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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE**

for

LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE**

Agreement between the

NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

and the

LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

1988

Hon. Terry McCarthy MLA
Minister for Local Government

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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Minister for Labour, Administrative Services and Local Government for the Northern Territory, I am pleased to present the Local Government Establishment Package for the Litchfield Shire Council.

This Package is the outcome of extensive negotiations between Northern Territory Departmental officers and Litchfield Council representatives, and I have great pleasure in making available this composite document outlining the Establishment Package.

The Package provides a sound base on which the Litchfield Shire can develop, and also demonstrates a successful co-operative achievement in inter-governmental relations which benefits the community as a whole.

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 tier of administration for the delivery of municipal-type services.

I would like to congratulate the residents of the Litchfield Shire on their contribution to the effective introduction and innovative development of Local Government in their community. I take this opportunity to wish the Council every success in its future endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Terry McCarthy'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

TERRY McCARTHY

March 1989

BACKGROUND

With the increasing number of people residing in the Darwin rural area, and in pursuit of its long standing policy to enable local people to determine their local affairs, the Northern Territory Government recognised a need to examine options for a form of Local Government to be established there.

As a result of this initiative, the Darwin Rural Advisory Council was formed by the then Minister for Community Development, the Hon Ian Tuxworth MLA, in March 1983 to consider various options. This Council consisted of the following members:

Mr John Maley (Chairman)	Mrs Denise David
Mrs Georgina Edwards	Mr Harry Maschke
(Deputy Chairman)	Mr David Shoobridge
Mr Bob Cavanagh	Mr Neville Walker
Mr Barry Coulter	

The inaugural meeting was held on 17 March 1983 at the Freds Pass Community Hall. Following many meetings and widespread consultations, the final report was presented to the Hon Daryl Manzie MLA, Minister for Community Development, on 22 June 1984.

The report was subsequently circulated for public comment, with 33 public responses being received, resulting in considerable public debate. The report's findings were not unanimously accepted; however, some general principles did receive widespread community support. These principles were:

- (1) neither the Darwin City Council, nor the Palmerston Town Council boundaries be extended over the rural area;
- (2) the level of municipal service provision be in accordance with the rural lifestyle needs;
- (3) the imposition of rates in the immediate future was inevitable; and
- (4) the rating system must be equitable.

Following widespread consultations with community groups and residents, Cabinet approved in principle on 24 May 1985, the establishment of Local Government in the outer Darwin rural area. A further Cabinet decision on 3 September 1985 approved the constitution of a new municipality to consist of four wards, with elections for one alderman from each ward, and a mayor from the whole of the Shire, to be held on 7 December 1985. (The Local Government Act was subsequently amended to permit the Council to alter the members' titles to president and councillors, with effect from 1 July 1986).

The inaugural Council members elected were:

Mr John Maley	President
Clr Danny Skewes	Noonamah/Acacia Hills Ward
Clr Liz Stephenson	Howard Springs/Knuckey Lagoons Ward
Clr Russell Anderson	Berry Springs/Darwin River Ward
Clr Mike Sanderson	Bees Creek/Humpty Doo Ward

The Council at a special general meeting on 1 October 1986 formulated the Litchfield Shire Local Government Establishment Package bid which was forwarded to the Department of Community Development on 10 October 1986. On 19 March 1987, the Department of Community Development was abolished, with responsibility for local government matters being transferred to the newly created Office of Local Government, within the portfolio of the Treasurer and Minister for Local Government, the Hon Barry Coulter MLA. On 27 November 1987, the Office of Local Government was transferred to the Department of Labour and Administrative Services within the portfolio of the Hon Terry McCarthy MLA.

Over the next 10 months, the Establishment Package was negotiated through a series of inter-governmental officer level working party meetings. This resulted in the Council's final submission being received by the Office of Local Government on 26 August 1987.

The Package was approved by the Northern Territory Government on 29 March 1988. The Minister, the Hon Terry McCarthy MLA, advised the Litchfield Shire Council President, Mr John Maley, of Cabinet's decision on 13 April 1988 and the Council accepted the package by its letter of 5 May 1988.

The implementation of this Establishment Package ensures that the Litchfield Shire Council has adequate resources to implement and maintain an equitable level of municipal services throughout the community. This, combined with the strong community spirit that is evident throughout the municipality, together with its motto "Community effort is essential", will ensure continued growth and prosperity.



COMMUNITY EFFORT
IS
ESSENTIAL

FIRST LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE BID

FOR

LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

OCTOBER 1986

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL
HELD AT LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL OFFICE, FRED'S PASS RESERVE, ON
WEDNESDAY, 1ST OCTOBER, 1986, AT 8.08 P.M.

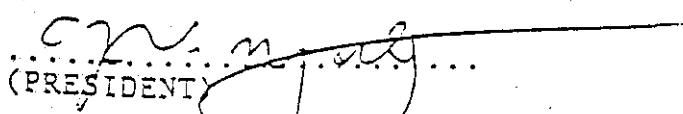
PRESENT: JOHN V. MALEY (PRESIDENT)
RUSSELL W. ANDERSON (DEPUTY PRESIDENT)
MICHAEL SANDERSON
DANIEL SKEWES
ELIZABETH H. STEPHENSON
PETER J. VISENTIN (SHIRE CO-ORDINATOR)

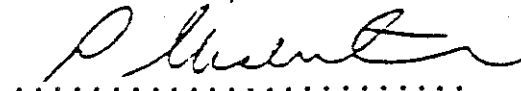
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE:

Nothing in this package precludes the Council from making submissions to the Minister for special financial Grants on the basis of any special needs it perceives.

1. The Litchfield Shire Council to have full local government powers in accordance with section 84 of the Local Government Act.
2. The Northern Territory Government will adjust the current planning boundaries in such a manner as to have the Shire in its entirety placed in a singular planning area under the provisions of the Planning Act.
3. The Northern Territory Government shall fully consult the Shire Council before it provides facilities within the Shire which the Council may be required to maintain.
4. The Northern Territory Government accept the Shire Road Policy as adopted by Council. Further that all scheduled B roads (refer appendix 'A') be brought up to standard in 5 years with total funding for this project being provided for by the Northern Territory Government.
5. The Northern Territory Government institute suitable legislative action to ensure that development of subdivisions are only approved after taking into account the impact that subdivision will have on existing or future road networks and where it is deemed necessary by the Planning Authority ensure total funding to upgrade headworks external to the subdivision where necessary.
6. The Northern Territory Government recognises that any savings in costs in administering the Litchfield Shire Council caused by the size and efficiency of the Shire which will not reduce the level of Government Funding to area.

This is page ONE of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Litchfield Shire Council, held on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986:


.....
(PRESIDENT)


.....
(SHIRE CLERK)

7. The Northern Territory Government will provide a full range of Government facilities and services in keeping with the growth rate of the Shire.
8. The Northern Territory Government to fully fund the building of municipal facilities throughout the Shire.
9. The Litchfield Shire Council in conjunction with the Northern Territory Government identify suitable land for the provisions of the above facilities and initiate the necessary action to ensure the identified land is vested in the Council by freehold title as soon as possible. (refer appendix 'B')
10. The Northern Territory Government will fund the cost of maintaining any specific facilities provided for before the establishment of the Shire which are in excess of those normally maintained by the other municipalities and the other communities throughout the Northern Territory. The comparison to be based upon a formula of equalisation of funding by the Northern Territory Government for similar facilities with an emphasis on regional requirements.
11. The Northern Territory Government provide land and funding for establishing Rubbish Dumps at Lambells Lagoon and Noonamah areas in the immediate future and as necessary on a staged basis in keeping with the development of the Shire.
12. The Northern Territory Government fund the balance of loan owing on Caretakers residence at Fred's Pass Reserve as at 1st January, 1986, if not funded by the N.T. Grants Committee.
13. The Northern Territory Government establish or provide funding for Temporary Demountable Accommodation at Fred's Pass Reserve pending the development of a permanent Shire Office if not funded by the N.T. Grants Committee.
14. The Northern Territory Government provide for Administration Equipment costs towards the establishment of the Shire. This funding not to be less than \$100,000.00. (refer appendix 'C')
15. The Northern Territory Government fund the legal expenses for transfer of title of Reserves and compilation of assets registers to operate the day to day management of Reserves when and if applicable.

This is page TWO of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Litchfield Shire Council, held on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986.

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(PRESIDENT)

.....
(SHIRE CLERK)

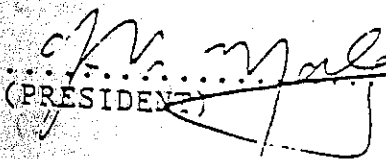
16. The Northern Territory Government give freehold title to the areas known as:

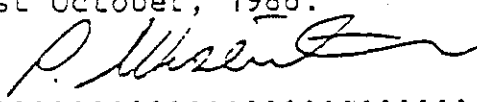
The Burnt Paddock - Knuckeys Lagoon
The Livingstone Reserve - 34 Mile
The McMinns Recreation Area - McMinns Lagoon
Fred's Pass Reserve - 30km Stuart Highway
Humpty Doo Village Green - Humpty Doo
Berry Springs Reserve - Berry Springs
(refer appendix 'D')

Other open areas are appropriate from time to time commensurate with the growth of the Shire and provide all necessary establishment costs.

17. That the Shire of Litchfield receive special additional funding to the full extent of its rate revenue in 86/87 to allow it to establish adequate funds for future operations, in a similar manner to that provided for Katherine and Tennant Creek.
18. The Northern Territory Government provide land and/or funding for the housing for Senior Council Staff to the same extent as will be provided to Palmerston Town Council.
19. The Northern Territory Government provide a compatible interface between the N.T. Government computer facility and the proposed Litchfield Shire Council computer system when appropriate.
20. Litchfield Shire Council is to be consent authority for roads and stormwater drainage works, is to be fully involved in all stages of the land development process, shall be consulted on all proposed land developments and shall be able to insist on minimum standards being applied in the Litchfield Shire.
21. Litchfield Shire Council to have the right to inspect roads and stormwater drainage works by both Developers and the Government during construction of these works.
22. Litchfield Shire Council to have the right to reject roads and stormwater drainage works that are not up to standard at the handover stage whether these works are constructed by the Developers or the Government.
23. Litchfield Shire Council to be the approving authority for all development applications under the provisions of the Planning Act in relation to roadworks and stormwater drainage.

This is page THREE of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Litchfield Shire Council, held on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986.


.....
(PRESIDENT)


.....
(SHIRE CLERK)

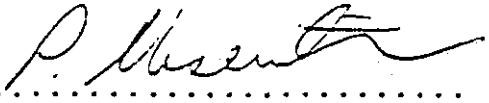
24. To transfer land free of cost to Council and to fund the construction of a permanent municipal office on a staged basis by 30 June 1996, to provide a reasonable standard of this facility for the Shire's population at that date. This to commence with the provision of stage 1, being permanent office accommodation within this financial year.
25. That the Northern Territory Government realise the future needs of the Litchfield Shire Council in relation to tourism and consequently transfer title, free of charge, to areas of land that can be identified as future tourism parks by the Litchfield Shire Council.
26. The Northern Territory Government shall change existing legislation to enable Litchfield Shire Council to apply a Flat Rate system.

RESOLVED that a Council Committee comprising President Maley and not less than two other Councillors be delegated to negotiate the Establishment Package with the Northern Territory Government.

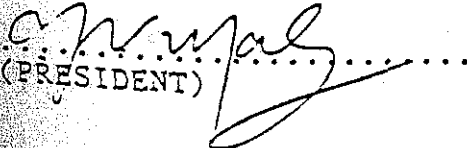
The Meeting terminated at 9.50 p.m.

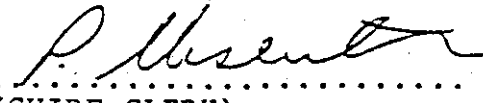
Minutes Confirmed
8th October, 1986.


.....
(PRESIDENT)


.....
(SHIRE CLERK)

This is page FOUR of the Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the Litchfield Shire Council, held on Wednesday, 1st October, 1986.


.....
(PRESIDENT)


.....
(SHIRE CLERK)

LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE

APPENDIX 'A' Schedule B Roads

<u>Road Name - (Sealed)</u>	<u>Length (kms)</u>
WALLABY HOLTZE	2.3
WALLABY HOLTZE	0.2
HORNE ROAD	0.1
DUNCAN ROAD	0.2
GUNN ROAD	0.2
LOVELOCK ROAD	1.8
MC AULAY ROAD	0.4
NOTTAGE ROAD	1.2
ELIZABETH VALLEY ROAD	0.4
HILLIER ROAD	1.2
FRANCESCA COURT	0.2
HORNSELL ROAD	0.1
FRED'S PASS ROAD	0.6
GIRRAWEE ROAD	1.3
VIRGINIA ROAD	2.2
WEAVER ROAD	0.1
LONDON ROAD	0.8
MC HENRY ROAD	0.6
VIRGINIA ROAD	0.2
EUGENE ROAD	0.7
LONDON ROAD	0.5
OSBECK ROAD	0.5
THORAK ROAD	1.2
CAMPBELL ROAD	3.2
MIDDLE POINT ROAD (Beyond Fogg Dam Road)	4.0
MIRA ROAD SOUTH	0.1
OLD BYNOE ROAD	0.3
PIONEER ROAD	0.9
REED BEDS ROAD	0.2
UNNAMED ROAD	0.5
SERVICE ROAD	0.2
SERVICE ROAD (Near)	0.5

LITCHFIELD SHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT PACKAGE

APPENDIX 'A' Schedule B Roads cont.

<u>Road Name - (Gravelled)</u>	<u>Length (kms)</u>
OLD BYNOE ROAD	17.5
BRANDT ROAD	2.8
HINTON ROAD	0.6
IRWIN ROAD	0.6
RYAN ROAD	0.2
VIRGINIA ROAD	2.7
CALLISTEMON ROAD	1.6
DREAMTIME DRIVE	1.1
MELALEUCA ROAD	1.6
PAPERBARK WAY	0.5
PHEASANT DRIVE	1.6
PINE WAY	0.4
RADFORD ROAD	0.3
TI TREE ROAD	0.4
BATE PLACE	0.1
FELLOWS ROAD	0.2
SHORT STREET	0.3
SMYTH ROAD	1.4
TOWNEND ROAD	1.9
WELLS CREEK ROAD	1.9
BEEES CREEK ROAD	1.3
LIVINGSTONE ROAD	1.2
SECRETTE ROAD	0.4
STANLEY ROAD	1.5
TOBIN ROAD	1.3
WESTALL ROAD	1.5
BARROW ROAD	0.6
BEARD ROAD	2.0
CORNISH ROAD	0.6
DRAPER ROAD	0.5
INMAN ROAD	0.5
MIRA ROAD SOUTH	0.4
MOCATTO ROAD	7.4
PRODUCE ROAD	2.1
STRANGWAYS ROAD	1.4
AVERLY ROAD	1.5
HORSNELL ROAD	1.6
JERVOIS ROAD	0.7
LOWTHER ROAD	1.4
PIONEER DRIVE	7.3
WEAVER ROAD	3.2
BARKER ROAD	1.0
JARROLD PLACE	0.4
LACY ROAD	0.6
LANGTON ROAD	0.8

