

ALPURRURULAM

Ward:	Alpurrurulam
Population:	420 (Australian Census 2016)
Location:	570.1km, east of Tennant Creek and 17km from the Northern Territory-Queensland border
Road conditions:	Sealed and unsealed. During the wet season all road access to the community is cut off
Languages:	Alyawarr

Local Authority Members

Chair:	Cameron Long
Deputy Chair:	Clarence Campbell
Appointed Members:	Doreen Kelly, Meredith Morton, Valerie Campbell, Garry Kopps, Gordon Long
Elected Members:	Councillor Jennifer Mahoney
Ex-Officio:	Mayor Steven Edgington

History

Pastoralists called Alpurrurulam, which lies on an important source of water in dry country, Lake Nash, but its Aboriginal name is Ilperrelhelame. In the time of the Dreaming, great beings passed through that country: antyipere, the flying fox, nyemale, the grass rat, who partly formed the river, and kwerrenye, the green snake. Compared to other groups in the Barkly Tablelands contact with white people came relatively late. Until about 1920, the Alyawarr continued to live traditionally in relative peace, hunting emu and kangaroo and foraging over their country and enjoying a rich ceremonial life.

Alpurrurulam was formed out of a discord between Lake Nash Station and the Aboriginal population living on the nearby Georgina River. At the time many of the community members worked at Lake Nash Station but in the early 1980s there were plans to move the community to Bathurst Downs. For the locals this was "poison country", no good to live on and posed a risk during wet season. In 1982 the community wrote to the then Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Government requesting a parcel of land to call their own near Lake Nash Station. After many legal battles, 10 square km area was excised from the pastoral lease and given back to the community in 1983. Alpurrurulam Land Aboriginal Corporation (ALAC) was then formed to be the land owner (a board of Community Elders) for the land.

Community Priorities 2018-2023

Project	Priority Level	Strategic Goals
Road repairs and maintenance within community, including resealing of road to airstrip	High	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Creation of a new dump site	Medium	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2
Safe House	Low	3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2
Men's Shed	Low	3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2
Upgrade two public toilets	High	3.1, 3.3, 3.4

