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## 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 UMBAKUMBA LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISIONAL MEETING**

**25 May 2022**

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE  
UMBAKUMBA COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2022 AT 10:00AM

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**ATTENDANCE**

In the Chair, Jennifer Yantarrnga, Deputy President Gordon Walsh (on phone) and Local Authority Member Phillip Mamarika.

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji

**COUNCIL OFFICERS**

Dale Keehne – Chief Executive Officer

Shane Marshall – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services

Andrew Walsh – Director Community Development

Divyan Ahimaz - A/Community Development Coordinator Angurugu & Umbakumba

Minute Taker – Nawshaba Razzak, Corporate Planning and Policy Officer

**MEETING OPENING**

Chair opened the meeting at 10:16AM and welcomed all members and guests.

**PRAYER**

President Lapulung Dhamarrandji 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.

**201/2022 RESOLVED (Jennifer Yantarrnga/Phillip Mamarika)**

**That Local Authority:**

- (a) Notes the absence of Cr Constantine Mamarika, Local Authority Members Anson Wurrawilya, Judy Hunter and Terrence Mamarika.**
- (b) Notes the apology received from Anson Wurrawilya.**
- (c) Notes Cr Constantine Mamarika, Local Authority Members Anson Wurrawilya, Judy Hunter and Terrence Mamarika are absent with 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.

**202/2022 RESOLVED (Gordon Walsh/Phillip Mamarika)**

**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.

**203/2022 RESOLVED (Jennifer Yantarrnga/Gordon Walsh)**

**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.

**204/2022 RESOLVED (Gordon Walsh/Jennifer Yantarrnga)**

**That the Local Authority notes the minutes from the provisional meeting of 23 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.

**205/2022 RESOLVED (Phillip Mamarika/Jennifer Yantarrnga)**

**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 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR REPORT.**

##### **SUMMARY:**

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

**206/2022 RESOLVED (Gordon Walsh/Phillip Mamarika)**

**That the Local Authority notes the Community Development Coordinator Report.**

## **8.2 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

### **SUMMARY:**

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

*207/2022* **RESOLVED (Phillip Mamarika/Gordon Walsh)**

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

## **8.3 DRAFT REGIONAL PLAN**

### **SUMMARY:**

This report is to progress the Regional Plan.

*208/2022* **RESOLVED (Gordon Walsh/Jennifer Yantarrnga)**

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

## **MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL AT 11:22AM**

*209/2022* **RESOLVED (Gordon Walsh/Phillip Mamarika)**

## **MOVE BACK TO OPEN AGENDA AT 11:41AM**

*210/2022* **RESOLVED (Jennifer Yantarrnga/Phillip Mamarika)**

## **8.5 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.

*211/2022* **RESOLVED (Phillip Mamarika/Gordon Walsh)**

**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<br/>Anindikyakwa Land Council</b>   |
| <b>Aboriginal Corporations</b> | <b>Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Arnhem Land Progress Association<br/>North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Layhnapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Marthakal Homelands Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Milingimbi and Outstations Progress and Resource Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Gumatj Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Yothu Yindi Foundation Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Lirrwi Yolngu Tourism Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Gong-Dal Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Yalu Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Aboriginal and Resource Development Services<br/>Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust<br/>Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Indigenous Enterprises<br/>Aminjarringa Aboriginal Corporation<br/>Lagulalya Aboriginal Corporation</b> |

- d) Call on the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to work with the Local Authorities and Regional Council to ensure genuine and thorough consultation and engagement with and understanding of all communities and homelands of East Arnhem Land, on the important and pressing issues of the possible introduction of the legal sale of kava and alcohol and support the leadership of the President on this issue.**

MINUTES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PROVISIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE  
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**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

27 July 2022

**MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting terminated at 12:01PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Provisional Meeting held on Wednesday, 25 May 2022 are to be confirmed in the Local Authority Ordinary Meeting on 27 July 2022.