Minister for Local Government and Community Services, Bess Price, has today announced the Tiwi Islands Regional Council has been placed under official management.

“A recently completed compliance review of the Tiwi Islands Regional Council has identified 30 issues of non-compliance with the Local Government Act, some of which were direct breaches of the Act,” Mr Price said.

“Compliance reviews are routine and conducted by the Department of Local Government and Community Services across all councils to ensure they’re meeting the requirements of the Local Government Act and conducting their business lawfully.

“Failures to comply with the Act by the Tiwi Islands Regional Council include but are not limited to poor accountability of public money, procurement guidelines not being adhered to, council policies being deficient, no accountability of travel and very poor record keeping practices.

“Issues uncovered point to strong evidence of serious systemic failures within the Tiwi Islands Regional Council.

“Many of the serious non-compliance issues identified, in particular procurement, have been highlighted to the council in previous reviews and by their own external auditors; yet have failed to be adequately addressed in a consistent manner.

“Management carries the responsibility to adequately manage the affairs of council, however serious systemic failures and responsibility for addressing them ultimately lies with the elected members of council.

“In January the council were provided with a copy of the compliance review report and given an opportunity to respond, yet failed to do so.

“Under Section 224 of the Local Government Act I am satisfied there are serious deficiencies with council affairs and have placed the council under Official Management.
“Allan McGill will be appointed Official Manager. He will examine the conduct of the suspended members and the affairs and financial position of the Council. He will report back to me by the 30th of June 2015.”

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