Local Government Minister, Malarndirri McCarthy today said that an independent review of the Barkly Shire Council’s accounts has concluded that the Council has a substantial positive bank balance.

Minister McCarthy also said that allegations made during recent Budget Estimates that the Council was $7million in debt were found to be untrue.

“An independent review by Deloitte accounting firm has noted that the Council has a substantial amount of money in the bank which puts them in an encouraging financial position,” said Ms McCarthy.

“However, work does need to take place on financial and accounting processes.

“Deloitte has identified that the Barkly Shire has an accounting problem and not a financial problem.

“The Northern Territory Government is working in partnership with the Council and the Local Government Association of the NT to deal with the issues raised in the report.

“LGANT has recruited an interim CEO and accountant for the Barkly Shire and they will be in Tennant Creek next week.

“Departmental officers are working in the Council’s Tennant Creek offices to ensure the accounting records are brought up to date for the end of the financial year.

“They will also provide expert advice and support regarding strategies to improve financial management.

“I am confident that the Council can work through these issues and will resolve them in a timely manner.

“I thank Barkly Shire President, Rosalie Kunoth-Monks and the Council for their diligence in addressing this issue immediately.”
Media Contact: Ursula Raymond 0457 825 507