

BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

BUDGET and SHIRE PLAN

2023-2024



BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Contents

Acknowledgement of Country	4
Introduction	4
Council Or President Message	5
Our Council, Culture and History	6
Community Profile	6
Your Council Team.....	6
Elected Members	6
Meetings	7
Elected Member Allowances	7
Our People	8
Monitoring progress.....	8
Legislative Framework	9
Constitutional Arrangements.....	9
Social and Economic Impacts.....	9
Rates.....	9
Charges.....	10
Opportunities.....	10
Challenges	10
Cooperative Arrangements	10
Our Vision.....	11
Belyuen Long-Term Strategies.....	11
Our Approach.....	12
Our Priorities.....	12
Organisational Chart	13
Planning and Reporting.....	14
Council Services	15
Services Offered by Council	16
Council Services	16
Non-Council Services	16
Council Infrastructure	16
Commercial Services	16
Council Engagement.....	16
Priority Areas.....	17
1. Community and Culture.....	17
2. Financial Management and Governance	18

3. Infrastructure and Asset Management	20
4. Organisational Culture	23
5. Environment.....	24
6. Community Wellbeing.....	25
Our Commitment	25
Service Delivery Plan.....	27
Core Service Functions.....	27
Agency Services Function.....	29
Advocacy Services Function	29
Commercial Services	30
PRIORITY PROJECTS.....	30
Program Budgets.....	32
Budgeted Revenue	32
Budgeted operating expenditure	32
Budget Objectives and Measures	32
Budget Performance Indicators	32
Land Leases	32
High-Level Expenditure Budget.....	33
Capital Expenditure Budget	34
Program Budgets.....	34
Rates and Charges Declaration 2023-24	37
Contacts	40

Acknowledgement of Country.

We, the Belyuen Community Government Council, acknowledge the Larrakia people of the land commonly referred to as Belyuen. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Introduction

The Belyuen Community Government Council oversees a region of exceptional cultural and environmental significance. With its rich history and close connection to the land, our community is deeply proud of its heritage and traditions. As a Council, we are committed to preserving and nurturing these cultural foundations while fostering progress and addressing the evolving needs of our residents.

This plan serves as a roadmap for our Council's dedicated efforts in serving the unique needs and aspirations of the Belyuen community while upholding our responsibilities as a local government council.

This plan aims to highlight Council's service and program schedule for the financial period 2023-24.

This Shire Plan reflects our collective vision for Belyuen, encompassing our community's values, aspirations and priorities. By engaging with residents, businesses, community organisations and traditional owners, we aim to create an inclusive and collaborative approach to decision-making that honours the diversity and wisdom of our community.

Our plan outlines a range of goals and objectives explicitly tailored to address the unique challenges and opportunities within the Belyuen community. From economic development and infrastructure to environmental sustainability and social well-being, each goal has been carefully crafted to address our resident's specific needs and aspirations.

Stakeholder engagement lies at the heart of our approach. Our community's active involvement is essential to our initiatives' success. By fostering open lines of communication, prompting dialogue and providing opportunities for participation, we aim to ensure that the voices of all community members are heard and the perspectives are taken into account.

Effective governance and leadership are vital in translating our vision into tangible results. Our council is dedicated to providing transparent decision-making processes, clear roles and responsibilities and robust accountability mechanisms. In leveraging the expertise of Council members, staff and committees, we strive to ensure that our actions are driven by the best interests of the Belyuen community.

As we embark on this journey together, we recognise that our path ahead may present challenges. However, with our shared commitment, resilience and determination, we are confident in our ability to overcome obstacles and achieve positive outcomes. We will continuously monitor progress, evaluate our strategies and adapt to changing circumstances, all with the ultimate goal of creating a prosperous and harmonious future for the Belyuen community.

We are grateful to the residents, businesses and stakeholders of the Belyuen community for their unwavering support. Together we will forge a path towards a thriving and sustainable future that honours our cultural heritage, promotes social well-being and embraces opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Council Or President Message

Hello and I am pleased to present the Belyuen Community Government Council Shire Plan for the 2023–24 financial year.

Belyuen might be a small community, but it is a strong community, the cultural heart of the Larrakia. This Shire Plan has been prepared for the community to benefit the community,

Our 2023-24 community infrastructure and service highlights for 2023-24 will include:

- Solar Street Lighting
- Upgrade to Belyuen Airstrip along with DIPL

In 2023-24, Council will be developing a 10-year Strategic Plan in consultation with the community.

Council has committed to strong community engagement and the community will have plenty of opportunity to provide feedback.

Belyuen is a great place to live, and we look forward to working with the community and other key stakeholders in the future to make our community even better.

Rex Edmunds

President

Belyuen Community Government Council

June 2023

Our Council, Culture and History

The Belyuen community is located on the eastern side of the Cox Peninsula, 14 km south of Mandorah. It is 128 km by road from Darwin.

There are seven language groups spoken in Belyuen, including Emmi, Wadigin, Malak, Mendtha, Marriamu and Maranunggu.

The estimated population is 170 people living in Belyuen.

The Socio-Economic Indexes for Australia (SEIFA), determined from the Australian Bureau of Statistics data, rank areas in Australia according to relative socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage. Despite our proximity to Darwin, the most recent SEIFA (2016) ranks Belyuen as the second most disadvantaged council in the country and the most disadvantaged council in the Northern Territory.

In the face of this significant socio-economic disadvantage, the Belyuen Community Government Council continues to provide a broad range of community services. In addition to the core local government services, Council continues to provide job and income security, food security, clean community spaces and transform maintenance services on behalf of its community.

In addition, Council collaborates with other Territory and Commonwealth agencies delivering health and Medicare services, aged care services, education, cultural programs, Centrelink and other services that protect residents' basic needs and well-being.

Belyuen Community Government Council continues to seek opportunities to achieve financial and service delivery sustainability. In November 2017, Belyuen and Coomalie Community Government Councils formed a working group to pursue opportunities to strengthen their respective communities. The Councils reaffirmed their commitment to consider future amalgamation opportunities in a joint submission as part of the Northern Territory Government's consultation process regarding 'Bringing Local Government to the Cox-Daly and Murrakai-Douglas Daly Areas'.

Community Profile

- The Belyuen Community Government Council is surrounded entirely by unincorporated land.
- Belyuen is thought to be named after an aboriginal word meaning 'sacred water hole', and was previously known as Delissaville.
- The land area of Belyuen is approximately 41.56 square kilometres.
- Population density is 3.97 persons per square kilometre.
- There are a total number of 46 dwellings within the community.
- The average household size is 3.22 persons per dwelling.
- There are approximately 49% of males in the community and 51% of females in the community.
- Most people in the community are aged between 35 to 49 years of age.
- The next largest age bracket are those aged between 25 to 34 years old.

Your Council Team

Elected Members

The elected members are responsible for making decisions that guide the community's future and those that respond to the more immediate needs.

The Belyuen community is represented by a council of five elected members. These include:

- President – Rex Edmunds;
- Deputy President – Teresa Timber;
- Councillor – John Moreen;
- Councillor – Claude Holtze; and
- Councillor – Lennie Singh.

Meetings

The Council holds an Ordinary Council Meeting every month, and Special Council Meetings as required. A Finance Committee performs the financial functions of the Council in the months when the Council does not meet. All meetings are held at the Belyuen Council Offices.

All Council Meetings are open to the public unless confidential business is being considered. Residents and members of the public are always welcome.

Dates, times, agenda and minutes for all Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website: www.belyuen.nt.gov.au

The term of the current council will expire in August 2025 and a general election will be held.

Elected Member Allowances

Allowances are provided to assist the Council in conducting its functions under *the Local Government Act 2019*.

Elected member allowances are reviewed frequently via the Northern Territory Government's independent Remuneration Tribunal. On 24 January 2023, the Remuneration Tribunal set new rates for Councillor allowances. Council has determined the following allowances based on previous activity of Council, summarised below:

Allowance type	President	Deputy President	Councillor
Annual base allowance	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Annual principal member additional allowance	\$20,000		
Extra meeting allowance			\$1,000
Professional development allowance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Travel and accommodation allowance	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Incidentals	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Total maximum allowance	\$32,000	\$12,000	\$13,000

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The total amount claimable is dependent on the Councillor's activity and does not necessarily represent full payment per year.

Our People

While a relatively small team, the Belyuen Community Government Council is an inclusive and diverse workplace, where our people are the driving force behind the services we provide to our community.

We go above and beyond for our community, and all our team members are committed and highly motivated to secure the best possible outcomes for the community's long-term future.

In continuing to pursue outstanding service to our community, our Council has a clear purpose, effective leadership and great people that have a genuine commitment to our community.

We continue to invest in our people and build the capabilities and skills required to meet future challenges.

Monitoring progress

Monitoring and reporting against the Belyuen Community Government Council Shire Plan will be undertaken every quarter to ensure the agreed activities are progressing appropriately.

The ongoing review will ensure the continuation of a direct line of sight between Council's Shire Plan and the prioritisation of resources for services, programs and projects through the annual operational planning and budget development process.

A review of outcomes achieved will be through implementing supporting strategies, including community surveys, workshops and ongoing feedback by community members.

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Legislative Framework

The Belyuen Community Government Council operates under the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act) and its associated Regulations, Guidelines and General Instructions.

The Council must also adhere to the requirements of the *Cemeteries Act 1952* and Cemeteries Regulations.

Council is governed by its policy and procedural framework which is periodically reviewed to ensure:

- Ongoing compliance with applicable laws;
- Practicality; and
- Cultural appropriateness.

Over the last two years, Council has been undertaking a full review of its policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the legislation. In addition, the Council has developed a new Risk Management framework and has established an Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Constitutional Arrangements

Belyuen Community Government Council is committed to pursuing constitutional and electoral boundary reform that supports the long-term sustainability of the Council and the Belyuen community. In 2019, the Council invited widespread community consultation on the potential future amalgamation with the Coomalie Community Government Council. A combined working group was formed and a proposal was presented to the Minister in late 2019.

Council is committed to this vision and continues to work cooperatively with the Coomalie Community Government Council and the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet to progress actions towards a potential future amalgamation.

In April 2021, the Minister for Local Government undertook public consultation on the amalgamation of unincorporated land of the Cox Daly and Maracaibo Douglas Daly areas. In 2022, Belyuen and Coomalie reaffirmed their commitment to the unification of the two councils and the incorporation of the adjacent land. Belyuen Community Government Council will continue to seek opportunities to work cooperatively with the relevant stakeholders to ensure an outcome that provides long-term sustainability and improved community services to residents in the area.

Social and Economic Impacts

Rates

Belyuen Community Government Council area has 48 occupied lots which can be rated and/or charged. Only five of the 48 lots are non-government occupied. Of these five, one is occupied by a Darwin-based service provider and the other four are occupied by Council operated programs.

At present, Belyuen is limited in its ability to rate, therefore only generates a small amount of own source income, with limited means with which to undertake community funded work programs. As such, Council is very dependent on obtaining grants to fund community projects.

Strategic partnerships with appropriate local and interstate private entities is one way to increase the overall funds available to the community. This practice will be actively investigated in the coming year as part of the Strategic Plan.

Charges

Council is responsible for the waste management services within the community. Council does not operate a waste management facility and is dependent upon external commercial operators to undertake waste disposal activities. To accommodate the ongoing management of hard waste, waste charges were increased in 2022-23 to accommodate the use of skip bins to remove hard rubbish from the community.

Council continues to seek cost-effective ways to manage hard rubbish and is working with the Northern Territory Government and other local councils to investigate options to improve waste management, including through the potential for a centralised transfer station to support the broader Cox Peninsula and Dundee region over the longer term. This includes general and emergency waste.

Opportunities

Council will pursue opportunities to improve our level of financial sustainability by:

- Future potential cooperative arrangements with Coomalie Community Government Council including resource sharing, boundary reform and service improvements.
- Increasing revenue by identifying innovative strategies to grow the local economy.
- Positioning Council to participate in the sustainable development of the Cox Peninsula through partnering opportunities with other stakeholders to secure local employment and economic opportunities.
- Commercial activities that provide additional revenue and community project opportunities for Council.
- Administrative and operational improvements through process review and redesign where required.
- Increased sales and profitability for the community store, the workshop and other Council businesses, including through strategic partnerships.

Challenges

- Long-term sustainability in delivering core local government and agency services in line with community expectations and legislative responsibilities.
- Increased lease costs for Council assets arising from Section 19 lease arrangements following the Kenbi Land Claim settlement.
- Management of community waste issues, including resolution of legacy waste and landfills.
- Ageing infrastructure, plant and equipment.
- Ability to meet increasing legislative responsibilities within the current staffing and resources.

Cooperative Arrangements

Belyuen Community Government Council has a history of working collaboratively with the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government agencies, Northern Territory councils and service organisations.

It is a member of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory and the Top End Regional Organisation of Councils. Council also maintains working relationships with the following organisations and agencies:

- Wagait Shire Council;
- Bushfires NT;
- City of Darwin;
- City of Palmerston;
- Coomalie Community Government Council;
- Crown Lands Estate Office;
- Kenbi Rangers;
- Larrakia Development Corporation (LDC);
- Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation;
- Litchfield Council;
- Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT);
- Member for Daly;
- Member for Lingiari;
- Northern Land Council;
- NT Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCMC);
- NT Local Government and Regional Development Units (of DCMC);
- NT Department of Health (DH);
- NT Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (DIPL);
- NT Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Services (NTPFES);
- NT Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security (DEPWS);
- NT Department of Territory Families (TF);
- Top End Regional Organisation of Councils (TOPROC);
- SeaLink NT; and
- West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

Our Vision

Belyuen Community Government Council strives to:

- improve the lifestyle and quality of life of the residents of Belyuen; and
- involve the community in decisions that affect their lives.

Belyuen Long-Term Strategies

Council has identified a number of areas for inclusion into its long-term strategy, including:

- Continue to upgrade community infrastructure to remove health risks and danger with the support of the Commonwealth and NT governments.
- Belyuen people to have a say in the future of local government and how it will continue to deliver services and support the residents.
- Council will help support and create local jobs for residents.
- Local activities that encourage residents of all ages and genders to be involved in strengthening their culture.
- Local activities that encourage residents of all ages and genders to be involved in recreational and sporting activities that build a healthy lifestyle and create a community that residents enjoy.
- Working with funding agencies to create commercial opportunities that give the residents jobs and bring money into the community to support all other activities that the community would like to do.

- Clean and beautify the community to ensure that country is cared for and the community looks good and residents are proud.
- Young children, teenagers, women, men and Elders are safe, healthy and cared for.

Our Approach

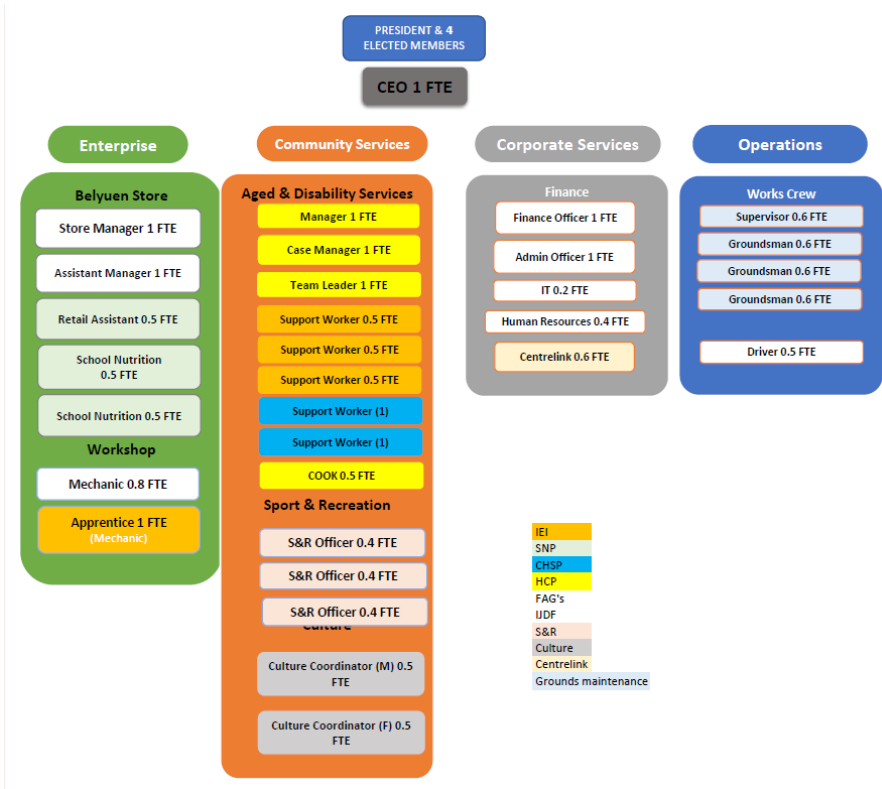
- A collaborative workplace culture with engaged, energised and skilled people professionally ready for the future.
- Investment in core capabilities and opportunities for staff to lead, learn and grow.
- Strong and accountable leadership, enabling elected members, individuals and teams to be their best.
- Collaborative, proactive partnerships with community, business and government.
- Reputation for implementing innovative and creative solutions for future service delivery.
- Information, systems and processes underpinning quality decisions that enhance the customer experience.
- A financially sustainable organisation.

Our Priorities

- Our Council strives to be responsive to the needs and expectations of the community.
- We are committed to representing the interests of the community with ethical and robust governance, reinforced with informed decision-making that meets community expectations.
- Council prides itself on establishing a positive culture that is supported by strong values and behaviours.
- We seek to build a solid reputation for implementing innovative and creative solutions across all areas of our organisation and in the delivery of our services.
- Our policy and governance framework is supported through continual improvement and reinforcement that is embedded through training and educational programs as part of an ongoing awareness action plan for elected members and employees.

Organisational Chart

Council is committed to providing an effective and efficient workforce and human resource management services to support Council business, including recruitment, induction, training and development of employees in compliance with the Local Government Awards 2020 and the *Fair Work Act 2010*.



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Planning and Reporting

Considering the importance of the sustainability of local government, it is essential that Council provide adequate governance and resource planning to ensure effective and efficient use of Council's resources. The planning and reporting framework seeks to achieve the Council's goals of stability and sustainability.

The Shire Plan includes a service plan, budget 2023/24 and operational plan.

Other plans include:

- communications plan;
- workforce development plan;
- counsellor training plan;
- asset management plan;
- infrastructure development plan;
- culture and diversity plan;
- waste management plan; and
- risk management plan.

There is also the intention to develop a longer-term strategic plan for Belyuen Community Government Council in 2023-24.

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Council Services

Belyuen Community Government Council's responsibilities encompass various areas, including but not limited to:

1. **Service Delivery:** Council is tasked with delivering a range of essential services such as waste management, stormwater management, water supply and sanitation. It ensures that these services are efficiently provided to meet the community's needs.
2. **Governance and administration:** Council manages the administrative functions related to the local governance, including maintaining accurate records, conducting elections and adhering to legislative requirements. It also ensures transparency and accountability in its decision-making processes.
3. **Infrastructure Maintenance:** Council oversees the maintenance and upkeep of public infrastructure, including roads, drains and community facilities. It ensures that these assets are well-maintained, accessible and safe for community use.
4. **Community engagement and services:** Council actively engages with the community, seeking input and feedback on issues that affect their lives. It fosters community participation, organises events and supports initiatives that promote social cohesion, cultural preservation, and the overall well-being of community members.
5. **Environmental Stewardship:** Council plays a role in preserving and protecting the natural environment within its jurisdiction. It may implement strategies for biodiversity conservation, sustainable practices, and preservation of cultural heritage sites.
6. **Collaboration and Advocacy:** Council represents the interests of the Belyuen community and acts as an advocate on their behalf. It collaborates with other levels of government, community organisations and stakeholders to address shared challenges, secure resources and promote community development.

The Belyuen Community Government Council serves as a vital link between the residents and the broader government framework. Through its key responsibilities, it endeavours to create a nurturing and sustainable community while respecting and preserving the unique cultural heritage and natural resources of the Belyuen area.

Services Offered by Council

The Council services are summarised below:

Council Services	Non-Council Services
Council Infrastructure	Airstrip maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings and facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centrelink
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fleet management municipal services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postal services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cemetery management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged and disability services, including Commonwealth Home Care Package and Commonwealth Home Support Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local emergency management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School nutrition program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and open spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sport and recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance and traffic management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed control and hazard reduction 	Commercial Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community store Workshop
Council Engagement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer service 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance support and administration 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial management 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information technology 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records Management 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff training 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplace Health and Safety 	

Priority Areas

1. Community and Culture

Our priority is to build a safe, healthy and equitable community that celebrates diversity and enjoys a good quality of life.

We seek to deliver:

- *strong supportive communities;*
- *community well-being and social inclusion through art and culture; and*
- *equitable access to community infrastructure and services.*

Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
1.1 Creative educated community	1.1.1 Identify and promote opportunities for art, cultural expression and the development of creative industries.	Funding applications are submitted to maximise arts funding.	Engagement from local residents and surrounding region. Funding applications identified and submitted. Liaison with NTG to provide support and training to staff and community members.	CEO /
1.2 Active, healthy community	1.2.1 Plan and provide integrated and accessible open spaces. 1.2.2 Plan and provide facilities and programs that enable participation in sport and recreation. 1.2.3 Establish partnerships with stakeholders to increase opportunities for participation in sports and recreation.	Calendar of events. Community engagement policy. Development and Council approval for appropriate maintenance plan for the Council facilities. Consultation with partners, NTG, Cwth and other relevant stakeholders.	Maximum participation from community members. Excellent management of facilities and recreational spaces. Fund raising, joint delivery of events.	
1.3 A safe, sustainable and resilient community	1.3.1 Maintain and improve health standards including food safety, immunisation and public health. 1.3.2 Maintain and improve environmental standards including weed and pest management and animal control. 1.3.3 Improve community safety through design, information and programs.	Ensure that service providers have appropriate facility for the delivery of services. Implement weed and feral animal management and continue regular vet visits for domestic animals. Maintain good working relationship with NT Police. Maintain Belyuen social media and	Upskill and provide certified training and qualifications to local staff. Regular vet visits. Recruit, train and retain staff to provide services including environmental management programs and voluntary emergency services. Continued dates to Council website to provide effective communications.	

	1.3.4 Develop and implement effective community information and education programs in collaboration with key community stakeholders.	website. Continually update Council information services. Implementation of annual work plan.		
1.4 A connected and inclusive community.	1.4.1 Build social capital through provision of accessible community infrastructure and programs. 1.4.2 Provide equitable access to and advocate for a range of services, programs and facilities to address disadvantage and fostering inclusion.	Exceptional service delivery in existing community services. Street lighting, CCTV, recreational areas, youth engagement programs.	While some will continue to source major funding for projects identified through strategic planning.	

2. Financial Management and Governance

We are striving to ensure Council is well-governed, transparent and responsive while providing effective leadership, financial management and high-quality governance.

We seek to deliver:

- *programs that are compliant with our legislative obligations;*
- *quality services to internal and external customers;*
- *responsible financial management with efficient and timely cost controls; and*
- *adequate financial reserves to ensure long-term sustainability.*

Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
2.1 Responsible financial management with efficient and timely cost controls responsible financial management with efficient and timely cost controls	2.1.1 Implement, maintain and monitor effective financial and cost control systems. 2.1.2 Provide timely and comprehensive reporting of financial position. 2.1.3 Require strict accountability for all financial commitments and expenditures.	Meet legislative requirements. Complete annual and financial statements within timeframe. Prepare annual budget prior to August. Report financials to Council and funding agencies. Maintain and update procurement and purchasing policies in line with legislation	Council adopting the annual budget and associated policies, ensuring statutory and legislative guidelines and meeting target dates are met. Detailed monthly reports provided to Council outlining financial position. Council receiving an unqualified audit each year from external auditors.	
2.2 Council Sustainability vs business operations	2.2.1 Maintain annual budget. Develop and maintain a 10-year strategic financial plan.	Ensure expenditure is within local government guidelines and in line with procurement policies.	Continually monitor Council budget and report to Council. Review and maintain financial plan.	

	<p>2.2.2 Develop a 10-year asset management plan.</p> <p>2.2.3 Actively lobby, apply for and obtain Territory and Cth Government funding and grants.</p>	<p>Create financial plan and review on annual basis.</p> <p>Undertake regular review of all Council assets.</p> <p>Ensure plant and equipment are serviced regularly.</p> <p>Submit funding applications from within Council's administrative function.</p>	<p>Continue to achieve successful levels of funding.</p>	
<p>2.3 Shire governed in consultation and partnership with the community.</p>	<p>2.3.1 Ensure leadership and decision-making is transparent, accountable and represent the current and future interests of the community.</p> <p>2.3.2 Implement effective community consultation processes that enable participation, engagement and collaboration.</p> <p>2.3.3 Develop and maintain community participation, partnership and volunteer groups.</p> <p>2.3.4 Implement and effect important education programs to encourage community participation in decision-making and build social capital.</p>	<p>Review and update Council's community engagement strategy.</p> <p>Develop and coordinate community events.</p> <p>Develop communication strategy for approval by Council.</p> <p>Provide information to the community through a variety of information mediums.</p>	<p>Engagement strategy approved and implemented, reviewed every 12 months.</p> <p>Record and report on number of partnership activities held.</p> <p>Communication strategy developed with stakeholders and approved by Council.</p> <p>Customer service feedback strategy, complaints register, suggestion box implemented.</p> <p>Continue to increase amount of information posted on social media, website and information display boards.</p>	
<p>2.4 Responsive and efficient customer service delivery.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Continually review and enhance service delivery to ensure Council's responsiveness to customer and community expectations.</p> <p>2.4.2 Work collaboratively across Council to provide effective, efficient and coordinated outcomes.</p>	<p>Customer service review and feedback strategy.</p> <p>Continuous liaison and promotion of community feedback to address issues and improve processes.</p> <p>Development of continuous improvement strategy and timely</p>	<p>Council continues to promote a culture of continuous improvement, which exceeds customer and community expectations.</p> <p>Increasing community involvement and number of community events.</p>	

	2.4.3 Build a culture of continuous improvement which recognises best practice.	review of procedures.	Positive feedback and community engagement.	
2.5 Strategic management of Council	<p>2.5.1 Develop and implement by-laws, policies and processes in accordance with legislative requirements and ensure compliance.</p> <p>2.5.2 Implement integrated strategic planning approaches across Council, including efficient and effective risk management.</p> <p>2.5.3 Implement sustainable financial management and effective procurement practices which recognises best practice.</p>	<p>Updated Council policies.</p> <p>Risk management plan.</p> <p>Financial management plan and procurement policy.</p>	<p>Continual review of Council policies, procedures and practices on an annual basis.</p> <p>Review and update as necessary.</p> <p>Update plan and policy and seek Council approval annually.</p>	

3. Infrastructure and Asset Management

<p>A well-planned and maintained infrastructure network that is sustainable and enhances quality of life while supporting growth in high-value industries.</p> <p><i>We seek to deliver:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>maximum use of existing assets;</i> • <i>sustainable infrastructure planning, provision and maintenance;</i> • <i>infrastructure that supports the development of the community and wider region; and</i> • <i>sustainable community housing.</i> 				
Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
3.1 Integrated and timely provision and sustainable management of infrastructure and assets.	<p>3.1.1 Develop a strategic infrastructure and asset management plan to guide provision, maintenance, decommissioning, replacement and enhancement of Council's assets and infrastructure.</p> <p>3.1.2 Plan and implement improvement works that enhance community character and identify, conserve and improve the</p>	Infrastructure and asset management plan, monitored and amended as required.	<p>Adoption of the strategic infrastructure and asset management plan by Council.</p> <p>Council approval and successful funding submissions.</p>	

	community's streetscapes.			
3.2 A safe and sustainable road network.	<p>3.2.1 Plan and deliver a safe, sustainable and efficient road network.</p> <p>3.2.2 Plan and deliver safe and effective stormwater management outcomes and a flood-resilient community.</p> <p>3.2.3 Airport landing strip</p>	<p>Continue to maintain and upgrade seals in unsealed roads within the community.</p> <p>Identify and maintain community drainage system. Register.</p> <p>Compliance with CASA and government legislation.</p>		
3.3 A safe and sustainable water network.	<p>3.3.1 Land, deliver and manage efficient and sustainable, high-quality water supply systems.</p> <p>3.3.2 Advance water use efficiency and water cycle innovation throughout the community.</p>	<p>Compliance with</p> <p>Community education and training, regarding the benefits of safe water usage.</p>	Reduction in water usage and wastage.	
3.4 Sustainable waste management.	<p>3.4.1 Plan, deliver and manage efficient and sustainable waste and resource management services.</p> <p>3.4.2 Plan and deliver an integrated waste infrastructure network.</p> <p>3.3.3 Minimise the impacts of waste generation through modified consumer behaviour, effective recycling, and the reduction of emissions.</p>	<p>Monitor existing and future waste facilities.</p> <p>Community education, training, regarding the benefits of reducing, and recycling waste.</p>	<p>Compliance with environmental and planning authority.</p> <p>Landfill reduction.</p>	
3.5 Sustainable sewerage network.	<p>3.5.1 Plan, deliver and manage a high-quality sewerage network and treatment facilities.</p> <p>3.5.2 Effective and efficient use of recycled water.</p>	<p>Consult with community and council regarding implementation of a sewerage network for the community.</p> <p>Feasibility study for recycled water system in Belyuen.</p>	<p>Cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>Cost-effectiveness and funding opportunity.</p>	
3.6 Community Housing	3.6.1 Development of a master plan to address the needs of community.	Continue to lobby an advocate for sufficient community	Present plans to Council for approval.	

	<p>3.6.2 Community awareness for home ownership and</p> <p>3.6.3 Council engagement in development of new homes in Belyuen.</p> <p>3.6.4 Install appropriate street signage and house numbering system.</p>	<p>housing to reduce overcrowding.</p> <p>Continue to provide advice and support to community to assist with homeownership.</p> <p>Maintain aesthetic aspect of housing construction in Belyuen.</p> <p>Develop house numbering system for Belyuen.</p>		
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4. Organisational Culture

<p>A responsive Council with a focus on innovation and safety through collaboration and opportunity. <i>We seek to deliver:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>an engaged workforce that actively seeks innovation opportunities;</i> • <i>a Council team that collaborates, and fosters pride and unity to deliver effective services to residents; and</i> • <i>attraction and retention of a safe and skilled workforce.</i> 				
Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
4.1 Responsive and effective service delivery.	4.1.1 Foster appropriate corporate culture that aligns with Council's mission, values and behaviours.	Positive communication and collaboration with employees.	Promotion of positive work environment through development of key internal procedures and teambuilding activities, WH&S training and awareness.	
	4.1.2 Develop and maintain healthy and safe working conditions and regularly review work health and safety practices.	Safe working environment.		
	4.1.3 Deliver professional development opportunities and pathways for all employees.	Skilled workforce and strong governance framework. Safe working environment.	Prepare a skills and training matrix for all employees.	
	4.1.4 Support business operations with efficient workforce planning including recognising emerging technologies and transitioning employment opportunities.	Skilled workforce and strong governance framework.	Implementation of succession pathway into corporate structure to ensure skills sharing and acting opportunities.	
	4.1.5 Attract and retain a skilled workforce through implementation of contemporary human resources practices and organisation development.	Stringent recruitment procedures and work plans for employees.	HR performance appraisals, staff operations manual, personal training plans.	

5. Environment

<p>Maintain high environmental standards reflective of our cultural responsibilities and in line with legislative requirements.</p> <p><i>We seek to deliver:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a community that supports the environment and promotes sustainability; • Council programs that protect, restore and enhance the environment; and • a natural resources management plan that is implemented and maintained. 				
Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
5.1 All community land is protected.	5.1.1 Plan and manage open space, parkland and natural areas to eradicate pests and noxious weeds and promote biodiversity, water quality and community use.	Environment program continuation, monitoring, fire control, weed control, pest control, and maintaining native environment. Source funding to successfully provide local employment for land maintenance.	Reduction of pests, weeds, and introduced species, ongoing provision of community beautification program. Cost neutral effective community services.	
5.2 Natural resources management plan maintained and implemented	5.2.1 Development of appropriate policies to ensure natural resource management is clearly understood and implemented. 5.2.2 Work in partnership with stakeholders to identify appropriate economic opportunities which will add value to the community and residents. 5.2.3 Work in partnership with respected stakeholders to develop the appropriate plan operational arrangements.	Lobby for agricultural and environmental enterprises created in community. Continue to maintain close partnerships with X and traditional owners in the community.	Program retention. New business opportunities in shire. Ensure MOUs are in place with relevant stakeholder groups.	

6. Community Wellbeing

<p>Ensuring Council is integrated and connected with residents will ensure positive growth, respective of environmental and heritage values.</p> <p><i>We seek to deliver:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>health and well-being facilities to reflect the need of the community;</i> • <i>health awareness; and</i> • <i>increased sports and recreation participation.</i> 				
Outcome	Strategic Action	Target	Measures	Responsibilities
6.1 Services improvement	<p>6.1.1 Community consultation and a strategic approach to community health and well-being.</p> <p>6.1.2 Appropriate facilities developed to engage community well-being at various levels.</p> <p>6.1.3 Strategic approach to community health and well-being – in partnership with and lobby for provision of services for the needs of the community.</p>	<p>Achieve a high health and well-being rating from the community.</p> <p>Secure engagement from the community regarding well-being facilities.</p>	<p>Continuous improvement of Council's communication and information networks with community.</p> <p>Maintain facilities and create infrastructure to ensure that community have higher level of well-being and healthy lifestyle choices.</p> <p>Continue to maintain all efficiencies in all Council provided services in Belyuen.</p>	
6.2 Mental well-being.	<p>6.2.1 Development of a sports and recreation strategy.</p> <p>6.2.2 Secure appropriate funding to ensure implementation strategy.</p> <p>6.2.3 Engagement of all stakeholders to address the needs of Belyuen.</p>		<p>MOU with effects and other stakeholders to ensure S&R strategy is delivered.</p> <p>Continue to obtain existing levels of funding within associated programs.</p> <p>Regular interagency working group meetings.</p>	

Our Commitment

We are focused on delivering an excellent customer service experience to Belyuen residents.

Focusing on our customers improves our services and meets community expectations.

This only pushes our organisation towards betterment with a continual strengthening of our capabilities, accountability, transparency and leadership to maintain ongoing confidence in the integrity and effectiveness of Council.

Council prides itself on its ethical, robust approach, engaging culture and good governance practices, which are critical to ensure that Council meets its legislative compliance obligations, acts ethically and makes decisions in the interests of the community and its stakeholders.

Moving forward, a key priority for Council will be to ensure the community continues to appropriately plan for growth while working towards a higher quality of life.

Council is managing the demands on its business by taking community-wide transformation of our workplaces and the way we work. We need to remain agile to ensure we are delivering excellence to our Belyuen residents.

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Service Delivery Plan

Core Service Functions

ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective, efficient, accountable and transparent leadership on behalf of the community.• Well-developed strategic and corporate planning based on consultation.• Information about Council and community regularly made available Council communications including noticeboard, social media, and website.• Prepare annual budgets and undertake long-term financial plans.• Provide regular financial performance management reports to the Council.• Prepare an Annual Report (including financial statements and audits).• Prepare Statutory returns, including the Australian Taxation Office, Local Governments Grants Commission, Australian Bureau of Statistics.• Administration of Council meetings and providing elected member support.• Provision of high standards of communication, service and assistance to the community and other customers through professional, respectful and efficient service delivery.• Effective and efficient handling of customer complaints and other feedback.
CEMETERY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efficiently maintained and improved as required.• Develop cemetery management plan to ensure compliance with new <i>Burial and Cremation Act 2022</i>.
COMMUNITY FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan, promote and support local community groups and events.• Coordinate and support civic and community events that can be safely enjoyed by residents, family and friends that contribute to health and well-being, as well as promote the overall community identity.
OPEN SPACES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance and upgrade of parks, reserves, and open spaces on Council lands; includes mowing, slashing and watering of grassed areas, as well as removal of foliage, weeds and debris from community spaces.• Improved livability through development and maintenance of green spaces, including the community oval.• Enhanced visual amenity and beautification of open space areas in consultation with the community.
BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance and upgrade of Council controlled buildings, facilities and fixed assets which are managed and maintained in a usable and reasonable condition and are fit for purpose.
REGULATORY SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administration of by-laws to ensure a safe and accountable community for all residents and visitors.• Development, monitoring and enforcement of by-laws for a safe and healthy community.• Community education programs as required.
ROADS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local roads construction, upgrading and maintenance including pot holing, shouldering, grading, resealing, line marking and rehabilitation.• Increased standard of roads and road safety for the community and visitors that use the road.
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic management on local roads.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate provision of street signage and traffic control devices.
<p>FLEET, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained fleet, plant and equipment to ensure safety and reliability as well as extended life and resale value.
<p>SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities living in the community to sport and recreation activities for their health and well-being. • Sport and recreation management policies and plans are developed and implemented.
<p>STREETLIGHTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure streetlighting is in a fit-for-purpose state to promote community safety.
<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver waste management services in a manner that reduce community hazards while implementing sustainable, environmentally friendly. • Develop and implement a Waste Management Strategy for waste reduction, reuse and recycling.
<p>WEED, FERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a weed management plan to manage gamba and other declared weeds in the community. • Prepare a feral animal management plan to manage feral animals on Council land. • Prepare a fire management plan and maintain fire breaks on community assets. • Undertake fuel reduction burns on Council land to protect community assets when necessary. • Provide local education and awareness.

Agency Services Function

AGED AND DISABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management and effective operation of aged care facility for Belyuen residents in line with federal government funding agreement.• Support and advocacy for clients with relevant service providers.
SPORT AND RECREATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment of Sport and Recreation Officers to support local programs that promote community well-being.• Develop and deliver active recreation programs in partnership with the Northern Territory Government.• Provide after-school programs/sports and school holiday programs.• Coordinate and support structured sporting events.• Coordinate community events and fun activities.• Consult with peak bodies and community groups about annual priorities.
AIRSTRIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan for, manage and maintenance the Delissaville air strip (under identified scope of works) as the Cox Peninsula/Dundee regional airstrip.• Oversight of landings and departures.• Monitoring of use by relevant operators.• Pursuit of grant funding to cover disparity in costs of airstrip maintenance and reseal.
CENTRELINK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council to provide Centrelink agency support as per Services Australia contract.

Advocacy Services Function

STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent the community at the Top End Economic Growth Committee.• Council representation and participation in regional boards or committees to ensure community views on issues of regional significance are heard by government and other key stakeholders.
EXPANSION OF SENIORS SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with NT and Commonwealth governments to establish social infrastructure and services for seniors.
EXPANSION OF YOUTH SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with NT and Commonwealth governments to establish youth support services in the community.
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with the Commonwealth CDP services providers to deliver community projects which enhance work readiness in the community.• Work with appropriate providers to develop training opportunities for community members.• Identify and is develop grant funding applications for training and development programs as appropriate.
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council has a role under the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i>, the <i>NT Emergency Management Act 2013</i> and the NT Emergency Management Plan of February 2016. To ensure the well-being of the community during an emergency.

- Preparation and planning for local emergencies is achieved through community participation and relevant committees, facilitation of preventive measures, community awareness and education.

AMALGAMATION AND SHARED SERVICES

- Actively engage with Coomalie Community Government Council and the NT Government for discussions on incorporation and amalgamation to ensure the best possible long-term outcomes for the Belyuen community.
- Continue to explore shared service options with other Top End councils, NGOs and the private sector.

Commercial Services

BELYUEN STORE

- Operation of a profitable store offering well priced, appropriately healthy goods for the community and passing trade, providing real jobs for community members.
- Position the Belyuen store to support as broad a secondary catchment as possible (Cox Peninsula/Dundee).

WORKSHOP

- Generate revenue from workshop operations – Motor Vehicle Registry (MVR) inspections, vehicle repairs and plant hire, for future job creation.
- Position the Belyuen workshop operation to support as broad a secondary catchment as possible (Cox Peninsula/Dundee).

PRIORITY PROJECTS

The Belyuen Community Government Council's priority projects include:

1. Belyuen Community Reference Group: Establish a standing Community Reference Group to engage with a range of stakeholders on various matters, including (but not limited to):
 - Culture, language, local history research and heritage projects to ensure community knowledge about the area's history is recorded and preserved;
 - Community such as advice to local arts and cultural groups and events; and
 - Commercial opportunities by the community, Council or engaging with partners.
2. Community Alcohol Plan: Prepare a Community Alcohol Plan to manage how alcohol is managed in the community, including what and how it is sold, where it is consumed and in what quantities.
3. Community Beautification: Prepare a Community Beautification master plan to make Belyuen a vibrant community, including local artwork, sculptures and crafts.
4. Mens and Womens Program: Develop Mens and Womens programs to support engagement within the community to promote the teaching of art, language and culture to the new generation of Larrakia families.
5. Business Development: Prepare a business development strategy to grow the local economy and provide services to surrounding businesses, including (but not limited to) a regional bus service, council traineeships, partnering with Core Lithium, horticulture projects including potentially a market garden and other horticulture projects.

6. Infrastructure: Prepare an infrastructure masterplan to provide the basis for sustainable economic development and growth of local businesses within the community, including:
- an expanded store to provide a wider range of goods;
 - an indoor multi sports and fitness centre to promote community well-being;
 - cultural knowledge, language and arts centre through promoting and improving tourist attractions that respectful and promote Larrakia cultural heritage and the unique natural environment;
 - a Belyuen community social club, serving food and the controlled sale of alcohol (under the Community Alcohol Plan);
 - A child care and after school care centre, that could also support youth engagement and diversion;
 - Larrakia Radio, promoting Larrakia language and culture; and
 - community housing and tourist accommodation (such as a homestay).

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Program Budgets

Council is forecasting a balanced budget, achieved by utilising forecasted revenue streams to cover expenditures this financial year.

Budgeted Revenue

Operational grants and subsidies continue to be relied upon to meet service delivery standards across each Council area.

Budgeted operating expenditure

Council has recognised an increase in operational expenditure, specifically relating to materials and services cost increases in line with CPI. The next major expenditure is increased employee costs, insurance and maintenance of Council's plant and equipment across all program areas.

Waste management, roads and asset management continue to be the most significant costs for Council, which is seen across all program areas.

Budget Objectives and Measures

- Council will not budget for a deficit and will monitor budget variance within programs regularly.
- Council will manage rates adjustments pursuant to the *Local Government Act 2019* and associated regulations to work towards a position of financial sustainability.
- Council maintains all agency reporting requirements to ensure timely release of funding.

Budget Performance Indicators

- Council will ensure 95% of Council programs are running in accordance with budget tolerances.
- Council produces monthly budget variance reporting to monitor cost overruns.
- All agency reporting requirements are met.

Land Leases

Council will work to further stabilise financial sustainability by:

- Resolving negotiations with the Northern Land Council for section 19 leases.
- Calculating ongoing impost for Council maintaining the negotiated section 19 leases.
- Implementing payment plan for signed section 19 leases.

High-Level Expenditure Budget

Table 1.1 Annual Budget Income and Expenditure

	Annual Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME	
Rates	108,415
Charges	95,251
Fees and Charges	170,700
Operating Grants and Subsidies	1,676,493
Interest / Investment Income	0
Commercial and Other Income	2,189,650
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	4,240,509
OPERATING EXPENDITURE	
Employee Expenses	1,744,663
Materials and Contracts	1,045,683
Elected Member Allowances	78,000
Elected Member Expenses	6,000
Council Committee & LA Allowances	4,100
Council Committee & LA Expenses	0
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	306,000
Interest Expenses	0
Other Expenses	1,185,707
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	4,370,153
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(129,645)

Table 1.2 Annual Budget Operating Position

	Annual Budget \$
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(129,645)
Remove NON-CASH ITEMS	
Less Non-Cash Income	
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	306,000
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	306,000
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	
Capital Expenditure	444,489
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	
Transfer to Reserves	176,355
Other Outflows	
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	(620,844)

Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	
Capital Grants Income	242,668
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	
Other Inflow of Funds	
Transfers from Reserves	201,821
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	444,489
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION	0

Capital Expenditure Budget

**Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding
By class of infrastructure, property, plant and
equipment**

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE **	Current Financial Year (Annual) Budget \$
Land and Buildings	0
Infrastructure	197,827
Plant and Machinery	246,662
Fleet	0
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE*	444,489
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY: **	
Operating Income (amount allocated to fund capital items)	
Capital Grants	242,668
Transfers from Cash Reserves	201,821
Borrowings	
Sale of Assets (including trade-ins)	
Other Funding	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	444,489

Table 3.1 Budget by Planned Major Capital Works

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project*	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$ (A)	Current Financial Year Budget \$ (B)	Total Planned Budget \$ (C= A+B)	Expected Project Completion Date
Solar Street Lights	ABA – Solar Street Lighting		42,727	42,727	30/06/2024
Sealing the Belyuen Airstrip Taxiway and Apron	Remote Area Airstrip Upgrade Round 8		155,100	155,100	
Airconditioning, Suspended Ceiling, Refrigeration, Painting and Shelving	ABA - Community Store Upgrade		93,758	93,758	30/06/2024
Equipment to maintain the Belyuen Oval	IPG 2022-23		55,000	55,000	
				0	
	TOTAL	0	346,585	346,585	

Program Budgets

Program	Program Code	2023-24 Budget	
INCOME			
Council Admin	G10	506505	
Civil Works	C56	456991	
Sports and Recreation	R22	77705	
Aged Care			
	CHSP	S11	167900
Indigenous Employment Initiative	S11A	112400	
Residential Income	S11B	39420	
Home Care Package	S12A	690500	
Store	E10	1044750	
School Nutrition Program (including Parental Contribution)	E11	83338	
Culture Program	R29	126000	
		3305509	
EXPENDITURE			
Council Admin	G10	956901	
Civil Works	C56	390914	
Sports and Recreation	R22	71084	
Aged Care			
	CHSP	S11	168697
Indigenous Employment Initiative	S11A	112400	
Residential Income	S11B	39420	
Home Care Package	S12A	534207	
Store	E10	935700	
School Nutrition Program (including Parental Contribution)	E11	92038	
Culture Program	R29	133792	
		3435153	
BALANCE		-129644	

BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Rates and Charges Declaration 2023-24

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 237 of the Northern Territory Local Government Act 2019 (Act) that the following rates and charges were declared by Belyuen Community Government Council at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 2nd May 2023 pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Act in respect of the financial year ending 30 June 2024

Rates

Pursuant to Section 220 of the Act, the Council declares that it intends to raise for general purposes by way of rates, the amount of \$108,415 by applying following basis for applying those charges:

1. Residential allotments (S)

In respect of allotments classed as "Residential" in the Council assessment record, a fixed amount of \$2,331.50 per allotment.

2. Residential duplex allotments (D)

In respect of allotments classed as "Residential duplex" in the Council assessment record, a fixed amount of \$2,98.30 per allotment.

3. Unit allotments (U)

In respect of allotments classed as "Unit" in the Council assessment record, a fixed amount of \$1,887.59 per allotment.

4. Community services allotments (C&CS)

In respect of rateable allotments classed as "Community services" in the council assessment record, a fixed amount of \$2,572.65 per allotment and \$2158.12 per additional unit on the allotment.

CHARGES

Pursuant to section 157 of the Act, Council declared the following charges for the purpose of kerbside garbage collection and other waste management to be provided, or which council is willing and able to provide.

Council intends to raise \$95,251 by these charges.

1. Residential – not vacant - allotments (RR)

In respect of allotments classed as “Residential” with the sub-classification of “Residential” or classed as “Community Service” with the sub-classification of “Residential” in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of \$1460.95 per annum per allotment.

2. Residential duplex – not vacant - allotments (DR)

In respect of allotments classed as “Residential duplex” with the sub-classification of “Not vacant” in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of \$2,433.08 per annum per allotment.

3. Unit – not vacant - allotments (UF)

In respect of allotments classed as “Unit” with the sub-classification of “Not vacant” in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of \$1460.95 per annum per allotment.

4. Community services – not vacant - allotments (CN, C&R)

In respect of allotments classed as “Community Services” with the sub-classification of “Not vacant/Council” in the council assessment record, where Council is willing and able to provide the service, a charge of \$1,655.56 per annum per allotment and \$1,655.56 per second or more units on the allotment.

Payment

The Council determines that the Rates and Charges declared under this declaration are all due within Thirty (30) days from the Invoice date, that is issued with the notice of rates and charges

Interest Rate for late payment

The relevant interest rate for the late payment of rates and charges is fixed in accordance with Section 245 of the Act at the rate of 18% per annum, which is to be calculated on a daily basis.

Dave Ferguson

Chief Executive Officer

BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Social and Economic Effect of Council's Rating Policies

Rates

Belyuen Community Government Council area has fifty-seven (59) occupied Lots which can be rated and or charged. Only five (5) of the fifty-seven (59) are non-government occupied. Of these five (5), one (1) is occupied by Darwin based service providers, the other four (4) are occupied by council operated programs.

The Council has considered the current economic conditions prevailing in the NT and set its rates increase by 10.0%

Rates and charges do have a social economic effect on Belyuen Council and Belyuen people. Belyuen is limited in its ability to rate, therefore only generates small amounts of income. This leaves very little in the way of funds for community funded work and programs, and means council is very dependent on obtaining grants to fund projects for the community. Without being able to successfully apply for grants the council and the community would be in an extremely disadvantaged position.

Charges

The Council is responsible for the waste management services within the community. The Council does not operate a waste management facility and is thus dependent upon external commercial operators to undertake waste disposal activities. To accommodate the ongoing management of hard waste, waste charges have been increased to accommodate the use of skip bins to remove hard rubbish from the community.

The Council continues to seek cost effective ways to manage hard rubbish and is working with the NT Government and other local councils to investigate the potential of a transfer station in the longer term.

CONTACT

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 - [0400 162 745](tel:0400162745) - Main Office
 - [0448 819 825](tel:0448819825) - Belyuen Workshop - Manager
 - [0429 650 078](tel:0429650078) - Belyuen Aged Care
 - [\(08\) 89785482](tel:0889785482) - Knucky Women's Centre
 - [\(08\) 89785078](tel:0889785078) - Community Store
 - [08 8978 5420](tel:0889785420) - Belyuen Workshop
 - dave.ferguson@belyuen.nt.gov.au
 - Mon-Fri - 08:00-16:30

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