 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
- the National Local Roads and Transport Congress
- all general meetings and the annual general meeting
- the ALGA strategic planning meeting
- the National General Assembly of Local Government

Figure 12: Significant issues deliberated at the ALGA Board meetings

Date	Highlights
22 August 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing the resolutions of National General Assembly of Local Government (teleconference)
18 September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance grants • White paper on the reform of the federation • Women in local government • Direct Action (Landfill Carbon Tax Revenue) • Productivity Commission Inquiry into natural disaster funding arrangements • National State of the Asset Study
12 November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Associations research • 2015-16 Federal budget submission • Human services policy • 2015 National General Assembly of Local Government and Regional Cooperation and Development Forum
26 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Assistance Grants campaign • Update on federation and taxation white papers • ALGA federal election document • Local government financial sustainability paper • 2015 National Local Roads and Transport Congress
14 June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax reform position paper • Financial assistance grants campaign • Local Government Associations research • Update on federation and taxation white papers

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

- fixed wireless NBN solutions
- indigenous employment
- local government tourism initiatives

- the Productivity Commission report on the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
- work for the dole schemes
- aerodromes in remote areas
- E-waste stewardship program
- financial assistance grants.

3.8 Facilitate engagement and collaboration between Local and Northern Territory Governments in relation to all land use, town planning and proposals.

LGANT:

- represented local government on the Darwin Flood Mitigation Committee and attended meetings on 21 February and 6, 11, 17, 23 and 30 March 2015. The recommendations of the Darwin Region Flood Advisory Committee focused on properties that are impacted upon by riverine flooding and inundation due to trunk drainage issues in the Greater Darwin region.

There were 11 recommendations submitted to the Minister for consideration, focusing on a policy framework and changes to the NT Planning Scheme to include stormwater flooding and drainage within the definition of flooding.

Projects identified and recommended by the committee were:

- Rapid Creek (\$11.8 million)
- Ludmilla Creek (\$7.5 million)
- Wadham Lagoon (\$300,000)
- Yarrowonga Catchment (\$3.23 million)
- Pinelands Industrial Area (\$900,000)
- coordinated the Department of Planning officers presentation at the EITRG on meeting 27 March 2015 where an indication was given that there were changes in the approach to subdivisional guidelines and local government will be involved in any further discussions into the future
- commissioned the City of Palmerston's Environment and Climate Change Strategic Planner, Pam Robinson, to represent LGANT at the National Climate Change Adaption Research Facility (NCCARF)
- participated in the NCCARF workshop in Darwin on 6 March 2015 for the development of a tool to guide local government and state governments to make better decisions about managing risks from coastal climate change.

3.9 Continue to assist councils with their efforts on environmental sustainability.

LGANT has been actively pursuing funding to support coordinated approaches to waste management throughout the Territory.

Central Australian Waste Management

LGANT was successful in obtaining funding from the Department of Health for the Central Australian Waste Management Co-ordinator hosted by the Central Desert Regional Council. As

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part of managing this project LGANT chaired and provided secretarial support to the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group which:

- developed the “Central Australian Landfill Operating Guidelines”
- facilitated a Certificate 2 in Rural Operations in partnership with the Centre of Appropriate Technology
- facilitated the development and adoption of Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Papunya communities
- facilitated the development of Community Litter Action Plan framework for Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils
- put in further submissions to the Department of Health for a Central Australia Coordinator.

Big Rivers Waste Management Working Group (BRWMWG)

LGANT was successful in obtaining funding from the Department Health for a pilot project to investigate the possibilities of the formation of the BRWMWG. Outcomes and achievements of the project are:

- the BRWMWG convened, with LGANT as the chair and providing administration support
- participating councils of Katherine Town Council, Roper Gulf, Victoria Daly and West Daly Regional Councils agreeing to the employment of a Regional Waste Management Coordinator
- completed waste management audits of eight waste facilities within the three regional council areas with recommendations to the Department of Health on facilities to be licenced (Wadeye, Ngkurr and Kalkaringi) under the project
- developed a submission put to the Department of Health for continued funding of a “Big Rivers Waste Coordinator” in 2015/16.

Other environmental activities undertaken included:

- a submission to the NTEPA for funds to develop a set of “Legacy Waste Guidelines” to assist member councils in the rehabilitation of old abandoned waste sites
- facilitating meetings with the Department of Resources regarding possible grants programs and training to deal with weeds on lands managed by local government
- sourced and circulated weed identification booklets and handbooks for member councils
- provided input on the E Waste and television stewardship program review with the following recommendations:
 - consistent branding should be used in communications on the TV and computers waste scheme (‘the Scheme’)
 - local government should be informed about any temporary events or permanent waste sites so that it can keep its communities informed
 - consistent contracts should be on offer to local governments participating in the Scheme

- that the Scheme take into account the contractual obligations and targets for the collection of waste in regional and remote areas and particularly where the financial returns cannot be met by industry
- participated in the Australian Government's review of illegal dumping of asbestos by contributing examples of the experiences arising out of the Central Australian and Big Rivers Waste projects.

3.10 Work with the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments to secure funding for infrastructure renewal in urban Aboriginal living areas.

LGANT supported the Department of Local Government and Community Services in the development of the "Indigenous Community Engineering Guidelines" which are intended to be used by engineers and developers involved in planning and design of essential services infrastructure and assets in remote Indigenous communities.

LGANT's policy positions in respect of this matter remained unchanged during the year.

3.11 Review the service level agreement for the operation, maintenance and energy charges for street lighting on behalf of members.

LGANT:

- continued negotiations with the Power and Water Corporation ('the Corporation') over the imposition of street lighting charges
- appointed the Trans-Tasman Energy Group in an advisory capacity to provide technical assistance about the charges and the legislative framework that encapsulates them
- established a working group of member councils to address in more detail the Trans-Tasman Energy Group report and information provided by the Corporation on their new charges
- engaged a lawyers to supply a draft service level agreement, which was forwarded to member councils on 20 November 2014 to assist them in their negotiations with the Corporation
- successfully lobbied the NT Treasurer, the Hon Dave Tollner MLA in April 2015 to have the street lighting capital charge deferred until December 2015.

Goal 4 - Maintain an effective and efficient service

Maintaining and improving LGANT capacity

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

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

LGANT is responsible for the maintenance of a 2,116km local road network on behalf of local government in the Northern Territory in six regional council areas with a breakdown by council shown in Figure 13. Over half of the roads vested to LGANT are classified as a flat bladed track with only 3.5km of sealed road to maintain as noted in Figure 14. This is significant in that it further highlights the remoteness of the LGANT roads and subsequent logistical challenges of maintaining them.

Figure 13: Road lengths managed by LGANT in 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

Figure 14: 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

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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 paid to LGANT for 2014-2015 was \$1,427,862, paid in quarterly payments. Expenditure on the network is in consultation with road users based on agreed levels of service, routine maintenance regime and priorities as determined by the LGANT road hierarchy.

LGANT received assistance through the National Disaster Recovery Relief Arrangements for two events:

Cyclones Nam and Nathan

An application for roads damaged after Cyclone Nam and Natham was approved and work has commenced. Scope of works included pavement rehabilitation and tree removal for the following roads:

- Dhalinbuy
- Mata Mata
- Wandawuy
- Gan Gan

Central Australian Food Event

Two projects received funding following extreme flooding in Central Australia:

- Bluebush Floodway project completed
- Canteen Creek washout scour completed

Routine maintenance has been carried out on identified road network with additional works carried out on the following roads:

- Bone Lagoon resheeting 2km of gravel pavement
- Mata Mata patch sheeting 3 km of road and installation of road signs
- Mata Mata road construction three creek crossing culverts
- Blue Bush road installation of road signs
- Canteen Creek installation of road signs

LGANT received funding for two Roads to Recovery projects, namely:

- the sealing the Corella Creek road; \$860,000 (completed)
- the upgrading of the Robinson River road 4 Mile Creek causeway \$400,000 (work is underway).

Additionally:

- LGANT partnered with Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional Councils with technical assistance provided by the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) to develop a set of common standards for road signage in local government areas of the above councils

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- launched “The Central Australian Remote Community Traffic Management Manual” in December 2014 for member councils
- submitted an application for additional funding for the Robinson River Road Four Mile Creek causeway Roads to Recovery Project through the Northern Territory Governments “Improving Strategic Local Roads Infrastructure” program
- reviewed the road hierarchy of the local road network managed by LGANT.

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

LGANT is committed to continuous improvement and as such implemented the following actions to meet this annual priority:

- conducted an annual member survey of LGANT representatives, Mayors and Presidents and CEOs (August 2015)
- the Associations Executive Committee reviewed the LGANT Strategic Plan in February 2015. The plan and annual budget were adopted by member councils at the General Meeting in April 2015
- financial reports were completed monthly and presented at each Executive meeting
- performance appraisals were completed for staff members
- developed and reviewed internal policies as per *Annual Priority 2.3*
- reviewed and renewed the service level agreement with Territory Technology Solutions (TTS) to provide IT support and maintenance
- implemented a strategic plan reporting process through an Excel template to facilitate the regular capture of LGANT actions
- initiated updates of critical software (Nitro PDF, InfoXpert and ITVision)
- attended an InfoXpert conference (15-17 June) to gain insights on records management and capitalise on training opportunities
- implemented a cloud based email exchange server for LGANT email
- developed position descriptions for new staff (Governance Trainers and Communications Officer)
- refined the LGANT backup process in consultation with TTS
- initiated staff training on:
 - defensive driving
 - Certificate 4 in Workplace Training and Assessment
 - InfoXpert
 - Certificate 4 in Workplace Health and Safety
- coordinated a program logic workshop to assist with LGANT strategic planning monitoring and evaluation.

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

Work has commenced on the long term asset management plan in relation to the roads which LGANT manages on behalf of Local Government. Plans are in place to include the LGANT office, which is LGANTs major and only asset, into the asset management plan in 2015/2016.

4.4 Manage the leasing arrangements for Units 3 - 5, the maintenance requirements for Units 1 - 2 and contribute to the effective management of 21 Parap Road through the body corporate.

LGANT maintained ownership of units 1-5, 21 Parap Road, Parap. In managing this asset LGANT:

- finalised signing of Unit 3 lease for the new West Daly Regional Council with the Department of Local Government and then commenced negotiations for longer term extension
- negotiated short term lease of an extra car park for tenants in Unit 4
- commenced negotiations for the long term leasing of Unit 5 to a blue chip tenant
- investigated options to connect Units 1-5 to the NBN
- liaised with the body corporate to ensure the regular maintenance and upkeep of the common areas of 21 Parap Road.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

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 2015 and of the results and cash flows of the Association for the year then ended.



30 October 2015

PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



30 October 2015

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
<i><u>Current Assets</u></i>			
Cash	(2)	5,647,961	5,023,535
Debtors	(3)	13,449	1,645
Prepayments		<u>9,369</u>	<u>9,099</u>
		<u>5,670,779</u>	<u>5,034,279</u>
<i><u>Non Current Assets</u></i>			
Motor Vehicles	(4)	63,049	53,626
Furniture and Fittings	(4)	25,981	23,877
Buildings	(4)	<u>2,993,411</u>	<u>3,142,967</u>
		<u>3,082,441</u>	<u>3,220,470</u>
Total Assets		<u>8,753,220</u>	<u>8,254,749</u>
LESS LIABILITIES			
<i><u>Current Liabilities</u></i>			
Creditors		52,024	0
Payments Received in Advance	(5)	0	0
Income Deferral	(5)	716,791	316,970
Accruals		18,354	14,315
Loans - Motor Vehicles	(6)	0	0
Loans - building	(6)	0	4,000
Provision - Annual Leave		132,734	104,297
Provision - Long Service Leave		<u>129,705</u>	<u>129,791</u>
		<u>1,049,608</u>	<u>569,373</u>
<i><u>Non-current Liabilities</u></i>			
Loans - Motor Vehicles	(6)	47,165	37,322
Loans - Building	(6)	1,300,000	1,556,000
Provision - Long Service Leave		40,344	27,407
Provision - Capital Equipment Purchases		11,076	11,076
Provision - Property, Mobile Equipment, other assets		269,000	269,000
Provision - Bond Units 3 & 4		<u>22,944</u>	<u>22,944</u>
		<u>1,690,529</u>	<u>1,923,749</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>2,740,137</u>	<u>2,493,122</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>6,013,083</u>	<u>5,761,627</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Balance at the beginning of the year		5,761,627	5,167,042
(To)/From Reserves		-155,000	0
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		<u>406,456</u>	<u>594,585</u>
Balance at the end of the year		<u>6,013,083</u>	<u>5,761,627</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
User Charges and Fees	(7)	822,619	1,060,933
Interest		122,529	158,644
Other Revenues from ordinary activities		12,659	13,299
NT Govt Contributions for Operating Purposes	(8)	1,109,808	441,419
Federal Govt Contributions for Operating Purposes	(9)	<u>2,230,273</u>	<u>1,772,274</u>
Total Income from ordinary activities		4,297,888	3,446,569
Add Net Profit from sale of assets		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income		<u>4,297,888</u>	<u>3,446,569</u>
EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Employee Costs		925,742	840,356
Materials and contracts		2,578,944	1,641,549
Depreciation		33,085	36,960
Other operating expenses	(10)	299,677	245,784
Interest Charges		<u>54,042</u>	<u>80,439</u>
Total Expenses from ordinary activities		3,891,490	2,845,088
Add Net Loss on disposal of assets		<u>927</u>	<u>6,896</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>3,892,417</u>	<u>2,851,984</u>
Total Income		4,297,888	3,446,569
Less Total Expenditure		3,892,417	<u>2,851,984</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year from ordinary activities		<u>405,471</u>	<u>594,585</u>
<i>Add Extraordinary item</i>			
Insurance Claim		<u>985</u>	<u>0</u>
NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>406,456</u>	<u>594,585</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash Flows from operating activities			
Payments to Suppliers		(2,511,436)	(1,657,442)
Payments to Employees		(884,453)	(859,701)
Payment of Interest		(54,042)	(80,439)
Payment of other Expenses		(299,677)	(209,209)
Borrowing Costs		(11,717)	(36,575)
Receipts from members		615,734	754,444
Interest received		30,133	37,288
Interest received for other projects		92,395	121,356
Northern Territory Government		1,109,808	441,419
Commonwealth Government		2,230,273	1,772,274
Other Charges and User Fees		195,014	349,421
Other Contributions to Projects		0	0
Sponsorship - Association		<u>12,727</u>	<u>20,909</u>
Net cash flows used in operating activities		524,759	653,745
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of fixed assets		(50,056)	(40,470)
Revaluation of asset		0	0
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		(927)	(6,896)
Bonds held for units 3 and 4		<u>0</u>	<u>22,945</u>
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(50,983)	(24,421)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Loans - Redraw Facility		(166,666)	0
Loans - Parap Building		0	0
Loans - Parap Building Principal Repayments		(93,334)	(160,000)
Loans - Motor Vehicles		25,189	48,765
Loans - Motor Vehicles Principal Repayments		(15,345)	(11,443)
Advances Received		0	(631,569)
Income Deferred		<u>399,821</u>	<u>(315,346)</u>
Net cash flows used in financing activities		149,665	(1,069,593)
Cash flows from Insurance Recoveries			
Insurance payment - damaged computer		<u>985</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash flows from insurance recoveries		985	0
Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held		624,426	(440,269)
Cash at the beginning of the year		5,023,535	5,463,804
Cash at the end of the year		<u>5,647,961</u>	<u>5,023,535</u>

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2014**

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of Accounting

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

- (i) The accounts have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (ii) The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards promulgated by the accounting profession do not have mandatory applicability to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory in relation to the year ended 30 June 2015 because the entity is not a "reporting entity" as defined therein. The Association has, however prepared the financial statements in accordance with all Australian Accounting Standards, with the following exceptions: AASB132: Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Instruments.

(b) Economic Dependency

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

(c) Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are carried at cost.

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

Depreciation is calculated on the permanent fixtures of the premises. The premises itself is not depreciated. A sinking fund has been established by the body corporate for future maintenance and asset renewals of common areas.

(d) Revenue Recognition

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

Grants

All grants are brought to account as revenue in the statement of income and expenditure when received and the unexpended portion is taken up as a liability in the Balance Sheet. Unexpended grants received during the 2014/15 financial year being grants recognised as revenues which were obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period, and those conditions were undischarged at year end are taken up as income deferred in the balance sheet.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are recorded on an accrual basis

User Charges

User charges are recorded on an accrual basis

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2014**

e) Cash

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

f) Employee Entitlements

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

g) Taxation

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

h) Superannuation

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

i) Loans

Vehicles:

The Association has loans with both the Westpac Bank and the National Australia Bank for its vehicles. See note 6 for commitment details.

Office Building:

The Association has a Commercial Loan with the National Australia Bank for the purchase of this asset. See note 6 for commitment details.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 (continued)**

2 CASH

Cash at bank at 30 June 2015 at National Australia Bank Darwin comprised the following

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
LGANT Reserve Term Deposit Account	640,000	600,892
Infrastructure Holding Account	1,640,834	1,780,820
Infrastructure Holding Term Deposit Account	2,007,889	1,580,099
Natural Resource Management Account	0	73,567
Community Infrastructure	0	83,290
Community Services Programme	0	146,128
Barkly Tablelands - Stewardship for Oil Account	0	69,141
Payroll Account	55,651	51,685
Natural Disaster Resilience Account	0	98
Tied Project Holding Account	308,242	372,826
Local Government Excellence Account	11,670	0
Operating Account	<u>983,175</u>	<u>264,489</u>
	5,647,461	5,023,035
Petty Cash	500	500
	<u>5,647,961</u>	<u>5,023,535</u>

3 DEBTORS

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Debtors	13,449	1,645
Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>13,449</u>	<u>1,645</u>

4 FIXED ASSETS

	2015	2014
Motor Vehicles	120,509	93,851
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>57,460</u>	<u>40,225</u>
Total Motor Vehicles	<u>63,049</u>	<u>53,626</u>
Furniture, fittings and equipment	112,652	139,747
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>86,671</u>	<u>115,870</u>
Total Furniture and Fittings	<u>25,981</u>	<u>23,877</u>
Building - Parap	3,097,497	3,242,998
Less accumulated Depreciation on fixtures	<u>104,086</u>	<u>100,031</u>
Total Building - Parap	<u>2,993,411</u>	<u>3,142,967</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>3,082,441</u>	<u>3,220,470</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 (continued)**

5 INCOME DEFERRED AND RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Asset Mangement Program Regional Project Officers	0	133,240
Central Australia Waste Management Travel	20,000	0
Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Program	272,749	125,000
Central Australia Waste Management Program	0	28,730
LGANT Waste Management Education Program	0	30,000
Local Government Excellence Programme	<u>424,043</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>716,792</u>	<u>316,970</u>

6 EXPENDITURE COMMITMENT

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Bank Loan - vehicles		
not later than 1 year	27,249	15,173
later than 1 year but not later than 2 years	22,059	15,173
later than 2 years but not later than 5 years	<u>0</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	49,308	40,346
less future interest charge	<u>2,143</u>	<u>3,025</u>
loan liability	<u>47,165</u>	<u>37,321</u>
The break-up of this loan liability is as follows:		
current liability	25,332	13,252
non-current liability	<u>21,833</u>	<u>24,069</u>
	<u>47,165</u>	<u>37,321</u>

Parap Building Purchase

Commercial Loan:

This loan was renegotiated in November 2014 with the National Australia Bank, as a Flexible Rate Loan to run over three years with \$1,300,000 being fixed interest and \$200,000 being variable interest. The variable portion has a redraw facility of \$200,000. Interest payments are made on a quarterly basis. Principal payments of \$93,334 were made against the variable component of the loan in the 2014/2015 financial year: \$60,000 to finalise the previous loan arrangement with the Westpac Bank and \$33,334 against the variable portion of the newly established loan.

The status of this loan is as follows:

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Current Liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan	0	4,000
Non current liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan	0	56,000
Fixed Component Variable Flexible Rate Loan	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,560,000</u>
Redraw Facility	<u>166,666</u>	<u>0</u>
Facility Limit	<u>1,466,666</u>	<u>1,560,000</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 (continued)**

7 USER CHARGES AND FEES

	\$
Subscriptions, Meeting Charges and Sponsorship	624,382
Rental Charges	94,279
Project Management, Consultancy and Training Charges	<u>103,960</u>
Total User Charges and Fees	<u>822,621</u>

8 NT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

	\$
Local Government Excellence Programme	485,048
Disaster Relief Recovery & Local Government Reform Programmes	340,674
Waste Management Programmes	<u>264,268</u>
Total NT Government Contributions	<u>1,089,990</u>

9 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

	\$
Local Roads Federal Assistance Grants	1,427,862
Roads to Recovery - LGANT	<u>802,411</u>
Total Federal Government Contributions	<u>2,230,273</u>

10 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	\$
Internal Management, Advocacy, Representation and Information Services	164,517
Human Resource Support and Development	6,911
Engineering and Environment Project Management	67,664
Local Government Excellence Programme	<u>60,585</u>
Total Other Operating Expenses	<u>299,677</u>

11 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2015	2,014
	\$	\$
a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at Bank	5,647,461	5,023,035
Petty Cash Imprest	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>5,647,961</u>	<u>5,023,535</u>
b) Reconciliation of Net Cash Used in Operating Activities to Operating Result		
Operating result	405,471	594,585
<i>Add/(Subtract) non cash items</i>		
Depreciation	33,084	36,960
Profit/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	<u>927</u>	<u>6,895</u>
	439,482	638,440
<i>Add/(Subtract) operating flows</i>		
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors, Accruals	56,062	(21,569)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	41,289	(19,345)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(11,804)	50,542
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	<u>(270)</u>	<u>5,677</u>
Net Cash used in operating activities	<u>524,759</u>	<u>653,745</u>

12 SEGMENT INFORMATION

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

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 (continued)**

13 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Local Government Association is not aware of any contingent liabilities at 30 June 2015, however it is a member of CounbilBiz and that membership may carry some exposure to future liability.

14 UNEXPENDED GRANT MONIES CARRIED FORWARD TO THE 2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Association has contingent liabilities to repay grants received but not fully expended at year end for projects of \$3,359,424. Included in this figure are unexpended grants totaling \$716,790 being income deferred until the 2015/2016 financial year.

	Movements			Closing Balance 30 June 2015
	Opening Balance 1 July 2014	Received/ Receivable	Expended	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Roads Funding	2,196,458	1,427,862	1,164,864	2,459,456
Community Services Programme	45,314	0	0	45,314
Local Government Reform - Rates Impact Statements	8,872	0	0	8,872
Governance Resource Kit	133,412	0	0	133,412
Grant income deferred to 2015/16 financial year (refer note 5)				
Central Australian Waste Management Travel	0	20,000	0	20,000
Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Program	125,000	375,000	227,251	272,749
Asset Management Regional Project Officers	90,000		94,421	(4,421)
Local Government Excellence Programme	0	941,187	517,145	424,042
Central Australian Waste Management Program	28,730	108,236	136,966	0
Waste Management Education Program	30,000	0	30,000	0
TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS	2,657,786	2,872,285	2,170,647	3,359,424

	Movements			Closing Balance 30 June 2015
	Opening Balance 1 July 2014	Received/ Receivable	Expended	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Engineering Management	993,228	139,621	69,647	1,063,202
Environmental Management	99,082	982	260	99,804
Human Resource and Industrial Relations	262,897	22,854	44,948	240,803
TOTAL OTHER COMMITTED FUNDS	1,355,207	163,457	114,855	1,403,809

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**NOTES TO, AND FORMING PART OF, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2014 (continued)**

15 BUDGET COMPARISON REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

INCOME				
DIRECTORATE	Original Budget	Actual Income to 30/6/15	Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under)	Actual Income to 30/6/14
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office of the Chief Executive	818,000	830,848	12,848	1,143,194
People and Development	553,000	401,667	(151,333)	342,731
Technical and Environmental Services	2,921,000	3,091,544	170,544	2,010,597
TOTAL INCOME	4,292,000	4,324,059	32,059	3,496,522

EXPENDITURE				
DIRECTORATE	Original Budget	Actual Expenditure to 30/6/15	Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under)	Actual Expenditure to 30/6/14
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office of the Chief Executive	792,000	816,757	24,757	1,155,453
People and Development	515,000	517,091	2,091	323,884
Technical and Environmental Services	3,134,000	2,718,229	(415,771)	1,615,125
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,441,000	4,052,077	-388,923	3,094,462

Total income and expenditure figures include capital income and expenditure and internal transfers during the 2014/2015 financial year. See notes 13 and 14 on funds carried forward to the 2015/2016 financial year
Notes to Budget Comparison Report:

Office of the Chief Executive

Income: The increase in budgeted income was of a minor nature.

Expenditure: The increase in the budgeted expenditure relates to depreciation of \$33084

Carpets were purchased for units 1 & 2. These will be laid in October 2015.

People and Development

Income/Expenditure: Grant funding budgeted to be received and expended in the 2014/2015 financial year from the Northern Territory Government for the Local Government Excellence Programme was less than anticipated.

Income received in June 2015 from the Northern Territory Government for the 2015/2016 Local Government Excellence Programme has been transferred to liabilities as income deferred. This income will be recognised in the 2015/2016 operational statement to match the expenditure.

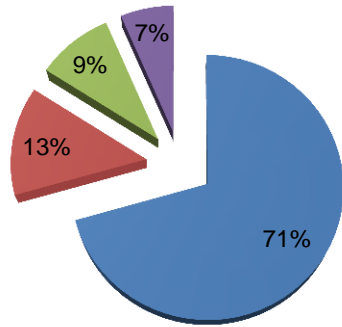
Technical and Environmental Services

Income: Additional funding was received for specific projects identified during the 2014/015 financial year

Grant funding obtained on the condition that they be expended in a particular manner or used over a particular period and those conditions were undischarged at year end, have been transferred to liabilities as income deferred
This income will be recognised in the 2015/2016 operational statement to match the expenditure.

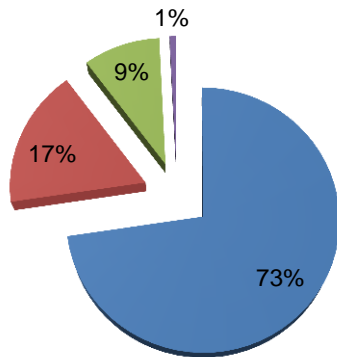
Expenditure: Infrastructure projects budgeted for in the 2014/2015 financial year not completed as at 30 June 2015, have been carried forward to the 2015/2016 financial year.

Breakup of Operational Expenditure for the 2015/16 financial year



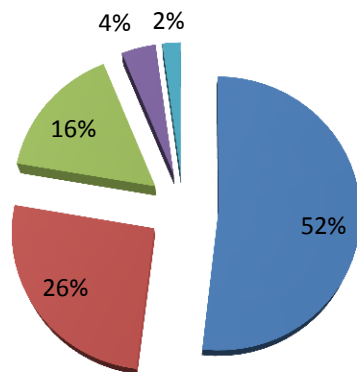
- 71% Engineering & Environment Project Management
- 13% Human Resource Support & Development
- 9% Advocacy, Representation & Information Services
- 7% Internal Management

Breakup of Operational Income including Prepaid and Income Deferred to the 2015/16 financial year



- 73% Engineering & Environment Project Management
- 17% Internal Management
- 9% Human Resource Support & Development
- 1% Advocacy, Representation & Information Services

Source of funding for the 2015/16 financial year



- 52% Commonwealth Government Funding
- 26% Northern Territory Government Funding
- 16% Subscription, Meeting and Office Rental Charges
- 4% Bank Interest, Sponsorship, Other Funds
- 2% Project Interest