

KATHERINE REGION Issues Summary

Subject: | Regional Visits and Boundaries

Purpose of Paper	Recommendation
To provide information in relation to the ongoing discussion in the Katherine Region around indicative shire boundaries. Responsible DC's Christine Hart, Sharon Hillen and Sylvia Francis.	For noting

BACKGROUND

13-14 MARCH 2007 – JOINT STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSION ON KATHERINE REGION SHIRE BOUNDARIES;

- Consensus on Daly/Keats becoming a separate shire;
- 4 Maps presented for discussion:
 - Map 1 – indicative boundaries;
 - Map 2 – Big Rivers Shire, East/West combined without Katherine, Daly/Keats separate shire;
 - Map 3 – Mega shire (East/West combined with Katherine), Daly/Keats separate shire;
 - Map 4 – Victoria River, Katherine; Daly Keats separate shire
- No consensus on shire boundaries;
- Concern over representation – especially around the inclusion of Katherine municipality in shire boundary proposals;
- LGAB directed that a “roadshow” including LGAB members and Development Coordinators be developed to ascertain views of the community;
- Chairman Dodson visited a number of communities, Daguragu, Walangeri and Wadeye to develop a view on the boundary discussions.

Community Visits

Mataranka Community Government Council

- Council has been provided with two presentations by the department. the “Introduction to LG Reform” (5th March – DC Hillen and Francis) ; and “Shire Boundary discussion”(20th March DC Hillen, Hart and LGAB Member Wooldridge). The Council was also represented at the Combined Katherine

Business Paper

Transitional Committee on the 12th and 13th of April by Councillor Clare O'Brien and CEO Mark Hagger.

- The following discussion and subsequent resolution was made at the ordinary council meeting on the 20th March 2007.
 - Map 1-Indicative Boundary's – Mataranka Council has a preference to be in the East Katherine Shire together with Jilkminggan and recommend that the current boundary be taken west to the follow the property boundaries of Avago to Bloodwood and Lakefield stations; and
 - Map 3 - (Mega Shire) Mataranka Community Government Council resolved that the preferred shire amalgamation is Map 3 and that this model is the only viable alternative in the eyes of this Council based on all the data that has been provided to the Council by the Department.

Borrooloola Town

- Tuesday 20th March 2007, Frazer Baker, LGAB, Sylvia Francis DC – meeting with Borrooloola Community Government Council. 7 Councillors plus the CEO were present.
- Four Katherine region boundary maps presented for discussion. Council unable to give its a preference at this stage. Although, the Council could see merit in the larger shires - Map2 and Map 3.

Robinson River

- Monday 26th March 2007, Frazer Baker, LGAB, Sylvia Francis, DC – meeting with Mungoorbada Aboriginal Resource Centre Inc Board – 6 Board members plus the CEO were present.
- Four Katherine region boundary maps presented for discussion. Mungoorbada Board preferred Map 1 – the indicative boundaries. Although could see some merit in the larger shires – Map 2 and Map 3.

Ngukurr

- Tuesday 27th March 2007 – Sylvia Francis, meeting with Yugul Mangi Community Government Council and Ngukurr Community. Approximately 50 people attended.
- Four Katherine region boundary maps presented for discussion. Ngukurr people preferred Map 1 – the Indicative boundaries. They could **not** see merit in the larger shires – Map 2 and Map 3.

Business Paper

Katherine

- Tuesday 27th March - Ray Woolridge, Veronica Birrell, Stuart Kenny LGAB; Sharon Hillen and Christine Hart DC - Community meeting in Katherine.
- The key point of the discussion was whether or not the community of Katherine would support the Council in pursuing the NT Government to allow them to amalgamate with other communities to form a shire
- The discussion was led by Mayor Anne Shepherd and a presentation was given by DC's;
- Stuart Kenny announced that the Cattlemen's Association, the NLC and the Chamber of Commerce had renounced their membership to the Advisory Board.
- MLA's Gerry Wood, and Robert Knight attended the meeting.
- A 11- 2 majority supported Councils move to pursue engagement of the NTG in being part of a greater Shire which includes the municipality of Katherine.

Numbulwar

- Wednesday 28th March 2007 – meeting with Numbulwar Numburindi Community Government Council and Numbulwar Homelands Inc. About 25 people attended.
- The meeting discussion was exclusively about which shire Numbulwar should be in – either East Arnhem or East Katherine. At the end of the meeting the majority of people agreed to be in East Katherine Shire. Due to the lengthy discussion about which shire Numbulwar should be in, only Map 1 – the Indicative Boundaries was presented.

Borroloola Town

- Wednesday 28th March 2007 – public meeting for Borroloola and King Ash Bay residents. About 12 people attended.
- Four Katherine region boundary maps presented for discussion. Both Borroloola and King Ash Bay people preferred Map 1 – the Indicative boundaries. They could **not** see merit in the larger shires – Map 2 and Map 3.

Daguragu

- Wednesday am 28th March, Veronica Birrell, LGAB and Christine Hart, DC - Community meeting;
- consensus for Map 2 – Big Rivers Shire, East/West combined without Katherine, Daly/Keats separate shire;
- Concerns regarding economic development and outstation funding.

Business Paper

Timber Creek

- Wednesday pm 28th March, Veronica Birrell, LGAB and Christine Hart, DC - Community meeting;
- preference for Map 2 – Big Rivers Shire, East/West combined without Katherine, Daly/Keats separate shire. Position will be declared at Shire Transition Committee meeting 11-12 April, 2007.

Nyirranggulung Mardruk Ngadberre Regional Council

- the Regional Executive Committee Meeting on 29th March – Veronica Birrell, LGAB and Sharon Hillen, DC;
- Council has been provided with several presentations by the Department commencing in April 2006. More recently a presentation was given to The Council was represented at the Combined Katherine Transitional Committee on the 12th and 13th of April by President Richard Kennedy and CEO Michael Berto.
- At the ordinary meeting of the NMNRC Regional Executive Committee the Council discussed the LG Reform and the Shire Boundaries. The following resolutions were made:
 - That NMNRC prefers Map 1 – The Indicative Boundary's. And that it would like the boundary of NMNRC to become the Nyirranggulung Ward with 2 representatives.
 - Map 2 – Too big and not enough representation. NMNRC would not object to Keats and Daly becoming their own shire, however it creates a precedent for more boundary options to be considered.
 - Map 3 - Too big and not enough representation. Regional people would not only have to deal with the complex changes of representation but also a change of "core business". Would this Shire tend to be more like the municipal or community government council? How would equal representation occur when Katherine holds the majority? Too big a change and too many questions.
 - Map 4 – East Katherine Remains the same so there would be no objection.

Discussion at the Regional Executive Committee focused on detail e.g. shire headquarter location, service delivery and other operational aspects. There were no resolutions made in terms of the boundaries other than an acceptance by NMNRC that they were happy with the location of their communities in the East Katherine shire as detailed on the indicative boundaries map.

A resolution on the question of boundaries will be made on 30 March. A verbal report will be provided to the LGAB meeting on this aspect of this paper.

Business Paper

Jilkmिंगgan Community Government Council

- 22nd February – DC Hillen delivered a presentations on the “Introduction to LG Reform”
- A further presentation on the Shire Boundary discussion will be undertaken on 3rd April by Sharon Hillen DC. The presentation was scheduled for Friday 30 March but due to a community death this has been postponed. No LGAB member is available to attend due to LGAB commitments;
- The Council was represented at the Combined Katherine Transitional Committee on the 12th and 13th of April by Councillor Cheryl Lardy and CEO Arnold Von Sendon.

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