

Annual Report 2015-2016

***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

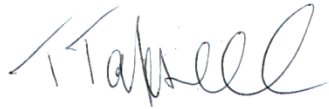
Section 22.2 of the LGANT constitution requires me to present you with this annual report which includes the audited annual financial statements for the 2015-16 financial year.

The financial position and performance of LGANT was sound as at 30 June 2016 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 West Arnhem 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
 - TIO
 - Maloney Field Services
 - Statewide Financial Management Services.

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

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

Tony Tapsell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dear members,

LGANT and its member councils have been busy throughout the 2015-16 Financial Year. Some of the key issues include:

Street-lighting: A proposal to transfer street-light ownership to councils was complex because no formal agreements existed between councils and the Power and Water Corporation. This made it necessary to draft and negotiate an agreement that satisfied this requirement. LGANT was grateful for the support of member councils in completing this work, in particular that given by the Cities of Palmerston and Darwin and the legal firm, Wallmans. By 30 June 2016 most councils had resolved to approve the agreement, which means councils will take over the ownership and control of these assets from 1 January 2018. They will have to include them as part of their management plans for infrastructure assets.

Local Government Act Review: The Department of Local Government and Community Services announced plans early in the year to review the *Local Government Act* via a working party comprising both departmental and LGANT representatives. I was pleased to be appointed as the Chair and to participate in its deliberations which concluded in January 2016. A wide number of amendments were considered and this was later followed up with a release from the department of a discussion paper on 14 April 2016. LGANT put in a submission on 19 July 2016 to the department and it is expected that new legislation will be in place sometime next financial year. I thank all persons that participated in the exercise as much work went into it with many amendments designed to lead to governance improvements.

Elected Member Service Awards: This year saw LGANT issue, for the first time, elected member service awards recognising the contributions of councillors with 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 plus years of service for their council or councils. Fifty-four past and present councillors from seven councils were acknowledged with a certificate presented by the Minister for Local Government and Community Services Bess Price. Service awards to serving councillors will be presented every year at LGANT's annual general meeting.

Infrastructure grants: During the year the Northern Territory Government introduced the Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund and the Improving Strategic Local Roads Infrastructure Programme. These initiatives were welcomed by member councils, many of whom were successful with applications, as was LGANT. Any measure that improves infrastructure in regional and remote areas is much appreciated which was also the reason LGANT called for the continuation of such programmes in its NT Election Document.

ALGA: In June 2016 I was elected Vice President of the Australian Local Government Association due to a casual vacancy arising and although I did not have to perform any extra duties for the last weeks of the year they will no doubt come in the form of assisting the President with Ministerial Council meetings next financial year. In the lead-up to the Federal

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Budget and subsequent Federal election, ALGA released a list of priorities which included the restoration of Financial Assistance Grants indexation, an increase in the quantum of FAGs to at least 1 per cent of Commonwealth taxation, permanent doubling of Roads to Recovery to at least \$700 million per annum and community infrastructure funding totalling \$300 million over four years.

Excellence Program: This is the second year of the three-year Local Governance Excellence in the NT program which commenced in October 2014.

The program is designed to assist the sector to be more in charge of its own development and performance.

The program focuses on growing the skills of the Northern Territory's approximately 150 councillors and 500 Local Authority members.

The program components include:

- training,
- asset and financial management and planning,
- data collection and reporting
- LGANT reference groups
- By-Laws

LGANT is grateful for the support it continues to receive from the Northern Territory Government to fund and monitor this program.

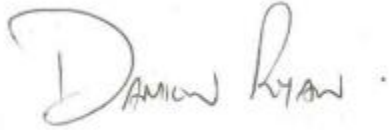
General meeting: In April, West Arnhem Regional Council successfully hosted LGANT's general meeting and conference at the Jabiru Town Hall. Delegates from municipal, regional and shire councils attended, with discussion points including street lighting and the 2016 Northern Territory election submission. Just months from the Federal and Territory elections, it was an opportunity for politicians from all political stripes to meet with leading stakeholders in local government and it was well attended by both Federal and Territory government representatives.

Conference keynote speakers included the Local Government Minister the Hon Bess Price and Opposition Leader the Hon Michael Gunner. David Willing, Executive Director, Department of Local Government and Community Services, spoke about the *Local Government Act* review and anti-domestic violence campaigners Charlie King and Mandy Jones presented facts around the 'No More' campaign.

Incorporation of LGANT: As part of the *Local Government Act* review, David Willing spoke at LGANT's March executive meeting about the incorporation of LGANT and again at the general meeting/annual conference in April. Some of the key issues discussed included the current provisions of the *Local Government Act* not providing an oversight of LGANT in ways that most

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corporate bodies are regulated under legislation; the appropriateness for the Department to fulfil the role of a regulator when LGANT has advocacy functions and; whether LGANT should be incorporated under alternate legislation and, if so, which law. At its May meeting, the LGANT Executive endorsed seeking legal advice to provide further direction on this matter.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Damien Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Damien Ryan
President

About This Report

This report is the 25th Annual Report of LGANT and it is for the financial year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 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 1-2 December 2016.

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*.

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

The Executive and staff review the LGANT strategic plan each February and this report includes feedback on achievements against the plan for 2015/2016.

LGANT:

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

High Level Elements of LGANT's Strategic Plan

Vision

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

Our Business

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

Core Values

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

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

Strategic Goals

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

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

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Membership 2015-2016

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 2015-2016, 17 local governments in the Northern Territory were members of LGANT and were made up of (see **Table 1**):

- 5 municipalities
- 9 regional councils
- 3 shires

The Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited continued as an associate member during 2015-2016 because of its role as an organisation involved in the delivery of local government-type services.

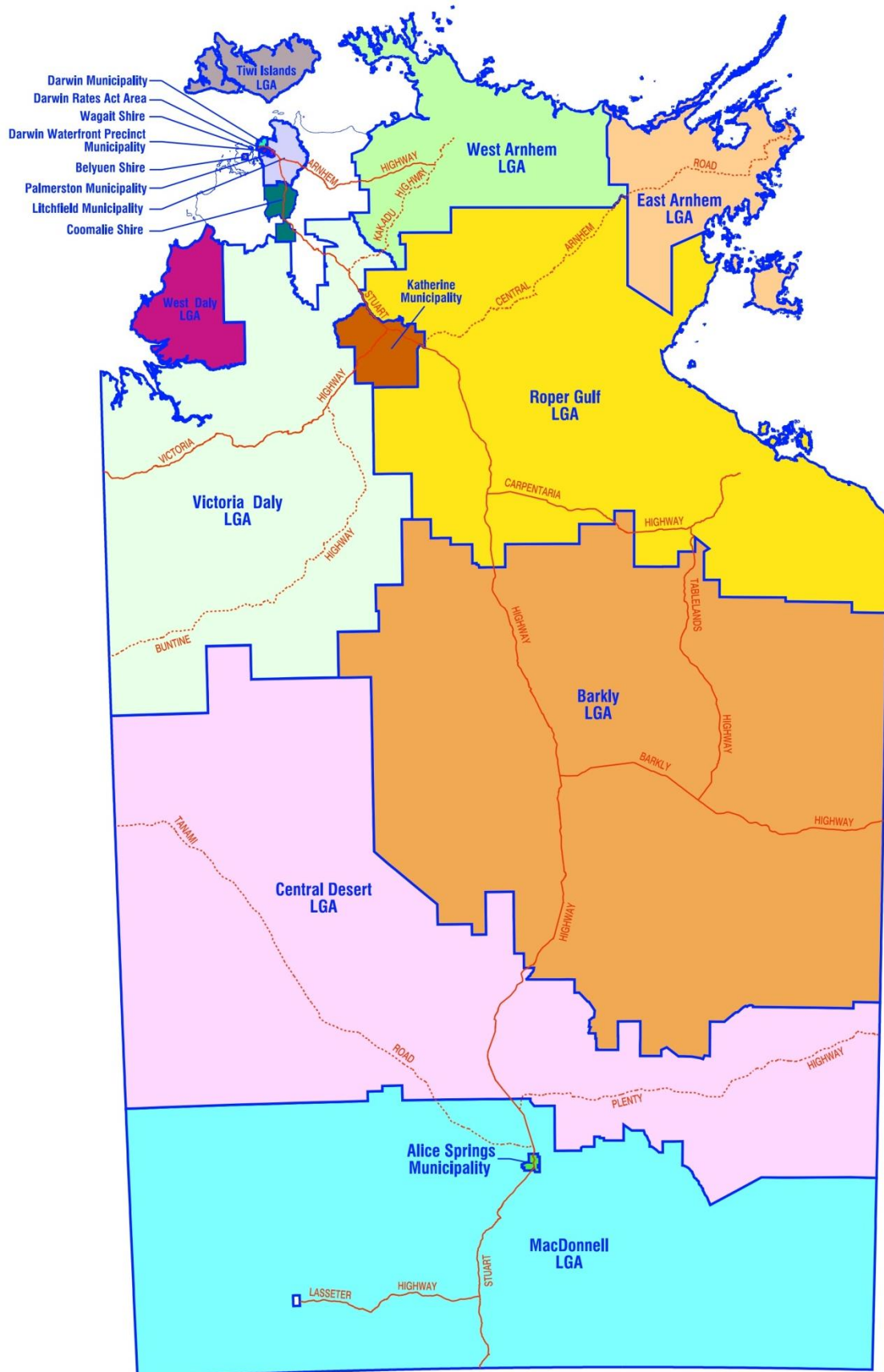
Table 1

The 17 LGANT Member Organisations as at 30 June 2016 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 (Shire Council)	Local Government
East Arnhem Regional Council	Local Government
Katherine Town Council (Municipal Council)	Local Government
Litchfield Council (Municipal Council)	Local Government
MacDonnell Regional Council	Local Government
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Local Government
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Local Government
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Local Government
Wagait Shire Council	Local Government
West Arnhem Regional Council	Local Government
West Daly Regional Council	Local Government
Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited	Corporation

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Local Government Areas in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 2016



Executive Committee Members 2015-2016

Clause 14.4 of the constitution requires LGANT's Executive to be made up of nine (9) members listed in **Table 2**. Member councils elect eight (8) members and one (1) is appointed by the City of Darwin all for two year terms. Of the nine member Executive, four (4) members (three elected and one appointed), make up the representation from municipal councils and the other five (5) members were elected from regional and shire councils. The next general election for the Executive will be held at the Alice Springs Annual General meeting in December 2016. **Table 3** lists attendances at LGANT Executive meetings.

Table 2
LGANT Executive members as at 30 June 2016 were:

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

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Table 3
Executive Member Attendance Report

Meeting Date	Present	Apologies
5/02/2016	Mayor Damien Ryan Mayor Tony Jack Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett President Barb Shaw Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert Councillor Kaye Thurlow	Alderman Bob Elix
15/03/2016	Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert	Mayor Tony Jack Mayor Fay Miller President Barb Shaw Alderman Gary Haslett
19/04/2016	Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Tony Jack Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert	President Barb Shaw Councillor Kaye Thurlow
17/05/2016	Mayor Damien Ryan Mayor Tony Jack Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett President Barb Shaw Councillor Greg Sharman Mayor Lothar Siebert Councillor Kaye Thurlow	Alderman Bob Elix
28/06/2016	Mayor Damien Ryan Alderman Bob Elix Mayor Fay Miller Alderman Gary Haslett	President Barb Shaw Mayor Tony Jack

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

Executive Member Biography

Mayor Damien Ryan

President of the Association

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



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

Mayor Tony Jack

Vice President of the Association representing Regional and Shire councils

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



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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Jack's understanding of the unique business and employment opportunities that can be created in remote communities is best demonstrated by him launching a labour hire company that utilises indigenous workers around the Borroloola and Robinson River regions.

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.

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.

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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 and Katherine Alcohol Action Group.

President Barb Shaw

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils



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

Over the years, Barb has held a range of memberships on boards and committees across the government and non-government sectors, including the chair of the former Barkly Regional Development board and co-chair of the Shire's Financial Sustainability Review Taskforce in 2012.

She is currently a member of the Regional Economic Development Committee for the Barkly region and for two years was chair of the Tennant Creek Regional Alcohol Reference Group (ARG). Barb was appointed as the General Manager of Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation in 2015.

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

Mayor 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.

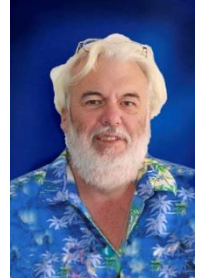
Since being elected Mayor of West Arnhem Regional Council in 2012 he has been a strenuous advocate on behalf of the constituents of the region. He was elected to the LGANT Executive Committee in November 2014.

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Councillor Greg Sharman

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 for commercial and not-for-profit organisations in Central Australia.

Councillor Kaye Thurlow

Executive Member representing Regional and Shire councils

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



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

Alderman Gary Haslett

Executive Member representing Municipal councils

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



Alderman Haslett attended Rapid Creek Primary, Nightcliff Primary and after Cyclone Tracy NiMiRa Primary (for one year Nightcliff, Millner and Rapid Creek schools were combined). Later

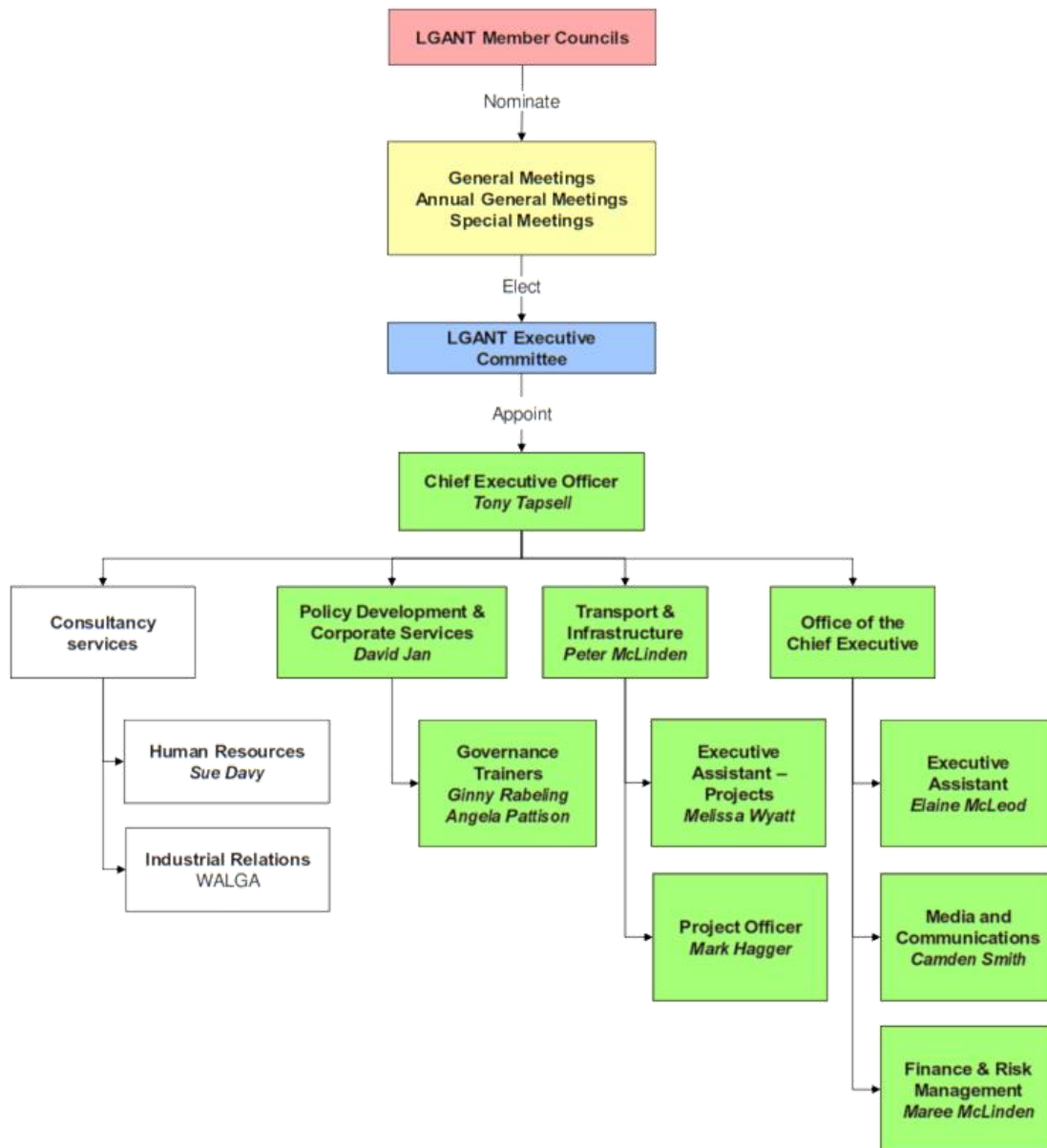
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Alderman Haslett attended Nightcliff High School and Northern Territory University (now Charles Darwin University).

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

Gary's qualifications include Bachelor of Business (Public Administration, Management) and Certificate IVs in Training and Assessment and Work Health and Safety. He holds community memberships with the Australian American Association (NT), Royal Commonwealth Society (NT), Australian Japanese Association (NT) and Australian Indonesian Business Council.

LGANT Organisational Structure as at 30 June 2016



Service Providers and Sponsors

Auditor Kevin Blacker & Associates
PO Box 38170
WINNELLIE NT 0821

Bankers National Australia Bank
Smith Street
DARWIN NT 0800

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

Association Sponsors

LGANT offers thanks and acknowledges the assistance provided to it by sponsorships in the 2015-2016 year.

Platinum:



Gold:



Silver: Statewide Super and Maloney Field Services.

Annual Priority Achievements 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 financial year is the second of LGANT's updated five year Strategic Plan ('the Plan') goals, outcomes, annual priorities and performance measures. These priorities are reviewed and updated each year to ensure they meet member expectations and the capacity of LGANT officers to deliver.

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

Goal 1 – To enhance the status of local government

Local Government Understanding

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

1.1 Conduct a Territory wide satisfaction survey on local government.

A survey was conducted in October in October 2015 with results reported at the 12 November 2015 Executive meeting.

1.2 Prepare and disseminate information products to member councils.

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

- monthly Executive agendas and minutes
- LGANT newsletter
- EasyGrants newsletter
- 2016-17 Local Government Directory
- 2016 LGANT calendar
- Territory and Federal budget summaries and
- NT Landcare award information.

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

LGANT's communications officer made contact with councils from time to time about the currency of any information published online. LGANT assisted councils to disseminate information through its regular newsletters, business papers and media releases.

Work began during the course of this financial year to upgrade LGANT's website to make it more responsive to developments and more user friendly by staff.

1.4 Review and implement LGANT communication plan.

The primary objective of the 2015 LGANT communication strategy was to 'raise the profile of LGANT, and subsequently the overall image and understanding of local government'. The 2015-16 financial year saw an increase in LGANT's media exposure in print and electronic media, including in the general meeting and annual conference in Jabiru in April which received widespread media exposure before and during the event.

President Damien Ryan, Vice President Bob Elix and CEO Tony Tapsell conducted media interviews during the 2015-16 financial year on LGANT related matters. The Association's exposure both within the local government sector and externally has been enhanced as a result of these media appearances, the steady distribution of media releases and the distribution to media outlets, relevant reporting staff, stakeholders and local government of the 2016 calendar and the 2016-17 local government directory. Other activities included:

- Participation in the Skills Employment and Careers Expo:
 - Alice Springs 4-5 August;
 - Katherine 10 August;
 - Darwin 11-12 August
- Participated in the following local government promotional initiatives at:
 - Darwin Show, including exhibiting a public display – 22-23 July 2015
 - Adult Learner's Week (Casuarina Square) through funding provided by the Department of Business as part of *Adult Learners Week* – 3-4 September 2015
- 'So you want to be on Council' information session – ALGWA presentation 18 September, 2015
- Local Government Long Service Awards were issued at the Annual General Meeting on 13 November 2015 at the City of Darwin to elected members for their long service for the following periods:
 - 32 members for 10 years' service
 - 11 members for 15 years' service
 - 9 members for 20 years' service
 - 1 member for 25 years' service
 - 1 member for 30 years' service
- Contact list distributed to members 19 February 2016

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 member and will coordinate and run activities which focus on members council issues and assist with professional development.

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

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

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

Individual contacts from councils totalling 355 were made throughout the year at an average of almost 30 contacts per month.

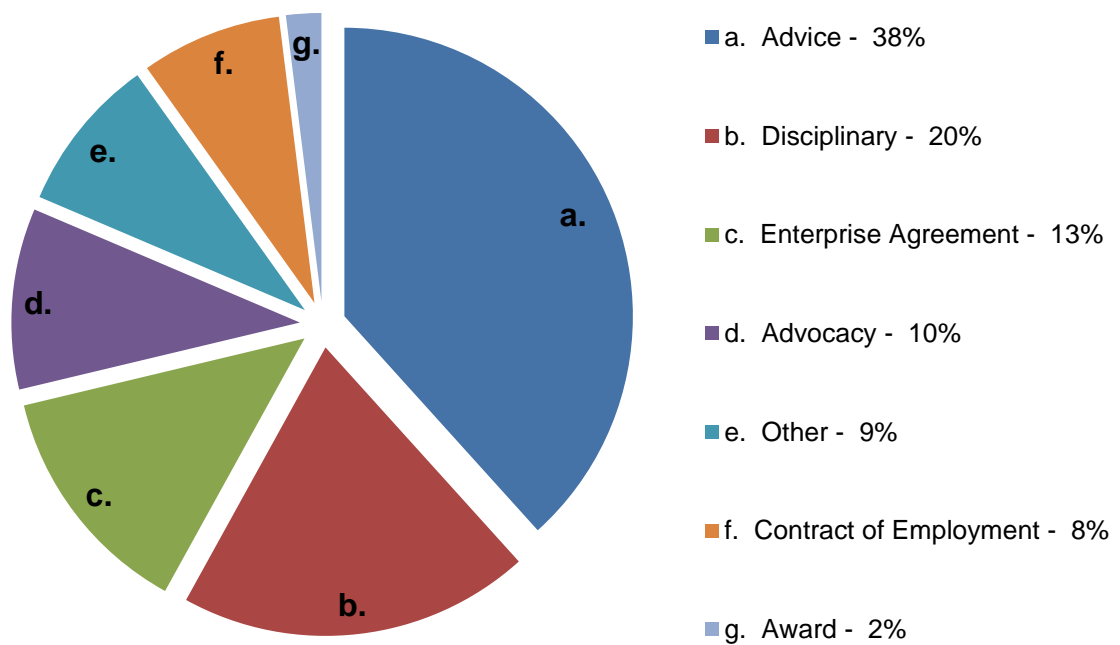
Tables 4 and 5 show the spread of topics addressed and proportional usage by member councils.

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

- negotiated a further two year MOU with WALGA
- distributed training information and assisted councils with the annual WALGA remuneration survey
- conducted council CEO recruitment, management and performance review services
- facilitated workforce planning and development and training advice
- facilitated councils' and CouncilBIZ with Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) reviews through WALGA
- provided salary packaging information
- helped convene the National Local Government Human Resource conference
- participated in national working group to develop national workforce metrics – February 2016
- provided WALGA contacts and MOU to Wagait Shire and CouncilBIZ – March 2016
- coordinated the employment process for Litchfield Council positions (Director Community & Corporate Services and Director Infrastructure & Planning) – February 2016

Table 4
2015/16 Proportion of Council Contact with WALGA Workplace Solutions by Type

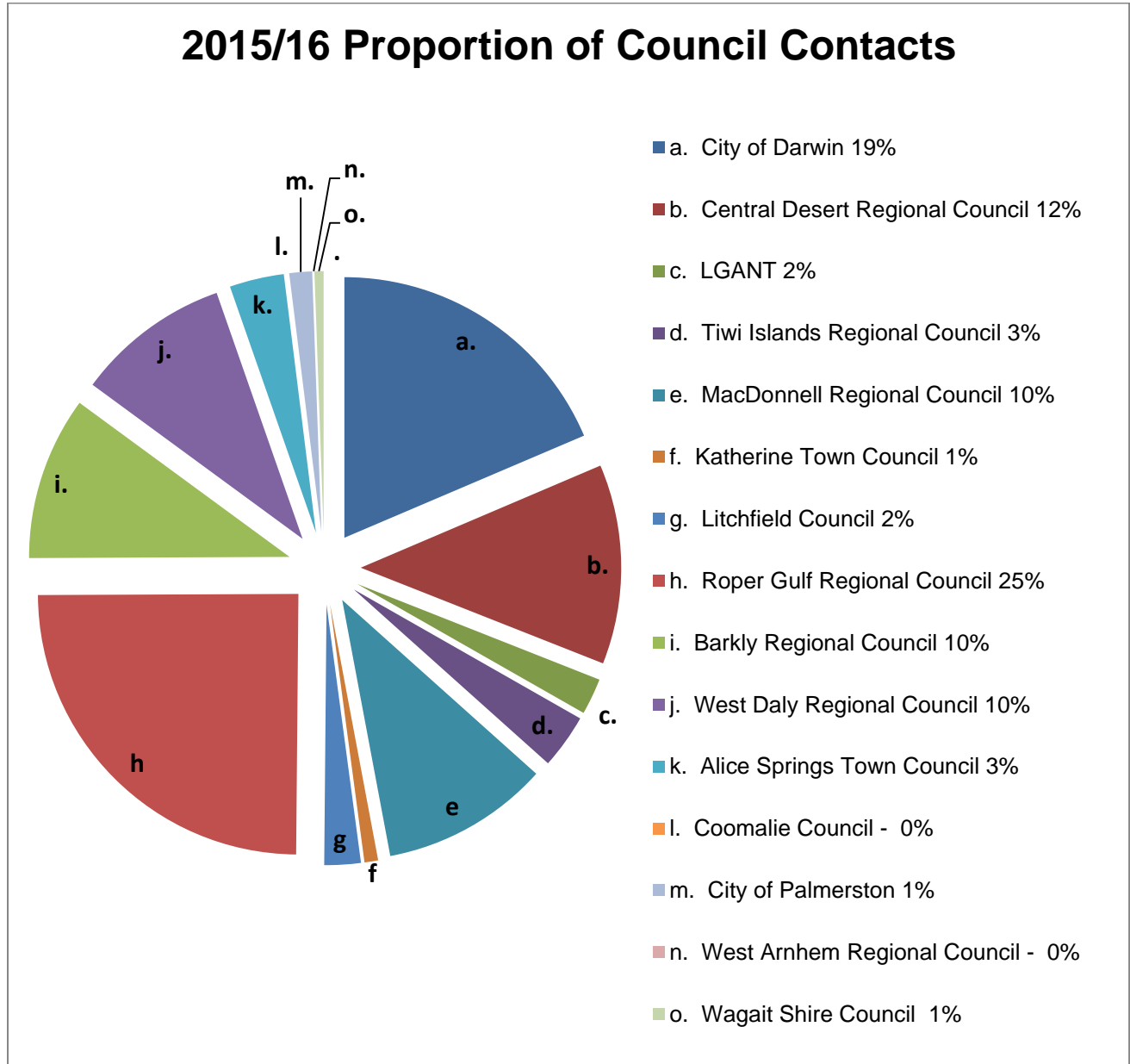
2015/16 Proportion of Council Contacts by Type



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Table 5

2015/16 Proportion of Council Contacts with WALGA Workplace Solutions



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

LGANT:

- carried out numerous training courses throughout the year
- provided feedback to the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE) on its Certificate IV in Business (Governance) – March 2016
- developed training modules for the Local Government Excellence Project in conjunction with the Department of Local Government and council governance managers to develop consistent and compliant governance training resources
- provided regulatory services training advice for the City of Darwin – March 2016
- participated in the *Ordinary Women Extraordinary Lives* Conference in Katherine to promote leadership in Local Government – 21 April 2016
- produced a video on '*Local Authorities*' which involved a visit to Amoonguna (MacDonnell Regional Council) to film and interview local authority members – June 2016
- attended Tiwi Islands Regional Council meetings to promote governance support for elected and local authority member training- 22 September 2015
- refined and delivered training to elected and local authority members and staff as listed in **Table 6** below

**Table 6
List of training delivered during the year by LGANT officers**

Council	Audience and Training	Location	Date
Alice Springs Town Council	Finance and asset management staff refresher training on the requirements of asset management and long term financial projections (LTFP) planning including the use of national asset management system (NAMS) software and associated LTFP spreadsheets.	Alice Springs	7 & 10 March 2016
Barkly Regional Council	Local authority member training on roles and introduction to local government.	Ali Curung Wutunugurra ¹	28-29 July 2015
	Local authority, elected member and council staff training on roles, community engagement and decision making.	Tennant Creek Elliot	10-11 August 2015
	Scheduled – Local authority training on roles, and understanding financial reports.	Alpururulam ¹	26-28 August 2015

¹ Training cancelled on site due to other priorities taking precedence

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Council	Audience and Training	Location	Date
	Local authority training on roles and understanding financial reports.	Arlparra Ampilatwatja	21-23 September 2015
	Scheduled local authority training on roles and community engagement.	Alpurrurulam ¹	26-28 October 2015
	Scheduled local authority training on roles and community engagement.	Ampilatwatja & Arlparra ²	4-5 November 2015
	Council staff training on <i>Local Government Act</i> and other miscellaneous legislation.	Tennant Creek	24 November 2015
	Local authority training on roles and community engagement.	Alpurrurulam	26 November
	Scheduled local authority training on roles and community engagement.	Ali Curung ³	4 December 2015
	Local authority and elected member training on understanding financial reports.	Tennant Creek	7 December 2015
	Finance and asset management staff training on the requirements of asset management and long term financial projections (LTFP) planning including the use of National Asset Management System (NAMS) software and associated LTFP spreadsheets.	Tennant Creek	20 – 24 July 2015 and 18 – 22 April 2016
Central Desert Regional Council	Local authority Chairperson training on roles, community engagement, chairing meetings and meeting procedures.	Alice Springs	10 July 2015
	Elected member training on understanding financial reports.	Alice Springs	7 October 2015
Coomalie Council	Initial meeting with CEO regarding procurement, bylaws, strategic plans and resolution for the council common seals.	Batchelor	28 July 2016

² Cancelled due to rains

³ rescheduled due to travel issues

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Council	Audience and Training	Location	Date
East Arnhem Regional Council	Council staff training on legislative framework of the <i>Local Government Act</i> .	LGANT office - Parap	25 August 2015
	Elected member training on roles, responsibilities and code of conduct.	Nhulunbuy	26 November 2015
	Council staff training on the <i>Local Government Act</i> .	Nhulunbuy	27 May 2016
Litchfield Council	Planning and asset management staff training on the requirements of asset management and long term financial projections (LTFP) planning including the use of National Asset Management System (NAMS) software and associated LTFP spreadsheets.	Fred's Pass	11-12 February 2016 16-18 March 2016 21-22 March 2016
MacDonnell Regional Council	No training was provided.		
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Local authority member training on roles and understanding financial reports.	Bulman Borroloola	1-2 July 2015
Tiwi Island Regional Council	Elected member training on understanding financial reports.	Wurrumiyanga	10 November 2015
	Mentored council staff member on Cert IV training and assessment.	Darwin	22 September 2015 4 & 11 December 2015
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Meeting with Pine Creek Local Authority on Introduction to LGANT training modules.	Pine Creek	7 October 2015
Wagait Shire Council	Elected member and council staff information session on LGANT's roles and services.	Wagait	21 July 2015

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Council	Audience and Training	Location	Date
West Arnhem Regional Council	No training was provided.		
West Daly Regional Council	Local authority training on chairperson and meeting procedures.	Peppimenarti	15 October 2015
	Local authority training on roles, responsibilities, understanding financial reports and regional planning.	Peppimenarti Palumpa	22-23 February 2016
	Scheduled local authority training on roles, responsibilities, understanding financial reports and regional planning.	Port Keats ⁴	29 February 2016
	Elected member training on <i>Local Government Act</i> .	CouncilBIZ	17 March 2016
Combined Training Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Darwin • City of Palmerston • Litchfield Council • Katherine Town Council Roper Gulf and East Arnhem Regional Councils	Levels of service and community engagement delivered by IPWEA.	Alice Springs and Darwin	29-30 September 2015

⁴ Training cancelled on site due to other priorities taking precedence

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

During the year the LGANT Executive approved changes to the following LGANT's policy statements:

- | | | |
|------|-----|--|
| 1.1 | | Representation |
| 1.6 | (d) | Representation |
| 1.6 | (e) | Representation |
| 1.8 | (c) | Development of local government |
| 1.8 | (e) | Development of local government |
| 1.13 | | Intergovernmental Agreement |
| 2.1 | (b) | Services provided to other spheres of government |
| 2.1 | (c) | Services provided to other spheres of government |
| 4 | (a) | Transport and Infrastructure |
| 4.1 | (d) | Roads |
| 4.2 | (c) | Aviation |
| 5.4 | | Tourism |
| 6.3 | | The Northern Territory Planning System |
| 7.12 | | Climate change |

the details of which were circulated to councils via Executive agenda and minutes.

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

LGANT officers fielded numerous emails and telephone calls to provide advice to councils in relation to council policy.

Topics covered included:

- document management procedures and email security issues
- Council and Local Authority meeting procedures
- negotiated with NT Government the development of a local government records disposal schedule to be developed by West Arnhem Regional Council (April 2016)
- providing advice to councils on delegations and EBA review, rateable policies, accepting gifts (May-June 2016)
- meeting with the Litchfield Council regarding document management procedures and email security (25 Jan 2016)

Table 7 below contains a report on by-law development for the year. LGANT acknowledges the assistance of the Department of Local Government and Community Services in working with it and councils to progress by-law development.

Table 7

COUNCILS' BY-LAWS DEVELOPMENT

(as at 30 June 2016)

Council	By-law	Activity	Council Contact	Remarks
Central Desert Regional Council (CDRC)	Central Desert Regional Council Dog Management By-laws	New By-laws	Glenn Marshall	The office of Parliamentary Counsel (OPC) is waiting for a response on queries to CDRC.
City of Darwin	City of Darwin By-laws	New By-laws	Steven Gatt	The Department met with council officers during August 2016. The Department is finalising instructions to send to council.
City of Palmerston	Palmerston (Animal Control) By-laws	New By-laws	Mark Spangler	The Department is preparing a response to queries from OPC.
East Arnhem Shire Council	Angurugu Community Government Council (Offensive Weapons) By-laws	Repeal of the By-laws	Shane Marshall	Council has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed with drafting.
	Angurugu Community Government Council (Water Pollution) By-laws	Repeal of the By-laws		Council has been advised to contact the Department on how to proceed with drafting

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Council	By-law	Activity	Council Contact	Remarks
Katherine Town Council	Katherine Town Council By-laws	Amendments to the By-laws	David Moore	Drafting instructions are being prepared.
Litchfield Council	Litchfield Council (Animal Management) By-laws	New By-laws	Kaylene Conrick	The Department is working closely with the council and OPC to finalise the drafting of the by-laws.
	Litchfield Council (Meeting Procedures) By-laws	New By-laws	Kaylene Conrick	The council has advised on what it would like. Preparation of drafting instructions is yet to commence.
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Roper Gulf Regional Council By-laws	Animal management By-laws		The Department has provided drafting instructions to Council.
Tiwi Island Regional Council	Tiwi Islands Regional Council By-laws	New By-laws	Milika Desantis	Council has approved drafting instructions for animal by-laws but is to consider extra instructions on litter at its next council meeting before instructions get sent to Parliamentary Counsel.
Wagait Shire Council	Wagait Dog By-laws	New By-laws	Deborah Allen	The Department met with council on 25 August 2016. The council has advised on what it would like.

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

LGANT worked with councils to reduce costs and improve their financial sustainability by undertaking the following projects:

- providing advice regarding exemptions on stamp duty for local government vehicles
- facilitating council performance improvement self-assessments which led to data being aggregated and provided to the Australian Centre for Excellence in Local Government (ACELG) for benchmarking purposes
- facilitating Finance Reference Group sub-committee working groups to:
 - develop model financial statements
 - improve grants reporting
 - record financial sustainability indicators in annual report
- investigating the benefits of sector-wide insurance schemes for general insurance and health insurance.

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

LGANT's pre-election submission, which was ratified at the April 2016 general meeting and distributed to parties and candidates on the 16 May 2016, stated:

LGANT calls upon all political parties and independent candidates to move towards full local government incorporation of the Northern Territory and to support further structural change based on the results of financial sustainability studies and other criteria such as capacities lost or gained from proposed changes.

During 2015-16 LGANT again participated on the Belyuen, Coomalie and Wagait Advisory Group ('BCWAG') established to investigate potential reforms in local government including the incorporation of areas into existing local government boundaries.

The BCWAG met on

- 10 November 2015
- 11 May 2016

A number of reports were completed with a further one expected to be released in the 2016-17 financial year.

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

This report was not completed as there is still work to be done about the data to be collected by local government associations throughout Australia before councils are approached to supply such data.

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

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

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

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

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Table 8

LGANT Executive meetings

Date	Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings
21 July 2015	<p>LGANT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agreed to seek tenders for the establishment of an insurance scheme within the NT • renewed the agreement with the Western Australian Local Government Association for the provision of industrial relations services • adopted internal LGANT policies • discussed the meeting with the NT Treasurer regarding streetlighting charges
18 August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rejected proposed council involvement in morgues in remote communities • adopted policy on management and administration fees applied to government grants • provided an update on the Local Government Excellence Project • agreed to extend the contract with the Department of Health for the Central Australian Waste Management Coordinator position
15 September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepted the agreement for funding from the <i>Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund (Robinson River – Four Mile Crossing)</i> • called for nominations to fill the casual vacancy on the LGANT Executive to replace Alderman Jeanette Anictomatis • reviewed progress with the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples • reviewed LGANT's climate change policies
27 October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved nominations to the Administration and Legislation Advisory and NT Neighborhood Watch Committees • acknowledged outcomes arising from the September 2015 ALGA board meeting • acknowledged details in the 2013-14 Local Government National Report • received briefing on the deliberations of the Belyuen, Coomalie, Wagait Local Government Advisory Group

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings
December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved presentation to be delivered on onshore oil and gas exploration and mining • approved draft policy on morgues in remote communities • endorsed the 2014-15 Local Government National Report • approved those committees that LGANT is to seek dual representations on from municipal and regional councils
5 February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the draft 2016-2017 LGANT strategic plan and annual priorities • endorsed the draft 2016-2017 annual budget including member subscriptions • endorsed nominations to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee • noted increase in the jurisdictional amounts for small claims under the <i>Small Claims Bill 2015</i> • received briefing on the negotiations to date with the NT government on street lighting charges
15 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved changes to nine LGANT policies that were discussed at the November 2015 LGANT general meeting • endorsed the draft Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) MOU with LGANT • acknowledged outcomes arising from the February 2016 ALGA Board meeting • received information on the new library management system for public libraries
19 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determined representation on the NT Library Community Reference Group • approved distribution of the LGANT NT election document to political parties and independent candidates • accepted the report on ALGA Federal Election Priorities for 2016 • agreed to councils contributing to the National State of the Assets Report
17 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepted the Department of Health funding agreement for mentoring a waste management coordinator • acknowledged the National Local Government Cultural Development forum trial involving the City of Darwin • acknowledged and supported the LGANT President's nomination for the position of ALGA Vice-President • agreed to follow up with member councils their participation in the "NO MORE" campaign

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Executive Meetings
28 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved the procurement agreement between LGANT and Local Buy Pty Ltd • endorsed LGANT's nomination to the Employee Assistance Service Board • endorsed LGANT's nominations to the NT Grants Commission • discussed the report on the Northern Territory Budget for 2016-2017 following its adoption

**Table 9
General and Annual General Meetings**

Date	Key Actions Arising from General and the Annual General Meetings
12 November 2015 General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopted the draft LGANT policies on climate change • agreed to write to the Chief Minister about the transfer of local roads to local government • requested councils submit annual priority suggestions for consideration by the Executive at the February 2016 strategic planning session • resolved that all issues (including Indigenous issues) will be dealt with through LGANT reference groups and meetings. • acknowledged the results of the 2015 LGANT member satisfaction survey • called on councils to monitor the funding opportunities arising from the release of the White Paper on Developing Northern Australia • acknowledged the positive responses by councils in passing resolutions supporting the national campaign to restore indexation of Financial Assistance Grants • discussed the impact of funding cuts to the arts and cultural sector
12 November 2015 Annual General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the 2014/2015 Annual Report • conducted elections for the casual vacancies on the Executive namely, Vice President – Municipals and Executive Representative – All Councils with the support of the NT Electoral Commission (NTEC) • accepted reports from LGANT representatives on twelve external

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Date	Key Actions Arising from General and the Annual General Meetings
	<p>boards and committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Minister of Local Government the Hon Bess Price MLA and the LGANT President presented local government long service awards to 54 councillors having more than ten years' service in local government
14 April 2016 General Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adopted the 2016-17 annual priorities for the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan adopted the LGANT 2016-2017 annual budget including member subscriptions endorsed the actions of the Executive in adopting a policy and contributing a submission supporting the establishment of an Anti-Corruption, Integrity and Misconduct Commission adopted the 2016 LGANT NT election document agreed to work towards determining the appropriate legislative framework for the incorporation of LGANT agreed to support the TOPROC group of councils making plans for unincorporated land to come within their local government areas requested councils pass the following resolution at one of their meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>'That council agrees to the Northern Territory Government's offer on street lighting that will see:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>repairs and maintenance charges not commencing until 2018</i> <i>council deciding and establishing arrangements before 2018 on the manner in which it will deal with street light repairs and maintenance</i> <i>council taking ownership of street light infrastructure from 1 January 2018.'</i> approved the MOU between ALGWA and LGANT and that it be signed by the Presidents of both entities. acknowledged the distribution of special purpose grants to councils by the Minister for Local Government the Hon Bess Price MLA

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**Table10
CEO Forum**

Date	Key Actions Arising from CEO Forum Meetings
11 November 2015	<p>LGANT convened the following CEO forums which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the actions and recommendations arising from subordinate reference group meetings • reviewed the LGANT general meeting agenda and conference program • acknowledged presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nicole Rantenan of Statewide Super on superannuation for council employees ○ Iain Loganathan the NT Electoral Commissioner on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2017 General Election cost estimates ○ Local Government Election Procedures manual ○ Mandatory Postal Voting manual • acknowledged the report from Local Government Managers NT • discussed recent key initiatives and events occurring in NT local government areas
13 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the actions and recommendations arising from subordinate reference group meetings including engaging a consultant to establish a joint insurance scheme • reviewed the LGANT general meeting agenda and conference program • acknowledged the change of name of the Local Government Managers NT to Local Government Professionals and other activities of that body including the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Government Management Challenge ○ National Congress and Business Expo ○ Sponsorship from JLT and Statewide Super • discussed recent key initiatives and events occurring in NT local government areas • acknowledged presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tim Rose, CEO Local Buy Pty Ltd on procurement matters ○ Tony Grubb, Director, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Census 2016 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Census will be carried out in July and August 2016 and that facilitators will be needed on the ground, particularly in regional and remote communities.

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Date	Key Actions Arising from CEO Forum Meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Census information will be retained for four years. ○ ABS is aiming to release Census data around April 2017 ○ Kate Peake CEO, Regional Development Australia NT on the RDA-NT economic profiling project and matters to take into account when submitting applications for funding ○ Leeanne Caton, Executive Director of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs (OAA) on progressing economic development for Aboriginal Territorians ○ Ben Dornier, City of Palmerston; Ron Sanderson, General Manager and Greg Davoren, Director Corporate Services, Brighton Council on a Common Services Joint Venture,

**Table 11
Governance Reference Group (GRG)**

Date	Key Actions Arising from Governance Reference Group Meetings
12 May 2016	<p>LGANT convened a meeting with this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledged the Local Government Excellence Project update • considered the proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) project • discussed the Review of the <i>Local Government Act</i> and updated Ministerial Guideline 8 – Local Authorities • endorsed having the West Arnhem Regional Council Records Coordinator work on the development of a local government records disposal schedule for use by most councils and for LGANT to apply for a special purpose grant to compensate the West Arnhem Regional Council for the work • discussed the proposed WALGA elected member training options including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ development of e-learning training (in conjunction with councils and the Department of Local Government and Community Services • provided LGANT with feedback in regards to communications between councils and Community Champions • provided feedback on the draft Returning Officer Manual and

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Governance Reference Group Meetings
	<p>Candidates Handbook for council by-elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organised presentations from Katherine Town Council and the City of Darwin on compliance registers and risk management

Table 12

Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group (ETIRG)

Date	Key Actions Arising from Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group Meetings
9 October 2015	<p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which held a strategic planning day that reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ETIRG governance charter resolutions/actions from previous meetings the LGANT Strategic Plan 2016-17 existing LGANT policies that directly impact on ETIRG priorities for LGANT budget submission to NTG in 2016/2017 the draft Election document leading to the August 2016 NTG.
10 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> acknowledged the presentations from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carlos Rial and Steven Walker of Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) on the Transport Infrastructure Product Evaluation Scheme (TIPES) Lindsey Smith from Power and Water Corporation on Essential Service Officers (ESOs) and collaboration with local government regarding development of essential services infrastructure Graeme Finch and Terry O'Neil regarding uniform sub-divisional guidelines and working groups Louise McCormick from the NT Department of Transport on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund Local Roads Investment Fund transfer of local roads Northern Territory aviation strategy approved and supported the use of the ARRB TIPES' guidelines by NT councils supported the formation of regional transport groups of councils within the NT and developed a terms of reference and a governance charter for consideration by the LGANT Executive

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Environment, Transport and Infrastructure Reference Group Meetings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approved a strategic directions paper being presented for consideration by the LGANT Executive during its strategic planning deliberations in February 2016 • recommended that LGANT continue to support training and professional development of best practice in procurement • recommended the nominations of Mark Spangler, Luccio Cercarelli and Julie Lambert for the Uniform Subdivisional Guidelines (USG) Working Group. • recommended that LGANT writes to the independent chair of the Uniform Subdivision Guidelines Management Committee requesting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an additional LGANT representative from the Central Australia region be appointed to the working group ○ LGANT representatives to be members of all the technical committees ○ confirmation that variations from individual councils would be automatically included into the USG document • recommended that LGANT include the issue of relevant statutory protection in the LGANT 2016 NT election document to be put to all candidates • recommended that LGANT write to the Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition requesting the development of stronger policy statements on climate change leading up to the Northern Territory government elections • acknowledged and recommended LGANT's continued support of representation on the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) • encouraged NT local government councils to attend the ALGA National Local Roads and Transport Congress.

**Table 13
Human Resources Reference Group (HRRG)**

Date	Key Actions Arising from Human Resources Reference Group Meetings
19 August 2015	<p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the LGAQ workforce data collection tool and establish a working group to refine it to suit NT Local Government • resolved to consult with Work Health and Safety (WH&S)

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Human Resources Reference Group Meetings
	<p>Managers regarding the need for a WH&S Reference group and provide feedback to LGANT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledged presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scott Roffey from WALGA on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. an overview of workplace investigations ii. an organisational restructure case study b. John Heinke and Carl Betham of Salary Packaging Australia on salary packaging options for local government to use as a tool to assist with retention c. Jo Fry from the Department of Education on options for local government engagement with the work for the dole scheme d. Tracy Clark from the Department of Business on the results from the contributions of 21 communities to the 2014 Major Remote Towns survey
16 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorsed the use of the long service leave template for providing sufficient information for councils to process transfers • supported the proposed LGANT policy regarding the treatment of long service leave entitlements • rejected LGANT investigating options for a preferred supplier of health insurance for local government employees in the NT • supported LGANT coordinating frontline management and customer service/complaints handling training • acknowledged presentations from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Belinda Gibb, CEO of the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre on its training and mentoring program which includes making available the following qualifications to trainees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The following qualifications are available to trainees: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indigenous Leadership Certificate II and IV 2. Governance Certificate IV 3. Diploma in Business 4. Double Diploma in Business and Business Management ii. Members expressed concern that there was not a Certificate II in Governance available. f. Scott Roffey from WALGA provided training and updates

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Date	Key Actions Arising from Human Resources Reference Group Meetings
	<p>on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. performance management ii. the Fair Work Act iii. abandonment of employment iv. review of the local government industry award. <p>g. Caroline Norrington from the Office of the Commissioner of Public Interest and on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. freedom of information implications for HR departments ii. responsibilities with regards to 'whistle blowers' legislation iii. obligations to supply information about the facility to staff.

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

Date	Key Actions Arising from Finance Reference Group Meetings
17 September 2015	<p>LGANT convened meetings of this group which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommended that the investigation into establishing a joint insurance scheme is to continue and that LGANT is to take the results to the CEO Forum for further consideration • adopted the format of the South Australian model financial statements as the minimum reporting model for use by the NT councils in 2015/2016 • directed that the Financial Statements Development Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establishes what NT specific reporting requirements are; and ○ discusses with South Australian Local Government Association (SALGA) the harmonisation of the South Australian model with NT requirements • resolved to provide the information requested on the Schedule of Expenditure by 30 September 2015 to enable calculation of the local government cost index for 2015-2016 • resolved to address issues arising over the asset management

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	<p>performance improvement self-assessment requirements and associated long term financial projections; and to seek LGANT's support in assisting individual councils to undertake the annual assessment if that need arises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> established a working group to investigate the requirements for accessing the Integrated Land Information System (ILIS) and mining data held by the NT Government for rating purposes
9 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recommended that councils continue to acknowledge Commonwealth financial assistance grants funding in future annual reports of councils resolved that councils provide the breakdown of the expenditure categories to the Working Group by 31 March 2016 to enable the finalisation of the Local Government Cost Index by 30 April 2016 resolved that LGANT reports to the upcoming LGANT Executive and General meetings on the suggestions made from FRG members on own source revenue acknowledged Meeta Ramkumar of the Department of Local Government and Community Services who provided updates on local government compliance and sustainability.

2.9 Produce sector wide guidelines for use by members

LGANT:

- engaged NTEC to develop a by- elections manual for councils
- coordinated the compilation of a Local Government cost index
- obtained agreement from the Department to develop a records disposal schedules for member councils (9 September 2015)
- the 'So you want to be on Council' document was updated with the assistance of the Local Government Department and Community Services (March 2016).

2.10 Assist member councils to develop reconciliation action plans as per CEO reference group item

LGANT:

- discussed Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) at the November 2015 and April 2016 CEO forums with advice provided that examples of RAPs were available on both the Reconciliation Australia website as well as individual council websites should they wish to learn about what other councils have done.

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 update data on the leases that councils had secured on Aboriginal land. In the past, councils sought leases for their primary property allotments (council offices, staff housing and depots) largely to find out what the costs were going to be. However, in the past year some councils have obtained leases over a wider group of landholdings.

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

LGANT completed the following submissions:

**Table 15
LGANT 2015-16 submissions**

Date Submitted	Submission Topic
9 July 2015	Our Water Future Discussion Paper: A Conversation with Territorians 2015
5 November 2015	Discussion paper Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020
18 December 2015	Darwin Regional Transport Plan
12 January 2016	2016-17 LGANT Budget Submission
27 January 2016	2014-15 Local Government National Report
28 January 2016	NT Oil and Gas Industry Development Strategy
5 February 2016	Housing Strategy Consultation Draft

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Date Submitted	Submission Topic
5 February 2016	NT Anti-Corruption Integrity and Misconduct
10 March 2016	Senate Enquiry into the Future of Australia's Aged Care Workforce
18 March 2016	Balanced Environment Strategy Discussion Draft
23 March 2016	Review of the Employment and Training Act
16 May 2016	LGANT NT Election Submission
20 May 2016	Northern Territory Alcohol Action Plan
19 May 2016	Proposed amendments to the <i>Planning Act</i>

As of 30 June 2016 the only submissions for which outcomes were known were:

- 2016-17 LGANT Budget Submission- the Northern Territory budget was released on 24 May 2016 and a report was provided to the Executive at its meeting on 28 June 2016
- the 2014-15 Local Government National Report was accepted by the Department Of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

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

3.3 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
- CouncilBIZ
- Heritage Council
- Local Government Accounting Advisory Committee
- National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee
- NT Grants Commission

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- NT Place Names Committee
- NT Waste Management Advisory Committee
- NT Weeds Advisory Committee
- Regional Development Australia NT
- Settlement Planning Committee
- NT Planning Commission
- Minister's Advisory Council on Senior Territorians
- Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs

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

The nominations called for, submitted and approved were as follows:

Table 16
Nominations to committees from LGANT that were approved

Nominee	Committee	Date of Executive Meeting
S Hennessy (Victoria Daly Regional Council)	Heritage Council	5 August 2015
Dr Emma Kennedy (East Arnhem Regional Council)	Animal Welfare Advisory Committee	5 February 2016
Simon Niblock (City of Darwin)	NT Library Reference Group	17 May 2016
Michael Hummel (Barkly Regional Council)	EASA	28 June 2016

LGANT officers were also members of the following committees with reports provided at:

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

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3.4 Provide information and support to ALGA and other state associations

In addition to attending to standard governance matters at ALGA Board meetings, the LGANT CEO, President and Vice President 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

Some of the issues dealt with at ALGA Board meetings included those listed in **Table 17** below:

Table 17
Significant issues deliberated at the ALGA Board meetings

Date	Highlights
30 July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processing of the resolutions of National General Assembly of Local Government (teleconference)
18 September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Assistance Grants campaign • 2016 Federal Election framework • Taxation issues and taxation white paper • Relationship with Local Government Managers Australia • 2016-17 Federal Budget submission
17 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productivity Commission Report into Natural Disaster Funding Arrangements • Financial Sustainability Consultancy - Rate Capping • Scoping Paper on the Role of Local Government in Human Services • Disability Guide for Local Government
31 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on outcomes of Strategic Planning meeting • ALGA Federal election document • Infrastructure Australia report • Digital transformation • Climate change adaptation and legal liability
18 June 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future work on the state of the assets report • Innovation hubs and the future role of local government libraries • Native Title • 2016 National General Assembly of Local Government report • Federal Budget 2016-17 update

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

- financial assistance grants
- 2016 draft election document
- pre-election caretaker convention
- rate capping
- Indigenous issues.

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

- a. Electoral matters** (refer to submission of 16 May 2016 in 3.2)
- b. Land use and town planning proposals**

LGANT:

- represented local government on the Darwin Region Flood Advisory Committee whose recommendations focused on properties that are impacted upon by riverine flooding and inundation due to trunk drainage issues in the Greater Darwin region
- continued to monitor the 11 recommendations from the Darwin Region Flood Advisory Committee including:
 - their adoption as government policy
 - their inclusion in the NT Planning Scheme
 - redefining stormwater flooding and drainage
- participated in the development of the Uniform Subdivisional Guidelines through its representations on:
 - Uniform Subdivision Guidelines Management Committee (SSDMC)
 - four Technical working groups advising the SSDMC on:
 - land capability
 - sewer and Water
 - power, lighting and telecommunications
 - roads, drainage and landscaping
- is represented on the Technical groups by senior officers from the City of Darwin and Palmerston, Alice Springs Town Council and East Arnhem Regional Council
- is represented on the NT Planning Commission by Mr Brendan Dowd, CEO of the City of Darwin.

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c. Infrastructure renewal in urban Aboriginal living areas

LGANT:

- supported the Alice Springs Town Council's motion to the June 2016 ALGA National General Assembly (NGA) that:

"... the National General Assembly calls on the Australian, State and Territory Governments to deliver future infrastructure upgrades in all Aboriginal Living Areas to Australian National Standards"

which was passed and ALGA will now pursue it.

- through the President, chaired the concurrent session at the NGA on:
 - the delivery of local government services in Aboriginal living areas
 - how best to engage and consult with Indigenous leaders
 - recommendations to put to the ALGA board.

d. A service level agreement for the operation, maintenance and energy charges for street lighting

LGANT:

- continued to work with the Power and Water Corporation on the issues of:
 - the ownership of street lighting assets
 - the charging for street light maintenance and renewal
- developed a negotiating position on streetlights by commissioning a consultant (Wallmans Lawyers) to:
 - provide technical advice on electricity tariffs
 - interpret legislation
 - draft a deed of agreement
 - research arrangements interstate
- established a working group with officers from member councils
- disseminated information to member councils
- appointed representatives from the Cities of Palmerston and Darwin in January 2016 to the Streetlight Review Committee as local government's key negotiators with the committee also being represented by:
 - the Power and Water Corporation
 - the NT Treasury and
 - the member for Blain, the Hon Nathan Barrett MLA (Chair)
- facilitated a Mayors and Presidents meeting with the Chief Minister and Treasurer on 11 January and 22 February 2016
- facilitated the passage of a resolution at the April 2016 LGANT General Meeting in Jabiru which requested councils pass the following resolution at one of their meetings:

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- *'That council agrees to the Northern Territory Government's offer on street lighting that will see:*
 - *repairs and maintenance charges not commencing until 2018*
 - *council deciding and establishing arrangements before 2018 on the manner in which it will deal with street light repairs and maintenance*
 - *council taking ownership of street light infrastructure from 1 January 2018.'*

- maintained contact with all participating councils in the period from 16 May - 7 June 2016
- forwarded the final deed of agreement to councils on 10 June 2016
- was pleased to have 10 of the 11 affected councils sign the agreement before 30 June 2016 thereby completing the negotiations.

e. Transfer of transport assets (roads, airstrips, barge landings and boat ramps) from the Territory Government to Local Government

LGANT:

- the only councils affected by road transfers are those listed in **Table 18** below

Table 18

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	1230	1247
East Arnhem Regional Council	442	55	1069	1567
Roper Gulf Regional Council	125	760	936	1818
Victoria Daly Regional Council	30	757	335	1122

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Council	LGANT Road Length to Transfer	NT Government Road Length to Transfer	Current Road Length	Future Total Road Length
Barkly Regional Council	1093	1725	543	3351
Central Desert Regional Council	156	1036	1769	2972
MacDonnell Regional Council	277	1976	1568	3985
Katherine Town Council		175	185	360
Unincorporated Lands		488		488
Total Road Length	2123	7040	8317	17592

Notes to Table 18:

The current road lengths are taken from the NT Grants Commission Annual Report 2014-15.

Tiwi Islands Regional Council and West Daly Regional Council do not have any roads proposed for transfer.

LGANT continued to encourage councils to undertake assessments about the impact of the transfer of local roads from the NT government to local government. LGANT also held talks with the Department of Transport over its handling of this matter.

LGANT:

- put a submission to the discussion paper on the Aviation Industry and Services Strategy 2020 in which it recommended:
 - *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*

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- *That the Northern Territory government put the case to the Commonwealth government for greater investment in regional and remote airstrips*
- *That aviation security measures be based on risk assessments of the individual airport operating environments*
- *That the Commonwealth and Territory governments coordinate and centralise the training and skill development of personnel employed in airport operations*
- *That the regulations requiring airport managers to have in place a DAMP be repealed in place of organisations having their own workplace health and safety policies for employees in respect of alcohol and drugs.*

f. Regional waste management and climate change

LGANT:

- is represented by former City of Palmerston Environment and Climate Change Strategic Planner, Pam Robinson, on the *National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility* (NCCARF) which:
 - met in Adelaide on 5-7 July 2016
 - launched a trial information delivery and decision support system for coastal managers in Australia seeking to adapt to climate change (called 'Coast Adapt') which will be released in early 2017
- with the support of the Department of Health, continues to fund the Central Australian Waste Management Co-ordinator hosted by the MacDonnell Regional Council
- chaired and provided secretarial support to the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group (CAWMWG) which delivered:
 - a review of the *Central Australian Landfill Operating Guidelines*
 - Certificate II in Rural Operations in partnership with the Centre of Appropriate Technology (CAT)
 - the *Community Litter Action Plan* framework for participating regional councils of Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional councils
 - submissions to the Department of Health and Department of Local Government for the Central Australia Coordinator with the department providing \$50,000 and the balance being funded by the three participating councils
- received funding from the Department of Health, following a successful pilot project in the Big Rivers region, for a Waste Management Co-ordinator who will work to the Big Rivers Waste Management Working Group (BRWMWG) whose membership comprises the following councils:
 - Katherine Town Council (host of the position)
 - West Daly Regional Council
 - Victoria Daly Regional Council
 - Roper Gulf Regional Council

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- BRWMWG outputs and achievements include:
 - quarterly meetings with LGANT as the chair and providing administration support
 - regional councils contributing to the employment of a Regional Waste Management Coordinator
 - the completion of waste management audits for eight waste facilities within the three regional councils areas
 - the Department of Health supporting the recommendation that three waste facilities be licenced under the project namely:
 - Wadeye,
 - Ngukurr and
 - Kalkaringi
 - production of the *Big Rivers Remote Landfill Operating Guidelines*
- developed a set of *Guidelines for the Closure of Legacy Waste Sites* funded by the Northern Territory Environmental Protection Authority (NTEPA) which will assist member councils to learn what is required to rehabilitate abandoned waste sites
- collaborated with the Australian Government, the CAWMWG and BRWMWG in dealing with and identifying illegal dumping of asbestos
- continued to support the Department of Resources in the management of weeds on lands managed by local government including distributing to members a weeds identification booklet and handbook
- called for nominations to the Northern Territory Weeds Advisory Working Group.

Goal 4 Maintain an effective and efficient service

Maintaining and improving LGANT capacity

LGANT shall ensure quality management services include 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 2123km local road network on behalf of local government in the Northern Territory in the Central Desert, MacDonnell, Barkly, East Arnhem, Victoria Daly and Roper Gulf Regional Council areas.

Under the National Disaster Recovery Relief Arrangements work was carried out during the year on Mata Mata Road (East Arnhem Regional Council area).

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

Table 19
LGANT's Road Types and Road Lengths

Road Type	Road Length
Sealed	11 km
Gravel	372 km
Formed	477 km
Flat Bladed Track	1263 km

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

Table 20
Allocation of Expenditure in Regional Council Areas

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

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

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

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.

LGANT:

- continued a program of erected road signs both warning and regulatory in 2015/16 following road safety audits in 2014/15
- uses The *Central Australian Remote Community Traffic Management Manual* that was developed in collaboration with Central Desert, MacDonnell and Barkly Regional councils and with the technical assistance of the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB)
- works collaboratively with the Department of Transport (Department) regional offices in planning its maintenance programs and use of the Department's contractors
- undertook a number of capital and maintenance works under the Roads to Recovery and Regional Economic Infrastructure Fund programs.

The projects completed during 2015-16 under the Roads to Recovery Program were as listed in **Table 21**:

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Table 21

Roads to Recovery Projects completed during 2015/16 financial year

Road	Council area	Amount	Project	Funding
Canteen Creek Internal Roads	Barkly Regional Council	\$159,126	Reseal	R2R
Canteen Creek Airport Road	Barkly Regional Council	\$55,497	New seal	R2R
Mungalawarru road	Barkly Regional Council	\$120,300	Gravel sheeting	R2R
Blue Bush Road	Barkly Regional Council	\$232,016	Gravel Sheeting	R2R
Mata Mata Road	East Arnhem Regional Council	\$180,000	New Causeway	R2R
Baniyala Road	East Arnhem Regional Council	\$265,000	Gravel Sheeting	R2R
Robinson River Road	Roper Gulf Regional Council	\$697,000	Concrete causeway	R2R \$491,000 REIF \$206,000

LGANT:

- continued its partnership with Local Buy Pty Ltd, Local Government Association of Queensland to provide benefits to member councils including:
 - reduced procurement costs for councils through national group purchasing
 - in May 2016 Tim Rose, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Local Buy Pty Ltd met with Department of Local Government and Community Services officers and explained the procurement processes Local Buy has in place including the software used, 'Vendor Panel'
- reviewed the 2010 MOU between LGANT and Local Buy Pty Ltd which led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2016 for a further 5 years
- a MOU with Local Buy Pty Ltd allows Northern Territory member councils access to National Procurement Network (NPN) contracts including:
 - C31 – 12a bulk petroleum products (diesel/petrol)
 - C31 – 12b fuel card services
 - C31 – 12c oil/coolants lubricants
 - NPN 04 – 13 trucks/vans/omnibuses
 - BUS 205 – 0111 tractors/tele-handlers/mowers
 - BUS 212 – 0511 road and bridge making equipment
 - BUS 213 – 0511 earth moving and material handling equipment
 - Bus 224 – 1011 tyres, tubes and batteries
 - NPN 1.11 – mobile garbage bins, containers, bins and compactors
 - Bus 232 – 1012 construction site caravans

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- supported and promoted the City of Palmerston Contract Management Guidelines workshop on 24-25 September 2015
- anticipates the provision of procurement training for local councils in the NT in negotiation with the University of New England to be held August 2016.

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

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

- conducted an annual member survey of LGANT representatives, Mayors and Presidents and CEOs (August 2015)
- the Association's Executive Committee reviewed LGANT's annual priorities for 2016-17 in February 2016. This plan and annual budget were adopted by member councils at the General Meeting in April 2016
- financial reports were completed monthly and presented at each Executive meeting
- performance appraisals were completed for staff members
- LGANT reviewed internal policies as per *Annual Priority 2* on:
 - privacy policy
 - smoking policy
 - alcohol and other drugs
 - fraud protection policy
 - bullying policy
 - disciplinary policy
 - grievance policy
 - purchasing card policy

LGANT:

- recruited new LGANT communications officer
- accepted LGANT Governance Trainer resignation

Staff completed training on the following courses:

- payroll and accounts training on ITVision system
- Diploma Work, Health and Safety
- Understanding local government, conflicts of interest and serving on council (WALGA courses)

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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.

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

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

- Replaced carpets in units 1, 2 and 5
- Units 3, 4 and 5 are now all being leased.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

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.

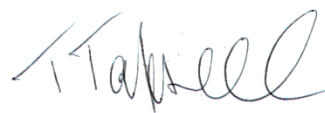
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Damien Ryan".

30 October 2016

PRESIDENT

STATEMENT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T Tapsell".

30 October 2016

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Scope

The financial report and committee members' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements and the executive committee's declaration for **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory** for the period ended 30th June 2016.

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

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

Audit approach

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

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

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

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

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

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

Independence


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

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents a true and fair view in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia the financial position of **Local Government Association of the Northern Territory** as at 30th June 2016 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

KR Blacker & Associates
Public Accountants

Kevin Robert Blacker
Partner CPA 113 7559

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KR Blacker', is written over a dotted line.

Dated in Darwin on 18th August 2016

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS			
<i><u>Current Assets</u></i>			
Cash	(2)	5,669,591	5,647,961
Debtors	(3)	62,432	13,449
Prepayments		<u>8,709</u>	<u>9,369</u>
		<u>5,740,732</u>	<u>5,670,779</u>
<i><u>Non Current Assets</u></i>			
Motor Vehicles	(4)	53,090	63,049
Furniture and Fittings	(4)	17,552	25,981
Buildings	(4)	<u>2,995,068</u>	<u>2,993,411</u>
		<u>3,065,710</u>	<u>3,082,441</u>
Total Assets		<u>8,806,442</u>	<u>8,753,220</u>
LESS LIABILITIES			
<i><u>Current Liabilities</u></i>			
Creditors		271,222	52,024
Payments Received in Advance	(5)	0	0
Income Deferral	(5)	775,345	716,791
Accruals		7,688	18,354
Loans - Motor Vehicles	(6)	0	0
Loans - building	(6)	0	0
Provision - Annual Leave		130,202	132,734
Provision - Long Service Leave		<u>145,582</u>	<u>129,705</u>
		<u>1,330,039</u>	<u>1,049,608</u>
<i><u>Non-current Liabilities</u></i>			
Loans - Motor Vehicles	(6)	20,709	47,165
Loans - Building	(6)	1,300,000	1,300,000
Provision - Long Service Leave		40,571	40,344
Provision - Capital Equipment Purchases		11,076	11,076
Provision - Property, Mobile Equipment, other assets		289,000	269,000
Provision - Bond Units 3 & 4		<u>22,944</u>	<u>22,944</u>
		<u>1,684,300</u>	<u>1,690,529</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>3,014,339</u>	<u>2,740,137</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>5,792,103</u>	<u>6,013,083</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Balance at the beginning of the year		6,013,083	5,761,627
(To)/From Reserves		(20,000)	(155,000)
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		<u>(200,980)</u>	<u>406,456</u>
Balance at the end of the year		<u>5,792,103</u>	<u>6,013,083</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
INCOME FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
User Charges and Fees	(7)	822,466	822,619
Interest		132,150	122,529
Other Revenues from ordinary activities		12,500	12,659
NT Govt Contributions for Operating Purposes	(8)	1,410,940	1,109,808
Federal Govt Contributions for Operating Purposes	(9)	<u>2,776,178</u>	<u>2,230,273</u>
Total Income from ordinary activities		5,154,234	4,297,888
Add Net Profit from sale of assets		<u>7,115</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Income		<u>5,161,349</u>	<u>4,297,888</u>
EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Employee Costs		996,036	925,742
Materials and contracts		3,995,500	2,578,944
Depreciation		25,662	33,085
Other operating expenses	(10)	284,110	299,677
Interest Charges		<u>62,050</u>	<u>54,042</u>
Total Expenses from ordinary activities		5,363,358	3,891,490
Add Net Loss on disposal of assets		<u>0</u>	<u>927</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>5,363,358</u>	<u>3,892,417</u>
Total Income		5,161,349	4,297,888
Less Total Expenditure		<u>5,363,358</u>	3,892,417
Surplus (Deficit) for the year from ordinary activities		<u>-202,009</u>	<u>405,471</u>
<i>Add Extraordinary item</i>			
Insurance Claim		<u>1,029</u>	<u>985</u>
NET SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>(200,980)</u>	<u>406,456</u>

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Payments to Suppliers	(3,764,952)	(2,511,436)	
Payments to Employees	(982,361)	(884,453)	
Payment of Interest	(62,050)	(54,042)	
Payment of other Expenses	(284,110)	(299,677)	
Borrowing Costs	(1,459)	(11,717)	
Receipts from members	631,208	615,734	
Interest received	23,472	30,133	
Interest received for other projects	108,677	92,395	
Northern Territory Government	1,410,940	1,109,808	
Commonwealth Government	2,776,178	2,230,273	
Other Charges and User Fees	134,321	195,014	
Other Contributions to Projects	0	0	
Sponsorship - Association	<u>20,455</u>	<u>12,727</u>	
Net cash flows used in operating activities		10,319	524,759
Cash flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of fixed assets	(8,931)	(50,056)	
Revaluation of asset	0	0	
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	7,115	(927)	
Bonds held for units 3 and 4	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Net cash flows used in investing activities		(1,816)	(50,983)
Cash flows from Financing Activities			
Loans - Redraw Facility	66,668	(166,666)	
Loans - Parap Building	0	0	
Loans - Parap Building Principal Repayments	(66,668)	(93,334)	
Loans - Motor Vehicles	0	25,189	
Loans - Motor Vehicles Principal Repayments	(26,456)	(15,345)	
Transfers to Reserves	(20,000)	0	
Income Deferred	<u>58,554</u>	<u>399,821</u>	
Net cash flows used in financing activities		12,098	149,665
Cash flows from Insurance Recoveries			
Insurance payment - damaged phone		<u>1,029</u>	<u>985</u>
Net Cash flows from insurance recoveries		1,029	985
 Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash held		 21,630	 624,426
Cash at the beginning of the year		5,647,961	5,023,535
Cash at the end of the year		<u>5,669,591</u>	<u>5,647,961</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 have mandatory applicability to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory in relation to the year ended 30 June 2016 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 (office premises) 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 2015/16 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
OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**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

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
LGANT Reserve Term Deposit Account	659,527	640,000
Infrastructure Holding Account	1,381,683	1,640,834
Infrastructure Holding Term Deposit Account	3,094,232	2,007,889
Payroll Account	0	55,651
Tied Project Holding Account	262,186	308,242
Local Government Excellence Account	217,284	11,670
Operating Account	<u>54,179</u>	<u>983,175</u>
	5,669,091	5,647,461
Petty Cash	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>5,669,591</u>	<u>5,647,961</u>

3 DEBTORS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Debtors	724	13,449
Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>724</u>	<u>13,449</u>

4 FIXED ASSETS

	2016	2015
Motor Vehicles	96,740	120,509
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>43,650</u>	<u>57,460</u>
Total Motor Vehicles	<u>53,090</u>	<u>63,049</u>
Furniture, fittings and equipment	114,793	112,652
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>97,241</u>	<u>86,671</u>
Total Furniture and Fittings	<u>17,552</u>	<u>25,981</u>
Office Building - Parap	3,104,288	3,097,497
Less accumulated Depreciation on fixtures	<u>109,220</u>	<u>104,086</u>
Total Office Building - Parap	<u>2,995,068</u>	<u>2,993,411</u>
Total Fixed Assets	<u>3,065,710</u>	<u>3,082,441</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)**

5 INCOME DEFERRED AND RECEIVED IN ADVANCE

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Regional Economic Infrastructure Development Program	646,740	0
Big Rivers Waste Management Program	33,051	0
Big Rivers Mentoring Program	38,052	0
Central Australia Waste Management Travel	0	20,000
Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Program	0	272,749
Central Australia Waste Management Program	12,500	0
Rehabilitation Guidelines	11,364	0
Local Government Excellence Programme	<u>33,188</u>	<u>424,043</u>
	<u>774,895</u>	<u>716,792</u>

6 EXPENDITURE COMMITMENT

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Bank Loan - vehicles		
not later than 1 year	22,059	27,249
later than 1 year but not later than 2 years	0	22,059
later than 2 years but not later than 5 years	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	22,059	49,308
less future interest charge	<u>286</u>	<u>2,143</u>
loan liability	<u>21,773</u>	<u>47,165</u>
The break-up of this loan liability is as follows:		
current liability	21,833	25,332
non-current liability	<u>0</u>	<u>21,833</u>
	<u>21,833</u>	<u>47,165</u>

Parap Building Purchase

Commercial Loan:

This loan was renegotiated in November 2014 with the National Australia Bank, as a Flexible Rate Loan to run over three years with \$1,300,000 being fixed interest and \$200,000 being variable interest. The variable portion had a redraw facility of \$200,000 attached to it. Interest payments are made on a quarterly basis. Principal payments of \$66,668 were made against the variable component of the loan in the 2015/2016 financial year:

The status of this loan is as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current Liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan	0	0
Non current liability - Variable Component Flexible Rate Loan	0	0
Fixed Component Variable Flexible Rate Loan	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>
	<u>1,300,000</u>	<u>1,300,000</u>
Redraw Facility	<u>100,000</u>	<u>166,666</u>
Facility Limit	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>1,466,666</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	633,704
Rental Charges	158,484
Project Management, Consultancy and Training Charges	<u>30,278</u>
Total User Charges and Fees	<u>822,466</u>

8 NT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

	\$
Local Government Excellence Programme	711,855
Regional Infrastructure Development Fund	603,148
Waste Management Programmes	91,084
Department of Business - Adult Learners Week	4,853
Total NT Government Contributions	<u>1,410,940</u>

9 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

	\$
Local Roads Federal Assistance Grants	1,395,297
AusLink Roads to Recovery - LGANT	<u>1,380,881</u>
Total Federal Government Contributions	<u>2,776,178</u>

10 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	\$
Internal Management, Advocacy, Representation and Information Services	154,663
Human Resource Support and Development	3,668
Engineering and Environment Project Management	69,818
Local Government Excellence Programme	<u>55,961</u>
Total Other Operating Expenses	<u>284,110</u>

11 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2,016	2015
	\$	\$
a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at Bank	5,669,091	5,647,461
Petty Cash Imprest	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>
	<u>5,669,591</u>	<u>5,647,961</u>
b) Reconciliation of Net Cash Used in Operating Activities to Operating Result		
Operating result	(202,009)	405,471
<i>Add/(Subtract) non cash items</i>		
Depreciation	25,662	33,084
Profit/Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	<u>(7,115)</u>	<u>927</u>
	(183,462)	439,482
<i>Add/(Subtract) operating flows</i>		
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade Creditors, Accruals	208,429	56,062
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	13,675	41,289
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(48,983)	(11,804)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	660	(270)
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves	<u>20,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Cash used in operating activities	<u>10,319</u>	<u>524,759</u>

12 SEGMENT INFORMATION

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

**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 2016, however it is a member of CounbilBiz and that membership may carry some exposure to a future liability.

14 UNEXPENDED GRANT MONIES CARRIED FORWARD TO THE 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Association has contingent liabilities to repay grants received but not fully expended at year end for projects of \$3,067,116. Included in this figure are unexpended grants totaling \$775,345 being income deferred until the 2016/2017 financial year.

	Opening Balance 1 July 2015	Movements		Closing Balance 30 June 2016
		Received/ Receivable	Expended	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Local Roads Funding	2,439,638	1,395,297	1,589,350	2,245,585
Community Services Programme	45,314	0	0	45,314
Local Government Reform - Rates Impact Statements	8,872	0	8,000	872
Governance Resource Kit - Assigned to LG Excellence Program	133,412	0	133,412	0
Grant income deferred to 2015/16 financial year (refer note 5)				
Central Australian Waste Management Travel	20,000	0	20,000	0
Natural Disaster Relief Recovery Program	272,749	0	272,749	0
Big Rivers Mentoring Program	0	43,000	4,948	38,052
Big Rivers Waste Management Project	0	58,501	25,000	33,501
Central Australian Waste Management Program	0	50,000	37,500	12,500
Rehabilitation Guidelines	0	15,000	3,636	11,364
Regional Economic Infrastructure Development Fund	0	777,140	130,400	646,740
Local Government Excellence Programme	424,043	332,614	723,469	33,188
TOTAL UNEXPENDED GRANTS	3,344,028	2,671,552	2,948,464	3,067,116

	Opening Balance 1 July 2015	Movements		Closing Balance 30 June 2016
		Received/ Receivable	Expended	
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Engineering Management	1,055,367	113,823	81,377	1,087,813
Environmental Management	100,606	0	1,219	99,387
Human Resource and Industrial Relations	244,383	21,278	30,304	235,357
TOTAL OTHER COMMITTED FUNDS	1,400,356	135,101	112,900	1,422,557

**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 2016

INCOME				
	Revised Authorised Budget	Actual Income to 30/6/16	Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under)	Actual Income to 30/6/15
DIRECTORATE				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office of the Chief Executive	1,211,000	1,195,281	(15,719)	830,848
People and Development	587,000	382,861	(204,139)	401,667
Technical and Environmental Services	3,868,000	3,584,236	(283,764)	3,091,544
TOTAL INCOME	5,666,000	5,162,378	-503,622	4,324,059

EXPENDITURE				
	Revised Authorised Budget	Actual Expenditure to 30/6/16	Comparison of Actual to Original Budget over(under)	Actual Expenditure to 30/6/15
DIRECTORATE				
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Office of the Chief Executive	947,000	946,844	(156)	816,757
People and Development	714,000	720,000	6,000	517,091
Technical and Environmental Services	3,996,000	3,798,571	(197,429)	2,718,229
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,657,000	5,465,415	-191,585	4,052,077

Total income and expenditure figures include capital income and expenditure and internal transfers during the 2015/2016 financial year. See notes 13 and 14 on funds carried forward to the 2016/2017 financial year

Notes to Budget Comparison Report:

People and Development

Income: Budgeted income for the 2015/2016 financial year from the Northern Territory Government was reduced and offset by an unexpended grant from a previous period.

Grant funding not used has been transferred to liabilities as income deferred.

This income will be recognised in the 2016/2017 operating statement to match the expenditure planned against it.

Technical and Environmental Services

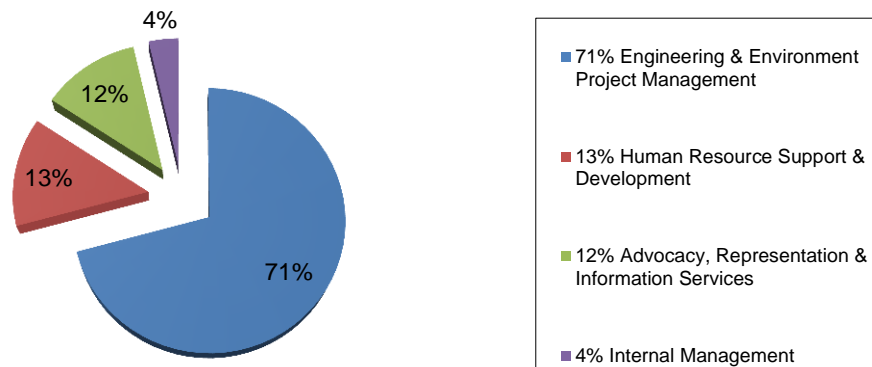
Income: Anticipated funding expected in the 2015/2016 financial year was not received.

Grant funding not used has been transferred to liabilities as income deferred.

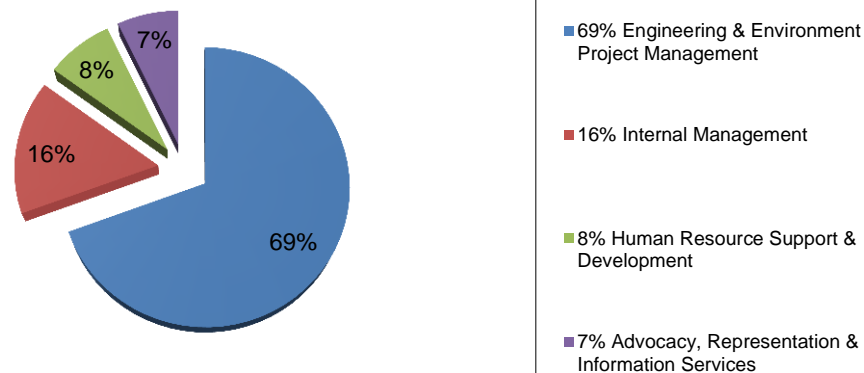
This income will be recognised in the 2016/2017 operating statement to match the expenditure planned against it.

Expenditure: Infrastructure projects budgeted for in the 2015/2016 financial year not completed as at 30 June 2016, have been carried forward to the 2016/2017 financial year.

**Breakup of Operational Expenditure for the
2015/16 financial year**



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



Source of funding for the 2015/16 financial year

