2023–24 ANNUAL REPORT

MacDonnell Regional Council

MacDonnell Regional Council

Cover image:

Kenneth Hayes, the Team Leader with the Finke civil team planting the first pumpkin seedlings in the new depot garden.

2023-24 Annual Report of the MacDonnell Regional Council is produced in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019. It is a report on MacDonnell Regional Council's progress against the 2024-25 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

I take this opportunity to offer my sincerest thanks to everyone at MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) for your commitment and hard work throughout this year. Whether you are councillors, staff or local authority members, your dedication forms the backbone of this organisation and enables us to deliver high-quality services and enhance the well-being of the remote communities we serve.

Once again MRC has demonstrated its commitment to strong leadership, collaborative efforts with local authorities, community engagement and evidence-based decision-making. I truly value the insights provided by our Local Authorities, which play a crucial role in our governance and planning. Your input helps us to better understand the needs and aspirations of our communities, ensuring that our services are culturally relevant and responsive.

I also want to emphasise the importance of community and professional development for all our councillors, staff, and members. We aim to build the capacity of our people, offer employment opportunities within the community, and support the professional and personal growth of our team. While challenges such as staff retention persist, I am confident that our resilience and determination will see us through.

I also wish to acknowledge the vital support from the Northern Territory and Federal Governments. Their funding and backing are essential for us to achieve our goals and meet the expectations of our communities. We value our partnerships with them and look forward to continuing this collaborative effort.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year, I am proud of what we have achieved together and optimistic about the future. Thank you to all our staff, councillors, and Local Authority members for your hard work, dedication, and passion.

With only 14 months left in this term of Local Government, we are focused on achieving what we set out to do – enhance livability in each of our remote communities and offer employment opportunities to local community residents. I am proud to say that we continue succeed in these areas and look forward to a successful year ahead.

Roxanne Kenny, President
MacDonnell Regional Council

Message from our Chief Executive Officer

I'm excited to share an overview of MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) achievements, challenges, and future plans in our 2023-2024 Annual Report. There are several things that have contributed to MRC's success this year and it is evident that our dedicated staff have made a significant impact both within the organisation and in the communities we serve.

Our core mission at MRC is to serve residents and provide great services. Engaging with the community through Local Authorities and elected members is crucial for our decision-making process. We prioritise open communication through regular meetings to ensure that our services meet the needs of those we serve.

Witnessing our mission and vision come to life fills me with pride and motivates me to lead the team effectively. The guidance from President Kenny and the Elected Members has been vital in helping us meet our responsibilities and achieve our goals.

Despite facing numerous challenges, we have consistently delivered services across all thirteen communities, focusing on quality and adherence to procedures. Our commitment to maintaining high standards of service remains unwavering. We have also experienced shifts in our workforce, including the ongoing challenges of recruiting and retaining long-term staff. Nevertheless, we are actively recruiting and training new talent, which enhances community engagement and job creation. This effort is part of our broader focus on fostering a strong and capable team. Most importantly, we have embedded a commitment to succession planning in communities which empowers local residents to upskill, train and engage in professional development.

Our approach to community services is comprehensive, addressing the needs of all age groups and demonstrating a holistic approach to well-being. We are committed to improving education and encouraging parental involvement, while also tackling staffing challenges in our childcare centres with the support of funding providers. Aged Care continues to be a priority, with the recognition and appreciation that mature residents contribute to culture and law in each community.

Like many organisations, we face challenges related to shortages of tradespeople and supply chain disruptions. We are transparent about these issues and appreciate the understanding and support of our community as we navigate these difficulties. That being said, the next twelve months sees exciting infrastructure and projects coming to communities. These include shade shelters, sporting facilities and oval lights, community laundries and the commencement of two water splash pads at two communities.

We are focused on working with stakeholders and planning for future growth. While MRC has been a stable service provider, it is important that we remain relevant and progressive to continue meeting the evolving needs of our communities. Thank you to elected members, staff and residents for working together to achieve our goals.

Belinda Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer
MacDonnell Regional Council

1 THE COUNCIL

Councillors and the CEO discussing the meeting agenda in Santa Teresa

MacDonnell Regional Council

THE COUNCIL

Covering 268,329 km2 of the southernmost part of the Northern Territory, MacDonnell Regional Council provides local government services to some of the continent's most remote communities. Council takes its name from the MacDonnell Ranges, which dominate much of the landscape and from where the Todd and Finke rivers flow out; giving life to the arid desert environment.

MacDonnell Regional Council was established in 2008, taking over from a number of smaller community councils and local boards. During its first 16 years of operation, Council has established strong governance procedures that respect and utilise traditional Indigenous governance practices. Council serves the residents of 13 remote communities and associated outstations.

About Council

MacDonnell Regional Council is led by 12 elected members, selected from four wards. Councillors are elected for four years, with the most recent election held in August 2021.

There were three by-elections held during the 2022-23 financial year to fill vacant positions on Council. This resulted in three new councillors, two in Rodinga Ward and one in Luritja Pintubi Ward.

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 MRC's communities and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Our Communities

MRC covers 13 major remote communities, as well as many outstations and enterprises in the pastoral, tourism and mining industries. The towns of Alice Springs and Yulara are excluded from the MRC region. The 2022 Estimated Resident Population for MacDonnell Regional Council LGA is 6,640, with a population density of 0.02 persons per square km.

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.

Our Councillors

President
Roxanne Kenny
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

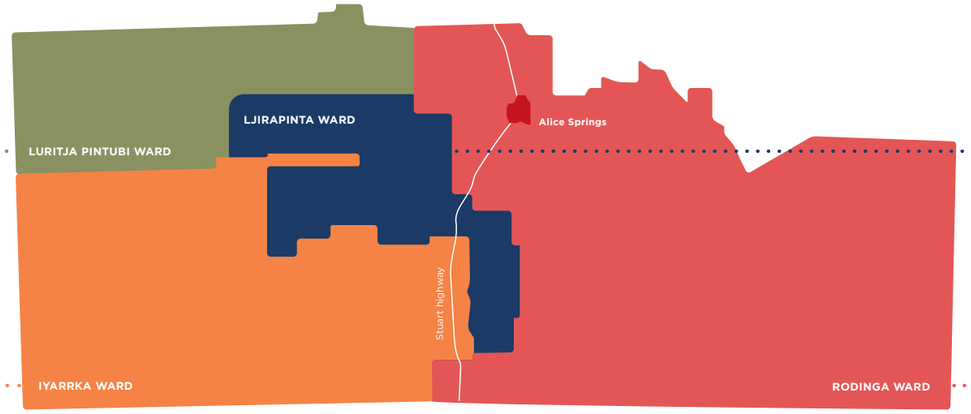
Councillor
Bobby Abbott
Wallace Rockhole

Councillor
Mark Inkamala
Hermannsburg (Ntaria)

Deputy President
Dalton McDonald
Papunya (Warumpi)

Councillor
Jason Minor
Mt Liebig (Watiyawanu)

Councillor
Tommy Conway
Kintore (Walungurru)



Councillor
Andrew Davis
Amoonguna

Councillor
Lisa Sharman
Titjikala

Councillor
Aloyiscois Hayes
Finke (Aputula)

Councillor
Patrick Allen
Finke (Aputula)

Councillor
Abraham Poulson
Areyonga (Utju)

Councillor
Marlene Abbott
Docker River (Kaltukatjara)

Council Committees

Special Finance and Risk Committee

The Special Finance and Risk Committee has delegated authority from Council to carry out Council's financial functions and approve any other urgent matters as required during the months that an Ordinary Council meeting is not convened. The primary purpose of the Finance and Risk Committee is to assist Council to discharge its responsibility to ensure the integrity of Council's financial reports, review Council's financial position and review Council's risks and protocols. The Committee is made up of the following Members:

- President Roxanne Kenny
- Deputy President Dalton McDonald
- Councillor Lisa Sharman
- Councillor Bobby Abbott
- Belinda Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer

During the 2023-24 financial year the Special Finance and Risk Committee held six meetings on the following dates:

1. 28 July 2023
2. 29 September 2023
3. 23 November 2023
4. 2 February 2024
5. 5 April 2024
6. 31 May 2024

June Crabb, MRC's Governance Coordinator, conducts the Mt Liebig Local Authority meeting via Teams

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a key component of Council's governance framework. The Committee is an independent advisory body that monitors and reviews the integrity of Council's financial management including the review of internal controls. Advice and recommendations are provided to Council for further assessment. The Committee is made up of the following Members:

- Randle Walker, Independent Chair
- President Roxanne Kenny
- Deputy President Dalton McDonald
- Councillor Lisa Sharman
- Councillor Bobby Abbott
- Belinda Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer

During the 2023-24 financial year the Audit Committee held one meetings on 23 November 2023.

						ATTENDANCE SUMMARY		
COUNCILLOR	WARD	COUNCIL MEETINGS	SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS	FINANCE & RISK COMMITTEE MEETINGS	AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS	ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND	ATTENDED	
ROXANNE KENNY (PRESIDENT)[1]	LJIRAPINTA	6	1	5	1	14	13	93%
BOBBY ABBOTT[1]	LJIRAPINTA	1	-	4	1	14	6	43%
MARK INKAMALA	LJIRAPINTA	6	1	-	-	7	7	100%
ABRAHAM POULSON	IYARRKA	6	1	-	-	7	7	100%
MARLENE ABBOTT	IYARRKA	4	-	-	-	7	4	57%
DALTON MCDONALD (DEPUTY PRESIDENT)[1]	LURITJA	5	1	6	1	14	13	93%
JASON MINOR	LURITJA	5	1	-	-	7	6	86%
TOMMY CONWAY	LURITJA	6	1	-	-	7	7	100%
ALOYISCOIS HAYES	RODINGA	3	-	-	-	7	3	43%
ANDREW DAVIS	RODINGA	6	1	-	-	7	7	100%
LISA SHARMAN[1]	RODINGA	5	1	6	1	14	13	93%
PATRICK ALLEN	RODINGA	5	1	-	-	7	6	86%

[1] Member of Council's Committees

Local Authorities

Local Decision Making (LDM) is a Northern Territory Government commitment to provide opportunities to transfer government service delivery to Aboriginal Territorians and organisations, based on their community aspirations. It sets out a 10 year plan aiming to provide a pathway towards communities exercising greater control over their own affairs.

Local Authorities have been established under the *Local Government Act 2019* and have the following functions:

- To involve local communities more closely in issues related to local government
- To ensure local communities have an opportunity to express their opinions on questions affecting local government
- To allow local communities a voice in the formulation of policies for the locality, as well as policies for the area and the region
- To take the views of local communities back to Council and act as advocates on their behalf
- To develop a Local Authority Plan for their community and contribute to the Regional Plan

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.

Local Authorities may also from time to time represent their community on other matters, with governments and other organisations able to approach them for advice and consultation on a range of issues.

The table, below, shows the outcome of scheduled meetings by community throughout the financial year. 75% of meetings were held successfully with a quorum, 11.54% were held as provisional meetings and 9.62% were cancelled.

Unfortunately meetings had to be cancelled for a number of reasons – bad weather conditions, the conduct of sorry business, clashes with CLC meetings and members not being available.

	JULY-SEP 2023	OCT-DEC 2023	JAN-MAR 2024	APR-JUNE 2024
Amoonguna				
Areyonga				
Docker River				
Finke				
Haasts Bluff				
Hermannsburg				
Imanpa				
Kintore				
Mt Liebig				
Papunya				
Santa Teresa				
Titjikala				
Wallace Rockhole				

Quorum

Provisional - meeting held without quorum

Deferred - meeting held in following quarter

Cancelled

Local Authorities Projects

Across the 13 communities a significant number of projects have been recommended to Council by the Local Authorities. Many projects have been completed during the year, are currently being actioned or are in the process of being costed with resources to be allocated.

These projects include initiatives such as:

- Extensive upgrades to sporting facilities including softball fencing, building separate space for males and females at a recreation hall, bench seating for basketball courts, secure sheds and lockable storage area within the basketball courts area.
- Allocation of funding for initiatives requested by MRC's Youth Boards.
- Infrastructure at the Mt Liebig Airport - inc 4x4m shade shelter, concrete flooring, aluminium seating and a Stealth Solar light.
- Installation of solar lighting and shade shelters.
- Purchase of mobile water trailers and installation of water bottle refill stations.
- Construction projects throughout MRC's communities to enhance community facilities.

And so much more.

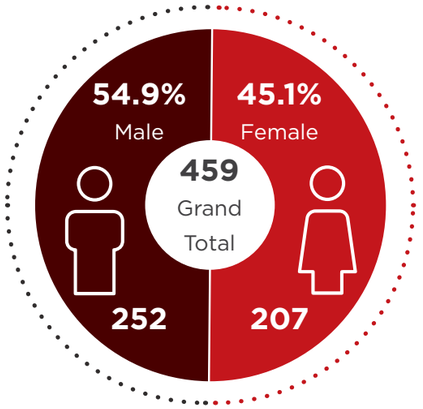
	Funds Expended 23/24	Balance of Funds
Amoonguna	$38,841	$56,378
Areyonga	$23,408	$96,683
Docker River	$47,200	$121,600
Finke	$51,288	$32,797
Haasts Bluff	$14,830	$49,478
Hermannsburg	$217,228	$160,443
Imanpa	$59,316	$38,007
Kintore	$95,291	$212,945
Mt Liebig	$39,400	$55,129
Papunya	$103,619	$149,425
Santa Teresa	$98,424	$148,927
Titjikala	$77,248	$79,838
Wallace Rockhole	$16,404	$40,781

Our Workforce

TOTAL EMPLOYEES: 459
% INDIGENOUS

Community based: 96%
Head office Alice Springs: 4%

Gender Balance



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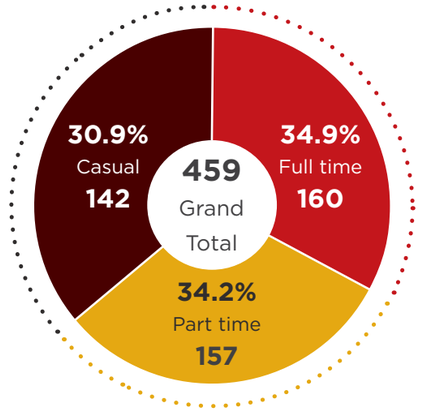
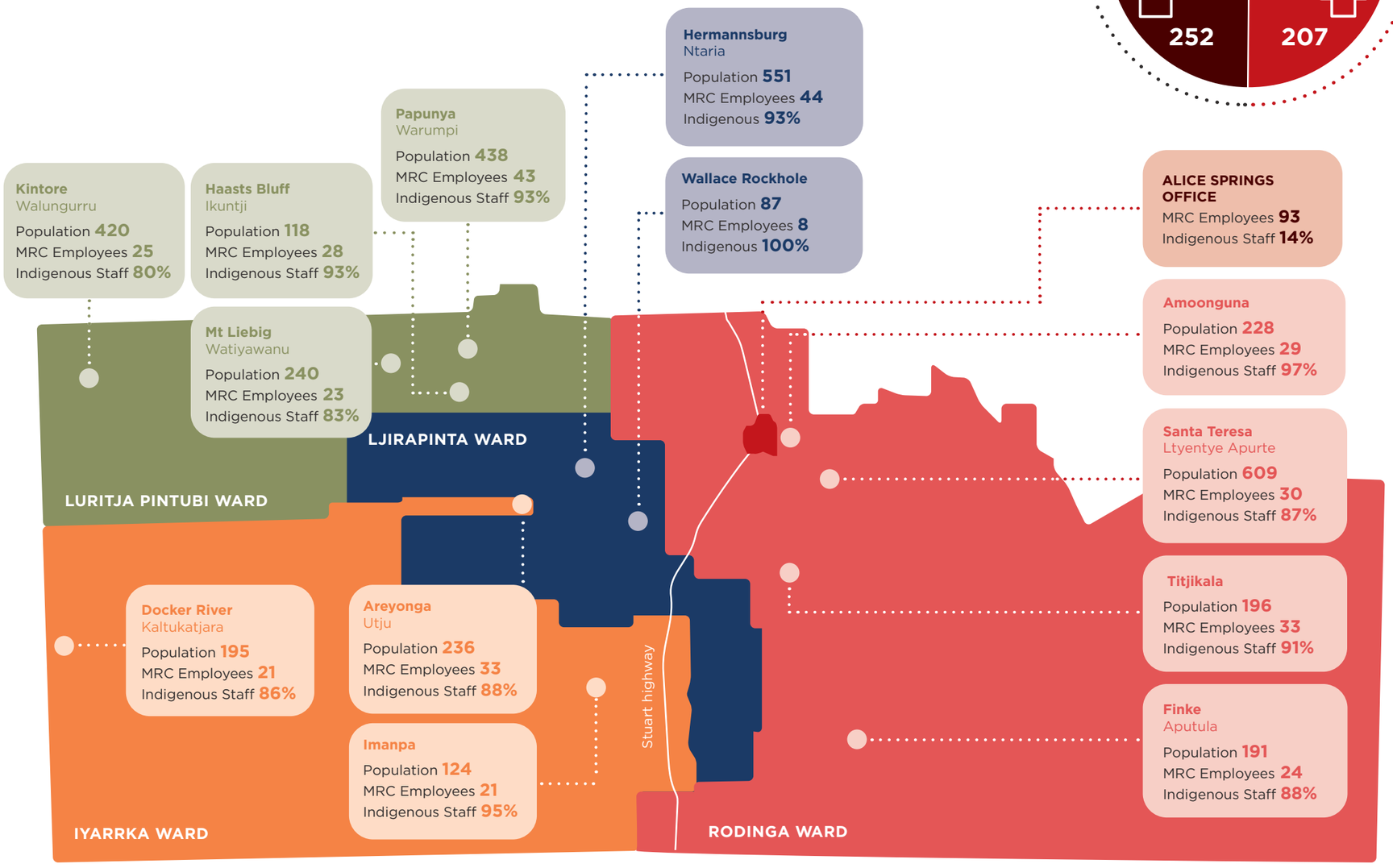
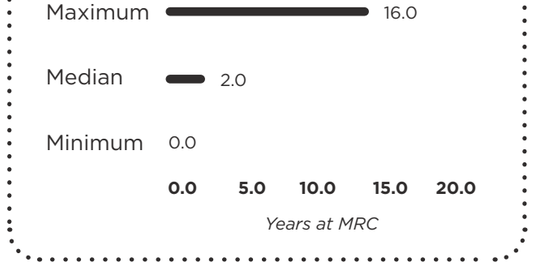


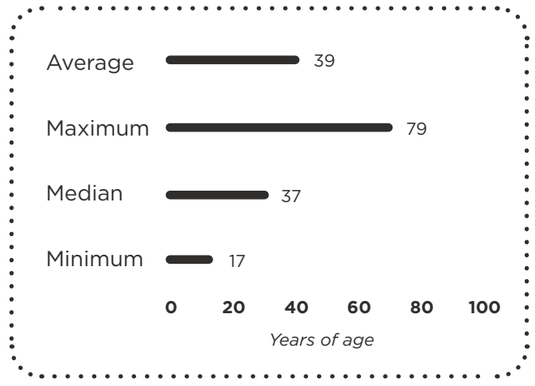


Population figures shown are from ABS 2021 Census

MRC Experience Statistics



Min/Max Age Statistics



Our Services

Services offered by MacDonnell Regional Council by Community

	AMOONGUNA	AREYONGA	DOCKER RIVER	FINKE	HAASTS BLUFF	HERMANNSBURG
Council Infrastructure	■	■	■	■	■	■
Municipal Services	■	■	■	■	■	■
Libraries	■	■	■	■	■	■
Outstations			■		■	■
Swimming Pools		■				
Airstrip Maintenance		■	■	■	■	■
Australia Post	■	■	■	■	■	
Centrelink	■	■	■	■	■	
Power Maintenance		■	■	■	■	
Water Maintenance	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sewerage Maintenance	■	■	■	■		■
Early Learning Centres		■	■	■	■	■
Youth Services	■	■			■	■
Community Safety	■	■	■	■	■	■
Aged and Disability Services	■	■		■	■	■
School Nutrition		■		■	■	■
Sport and Recreation	■	■	■	■	■	■

	IMANPA	KINTORE	MOUNT LIEBIG	PAPUNYA	SANTA TERESA	TITJIKALA	WALLACE ROCKHOLE
Council Infrastructure	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Municipal Services	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Libraries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Outstations			■	■	■	■	
Swimming Pools					■		
Airstrip Maintenance		■	■	■	■		
Australia Post	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Centrelink	■	■	■	■		■	■
Power Maintenance	■	■	■	■		■	
Water Maintenance	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Sewerage Maintenance	■	■		■	■	■	
Early Learning Centres			■	■	■	■	
Youth Services		■	■	■	■	■	
Community Safety	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Aged and Disability Services	■			■		■	
School Nutrition	■					■	
Sport and Recreation	■	■	■	■	■	■	

■ *Not offered* ■ *Offered*

MacDonnell Regional Council

Staff contribute to MRC's Strategic Planning. Pictured are Kitty Comerford, MRC's Manager Housing & Facilities, and President Roxanne Kenny engaged in debate at a Strategic Planning workshop

2 STRATEGIC PLANNING

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

accountable
Our work must be transparent and accountable to MacDonnell Regional Council residents

respectful
We will respect and support our diverse cultures and heritage

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

innovative
We will seek new ideas and ways 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. 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 2023–24 financial year was one of building on solid foundations established from previous years whilst working within 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

A total of 47 KPIs yielded 22 A's, 16 B's and 8 Cs.

Rating summary

KPIS

A	Achieved	22
B	Partially achieved	16
C	Not achieved	8
	total	**47**

With the support of government - Territory and Federal - MRC is able to deliver vital support to its communities. Former Minister for Local Government, Chansey Paech, was a great supporter of MRC and is seen here at Hermannsburg

Goal 1. Developing communities

OBJECTIVE 1.1 MRC'S INFRASTRUCTURE MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Develop MRC Community Infrastructure Plans to guide infrastructure investment and development.	Develop and adopt 10 year MRC Community Infrastructure Plans for each community - Develop a five year schedule to cover three communities per year.	June 2027	A	A consultant has been engaged to assist with this project - MRC is on target to meet this KPI.
Secure long term land tenure for lots used in the delivery of MRC services.	Community based lots that utilised by MRC to deliver services are leased under Section 19 leases - 90% of MRC's lots to have s19 leases.	June 2025	A	Negotiations with CLC re s19 leases have taken place - It is anticipated that all leases will be finalised within the target date.
Internal roads that support community development.	Develop a long-term road and storm water drainage maintenance plan for Council-controlled roads - Maintenance Plan developed for three communities per quarter.	June 2024	B	This project is linked to the Community Infrastructure Plans - Target date not met but progress being made.
Implement funding decisions of Local Authorities.	Complete LA projects within 2 years of funding allocation being released - Complete LA projects outstanding as at 30 June 2023.	June 2025	B	Difficulties in meeting this target can be experienced due to whether conditions, approvals required and the cancellation of LA meetings, etc. - Completion of LA projects is monitored as a high priority.
Focus on ensuring MRC's facilities are safe and secure.	Undertake a risk assessment of MRC's facilities to determine areas to be targeted - Assessment of three communities per quarter.	June 2024	B	The risk assessments are underway but are behind schedule.
Improve energy efficiency.	Install solar panels on Council buildings - Install on three Council facilities per year.	June 2027	A	Work is progressing and it is anticipated that the target will be met.

OBJECTIVE 1.2 CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Collaborate with training providers and funding partners.	MRC staff to convene meetings with Community Development Employment Projects providers and funding partners to develop job-ready workforce - Meetings convened with appropriate agencies.	Dec 2023	B	Discussions have commenced with Charles Darwin University and Centre for Appropriate Technology Limited regarding Community Services Traineeships. Council Services meets with Community Development Program providers on a monthly basis.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 INCREASE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Promote Aboriginal employment within MRC.	50% of Community-based core service Team Leaders and above are filled by Aboriginal staff.	June 2024	A	Completed - 11 out of 13 Indigenous employees = 85%
	50% of Commercial Contracts undertaken by MRC use Aboriginal employment.	June 2024	A	Completed - 9 out of 13 ESOs are Indigenous staff are engaged in providing Centrelink services and delivering the Airstrip Contracts.
	10% of Local Aboriginal labour achieved through delivery of MRC's tendered contracts.	June 2024	A	All MRC tender documents ensure 10% of indigenous employees are engaged.

OBJECTIVE 1.4 SUPPORT LOCAL ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISE

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Engage with stakeholders to develop a collaborative approach to enterprise development.	Convene community meetings on communities, with stakeholders, to facilitate connections between community members and business knowledge specialists - One workshop per ward per year.	June 2028	B	Converstaions have commenced which are being facilitated by the NT Government.
	Support a Business Enterprise project in each community - One business supported per ward per year.	June 2028	B	Conversations have commenced around the Remote Economic Job Development Scheme and MRC's role in that.

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 encourage healthy hygiene and eating - Eight MRC Communities over four years.	June 2027	A	MRC's Healthy Communities Events are very successful with the engagement and support of the communities involved. - Currently have conducted 11 out of 13 Healthy community events.
All MRC facilities are 'smoke-free' zones.	Develop 'smoke-free' policy and campaign - Implement policy and campaign.	Dec 2023	C	Staff shortages have meant that policy development is not occurring. Will be addressed in 2024-25.
Promote healthy eating through MRC's services, meetings, functions and events.	Policy developed and approved for all food provided by MRC - Implement policy and campaign.	Dec 2023	C	Staff shortages have meant that policy development is not occurring. Will be addressed in 2024-25.

OBJECTIVE 2.2 IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Promote sustainable communities through waste management awareness and education.	All MRC communities to participate in the NT Tidy Towns program each year.	June 2024	A	MRC's participation in the Tidy Towns Program has resulted in outstanding results.
Improve the health of animals living in communities.	Using established baseline data implement animal health programs targeting identified health issues - Two visits per community per year.	June 2024	A	This KPI is being achieved.
	Source funding to increase regularity of animal health visits on MRC communities - An additional 2 visits per community per year.	June 2026	A	MRC has introduced a Special Rate in 2024-25 which will provide funding for the attainment of the target.
	Working in partnership with Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities, implement animal health education and management through schools in the MRC region - Deliver to each community once per year.	June 2024	A	This KPI is being achieved.
Recycling at MRC's waste management facilities.	Increase management of waste facilities by creating separation bays - Target 2 communities per year.	June 2028	B	All communities have seperation bays but some infrastructure is better than others. Finke WMF was upgraded this year.

OBJECTIVE 2.3 SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL EVENTS

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Provide in-kind support for community and cultural initiatives.	Support community and cultural initiatives by providing in-kind support - One significant event in each ward in each calendar year to the value of $50,000.	June 2024	A	Council and Community Services have supported sports weekends in all communities as well as support for the Finke Desert Race. Technical Services has provided complimentary accommodation for the NTG to the value of $97k.
Provide support and assistance with the conduct of cultural and sporting events.	Engage with external stakeholders to encourage annual events in community - One event per ward per calendar year.	June 2024	A	MRC plays a vital role in supporting events in its communities, particularly significant sports weekends and Central Australian Football League.
	Audit gaps in community infrastructure and facilities available to support Community AFL Football and prepare plans to make community hubs ready for hosting the Community League - Community Sporting Hubs audited in Papunya, Hermannsburg and Santa Teresa.	Dec 2023	B	MRC is working with stakeholders such as AFLNT to discuss opportunities for extended community hubs around sport over the next 2 years.

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 leadership across the MRC region.	Maintain established Youth Boards in nine communities where Youth Services are delivered - Youth Boards meet three times per community per year.	June 2024	C	14 completed with 2 more to be completed before the end of the financial year. Total = 16 of the required 27.
	Develop and maintain Youth Boards in remaining four communities - Two Youth Boards established per year.	June 2025	A	Youth Boards in the 4 communities not covered by Youth Services are fully functional with minutes provided to LA meetings.
	Implement governance training plan including formal meeting procedures, agendas and minutes - Provide one module at each Youth Board meeting.	June 2025	B	Training material and an application have been developed and will be rolled out during the next year.
Local Authorities engage with Youth Boards.	A Youth Board member is appointed as a representative of the respective Local Authority in their community - Representative attends all LA meetings.	June 2026	B	There are Youth representatives in 3 communities and work will progress in the remaining communities.
	10% of Local Authority Project Funding per year continues to be allocated to local Youth Board identified projects.	June 2024	C	This is dependent upon the priorities and decisions taken by each LA - target not met in 2023-24.
Provide support for 25-40 year olds residents to be leaders.	Encourage new LA membership nominations from those in the 25-40 years age group - 30% of new LA members within 25-40 age group.	June 2025	C	The membership of Youth Boards is variable and MRC has adopted a fluid rather than a formal approach to membership - Attendance is subject to many factors.

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
Mandatory governance training is undertaken by all Elected Members.	Each Elected Member completes the NTG's governance training within 12 months of being elected - Within 12 months of elections and by-elections.	June 2024	A	MRC is fully compliant in this regard.
Governance training is delivered to all appointed members of Local Authorities.	Local Authority governance training program developed - Two modules developed per quarter.	Dec 2023	C	Progress has been slow due to staff shortages - KPI will not be met.
	Governance training program delivered to all LAs each year - Training delivered on all thirteen communities.	June 2024	B	Progress has been slow due to staff shortages - But the NTG is to deliver training to all LA's in the first round of meetings in 2024-25.

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 readily accessible to members and the public	Communities hold LA meeting outdoors which include lunch/shared meal at which all members, appointed and elected, can talk with members of the community - Each community holds one outdoor meeting per year.	June 2024	A	Outdoor meetings have been held in every community with the exception of Papunya and Mt Liebig whose June meetings were deferred.
Increase community awareness of LA decisions and services	Develop and add a completed LA Project report to the LA Agenda - Report provided to all LAs.	Sept 2023	A	A full and detailed Project Report is presented at all LA meetings.
	Develop an identification metal plaque and attach to all existing and new completed LA projects - All LA projects are clearly identified.	June 2024	C	Difficult to implement - Target will not be achieved.
	Develop a poster format to display highlights from LA meetings in an easily accessible form - Poster to be distributed in community within seven days of LA meetings.	Sept 2023	C	Delayed due to staff shortages.
Increase community input to inform Council and Local Authority decision-making	Undertake annual Community Satisfaction Survey, and public consultation on Regional and Strategic Plans 2023 - 23/24 survey to be completed.	June 2024	C	Delayed due to staff shortages - A new Communications Coordinator has recently been engaged.

Local Authorities in MRC's communities, such as Hermannsburg pictured, make significant decisions regarding the allocation of funding for community projects

Goal 4. A Supportive Organisation

OBJECTIVE 4.1 SUPPORT NEW EMPLOYEES

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Develop induction and orientation processes that ensure new starters settle in quickly and become productive in their jobs.	Implement and maintain Cultural Awareness training for all new staff - All new staff have undertaken Cultural Awareness training.	June 2024	A	Induction now includes a specific section on Cultural Awareness at a high level for MRC. Additionally, MRC's Cultural Advisor is reviewing that training and revising it to teach it in-house at each induction.

OBJECTIVE 4.2 SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF OUR STAFF

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Train and retain a skilled workforce.	Update cultural awareness training for all existing staff - All existing staff have undertaken current cultural awareness training.	June 2024	B	Most staff have had the opportunity to take an offering of Cultural Awareness training.
	Continue development of online learning management system to keep existing staff up to date with policy, procedures and changes to MRCs operations and to assist in ongoing staff development - Existing staff to complete a review of induction topics.	Dec 2024	B	The deadline is at risk due to awaiting full Technology One Deployment and then subsequent implementation of learning modules.
	Promote and train Aboriginal staff to increase representation in Alice Springs based positions - 15% of Alice Springs staff are Aboriginal.	June 2024	A	This KPI has been achieved.
Develop current workforce to meet current and future capability needs.	Review MRC Workforce Development Plan and set targets for implementation - Complete review and set implementation targets.	Dec 2023	A	This KPI has been achieved.
		June 2024	B	Review and training needs survey have been completed. Implementation targets to be set based on the results of the survey.

OBJECTIVE 4.3 IMPROVE EFFICIENCIES THROUGH OUR USE OF TECHNOLOGY

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Provide network capability to sustain modern computer systems.	Rollout upgrade of software packages and resolution of connectivity and network issues - Rollout to Papunya and Docker River in 2023. Rollout to Ammoonguna and Haasts Bluff in 2024. Rollout to remaining communities by 2025.	June 2025	A	This project is in progress.

OBJECTIVE 4.4 STAFF ARE EMPOWERED TO INFORM MRC DECISION-MAKING

STRATEGY	KPI	TARGET DATE	RATING	COMMENT
Develop best practice Work Health and Safety strategy.	Maintain best practice Work Health and Safety Strategy - Monitor and review WHS Management systems.	June 2024	A	A consultantcy service has been engaged to assist Council WHS strategy and best practice.
Standardise staff housing security to ensure wellbeing.	Implement minimum safety standards for staff housing - Standards rolled out to all staff housing over two years.	June 2025	B	This project is underway and it is anticipated that the KPI will be achieved.
Consult staff on MRC's strategic direction.	Staff are surveyed annually so that the views of staff can be appreciated and to improve operations - 70% of staff complete annual survey.	June 2024	B	A Staff Climate Survey is in progress using newly acquired software.

MacDonnell Regional Council

Tidy Towns Awards 2023
- Winners are grinners!

3 COUNCIL SERVICES

COUNCIL SERVICES

The 2023-2024 year has been marked by exceptional achievements and significant progress across our directorate. Our collective efforts have not only delivered essential services but have also strengthened the fabric of our communities. This report highlights the key milestones and accomplishments that have defined this year as one of outstanding local government delivery, while also acknowledging the challenges we faced and addressed.

1. Link to Strategic Plan

The achievements of the Council Services Directorate align closely with the following strategic goals:

- **Goal 01: Developing Communities**
- **Goal 02: Healthy Communities**
- **Goal 03: Empowered Communities**
- **Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation**

Our initiatives and accomplishments throughout the year reflect our commitment to these strategic objectives, enhancing community development, health, empowerment, and organisational support.

2. Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the Council Services Directorate's operations. The Directorate is essential to delivering municipal and essential services, ensuring community well-being, and managing various commercial contracts across MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC). Our efforts have focused on improving community services, advancing environmental sustainability, and fostering community engagement.

3. Council Services Overview

The Council Services Directorate is responsible for delivering essential local government services, municipal services, and various community support programs across MRC. With a workforce of nearly 170 employees, the Directorate manages a range of programs funded by untied NTG Operational Funds, Federal Assistance grants, and commercial contracts with key partners including Australia Post, Power and Water Corporation, and Services Australia.

Structure and Funding Sources

The Directorate's structure includes a central team comprising:

- Director
- Contracts and Projects Manager
- Four Area Managers
- Contracts and Projects Coordinator
- Senior Administration Officer

In the communities, the team consists of:

- Council Services Coordinator
- Team Leader Works
- Essential Services Officer
- Works Assistants
- Customer Services Officers

The Directorate's funding model is diversified, utilising both untied funds and revenue from commercial services. This supports its operations and service delivery across the region. Council Services oversees several commercial services that provide employment opportunities and essential services within the communities, including roles such as Essential Services Officers (ESOs), Centrelink Agents, and postal services operators.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. TRAINING AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

- The second round of Certificate III in Plant and Equipment training was conducted across multiple communities, equipping staff with essential skills for operating and maintaining infrastructure.
- Recognition for Mt Liebig ESO: The Essential Services Officer (ESO) at Mt Liebig received recognition from the Power and Water Corporation for exemplary service.
- Staff Awards: Council Services staff were highly successful, winning four out of five inaugural awards at the staff recognition event.
- Entered into an agreement with the College of Public Employment to upskill over 80 staff in our communities. This initiative will enable staff to earn qualifications ranging from a Certificate III to a Diploma in Local Government.
- Staff Excellence – Moses Daniels Titjikala ESO recognised and commended for his outstanding efforts to progress into the ESO role and his above and beyond attitude.

Dirt girl planting at the Titjikala Healthy Communities Event

2. HEALTHY COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Successful Community Health events held in Hermannsburg, Docker River, Santa Teresa, Titjikala, Amoonguna and Areyonga fostering community engagement and well-being and furthering MRC's commitment to community health.
- National Awards for Local Government – nominated for Creativity and Collaboration category for the Healthy Community Events.

3. TIDY TOWNS

- Internal Tidy Towns Awards: Recognised outstanding efforts in maintaining and improving local community environments.
- National Tidy Town Awards: Attended the National Tidy Town Awards in Western Australia, where Hermannsburg won the Environmental Sustainability Award.
- NT Tidy Town Awards: Awarded as the Best Regional Council for the tenth consecutive year, a testament to ongoing excellence.
- Sustainable Projects Presentation: Presented three sustainable projects to other councils across the Northern Territory, sharing innovative practices.

4. COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Indigenous Essential Services Contract Extension: Secured an extension of the Indigenous Essential Services contract.
- Services Australia Contract extension: Secured a 12-month extension of Services Australia Contract
- KPI's for commercial contracts: DIPL delivered key performance indicator scoring for MacDonnell Regional Council's compliance with the contract. MRC passed with flying colours with most scores indicating above performance expectations.
- Advertisement Filming: Due to exemplary performance and customer service, Services Australia selected two MRC sites for filming for online advertising about the services we provide in remote areas.

5. CHILLED WATER REFILL STATIONS INITIATIVE

The installation of chilled water refill stations has been successful in reducing single-use plastic waste and promoting healthy hydration practices. Community feedback has been positive, reinforcing the value of these initiatives.

6. ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Significant progress in our Animal Management program included veterinary visits and educational outreach, improving animal welfare and public health.

7. CEMETERY AND ROAD MAINTENANCE

We maintained cemeteries with dignity and supported road maintenance, enhancing road accessibility and safety.

Patching the roads in Kintore

8. PARKS, OPEN SPACES, AND SPORTING FACILITIES

High standards were maintained for parks and open spaces, and civil workers prepared sporting facilities for community events.

9. OUTSTATION SERVICES

We managed the outstations contract, providing support to remote outstations while transitioning some to other providers as needed.

10. WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Advancements in waste management included the development of the new Finke Landfill site and innovative measures like trialling new bin clips to prevent littering.

11. WEED CONTROL AND FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION

Updated Fire Management Plans and proactive weed control measures mitigated fire risks and ensured community safety.

12. OTHER SUCCESSES

- LED Street Lighting Conversion: Achieved 100% conversion to LED street lighting in Wallace Rockhole and Haasts Bluff, contributing to energy efficiency and community safety.
- Council Services took on the MES repairs and maintenance responsibilities for the Homelands Contract.
- Successful Grant – Council Services won significant grant funding from the Dept. of Chief Minister and Cabinet to upgrade all streetlights to LEDs and install 2 solar powered streetlights on each Homeland to which Council provides services.
- Homelands Sanitation Projects – MRC successfully submitted 21 project plans for major upgrades to housing and essential infrastructure on Homelands to be approved by CLC
- Libby Taylor, Coordinator Contracts and Projects and Belinda Urquhart, CEO attended and presented at the NATSIEH Conference in Melbourne receiving several commendations for the presentation and the work that has been done to facilitate the events.

Finke relief ESO Joe hard at work

KEY CHALLENGES

1. BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

Ongoing budgetary challenges require careful financial management and strategic planning to balance commitments with limited resources.

2. STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Recruitment and retention of qualified staff, particularly in remote areas, have been challenging, impacting continuity and quality of service delivery.

3. STAFF ABSENTEEISM

Staff absenteeism has strained resources and impacted service delivery, requiring prioritised efforts to support staff and enhance workforce stability.

Conclusion

The achievements of the Council Services Directorate in 2023-2024 are a testament to the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of our teams. We have delivered exceptional services that have met and exceeded community needs. Moving forward, we remain committed to building on this success and setting new benchmarks for excellence in local government delivery.

Acknowledgements

We extend our thanks to all staff, stakeholders, and community members who have contributed to our successes this year. Together, we have demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and a shared commitment to our communities.

The Council Services Coordinators Workshop March 2024

The result of significant work to create a new landfill site at Finke

COUNCIL SERVICES OUTSTATION PROJECTS & SERVICES

Council Services took over the Municipal Essential Services (MES) funding from the Homelands contract and delivered the following projects:

- Mbunghara – MES funds were approved to be used to assist in the costs of raising the distribution box above the ground to ensure compliance.
- New Bore – MES funding was approved to be used to replace a 300L solar hot water system on the ablution block, replace a 1500mm inspection pipe cover on septic tank, check all gas lines (as there had been a period of vacancy in one of the houses) and assess and complete repairs to a leak beneath a driveway.
- John Holland South – The power system on site was exposed to extreme heat in the summer and was affecting the function and longevity of the system. Electricians installed a 3.9kw air-conditioning system to the inverter room and painted the roof of the inverter room with heat reflective paint to mitigate the wear and tear on the system due to conditions.
- Successful Grant application for Phillipson's Bore outstation:
    - Installation of 2 new float valves
    - New supply line from bore to the tank
    - Installation of fencing to protect water assets
    - Installation of water meters to the tank
    - Installation of bore pressure switch

This was to alleviate issues relating to water wastage and damages caused to water infrastructure due to horses.

- Successful Grant Application for Warren Creek Outstation:
    - Installation of a 13/500L poly ground water tank
    - New water tank was connected to existing plumbing with new fittings

The previous ground water tank had been split and required replacement to ensure suitability for future use. The old water tank was disposed of.

- Phillipson Bore – the pressure pump had been removed from the tank. Plumbers attended and re-instated pressure pump to the tank to ensure appropriate pressure for residents.
- New Bore – A metal water tank on a raised stand which feeds the dwellings had deteriorated so greatly that leaks were prominent and water quality was affected due to rust. Plumbers removed the metal water tank and diverted plumbing to an existing poly tank (used as a storage tank). Capital funding has been applied for to replace the removed tank to ensure the system's proper function.
- Successful Grant Application for 11 Outstations in the Western MacDonnell Ranges (Atji Creek, 5 Mile Bore, Green Valley, Mbunghara, Ngankiritja, Town Bore, 3 Mile (Warumpi), New Bore, Amundurngua, Ngunpa, and Warren Creek). The MacDonnell Regional Council Plant and Grader Crew will visit each homeland listed, clean up, cover the existing waste trenches, and dig a new trench for waste disposal.
- House at Utily – brand new septic system including:
    - New Absorption trenches
    - New Distribution box

The previous septic system had collapsed and required replacing to ensure suitable use.

Warren Creek – Supply and installation of new solar power system

John Holland – Supply and installation of pressure pump and creak tanks

MacDonnell Regional Council

The construction crew hard at work into the night on the upgrade of the Areyonga Access Road

4 TECHNICAL SERVICES

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
- Outstation Housing Special Funded Projects
- Staff and Visitor Accommodation
- Community Swimming Pools
- Program Delivery and Project Management
- Master Planning of Community Infrastructure
- 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

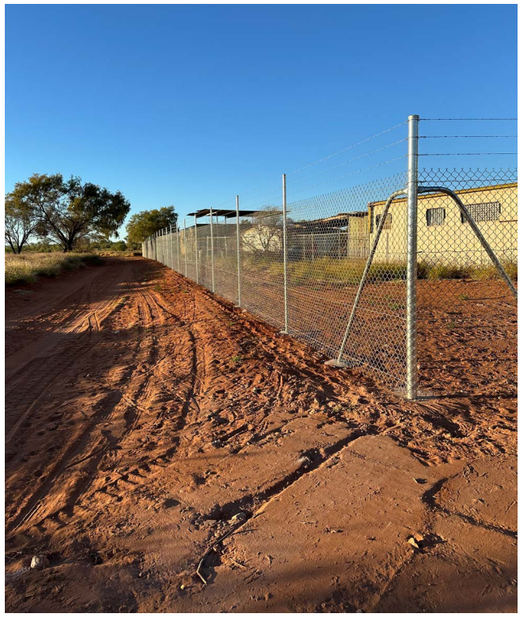
The Building Infrastructure team is responsible for repairs, maintenance, upgrades and capital works for all MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) buildings and facilities as well as tenancy services for staff housing.

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 deliver 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:

- Using MRC capital works funds security upgrades including new fencing and cage installations were completed in the following communities:
  - **Mt Liebig** – 3 properties
  - **Papunya** – 11 properties
  - **Haasts Bluff** – 2 properties
  - **Hermannsburg** – 2 properties
  - **Kintore** – 1 property
  - **Finke** – 1 property



Lot 31 Hermannsburg – works depot fence

Lot 88a&b Haasts Bluff – staff house fence

- Security cameras and Starlink Wi-Fi was installed at 11 houses in Papunya and 7 houses in Haasts Bluff. A similar system will be installed at the Areyonga staff houses, the Council office and works depot in 2025
- The roof cladding was replaced at lot 248 Papunya which included a mains power connection upgrade
- Major repairs and maintenance to infrastructure has been completed at all the Early Learning Centres to enable these facilities to be reopened by the MRC Community Services Directorate

Lot 248 Papunya – staff house new roof cladding

Papunya Early Learning Centre – Upgrades, repairs and clean up

Aboriginal Benefits Account Homelands Project Update

Capital works are continuing on Outstations under the Council's approved ABA Homelands Projects. An extension for the completion of these projects has been given until 30 June 2025. Works completed in 2023-2024 include:

M'Bunghara – Supply and installation of fencing at 6 properties

Green Valley – Supply and installation of generator

Warren Creek – Supply and installation of structures, lighting and wood fire barbecue

Ulambara – Supply and installation of cattle yard, fencing and grid

Ngankiritja – Supply and installation of shed and solar lights

West Waterhouse – Supply and installation of structure

Atji Creek – Supply and installation of fencing and poly water tank

Community Swimming Pools

This year the YMCA has managed and operated the Areyonga and Santa Teresa Pools. The 2023-24 pool season operated from 16th October – 14th April. Overall, the season was very positive, with pools open consistently, minimal interruptions and high community utilisation through general operation and programs.

The pool was closed for a few days during and after heavy rains in March. The rains also brought on an early cool change which meant reduced users for the final few weeks of the season. Royal Life Saving NT (Northern Territory) hosted a first aid, bronze medallion and lifeguard course in Santa Teresa and Swim Coaches and Teachers hosted a first aid and lifeguard course in Areyonga.

The Areyonga and Santa Teresa pools will reopen for the 2025 season on the 9th October 2024.

Areyonga Pool Staff

Santa Teresa Pool Staff

KEY CHALLENGES

The key challenges for the Property and Tenancy Department of Technical Services has been the availability of trade contractors and escalation of building material costs. Escalating resource costs has continued to be a major issue in the remote context that MRC operates in. Technical Services has mitigated these risks by tendering and awarding The Trade Contractor and Supplier Panel, introducing new contractors and resources to our toolkit with fixed prices and has been awarded for 3 years. This will provide confidence and add capacity for Technical Services to action reactive Repairs and Maintenance as well as programmed capital works.

Fleet Services

The Fleet Services team operates from the Alice Springs based workshop where Council vehicles are maintained and major works on larger fleet items are undertaken.

The team includes a coordinator, fleet officer and four mobile mechanics who travel to communities every week to maintain MacDonnell Regional Council's large fleet of more than 330 items including vehicles, trucks, garbage compactors, buses, tractors, trailers, skid steers, backhoes and large earthmoving plant.

During this past year the team has covered over 65,000km to deliver this vital service and perform over nine hundred individual services. The team use 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 11 years. The data collected in that time has been invaluable for understanding usage patterns and costs for forward planning and record keeping.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

With key consultation and procurement planning MRC purchased a mechanical workshop in Braitling, Alice Springs. The procurement of a workshop has ensured MRC has a safe, secure facility with high standards of output.

Since occupying the site Technical Services has procured an additional hoist, secure fencing with an auto-slide gate, demountable office space and concrete driveway to assist in improving daily operations.

Technical Services recruited a mechanic with a background in the background in auto electrics. This has strengthened the fleet team's capacity to control the installation of all new vehicle tracking saving on costs.

New Hoist

Transport Infrastructure

The Transport Infrastructure team is responsible for management of 1,565km of MRC funded road network, maintenance of community Waste Management Facilities (WMF) and minor capital works projects.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Technical Services used the LocalBuy platform to procure a new CAT140 Motor Grader and a John Deer 724k Wheel Loader. These fleet upgrades will assist with the MRC Grading Program, capital works, Local Authority projects and Waste Management projects over the next ten years. Technical Services recruited a Senior Grader Operator who has been working through the MRC Grading Program with success. The Plant Crew has had a successful year completing the construction of a new WMF in Finke, rehabilitation of the old Finke WMF, remediation of Imanpa, Wallace Rockhole, Titjikala, Amoonguna, Areyonga, Docker River and Haasts Bluff WMF's.

New CAT Grader

New JD724k Loader

Projects

In February 2024 Technical Services went to tender for the upgrade of the Areyonga Access Road. The upgrade included upgrading seven kilometres of subgrade and gravel pavement, installation of two concrete floodway's and replacing an existing damaged culvert structure.

MRC used funding from Roads to Recovery (R2R), Local Roads & Community Infrastructure (LRCI) & the Local Government Immediate Priority Grant (LGIPG) to secure a successful contract price and move forward to the construction stage. The Areyonga Access Roadproject is drawing to its completion in September 2024.

MRC has received its funding allocation from the Roads to Recovery Program for 2024-2029. MRC will be allocated a total of $4,008,436.00 over the period to use towards local priority projects and road construction. This funding allocation has been increased by the Federal Government from $650 million per year to over $1 billion per year. This is a permanent increase to allow for more effective long-term planning. MRC will identify how to best spend the allocation within the region to assist in developing community infrastructure.

MRC has completed road logging in all 13 communities, completed road furniture audits and procured new signage in the region to reflect community Local Area Traffic Management Plans.

Work commences on the Areyonga Access Road

Project Management

The Technical Services Project Management (PM) Team is responsible for applying for, tendering and managing grants. The Team also oversees projects initiated by Local Authorities, ensuring these projects stay within budget and achieve their specified objectives. The PM team strives to align projects with strategic goals and community needs to ensure successful completion.

MRC has been successful in receiving the below grants.

- Mount Liebig Sports Precinct - This grant is for the construction of canopy over the current basketball court, fencing, lighting and water bubblers. This tender has been awarded to GSD Solutions and works are currently underway.
- Remote Shade Structures – This grant is for the construction of at least 21 shade shelters over 13 communities. This tender has been awarded to Harvey Developments and structures are currently getting fabricated.
- Hermannsburg Sports Precinct Upgrade - This grant is for the construction of unisex change rooms with shaded area along the front of the building. This tender is currently being assessed.
- Papunya Sports Precinct – This grant is for the construction of women's change rooms and grandstand, including fencing, CCTV, and new goal posts. This tender is currently being assessed.
- Oval Lighting – Kintore and Titjikala have received funding for sports lighting at the ovals. Tender will be underway in the next few weeks. Works are planning to commence, the start of November 2024.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Technical Services has managed to complete 24 of 35 LA projects assigned to them.

KEY CHALLENGES

Due to the high volume of grants and ongoing construction projects in the Northern Territory, along with rising construction costs, it has been challenging to find competitive tenders that fit within allocated budgets.

Bench seating for the Docker River basketball court - funding provided by the Local Authority

Installation of new fencing for the houses at M'Bunghara Outstation

MacDonnell Regional Council

Anne-Marie and Osaris enjoying playtime at Finke

5 COMMUNITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Directorate delivers intentional, sustainable, community-led services that seek to positively impact the lives of our residents.

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

- Aged and Disability Services provided in 8 remote communities.
- School Nutrition Program provided in 5 remote communities.
- Children's Services provided in 10 remote communities.
- Community Safety provided in 12 remote communities.
- NT Library Services provided in 13 remote communities.
- Youth Services provided in 12 remote communities.

These programs are delivered by our team of 286 dedicated staff, of which approximately 80% are Indigenous.

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

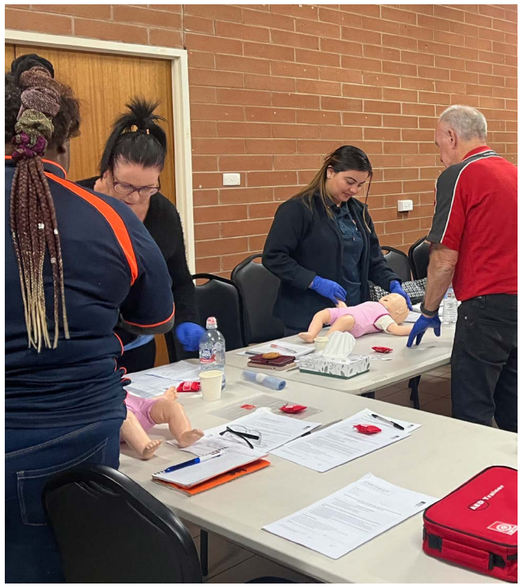
Our Aged & Disability Services, delivers services across 8 of our remote communities. Through a client-centred approach, we supports clients to live in their communities and provides choice and flexibility in the way their care and services are delivered.

Services include: meals, personal care, and domestic assistance, transport, shopping assistance, social support, equipment coordination, package management and referrals with Allied Health Services to ensure clients are connected with their community.

The service also delivers a School Nutrition Program across 7 remote communities within the region, promoting health and nutritious eating, contributing to school attendance while achieving positive educational outcomes.

Programs delivered by Aged & Disability Services in 2023-24 included:

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFACP) - funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
- Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) - funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
- School Nutrition Program (SNP) - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.
- National Disability Insurance Services (NDIS) - funded through a fee-for-service model.



First Aid Training delivered by St Johns trainer Bill Adams

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 112 elderly clients were supported to live in their community.
- 40,579 meals delivered.
- 2,989 transports provided.
- 3,232 hours of domestic care provided.
- 412 hours of personal care provided.
- 5,542 hours of social support provided which included bush trips, centre-activities, individual social support, and money business.
- 38,636 meals were delivered through the School Nutrition Program with an average of 148 students fed per day across 6 communities.
    - Hermannsburg School Nutrition Program commenced February 2024 as a pilot program and is providing meals to an average of 80 children every day.
- Of the 39 staff enrolled in Certificate III Individual Support course, 9 have successfully completed the course and will graduate in September 2024.

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- First Aid Training was delivered to all aged care staff across all sites in August & September 2023.
- All aged care staff remained focused towards achieving Certificate III – Individual Support Course with Response training undertaken in the 2nd week of every month.
- Coordinators & Team Leaders across all sites attended Food Safety Supervisor training at Hermannsburg in October 2023.
- An Older Australian Wellbeing program was conducted in Finke in November 2023.
- Aged and Disability Services leadership team attended the NATSIFAC Forum 2024 in Brisbane in March 2024.
- Cultural Awareness training was attended by new coordinators in Alice Springs in March 2024.
- Coordinators and Team Leaders across all sites attended Dementia Essential Training in Alice Springs in April 2024.
- An Older Australian Wellbeing program was conducted in Areyonga & Hermannsburg in April 2024.
- Management Training: Tool box and leading through change was attended by all coordinators and manager in Alice Springs in June 2024.
- A Case Management - Assessment and Care Planning Workshop was attended by all coordinators in Alice Springs in June 2024.
- A Planning for Diversity Workshop was organised by OPAN and attended by all coordinators in Alice Springs in June 2024.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Building and Infrastructure require additional investment for safe and secure service delivery.
- There have been significant increases in freight charges and the cost of food items. This has impacted the budget to purchase food for aged care clients as well as the School Nutrition Program.
- The collection of parental contributions continues to be a significant factor in managing the daily operation of the School Nutrition Program in communities as parents are reluctant to engage in the Aged Care Subsidy process.
- Workforce development has become an increasingly complex issue within the Leadership Team. The Team continues to address staffing talent and turnover levels - particularly in Alice Springs based positions, as we look at staffing models and bridging cultural expectations surrounding work-life balance.
- Multiple services were disrupted this year due to recruitment and retention challenges and general staff shortages which have been compounded by the lack of qualified staff.

Narissa, Bishnau (Coordinator), Sarah and Michela, MRC's Aged Care staff in Areyonga, dishing up a Christmas feast

Children's Services

Children's Services operates 5 days a week, from Monday to Friday, with a variety of operational hours to suit individual community needs. In consultation with stakeholders, program objectives are developed and delivered to best reflect the diverse needs of community members. The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, Department of Education and Early Childhood Australia support the delivery and review of remote programs to support high quality educational outcomes for children. Children's Services delivers the following programs funded in entirety by the Department of Education:

- Early Learning Program.
- Healthy Eating & Nutrition Program.
- Language and Cultural Program.
- Protective Behaviours.
- Physical Activity (gross motor) Program.
- Infrastructure provision to encourage an integrated service model for streamlined access to NT Health nurses, occupational therapists, dieticians, and hearing professionals.
- School Readiness and Transition Program.

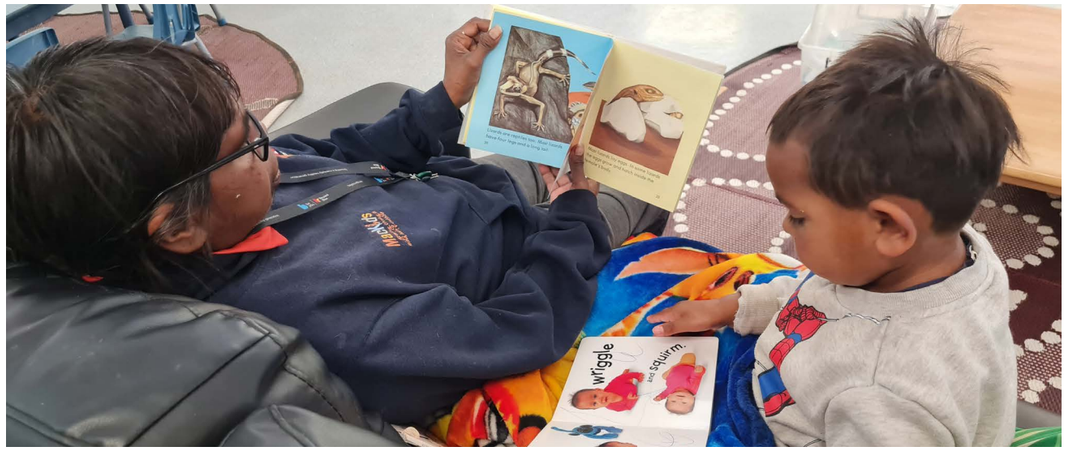
Children's Services programs support improved access to early learning programs for remote community residents and positive educational outcomes for young children.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2024, our Team Leader in Titjikala was nominated and shortlisted for the NT Indigenous Educator of the Year award!
- We celebrated 2 educators who completed their Cert III in Early Childhood Education and Care with high enrolment numbers in this qualification across our Educators.

The Children's Services team encourages participation in the early years program through consultative practice, recognising that the interconnectedness of Aboriginal pedagogy including narrative-driven learning, visualised learning processes, hands on and reflective techniques, use of symbols, learning on country and connectedness to community underpin program objectives.

Dental check in Finke



Christine reading to Lebron at Finke Early Learning

Child and educator in Hermannsburg

Community Safety

MacDonnell Regional Council's Community Safety is delivered in 12 of the MRC's remote communities. Community Safety 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.

Community Safety is a responsive service working collaboratively with the community. We maintain continuous community consultation and engagement, via the Local Authority meetings, ongoing engagement with internal and external stakeholders and consistent consultation with Community Safety teams and community members.

This enables the program to provide specifically targeted services, sometimes unique to individual communities, while meeting the objectives and core deliverables contained in the project description, ensuring a partnership approach to addressing issues that the community identify as impacting the safety of residents.

As a responsive process to critical events in a community, at times a specific Community Safety team will do longer hours and/or additional days of service, however we can be prevented from doing this for any extended periods of time, due to limited staff and financial capacity.

The Community Safety Team enjoying the fire pit at Finke sports

Kennedy and Selwyn, members of the Docker River Night Patrol Team

Program delivered by Community Safety in 2023-24

Community Safety - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) as a part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).

The program received a new 2 year contract, up to 30 June 2026.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 14,082 hours of Community Safety services were delivered across 12 communities.
- 94% Aboriginal staff.
- 43% of Community Safety staff are female, with 8 women being in the leadership position.
- 21,878 engagements with community residents, providing assistance with community safety issues.
- 13,482 engagements with young people, providing transport home or to a safe location at night.
- 72% of all Community Safety staff received some formal training, which included Digital Literacy and Numeracy; First Aid and Fire Safety; and Fire Warden Training. There is always ongoing staff development by visiting coordinators, with each visit they make to their communities.

Community Safety delivered services for a minimum of 5 nights/ week and in three communities, 6 nights/week (Hermannsburg, Papunya and Santa Teresa). Delivery times vary and are adjusted based on community needs and requests from Local Authorities, eg some patrols finish later on Fridays and Saturdays. This targeted, flexible approach has led to improved community safety and better manage conflicts due to positive community relations.

Community Safety continues to address key community safety issues, including assisting young people to attend organised youth programs and taking them home at night, assisting vulnerable residents to a safe place, working at community events (community sport weekends, funerals etc.), working closely with stakeholders, especially NT Police.

Community Safety has been proactive in supporting Community Safety Action Plan (CSAPS) Meetings. The Manager continues to attend the fortnightly Remote Interagency Tasking and Coordination Group (RITCG) meetings hosted by the Police.

The digital Community Safety Reporting App, is being used consistently in all 12 communities. Compared to notations on paper staff far prefer using it to the old notations on paper sheets and it leads to far more accurate data.

The Alice Spring's Management team is receiving data on daily basis through the App, which is very useful.

KEY CHALLENGES

- There were only three Community Safety Coordinators for half the year. The town team (Coordinators and Manager) have worked very closely together, to ensure all the 12 teams were supported well.

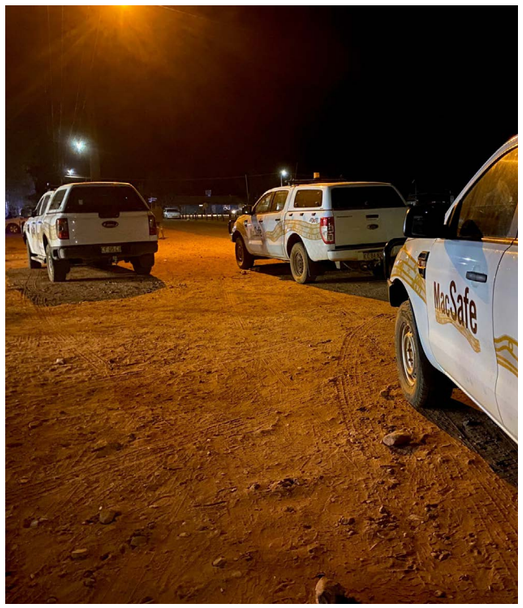
Community Safety has worked closely with community members, Youth Services, CAYLUS, the Police; and the Department of Health, in coordinating a consistent response to support the young people and communities.

The annual Community Safety Conference was in Alice Springs in June 2024 at the Ross River Resort.

Community Safety attended from across the entire MRC region. The focus this year was on youth. Staff will continue to work closely with Youth Services and endeavour to engage young people in a positive way.

Community Safety continued to be pro-active in providing additional services at big community events to maximise the safety of community residents. When community leaders engage Community Safety early in their planning of events such as sports carnivals, the better we can plan and work with all stakeholders involved, particularly the Police and CAFL. Multiple teams travelled to assist in community events in Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Santa Teresa, Finke and Papunya.

MRC has continued working with the NT Life Promotion Network, addressing issues of Suicide Prevention, assisting in developing and running the NT 2-day NT Suicide Prevention Forum, which 6 Youth Services and 3 Community Safety staff attended.



The Community Safety Team on the job

Youth Services

Youth Services delivered a range of innovative youth programs for young people aged 5 to 25 years, across 12 communities throughout the MacDonnell region. Programs delivered by Youth Services in 2023–24 included:

- Youth Development and Outside of School Hours Learning Program - funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Remote Sport Program - funded by Northern Territory Government
- Active Communities - funded by the Northern Territory Government
- Community Youth Diversion - funded by the Northern Territory Government
- Volatile Substance Abuse Program - funded by the NT Department of Health
- Camps and training – Central Australian Youth Link Up Service

Players from the Hermannsburg / Ntaria Bulldogs getting ready for the Women's AFL Grand Final in Santa Teresa

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 97 employees with 82% Aboriginal employment
- 14,838.75 total hours of programs, average 30 hours of programming per week per community
- 4,873 unique activities delivered with more than 65,555 engagements for 1,600 individuals
- 46 young people supported with youth diversion, with an additional 156+ youth supported through preventative measures from entering the criminal justice system
- 200 young people met across 14 Youth Boards
- 566 students were supported into education pathways at local and boarding schools
- 3,938 sport activities and 10 regional sports competitions
- 80 training opportunities to our employees
- 12 weeks of school holiday programs across each community

Youth Services has successfully achieved its goal of being 100% youth led and community driven. Youth Services continues to empower, uplift, and support young people's voices and provide young leaders with opportunities to guide service delivery, discuss community issues and present agenda items to Local Authority meetings, Youth Round Table and Youth Voice NT. Youth Services provided a wide range of training opportunities to our employee's including First Aid, Suicide Prevention, Volatile Substance Abuse and Alcohol and Other Drugs, Mandatory reporting, numeracy and literacy, Certificate in Sport and Recreation, Four Wheel Drive, Bronze Medallion swimming, and in-house youth services training.

Youth Services continues to partner with a wide range of stakeholders to improve outcomes for young people including Department of Education, Department of health, Northern Territory Police, Central Land Council, CAYLUS, NAAJA, Red Dust, Charles Darwin University, NT Basketball, AFLNT and more. Youth Services continue to work towards our strategic targets and documents our process for achievement.

KEY CHALLENGES

Young people in the MacDonnell region continue to be at an increased risk of volatile substance misuse, alcohol, and other drugs, declining mental health and high risk of entering the juvenile justice system. Buildings and infrastructure require additional investment to improve the conditions and functionality for use.

Youth Services taking young people on a bush trip to cook up kangaroo tails and potatoes in the camp fire

Kirsten Joseph from Youth Services at Yulara for an excursion with young people during the school holidays

Digital and Library Services

Over the past year, Digital and Library Services has continued to deliver literacy and digital literacy programs across the MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) area, with the support of Libraries and Archives NT. The program navigated the unique challenges of delivering services in remote communities while successfully connecting individuals with vital educational and digital resources, often forging new pathways to overcome obstacles and achieve results.

A total of 393 programs were delivered during the reporting period, operating across 895 hours. Digital literacy remained a central focus, with 373 programs provided to a broad audience, resulting in 4,305 attendees. This participation highlights the growing enthusiasm for digital skill development within the region, especially through the integration of new technologies such as virtual reality (VR), which enhanced training and engagement.

A major success was the engagement of children and youth, with 4,119 attendees aged between 5 and 18 years. This reflects the effectiveness of the program in fostering digital literacy among younger generations. Digital and Library Services created interactive environments where young people could explore technology, from setting up cozy reading areas in community recreation halls to launching highly popular VR sessions that drew significant participation.

However, the engagement of adults and elders remained more modest, with 186 attendees recorded. One factor here is our engagement with the Arts Law Centre of Australia, which guided Digital and Library Services in ensuring that any materials to be created will adhere to Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) protocols. As a result, the program held back on recording oral histories, awaiting the implementation of the Arts Law Centre's comprehensive recommendations. Despite the smaller numbers, the adults who participated found significant value in the Digital and Library Services workshops and digital media training, learning how to apply digital tools to improve both their personal learning and professional practices.

Project-Based Delivery Model

As the year progressed, Digital and Library Services transitioned to a project-based delivery model, focusing on one project at a time. This shift allowed the program to adopt a more dedicated and tailored approach, after concurrently testing multiple methods to identify the most effective delivery modes. Through this evolution, Digital and Library Services refined its process based on nearly 18 months of research and iteration, acknowledging the strengths and limitations of its resources, and developing a clearer direction for future service delivery.

Each project now begins with a design brief that clearly outlines expectations, content, and desired outcomes. This ensures transparency and alignment between stakeholders. MRC departments can select one of the following Digital and Library Services services, depending on their needs:

- **Arrpmarnama (Making):** Focuses on producing digital media assets, including film, print, web, and VR resources.
- **Arrkene Ileme (Playing):** Provides VR gaming and wellbeing resources to encourage community engagement and entertainment.
- **Nintiringanyi (Learning):** Offers a platform for training community and MRC staff with a focus on educational support.
- **Kanyini (Sharing):** Captures and preserves boarding school wellbeing resources and oral histories, safeguarding valuable community stories for future generations.

With each project fully budgeted and given a timeline before initiation, Digital and Library Services ensures the efficient delivery of high-quality results while remaining adaptable to the needs of the community.

Youth Services 'Arkene-Ileme' VR program in Amoonguna impresses all ages

Challenges and Opportunities

One ongoing challenge has been the lack of engagement with early childhood groups (0-5 years), with no attendees recorded in this demographic during the period. This presents an opportunity for Digital and Library Services to develop targeted strategies to better involve the youngest members of the community in literacy and digital literacy programs.

A promising initiative is the development of a Digital and Library Services/Youth Services reading resource program, building on the success of the 'Wangka Walytja' project. This project was a collaboration with the University of Queensland to augment digitising the vast collection of First Language educational resources from Papunya School.

Through digital media training, community members learned how to use iPads and graphic design software to illustrate scanned materials.

Despite this challenge, the introduction of VR and immersive technology has been a transformative force in the program, helping bridge generational divides and create shared experiences for both young and old. The use of Oculus Quest 2 headsets and 360° videography generated excitement across the board, drawing large crowds and fostering intergenerational engagement. These VR sessions have become a community favourite and are setting the stage for future program expansion.

Looking Forward: The Future of Immersive Training

As we move forward, immersive training will play a central role in Digital and Library Services's future strategy. The program has been actively researching and trialling immersive training solutions with external providers to introduce new learning and development methods into the communities we serve.

Collaborations with organisations such as Tailspin and Flaim Systems, whose clients include emergency services and educational institutions, have proven to be invaluable. Their scenario-based VR training programs can be adapted to suit the unique needs of remote, culturally diverse communities, offering practical and engaging learning experiences.

By incorporating these immersive training techniques, Digital and Library Services will not only enhance the skills of community members but also improve the training available to MRC staff. This deeper engagement will foster more practical, hands-on learning opportunities, empowering individuals across all demographics.

Ross River Community Safety Retreat goes techno!

Community Safety Coordinator Valantine exploring the Oculus Quest 2 headsets

Conclusion

The path that Digital and Library Services has taken over the past year has been one of exploration, growth, and adaptation. While at times divergent, often requiring course corrections and the realignment of strategies, the journey has been extraordinarily rewarding. Every challenge faced, whether related to the logistics of remote service delivery, the complexities of cultural competency, or the introduction of new technologies, has helped the program carve a more defined and effective path forward.

The 2023-2024 period has seen significant progress, from increased youth engagement to the successful integration of VR technologies. The transition to a project-based delivery model has refined the program's approach, ensuring that each initiative meets the specific needs of the communities we serve. As Digital and Library Services looks to the future, the ongoing development of immersive training techniques, coupled with the strong foundations built this year, will enable the program to lead the way in digital literacy and community development across the MacDonnell Regional Council area.

The journey has been as challenging as it has been rewarding, but the value of the progress made, both in terms of outcomes and the lasting impact on individuals and communities, cannot be overstated. Looking ahead, Digital and Library Services remains committed to finding innovative ways to support and empower the region through literacy, digital literacy, and immersive learning.

MacDonnell
Regional Council

Hermannsburg Local Authority meeting Jan 24

6 ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

The Finance, Governance, ICT and People & Capabilities Teams provide the professional functions which support MRC's service delivery across the region. These functions include, but are not limited to the provision of administrative, information technology, accounting, finance, budgeting, customer services, insurance and risk, governance, compliance, engagement and planning services plus the management of MRC's invaluable human resources.

Finance Team

The Finance Team provides strong financial management and reporting systems which ensure that MRC income, payments and financial reporting is done in a timely and accountable manner. The Finance team manages all payments and receipts across the 14 offices of MRC, as well as the acquittals of all grant money received.

The Team prepares the annual Audited Finance Statements which are included later in the Annual Report.

KEY CHALLENGES

Staff turnover within MRC presents challenges in that extensive training is required to teach users in the use our accounting system, how to ensure our procurement procedures are adhered to and what and when information is required by the Finance Team.

Information Communications Technology Team

The information Communications Technology Team is supported by 1 Staff Member, and has remained stable for the past 12 months. The Manager and ICT Assistant support 14 Locations and up to 220 Users with access to the MRC Systems and Infrastructure.

This includes but in not limited to:

- Maintaining all ICT Equipment serviceability especially with supply shortages across the globe
- Managing and maintaining network connectivity – reporting all faults to service providers for repair to ensure continuity of services and operations
- Providing feedback to service providers on major and minor outages for resolutions
- Monitoring all ICT expenses to ensure correct accountability of services are maintained
- Cancelling and creating services as necessary to ensure standards are met

Thanks to the technology in MRC's communities Local Authority meetings can be held via Teams, especially when travel is not possible due to bad road conditions

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Transition to Office 365 – Is in the final stages of completion, all authorised staff have Office 365 applications via Cloud Server.

MRC has successfully managed to migrate from On-premises TechOne to the cloud and now has a plan in place to move into TechOne CiA (Connected Intelligence Anywhere) in coming months.

New computers have been purchased for all Council offices which include Council Services Coordinators, Essential Service Officers and Administration Officers.

The ICT Officer is travelling to communities to replace all old computers and it is expected to be completed by September 2024.

MRC will be moving out of Magiq and transitioning to SharePoint which is at the final stage which is expected to be completed by the end of the first week of September.

KEY CHALLENGES

Distances will always be one of the biggest challenges. Remote access has alleviated some of the issues but does not negate all of the requirements for solutions. Program updates and infrastructure requirements to meet the technology required as again this year has increased expenses.

As we are moving to a new environment Staff will have difficulty getting used to the new systems in the initial stages. Training for community staff needs to be done virtually and it will be a challenge to get all staff to attend the training at the same time.

Governance, Engagement and Customer Service Team

The activities of the Governance Team 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. The Governance Team encompasses Governance, Engagement and Customer Service.

Governance Unit

The Governance Unit ensures the organisation complies with all statutory, legal, and policy requirements. The Unit specifically offers assistance to the 13 Local Authorities and the Council, as well as stewardship for the creation of MRC and operational policies, procedures, and supporting materials.

KEY CHALLENGES

Management of its responsibilities in relation to the conduct and scheduling of 52 meetings for the 13 Local Authorities is always challenging in that community members are often required to attend to other commitments and other community meetings resulting in difficulties in achieving quorum. Additionally the small unit experienced a significant increase in workload which resulted from a number of staff movements and vacancies within the Department.

Engagement Unit

Through chosen media outlets, the Engagement Unit handles the organisation's communications both internally for the workforce and outside for stakeholders. Along with assisting the organisation's

planning and reporting procedures, the Unit implements community engagement initiatives that foster communication between local residents, MRC services, Council members, and members of the local authority.

The Unit is also responsible for the development and management of Council's Youth Boards. This has been identified by Council as key to the development of the youth within the region so that they may step up to other roles within their communities, such as future members of Local Authorities and even as Councillors.

KEY CHALLENGES

Dealing with the multitude of means of communication poses issues with ensuring consistency with MRC's branding, presentation to the public and compliance with policy.

The Youth Boards' Coordinator has taken over responsibility for all of MRC's Youth Boards in all of its communities which will be challenging and success will only come with the support of Youth Services staff in the communities.

CUSTOMER SERVICE UNIT

Our Alice Springs Customer Service Unit is the first contact point for many people visiting council. Our Customer Service Unit collaborates closely with clients and employees both inside and externally, which creates a very efficient and effective workplace.

The Unit's professional and friendly services also include:

- Greeting, welcoming and communicating with guests
- Correspondence phone enquiries
- Receive letters, packages and appropriate redirection
- Prepare and manage outgoing mail
- Monitor office and cleaning supplies
- Answer customers' questions and complaints
- Place supply orders when necessary
- Council's document control systems
- Connecting our remote communities with Council services

People and Capabilities Team

The People and Capabilities team of MRC oversees all employment activities, management of staff records, employee on boarding, inductions, and off boarding, performance management, workplace relations, policy development and learning and development. The People and Capabilities department has provided an ongoing response to a suite of Legislative changes from the Fair Work Commission that have provided enhanced workplace protections for all employees.

MRC has consistently maintained strong recruitment practices to promote and encourage Indigenous employment throughout the organisation. The council's workforce is comprised of 74% Indigenous staff. At the conclusion of the 2023-2024 financial year the Council had 459 employees where the workforce is predominately based in remote locations, with 362 employees and the remaining 97 employees are based in the Alice Springs office.

MRC facilitated and hosted training for a Cert IV in Procurement and Government Contracting which was attended by MRC staff and staff from other government agencies

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The People and Capabilities team has worked through a host of improvement initiatives lead by Chief Executive Officer. There has been a strong focus on improving overall operations across Council with the People and Capabilities team facilitating changes for employment focused improvements. More broadly, the People and Capabilities team has held a strong focus on process improvements across our functions to provide better services to Council and our employees. The People and Capabilities team is proud to report that recruitment and on boarding processes have been streamlined with enhanced structures for documentation and mandatory training practices.

KEY CHALLENGES

The attraction and retention of remote based staff has remained a key challenge for MRC. This is an ongoing Council wide concern in which collaborative actions have been engaged to address the application of considered staffing models, comprehensive cultural inductions; promoting work/life balance and upskilling our local workforce to become leaders amongst the council.

Denise Boko graduating with Cert 111 in Education and Care

GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL REPORT

MacDonnell Regional Council

From left to right we have:

Chancey Paech (former NT Minister for Local Government)

Keith Hassett (MRC Director Council Services)

Linda Burney (former Federal Minister for Aboriginal Australians)

Belinda Urquhart (MRC CEO)

Alison Anderson (Ngurratjuta/Pmara Ntjarr Aboriginal Corporation)

Selina Uibo (former NT Minister for Aboriginal Affairs)

In April the first remote Local Decision Making (LDM) agreement for Central Australia was signed in the Ngurratjuta region, beginning a decade-long plan to support its communities' housing, education, safety, and family services.

NOTES FOR THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) is required to prepare Financial Statements in accordance with Section 131 of the Local Government Act (the Act), the Local Government (Accounting) Regulations, the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. When completed Section 132 of the Act dictates that the Financial Statements must be audited.

The financial report provides information about the financial performance and financial position of Council. It is one means by which the Elected Members of Council advise interested parties on how the finances of Council have performed during the year.

The Audited Financial Statements 2023-2024 which follow consist of four primary financial statements for the current financial period and the comparative previous financial period and the notes to the financial statements.

The four primary financial statements are:

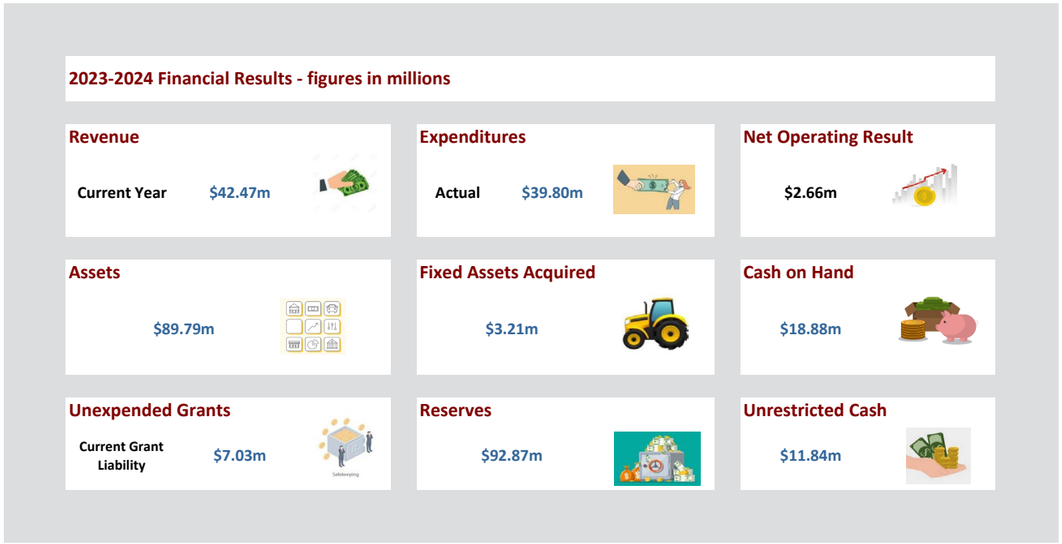
• the Statement of Comprehensive Income

• the Statement of Financial Position

• the Statement of Changes in Equity

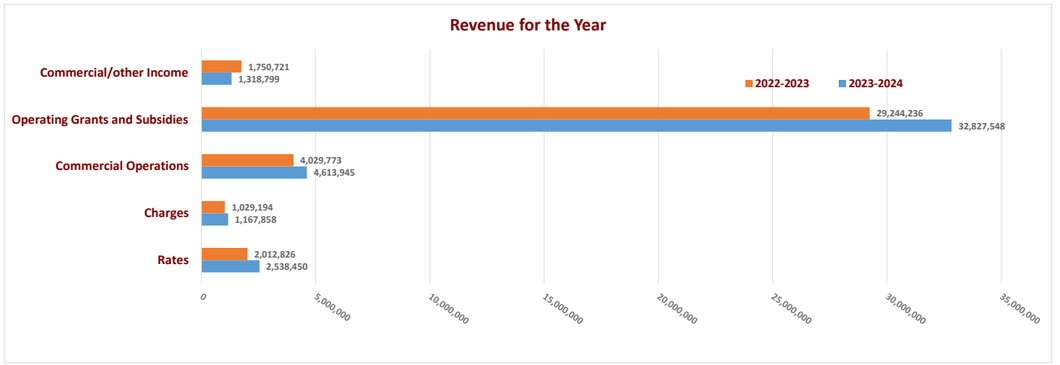
• the Statement of Cash Flows

Below is a snapshot of MRC's financial results as at 30 June 2024. The graphics have been created to assist readers in their understanding of MRC's financial results and highlight the key indicators of MRC's performance.

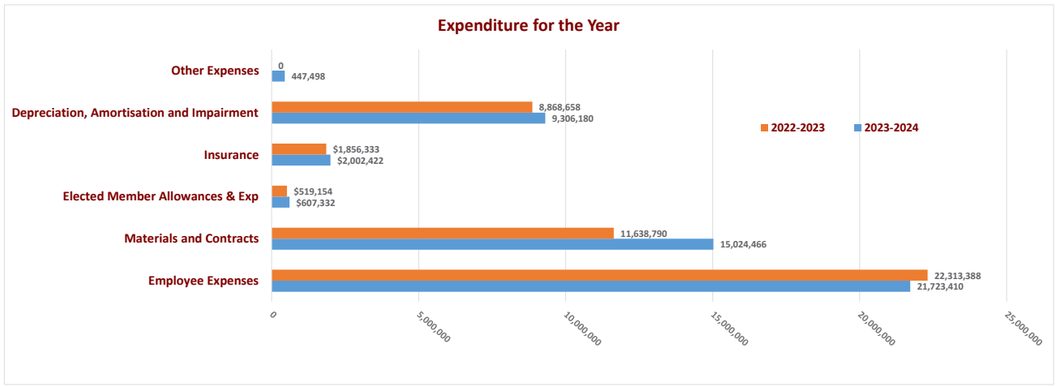


Key Takeaways

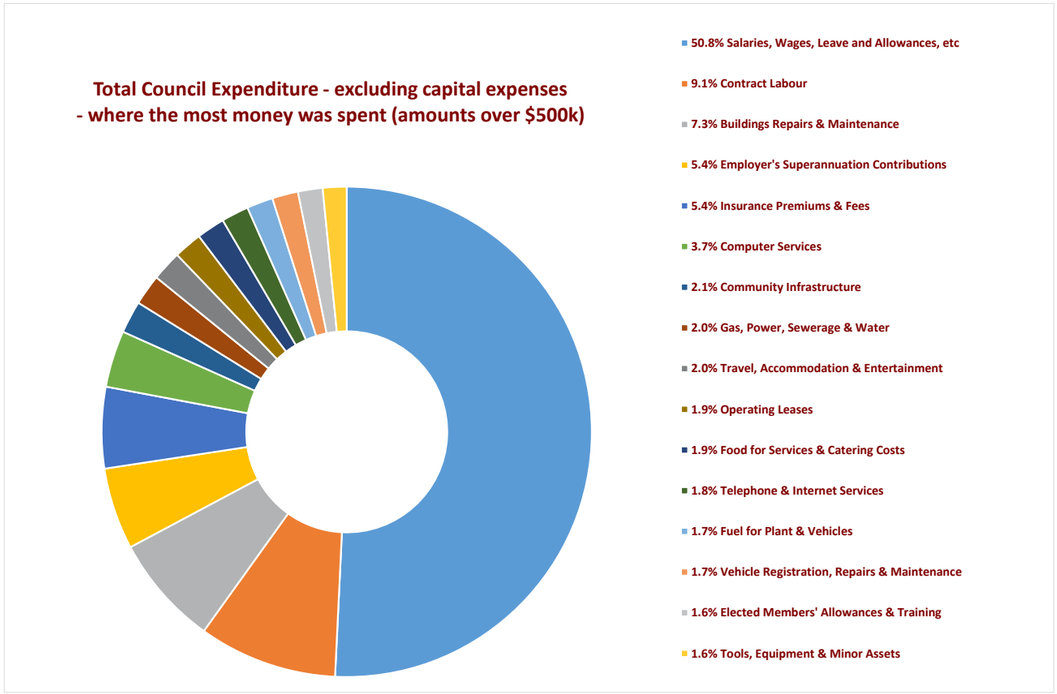
- REVENUE – The most significant component of MRC's Operating Income is the $32.83m received in Operating Grants. This represents 77.3% of Council's total income. This demonstrates Council's reliance on grant funding to continue to provide services to its communities. The prior year comparisons are shown below.



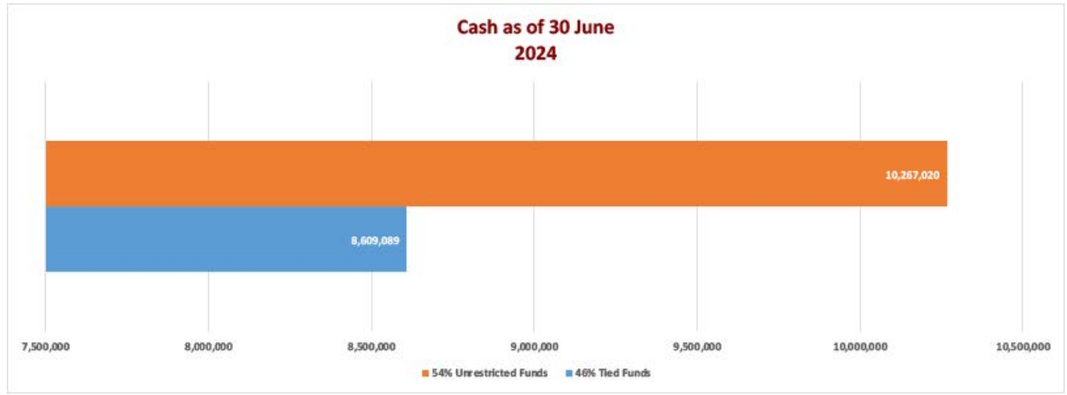
- EXPENDITURE – Expenses for the year totalled $39.80m, an increase of 9.6% on 2022-23. Employee costs account for 54.6% of all expenses. The prior year comparisons are shown below.



The following chart shows all items of expenditure which were in excess of $500k. As can be seen Employee costs account for 50.8% of these expenses. The demonstrates MRC's commitment as the most significant employer in the region.



- NET OPERATING RESULT – MRC's Operating Surplus Before Depreciation was $2.66m, an improvement of $922,237 which, in the main, is attributable to a reduction in Employee costs.
- ASSETS – The carrying amount of Council's fixed assets decreased from $96.77m in 2022-23 to $89.76m in 2023-24. The reduction is due, in the main, to the application of an additional $9.31m in depreciation for the year (refer Note 6b).
- FIXED ASSETS ACQUIRED – During the year a total of $3.21m was expended in the acquisition of assets. Stories regarding these assets, in particular Transport Infrastructure, are provided earlier in this report.
- CASH ON HAND – MRC had $18.88m in its operating accounts as at 30 June 2024 to pay for its daily operating costs, a slight decrease on the $19.16m held at 30 June 2023.
- UNEXPENDED GRANTS – From total grant funding received of $32.83m only $8.61m remains unspent as at 30 June 2024. The $8.61m includes $7.03m in unearned grant income and $1.57m in the unexpended grant reserve. For a full reconciliation of MRC's grant funding please refer to notes 2d) GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS and 14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME.
- RESERVES – The Civil Infrastructure Upgrade Reserve of $1.5m and Future Works Reserve of $3.5m have remained static. The Assets Revaluation Reserve was established in 2022-23 as a result of the revaluation of MRC's assets undertaken that year. There has been a slight decrement of $54,572 in this Reserve during 2023-24. The amount quoted of $1.57m as an Unexpended Grant Reserve is in reality a liability but has been included in Equity due to the introduction of a new accounting standard.
- UNRESTRICTED CASH – As at 30 June 2024 MRC was fortunate to have funding of $10.27m in untied funding available to meet its operational commitments and for the acquisition of assets



Other Matters

WORKING CAPITAL / CURRENT RATIO - MRC maintains a strong financial position. As mentioned previously it has significant available resources to fund its daily operations. As at 30 June 2024 MRC had total Working Capital of $10.78m – the difference between its total Current Assets ($21.42m) and total Current Liabilities ($10.64m). This means that MRC's Current Ratio was 2.0 – for every $1 MRC currently owes it had $2.00 to cover those debts.

Working Capital / Current Ratio

MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL
For the period ended 30 June 2024

	30 June 2024
	$
ASSETS	
Cash at bank	18,876,109
Accounts Receivable	2,425,855
Inventory	118,841
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	21,420,805
Less:	
LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	1,527,495
Provisions	1,903,565
Grant liability	7,034,764
Other Current Liabilities	176,137
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,641,961
NET CURRENT ASSETS (Working Capital)	10,778,844
CURRENT RATIO	2.0

Current Ratio Formula = Current Assets / Current Liabilities

The Cash Ratio measures Council's ability to pay its short term debts (Current Liabilities) when they fall due. The ratio for June of 2.0 meant that Council had $2.00 in cash (Current Assets) for every $1 of debt, including unexpended grants.

Football training in MRC's remote communities

MacDonnell Regional Council
General Purpose Financial Reports
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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MacDonnell Regional Council
Chief Executive Officer's Certificate
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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

· The Financial Statements have been properly drawn up in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards, the Local Government Act 2019, and the Local Government (General) Regulations 2020 so as to present fairly the financial position of the Council for the year ended 30 June 2024, and

· The Financial Statements are in accordance with the accounting and other records of the Council, and

· There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Council will be able to pay its debts when they become due and payable.

burquhart

.....

Belinda Urquhart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Date: 25 October 2024

MacDonnell Regional Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 $	2023 $
INCOME			
Rates & Statutory charges - waste management		**2,538,450**	2,012,826
User charges	2a	**1,167,858**	1,029,194
Grants, subsidies and contributions	2d	**32,827,548**	29,244,236
Income from commercial operations	2b	**4,613,945**	4,029,773
Reimbursements and other income	2c	**812,730**	440,700
Net gain from disposal of property, plant & equipment	4	**69,159**	690,528
Investment income		**436,910**	619,493
Total Income		**42,466,600**	38,066,750
EXPENSES			
Employee costs	3a	**21,723,410**	22,313,388
Materials, contracts & other expenses	3b	**17,634,220**	14,014,277
Net loss from disposal of property, plant & equipment	4	**447,498**	-
Total Expenses		**39,805,128**	36,327,665
OPERATING SURPLUS BEFORE DEPRECIATION		**2,661,472**	1,739,085
Depreciation and amortisation	3c	**9,306,180**	8,868,658
NET DEFICIT BEFORE OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**(6,644,708)**	(7,129,573)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Revaluation (decrement)/increment	6b	**(54,571)**	86,352,039
		(54,571)	86,352,039
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		**(6,699,279)**	79,222,466

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

MacDonnell Regional Council

Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

ASSETS	Notes	2024 $	2023 $
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5a	**18,876,109**	19,163,364
Trade & other receivables	5b	**2,425,855**	1,204,895
Inventories	5c	**118,841**	106,725
Total Current Assets		**21,420,805**	20,474,984
Non-current Assets			
Property, plant & equipment	6a	**89,757,995**	96,762,481
Capital Work In Progress	6c	**30,000**	10,091
Total Non-current Assets		**89,787,995**	96,772,572
Total Assets		**111,208,800**	117,247,556
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & other payables	7a	**1,527,495**	965,098
Employee benefits	7b	**1,903,565**	2,071,452
Lease liabilities	7c	**176,137**	222,712
Grant advance	14b	**-**	3
Unearned grant income	14b	**7,034,764**	6,547,535
Total Current Liabilities		**10,641,961**	9,806,800
Non-current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	7b	**360,341**	345,946
Lease liabilities	7c	**165,418**	354,450
Total Non-current Liabilities		**525,759**	700,396
Total Liabilities		**11,167,720**	10,507,196
NET ASSETS		**100,041,080**	106,740,360
EQUITY			
Accumulated Surplus		**7,169,288**	15,043,658
Unexpended Grant Reserve	14a	**1,574,325**	344,663
Assets Revaluation Reserves	6b, 8	**86,297,468**	86,352,039
Other Reserves	8	**5,000,000**	5,000,000
TOTAL EQUITY		**100,041,081**	106,740,360

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 2024

	Notes	Accummulated Surplus $	Assets Revaluation Reserves $	Other Reserves $	Unexpended Grant Reserve $	TOTAL EQUITY $
30 June 2024						
Balance at beginning of year	8	15,043,658	86,352,039	5,000,000	344,663	106,740,360
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for Year		(6,644,708)	-	-	-	(6,644,708)
Assets Revaluation		-	(54,571)	-	-	(54,571)
Total Comprehensive Income	8	(6,644,708)	(54,571)	-	-	(6,699,279)
Transfers between Accumulated Surplus and Reserves		(1,229,662)	-	-	1,229,662	-
Balance at end of Year		7,169,288	86,297,468	5,000,000	1,574,325	100,041,081
30 June 2023						
Balance at beginning of year	8	10,140,458	-	14,912,209	2,465,227	27,517,894
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for Year		(7,129,573)	-	-	-	(7,129,573)
Gain on Assets Revaluation		-	86,352,039	-	-	86,352,039
Total Comprehensive Income	8	(7,129,573)	86,352,039	-	-	79,222,466
Transfers between Accumulated Surplus and Reserves		12,032,773	-	(9,912,209)	(2,120,564)	-
Balance at end of Year	8	15,043,658	86,352,039	5,000,000	344,663	106,740,360

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 2024

	Notes	2024 $	2023 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts:			
Rates - general and other		**2,344,815**	1,882,593
User charges		**1,167,858**	1,029,194
Income from commercial operations		**3,781,128**	5,611,984
Grants, subsidies and contribution		**33,314,774**	27,196,401
Reimbursements and other income		**812,730**	440,700
Payments:			
Employee costs		**(21,876,902)**	(22,894,493)
Materials and contracts		**(5,098,432)**	(5,341,506)
Other operating expenses		**(12,180,015)**	(8,344,382)
Net Cash provided by / (used in) Operating Activities	9b	**2,265,956**	(419,509)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts:			
Interest received		**436,910**	619,493
Proceeds on sale of property, plant and equipment		**476,847**	690,528
Payments:			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment		**(3,231,361)**	(4,282,675)
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		**(2,317,604)**	(2,972,654)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Payments:			
Repayments of lease liabilities	13	**(235,607)**	(269,798)
Net Cash used in Financing Activities		**(235,607)**	(269,798)
Net Decrease in cash held		**(287,255)**	(3,661,961)
Cash & cash equivalents at beginning of period	5a, 9a	**19,163,364**	22,825,325
Cash & cash equivalents at end of period	5a, 9a	**18,876,109**	**19,163,364**

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

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

The material 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 2021, the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, 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, except for the revaluation of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The Council is a not for profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

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

1.4 Rounding

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

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

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

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

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

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

Interest received from term deposits is accrued over the term of the investment.

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 11.

5 Inventories

Inventories held in respect of stores have been valued by using the weighted average cost on a continual basis, after adjustment for loss of service potential. Inventories held in respect of business undertakings have been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

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

6.3 Subsequent Recognition

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Formal revaluations are at fair value, being re-valued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class. Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

Additions acquired subsequent to initial recording are recognised as cost. These costs are deemed to be the fair value at 30 June 2023. 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 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.

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

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.

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

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

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.

Note 1 - Significant Accounting Policies

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

- 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

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

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

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

Standards and interpretations effective from 2023-24

Several amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to the current reporting periods, but are considered to have no or minimal impact on Council financial reporting.

Standards and Interpretations Issued but not yet effective

No Australian accounting standards have been early adopted for 2023-24.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have limited impact on Council financial reporting.

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 2 - INCOME

	2024	2023
	$	$
a) USER CHARGES		
Equipment Hire	**15,251**	19,422
Landfill Tipping Fees	**95,458**	102,534
Property Fees	**572,924**	442,308
Service Fees	**484,225**	464,930
	1,167,858	1,029,194
b) INCOME FROM COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS		
Contract Fees	**4,577,042**	3,830,965
Sales - Amoonguna Store (closed)	**36,903**	198,808
	4,613,945	4,029,773
c) REIMBURSEMENTS & OTHER INCOME		
Fuel Tax Rebate	**32,759**	18,009
Insurance Recoveries	**530,786**	191,745
Reimbursements	**222,597**	196,846
Other Income	**26,588**	34,100
	812,730	440,700
d) GRANTS, SUBSIDIES, CONTRIBUTIONS		
Commonwealth of Australia Government Agencies		
Operating Grants	**18,494,395**	14,797,885
Capital Grants	**664,306**	1,400,000
Northern Territory Government Agencies		
Operating Grants	**14,345,534**	10,358,544
Capital Grants	**114,469**	250,000
Other Agencies		
Operating Grants	**245,290**	645,597
Total Grants received during the year	**33,863,994**	**27,452,026**
Add:		
Grants collected in previous years brought forward to the current year [Note 14(b)]	**6,547,538**	8,595,387
Less:		
Grant returned/refunded during the year	**(549,220)**	(258,144)
Unearned grant income as at end of year [Note 14(b)]	**(7,034,764)**	(6,545,033)
	32,827,548	29,244,236

Note 2 - INCOME (con't)

	2024	2023
	$	$
e) CONDITIONS OVER GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
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	**6,547,538**	8,595,373
Less: expended during the current period from revenues recognised in previous reporting periods:		
Less: expended during the current period from grant collected in previous reporting periods:	**(4,052,816)**	(5,383,259)
Less: amounts recognised as liabilities in current reporting period due to obligation to pay back the funding body	-	-
Prior year unexpended grants repaid to funding bodies	**(549,220)**	(258,144)
Subtotal	**(4,602,036)**	(5,641,403)
Plus: amounts recognised as revenues in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions		
Plus: amounts received in this reporting period but not yet expended in accordance with the conditions	**5,089,262**	3,593,568
Subtotal	**5,089,262**	3,593,568
Unexpended at the close of this reporting period	**7,034,764**	6,547,538
Net increase / (decrease) in assets subject to conditions in the current reporting period	**487,226**	(2,047,835)

Note 3 - EXPENSE

	2024	2023
	$	$
a) EMPLOYEE COSTS		
Salaries, Wages, Leave and Allowances, including On-Costs	**18,969,510**	19,314,450
Employer's Superannuation Contributions	**2,013,954**	2,033,638
Workers Compensation paid	**97,915**	150,618
Protective Clothing	**6,405**	4,225
Recruitment Expenses	**123,723**	189,287
Training Programs	**392,852**	486,177
Employee Benefits & Other Employee Costs	**119,051**	134,993
Total Operating Employee Costs	**21,723,410**	22,313,388
Total Number of Employees	***459***	*497*
b) MATERIALS, CONTRACTS & OTHER EXPENSES		
Other Operating expenses		
Advertising & Promotional Activities	**15,599**	23,649
Audit Services	**63,604**	80,592
Computer Services	**1,397,505**	818,418
Consulting Fees	**269,892**	67,561
Contract Labour	**3,418,124**	2,125,805
Elected Members' Allowances & Training	**607,332**	519,154
Freight Charges	**97,103**	136,063
Fuel for Plant & Vehicles	**645,279**	701,486
Gas, Power, Sewerage & Water	**755,892**	672,312
Insurance Premiums & Fees	**2,002,422**	1,856,333
Legal & Professional Services	**28,636**	13,823
Local Authority Members' Allowances	**41,411**	20,712
Memberships & Subscriptions	**103,851**	92,240
Operating Leases	**696,672**	52,326
Interest on Leased assets	**17,658**	24,538
Telephone & Internet Services	**673,758**	882,658
Materials, Consumables and Supplies	**102,997**	123,119
Travel, Accommodation & Entertainment	**743,856**	450,363
Vehicle Registration, Repairs & Maintenance	**640,792**	648,510
Other Expenses	**139,232**	49,542
	12,461,615	9,359,204

Note 3 - EXPENSE (con't)

	2024 $	2023 $
Other Materials & Contracts Expenses		
Buildings Repairs & Maintenance	**2,728,645**	2,439,934
Cleaning Services & Materials	**21,232**	59,953
Community Infrastructure	**795,631**	344,144
Food for Services & Catering Costs	**695,616**	591,497
Furniture & Fittings	**98,762**	91,571
Plant & Equipment	**165,876**	235,417
Purchases - Amoonguna Store	**35,993**	185,054
Road Furniture & Signage	**44,670**	10,508
Tools, Equipment & Minor Assets	**586,180**	696,997
	5,172,605	4,655,075
	17,634,220	14,014,279
c) DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION		
Depreciation		
Buildings & Facilities	**6,601,835**	6,541,174
Furniture & Fittings	**509,688**	471,604
Plant & Equipment	**800,837**	621,762
IT Equipment	**66,857**	94,920
Vehicles	**1,103,179**	882,034
Right-of-use	**223,784**	257,164
	9,306,180	8,868,658

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 4 - NET (LOSS)/GAIN FROM DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2024 $	2023 $
INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Plant and Equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	**-**	73,904
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	**-**	-
Gain on disposal	**-**	73,904
Vehicles		
Proceeds from disposal	**69,159**	616,624
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	**-**	-
Gain on disposal	**69,159**	616,624
GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	**69,159**	**690,528**
Buildings & Facilities		
Proceeds from disposal	**-**	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	**290,123**	-
Loss on disposal	**(290,123)**	-
Plant and Equipment		
Proceeds from disposal	**146,615**	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	**235,159**	-
Loss on disposal	**(88,544)**	-
Vehicles		
Proceeds from disposal	**261,073**	-
Less: Carrying amount of assets sold	**329,904**	-
Loss on disposal	**(68,831)**	-
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	**(447,498)**	
NET (LOSS)/GAIN ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS	**(378,339)**	**690,528**

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 5 - CURRENT ASSETS

	2024	2023
	$	$
a) CASH & EQUIVALENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand and at Bank	**18,876,109**	19,163,364
	18,876,109	19,163,364
b) TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Rates - General & Other	**1,087,089**	698,946
Accrued Revenues	**-**	54,562
Debtors - general	**1,224,943**	338,324
GST Recoupment	**132,514**	130,072
Total	**2,444,546**	1,221,904
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Debts	**(18,691)**	(17,009)
	2,425,855	1,204,895
c) INVENTORIES		
Goods for Sale Held at Community Store (closed)	**-**	11,614
Other inventory	**118,841**	95,111
	118,841	106,725

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

	2024 $					2023 $				
	Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount		Fair Value	Cost	Acc' Dep'n	Carrying Amount	
Land	**520,000**	**-**	**-**	**520,000**		520,000	-	-	520,000	
Buildings & Facilities	**90,866,089**	**1,934,007**	**(16,314,773)**	**76,485,323**		90,284,827	1,891,071	(9,763,167)	82,412,730	
Furniture & Fittings	**2,003,106**	**54,448**	**(1,426,286)**	**631,268**		1,763,286	18,345	(849,741)	931,890	
Plant & Office Equipment	**6,382,790**	**1,895,427**	**(1,651,840)**	**6,626,377**		6,905,610	897,063	(898,844)	6,903,829	
Vehicles	**3,546,000**	**3,633,477**	**(1,985,628)**	**5,193,849**		4,202,000	2,475,615	(1,208,545)	5,469,070	
Right-to-use - Note 13	**-**	**1,400,021**	**(1,098,843)**	**301,178**		-	1,555,854	(1,030,892)	524,962	
Total IPP&E	**103,317,985**	**8,917,380**	**(22,477,370)**	**89,757,995**		103,675,723	6,837,948	(13,751,190)	96,762,481	

Note 6b - INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

	2023	Additions						2024
	Carrying Amount $	Revaluation Decrement $	New / Upgrade $	Transfers from WIP $	Disposals $	Dep'n $	Reclassification $	Carrying Amount $
Land	520,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	**520,000**
Buildings & Facilities	82,412,730	(54,571)	1,019,122	-	(290,123)	(6,601,835)	-	**76,485,323**
Furniture & Fittings	931,890	-	26,013	10,091	-	(576,545)	-	**391,449**
Plant & Equipment	6,903,829	-	998,363	-	(235,159)	(800,837)	-	**6,866,196**
Vehicles	5,469,070	-	1,157,862	-	(329,904)	(1,103,179)	-	**5,193,849**
Right-to-use - Note 13	524,962	-	-	-	-	(223,784)	-	**301,178**
Total IPP&E	**96,762,481**	**(54,571)**	**3,201,360**	**10,091**	**(855,186)**	**(9,306,180)**	**-**	**89,757,995**

Note 6c - CAPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS

	2024 $	2023 $
Building	30,000	10,091

Note 6 (con't) – INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Asset recognition threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the balance sheet, except for purchases costing less than $10,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located, including any necessary make good provisions.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Formal revaluations are at fair value, being re-valued with sufficient frequency such that the carrying amount of each asset class is not materially different, as at reporting date, from its fair value. The regularity of independent valuations depends upon the volatility of movements in the market value of the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reverses a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reverse a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amounts of the assets and the asset is restated to the revalued amount.

In 2021/22 financial year, the Council members approved to undertake an appropriate independent valuation assessments of the Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment so as to account the completeness and valuation of the Council's recorded assets. This will be the Council's first independent valuation review since its inception in 2008. The valuation process included a physical inspection and verification by a qualified and experienced plant and equipment valuer.

As above, the Fair Value measurement of the Council's infrastructure, property, plant and equipment as at 1 January 2022 was performed by AssetVal, who are independent valuers not related to the Council. AssetVal are members of the Australian Valuers Institute, and have the appropriate qualifications and recent experience in the fair value measurement of the properties in remote locations. The outcome of the valuation report was recognised by the Council on 1 July 2022. There has been no valuation conducted during the 2023-24 financial year.

Valuation of Assets

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various Accounting Standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

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

	2024 $		2023 $	
	Current	**Non-current**	Current	Non-current
a) TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES				
Creditors	**252,613**	**-**	-	-
Rates received in advance	**198,119**	**-**	3,611	-
Accrued expenses & other payables	**1,057,353**	**-**	895,387	-
Audit fee and FBT payable	**19,410**	**-**	66,100	-
	1,527,495	**-**	965,098	-
b) EMPLOYEES BENEFITS				
Long Services Leave - employee entitlements	**511,956**	**360,341**	647,997	345,946
Annual Leave - employee entitlements	**1,391,609**	**-**	1,423,455	-
	1,903,565	**360,341**	2,071,452	345,946
c) LEASE LIABILITIES				
Leases Liabilities	**176,137**	**165,418**	222,712	354,450
	176,137	**165,418**	222,712	354,450

MacDonnell Regional Council
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 8 - RESERVES

ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	Opening Balance 1 July 2023 $	Net Increments/ (Decrements) $	Transfers, Impairments $	**Ending Balance 30 June 2024 $**
				-
Assets Revaluation Reserves	86,352,039	(54,572)	-	**86,297,467**
TOTAL	86,352,039	(54,572)	-	**86,297,467**

OTHER RESERVES	Opening Balance 1 July 2023 $	Transfers to Reserve $	Transfers from Reserve $	**Ending Balance 30 June 2024 $**
Civil - infrastructure upgrade	1,500,000	-	-	**1,500,000**
Future Works	3,500,000	-	-	**3,500,000**
TOTAL OTHER RESERVES	5,000,000	-	-	**5,000,000**

PURPOSES OF RESERVES

Civil infrastructure upgrade reserve is used for future upgrade of waste management system, drainage and footpaths within the Counail area.

Future work reserve is used for future capital upgrade or replacement of the Council's property, plant and equipment.

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements arising from changes in fair value of non-current assets and available-for-sale financial assets.

Note 9 - 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 Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2024	2023
	$	$
Total cash & equivalent assets	**18,876,109**	19,163,364
Balances per Cash Flow Statement	**18,876,109**	19,163,364

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

Net Deficit	**(6,644,708)**	(7,129,573)
Non-cash items in Income statement		
Depreciation and amortisation	**9,306,180**	8,868,658
Interest received	**(436,910)**	(619,493)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	**378,339**	(690,528)
	2,602,901	429,064
Add (Less): Changes in Net Current Assets		
Net (increase) decrease in receivables	**(1,220,960)**	1,451,978
Net (increase) decrease in inventories	**(12,116)**	26,086
Net increase (decrease) in trade & other payables	**562,397**	(42,169)
Net decrease in other provisions	**(153,492)**	(236,633)
Net increase (decrease) in other liabilities	**487,226**	(2,047,835)
Net Cash provided by / (used in) operations	**2,265,956**	(419,509)

Note 10 – FUNCTIONS

The 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 2024

Note 10 - FUNCTIONS (con't)

Note 10.1

	GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES			PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY			ECONOMIC AFFAIRS			ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			HOUSING & COMMUNITY		
	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL
	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023
	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates	1,315,656	1,405,731	1,032,195		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	1,088,881	1,132,718	980,631		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
User Charges & Fees - Other	56,890	184,661	175,556	24,000	27,182	25,182	-	-	-	-	-	-	380,930	473,836	363,527
Grants - Cth Operational	371,178	-	-	3,842,501	3,950,611	3,569,905	4,312,142	1,649,720	2,748,782	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,382,453	-	1,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - NT Operational	10,700,936	8,812,599	9,637,372	14,605	2,500	23,218	2,330,129	3,103,924	1,983,492	916,559	252,100	719,979	339,217	682,831	490,609
Grants - NT Capital	-	45,144	-	-	-	-	22,405	19,325	250,000	-	50,000	-	-	-	-
Grants - Other Operational	5,292	-	9,702	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants - Other Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	245,140	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	420,000	436,910	619,493	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial operations	-	174	627	-	-	-	4,807,762	4,613,771	4,029,146	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reimbursement and other income	-	201,553	978,118	80,000	5,000	44,609	479	10,934	16,580	160,000	160,000	-	562,058	366,016	61,997
Total Income	13,958,833	12,219,490	13,433,694	3,961,106	3,985,293	3,662,913	13,100,510	9,397,673	10,428,000	1,076,559	462,100	719,979	1,282,205	1,522,683	916,133
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	10,546,707	9,537,475	9,676,877	2,476,870	2,274,576	2,301,375	3,016,782	2,136,833	2,675,077	187,260	234,618	109,711	227,640	246,205	228,835
Materials, Contracts & Other	10,659,324	8,911,472	6,748,098	502,008	616,214	213,344	6,706,698	2,740,465	2,421,595	275,629	264,716	181,454	1,610,665	1,509,362	1,386,609
Depreciation & Amortisation	3,195,000	9,753,678	8,868,657	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	24,401,031	28,202,625	25,293,633	2,978,878	2,890,790	2,514,719	9,723,480	4,877,298	5,096,672	462,890	499,334	291,165	1,838,305	1,755,567	1,615,444
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,442,198)	(15,983,135)	(11,859,938)	982,229	1,094,503	1,148,194	3,377,030	4,520,375	5,331,328	613,670	(37,234)	428,814	(556,100)	(232,885)	(699,311)
Net Carrying Value of Fixed Assets		89,787,995	96,772,572	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

MacDonnell Regional Council

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 10 - FUNCTIONS (con't)

Note 10.1

	HEALTH			RECREATION, CULTURE & RELIGION			EDUCATION			SOCIAL PROTECTION			TOTAL		
	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL	BUDGET	**ACTUAL**	ACTUAL
	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023	2024	**2024**	2023
	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$	$	**$**	$
OPERATING REVENUES															
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,315,656	1,405,731	1,032,195
Statutory Charges - Waste Management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,088,881	1,132,718	980,631
User Charges & Fees - Other	176,783	94,997	112,363	-	-	-	-	-	-	375,249	387,143	352,567	1,013,852	1,167,818	1,029,194
Grants - Cth Operational	553,329	507,190	449,560	705	-	-	-	-	-	12,893,432	12,386,873	5,986,920	21,973,287	18,494,395	12,755,167
Grants - Cth Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,382,453	-	1,400,000
Grants - NT Operational	-	-	-	90,514	89,809	157,813	-	-	-	990,862	1,029,631	1,038,297	15,382,822	13,973,394	14,050,782
Grants - NT Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,405	114,469	250,000
Grants - Other Operational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	676,571	245,290	778,586	681,863	245,290	788,288
Grants - Other Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	245,140	-	-
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	420,000	436,910	619,493
Commercial operations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,807,762	4,613,945	4,029,773
Reimbursement and other income	-	-	1,391	80,720	53,992	25,699	-	-	-	1,036	84,434	2,834	884,293	881,929	1,131,228
Total Income	730,112	602,187	563,314	171,939	143,801	183,513	-	-	-	14,937,151	14,133,371	8,159,204	49,218,415	42,466,600	38,066,751
OPERATING EXPENSES															
Employee Costs	24,156	1,070	-	82,646	86,682	90,227	-	-	-	8,912,928	7,205,951	7,900,041	25,474,990	21,723,410	22,982,143
Materials, Contracts & Other	310,465	124,100	114,145	421,650	330,823	374,745	-	-	-	3,263,685	3,137,066	1,905,533	23,750,123	17,634,219	13,345,524
Depreciation & Amortisation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,195,000	9,753,678	8,868,657
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenses	334,621	125,170	114,145	504,296	417,505	464,972	-	-	-	12,176,613	10,343,017	9,805,574	52,420,113	49,111,308	45,196,324
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	395,491	477,017	449,169	(332,357)	(273,704)	(281,460)	-	-	-	2,760,538	3,790,354	(1,646,370)	(3,201,697)	(6,644,708)	(7,129,573)
Net Carrying Value of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	89,787,995	96,772,572

Note 11 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

Accounting Policies - Recognised Financial Instruments

Bank, Deposits at Call, Short Term Deposits	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised atfair value and subsequently measured atamortised cost, interest is recognised when earned **Terms & conditions:** Terms & conditions: Short term deposits have an average maturity of 90 days and an average interest rate of 3.50% (2023: 90 days, 3.50%). **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value due to the short term to maturity.
Receivables - Rates & Associated	**Accounting Policy:** initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost. An impairment provision is recognised using the expected credit loss method **Terms & conditions:** Unsecured, and do not bear interest interest (2023: Nil%). Although Council is not materially exposed to any individual debtor, credit risk exposure is concentrated within the Council's boundaries. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value (after deduction of any allowance).
Liabilities - Creditors and Accruals	**Accounting Policy:** Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the **Terms & conditions:** Liabilities are normally settled on 30 day terms. **Carrying amount:** approximates fair value.
Liabilities - Finance Leases	**Accounting Policy:** accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 as stated in Note 13

Note 11 - FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (con't)

Liquidity Analysis

30 June 2024		Due < 1 year $	Due > 1 year ≤ 5 years $	Due > 5 years $	Carrying Values $
Financial Assets					
Cash		18,876,109			18,876,109
Trade Receivables		1,224,943	-	-	1,224,943
		20,101,052	**-**	**-**	**20,101,052**
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	7	1,057,353	-	-	1,057,353
Lease Liabilities	7	176,137	165,418	-	341,555
		1,233,490	**165,418**	**-**	**1,398,908**

30 June 2023		Due < 1 year $	Due > 1 year; ≤ 5 years $	Due > 5 years $	Carrying Values $
Financial Assets					
Cash		19,163,364	-	-	19,163,364
Trade Receivables		338,324	-	-	338,324
		19,501,688	-	-	19,501,688
Financial Liabilities					
Payables		895,387	-	-	895,387
Lease Liabilities		222,712	354,450	-	577,162
	Total	1,118,099	354,450	-	1,472,549

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.

Note 12 - COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	Notes	2024 $	2023 $
Capital Commitments			
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:			
Buildings		**-**	278,006
Plant & Equipment		**208,946**	112,429
Vehicle		**56,329**	228,505
		265,276	618,940
These expenditures are payable:			
Not later than one year		**265,276**	618,940
		265,276	618,940

Note 13 - LEASES

Council as a Lessee

Right of Use Aset

The Right-of-Use Assets includes all assets leased under s19 lease and two leased properties in Alice Springs. The net carrying value of theses right-to-use assets as at 30 June 2024 are as follows:

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

	2024 $	2023 $
Right-of-Use Assets - S19 Aboriginal Land and Office Accommodation		
At 1 July 2023	**524,962**	821,435
Modification of lease	**-**	39,309
Other movement	**-**	(78,618)
Depreciation Charge	**(223,784)**	(257,164)
At 30 June 2024	**301,177**	524,962

Set out below are the carrying amounts of lease liabilities (including under interest bearing loans and borrowings) and the movements during the period:

	2024 $	2023 $
Opening Balance 1 July 2023	**577,162**	886,269
Modification of lease	**-**	39,309
Other movement	**-**	(78,618)
Payments	**(235,607)**	(269,798)
At 30 June 2024	**341,555**	577,162
Current	**176,137**	222,712
Non Current	**165,418**	354,450
The following are amounts recognised on profit or loss:		
Depreciation expense right of use asset	**223,784**	257,164
Interest expense on lease liabilities	**17,658**	24,538
Expenses relating to operating leases	**696,672**	52,326
Total amount recognised in profit and loss	**938,114**	334,028

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 are 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	**2024** $	2023 $
Untied grant income	**1,574,325**	344,663
14(b) UNEARNED GRANT INCOME		
Commonwealth Grants	**2,395,436**	2,328,752
Northern Territory Government Grants	**4,087,326**	3,727,619
Other Grants	**552,002**	491,167
	7,034,764	6,547,538

Note 15 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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 as per the Related Party Disclosure policy, AASB 124 and regulation 13 of the Local Government Act 2019. In all, 19 persons excluding the CEO were paid the following total compensation:

	2024 $	2023 $
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	**1,394,872**	973,054
Post-employment benefits	**97,097**	129,427
Long term benefits	**8,933**	21,224
Termination benefits	**89,916**	99,529
TOTAL	**1,590,818**	1,223,234

Local Government Act 2019 regulation 13 requires a separate line for total remunation provided to the CEO for financial year. The total remuneration provided to the CEO was $286,348 (2023:$227,255), comprising of:

	2024 $	2023 $
Salaries, allowances & other short term benefits	**261,463**	179,267
Post-employment benefits	**24,886**	26,764
Long term benefits	**-**	21,224
Termination benefits	**-**	-
TOTAL	**286,348**	227,255

Note 15 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES - continued

PARTIES RELATED TO KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

14 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 2019.

(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 2024.

(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.

(d) Outstanding Amounts

Other than those relating to accrued salaries and provision for employee entitlements, there are no outstanding receivables or payables from / to the Council's key management personnel as at 30 June 2024.

16 AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

	2024	2023
	$	$
Audit or review services	**60,000**	60,000
Other services	**-**	-
TOTAL	**60,000**	60,000

17 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 2024, the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability, and has not been recognised in the financial statements.

18 EVENTS AFTER THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION DATE

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

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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 2024, 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 material 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 2024 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 (General) 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 (including Independence Standard)* (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.

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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.

PKF Merit
PKF Merit

MunLi Chee
Partner
DARWIN

25 October 2024

The Areyonga Civil Works Crew start work on erection of a shade shelter at the oval. The works were completed in 23-24

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