

Central Desert News

Linkz Volunteers turn up the heat in the Central Desert

Twelve fresh-faced Linkz Volunteers from all over Australia were fired up and ready to blaze a trail of healthy fun and activities for kids in Central Desert Regional Council communities this past summer.

The Volunteers supported youth, sport and recreation programs in six

communities over the summer school holiday period in Engawala, Atitjere, Anmatjere, Laramba, Yuelamu and Lajamanu.

This is the seventh year that the Central Desert Regional Council and the Linkz Volunteer organisation have worked together. *Continued Page 5.*

Bumpy road for Nyirripi!

Councillors at the Central Desert Regional Council are counting their pennies as the cost of repairs to the Council's road network becomes known. The heavy rains during January caused extensive damage to the Council's 1,700 km of connecting roads.

'Most of our primary access roads have been heavily impacted,' President Adrian Dixon noted. 'Council's existing budget for road upgrades and repairs will not come close to covering what is needed to reinstate these roads.'

The road to Nyirripi, a community 150 km south-west of Yuendumu, only just re-opened in early February after the January rains. Council grading crews have been working hard to grade a track along the road so the store truck can resume deliveries.

'The Nyirripi Road has been extremely badly damaged,' reported Glenn Marshall, Director Works. 'Our engineers have assessed the road conditions and expect to be facing repair costs in excess of \$3 million on the Nyirripi Road alone.'



2015 Nyirripi access road damage.

Although the Nyirripi Road is now open, people wishing to use the road are warned to exercise extreme caution. The Council was also advised of damage to the main access roads to Engawala and Nturiya and to nearly all secondary roads.

The Council is in negotiation with the NT Government in an attempt to fund the estimated \$5 million repair bill.

EDITION NO. 25 / MARCH 2015

INSIDE

Linkz Volunteers turn up the heat in the Central Desert	1
Bumpy road For Nyirripi!	1
From the President	2
From the CEO	2
Linkz Holiday Program in Yuelamu	3
First Circles Program	3
Yuendumu Childcare	4
Wilora: 'What flood?'	4
Central Desert is connected to Youtube!	4
Linkz Volunteers turn up the heat in the Central Desert	5
Laramba RJCP	5
Central Desert 2015 Yearly Planner	6
Pictures from around the Council	8
Holiday season around the Region	8
Lajamanu Oval upgrades	9
Imparja Cup	9
Aileron Bush Weekend	10
Nyirripi holds its first Local Authority meeting	10
Regional Women's Basketball Competition	11
Willowra cares for Aged Care	11
Central Desert reviews electoral representation	12
What's on around the Council	12



two ways :: one outcome

Central Desert News is published by
Central Desert Regional Council
PO Box 2257 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph 1300 360 605
www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au
Please send your stories to
Daniel.Teudt@centraldesert.nt.gov.au

From the President



With so much rain happening over the holiday period, it is really good to begin to see communities becoming accessible again, the roads are drying out and how green has the country been! I'm sure many plants and animals in our region, and other regions, were happy for such a big drink!

Unfortunately the rain has also damaged a lot of roads around the region, so please be extra careful driving at the moment. Staff are working hard to ensure that all roads are open and useable, however, the repair bill is very large (about 15 years' worth of Roads to Recovery funding). So, the Council's priority will be repair of the main access roads. We know that travel on back roads is going to be difficult for a while but please be patient and understand the huge job it is to fix the damage.

I am once again pleased to be able to present such good stories on the efforts that Council puts in to make community

life better. At the last Council meeting we reviewed our six-monthly progress and I am very pleased to report that the Council is well on track to delivering on all our major objectives. I would like to thank the Councillors and staff who work so hard to ensure the Council continues to deliver and help our communities prosper.

Adrian Dixon
President

From the CEO



As we commence our planning process for the next financial year, it is great to be able to incorporate input from our various Local Authorities. These entities are a critical part of the Council's governance structure and provide a strong local voice to the Council from a Community level. I am very pleased to report that Nyirripi has formed a Local Authority after some initial difficulties. I welcome the new Local Authority members and look forward to Nyirripi finalising its Community Plan as have the majority of our other Local Authorities.

Community Plans allow communities to plan and shape their individual communities. They provide guidance to the Council and allow each community to see how Council's initiatives are being realised within a local context. The Council has been assisted in the development of these plans by the Department of Local Government and Community Services who have also

provided Local Authority project funding to ensure that priorities within each community are able to be realised. I have been delighted to see the range of projects which have arisen from this funding and look forward to being able to report on some of these projects in future editions of the newsletter.

In the mean time, please enjoy some stories from around the region and share with us the pride we have in making our communities strong.

Cathryn Hutton
Chief Executive Officer

Linkz Holiday Program in Yuelamu



Greetings from Yuelamu! With summer holidays over the kids are loving getting back to a routine at school followed by winding down afterwards at the Rec Hall.

The holiday program was heaps of fun with the Linkz Volunteers full of enthusiasm and teaching us lots of new games. The holidays were spent embarking on great cultural excursions to Honey Ant Dreaming spots and freshly filled waterholes where we cooked up kangaroo tail, sweet potato and other yummy veggies. The Elders taught us about the significance of bushtucker and where to find the most delicious gifts from the land.

Learning to play cricket and utilising our new soccer nets was a hit (for both the girls and boys) and everyone has enjoyed extending their skill set beyond footy and basketball.

The walls of the Rec Hall are jampacked with new paintings and drawings and the band has raised almost enough to buy a new drum kit (just one more fundraiser to go, which will be headed by Terrance Dixon and Ricardo – stay tuned)! Thanks to all the men who helped cook up the BBQ and did a great job cutting up all the onion!

We hope you had just as much fun as we did this summer!



First Circles Program

The President is proud to be part of the First Circles Program which focuses on engaging with future Indigenous leaders from across the Northern Territory to bring new voices to the conversation and help build the next generation of community leaders.

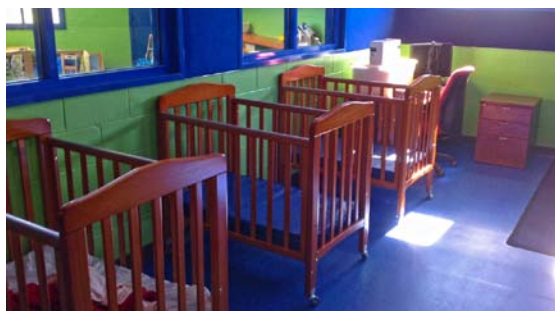
The Northern Territory Government acknowledges the importance of Indigenous engagement to ensure people have input into policies and programs which affect the lives of individuals and their families living in the Northern Territory.

First Circles provides an opportunity for emerging leaders to drive change through direct engagement with Ministers' and Cabinet.



Yuendumu Childcare

Yuendumu Childcare staff worked tirelessly over the break to move and set up Yuendumu Childcare. After many flat packs, a lot of packing and a number of trips in the bus they were finally in the new building. Yuendumu Childcare started the year in the new Yuendumu Child and Family Centre on 3 February and since then, a large number of families and stakeholders have checked out the new service. We are all looking forward to a busy year at Yuendumu Early Childhood.



Wilora: 'What flood?'

In the midst of the stories of water damage and destruction as a result of the extreme weather events in Central Australia over Christmas it is nice to hear a good news story once in a while. Certainly for the community members of Wilora this year's heavy rains were almost a non-event. Thanks to work undertaken by the Central Desert Regional Council works team, flooding of houses in Wilora is a thing of the past.

Regional Works Manager at Anmatjere Rodney Baird explains: 'In 2011 several Territory Housing dwellings flooded two-feet deep after stormwater surged into the community from the north-east.' Council subsequently surveyed the area and identified that a drain installed on the east of the community would divert

stormwater south into Stirling Swamp, 60 km north of Ti Tree.

Council's local Indigenous works team used Council graders, loaders and tipper trucks to construct the drain, working closely with community members and traditional owners to ensure no sacred sites or other valued areas were disturbed.

The big rains this January saw water try to sweep into the community again, but it was captured and diverted by the new drain. All houses remained high and dry. Council President Adrian Dixon said, 'This is a great example of a local fix for a local problem. Council proudly supports its local Indigenous employees to improve the lives of local residents.'

Local residents David Mbitjana and Denise Dinnie said, 'It was so good that no water flooded into our houses this time.' Senior Elder Rebecca Numina remarked, 'We could hear the water coming down but we didn't worry because the drain took it all away'.



A flooded house in Wilora in 2011.



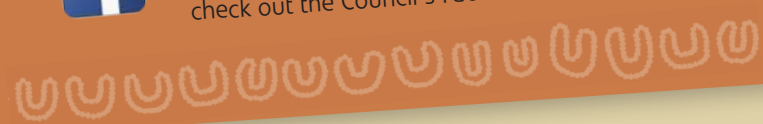
The new drain diverting floodwater at Wilora in 2015.



Central Desert is connected to Youtube!



Central Desert is now connected to Youtube and hopes to post lots of videos. And, don't forget to check out the Council's Facebook page.



Linkz Volunteers turn up the heat in the Central Desert

Continued from Page 1

The Volunteer program provides the Council with the capacity to expand the activity choices for remote children, providing a greater variety of age-appropriate activities that keep young people occupied, healthy and out of trouble. It also forms an important part of the Council's workforce development program, creating invaluable opportunities for young people from across Australia to learn about remote Indigenous people, land and culture. It provides a great training ground and opens up employment opportunities for these Volunteers to return to Central Australia and into paid employment.

Despite this great track record and the obvious need for remote kids to have access to well supervised sport and recreation activities, continued funding constraints threaten this tried and tested program .

John Gaynor, Director of Community

Services, was thrilled to provide a warm welcome to the Volunteers. 'You can't underestimate how much value the Council places on the commitment of these Volunteers. The rate of aerosol inhalant abuse in Alice Springs demonstrates how important sport, recreation and other diversional activities are in keeping young kids healthy, happy and engaged in the community. As soon as the young people on communities see the flame-orange t-shirts they automatically get excited, they can't wait for new fun activities to start, there's no time for mischief,' Mr Gaynor said.

'The Volunteers also play a valuable

role in supporting local Indigenous youth workers, so they learn from each other. This provides an ideal opportunity to form strong working relationships and it brings people back to the Centre to pursue their careers,' Mr Gaynor also said.



Linkz Team amp up!

Fabulous participation in RJCP at Laramba

The fellas have been involved in Certificate II in Rural Operations with CAT Training. The course started last year with an introduction to welding.

Participants are welding cemetery crosses which will be painted over the next few weeks.

Great job guys!





two ways :: one outcome

2015 Year Plan

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
JAN				1 <small>NEW YEAR'S DAY</small>	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 <small>Finance</small>	9	10	11	12	13 <small>Laramba Local Authority</small>	14 <small>Yuelamu Local Authority</small>	15	16
FEB							1	2	3	4 <small>Council Prof. Develop.</small>	5 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	6 <small>Council Meeting Alice Springs</small>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MAR							1	2	3 <small>Laramba Local Authority</small>	4 <small>Yuelamu Local Authority</small>	5 <small>Finance</small> <small>Audit / Risk</small>	6	7	8	9	10 <small>Nyirripi Local Authority</small>	11 <small>Yuendumu Local Authority</small>	12	13
APR			1	2	3 <small>GOOD FRIDAY</small>	4	5	6 <small>EASTER MONDAY</small>	7	8	9 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	10 <small>Council Meeting Atitjere</small>	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MAY				1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <small>Finance</small> <small>Audit / Risk</small>	8	9	10	11	12 <small>Nyirripi Local Authority</small>	13 <small>Yuendumu Local Authority</small>	14	15	
JUN	1	2	3 <small>Council Prof. Develop.</small>	4 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	5 <small>Council Meeting Alice Springs</small>	6	7	8 <small>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY</small>	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 <small>Anmatjere Local Authority</small>	17 <small>Willowra Local Authority</small>	18	19
JUL			1 <small>Yuelamu Local Authority</small>	2 <small>Finance</small>	3 <small>Alice Springs Show Day</small>	4	5	6 <small>NAIDOC</small>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 <small>Nyirripi Local Authority</small>	15 <small>Yuendumu Local Authority</small>	16	17
AUG						1	2	3 <small>PICNIC DAY</small>	4	5	6 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	7 <small>Council Meeting Lajamanu</small>	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SEP		1 <small>Laramba Local Authority</small>	2 <small>Yuelamu Local Authority</small>	3 <small>Finance</small> <small>Audit / Risk</small>	4	5	6	7	8 <small>Nyirripi Local Authority</small>	9 <small>Yuendumu Local Authority</small>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 <small>Lajamanu Local Authority</small>	17	18
OCT				1	2	3	4	5	6	7 <small>Council Prof. Develop.</small>	8 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	9 <small>Council Meeting Alice Springs</small>	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
NOV							1	2 <small>Audit / Risk</small>	3 <small>Laramba Local Authority</small>	4 <small>Yuelamu Local Authority</small>	5 <small>Finance</small>	6	7	8	9	10 <small>Nyirripi Local Authority</small>	11 <small>Yuendumu Local Authority</small>	12	13
DEC		1	2	3 <small>Council Prep. Day</small>	4 <small>Council Meeting Anmatjere</small>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15 <small>Anmatjere Local Authority</small>	16 <small>Willowra Local Authority</small>	17	18
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri

KEY

Anmatjere	Nyirripi	Council Professional Development and Preparation day
Atitjere	Willowra	Tentative Special Council Meeting
Engawala	Yuelamu	Council Meeting
Lajamanu	Yuendumu	Audit and Risk Meeting
Laramba		Finance Meeting

Jan 2016	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
							1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26 Australia Day	27	28	29	30	31	Notes					

ner

Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		
17	18	19	20	21	22 Lajamanu Local Authority	23	24	25	26 AUSTRALIA DAY	27 Nyiripi Local Authority	28 Yuendumu Local Authority	29	30	31						JAN
14	15	16	17 Anmatjere Local Authority	18 Willowra Local Authority	19	20	21	22	23 Atitjere Local Authority	24 Engawala Local Authority	25	26	27	28						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Lajamanu Local Authority	26	27	28	29	30	31			MAR
18	19	20 Atitjere Local Authority	21 Engawala Local Authority	22 Anmatjere Local Authority	23 Willowra Local Authority	24	25 ANZAC DAY	26	27	28 Laramba Local Authority	29 Yuelamu Local Authority	30								APR
16	17	18	19	20	21 Tentative Special Council Meeting	22 Tentative Special Council Meeting	23	24	25	26	27 Lajamanu Local Authority	28								29
20	21	22 Atitjere Local Authority	23 Engawala Local Authority	24	25	26 Tentative Special Council Meeting	27	28	29	30 Laramba Local Authority										JUN
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Lajamanu Local Authority										29
15	16	17	18 Anmatjere Local Authority	19 Willowra Local Authority	20	21	22	23	24 Atitjere Local Authority	25 Engawala Local Authority	26	27	28	29	30	31				AUG
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									SEP
17	18	19	20 Anmatjere Local Authority	21 Willowra Local Authority	22	23	24	25	26 Atitjere Local Authority	27 Engawala Local Authority	28 Lajamanu Local Authority								29	30
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				NOV
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 BOXING DAY	27	28	29	30 BOXING DAY HOLIDAY	31 Closed	Closed	Closed						DEC
Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat						Sun

School Terms in Australia All school term dates correct at time of production.	Victoria	ACT	South Australia	Tasmania (North & South)
	January 29 ____ March 27 April 13 ____ June 26 July 13 ____ September 18 October 5 ____ December 18	January 30 ____ April 10 April 27 ____ July 3 July 20 ____ September 25 October 12 ____ December 18	January 27 ____ April 10 April 27 ____ July 3 July 20 ____ September 25 October 12 ____ December 17	February 4 ____ April 2 April 20 ____ July 3 July 20 ____ September 25 October 12 ____ December 17
	New South Wales	Queensland	Western Australia	Northern Territory
	January 27 ____ April 2 April 20 ____ June 26 July 13 ____ September 18 October 6 ____ December 18	January 27 ____ April 2 April 20 ____ June 26 July 13 ____ September 18 October 6 ____ December 11	February 2 ____ April 2 April 20 ____ July 3 July 20 ____ September 25 October 12 ____ December 17	January 27 ____ April 2 April 13 ____ June 26 July 13 ____ September 25 October 5 ____ December 10

TELEPHONE NUMBERS		
1.	5.	9.
2.	6.	10.
3.	7.	11.
4.	8.	12.

Pictures from around the Council



All the Councillors and Executive Management Team together in their Council uniforms.



The Lajamanu Office staff



Sent in by President Adrian Dixon – Laramba Creek flooding.

Holiday season around the Region



Top row L-R: Joanne Pepperill, Jamesie Stafford, Valda George, Elizabeth Waltrich, Huckitta Lynch, Harry Scrutton, Bottom Row L-R: Maureen Campbell, Debbie Williams, Mary Cool, Dulcie Malbanka, Pansy Campbell, Elva Lynch, Janine Pultara.



Jamesie Stafford dressed as Santa.

Lajamanu Oval upgrades

Thanks to the generous support of the NTG and Lajamanu GMAAC, the Lajamanu Oval upgrades are beginning to take shape. Here is a sneak peek of what's happening.



Imparia Cup



Aileron Bush Weekend

Need an idea for Easter that involves fun, family and friends? Then why not head to Aileron for the 11th Annual Aileron Bush Weekend!

Come and get amongst the cowboys and cowgirls as they battle it out in the extreme rodeo rough stock events. Try your luck in the notorious Mexican Donkey race or the Ladies Boot Throwing Competition. Gymkhana competitions will be held on both days of the weekend, for kids on Saturday and for adults on Sunday. An added feature for the kiddies is a jumping castle on both Saturday and Sunday!

SATURDAY NIGHT will feature a Bush Dance with DJ. This will keep you on the dance floor into the night. Entry fee is \$5.00, gents must wear a tie, neat and tidy dress standards apply. The gate closes at 10.00 pm.

SUNDAY NIGHT Enjoy the casual atmosphere, as the sun sets on the weekend.

All competitors entering in any rough stock or gymkhana events must be between the ages of 3 to 80 years, as of the 31 December 2014

Pack the kids and camping gear and get your backside north-side to the Aileron Racecourse (130 km north of Alice Springs).

DATE

4-5 April, 2015

ENTRY FEE

Weekend: \$35 per person (includes free camping). Children 16 and under free.

CAMPING

Friday night to Monday morning (cost included in gate entry fee). Toilets and showers on grounds.

AILERON
BUSH CLUB INC.
RECOMMENDS ALL
COMPETITORS HAVE
PERSONAL AMBULANCE
COVER.



Novelty events provide entertainment.



The Saddle Bronc Ride event.



Aileron Easter Bunny

Nyirripi holds its first Local Authority meeting



After a long wait and some great support on community, Nyirripi has held its first Local Authority meeting!

'It's so good to see that Central Desert Local Authorities are now being supported in all of our major communities,' says President Adrian Dixon.

President Dixon adds: 'Nyirripi was the first Local Authority in the Northern Territory to be ratified by a Regional Council, and whilst it has been a long journey to ensure the right people

were elected, it has been great to see such great community support to make sure that they had the right voice for Nyirripi. I would like to extend congratulations to one of the originally elected Local Authority members, Ben Gallagher who previously worked with the Council as a Night Patrol Officer. Ben worked tirelessly with Cr Jacob Spencer to ensure that the right people were spoken to and encouraged to nominate to be on the Local Authority! Congratulations to Ben and Cr Spencer for all their hard work.'

Regional Women's Basketball Competition

Thank you to everyone for participating in and supporting our very first Regional Women's Basketball Competition in 2014. It was quite the undertaking and we couldn't have done it without our funders NT Government, our partners at WYDAC, support from within CDRC such as RJCP and from our CSMs, but most of all, hats off to the very hard work of our superstar Youth Work team.

Laramba Thunder took the crown for 2014 in the region and now has their success marked on our perpetual trophy. This also won them the honour of attending the Central Australian Women's Basketball Championships held in Tennant Creek, which hosted teams from the NPY lands, the MacDonnell region, the Barkly and Annyingingi.

Our Laramba Thunder played excellently, but was unlucky to be knocked out in the semis. Laramba has keenly identified some of their areas to work

on in order to return for the win next year! Congratulations to The MacDonnell Regional Council who had put together an All Stars team of the very best individual players from across their region and who took out the Championships.

We hope you will continue to be involved in 2015 as we continue to develop professional pathways for women's sport in Central Australia . . . the games have really just begun!



Willowra cares for Aged Care

Our Aged and Disability Services have been operating for about six months in Willowra Community and are going extremely well.

Since starting this service in Willowra meals/dry packs are now delivered each week to all clients. We also have an exercise/mobility program and a bushtucker program running. Clients have been participating well and it gives them the opportunity to attend and interact with other people. On a regular basis I try and arrange for other people to attend, such as local nurses, staff members and staff that visit our community from head office in Alice Springs.

Here are some photos of what we have achieved in our first six months.

Aged Care and all my clients wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has given assistance and encouragement to our program and everyone that made time to attend and participate in our programs to help put a smile on our clients' faces.



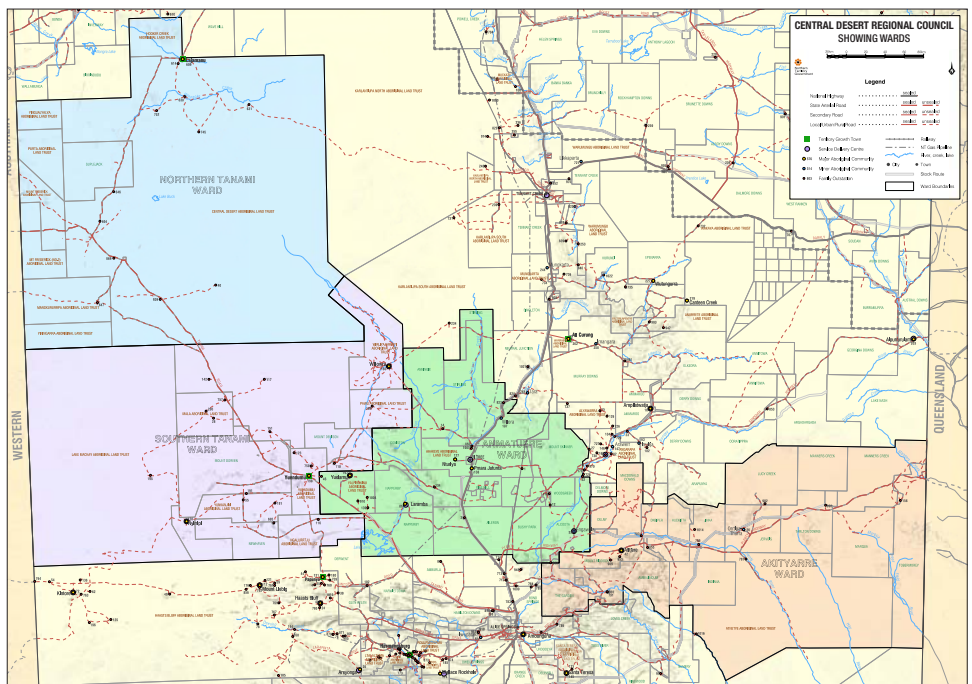
Central Desert reviews electoral representation

Central Desert recently completed an Electoral Representation Review through the four Wards of the Central Desert Region, consulting with Local Authorities and Community Members. Some of the major issues under consideration that were put forward:

- Continuing as four Wards or moving to a nine Ward option;
- Changing the name of the Council, its members, or its Wards or;
- Changing the existing boundaries.

After discussing the outcomes of the consultation process within community, the Council recommended not to change the current electoral structure.

'The Electoral Review provides an opportunity for Council to consider how it best represents its various ratepayers, residents and businesses,' explained CEO Cathryn Hutton. 'The decision not to change is a good



indication that Council has the mix right and Council is confident in its role and representation obligations.'

Councils are required to undertake a

review at least once during each term. The next electoral representation will be conducted in approximately four years' time.

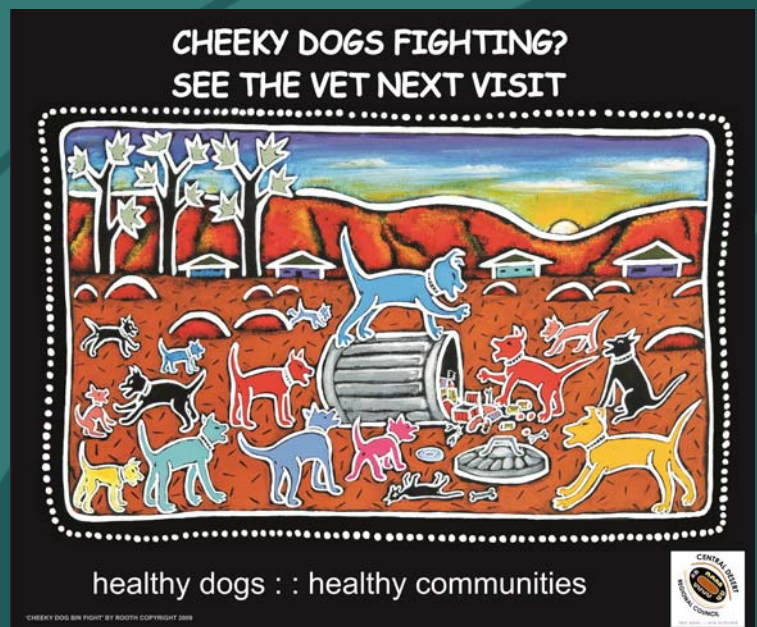
What's on around the Council

Local Authority Meeting dates:

Lajamanu	25 March 2015
Atitjere	20 April 2015
Engawala	21 April 2015
Anmatjere	22 April 2015
Willowra	23 April 2015
Laramba	28 April 2015
Yuelamu	29 April 2015
Nyirripi	12 May 2015
Yuendumu	13 May 2015

Next Council Meeting:

Atitjere	10 April 2015
----------	---------------



The Council Vets will be visiting community through April and May, be sure to speak with your Council Services Manager if you have any cheeky dogs at your home!



Central Desert Regional Council
PO Box 2257
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Ph 1300 360 605
www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au



two ways :: one outcome