

Coomalie Community Government Council

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2010/2011



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VISION STATEMENT

The **VISION** of the Coomalie Community Government Council is to sustain and nurture the lifestyle of residents and visitors.

STRATEGY STATEMENT

This will be achieved through improvements to economic, cultural and ecological opportunities and will work on creating an involved and supportive community, promoting investment, ensuring accessibility and capitalizing on our natural advantages with an emphasis on sustainability.



EXPLANATION OF COOMALIE LOGO

Designed by Sue Heysen

Clockwise from top, the symbols represent:

GRAIN:	Farming industry
BOOK:	Education
SPADE:	Mining Industry
WATER:	Recreation
PALM FROND:	Conservation
HORNS:	Cattle/Livestock Industry

OVERVIEW OF COOMALIE COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Approved by NT Government	4 October 1990
First election	2 May 1991
Next Election due	24 March 2012
Number of councillors	9
Area	1,510 square kilometres
Population	1,650
Population centres	Batchelor (670), Adelaide River (220), Lake Bennett (61), Rural (699)
Permanent staff	11
Annual expenditure	\$2,688,000 (2010/2011)
Industries	Beef cattle, tertiary education, mining, horticulture, stock feed production, tourism
Tourist attractions	Australian War Graves Cemetery, Litchfield National Park, Lake Bennett, Butterfly Farm, fishing, bowls, swimming, sky diving, gliding, aviation
Community organisations	Fire & Emergency Response Group, Batchelor Adelaide River Tortilla Bushfire Volunteer Group, Adelaide River Railway Museum and Information Centre, Adelaide River Show Society, Adelaide River Economic Development Co-ordination Committee, Batchelor Region Tourism Action Plan Committee , Coomalie Gamba Action Plan Committee, St John's Ambulance, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Student Council, Batchelor Area School and Adelaide River Primary School Councils and the Batchelor Lingalonga Festival Committee.

Functions of Coomalie Council

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Administration

PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

Dog Management

HOUSING/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Sanitation & Garbage

Public Conveniences

Cemeteries

Street Lighting

RECREATION & CULTURE

Parks, Gardens & Reserves

Swimming Pool

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Community Recreation

Libraries

TRANSPORT

Roads

OTHER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Tourism, Parking & Other

Glyphosate Sales

PERFORMANCE STATEMENT - COUNCIL ACTIVITIES 2010/2011

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES – ADMINISTRATION

This division includes outlays on administration, support, regulation and operation of general public services. Such services include Council’s administration as an elected body and administration, management, governance and corporate services not allocated to other functions.

GOAL: To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council’s administration

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Participation in the provision of retirement facilities	Site guarantee obtained from N.T. Government; however project cannot proceed due to Native Title Claim over the Crown Land.
Inform constituents and public about local issues	‘Stop Press’ continues to be widely circulated including delivery via email and posting on the website. Agendas and minutes of meetings are placed on Council’s web site and distributed to Batchelor and Adelaide River libraries on a monthly basis. Notices are placed on community notice boards as appropriate.
Ongoing traineeship program	Council hosted one school based trainee and three traineeships.
Staff Performance Management Plan established & implemented	Staff performance appraisals conducted and performance goals established.
Keep software and hardware up to date	Computers and other office equipment were serviced and replaced as required. The new rating program installed last year was operational for this year’s rates notices. A new server will be installed in October 2011.
Continued professional development and training for Councillors	Councillors attended various in-house and external training programs this year.
Conduct Council Elections	Local Government elections will be held next year on 24 March 2012.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY – DOG MANAGEMENT

This division includes outlays on administration and operation of services connected with public order and safety within the scope of local government. Such services include dog management.

GOAL: To ensure responsible ownership of dogs and safety in public places

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Decrease in dogs not under effective control by continuing dog control program	Dog registration numbers are increasing and the number of roaming dogs has decreased. Council is vigilant in collecting roaming dogs.
Establish leash free areas	This has not been achieved due to the lack of suitable land under the control of Council.
Establish dog de-sexing program	No dog neutering programs were carried out this year.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

This division includes outlays on administration, regulation and provision of housing and community amenities. Such amenities include public conveniences, garbage collection and sanitation, street lighting and cemeteries.

SANITATION AND GARBAGE

GOAL: To maintain and improve environmental management

Objective

Summary of Outcomes

Maintain levels of service to garbage facilities	Maintenance of waste facilities and garbage collection services has continued smoothly throughout the year; however the cost of waste management is becoming prohibitive. Garbage charges for town and rural services were increased to cover costs this year.
Relocate Batchelor waste facility	As the facility is over the aquifer which supplies the township with water, lobbying of the Northern Territory Government to progress the relocation of the Batchelor tip is ongoing.
Expand capacity at Adelaide River waste facility	The number of skip pick-ups was again increased during the tourist season to cope with additional waste. The dump area has been upgraded and made more accessible.
Expand recycling	Recycling of aluminum cans, glass and plastic has continued and the Waste Oil Receptacles in Batchelor and Adelaide River are being utilised by the community. Aluminium cans were collected from the towns and surrounding mines to generate income for local schools.
Provision of Wheelie Bins	Council continued to provide a 50% subsidy on wheelie bins.
Adopt environmentally friendly practices	Skip pick-ups are increased as required and dumps are 'pushed' regularly.
Appropriate use of waste facilities	Signage has been erected and is maintained to facilitate improved dumping practices.
Education program re indiscriminate dumping	New measures and signage was introduced to prevent incorrect dumping at Batchelor tip.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

GOAL: To provide adequate and attractive facilities for residents and visitors

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Level of cleanliness	Inspections of facilities were satisfactory and few complaints were received. Maintenance works were carried out as required.
Maintain levels of service to public conveniences	Efficient and reliable contractors have been engaged and inspections were satisfactory.

CEMETERIES

GOAL: To establish and maintain a facility that satisfies the community's needs

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Cemetery maintenance	Maintenance of the Cemetery grounds is ongoing and staff continue to be commended by Council and members of the public on their efforts, particularly on Anzac Day commemorations.

STREET LIGHTING

GOAL: To establish and maintain effective street lighting for the safety of residents

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Meet electricity charges on existing street lighting and fund the installation of additional street lighting	Street lighting electricity charges were met by the budget allocation and no requests were received for additional street lighting this year.
Lighting on Adelaide River Bridge	Lighting has not been installed, still need to lobby Department of Infrastructure re lighting on approaches and bridge. Hatt St and end of Becker St still have no lighting.
Lighting on Dorat Road	Funding from the Northern Territory Government allowed street lighting to be installed on the walking track from Dorat Road to the Adelaide River but it is inadequate. It does not shed much light.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: RECREATION AND CULTURE

This division includes outlays on the administration, regulation, support and operational aspects of recreational and cultural services. Such services include facilities and venues; recreation parks, gardens and reserves, libraries, sport and recreation facilities, swimming pool and museums.

PARKS, GARDENS AND RESERVES

GOAL: To create and maintain attractive, sustainable open spaces for public use and enjoyment

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Replace exotic species in parks	Replacement of exotic species with natives is ongoing within the parks and gardens of our community.
Maintain levels of service to parks and gardens	Efficient and reliable contractors have been engaged and inspections were more than satisfactory.
Maintain Council nursery	Propagation of plants and maintenance of Council's nursery is done on a very small scale during the wet season.
Plant replacement trees	Planting replacement trees with native species is ongoing.
Clean silt off low level crossing Adelaide River after flooding	Department of Infrastructure is contacted and the silt removed as required.

SWIMMING POOL

GOAL: To provide a well maintained and attractive facility that materially adds to lifestyle in the community

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Promote increased usage	The pool is increasingly utilised by the Batchelor Area School, visiting groups to the Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre and the local community.
Promote commercial usage	Usage by visiting schools and sporting groups is promoted. There is limited opportunity for commercial usage in our area and the pool uses a high proportion of Council's annual expenditure budget for very little income.
Ensure optimum opening hours	Opening hours have now been set to ensure optimum usage.
Continue to maintain the swimming pool and surrounds	Maintenance and operation of Batchelor Swimming Pool has continued throughout the year.
Continue to maintain staffing levels at the swimming pool	Swimming pool staff were employed and training was provided in First Aid and Bronze Medallion.

SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

GOAL: To provide sporting, recreation and leisure facilities to foster the physical and mental wellbeing of residents and the wellbeing of the community as a whole

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Resurface Batchelor Tennis Court	This was achieved utilising RCLIP Funding from the Australian Government in 2008/2009. The tennis courts have since been well utilised by locals and visitors in the tourist season.
Maintain levels of service to Sports and Recreation Facilities	Maintenance and improvement of Sport and Recreation facilities continued throughout the year.
Promote commercial use of oval, bowling green and other sports assets	The facilities are promoted; however there is limited opportunity for commercial usage within our area.
Construction of cycle ways	Will be carried forward for Council to assess again in future years.
Lighting of Batchelor oval	Will be carried forward for Council to assess again in future years.
Maintain Adelaide River Access Shed	The Access Shed has been maintained and utilised during the year.
Establish Golf Course	Council will continue to seek funding in future years.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

GOAL: To guide the community towards sporting, recreation and leisure pursuits that improve the quality of life for residents and the community as a whole

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Offer involvement and support to clubs/societies	Support of clubs and societies is ongoing both financially and in kind.
Continuation of Sport and Recreation Committee	The Sport and Recreation/Youth Development Strategy Committee was formed and meets as required to review the activities conducted by the Community Recreation Officer and make recommendations for future activities.
Continued employment of a Community Recreation Officer	The position of Community Recreation Officer continued during the year, utilising grant funding from the NT Government plus additional Council funds.
Establish After School and Vacation Care Programs	Funding submissions for these programs have been unsuccessful; mainly due to the fact that the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BITTE) already has these programs.
Establish Youth Centre in Batchelor	Council received a Special Purpose Grant this year to build a youth centre facility in the Batchelor township.

LIBRARIES

GOAL: To satisfy the community's needs for access to information

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Maintain and improve internet access & equipment at Adelaide River Library	Equipment and maintenance provided as required throughout the year.
Continue to provide staff for Adelaide River and Batchelor Libraries	NT Government funding has been utilised to employ staff for both libraries and library operations have continued smoothly during the year.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: TRANSPORT – ROADS

This division includes outlays on all aspects of servicing and operating the road system, including maintenance, construction, rehabilitation and transport services. Includes planning, designing, construction, extending and improving roads and highways and associated structures such as bridges, traffic lights and drainage.

GOAL: To improve the quality of the road network of Coomalie Region

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Maintain contact with Department of Infrastructure	Close contact has been maintained with the Department of Infrastructure in regard to problems and maintenance required on Territory owned roads in the region.
Spray roadsides for gamba and mission grasses	Road side herbicide treatment was carried out in the year and is ongoing.
Continue to maintain and upgrade roads throughout the region	Maintenance and upgrade works have been carried out on the Coomalie road network throughout the year, and is ongoing. The road funding component from the Federal Assistance Grant is utilised for road maintenance and upgrade works.
Effective use of Roads to Recovery funding	Road to Recovery funding was utilised to prepare to seal Solomon Road. Sealing works will be completed next year and Haynes Road intersection will be upgraded.
Construct access roads to rural properties	No access roads to rural properties were constructed.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY: OTHER ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

This division includes outlays on administration, operation and management of economic affairs. Economic affairs include Tourism, Parking and Weed Management assistance to the community.

TOURISM, PARKING AND OTHER

GOAL: To encourage development with a view to economic and employment opportunities through fostering sustainable ventures

Objective	Summary of Outcomes
Support Adelaide River Railway Precinct	Council has continued to support the Adelaide River Railway Precinct throughout the year by providing a Council contractor to maintain the Railway Precinct grounds.
Create community profile by supporting the Lingalunga Festival Committee	The Lingalunga Festival was held in July. The event was organised by the Lingalunga Festival Committee and supported by Council. Council also acted as auspicing body for a grant which the Festival Committee were awarded.
Rationalise Signage	Tourist signage was maintained during the year.
Walking track established (Lot 320 Old Rail Corridor)	This is the responsibility of the Batchelor Tourism Development Committee and Council will support the BTDC in their ongoing endeavours to establish this walking track when it comes to fruition.
Footpaths/walking track from Adelaide River War Cemetery to Adelaide River	There are no footpaths from the War Cemetery to Adelaide River. Walking tracks were mowed by Council throughout the year.
Support implementation of Batchelor Tourism Development Plan	Council has actively supported the Committee responsible for the implementation of the Batchelor Tourism Development Plan.
Support Adelaide River Show Society	Council gave financial and in kind support to the Adelaide River Show Society during the year and this was much appreciated by ARSS the Club.
Support and make financial contribution to Community Events	Council supported Australia Day, Anzac Day, Territory Day, Seniors Week, Seniors Christmas Luncheon, Clean Up Australia Day, Adelaide River Show Society, School Holiday Activities, Harmony Day, and the Lingalunga Festival during the year.
Support implementation of the Adelaide River Economic Development Plan	Council has actively supported the Committee responsible for the implementation of the Adelaide River Economic Development Plan.

GLYPHOSATE SALES – COMMUNITY WEED MANAGEMENT

GOAL: To assist the community with weed management by providing access to approved chemicals

Objective

Summary of Outcomes

Provision of Glyphosate at cost price	Council has provided residents with access to the herbicide, glyphosate at cost price.
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MAJOR FIRE HAZARD MITIGATION – GAMBA GRASS CONTROL

GOAL: To assist residents to control Gamba Grass in order to mitigate fire hazard

Objective

Summary of Outcomes

Weed control – Adelaide River, Snake Creek and Meneling Creek	Weed control on these waterways was coordinated by Council and overseen by the Gamba and Weed Management Officer.
Gamba Grass Control	Council was successful in obtaining funding from the Commonwealth Government to employ a Gamba and Weed Management Officer who assisted in controlling Gamba grass and weeds through the use of spraying contractors and held various education programs for the contractors and the community. This funding expired at the end of this financial year.