



OPEN AGENDA for the Gapuwiyak
Local Authority
24 March 2026

Dedicated to promoting the power of people, protection of community and respect for cultural diversity.**Djambarrpuyŋu**

Dhuwandja dhäwu dhipuŋur EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolŋuw mala nhämunha limurr ga nhina wäŋakurr malaŋuwurr buku-ŋiwŋaram:

- limurr dhu räŋ-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurrŋgalaŋaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharray walŋaw,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Dhaŋu

Dhaŋum dhäwu EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolŋuwu warrawu nhämunha ŋalma yaka nyena ŋayambalmurru buku-ŋiw'yuman:

- ŋalma ŋarru räŋ-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ŋakanhaminyarawu ŋalmaliŋuwaywuru,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumatj

Dhuwalanydja dhäwu EARC-ŋuru bukmakku yolŋuwu mala nhämunha ŋilimurru yukurra nhina wäŋakurru buku-ŋiw'yunmarama:

- ŋilimurru yuru räŋ-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu gaŋga'thinyarawu ŋilimurrŋgalaŋawu,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapthunmaranhamirr bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marraŋu

Dhuwanydji dhäwu barranŋa'yun EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolŋuw yukurr buku-ŋiw'maram wäŋa mittji malanyha:

- Dalimurr wurruku räŋ-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurrŋgalaŋaw
- Gaŋgathinyamaranharaw woŋdaŋarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walŋaw,
- Ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapmaranhamirr ŋalimurr wurruku bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Under closing the gap priority reforms, socio economic outcome 16 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are strong, supported and flourishing and it is standard practice for reports to be considered, discussed and debated in the traditional dialects of the East Arnhem region, Yolngu Matha.

EAST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Gapuwiyak Local Authority will be held at the Gapuwiyak Council Office offices on Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 11:30 am.

Agendas and minutes are available on the Council website www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au and can be viewed at the Councils public office.

Dale Keehne
Chief Executive Officer

Members:

Freddie Ganambarr
Ricky Guyula
Ivan Wanambi
Trudy Wunungmurra
Jessica Wunungmurra
Thomas Guyula
Alice Wanambi
Cr Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra
Cr Bobby Wunungmurra

Dial-in Details:**Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 460 360 482 328 80

Passcode: q4Qf2AW9

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,805036146#](tel:+61283180005805036146) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 805 036 146#

Schedule 1 Code of conduct**1 Honesty and integrity**

A member must act honestly and with integrity in performing official functions.

2 Care and diligence

A member must act with reasonable care and diligence in performing official functions.

3 Courtesy

A member must act with courtesy towards other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.

4 Prohibition on bullying

A member must not bully another person in the course of performing official functions.

5 Conduct towards council staff

A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of council staff.

6 Respect for cultural diversity and culture

6.1 A member must respect cultural diversity and must not therefore discriminate against others, or the opinions of others, on the ground of their cultural background.

6.2 A member must act with respect for cultural beliefs and practices in relation to other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.

7 Conflict of interest

7.1 A member must avoid any conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, when undertaking official functions and responsibilities.

7.2 If a conflict of interest exists, the member must comply with any statutory obligations of disclosure.

8 Respect for confidences

8.1 A member must respect the confidentiality of information obtained in confidence in the member's official capacity.

8.2 A member must not make improper use of confidential information obtained in an official capacity to gain a private benefit or to cause harm to another.

9 Gifts

9.1 A member must not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

9.2 A member must not accept a gift from a person that is given in relation to the person's interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

10 Accountability

A member must be prepared at all times to account for the member's performance as a member and the member's use of council resources.

11 Interests of municipality, region or shire to be paramount

11.1 A member must act in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

11.2 In particular, a member must seek to ensure that the member's decisions and actions are based on an honest, reasonable and properly informed judgment about what best advances the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

12 Training

A member must undertake relevant training in good faith.

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1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

The Chair may wish to open the meeting with a prayer.

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.3 Attendance

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of <>.
- (b) Notes the apology received from <>.
- (c) Notes <> are absent with permission of the Local Authority.
- (d) Determines <> are absent without permission of the Local Authority under Section 47(1) (0) of the Act.

SUMMARY:

This report is also to table, for the Councils record, any absences, apologies and requests for leave of absence received from the Council members and what absences that the Council given permission for.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

RECOMMENDATION:

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

OR

That the Local Authority notes any conflicts of interest declared at today's meeting.

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

The Local Government Act (Chapter 7, Part 7.2, Section 114 – Conflict of Interest) details that "A member has a conflict of interest in a question arising for decision by the audit committee,

council, council committee or Local Authority if the member or an associate of the member has any of the following interests in how the question is decided:

- (a) A direct interest
- (b) An indirect financial interest
- (c) An indirect interest by close association
- (d) An indirect interest due to conflicting duties”.

GENERAL:

A conflict of interest is a situation that has the potential to undermine a person’s ability to be impartial because of the possibility of a clash between the person’s self-interest and professional interest or public interest.

When this occurs, the Local Authority Member should declare the interest and remove themselves from the decision-making process.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 February 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gapuwiyak Local Authority Minutes 19 Feb 2026 [1.5.1 - 5 pages]



**OPEN MINUTES for the Gapuwiyak
Local Authority
19 February 2026**

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

The Chair opened the meeting with a prayer at 10:31 AM.

Members in Attendance:

Trudy Wunungumurra
Freddie Ganambarr
Trudy Wunungumurra
Thomas Guyula
Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungumurra
Cr. Bobby Wunungumurra

East Arnhem Regional Council Staff:

Signe Balodis (Acting CEO, Director – Council Services)
Anesu Hector (Council Services Manager)
Vivek Gummalla (Strategic Coordinator)
Jamie Clarke (Communications Advisor)
Sonia Campbell (GM – Technical and Infrastructure Services) – Attended online
Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager) - Attended online

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.3 Attendance

SUMMARY:

This report is also to table, for the Councils record, any absences, apologies and requests for leave of absence received from the Council members and what absences that the Council given permission for.

GAP 2025/23 **RESOLVED** (Freddie Ganambarra/Thomas Guyula)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of Ivan Wanambi, Alice Wanambi and Jessica Wunungumurra.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Jessica Wunungumurra and Alice Wanambi
- (c) Notes Jessica Wunungumurra and Alice Wanambi are absent with permission of the Local Authority.
- (d) Determines Ivan Wanambi is absent without permission of the Local Authority under Section 47(1) (0) of the Act.
- (e) That the Governance Manager write to Ivan Wanambi regarding his membership, as he has missed two consecutive meetings without the permission of the members.

GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

19 FEBRUARY 2026

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/24 **RESOLVED** (Freddie Ganambarra/Ricky Guyula)

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

GAP 2025/25 **RESOLVED** (Freddie Ganambarra/Thomas Guyula)

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2025.

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

GO NGILIMURR MALA DJARRYUN GA YURAM GA YAKAYUN GA BALWAK NGUPAN
DHUWAL DHARUK

3 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA
NGUNIYI

NANYTJAK NGU DHARUK MALAN GA YURUM GA BUKU WEKAM DHIYAKU MEETING
GU

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.1 Local Authority Action Items

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/26 **RESOLVED** (Freddie Ganambarra/Ricky Guyula)

That the Local Authority notes 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.

GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

19 FEBRUARY 2026

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 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.

GAP 2025/32 **RESOLVED (Ricky Guyula/Thomas Guyula)**

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Manager 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.

GAP 2025/28 **RESOLVED (Ricky Guyula/Freddie Ganambarra)**

That Local Authority notes the Council Services Manager Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

SUMMARY:

This report is submitted for the Local Authority's consideration and provides program updates from the Technical and Infrastructure Directorate. The updates pertain to capital projects and initiatives aligned with the 2025-2026 Annual Plan.

GAP 2025/27 **RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Freddie Ganambarra)**

That Local Authority:

- (a) Note the Technical Services Report.**
- (b) Endorse the reduction in scope from the construction of two toilet blocks to one toilet block, due to market pricing exceeding the available funding allocation and limited ongoing cleaning and maintenance resources within the community.**
- (c) Note that singular toilet block to be installed at Airport location.**

GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

19 FEBRUARY 2026

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY:

This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 31 December 2025 within the Local Authority area.

GAP 2025/29 **RESOLVED** (Thomas Guyula/Ricky Guyula)

That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 31 December 2025.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.6 Five Year Strategic Plan

GAP 2025/31 **RESOLVED** (Thomas Guyula/Freddie Ganambarra)

That the Local Authority endorses the community consultation report for the five year strategic plan.

4 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 24 March 2026.

5 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 12:50 PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Gapuwiyak Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 19 February 2026

2 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA NGUNIYI

NANYTJAK NGU DHARUK MALAN GA YURUM GA BUKU WEKAM DHIYAKU MEETING GU

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.1 Local Authority Action Items

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes 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.

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

The current Local Authority Action Items List, and updates on progress to complete them, is attached.

GENERAL:

The attached report gives the Local Authority an opportunity to check that actions from previous meetings are being implemented. New actions will be added to the Action Register.

If an action is completed the Local Authority need to request the item to be removed from the Action Register, for the Council to endorse.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Local Authority Gapuwiyak [2.1.1 - 6 pages]

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
KAVA	<p>That the Local Authority:</p> <p>a) Notes the report on the Kava Pilot: Allowing the commercial importation of kava.</p> <p>b) Supports comprehensive community consultation as highlighted in the Northern Territory Government’s submission to the Australian Government’s Kava Pilot Phase 2: Allowing the Commercial Importation of Kava consultation paper, and the call for Commonwealth funding to support either:</p> <p>1) increased compliance and policing for the increase in the illicit kava trade, or</p> <p>2) effective and informed local decision making about kava management to minimise potential harms.</p> <p>c) Supports the Northern Territory Government’s request for funding to support research into the health and social impacts from increased kava availability.</p> <p>d) Seek clarification from Northern Territory Government how Kava is going to be managed in the Northern Territory during the next two years, the duration of the pilot.</p>	<p>12.05.2021 – Email was received, stating that there is no action regarding the Kava Pilot - Ongoing</p> <p>12.10.2021 – Update provided to LA Members - ongoing</p> <p>17.12.2021 – A separate report will be presented by the CEO in the meeting.</p> <p>21.01.2022 – CEO is having meetings about consultation on 8 Feb 2022.</p> <p>18.03.2022 – Cr Bandi Wunungmurra and the Director Community Development to attend the regional Children and Families Meeting on the 5 April to advocate Council’s position on this.</p> <p>09.05.2022 - Dale Keehne and President Lapulung Dhamarrandji attended the RCFC and will provide updates to the Local Authority.</p> <p>20.05.2022 - 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 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.</p> <p>19.10.22 - President and CEO to follow up a positive discussion on this issue at a meeting with the Chief Minister to the region, with the Executive Director of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, on gaining action on the Local Authority and Council resolutions.</p> <p>25.11.2022 – As noted above.</p> <p>20.11.2022 – CEO to provide further update.</p> <p>24.03.2023 – CEO to update.</p> <p>14.12.23 – Dr Frank Daly has left NTG, and as such EARC needs to wait until a replacement has been decided upon to continue conversations. Meeting with Jim Rogers and NIAA has been postponed until next Council meeting.</p> <p>29.01.24 – NIAA and NTG to attend next Council meeting for further discussion.</p> <p>21.02.24 – Discussion took place among the PFES and NTG regarding issues relating to Kava and Alcohol in the communities. PFES requested continuous support from communities to provide information so that these can be addressed.</p> <p>24.04.24 – CEO to contact Department.</p> <p>24.05.24 – NIAA and NTG to again be invited to June Council pre-agenda day.</p> <p>25.06.24 – NIAA & NTG will attend June Council meeting.</p>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<p>19.02.25 – Council is going to seek the support of Local Member Mark Yingiya Guyula MLA for Milka to raise this issue.</p> <p>21.03.25 – Mr Guyula joined the meeting via TEAMS and had a discussion with the members regarding kava. Further updates in the CEO Report.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Councillors want to form a committee and travel to Darwin to raise their concerns and get some action. They are tired of no action and are especially worried about the harm the illegal sale of kava is causing in the community, particularly to children.</p> <p>28.10.25 - Police in Nhulunbuy informed that they received a letter from the Minister stating that the NT Government is willing to conduct community consultations.</p>
Public wifi	The current public wifi is placed in the Library Building. Public wifi to be placed a place to ensure convenience and maximum usage.	<p>24.03.2023 - The public wifi to be placed at the Council Meeting room to ensure that more people can access and use free wifi.</p> <p>Director Technical and Infrastructure services to approach Telstra to include the public wifi as part of their public telephone service.</p> <p>Director Technical and Infrastructure services to explore option for broader community wifi coverage.</p> <p>29.06.23 – Ongoing</p> <p>20.07.23 – Move tower and relocate wifi new tower 2 months away update next meeting.</p> <p>29.08.23 - moving tower to new position, which has been mapped out. Already budgeted for.</p> <p>26.10.23 – I.T has this underway. Tower will stay where it is until after wet season.</p> <p>14.12.23 – This will occur in New Year.</p> <p>29.01.23 As above noted in PA Section.</p> <p>22.02.24 – Getting ready to be released.</p> <p>02.04.24- Due to be completed by 30 June 2024</p> <p>24.05.24 – Covered in Tech Report.</p> <p>25.06.24 – Put out to tender no submissions – Currently out again – closing this week.</p> <p>11.12.24 – update to be provided. Regional Manager – Building and Infrastructure will investigate.</p>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<p>21.03.25 – Installed the new tower – now need to investigate the conference room and where the wifi will be installed.</p> <p>23.04.25 – Engaged with IT Manager in regards to public wifi.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Further follow up with IT Manager. Has it been completed, how do community sign on etc., Who is paying for this. Is this Council’s responsibility?</p> <p>28.10.25 – IT Manager to find out who is responsible for the current wifi access in community, Governance Manager to provide a letter to LA members to endorse for disabling wifi access from 6pm to 6am to minimise access for children during evening and night.</p> <p>19.02.26 – Currently sitting with IT Manager, IT to update on Wifi location and progress of the work.</p> <p>24.02.26 – IT Manager confirmed that NT Libraries are the provider</p>
<p>Safety concerns Marrangu Street</p>	<p>General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services asked to look into the installation of speed humps on the said street.</p>	<p>24.03.23 – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services to provide update.</p> <p>20.07.23 Ongoing.</p> <p>26.10.23 – Ongoing. Update to be provided by DTSI at next LA meeting.</p> <p>14.12.23 – Speed bumps and signage ordered.</p> <p>29.01.24 – Speed bumps have been ordered as above. Follow up report at next meeting as Director Technical and Infrastructure Services has been on leave.</p> <p>22.02.24 – Will provide update in the next meeting.</p> <p>02.04.24 – Full traffic management plan is being developed by August/ September 2024. Director of Technical and Infrastructure Services to arrange for the installation of speed limit signs and speed bumps past the school, Ritharrngu Street and Marrangu Street. DTIS to approach Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Land (DIPL) about installing proper speed humps and speed signs with the new development, need for Walkways and WIFI.</p> <p>24.05.24 – Defer to full consultancy on public lighting and street lighting – check it’s within standards .</p> <p>25.06.24 – Forms part of Annual Plan – public and street lighting.</p> <p>11.12.24 – Part of internal independent road safety updates surveyed by whoever is awarded the contract.</p> <p>21.03.25 – Tender has been awarded, and the road safety audit will commence in April 2025 subject to road and weather conditions.</p> <p>23.04.25 – Ongoing due to current weather conditions.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Still waiting on roads to Re- open.</p>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<p>28.10.25- Audit report has been completed by Transportwise, Infrastructure team to have a de-brief meeting with consultant to discuss recommendations and proposed developments.</p> <p>26.11.25 – Waiting for the Safety report.</p> <p>19.02.25 – Waiting on procurement to get the items to community and to be installed.</p> <p>24.02.25 – In process of procurement.</p>
Oval access by vehicles	Vehicles have been driving on the Oval	<p>28.10.25- Chair Freddy to go through with MS Team and show them areas.</p> <p>19.02.26 – Council Services Manager to follow up with MS Supervisor.</p>
Drainage Issue Rainbow area		<p>19.02.26 - Anesu to forward the details to GMTIS to action.</p>
Location of existing playground equipment to be provided to Technical Services		<p>19.02.26 - LA members to provide location of play ground equipment to Technical Services through CSM.</p>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

<p>Items on Hold/Advocacy Items</p>	<p><u>ACTIONS</u></p>	<p><u>STATUS</u></p>
<p>Upgrade Airport Waiting Area</p>		<p>22.05.2020 – The advice received was that the NTG is only responsible for grounds maintenance and the structure was built by the Community Incorporated Council/Shire at the transition of local government. 29.01.2021 – The Local Authority has recommended a financial contribution toward a co-funded grant opportunity – to be tabled at the February Council m 19.03.2021 – Council have put \$50 aside to work with NT Government to help with costs on the upgrade of the airport area 12.05.2021 – Ongoing – Funding opportunity will be advised 21.05.2021 – Advocacy has been sought for funding, next round has been open and funding options will be available at next LA meeting. 21.01.2022 – Ongoing 20.05.2022 – no change – seeking additional funding. 30.06.2022 – no change Move to advocacy 20.01.22 – No further grants</p>
<p>Gapuwiyak aerodrome</p>	<p>Local Authority would like to approach the relevant authority for information on future plans for the Gapuwiyak aerodrome.</p>	<p>20.01.23 - If available invite representatives to meet with the Local Authority to discuss future aspirations for the Gapuwiyak aerodrome including extensions of the strip and inclusion of public facilities and toilets. 27.04.23 – ONGOING – TO DISCUSS NEXT MEETING. 29.06.23 – ONGOING 20.07 TO BE COVERED IN REPORT LATER IN MEETING. 29.08.23 ONGOING MOVED TO ADVOCACY 02.04.2024 ONGOING</p>
<p>Lack of Walkways (community members walking through people’s houses and properties.</p>	<p>Director Community Development to write a letter to Territory Housing raising this issue and requesting action.</p>	<p>24.03.23 – Director Community Development to provide update. 20.07.23 Update prior to next meeting by Director Community Services. 29.08.23 Ongoing discussion around footpaths and how they will link up with existing. 26.10.23 Ongoing – Feedback given to Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Land (DIPL) regarding above. No walkways included in the new subdivision. – To be retained in Advocacy.</p>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

		<p>02.04.2024- Include in discussions with DIPL on new sub-diversions.</p>
<p>Terminal building at airport.</p>	<p>Request the General Manager of Technical and Infrastructure Services to search for funding for Terminal building at airport option has been raised with just walls to join the ceiling with fans as a more affordable option.</p>	<p>25.06.24 – Update to be provided 11.12.24 – General Manager will visit Gapuwiyak in the future to investigate and provide update. 21.03.25 – Have inspected and currently reviewing and looking at costings and funding availability. 23.04.25 – Ongoing reviewing funding. 25.06.25 – No Further updates</p>

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.2 CEO Report

AUTHOR Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)**RECOMMENDATION****That the Local Authority :****(a) Notes the CEO report.****(b) Endorses the improved and expanded Advocacy issues as endorsed by Council.****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.

GENERAL:Advocacy

Council and the Local Authorities have formally considered and endorsed a growing number of important issues to advocate for action from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, for the social well-being of the communities and homelands of East Arnhem Land.

The Local Authority is asked to consider and endorse the following improved and expanded Key Advocacy Issues.

1. Youth Justice and new ways of addressing a high and growing level of youth crime focused on community based facilities, where young offenders are required to stay but be provided support from Council and other relevant service providers – for alcohol and other substance mis-use, trauma and family neglect, and engage the offenders in genuine and effective learning on country of traditional culture, identity and respect, community service, sport and recreation, vocational training, and a clear pathway to jobs – and if anyone fails to do this, they will be sent away to the standard prison system.
2. Shift from dependency on government payments and programs like the previous Community Development Program (CDP), and the new Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES), to include the genuine mutual obligation of community members to participate in work or training to continue to receive payments, to support genuine personal and family responsibility and accountability.
3. Real Local Decision Making - a shift from ignoring and excluding our Indigenous controlled Local Authorities and Council to facilitate open, legitimate, and transparent engagement with all communities and homelands to hear the voices of all people, and support genuine engagement, collaboration, and partnership with the other two levels of government, to gain meaningful and practical outcomes.

4. The ongoing and unaddressed problem of the illegal sale of kava, alcohol and other drugs, illegal card games and the damaging effect they have on communities and homelands.
5. The need for genuine co-design of new housing developments, that Council assess and approve, to comply with National Standards.
6. The provision of government housing and other infrastructure necessary for the effective delivery of essential services including Police, Education, Health, Local Government and Community Services.
7. The use of a reasonable percentage of the \$4 billion of committed funds to Indigenous housing in the Northern Territory to be provided for units, duplexes, and houses for local Indigenous workers and vulnerable aged and disabled people, as well as residents of small to large homelands.
8. The de-registration of providers or related companies of disability services that are involved in exploitation and abuse of clients, and other illegal activities.
9. Effective funding of essential and other support services to residents of small to large homelands, across East Arnhem Land.
10. The need for effective consultation, engagement, planning and the commitment of required funding from Rio Tinto, the Northern Territory Government, Federal Government, and other relevant stakeholders, to secure the future of Gove as a regional centre.

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.3 Council Services Report

AUTHOR Anesu Hector (Council Services Manager)**RECOMMENDATION****That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.****SUMMARY:**

This report is provided by the Council Operations Manager at every Local Authority Meeting to provide information and updates to members.

BACKGROUND:

In line with Guideline 1: Local Authorities, it is a requirement for a report to be included on service delivery issues in the Local Authority area.

GENERAL:

Council Services and Community Services teams in Gapuwiyak continue to work closely with key stakeholders, community elders, and community members to strengthen programs and services that benefit the whole community. Collaboration remains central to the success of many activities delivered across the community, ensuring that services reflect the needs, culture, and priorities of the people of Gapuwiyak. Through ongoing engagement with local leaders, service providers, and residents, the Council Services team continues to support initiatives that promote wellbeing, cultural connection, safety, and community pride.

During this period, the community also had the opportunity to welcome a special visit from former Councillor Ms. Kaye Thurlow, who came to Gapuwiyak for the day to say goodbye to her many friends, colleagues, and the broader community. Ms. Kaye has spent over 50 years living and working across Northeast Arnhem Land, dedicating much of her life to supporting remote communities and strengthening local government services.

Her visit was a meaningful moment for many community members who have known and worked alongside her over the years. Elders, staff, and residents shared their appreciation for the time, commitment, and leadership she has shown during her long connection with the region. Many reflected on the positive impact she has had through her advocacy for remote communities and her ongoing support for the people of Arnhem Land. The Gapuwiyak community expressed their gratitude and thanks for her decades of service and wished her well in the next chapter of her journey. It was a moment of reflection and appreciation, recognising the lasting relationships and contributions she has made to the region and to the people of Gapuwiyak.



Ms. Kaye Thurlow with friends and Council Services Manager Anesu Hector at the Gapuwiyak Council Office during her farewell visit to the community after more than 50 years in Northeast Arnhem Land.

Another highlight was community's celebration of International Women's Day, which brought together women from across Gapuwiyak under the theme "Give to Gain." This event provided an opportunity to celebrate the strength, leadership, and cultural knowledge of women within the community. Women gathered early in the morning and marched together from the airport to the school assembly area. The march symbolised unity, strength, and the important role women play in shaping the future of the community. During the school assembly, several women spoke passionately about their responsibilities as mothers, aunties, grandmothers, and community leaders. They emphasized the importance of guiding the younger generation and passing down knowledge, values, and culture so that future generations can continue to grow strong in their identity and responsibilities.

The march concluded at the Aged Care Centre, where the community took time to honor the elders. Many elders came outside to greet the women and join the celebration. This moment was particularly special as it recognised the wisdom, strength, and guidance that elders have provided over many years. Elders were acknowledged for their leadership and for the role they continue to play in teaching culture and supporting the younger generation.



Women in Gapuwiyak posing for a photo in front of the Aged Care Centre following the International Women's Day march



Trauma Informed Care Coordinator Mattea Holliday and Council Services Manager Anesu Hector and joined the community walk during the International Women's Day march.

Municipal Services

The Municipal Services team continues to work diligently to maintain a clean, safe, and healthy environment for the community. During the wet season, the team has remained particularly active, ensuring that public areas are maintained despite the challenges that seasonal weather conditions can bring. A major focus has been ongoing mowing and maintenance of public areas across the community. Regular mowing helps reduce hazards, maintain accessibility, and improve the overall presentation of the town. The team has worked hard to keep grass levels under control in parks, around community buildings, and along public pathways.

Another key task undertaken by the Municipal Services team has been the cleaning and clearing of culverts. During the wet season, proper drainage is essential to prevent water build-up and potential flooding. The team has been working consistently to ensure culverts are clear of debris so that water can flow freely during heavy rains. These efforts are important for protecting infrastructure, maintaining safe roads, and ensuring community safety. The dedication and commitment shown by the Municipal Services team continues to contribute significantly to maintaining the cleanliness and functionality of Gapuwiyak.



Municipal Services Supervisor Greg Mitchell and Team Leader Ricky Guyula at work supporting community maintenance



Municipal Services Officers James Wunungmurra and Daniel Gumbula carrying out maintenance work in the Gapuwiyak community

Community Night Patrol

The Community Night Patrol team continues to play an important role in promoting community safety and wellbeing. Patrol officers work closely with community members, elders, and local services to ensure the safety of residents, particularly children and young people during evening hours.

Night Patrol officers regularly monitor areas where children and youth may gather after dark. Their role is not only to ensure safety but also to engage positively with young people and encourage them to return home where appropriate. Patrol staff maintain strong communication with families to support shared responsibility in ensuring children are safe at night. The team also continues to work collaboratively with elders and community leaders to address issues that may arise and reinforce positive behavior within the community.

To strengthen the service further, Council is currently recruiting for one male Community Night Patrol Officer to join the team. Increasing the patrol team will help expand coverage and strengthen engagement with youth, particularly during busy evening periods.

Children's Services

Children's Services has continued to provide a vibrant and engaging environment for young people in the community. Over the past period, the program has been full of energy with children participating enthusiastically in a wide range of activities. Staff have been working hard to ensure that children are involved in fun, safe, and meaningful programs that encourage creativity, learning, and social interaction. Activities have included arts and crafts, group games, outdoor play, and educational activities that help children build confidence and develop positive relationships with peers.

The team continues to focus on creating a welcoming space where children feel safe and supported. Participation levels remain strong, demonstrating the importance of providing structured activities that allow young people to stay engaged in positive programs within the community.



Children enjoying playtime in their toy car during activities



Bubbles bringing smiles and laughter to the children during playtime.

The Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities

Active communities have had a massive month with high attendance of over 50 to nearly all activities, with ages from two – grandparents attending and participating in activities. The 3x3 basketball competition on Saturday was a great hit.

The Wapurarr' Place has been working one on one with our clients, as well as partnering weekly with Miwatj public health team to run a program called Djamarrkuli Mulka with teenage girls. We have done cooking, sexual health talks, oral health and goal setting. It's been so good to see them stepping out and growing in confidence.



Young artists in Gapuwiyak painting a banner in preparation for International Women's Day celebrations

Aged Care & Disability Services

The Aged Care and Disability Services team continues to provide essential support to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Staff work closely with elders and participants with disabilities to ensure they receive the care, assistance, and respect they deserve. Staff take great care to provide culturally respectful support that acknowledges the importance of dignity, independence, and cultural identity. The team also works collaboratively with health services and families to ensure participants receive coordinated support where needed. Through their dedication and compassion, the Aged Care and Disability Services team continue to improve quality of life for many community members.



Chair yoga and stretching session promoting gentle movement, flexibility, and wellbeing



One-on-one support session focused on strengthening hands and arms while promoting communication and engagement.

Overall, this reporting period has highlighted the strong commitment of Council staff to supporting the wellbeing of the Gapuwiyak community. From celebrating women's leadership and honoring elders, maintaining municipal infrastructure, supporting youth engagement, and delivering care services, the team continues to demonstrate dedication and professionalism in all areas of their work.

Waste and Environmental Update

Core Services

WS 2244-01 - Manage Landfill Gapuwiyak.

Table 1 below illustrates whether the landfill has complied with the Council’s Environmental Management Plan requirements for the month.

Table 1. Landfill Environmental Compliance

	FY 2025-26 Monthly Environmental Compliance											
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Gapuwiyak WMF	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R				

Goal 2



Bulk Waste Clean Up poster - Gapuwiyak

2.2 - Collaborate with the community and stakeholders for safer communities.

2.2.1 - Facilitate and advocate for community safety, improved safety, improved health and other services.

Community bulk waste clean ups were held across the region with the Gapuwiyak Bulk Waste Clean Up Week scheduled to run from 9 – 13 February 2026. These clean-up initiatives are scheduled to take place quarterly

The Bulk Waste Clean Up Week occurred in the same week as Loader and Backhoe training delivered by Kullaru. The Municipal Services team ensured that hard wastes were removed in the weeks before and after this date.

Training and Development

Hamish Brace, Regional Manager Waste & Environment, is a trained and qualified Vocational Education Trainer (VET) and has trained many remote students in Conservation Land Management and Agriculture. Hamish delivered this non-certified training while on a visit to Gapuwiyak.

Municipal Services Supervisor, Greg Mitchell and the Municipal Services team were trained in the following:

- ‘Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Milingimbi Waste Management Facility’
- Gapuwiyak ‘Listed Waste Management Emergency Response Plan’

One of the current focuses of the NTEPA is on ‘Listed Wastes’ and EARC waste teams’ management of these materials

- Tyres
- Batteries
- Oil



Hamish Brace, Regional Manager Waste & Environment; Greg Mitchel, Municipal Service Supervisor; Ricky Guyula, leading hand; and James Wunungmurra, Daniel Gumbula & James Guyula MS team. Trained in Listed Waste handling.



The Gapuwiyak Municipal Services team with the trainers from Kullaru.

In February, the Municipal Services team also undertook earth moving plant training and licensing that was delivered by Kullaru.

This training is essential not only for day-to-day Municipal Services operations in and around the community but also in maintaining best practices at our Landfill.

Animal Management Program (AMP) Update

Reporting month/period: Jan-Feb 2026

Any issues or concerns that need to be addressed at LA or council meeting: Nil

Overall comments:

- There were no physical veterinary visits to Gapuwiyak during this period. The wet season is our quiet period where we plan, schedule and perform stocktake to get the AMP team ready for a big dry season.
- Remote consultations: The AMP team has performed six remote consultations during the period, mostly sick animals and animals with tick needing medication. This continues to provide pet owners with consistent veterinary care while we are not in community.
- Next vet visit: The first veterinary visit of 2026 is 24 -27 March 2026 – Dr. Vic Wheeler and Sarah Carrall

Service Delivery Table:

Gapuwiyak	Jan/Feb 26	FY 25-26 to date	FY 24-25
Dogs Desexed	0	30	34
Cats Desexed	0	11	6
Community consultations	0	21	75
Remote/Phone consultations	6	11	28
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	4	8	16
Minor procedures/other surgeries	0	1	2
Parasite Treatments	0	497	783
Euthanasia	0	2	2
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	5	25
Total Engagements	10	586	971

Staff training:

- Sarah Carrall and Saraya Aston attended the CDU First Aid and CPR training course in February. They are now up to date on all first aid training.
- Dr Maddy attended the NT AVA veterinary conference in Darwin in February and learnt new surgical techniques and updated medication regimes that can now be used by our veterinary program this year.
- Dr Maddy is going to perform EARC Veterinary Cabinet training with all CSMs and ancillary staff coming up in March

Additional Collaborations/Stakeholder engagements:

- SERP study. Dr Maddy continues to be in discussions with Miwatj and QIMR team regarding the large scale Strongyloides research project in Gapuwiyak and Milingimbi in 2026-2027.

Photographs:



A Sick dog at Gapuwiyak with suspected Ehrlichiosis getting treated remotely with medication from the EARC Veterinary cabinets.



Saraya and Sarah in the CDU First Aid Course.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

AUTHOR Sonia Campbell (General Manager - Technical and Infrastructure Services)**RECOMMENDATION****That Local Authority note the Technical Services Report.****SUMMARY:**

This report is submitted for the Local Authority's consideration and provides program updates from the Technical and Infrastructure Directorate. The updates pertain to capital projects and initiatives aligned with the 2025-2026 Annual Plan.

BACKGROUND:

As part of Council's Annual Plan, a range of projects and initiatives were tabled and subsequently approved by the Local Authorities and Council for the 2025-2026 financial year. Ongoing updates on these projects will be provided at each meeting. In addition, any new initiatives or emerging matters of relevance to the community will also be discussed.

The information within this report covers actions associated with the below Technical Services areas:

- 112 - Fleet Services
- 116 - Lighting for Public Safety
- 118 - Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management
- 119 - Local Road Upgrade and Construction
- 122 - Building and Public Infrastructure Services

REPORT STORY:**112 – Fleet Services**

Nothing to report.

The ongoing monsoonal weather and resulting access issues have delayed any further scheduled works across our remote communities for the Transport and Infrastructure and Building and Infrastructure Areas. If conditions change closer to the meeting date, we will provide the most up-to-date information during the meeting.

116 – Lighting for Public Safety**Repair and maintenance of public streetlights**

Community	LED Public Streetlights out of service based on night-time audit inspection	Tentative mobilisation, commencement & expected completion date	Progress update
Gapuwiyak	27 - LED street lights 2 – GFS200 solar street lights	2 Feb 2026	100% complete

118 – Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management**T25-203320.1 Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage for a Period of 12 Months**

Round 1 Mobilisation Dates 2025/26		Project Status
Gapuwiyak	28 October 2025 (mobilised) Expected to re-mobilise on 20 May 2026	57% completed, demobilised due to wet season late December 2025
Ramingining	20 April 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Milingimbi	4 May 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Galiwin'ku	25 May 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Yirrkala	19 June 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Gunyangara	9 July 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Round 2 Mobilisation Dates 2025/2026		Project Status
Milingimbi	17 May 2026	Scheduled
Gapuwiyak	30 May 2026	Scheduled
Galiwin'ku	17 June 2026	Scheduled
Yirrkala	31 July 2026	Scheduled
Gunyangara	11 August 2026	Scheduled
Ramingining	3 September 2026	Scheduled

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

That Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 28 February 2026.

SUMMARY:

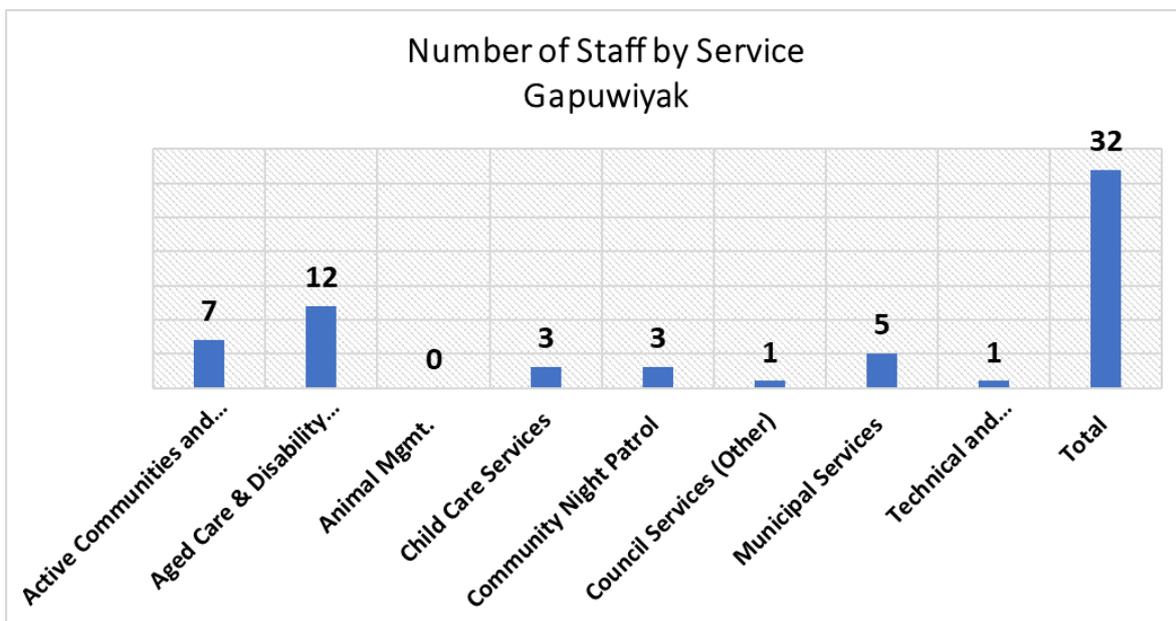
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 28 February 2026 within the Local Authority area.

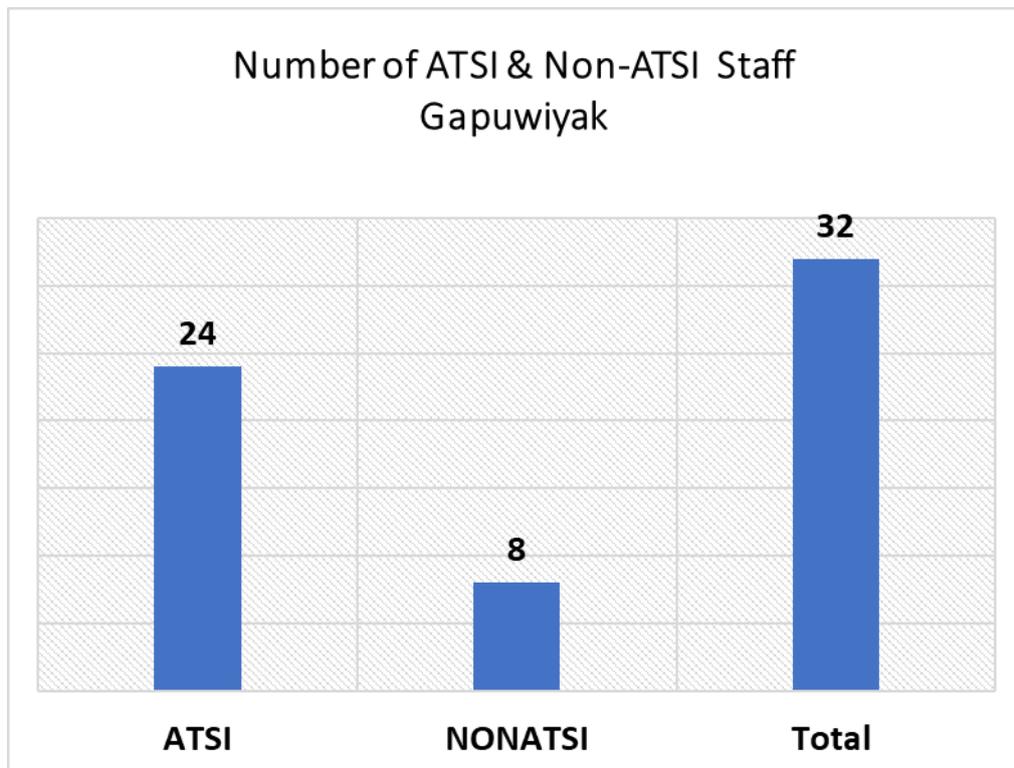
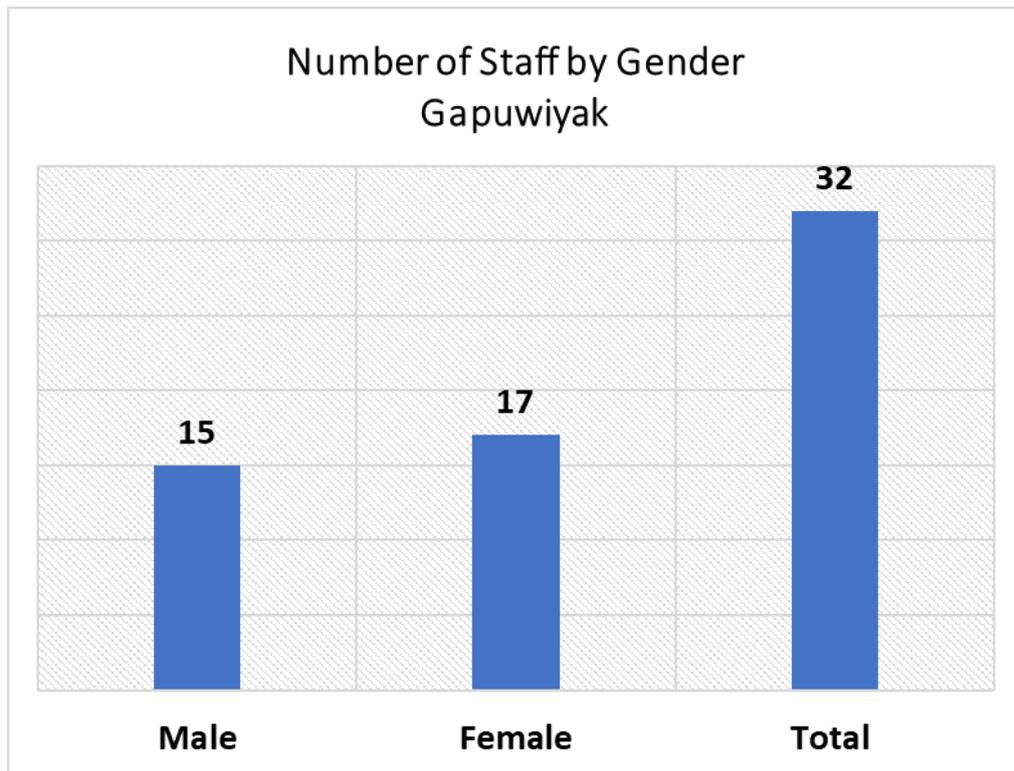
BACKGROUND:

Local Authorities need to consider the Finance Report carefully as it details the current actual figures against the budget for the Local Authority area. Also, the report details the number of staff against the different service areas.

GENERAL:

Employee Statistics:





Vacancies as of 28 February 2026:

Job Title	Location	Employment Type	Recruitment Type	No. of Vacancies
ACDS Support Worker	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Municipal Services Officer	Gapuwiyak	Part Time Permanent	Community	1
Trades Assistant	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Community Media Officer	Gapuwiyak	Part Time Permanent	Community	1
Aged Care & Disability Services Support Worker	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Municipal Services Officer	Gapuwiyak	Full Time	Community	1
ACDS Support Worker	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Community Night Patrol Officer	Gapuwiyak	Part-time	Community	1
Youth Mentor	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1

The report author does not have a conflict of interest in this matter (Section 179 of the Act).

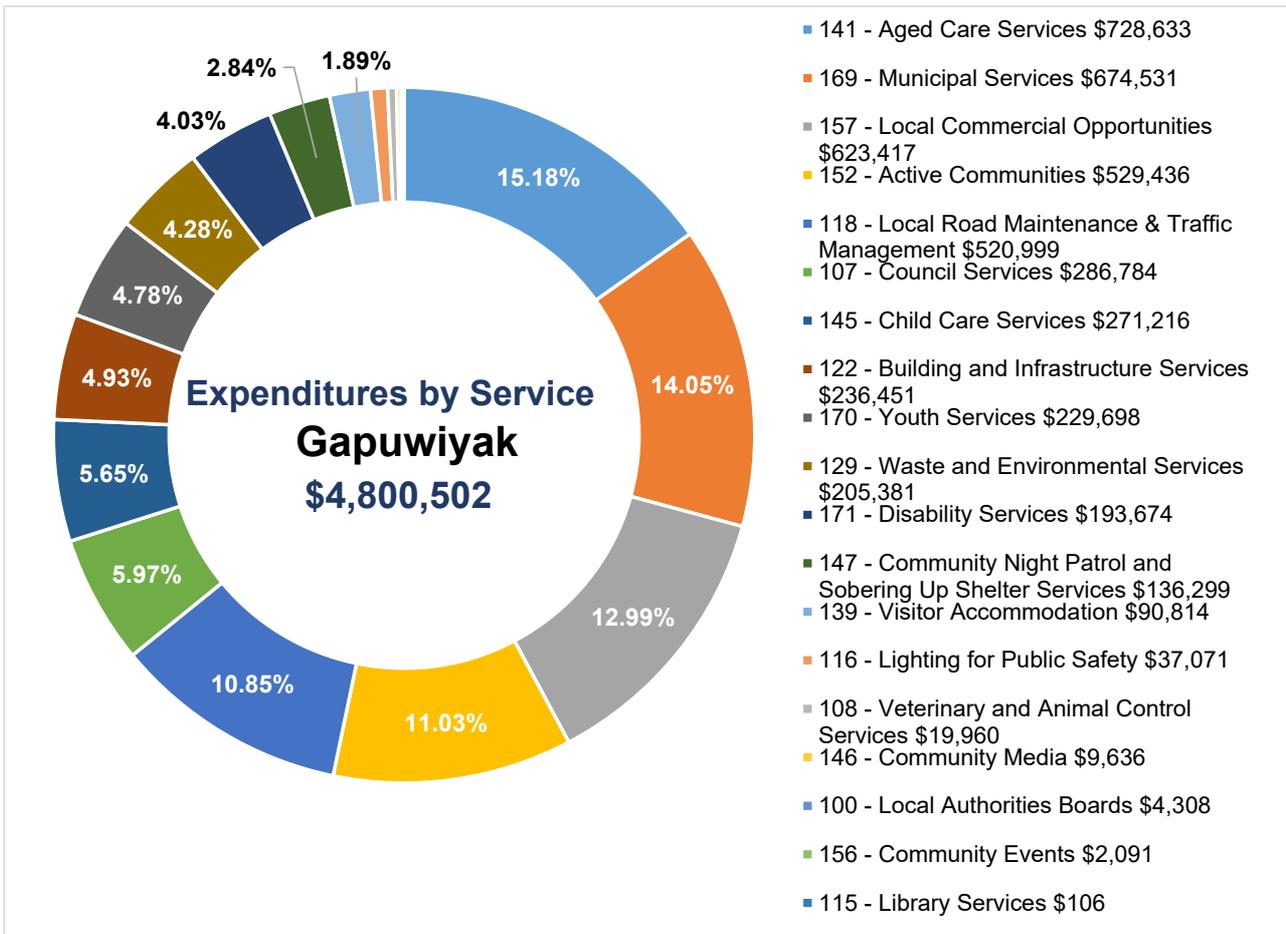
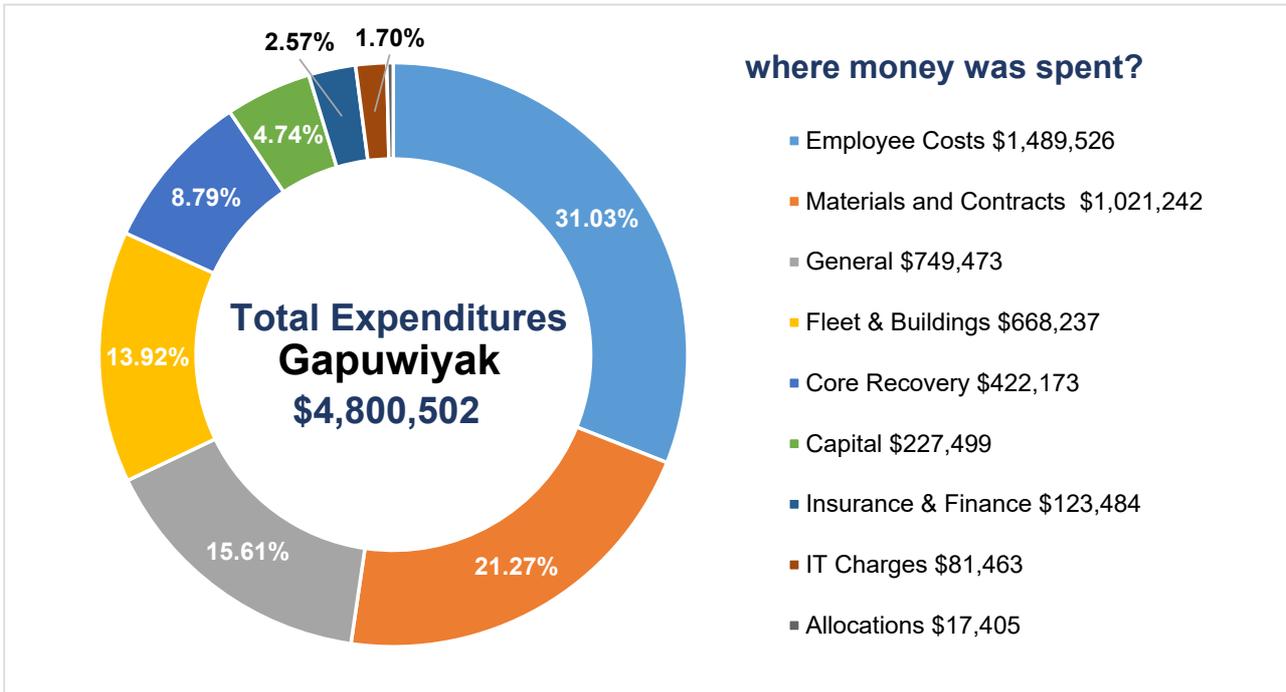
ATTACHMENTS:

1. 08. February 2026 Gapuwiyak LAF Funds Left [2.5.1 - 1 page]
2. 08. February 2026 Gapuwiyak Chart LA Report [2.5.2 - 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GAPUWIYAK FUNDS LEFT

As at 28th February 2026

	YTD ACTUAL	COMMITMENTS	ACTUAL + COMMITMENTS	FULL YEAR BUDGET	PROGRESS % (ACTUAL vs BUDGET)
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR	456,752	-	456,752	456,752	
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-	-	-	133,300	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	456,752	-	456,752	590,052	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
299916 - LAPF - Gapuwiyak - Two Public Toilets	(8,782)	(39,773)	(48,555)	(800,000)	1%
310616 - LAPF - Gapuwiyak Cemetery Lighting	-	-	-	(50,000)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	(8,782)	(39,773)	(48,555)	(850,000)	1%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			408,197	(259,948)	



3 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Discussion with the Local Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Local Police.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

3.2 Discussion with the Australian Border Force

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Australian Border Force.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

3.3 Strongyloidiasis project discussion

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Strongyloidiasis project team.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

4 Meeting Close