

Report on

**Local
Government
Grant Programs**

for 2003-04



LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

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FOREWORD

This report summarises the local government funding programs for the 2003-2004 financial year administered by the Local Government & Regional Development Division of the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs.

Its purpose is to provide those recipients of local government assistance with insight into the allocation of grants and to allow relative comparisons across the range of recipients.

This Department continues to see the ongoing development and refinement of funding programs as essential. All recipients of local government assistance are encouraged to submit comments on any aspect of the grant allocation process and discuss data input in relation to the delivery of local government services within their communities.

In presenting this report, I extend my thanks to the officers of the Local Government & Regional Development Division for their efforts towards the further development of local government throughout the Territory.

DAVID COLES
Executive Director,
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29 September 2003

KEY PERSONNEL

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This is the fourteenth annual report on local government grant funding allocated, and to be paid, to local governing bodies through the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs during 2003-04. The allocations are based upon recommendations made by the Department for the distribution of funds provided under the Northern Territory *Appropriation Act*.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to strong, independent local government. This policy is based on the premise that services should be devolved to the level at which they can most effectively and efficiently be managed, and that local government is the appropriate sphere of administration for the delivery of these services. There are two streams of local government within the Northern Territory:

- municipal government, which applies to the six major population centres; and
- community government, which provides for the local administration of small and remote communities throughout the Territory.

In addition to these incorporated local government authorities, the Department also provides funding and assistance to a number of "association" councils, special purpose towns, aboriginal urban living areas, minor communities and other organisations providing local government services to Territorians.

The Northern Territory Minister responsible for Local Government may recommend to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Local Government, that an "association" council be declared to be a local governing body if it is providing local government type services. Such councils, if incorporated under the *NT Associations Incorporation Act*, are recognised as local governing bodies under that Act and are required to comply with certain sections of the *Local Government Act*.

In all, there are 83 organisations receiving funding and other assistance through this appropriation in the belief that community self-management in undertaking the functions required can best be achieved through local government, based on a suitable legislative framework and equitable funding programs.

A major aim of the Local Government & Regional Development Division is to promote and extend local government to all Territorians while maximising the proficiency in community self-management through such

governance. In addition, the Division also provides advice to Government on local government matters throughout the Northern Territory.

One of the Division's primary functions is to ensure the timely and equitable annual distribution of special purpose grants, operational subsidies and capital grants that facilitate local government and allow it to prosper and develop throughout the Northern Territory.

In addition, the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs has a small regionally based field service network, which provides support to existing councils.

In publishing this report, the Department supports Recommendation 196 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which calls for an explanation of funding processes.

It should be noted that this Report deals only with funding provided by the Northern Territory to local government.

The Northern Territory Grants Commission prepares the recommendations for the distribution of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to local governing bodies. These grants are endorsed and approved respectively by both the Territory and the Federal Ministers responsible for Local Government. In 2003-04 the Northern Territory allocation through the NT Grants Commission is approximately \$21.29 million. This is comprised of both untied financial assistance (approx. \$10.38 million) and local roads funding (approx. \$10.90 million). The Grants Commission provides its own annual report which is available through Mr Ted Clark on telephone 899 98405.

During 1999-00, the Division achieved its stated aim of revising the methodology for the calculation of the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy. The revised methodology was applied to that program in 2000-01 for the first time and continues to be applied this year.

CHAPTER 2

Program Funding Overview

During 2003-04 the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs will make payments of special purpose grants and subsidies to 63 local governing bodies and 24 organisations involved in the provision of local government services. These grants and subsidies amount to \$43.37.

A major portion (\$21.29 million) of the Department's budget comprises the payment of approximately \$10.38 million in Commonwealth financial assistance and approximately \$10.90 million in Commonwealth local roads funding to the 63 recognised local governing bodies throughout the Northern Territory. In addition, \$15.05 million in Northern Territory operational subsidies is distributed to 56 local governing bodies, which excludes municipal councils and special purpose towns.

Further, the Local Government Grants Program finances an Infrastructure Maintenance Program which allocates tied grants totalling \$2.38 million to non-municipal councils for capital items such as key staff housing, plant and equipment, office furniture, motor vehicles and council offices.

Other grants and subsidies are provided, on application to and approval by the Minister for Local Government, for such purposes as training of elected members and staff, animal control, provision of local government services on minor communities, maintenance of reserves, promotion and development of local government, accounting systems, audits, investigations and inquiries.

Up to several years ago, there were additional allocations for the provision of establishment grants to communities that changed their status from "association" councils to become incorporated under the *Local Government Act* as community government councils. In 2003-04 there is, again, no specific provision for grants to newly established community government councils. Any such applications will continue to be considered individually on its merits.

The Program for grants and subsidies is as follows:-

	2003/2004	2002/2003
	\$	\$
Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants	21,194,856	21,011,656
Loan Assistance	-	-
Northern Territory Operational Subsidy	15,052,993	14,979,482
Minor Communities/AULA Funding	1,128,534	1,202,877
Dump Funding	570,970	570,970
Capital Funding	2,387,535	2,404,535
Reserves and Other Organisation	947,008	984,741
Access Centres and Specific Grants	170,000	170,000
Needs Based (Special Purpose Grants)		1,569,173
Local Government	827,738	
Capacity Building	600,000	
Regional Development Fund	<u>500,000</u>	
	1,927,738	
	\$43,379,634	\$42,893,434

Reconciliation of the Program with Budget Paper No. 2

	\$000
Local Government Funding as per Budget paper No.2	41,753
Add Capacity Building	600
Add Regional Development Fund	<u>500</u>
Add Financial Assistance and Road Grants adjustment error previous year	<u>343</u>
Increase in Financial Assistance and Road Grants	<u>184</u>
2003-2004 Grants Program	\$43,380

As Budget Paper No. 2 is finalised before the Commonwealth advises the allocation of FAGS for the coming year, the Department uses the previous years base figure until actual funding confirmation is received.

CHAPTER 3

Northern Territory Operational Subsidy

The Northern Territory Operational Subsidy provides the main financial support to non-municipal local governing bodies to assist them in the provision of local government services.

The funding level of \$15.05 million is \$73,000 more than the previous year. The increase in funds relates to the equivalent of the prior year allocation (\$35,778) to Gulin Gulin Resource Centre and was previously funded from the Minor Community pool. (This community is now being serviced by the new Nyirranggulung council.) The balance (\$37,733) was moved from the Reserves and Other Organisations pool. This amount relates to funding that has ceased to the Canteen Creek Owairtilla (\$42,483) and Mungkarta (\$35,250) organisations for non-compliance over many years.

This is the main support offered to councils by the Northern Territory Government in order to assist with the provision of local government services. It is paid to the community government and association councils and is not available to the municipal councils. The funds are untied and have been distributed on an expenditure needs basis in accordance with a formula introduced for the first time in 2000-01.

The new methodology was discussed, negotiated and developed over three years prior to its introduction and included a three-year phase in. A certainty of approach has evolved as a result of the detailed implementation process. The methodology was aimed at those councils that are experiencing growth in population and population share became a major driver in the assessment of need within an organisation. It also rewards those councils that are prepared to raise or increase their revenue raising capacity. In addition, it has a built in incentive (known as the Distributed Service Delivery Index or DSD) for the councils that provide local government services over a wide area. However, these factors disadvantage the "no growth" councils and who deliver local government services over very small areas. It was made clear to those councils that "to stand still was to go backward". The methodology further rewards those councils that are community government council with a 30% loading.

The year 2002-03 was the third and final year of a three-year phase in period. It was intended that the phasing in would provide the time for local governing bodies to consider the need to address such issues as service delivery over a larger area.

In the 2001-02 report on Local Government Grant Programs grant recipients were advised that changes to the level of funding in the final year would be dramatic. This has proven to be the case and will continue.

The establishment of the new Thamurrur and Nyirranggulung-Mardruk-Ngadberre Councils had an effect on the allocations to all other councils in 2003-2004. The comparative size of Thamurrur and its change in status from an 'association' to a community government council have combined to increase the grant substantially.

As a result of the size of some of the movements in allocations to councils, consideration for the introduction of some form of loss assist factor was necessary. While a nil loss assist factor would achieve the purpose for which the methodology was introduced it was agreed that the loss in grant that some councils would sustain would place too great a strain on the resources of those councils. On the other hand, the application of a loss assist factor of less than 10% would provide too soft a cushion for those councils. Hence the allocation with a loss assist factor of 10% was therefore the preferred allocation.

The new methodology was developed to reward those councils that were community government councils, to compensate growing councils and to encourage those that were required to provide local government services over large areas. The new methodology was phased in over three years.

The population figures used for the allocations within this pool are based on the population figures gathered by the Northern Territory Grants Commission by annual survey. They are the latest available and have been settled by the Commissioners. The Commission also calculates expenditure figures used in the methodology.

The calculation establishes a needs based grant. This, however, has to be adjusted in line with the total funding available for the program. A loss assist factor is then used to ensure that no council suffers a grant loss greater than 10% compared to the previous year.

Statements comparing the various factors applied to expenditure needs in the 2003-04 allocations with the factors used in the 2002-03 allocations are attached as follows:

- Appendix A - Population and population share
- Appendix B - Service charges and incentive grant
- Appendix C – Distributed Service Delivery Index and Community Government Status

The distribution of the NT Operational Subsidy to the 56 community government councils and local governing bodies for 2003-04 is shown below.

Operational Subsidy Distributions

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Aherrenge	177,716	197,462
Ali Curung	146,267	162,519
Alpurrurulam	217,691	241,879
Amoonguna	78,603	87,337
Angurugu	303,887	306,281
Anmatjere	790,083	795,684
Aputula	99,274	110,304
Areyonga	112,721	125,245
Arltarpilta	168,005	186,672
Barunga Manyallaluk ¹	0	241,206
Belyuen	129,785	144,206
Binjari	182,509	202,788
Borrooloola	275,217	255,347
Coomalie	515,091	456,247
Cox Peninsula	106,660	118,511
Daguragu	309,017	299,296
Elliott	209,827	233,141
Galiwinku	400,207	392,801
Gapuwiyak	264,263	263,469
Gulin Gulin ²	66,080	73,422
Ikuntji	114,683	127,425
Imanpa	85,354	94,838
Jilkminggan	130,985	125,059
Kaltukatjara	130,806	145,340
Kardu Numida ³	0	520,338
Kunbarllanjnja	512,790	399,231
Lajamanu	335,904	328,405
Ltyentye Purte	204,654	216,219
Maningrida	421,829	406,235
Marn Garr	175,250	194,722
Mataranka	117,911	131,012
Milingimbi	208,718	209,369
Milyakburra	84,345	93,717
Minjilang	270,151	300,168
Naiyu Nambiyu	224,752	241,295
Nganmariyanga	165,549	183,943
Ntaria	144,574	148,089
Numbulwar	390,633	373,201
Nyirripi	136,610	151,789
Nyirrangulung	532,184	0
Papunya	107,182	119,091
Peppimenarti	198,125	209,908
Pine Creek	194,020	181,852
Ramingining	192,916	188,736
Tapatjatjaka	190,965	212,183
Thamarrurr	745,649	0

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Timber Creek	150,411	167,123
Tiwi Island	1,408,429	1,324,887
Umbakumba	169,075	187,861
Urapuntja	333,026	326,853
Walangeri Ngumpinku	300,582	333,980
Wallace Rockhole	117,708	130,787
Walungurru	146,331	162,380
Warruwi	148,006	164,451
Watiyawanu	142,684	158,538
Wugular ⁴	0	261,125
Yirkala	208,975	207,234
Yuelamu	111,541	123,934
Yuendumu ⁵	565,795	564,281
Yugul Mangi	680,988	670,066
Total	\$15,052,993	\$14,979,482

¹ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council.

² The local governing body status of Gulin Gulin has been revoked. This allocation is being made to the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council for agreeing to provide local government services to the community of Bulman.

³ Now Thamurrurr Community Government Council.

⁴ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council.

⁵ The grant for Yuedumu includes additional funding to enable Yuendumu Community Government Council to provide local government services to the community of Willowra.

CHAPTER 4

Minor Communities/Aboriginal Urban Living Areas (AULA) Program

The purpose of the Program is to provide assistance to those smaller organisations delivering local government services that are not eligible for assistance under either the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy Program or the Commonwealth's Financial Assistance Program.

While the Program is being administered as one, the calculation of the individual grants, is based on the separate formulas used previously.

The Minor Community grants are calculated on the basis of a methodology that, in calculating a grant for each community, the Department considers four major factors. They are:

- base grant of \$70,000 per community;
- a population grant of \$168 per capita;
- a dispersion factor calculated on the number of communities that the organisation is serving that have a population over 40; and
- a loss assist factor, to ensure that no council suffers a grant loss greater than 5% compared to the previous year,

The application of the above factors establishes a needs base grant. This, however, has to be adjusted in line with the total funding available for the program.

The Aboriginal Urban Living Areas grants are calculated on a formula similar to the above but contains a distance disability factor rather than a dispersion factor.

Assistance to other minor communities that are moving toward local government incorporation may be available at ministerial discretion through Special Purpose Grants.

This Program continues to be under review.

The amount provided for distribution within this pool has been fixed at \$1,202,877 for a number of years. This pool has previously provided an allocation to the Gulin Gulin Resource Centre and Murin Association. In future the communities serviced by those organisations will be serviced by the new Nyirranggulung and Thamarrurr councils respectively. Therefore the pool has been reduced by an amount equivalent to the 2002-03 allocation to Gulin Gulin Resource Centre (\$35,778) and Murin Association (\$38,565) These amounts have been added to the NT Operational Subsidy pool and the Needs Based pool respectively. As a result the revised pool for 2003-04 is \$1,128,534.

The funding levels for the 12 minor communities/aboriginal urban living areas are shown below.

Minor Communities/ Aboriginal Urban Living Areas	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
ADF	77,555	81,637
Bagot	112,113	111,479
Bawinanga	124,494	123,331
Demed	69,226	68,579
Gulin Gulin Resource Centre	-	35,778
Gwalwa Daraniki	86,240	85,753
Julalikari	193,058	191,967
Kalano	130,439	129,702
Mabunji	49,533	52,140
Murin	-	38,565
Ngaliwurru-Wuli	85,281	84,484
Tangentyere	200,595	199,462
Total	\$1,128,534	\$1,202,877

CHAPTER 5

Infrastructure Maintenance Program

The local government infrastructure deficiency throughout all communities in the Northern Territory has been recognised over a long period. For this reason the Department continues to an Infrastructure Maintenance Program.

The Northern Territory Government has supplied a total of \$36.94 million in a mix of capital and maintenance grants over the past sixteen years. Some of the infrastructure needs of councils addressed by this program include council offices and workshops, office furniture and equipment, key staff housing and essential operation plant and equipment.

While there have been significant advances made during this period, considerable development is still necessary to ensure that the infrastructure within all communities is raised to an acceptable standard. However, it is unlikely that Territory resources alone will be adequate for this task.

Funding for 2003-04 totals \$2.38 million. Compared to last year's allocation the level of funding has been reduced by an amount of \$17,000. The reduction relates specifically to GST savings. The said saving was as a result of financial modelling performed by Treasury that indicated an overall saving by local government on the cost of performing some services.

Funds are allocated to every community on an annual basis using a simple formula that takes into account:

- . a base grant of \$30,000 base grant; and
- . an allocation of \$168 per capita based on the population of each community.

This method of distribution enables communities to embark on accurate forward planning as councils can anticipate approximate grant allocations for future years.

Communities are informed of their notional allocation early in the financial year. Communities are requested to submit applications for capital items they wish to purchase to the Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs for approval prior to the release of these funds. This ensures that capital infrastructure expenditure is consistent with each community's objectives and financial management plan for the year.

The Department will continue to assist councils with financial management of capital funds. It will also assist in identifying their capital requirements, where a request for such assistance is made, as well as identifying other sources of funding that may be available.

Appendix 1 outlines the population figures used to calculate the 2003-04 grants. The 2003-04 Capital Funding levels are outlined below.

Infrastructure Maintenance Funding Distributions

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Aherrenge	37,604	36,620
Ali Curung	36,964	36,921
Alpurrurulam	39,749	40,030
Amoonguna	33,830	33,940
Angurugu	42,185	42,896
Anmatjere	51,346	52,639
Aputula	32,953	32,995
Areyonga	33,463	33,697
Arltarlpilta	33,510	33,539
Barunga Manyallaluk ¹	-	37,250
Belyuen	33,723	33,869
Binjari	33,816	33,955
Borrooloola	43,006	43,670
Coomalie	52,525	54,258
Cox Peninsula	33,997	33,811
Daguragu	40,521	40,947
Elliott	37,973	39,615
Galiwinku	54,963	55,175
Gapuwiyak	44,364	44,873
Gulin Gulin Weemol ²	32,127	34,642
Ikuntji	32,069	32,350
Imanpa	32,544	32,393
Jilkmिंगan	33,384	33,396
Kaltukatjara	34,856	34,757
Kardu Numida ³	-	62,569
Kunbarllanjnja	45,984	46,105
Lajamanu	43,542	44,758
Ltyenye Purte	38,357	38,454
Maningrida	59,099	59,388
Marn Garr	34,355	34,428
Mataranka	34,206	36,777
Milingimbi	42,442	42,337
Milyakburra	32,878	32,909
Minjilang	33,380	33,382

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Naiyu Nambiyu	36,351	37,523
Nganmariyanga	36,374	35,932
Ntaria	38,658	39,070
Numbulwar	46,806	47,266
Nyirranggulung	78,762	-
Nyirripi	34,387	34,470
Papunya	35,432	34,958
Peppimenarti	33,134	33,181
Pine Creek	37,971	39,213
Ramingining	40,360	40,059
Tapatjatjaka	34,007	33,783
Thamarrurr	63,508	-
Timber Creek	34,090	35,115
Tiwi Island	129,039	131,490
Umbakumba	37,136	37,308
Urapuntja	42,488	42,924
Walangeri Ngumpinku	36,797	36,978
Wallace Rockhole	32,228	32,694
Walungurru	36,267	36,448
Warruwi	35,413	35,373
Watiyawanu	33,621	33,582
Willowra	32,786	34,060
Wugularr ⁴	-	37,537
Yirrkala	44,299	44,429
Yuelamu	33,953	33,525
Yuendumu ⁵	45,924	45,690
Yugul Mangi	52,029	52,582
Total	\$2,387,535	\$2,404,535

¹ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council.

² The local governing body status of Gulin Gulin has been revoked. This allocation is being made to the Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council to enable it to provide capital infrastructure to the community of Bulman.

³ Now Thamurrurr Community Government Council.

⁴ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council.

⁵ The grant for Willowra will be paid to the Yuendumu Community Government Council to enable it to provide capital infrastructure to the community of Willowra

CHAPTER 6

Dump Funding Program

The Department of Community Development, Sport and Cultural Affairs distributes Dump funding to communities and resource centres throughout the Northern Territory to enable them to provide and maintain local dumps.

Funds are distributed on a methodological basis that is population driven to ensure that each recipient council receives an equitable share of the funds commensurate with its responsibilities. Population figures for Dump funding allocation takes into consideration the impact of tourists on various communities.

In calculating the grants, the Department took into consideration four factors. They are:

- . a base grant of \$7,500;
- . a population grant of \$168 per capita;
- . the application of a cost index; and
- . the application of a dispersion index; i.e. numbers of dumps maintained by individual communities.

The application of the above factors establishes a needs base grant. This, however, has to be adjusted in line with the total funding available for the program.

Communities are advised of their funding allocation early in the financial year. If all previous acquittals are complete, then funding is made available immediately.

The total Dump Funding Program for 2003-04 is \$570,970, the same as last year.

The break up of funding allocations are set out below.

Dump Funding Distributions

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Aherrenge	6,786	5,286
Ali Curung	6,524	6,405
Alpurrurulam	9,991	9,553
Amoonguna	3,216	3,588
Angurugu	11,021	11,734
Anmatjere	24,592	32,189
Aputula	4,153	3,923
Areyonga	3,685	3,721
Arltarlpilta	4,822	3,938
Barunga Manyallaluk ¹	-	5,777
Belyuen	3,434	3,644
Binjari	3,243	3,300
Borrooloola	9,651	9,964
Coomalie	22,726	23,359
Canteen Creek Owairtilla ²	-	2,113
Cox Peninsula	4,368	3,689
Daguragu	9,464	10,213
Daly Waters ³	-	701
Elliott	7,818	6,958
Galiwinku	22,830	21,450
Gapuwiyak	11,794	13,171
Gulin Gulin ⁴	2,505	4,537
Ikuntji	2,303	2,061
Imanpa	2,859	2,571
Jilkminggan	2,917	3,341
Julalikari Burumana	11,112	11,443
Kaltukatjara	6,179	5,110
Kardu Numida ⁵	-	32,030
Kunbarllanjna	14,551	14,565
Lajamanu	12,312	13,274
Larrimah	657	701
Ltyenye Purte	7,413	7,581
Mabunji	5,020	5,170
Maningrida	26,194	27,258
Mataranka	4,801	3,891
Milingimbi	12,942	11,860
Milyakburra	3,804	3,267
Minjilang	4,208	3,082
Naiyu Nambiyu	6,500	5,876
Ngaliwurru- Wuli	7,064	7,250

Community	2003/2004 Grant \$	2002/2003 Grant \$
Nganmarriyanga	6,865	6,704
Ntaria	7,986	7,758
Numbulwar	16,833	16,700
Nyirranggulung	16,541	-
Nyirripi	6,462	6,248
Papunya	4,792	4,729
Peppimenarti	3,553	3,523
Pine Creek	6,363	7,573
Ramingining	8,966	9,233
Tapatjatjaka	3,932	3,758
Thamarrurr	34,812	-
Thangkenharenge	894	958
Timber Creek	4,212	4,237
Tiwi Island	37,665	37,156
Umbakumba	7,886	8,113
Urapuntja	18,307	18,251
Walangeri Ngumpinku	8,310	8,140
Wallace Rockhole	2,619	2,297
Walungurru	7,111	7,139
Waruwi	5,577	5,307
Watiyawanu	4,356	3,780
Willowra ⁶	3,165	3,139
Wugularr ⁷	-	6,464
Yirrkala	10,422	11,491
Yuelamu	4,110	3,991
Yuendumu	15,469	14,688
Yugul Mangi	20,303	20,049
Total	\$570,970	\$570,970

¹ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council.

² Funding to Canteen Creek Owairtilla has ceased due to non-compliance.

³ Funding to Daly Waters has ceased due to non-compliance.

⁴ The local governing body status of Gulin Gulin has been revoked. This allocation is being made to the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council to enable it to provide and maintain a dump for the community of Bulman.

⁵ Now Thamurrurr Community Government Council.

⁶ The grant for Willowra will be paid to the Yuendumu Community Government Council to enable it to provide and maintain a dump for the community of Willowra.

⁷ Now part of the Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council.

CHAPTER 7

Other Funding Programs

Reserves and Other Organisations

The ongoing activities of reserves and other organisations have traditionally been assisted through Local Government funding. In particular the location of the reserves are such that there is no local authority available to take over their responsibilities.

The total program funding for 2003-04 is \$947,008. Compared to 2002-03 there has been a reduction to the program of \$37,733. This amount has been transferred to the NT Operational Pool.

The reduction was achieved by ceasing funding to the Canteen Creek Owairtilla (\$42,483) and Mungkata (\$35,250) organisations for non-compliance over many years and by increasing the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens funding by \$40,000 to maintain the same level of funding as provided to it in 2002-03.

The funding levels for the 11 reserves/other organisations are shown below.

Organisation	2003-04 Grant	2002-03 Grant
ARDS	227,562	227,562
Blatherskite Park	135,000	135,000
Canteen Creek Owairtilla	-	42,483
Daly Waters	8,963	8,963
Jabiru Town Development Authority	31,385	31,385
Julalikari Burumana	99,893	99,893
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	160,000	160,000
Larrimah	8,922	8,922
Mungkata	-	35,250
Olive Pink Reserve	126,000	86,000
Robbie Robins Reserve	58,000	58,000
RSPCA	55,000	55,000
Thangkenhareng	36,283	36,283
Total	\$947,008	\$984,741

Access Centres and Specific Grants

A funding assistance level of \$128,000, which is consistent with previous years, is shared between the municipalities of Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Palmerston.

The original purpose of the access centres was to enable community groups to obtain photo-coping, typing and other secretarial-type services at subsidised costs. They were established in 1983/84 by the then Department of Community Development. In 1988, the Government commenced a policy of devolving responsibility for these centres to the four municipal councils existing at that time.

Funding to the Darwin City Council for this purpose was discontinued in 1989 and its continuation to current recipients can not be guaranteed.

An amount of \$42,000 is to be paid to the Katherine Town Council for the yearly maintenance of the Katherine low level reserve. Funding for this purpose has been transferred from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment.

Needs Based (Special Purpose Grants)

The needs based program is the balance remaining after having allocated funds for the NT financial assistance programs. The funds within this program are available for specific purposes relating to the needs of individual local governing bodies but a part of the pool is identified especially for projects relating to capacity building.

The balance for 2003-04 totals \$1,927,738. In previous years the focus of needs based funding has been in the areas of;

- training;
- key staff housing;
- road plant/equipment;
- social infrastructure/recreational facilities; and
- management consultancies.

Of the amount of \$1.927 million, \$600,000 has been set aside for capacity building and the Regional Development Fund of \$500,000 has been consolidated in the needs based (Special Purpose Grants) for this financial year for the first time.

An amount of \$827,738 is available for allocation on a need's basis and includes an increase brought about by moving \$38,565 (Murin) from the Minor Community pool.

The provision of funding to local governments under this program is at the discretion of the Minister for Local Government.

Detailed below are the special purpose grant allocations paid in 2002/2003.

Council/Organisation	Specific Purpose	Needs Basis	Capacity Building	
Anindilyakwa Land Council	Network Group meetings secretariat		6,000	
ANU (CAEPR)	Consultancy In-House Academic Research 3 yrs		73,358	
ANU (CAEPR)	Consultancy Addition Dr John Taylor		22,000	
Australia Day Council	Local Government Awards	2,000		
Bagot	Consultancy Business Plan	30,000	60,000	
Bagunga Manyalluluk	Stage 1 Investigate Rehab of Dump	5,000		
Barunga Manyalluluk	Vehicle for housing manager	35,000		
Barunga Manyalluluk	Barunga Sports Day	2,500		
Barunga Manyalluluk	Barunga Capital for Community Hall	15,000		
Daguragu	Refurbish Staff housing	28,428		
Desert Peoples Centre Inc.	Desert Knowledge elated projects	20,000		
Elliot	Purchase Compactor Garbage Truck	50,000		
Galiwinku	Renovation & repairs to staff accommodation	69,000		
Gapuwiyak	Upgrade of telephone system	19,256		
Gulin Gulin Weemol	Roof over building	14,642		
Keep Australia Beautiful	Tidy Towns capacity building forum	25,000		
LGANT	HR Mgmt Services/Partnerships/Resource Sharing	100,000		
LGANT	Elected member training & staff development	60,000	100,000	
LGANT	Conference Indigenous Governance		50,000	
Ltyentye Purte	Repairs to swimming pool	35,000		
Mataranka	Fence airstrip	12,319		
Mataranka	Maintenance Elsey Cemetery	2,000		
Milyakburra	Assistance with Operational Costs	50,000		
NAIDOC	Support Annual Conference	12,500		
Nhulunbuy Corporation	Nhulunbuy Cemetery	19,170		
Olive Pink Botanic Gardens	Assist Ongoing Mgmt costs	40,000		
Pine Creek	Dump assistance	25,000		
Pine Creek	Enterprise Watering Project	35,000		
Robbie Robbins Reserve	Increase Public Liability Insurance	10,000		
Tennant Creek TC	Review dump & operating procedures	36,000		
Thamarrurr	Youth Leadership Program		50,000	
Thamarrurr.	Support for Thammurr proposal	100,000	50,000	
Tiwi	Rehab of Nguiu Swimming Pool	50,000		
Tiwi	Elected members training & capacity building		20,000	
Traditional Credit Union	Develop governance, skills & comm training		50,000	
Wallace Rockhole	Fencing of community rubbish dump	15,000		
Warrawi	Second Hand truck	50,000		
Wugular	Support Nyirrunggulung proposal		50,000	
Wugular	Employ an Officer/Support Nyirrunggulung proposal		70,000	
Total		\$967,815	\$601,358	\$1,569,173

CHAPTER 8

Summary

Over recent years there has been a progressive refinement of grant allocation processes. In particular, there has been a transition from a largely subjective grant assessment to an objectively derived basis for determination of most grants.

The major advantages to client groups with this change in grant assessment are a greater consistency and predictability in the allocation of funds. This is, of course, essential for forward planning and effective future development of local government in the Territory.

The Department aims, where possible, to achieve greater equity and efficiency in the allocation of funds. Local government has a responsibility to deliver more effective services in an efficient manner and should plan to do this in an environment where external sources of funding are not increasing. Councils and funded organisations should continue to target funds to areas that result in effective service delivery to residents.

The Department has an ongoing commitment to review its local government funding programs, and welcomes any comments or suggestions for improvement from the local government industry. The review of Territory funding schemes was intended to reaffirm their continued appropriateness, relevance and effectiveness in the context of the Department's strategic planning objectives, and in line with Northern Territory Government policy directions.

The revised methodology for the calculation of NT Operational Grants to community government councils was introduced from the beginning of the 2000-01 financial year and continues to be applied. Population figures used in the calculation of the grants have been determined by the Northern Territory Grants Commission.

Appendix A

COMPARATIVE POPULATION AND POPULATION SHARE 2003/2004 TO 2002/2003

Community	2003/2004		2002/2003		Population Difference
	Population	Share	Population	Share	
Aherrenge	546	1.37	462	1.18	84
Ali Curung	500	1.26	483	1.23	17
Alpurrurulam	700	1.76	700	1.79	0
Amoonguna	275	0.69	275	0.70	0
Angurugu	875	2.20	900	2.30	(25)
Anmatjere	1,544	3.89	1,569	4.01	(25)
Aputula	215	0.54	206	0.53	9
Areyonga	249	0.63	258	0.66	(9)
Arltarpilta	253	0.64	246	0.63	7
Barunga Manyallaluk	0	0	504	1.29	(504)
Belyuen	267	0.67	270	0.69	(3)
Binjari	274	0.69	276	0.70	(2)
Borrooloola	936	2.36	952	2.43	(17)
Coomalie	1,667	4.20	1,643	4.19	24
Cox Peninsula	289	0.73	264	0.67	25
Daguragu	756	1.90	764	1.95	(8)
Elliott	585	1.47	659	1.68	(74)
Galiwinku	1,792	4.51	1,757	4.49	35
Gapuwiyak	1,031	2.60	1,038	2.65	(7)
Gulin Gulin*	153	0.38	324	0.83	(171)
Ikuntji	149	0.37	164	0.42	(16)
Imanpa	183	0.46	167	0.43	16
Jilkmingga	243	0.61	237	0.60	6
Kaltukatjara	349	0.88	332	0.85	17
Kardu Numida	0	0.00	2,273	5.80	(2,273)
Kunbarllanjnja	1,148	2.89	1,124	2.87	23
Lajamanu	972	2.45	1,030	2.63	(58)
Ltyentye Purte	600	1.51	590	1.51	10
Maningrida	2,092	5.27	2,049	5.23	42
Marngarr	313	0.79	309	0.79	4
Mataranka	391	0.98	384	0.98	7
Milingimbi	893	2.25	861	2.20	32
Milyakburra	207	0.52	203	0.52	3
Minjilang	243	0.61	236	0.60	6
Nauiyu Nambiyu	489	1.23	492	1.26	(3)
Nganmarriyanga	458	1.15	414	1.06	44
Ntaria	652	1.64	619	1.58	33
Numbulwar	1,207	3.04	1,205	3.08	2
Nyirripi	315	0.79	312	0.80	3
Nyirranggulung	1,168	2.94	0	0	1,168
Papunya	390	0.98	346	0.88	44
Peppimenarti	225	0.57	222	0.57	3
Pine Creek	593	1.49	622	1.59	(29)
Ramingining	744	1.87	702	1.79	42
Tapatjatjaka	288	0.72	264	0.67	24
Thamarrurr	2,406	6.06	0	0	2,406
Timber Creek	306	0.77	317	0.81	(11)
Tiwi Island Council	2,372	5.97	2,356	6.01	6
Umbakumba	512	1.29	510	1.30	3

Community	2003/2004		2002/2003		Population
	Population	Share	Population	Share	Difference
Urapuntja	897	2.26	902	2.30	(5)
Walangeri Ngumpinku	488	1.23	487	1.24	1
Wallace Rockhole	174	0.44	174	0.44	0
Walungurru	450	1.13	450	1.15	0
Warruwi	389	0.98	375	0.96	14
Watiyawanu	260	0.65	250	0.64	10
Wugular	0	0.00	526	1.34	(526)
Yirrkala	1,027	2.59	1,006	2.57	22
Yuelamu	284	0.71	246	0.63	38
Yuendumu	1,344	3.39	1,294	3.30	50
Yugul Mangi	1,582	3.98	1,575	4.02	7
Total	39,710	100	39,177	100	532

* In 2002/2003 the population share for Gulin Gulin also included Weemol. In 2003/2004 Weemol's population is included with Nyirrangulung

Appendix B

COMPARISON OF CHARGING EFFORT INDEX AND INCENTIVE GRANTS

Community	2003/2004			2002/2003			Difference
	Service Charges	Charging Effort Index	Incentive Grant After Index	Service Charges	Charging Effort Index	Incentive Grant After Index	
Aherrenge	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Ali Curung	43,605	1.69	28,554	37,680	1.52	23,050	5,504
Alpurrurulam	10,500	0.29	4,911	10,500	0.29	4,435	476
Amoonguna	15,000	1.05	17,859	0	0.00	0	17,859
Angurugu	46,507	1.03	17,399	74,811	1.62	24,581	-7,182
Anmatjere	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Aputula	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Areyonga	7,280	0.57	9,585	7,280	0.55	8,342	1,243
Arltarlpilta	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Baraunga Manyallaluk	0	0.00	0	40,283	1.55	23,625	-23,625
Belyuen	14,803	1.07	18,130	12,028	0.87	13,171	4,959
Binjari	73,788	5.21	88,174	71,311	5.03	76,484	11,689
Borrooloola	48,888	1.01	17,105	18,000	0.37	5,588	11,517
Coomalie	85,165	0.99	16,724	79,105	0.94	14,235	2,489
Cox Peninsula	14,401	0.96	16,312	15,442	1.14	17,291	-978
Daguragu	124,725	3.19	54,026	95,341	2.43	36,892	17,134
Elliott	36,438	1.20	20,401	34,206	1.01	15,341	5,060
Galiwinku	23,059	0.25	4,212	23,642	0.26	3,978	234
Gapuwiyak	100	0.00	32	0	0.00	0	32
Gulin Gulin	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Ikuntji	25,950	3.38	57,166	14,560	1.72	26,203	30,963
Imanpa	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Jilkminggan	40,950	3.26	55,161	0	0.00	0	55,161
Kaltukatjara	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Kardu Numida	0	0.00	0	155,000	1.33	20,165	-20,165
Kunbarllanjja	15,924	0.27	4,543	10,586	0.18	2,784	1,759
Lajamanu	79,936	1.59	26,916	29,035	0.55	8,334	18,582
Ltyentye Purte	38,683	1.25	21,097	25,000	0.82	12,518	8,579
Maningrida	25,162	0.23	3,939	3,630	0.03	524	3,415
Marngarr	56,393	3.49	59,028	68,815	4.33	65,887	-6,859
Mataranka	2,706	0.13	2,266	2,182	0.11	1,680	586
Milingimbi	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Milyakburra	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Minjilang	46,744	3.72	63,034	134,931	11.10	168,708	-105,674
Naiyiyu Nambiyu	76,834	3.04	51,459	72,480	2.87	43,568	7,891
Nganmariyanga	61,702	2.60	44,111	58,530	2.75	41,761	2,350
Ntaria	3,000	0.09	1,507	0	0.00	0	1,507
Numbulwar	0	0.00	0	18,934	0.31	4,645	-4,645
Nyirripi	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Nyirranggulung	75,900	1.26	21,279	0	0.00	0	21,279
Papunya	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Peppimenarti	53,078	4.56	77,211	47,017	4.12	62,697	14,513
Pine Creek	31,832	1.04	17,579	30,008	0.94	14,275	3,305
Ramingining	8,965	0.23	3,945	72,390	2.01	30,494	-26,549
Tapatjatjaka	32,228	2.16	36,665	58,105	4.28	65,026	-28,361
Thamarrurr	146,361	1.18	19,917	0	0.00	0	19,917
Timber Creek	5,460	0.35	5,850	5,304	0.33	4,947	903

Community	2003/2004			2002/2003			Difference
	Service Charges	Charging Effort Index	Incentive Grant After Index	Service Charges	Charging Effort Index	Incentive Grant After Index	
Tiwi Island	564,717	4.60	77,960	466,552	3.85	58,562	19,399
Umbakumba	27,042	1.02	17,279	46,942	1.79	27,229	-9,950
Urapuntja	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Walangeri Ngumpinku	2,691	0.11	1,804	12,390	0.49	7,517	-5,713
Wallace Rockhole	6,380	0.71	12,026	6,380	0.71	10,860	1,166
Walungurru	6,630	0.28	4,824	0	0.00	0	4,824
Warruwi	6,256	0.31	5,268	20,217	1.05	15,958	-10,690
Watiyawanu	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Wugular	0	0.00		36,290	1.34	20,396	-20,396
Yirrkala	68,214	1.28	21,741	62,995	1.22	18,521	3,220
Yuelamu	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Yuendumu	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0
Yugul Mangi	0	0.00	0	36,250	0.45	6,803	-6,803
Total	\$2,053,997		\$998,444	\$2,014,152		\$984,026	\$14,418

Appendix C

COMPARISON OF DISTRIBUTED SERVICE DELIVERY INDEX AND COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT STATUS COMPARISONS

Community	Distributed Service Delivery Index		Community Government Loading Status	
	2003/2004	2002/2003	2003/2004	2002/2003
Aherrenge	1.231	1.231	1.00	1.00
Ali Curung	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Alpurrurulam	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Amoonguna	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Angurugu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Anmatjere	1.500	1.500	1.30	1.30
Aputula	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Areyonga	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Arltarlpilta	1.079	1.079	1.30	1.30
Barunga Manyallaluk	0.000	1.000	0.00	1.30
Belyuen	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Binjari	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Borroloola	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Coomalie	1.003	1.003	1.30	1.30
Cox Peninsula	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Daguragu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Elliott	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Galiwinku	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Gapuwiyak	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Gulin Gulin	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Ikuntji	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Imanpa	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Jilkmिंगgan	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Kaltukatjara	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Kardu Numida	0.000	1.000	0.00	1.00
Kunbarllanjnja	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Lajamanu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Ltyentye Purte	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Maningrida	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Marngarr	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Mataranka	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Milingimbi	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Milyakburra	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Minjilang	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Naiyu Nambiyu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Nganmariyanga	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Ntaria	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Numbulwar	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Nyirripi	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Nyirranggulung	1.385	0.000	1.30	0.00
Papunya	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Peppimenarti	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Pine Creek	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Ramingining	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Tapatjatjaka	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Thamarrurr	1.000	0.000	1.30	0.00
Timber Creek	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30

Community	Distributed Service Delivery Index		Community Government Loading Status	
	2003/2004	2002/2003	2003/2004	2002/2003
Tiwi Island Council	1.385	1.385	1.30	1.30
Umbakumba	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Urapuntja	1.279	1.279	1.00	1.00
Walangeri Ngumpinku	1.385	1.385	1.30	1.30
Wallace Rockhole	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Walungurru	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Warruwi	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Watiyawanu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Wugularr	0.000	1.000	0.00	1.30
Yirrkala	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Yuelamu	1.000	1.000	1.00	1.00
Yuendumu	1.000	1.000	1.30	1.30
Yugul Mangi	1.103	1.103	1.30	1.30