



# 2020|21

## ANNUAL REPORT





**Our 2020|21 Annual Report cover photo:**

*Gideon Mitchell zooms around at MacKids Docker River.*

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2020|21 Annual Report of the MacDonnell Regional Council is produced in accordance with the Local Government Act 2008. It is a report on MacDonnell Regional Council's progress against the 2020-21 Regional Plan.

MacDonnell Regional Council consistently works with its funding partners in an endeavour to achieve our shared goals, provide real employment and improve life opportunities for constituents.

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The year gone represents the end of a chapter in the life of the current Council before we herald in a new group of elected members who will be appointed following the upcoming Local Government elections.

So this is farewell to all those who have served their communities for the last 4 years. All are to be praised for their efforts as they pass on the legacy of a Council in a sound financial position with a future rich in opportunities.

The highlights and achievements during the past year would not have been possible without the support of the Federal and Northern Territory Governments and we thank them for the funds contributed to provide services, infrastructure and employment opportunities within our communities. The support of community groups within our region also enabled significant projects to be undertaken. But from within it is the support and enthusiasm of our employees that drives Council forward.

All employees are to be thanked and congratulated for their efforts over the last twelve months, especially so in this year where the COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect the operations of Council so dramatically.

It is to be hoped that this Annual Report demonstrates what has been achieved and the impact these achievements have had not only on the constituents within our Region but also on Council's ability to meet its Strategic Goals and Objectives which were set in the Regional Plan for 2020-2021.

**Roxanne Kenny, President, MacDonnell Regional Council**







## **MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Welcome to the MacDonnell Regional Council 2020/21 Annual Report. I wish to recognise the outstanding performance of MRC staff over the last 12 months. This reporting period has been the most challenging in our short history. The effects and additional workload of the Covid-19 pandemic has stretched Council's resources, particularly our staff to the extreme. Council has seen a high level of staff turnover, particularly in long serving senior and specialist roles as people have reassessed their personal lives and have returned to family interstate. Recruiting has proven to be challenging due to industry wide shortages and interstate travel restrictions. This has resulted in additional workloads for staff who already fill very challenging roles. I am extremely proud that Council has continued to deliver all services with a minimum of disruption and has continued to keep our staff in employment.

Councillors and Local Authorities also continued their very important role of providing vision and direction to MRC. The critical role played by the LA's to ensure the voice of the community is heard through the local decision making process continues to inform Council's strategic planning. Council continues to focus on building a strong financial position whilst investing in community identified infrastructure projects. MRC continues to seek opportunities to increase untied revenue to reduce the risk of a downturn in grant funding as all levels of government seek to initiate budget repair after unprecedented expenditure as a result of Covid-19.

The staff and myself look forward to the upcoming year, working collaboratively with the Council and community members to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.

**Jeff MacLeod, Chief Executive Officer, MacDonnell Regional Council**





THE COUNCIL



**Situated in an arid desert environment at the centre of the Australian continent, MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) features many iconic, panoramic landscapes which are easily accessed from Alice Springs. Picturesque water holes, magnificent flora and fauna, red desert sands and captivating mountain ranges with changing hues are reasons why the MacDonnell region is uniquely beautiful and has a deep and powerful strength that can only be felt when travelling across the land.**

**ABOUT COUNCIL**

MacDonnell Regional Council has 12 elected members in four wards. Councillors are elected for four years, with the last election held in September 2017. Following these elections newly elected councillors joined with re-elected councillors to nominate and vote for their principal members. Roxanne Kenny was re-appointed as President of MacDonnell Regional Council and Greg Sharman was appointed as Deputy President.

Throughout its annual cycle, Council holds an Ordinary Council Meeting every two months, and Special Council Meetings as required. Meetings are held on any of the 13 communities within the Council, at a local business within the Council region or in Alice Springs. All Council meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered. Residents of our communities and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

MacDonnell Regional Council has a Finance and Risk Committee, Audit Committee and Local Authorities in each of its 13 remote communities. Dates, times, agendas and minutes for all Council and committee meetings, including Local Authority meetings, are available on the MacDonnell Regional Council website: [www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au/meetings](http://www.macdonnell.nt.gov.au/meetings)

**ABOUT COMMUNITIES**

Named after the ancient and spectacular MacDonnell Ranges, MacDonnell Regional Council was established in 2008 and its area covers our 13 major remote communities as well as many outstations and numerous established and emerging enterprises in the pastoral, tourism and mining industries. The towns of Alice Springs and Yulara are excluded from the MRC. A total population of 6,029 was recorded in the ABS 2016 Census from all dwellings in the MacDonnell Regional Council.

At MacDonnell Regional Council we recognise and respect the fact that Aboriginal culture is the oldest known continuing culture in the world and that Aboriginal people have had their own forms of governance for tens of thousands of years.

Having strong and effective Aboriginal representatives on the Council has provided an opportunity to discuss and develop effective two-way communication and engagement as well as strong governance principles and practices. Councillor discussions are multi-lingual, moving easily between the Aboriginal languages spoken in the MacDonnell region (mainly Luritja, Pintubi, Pitjantjatjara and Arrernte) and English. In weighing-up the impacts of their decisions made, councillors explore vastly different perspectives and expectations.

## ABOUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local Decision Making (LDM) is a 10 year plan aimed at providing a pathway so that communities can have more control over their own affairs. It is a Northern Territory Government commitment to provide opportunities to transfer government service delivery to Aboriginal Territorians and organisations, based on their community aspirations.

Northern Territory Government agencies will partner with Aboriginal communities to assist the transition of government services and programs to community control.

Government and Aboriginal communities will be able to work together to develop policies and practices for service delivery, such as housing; local government; education, training and jobs; health; children and families; and law and justice.

MacDonnell Regional Council recognises that building, supporting and investing in strong governance is necessary to ensure local people drive local solutions, and that the members of our communities are supported in managing local decision making. To this end Council is a strong supporter of its Local Authorities. At all meetings of the Local Authorities a specific agenda item provides an opportunity for community members to raise matters regarded as “non-council business” and to have those issues addressed.

Of the Local Authority meetings scheduled to be held during this financial year, 88% were held successfully. Predominantly, meetings cancelled were as a result of sorry business affecting the community with an alternate meeting time not being possible.

The table below shows the outcome of scheduled meetings by communities (shown alphabetically not chronologically) throughout the financial year as: 56% Quorum, 33% Provisional and 12% cancelled.

COMMUNITY	JUL-SEP 2020	OCT-DEC 2020	JAN-MAR 2021	APR-JUN 2021
Amoonguna	Q	Q	Q	p
Areyonga	Q	Q	Q	Q
Docker River	Q	p	x	p
Finke	p	Q	p	Q
Haasts Bluff	x	p	p	p
Hermannsburg	p	p	p	p
Imanpa	Q	Q	Q	Q
Kintore	Q	Q	Q	Q
Mt Liebig	Q	x	Q	p
Papunya	Q	x	Q	Q
Santa Teresa	Q	p	Q	Q
Titjikala	p	Q	Q	p
Wallace Rockhole	x	x	p	Q

LEGEND	Q	Quorum	p	Provisional
	d	deferred	x	Cancelled



A significant number of projects have been recommended to Council by all of the Local Authorities – some 66 in total across the 13 communities – which are currently being actioned or are in the process of being costed with resources to be allocated.

These projects include initiatives such as:

- Greening the Youth Space at Santa Teresa including planting trees and shrubs, installing benches and providing fencing.
- Erecting a bus shelter in Amoonguna.
- Constructing a toilet block at the recreation hall for Youth and Children's Services in Areyonga.
- Providing shade structures at the Finke oval.
- Installing solar lights at the Kintore playground.
- And so much more.....

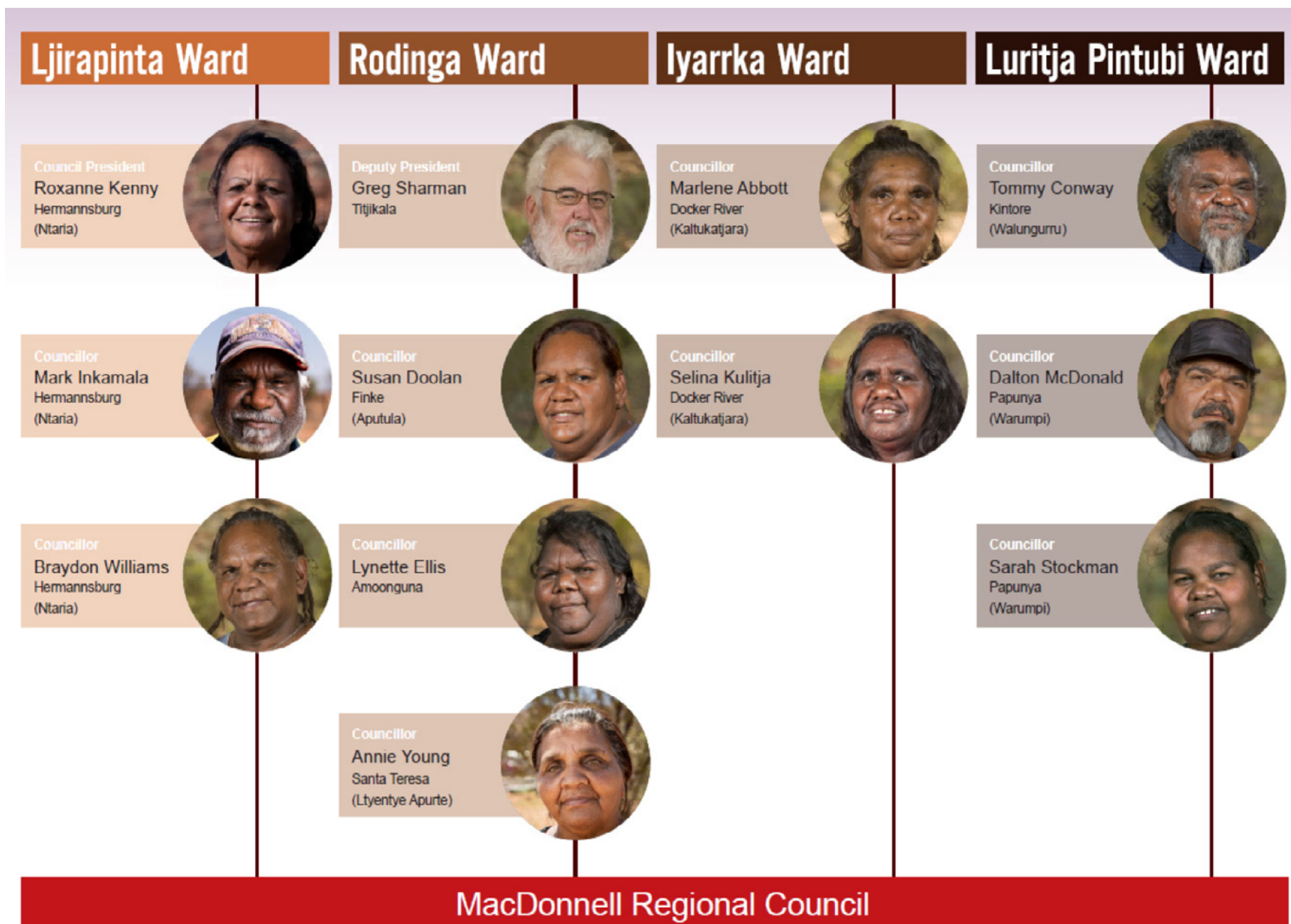
<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>FUNDS EXPENDED 20/21 \$</b>	<b>BALANCE OF FUNDS \$</b>
Amoonguna	<b>33,058</b>	<b>107,310</b>
Areyonga	<b>77,908</b>	<b>116,390</b>
Docker River	-	<b>133,910</b>
Finke	<b>35,521</b>	<b>44,690</b>
Haasts Bluff	-	<b>71,220</b>
Hermannsburg	<b>2,422</b>	<b>176,200</b>
Imanpa	-	<b>48,890</b>
Kintore	<b>15,618</b>	<b>190,720</b>
Mt Liebig	<b>9,622</b>	<b>77,240</b>
Papunya	<b>56,980</b>	<b>214,600</b>
Santa Teresa	<b>124,785</b>	<b>228,190</b>
Titjikala	<b>24,814</b>	<b>110,300</b>
Wallace Rockhole	<b>8,100</b>	<b>35,520</b>

## ABOUT OUR STAFF

	<b>MRC WORKFORCE</b>	<b>ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE</b>	<b>COMMUNITY POPULATION*</b>
Amoonguna	24	92%	239
Areyonga (Utju)	33	88%	195
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)	32	88%	394
Finke (Aputula)	28	96%	192
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)	25	92%	138
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)	33	97%	605
Imanpa	22	100%	151
Kintore (Walungurru)	19	89%	410
Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu)	28	87%	169
Papunya (Warumpi)	29	89%	404
Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)	43	93%	579
Titjikala	27	88%	227
Wallace Rockhole	7	100%	102

\*Population figures shown are from ABS 2016 Census

We are committed to delivering quality services for all of our residents, with MRC services operating from Service Delivery Centres in all thirteen communities. The coordination of all services and the administration of governance, finance, funding arrangements, program management and human resources is supported centrally in our Alice Springs office.





## SERVICES OFFERED BY MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL BY COMMUNITY

	Amoonguna	Areyonga	Docker River	Finke	Haasts Bluff	Hermannsburg	Imanpa	Kintore	Mount Liebig	Papunya	Santa Teresa	Titjikala	Wallace Rockhole
Council Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Municipal Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Libraries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outstations			✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Swimming Pools		✓						✓			✓		
Airstrip Maintenance		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Australia Post	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Centrelink	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
NDIS Community Connectos			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Community Store	✓												
Power Maintenance		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Water Maintenance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sewerage Maintenance	✓	✓	1/2*	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	1/2*	
Early Learning Centres		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Outside School Hours Learning	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Community Safety	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Aged and Disability Services	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
School Nutrition		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	
Youth Services	✓	✓	✓♣	✓♣	✓	✓	✓♣	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

\*Half the community receives mains sewerage and half is on septic ♣ Limited Sport and Recreation service only



A photograph of two Indigenous men sitting at a table during a meeting. The man on the left is older, with a long white beard and a brown and black striped beanie, wearing a light-colored plaid shirt. He is holding a white marker and pointing at a large map or document on the table. The man on the right is younger, with dark hair, wearing a dark blue t-shirt with red text that includes 'MCM', '19', and 'CLA'. They are both looking down at the document. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulder are visible, slightly out of focus. The background shows a window with green curtains and a yellow wall.

# STRATEGIC PLANNING



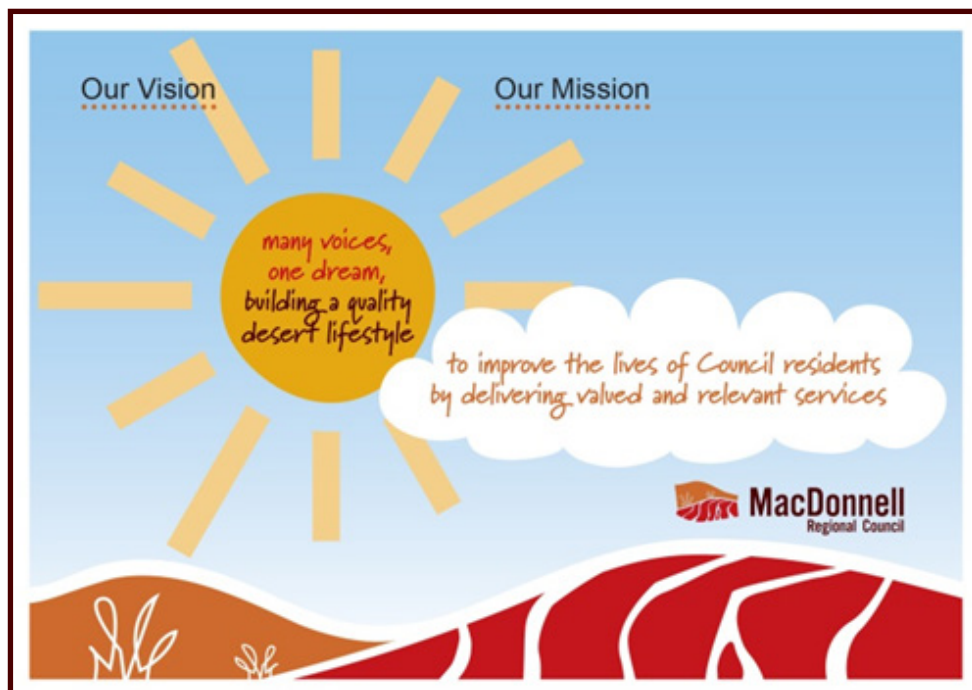
Strategic Planning acknowledges the vision, mission and values of the MacDonnell Regional Council. The following assesses our performance against our goals, objectives and key performance indicators for the past financial year.

## OUR VISION

*many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*

## OUR MISSION

*to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services*



## OUR VALUES

**open** *we will build strong relationships and seek feedback and input on our work*

**respectful** *we will respect and support our diverse cultures and heritage*

**accountable** *our work must be transparent and accountable to MacDonnell Regional Council residents*

**inclusive** *we will value and incorporate local knowledge, experience and perspectives into the work that we do*

**innovative** *we will seek new ideas and ways of working to achieve our outcomes and improve our services*



# STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSESSMENTS

MacDonnell Regional Council’s mission is to *improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services* and our vision is *many voices, one dream, building a quality desert lifestyle*. To fulfil our mission and accomplish our vision we set goals, objectives and strategies that are supported by key performance indicators that provide a measure of our progress.

The 2020/21 financial year was one of further consolidation – building on the solid foundations established over the previous years, despite a challenging fiscal environment.

MRC is faced with increasing constituent expectations against what is overall a shrinking income stream and rising costs. To address this, we have had to look to other sources of income and a reduction in expenditure. Our performance measures below should be seen in that context. As a whole we remain very proud of our performance.

MRC acknowledges the financial assistance of both Federal and Northern Territory governments in their support of services provision to MacDonnell Regional Council communities and the importance of this funding in the support of our continued delivery of quality services.

In order to measure progress across all our goals, outcomes (sub-goals) strategies and key performance indicators (KPIs), MacDonnell Regional Council has again used the following ratings system to quickly show the progress.

## STRATEGIC RATING KEY

A	Achieved completely or almost completed
B	Partially achieved
C	Not achieved or very little achieved

When committing to ambitious targets, success is not always guaranteed.

Of our 16 objectives, 4 had a majority of A key performance indicators, 12 had a majority of B key performance indicators, and none had a C majority rating. A total of 60 KPIs yielded 11 A’s, 41 B’s and 8 Cs.

## RATING SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES			
A	majority in	4	outcomes
B	majority in	12	outcomes
C	majority in	0	outcomes
total		16	

KPIs		
A	achieved	11
B	partially achieved	41
C	not achieved	8
total		60

## GOAL 1. DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 1.1 MRC'S INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Develop and implement MRC Community Infrastructure Plans to guide infrastructure investment and development	Broad stakeholder consultation undertaken in each community to identify MRC's current and future community infrastructure needs.	June 2021	A	Community infrastructure stakeholder consultation completed. This included draft Community Infrastructure Plans displayed in Community Council offices.
Local Authority Plans are developed for each community and inform MRC Community Infrastructure Plans	5 year Local Authority Plans developed and approved by each Local Authority	June 2021	A	13 Community Infrastructure plans have been developed and approved by each Local Authority
	Develop and adopt 10 year MRC Community Infrastructure Plans for each community	June 2022	C	Work on this KPI will start in 2021-22 based on the above plans.
Ensure parks, public spaces, sporting and other MRC maintained facilities are kept in peak condition	Review and revise Service Level Guidelines in accordance with Local Authority Plans and MRC Infrastructure Plans.	June 2021	A	Service Level Guidelines have been revised and published on the MRC website. Service Centre Delivery will monitor Community Infrastructure Plans and update the guidelines accordingly.
	Audit existing infrastructure against revised Service Level Guidelines and map to existing systems	June 2022	B	Service Centre Delivery and Technical Services will begin work on this in 2021/2022.
Secure long term land tenure for lots used in the delivery of MRC services	90% of the community based lots that MRC utilises to delivery services are leased under Section 19 leases.	June 2021	B	26 applications with 20% approved, 30% not yet approved and 50% not yet consulted.  The outstanding lots that do not yet have S19 leases in place have been revised with 'fair rent' payable conditions with CLC; applications had previously been 'peppercorn'. CLC is consulting as their meeting timetable allows.

### OBJECTIVE 1.2 CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Secure additional contracts that create employment	NT Government service contracts (Housing Tenancy, Housing Maintenance, Room to Breathe) secured	June 2021	B	Power Water contract extended to 30/6/21.
	Other service contracts secured	June 2021	B	Increased Centrelink funding for Papunya office from 20 hours to 37.5 hours per week commenced 1 April 2021.
	Number and FTE of new positions created	Jun 2021	B	Centrelink Papunya increased from 0.5 FTE to a 1.0 FTE



## GOAL 1. DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 1.3 INCREASE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Promote Aboriginal employment within MRC	90% of community based positions filled by Aboriginal staff	June 2021	B	MRC has 418 staff members based in communities, with 375 (89.7%) of those roles occupied by staff identifying as Aboriginal (Indigenous Staff). The Council is a very significant and consistent employer of Aboriginal people.
	15% of Alice Springs based positions filled by Aboriginal staff	June 2021	B	In the Alice Springs Office, there are 9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff members out of a total of 89, a percentage of 10% of the staffing in the Alice Springs Office.
Local employment supported through MRC's tendered contracts	10% local Aboriginal labour achieved through delivery of MRC's tendered contracts	June 2021	B	2750 hours of aboriginal employment achieved by mid February at the Bagot Street office redevelopment. A documentation method was agreed upon with the contractor.
Partner with organisations that can offer job-ready candidates in communities	Number of community-based positions filled utilising local job provider network.	June 2021	B	Info sessions were conducted with CDP providers so we could work together in recruiting staff to benefit the communities. No positions have been sourced by Tech Services to date.

### OBJECTIVE 1.4 SUPPORT LOCAL ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISE

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Develop a regional tourism plan in collaboration with Tourism NT	Regional tourism plan is developed and approved by MRC	June 2022	B	Pilot program currently under development.
	Contribute to NT Tourism COVID-19 recovery plan	June 2021	B	CEO has joined the Lasseter, Alice Springs and MacDonnell Region Destination Management Plan Group to push for greater support of Aboriginal tourism
Develop policy to inform MRC's in-kind support	Policy developed and approved by MRC	June 2021	C	Scoped into Policy Framework behind LGA19 priorities. Due to Covid-19 there have been no major events on communities.
Provide in-kind support to local Aboriginal enterprises in communities	\$50,000 in-kind services provided	June 2021	B	NT Healthy Communities - \$5,859.00, AMMRIC Census & Education Program - 28,474.00.

## GOAL 2. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 2.1 SUPPORT ACTIVE AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Collaborate with community stakeholders to promote health initiatives	Implement NT Healthy Communities project to 13 MRC communities over 5 years to encourage healthy hygiene and eating	June 2025	B	1st NT Healthy Communities Day held at Wallace Rockhole on 23 March 2021.
Collaborate with community stakeholders to promote health initiatives	26 health initiatives delivered (2 per community on healthy eating, physical activity, hygiene)	June 2021	C	None delivered.
All MRC facilities are 'smoke-free' zones	Develop 'smoke-free' policy and campaign	June 2021	B	Bagot Street office is now smoke free post renovations. Smokers will have to leave the site. Scoped into Policy Framework behind LGA19 priorities.
Promote healthy eating through MRC's services, meetings, functions and events	Policy developed and approved on MRC provided food	June 2021	C	Scoped into Policy Framework behind LGA19 priorities.

### OBJECTIVE 2.2 IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Promote sustainable communities through waste management awareness and education	13 communities to participate in the NT Tidy Towns program	June 2022	B	Wallace Rockhole won the 2020 NT Tidiest Town Award and will represent the NT at the National Awards in June 2021.
Improve the health of animals living in communities	Develop baseline animal health data for each community	June 2021	B	SCD partnered with AMRRIC to conduct animal census at MRC communities. 75% of communities have been visited and data recorded. This data will be used for the following kpi.
	Develop and implement animal health program targeting identified health issues	June 2022	B	Data being collected through AMRRIC animal census on MRC communities will identify communities to focus future veterinary visits.
Provide waste separation areas in communities, with appropriate signage, in preparation for future recycling opportunities.	Materials separation occurring at all waste management facilities	June 2021	A	Waste Management Facility upgrade: teams separate and sort all waste stockpiles when they upgrade or maintain a community WMF (separate steel, whitegoods, tyres, timber etc to respective areas).

## GOAL 2. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 2.3 SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Provide in-kind support for community and cultural events	\$50,000 in-kind support provided	June 2021	A	SCD partnered with AMRRIC to conduct animal census at MRC communities. 3 of 4 weeks have been completed. MRC In-kind support to AMRRIC so far is \$21,743.50. MRC contributed \$5,859.00 of in-kind support for the NT Healthy Communities Fun Day held at Wallace Rockhole on 23/3/21.
Collaborate with stakeholders to prepare for a major regional cultural festival	Develop a strategy for a major regional cultural festival	June 2021	B	Strategy framework developed ready for drafting.
Collaborate with stakeholders to build community capacity for major cultural and sporting events	Facilitate the development of a community event safety framework with relevant stakeholders	June 2021	B	Draft framework has been developed. Moving to consultation with Community Safety Coordinators to liaise with relevant stakeholders and finalise document.

### OBJECTIVE 2.4 SERVICES HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Intentional design of services to meet community needs	Develop Logic Frameworks for MacCare, MacConnect, MacKids, MacSafe, and MacYouth	June 2021	B	MacCare - on track MacKids - on track MacYouth - on track



## GOAL 3. EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 3.1 YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EMPOWERED TO BE ENGAGED REPRESENTATIVES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Provide support for Youth Boards across the MRC region	Develop Youth Board framework that includes guidelines and processes	Sept 2020	B	Draft framework developed and reviewed - awaiting approval.
Partner with service providers to support the development of Youth Boards in Finke, Imanpa and Docker River	Youth Boards are established in Finke, Imanpa and Docker River	June 2021	B	3 out of 3 LAs resolved to support MRC and NPY working together to establish Youth Boards in their communities.
Develop and maintain Youth Boards in the 9 MacYouth communities	Youth boards meet 3 per community / per year	June 2021	B	4 Communities are on track, 5 communities are being supported by Coordinators to improve before the end of the financial year. There are some genuine reasons why some communities have not met.
Provide governance training for Youth Board representatives	Deliver youth-specific training identified through the Youth Board framework	June 2021	B	Kintore had identified 5 young people, waiting on details to apply for funding to attend NT Aboriginal and Leadership Governance 3-4 June.
Local Authorities engage with Youth Boards	A Youth Board representative attends 2 Local Authority meetings in their community	June 2021	B	Day time LA meetings are difficult to attend for YB members that are at school. Developing confidence of YB to attend LA meetings. Staff aiming to attend.
	10% Local Authority Project Funding continues to be allocated to local Youth Board identified projects	June 2021	B	Youth Board meeting minutes and project proposals are being included in the LA agenda when they are given to Governance.

### OBJECTIVE 3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE TRAINED AND EMPOWERED IN THEIR ROLES TO LEAD INTO THE FUTURE

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Individualised training programs are established to support the development and empowerment of each elected member	Individualised training programs are developed for each elected member	Dec 2020	C	Due to the election of a new Council in September 2021 this matter has been deferred.
	Individualised training programs are completed by each elected member	June 2021	C	Due to the election of a new Council in September 2021 this matter has been deferred.
Governance training program developed and delivered for Local Authority members	Local Authority governance training program developed and approved	Dec 2020	B	Training has been developed and is being delivered before LA meetings commence.
	All Local Authority members complete Local Authority governance training program	June 2021	B	Training has been developed and is being delivered before LA meetings commence.

## GOAL 3. EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

### OBJECTIVE 3.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY AND COUNCIL MEMBERS, CONSTITUENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS ARE ENGAGED AND INFORMED

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Local Authority meetings are engaging and accessible to members and the public	13 Local Authority meetings are held in open public spaces	June 2021	B	10 LAs were held in open public spaces along with a community BBQ, several LAs declined the offer of meeting in open public space.
	5% of residents attend each Local Authority meetings	June 2021	C	Attendance of residents, that are not LA members, remains low to non-existent at LA meetings. The Engagement Team recommends a review of how to engage community residents.
Support Councillors, LA members and community representatives to provide direction on projects that improve the lives of MRC residents	13 community-selected focus projects	June 2021	A	13 initiatives have been selected by the LAs. Initiatives have included youth employment, school attendance, cultural teaching documentation, music training and event support.
Be accountable to MRC residents by reporting on consultation and to develop innovative ways for ideas and achievements to be shared amongst communities	Develop Communications and Engagement Report and Plan	June 2021	B	There is ongoing monitoring, evaluation and improvement of consultation with Councillors, Local Authorities and the wider community. Further work can be progressed as the 2021-22 Regional Plan is developed.

### OBJECTIVE 3.4 SERVICES ARE COMMUNITY LED

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Community members are able to lead the design of services and provide ongoing feedback on delivery.	Develop service specific community consultation mechanisms for MacCare, MacConnect, MacKids, MacSafe, and MacYouth.	June 2021	B	Community consultation mechanisms will be developed after the program logics are finalised this financial year.



## GOAL 4. A SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATION

### OBJECTIVE 4.1 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF OUR STAFF

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Attract, train and retain a skilled workforce	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 1: Attract and retain a skilled workforce	Sept 2020	B	<p>MRC has continued to refine Strategy one Actions of the MRC Workforce development plan, with redevelopments to the Recruitment website and advertising methods, including the use of social media campaigns, such as targeted advertising through Facebook and LinkedIn.</p> <p>A significant number of HR policies and procedures have been revised, including revision to the Recruitment and Selection Policy and the Employee Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Performance Management System review is complete and new framework implemented.</p> <p>An online induction program has been implemented for staff to complete from Community Based locations.</p>
	Develop and adopt training programs for all positions within MRC	June 2021	B	MRC has engaged a Learning Management System and LinkedIn learning as two mediums for training of Council employees, which will continue to be developed.
Develop current workforce to meet current and future capability needs	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 2: Develop current workforce to meet current and future capability needs	June 2021	B	MRC continues to support the development of staff through higher duties and internal appointments. A Learning and Development Coordinator position has been established to assist in delivering on Strategy 2 Actions.
	Develop training programs to support internal advancement of staff	June 2021	B	As above.
Increase employee engagement	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 3: Increase employee engagement	June 2021	B	<p>The induction training and probationary period reviews have been adapted to reinforce MRC vision, mission and values. Council has expanded the Employee Assistance program include three providers.</p> <p>Council has engaged Toolbox Talk program to facilitate community based Work Health and Safety meetings.</p>
Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC	Complete actions for MRC Workforce Development Plan Strategy 4: Improve communication and collaboration across all areas within MRC	June 2021	B	In response to COVID19 MRC implemented weekly COVID meetings and/or correspondence. Interdepartmental subgroups were stood up for planning and operational purposes. ELT members have continued to attend LA meetings.

## GOAL 4. A SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATION

### OBJECTIVE 4.2 IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES THROUGH OUR USE OF TECHNOLOGY

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Connect staff through video conferencing	Video conferencing facilities established in all communities and accessible for all staff	June 2021	A	All community offices have had video conferencing equipment installed except Haasts Bluff due to Building Construction.
Use electronic solutions for data collection and reporting	Implement use of electronic timesheets for all departments	Dec 2020	B	All Staff with Network Accounts have been assigned Tech 1 Access to complete Time Sheet.
	Develop and implement electronic reporting for all MRC services	June 2022	B	MacYouth have contracted Hutsix to develop an electronic system for their reports.
Increase access to online training modules	80% of staff complete digital literacy training	June 2021	C	The new MacConnect Project Officer started in the role on 29/3/2021. He is prioritising the LMS, to see what has been drafted and what needs to be developed.
	Implement online Learning Management System for the delivery of staff training programs	Dec 2020	A	Implemented and changes periodically.

### OBJECTIVE 4.3 SUPPORT STAFF SAFETY AND WELLBEING

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Effective compliance in achieving our legislative obligations	Revised policy framework adopted and implemented	Dec 2020	A	Policy development progressing well toward implementation of LGA2019.
Develop best practice Work Health and Safety strategy	Approval of revised Work Health and Safety Management System	Dec 2020	B	The WHS Management System continues to be developed to ensure best practice planning and frameworks. MRC have adopted multiple new WHS policies, procedures and a risk framework. Additionally, MRC have established and Emergency Management Plan, encompassing a Pandemic Management Plan in repose to COVID19.
	Work Health and Safety Management System implemented and all staff have received training	June 2021	B	The MRC Leadership team conducted a Risk workshop, and site visits are in the planning stage for each of MRC communities. Training of Risk Management has already been conducted in 2 of council's communities. The reporting and actioning of incidents has continued to improve. Critical Staff identified under the Pandemic Management Plan have had their responsibilities identified and have practiced working from home.
Standardise staff housing security to ensure wellbeing	Develop minimum safety standards for staff housing	June 2021	A	This action has been completed.

### OBJECTIVE 4.4 BUILD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Continue with emergency preparedness	Consolidate Emergency Management Plan with COVID-19 learnings and processes	June 2021	A	MRC has developed a Pandemic Management Plan which will form a component of the Emergency Management Plan.



A photograph of four men in high-visibility workwear standing on a dirt construction site. They are positioned next to a small yellow excavator. The man on the far left is wearing a yellow and grey jacket and a cap, giving a thumbs up. The man next to him is wearing a yellow jacket and a beanie, also giving a thumbs up. The man in the center is wearing a yellow and blue shirt and sunglasses, giving a thumbs up. The man on the far right is wearing a yellow vest over a black shirt and jeans, holding a shovel. In the background, there is a green trash bin, a chain-link fence, and some trees. A white car is parked further back. The ground is reddish-brown dirt.

# SERVICE CENTRE DELIVERY



**Service Centre Delivery (SCD) is responsible for providing local government, municipal and essential services, as well as some other funded services to each of the 13 MRC communities.**

The Directorate of Service Centre Delivery employs almost 200 people across nine (9) programs. Funding for these programs comes from a variety of sources – Untied funds from NTG Operational Funds and Federal Assistance grants; Commercial contracts from Australia Post, National Disability Insurance Scheme, Power Water, and Services Australia; and, other NTG grants and agreements.

Untied funds can be used for whatever MRC determines in the area of local government. In Service Delivery, these funds pay for our Alice Springs based staff and our community offices to operate. The Service Delivery structure has a Director and four Managers of Service Centre Delivery based in Alice Springs. Each of our 13 remote communities has a Council Services Coordinator with administration support and a Civil Works team to undertake municipal services. MRC also operates a store at Amoonguna and employs a Store Operator.

Commercial services enables MRC to employ people to do specific jobs on communities or to provide a particular service to the community. This includes Essential Services Officers (ESOs) on 11 communities; Centrelink Agents on 11 communities; NDIS Remote Community Connectors on 9 communities; and, for MRC to collect and deliver the mail at 12 of our communities.

Grants funding ensures MRC does other specific things. For example, MRC receives a grant to look after the municipal and essential services at 24 outstations, located around 7 of our communities – Docker River (1), Haasts Bluff (2), Hermannsburg (1), Mount Liebig (6), Papunya (8), Santa Teresa (1) and Titjikala (5). The grant also provides limited housing repairs and maintenance on outstations and provides wages for eight (8) part-time jobs.

Service Centre Delivery also received a grant to provide a community event at each of our communities over a 5-year period that will promote healthy living and messaging combined with eating healthy foods in a culturally appropriate manner. The grant also enables MRC to bring DirtGirl and Costa the Garden Gnome back to Central Australia to visit each of our communities and promote the messages. The first community event was held at Wallace Rockhole in March 2021.

Almost nine out of 10 workers (87%) in Service Delivery are Aboriginal (175 of 201 employees). This meets a MRC goal of having local people in jobs.

Across all Service Centre Delivery programs, there are more men employed than women (80%). This is not uncommon when it is usual to have males employed in municipal and essential services in communities and this is the area where most people are employed within our Directorate.

However, if we take out the Civil Works teams, almost 6 out of 10 workers in Service Delivery are women (55%).

## **COUNCIL SERVICES**

The following is a summary of MRC provided services within the Service Centre Delivery Directorate.



## ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

The MacDonnell Regional Council has developed Animal Management Guidelines to improve the health and numbers of dogs and other animals in a culturally sensitive way; and, to achieve a maintenance and long term reduction in animal numbers without the need for mass culling. The success of any animal management plan is based on three factors – Regular and frequent Veterinarian visits; Surgical or chemical de-sexing; and a Continual Educational program. Principally, animal management refers to dog management but can also include cats, horses, etc.

MRC currently delivers its animal management services to all communities and funded outstations in the Council's region and utilises the services of contracted veterinarians - NT Veterinary Services, who successfully tendered to provide these services for 3 years from 1 July 2020. These vets visit remote communities treating animals for internal parasites and to conduct sterilisation treatments.

During the year, MRC partnered with Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) to carry out an animal census on all MRC communities, as well as providing animal education at the local school. The data collected from the census will enable MRC to target specific areas for future veterinary interventions as required.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MacDonnell Regional Council budgets \$100,000 per year from untied funds to provide professional visiting veterinary services to all 13 of its communities and funded outstations. This enables at least two visits per year to each place.

### KEY CHALLENGES

A key challenge for Council continues to be the level of funds available to deliver animal management services. Council currently fully funds these services from its operational funding. Increased funds would enable improved veterinary services, including enhanced education and de-sexing, to be delivered to communities.



**TOP** Animal education at Kintore School, March 2021. **ABOVE** Explaining to the four legged residents about the animal census Amoonguna, March 2021.

## CEMETERIES

Cemetery management services are conducted in 12 MacDonnell Regional Council communities. Services include general maintenance of cemetery reserves and surrounds, preparation of burial plots, upkeep of burial details and identification of burial places within the cemetery.

MRC has developed Cemetery Management Guidelines, providing the basis of a four level implementation plan for cemeteries. This outlines the service level standards that MRC aims to achieve, taking into account the MRC's goal of 'Developing Communities' and relevant legislation.

Service levels for the development of cemeteries include:

- site identification and clearing, including fencing, car parks and grave shoring
- shade structures, seating, wheelie bins and water
- signage and plot markers, including a cemetery register and grid plan of grave locations
- pathways and landscaping

The planned introduction of the *NT Burials and Cremation Act 2019* was put on hold and is unlikely to be re-introduced before July 2022.

## INTERNAL ROADS MAINTENANCE

Communities continue to improve their roads and traffic safety, with traffic management plans in place for each community. Road furniture is installed where identified, including speed humps, regulatory signs, etc.



**ABOVE** Keeping the streets clean at Mount Liebig

## PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Parks and public spaces in each community are the responsibility of MRC and work in this area includes upgrades and maintenance of facilities, such as shade structures, park furniture, signage, and playground equipment.

It also includes the provision of lighting for public safety, conducting monthly safety audits on playground equipment, litter control and ensuring grass is kept short to mitigate fire risks.



## SPORTS GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

MRC maintains community sports ovals and other facilities.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Special Purpose Grants enabled communities to receive substantial sports grounds upgrades, including new covered basketball courts at Amoonguna and Papunya, with planning underway for Haasts Bluff.

Docker River and Papunya have flood lights at their footy ovals. Mount Liebig has new fencing and shelters at their softball field and through other partnerships, Santa Teresa now has a grassed footy oval that was officially opened in June 2021.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

MacDonnell Regional Council strives to deliver best practice waste management services for its thirteen (13) communities. Services include general waste collection; landfill management; litter management; and, staff training. Domestic kerbside collections are conducted twice weekly in all communities, with landfill sites effectively managed and maintained against the relevant service level guidelines across all 13 remote locations.

Waste management operations are delivered in accordance with the *Central Australian Remote Landfill Operating Manual (CARLOM)*, developed as a shared service by Barkly, Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils, the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT), and the NT Department of Environmental Health. This group makes up the Central Australian Waste Management Working Group whose aim is to work collaboratively to discuss regional waste management and environmental health issues, along with developing sustainable and best practice waste management documents for Central Australian remote communities.

The Technical Services Directorate are involved in remediating existing waste facilities and digging new trenches when required.



**TOP** Celebration at the official opening of the Santa Teresa Football oval.

**ABOVE (L-R)** Councillor, Annie Young; CSC Annalisa Young; Manager Service Centre Delivery, Kathleen Abbott; and MRC Admin Officer Agnes Alice at the opening of the Santa Teresa green footy oval

Monitoring landfills and illegal dumping continues to prove challenging due to their locations outside communities. The landfills are of a size and volume where it is impractical to have them permanently staffed.

The separation of waste materials takes place on all communities and, in line with best practice, are stockpiled for collection later. The removal of these stockpiles from communities is an on-going issue due to distance, road conditions and access to markets. Waste separation is a national strategy to protect the environment and to reduce the volumes of waste going to landfill.

1352 waste collections occurred throughout 2020/21 across 13 locations. Waste collections are conducted twice weekly at each of our 13 communities.

## MRC TIDY TOWNS

Our Service Delivery Teams participate in keeping all 13 MRC communities tidy and continually improving best practices in the management of communities. Continual improvement has paid off for MRC with MRC communities winning 7 of the last 8 years and being declared the NT Tidiest Town. Titjikala (2013-2014), Mt Liebig (2015), Areyonga (2016), Finke (2017), Santa Teresa (2018) and most recently, Wallace Rockhole (2020) winning the Northern Territory Tidy Towns Awards and going on to represent the NT at the Australian Sustainable Communities (Tidy Towns) Awards.

In October 2020, Council Services Coordinators came together in Alice Springs for a workshop that also included holding MRC internal Tidy Towns Awards. These awards recognised and rewarded the hard work put in during the year at keeping their communities not only tidy, but continually improving.



**Service Centre Delivery Team at CSC Workshop, October 2020**

Awards that were presented included the following:

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### INNOVATION AWARD (COVID-19) (HAND WASHING STATIONS MADE FROM RE-PURPOSED MATERIALS)

- Finke Civil Works Team
- Papunya ESO
- Titjikala Civil Works Team

### Encouragement Award

- Areyonga
- Titjikala

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### BEST RECYCLING PROGRAM

- Runner Up – Finke and Wallace Rockhole
- Winner – Kintore

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### BEST STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

- Finke, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Santa Teresa

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#### BEST WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY – SMALL

- Runner Up – Imanpa
- Winner – Wallace Rockhole

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#### BEST WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY - MEDIUM

- Runner Up – Amoonguna and Docker River
- Winner – Mt Liebig

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#### BEST WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY - LARGE

- Runner Up – Papunya
- Joint Winner – Hermannsburg and Santa Teresa

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#### BEST PARKS AWARD (3 WINNERS)

- Winner – Amoonguna (Ross Park and Stuart Park)
- Winner – Docker River (Lasseter Park)
- Winner – Santa Teresa (Eastside Park)

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#### BEST SPORTS GROUND

- Joint Runner Up – Mt Liebig Softball Field
- Joint Runner Up – Amoonguna Basketball Court
- Winner – Papunya Sports Complex

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#### MOST IMPROVED COMMUNITY

- Haasts Bluff

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#### BEST SMALL COMMUNITY

- Runner up – Imanpa
- Winner – Wallace Rockhole

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#### BEST MEDIUM COMMUNITY

- Highly Commended – Docker River
- Runner up – Finke
- Winner – Mount Liebig

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#### BEST LARGE COMMUNITY

- Runner up – Hermannsburg
- Winner – Santa Teresa.

### NT TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

The NT Awards were held “virtually” in 2020 and MRC watched in anticipation the proceedings online. MRC results of the NT Awards were as follows:

- Litter Management (Commendation) – Hermannsburg (Ntaria), Mt Liebig, Haasts Bluff, Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
- Resource Recovery (Commendation) – Aputula (Finke)
- Waste Management Award Commendation – Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
- Waste Management Award Winner – Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
- Innovation (COVID19) - Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
- Innovation Community – Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)
- Community Participation (Commendation) – Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
- Energy Conservation – Papunya (MRC Office)
- Culture & Heritage Winner – Hermannsburg (Historic Precinct)

**BEST REGIONAL COUNCIL** – MacDonnell Regional Council

**BEST SMALL** – Wallace Rockhole

**BEST MEDIUM** – Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)



## 2020 TERRITORY'S TIDIEST TOWN – Wallace Rockhole

As winners of the NT Tidiest Town Award, the Wallace Rockhole community were to represent the NT at the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards at Beechworth, Victoria in June 2021. A beautiful film was prepared to showcase the community's history, culture and its residents. However, an outbreak of Covid-19 in Melbourne caused the event to be deferred. It is anticipated to take place in July or August 2021.



**ABOVE** Get Grubby characters Costa the Garden Gnome and ScrapBoy were involved with the students at the Wallace Rockhole School planting veggies, trees and plants. Opportunities were made for filming to be used for future promotions.

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### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS – TERRITORY

NT Health Department funded MRC over five (5) years to rollout a Healthy Communities program, focusing on messaging that includes the theme “No Germs on Me.” The program will include a modified Get Grubby Program, involving the TV and online characters DirtGirl, ScrapBoy and Costa the Garden Gnome. The program includes a healthy

eating program that is being promoted at each MRC community. The program involves the MRC Service Centre Delivery team, Children's Services, Youth and our Community Engagement staff, as well as Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT) and other interested stakeholders.

The program had a successful launch at Wallace Rockhole in March 2021 that coincided with judging for the Australian Sustainable Communities Awards.

There were last minute jitters the event may not occur due to heavy rains however, on the day, the roads opened and the sky was blue.

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### GARDENING AT THE WALLACE ROCKHOLE SCHOOL

Costa, Jeff MacLeod, MRC CEO, and Gail Langley, National Tidy Towns Judge became the judges for the Bush Wok cooking competition with 8 teams participating (virtually the entire community took part in this luncheon cooking activity).



## WALLACE ROCKHOLE COMMUNITY FUN DAY, MARCH 2021

The event attracted almost the entire Wallace Rockhole community of 100 also hosted a number of participating agencies including:

- Indigenous Eye Health (University of Melbourne)
- Centre for Disease Control – Trachoma
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- NTG Oral Health
- Centre for Disease Control – Rheumatic Heart Disease
- Centre for Disease Control – Sexual Health
- Environmental Health Central Australia
- Keep Australia Beautiful Council (NT)
- MacDonnell Regional Council – (including the CEO, Service Delivery staff, Communications and Engagement staff)
- Wallace Rockhole residents

### Contractors

- EthiCal Nutrition – Roy Price
- Mememe Productions, Get Grubby – Costa the Garden Gnome and Scrap Boy

The community Fun Day was considered a success by all whom attended.

## NON-COUNCIL SERVICES

### OUTSTATIONS

The NT Government funds MRC to deliver some municipal and essential services to 24 occupied outstations or homelands with about 260 residents living in 78 dwellings. Other services provided include housing maintenance services and special purpose infrastructure projects.

Council's focus is to ensure reliable delivery of power, water and sewerage and to provide a safe and healthy environment for outstation residents. Civil works teams carry out regular inspections of outstations.

Municipal services provide waste collection, roads maintenance, animal management, fire breaks and environmental activities. Essential services maintain power, water, and septic/sewerage provision. Housing maintenance services include both urgent repairs, to address electrical risks, loss of power, septic/sewerage issues or loss of water, and general structural, plumbing, electrical and gas repairs.



**TOP Fence Upgrade at Amundurrgua Homeland, near Mt Liebig.**

### ABOVE Warren Creek Outstation

Although the Outstations program is subject to a five year agreement, funding is provided on an annual basis and the NTG has recently reviewed the program. The future of the Outstations program is not



widely known but it is considered there will be significant changes in the way the program operates in the future.

## COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

### AUSTRALIA POST

Council has a contract to provide postal agency services for Australia Post at twelve (12) of its remote communities. Mail services are provided to most communities weekly and are usually delivered by air services. Where airstrips are not available, MRC organises mail collection from Alice Springs.

### SERVICES AUSTRALIA (CENTRELINK)

MRC is contracted by Services Australia to deliver remote Centrelink Agent services on behalf of the Commonwealth. These services are provided in 11 communities and include:

- accepting claim forms and other required documents
- responding to customer enquiries and provision of assistance, guidance or referral if needed
- assisting customers to access self-service facilities

MRC has held this contract on an annual basis for a number of years and this will continue for a further 12 months. All sites are staffed by local employees who receive remote agent training from Services Australia.

### COMMUNITY STORE

MRC operates one community store at Amoonguna, a community near to Alice Springs. This “corner store” ensures residents have access to basic grocery items and other goods.



**ABOVE Simon Walmbey, ESO Imanpa being instructed about extracting oil from filters**

### POWER WATER

Council delivers essential services across all thirteen (13) MRC communities under contract to the Power and Water Corporation (PowerWater). MRC employs 11 Essential Service Officers (ESOs), with a strong focus on training and developing local Aboriginal employees in the role. Two of our smaller communities have the Team Leader Works provide limited essential services on those communities. On each community, MRC has the goal of having relief ESOs available.



MRC has been successfully carrying out the essential services duties for 13 years and we are proud of having a number of Indigenous people qualified to carry out the role as ESOs. Currently there are 33 qualified ESOs within the MRC communities. They are responsible for the day to day maintenance and upkeep of power, water and sewerage infrastructure in their community.

The current Power Water contract expired on 30 June 2021 however the contract was extended until mid-July 2021 pending outcome of the tender for 2021-2024. At the time of writing this report, the outcome of that tender was unknown.



**ABOVE: ESO Jessica "Bella" Slater cleaning the generator at Haasts Bluff**

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Of the 33 ESO qualified MRC employees, 21 are Indigenous (66%), located at Alice Springs (2), Amoonguna (2), Docker River (1), Finke (3), Haasts Bluff (2), Hermannsburg (2), Imanpa (1), Mount Liebig (1), Santa Teresa (3), Titjikala (2) and Wallace Rockhole (2).

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## NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SERVICES (NDIS)

NDIS fund nine (9) Remote Community Connectors across the MRC. These identified positions are for local Aboriginal residents and Connectors are responsible for responding to a variety of NDIS related participant requests and enquiries via the telephone or in person over the counter. Remote Connectors are located at Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya and Titjikala.



An aerial photograph showing a long, straight road under construction in a vast, arid desert landscape. The road is a dark, newly laid asphalt strip that stretches from the foreground into the distance, flanked by wide, reddish-brown dirt shoulders. Several construction vehicles are visible on the road: a yellow roller in the foreground, followed by two white trucks, and a smaller white truck further ahead. Two workers in high-visibility vests are standing on the right shoulder. The surrounding terrain is flat and covered with sparse, low-lying desert vegetation. In the far distance, a range of low, reddish-brown hills or mountains is visible under a clear blue sky.

**TECHNICAL  
SERVICES**



**The overarching role of the Technical Services Directorate is to manage Council's Building Infrastructure, Transport Infrastructure and Fleet. Incorporated in this management is responsibility for:**

- **Section 19 Leasing**
- **Staff Housing Capital Works and Repairs and Maintenance**
- **Building and Facility Capital Works and Repairs and Maintenance**
- **Outstation Housing Repairs and Maintenance**
- **Staff and Visitor Accommodation**
- **Swimming Pools**
- **Project Management**
- **Repairs and Maintenance and Capital Upgrades of the Road Network**
- **Waste Management Facility Capital Works**
- **Fleet Planning and Procurement**
- **Mobile Mechanical Workshop and Team**

## **BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Building Infrastructure team is responsible for repairs, maintenance, upgrades and capital works for all MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) buildings and facilities as well as tenancy services for staff housing. Our buildings include Service Delivery Centres, Home Care and Childcare Centres, depots, recreation halls, staff and outstation housing as well as swimming pools and other sporting facilities. The team also delivers commercial and grant funded projects on behalf of both the Northern Territory Government and Federal Government Departments.

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

In addition to successfully delivering both responsive and preventative repairs and maintenance to our 15 locations the team also delivered many capital projects this year as shown in the selection below;

- Alice Springs MRC office additional floor and the relocation of staff from the temporary office to the new office
- Papunya Service Delivery Centre (SDC) - perimeter and internal fencing upgrade
- Titjikala youth building – external upgrades to assist with passive cooling
- Amoonguna SDC - major internal renovations and external painting
- Haasts Bluff SDC – addition of meeting room to existing building and major internal renovations
- Imanpa SDC – security upgrades to entry and reception area
- Mt Liebig SDC – disability access ramps and office upgrades
- Titjikala SDC – major internal and external upgrades including perimeter fencing
- Wallace Rockhole SDC – septic system replacement
- Haasts Bluff – septic system replacement and building upgrades to visitor accommodation complex
- Areyonga – Lot 85 staff house major renovations
- Finke – Lot 76 major renovations and minor works to all other staff housing
- Upgrades to Aged Care facilities across multiple sites
- Basketball court complexes at Papunya and Amoonguna
- Football oval lights at Docker River
- Softball complex at Mt Liebig



**ABOVE (front left to right) Central Desert Regional Council President Adrian Dixon, Minister for Local Government Chansey Paech and MacDonnell Regional Council President Roxanne Kenny, with the two regional councils celebrated the opening of the new MacDonnell Regional Council Alice Springs office.**

## KEY CHALLENGES

Trade availability became a major challenge this year. Many trades that service our communities have struggled to recruit staff and have elected to concentrate on work in Alice Springs due to Covid stimulus funding that has become available. This combined with natural attrition of contractors on our approved 'Trade contractor panel' that is in its third and final year has lead to difficulties fulfilling work that is available and often of an urgent nature.



**ABOVE The completed Basketball Court at Amoonguna.**

## SWIMMING POOLS

This year's swimming season was marred with tragedy at Kintore. On 2 December 2020 a Kintore toddler lost his life in tragic circumstances at the swimming pool. All 3 MRC pools were closed after the incident until a full review of operations was completed. The Kintore pool was not opened at all for the rest of the swimming season at the request of family and community members. The Santa Teresa and Areyonga pools did open after the review was completed and were able to operate without incident until the end of the season.



## **FLEET SERVICES**

The Fleet Services team operates from the Alice Springs based workshop where they maintain Council vehicles and carry out major works on larger fleet items. The team includes our coordinator, fleet officer and four mobile mechanics who travel to communities every week to maintain MRC's large fleet of more than 300 items including vehicles, trucks, garbage compactors, buses, tractors, skid steers, backhoes and large earthmoving plant. During this past year the team has covered over 50,000 km to deliver this vital service and perform over 1,800 individual services. The team uses a web based application called Fleetio to assist with the task of managing the fleet. This is a collaborative tool which has been used by MRC for 7 years. The data collected in that time has been invaluable for understanding usage patterns and costs for forward planning and record keeping.

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Meeting the hectic schedule of community visits is always a key challenge. This year was no exception and the team worked exceptionally hard to ensure that the program was met and all fleet serviced to the best of their capacity.

The relative youth of MRC's very large fleet of vehicles continues to be a major achievement. This year saw an average age of fleet items of 30 months. This success is based on the long-term vision by MRC to adequately fund the fleet to ensure that service delivery targets are met with minimum disruptions due to fleet down time.



**ABOVE: A new Compactor Truck to provide Council's garbage collection service.**

### **KEY CHALLENGES**

This year it became apparent that supply of new fleet items had become increasingly difficult within usual time frames. The pandemic has caused supply chain issues with manufacturing which has meant that many of our orders for new items were delayed; sometimes into the following financial year. As such all ordering will be completed as early as possible in future financial year time frames.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

The Transport Infrastructure team is responsible for management of the 1,555km MRC road network, maintenance of community street lighting and airstrips, and capital upgrades to community waste management facilities.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## ROADS

Following on from the successful resheet of the Kintore road a tender was released to seal both the 9km Kintore and 3km Mt Liebig access roads. Much of the work was completed during this reporting period. The work was funded via a combination of Roads to Recovery, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure and Federal Assistance grants.

Grading of unsealed internal and outstation roads by the MRC grader team (made up of 100 per cent Indigenous staff) was completed based on their annual program as well as urgent works that were required.





## WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY CAPITAL UPGRADES

The team has undertaken significant capital upgrades to our waste management facilities this year at Imanpa, Kintore and Papunya as well as major clean up work at Mt Liebig, Hermannsburg, Titjikala and Amoonguna. The works include constructing new landfill trenches, covering existing trenches and rehabilitating the sites. The team utilises heavy equipment including our prime mover and float, 20 tonne excavator, 15 tonne loader and a large tipper.

### KEY CHALLENGES

Recruiting to vacant roles is very challenging. The licenses required for the role include multi combination truck licencing and various heavy earthmoving equipment tickets. These skills are very hard to find as we are in competition with highly paid roles in the mining and construction industry.







COMMUNITY  
SERVICES



**The Community Services directorate delivers intentional, sustainable, community-led services that seek to positively impact the lives of our residents. Services that Community Service deliver across the four Wards within MacDonnell Regional Council include:**

- **Aged and Disability Services (MacCare) provided in 8 remote communities.**
- **School Nutrition Program provided in 5 remote communities.**
- **Children's Services (MacKids) provided in 10 remote communities.**
- **Community Safety (MacSafe) provided in 12 remote communities.**
- **NT Library Services (MacConnect) provided in 13 remote communities.**
- **Youth Services (MacYouth) provided in 12 remote communities.**

These programs are delivered by our team of 283 dedicated staff, of which approximately 80% are Aboriginal.

Our Community Services programs are culturally sensitive programs that meet the needs of community residents through innovative service delivery models. We are committed to investing in our local Aboriginal staff and seeing them progress into senior roles within the organisation.

## **AGED AND DISABILITY SERVICES**

Our Aged and Disability Service, known as MacCare, delivers services in eight of our remote communities. Through a person-centred approach, MacCare supports clients to live in their own communities and provides choice and flexibility in the way their care and services are delivered.

Services include personal care, meals, transport, domestic assistance and social activities to assist clients to connect with their community.

The service also delivers a School Nutrition Program in five remote communities within the region, promoting health, contributing to school attendance and achieving positive educational outcomes.

Programs delivered by Aged and Disability Services in 2020/21 include:

- Commonwealth Home Care Packages – funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health (to 31 October 2022)
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program - funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health (30 June 2023)
- Commonwealth Home Support Program – funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health
- School Nutrition Program – funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency
- National Disability Insurance Scheme Services– funded through a fee-for-service model.

---

## **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 96 elderly community members supported to live in their community
- 6 community members living with a disability supported to live in their community.
- 51,563 meals delivered
- 683 transports provided
- 893 hours of domestic care provided
- 3,357 hours of personal care provided
- 1,268.25 hours of social support provided
- 85% Aboriginal employment.
- 13,317 meals were delivered through the school nutrition program

From 1 November 2019 MacCare transitioned to funding under the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care program, this change has allowed for improvements to services to clients while securing the financial viability of the aged care program through to June 2023.

Renovations were completed at all 8 sites under the Aged Care Regional, Rural and Remote Infrastructure Grant awarded in 2018.

MRC was approved for funding through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care program Bi-annual grant round and has been awarded funds to upgrade much of its existing service delivery equipment, as well as renovations has been completed to each of the 8 sites.

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## KEY CHALLENGES

MacCare has undergone significant preparation and planning in response to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. As many of our clients rely on our service provision to meet their daily needs, many activities of the service were identified as critical and contingency planning undertaken for the case that the service is directly impacted.

The National Aged Care Quality Standards changed 1 July 2019 and several operational changes were required to be implemented to achieve compliance with the revised standards. Some support for the implementation was provided through the Commonwealth Department of Health, with the implementation requiring changes to MRC policy and procedures, training for MRC staff, and education for clients and carers.

The rollout of support to disability clients under the National Disability Insurance Scheme has continued to be difficult with a lack of suppliers of Coordination of Supports effecting client's ability to access and apply their full funding allocation.



**ABOVE MacCare Bush Trip: Titjikala**



## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Children's Services programs, known on community as MacKids, delivers Early Learning programs for children from birth to school age, in ten of MRC's remote communities.

The Early Learning program is play-based and reflective of children's interests, abilities, and culture. The programs' operational hours vary between 6 to 7.5 hours, dependent on the needs of working families in each community. However, our programs are open to all children under school age and we encourage all families to access our quality early learning programs. We encourage families to stay and be involved with their child's learning if possible, as this provides parents with opportunities to build on their skills in supporting continued learning in the home environment.

Programs delivered by MacKids in 2020/2021 were:

- Early Learning Program – funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Skills and Employment

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 114,700 hours of childcare and Early Learning programs delivered
- 366 children accessed the Early Learning programs across the ten centres
- 86% Aboriginal employment
- 28% of families have successfully completed their registration for the Child Care Subsidy, with support from MacKids staff
- 6 Educators are progressing through Certificate III or the Diploma Early Childhood Education and Care

MacKids teams in Areyonga, Hermannsburg, Titjikala and Finke delivered combined events with MacCare and other Aged Care providers, promoting the sharing of cultural stories between community elders and children.

Only two Early Learning community yarning circles were held this year in Hermannsburg and Finke due to the COVID 19 restrictions. These yarning circles are valuable as they provide a platform for listening to what families want for their children and how we can work together to provide a culturally strong, “many ways” early learning program. All centres have worked closely with the local schools to ensure a positive transition to pre-school and primary school for children and their families.



**ABOVE Fun at the Papunya Childcare Centre**

Strong relationships have been developed with many stakeholders such as Territory Families to ensure that we support families to keep children safe. Over the past year, we have continued to work with the NT Department of Education to strengthen the cohesion of all Early Childhood services on community.

All services have continued to make significant progress towards the National Quality Standards (NQS) for Early Childhood Education and Care, meeting all agreed targets within their Quality Improvement Plans.

Staff have been engaged with both the NQS and the MacKids strategic objectives, strengthening the focus and commitment to quality Early Learning programs.

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#### KEY CHALLENGES

Under the Jobs for Families funding package, MacKids funding is partly dependant on families registering for the Child Care Subsidy scheme (CCS). This has continued to require extensive work from MacKids staff to educate families about the process and the benefits of registering for the CCS.

COVID-19 resulted in the national suspension of the Child Care Subsidy between March to June 2020 where parents/carers were not required to pay fees for children to attend childcare. This situation has created a major challenge, getting families to re-register for the childcare subsidy through Centrelink. Because of families not registering for Child Care Subsidy our income was greatly reduced.

Since the on-set of COVID 19, attendances at the Early Learning centres has been up and down due to many reasons, e.g. delayed funerals, too worried to attend due to COVID 19, families being more transient.

Recruitment of qualified staff to fill community-based positions has been a major challenge, as people do not want to move in the current climate. There is also an identified shortage of qualified Early Childhood Professionals across Australia.



**ABOVE** The Haasts Bluff kids enjoy their time together and time with their Educators.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY

MacDonnell Regional Council's Community Safety Program, known as MacSafe, is delivered in 12 of the MRC's remote communities (no service in Wallace Rockhole).

MacSafe provides a proactive and preventative approach to divert Aboriginal people away from contact with the criminal justice system, increase personal and community safety, and support school attendance by transporting children home, or to a safe location at night.

MacSafe is a responsive service, working collaboratively with the community, NT Police, service providers and other stakeholders, to ensure a partnership approach to addressing issues that the community identify as impacting on the safety of residents.

Programs delivered by MacSafe in 2020/21 included:

- MacSafe Community Safety Service – funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) as a part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS)
- Yarning Circles Program (Titjikala and Finke) funded by NT Department of Health, expanding to include 4 new communities: Finke; Haasts Bluff; Hermannsburg and Imanpa;
- The Building Stronger and Safer Communities workshops, funded by the NT Department of Health and conducted by Aboriginal consultants, Mibbinbah, were delivered in October and November in 4 communities (Finke, Santa Teresa, Papunya and Hermannsburg). MacSafe staff from 3 other communities were brought in to participate in the very successful 3-day training workshops (Titjikala, Mt Liebig and Hermannsburg); and MacYouth staff also participated in three of the workshops.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 13,712 hours of Community Safety services were delivered across 12 communities.

- 93% Aboriginal employment.
- 27% female employment.
- 22,640 engagements with community residents, providing assistance with community safety issues.
- 16,670 engagements with young people, providing transport home or to a safe location at night.
- 2 Yarning Circles were upgraded and completed (Titjikala and Finke).
- 38 staff received digital literacy training.
- 35 staff attended the annual 3-day MacSafe conference; an intensive training and program review of all 12 services; and strategic planning for possibilities for future service delivery.

MacSafe has taken a pro-active approach to improving the safety at large community events, particularly sports weekends and funerals. This involved working closely with community organisers from the early stages of the event planning process, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders including other MRC services, AFL NT, NT Police, and the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

During this year MacSafe teams from neighbouring communities travelled to other communities within the MRC region to support three community sports weekends and one major funeral. (Note: due to COVID, there was a reduction in major community sporting events in this reporting year).

### KEY CHALLENGES

Post COVID-19 related restrictions, have impacted routine work attendance, which has been challenging, and has had a significant impact on the MacSafe service. This has primarily been due to greatly increased travel by community members, particularly the attendance at Church based 'Sing-a-longs' in communities across the desert, often at short notice, leaving MacSafe services short on staff to carry out their usual patrols.

We have also lost some key senior staff through this period. Community Safety has had a focus on new recruitment and ongoing Staff Development by visiting Coordinators.

Local Authorities and community members have requested extended MacSafe service hours in many MRC communities. MacSafe had expanded service delivery in 6 of the 12 communities, however staffing challenges and the lack of indexation to the program funding over the past 6 years makes this difficult to sustain and further expansion is not currently possible. Three communities have had to return to working 5 days per week, instead of six or seven days.

**BELOW Byron and Jasper during the MacSafe Conference 13 May 2021.**



## **YOUTH SERVICES**

Our Youth Service, known as MacYouth, delivers a range of innovative youth programs for young people aged 5 to 25 years, across nine communities throughout the MacDonnell region. MacYouth also delivers the Remote Sport Program in 3 additional communities.

Programs delivered by MacYouth in 2020/21 included:

- Youth Development Program - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Outside School Hours Learning Program – funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency
- COVID-19 Youth Services program - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Remote Sport Program – funded by the NT Department of Tourism and Culture; Community Participation, Sport and the Arts Division
- Community Youth Diversion – funded by Territory Families
- The Right Track - funded by Territory Families
- Volatile Substance Abuse Program (Kintore) – funded by the NT Department of Health
- Youth Engagement Strategy (Papunya and Hermannsburg) – funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service
- Try Test and Learn – funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service
- Menstrual Hygiene Management – funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service
- COVID-19 Support program – funded by Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service
- Santa Teresa School Holiday program – funded by AAAC
- Alcohol and Other Drug Youth Grant- funded by the NT Department of Health



- Titjikala Traditional Tool Making Camp - funded by the NT Department of Health



**ABOVE A mountain devil lizard calls into the Kintore Camp.**

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 21,091 hours of youth programming delivered across 9 communities (11,277 hours of sport and recreation, 2,845 hours of leadership and culture, 1,498 hours of safety and diversion, 4,453 hours of jobs education and training, 1,018 hours of staff development)
- 15 young people engaged per activity (on average)
- 14 young people supported through Youth Diversion, a preventative measure from entering the criminal justice system
- 70% Aboriginal employment
- 9 Youth Boards met regularly (active in each community where MRC is funded for the Youth Development Program through NIAA) providing emerging young leaders opportunity to guide youth programming, discuss community issues, and present agenda items to Local Authority meetings
- 110 young people supported through case management under the Right Track program
- 4 cultural camps delivered across the region engaging 44 young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system
- Supporting 68 students into education pathways throughout this reporting period
- Boarding school students were supported by MacYouth staff while they were unable to return to their schools due to COVID-19 restrictions
- Modified youth programs were delivered throughout the COVID-19 restrictions, applying hygiene and physical distancing practices
- 4 regional sports competitions delivered (Soccer, AFL 9's, Softball and Basketball).
- MacYouth supported all 86 staff in training opportunities this reporting period including First Aid, Restorative Justice, Trauma Informed Practice, and in-house youth services training.



MacYouth has invested in a new reporting platform to accurately collect, manage, monitor and review the programs outcomes and services delivered. This includes improving the administration, work health and safety, operational procedures whilst increasing our local staff's knowledge through an accessible App.

MacYouth partnered with Central Australian Youth Link-Up Service (CAYLUS) to deliver the 'Try, Test and Learn – Meeting the Youth Gap' program. The program was innovative, providing opportunities for youth to be employed and supported with training in a wide range of work practices and life skills. The goal of this program was to reduce long term dependence on welfare and increase the number of skilled workers across the MacDonnell region.



**ABOVE Donna Ferguson patiently digging for honey ants – Docker River Bush Camp.**

## KEY CHALLENGES

MacYouth has experienced some challenges recruiting across high level Team Leader positions due to COVID-19 travel restrictions across the country. During this time MacYouth saw an increase in local indigenous staff taking on positions of higher duties and filling Senior Youth Service Officer and Youth Engagement Officer positions across the board including in Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Warumpi (Papunya) and Amoonguna.

Young people in the MacDonnell region continue to be at an increased risk of entering the juvenile justice system. MacYouth provides preventative programs to divert and break this cycle through case management support and individual case planning. MacYouth will continue to advocate for young people's legal rights before, during and after their engagement with the justice system and continue to apply for further funding to make a difference in this space.



**ABOVE Fun at the Areyonga Camp.**





MacDonnell  
Regional Council

**CORPORATE  
SERVICES**

**The Corporate Services directorate provides professional support to MRC's service delivery across the region through the provision of administrative, information technology (IT), human resources (HR), accounting, finance, budgeting, customer services, insurance and risk and governance, compliance, engagement and planning services.**

The activities of the Corporate Services directorate ensure that Council and its 13 Local Authorities have a strong governance framework and are compliant with the *Local Government Act*, other relevant legislation and related regulations and guidelines. This is achieved by good regional planning. Consistent and accurate secretariat support for Council and Local Authority meetings, training for Councillors and Local Authority members, and the development and review of a wide range of policies to guide MRC operations and services in communities. Strong human resource practices, financial management and reporting systems, and IT management, enable and provide critical support for these operations and services.

In 2020/21 financial year the Corporate Services directorate continued with a number of projects which included review of agendas for LA and Ordinary council meetings, HR, LMS, and IT projects. The strategies identified through these projects became part of MRC's regional plan KPI's in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with the view of strengthening Corporate Services' capability on service excellence, employee and community satisfaction, and sustainable operations. Accounting and finance staff continue to manage the MRC's finances through regular reviews of the budgets, accounting systems, internal control and processes. The Governance and Compliance department developed the suite of policies in readiness for the enactment of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act). The Act came into effect from 01 July 2021.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Human Resources department of MacDonnell Regional Council manages recruitment, employee staffing records, inductions, performance management, employee relations, training and development, exit processes, HR policy and procedure development, work health and safety and employee wellbeing.

As at the end of the financial year, the MRC had a total of 479 employees with demographic breakdowns per gender, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) origin and employment category are indicated below:

<b>STAFF</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Male	234	49%
Female	245	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>	
Indigenous Staff	366	76%
Non-Indigenous staff	113	24%
Full-time	163	34%
Part-time	148	31%
Casual	168	35%

MRC has 406 staff members based in communities, with 90.3% of those roles occupied by Aboriginal staff. MRC is a very significant and consistent employer of Aboriginal people.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Human Resources Team has continued to make progress in implementing and delivering on the Workforce Development Plan. Key achievements over the period of the 2020/2021 reporting period include:

**Induction Process:** An online community based induction program has been implemented for community based staff. The Alice Springs based induction has been successfully implemented and with positive feedback on the program by all participants.

**MRC Enterprise Agreement:** HR commenced negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement. This is a major project and the team looks forward to delivering a new agreement in the 2021/2022 period.

**Performance Management Framework:** Significant work was done in establishing a well-defined performance management framework. This included policy and guideline development, as well as training sessions for the MRC Leadership Team in performance management and conducting effective performance reviews.

**Policy Review and Development:** Substantial HR Policy development has taken place - 4 policies developed and approved; 6 procedures/guides developed and/or updated. A framework for managing Hazards and Risk was established. HR also provided significant support in establishing the Emergency Management Plan and Pandemic Management Plan.

**Talent Acquisition:** MRC has continued to enhance talent acquisition. An overhaul of MRC's recruitment website has aligned recruitment to the organisations values, and highlights the benefits of working for MRC. Furthermore, MRC has continued to increase exposure to potential candidates through targeted advertising on Social Media, as well as the use of Local Government advertising networks. The number of people visiting the MRC recruitment website over the 2020/2021 was up by 31% from the 2019/2020 financial year.

MRC managed to maintain a high percentage of Aboriginal staff, with 90.3% of community based roles occupied by Aboriginal staff. There are seven (7) Aboriginal staff in Council Service Coordinator roles. The total of Aboriginal employees above entry level roles continues to have an upward trend - 63 in 2016/7, 72 in 2017/8, 79 in 2018/19, 89 in 2019/20, and 98 in 2020/21.

A total of 190 employees left MRC during the period under review, while 159 new employees were hired.

## WHS

A significant amount of time has been spent by the Work Health and Safety team in monitoring and responding to the changing workplace environment as a result of COVID19. WHS continues to monitor risk related to COVID19 and ensure that MRC is implementing best practice steps to reduce that risk. This includes Healthy Facility Checklists, COVID Check-in, and processes to monitor staff travel.

WHS has continued to encourage staff to report incidents and as a result has seen a positive trend in the number of incidents reported. Over 2020/21 reporting period, WHS had a total of 223 Incidents reported.

Risks that are of note for MacDonnell Regional Council are:

- Vehicle use and driving in remote locations
- Property damage incidents
- Psychosocial hazards associated with working in community

MRC continued to support workers in achieving qualifications and certificates, especially around Work Health and Safety related training:

- Twenty-two staff members completed 4WD training
- Three staff members completed Warden training
- Two staff members completed First Aid training

---

## KEY CHALLENGES

The effects of COVID19 provided many challenges to Human Resources. Like most organisations across the country, COVID19 has resulted in significant time from core business being spent responding to the changing environment. Furthermore, the imposed restrictions limited the candidate pool for vacant positions and extended the time taken to fill vacancies.

The remoteness of MRC communities remains a barrier to attracting and retaining skilled workers, particularly for leadership, Essential Services and Childcare positions.

The implementation of a comprehensive WHS management system remains a challenge for MRC, with the system needing to meet the needs of both Alice Springs and our remote communities. This will remain a core focus for the HR team.

## GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

---

A small team delivers governance, policy, customer service, communications and engagement services for the entire MRC organisation.

The governance team ensures the organisation's compliance through legislative, statutory, policy and delivery obligations. The team specifically provides secretariat support to the Council and the 13 Local Authorities as well as stewardship of the development of MRC and operational policies, procedures and supporting documents.

The engagement team provides the organisation's communications, internally for the workforce and externally for stakeholders through selected media channels. Along with facilitating the organisation's planning and reporting processes, the team rolls out community engagement activities that support an understanding relationship between community residents, MRC services, Councillors and Local Authority members.

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The development and implementation of policies required under the new *Local Government Act 2019* (that came into effect on 1 July 2021) was a key achievement for the Policy Team. The review and updating of the Members and Meetings Policy suites will allow the Governance officers to provide better support services for the Council and the Local Authorities. The Policy Team also focused on policy consultation and dissemination of policy to staff, with the trialling of multimedia methods such as video.

The Engagement Team achieved the Regional Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) of the development of Community Infrastructure Plans and Local Authority meetings held in public open space. These KPIs had been on the MRC Regional Plan for a number of years.

The Engagement Team facilitated the development of 13 Community Infrastructure Plans with the 13 Local Authorities and community stakeholders, which were then approved by the Local Authorities. Local



Authority meetings held in open public spaces (in conjunction with a community BBQ) were run in the majority of the MRC communities, with several Local Authorities declining the offer because of concerns over distractions.

Local Authorities were supported by the Engagement Team to select 13 community-selected focus initiatives. These initiatives are community-led solutions based on issues the communities raised or were based on work the community wanted to showcase. Initiatives included youth employment, school attendance, cultural teaching documentation, music training and event support.

Consultation for the new Regional Plan was led by the Engagement Team with input from a variety of community representative bodies including MRC staff, Local Authority members and Councillors. Following the Council planning workshop in December 2020, seven focus areas were developed for the Local Authorities and staff to discuss during the earlier part of 2021.

The focus areas and consultation questions are detailed on the next page.

At the February 2021 meeting, Council received the consultation report from the Engagement Team and decided upon new proposed Key Performance Indicators for the Executive Leadership Team to review and budget for. At the April meeting, Council received recommendations, including budgeting from the ELT and the Engagement Team. Council then approved these new KPIs as well as directing which previous KPIs were to be carried over or removed.

The communications sector of the team continued to showcase the achievements and pride that MRC staff, Councillors, Local Authorities and Youth Boards have in their roles, with bi-monthly issues over 50 pages in length. Local media, the Centralian Advocate and ABC news, continued to show interest in MRC activities with a number of articles published and talkback sessions involving the MRC.



## KEY CHALLENGES

Engagement with Council's communities continued to be hampered during the course of 2020/21 due to travel restrictions and it is to be hoped that there will be a marked improvement in 2021/22. These restrictions negatively impacted the progression of Regional Plan KPIs for which the Governance and Engagement is responsible.

Staff within the Department rose magnificently to a much heavier workload due to a number of staff movements and vacancies within the Department.

## INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The Information Communications Technology and Records department consists of 3 people as of June 2021: the Manager, Records Manager and ICT/Records Officer which support all operational aspects of ICT across MRCs 14 locations.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Maintaining the serviceability of all ICT Equipment and its connectivity (Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Mobile and Satellite Phones, Cameras, Video Conferencing)
- Managing all Connectivity regardless of which service provider and reporting faults, damage and outages to ensure continued serviceable operations
- Providing feedback to service providers on connectivity – especially Remote staff housing to ensure employees have internet/phone connections to be able to connect to family regardless of where they are located.

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### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Relocation of MRC Office

The successful transition of MRCs main office from Hartley Street back to Bagot Street was completed in March 2021 with minimal connection issues and employees have the experience of being able to move around the office spaces connected directly to MRCs WIFI Network. Upgraded technology ensures continuous connection can be maintained anywhere in the building to the secure CouncilBIZ network.



**ABOVE** The marvels of technology - a satellite photo of Titjikala



### Video Conferencing:

Video Conferencing has been activated to all community Council Office spaces. Amoonguna, Docker River, Finke, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Titjikala and Wallace Rockhole are all connected by Telstra 4G Wireless configuration as they have completed the Black Spot Program installations and connections (See Below).

Unfortunately Areyonga and Haasts Bluff are configured via the CouncilBIZ Network for Video Conferencing as there is no alternative at this point in time.

All connections are functioning and being monitored for issues. The VC installations were completed in June 2021

**RIGHT: The server in the new HQ**

### Federal/Telstra Black Spot Program

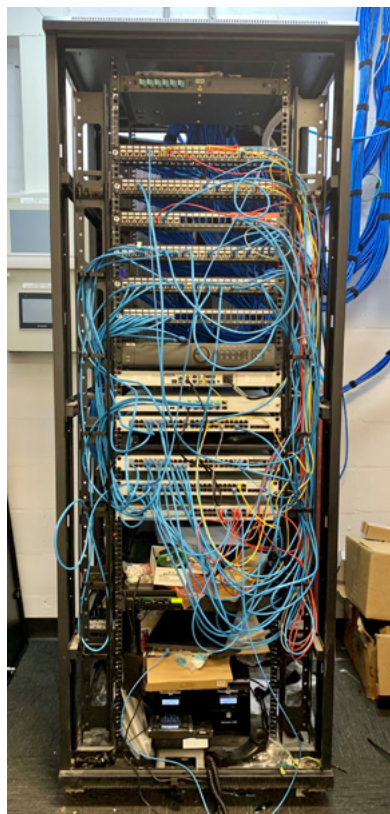
The Black Spot program has completed the installations of mobile coverage at 11 of 13 communities. This only leaves 2 communities to be completed - Areyonga and Haasts Bluff. Advice has been sought as to the status/completing dates on both however at present there has been no update available

### Staff Houses Internet Connectivity:

All Staff Houses have an internet connection

- Activ8me – Satellite Plans
- IINET – Satellite Plans or
- Telstra – Data Plans

Although communities have Telstra 4G Data available (like Alice Springs) the backhaul is still an issue for speeds, so



most communities have remained on Satellite Access to ensure they have connectivity.

### Records:

MRC's key role is to meet legislative, system and policy requirements that manage all their information needs. MRC's goal is to create a paperless environment. All paper records are currently being digitised and all stored records are under review.

The records management system is fully operational and implemented with a mirror Business Classification System (BCS) available online for all remote communities. Changes to our records storage and destruction procedures are ensuring costs are kept to a minimum with new and improved ways of doing business being identified.

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### KEY CHALLENGES

Distances are the biggest challenge – remote access has alleviated some of these issues however it does not negate the requirement for one on one solutions. Cost of advancements in technology infrastructure are the next largest hurdle. Upgrading Infrastructure rather than reversing it improves the connectivity and end user experience in all aspects of MRCs operations.

## **FINANCE**

The Finance Department ensures that MRC income, payments and financial reporting is done in a timely and accountable manner. The Finance department manages all payments and receipts across the 14 offices of the MRC, as well as the acquittal of all grant money received.

The MacDonnell Regional Council finished the year with an operating surplus of \$3,436,738. This includes:

- Increase in income of \$1,861,648 and expenses of \$205,407, resulting in overall increase in operating surplus of \$1,656,241 compared to the last financial year.

### **Impact of AASB 1058 and AASB 15**

Current year Unearned Grant Income and Grant Received in Advance decreased by \$3M and unexpended Grant reserve in Equity reduced by \$0.51M. All grants not spent by the end of the financial year are recognised as a liability except Federal Assistance Grant funding which is classified as untied funds. Untied funds as recognised as unexpended grants reserve in the equity section.

### **Impact of AASB 16**

Application of AASB has result in recognition of MRC's leases cost greater than 12 months as Lease Asset (Right-to-Use) is \$1.08M and Lease Liability.

Right-to-use asset is \$1.1M

Lease Liability (current) is \$253K

Lease Liability (non-current) is \$886K

At the end of the 2020/21 financial year the MRC holds \$2.12 in current assets for every \$1 owed in current liabilities including the unexpended grant in the reserve.

The Current Ratio is 2.12. The result provides a clear indication that MRC is in a good position to pay its debts when due.

Current ratio = Current assets + (Current liabilities + unexpended grants reserve)

Grant funding received during the financial year, but which remains unspent at year end, is included in the statement of Financial Position and referenced as unearned Grant Income and Grants received in Advance. During the 2020/21 financial year the unearned Grant income and Grant received in advance, included in the Statement of Financial Position is \$6,620,461 and \$921,486 respectively.

## **KEY CHALLENGES**

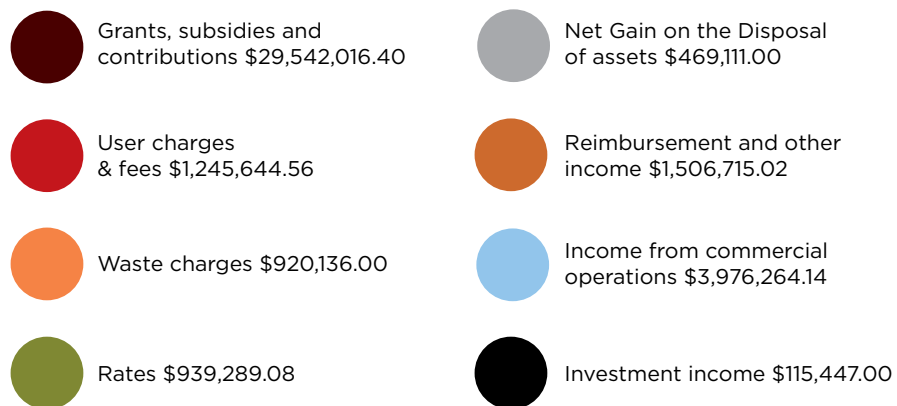
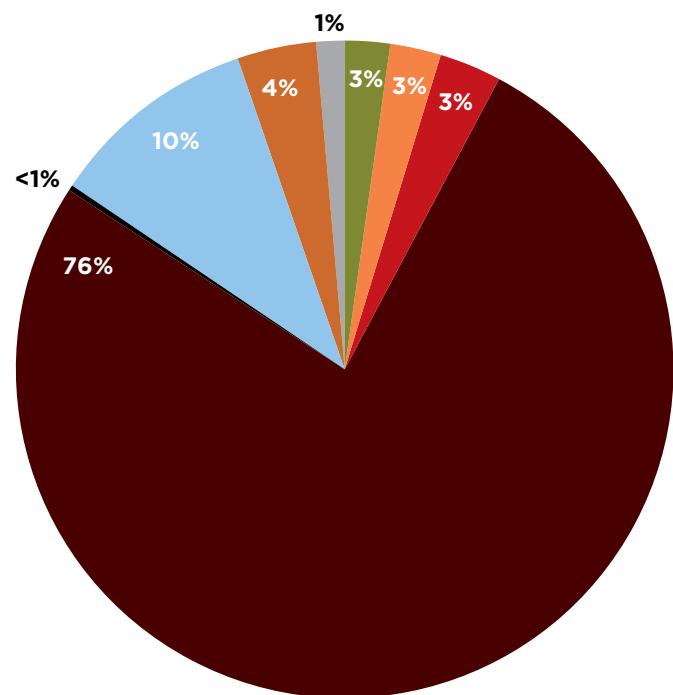
The income from grants and subsidies in 2020/21 is 76% of total revenue and was offset by a significant increase in self-generated funds. This area continues to be a challenge and unless the decline is reversed it could leave MRC once again being at risk of being reliant on too few income streams.

The MRC accumulated depreciation ratio is 77% meaning that MRC existing fixed assets are worth around 23% of the original value. A low ratio means that the assets have plenty of life in them and high ratio means the opposite. However, this financial ratio is relative to the MRC line of business and industry standards.

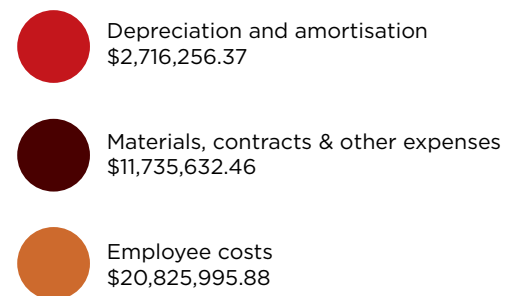
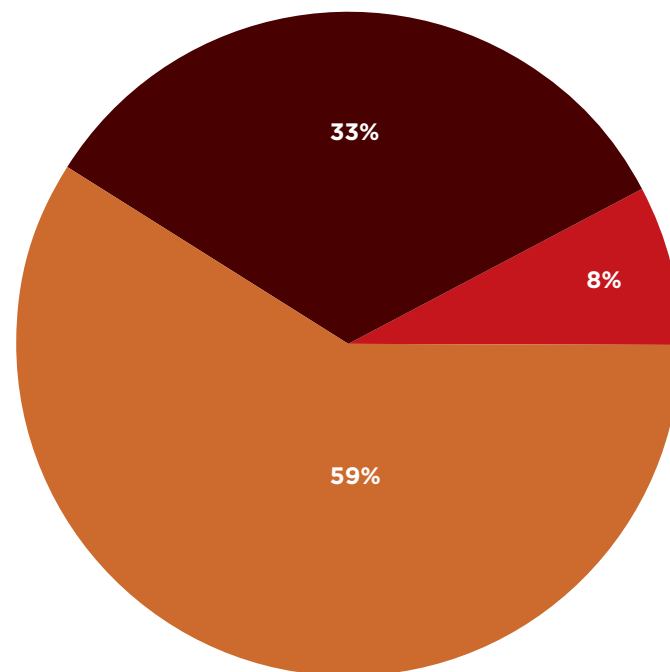
Accumulated depreciation to fixed assets ratio = Accumulated depreciation + (Fixed assets - Lands)



SOURCE OF INCOME 2020/21



SOURCE OF EXPENDITURE 2020/21





A wide-angle photograph of a vast field of small, vibrant purple flowers, likely a wildflower bloom. The field is interspersed with low-lying green and greyish shrubs. In the background, a line of trees with green foliage stretches across the horizon under a clear, pale blue sky. A large, dark tree with a spreading canopy is prominent on the left side of the image.

# **GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT**



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**General Purpose Financial Reports**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

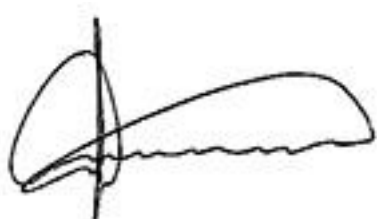
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**MacDonnell Regional Council  
Chief Executive Officer's Certificate  
For the year ended 30 June 2021**

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- a) The Financial Statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act, and the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2021, and
- b) The Financial Statements are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council, and
- c) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Council will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff MacLeod', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Jeff MacLeod  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021.





## Independent audit report to the Chief Executive Officer of MacDonnell Regional Council

### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council ("the Council"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Chief Executive Officer's Certificate.

In our opinion, the financial report of MacDonnell Regional Council is in accordance with the *Northern Territory Local Government Act*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of MacDonnell Regional Council as at 30 June 2021 and of the Council's performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations*.

### *Basis for opinion*

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

We are independent of the Council in accordance with the *Northern Territory Local Government Act 2008* and the ethical requirements of the *Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the 'Code') that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

### *The Responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report*

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Northern Territory Local Government Act* and for such internal control as the CEO determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the CEO is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report*

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

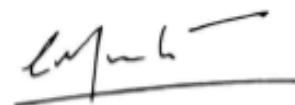
As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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

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

*Merit Partners*

Merit Partners



MunLi Chee  
Director

DARWIN

20 October 2021

[meritpartners.com.au](https://meritpartners.com.au)



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Rates		939,289	999,829
Statutory charges - waste management		920,136	921,403
User charges & fees	2a	1,245,645	1,300,299
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2d	29,542,014	28,927,759
Investment income		115,447	409,220
Income from commercial operations	2b	3,976,264	3,439,668
Reimbursement and other income	2c	1,506,715	655,118
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>38,245,510</b>	<b>36,653,296</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Employee costs	3a	20,825,996	20,983,672
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3b	11,735,632	11,364,491
Depreciation and amortisation	3c	2,716,256	2,724,315
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>35,277,885</b>	<b>35,072,478</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>		<b>2,967,625</b>	<b>1,580,818</b>
Net gain from disposal of property, plant & equipment	4	469,111	199,679
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>		<b>3,436,736</b>	<b>1,780,497</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>3,436,736</b>	<b>1,780,497</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at 30 June 2021**

		2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5a	22,789,269	28,290,746
Trade & other receivables	5b	1,316,510	936,636
Inventories	5c	19,648	78,045
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>24,125,427</b>	<b>29,305,427</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	6a	14,127,390	9,429,382
Capital Work In Progress	6b	1,822,361	1,734,379
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>15,949,751</b>	<b>11,163,761</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>40,075,178</b>	<b>40,469,188</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables and accruals	7a	1,344,365	1,954,783
Employee benefits	7b	2,213,016	2,056,873
Lease liabilities	7c	253,194	360,786
Unearned grant income	14b	6,620,463	7,475,651
Grants received in advance	14b	921,486	3,080,396
		<b>11,352,524</b>	<b>14,928,489</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>11,352,524</b>	<b>14,928,489</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	7b	520,546	592,326
Lease liabilities	7c	886,269	1,069,269
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,406,815</b>	<b>1,661,595</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>12,759,339</b>	<b>16,590,085</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>27,315,839</b>	<b>23,879,103</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		24,395,855	20,442,716
Unexpended grant reserve	14a	1,868,586	2,384,988
Reserve	17	1,051,398	1,051,398
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>27,315,839</b>	<b>23,879,102</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>27,315,839</b>	<b>23,879,102</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes.



# MacDonnell Regional Council

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2021

2021	Notes	Accumulated Surplus \$	Unexpended Grant Reserve \$	Reserve \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
Balance at beginning of reporting period		20,442,716	2,384,988	1,051,398	23,879,102
Net Surplus for Year		3,436,736	-	-	3,436,736
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
		3,436,736	-	-	3,436,736
Transfers between reserves		516,402	(516,402)	-	-
Balance at end of period		24,395,855	1,868,586	1,051,398	27,315,839

2020	Notes	Accumulated Surplus \$	Unexpended Grant Reserve \$	Other Reserves \$	TOTAL EQUITY \$
Balance at beginning of reporting period, as previously reported		18,714,654	12,789,267	1,051,398	32,555,319
Less: Adjustment on adoption of AASB 15 & AASB 1058		-	(10,456,714)	-	(10,456,714)
Transfers between reserves		(52,435)	52,435	-	-
Balance at beginning of reporting period, as restated		18,662,219	2,384,988	1,051,398	22,098,605
Net Surplus for Year		1,780,497	-	-	1,780,497
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-	-	-
		1,780,497	-	-	1,780,497
Transfers between reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of period		20,442,716	2,384,988	1,051,398	23,879,102

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes

# MacDonnell Regional Council

## Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Notes	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Rates		854,887	999,829
Statutory Charges - Waste Management		861,086	921,403
User Charges & Fees - Other		1,245,645	1,142,141
Grants, Subsidies & Contributions		26,527,915	29,536,397
Income from Commercial Operations		3,728,270	3,021,294
Reimbursements & Other Income		1,518,287	575,435
<i>Payments:</i>			
Employee Costs		(20,785,284)	(19,805,041)
Materials & Consumables		(2,957,907)	(2,736,977)
Other Operating Expenses		(9,286,097)	(9,715,494)
<b>Net Cash used in Operating Activities</b>		<b>1,706,802</b>	<b>3,938,985</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<i>Receipts:</i>			
Interest received		115,447	409,221
Sale of Plant, Equipment & Vehicles		576,315	199,679
<i>Payments:</i>			
Purchase of Replacement Property, Plant, Equipment & Vehicles		(6,979,534)	(2,515,002)
Payments for Capital work in progress		(558,316)	(586,800)
<b>Net Cash used in Investing Activities</b>		<b>(6,846,088)</b>	<b>(2,492,903)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<i>Payments:</i>			
Repayments of lease liabilities		(362,191)	(405,322)
<b>Net Cash used in Financing Activities</b>		<b>(362,191)</b>	<b>(405,322)</b>
<b>Net (Decreased)/Increased in cash held</b>		<b>(5,501,477)</b>	<b>1,040,761</b>
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	8	28,290,746	27,249,986
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at end of period</b>	8	<b>22,789,269</b>	<b>28,290,746</b>

This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the attached Notes



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

**1 Basis of Preparation**

**1.1 Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards**

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards as they apply to not-for-profit entities, other authoritative pronouncements of the *Australian Accounting Standards Board and Interpretations*, the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2008*, the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2008*, and the relevant Northern Territory legislation.

The date the general purpose financial report were authorised for issue is as shown on the Chief Executive Officer's Certificate.

**1.2 Historical Cost Convention**

Except as stated below, these financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

**1.3 Critical Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Australian Accounting Standards requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates and requires management to exercise its judgement in applying Council's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are specifically referred to in the relevant sections of this Note.

**1.4 Rounding**

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

**1.5 Covid-19 Pandemic Crisis**

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis is not expected to have a significant financial impact on the Council operations in 2021, with the Council working to reduce its operations to provision of the Essential Services to the community in its area of jurisdiction. Accordingly, the Council has determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

In case of community transmission of COVID 19 in one of its community, NTG Rapid Response Teams will be activated in that community, and NTG will provide the critical services with the support of Council staff. The critical services are identified as rubbish collections, aged & disability services and power & water services. Other Council's community will continue with the service provision within any COVID 19 restrictions imposed by the NTG.

**2 The Local Government Reporting Entity**

MacDonnell Regional Council has its principal place of business at 2/1 Bagot Street, The Gap NT. This general purpose financial statements include the Council's direct operations and all cost centres through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions. In the process of reporting on the Council as a single unit, all transactions and balances between activity areas and cost centres have been eliminated.

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**3 Income recognition**

**3.1 Revenue**

The Council recognises revenue under AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) or AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) when appropriate.

In cases where there is an 'enforceable' contract with a customer with 'sufficiently specific' performance obligations, the transaction is accounted for under AASB 15 where income is recognised when (or as) the performance obligations are satisfied (i.e. when it transfers control of a product or service to a customer). Revenue is measured based on the consideration to which the Council expects to be entitled in a contract with a customer.

In other cases, AASB 1058 applies when a not-for-profit (NFP) entity enters into transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than the fair value of the asset principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. The excess of the asset recognised (at fair value) over any 'related amounts' is recognised as income immediately, except in the case where a financial asset has been received to enable the council to acquire or construct a recognisable non-financial asset that is to be controlled by the council. In this case, the council recognises the excess as a liability that is recognised over time in profit and loss when (or as) the entity satisfies its obligations under the transfer.

**3.2 Construction Contracts**

Construction works undertaken by Council for third parties are generally on an agency basis where the third party reimburses Council for actual costs incurred, and usually do not extend beyond the reporting period. Reimbursements not received are recognised as receivables and reimbursements received in advance are recognised as "payments received in advance".

For works undertaken on a fixed price contract basis, revenues are recognised over time using the input method, with costs incurred compared to total expected costs used as a measure of progress. When it is probable that total contract costs will exceed total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

**3.3 Rates and levies**

Rates are recognised at the commencement of rating period. Rates overpaid at the reporting period are classified as current liability.

**3.4 Rendering of Services**

Revenue from rendering of services is recognised when the Council satisfies the performance obligation by transferring the promised services. The Council typically satisfies its performance obligations when:

- the amount of revenue, stage of completion and transaction costs incurred can be reliably measured and
- it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

**3.5 Fees and Other Charges**

Other revenue includes fees for services provided to community and other organisations. These fees charged for providing ongoing services are recognised as income over the period the service is provided.

**3.6 Interest and dividends**

Interest received from term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment. No dividends were received during the reporting period.



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**4 Cash, Cash Equivalents and Other Financial Instruments**

**4.1 Cash, Cash Equivalent Assets**

Cash assets include all amounts readily convertible to cash on hand at Council's option with an insignificant risk of changes in value with a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

**4.2 Other Financial Instruments**

Receivables for rates and annual charges are secured over the subject land, and bear interest at rates determined by the Council. Other receivables are generally unsecured and do not bear interest.

All receivables are reviewed as at the reporting date and adequate allowance made for amounts the receipt of which is considered doubtful.

All financial instruments are recognised at fair value at the date of recognition. A detailed statement of the accounting policies applied to financial instruments also form part of Note 10.

**5 Inventories**

Finished goods are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs have been assigned to inventory on hand at balance date using the weighted average method.

**6 Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment**

**6.1 Initial Recognition**

All assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration, cost is determined as fair value at the date of acquisition.

All non-current assets purchased or constructed are capitalised as the expenditure is incurred and depreciated as soon as the asset is held "ready for use". Cost is determined as the fair value of the assets given as consideration plus costs incidental to the acquisition, including architects' fees and engineering design fees and all other costs incurred.

The cost of non-current assets constructed by the Council includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overhead.

Capital works still in progress at balance date are recognised as other non-current assets and transferred to infrastructure, property, plant & equipment when completed ready for use.

**6.2 Materiality**

Assets with an economic life in excess of one year are only capitalised where the cost of acquisition exceeds materiality thresholds established by Council for each type of asset. In determining (and in annually reviewing) such thresholds, regard is had to the nature of the asset and its estimated service life. Examples of capitalisation thresholds applied during the year are given in Note 6. No capitalisation threshold is applied to the acquisition of land or interests in land.

**6.3 Subsequent Recognition**

Additions acquired subsequent to initial recording are recognised as cost. These costs are deemed to be the fair value at 30 June 2021. Significant uncertainties exist in the estimation of fair value of a number of asset classes including land, buildings and associated structures and infrastructure. Further detail of these uncertainties, and of existing valuations, methods and valuers are provided at Note 6.

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

of the impairment loss (if any). Where the asset does not generate cash flows that are independent from other assets, the Council estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

**6.4 Depreciation of Non-Current Assets**

Other than land, all infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets recognised are systematically depreciated over their useful lives on a straight-line basis which, in the opinion of Council, best reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets.

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values of classes of assets are reviewed annually.

Major depreciation periods for each class of asset are shown in Note 6. Depreciation periods for infrastructure assets have been estimated based on the best information available to Council, but appropriate records covering the entire life cycle of these assets are not available, and extreme care should be used in interpreting financial information based on these estimates.

**6.5 Impairment**

Assets whose future economic benefits are not dependent on the ability to generate cash flows, and where the future economic benefits would be replaced if Council were deprived thereof, are not subject to impairment testing.

Other assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount (which is the higher of the present value of future cash inflows or value in use).

Where an asset that has been revalued is subsequently impaired, the impairment is first offset against such amount as stands to the credit of that class of assets in Asset Revaluation Reserve, any excess being recognised as an expense.

**7 Payables**

**7.1 Goods & Services**

Creditors are amounts due to external parties for the supply of goods and services and are recognised as liabilities when the goods and services are received. Creditors are normally paid 30 days after the month of invoice. No interest is payable on these amounts.

**7.2 Payments Received in Advance & Deposits**

Amounts received from external parties in advance of service delivery, and security deposits held against possible damage to Council assets, are recognised as liabilities until the service is delivered or damage reinstated, or the amount is refunded as the case may be.

**8 Provisions**

**8.1 Employee Benefits**

Liabilities for employees' entitlements to salaries, wages and compensated absences expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of reporting date are accrued at nominal amounts (including payroll based on costs) measured in accordance with AASB 119.

Liabilities for employee benefits not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows (including payroll based on costs) to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Present values are calculated using government guaranteed securities rates with similar maturity terms.



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

No accrual is made for sick leave as Council experience indicates that, on average, sick leave taken in each reporting period is less than the entitlement accruing in that period, and this experience is expected to recur in future reporting periods. Council does not make payment for untaken sick leave.

**8.2 Superannuation**

The superannuation expense for the reporting period is the amount of the contributions MRC makes to the superannuation plans which provide benefits to its employees plus provision for superannuation in respect of leave entitlements owed.

The Council does not have any employees who are members of defined benefit funds.

All superannuation schemes to which the Council makes contributions on behalf of employees are of the accumulation type, where the superannuation benefits accruing to the employee are represented by their share of the net assets of the scheme, and no further liability attaches to the Council.

**8.3 Provisions**

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows.

**9 Leases**

Leases The Council assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. That is, if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Council as a lessee:

The Council recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

**i) Right-of-use assets**

The Council recognises right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and the estimate of costs to be incurred to restore the leased asset.

Right of use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

- Office Accommodation 5 to 10 years
- S19 Aboriginal Land 6 to 12 years

The right-of-use assets are also subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies in section 6.5 - Impairment of non-financial assets above.

**ii) Lease liabilities**

At the commencement date of the lease, the Council recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Council uses its incremental borrowing rate or the interest rate implicit in the lease.

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 1 – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

iii) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Council applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases of machinery and equipment (i.e., those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date). It also applies the low-value assets recognition exemption to leases of office equipment that are considered to be low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**10 GST Implications**

In accordance with UIG Abstract 1031 “Accounting for the Goods & Services Tax”

- Receivables and Creditors include GST receivable and payable.
- Except in relation to input taxed activities, revenues and operating expenditures exclude GST receivable and payable.
- Non-current assets and capital expenditures include GST net of any recoupment.
- Amounts included in the Statement of Cash Flows are disclosed on a gross basis.

**11 New and amended standards and interpretations**

The Council applied for the first-time certain standards and amendments, which are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020. New standards and amendments relevant to the Council are listed below. The Council has not early adopted any other standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Amendments to AASB 101 and AASB 108 Definition of Material:

The amendments provide a new definition of material that states, “information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity.” The amendments clarify that materiality will depend on the nature or magnitude of information, either individually or in combination with other information, in the context of the financial statements. A misstatement of information is material if it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions made by the primary users. These amendments had no impact on the financial statements of, nor is there expected to be any future impact to the Council.

Amendments to AASB 16 Covid-19 Related Rent Concessions:

In 2020, the AASB issued AASB 2020-4, Amendments to AASs - Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions. The amendments provide relief to lessees from applying AASB 16 guidance on lease modification accounting for rent concessions arising as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. As a practical expedient, a lessee may elect not to assess whether a Covid-19 related rent concession from a lessor is a lease modification. A lessee that makes this election accounts for any change in lease payments resulting from the Covid-19 related rent concession the same way it would account for the change under IFRS 16 if the change were not a lease modification. The amendment applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 June 2020. This amendment had no impact on the consolidated financial statements of the Group.



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 2 – INCOME**

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>a) USER CHARGES</b>			
Equipment Hire		55,347	36,457
Landfill Tipping Fees		148,955	47,424
Property Fees		479,675	364,231
Service Fees		547,330	814,204
Other User Charges & Fees		14,337	37,983
		<b>1,245,645</b>	<b>1,300,299</b>
<b>b) INCOME FROM COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS</b>			
Contract Fees		3,734,363	3,279,278
Fuel Sales		343	1,837
Sales - Amoonguna Store		241,558	158,553
		<b>3,976,264</b>	<b>3,439,668</b>
<b>c) REIMBURSEMENTS &amp; OTHER INCOME</b>			
Fuel Tax Rebate		46,379	61,347
Fundraising & Donations		18,925	7,159
Insurance Recoveries		136,095	77,407
Reimbursements		1,255,893	298,574
Other Income		49,423	210,631
		<b>1,506,715</b>	<b>655,118</b>
<b>d) GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS</b>			
<b>Commonwealth of Australia Government Agencies</b>			
Operating Grants		1,022,773	455,503
Capital Grants		218,232	529,871
Agency Services Grants		14,488,765	12,195,172
<b>Northern Territory Government Agencies</b>			
Operating Grants		10,424,764	10,344,563
Special Purpose Grants		568,400	571,710
Capital Grants		75,000	675,000
Agency Services Grants		1,123,296	1,362,100
<b>Other Agencies</b>			
Operating Grants		858,968	-
Add: Grants collected in previous year realised as income in the current year as per AASB 15 & AASB 1058		7,475,652	10,456,714
Less: Grant refunded		(93,372)	(187,223)
Unearned grant income as at 30 June 2021 as per AASB 15 & AASB 1058		(6,620,463)	(7,475,651)
		<b>29,542,014</b>	<b>28,927,759</b>
		<b>29,542,014</b>	<b>28,927,759</b>

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 2 – INCOME (con't)**

		<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>e) Conditions over grants &amp; contributions</b>			
Grants and contributions which were obtained on the condition that they be expended for specified purposes or in a future period, but which are not yet expended in accordance with those conditions, are as follows:			
Unexpended at the close of the previous reporting period	14b	<b>10,556,048</b>	10,456,714
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods:		<b>(4,079,350)</b>	(518,048)
Amounts recognised as liabilities in current reporting period due to an obligation to pay back to funding body		<b>(4,532,948)</b>	(4,597,716)
Prior year unexpended grants repaid to funding bodies		<b>(93,372)</b>	(187,223)
Subtotal		<b>(8,705,670)</b>	(5,302,987)
Plus: amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		<b>5,691,569</b>	5,402,321
Subtotal		<b>5,691,569</b>	5,402,321
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period		<b>7,541,947</b>	10,556,048
Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period		<b>(3,014,101)</b>	99,334



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 3 – EXPENSES**

	2021	2020
Notes	\$	\$
<b>a) EMPLOYEE COSTS</b>		
Salaries, Wages, Leave and Allowances, including On-Costs	18,362,425	18,459,997
Employer's Superannuation Contributions	1,791,166	1,724,293
Workers Compensation paid	-	9,691
Protective Clothing	6,653	5,739
Recruitment Expenses	75,314	81,452
Training Programs	426,033	376,368
Employee Benefits & Other Employee Costs	164,405	326,132
<b>Total Operating Employee Costs</b>	<b>20,825,996</b>	<b>20,983,672</b>
 <b>Total Number of Employees</b>	 <b>450</b>	 <b>410</b>
<i>(Full time equivalent at end of reporting period)</i>		
<b>b) MATERIALS, CONTRACTS &amp; OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
<u>Other Operating expenses</u>		
Advertising & Promotional Activities	26,090	27,345
Audit Services	51,272	52,000
Computer Services	497,687	413,827
Consulting Fees	129,773	123,640
Contract Labour	2,679,144	2,796,886
Elected Members' Allowances & Training	504,106	334,880
Freight Charges	133,880	146,359
Fuel for Plant & Vehicles	499,600	522,641
Gas, Power, Sewerage & Water	729,961	779,675
Insurance Premiums & Fees	1,483,842	1,471,253
Legal & Professional Services	2,242	6,851
Local Authority Members' Allowances	16,929	14,903
Memberships & Subscriptions	70,189	69,853
Operating Leases	110,258	54,668
Interest on Leased assets	43,632	50,524
Telephone & Internet Services	918,291	804,463
Transaction Fees & Taxes	28,865	41,565
Travel, Accommodation & Entertainment	364,853	278,966
Vehicle Registration, Repairs & Maintenance, others	456,688	348,934
 Subtotal - Other Operating expenses	 <b>8,747,304</b>	 <b>8,339,233</b>

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 3 – EXPENSES (con't)**

	2021	2020
Notes	\$	\$
<u>Other Materials, Contracts &amp; Expenses</u>		
Building Materials	30,506	12,039
Buildings Repairs & Maintenance	260,723	330,805
Cleaning Services & Materials	90,370	115,207
Community Infrastructure	417,044	310,825
Food for Services & Catering Costs	546,679	588,136
Furniture & Fittings	80,391	82,058
Plant & Equipment	97,366	88,370
Purchases - Amoonguna Store	255,469	159,378
Road Furniture & Signage	1,558	1,786
Tools, Equipment & Minor Assets	621,915	835,747
Vehicles Parts & Tyres	186,802	201,489
Other Materials & Consumables	399,507	299,418
Subtotal - Other Materials, Contracts & Expenses	<u>2,988,329</u>	<u>3,025,258</u>
	<u>11,735,632</u>	<u>11,364,491</u>

**c) DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION**

**Depreciation**

Buildings & Facilities	455,830	380,324
Furniture & Fittings	52,865	106,701
Plant & Equipment	575,541	525,801
Vehicles	1,231,876	1,292,309
Right-to-use	400,144	419,180
	<u>2,716,256</u>	<u>2,724,315</u>
	<u>2,716,256</u>	<u>2,724,315</u>

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 4 – NET GAIN FROM DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets renewed or directly replaced</b>			
<b><i>Plant and Equipment</i></b>			
Proceeds from disposal		121,070	5,831
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		-	-
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		<u>121,070</u>	<u>5,831</u>
 <b><i>Vehicles</i></b>			
Proceeds from disposal		455,245	193,848
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold		(107,204)	-
<b>Gain (Loss) on disposal</b>		<u>348,041</u>	<u>193,848</u>
 <b>NET GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS</b>		<u>469,111</u>	<u>199,679</u>

**Note 5 – CURRENT ASSETS**

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>a) CASH &amp; EQUIVALENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on Hand and at Bank		7,289,269	6,790,746
Short Term Deposits & Bills, etc		15,500,000	21,500,000
		<u>22,789,269</u>	<u>28,290,746</u>
 <b>b) TRADE &amp; OTHER RECEIVABLES</b>			
Rates - General & Other		566,792	423,339
Accrued Revenues		246,990	122,857
Trade receivables		524,485	346,211
GST refund (payable)		(21,756)	44,230
Total		<u>1,316,510</u>	<u>936,636</u>
		<u>1,316,510</u>	<u>936,636</u>
 <b>c) INVENTORIES</b>			
Goods for Sale Held at Community Stores		19,648	78,045
		<u>19,648</u>	<u>78,045</u>



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 6a – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (IPP&E)**

	2020				2021			
	\$				\$			
	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount
Land	-	404,250	-	404,250	-	404,250	-	404,250
Buildings & Facilities	-	22,906,250	(20,421,885)	2,484,365	-	28,606,055	(20,627,715)	7,978,340
Furniture & Fittings	-	1,048,563	(885,232)	163,331	-	1,147,167	(938,097)	209,070
Plant & Equipment	-	7,094,706	(5,502,164)	1,592,542	-	7,320,569	(5,772,793)	1,547,776
Vehicles	-	8,159,263	(4,790,567)	3,368,696	-	8,091,618	(5,191,318)	2,900,300
Right-to-use - Note 13	-	1,835,377	(419,180)	1,416,197	-	1,906,978	(819,324)	1,087,654
<b>Total IPP&amp;E</b>	-	41,448,409	(32,019,028)	9,429,381	-	47,476,637	(33,349,247)	14,127,390
<b>Comparatives</b>		36,790,286	30,183,441	6,606,845	-	41,448,409	(32,019,028)	9,429,381

**Note 6b – CAPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Building	1,822,361	1,734,379

**Note 6 – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

	2020	2021					
	\$	\$					
	Carrying Amount	AASB 16	Additions		Disposals	Dep'n	Impair't
			New / Upgrade	Renewals			Carrying Amount
Land	404,250		-	-	-	-	404,250
Buildings & Facilities	2,484,365		5,949,805	-	-	(455,830)	7,978,340
Furniture & Fittings	163,331		98,605	-	-	(52,866)	209,070
Plant & Equipment	1,592,542		530,774	-	-	(575,540)	1,547,776
Vehicles	3,368,696		870,683	-	(107,204)	(1,231,875)	2,900,300
Right-to-use - Note 13	1,416,197	71,601	-	-	-	(400,144)	1,087,654
<b>Total IPP&amp;E</b>	<b>9,429,381</b>	<b>71,601</b>	<b>7,449,867</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(107,204)</b>	<b>(2,716,255)</b>	<b>14,127,390</b>
<b>Comparatives</b>	<b>6,606,845</b>	<b>1,835,377</b>	<b>3,907,649</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(196,175)</b>	<b>(2,724,315)</b>	<b>9,429,381</b>

*This note continues on the following pages.*

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 6 – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT (cont'd)**

**Valuation of Assets**

**General Valuation Principles**

**Accounting procedure:** Upon revaluation, the current new replacement cost and accumulated depreciation are re-stated such that the difference represents the fair value of the asset determined in accordance with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*: accumulated depreciation is taken to be the difference between current new replacement cost and fair value. In the case of land, fair value is taken to be the current replacement cost.

**Buildings & Facilities**

Council own a building in Alice Spring that was recognised at cost, building and other structure in located in aboriginal land as are capitalised as part of Right-of-Use Assets under AASB 16.

**Furniture & Fittings, Plant & Equipment, Motor Vehicles**

These assets are recognised on the cost basis.

**Depreciation rate**

Items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight line method. The main rates used are:

Buildings	10%
Plant	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture and equipment	20%

**Note 7 – LIABILITIES**

		2021		2020	
		\$		\$	
<b>a) PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Non-current</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Non-current</b>
Creditors		389,905	-	552,123	-
Unearned income		1,874	-	5,231	-
Accrued expenses & other payables		914,340	-	1,353,779	-
Audit fee and FBT payable		38,246	-	43,651	-
		<b>1,344,365</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,954,783</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>b) EMPLOYEES BENEFITS</b>					
Annual Leave - employee entitlements		1,647,279	-	1,586,064	-
Long Services Leave - employee entitlements		565,737	520,546	470,809	592,326
		<b>2,213,016</b>	<b>520,546</b>	<b>2,056,873</b>	<b>592,326</b>
<b>c) LEASE LIABILITIES</b>					
Leases Liabilities	13	253,194	886,269	360,786	1,069,269
		<b>253,194</b>	<b>886,269</b>	<b>360,786</b>	<b>1,069,269</b>

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 8 – RECONCILIATION TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

Cash Assets comprise highly liquid investments with short periods to maturity subject to insignificant risk of changes of value. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Total cash & equivalent assets	5a	<b>22,789,269</b>	28,290,746
Balances per Cash Flow Statement		<b>22,789,269</b>	28,290,746

**(b) Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Cash from Operating Activities**

Net Surplus (Deficit)	<b>3,436,736</b>	1,780,497
Non-cash items in Income Statement		
Depreciation and amortisation	<b>2,716,256</b>	2,724,315
Interest received	<b>(115,447)</b>	(409,220)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	<b>(469,111)</b>	(199,679)
	<b>5,568,435</b>	3,895,913
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables	<b>(379,875)</b>	10,771
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories	<b>58,397</b>	(24,192)
Increase/(Decrease) in trade & other payables	<b>(3,580,869)</b>	(354,055)
Decrease in provisions	<b>40,712</b>	410,548
<b>Net Cash (used in)/provided by operations</b>	<b>1,706,800</b>	3,938,985



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 9 – FUNCTIONS**

MacDonnell Regional Council commenced operations on 1 July 2008, it undertakes all local government functions in the following communities:

- Amoonguna
- Areyonga (Utju)
- Docker River (Kaltukatjara)
- Finke (Aputula)
- Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)
- Hermannsburg (Ntaria)
- Imanpa
- Kintore (Walungurru)
- Mount Liebig (Watiyawanu)
- Papunya (Warumpi)
- Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)
- Titjikala
- Wallace Rockhole

The major functions undertaken are:

**General public services**

Corporate management, administrative support and governance.

**Public order and safety**

Community Safety, Companion animal management.

**Economic affairs**

Centrelink services, Essential services, Local roads maintenance, Amoonguna Community store.  
Postal services, Commercial fuel sales.

**Environment Protection**

Waste management, litter control, open drains, street cleaning

**Housing and Community**

Outstation and Staff Housing repairs and maintenance, Fencing.

**Health**

Child Nutrition program.

**Recreation, Culture & Religion**

Provision of sports, recreation and leisure facilities, Swimming pools.

**Social Protection**

Children's Services, Public Behaviour & Youth Program, Home Care

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 9 – FUNCTIONS (cont'd)**

OPERATING REVENUES	REVENUES, EXPENSES AND ASSETS HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS & ACTIVITIES														
	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES			PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY			ECONOMIC AFFAIRS			ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
	2021 \$'	2021 \$'	2020 \$'	2021 \$'	2021 \$'	2020 \$'	2021 \$'	2021 \$'	2020 \$'	2021 \$'	2021 \$'	2020 \$'	2021 \$'	2021 \$'	2020 \$'
Rates	976,870	939,289	999,829	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	913,780	920,136	921,403	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
User Charges & Fees - Other	199,884	246,988	102,730	40,000	40,364	42,364	-	-	-	-	-	-	364,800	396,625	303,018
Grants - Cth Operational	-	-	-	3,398,054	3,257,229	1,629,077	2,220,878	854,899	88,513	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	218,256	218,232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - NT Operational	11,780,974	10,264,691	11,962,640	167,880	74,927	1,591,423	7,546,300	2,426,668	(20,385)	(100,870)	100,000	205,236	1,030,984	774,910	767,520
Grants - NT Capital	568,400	568,400	772,225	-	-	-	285,000	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	100,000	115,447	409,221	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income from Commercial Operations	74	343	563,472	-	-	6,845	3,938,363	3,975,921	3,481,004	-	-	100,000	-	-	115,051
Reimbursements & Other Income	496,777	778,269	560,849	7,616	7,616	6,845	1,125,146	1,069,691	43,959	-	-	100,000	96,410	96,547	115,051
Total	15,036,759	13,833,563	16,292,369	3,613,550	3,380,136	3,276,554	15,333,943	8,620,411	3,593,091	(100,870)	100,000	405,236	1,492,194	1,268,081	1,300,640
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	9,631,169	9,153,778	9,232,401	2,216,385	2,226,963	2,311,827	2,024,298	1,936,724	1,995,761	121,910	133,453	145,169	214,733	208,801	169,935
Materials, Contracts & Other	3,107,901	1,551,074	1,351,691	192,896	50,090	34,732	310,578	257,828	250,410	2,800	2,017	12,067	131,520	82,641	83,530
Depreciation & Amortisation	2,690,360	2,716,256	2,724,315	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	6,350,719	4,786,362	4,411,435	317,098	218,647	143,644	3,643,730	1,759,651	1,763,830	(18,955)	10,586	24,077	1,357,839	807,732	1,089,991
Total	21,780,149	18,207,470	17,719,842	2,726,379	2,495,700	2,490,203	5,978,606	3,954,203	4,010,001	105,755	146,056	181,313	1,704,092	1,099,175	1,343,456
TOTALS	(6,743,390)	(4,373,907)	(1,427,473)	887,171	884,436	786,351	9,355,337	4,666,208	(416,910)	(206,625)	(46,056)	223,923	(211,898)	168,906	(42,816)

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 9 – FUNCTIONS (cont'd)**

	HEALTH			RECREATION, CULTURE & RELIGION			SOCIAL PROTECTION			TOTAL		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020	2021	2021	2020
	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>												
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	976,870	<b>939,289</b>	999,829
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	913,780	<b>920,136</b>	921,403
User Charges & Fees - Other	145,330	<b>102,852</b>	127,795	14,337	<b>14,337</b>	37,983	608,120	<b>444,478</b>	686,409	1,372,471	<b>1,245,644</b>	1,300,299
Grants - Cth Operational	420,110	<b>396,515</b>	414,554	-	-	-	11,191,356	<b>8,757,210</b>	10,151,541	17,230,398	<b>13,265,853</b>	12,283,685
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86,794	218,256	<b>218,232</b>	86,794
Grants - NT Operational	-	-	(23,321)	192,550	<b>70,462</b>	167,795	1,591,932	<b>1,706,918</b>	1,134,144	22,209,750	<b>15,418,576</b>	15,785,052
Grants - NT Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	853,400	<b>643,400</b>	772,225
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	<b>115,447</b>	409,221
Income from Commercial Operations	-	-	-	-	-	7,159	-	-	20,935	3,938,437	<b>3,976,264</b>	-
Reimbursements & Other Income	-	-	-	125	<b>125</b>	7,159	19,646	<b>19,535</b>	20,935	1,745,720	<b>1,971,782</b>	4,294,466
<b>Total</b>	565,440	<b>499,367</b>	519,028	207,012	<b>84,924</b>	220,096	13,411,054	<b>10,928,141</b>	12,100,758	49,559,082	<b>38,714,623</b>	36,852,974
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>												
Employee Costs	-	-	-	277,999	<b>221,922</b>	278,247	7,806,932	<b>6,944,354</b>	6,850,331	22,293,425	<b>20,825,996</b>	20,983,671
Materials, Contracts & Other	176,160	<b>124,976</b>	118,374	52,651	<b>43,710</b>	87,075	1,119,132	<b>805,108</b>	1,087,380	5,093,637	<b>2,917,444</b>	3,025,259
Depreciation & Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,690,360	<b>2,716,256</b>	2,724,315
Other Expenses	37,670	<b>22,775</b>	33,909	199,402	<b>124,573</b>	88,809	1,579,253	<b>1,087,863</b>	783,537	13,466,756	<b>8,818,189</b>	8,339,232
<b>Total</b>	213,830	<b>147,751</b>	152,283	530,052	<b>390,206</b>	454,131	10,505,317	<b>8,837,325</b>	8,721,248	43,544,178	<b>35,277,885</b>	35,072,477
<b>TOTALS</b>	351,610	351,616	366,745	(323,040)	(305,282)	(234,035)	2,905,737	2,090,815	3,379,510	6,014,904	<b>3,436,738</b>	1,780,497

**TOTAL ASSETS UTILISED**



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 10 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

All financial instruments are categorised as *loans and receivables*.

**Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments**

<b>Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits</b>	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, interest is recognised when earned</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Short term deposits have an average maturity of 90 days and an average interest rates of 0.30% (2020: 90days, 0.90%).</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.</p>
<b>Receivables</b> - Fees & other charges	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Unsecured, and do not bear interest. Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).</p>
<b>Liabilities</b> - Creditors and Accruals	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Council.</p> <p><b>Terms &amp; conditions:</b> Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms.</p> <p><b>Carrying amount:</b> approximates fair value.</p>
<b>Liabilities</b> - Finance Leases	<p><b>Accounting Policy:</b> accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Notes 1 item 9 (ii) and 13.</p>

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 10 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)**

**Liquidity Analysis**

2021	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash	7,289,269			7,289,269
Term deposits at Bank	15,500,000	-	-	15,500,000
Trade Receivables	524,485	-	-	524,485
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,313,754</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,313,754</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Payables	389,905			389,905
Current Borrowings				-
Lease Liabilities	253,194	886,269		1,139,463
Non-Current Borrowings				-
<b>Total</b>	<b>643,099</b>	<b>886,269</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,529,368</b>

2020	Due < 1 year	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years	Due > 5 years	Carrying Values
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Cash	6,790,746			6,790,746
Term deposits at Bank	21,500,000			21,500,000
Trade Receivables	346,211			346,211
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,636,957</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,636,957</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Payables	552,123	-	-	552,123
Lease Liabilities	360,786	1,069,269	-	1,430,055
<b>Total</b>	<b>912,909</b>	<b>1,069,269</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,982,178</b>

**Net Fair Value**

All carrying values approximate fair value for all recognised financial instruments. There is no recognised market for the financial assets of the Council.

**Risk Exposures:**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Council in the event of the failure by a commercial debtor or funding agency to meet its contractual or statutory obligations. Credit risk is greatly mitigated by the fact that the only parties with whom the Council has material dealings are agencies of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments.

Market Risk is the risk that fair values of financial assets will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices. All of Council's financial assets are denominated in Australian dollars and are not traded on any market, and hence neither market risk nor currency risk apply.

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be in a position to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Council manages its liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows and through budget management. Liquidity is also supported by the fact that a high proportion of government subsidies and grants are received before the activities and projects to which they relate are undertaken.

Interest Rate Risk is the risk that future cash flows will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Council has no material exposure to interest rate risk.

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 11 – COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

	2021	2020
Notes	\$	\$
<b>Capital Commitments</b>		
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
Buildings	405,420	-
Furniture and Fitting	52,706	-
Plant & Equipment	25,000	-
Vehicle	325,159	-
	808,285	-
These expenditures are payable:		
Not later than one year	808,285	-
Later than one year and not later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	-
	808,285	-

This is the first financial year that the Council reported on the commitments for expenditure hence zero amount against 2020 financial year.

**Note 12 – FINANCIAL INDICATORS**

	2021	2020	2019
<b>Current Ratio</b>			
<u>Current Assets - Externally Restricted Assets</u>	2.13	1.96	8.06
Current Liabilities			
<b>Debt Service Ratio</b>			
<u>Net Debt Service Cost</u>	0%	0%	0%
Operating Revenue*			
* as defined			
<b>Rate Coverage Percentage</b>			
<u>Rate Revenues</u>	2.46%	2.73%	2.35%
Total Revenues			
<b>Rates &amp; Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage</b>			
<u>Rates &amp; Annual Charges Outstanding</u>	60.34%	42.34%	37.53%
Rates & Annual Charges Collectible			



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 13 – LEASES**

**Right-of-Use Assets**

The Right-of-Use Assets includes all assets leased under s19 lease and two leased properties in Alice Springs. The net carrying value of these right-to-use assets as at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

Set out below are the carrying amounts (written down value) of right of use assets recognised within Infrastructure Property.

<b>Right-of-Use Assets - S19 Aboriginal Land and Office Accommodation</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
At 1 July	<b>1,416,197</b>	1,835,377
Additions	<b>71,601</b>	-
Depreciation Charge	<b>(400,144)</b>	(419,180)
<b>At 30 June</b>	<b>1,087,654</b>	1,416,197

Set below are the carrying amount of lease liabilities (Included under current incremental borrowing rate as provided by Westpac as Council does not have current loans) and the movements during the period.

<b>Lease Liabilities - S19 Aboriginal Land and Office Accommodation</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Opening Balance 1 July	<b>1,430,055</b>	1,835,377
Additions	<b>71,601</b>	-
Accretion of Interest	<b>43,632</b>	50,524
Payments	<b>(405,825)</b>	(455,847)
<b>Closing Balance 30 June</b>	<b>1,139,463</b>	1,430,055
Current	<b>253,194</b>	360,786
Non Current	<b>886,269</b>	1,069,269
	<b>1,139,463</b>	1,430,055

**The following are amounts recognised on profit or loss:**

Depreciation expense right of use asset	<b>400,144</b>	419,180
Interest expense on lease liabilities	<b>43,632</b>	50,524
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets	-	54,668
<b>Total amount recognised in profit and loss</b>	<b>443,776</b>	524,372

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 14 – UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME**

The following grants and other income have been paid to the Council for specific purposes. Any unearned amounts are treated as unearned grant income at the end of the financial year. This is because funding bodies will require either that the unused funds be returned or be applied against activities undertaken in future periods.

Where grant agreements do not meet criteria above, it is accounted for under AASB 1058 and income is recognised upon receipt.

Any unexpended portion as recognised as unexpended grants reserves in the equity section of the Council's statement of financial position. It is the policy of the Council to present grant monies separately as a reserve where the Council is contractually obliged to provide the services in a subsequent financial period.

The following unexpended grant reserves and unexpended grant are as follows:

**14(a) UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE**

**Untied grant income**

FAA Roads 2022 advance payment	531,073
FAA General Purpose 2022 advance payment	992,644
FAA General Purpose	-
FAA Roads	344,869

**Total**

	Movements		
Closing balance as at 30 June 2021	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2020
\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'
531,073	531,073	(524,675)	524,675
992,644	992,644	(992,644)	992,644
-	1,945,801	(1,945,801)	-
344,869	1,030,184	(1,552,984)	867,669
1,868,586	4,499,702	(5,016,104)	2,384,988

**14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME**

**Grant received in advance recognised as liability**

Community Safety Program 2021 advance payment	-
Youth Development Program 2021 advance payment	-
Youth Development - CAYLUS 2022 advance payment	158,984
School Nutrition Program	205,000
Outside School Hours LP 2022 advance payment	557,500

**Total**

**Other Grant Recognised as liability**

Aged Care Food	13,747
Building Stronger Communities Workshops	(29,146)
Children Services Cleaning Project	5,900
Children's Services - DoE	473,642
CLC Covid19 Assistance	-
Community Safety Program	130,825
Community Safety Vehicles, Core, LLN, Cert III	23,780
Community Home Support Program	33,985
Community Home Support Covid19 Emergency Support	155,223
Community Wi-Fi	5,950
COVID-19 - CAYLUS	-
Disability in Home Support Services (DIHS) - DOH	6,380
Docker River Child Care Capital Works	(13,311)
Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Grant	69,243
Flexible Aged Care Program	221,834

	Movements		
Closing balance as at 30 June 2021	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2020
\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'
-	-	(1,624,077)	1,624,077
-	-	(1,297,336)	1,297,336
158,984	158,984	(158,984)	158,984
205,000	205,000	-	-
557,500	557,500	-	-
921,484	921,484	(3,080,397)	3,080,397
13,747	342,633	(354,943)	26,057
(29,146)	-	(59,146)	30,000
5,900	-	-	5,900
473,642	3,651,388	(3,278,610)	100,864
-	-	(48,558)	48,558
130,825	3,291,133	(3,305,208)	144,900
23,780	-	(6,600)	30,380
33,985	560,446	(526,461)	-
155,223	62,089	-	93,134
5,950	-	(1,050)	7,000
-	40,000	(46,508)	6,508
6,380	1,514	-	4,866
(13,311)	-	-	(13,311)
69,243	-	(6,345)	75,588
221,834	1,484,086	(1,283,421)	21,169

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 14 – UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME (cont'd)**

**14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME**

	Movements		
	Closing balance as at 30 June 2021	Income	Expenses
	Opening balance as at 1 July 2020		
	\$'	\$'	\$'
Holiday Program Santa Teresa	-	23,849	(46,496)
Home Care Projects	6,459	23,782	(335,938)
Home Care Services	342,766	-	(2,844)
COVID19 - Workforce Retention Bonus	720	26,160	(25,440)
Local Authority Project Funding	1,195,269	568,400	(359,908)
MHM Program - CAYLUS	22,874	30,000	(19,026)
NATSIFlexi Aged Care Laundry Upgrades	108,901	195,568	(444,115)
NATSIFlexi Aged Care Kitchen Equipment	6,794	-	(80,000)
NATSIFlexi Aged Care IT Equipment	64,309	88,823	(24,514)
NDIS	405,208	292,500	(122,679)
Ntaria Bush Camps	-	5,000	-
Indigenous Employment Initiative Program	189,362	1,142,129	(1,046,138)
Indigenous Employment Initiative - Training	100,487	257,792	(157,305)
NT Library Grant	115,803	92,213	(66,561)
Outside School Hours Learning Program - DoE	237,646	1,115,000	(881,659)
Outstations - Homelands Extra Allowance	111,747	-	(106,271)
Outstations - Housing Maintenance Program	144,324	305,280	(275,210)
Outstations - Municipal and Essential Services Program	65,859	712,980	(709,026)
Outstations - MES SPG	373,293	-	(163,966)
Papunya SDC Building	-	-	(20,545)
Remote Oval Capital Grant - Amoonguna	23,935	-	(34,158)
Remote Oval Capital Grant - Docker River	(4,586)	-	(252,861)
Remote Oval Capital Grant - Haasts Bluff & Papunya	346,173	-	(356,070)
Remote Oval Capital Grant - Mt Liebig	1,475	75,000	(130,301)
Roads to Recovery	172,198	455,502	(283,304)
Local Roads & Community Infrastructure	360,280	567,599	(207,319)
Remote Sport Program	54,577	498,176	(443,599)
Remote Sport Program Stimulus Package	-	-	(13,000)
Safety & Wellbeing Suicide Prevention Forum	5,000	-	-
SCALE Funding	2,496	-	(191,960)
School Nutrition Program	22,164	396,778	(374,614)
Self Funded Sport & Rec	336	125	(2,975)
Shade Picnic Area Titjikala	595	-	-
Solar Park Lighting in 13 Communities	100	-	-
SLGIF Projects	1,282	-	(469,405)
SLGIF Projects - Bagot Street Building Upgrade	-	-	(1,258,725)
SPG 8m Side Loading Compactor Truck	162	-	-
SPG Re-vegetation Project	10	-	-
The Youth The Right Track Program	80,319	250,000	(256,601)
Titjikala Kitchen upgrade	2,120	-	(4,590)
Try Test Learn - CAYLUS	210,186	569,771	(478,554)
Yarning Circles Finke & Titjikala	25,319	30,000	(4,681)
Youth Areyonga Toilet Block Upgrade	28,731	-	-
Youth Development Program	3,928	2,600,635	(2,596,707)
Youth Development - COVID-19 Booster Package	10,659	83,000	(162,841)
Youth Development - CAYLUS	64,955	195,348	(146,348)
Youth Diversion Program	3,441	150,000	(146,559)



**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

**Note 14 – UNEXPENDED GRANT RESERVE AND UNEARNED GRANT INCOME (cont'd)**

**14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME**

Environment Project Stage 3 Waste
Tech Services Projects
Desert Cultural Walk - Community Safety
Titjikala Tool Making - Youth Services
Docker River Saddle - Youth Services
Strengthening and Celebrating Community - Youth Services
CLC Titjikala Youth Excursion
Waste and Resource Management program
Priority Infrastructure Fund

**Total**

**Total**

	Movements		
Closing balance as at 30 June 2021	Income	Expenses	Opening balance as at 1 July 2020
\$'	\$'	\$'	\$'
873	-	-	873
-	-	(36)	36
25,500	30,000	(4,500)	-
12,000	12,000	-	-
33,757	40,000	(6,243)	-
13,000	20,000	(7,000)	-
(15,924)	-	(15,924)	-
252,100	252,100	-	-
203,880	203,880	-	-
6,620,463	20,812,679	(21,667,867)	7,475,651
7,541,947	21,734,163	(24,748,264)	10,556,048

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 15 – RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

The related parties of the Council include:

- the key Management persons because they have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council directly; and
- spouses, children and dependents who are close family members of the key Management persons; and
- any entities controlled or jointly controlled by key Management persons' or controlled or jointly controlled by their close family members.

**KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

The Key Management Personnel of the Council include the Council President, Council Vice President, Councillors, CEO and certain prescribed officers under section 112 of the Local Government Act 1999. In all, 18 persons were paid the following total compensation:

	<b>2021</b>	2020
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	<b>1,367,844</b>	1,146,472
Post-employment benefits	<b>138,285</b>	99,669
Long term benefits	<b>40,000</b>	56,182
Termination benefits	-	66,913
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,546,129</b>	1,369,236

**PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

Six close family members of key management personnel are employed by Council in accordance with the terms of the Award, and in accordance with *Local Government Act 2009*.

**(a) Retirement Benefits**

No retirement benefits have been made by the Council to a key management personnel.

**(b) Loans to Responsible Persons**

No loans have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a key management personnel during the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

**(c) Other Transactions**

No other transactions, other than remuneration payments and the reimbursement of approved expenses, were entered into by Council with key management personnel during the reporting year.

**MacDonnell Regional Council**  
**Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**  
**Note 16 – AUDITORS' REMUNERATION**

Amounts received or due and receivable by the auditors of Macdonnell Regional Council are as follows:

	<b>2021</b> \$	2020 \$
Audit or review services	<b>52,000</b>	52,000
Other services	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,000</b>	52,000

**Note 17 – RESERVE**

Future work reserves are intended to cover costs associated with the Council's future capital expenditures.

Movement of this reserve are as follows:

	<b>2021</b> \$	2020 \$
Balance at beginning of the year	<b>1,051,398</b>	1,051,398
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,051,398</b>	1,051,398

**Note 18 – CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

Under the terms and conditions of the Constitution of CouncilBiz, the Council and other members have guaranteed the debts and liabilities of CouncilBiz. As at 30 June 2021, the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability, and has not been recognised in the financial statements.

**Note 19 – EVENTS AFTER THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DATE**

There are no events after the statement of financial position date that should be disclosed.



# MRC COUNCIL OFFICES

## MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL

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