

ANNUAL REPORT

2012/2013



Vision

A strong, cohesive Barkly Shire working as one to champion regional development to provide sustainable economic growth and community capacity where people embrace cultural diversity and are treated equitably and with respect.

The way we will work

By leading the Barkly Region to achieve an organisation that realises excellence in its governance and operational responsibilities and with a community service ethic that is co-operative, innovative and efficient.

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President—Barb Shaw



Cr. Pat Braun



Cr. Noel Hayes



Cr. Jennifer Mahoney



Cr. Joyce Taylor



Cr. Narelle Bremner



Cr. Ray Aylett



Cr. Bob Bagnall



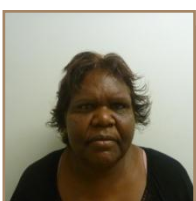
Cr. Tony Boulter



Cr. Eileen Bonney



Cr. Timothy Price



Cr. Lucy Jackson



Cr. Hal Ruger

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Message from Shire President



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2012/2013.

Once again the Council has had a productive year with many great achievements to be celebrated. Council is committed to ensuring that residents and visitors benefit from a professional and service oriented organisation working on behalf of the community and as a result during the year we have invested in a major review to improve our service delivery and program management. This has been a thorough and rigorous process and you will see many changes that will place our Shire in good stead well into the future.

In addition we continue to focus on how the Shire can improve its communication and community engagement on issues, plans, strategies and initiatives that affect our region. In particular, we want to ensure that our residents feel that their voices can influence these plans and strategies.

Accordingly our Elected Members, as experienced community leaders, are enthusiastic to become more involved with residents. We have continued our focus on Local Boards to encourage participation and ensure that local communities have a genuine role in council decision making. Local Board's minutes and Council recommendations are considered as a matter of priority in Council meetings. Local Boards are a vital part of the Council and provide residents and businesses with an opportunity to participate in decision making in the Council.

We also want to ensure that every member of the public who interacts with Council experiences excellent customer service and that interaction is always positive, regardless of whether customers are paying their rates, registering a dog or making a complaint.

A clear message from our communities is the importance of local employment. In conjunction with our review, Council has been considering its employment practices and processes to ensure that they are culturally supportive and encourage Indigenous participation. Council is always anxious to optimise employment and training opportunities throughout the Shire.

The Barkly is a wonderful place to call home, and I look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcomes for our unique region.

Barb Shaw
Shire President

1. Barkly Shire Council / Overview

The Barkly Shire Council was formed on 1 July 2008 based on the amalgamation of various small local government authorities which included:

- Aherrenge Association Inc. - Ampilatwatja;
- Ali Curung Council Inc.;
- Alpururulam Community Government Council;
- Elliott District Community Government Council; and
- Tennant Creek Town Council.

By agreement, the Barkly Shire Council also took responsibility for local government functions of the Urupuntja Council Aboriginal Corporation and a large area of land previously not incorporated under the NT *Local Government Act* which covered the Barkly Tablelands, numerous land trusts and pastoral properties.

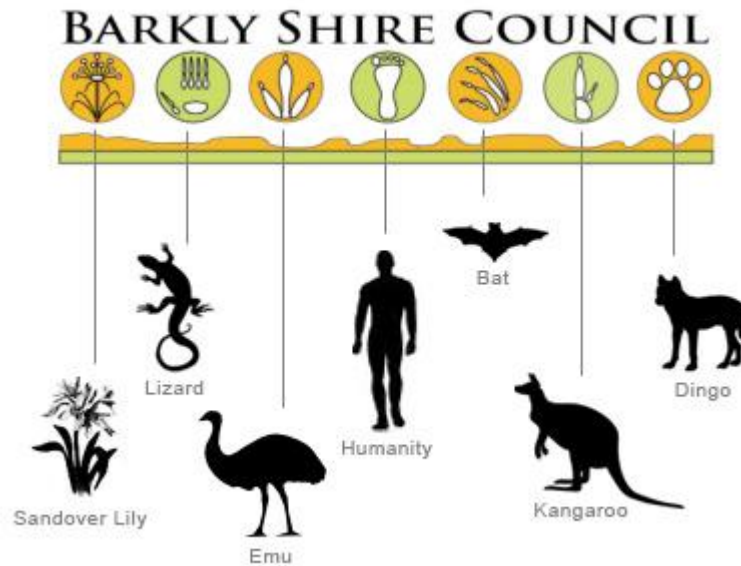
Area under incorporation is 323, 514 km² which has a resident population of 8,137. This includes Tennant Creek (estimated population of 3,560 which includes the Urban Living Areas of Kargaru, Tinkarli, Wuppa, Maria Maria, Village Camp and Munji-Marla, Ngalpa Ngalpa), Elliott and surrounds, and the major communities of Ali Curung, Ampilatwatja, Urupuntja, Wutunugurra and Alpururulam with their various outstations. In addition to these communities there are various smaller communities, 49 pastoral properties, mining operations and commercial establishments.

In addition to the main centre of Tennant Creek, Shire Service Centres are in Ali Curung, Arparra, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Wutunugurra and Elliott.

The boundaries of the Shire extend eastwards from Tennant Creek to the Queensland border, incorporating important cattle grazing areas in the Northern Territory. Roughly the same size as the United Kingdom or New Zealand, the Shire consists largely of open grass plains and some of the world's largest cattle stations. It runs as far south as Barrow Creek, north above Elliott and westwards into the Tanami Desert.

The Barkly Shire Council is the second largest local government area in the world, being 42% larger than Victoria. While Victoria is considered the second most populous Australian state with a density of 2,431 persons per one hundred square kilometres, the Barkly Shire Council contains just two people within a similar area.

The largest town in the Shire is Tennant Creek located on the Stuart Highway almost 1,000 kilometres south of Darwin and 500 kilometres north of Alice Springs.



Our Shire logo was created by Barbara Whippy. The logo is described by former President Rosalie Kunoth-Monks as *“a foot print has no colour and humanity has to be there. There were these visual tracks right across the Barkly Shire.”*

The base line for the logo is the McDouall Ranges as named by the explorer, John McDouall Stuart on 5 June 1860.

2. Our Goals

GOAL 1.

Regional Development – To grow a dynamic and sustainable community with strong opportunities for people.

Strategy 1.1 To research and promote a sustainable economy through regional development opportunities across the Shire.

Strategy 1.2 To promote and provide advocacy support for those social initiatives by other enterprises and agencies which will strengthen community goals.

GOAL 2.

Support community capacity building – To develop communities which have the capacity to actively participate in, and add value to, their communities through their own endeavours

Strategy 2.1 To respond to identified regional and local needs through funding support, training, quality, expertise and continued support, achieving successful outcomes.

GOAL 3.

Services and assets – To provide quality services and infrastructure necessary to make our communities safe and healthy

Strategy 3.1 To have a cohesive organisation that strives to achieve best practice and standards in all operational matters.

GOAL 4.

Community Engagement – To actively listen to and inform our communities about the Barkly Shire and the activities of the Barkly Shire Council and to engage them in all aspects of community life in the Shire

Strategy 4.1 To ensure community issues are identified and addressed by the Shire Council.

Strategy 4.2 Foster and support the effective operation of Local Boards.

GOAL 5.

Community well being – To make all our citizens proud in a supportive, safe and healthy environment.

Strategy 5.1 To ensure that all Shire communities are safe and healthy.

GOAL 6.

Governance – To have strong, fair and effective representative and corporate governance

Strategy 6.1 To ensure that Barkly Shire Council is an efficient and effective organisation that complies with all statutory, governance and community requirements.

3. Council Meetings

3.1 Attendance

Council continued to hold Ordinary Council meetings rotating every two months between Tennant Creek and each of our six communities.

The following meetings were held in 2012/13:

DATE AND TYPE OF MEETING	LOCATION
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 19 JULY 2012	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 16 AUGUST 2012	ELLIOTT
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012	WUTUNUGURRA
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 18 OCTOBER 2012	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 15 NOVEMBER 2012	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 13 DECEMBER 2012	ALI CURUNG
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 17 JANUARY 2013	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 21 FEBRUARY 2013	ELLIOTT
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 21 MARCH 2013	ALPURRURULAM
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 18 APRIL 2013	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 16 MAY 2013	TENNANT CREEK
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, 20 JUNE 2013	WUTUNUGURRA

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE		
ELECTED MEMBERS	ORDINARY MEETINGS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Barbara Shaw	12	9
Tony Boulter	12	11
Joyce Taylor	12	10
Hal Ruger	12	8
Narelle Bremner	12	9
Pat Braun	12	11
Bob Bagnall	12	9
Ray Aylett	12	11
Noel Hayes	12	7
Lucy Jackson*	7	4
Eileen Bonney	12	6
Timothy Price	12	6
Jennifer Mahoney	12	6
Esau Nelson **	2	0

* Elected By-Election 9 November 2012

** Resigned 5 September 2012

4. Community engagement through Local Boards

4.1 Local Boards

Council has established a network of Local Boards to facilitate community input on issues that affect the six larger communities that make up the Shire.

Local Boards have the following roles:

- Advise Council on service delivery plans for communities or local regions, and have input into Shire Plans and Regional Management Plans.
- Advise Council on specific Council community and social projects that impact on their community or region.
- Alert Council to new and emerging issues affecting communities.
- Ensure Council considers the needs of the local community or region.
- Other delegated roles, such as organising community events.

Council is committed to supporting the many issues of importance coming before it from the Local Boards. In keeping with this Council has made a budgetary allocation to each Board, for use at their discretion for the benefit of community projects.

Local Boards have been established at Tennant Creek, Elliott, Ali Curung, Alpurrurulam, Ampilatwatja and Wutunugurra. The Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation based at Arlparra provides a Local Board forum to Council for local government matters.

Tennant Creek Local Board Members

Colin Hardaker, Francine McCarthy, Jenni Kennedy, Kevin Diflo, Len Holbrok, Ngaio Repia, Pat Brahim, Ray Wallis, Sylvia Kendall, Trevor Sanders, Trish Caterer
Cr Pat Braun, Cr Tony Boulter, Cr Narelle Bremner, Cr Joyce Taylor, Cr Hal Ruger

Elliott Local Board Members

Jeremy Jackson, Jody Nish, Mona Rennie, Wade Nish, Joshua Jackson Jnr, Christopher Neade, Nigel Westerhuis (Police Sgt), Andrew Murray (School Principal)
Alan Thompson (Elliott Clinic) Peter Mullan (Elliott Hotel)
Cr Bob Bagnall, Cr Ray Aylett

Ali Curung Local Board Members

Cr Noel Hayes, Cr Lucy Jackson, Zega Egan, Sara Holmes, Judith Robertson, Ronald Brown, Danny Walker, Lionel James, Andrew Tsavaris, Billy Spratt (Imangara) Martin Spratt (Imangara) Ned Kelly (Imangara) Ronnie Larry Alston Nelson, Creed Nelson, Charlie Poulson

Wutunugurra Local Board Members

Stewart Beasley, Kaye Beasley, Andrew Beasley, Dallas Wilson, Shamus Beasley, Benjamin Beasley, Julie Peterson, Rosalyn Peterson, Rita Beasley, Ezra Casson, Gary Edwards, Rochelle Bonney, Deborah Dickenson

Alpurrurulam Local Board Members

Reggie Nelson, Craig Philomac, Dennis Campbell, Pam Corbett, Jenny Mahoney, Irene Toby, Roger Tommy, Genevieve Wild, Valerie Campbell, Kerry Campbell, Maxie Ray, Willie Bookie

Ampilatwatja Local Board Members

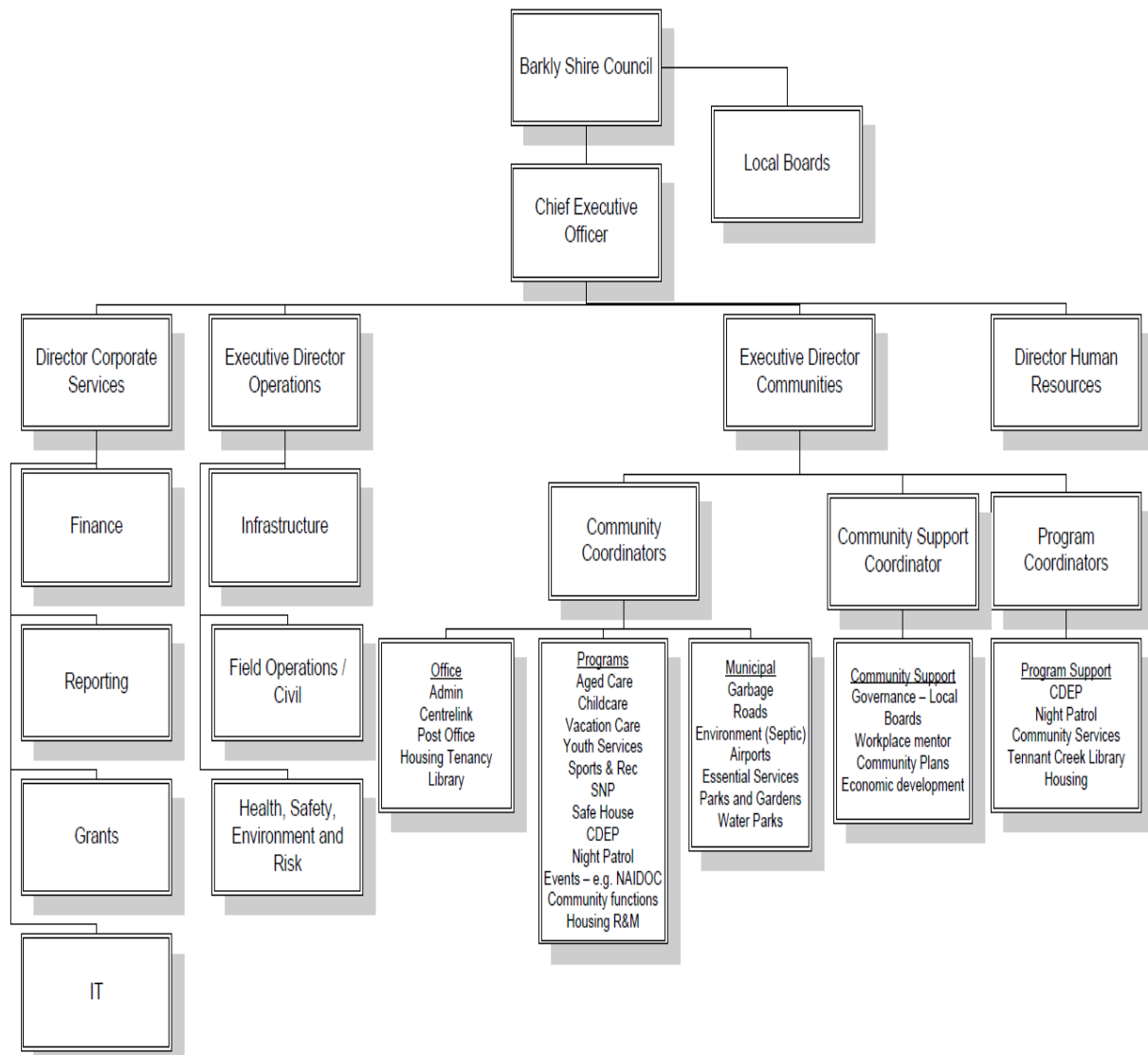
Bango Morton , Theresa Morton, Kingy Ross, Juliet Beasley-Morton, Janice Peterson, Theresa McKeema, Patrick Torres, Barbara Weir, Louise Luck, Glen Peterson, Richard Downs

5. Organisation structure

5.1 New structure

Council has established a new organisational structure during the period to enhance the delivery of both core and non-core services.

Barkly Shire Council Proposed High Level Functional Structure



6. Community reports

6.1 Ali Curung

Ali Curung is a designated as a Territory Major Town. The Shire Service Centre also caters for Imangara. In conjunction with our Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) operations various projects were completed during the year, including paver construction and painting. Emphasis has been given to community cleanliness with regular community drives on litter and general rubbish.

The Ali Curung Local Board has met regularly through the year and its recommendations have been followed up through Council. These include successful lobbying for speed restrictions on the Stuart Highway at Wycliffe Well and upgrade of the main community access road from the highway will commence late 2013.

With assistance from the Commonwealth Government, the Shire located a fire trailer at the community, provided fire training for local staff and assisted in provision of fire breaks and other measures to assist in fire mitigation measures for the community.

(a) Council assets

Negotiations commenced with Central Land Council to secure leases under S19 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Refurbishment was carried out on the Shire Service Centre and depot.

(b) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health.

(c) Agency services

Agency services such as postal agency and Centrelink have continued throughout the year, although there have been regular operation issues with the crèche due to staff attendance and facility. With assistance of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, this service is being improved.

(d) Night Patrol and Safe House

Night Patrol and Safe House operations have continued but need improvement with greater staff attendance.

(e) Sports and recreation

Programs have continued throughout the year, although a full-time coordinator is required. Council is seeking funding for this.

(f) Childcare, Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

The centre, which was small and basic, has been upgraded and re-equipped. Problems have been experienced with staff attendance at the child care centre.

(g) Library

There are no library facilities at Ali Curung.

6.2 Alpururulam

As a result of an electoral review carried out by Council, Alpururulam Ward was formed from March 2012 and a new Councillor, Jennifer Mahoney elected.

A Local Board has been established but this has met irregularly and further attention and support for the Board is required.

With assistance from the Commonwealth Government, the Shire located a fire tanker at the community, provided fire training for local staff and assisted in provision of fire breaks and other measures to assist in fire mitigation measures for the community.

(a) Council assets

Negotiations were commenced with Central Land Council to secure leases under S19 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Refurbishment was carried out on the Shire Service Centre and depot.

(b) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health.

(c) Agency services

Agency services such as postal agency and Centrelink have continued throughout the year.

(d) Night Patrol

Night Patrol operations have continued and on occasions have been commended by local Police for overall assistance and initiative.

(e) Sports and recreation

Programs have continued throughout the year with the assistance of Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS). Vandalism has affected the usage of facilities in the community.

(f) Aged Care

Aged Care services have been improved with upgrades to the Aged Care Centre.

(g) Library

There are no library facilities at Alpururulam.

6.3 Ampilatwatja

Council has met on at least two occasions at Ampilatwatja. A new training centre is to be located at the community through Community Development Employment Project (CDEP).

The Shire, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government unsuccessfully submitted a bid under Round One of the Regional Development Australia Plan to upgrade the ever failing septic systems with a new sewerage system at an estimated cost of \$7.1M. However the Commonwealth Government has recognised ongoing problems and have indicated they will assist where possible with septic system upgrades. Upgrades are planned for the landfill and effluent disposal pits.

With assistance from the Commonwealth Government, the Shire located a fire tanker at the community, provided fire training for local staff and assisted in provision of fire breaks and other measures to assist in fire mitigation measures for the community.

(a) Council assets

Negotiations were commenced with Central Land Council to secure leases under S19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*.

(b) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health.

(c) Agency services

Agency services such as postal agency and Centrelink have continued throughout the year.

(d) Night Patrol

Services have continued throughout the year.

(e) Sports and recreation

With assistance from of Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS), programs have continued although their success is dependent on staff attendance and Community Services support.

(f) Childcare, Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

Program continues to be successfully delivered with assistance from local school students undertaking work experience programs. Training in this area has continued.

(g) Library

There are no library facilities at Ampilatwatja.

6.4 Arlparra

The Urupuntja Council Aboriginal Corporation (UCAC) has acted as a Local Board and relationships must be further developed with that body.

With assistance from the Commonwealth Government, the Shire located a fire trailer at the community, provided fire training for local staff and assisted in provision of fire breaks and other measures to assist in fire mitigation measures for the community.

This is a difficult area to maintain services due to the distances to various outstations and poor access roads especially following major storms. Water bores are beginning to fail at various outstations due to age and their repairs can be a major expense factor. Trade contractors for housing come from Alice Springs and jobs must be stockpiled where non-life threatening, to achieve best economic efficiency.

A growing problem is the increasing number of wild horses that roam the area causing breakage to housing. This matter has been referred to the Central Land Council to assist.

All roads leading to outstations in the Utopia region have received full maintenance upgrades during the year. The four kilometre access road to the Utopia Clinic received a major upgrade at a cost of \$370,000.

(a) Council assets

Negotiations were commenced with Central Land Council to secure leases under S19 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act*.

(b) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health. These have been with the support of Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) and the Utopia Clinic. The Shire has contributed veterinary and other services to support regular animal health clinics being conducted by veterinary staff from interstate.

(c) Agency services

Postal and Centrelink agency services have continued.

(d) Night Patrol

Services have continued but there is ongoing issues recruiting patrollers.

(e) Sports and recreation

Continued with the support of Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) and the Converted Jobs Program which have assisted in upgrading the local community oval and basketball facilities.

(f) Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

Services have continued throughout the year.

(g) Library

There are no library facilities at Arlparra.

6.5 Elliott

Elliott is a Territory Growth Town. Much work has been done in negotiating a Local Implementation Plan which is yet to be agreed to by all parties. Emphasis has been given to community cleanliness with regular community drives on litter and general rubbish.

The Elliott Local Board met regularly and its recommendations have been followed through by Council.

A major problem with water reticulation to the outstation area of Marlinja has been overcome. Due to the high mineralisation of local bore water, reticulation piping became completely blocked despite a major upgrade carried out only a few years prior. This program was delayed due to the high cost but has now been completed.

Elliott has operated successfully throughout the year with parks, gardens and roadside areas being regularly maintained. Shire staff have undertaken fire mitigation training throughout the year under the auspices of the Tennant Creek Fire and Emergency Services. This has proven valuable with protection of the community against various bushfires in the area.

In May 2012, the Shire launched a special history book on Elliott and the district titled "In the Middle of Everywhere". This was a project commenced by the former Elliott District Community Government Council and was researched and written by Darwin authors and historians, Peter and Sheila Forrest.

(a) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health.

(b) Agency services

Centrelink services have been maintained by the Shire throughout the year.

(c) Night Patrol and Safe House

Services have been maintained throughout the period.

(d) Sports and recreation

Services have been maintained throughout the period.

(e) Childcare, Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

Aged Care support services have been conducted successfully throughout the year. The Aged Care Centre provides SNP meals.

(f) Library

A library service has been operating throughout the period at Elliott. Support is provided through the local primary school.

6.6 Tennant Creek

Tennant Creek has been provided with waste removal, animal health services and street sweeping facilities throughout the year. Council was commended on the attention provided to maintenance of street facilities on Paterson Street (aka Stuart Highway). The Tennant Creek landfill is nearing the end of its capacity and a future site needs to be urgently located. During the year, the Shire purchased its own low loader and prime mover which has given it the capacity to respond quickly to the need to transport heavy machinery, such as dozers and graders throughout the Shire.

Ownership of the 10km² property at NT Portion 1918, known as Juno, that was originally purchased by the former Tennant Creek Town Council has been transferred to the Shire following legal negotiations with the nominated trustees. The Shire is considering future usage of the land. As it is the only remaining large tract of freehold land in Tennant Creek, the current Council has ruled out any direct sale in order to preserve it for future generations.

The public swimming pool facilities have been upgraded with a new disabled toilet, an upgraded plant room and major refurbishments have been carried out at the Civic Centre. The perimeter fencing project has been continued around Purkiss Reserve and on Peko Road. Major upgrades to the Dog Pound have been carried out, including a new roof with insulating noise retardant materials.

The Tennant Creek Local Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Various issues and recommendations from the Board are referred directly to the Shire Council.

(a) Animal health

Council has continued to support establishment of a local veterinary practice with assistance from an annual levy on ratepayers in Tennant Creek. Ranger services have continued throughout the year.

(b) Night Patrol and Safe House

Night Patrol and Safe House services are not provided in Tennant Creek.

(c) Sports and recreation

Within Tennant Creek, the Barkly Shire provides and maintains public facilities at Purkiss Reserve and the swimming pool facility. However with exception of the pool, sports and recreation facilities are provided through another agency with Shire support.

(d) Childcare, Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

These services are not provided in Tennant Creek.

(e) Library

Full library services have been provided to the community throughout the year.

6.7 Wutunugurra (Epenarra)

Council has met during the year at Wutunugurra. A new training centre is to be located at the community through Community Development Employment Project (CDEP).

With assistance from the Commonwealth Government, the Shire located a fire trailer at the community, provided fire training for local staff and assisted in provision of fire breaks and other measures to assist in fire mitigation measures for the community.

During the year a community perimeter fence, entrance grids and all weather access road into the community have been completed along with upgrade of the local landfill.

(a) Council assets

Negotiations were commenced with Central Land Council to secure leases under S19 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

(a) Animal health

Regular visits have been undertaken throughout the year with a general improvement in overall animal health.

(b) Agency services

Centrelink services have been maintained throughout the year.

(c) Night Patrol

While services have been maintained, there have been ongoing issues with recruitment of suitable staff.

(d) Sports and recreation

Services have been provided throughout the year.

(e) Childcare, Aged Care and School Nutrition Program

While funding has been received for the operating School Nutrition Program services, the Shire has also provided an Aged Care support service.

6.8 Summary of services

Overall the Shire has continued to mature in its efficiency of services provided. Major steps forward have been achieved with establishment of a Grants Management office which is responsible for the application of funding submissions to appropriate bodies, and applies itself to the acquittals of funding received.

A Public Relations Officer has also been recruited to directly coordinate events and promotions throughout the year. These include regular citizenship ceremonies, NAIDOC Week, Australia Day and various community events such as the Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour which commenced its three month tour of Australasia from Tennant Creek following a successful submission by the Shire.

7. Results by Goal

Goal 1: Regional Development

The Shire, as part of the Local Implementation Plan review, participated in Economic Development meetings for Elliott and Ali Curung throughout the year with other levels of Government.

The Shire submitted regional development applications as part of all Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF) funding rounds and was successful in RDAF Round 4 in relation to the upgrade of Purkiss Reserve and the Tennant Creek Swimming Pool for assistance of \$3.87m.

In addition the Shire participated as a member of the Regional Coordination group whose focus is the identification of issues and a collaborative approach to the effective operation of services.

Shire President Barb Shaw is a member of Regional Development Australia (RDA) NT. President Shaw and CEO David Shoobridge were appointed members of the Tennant Creek Regional Development Committee.

Goal 2: Capacity building

Council is committed to supporting the many issues of importance coming before it from the Local Boards. Local Boards have been established at Tennant Creek, Elliott, Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja and Wutunugurra. The Urapuntja Council Aboriginal Corporation based at Arlparra provides a Local Board forum to Council for local government matters.

The Shire was successful at receiving funding for the placements of a Workplace Mentor and Governance Officer to assist with capacity building for both staff and Local Boards. Local Boards continue to meet on a monthly basis especially in Ali Curung, Elliott and Arlparra. Alpururulam has met and Boards have yet to be developed for the communities of Ampilatwatja and Wutunugurra.

The Regional Consultation around Local Government governance have been held and supported by the Department of Local Government around the Regional Consultation Framework and housing.

CDEP continued to be delivered during the year with small projects managed to support other municipal services. In addition both on the job and formal training was delivered across all communities. The Shire submitted a new tender as part of the Remote Jobs For Communities Program (RJCP) but was unsuccessful in two out of the three zones.

Goal 3: Services and assets

The Shire continued its investment in communication systems with the purchase of a customer request system. In addition the Shire returned to the CouncilBiz model for IT infrastructure which will be fully implemented in 2013/14. The focus is to upgrade and improve information systems and overall customer service.

Organisational assessment and restructure

The Shire completed an organisational change management review during the year with the assistance of Edge Advantage Pty Ltd. As part of the recommendations the Shire implemented a new organisational structure investing in an executive management layer to assist with the implementation of the review and continuous workplace improvement, In addition the Shire started the review of all of its policies and procedures, and began a formal workforce development review including the update and development of position descriptions for staff.

Asset management planning

The Shire completed the Asset Management Planning process on all its buildings, transport and road hierarchy infrastructure during 2012/13. The final reports were placed on exhibition in September 2013. These plans will assist and support the long term sustainability of the Shire.

Goal 4: Community engagement

The Shire has established a network of Local Boards to facilitate community input on issues that affect the six larger Shire communities.

Local Boards have the following roles:

- Advise Council on service delivery plans for communities or local regions, and have input into Shire Plans and Regional Management Plans.
- Advise Council on specific Council community and social projects that impact on their community or region.
- Alert Council to new and emerging issues affecting communities.
- Ensure Council considers the needs of the local community or region.
- Other delegated roles, such as organising community events.

The annual Shire Plan consultation was undertaken 2013 during May and June in conjunction with separate public consultations for rates. The Shire also supported the regional consultation framework through access to the Local Boards.

Committee meetings were held regularly for Finance and Audit, and Municipal and Community Services. These standing committees consider financial recommendations for Council while all other matters relating to communities are handled by the other committee.

Every second Ordinary Council meeting is held in community to demonstrate Council decision, support and activate decision making at the local level and enhance accessibility.

Goal 5: Community wellbeing

Aged Care

Aged Care is delivered in:

Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Arlparra, Elliott and Wutunugurra.

Aged Care throughout the region has been operating at a good level. All centres are working towards increasing quality outcomes around client personal care and as a result there has been a focus on client care plans and updating files with information provided from health clinics, cares and other stakeholders. Able Training has been selected as the Commonwealth Aged Care Service Development Panel and have conducted quality visits to all the sites during the year. This organisation will assist

the Shire in Quality Assurance measures including new policies, procedures and legal requirements pertaining to aged care clients and staffing development so that the service can provide a sustainable and quality service to our communities.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed with STEPS Group Australia training to provide certification level training to all Aged Care and School Nutrition Program staff throughout the region. This has been funded through the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Overall the Shire has continued to mature in its efficiency of services provided. Major steps forward have been achieved with establishment of a Grants Management office which is responsible for the application of funding submissions to appropriate bodies, and applies itself to the acquittals of funding received.

School Nutrition Program

School Nutrition Programs are delivered in:
Ali Curung, Ampilatwatja, Elliott and Wutunugurra.

The School Nutrition Program continues to operate well throughout the region and feedback from schools has been very positive. The Good Start Breakfast program was funded by Red Cross during the year.

Child Care and Crèche

Child Care Programs are delivered in:
Ali Curung and Elliott.

Elliott playgroup has remained steady with regular attendance slowly increasing. Northern Territory Government training in relation to Early Childhood and Mothers was rolled out during 2013 with staff enrolled through Batchelor Institute. This has been supported by additional education and training around nutrition and healthy eating for all age groups.

Ali Curung crèche attendances have increased and there has been stronger engagement with service providers such as Families as First Teachers (FaFT) and the Northern Territory Government Department of Children and Families.

Staff attended the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) information share workshop around the safety and protection of children including mandatory reporting.

Remote Indigenous Broadcasting Program

The RIBS program continued to be delivered in Ali Curung, Elliott and Alpururulam. Staff continue to attend training with PAW (Pintubi Anmatjere Warlpiri) Media and programs and interviews formulate a portion of their training. The Ali Curung Broadcasting for Remote Aboriginal Communities Scheme (BRACS) room has had a new mural painted on the outside.

Safe Houses

Elliott and Ali Curung continue to operate safe houses with increasing utilisation through shared use of the infrastructure to de-stigmatise seeking help by women. Both Safe Houses continue to operate on a full time basis with the Elliott Safe House accessible seven days per week.

Lifeline officers travelled to Elliott to meet staff and discuss needs in relation to the Lifeline-Domestic Violence Indigenous Program which aims to increase the skills and knowledge of Indigenous staff associated with domestic violence programs.

Night Patrol

Night Patrol continues to be delivered across nine communities:-

Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Arlparra, Elliott, Tara, Canteen Creek, Imangara and Wutunugurra.

A review of service hours has been conducted across communities to assist and meet identified needs. The Night Patrol service assisted other Councils during the period in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Staff continued their completion of Certificate III in Night Patrol in Katherine during the period.

Youth, Sport and Recreation

Youth, Sport and Recreation is delivered in:

Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Arlparra, Elliott and Wutunugurra.

Highlights during the year include the inaugural completion of a regional basketball competition in April 2013 and winners from these competitions attended the NT State Basketball championships – Elliott men's team and the Ali Curung women's team – in Darwin. Elliott and Tennant Creek staff accompanied the teams - the experience was very rewarding for community members and networks continued to be developed with the Barkly being identified as a priority region.

Social issues such as petrol sniffing continue to plague some communities and numerous meetings have been held with the Australian Government's Petrol Sniffing Strategy Unit and as a result a new program has been funded for 2013/14.

The Youth, Sports and Recreation team have been working with the youth multi-media CDEP initiative and CDEP training officer to up/skill staff. The engagement of young people and elders in conjunction with Desert Pea Media in Ampilatwatja contributed to 100 % community attendance in targeted programs during the year. The Wutunugurra sports and recreation program relies on the Active Remote Communities funding as they receive no afterschool care or vacation care funding.

Staff throughout the region completed a Level 1 Coaching Clinic in AFL, held by AFLNT in Tennant Creek.

Capital funding was provided by Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) for upgrades to the Arlparra Basketball court as well as the construction of two residential properties to house youth workers for the communities of Arlparra and Ampilatwatja.

The Binge Thinking Not Drinking launch was held in April 2013 at the Purkiss Reserve, Tennant Creek. This program based in Alpururulam was a comprehensive multi-media campaign developed for youth by youth. This program received a national media award as part of production design by Desert Pea Media.

Animal Health Program

The Animal Health Program is delivered in:

Ali Curung, Alpururulam, Ampilatwatja, Arlparra, Elliott and Wutunugurra.

Barkly Shire has continued its schedule of regular clinics in all our larger community centres. There is at least one clinic each month, with return visits occurring on a regular basis. These clinics carry out desexing, euthanasia, immunisation, and skin programs and provide animal education programs in the schools and communities utilising indigenous staff. Our Indigenous Animal Management Workers are employed through an Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC) grant obtained by that organisation through Aboriginal Benefits Account.

The period has been extremely productive and busy for our Shire, AMRRIC Workers, volunteers and support team with over 1000 dogs desexed. The Barkly Shires' collaboration with all stakeholders has once again proven to be exceptional and result driven. This clearly demonstrates the effectiveness with community support how the AMRRIC and Barkly Shire visions work towards the overall wellbeing and health for community members.

In the 2012 National Awards for Local Government, Barkly Shire's Animal Health Program took out the award for Improving Services to Remote Communities – Small Council category.

The major highlight was the Animal Health Week held in Tennant Creek on the 16 July 2012 and incorporated a number of visiting veterinary surgeons, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, our own Shire veterinarian and AMRRIC veterinarians and volunteers.

Our schedule has included return visits to the following communities:

Tennant Creek 16 July 2012

Ampilatwatja 17 September 2012

Utopia and Homelands 25 September 2012

Ali Curung: 25 – 28 February 2013

Murray Downs: 4 – 6 March 2013

Wutunugurra: 25 – 27 March 2013

Elliott: 2 – 4 April 2013

Arlparra: 14 – 20 April 2013

Ampilatwatja: 29 – 30 April and 1 – 2 May 2013

Darwin: 6 – 11 May 2013 – Wild Dog Training

Lake Nash: 20 – 25 May 2013 – Desexing

Wutunugurra: 27 – 30 May 2013 – Desexing

Lake Nash: 17 – 20 June 2013 – Desexing

Goal 6: Governance

Review of Regional governance

Prior to the August 2012 Northern Territory Election, a significant number of the residents of communities in the Shire expressed their concern at the effectiveness of the governance and service arrangements established after the 2008 reform of local government. In November 2012, the then Minister for Local Government (Hon Adam Giles MLA) established the Regional Governance Working Group to develop an

Options Paper to provide the basis for public consultation on future arrangements for regional governance. Membership included Shire President Barb Shaw. The options paper was released in March 2013 and community consultations conducted from March to June 2013. All communities participated in the consultation, with Ampilatwatja reporting an attendance of 100 community members.

By-Laws

In early 2013 the Shire met to review the By-Laws, to provide on a Shire basis rather than simply the current By-Laws which were established by the former Tennant Creek Town Council for submission to the Department of Local Government. A special meeting was held in Renner Springs in February 2013 to review the By-Laws so that they could be passed on to the Local Boards for further consultation.

Rates strategy

During 2012 the Valuer General completed a further review of the Unimproved Capital Values (UCV) for properties in Tennant Creek. Accordingly Council reviewed its Rates Strategy and considered fixed charge and valuation based charge options. The levels of UCV as at 30th June 2013 were accepted as the basis for rating in 2013/14. Overall, Council rates grossed a maximum of 2.5% increase to allow for Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Audit

The Shire achieved an unqualified audit for 2012/2013.

AUDIT 2012/13

AREA	GOALS	OUTCOMES	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	
1. Regional Development	1.1 To research and promote a sustainable economy through regional development opportunities across the shire.	1.1.1 To establish relationships with the business sector and other agencies.	1.1.1.1 Identify business sector and agency contacts and invite them to participate in discussions.	President/CEO	30/7/12 and ongoing	No. meetings held by 30 th June 2013.	4 meetings held and attended.
			1.1.1.2 Agree to identified initiatives and determine strategy, lines of authority and the Shire's role.	CEO	Ongoing	Number of agreements entered into.	6 MoU's developed between stakeholders and BSC.
	1.2 To promote and provide advocacy support to those initiatives by other enterprises and agencies which will strengthen community goals.	1.1.2 Through community consultation identify community goals for regional development.	1.1.2.1 Identify relevant agencies requiring support and representation.	President	Ongoing	Number of initiatives supported.	12 Initiatives supported.
2. Support community capacity building	2.1 Responding to identified regional and local needs through funding support, training, quality on the ground and continued support, enabling success.	2.1.1 Funding support – community engagement for identified needs.	2.1.1.1 Engagement of the community through Local Boards.	Elected Members/Director Community Services	Ongoing	Number of initiatives supported.	73 successful grants completed.
			2.1.2.1 Initiate contact with relevant agencies.	Grants Manager	Ongoing	Number of funding applications approved.	73 successful grants completed.
		2.1.2 Funding support – achieve and maintain professional relationships with funding bodies and other funding organisations.					

AREA	GOALS	OUTCOMES	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	
			2.1.2.2 Prepare comprehensive funding submissions.	Grants Manager	Ongoing	Number of funding submissions approved.	104 funding submissions completed.
			2.1.2.3 Effective delivery in terms of the grant contract.	Director Community Services	Ongoing	Number of grant contracts successful completed.	167 reports completed.
			2.1.2.4 Timely and accurate reporting and successful acquittal.	Grants Manager	As specified on contract.	100% acquittals.	55 Acquittals completed at 100%.
		2.1.3 Training – identify skills shortage and instigate and support relevant training opportunities and training providers.	2.1.3.1 Skills audit	Human Resources Manager	Ongoing	Number of audits completed.	All CDEP staff were assessed as part of LLN and an audit of skills was completed.
			2.1.3.2 Supply training opportunities and training providers.	Director Community Services	Ongoing	Number of successful training programs completed.	128 people attending courses. 89 completed.
		2.1.4 Quality on the ground and continued support – encourage and support best practice.	2.1.4.1 Source relevant Australian Standards	Director Corporate Services	30/9/2012	Number of services reviewed.	Corporate Strategic Review undertaken and completed June 2013.
			2.1.4.2 Seek appropriate professional advice.	Director Corporate Services	30/9/2012	Number of services reviewed.	All community and regional program management reviewed during 2013 as part of Corporate Strategic Review.

AREA	GOALS	OUTCOMES	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	
3.Services and assets	3.1 We will have a cohesive organisation that strives to achieve best practice in all operational matters.	3.1.1 Improved communication systems.	3.1.1.1 Upgrade and improve information systems.	Director Corporate Services	30/9/2012	Best practice achieved.	Customer Request Software awaiting CouncilBiz upgrade before interface can commence.
			3.1.1.2 Training staff on communication etiquette and customer service (internal and external)	Human Resources Manager	Ongoing	Level of complaints received.	128 people attending courses with customer service component.
		3.2.1 Adoption of an efficient organisational structure.	3.2.1.1 Complimentary operational policies are developed in each division.	CEO	31/7/2012	Organisational structure adopted.	Corporate Strategic Review completed. Corporate Policies reviewed in line with recommendations.
		3.3.1 Assets are maintained and are appropriate for the need.	3.3.1.1 Shire to have maintenance facilities and staff suitable for the job.	Director Community Services	Ongoing	Reduction in plant and asset breakdowns.	Asset Management Plan Adopted.
			3.3.1.2 Adoption of a capital assets management plan.	Asset Manager	30/9/2012	Adoption of plan.	Asset Management Plan Adopted.
4. Community Engagement	4.1 Community issues are identified and addressed by Council.	4.1.1 Community issues are successfully addressed by Council.	4.1.1.1 Strengthening Local Boards through support and training.	CEO	Ongoing	Number of meetings by Local Boards	Elliott. 9 meetings with 127 attendees. Ali Curung. 8 meetings with 184 attendees. 30 meetings held across the Barkly region.

AREA	GOALS	OUTCOMES	STRATEGIES	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	
		4.1.2 Increased community knowledge of shire activities.	4.1.2.1 Ensure community is aware of shire operations through website, notice boards, newsletter and other media.	President/CEO	Ongoing	Level of community awareness.	Agendas and minutes provided for 30 meetings held across the Barkly Region. 21 media releases issued. BSC Magazine produced quarterly. Annual report delivered. Shire Plan delivered.
		4.1.3 Strong co-operative relationship between each community and shire staff.	4.1.3.1 Each Shire Services Manager promotes and reinforces strong ties with local community members through interagency meetings and regular communication with residents.	Shire Services Manager	Ongoing	Level of community awareness.	30 meetings held across the Barkly Region. Monthly Notices and community meetings attended across all communities.
5. Community Well Being	5.1 To ensure that all Barkly communities are safe and healthy.	5.1.1 Deliver appropriate programs and measures to ensure safe and healthy communities.	5.1.1.1 Ensure shire delivers optimal services in areas of parks and gardens, cemeteries, street lighting, animal health, aged and childcare, sport and recreation, housing repairs and maintenance, waste management, weed and fire hazard reduction, night patrol and safe houses, airstrip	Regional Program Managers/Shire Service Managers	Ongoing	Level of complaints.	Level of complaints at 5%. 12 dog complaints 9 other including garbage complaints.

			maintenance, essential services, library and support for civil and cultural events.				
6. Governance	6.1 To ensure that Barkly Shire is an efficient and effective organisation that complies with all statutory and community requirements.	6.1.1 To meet all statutory requirements in regard to finance, administration, strategic business plans and by-laws.	6.1.1.1 To complete all statutory requirements in a manner and timeframe as prescribed by legislation.	CEO	Ongoing	Efficient operations.	Annual report submitted December 2012 outside of the November legislative timeframes. Council has been working with the Department and other stakeholders to ensure compliance in future years. All other statutory requirements have been met.
		6.1.2 To have best practice regarding the conduct and content of all meetings, (Council, Local Board and Committees).	6.1.2.1 To ensure that all Elected Members and members of Local Boards are aware of their obligations and opportunities to introduce relevant community issues.	President	Monthly	Number of meetings.	Agenda and minute taking support provided across 17 Local Board meetings conducted in accordance with Council meeting practice. Regional Consultation in Local Government held between March – June 2013.
			6.1.2.2 To ensure that Council decisions are implemented in accordance with Council direction and time frames.	CEO	Ongoing		185 Council resolutions passed.