



Mission

East Arnhem Regional Council is dedicated to promoting the power of people, protection of community and respect for cultural diversity in the East Arnhem Regional Council. It does this by forming partnerships, building community capacity, advocating for regional and local issues, maximising service effectiveness and linking people with information.

Core Values

Respect
Professionalism
Human Dignity
Organisational Growth
Equity
Community

MINUTES FOR THE MILINGIMBI LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

17 May 2022

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE MILINGIMBI
COUNCIL OFFICE ON TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2022 AT 10:00AM

ATTENDANCE

In the chair, President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Local Authority members Boaz Baker, Arthur Murrupu, Joanne Baker and Cr Joe Djakala.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Dale Keehne – CEO.

Andrew Walsh – Director Community Development.

Shane Marshall – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services.

Hannah Silberstein - Community Development Coordinator Milingimbi.

Ritesh Parikh – Finance Manager (from 2:02PM to 2:43PM).

Minute Taker – Nawshaba Razzak, Corporate Planning and Policy Officer.

MEETING OPENING

Chair opened the meeting at 10:25AM and welcomed all members and guests.

PRAYER

Prayer by President Lapulung Dhamarrandji.

Apologies

3.1 APOLOGIES AND ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE

SUMMARY:

This report is to table, for the Council's record, any absences, apologies and requests for leave of absence received from the Local Authority Members and what absences that the Local Authority gives permission for.

194/2022 RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Joe Djakala)

That Council:

- (a) Notes the absence of Local Authority members Rosetta Wayatja, Rowena Gaykamangu and Robert Yirapawanga.**
- (b) Notes no apologies were received.**
- (c) Determines Local Authority members Rosetta Wayatja, Rowena Gaykamangu and Robert Yirapawanga are absent without permission of the Local Authority.**

3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

SUMMARY:

This report lists the community and Council appointed members and the resignation and vacancies of the Local Authority.

195/2022 RESOLVED (Joanne Baker/Arthur Murrupu)

The Local Authority notes the member list and calls for new members to fill up existing vacancies.

Conflict of Interest

4.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SUMMARY:

This report is tabled for members to declare any conflicts they have within the agenda.

196/2022 RESOLVED (Joanne Baker/Joe Djakala)

That the Local Authority notes no conflicts of interest declared at today's meeting.

Previous Minutes

5.1 PREVIOUS MINUTES FOR RATIFICATION

SUMMARY:

The Local Authority is asked to confirm the unconfirmed minutes from the previous meeting.

197/2022 RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Arthur Murrupu)

That the Local Authority notes the minutes from the meeting of 15 March 2022 to be a true record of the meeting.

Guest Speakers

7.1 MILINGIMBI POWER AND WATER UPDATE

SUMMARY:

This report and guest speaker attendance is associated with an update on the current and future water availability and security with Milingimbi.

198/2022 RESOLVED (Joanne Baker/Joe Djakala)

That the Local Authority:

- a) Notes the presentation.**
- b) Thanks the Power and Water representatives' attendance at the Local Authority Meeting.**
- c) Requests information on additional availability of water within public areas.**
- d) Support an additional Power and Water presentation in community and Local Authority meetings within the next month.**

7.2 MILINGIMBI PROPOSED SUBDIVISION UPDATE

SUMMARY:

This report and guest speaker attendance is associated with proposed new Milingimbi housing subdivision capital program.

199/2022 RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Arthur Murrupu)

That the Local Authority:

- a) Notes the presentation.**
- b) Thanks Kylie Field for her attendance at the Local Authority Meeting.**
- c) Supports the location of the construction camp for the Social Housing Capital Project.**

MEETING BREAKS AT 11:32AM

200/2022 RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Joe Djakala)

RESUMES AT 12:56PM

201/2022 RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Joe Djakala)

Local Authorities

6.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION REGISTER

SUMMARY:

The Local Authority is asked to review the range of actions and progress to complete them.

202/2022 RESOLVED (Arthur Murrupu/Joe Djakala)

That the Local Authority note the progress of actions from the previous meetings, new actions and request that completed items be removed from the Action Register for the Council to endorse.

General Business

8.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

SUMMARY:

This report is provided by the Community Development Coordinator at every Local Authority meeting to provide information to members.

203/2022 **RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Arthur Murrupu)**

That Local Authority:

- a) Notes the Community Development Coordinator Report.**
- b) Requests a letter to be written by the Director Community Development to the Department of Education regarding the maintenance of the lawns and yards of education staff housing.**
- c) Requests that the area between the shops and the church be cleared and maintained.**
- d) Requests more Municipal Services positions to meet the expectations of the Local Authority and community.**

8.4 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

SUMMARY:

This report presents the financial expenditure plus employment statistics as of 30 April 2022 within the Local Authority area.

204/2022 **RESOLVED (Arthur Murrupu/Joe Djakala)**

That the Local Authority receives the Financial and Employment information to 30 April 2022.

8.5 DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN

SUMMARY:

This report is to progress the Regional Plan.

205/2022 **RESOLVED (Joe Djakala/Arthur Murrupu)**

The Local Authority notes the proposed draft Annual Plan.

MEETING MOVED TO CONFIDENTIAL AT 3:14PM

206/2022 **RESOLVED (Boaz Baker/Arthur Murrupu)**

MEETING RETURNED TO OPEN AGENDA AT 3:50PM

207/2022 **RESOLVED (Arthur Murrupu/Joe Djakala)**

8.1 CEO REPORT

SUMMARY:

This is a report of the key broad issues since the last report to the Local Authority, in addition to those covered in other parts of the agenda.

208/2022 RESOLVED (Arthur Murrupu/Boaz Baker)

That Local Authority:

- a) Notes the CEO report.**
- b) Does not support the pathway forward for Local Decision Making planned by the ARDS Aboriginal Corporation as advised on 29 April 2022.**
- c) Supports the:**

Call for Recognition – Local & Regional Indigenous Voice and Decision Making

We the Yolngu and Anindilyakwa people of East Arnhem Land call on the two Balanda (non-Indigenous) levels of Government of the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth of Australia, to recognise the authority of our First Nations peoples which we have had for millennia and was never extinguished.

Our community and homelands people are intertwined and deeply connected through the two pillars (moieties) of Dhuwa and Yirritja, our Bapurru (Clans), our Ringitj (Clan Alliances), our Land, our Song Lines, which extend and connect to Anindilyakwa.

We need a real heart to heart connection and partnership, and know we are stronger when we are united together – Yolngu to Yolngu and Yolngu to Balanda.

We recognise the role and authority of the two Balanda controlled governments, and you need to recognise the role and authority of our governance.

Our East Arnhem Regional Local Government Council is governed by up to 126 Members across 9 Local Authorities, which include 14 Councillors elected from 6 cultural based electoral wards, that are all connected through our clans, song lines, bloodlines, ceremony and family, to represent over 10,000 people, with an Aboriginal population over 90 per cent.

Our East Arnhem Regional (Land) Council, part of the broader Northern Land Council, is governed in North East Arnhem Land by 15 elected Members from 8 areas of across the Yolngu lands. Our Anindilyakwa Land Council has 23 elected Board Members from 14 Clans and 3 communities across the Anindilyakwa lands of the Groote Archipelago.

We also have many Aboriginal Corporations governed by Directors from across the Yolngu communities and areas outside of East Arnhem Land, like the Arnhem Land Progress Association, to Corporations with Directors across the whole East Arnhem Region like Miwatj Health, to Aboriginal Corporations with Directors based on areas within the region, like the Laynhapuy, Marthakal and Milingimbi Homelands to Clan based corporations like Gumatj, and Rirratjingu, and the Yothu Yindi Foundation, or linked to communities like Yalu in Galiwinku, Gongdal in Gapuwiyak or

Aminjarrindja at Umbakumba. Each of our organisations (listed below) has its own special purpose and role and should be listened to.

Our Aboriginal Controlled Local Authorities and Regional Government Council, offers a bridge of commonality between our Yolngu and Anindilyakwa people and the Balanda (non-Indigenous) governments. A bridge to make sure the voices of our Land Councils and other Aboriginal organisations – our Traditional Owners, our Bapurru (Clan) Leaders, our young, and all our community and homeland members - are heard, and acted on.

We look forward to thorough and genuine engagement with the Australian Government's Local, Regional and National Indigenous Voice process across East Arnhem Land, and the accompanying opportunities of Closing the Gap. We also look forward to the review and updating of the Northern Territory Government's Local Decision Making policy and processes – to be properly aligned, and to allow for coordinated and practical engagement with both Balanda levels of government across East Arnhem Land.

We support a genuine partnership of Balanda government with our Aboriginal Community Controlled Government in unity with the Land Councils and all other Aboriginal organisations, with our shared sacred bond to respect and protect our Land, Traditional Owners, Clan Leaders and Culture.

Our strength of culture, capacity and unity will ensure different government plans and processes like the Federal Government's Indigenous Voice and Closing the Gap and NT Government's Local Decision Making – lead to real outcomes, led by the people, in the many different communities and homelands across East Arnhem Land.

The Makarrata ceremony comes from the traditional Yolngu Rom (law) of East Arnhem Land and we invite the Balanda (non-Indigenous) Federal and Northern Territory Governments to join us on country together, to overcome the divisions between us through real reconciliation, and start genuine truth telling, dialogue and understanding, to build a better future and nation for us all.

East Arnhem Regional Alliance

Government	East Arnhem Regional Council
Land	East Arnhem Regional Council - Northern Land Council Anindilyakwa Land Council
Aboriginal Corporations	Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Arnhem Land Progress Association North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation Layhnapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation Milingimbi and Outstations Progress and Resource

**Aboriginal Corporation
Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation
Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation
Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation
Lirrwi Yolngu Tourism Aboriginal Corporation
Gong-Dal Aboriginal Corporation
Yalu Aboriginal Corporation
Aboriginal and Resource Development Services
Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust
Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Indigenous
Enterprises
Aminjarringa Aboriginal Corporation
Lagulalya Aboriginal Corporation**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19 July 2022

MEETING CLOSE

The meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 and are to be confirmed on the next Local Authority Meeting on 19 July 2022.