

The transition process will be supported by Development Coordinators. These are people whose jobs have been jointly funded by the NT and Federal Governments. Development Coordinators will assist the transition committees to:

- Represent their constituents in the reform process
- Support governance processes
- Ensure that shire plans are delivering results
- Ensure good services are being provided
- Encourage communities to be engaged with their shires
- Work with new shires to form strategic partnerships
- Undertake new social and economic projects with other levels of government and the private sector

Consultation

The Advisory Board will be consulting with communities across the NT in June and July 2007 on the best ways to deliver New Local Government. Details about the consultation in your area will be advertised in your local newspaper in May 2007.

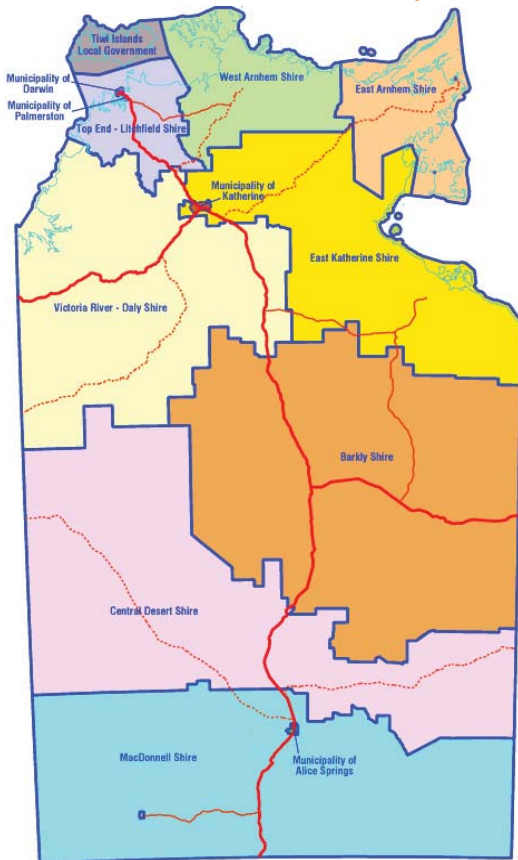


For more information about New Local Government

Contact

- New Local Government Hotline 1300 654 368
- www.nt.gov.au/localgovernment

Indicative Shire Boundaries of the Northern Territory



Message from the Minister

The Northern Territory Government is committed to improving the services available to every community across the Territory. All of the Northern Territory will have local government from 1 July 2008.

It is proposed that this reform program will retain the four existing municipal councils of Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs. The rest of the Territory will be covered by eight shires. The municipal and shire councils will be created by the Northern Territory Parliament.

This is a unique opportunity for all Territorians to have the same recognition as all other Australians.

Elliot McAdam, Minister for Local Government

What will it look like?

Indicative boundaries of the new shire councils have been drawn up and are shown on the map (see back page). The final boundaries will be determined by the Minister for Local Government after he has received advice from the Northern Territory Local Government Advisory Board in May 2007.

Why we need New Local Government?

The Northern Territory has a mix of different sorts of local government and community councils. Some communities currently have no local government or services. This means that people miss out on all the benefits of local government that other Australians enjoy.

Half of the existing Territory councils are too small to provide and pay for the services that community should expect to receive. Many of the councils are too small to attract experienced senior staff to run the services. Staff turnover is higher than anywhere else in the country and the cost of ongoing recruitment high. Sometimes the salary bills mean that there is little money left for services. About half the councils are either financially unstable or at high risk.

Past efforts by Northern Territory Governments to join councils together, voluntarily, have failed. This means that communities have missed out on grant money, services and the chance to get other levels of Government to understand their needs.

The major reform of local government will occur in rural and remote areas in the Territory.

There are some smaller communities in rural areas, including those in some mining and tourist communities, where local people can and do get quality services. These will continue under New Local Government.

What will New Local Government do for us?

New Local Government will deliver a set of quality services to every Territory community. These services will include:

- Roads
- Waste management
- Parks and reserves

The health of the local community will be improved through council services such as waste collection and environmental health, and higher levels of expertise will be available through the shire structure.



What will New Local Government do for us? cont...

Everyone will get a say in the number and quality of those services. They will do this through the democratic elections of councillors.

The shires will be big enough to negotiate with the Territory and Federal Governments on behalf of their communities. They will also be able to apply for grant money for local projects and local roads where they have not been able to in the past.

Local people will be able to get real local jobs such as drivers, plant operators, labourers, office workers, service providers and program managers in these new shires. People will be able to receive training for a range of jobs at the shire such as environmental health officers.

How will New Local Government work?

Elected Councillors

Each shire will have elected councillors who will make decisions on the services for the people of their shire.

The shire will be able to work directly with the Territory and Federal Governments to get the best opportunities for their communities.

Wards

Each councillor will represent an area or part of their shire, called a ward. A ward may have a single councillor representing the people of the ward or if the ward is larger, two or more councillors may represent the people in the ward.

Local Boards

Local communities may request the shire to establish a Local Board to provide advice to their ward councillor to assist the shire in making their decisions.

Boards may be important in providing the shire with community advice. At times, the shire may also be able to delegate to a Local Board the responsibility for delivering community-based projects.

The process for creating the new shires

The Minister has established two processes to make sure that New Local Government is in place by July 2008.

1. The Northern Territory Local Government Advisory Board – NTLGAB

This Board, headed by Mr Patrick Dodson, has been set up by the Minister for Local Government to provide him with advice on the details of how New Local Government will work. It has representatives from a wide range of groups with a direct interest in New Local Government.

The Board has a number of tasks. It will advise the Minister on:

- How New Local Government will work, such as Shire council boundaries and how councils can be elected
- Rules that set the level and standard of core local government services, such as roads, waste management, parks and reserves
- Changes to the *Local Government Act* that are required to support the new arrangements, including new arrangements for elections and representation
- Service delivery issues within and between shires and other levels of Government
- Development opportunities for the shires

The Board has representatives from a wide range of stakeholder groups with a direct interest in New Local Government.

NT Local Government Advisory Board Members

Core Advisory Board members

Patrick Dodson - Chairperson
Ray Wooldridge – Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
Brian Stacey – Federal Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Tony Tapsell – Local Government Managers Association
Chris Young – Chamber of Commerce
Stuart Kenny – Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association
Mike Burgess – Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport
Dennis Bree – Department of the Chief Minister
Lucio Matarazzo - Australian Services Union (North)
Stephen Webber - Australian Services Union (South)
Northern and Central Land Council representatives (to be advised)

Northern Advisory Board members

Anne Shepherd – Katherine Town Council
Esther Djayhgurrnga– Kunbarlanjnja Community Government Council
Ronald Lami Lami – Demed Incorporated
Ralph Blyth – Jabiru Town Council
Maurie Ryan – Daguragu Community Government Council
Veronica Birrell – Formerly from the Nyirranggulong Mardrulk Ngadberre Regional Council
Frazer Baker – Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Incorporated
Charles Yunupingu - Galiwin'ku Community Incorporated
John Berto - Thamarrurr Community Government Council
Peter Danaja (ex-Officio) - Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
Michael Bowman - Litchfield Shire Council Representative

Southern Advisory Board members

Noel Hayes – Ali Curung Association Incorporated
Fran Kilgariff – Alice Springs Town Council
Irene Nangala – Walungurru Community Council
Leo Abbott – Wallace Rockhole Community Government Council
Rod Swanson – Tennant Creek Town Council
Rosalie Petrick – Arltarlpilta Community Government Council
Geoffrey Barnes - Lajamanu Community Government Council

The Advisory Board will hold forums in June and July 2007 where the public will be consulted about service and representation issues.

2. The Shire Transition Committees

Nine shire transition committees have been established to:

- Develop shire plans to be completed by the end of 2007
- Consider a range of administration and representation issues
- Ensure a smooth transition to the new system of local government
- The shire plans will outline all the details of the operations of the new shire including:
 - The location of offices in each shire
 - The ward boundaries and the number of councillors for each ward
 - The administrative arrangements for the new shire

Each transition committee consists of currently elected council members and representatives from service organisations primarily with local government type services. Members of the transition committees will put forward ideas and issues from their community for consideration. They will also provide feedback to their council and communities on the progress of their transition committee. Each transition committee is chaired by a person selected by the committee.

