



---

## 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 GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING**

**20 May 2022**

## **ATTENDANCE**

In the Chair Trudy Wunungmurra, Local Authority Members, Maymuru Ricky Guyula, Simon Gawirrin, Freddie Ganambarr, Ivan Wanambi, Jessica Wunungmurra, Thomas Guyula, Cr Bobby Wunungmurra and Cr Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra.

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji

## **COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Dale Keehne – Chief Executive Officer.

Shane Marshall – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services.

Andrew Walsh – Director Community Development.

Anesuishe Hector– Community Development Coordinator.

Ritesh Parikh – Finance Manager (For the Draft Regional Plan report)

Minute Taker – Nawshaba Razzak, Corporate Planning and Policy Officer

## **MEETING OPENING**

Chair opened the meeting at 10:03AM and welcomed all members and guests.

## **PRAYER**

Trudy Wunungmurra opened the meeting with a prayer.

## **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.

**229/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)**

**That Local Authority notes no absences.**

### **3.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SUMMARY:**

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

**230/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Thomas Guyula)**

#### **The Local Authority:**

- a) Notes the member list and calls for new members to fill up existing vacancies.**
- b) Notes the nominations received from,**

- i) Merril Guyula
- ii) Alice Wanambi

c) Recommends the nominations to be presented to the Council for approval.

Jessica Wunungmurra left the meeting, the time being 10:17 AM

#### **Conflict of Interest**

##### **4.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

###### **SUMMARY:**

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

231/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Thomas Guyula)

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.

232/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)

That the Local Authority notes the minutes from the meeting of 18 March 2022 to be a true record of the meeting.

#### **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.

233/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Simon Maymuru)

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

**General Business**

**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.

**234/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Ricky Guyula)**

**That the 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**

<b>Government</b>	<b>East Arnhem Regional Council</b>
<b>Land</b>	<b>East Arnhem Regional Council - Northern Land Council Anindilyakwa Land Council</b>
<b>Aboriginal Corporations</b>	<b>Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Arnhem Land Progress Association North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation</b>

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

#### **Guest Speakers**

##### **7.1 GAPUWIYAK BARGE LANDING UPGRADE PROPOSAL**

#### **SUMMARY:**

This report and guest speaker attendance is associated with proposed capital upgrades to her Gapuwiyak Barge landing area.

235/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Simon Maymuru)

That the Local Authority:

- a) Notes the presentation.
- b) Supports the proposed upgrade of Barge landing area.
- c) Thanks Kylie Field for her attendance at the Local Authority Meeting.

#### **General Business**

##### **8.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR REPORT**

#### **SUMMARY:**

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

236/2022 RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Ivan Wanambi)

That the Local Authority notes the Community Development Coordinator Report.

#### **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.

**237/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)**

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

**BREAKS FOR LUNCH AT 11:56AM**

**238/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)**

Thomas Guyula left the meeting, the time being 12:37 PM

**MEETING RESUMES AT 12:37PM**

**239/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)**

#### **8.5 DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN**

##### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to progress the Regional Plan.

**240/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ivan Wanambi)**

**The Local Authority notes the proposed draft Annual Plan.**

**MOVED TO CONFIDENTIAL AT 12:53PM**

**241/2022 RESOLVED (Ivan Wanambi/Simon Maymuru)**

**RETURN TO OPEN AGENDA AT 1:20PM**

**242/2022 RESOLVED (Simon Maymuru/Ricky Guyula)**

##### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

22 July 2022

##### **MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting ended at 1:21PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Meeting held on Friday, 20 May 2022 and will be confirmed in the next Local Authority Meeting on 22 July 2022.