

Mr Tom Stockwell
Daly Waters Progress Association
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12 July 2023

By email: sunday.creek.stn@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Stockwell,

RE: Daly Waters Progress Association Incorporated - Involvement in District Planning for Oil & Gas and other areas - Updated Contact details

On behalf of Roper Gulf Regional Council, thank you for sending through the details of the Daly Waters Progress Association. It is great to see the association formalised and to gain an understanding of its purpose, objectives and committee members. The Council looks forward to having a greater relationship with the Association in forthcoming years.

As you may be aware, the Council holds two (2) Community Consultative Meetings in Daly Waters each year, due to its size and population, to meet with residents and seek feedback on issues and town priorities. We will endeavour to keep you informed about these meetings so that a representative from the Association can attend. These usually occur in March/April and September/October each year and it would be excellent to have greater involvement of the Association at these meetings. The meetings are usually held at the Daly Waters Pub or the Highway Inn Roadhouse.

In relation to your first request about the Beetaloo Gas Field, the Council itself has had very limited exposure to any planning and development updates by the industry or both the Australian or Northern Territory government. We often become aware of new developments when works are already occurring on the ground.

The Council has outlined this issue to all levels of government and we are yet to see improvements with communication and appropriate consultation. Like you, Council would appreciate being more involved in these industry development projects and we will continue to advocate for this to occur so we can advocate community issues on a greater level.

Despite our efforts, the Council has concerns on behalf of our townships and communities around water quality issues, local jobs, and long-term plans for the industry with infrastructure provision and sustainable communities.

This year, Council has been working collaboratively with CSIRO to support an extensive research project in the Roper Gulf region. The research seeks to understand communication barriers and information gaps about resources development, including onshore gas, in the Northern Territory and to identify the best way to provide this information to our townships and communities for confident decision-making.

I will forward your committee's contact details through to Heather Stewart, Project Director for the Community Engagement and Information Program of CSIRO, so that a representative of the Association can be interviewed.

In relation to your second request and in addition to the Community Consultation Meetings, the Council is undertaking extensive community planning this year for all townships and communities in the region, including Daly Waters and Larrimah. These community plans will outline all future needs of each township/community, which the Council will directly or partially fund. I will ensure that the Association is informed when the consultation for the Daly Waters and Larrimah plans is occurring so that a representative can attend.

Finally, I will ask our Communications Coordinator to send your committee members' contact details to the appropriate staff and stakeholders in our Local Government area.

I would be happy to discuss any questions in relation to the information above, and can be contacted at marc.gardner@ropergulf.nt.gov.au or on (08) 8972 9002 and we look forward to catching up in the near future.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Marc GARDNER
Chief Executive Officer