



OPEN AGENDA for the Gapuwiyak

Local Authority
28 October 2025

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

Djambarrpuyŋu

Dhuwandja dhäwu dhipunur EARC-nur bukmakku yolnuw mala nhämunha limurr ga nhina wänakurr malanuwurr buku-liwmaram:

- limurr dhu räl-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurrungalanaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharray walnaw,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Dhanu

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

- ŋalma ŋarru räal-manapanmi ganydjarrwu nakanhaminyarawu ŋalmalinguwaywuru,
- ga dharray walnawu,
- ga nayanu-dapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumati

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

- nilimurru yurru räl-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu ganga'thinyarawu nilimurrungalanawu,
- ga dharray walnawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapthunmaranhamirri bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marranu

Dhuwanydji dhäwu barranga'yun EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolnuw yukurr buku-liw'maram wäna mittji malanynha:

- Dalimurr wurruku räl-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurruŋgalaŋaw
- Gangathinyamaranharaw wondanarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walŋaw,
- Ga ŋayaŋu-dapmaranhamirr 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 ARNHEM 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 28 October 2025 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

Dial-in Details: Microsoft Teams

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 415 006 313 913 7

Passcode: wu2nD34w

Dial in by phone

+61 2 8318 0005,,257056495# Australia, Sydney

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 257 056 495#

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 form the Council members and what absences that the Council given permission for.

ATTACHMENTS:

NIiI

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 21 March 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gapuwiyak LA Meeting 21032025 Minutes [1.5.1 - 9 pages]





OPEN MINUTES for the Gapuwiyak Local Authority 21 March 2025

21 MARCH 2025

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

MEMBERS:

In the Chair Trudy Wunungmurra, Cr Bandi Wunungmurra, Local Authority Members - Freddie Ganambarr, Jessica Wunungmurra, Ricky Guyula and Alice Wanambi.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Dale Keehne – Chief Executive Officer.
Signe Balodis - Director Council Services.
Divyan Ahimaz - Director Community Services. (Via TEAMS).
Anesuishe Hector – Council Operations Manager.

Minute Taker - Wendy Miller, EA to the CEO.

GUESTS:

Ruth Hansen - Language Specialist.

Chair opened the meeting at 11.00AM and welcomed all members and guests.

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 form the Council members and what absences that the Council given permission for.

GAP 2025/9 RESOLVED (Jessica Wunungmurra/Freddie Ganambarra)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra, Thomas Guyula and Ivan Wanambi.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Thomas Guyula and Ivan Wanambi and Cr Bobby Wunungmurra.
- (c) Notes thomas Guyula, Ivan Wanambi and Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra are absent with permission of the Local Authority.

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

21 MARCH 2025

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

GAP 2025/10 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/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 2025/11 RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Freddie Ganambarra)

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 May 2024.

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

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

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.1 Guest Speaker - Northern Territory Police

SUMMARY:

The Northern Territory Police will provide a current update on the community to the Local Authority members.

GAP 2025/4 RESOLVED (Jessica Wunungmurra/Freddie Ganambarra)

That Local Authority thanks the Guest Speaker Senior Seargent Csaba Boja from the Northern Territory Police for his update in particular in relation to the thefts that have been occurring in the community.

21 MARCH 2025

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.2 Guest Speaker - Mr Yinjiya Guyula MLA

SUMMARY:

Mr Guyula is attending this round of Local Authority meetings to discuss the ongoing problem surrounding the legal sale of kava.

GAP 2025/5 RESOLVED (Jessica Wunungmurra/Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra)

That Local Authority thanks the guest speaker Mr Yinjiya Guyula MLA for his attendance and update.

21 MARCH 2025

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 2025/1 RESOLVED (Jessica Wunungmurra/Alice Wanambi)

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 CEO Report

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/8 RESOLVED (Freddie Ganambarra/Alice Wanambi)

That Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

21 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Manager Report

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/7 RESOLVED (Freddie Ganambarra/Alice Wanambi)

That Local Authority notes the Council Services Manager report.

21 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical & Infrastructure Services Report

SUMMARY:

This report is tabled for the Local Authority to provide program updates within the Technical and Infrastructure directorate. In addition to progress updates associated with capital projects and initiatives associated with the 2023-2024 Annual Plan.

GAP 2025/2 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Freddie Ganambarra)

That the Local Authority notes the Technical and Infrastructure Services report.

GAP 2025/3 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Freddie Ganambarra)

Members moved to lunch at 12.06pm members returned at 12.52pm.

21 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY

This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 28 February 2025 within the Local Authority area.

GAP 2025/6 RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Freddie Ganambarra)

That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 28 February 2025.

21 MARCH 2025

4 Confidential Reports

No confidential reports were tabled at this meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Local Authority notes the updates to the website profile of Gapuwiyak presented by the Communications Advisor and will continue the discussion between the members and the Communications Advisor at a date to be determined.

5 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on 21 March 2025.

6 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 3.41pm

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 21 March 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

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 [3.1.1 - 6 pages]

	ACTIONS	STATUS
ACTION ITEM		
KAVA	That the Local Authority:	12.05.2021 – Email was received, stating that there is no action regarding the Kava Pilot - Ongoing
	a) Notes the report on the Kava Pilot: Allowing the commercial importation of kava. 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: 1) increased compliance and policing for the increase in the illicit kava trade, or 2) effective and informed local decision making about kava management to minimise potential harms. c) Supports the Northern Territory Government's request for funding to support research into the health and social impacts from increased kava availability. 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.	Kava Pilot - Ongoing 12.10.2021 – Update provided to LA Members - ongoing 17.12.2021 – A separate report will be presented by the CEO in the meeting. 21.01.2022 – CEO is having meetings about consultation on 8 Feb 2022. 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. 09.05.2022 - Dale Keehne and President Lapulung Dhamarrandji attended the RCFC and will provide updates to the Local Authority. 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. 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. 25.11.2022 – As noted above. 20.11.2022 – CEO to provide further update.

	ACTIONS	STATUS
ACTION ITEM		
		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. 29.01.24 – NIAA and NTG to attend next Council meeting for further discussion. 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. 24.04.24 – CEO to contact Department. 24.05.24 – NIAA and NTG to again be invited to June Council pre-agenda day. 25.06.24 – NIAA & NTG will attend June Council meeting. 19.02.25 – Council is going to seek the support of Local Member Mark Yingiya Guyula MLA for Milka to raise this issue. 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. 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.
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.	 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. Director Technical and Infrastructure services to approach Telstra to include the public wifi as part of their public telephone service. Director Technical and Infrastructure services to explore option for broader community wifi coverage. 29.06.23 - Ongoing 20.07.23 - Move tower and relocate wifi new tower 2 months away update next
		meeting. 29.08.23 - moving tower to new position, which has been mapped out. Already budgeted for.

	ACTIONS	STATUS
ACTION ITEM		
		26.10.23 – I.T has this underway. Tower will stay where it is until after wet
		season.
		14.12.23 – This will occur in New Year.
		29.01.23 As above noted in PA Section.
		22.02.24 – Getting ready to be released.
		02.04.24- Due to be completed by 30 June 2024
		24.05.24 – Covered in Tech Report.
		25.06.24 – Put out to tender no submissions – Currently out again – closing this week.
		11.12.24 – update to be provided. Regional Manager – Building and
		Infrastructure will investigate.
		21.03.25 – Installed the new tower – now need to investigate the conference
		room and where the wifi will be installed.
		23.04.25 – Engaged with IT Manager in regards to public wifi.
		25.06.25 – Engaged with IT Manager in regards to public will. 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?
Safety concerns	General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services asked	24.03.23 – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services to provide update.
Marrangu Street	to look into the installation of speed humps on the said street.	20.07.23 Ongoing.
aga oti oot	to look mile the mistandien of speed hamps on the said sheet.	26.10.23 – Ongoing. Update to be provided by DTSI at next LA meeting.
		14.12.23 – Speed bumps and signage ordered.
		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.
		22.02.24 – Will provide update in the next meeting.
		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.
		24.05.24 – Defer to full consultancy on public lighting and street lighting – check
		it's within standards .
		25.06.24 – Forms part of Annual Plan – public and street lighting.
		11.12.24 – Part of internal independent road safety updates surveyed by
		whoever is awarded the contract.

	ACTIONS	STATUS
ACTION ITEM		
		21.03.25 – Tender has been awarded, and the road safety audit will commence in
		April 2025 subject to road and weather conditions.
		23.04.25 – Ongoing due to current weather conditions. 25.06.25 – Still waiting on roads to Re- open.
Terminal building at	Request the General Manager of Technical and Infrastructure	25.06.24 – Update to be provided
airport.	Services to search for funding for Terminal building at airport option has been raised with just walls to join the ceiling with	11.12.24 – General Manager will visit Gapuwiyak in the future to investigate and provide update.
	fans as a more affordable option.	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
Website	Request a further meeting and discussion between members and Communications Advisor at a date to be determined.	21.03.25 – Council Services Manager to liaise with members and Comms Advisor to find a suitable date.
		23.04.25 – Ongoing to follow up with Council Services Manager.
		25.06.25 – Will be done in the next LA meeting.

Items on	<u>ACTIONS</u>	STATUS
Hold/Advocacy		22.05.2020 – The advice received was that the NTG is only responsible for
Items		grounds maintenance and the structure was built by the Community
		Incorporated Council/Shire at the transition of local government.
Upgrade Airport		
Waiting Area		29.01.2021 – The Local Authority has recommended a financial contribution
		toward a co-funded grant opportunity – to be tabled at the February Council meeting.
		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

Gapuwiyak aerodrome	Local Authority would like to approach the relevant authority	20.01.23 - If available invite representatives to meet with the Local Authority to
	for information on future plans for the Gapuwiyak aerodrome.	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
Lack of Walkways (community members	Director Community Development to write a letter to Territory Housing raising this issue and requesting action.	24.03.23 – Director Community Development to provide update.
walking through people's houses and		20.07.23 Update prior to next meeting by Director Community Services.
properties.		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.
		02.04.2024- Include in discussions with DIPL on new sub-diversions.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 CEO Report

AUTHOR Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the 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.

GENERAL:

It is with great pleasure to report today to our newly elected Council for the next four year Council term.

I believe the return of ten of our Councillors who stood for election, demonstrates clear satisfaction from the people of the six Yolngu communities and many homelands of your strong representation of them.

The election of two new Councillors, following the retirement of former Presidents Banambi Wunungumurra and Kaye Thurlow, also represents a significant 'passing of the batton' of their long and tireless service to the people, from the very creation of the East Arnhem 'Shire' Regional Council over 17 years ago in July 2008.

New Councillor Murphy Yunupingu has been an active member of the Gunyangara Local Authority for many years, and strong Gumatj leader working directly to establish and develop the Dhupuma-Barker College, working in collaboration with Flinders University and Miwatj Health, and other initiatives to support our Yolngu youth.

New Councillor Cyril Bukulatjpi has been endorsed by Council over its last term ranging from hosting former Chief Minister Natasha Fyles in his home community of Galiwin'ku, chairing a meeting of the Secretaries and CEOs of 15 of the nation's Federal Agencies, to join significant delegations and taking an active role in discussions with the CEO of the National Indigenous Australians Agency, Federal Minister Malarndirri McCarthy, the Governor-General and Prime Minister.

Our new Councillors join an experienced and dedicated Council, with clear commitment and action to support and represent the people of your community, homelands across your cultural wards and whole Yolngu region.

I look forward to working to support our elected Council leaders over the coming years, to address significant issues and opportunities to improve the lives of the Yolngu people, from

the jamikuli (children) to elders – in Council's engagement and advocacy with the other two levels of Government.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Report

AUTHOR

Anesuishe Hector (Council Services Manager – Gapuwiyak)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.

SUMMARY:

This report is provided by the Council Services 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:

The Council team continues to work collaboratively with community members, Traditional Owners, Elders, and key stakeholders to deliver high-quality council services and community services that maintain the cleanliness, safety, and wellbeing of Gapuwiyak. This report provides an overview of activities and achievements across Council Services, Municipal Services, Community Night Patrol, Children's Services, the Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities Program, and Aged Care & Disability Services for the period leading up to October 2025.

Council Services and Community Collaboration

Community collaboration remains at the heart of all Council operations in Gapuwiyak. The Council Services team continues to build strong working relationships with local leaders, community groups, and service partners to ensure that the delivery of services reflects the values, priorities, and aspirations of the people of Gapuwiyak.

A major highlight this quarter was the official opening of the Gapuwiyak Cultural Art Centre, an event that brought together artists, community members, Elders, and visiting dignitaries in a vibrant celebration of Yolŋu art, culture, and creativity. The Council team played a key supporting role in preparing the site and ensuring the event ran smoothly — assisting with logistics, seating, transport, and clean-up before and after the ceremony. The day was a great success, showcasing the incredible local talent and community pride. Council extends heartfelt congratulations to the Gapuwiyak community on the opening of this important cultural space, which will serve as a hub for artists and visitors for years to come.

Another significant event was the community-wide celebration of Territory Day on 1 July 2025. The event brought together families, Elders, and visitors in a spirit of unity and pride. Territory Day is an important local tradition where the community celebrates achievements, shares cultural performances, and enjoys fireworks and food together. The event also reflected the community's strong commitment to working together, with the Council team coordinating site

preparations, waste management, and post-event clean-up to ensure the area remained tidy and safe.

These events highlight the Council Services team's ongoing commitment to supporting community-led activities and strengthening local identity through cultural celebration and collaboration.



Drifting Clouds Band Setup - Territory Day 2025, Gapuwiyak



The Gapuwiyak community is coming together for a Territory Day BBQ — sharing food, stories, and celebration in a strong display of community spirit.



Official Opening of the Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Centre – a proud celebration of Yolnu art, culture, and community collaboration.

Municipal Services (MS)

The Municipal Services team has demonstrated outstanding commitment to maintaining the community's physical environment. The team has focused on ensuring that public areas, verges, and parks remain well-mowed and clean, despite the challenges posed by the long-wet season earlier in the year.

During this period, the team also played an essential role in supporting logistics within the community. When Sea Swift was unable to deliver goods due to barge delays, the Council Services team assisted with offloading and distributing supplies from a truck that was sent in to ensure essential goods reached the community. This was a strong example of teamwork and problem-solving under pressure.

Road maintenance has been another major area of focus. The extended wet season caused significant deterioration of local roads, and the team has been working tirelessly to restore and repair key access points. Grading, drainage clearing, and patching works have been ongoing, ensuring that residents and service providers can move safely and efficiently throughout the community.

The Municipal team also provided extensive support to major community events, including both the Territory Day celebrations and the Gapuwiyak Art Centre Opening, ensuring that venues were prepared, grounds were safe and clean, and infrastructure was ready to accommodate visitors and dignitaries. These efforts have been greatly appreciated by the community and partner organisations.



Gapuwiyak Municipal Services Team working together to unload goods delivered by truck when the barge was unable to arrive — a great example of teamwork and community support.

Community Night Patrol (CNP)

The Community Night Patrol (CNP) continues to play a vital role in maintaining community safety and harmony. The team works closely with families, Elders, and service providers to ensure that children are off the streets at night and returned safely to their homes.

In addition to regular patrol operations, the team held a Community Interaction Day at the Gapuwiyak store, where members engaged with residents to discuss the importance of community safety. The focus of these conversations was the prevention of vandalism and property damage, particularly to local shops and stakeholder vehicles. This proactive engagement was well received and helped to strengthen relationships between CNP officers and the broader community.

The team's approach continues to emphasise respect, education, and prevention rather than punishment. The success of these outreach efforts has been reflected in increased community cooperation and improved awareness of the importance of shared responsibility for safety and respect.



Community Night Patrol – Interactions at the Community Store.

Child Care Services

The Gapuwiyak Child Care Centre has experienced a significant increase in attendance compared to previous months. This growth reflects both the high quality of care provided by the staff and the confidence that families have in the service.

The Child Care team has been busy running a range of activities designed to promote creativity, learning, and cultural connection. With the rising temperatures, splash-water play sessions have become a popular and enjoyable way for children to stay cool while engaging in sensory play. The staff have ensured these activities are both fun and safe, maintaining close supervision and incorporating learning outcomes around sharing, cooperation, and physical development.

The Centre continues to be a vital part of early childhood development in Gapuwiyak, helping to build the foundation for lifelong learning, social skills, and confidence among the community's youngest members.



Splash Splash fun at the Gapuwiyak Childcare Centre – children engaging in supervised water play activities, promoting learning, sensory development, and lots of smiles.

The Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities and Youth Services

The Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities program has had a dynamic school holiday period filled with engaging activities for young people and families.

In Week 1, Gapuwiyak proudly participated in the Eastern Cup in Galiwin'ku, where the men's team placed third and the women's team came second. These strong results reflect both the talent and dedication of our local teams, as well as the community pride they inspire. In Week 2, the program offered a variety of creative and social activities, including board

In Week 2, the program offered a variety of creative and social activities, including board games, painting sessions, a bush-oven cooking day at the lake, and a community movie night also held at the lake. These events provided positive opportunities for families to come together and for young people to engage in healthy, community-led activities.

Although attendance has decreased slightly due to the hot weather and families travelling to outstations, this has also been a positive sign of cultural connection, as many families have taken the opportunity to visit homelands. The program team has also welcomed Sikeli's return (Monday 6 October) and is preparing to partner with Miwatj Health on upcoming Heart Clinics and Mental Health Week activities.

The Wapurrar team has been instrumental in supporting the Active Communities team during Sikeli's absence, helping to maintain casework and program continuity. Going forward, the focus will be on rebuilding the case load and strengthening collaboration with the Miwatj Public Health Team and Gapuwiyak School to deliver meaningful and culturally grounded programs.



Council working in collaboration with Miwatj Health to deliver engaging activities promoting health, wellbeing, and community connection for children and families in Gapuwiyak.



School Holidays Program – Art Piece Creation.



As part of the School Holidays Program, families gathered by the lake to enjoy traditional underground cooking — a fun, hands-on way for children to connect with culture and community.

Aged Care and Disability Services

The Aged Care and Disability Services teams have continued to provide essential, person-centred supports to older residents and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants. As part of the monthly activities program, clients have enjoyed Monday excursions to the Art Centre, which promote creativity, relaxation, and fine motor skill development through painting and craft. These sessions have proven valuable for emotional wellbeing and social connection.

The NDIS Skills Development – Cooking Program has also been well received, teaching participants step-by-step cooking skills using pictorial recipes. This hands-on learning approach empowers participants to build confidence and independence in daily living tasks. Three new positions have being created to work with NDIS participants. These workers will focus on skill development, social engagement, and routine-building activities in partnership with mental health and wellbeing services.

Partnerships with Miwatj Health, Occupational Therapists, SEWB, and Youth Sport & Recreation remain vital to delivering holistic supports. Planning is also underway for Mental Health Week, which will include joint activities promoting wellbeing, inclusion, and awareness. For Aged Care clients, the Monday Movement Program led by Rosaphilly continues to provide gentle chair yoga and movement exercises to promote physical health and social engagement. The sessions are uplifting, accessible, and an important way to start the week positively.



For the best damper making – come to Gapuwiyak Aged and Disability Services.



Lucas Mununggurr working on his artwork at the Gapuwiyak Cultural Art Centre.



Miwatj Health team conduct dental checks at the Gapuwiyak Aged Care and Disability Services Centre, supporting the ongoing health and wellbeing of clients.



Participants taking part in a Baking Skill Development activity at the Aged Care and Disability Services Centre, learning new recipes and techniques as part of their NDIS life skills program.

This quarter has been characterised by teamwork, resilience, and collaboration across all Council service areas. Despite challenges such as wet season road damage and hot weather, the teams in Gapuwiyak have continued to deliver high-quality services that keep the community safe, connected, and thriving. The Territory Day celebration and the Gapuwiyak Cultural Art Centre Opening both highlighted the strong spirit of partnership between Council and community. The success of these events reflects the hard work and dedication of Council staff and community members alike. The partnerships with community members, Elders, and service providers remain a cornerstone of success, ensuring that all programs and services are community-driven and culturally grounded.

Waste and Environmental Update



Hamish Brace (EARC Regional Manager – Waste & Environment

Hamish Brace has recently joined as the Regional Manager - Waste & Environment (RWEM). Hamish brings over 20 years of hands-on experience in environmental management, sustainable agriculture, and community engagement, working across local government, Aboriginal organisations, and private enterprise. Hamish has previously led operations and compliance at Coastal Feeds, coordinated large-scale conservation and traditional fire projects in the Kimberley, and managed composting, waste reduction, and carbon farming programs.

Hamish is known for his strategic program delivery, building strong relationships, securing funding, and leading diverse teams. He is passionate about sustainability and making a positive impact—skills and energy that will be a great addition to East Arnhem Regional Council and will help us

to continue to achieve great outcomes in the Waste and Environment space.

"I visited the community of Gapuwiyak in the third week of August and my second week in this new exciting position. Meeting the EARC team and viewing the works depot and assessing the Waste Management Facility (landfill)."

Kerbside Waste Collection

New Isuzu side lift wheelie bin trucks were commissioned in September. These are a modernisation of our waste fleet and will increase collection speeds, safety and comfort for our Municipal Services (MS) team.

Please see some further information regarding the capacity of the truck below.

'The Sport Side Loader comes equipped with the fastest and highest capacity bin lifter on the Australian market. Capable of lifting up to 6 bins per minute with a maximum capacity of 180kg across the full range of the UG-6 Grab provides reduced operational and maintenance costs on our Sport side loader range. When combined with market-leading Extend-A-Slide option, the Sport Side Loader offers Australia's longest bin lifter reach at 4,480mm for more efficient operation around parked cars and cul-de-sacs.'



New Isuzu Garbage Truck

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

A Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) was run by Municipal Services (MS) team in September generating \$7,820 for the community. This is not only a community success but a clear win for the environment which also enhances visual amenity via reducing litter in the community.



MS team doing the processing work.

WS 2244-01 - Manage Landfill Gapuwiyak.

Table 1 below illustrates whether the landfill has complied with 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	壽	壽	\$									

Training

The Waste & Environment team is commencing drone certificate training at the end of October. This training allows us to present real time mapping of the landfill and environmental issues. Creating increased level reporting and planning ability. Camera-based drone imagery is a vital tool in monitoring landfills in real time. Monitoring both issues and opportunities.

Animal Management Program Update

Reporting month/period: July to September 2025

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

Dangerous dog that attacked elderly community member in May still present but being confined within house. Attempts were made to speak with owners with the animal management team going to the house multiple times during the August visit. Unfortunately, owners never answered the door or came to speak with the team during these attempts. One member of the community expressed his desire to have some aggressive dogs removed from his lot, however, visits to the lot number and attempts to contact him on his mobile in the following days were unsuccessful.

Overall comments:

- Returning locum veterinarian Cassandra will be covering Dr Kelso's maternity leave until December.
- Veterinary visit 25 29 August with veterinarian Dr Cassandra and 2 Melbourne university veterinary students.
- Productive week with 90 lots serviced, and 23 lots without animals presently.
- A total of 468 parasite treatments were provided, 16 desexing surgeries, and 17 community consults, including a large number of suspected ringworm and other skin conditions, limping, and wounds from dog fights.
- Parvovirus suspected to be the cause of death amongst some litters of puppies in the community.
- 2 suspected cases of tick fever (E.Canis) in dogs were treated with courses of antibiotics.
- Multiple households identified with entire dogs and cats where owners were resistant to the idea of desexing surgeries. Conversations had about benefits of the operation and lot numbers recorded for follow up in November.
- Upcoming visits: Veterinary visit 7 3 November.

Service Delivery Table:

GAPUWIYAK	Januar y	Februar V	Marc h	Apri I	Ma v	Jun e	Jul V	Augus t	Septemb er	Tot al 202 5	Tot al 202 4
Dogs Desexed	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	15	0	26	58
Cats Desexed	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	29
Community consultations	0	0	2	0	10	23	0	17	0	52	82
Remote/Phone consultations	1	2	2	3	2	6	1	0	0	17	29
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	9	24
Minor procedures/othe r surgeries	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	8

Parasite										839	71
Treatments	0	0	122	0	20	229	0	468	0		6
Euthanasia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	0	1	0	6	4	0	5	0	16	43
Total Engagements	2	4	130	4	40	275	2	506	0	965	99 1

Community education activities:

Multiple conversations with members of the community regarding the benefits of desexing, as well as zoonotic risk of ringworm.

Staff training:

- Dr Maddy is continuing the AVA Essential Veterinary Skills course to ensure she meets essential CPD criteria to maintain her NT veterinary registration and upskill as the Regional Manager.
- Saraya is continuing her Cert III in veterinary nursing, and the AMP team is supporting
 her by providing any opportunities to practice her veterinary nursing skills in community
 work.

Additional Collaborations/Stakeholder engagements:

- Dr Maddy has been in contact with ASRAC to organise a veterinary trip out to Doyndji homelands. The census and veterinary nurse trip has been locked in for Monday 29th September and our veterinary nurses Saraya and Sarah will be heading out for the day.
- Veterinary visit during period from 25th-29th August by Dr Cassandra Ng and two veterinary students (Fiona and Sylvia) from Melbourne University. The students from Melbourne Uni had a great time working under the supervision of Dr Cassandra and gained many veterinary skills.

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

Photographs:



Providing parasite treatments go smoothly when members of the community help with carrying and cuddling of dogs and cats to be treated!



Student Sylvia with Rosie and Linda (emus)



Dr Cassandra enjoying some kitten cuddles.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Service Report

AUTHOR Sonia Campbell (General Manager - Technical and Infrastructure

Services)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the 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

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 Management
- 116 Lighting for Public Safety
- 118 Local Road Maintenance and Traffic Management
- 119 Local Road Upgrades and Construction
- 122 Building Infrastructure Services

GENERAL:

112 - Fleet Management

Incident and Accidents

During an excursion Toyota Troop Carrier (F0561) clipped the base of a fallen tree, resulting in damage to the wheel and steering control arms. Following the incident, the vehicle was taken to EARC mechanical workshop for assessment and repairs. All repairs have been completed, and the vehicle is now fully operational.



F0555

On the 28th August, an agitated member of the public, following refusal of service at the shop, damaged two rear windows of ACDS Toyota Service (F0555). Replacement glass was dispatched from Gove to Gapuwiyak via Sea Swift. The repairs were carried out by the EARC workshop mechanic, and the vehicle has since been returned to service.



F0706/F0622

On the 17th September, a community member was reported to be throwing rocks, resulting in the damage of two Toyota Hilux's, (F0706 and F0622). Fleet management has lodged insurance claims for both vehicles.

It has been determined that repairs to F0706 will be deferred until further damage is reported, in order to minimise multiple repair instances. F0622 is scheduled to travel to Darwin in the coming weeks for the required repair work.







(F0706)

New Assets

A new garbage truck (F0701) was delivered to Gapuwiyak. The vehicle features a Bucher Municipal waste collection body mounted on an Isuzu Chassis, supplied by CJD Equipment, Darwin.

On 3rd September, representatives from Bucher and CJD travelled to Ramingining to provide training for drivers and Operational staff on the safe and efficient use of the new vehicle.



A new Kubota tractor (F0725) was delivered to the Municipal service team in Gapuwiyak on the 16th of September. The tractor is equipped with a 108-Horsepower engine and an airconditioned cab, providing operators with a safe and comfortable working environment. The new tractor will be used to support grounds maintenance, and other municipal operations across the community.



F0743

Active communities and youth diversion (ACYD) has acquired a brand new 4WD bus to support community and youth engagement activities. The vehicle features an Isuzu chassis with an Able Body people carrier configuration. It includes a rear storage compartment, a 140-litre fuel tank, 50-litre water tank, and the capacity to transport up to 11 passengers.

This new addition will enhance community operations by providing safe and reliable transport for youth travelling on excursions and program activities.



Scheduled Servicing Updates

In July, all EARC vehicles in Gapuwiyak successfully completed their scheduled six-monthly servicing in accordance with the organisation's maintenance policy.

116 - Lighting for Public Safety

Gapuwiyak Public Streetlights.

- The replacement LED street lighting luminaires have been procured and received on site at the Municipal Services Depot.
- BJH Electrical & Air have been awarded the contract to undertake the repair and maintenance of public streetlights in Gapuwiyak
- Tentative mobilisation & commencement date: 27th October 2025
- Expected completion date: 31st October 2025

Community	LED Public Street Light out of service based on night-time audit inspection
Gapuwiyak	27 – Public LED Street lights 2 – GFS Solar Street Lights

118 - Local Road Maintenance and Traffic Management

Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage Program – East Arnhem Region

Australian and Niugini Services has recently been awarded the tender to undertake the Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage Program for a 12-month period across the six

communities within the East Arnhem Region, including Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, and Gunyangara.

The scope of works for the 12 month period includes:

- Two (2) rounds of maintenance grading of unsealed roads
- Two (2) rounds of maintenance grading of road shoulders

This program aims to ensure continued accessibility and safety of the regional road network through regular, scheduled maintenance activities. The contractor will be mobilising plant and equipment on the following dates (pending weather).

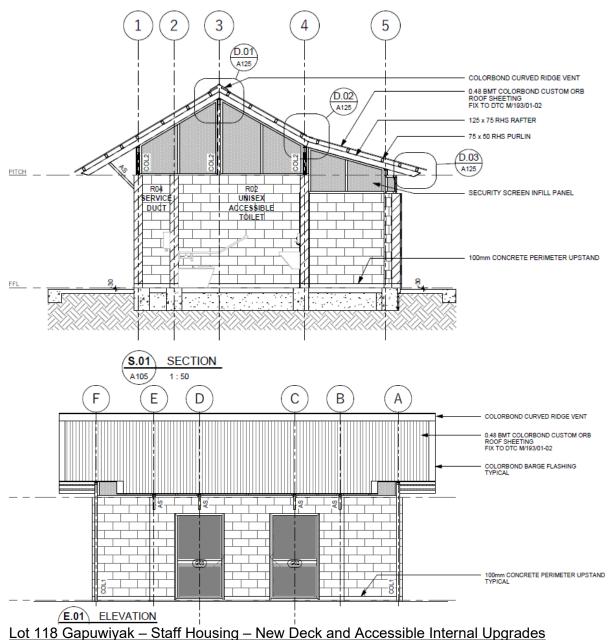
Mobilisation dates 2025				
Gapuwiyak	October 28th			
Milingimbi	Nov 19th			
Galiwinku	November 27th			
Yirrkala	November 30th			
Gunyangara	December 14th			
Ramingining	December 19th			
Mobilisation dates 2026				
Gapuwiyak	May 1st			
Milingimbi	May 1st			
Galiwinku	May 11th			
Ramingining	June 1st			
Yirrkala	June 24th			
Gunyangara	July 6th			

122 - Building Infrastructure Services

Public Toilet blocks (Lot 208 and Charter Area)

Request for Tender submissions have been received and are currently being evaluated. Next steps will be to prepare a Recommendation for Award to be considered at the next Council meeting in November. Due to the wet season approaching it is expected that this project will begin early next year once the dry season begins.

The Milingimbi and Galiwinku toilet block projects have been awarded and are due to begin groundworks and slab installation before the wet season sets in.



Lot 116 Gapuwiyak – Staff Housing – New Deck and Accessible internal Opgrades

The scope of works for this project included the construction of a new deck, accessible bathroom upgrades, and breezeway improvements.

The project was awarded to SH Build. Progress was delayed due to a prolonged wet season, but completion is now projected for early November.

Currently the project is 95% complete.



ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Merianne Bretag (General Manager People and Corporate

Services)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 30 September 2025.

SUMMARY

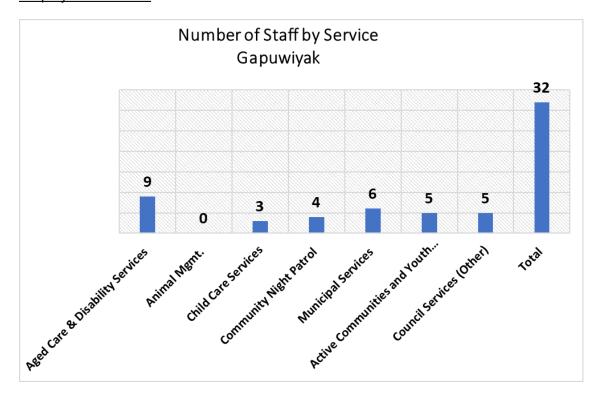
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 30 September 2025 within the Local Authority area.

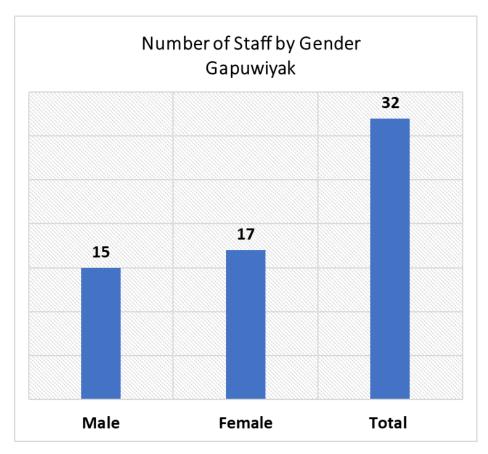
BACKGROUND

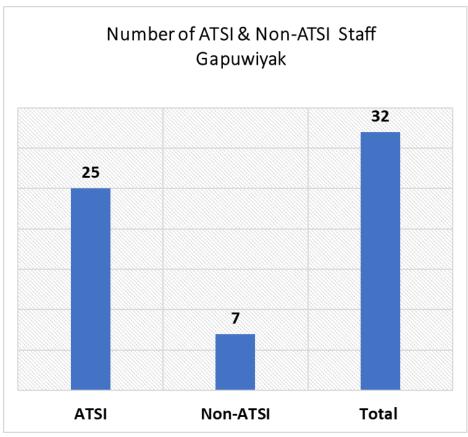
Local Authorities need to consider the Finance Report carefully as it details the current actual figures against the budget for the Local Authority area. Also, the report details the number of staff against the different service areas.

GENERAL

Employee Statistics:







Vacancies as of 30 September 2025:

Position	Community	Type of Employment	Level	No. of Vacancies
ACDS Support Worker	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 2	1
Community Media Officer	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 1	1
Customer Service Officer	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 1	1
Municipal Services Officer	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 1	1
Trades Assistant	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 1	1
ACDS Officer / Cook	Gapuwiyak	External	Level 4	1
ACDS Support Worker (1)	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 2	3
Community Night Patrol Officer	Gapuwiyak	Community	Level 1	1

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

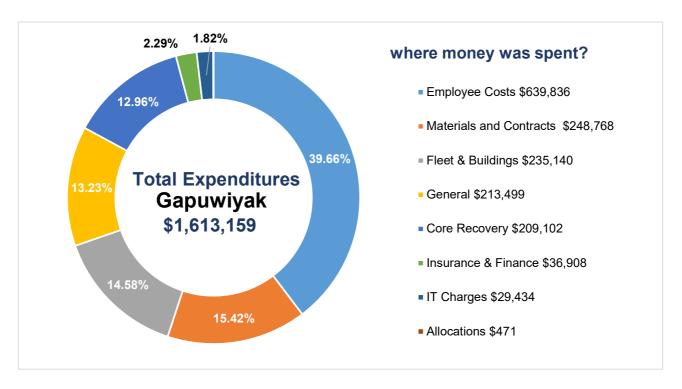
ATTACHMENTS:

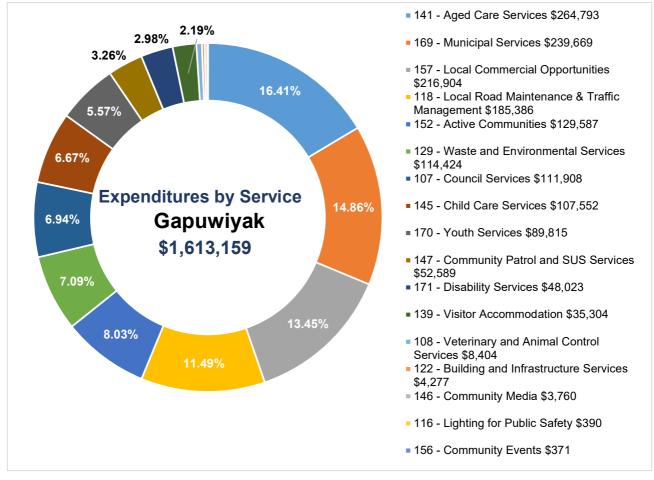
- 1. 03. September 2025 Gapuwiyak LAPF Funds Left [3.5.1 1 page]
- 2. 03. September 2025 Gapuwiyak Chart LA Report [3.5.2 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GAPUWIYAK FUNDS LEFT

As at 30th September 2025

	\$ AMOUNT
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR	456,752
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	456,752
LESS: PROJECTS BUDGETED	
299916 - LAPF - Gapuwiyak - Two Public Toilets	(800,000)
TOTAL PROJECTS BUDGETED	(800,000)
LESS: PROJECTS (ACTUAL COMMITTED FUNDS)	
299916 - LAPF - Gapuwiyak - Two Public Toilets	(41,651)
TOTAL PROJECTS (COMMITTED FUNDS)	(41,651)
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND)	(301,597)
COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS	515,243
	,
ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDING LEFT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS	213,646





- 4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting
- **5 Meeting Close**