

Media Release

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Shire of **Ngaanyatjaraku**
ON A JOURNEY

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Annual Report reflects remarkable and challenging year



Caption: The Ngaanyatjarra Lands

The Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku has endorsed its Annual Report 2020-21, outlining its achievements and challenges over the past financial year.

Shire President, Damian McLean said the year has been most remarkable as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to re-shape life.

“The Shire has continued to be further isolated by State border restrictions and the WA State Emergency Act provision to protect remote Indigenous Communities,” said Cr McLean.

“Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our small but very dedicated team has been committed to continue serving our community in the best way possible.”

A key highlight of the year is the adoption of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPRF) which includes the Plan for the Future, Long Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan.

These plans shape the services the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku will deliver over the next ten years and has been developed with the community's aspirations and needs at its heart.

Cr McLean said the Annual Report is a record of all the hard work that has been done to support the communities during the unprecedented times as well as the continued efforts to advocate for the Ngaanyatjarra people.

"The Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku has been working toward achieving the aspirations of the community as identified within our Plan for the Future," said Cr McLean.

"Provision of financially sustainable services and infrastructure and the creation of opportunities to realise these goals, continue to be the prime focus of the Council."

The Annual Report also demonstrated how the Shire is improving the road networks and creating better connected communities.

"We're pleased to see the strong progress being made to the sealing of the Great Central Road. The planning for upgrades on Warburton and Warakurna sections are nearing completion and are planned to be done in early 2022," said Cr McLean.

"The Shire was also successful in gaining an additional \$674,957 from the State for sheeting of the community access road into Wingelina and an additional section of the Irrunytju Road."

Challenges were also highlighted, with the Shire continuing to seek the Minister's advocacy to resolve some major issues and disadvantages affecting the Shire's ability to provide essential services.

The urgent items outlined to be addressed are waste management services, operation and maintenance of swimming pools, Sport and Recreation services, Early Years Learning and Fire and Emergency services.

The Shire is unique in that it has no freehold land and is unable to collect rates from residential buildings which are mostly State owned and exempted from rates. The Shire continues to be heavily reliant on grants and other funding streams to provide basic essential services to the community.

"Nonetheless, the Shire will continue to advocate for the provision of resources to provide basic services to the community," said Cr McLean.

"I would like to thank our Deputy Shire President, Cr. Andrew Jones for his assistance and acknowledge that the support of my fellow Councillors over the last twelve months has been great. I would also like to thank all the Shire staff members for their efforts and dedication to the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku."

The Annual Report is available on the Shire website:

<https://www.ngaanyatjarraku.wa.gov.au/index.php/our-shire/publications/75-council-publications/12-annual-reports>

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