



The Hon Tim Baldwin, MLA  
Minister for Local Government  
Parliament House  
DARWIN NT 0800

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 16 of the Local Government Grants Commission Act, I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report for the Commission on its activities for 1997/98. Included in the report are the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 1998.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Darben".

DON DARBEN AO

Chairman

September 1998

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## Aims of this Report

This is the thirteenth annual report of the Northern Territory Grants Commission in respect of Commonwealth financial assistance to local governing bodies. It is a requirement under section 16 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act* that the Annual Report be presented to the Minister.

The report aims to provide information on the distribution of funding provided to the Northern Territory's local governing bodies under the Commonwealth's *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, as well as provide information on the objectives, performance, future direction and financial position of the Commission. The report is intended to convey sufficient and relevant information on the Commission's programs and performance to any agency, organisation or individual with interests in its operation and functioning.

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## **Organisation and People**

### ***Membership***

The *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* provides for a Commission of four members, consisting of:

- a Chairman appointed by the Minister;
- the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Agency primarily responsible to the Minister for the administration of the Act, or his delegate; and
- two members appointed by the Minister; one representing the interests of municipal councils and the other representing the interests of community government councils and approved local governing bodies.

In 1997/98 the members of the Commission were:

- Mr Don Darben AO (Re-appointed Chairman 1 February 1996)
- Mr David Coles (Appointed 8 October 1997)
- Mr David Norton (Appointed 7 August 1996)
- Mr Francis Kelly (Appointed 4 February 1998)

### ***Administration and Staffing***

The costs of operation of the Commission for the year were met by funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Local Government. The operational expenditure for 1997/98 was \$68,733. The decrease in operational expenditure, compared to \$75,764 in 1996/97, was due to a delay in appointing Mr Francis Kelly to the Commission, affecting travelling costs and sitting fees.

The Executive Officer, Mr Ted Clark and Ms Beverley Croke of the Department of Housing and Local Government, coordinated the visitation program and assisted with the Commission's activities by providing executive support to the Commission.

## Overview

### *Background*

On 1 July 1986 the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act* came into force. A subsequent review of this legislation led to the enactment of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. This Commonwealth legislation provides for the total Northern Territory population to be taken into account in determining its global financial entitlement, relative to the other Australian States. The Act requires each State and the Northern Territory to establish a Local Government Grants Commission.

Under section 6(1) of the Act, the Commonwealth Minister, after consulting the relevant State Ministers and with a bodies representative of local government, formulated national principles. These principles are for the purpose of allocating to States, amounts payable to local governing bodies, under this Act. In formulating the National Principles (**see Appendix A**), the Minister:

- (a) is to have regard to the need to ensure that the allocation of funds for local government purposes is made, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis; but
- (b) must ensure that no local governing body will be allocated an amount in a year that is less than the amount that would be allocated to the body if 30% of the amount which the State/Territory is entitled in respect of the year was allocated among local governing bodies on a per capita basis.

Local government councils incorporated under either the municipal or community government provisions of the Northern Territory *Local Government Act* are, like those similarly incorporated in other States, eligible to receive Commonwealth financial assistance as of right. Communities which have not been formally incorporated under that Act, but have been approved by the respective Commonwealth and Northern Territory Governments as local governing bodies, are also included in the distribution of Commonwealth financial assistance and local roads grants.

### *Vision*

The Grants Commission has a vision to allocate all funding in an equitable, transparent and culturally sensitive manner.

### *Mission Statement*

The Grants Commission's mission is to make recommendations to the Commonwealth Government, through the Northern Territory Minister for Local Government, on the distribution of financial assistance and local roads grants to local governing bodies within the Northern Territory.

### *Functions*

- The Commission makes recommendations to the Federal Minister in respect of the amounts of money to be allocated to local governing bodies from the money provided to the Territory by the Commonwealth under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.
- The Commission also makes recommendations on such other matters relating to the finances of local governing bodies as the Northern Territory Minister for Local Government, from time to time, refers to the Commission.

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## *Performance against Objectives*

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### *To develop and implement policies which ensure the equitable distribution of Commonwealth funding to Northern Territory local governing bodies.*

Policy development is an ongoing commitment within the Commission. This year it has refined its policies relating to the recognition of local roads and outstation populations being serviced by councils outside their community government areas, and the accepted boundaries of approved local governing bodies.

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### *To continuously review the distribution processes for Commonwealth funding to Northern Territory local governing bodies in the interests of funding equity.*

In 1996 a partial review was undertaken of the Commission's funding methodology in relation to Commonwealth financial assistance and local roads funding. The Commission has also used 1996 Census data to refresh a number of funding methodology items.

During the course of this year's deliberations, a number of methodological issues were raised and the Minister for Local Government has requested that a comprehensive review of the methodology be undertaken. The review will be conducted by the Grants Commission with extensive consultation with the industry and other stakeholders.

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### *To assess the relative difficulties each local governing body encounters in the provision of local government services.*

In 1997/98 the Commission held public hearings throughout the Northern Territory, and continued its rolling program of visits to local governing bodies, to gain information on difficulties with local government services delivery. In addition, the Commission invited all local governing bodies, and other interested parties, to submit comments or proposals in relation to any aspect of the funding methodology.

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### *To visit and consult with all local governing bodies included in the grants programs, over a three year period.*

The Commission has a policy of visiting every local governing body in the Northern Territory over a three year period. Those councils visited this year are identified under the Recommendations section of this report.

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### *To develop improved mechanisms for the collection, storage and analysis of information and comparative data for community needs assessment.*

In the interests of funding equity the Commission continues to collect a variety of core data, relating to a council's relative cost of service provision and revenue raising capacity, directly from all councils. The data return forms distributed were submitted through the Department of Housing and Local Government's regional offices for verification prior to the submission to the Commission.

Grants Commission data is also in the process of inclusion in the Community Information Access System (CIAS) database. This system has been initiated by the Department of Housing and Local Government to provide a comprehensive data source in relation to all communities.

In 1996 the Commission commenced a process of digitising and colour coded road status maps indicating the road responsibilities of each council in the Northern Territory. This has proved a very successful method of updating road data responsibilities. The digitising process ensures that annual updating in a cost effective manner is possible.

## ***Major Projects and Achievements***

### ***Future Impact of NT Strategic Roads Program***

Commencing in 1995/96 the Commonwealth Government provided a significant amount of capital funding for the upgrading of identified roads of strategic importance under the Strategic Roads Program. This program has now ceased and the Northern Territory Department of Transport and Works took over responsibility for the maintenance and capital upgrading of those identified strategic roads from 1 July 1997. Thus, funding for these roads is no longer a local government responsibility and funding for those strategic roads now comes from the Roads program of the Department of Transport and Works, who adopt the policy of providing contracts to local communities wherever possible.

Consultation with the Department of Housing and Local Government and those councils affected by this change in policy has occurred, ensuring that the full implications of the associated reduction in 1998/99 road funding have been provided to all councils.

### ***Financial Statistical Collection***

The Grants Commission, in conjunction with the Department of Housing and Local Government and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, continues to be involved with an exercise relating to financial data collection. The major outcome of this initiative will be the annual provision of information relating to council expenditure and revenues as occurs elsewhere in Australia.

### ***CIAS Data Base***

The Community Information Access System (CIAS) provides a comprehensive Department of Housing and Local Government data source in relation to remote and Aboriginal communities. Grants Commission information held by CIAS includes the names, locations, populations, elected members, key personnel, existing services, local government and funding matters in relation to the communities. Digitising of sectionalised local road maps will be included as part of development of CIAS.

### ***Digitising of Local Road Maps***

In 1996 the Commission digitised and colour coded road status maps indicating the road responsibilities of each council in the Northern Territory. This has proved a very successful method of determining, in conjunction with councils, road responsibilities. Annual updating after consultation with all key stakeholders occurs.

### ***Public Hearings***

In accordance with section 11 of the Commonwealth legislation, the Commission held public hearings throughout the Territory. Attendance at these hearings varied and included representatives from remote councils as well as those in whose precinct the hearings were held. This may indicate that many councils are content to rely on the Commission's rotational visits program to facilitate feedback to the Commissioners.



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### ***Visits to Local Governing Bodies***

The rolling program of Commission visits has continued for the 1997/98 year. This program takes three years for a full cycle, although special circumstances may warrant occasional departure from the pre-planned program. The 25 locations visited this year are identified in the listing of local governing bodies in the Recommendations section of this report.

While the main areas of interest relate to population and roads, the Commission also discusses the difficulties that local governing bodies experience in providing services to their respective communities and outstations. This provides an ongoing review of the community disability factors.

In addition, to the visits program the Commission continues to extend its standing invitation to all local governing bodies and other interested parties to submit comments, or proposals regarding the refinement of any aspect of the methodology.

Many Councils that were visited this year chose to make either informal or formal submissions to the Commission. The Commission thanks those Councils for their contributions which were an invaluable additional source of information.

## Methodology and Formula Factors

### *Methodology*

The Northern Territory Grants Commission amended its methodology in 1996 to apply the National Principles for the distribution of financial assistance grants to local governing bodies. Details regarding these National Principles are at **Appendix A**.

The methodology used by the Commission in making its assessments for 1998/99 conforms with the requirements of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*. Wherever possible, it has followed horizontal equalisation principles as set out in section 6 (3) of the Act, and as embodied in the national distribution principles.

In assessing relative expenditure and revenue needs, the Commission utilised the “balanced budget approach”. Using this approach, the Commission assesses the total standardised expenditure needs for each local governing body, and then deducts the assessed revenue raising capacity to arrive at the standardised deficit. The deficit represents the funding required to enable each local governing body to deliver an average level of services when an average revenue raising effort is made.

The methodology used by the Commission calculates standards and applies disability factors and weightings to assess each local governing body’s revenue raising capacity and expenditure requirements.

The assessed revenue raising capacity and assessed expenditure requirements are the Commission’s measures of each local governing body’s ability to function at the average standard.

The calculation of standardised expenditure and revenue needs took into account population changes. These cover both increases as well as decreases where they occurred. In order to smooth the effect of these variations, the Commission adopts a three year average of its calculated core community populations. The formula used by the Commission is shown at **Appendix B**.

### *Revenue Raising Capacity*

As the ownership of the land on which many communities are located is vested in Land Trusts established pursuant to the *Commonwealth Aboriginal Lands Rights (NT) Act*, it is not feasible to use a land valuation system to assess revenue raising capacity.

The method of calculating revenue raising capacity is achieved through the use of personal income statistics, obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This allows the determination of a councils theoretical gross income. In addition, councils which are recipients of the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy have 50% of this revenue taken into account. The Commission considers that given the unique circumstances within the Northern Territory, this approach provides a reasonable indication of a councils revenue raising capacity.

### *Expenditure Needs and Disability Factors*

The assessment of expenditure needs calculates standards in each category with disability factors applied as appropriate.

There are six expenditure categories taken into account by the Commission. For the 1998/99 year the total standardised expenditure needs for each local governing body is adjusted by a combination of five disability factors. In arriving at these factors the Commission took into account the factors of distance, isolation, geographic location, dispersion, external access, growth and communications, which would influence costs of service delivery by individual councils. The disability factors used by the Commission for 1998/99 are shown at **Appendix C**.

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## *Population Estimates*

In making its assessments, the Commission considered 1996 Census data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. However, it was concerned that this data was at variance with that returned directly by the Councils and endorsed by the Department of Housing and Local Government. The Commission has recently commenced a joint validation exercise with the ABS in identifying reasons for the differences. This may lead to future pilot counts in a number of regional communities.

Population data for smaller local governing bodies is more difficult to determine. This is partly because of enumeration difficulties in remote areas and the non-defined boundaries of some local governing bodies. In addition, whatever population is adopted may be of limited relevance in view of the seasonal increases and decreases of the predominantly Aboriginal communities.

The Commission has derived estimated resident population data for these smaller local governing bodies by reference to information obtained from a range of sources, including the Department of Housing and Local Government and the communities themselves.

In assessing the needs of communities, the Commission took into account local resident population and included a factor for those in outstations dependent on the relative council for local government services.

In addition the Commission took into account interstate and overseas tourist visitors to communities that impact on the provision of local government services.

The population figures, incorporating the three year average, outstation and tourist populations for all 68 local governing bodies are shown at **Appendix D**.

## Recommendations

### *Federal Assistance Grants for 1998/99*

In accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act*, the Commission recommends the following grants to local governing bodies:

All recommendations conform with section 6(2)(b) of the Commonwealth *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* in allocating amounts that are no less than those to which local governing bodies would be eligible to receive if 30% of the total to which the Northern Territory is entitled (**ie \$8,637,774**) was distributed among local governing bodies on a per capita basis.

		1997/98	See Note	1998/99
		\$	No 3	\$
<b>Alice Springs Region</b>				
1	Aherrenge	69,735	167	66,956
1	Alice Springs	803,433	1,924	895,243
1	Amoonguna	29,258	70	31,926
1	Anmatjere	136,774	328	144,389
1	Aputula	46,572	112	47,286
	Areyonga	47,663	114	47,742
1	Arltarpilta	60,542	145	57,653
	Ikuntji	61,376	147	65,701
	Imanpa	32,128	77	37,646
	Kaltukatjara	62,229	149	69,490
1	Ltyentye Purte	58,622	140	57,316
	Ntaria	64,171	154	63,430
1	Nyirrpi	59,716	143	64,132
	Papunya	56,706	136	54,000
	Tapatjatjaka	32,448	78	35,730
1	Urapuntja	112,907	270	114,089
	Wallace Rockhole	32,414	78	33,652
	Walungurru	85,861	206	81,764
	Watiyawanu	56,701	136	53,995
1	Willowra	78,453	188	74,709
1	Yuelamu	45,724	110	52,952
1	Yuendumu	144,005	345	137,133
2	Yulara	27,149	(20,001)	Nil
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>		<b>2,204,587</b>	<b>(14,784)</b>	<b>2,286,934</b>

	<b>997/98</b>	<b>See Note</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>No 3.</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>East Arnhem Region</b>			
	76,479	183	73,075
	137,665	330	171,913
1	124,983	299	126,738
	38,323	92	37,180
	64,949	156	72,991
	56,782	136	73,587
	121,801	292	115,988
	104,283	250	99,306
	77,661	186	73,954
	85,341	204	81,268
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>888,267</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>926,000</b>
<b>Darwin Region</b>			
	30,977	74	33,324
	77,749	186	88,638
	15,303	37	15,119
1	1,382,327	3,311	1,341,768
1	65,332	156	62,215
	204,525	490	194,764
1	182,091	436	173,400
1	628,068	1,504	616,017
1	141,057	338	134,325
	44,645	107	49,625
	46,069	110	47,386
	54,670	131	53,959
	61,682	148	58,738
	86,561	207	98,291
1	568,415	1,361	632,731
	103,187	247	98,262
	43,452	104	45,227
	57,570	138	59,139
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>3,793,680</b>	<b>9,085</b>	<b>3,802,928</b>

	1997/98	See Note	1998/99
	\$	No 3.	\$
<b>Tennant Creek Region</b>			
Ali Curung	50,035	120	52,771
Alpurrurulam	53,367	128	69,747
1 Elliott District	28,482	68	40,740
1 Tennant Creek	204,659	490	235,703
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>336,543</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>398,961</b>
<b>Katherine Region</b>			
Barunga Manyallaluk	51,716	124	52,212
Binjari	29,139	70	32,207
Borroloola	57,196	137	54,466
1 Daguragu	61,489	147	72,715
Gulin Gulin and Weemol	45,202	108	49,461
Jilkmिंगgan	32,307	77	31,189
1 Katherine	392,934	941	435,816
1 Lajamanu	97,679	234	98,563
Mataranka	25,966	62	24,726
Pine Creek	31,304	75	29,810
1 Timber Creek	47,011	113	52,418
Walangeri Ngumpinku	49,294	118	59,065
Wugularr	45,261	108	47,786
Yugul Mangi	188,372	451	182,517
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,154,870</b>	<b>2,765</b>	<b>1,222,951</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,377,947</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>8,637,774</b>

### Notes Forming Part of this Report

- 1 Local governing bodies visited in 1997/98.
- 2 Yulara Town Council ceased operation on 28 November 1997
- 3 Redistribution of the balance of the grant to Yulara Town Council.

## ***Road Grants for 1998/99***

In accordance with section 12 of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act*, the Commission recommends the following local road grants to local governing bodies.

Funds totalling **\$8,839,569** were divided on weighted road length with the following weightings being applied: kerbed and sealed x 10, sealed x 8, gravel x 4, formed x 1, unformed x 0.4 and cycle paths x 2.

Additionally, a base or minimum figure of \$20,000 has been adopted for all councils as it is felt that a derived figure of less than this amount was not commensurate with a realistic acceptance of road maintenance and responsibility.

	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Alice Springs Region</b>		
Aherrenge	24,662	21,746
Alice Springs	584,581	640,403
Amoonguna	20,000	20,000
Anmatjere	69,105	78,933
Aputula	20,000	20,684
Areyonga	26,284	28,558
Arltarpilta	20,000	20,000
Ikuntji	31,633	34,369
Imanpa	20,000	21,789
Kaltukatjara	75,488	82,019
Ltyentye Purte	61,271	66,739
Ntaria	68,553	79,191
Nyirрпи	60,054	65,249
Papunya	63,250	48,474
Tapatjatjaka	20,000	20,000
Urapuntja	54,786	59,526
Wallace Rockhole	20,000	20,000
Walungurru	138,992	84,582
Watiyawanu	66,755	20,000
Willowra	82,939	75,508
Yuelamu	37,578	36,729
<b>Yuendumu</b>	<b>166,932</b>	<b>181,374</b>
1 Yulara	Nil	Nil
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,732,863</b>	<b>1,725,873</b>

	1997/98	1998/99
	\$	\$
<b>East Arnhem Region</b>		
Angurugu	78,470	85,259
Galiwinku	113,049	139,358
Gapuwiyak	129,045	141,854
Marngarr	20,000	20,000
Milingimbi	20,000	28,879
Milyakburra	27,358	54,588
Numbulwar Numburindi	145,347	127,981
Ramingining	131,725	101,171
Umbakumba	113,521	28,529
Yirrkala Dhanbul	57,756	56,679
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>836,271</b>	<b>784,298</b>
<b>Darwin Region</b>		
Belyuen	23,701	25,752
Coomalie	217,119	250,731
Cox Peninsula	28,580	35,469
Darwin	1,209,073	1,311,402
Jabiru	67,901	70,904
Kardu Numida	110,549	81,590
Kunbarllanjnja	408,312	365,432
Litchfield	982,957	1,148,034
Maningrida	157,886	87,473
Milikapiti	89,607	97,359
Minjilang	52,198	56,714
Naiyu Nambiyu	68,308	74,218
Nganmarriyanga	82,861	40,146
Nguiu	137,315	151,473
Palmerston	268,341	325,280
Peppimenarti	199,369	116,850
Pirlangimpi	67,187	73,000
Warruwi	67,376	73,205
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>4,238,640</b>	<b>4,385,032</b>



	<b>1997/98</b>	<b>1998/99</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Tennant Creek Region</b>		
Ali Curung	37,925	41,206
Alpurrurulam	20,000	20,000
Elliott District	20,000	20,000
Tennant Creek	124,387	135,148
3 Tennant Creek (Remote)	123,103	133,753
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>325,415</b>	<b>350,107</b>
<b>Katherine Region</b>		
Barunga Manyallaluk	70,572	76,677
Binjari	20,000	20,000
Borroloola	50,812	45,400
Daguragu	78,974	85,807
Gulin Gulin and Weemol	20,000	23,952
Jilkmिंगgan	20,000	20,000
Katherine	368,345	405,148
Lajamanu	59,787	64,960
Mataranka	39,903	43,181
Pine Creek	97,521	105,957
Timber Creek	95,871	106,181
Walangeri Ngumpinku	20,000	20,000
Wugularr	34,036	36,976
Yugul Mangi	136,570	114,003
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>1,112,391</b>	<b>1,168,242</b>
2 Trust Account (LGANT)	431,447	426,017
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,677,027</b>	<b>8,839,569</b>

### Notes Forming Part of this Report

- 1 Yulara Town Council ceased operation on 28 November 1997, and did not receive local road funding in 1997/98, as the Northern Territory Government maintained its local road network.
- 2 A trust account, administered by LGANT, ensures the continued maintenance of those local roads that could not logically be 'allocated' to a local governing body.
- 3 Tennant Creek Town Council agreed to accept responsibility for those 'unallocated' roads within the Barkly Region that were previously the responsibility of LGANT.

## Acknowledgments

The Commission wishes to record its appreciation for the valuable cooperation and assistance it has received during its work from all local governing bodies, and in particular, those visited during the year. The Commission would like to express its thanks to the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Litchfield Shire Councils for the use of their facilities during the Commission's public hearings.

The Commission is grateful for the executive support and assistance of both Mr Ted Clark and Ms Beverley Croke of the Department of Housing and Local Government, combined with the services provided by the field staff.

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# Appendix A

## *National Principles for the Allocation of General Purpose and Local Road Grants*

A. The National Principles relating to the allocation of general purpose grants payable under section 6 of the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (the Act) among local governing bodies are as follows:

**1. *Horizontal Equalisation***

General purpose grants will be allocated to all local governing bodies, as far as practicable, on a full horizontal equalisation basis as defined by the Act. This is a basis that ensures that each local governing body in the State/Territory is able to function, by reasonable effort, at a standard not lower than the average standard of other local governing bodies in the State. It takes account of differences in the expenditure required by those local governing bodies in the performance of their functions and in the capacity of those local governing bodies to raise revenue.

**2. *Effort Neutrality***

An effort or policy neutral approach will be used in assessing expenditure requirements and revenue raising capacity of each local governing body. This means as far as possible, policies of individual local governing bodies in terms of expenditure and revenue effort will not affect the grant determination.

**3. *Minimum Grant***

The minimum general purpose grant allocation for a local governing body in a year will not be less than the amount to which the local governing body would be eligible to receive if 30% of the total amount of general purpose grants to which the State/Territory is entitled under section 9 of the Act in respect of the year were allocated among local governing bodies in the State/Territory on a per capita basis.

**4. *Other Grant Support***

Other relevant grant support provided to local governing bodies to meet any of the expenditure needs assessed should be taken into account using an inclusion approach.

**5. *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders***

Financial assistance shall be allocated to councils in a way which recognises the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders within their boundaries.

B. The National Principle relating to the allocation of the amounts payable under Section 12 of the Act (the identified road component of the financial assistance grants) among local governing bodies is as follows:

**1. *Identified Road Component***

The identified road component of the financial assistance grants should be allocated to local governing bodies as far as practicable on the basis of the relative needs of each local governing body for roads expenditure and to preserve its road assets. In assessing road needs, relevant considerations include length, type and usage of roads in each local governing area.

## Appendix B

### *Formula*

#### **1. Revenue Component**

All councils:

Assessed Revenue  
Raising Capacity = Gross Income/State Income x \$31,154,002

Assessed Revenue = Assessed Rates + 50% Operational Subsidy

#### **WHERE**

Gross Income = Community Gross Income

State Income = Total NT Gross Income

Operational Subsidy = NT Operational Subsidy 1996/97

\$31,154,002 = Total Local Government Rate Revenue

#### **2. Expenditure Components**

##### **(a) Amenity**

Community population/Territory population x NT Amenity Expenditure x (isolation works x dispersion x growth) - Amenity Grants

##### **(b) General Administration**

Community population/Territory population x NT general administration expenditure x (isolation administration x dispersion x Aboriginality) - Administration Grants

A base level (\$70,000) of expenditure is applied to all councils.

##### **(c) Human Services**

Community population/Territory population x NT Human Services expenditure x (isolation administration x Aboriginality x growth) - Human Services Grants

##### **(d) Libraries**

The population figure used for these calculations is the sum of the populations in those centres that are in receipt of library services.

Community population/Territory population x NT Library expenditure x (isolation administration x Aboriginality x growth) - NT Library Grants

##### **(e) Recreation**

Community population/Territory population x NT Recreation expenditure x (isolation works x growth) - NT Recreation Grants

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***(f) Transport***

This category is calculated on weighted road lengths by surface type. The summing of these figures determines a council's road factor.

The road factor equation is:

Community road factor/NT road factor x NT roads expenditure

10 x Kerbed and Sealed road + 8 x Sealed road + 4 x Gravel road + 1 x Formed road + 0.4 x Unformed road  
+ 2 x Cycle Paths.

## Appendix C

### *Northern Territory Grants Commission Disability Factors*

Name	Isolation Administration	Isolation Works	Dispersion	Aboriginality	Growth
<b>Alice Springs Region</b>					
Aherrenge	1.35	1.40	1.25	1.91	1.14
Alice Springs	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.20	1.02
Amoonguna	1.05	1.05	1.00	1.97	1.03
Anmatjere	1.20	1.20	1.50	1.95	1.02
Aputula	1.35	1.40	1.00	1.91	1.01
Areyonga	1.35	1.40	1.00	1.93	1.03
Arltarlpilta	1.30	1.30	1.25	1.97	1.10
Ikuntji	1.40	1.40	1.25	1.90	1.18
Imanpa	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.93	1.00
Kaltukatjara	1.45	1.45	1.00	1.92	1.11
Ltyentye Purte	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.93	1.01
Ntaria	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.89	1.00
Nyirрпи	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.98	1.00
Papunya	1.30	1.35	1.00	1.91	1.00
Tapatjatjaka	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.95	1.00
Urapuntja	1.35	1.40	1.50	1.96	1.05
Wallace Rockhole	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.97	1.05
Walungurru	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.98	1.00
Watiyawanu	1.40	1.40	1.00	1.95	1.06
Willowra	1.35	1.35	1.25	1.90	1.02
Yuelamu	1.30	1.35	1.00	1.95	1.14
Yuendumu	1.30	1.35	1.25	1.94	1.00
<b>Tennant Creek Region</b>					
Ali Curung	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.92	1.00
Alpurrurulam	1.35	1.40	1.00	1.93	1.20
Elliott District	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.85	1.05
Tennant Creek	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.40	1.00

Name	Isolation Administration	Isolation Works	Dispersion	Aboriginality	Growth
<b>Darwin Region</b>					
Belyuen	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.97	1.02
Coomalie	1.10	1.10	1.25	1.23	1.04
Cox Peninsula	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.05	1.07
Darwin	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.08	1.00
Jabiru	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.10	1.04
Kardu Numida	1.35	1.35	1.00	1.93	1.02
Kunbarllanjja	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.91	1.06
Litchfield	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.11	1.05
Maningrida	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.89	1.17
Milikapiti	1.15	1.25	1.00	1.92	1.02
Minjilang	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.93	1.00
Nauiyu Nambiyu	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.93	1.00
Nganmarriyanga	1.35	1.35	1.00	1.92	1.02
Nguiu	1.15	1.20	1.00	1.90	1.05
Palmerston	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.12	1.12
Peppimenarti	1.35	1.35	1.00	1.90	1.08
Pirlangimpi	1.15	1.25	1.00	1.90	1.00
Warruwi	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.94	1.00
<b>East Arnhem Region</b>					
Angurugu	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.97	1.00
Galiwinku	1.30	1.35	1.00	1.94	1.19
Gapuwiyak	1.30	1.30	1.25	1.95	1.06
Marngarr	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.93	1.10
Milingimbi	1.30	1.35	1.00	1.94	1.00
Milyakburra	1.50	1.50	1.00	1.96	1.25
Numbulwar					
Numburindi	1.45	1.45	1.00	1.93	1.07
Ramingining	1.30	1.30	1.25	1.94	1.13
Umbakumba	1.30	1.35	1.00	1.97	1.07
Yirrkala	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.78	1.00

Name	Isolation Administration	Isolation Works	Dispersion	Aboriginality	Growth
<b>Katherine Region</b>					
Barunga					
Manyallaluk	1.15	1.15	1.00	1.90	1.02
Binjari	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.98	1.17
Borroloola	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.64	1.01
Daguragu	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.91	1.14
Gulin Gulin and Weemol	1.30	1.30	1.00	1.93	1.03
Jilkminggan	1.15	1.15	1.00	1.97	1.00
Katherine	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.16	1.02
Lajamanu	1.35	1.35	1.00	1.93	1.03
Mataranka	1.15	1.15	1.00	1.50	1.08
Pine Creek	1.10	1.10	1.00	1.22	1.00
Timber Creek	1.25	1.25	1.00	1.70	1.08
Walangeri Ngumpinku	1.30	1.30	1.25	1.96	1.07
Wugularr	1.20	1.20	1.00	1.97	1.00
Yugul Mangi	1.30	1.30	1.50	1.91	1.10



## Appendix D

### Population (including Related Service Populations)

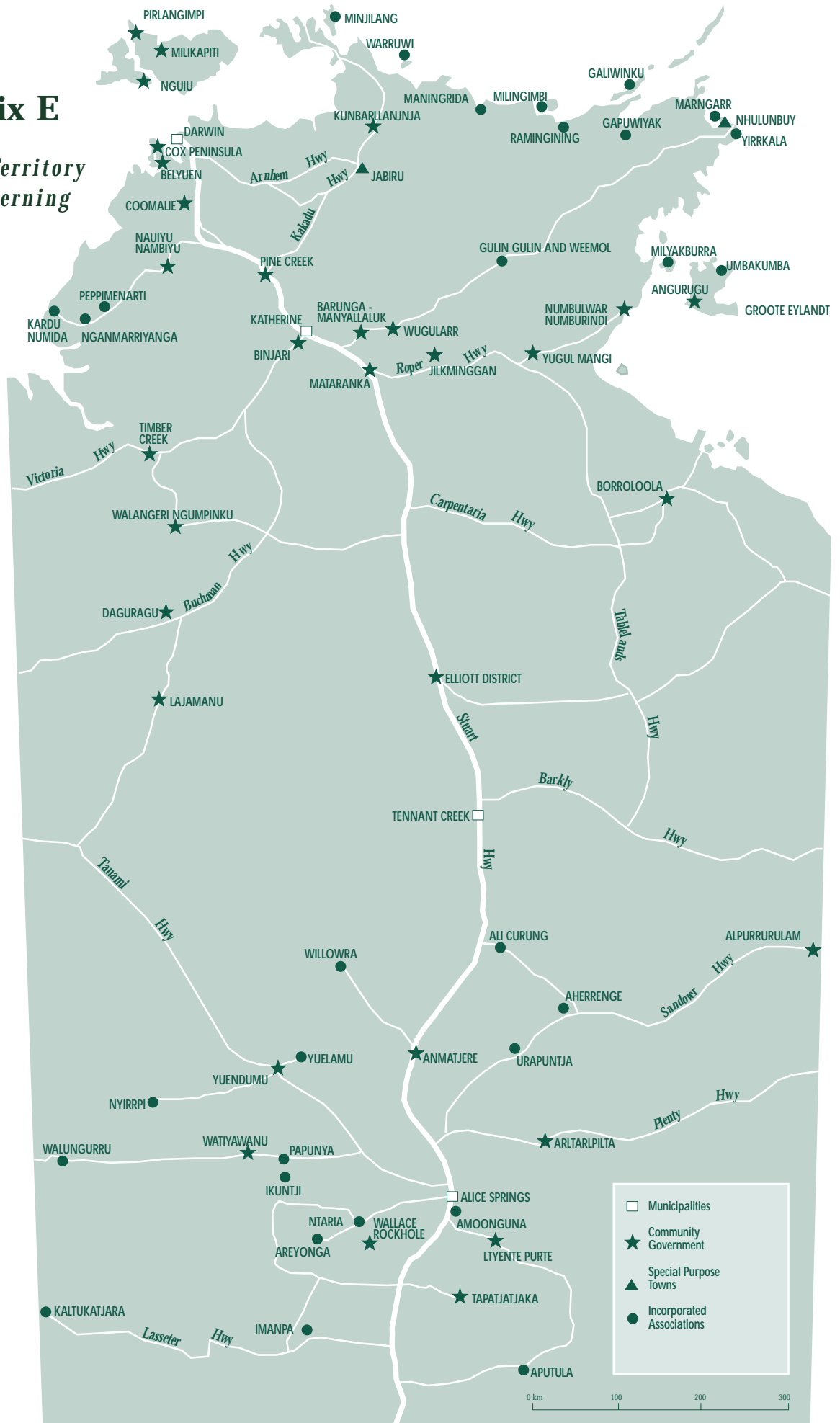
Name	Calculated Populations			3 Year	O/Stat	Adj'ed	Tourist	Total
	30.6.96	30.6.97	30.6.98	Average Pop	Pop	Pop	Pop	
<b>Alice Springs Region</b>								
Aherrenge	250	323	320	298	140	70	0	368
Alice Springs	26,212	26,979	27,519	26,903	0	0	1,492	28,395
Amoonguna	222	230	235	229	65	0	0	229
Anmatjere	1,356	1,356	1,400	1,371	0	0	5	1,376
Aputula	271	288	273	277	29	29	0	306
Areyonga	241	256	256	251	0	0	0	251
Arltarlpilta	230	230	275	245	0	0	0	245
Ikuntji	160	160	219	180	59	0	0	180
Imanpa	160	126	120	135	0	0	0	135
Kaltukatjara	290	283	350	308	0	0	0	308
Ltyentye Purte	565	565	573	568	0	0	0	568
Ntaria	600	600	570	590	38	0	0	590
Nyirripi	300	300	298	299	8	0	0	299
Papunya	366	306	266	313	35	18	0	330
Tapatjatjaka	196	187	191	191	2	0	0	191
Urapuntja	806	860	880	849	0	0	0	849
Wallace Rockhole	146	160	160	155	0	0	5	160
Walungurru	550	490	400	480	0	0	0	480
Watiyawanu	280	280	280	280	70	0	0	280
Willowra	416	426	436	426	15	0	0	426
Yuelamu	162	182	210	185	102	77	0	261
Yuendumu	1,178	1,178	1,110	1,155	0	0	0	1,155
Yulara	1,000	1,000	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>35,957</b>	<b>36,765</b>	<b>36,341</b>	<b>35,688</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>37,382</b>
<b>Tennant Creek Region</b>								
Ali Curung	450	450	450	450	0	0	0	450
Alpurrurulam	500	498	700	566	0	0	0	566
Elliott District	594	594	650	613	0	0	4	617
Tennant Creek	3,800	3,808	3,800	3,803	200	50	100	3,953
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>5,344</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,432</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>5,586</b>

Name	Calculated Populations			3 Year Average Pop	O/Stat Pop	Adj'ed Pop	Tourist Pop	Total
	30.6.96	30.6.97	30.6.98					
<b>Darwin Region</b>								
Belyuen	240	240	250	243	0	0	0	243
Coomalie	1,351	1,421	1,472	1,415	0	0	41	1,456
Cox Peninsula	231	261	264	252	0	0	2	254
Darwin	70,515	70,515	71,079	70,703	0	0	1,476	72,179
Jabiru	1,733	1,823	1,880	1,812	0	0	150	1,962
Kardu Numida	1,850	1,910	1,910	1,890	88	22	0	1,912
Kunbarlanjnja	900	980	1,010	963	250	63	2	1,028
Litchfield	13,014	13,241	14,400	13,552	0	0	40	13,592
Maningrida	1,270	1,270	1,700	1,413	550	66	2	1,481
Milikapiti	480	480	498	486	18	0	1	487
Minjilang	221	218	209	216	38	0	0	216
Nauiyu Nambiyu	443	461	441	448	0	0	2	450
Nganmariyanga	327	338	341	335	60	15	0	350
Nguiu	1,272	1,375	1,400	1,349	0	0	4	1,353
Palmerston	13,297	14,810	16,569	14,892	0	0	0	14,892
Peppimenarti	214	260	248	241	173	50	0	241
Pirlangimpi	335	335	335	335	0	0	0	335
Warruwi	365	365	350	360	15	15	0	375
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>108,058</b>	<b>110,303</b>	<b>114,356</b>	<b>110,905</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1,720</b>	<b>112,806</b>
<b>East Arnhem Region</b>								
Angurugu	870	815	810	832	135	68	0	899
Galiwinku	1,000	1,329	1,404	1,244	534	176	0	1,421
Gapuwiyak	859	859	969	896	225	56	0	952
Marngarr	273	319	329	307	16	8	0	315
Milingimbi	840	850	754	815	187	22	0	837
Milyakburra	150	200	235	195	15	15	0	195
Numbulwar								
Numburindi	928	1,095	1,050	1,024	155	0	0	1,024
Ramingining	402	452	512	455	382	76	0	532
Umbakumba	400	470	450	440	60	20	0	460
Yirrkala Dhanbul	800	800	800	800	300	60	0	860
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6,522</b>	<b>7,189</b>	<b>7,313</b>	<b>7,008</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,495</b>

Name	Calculated Populations			3 Year 30.6.98 Average Pop	O/Stat Average Pop	Adj'ed Pop	Tourist Pop	Total Pop
	30.6.96	30.6.97	30.6.98					
<b>Katherine Region</b>								
Barunga								
Manyallaluk	482	500	500	494	0	0	1	495
Binjari	183	223	250	219	0	0	0	219
Borroloola	800	810	810	807	280	42	17	866
Daguragu	525	645	675	615	29	15	1	631
Gulin Gulin and								
Weemol	300	320	320	313	203	0	0	313
Jilkmिंगgan	185	180	181	182	0	0	0	182
Katherine	10,518	10,660	10,928	10,702	0	0	485	11,187
Lajamanu	1,018	1,028	1,081	1,042	68	34	0	1,077
Mataranka	237	237	277	250	0	0	92	342
Pine Creek	649	659	492	600	0	0	14	614
Timber Creek	200	224	234	219	0	0	60	279
Walingeri								
Ngumpinku	379	409	434	407	29	0	0	407
Wugularr	634	634	511	593	0	0	0	593
Yugul Mangi	1,239	1,434	1,489	1,387	0	0	0	1,388
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>17,349</b>	<b>17,963</b>	<b>18,182</b>	<b>17,830</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>18,593</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173,230</b>	<b>177,570</b>	<b>181,792</b>	<b>176,863</b>	<b>4,573</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>3,996</b>	<b>181,862</b>

# Appendix E

## Northern Territory Local Governing Bodies



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# Appendix F

## *Auditor - General's Report*

to the Minister for Local Government  
on the Northern Territory Grants Commission  
for the year ended 30 June 1998

### *Scope*

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Northern Territory Grants Commission for the year ended 30 June 1998, comprising Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Statement of Income and Expenditure including Statement by Chairman, together with Notes to and forming part of the financial statements. The Northern Territory Grants Commission is responsible for the financial statements. I have performed an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion upon them to the Minister for Local Government

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and the requirements of the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986* so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial position of the Northern Territory Grants Commission and the results of its operations.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

### *Audit Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial statements presents fairly the financial position of the Northern Territory Grants Commission as at 30 June 1998 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements, and the *Local Government Grants Commission Act 1986*.



**Iain Summers**

Auditor-General for the Northern Territory

17 September 1998

Darwin, Northern Territory

**NORTHERN TERRITORY GRANTS COMMISSION**

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 1998**

	1997	1998
	\$	\$
Assets	Nil	Nil
Liabilities	Nil	Nil

**Statement of Income & Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1998**

Income	Nil	Nil
Expenditure	Nil	Nil

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.

**Statement by Chairman**

In my opinion:

- (i) The accompanying Statement of Income and Expenditure gives a true and fair view of the NT Grants Commission's transactions for the reporting year ended 30 June 1998.

The financial statements are based on proper accounts and records and are in agreement with the accounts and have been properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the transactions of the NT Grants Commission for the reporting year ended 30 June 1998 and its financial position at that date.

- (ii) The accompanying Statement of Assets and Liabilities gives a true and fair view of the NT Grants Commission's state of affairs at the end of the reporting year; and
- (iii) The financial statements are in accordance with applicable accounting standards.



**DON DARBEN AO**

Chairman

September 1998

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## NORTHERN TERRITORY GRANTS COMMISSION

### *Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 1998.*

1. The Commission was established under the provision of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1986 which came into operation on 1 July 1986.
2. The Commission's activity is to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government, in respect of the amounts of money to be allocated to local governing bodies from the money provided to the Territory under the (Commonwealth) Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.

Funds for this purpose were appropriated to the Department of Housing and Local Government. Allocations of Federal Assistance Grants and Road Grants recommended for distribution were:

	<b>Recommendation for distribution in 1997/98</b>	<b>Recommendation for distribution in 1998/99</b>
Federal Assistance Grants	\$8,377,947	\$8,637,774
Road Grants	<u>\$8,677,027</u>	<u>\$8,839,569</u>
Total	\$17,054,974	\$17,477,343
	=====	=====

3. The costs of operation of the Commission are met from the funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Local Government and were \$68,733 (1996/97: \$75,764). No allowance has been made for the estimated cost of administrative support provided by the Department of Housing and Local Government.
4. The Commission did not acquire any assets during the period covered by the financial statements.

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NT GRANTS COMMISSION

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