



26 February 2025

EXECUTIVE MINUTE

on

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORT

[No. 506]

[Inquiry into Commonwealth Financial Statements 2022-23]

General comments

The issues identified in the Inquiry relate to the 2022-23 financial year and prior. Much work has been done by the Tiwi Land Council to improve governance and financial administration since that time, such that the recommendations are now largely redundant.

Recommendation No 1:

The Committee requires an update within six months of the tabling of this report from the Tiwi Land Council on their progress in addressing the significant legislative breaches identified by the Australian National Audit Office [relating to the absence of a formal system of risk oversight and management in the 2022 financial year].

Summary of response:

Agreed

Supporting rationale:

This is an historical issue that has since been resolved, as acknowledged by the ANAO in subsequent financial audits. The Tiwi Land Council has provided extensive information in relation to its work in developing and implementing a system of risk oversight and management, both to its auditors, but also in written responses to questions at Senate Estimates. Such steps have included:

- *engagement of external advisory support from a risk management specialist;*
- *adoption of a Risk Management Policy endorsed by the Full Council;*
- *development of a Risk Management Implementation Plan and associated Risk Register;*
- *appointment of a full-time Governance Risk and Compliance Officer; and*

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- *strengthening of the Audit and Risk Committee, including through adoption of a formal Charter for the Committee.*

Recommendation No 3:

The Committee recommends that the Tiwi Land Council provide a response within six months on why their annual report has not been tabled in time to be scrutinised at supplementary budget estimates for the past three years [the 2021, 2022, and 2023 financial years].

Summary of response:

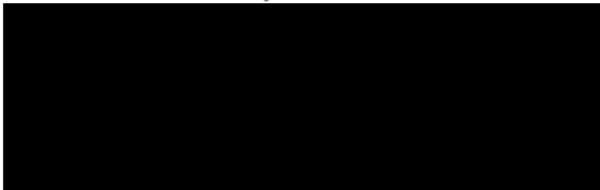
Agreed

Supporting rationale:

For a time, the Tiwi Land Council's governance and financial administration was not at a sufficiently high standard, as described extensively in the ANAO's 2023 report on the Governance of the Tiwi Land Council. As a consequence, prior Annual Reports may not have been submitted on time.

However, the Tiwi Land Council has since improved its internal reporting processes and addressed these issues in recent years. Annual Reports for the 2023 and 2024 financial years were both submitted to NIAA in October, in line with the Department's schedule.

Yours sincerely



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Chair
Tiwi Land Council



Brendan Ferguson
Chief Executive Officer
Tiwi Land Council

