



**BELYUEN COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT COUNCIL**

# Annual Report 2010-11

**ABN 88194 280 330**

**phone: (08) 89785071**

**fax: (08) 89785154**

**email: [info@belyuen.nt.gov.au](mailto:info@belyuen.nt.gov.au)**

**post: CMB 18 Darwin NT 0801**

**web: [www.belyuen.nt.gov.au](http://www.belyuen.nt.gov.au)**



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# About Belyuen Community Government Council

The Belyuen community is located on the eastern side of Cox Peninsula, approximately 20km south of Mandorah. It is 128 km by road from Darwin. Alternatively a Ferry trip from Darwin to Mandorah takes approximately 14 minutes.

The community has a population of approximately 170 people. There are seven language groups: Emmi, Wadigin, Kiuk, Malak Malak, Mendtha, Marriamu and Maranunggu.

Belyuen 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-specific strategies:

- With support from the Federal and Territory Government continue to upgrade community infrastructure to remove health risks and danger;
- Belyuen people have a say in the future of local government and how that will continue to deliver services and support the residents;
- Council help support and create local jobs for residents;
- Local activities that encourage residents of all ages and gender to be involved in strengthening their culture.
- Local activities that encourage residents of all ages and gender 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 the 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.

The Administrator of the Northern Territory suspended all members of Belyuen Community Government Council in May 2007 following a period of significant community unrest. The Northern Territory Government subsequently appointed a Manager under the former *Local Government Act*. These arrangements continued under the new *Local Government Act 2008* and remained in place for the period of the 2010-11 financial year.



# Service Delivery

## Core local government services

The Belyuen Council delivers the core services listed below, outlined in the Northern Regional Management Plan, to the extent reasonably possible taking into account the size of its budget and the community.

### Local Infrastructure

- Maintenance and Upgrade of Parks, Reserves and Open Spaces
- Maintenance and Upgrade of Buildings, Facilities and Fixed Assets
- Management of the Community Cemetery
- Lighting for Public Safety, including Street Lighting
- Local Road Upgrading and Construction
- Local Road Maintenance
- Traffic Management on Local Roads
- Fleet, Plant and Equipment Maintenance

### Local Environment Health

- Waste Management (including litter reduction)
- Weeds Control and Fire Hazard Reduction in and around community areas
- Companion Animal Welfare and Control

### Local Civic Services

- Civic Events

### Community Engagement in Local Government

- Training and Employment of local people in council operations
- Public and Corporate Relations
- Customer Relationship Management, including complaints and responses
- Governance: including administration of council meetings, elections and elected member support
- Administration of the Belyuen Advisory Committee
- Advocacy and Representation on local and regional issues

### Local Government Administration

- Financial Management
- Revenue Growth
- Human Resources
- Asset Management
- Records Management
- Risk Management
- Council Planning and Reporting: Strategic, Financial and Service Delivery Planning and Reporting
- IT and Communications

## **Agency Services**

The council delivers the following services on behalf of a range of different funding agencies:

- Aged Care
- Women & Children's Program
- Australian Sports Commission
- Power and Water Services
- Airstrip
- Centrelink
- NTG Sport & Recreation
- Women's Centre
- Emergency Relief Program.

# Performance Assessment

## Core Services

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Parks, reserves, open spaces, weed control and fire hazard reduction</b>	Ongoing mowing and removing foliage debris from community spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community is visually tidy and long grass or weeds are minimal.</li> <li>No serious community space fire outbreaks during the period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil works staff, with assistance from CDEP, keep the parks and open communal areas well maintained.</li> <li>Council organised two big community clean ups involving workers, CDEP, school staff and children and clinic staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance and upgrade of buildings, facilities and fixed assets</b>	Council office and training centre are maintained to provide a clean and safe working environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and users of facilities are satisfied with their work environment and matters raised are addressed.</li> <li>Training centre charged out to non-council service providers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council office and training centre are maintained and clean. Fire equipment checked twice a year and air conditioners serviced annually.</li> <li>Service providers invoiced for use of the training centre for non-council initiated meetings and workshops.</li> </ul>
	Australian government-leased premises in clean and operational state.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil OHS incidents are reported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premises where council programs are operating from are maintained within budgetary limitations. Electrical and plumbing repairs attended to immediately.</li> <li>Nil OHS issues.</li> </ul>
	Playground equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground equipment in parks to be maintained to a safe standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council maintains play equipment within constraints of budget.</li> </ul>
	Community house fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fences to be erected on all community housing without a fence.</li> <li>Fences to be repaired on all other community housing lots.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New fences were erected at houses that were not fenced.</li> <li>Repairs undertaken on fences already there and in some cases fences were removed and replaced with a new fence.</li> <li>All community houses now fenced.</li> </ul>
	Community oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigation of the oval to be fixed up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irrigation is to be removed and the oval will be watered by travelling irrigators that have been purchased through SPG. In ground sprinklers to be removed and holes filled. The irrigation controls are too hard to maintain making the irrigation a difficult process. The overhead irrigators will be much easier for staff to manage.</li> </ul>
	Recreation Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage 1 of the hall repairs completed in order to 'make the hall safe'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stage 1 was completed. Hall is now safe. Council to seek funds for Stage 2 - plumbing/electrical, amenities, painting, fencing.</li> </ul>
	Maintain a safe operable workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil OHS incidents are reported.</li> <li>Safe work environment.</li> <li>Staff are satisfied with facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop is safe and well maintained (kept clean) with tools and equipment secure.</li> <li>No OHS issues reported from the workshop.</li> </ul>

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Management of the community cemetery</b>	Council to seek funding to upgrade the cemetery. Work to include: reticulation, enlarge cemetery area, fence in area, seating, shade trees, conservation and restoration of graves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The community is satisfied with maintaining culture and environment at the cemetery.</li> <li>Works are completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cemetery has been expanded and rocks placed around plots.</li> <li>Council has had community workshops getting all families involved in looking after their family's plots.</li> <li>Next stage is to organise headstones and crosses depending on what families want.</li> </ul>
<b>Lighting for public safety, including street lighting</b>	Ongoing - council operates local lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All street lighting is operable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council maintains light audits and these are reported to Powerwater regularly.</li> <li>There have been no breaches.</li> </ul>
<b>Local roads</b>	Entrance to the community is widened and traffic control installed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council is still waiting for this project to commence.</li> <li>Council will contribute \$44000 from Roads to Recovery money for this project.</li> <li>Project is being managed by the NT Government.</li> </ul>
<b>Waste management</b>	Council to contract out waste management. 2 x weekly bin pickups. Council to provide wheelie bins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twice a week services are maintained.</li> <li>Minimal wind-born litter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has contracted Fin Bins to do 3 pickups a fortnight.</li> <li>Council also organises community clean ups.</li> <li>2 Skips were placed in the community for two weeks for community members to place large items that cannot go in the wheelie bins.</li> </ul>
<b>Fleet, plant and Equipment</b>	Ongoing - Council maintains the majority of its fleet plant and equipment at its workshop.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fleet plant and equipment is legally usable and minimal OHS issues arise.</li> <li>Equipment is available for use to deliver council services with only a minimum of 28 days lost through repair/maintenance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council plant and equipment is maintained at a very high standard and well within timeframes.</li> </ul>
<b>Companion animal welfare and control</b>	Council to engage a vet clinic to look after health of community pets on a regular (quarterly) visit basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pets are healthy.</li> <li>There is a decrease in the number of pets in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has engaged Ark Vets to provide vet services to the animals in the community.</li> <li>The vets visit approximately every three months.</li> <li>All dogs receive worm and tick medicine – desexing and euthanasia are also available.</li> <li>There is still the problem of unwanted dogs and too many dingo pups being brought into the community. The dingos are particularly a problem because of their scavenging ways and that they hang around in packs making it unsafe for people.</li> </ul>



Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Civic community events</b>	NAIDOC week Children's week Annual Youth week Youth holiday programs. Community Christmas Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council supports local activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAIDOC week activities were held at the school. Service providers assisted council and the school in providing a day of activities and lots of food. Night Patrol sponsored most of the activities through Team Health.</li> <li>YMCA and council sport and recreation received funding to take a group of youth to Darwin and to join in with YMCA activities - the program went for a weekend and involved them staying at the YMCA for one night.</li> <li>Council and the school work together to put on a Christmas party for the community. Service providers assist with cost of presents and help with providing food.</li> <li>International Women's Day was celebrated for first time at Belyuen on 8th March. Over 50 women and young girls shared in activities and pampering and lots of food to share. Team Health assisted with sponsorship.</li> </ul>
<b>Training and employment of local people in council operations continued</b>	Council will provide staff with access to training to develop their skills in their work place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff have access to training in their workplace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Council staff have access to training and are encouraged to undertake training.</li> <li>Aged Care staff do training through H &amp; K Training and all staff are doing Certificate 111 in Home Care.</li> <li>Civil Works staff do training through PowerWater and one staff member is undertaking Cert IV Heavy vehicle mechanics through Advanced Training International.</li> <li>Children and Family Services staff are undertaking Certificate Course in Children's Services through Batchelor College.</li> <li>Belyuen Store staff are undertaking retail training through CDU.</li> <li>Council Centrelink Agent has undertaken on and off-site training.</li> <li>Council also organises short training courses for all staff e.g. First Aid, Fire Awareness and White Card</li> </ul>

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Council will continue to hold community workshops and community meetings to engage the community in decision making.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops and community meetings will be recorded and outcomes of decisions made placed on Council notice board and distributed around community service providers and workplaces.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has had a number of community meetings followed by community barbeques. Meetings have been for Boundary expansion - possible amalgamation with Darwin City Council, Belyuen Alcohol Management Plan and Development of the Cox Peninsula.</li> <li>Community meetings have seen a good turn out with most of the meetings having around 80 people attending. A list of people who attend the meetings is recorded and notes from the meeting typed out and displayed on the Council notice board. Council will continue to hold community meetings/workshops as a means of engaging people in Council business.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government Administration</b>	Ongoing - Council operate a sound and legal administration in accordance with the Local Government Act and other legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil Breaches of legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council did not have any breaches.</li> <li>Council is viewed by stakeholders and funding agencies as operating satisfactorily and complying with acquittal requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Set rates and charges and environment fees</b>	Council will declare and collect rates and waste management charges and environment fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All rates and charges and environment fees will be collected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates, charges and environmental fees were all declared, charged and received.</li> </ul>

## Agency Services

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Aged Care</b>	Council manages this service and provides meals on wheels, house cleaning and laundry services and assists with personal shopping, medical appointments and going on outings. The service operates from the Imabulk Centre which also provides accommodation for single homeless men.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The service is provided under an agreement with the relevant funding agencies, which has specific acquittal and reporting requirements.</li> <li>Council to seek to increase government funding to cover real program costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An excellent level of service is provided to CACP and HACC clients who are aged, frail and disabled (including blind). Three single men reside in fully equipped rooms. A Caretaker couple look after the centre after hours.</li> <li>Reporting is done quarterly for NT Government funding and six monthly for Federal Government funding.</li> <li>The Centre also receives brokerage funds from Calvary Silver Circle and Frontier Services.</li> <li>Monthly data reports are required for this funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Women and Children's Program</b>	Council manages a Women, Children and Family Centre. The Centre is based on the 'play group' concept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The service is provided under agreements with specific acquittal and reporting requirements.</li> <li>Council to seek increase Government funding to cover real program costs.</li> <li>Council to pursue a hub model to combine with and Sport and Recreation and YMCA activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YMCA and Sport and Recreation moved to the Family Centre to work with the Women's and Children's Program. YMCA to provide a coordinating/mentoring role to both these programs which are staffed by community workers.</li> <li>The Hub model was to incorporate the three programs.</li> <li>There were issues within each program which created different problems that ultimately affected the running of the Hub. Family and Children's Program struggled to get mothers and children participating despite the increase in funding and resources. This program needs to be reassessed in line with community needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Australian Sports Commission</b>	Council manages Active After School Program for primary school aged children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active After School Program to provide activities for three hours a week seven weeks out of the school term.</li> <li>Program to provide equipment and training.</li> <li>Council to pursue incorporating this program into a hub model, with Women and Children's Program, Sport and Recreation and YMCA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This program has had some issues with suitable deliverers within the community. The Australian Sports Commission has delivered training and assisted with resources, however council has had difficulty in getting community workers who are prepared to work the hours offered – six hours per week for 28 weeks of school year.</li> <li>There is overlap with children involved in this program and YMCA after school care program.</li> <li>This program needs to be reassessed in terms of its viability in relation to the YMCA program.</li> </ul>

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Power and Water Services</b>	Ongoing - Oversee bores and chlorination, maintain water storage compound, maintain sewerage ponds, maintain sewer pump station.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractual requirements are met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has two qualified Essential Service Officers who carry out the PowerWater contract work.</li> <li>Council performs this work to a high quality and there have been no issues in regard to meeting the contractual requirements.</li> <li>PowerWater work well with Council and payment for work is timely and they pay a good hourly rate.</li> </ul>
<b>Airstrip</b>	Ongoing - maintain airstrip under contract with DPI and oversee landings and take-offs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractual requirements are met and private companies using the airstrip are paying landing fees.</li> <li>Council to pursue increase in funding to cover real costs to maintain the airstrip.</li> <li>Council to monitor use of the airstrip by flying companies to ensure landing fees are paid.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council has two qualified Airstrip Reporting Officers.</li> <li>There are two main issues with the airstrip that have yet to be resolved. First issue is in regard to hourly rates for tasks. Council has requested that hourly rates reflect the real costs involved in doing the work however the department will not support this, so Council covers the real costs involved in maintaining the airstrip.</li> <li>The other issue is in relation to light aircraft not notifying council when they intend to use the airstrip and not paying landing fees. It is very hard for council to monitor this.</li> </ul>
<b>Centrelink</b>	Ongoing - provide Centrelink agency support as per Centrelink contract.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractual arrangements are met.</li> <li>Council to pursue increase in hourly rate paid to council as a Centrelink Agent</li> </ul>	Council were not successful in negotiating with Centrelink to increase the hourly rate to cover the real costs involved in providing Centrelink Agency services and providing an office for Centrelink staff visits. Council continues to subsidise Centrelink work.
<b>NTG Sport &amp; Recreation</b>	Ongoing - support staff funded through the sport and recreation program. Council to pursue increase in funding for the program. Program to be part of the HUB concept.	Objective that nil OHS incidents are reported. Safe work environment Staff are satisfied with appropriate facilities. Programs are being delivered within the community.	Council continues to struggle with providing sport and recreation services. Council employs two local workers as the grant is not sufficient for Council to employ a qualified officer from outside the community. YMCA have taken the role of supervisor/mentor and have provided good support for the officers. One of the big problems is maintaining enthusiasm when there is not a lot of interest from within the community. Council was successful in getting funding to do stage 1 of the Hall which was making the Hall safe This was completed in April 2012 and Council has since sought funding for Stage 2 – approximately \$500,000.00

Service	2010-2011 Activity	Performance Objective	Assessment
<b>Women's Centre</b>	Manage the Women's Centre and support local art and craft activities. Ongoing.	Local women's needs for activities are addressed. No OHS incidents reported.	Women's Centre provides a venue in the community for women to do art/ design, sewing and to learn skills through small workshops. The centre has developed some designs which will be taken up by the community and become the design for that particular event e.g. Belyuen NAIDOC, International Women's Day, Knucky Centre. The Centre has internet service and the women are working on developing their own website for marketing. The Centre operates two full days and three half days a week. One woman comes over from Darwin to work with the women teaching design and printing techniques and sewing. Another woman comes over and teaches computer and photography skills with the aim of making sure that all designs are properly identified ie the name of the artist and the design.
<b>Emergency Relief Program.</b>	Provide assistance to families in need.	Assistance in the way of food or power ticket vouchers, clothing, emergency transport is provided on a needs basis.	This program is primarily for aged and disabled and people with young children to help them with food or power emergency. No cash is given out. There has not been any change with requests for emergency relief despite Basic Card being more widely used.

# Annual Financial Statements