



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GRANTS
COMMISSION

Annual Report

2020/21



The Hon. Chansey Paech MLA
Minister for Local Government
Parliament House
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 16 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (NT), I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the Northern Territory Grants Commission on its activities for 2020-21. Included in the report are the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr David Ritchie
Chair

31 August 2021



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Foreword

I am pleased to present the 35th annual report of the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

This report contains information on the distribution of funding provided to the Northern Territory's local governing bodies under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth), as well as details on the objectives, performance and future directions of the Commission. The report contains information on programs and performance during the year to assist public understanding and scrutiny of the Commission's operations and functioning.

The major focus for the Commission is the determination of general purpose grants and local roads grants for each Northern Territory Local Government council. This annual report details the methodology used to allocate these grants, while the schedules and appendices contain the data used in the process.

Continued pre-payments

In May 2021 the Commonwealth Government decided to make an early payment of the 2021-22 Commonwealth Financial Assistance grant entitlements. The decision for an early payment of the Financial Assistance grants before the end of the financial year was supported due to the cashflow challenges faced by local government across Australia. Additionally, the early payment gave councils access to funds to help manage the cumulative impacts of drought, bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, \$18 303 164 of the 2021-22 grants were brought forward and paid to councils in June 2021.

The following is discussed in greater detail in the "Summary of Activities 2020-21" section of the report.

- National Conference
- Executive Officers' Conference; and
- Visits and Public Hearings

On behalf of the current Commission members I wish to record our appreciation for the valuable cooperation and assistance that we have received during our work throughout the year from local governing bodies, and in particular those visited during the course of the year.

The Commission is grateful for the executive support and assistance provided by Ms Donna Hadfield and Mr Omor Sharif Robin, Local Government and Regional Development Division of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, combined with the assistance and services provided by the Department's regional offices.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of my colleagues Ms Meeta Ramkumar, Ms Christina (Fay) Miller, Ms Athina Pascoe-Bell and Ms Kaye Thurlow. Their assistance has been very much appreciated.



Dr David Ritchie
Chairman

The Commission

Background

On 1 July 1986, the Commonwealth Government began a process of yearly appropriations to the state/territory governments for distribution as financial assistance grants to local governing bodies within the respective jurisdictions. A subsequent review of the enabling legislation led to the current Act, the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth).

Under section 6(1) of the Act, the Commonwealth Government Minister for Local Government, after consulting with the relevant state Ministers and with bodies representative of local government, must formulate national principles.

In formulating the national principles, the Minister:

- (a) is to have regard to the need to ensure that the allocation of funds for local government purposes is made, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis; but
- (a) must ensure that no local governing body will be allocated an amount in a year that is less than the amount that would be allocated to the body if 30 per cent of the amount to which the state/territory is entitled in respect of the year was allocated among local governing bodies on a per capita basis.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) also repeated a requirement from an earlier Act that each state and the Northern Territory have a Local Government Grants Commission. In accordance with that requirement, the Northern Territory legislated for a statutory, independent Commission, the Northern Territory Grants Commission, in June 1986.

Role of the Northern Territory Grants Commission

The Commission is established as an independent statutory authority under the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (NT). Its primary role is to recommend the allocation of the financial assistance grants provided by the Commonwealth Government for Northern Territory local governing bodies in the form of general purpose grants and local roads grants.

Relevant Legislation

The Northern Territory's *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (NT) also provides for the appointment of Commission members and specifies the general operations of the Commission, including the annual reporting requirements.

The *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) provides for the basis of the allocation of financial assistance by each Local Government Grants Commission to its respective local governing bodies in its state and/or the Northern Territory.

The national principles formulated by the Commonwealth Government Minister are to guide the respective Local Government Grants Commissions in the allocation of funds to local governing bodies within their own jurisdictions.

The number of national principles currently stands at seven – six applying to the allocation of general purpose grants and one applying to the allocation of local road grants. The national principles are detailed at Appendix A.

Organisation and People

Membership

The *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* (NT) provides for a Commission of four members, consisting of:

- a Chair appointed by the Minister;
- the Chief Executive (CE) of the agency primarily responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act, or their delegate, and
- two members appointed by the Minister, one representing the interests of municipal councils, and the other representing the interests of regional and shire councils.

In 2020-21, the members of the Commission were:

Dr David Ritchie	Chair – appointed 21 December 2016 to 20 December 2020 and 01 January 2021 to 31 October 2022
Ms Meeta Ramkumar	CE’s delegate – appointed 02 August 2017
Ms Christina Miller	Representing municipal councils – appointed 19 February 2020 to 31 August 2023
Ms Kaye Thurlow	Representing regional and shire councils – appointed 28 June 2019 to 31 August 2022
Ms Athina Pascoe-Bell	Deputy for Ms Miller from 19 February 2020 to 31 August 2023
Mr Brian Pedwell	Deputy for Ms Thurlow from 28 June 2019 to 31 August 2022

In 2020-21, the Accountable Officer of the Commission was:

Ms Donna Hadfield	Accountable Officer – officially appointed 20 July 2017
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Members' Profiles

David Ritchie

David has worked in professional and executive roles in the public and not for profit sectors in the Northern Territory since 1981. For more than 20 years he held the position of chief executive. This role included:

- Department of Lands and Planning and Northern Territory Land Development Corporation (2009 - 2012)
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Sport (2008 - 2009)
- Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts (2005 - 2008)
- Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (1990 - 2003).

Other executive roles include Director of Parks and Wildlife and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment Natural Resource Management Division Executive Director (2003 - 2005).

David also worked in professional roles as an anthropologist in statutory bodies responsible for administering the Northern Territory's Indigenous cultural heritage and land rights laws including the Northern Land Council, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory and the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority.

His present positions include Director Ninti One Limited, board member Northern Territory Land Corporation, member of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory and Chair of the Northern Territory Planning Commission.

Christina (Fay) Miller

Fay and her family came to Katherine in December 1989 for a planned 4 year stay. Within this time the family knew Katherine was to be their home.

Fay has been deeply involved in the Tourism industry as both an operator and as a passionate advocate for the Katherine industry.

Fay believes that wherever you live you must take responsibility for the growth and development of that community at whatever level you are capable; be it a sporting association, community organisation, business development or local government. Fay has always strived to that end.

Fay retired as Mayor of Katherine Town Council on 30 November 2020.

Kaye Thurlow

Commissioner Kaye Thurlow is currently President of East Arnhem Regional Council, initially elected to the inaugural council in 2008. Kaye has been a council representative to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) for all of this time, twice being elected to the LGANT Executive as a Shire and Regional Board member.

Kaye lives in Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island, where she first arrived as a young school teacher in 1969. She spent much of the next 37 years teaching in Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi and Lajamanu, retiring as a principal in 2007. Since then she was welcomed by the people of Galiwin'ku to continue living in their community. Kaye's community interests of over 50 years, lie in supporting cross-cultural links between the people of Elcho Island and the broader East Arnhem Region with the wider Australian community. She is particularly focused on encouraging the Yolŋu (Aboriginal people of East Arnhem Land) in maintaining their self-respect and cultural integrity, while at the same time finding positive pathways to embrace living in the 21st century.

In her role as a representative member of LGANT, Kaye has been a strong advocate for empowerment of the regional areas of local government, whilst working together with the LGANT board members to raise the profile of local government throughout the NT. As an elected member of the East Arnhem Regional Council, Kaye's focus is increased empowerment and skills development of councillors in the planning and prioritising of council business and upskilling of members of Local Authorities.

Kaye seeks to support developing a higher profile for regional councils among all levels of government, so that local government is recognized as an integral partner in the growth of a proud and prosperous Australia.

Kaye's wish list for the future include:

- Focus on community safety including upgrading roads and transport infrastructure, improved street lighting, town planning and housing development and telecommunications provision; and
- Support for community development such as economic development, education, employment, health, hygiene and housing, sport and recreational provision, encouragement of cultural diversity and respect for all.

Athina Pascoe-Bell

Athina has worked in professional roles in the public and private sectors in New South Wales and the Northern Territory for 20 years prior to becoming Mayor of the City of Palmerston. These roles included collection and analysis of data in Geographic Information Systems and the development of business systems across a variety of government departments, developing strong analytical skills and a strong sense of good governance and service delivery.

Athina has lived in Palmerston for 16 years and lives with her husband and two children. Athina first joined council in 2015, becoming the Mayor, City of Palmerston, in 2018. Together with the Council, Athina has set a new strategic direction for the City of Palmerston, developing and delivering on a new community plan for Palmerston, cementing its place in the Northern Territory as 'A place for People'.

Administration and Staffing

The costs of operation of the Commission for the year were met by funds appropriated to the former Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development which were transferred to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet due to Machinery of Government changes in September 2020. The operational expenditure for 2020-21 was \$165 131 compared to \$174 566 in 2019-20.

The Executive Officer, Ms Donna Hadfield of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, coordinated the visitation program and assisted with the Commission's activities through the provision of executive support.



Summary of Activities in 2020-21

National Conference

There was no National Forum of Local Government Grants Commission in 2020 as the Forums are held on a biennial basis.

The next forum will be hosted by the New South Wales Local Government Grants Commission in October 2021.

Executive Officers' meeting

Two virtual workshops facilitated by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications were held on 1 December 2020 and 10 March 2021.

Key items on the agenda included:

- Updates from each jurisdiction;
- National update on the likely impact on the financial assistance grant pool in outer year;
- Discussion on inclusion or exclusion of all the COVID-19 stimulus grants under the other grant support principle;
- A presentation and discussion on "How they do it" by the Victorian and South Australian Grant Commissions;
- How each jurisdiction deals with data for the "Know Your Council" or similar websites; and
- Discussion on methodology reviews, who does them, are they internal or external and the advantages/disadvantages of either approach.

Visits to local governing bodies

The Commission's rolling visitation program to councils continued in 2020-21. The program usually takes three years to complete, however the COVID-19 pandemic did stall the visitation program for the later part of the 2019-20 financial year which has also affected 2020-21.

The Commission has considered and accepts

that alternative ways to present and meet with councils and their respective service delivery centres by either teleconference or video link will be more prevalent into the future.

The municipal and regional councils including 6 service delivery centres visited in 2020-21 are listed in Schedule 11.

Financial data

The total revenue and expenditure of councils in the 2019-20 financial year amounted to \$491 million and \$489 million respectively. Included in these amounts were revenues and expenditures not considered to relate strictly to local government. Thus, for the 2021-22 allocations, the Commission determined local government income to be \$230.760 million and local government expenditure to be \$310.338 million.

The presentation of financial information via the Commission's annual return for all councils was achieved mid-January 2021.

The data collected in these returns is used by the Commission to allow an assessment of the income and expenditures of individual councils and to determine total income and expenditure of all local governments in the Northern Territory. The Australian Bureau of Statistics, in its local government financial statistics and national accounts, also uses this data.

Annual audited financial statements

Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (Accounting) Regulations 2008* (NT) stipulates that a copy of councils' audited annual financial statements be forwarded to the Chair of the Northern Territory Grants Commission no later than 15 November each year. All the councils succeeded in lodging their 2019-20 annual financial statements by the date specified.

Submissions

No submissions were presented to the Commission at its visits/public hearings during the year.

Payments 2020-21

During 2020-21, grants continued to be paid in quarterly installments. In addition there was an early payment brought forward in June 2021. The total payments to local governing bodies during the year are summarised below:

17 August 2020	\$4 309 794
16 November 2020	\$4 309 794
17 February 2021	\$4 309 794
18 May 2021	\$4 309 797
08 June 2021	\$18 303 164
Total distribution of 2020-21 payments	\$35 542 343

Estimated entitlement 2021-22

The Commonwealth allocates the general purpose and local road grants based on an estimated population figure and an estimated CPI growth factor for the coming year as determined by the Australian Statistician. This calculation is what is known as the estimated entitlement. The amounts for 2021-22 are \$17 603 944 and \$19 130 406 respectively.

Entitlement 2020-21

The Commonwealth Government advised that there is a total underpayment of \$602 033 in relation to the 2020-21 grants. The adjustment comprised underpayments of \$321 610 (general purpose) and \$280 423 (local roads). The 2021-22 council payments have been adjusted by these amounts based on the data used for the distribution of the estimated entitlement for 2020-21.

Cash entitlement 2021-22

The cash entitlement for 2021-22 is the estimated entitlement for the year plus the underpayments for general purpose and roads in 2020-21.

Communication with councils

In accordance with its policy to keep all Northern Territory councils informed about its operations and latest developments, the Commission corresponds on a regular basis with individual councils on many issues. The following list summarises the main items sent to all councils during the year.

Subject	Date
Letter advising the estimated entitlements for the 2020-21 general purpose and local roads grants	12 August 2020
Letter (electronically) advising the requirement to lodge an annual return	21 October 2020
Commission's Annual Report available on web	17 November 2020
Letter (electronically) advising the requirement to lodge an annual road return	12 February 2021
Letters advising of the brought forward payment of the 2021-22 general purpose and roads grants	31 May 2021

Council letters of advice

Letters of advice in 2020-21 provided the following comprehensive information to councils:

- i. A sheet detailing the council's grant allocations and payment schedule for 2020-21;
- ii. A sheet showing the calculation of standardised expenditure and standardised revenue for the council;
- iii. A matrix showing the application of the three cost adjustors against the various expenditure categories;
- iv. A bar chart showing the cost adjustors calculated for the council which underpin the calculation of standardised expenditures;
- v. A sheet showing the calculation of the council's identified local roads grant entitlement for 2020-21;
- vi. A grant trend chart of the council's grants over five years; and
- vii. A sheet showing the 2020-21 grant allocations for all Northern Territory councils.

Revenue and expenditure assessments of local governments

Revenue and expenditure assessments are included at Schedules 8 and 9. Key drivers and a matrix of how the cost adjustors are applied are also included at Appendix B.

Recommendations

Chairman's Letter





Northern Territory Grants Commission

Office of the Executive
Level 1 RCG Centre,
47 Mitchell Street Darwin NT 0800

File No: NTGC 2021/1

The Hon Chansey Paech MLA
Minister for Local Government
GPO Box 3146
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Minister

I have recently received advice on the amounts available for allocation as financial assistance grants under the Commonwealth's *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* for the 2021-22 financial year.

In accordance with this advice and section 12(1)(a) of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1996*, I am now pleased to present to you the Commission's recommendation schedule for the distribution of these grants. In making the recommendations, I confirm that:

- (a) all general purpose recommendations conform with section 6(2)(b) of the Commonwealth's *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* in allocating amounts that are not less than those to which local governing bodies would be eligible to receive if 30% of the total to which the Northern Territory is entitled was distributed among local governing bodies on a per capita basis;
- (b) the Commission held public hearings and permitted local governing bodies and the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to make submissions in connection with the recommendations in accordance with section 11(2)(c)(i) & (ii) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*;
- (c) road funds were divided on weighted road length but, in addition, continued to include a base or minimum figure of \$10 000 for all councils on the basis that a derived figure of less than this amount would not be commensurate with a realistic acceptance of road maintenance and responsibility; and
- (d) the allocations comply with section 12(1)(a) of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1996* in that the total amount of all money recommended to be allocated is equal to the amount of money provided to the Northern Territory under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* for the 2021-22 financial year.

The attached recommendation schedule outlines the proposed grant allocations for approval by the Hon Kevin Hogan MP. The recommendation schedule comprises the "estimated entitlement" for 2021-22 minus the advance "stimulus" payment already made in 2020-21, the cash adjustment for 2020-21 and the proposed grant recommendations.

Estimated Entitlement

The Commonwealth allocates the general purpose and local road grants based on an estimated population figure and an estimated CPI growth factor for the coming year as determined by the Australian Statistician. This calculation is what is known as the estimated entitlement. The amounts for this year are \$17 603 944 and \$19 130 406 respectively.

Cash Adjustment

The Commonwealth has advised that there was an underpayment of the 2020-21 grants to the NT totalling \$602 033, comprising \$321 610 for general purpose and \$280 423 for local roads. This will be rectified this year (2021-22).

General Comments

When the general purpose grants were calculated this year using the current methodology and incorporating the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 census estimated resident population and Commonwealth Government data, the Northern Territory population had increased by 1 800 from the 2020-21 methodology.

Changes affecting the general purpose grant outcomes for individual councils included: strong population growth and decline between councils; relative changes in unimproved capital valuations of rateable properties; a decrease in identified local government expenditures relative to income; and a change in identification of some council's contract income actually being grant income and therefore excluded from the methodology.

As a result the Commission has applied the following constraints to movements in general purpose grants for 2021-22, to moderate volatility in grant outcomes:

- no council will receive a general purpose grant increase of more than 10 per cent; and
- no council will receive a general purpose grant decrease of more than 5 per cent.

Consequently thirteen councils will receive general purpose entitlement increases for 2021-22, ranging from 2 per cent to 10 per cent, while four councils will experience decreases ranging from 1 per cent to 5 per cent.

The outcomes for the road grant entitlements resulted in all but one local governing body receiving an increase in 2021-22. The road grant distributions primarily reflects the increase in the overall funding entitlement and council's road data changes as advised through the annual road return process.

The Commission visitation program in 2020-21 was again moderately effected by COVID-19. Three councils were visited in 2020-21, including six of their constituent service delivery areas. The visits allowed elected members and the wider community to gain a better understanding of the role of the Commission and the way in which funding is allocated. They also ensured the Commission gained an on-the-ground experience of regional contexts, affecting local government services.

Advice to Councils

In relation to the grant advice to councils, the Commission will continue to enclose supporting documentation with my letter of advice that will allow them to have a greater appreciation on exactly how the Commission has calculated their grants.

The Commission's Annual Report is currently being prepared and will be forwarded to you in accordance with section 16 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1996* in due course.

Yours sincerely



DR DAVID RITCHIE
Chair

12 July 2021

Recommendation Schedule 2021-22

Recommendation Schedule 2021-22

Council	Estimated Entitlement		Bring forward		Estimated Entitlement less Bring Forward		Add/Less Adjustment 2020-21		Cash Payment		Total Cash
	General Purpose	Roads	General Purpose	Roads	General Purpose	Roads	General Purpose	Roads	General Purpose	Roads	
	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22	2020-21	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22	2021-22
Alice Springs Town Council	675 887	1 018 359	300 080	505 087	375 807	513 272	11 609	14 858	387 416	528 130	915 546
Barkly Regional Council	1 808 316	478 360	855 155	242 204	953 161	236 156	32 150	7 302	985 311	243 458	1 228 769
Belyuen Community Government Council	23 105	34 891	11 446	17 411	11 659	17 480	443	511	12 102	17 991	30 093
Central Desert Regional Council	1 039 093	1 197 691	580 345	597 420	458 748	600 271	20 160	17 155	478 908	617 426	1 096 334
City of Darwin	1 814 736	2 046 856	910 544	1 052 304	904 192	994 552	33 523	29 935	937 715	1 024 487	1 962 202
City of Palmerston	901 160	1 079 196	429 419	482 068	471 741	597 128	15 479	15 709	487 220	612 837	1 100 057
Coomalie Community Government Council	29 990	545 770	16 896	267 890	13 094	277 880	554	7 849	13 648	285 729	299 377
East Arnhem Regional Council	3 448 413	1 333 477	1 705 781	661 309	1 742 632	672 168	62 921	19 553	1 805 553	691 721	2 497 274
Katherine Town Council	500 469	654 472	257 280	341 679	243 189	312 793	9 954	9 596	253 143	322 389	575 532
Litchfield Council	565 595	2 758 211	297 899	1 406 135	267 696	1 352 076	10 338	40 561	278 034	1 392 637	1 670 671
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory	n/a	1 633 622	n/a	838 917	n/a	794 705	n/a	24 307	n/a	819 012	819 012
MacDonnell Regional Council	2 009 913	1 059 993	996 211	531 073	1 013 702	528 920	36 482	15 542	1 050 184	544 462	1 594 646
Roper Gulf Regional Council	2 073 285	1 148 367	1 087 831	581 628	985 454	566 739	38 199	16 814	1 023 653	583 553	1 607 206
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	379 933	1 031 839	189 685	514 326	190 248	517 513	7 255	15 130	197 503	532 643	730 146
Victoria Daly Regional Council	472 566	753 645	223 826	379 482	248 740	374 163	8 489	11 051	257 229	385 214	642 443
Wagait Shire Council	12 210	58 464	7 545	29 166	4 665	29 298	210	857	4 875	30 155	35 030
West Arnhem Regional Council	1 294 471	1 279 692	626 280	624 976	668 191	654 716	23 754	18 764	691 945	673 480	1 365 425
West Daly Regional Council	554 802	1 017 501	259 344	474 522	295 458	542 979	10 090	14 929	305 548	557 908	863 456
Total	\$17 603 944	\$19 130 406	\$8 755 567	\$9 547 597	\$8 848 377	\$9 582 809	\$321 610	\$280 423	\$9 169 987	\$9 863 232	\$19 033 219



Schedules

Schedule 1

Population used for the 2021-22 allocations

Council	Population
Alice Springs Town Council	26 494
Barkly Regional Council	7 466
Belyuen Community Government Council	176
Central Desert Regional Council	4 248
City of Darwin	82 174
City of Palmerston	39 100
Coomalie Community Government Council	1 358
East Arnhem Regional Council	10 387
Katherine Town Council	10 636
Litchfield Council	25 611
MacDonnell Regional Council	6 951
Roper Gulf Regional Council	7 471
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	2 748
Victoria Daly Regional Council	3 181
Wagait Shire Council	525
West Arnhem Regional Council	6 872
West Daly Regional Council	3 742
TOTAL	239 140

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 2

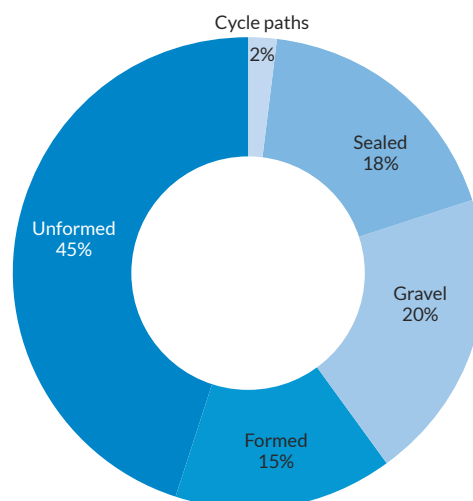
Cost adjustors and key drivers 2021-22

Council	Location	Dispersion	Indigenous Background
Alice Springs Town Council	1.12	1.03	1.18
Barkly Regional Council	1.14	1.63	1.68
Belyuen Community Government Council	1.00	1.03	1.98
Central Desert Regional Council	1.14	2.00	1.84
City of Darwin	1.00	1.03	1.07
City of Palmerston	1.00	1.03	1.11
Coomalie Community Government Council	1.00	1.29	1.24
East Arnhem Regional Council	1.27	2.00	1.94
Katherine Town Council	1.03	1.03	1.22
Litchfield Council	1.00	1.13	1.10
MacDonnell Regional Council	1.15	2.00	1.82
Roper Gulf Regional Council	1.13	2.00	1.80
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	1.12	1.42	1.89
Victoria Daly Regional Council	1.06	1.55	1.65
Wagait Shire Council	1.00	1.03	1.09
West Arnhem Regional Council	1.09	1.55	1.77
West Daly Regional Council	1.10	1.29	1.91

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 3

Local road type percentage 2021-22



Schedule 3 (cont.)

Local road lengths 2021-22

Council	Sealed	Gravel	Formed	Unformed	Cycle paths	Total road lengths (km)	Council area (sq.km)
Alice Springs Town Council	205.090	11.670	1.310	0.000	30.160	248.230	327.43
Barkly Regional Council	68.155	8.460	64.961	295.939	6.220	443.736	322 693.27
Belyuen Community Government Council	2.350	0.000	14.000	67.700	0.000	84.050	41.60
Central Desert Regional Council	40.175	163.500	378.260	1 187.405	0.000	1 769.340	282 089.76
City of Darwin	464.730	0.000	0.000	0.000	89.520	554.250	141.75
City of Palmerston	223.360	0.000	0.000	0.000	105.700	329.060	56.40
Coomalie Community Government Council	89.246	74.861	35.260	0.000	2.960	202.327	1 512.14
East Arnhem Regional Council	76.310	321.970	66.630	506.250	2.060	973.220	33 302.42
Katherine Town Council	146.850	2.400	0.000	9.440	16.600	175.290	7 421.00
Litchfield Council	628.144	85.840	2.850	2.620	10.226	729.680	3 072.37
Local Government Association of the NT	10.910	474.500	356.000	1 047.000	0.000	1 888.410	N/A
MacDonnell Regional Council	51.757	151.603	248.536	1 112.307	0.000	1 564.203	268 784.20
Roper Gulf Regional Council	81.748	264.466	120.120	475.851	0.000	942.185	185 175.81
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	38.079	221.289	294.265	291.659	0.000	845.292	7 500.84
Victoria Daly Regional Council	75.685	191.148	39.454	31.690	2.900	340.877	153 474.55
Wagait Shire Council	12.735	0.000	0.000	0.120	4.000	16.855	5.68
West Arnhem Regional Council	59.171	340.732	184.916	636.913	10.230	1 231.962	49 698.26
West Daly Regional Council	31.769	292.136	197.237	327.850	0.000	848.992	14 100.45
TOTAL	2 306.264	2 604.575	2 003.799	5 992.744	280.576	13 187.959	1 329 397.93

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 4

Reconciliation of local government income and expenditure for 2021-22 methodology

Reconciliation of actual revenue and expenditure as supplied by local governing bodies 2019-20

Actual revenue 2019-20	\$
Rates and annual charges	197 646 162
Fines and penalties	1 543 928
Grants and subsidies	225 481 143
Fuel rebate	388 431
User fees and charges	25 446 375
Interest income	7 348 776
Other current revenue (n.e.c)	32 218 011
Other capital revenue	124 805
Assets acquired without cost or below fair value	605 682
Profit on sale of assets	93 661
Total actual revenue 2019-20	\$490 896 974

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Actual expenditure 2019-20	\$
Employee expenses	199 382 177
Materials and contracts	133 843 247
Depreciation	96 389 344
Bad debts	876 217
Current transfers expenses	2 147 499
Interest	1 645 660
Other expenses	55 201 333
Total actual expenditure 2019-20	\$489 485 477

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Identified local government revenue	\$
General rates-municipal levied	125 022 462
Domestic waste	32 835 049
Garbage other	17 785 993
Regional and shire council rates	21 197 643
Special rates other	292 263
Parking	1 022 575
Interest	7 348 776
Total identified local government revenue	\$205 504 761

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Identified local government expenditure	\$
General public service	110 649 191
Public order and safety	20 537 231
Economic affairs	44 394 519
Environment protection	18 752 798
Housing and community amenities	24 368 628
Health	2 399 602
Recreation, culture and religion	60 921 425
Education	1 487 832
Social protection	26 827 278
Total identified local government expenditure	\$310 338 504

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Balanced budget approach used for the 2021-22 methodology	\$
Identified local government revenue	205 504 761
50% Roads to Recovery grants 2020-21	3 628 453
Library grants 2020-21	4 794 005
Road grants 2020-21	16 833 356
Budget term	79 577 929
Total revenue	\$310 338 504
Identified local government expenditure	310 338 504
Total expenditure	\$310 338 504

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 5

Actual identified local government income 2019-20

Council	Municipal rates (levied)	Domestic waste	Garbage other	Regional and shire council rates (levied)	Special rates other	Interest	Parking restricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alice Springs Town Council	22 881 524	3 911 000	2 875 000	0	70 000	980 000	0	30 717 524
Barkly Regional Council	0	975 000	0	2 860 119	0	30 000	0	3 865 119
Belyuen Community Government Council	0	52 579	0	89 303	0	12	0	141 894
Central Desert Regional Council	0	1 166 262	0	1 534 853	127 761	263 270	0	3 092 146
City of Darwin	65 201 803	7 883 272	14 024 097	0	0	1 997 948	1 022 575	90 129 695
City of Palmerston	21 892 105	6 848 378	0	0	0	1 039 065	0	29 779 548
Coomalie Community Government Council	0	252 322	134 931	947 845	9 535	36 894	0	1 381 527
East Arnhem Regional Council	0	2 602 745	25 099	4 268 712	0	574 468	0	7 471 024
Katherine Town Council	7 176 953	1 309 153	654 714	0	0	426 842	0	9 567 662
Litchfield Council	7 870 077	2 926 423	0	0	8 842	689 534	0	11 494 876
MacDonnell Regional Council	0	921 403	0	1 829 411	0	409 220	0	3 160 034
Roper Gulf Regional Council	0	1 235 101	0	1 333 013	76 125	400 784	0	3 045 023
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	0	554 551	0	2 137 744	0	30 376	0	2 722 671
Victoria Daly Regional Council	0	644 030	0	735 030	0	136 811	0	1 515 871
Wagait Shire Council	0	116 400	0	235 904	0	16 000	0	368 304
West Arnhem Regional Council	0	894 837	72 152	4 322 922	0	236 527	0	5 526 438
West Daly Regional Council	0	541 593	0	902 787	0	81 025	0	1 525 405
TOTAL	\$125 022 462	\$32 835 049	\$17 785 993	\$21 197 643	\$292 263	\$7 348 776	\$1 022 575	\$205 504 761

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 6

Actual council expenditure by function 2019-20

Council	Economic affairs	Education	Environmental protection	General public services	Health	Housing and community amenities	Public order and safety	Recreation, culture and religion	Social protection	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alice Springs Town Council	2 051 372	0	4 560 950	21 390 838	0	1 369 928	1 614 773	11 692 471	30 668	42 711 000
Barkly Regional Council	1 459 799	0	263 000	10 326 796	0	5 565 007	2 461 627	2 863 518	2 462 253	25 402 000
Belyuen Community Government Council	781 966	0	0	643 801	0	459 281	0	242 370	867 400	2 994 818
Central Desert Regional Council	2 032 002	0	799 460	12 379 281	0	5 275 670	1 441 717	876 030	5 474 971	28 279 131
City of Darwin	15 995 582	0	371 109	48 234 145	409 506	23 811 669	4 466 844	28 605 150	0	121 894 005
City of Palmerston	4 599 052	0	5 667 950	19 754 277	0	838 116	1 046 160	8 701 832	5 525	40 612 912
Coomalie Community Government Council	550 684	0	311 986	1 625 038	0	160 228	13 844	424 198	0	3 085 978
East Arnhem Regional Council	5 318 243	0	1 400 414	16 430 406	0	4 002 302	2 895 957	3 713 884	6 139 121	39 900 327
Katherine Town Council	2 680 551	0	1 871 573	2 967 379	37 175	330 512	156 074	2 065 458	0	10 108 722
Litchfield Council	5 502 205	450 804	3 273 682	16 747 861	0	146 494	372 668	534 993	0	27 028 707
MacDonnell Regional Council	4 010 001	0	181 313	17 719 842	152 283	1 343 455	2 490 203	454 129	8 721 252	35 072 478
Roper Gulf Regional Council	3 668 730	2 573 376	0	23 601 980	384 806	3 436 758	54 762	434 626	4 000 887	38 155 925
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	919 500	282 892	53 571	10 658 426	8 639	1 179 730	809 847	822 262	204 103	14 938 970
Victoria Daly Regional Council	3 865 871	0	71 044	11 722 751	1 295 092	306 705	1 533 020	959 632	131 186	19 885 301
Wagait Shire Council	11 284	0	83 744	760 091	0	0	0	5 101	0	860 220
West Arnhem Regional Council	2 490 454	0	1 019 720	10 618 052	189 709	4 848 788	1 206 177	4 305 339	2 472 966	27 151 205
West Daly Regional Council	309 374	27 391	203 179	6 477 626	1 432 992	1 474 309	1 165 446	313 461	0	11 403 778
TOTAL	\$56 246 670	\$3 334 463	\$20 132 695	\$232 058 590	\$3 910 202	\$54 548 952	\$21 729 119	\$67 014 454	\$30 510 332	\$489 485 477

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 7

Assessed 2019-20 revenue for 2021-22 methodology

Council	Domestic waste	Garbage other	Municipal rates	Regional and shire rates	Special rates other	Parking restricted	Interest	Total assessed revenue
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alice Springs Town Council	3 637 751	2 875 000	12 398 718	0	70 000	0	980 000	19 961 469
Barkly Regional Council	1 025 117	0	0	2 870 959	0	0	30 000	3 926 076
Belyuen Community Government Council	24 166	0	0	67 679	0	0	12	91 856
Central Desert Regional Council	583 270	0	0	1 633 516	127 761	0	263 270	2 607 818
City of Darwin	11 282 877	14 024 097	69 031 851	0	0	1 022 575	1 997 948	97 359 348
City of Palmerston	5 368 614	0	19 546 196	0	0	0	1 039 065	25 953 876
Coomalie Community Government Council	186 460	134 931	0	522 202	9 535	0	36 894	890 022
East Arnhem Regional Council	1 426 184	25 099	0	3 994 194	0	0	574 468	6 019 945
Katherine Town Council	1 460 373	654 714	3 332 363	0	0	0	426 842	5 874 292
Litchfield Council	3 516 511	0	20 713 333	0	8 842	0	689 534	24 928 220
MacDonnell Regional Council	954 405	0	0	2 672 922	0	0	409 220	4 036 547
Roper Gulf Regional Council	1 025 804	0	0	2 872 881	76 125	0	400 784	4 375 594
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	377 313	0	0	1 056 710	0	0	30 376	1 464 399
Victoria Daly Regional Council	436 766	0	0	1 223 215	0	0	136 811	1 796 792
Wagait Shire Council	72 085	0	0	201 882	0	0	16 000	289 967
West Arnhem Regional Council	943 558	72 152	0	2 642 543	0	0	236 527	3 894 780
West Daly Regional Council	513 794	0	0	1 438 940	0	0	81 025	2 033 759
TOTAL	\$32 835 049	\$17 785 993	\$125 022 462	\$21 197 643	\$292 263	\$1 022 575	\$7 348 776	\$205 504 761

*Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 8

Summary standardised revenue 2019-20 used for 2021-22 methodology

Council	Assessed NT average revenue	2020-21 Roads to Recovery grants (50%)	2020-21 Library grants	2020-21 Road grants	Budget term	Total standardised revenue
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alice Springs Town Council	19 961 469	216 564	626 916	976 530	8 816 332	30 597 812
Barkly Regional Council	3 926 076	103 480	187 799	479 920	2 484 439	7 181 714
Belyuen Community Government Council	91 856	7 497	0	33 625	58 567	191 545
Central Desert Regional Council	2 607 818	199 896	107 626	1 127 496	1 413 595	5 456 431
City of Darwin	97 359 348	431 030	1 459 043	1 967 474	27 344 805	128 561 700
City of Palmerston	25 953 876	205 945	601 147	1 032 494	13 011 194	40 804 656
Coomalie Community Government Council	890 022	107 943	48 592	515 870	451 898	2 014 325
East Arnhem Regional Council	6 019 945	283 145	377 802	1 285 108	3 456 452	11 422 451
Katherine Town Council	5 874 292	144 324	364 977	630 733	3 539 311	10 553 638
Litchfield Council	24 928 220	591 715	404 626	2 665 891	8 522 499	37 112 951
MacDonnell Regional Council	4 036 547	227 751	92 213	1 021 544	2 313 064	7 691 119
Roper Gulf Regional Council	4 375 594	244 645	161 902	1 105 099	2 486 103	8 373 343
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	1 464 399	221 702	92 759	994 411	914 444	3 687 715
Victoria Daly Regional Council	1 796 792	159 121	41 982	726 309	1 058 532	3 782 736
Wagait Shire Council	289 967	12 558	0	56 325	174 703	533 553
West Arnhem Regional Council	3 894 780	270 134	127 203	1 233 274	2 286 776	7 812 167
West Daly Regional Council	2 033 759	201 004	99 418	981 253	1 245 215	4 560 649
TOTAL	\$205 504 761	\$3 628 453	\$4 794 005	\$16 833 356	\$79 577 929	\$310 338 504

* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 9

Standardised 2019-20 expenditure by function used for 2021-22 methodology

Council	Economic affairs	Education	Environmental protection	General public services	Health	Housing and community amenities	Public order and safety	Recreation, culture and religion	Social protection	Total standardised expenditure
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alice Springs Town Council	4 516 115	139 542	2 077 597	11 380 360	225 056	2 285 510	1 926 167	6 197 346	2 516 104	31 263 798
Barkly Regional Council	1 991 664	81 901	585 466	4 581 402	132 092	1 341 429	1 130 521	2 733 109	1 476 772	14 054 356
Belyuen Community Government Council	26 354	1 496	13 802	127 003	2 413	24 502	20 649	36 165	26 974	279 358
Central Desert Regional Council	1 376 372	58 087	333 118	2 854 983	93 684	951 391	801 807	1 888 759	1 047 381	9 405 583
City of Darwin	12 304 770	334 584	6 443 892	32 235 903	539 622	5 480 017	4 618 412	16 885 511	6 032 918	84 875 630
City of Palmerston	5 854 851	166 691	3 066 130	15 895 458	268 842	2 730 166	2 300 911	8 034 457	3 005 623	41 323 130
Coomalie Community Government Council	257 555	8 466	106 491	616 059	13 655	138 670	116 867	353 435	152 660	1 763 859
East Arnhem Regional Council	3 592 049	154 474	814 524	7 341 287	249 138	2 530 063	2 132 270	4 929 274	2 785 331	24 528 410
Katherine Town Council	1 651 023	52 942	834 050	4 743 459	85 385	867 112	730 779	2 265 656	954 598	12 185 003
Litchfield Council	4 228 199	120 350	2 008 355	10 262 054	194 102	1 971 160	1 661 241	5 802 245	2 170 038	28 417 743
MacDonnell Regional Council	2 257 262	94 571	545 081	4 623 367	152 526	1 548 940	1 305 405	3 097 580	1 705 218	15 329 949
Roper Gulf Regional Council	2 398 278	99 832	585 858	4 903 746	161 010	1 635 105	1 378 023	3 291 093	1 800 077	16 253 023
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	635 876	29 722	215 492	1 897 054	47 937	486 809	410 270	872 595	585 925	5 131 679
Victoria Daly Regional Council	763 508	31 544	249 447	1 914 794	50 875	516 652	435 420	1 047 742	568 779	5 578 761
Wagait Shire Council	78 614	2 176	41 169	208 828	3 510	35 645	30 040	107 880	39 241	547 103
West Arnhem Regional Council	1 685 629	73 612	538 886	4 452 848	118 723	1 205 661	1 016 099	2 313 144	1 327 305	12 731 905
West Daly Regional Council	776 400	37 842	293 439	2 610 588	61 032	619 799	522 350	1 065 434	682 333	6 669 216
TOTAL	\$44 394 519	\$1 487 832	\$18 752 798	\$110 649 191	\$2 399 602	\$24 368 628	\$20 537 231	\$60 921 425	\$26 827 278	\$310 338 504

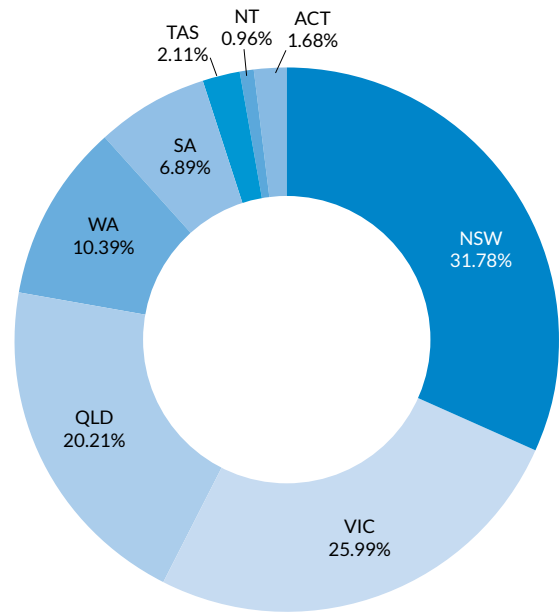
* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 10

National share of financial assistance estimated entitlement grants 2021-22

State/ Territory	General purpose	Local road component	Total
	\$	\$	\$
NSW	584 824 936	236 942 282	821 767 218
VIC	478 429 787	168 368 307	646 798 094
QLD	371 996 040	153 014 481	525 010 521
WA	191 144 931	124 870 407	316 015 338
SA	126 799 812	44 881 678	171 681 490
TAS	38 783 248	43 277 863	82 061 111
NT	17 603 944	19 130 406	36 734 350
ACT	30 891 074	26 186 955	57 078 029
TOTAL	\$1 840 473 772	\$816 672 379	\$2 657 146 151

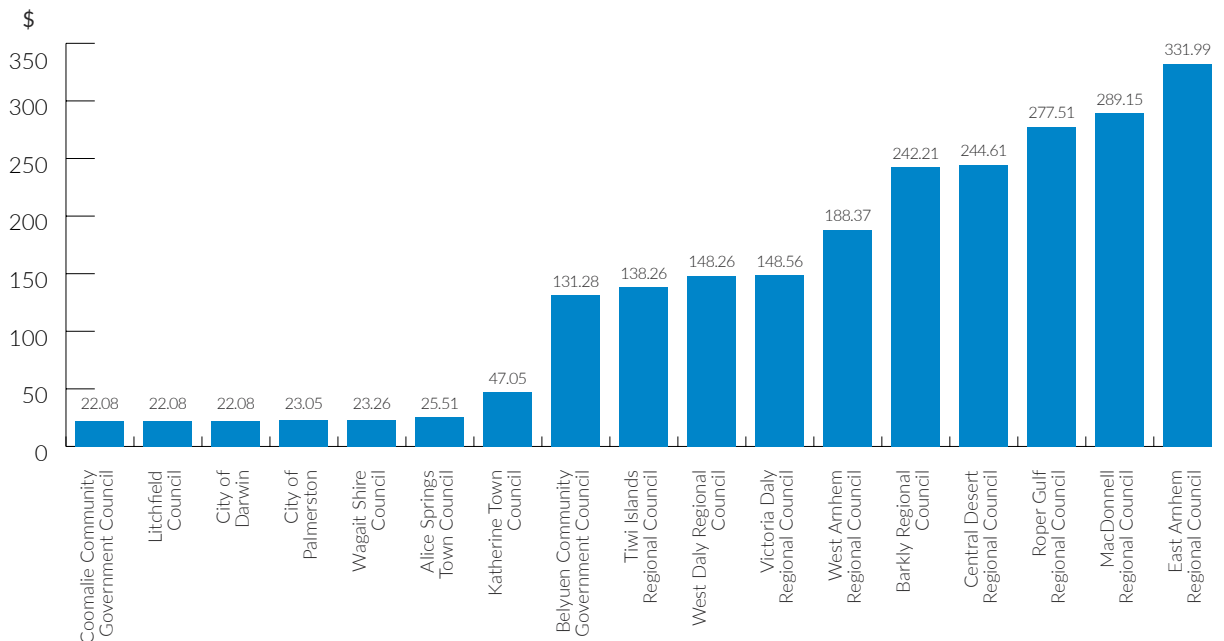
General Purpose Share 2021-22



* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

Schedule 11

2021-22 Financial assistance – general purpose grants average per capita amount per council



Schedule 12

Visits/Public Hearings to local governing bodies

Council	Service delivery centre	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
City of Darwin	Darwin				
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	Wurrumiyanga Pirlangimpi Milikapiti		20 Aug 19 21 Aug 19 21 Aug 19		
City of Palmerston	Palmerston				
Belyuen Community Government Council	Belyuen			11 Sep 18	
Coomalie Community Government Council	Coomalie			12 Sep 18	
Wagait Shire Council	Wagait/Cox Peninsula			11 Sep 18	
Litchfield Council	Litchfield		21 Aug 19		
West Arnhem Regional Council	Regional Office (Jabiru) Maningrida Gunbalanya Minjilang Warruwi			30 Nov 18 21 May 19 28 Nov 18 29 Nov 18 29 Nov 18	
East Arnhem Regional Council	Regional Office (Nhulunbuy) Galiwin'ku Gapuwiyak Gunyangara (Marngarr) Milyakburra Milingimbi Ramingining Yirrkala Umbakumba Angurugu				26 Nov 17
Victoria Daly Regional Council	Regional Office (Katherine) Daly River Daguragu/Kalkarindji Timber Creek Yarralin Pine Creek	13 Jul 20 14 Jul 20 14 Jul 20 13 Jul 20			
West Daly Regional Council	Nganmariyanga Peppimenarti Wadeye	16 Jul 20 16 Jul 20			
Katherine Town Council	Katherine Binjari	13 Jul 20 13 Jul 20			

Council	Service delivery centre	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
Roper Gulf Regional Council	Regional Office (Katherine)				
	Borroloola				
	Numbulwar				
	Barunga				
	Wugularr (Beswick)				
	Bulman				
	Manyallaluk (Eva Valley)				
	Ngukurr				
Barkly Regional Council	Mataranka				
	Jilkminggan				
	Regional Office (Tennant Creek)				14 Jun 18
	Elliott				14 Jun 18
	Ampilatwatja				13 Jun 18
	Ali Curung				15 Jun 18
Alice Springs Town Council	Alpurrurulam				
	Arlparra (Utopia)				
Alice Springs Town Council	Alice Springs				
Central Desert Regional Council	Regional Office (Alice Springs)				
	Nyrippi			24 Aug 18	
	Lajamanu			22 Aug 18	
	Yuendumu			24 Aug 18	
	Willowra			20 Aug 18	
	Ti-Tree			20 Aug 18	
	Laramba			23 Aug 18	
	Engawala			21 Aug 18	
	Atitjere (Harts Range)			21 Aug 18	
Yuelamu			23 Aug 18		
MacDonnell Regional Council	Regional Office (Alice Springs)				
	Areyonga				
	Haasts Bluff				
	Imanpa				
	Docker River				
	Hermannsburg (Ntaria)				
	Papunya				
	Kintore				
	Wallace Rockhole				
	Amoonguna				
	Finke				
	Santa Teresa				
Titjikala					
Mount Liebig					

Appendices

APPENDIX A

National principles for the allocation of general purpose and local road grants

A. The national principles relating to the allocation of general purpose grants payable under section 6 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)* (the Act) among local governing bodies are as follows:

1. Horizontal equalisation

General purpose grants will be allocated to all local governing bodies as far as practicable on a full horizontal equalisation basis as defined by the Act. This is a basis that ensures that each local governing body in the state/territory is able to function by reasonable effort at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the state. It takes account of differences in the expenditure required by those local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in the capacity of those local governing bodies to raise revenue.

2. Effort neutrality

An effort or policy neutral approach will be used in assessing the expenditure requirement and revenue raising capacity of each local governing body. This means that, as far as possible, policies of individual local governing bodies in terms of expenditure and revenue effort, will not affect the grant determination.

3. Minimum grant

The minimum general purpose grant allocation for a local governing body in a year will not be less than the amount to which the local governing body would be eligible to receive if 30 per cent of the total amount of general purpose grants to which the state/territory is entitled under section 9 of the Act in respect of the year were allocated among local governing bodies in the state/territory on a per capita basis.

4. Other grant support

Other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed should be taken into account using an inclusion approach.

5. Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way which recognises the needs of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries.

6. Council amalgamation

Where two or more local governing bodies are amalgamated into a single body the general purpose grant provided to the new body for each of the four years following amalgamation should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities.

B. The national principle relating to the allocation of the amounts payable under Section 12 of the Act (the identified road component of the financial assistance grants) among local governing bodies is as follows:

1. Identified road component

The identified road component of the financial assistance grants should be allocated to local governing bodies as far as practicable on the basis of the relative needs of each local governing body for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs relevant considerations include length type and usage of roads in each local governing area.

APPENDIX B

Methodology and formula factors

Introduction

The Northern Territory Grants Commission's methodology conforms to the requirement for horizontal equalisation as set out in section 6 (3) of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995 (Cth)*.

The Commission in assessing relative need for allocating general purpose funding uses the balanced budget approach to horizontally equalise based on the formula:

Assessed expenditure need - assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement.

The methodology calculates standards by applying cost adjustors and average weightings to assess each local government's revenue raising capacity and expenditure need. The assessment is the Commission's measure of each local government's ability to function at the average standard in accordance with the national principles. Details regarding the national principles are at Appendix A.

Population

From 2008-09, the Commission resolved to use the latest ABS estimated resident population figures and then adjust the figures to align with the population total advised to Canberra from Northern Territory Treasury. The Northern Territory's funding is based on this total population figure. The same rationale was used for the 2021-22 calculations.

Revenue raising capacity

As the ownership of the land on which many communities are located is vested in land trusts established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)* it is not for all intents and purposes feasible to use a land valuation system solely as the means for assessing revenue raising capacity.

The collection of actual accurate financial data through the Commission's annual returns enabled a number of revenue categories to be introduced including municipal, regional and shire council rates, domestic waste and interest.

In addition, to accord with the national principles other grant support to local governing bodies by way of the Roads to Recovery, library and local roads grants are recognised in the revenue component of the methodology. In the case of recipients of the Roads to Recovery grants 50 per cent of the grant was included. Recipients of library grants and local roads grants have the total amount of the grant included.

The Commission considers that given unique circumstances within the Territory this overall revenue raising capacity approach provides a reasonable indication of a council's revenue raising capacity.

For the 2021-22 allocations financial data in respect of the 2019-20 financial year was used.

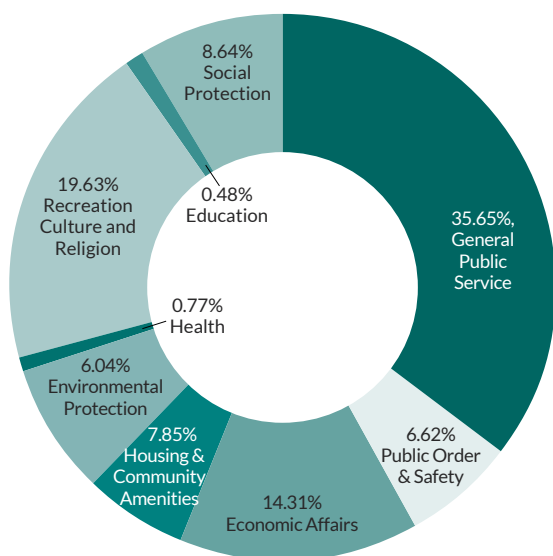
Expenditure needs

The assessment of standardised expenditure is based on the Territory average per capita expenditure within the expenditure functions to which cost adjustors reflect the assessed disadvantage of each local government are applied.

The Commission currently uses the nine expenditure functions in accordance with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Local Government Purpose Classifications. The assessment model ensures that the gross standardised expenditure for each function equals the total actual identified expenditure of councils.

The total identified local government expenditure across all the Northern Territory councils in 2019-20 amounted to \$310 million. Therefore under the methodology the gross standardised expenditure equals \$310 million, with each of the nine expenditure functions assuming the same share of both actual and standardised expenditure.

Expenditure share by function 2021-22



* Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between totals and the sums of the component items.

The average expenditure per capita for each expenditure function after applying the cost adjusters are shown below:

Expenditure Function	Average expenditure per capita \$
Economic affairs	185.64
Education	6.22
Environmental protection	78.42
General public services	462.70
Health	10.03
Housing and community amenities	101.90
Public order and safety	85.88
Recreation, culture and religion	254.75
Social protection	112.18

Cost adjusters

The Commission uses cost adjusters to reflect a local government’s demographics, geographical location, its external access and the area over which it is required to provide local government services. All these influence the cost of service delivery. The cost adjusters used by the Commission for 2021-22 are shown at Schedule 2. There are 3 cost adjusters being: location, dispersion and Aboriginality.

The cost adjusters are used in various combinations against each expenditure function in the methodology and have different weightings. Refer to the “Applications of Cost Adjustors” table at the end of this appendix. Each cost adjustor is based around the Territory weighted average of 1.00 with a ratio of 1:2 between the minimum and maximum values to ensure total standardised expenditure sums to total actual expenditure.

Minimum grants

For most local governments, the assessed expenditure needs exceed the assessed revenue capacity, meaning there is an assessed need. In 3 cases, assessed revenue capacity is greater than assessed expenditure need, meaning that there is no assessed need. However, the legislation requires that local governments cannot get less than 30 per cent of what they would have been allocated had the funding been distributed solely on the basis of population for 2021-22.

Schedule 11 shows the per capita amount for each council in 2021-22, where by applying the minimum grant national distribution principle, 3 local government councils still receive a grant with a per capita average amount of \$22.08.

Impact of grant outcome

Changes affecting the 2021-22 general purpose grant outcomes for individual councils include:

- strong population growth and decline between councils
- relative changes in the unimproved capital valuations of rateable properties
- a decrease in identified local government expenditures relative to income
- a change in identification of some council’s contract income actually being grant income and therefore excluded from the methodology.

Limits on grants movements

The Commission has applied the following constraints to movements in general purpose grants for 2021-22:

- no council will receive a general purpose grant increase more than 10.0%
- no council will receive a general purpose grant decrease of more than 5.0%.

Formula

1. Revenue component

All councils:		
Assessed revenue raising capacity	=	Total identified local government revenue
Total local government revenue	=	Assessed NT average revenue + other grant support + budget term
Where		
Revenue category	=	Domestic waste, garbage other, municipal rates, regional and shire rates, special rates other, parking restricted, and interest
Domestic waste	=	Per capita
Garbage other	=	Actual
Municipal council rates	=	Average rate
Regional and Shire rates	=	Per capita
Special rates other	=	Actual
Parking restricted	=	Actual
Interest	=	Actual
State income by revenue category 2019-20	=	Actual state local government gross income
Actual state local government gross income 2019-20	=	\$205 504 761
Other grant support	=	Roads to Recovery grant 2020-21 (50%), library grant 2020-21 and road grant 2020-21
Budget term	=	Population x per capita amount
Total local government revenue for 2021-22 methodology	=	\$310 338 504

2. Expenditure components

Total local government expenditure of \$310 338 504 apportioned over each expenditure component.

(a) General public services (\$110 649 191)

Community population / Northern Territory population x general public services expenditure x Aboriginality

(b) Public order and safety (\$20 537 231)

Community population / Northern Territory population x public order and safety expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(c) Economic affairs (\$44 394 519)

Community population / Northern Territory population x economic affairs expenditure x (location + dispersion)

(d) Environmental protection (\$18 752 798)

Community population / Northern Territory population x environmental protection expenditure

(e) Housing and community amenities (\$24 368 628)

Community population / Northern Territory population x housing and community amenities expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(f) Health (\$2 399 602)

Community population / Northern Territory population x health expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(g) Recreation, culture and religion (\$60 921 425)

Community population / Northern Territory population x recreation, culture and religion expenditure x (location + dispersion)

(h) Education (\$1 487 832)

Community population / Northern Territory population x education expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

(i) Social protection (\$26 827 278)

Community population / Northern Territory population x social protection expenditure x (location + dispersion + Aboriginality)

3. Local road grant funding

To determine the local road grant the Commission applies a weighting to each council by road length and surface type. These weightings are:

Road type	Weighting
Sealed	27.0
Gravel	12.0
Cycle path	10.0
Formed	7.0
Unformed	1.0

The general purpose location factor is also applied to recognise relative isolation.

Application of cost adjustors

Expenditure category	Population	Location	Dispersion	Aboriginality
Housing and community amenities				
Public order and safety				
Environmental protection				
General public services				
Social protection				
Education				
Health				
Recreation, cultural and religion				
Economic affairs				

(Shaded areas indicate when cost adjustor applies)

APPENDIX C

The Australian Classification of Local Government (ACLG)

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Identifiers	Category
URBAN (U)	Capital City (CC)			UCC
Population more than 20 000	Metropolitan developed (D) Part of an urban centre of more than 1 000 000 or population density more than 600/sq km	Small (S) Medium (M) Large (L) Very Large (V)	Up to 30 000 30 001-70 000 70 001-120 000 more than 120 000	UDS UDM UDL UDV
or				
Population density more than 30 persons per sq km	Regional Towns/City (R) Part of an urban centre with population less than 1 000 000 and predominantly urban in nature	Small (S) Medium (M) Large (L) Very Large (V)	Up to 30 000 30 001-70 000 70 001-120 000 more than 120 000	URS URM URL URV
or				
90% or more of LGA population is urban	Fringe (F) A developing LGA on the margin of a developed or regional urban centre	Small (S) Medium (M) Large (L) Very Large (V)	Up to 30 000 30 001-70 000 70 001-120 000 more than 120 000	UFS UFM UFL UFV
RURAL (R)				
An LGA with population less than 20 000	Significant growth (SG) Average annual population growth more than 3% population more than 5 000 and not remote	Not applicable		RSG
and				
Population density less than 30 persons per sq km	Agricultural (A)	Small (S) Medium (M) Large (L) Very Large (V)	Up to 2 000 2 001-5 000 5 001-10 000 10 001-20 000	RAS RAM RAL RAV
and				
Less than 90% of LGA population is urban	Remote (T)	Extra Small (X) Small (S) Medium (M) Large (L)	Up to 400 401-1 000 1 001-3 000 3 001-20 000	RTX RTS RTM RTL

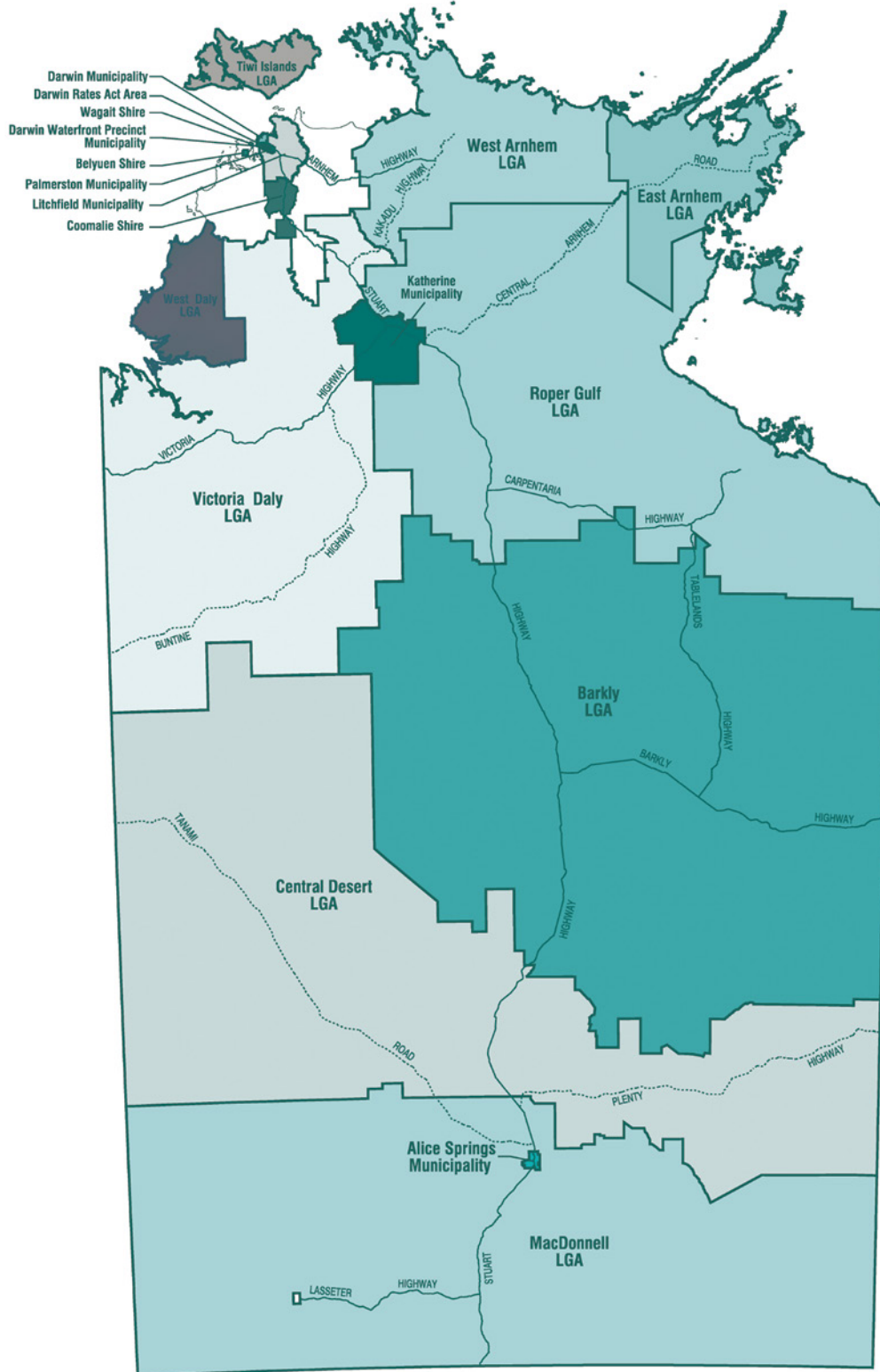
APPENDIX D

Northern Territory local governments by classification

Council	ACLG Classification
Alice Springs Town Council	URS
Barkly Regional Council	RTL
Belyuen Community Government Council	RTX
Central Desert Regional Council	RTL
City of Darwin	UCC
City of Palmerston	URM
Coomalie Community Government Council	RTM
East Arnhem Regional Council	RTL
Katherine Town Council	URS
Litchfield Council	UFS
MacDonnell Regional Council	RTL
Roper Gulf Regional Council	RTL
Tiwi Islands Regional Council	RTM
Victoria Daly Regional Council	RTL
Wagait Shire Council	RTS
West Arnhem Regional Council	RTL
West Daly Regional Council	RTL

APPENDIX E

Northern Territory map of local government areas



APPENDIX F

Auditor-General Independent Auditor's Report to the Minister for Local Government Northern Territory Grants Commission Year Ended 30 June 2021.



Auditor-General
Independent Auditor's Report
to the Minister for Local Government
Northern Territory Grants Commission
Year Ended 30 June 2021

Page 1 of 2

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Northern Territory Grants Commission ('the Commission'), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, the income statement for the year then ended, notes to and forming part of the financial statements, and the statement by the Accountable Officer.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at 30 June 2021, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the financial report having been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Accountable Officer's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other Information

The Accountable Officer of the Commission is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Commission's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.



Auditor-General

Page 2 of 2

Responsibilities of the Accountable Officer for the Financial Report

The Accountable Officer of the Northern Territory Grants Commission is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I 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 my 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 Commission's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Officer.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Officer's use of the special purpose framework, being the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*.
- 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.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Julie Crisp
Auditor-General for the Northern Territory
Darwin, Northern Territory
31 August 2021

**NORTHERN TERRITORY GRANTS COMMISSION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Assets	Nil	Nil
Liabilities	Nil	Nil

Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2021

Income	Nil	Nil
Expenditure	Nil	Nil

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement by Accountable Officer

In my opinion:

- (i) The financial report, being a special purpose financial report, is drawn up to present fairly the state of affairs of the Northern Territory Grants Commission as at 30 June 2021 and of its results for the year ended on that date in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*; and
- (ii) The financial report has been properly prepared and is in agreement with the underlying financial records of the Northern Territory Grants Commission.



DONNA HADFIELD
Accountable Officer
30 August 2021

NORTHERN TERRITORY GRANTS COMMISSION

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021.

- The Commission has prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Northern Territory Grants Commission is not a reporting entity because there are no users who are dependent on its general purpose financial statements. These financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*.

The financial statements have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting, which recognises the effect of financial transactions and events when they occur, rather than when cash is paid out or received. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest dollar.

- The Commission was established under the provision of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act (Northern Territory)* which came into operation on 1 July 1986 in order to comply with the requirements of the then *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act (Commonwealth) 1986*. The Commonwealth legislation has since been modified with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* in force during the financial year ended 30 June 2021.
- The Commission's activity is to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government, in respect of the amounts of money to be allocated to local governing bodies from the money provided to the Territory under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

Funds for this purpose were appropriated to the Northern Territory Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet. Allocations of general purpose grants and road grants recommended for distribution were:

	Recommendation for distribution in 2019-20	Recommendation for distribution in 2020-21	Add brought forward 2021-22 payment paid in 2020-21	Total recommendation distributed in 2020-21
General Purpose Grants	\$17 337 909	\$8 345 823	\$8 755 567	\$17 101 390
Road Grants	\$18 442 983	\$8 893 356	\$9 547 597	\$18 440 953
Total	<u>\$35 780 892</u>	<u>\$17 239 179</u>	<u>\$18 303 164</u>	<u>\$35 542 343</u>

- The costs of operating the Northern Territory Grants Commission are met from funds appropriated to the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet. Costs of operation during the financial year ended 30 June 2021 were \$165 131 (2020: \$174 566).
- The Commission did not acquire any assets during the period covered by the financial statements.

APPENDIX G

Auditor-General Independent Auditor's Report to the Accountable Officer of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet on the Statement of Payments Made to Local Governing Bodies by the Northern Territory Government during the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.



Auditor-General

**Independent Auditor's Report
to the Accountable Officer of the
Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
on the Statement of Payments Made to Local Governing Bodies
by the Northern Territory Government during the year
1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
Page 1 of 2**

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying Statement of Payments Made to Local Governing Bodies by the Northern Territory Government during the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 ('the Statement').

In my opinion, the Statement presents fairly, in all material aspects, payments made by the Northern Territory Government to local governing bodies in the Northern Territory during the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 in accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement* section of my report. I am independent of the Department of The Chief Minister and Cabinet in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the Statement in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw attention to the cash basis of accounting used in the attached Statement, which has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. As a result, the Statement may not be suitable for another purpose.

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet's Responsibility for the Statement

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* and for such internal control as the Accountable Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



Auditor-General

Page 2 of 2

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Statement

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 Statement.

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

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, 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 my 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 internal control within the Department of The Chief Minister and Cabinet.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Officer.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Officer's use of the special purpose framework, being the financial reporting requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the Statement, including the disclosures, and whether the Statement represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Crisp'.

Julie Crisp
Auditor-General for the Northern Territory

Darwin, Northern Territory

4 August 2021



Statement of payments made to local governing bodies by the Northern Territory during the year 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Total amount received from the Commonwealth during the year ended 30 June 2021 under the Act: **\$18,440,953**
 Road Assistance **\$17,101,390**
 General Purpose Assistance **\$35,542,343**

Organisation	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		2021 - 2022 Advance Payment		Total Roads Assistance	Total General Purpose Assistance	Total Financial Assistance
	Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount			
ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	189,128	18 Nov 2020	189,128	17 Feb 2021	189,128	19 May 2021	189,128	9 Jun 2021	805,167	975,563	586,117	1,561,680
BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	260,184	18 Nov 2020	260,184	17 Feb 2021	260,184	19 May 2021	260,184	9 Jun 2021	1,097,359	467,811	1,670,290	2,138,101
BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	6,781	18 Nov 2020	6,781	17 Feb 2021	6,781	19 May 2021	6,781	9 Jun 2021	28,857	33,629	22,356	55,985
CENTRAL DESERT REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	277,416	18 Nov 2020	277,416	17 Feb 2021	277,416	19 May 2021	277,420	9 Jun 2021	1,177,765	1,153,902	1,133,531	2,287,433
CITY OF DARWIN	19 Aug 2020	462,032	18 Nov 2020	462,032	17 Feb 2021	462,032	19 May 2021	462,032	9 Jun 2021	1,962,848	2,032,500	1,778,476	3,810,976
CITY OF PALMERSTON	19 Aug 2020	214,588	18 Nov 2020	214,588	17 Feb 2021	214,588	19 May 2021	214,594	9 Jun 2021	911,487	931,103	838,742	1,769,845
COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	66,409	18 Nov 2020	66,409	17 Feb 2021	66,409	19 May 2021	66,411	9 Jun 2021	284,786	517,423	33,001	550,424
EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	560,486	18 Nov 2020	560,486	17 Feb 2021	560,486	19 May 2021	560,489	9 Jun 2021	2,367,090	1,277,302	3,331,735	4,609,037
KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	140,876	18 Nov 2020	140,876	17 Feb 2021	140,876	19 May 2021	140,878	9 Jun 2021	598,959	659,945	502,520	1,162,465
LITCHFIELD COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	398,434	18 Nov 2020	398,434	17 Feb 2021	398,434	19 May 2021	398,437	9 Jun 2021	1,704,034	2,715,916	581,857	3,297,773
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY INC	19 Aug 2020	195,357	18 Nov 2020	195,357	17 Feb 2021	195,357	19 May 2021	195,360	9 Jun 2021	838,917	1,620,348	-	1,620,348
MACDONNELL REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	361,067	18 Nov 2020	361,067	17 Feb 2021	361,067	19 May 2021	361,071	9 Jun 2021	1,527,284	1,025,755	1,945,801	2,971,556
ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	394,673	18 Nov 2020	394,673	17 Feb 2021	394,673	19 May 2021	394,676	9 Jun 2021	1,669,459	1,123,400	2,124,754	3,248,154
TIMI ISLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	164,972	18 Nov 2020	164,972	17 Feb 2021	164,972	19 May 2021	164,974	9 Jun 2021	704,011	993,408	370,493	1,363,901
VICTORIA DAILY REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	141,706	18 Nov 2020	141,706	17 Feb 2021	141,706	19 May 2021	141,711	9 Jun 2021	603,308	732,960	437,177	1,170,137
WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	8,589	18 Nov 2020	8,589	17 Feb 2021	8,589	19 May 2021	8,592	9 Jun 2021	36,711	56,333	14,737	71,070
WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	294,779	18 Nov 2020	294,779	17 Feb 2021	294,779	19 May 2021	294,784	9 Jun 2021	1,251,256	1,207,126	1,223,251	2,430,377
WEST DAILY REGIONAL COUNCIL	19 Aug 2020	172,303	18 Nov 2020	172,303	17 Feb 2021	172,303	19 May 2021	172,306	9 Jun 2021	733,866	916,529	506,552	1,423,081
Total		4,309,780		4,309,780		4,309,780		4,309,839		18,303,164	18,440,953	17,101,390	35,542,343

I certify that the amounts have been distributed according to the above schedule of payments.

Donna Hadfield
 DONNA HADFIELD
 Accountable Officer
 NT Grants Commission

4 August 2021



The painting depicts the role of the Grants Commission as a transmitter of information, policy and funding recommendations. In the painting the members of the Grants Commission are depicted by the larger black horseshoe shapes. They are sitting facing the members of Local Government Councils, represented by the smaller black horseshoes in the north, south, east and west directions.

As can be seen the Grants Commission role is represented by two larger horseshoe shapes joined together. This representation shows the Grants Commission facing Councillors on the one hand, and the Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments (the centre circle with the white horseshoe shape) on the other. The smaller oblong shapes between the Commission and the Governments are provided by the artist to show the movement of the Commission visiting Councils and taking reports back to central government.

The larger oblong shapes between the Council groupings represent two areas of land. The upper ones depict native title area boundaries, and the lower ones depict Local Government area boundaries. The background is the 'country' within which all of these events take place.

Painting by Cr. Francis Kelly,
Past Member of NT Grants Commission

Account above is based on a conversation with Cr. Kelly

