



HUMAN EQUALITY
RIGHTS

INDEPENDENCE

COMMUNITY EQUITY

WORK CONFIDENCE EQUITY

RESPECT

OPEN AGENDA for the Gapuwiyak
Local Authority
19 February 2026

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

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

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

Dhaŋu

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

- ŋalma ŋarru räal-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ŋakanhaminyarawu ŋalmaliŋguwaywuru,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumatj

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

- ŋilimurru yurru räl-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu gaŋga'thinyarawu ŋilimurrungalaŋawu,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapthunmaranhamirri bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marraŋu

Dhuwanydjii dhäwu barraŋga'yun EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolŋuw yukurr buku-ŋiŋ'maram wäŋa mittji malanyinha:

- Dalimurr wurruku räl-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurrungalaŋaw
- 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, Yolŋu 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 Thursday 19 February 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 Council's 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: 492 775 554 489 82

Passcode: Sx7rH2oy

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,,521682525#](#) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 521 682 525#

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 28 October 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gapuwyak Local Authority - Minutes 28 Oct 2025 [1.5.1 - 5 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Gapuwiyak
Local Authority
28 October 2025

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

Members in Attendance:

Freddie Ganambarr (Chair)
Jessica Wunungmurra
Thomas Guyula
Alice Wanambi
Cr Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra
Cr Bobby Wunungmurra

East Arnhem Regional Council Officer:

Signe Balodis (Director – Council Services)
Anesu Hector (Council Services Manager)
Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager)

Freddie Ganambarr (Chair) opened the meeting at 11:30 AM

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 2025/12 RESOLVED (Jessica Wunungmurra/Alice Wanambi)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of Trudy Wunungmurra, Ricky Guyula and Ivan Wanambi
- (b) Notes the apology received from Trudy Wunungmurra, Ricky Guyula and Ivan Wanambi
- (c) Notes are Trudy Wunungmurra and Ricky Guyula 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) Local Authority to request Ivan Wanambi to resign from Committee as he is no longer residing in Community.

GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 OCTOBER 2025

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/13 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Thomas Guyula)

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

GAP 2025/14 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Jessica Wunungmurra)

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous 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

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/16 RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Alice Wanambi)

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**28 OCTOBER 2025****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 2025/18 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Thomas Guyula)

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

GAP 2025/17 RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Alice Wanambi)

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Service 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 2025/19 RESOLVED (Alice Wanambi/Jessica Wunungmurra)

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

GAPUWIYAK LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 OCTOBER 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY

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

GAP 2025/20 **RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Jessica Wunungmurra)**

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Signage

GAP 2025/22 **RESOLVED (Thomas Guyula/Alice Wanambi)**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Council Service Manager to contact the Arts Centre Manager and community elders to locate the Gapuwiyak Community Council logo artwork.

The next meeting is to be held on 30 January 2026.

5 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 01:45 PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Ordinary 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

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 Gapuwyak Action Register [3.1.1 - 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	<p>The current public wifi is placed in the Library Building. Public wifi to be placed a place to ensure convenience and maximum usage.</p>	<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>
Safety concerns Marrangu Street	General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services asked to look into the installation of speed humps on the said street.	<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> <p>28.10.25 – Audit report has been completed by Transportwise, Infrastrcuture 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>

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
Oval access by vehicles	Vehicles have been driving on the Oval	28.10.25 - Chair Freddy to go through with MS Team and show them areas.

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

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

GAPUWIYAK ACTIONS

		02.04.2024 - Include in discussions with DIPL on new sub-diversions.
Terminal building at airport.	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.	25.06.24 – Update to be provided 11.12.24 – General Manager will visit Gapuwyak 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

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:

Happy New Year to all Local Authority Members, your families, communities and homelands. I have been spending time with family like you all over the end of year.

I look forward to another strong year of working with you, local leaders and members of our six Yolngu communities related homelands.

There are many issues, challenges and opportunities to help shape a better life for all, with our strong local Indigenous leaders at the heart of it all.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Manager Report

AUTHOR Anesuishe Hector (Council Services Manager – Gapuwyak)**RECOMMENDATION****That Local Authority notes the 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.

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 Services and Community Services teams continue to work closely in collaboration with key stakeholders, community elders, and community members to ensure services are delivered in a way that is respectful, culturally appropriate, and responsive to community needs. Strong relationships across the community remain central to the success of council operations, with ongoing engagement ensuring that decision-making and service delivery reflect local priorities and aspirations.

Throughout the reporting period, the team maintained a strong presence within the community, balancing operational responsibilities with community engagement. This approach has helped strengthen trust, improve communication, and support positive outcomes across a wide range of services. The end of the year provided an opportunity for reflection on achievements, as well as celebration of the collective efforts that contributed to a productive and eventful year.

A highlight of the period was the strong sense of community spirit demonstrated during the Christmas celebrations, which brought together families, organisations, elders, and visitors in a shared celebration.

Council and Community Collaboration

The community came together in true Christmas spirit with the hosting of the annual Christmas Markets at the Recreation Hall. This event provided an important opportunity for the community to celebrate, connect, and reflect on the year that had passed. The markets were well attended and created a welcoming space for families and community members of all ages to enjoy festivities, food, and activities.

The event also showcased strong collaboration between council staff, community members, and local organisations, with many contributing stalls, entertainment, and support. Beyond the celebration itself, the Christmas Markets reinforced the importance of shared spaces and events in strengthening social connection and community wellbeing. Feedback from community members was positive, with many expressing appreciations for the effort and coordination involved in delivering a successful and inclusive event.



Uncle Noel Manggurra- Gapuwyak Santa 2025



Gapuwyak Christmas Markets 2025

Municipal Services

The Municipal Services Team continues to demonstrate a high level of commitment and professionalism in maintaining the cleanliness and presentation of the community. During the wet season, the team has worked tirelessly to mow public areas, manage overgrown vegetation, and ensure that key community spaces remain safe and accessible.

Despite challenging weather conditions, staff have maintained regular mowing schedules across public areas, roadsides, and community facilities. This work plays a critical role in reducing safety hazards, improving visibility, and supporting overall community pride. The team has also continued to prioritise waste management, ensuring rubbish collection and disposal services operate efficiently.

A key area of focus has been ongoing participation in the Cash for Containers recycling scheme. The team continues to work hard in collecting, sorting, and processing recyclable materials, supporting both environmental sustainability and community awareness around recycling. This work not only contributes to cleaner surroundings but also encourages responsible waste practices across the community.

In addition to planned duties, the Municipal Services Team remains on call for unexpected situations. During the reporting period, with no rangers available, children alerted council staff to a buffalo that had become trapped in the lake. The team responded quickly, attending the site and making every effort to remove the buffalo from the water. Unfortunately, despite the team's swift response, the animal did not survive. This incident highlights the broad and sometimes unpredictable nature of council responsibilities and the willingness of staff to respond promptly to community concerns.



Council Services staff responding promptly to a community call-out to assist with removing a buffalo from the water.



Municipal Services team undertaking culvert cleaning as part of ongoing wet season maintenance.

Community Night Patrol

The Community Night Patrol Team continues to play a vital role in promoting safety and wellbeing across the community. The team works closely with community members to ensure that children are safe at night and supported to return home when found on the streets after hours. Night Patrol officers regularly engage with families, elders, and other service providers, reinforcing a collaborative approach to community safety. Their presence provides reassurance to residents and contributes to the prevention of incidents before they escalate.

The team's work is particularly important during evenings and weekends, when additional support is often required. Currently, recruitment is underway for one additional Community Patrol Officer to join the team. This position will strengthen capacity and support ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all community members.



Community Night Patrol officers working with community to promote safety and wellbeing

Child Care Services

Children's Services experienced a planned shutdown over the Christmas period, with the childcare centre closed for three weeks. This closure allowed staff to take a well-earned break and ensured facilities could be prepared for the new year. Services have since resumed, with children returning and settling back into routines.

During this period, engagement with families remains a priority, and staff continue to support children's development through structured activities, play-based learning, and culturally appropriate programs. While the school is currently closed, there are plans to continue working collaboratively with the Families as First Teachers (FAST) program to support early childhood learning and family engagement.

The ongoing partnership with FAST is expected to strengthen outcomes for children by providing consistent messaging, shared activities, and additional support for families during the school holiday period.

The Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities

The Wapurarr' Place and Active Communities team delivered a wide range of exciting and engaging programs for children throughout the school holidays. These activities were designed to keep children active, strong, and positively engaged, while also promoting social connection and healthy lifestyles.



It feels like Christmas

Programs included sports, games, and group activities that encouraged teamwork, physical activity, and confidence building. The team's ongoing commitment to providing safe and inclusive spaces for children has been well received by families and community members. These initiatives continue to play an important role in supporting youth wellbeing and reducing boredom during school holiday periods.



School holiday painting session encouraging creativity and self-expression

Aged Care and Disability Services

The Aged Care and Disability Services (ACDS) team had a busy and positive period, highlighted by the Christmas Decoration Competition. Clients worked hard decorating the centre through creative craft activities, resulting in a festive and welcoming environment. The

competition provided an opportunity for clients to express creativity, work together, and take pride in their shared space, with a deserving winner announced.

A Christmas party was also held for clients, providing a chance to celebrate the season and acknowledge the valuable support provided by carers throughout the year. The event was well received and served as a meaningful way to thank carers for their dedication and ongoing commitment.

In addition, three casual Disability Support Worker positions have been successfully filled to support NDIS services. These new staff will strengthen service delivery and ensure clients continue to receive high-quality, person-centred support.



Congratulations to Gapuwyak Aged Care and Disability Services Christmas Decoration Competition winner

Overall, the reporting period reflects the strong commitment and dedication of council teams in delivering essential services while working closely with community members, elders, and stakeholders. From maintaining municipal services and supporting community safety, to delivering engaging programs for children, youth, elders, and people with disability, the collective efforts of staff continue to strengthen community wellbeing. The successful delivery of community events and services, alongside ongoing recruitment and service improvements, demonstrates council's continued focus on collaboration, responsiveness, and positive outcomes for the community.

Waste and Environmental Update

All the Municipal Services team are doing an excellent job during the Christmas period, while Municipal Services Supervisor - Greg Mitchell, is taking some well-deserved leave with his family.

Thank you, EARC team, for continuing to deliver standard services throughout this festive Period at Gapuwyak.

Core Services

WS 2244-01 - Manage Landfill Gapuwyak.

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	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒						



The Gapuwiyak Municipal Services team, led by Ricky Guyula, Acting Municipal Services Superior and the Gapuwiyak MS team over the festive period.

Goal 2

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.

Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Weeks had been moved forward across the EARC footprint in accordance with Bureau of Meteorology modelling, which indicates that the cyclone/wet season will commence earlier in the year.

This saw us carry out a Pre Cyclone Clean Up week in Gapuwiyak between 27 – 31 October 2025.



Clean Up Week Poster - Gapuwiyak

Animal Management Program Update

Reporting month/period: October – December 2025

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

Overall comments:

- Returning locum veterinarian Cassandra covered Dr Kelso's maternity leave until December.
- Veterinary visit 3 – 7 November 2025 with veterinarian Dr Cassandra and Veterinary nurse Sarah Carrall
- High level of engagement with a total of 298 engagements across the period.
- Upcoming visits: Dates to be confirmed for 2026

Service Delivery Table:

Gapuwiyak	October	November	December	25-26 FY	24-25 FY
Dogs Desexed	0	15	0	30	34
Cats Desexed	0	10	0	11	6
Community consultations	0	4	0	21	75
Remote/Phone consultations	1	0	1	5	28
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	0	0	4	16

Minor surgeries	0	1	0	1	2
Parasite Treatments	0	263	0	497	783
Euthanasia	0	2	0	2	2
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	0	0	5	25
Total Engagements	2	295	1	576	971

Community education activities: N/A

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 surgical trip out to Doyndji homelands. The census and veterinary nurse trip conducted for Monday 29 September 2025 showed that a 2-day surgical trip would be ideal to keep population numbers stable.
- SERP study. Dr Maddy continues to be in discussions with Miwatj and QIMR team regarding the large scale Strongyloides research project in Gapuwiak and Milingimbi in 2026-2027.

Photographs:



The constant battle with ringworm. Kittens losing all their fur. Medicated shampoo dispensed.



Esho's eight, one day old puppies!



Waiting patiently for more treats.



Lump removal for Bubusi

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

AUTHOR Sonia Campbell (General Manager - Technical and Infrastructure Services)

RECOMMENDATION**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.

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.

REPORT STORY:**BRACS Communications Tower**

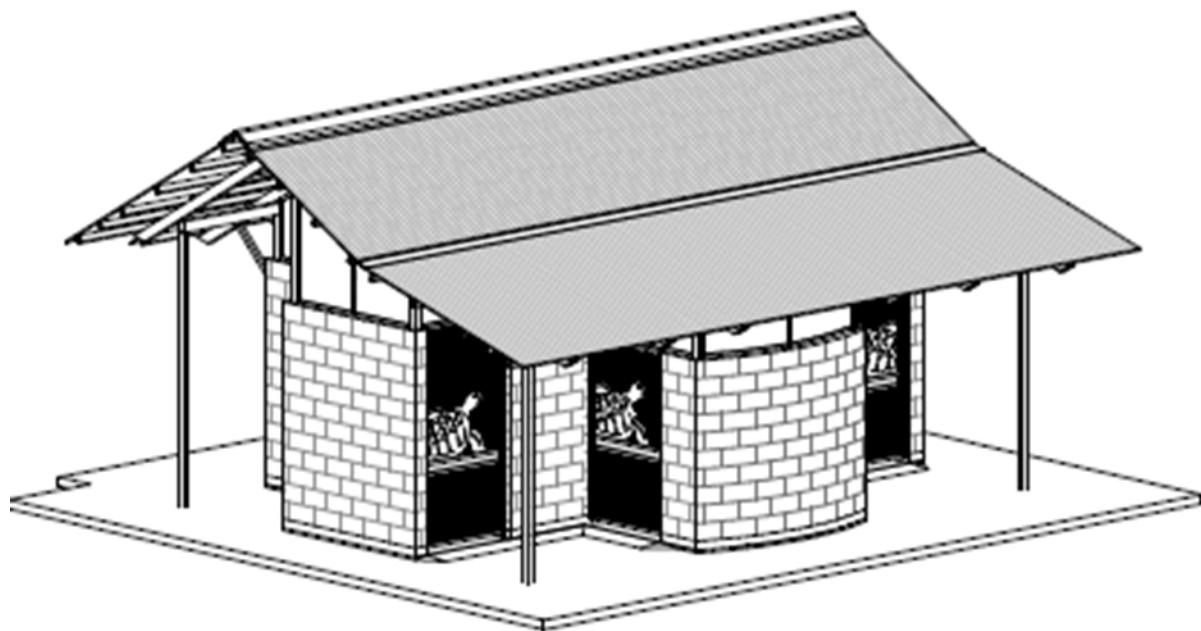
- New swing pole has been installed and active with EARC Point2Point Wifi equipment
- Existing BRACS tower to be demolished with onsite works to begin 21 January 2026
- A contractor has been engaged to provide required plant and equipment to assist IT department with remaining external communications equipment transfer
- Construction contractor will dismantle, remove and dispose of tower
- Works have been scheduled to take 4-5 days
- There will be an exclusion zone established to ensure community members are kept safe.

Construction of Two Public Toilet Blocks – Lot 208 and Airport

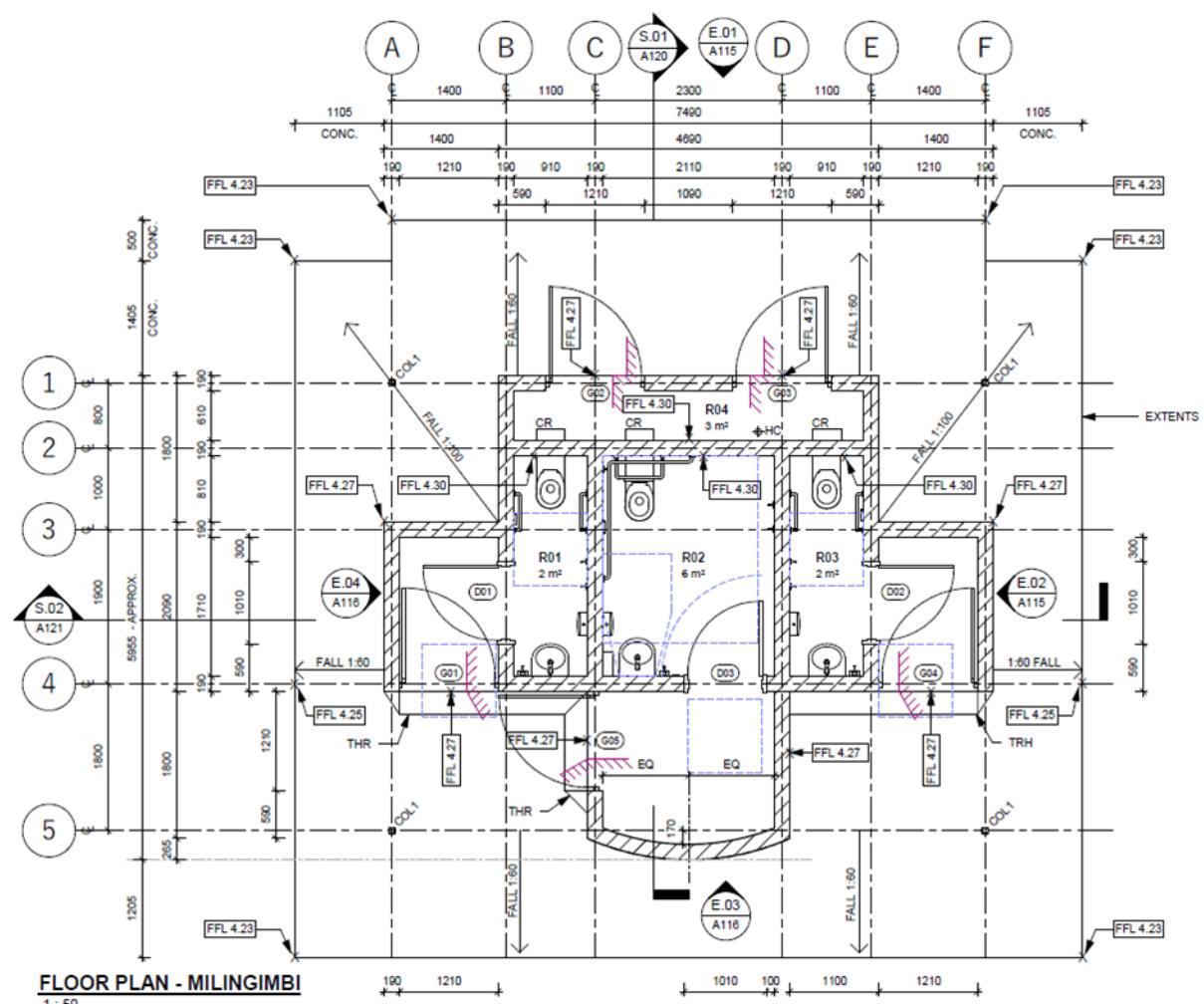
- Tender advertised late 2025 with 4 submissions received
- Evaluation of submissions is ongoing
- Award of contract yet to be determined subject to funding

- Available funding for both toilet blocks is under review
- Site position for Airport facility is being confirmed with PWC to ensure alignment with NLC lease
- Landowners Consent to Construct is pending facility positioning post updates from Platt Architects and PWC
- Asbestos inspection of shed at Lot 208 to be demolished complete, report with no asbestos identified and clearance received.
- Identified shortfall of cleaning resources available in community for ongoing cleaning of toilet blocks
- Concept images of buildings and aerial map of location below:





Gapuwyak Toilet Block – Both Sites



Floor Plan – Gapuwyak Toilet Blocks

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

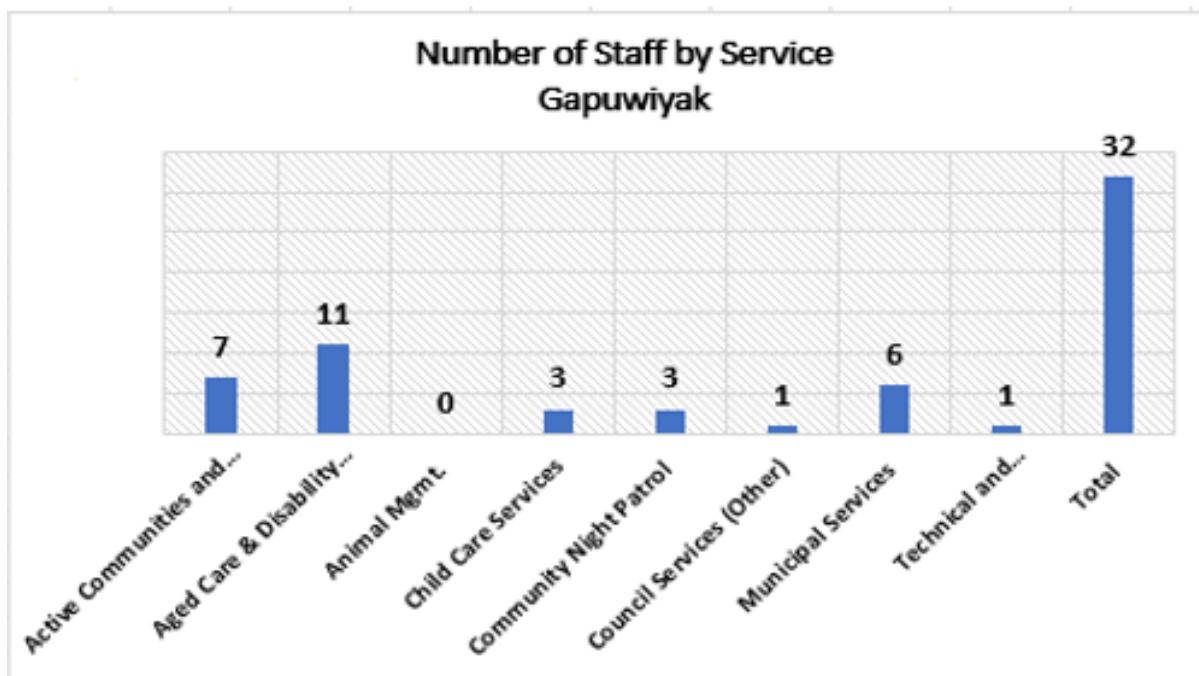
That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 31 December 2025.

SUMMARY:

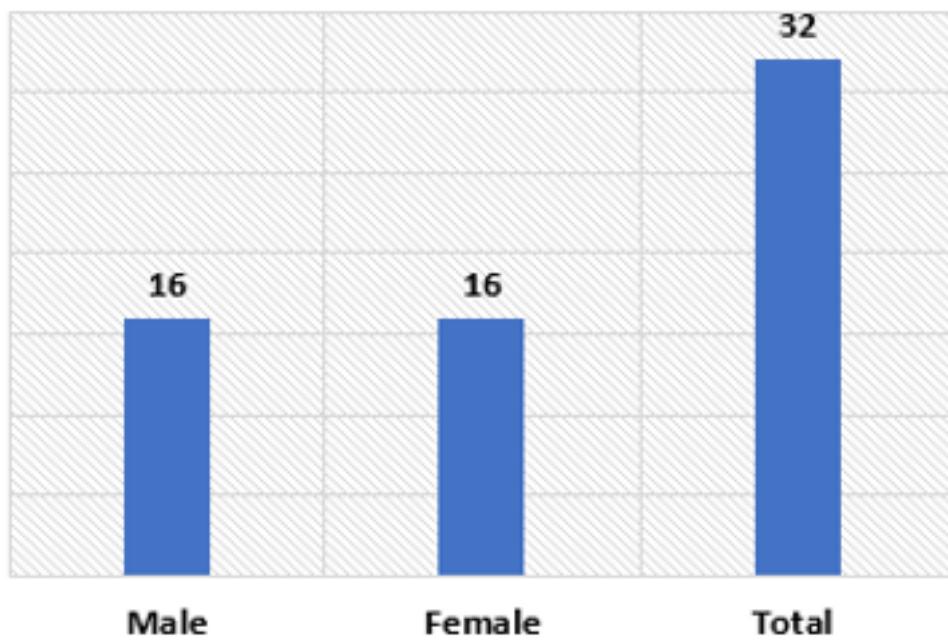
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 31 December 2025 within the Local Authority area.

BACKGROUND:

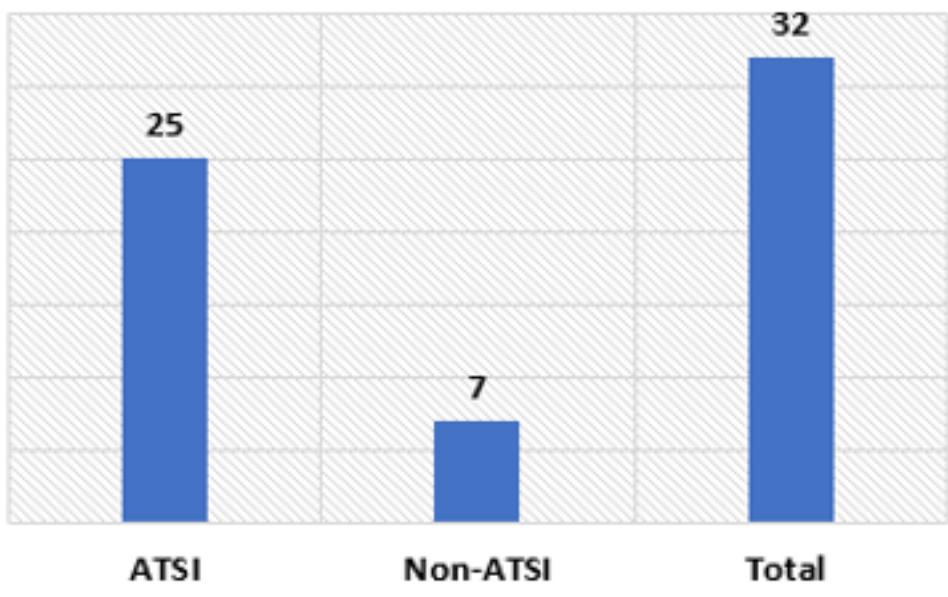
Local Authorities need to consider the Finance Report carefully as it details the current actual figures against the budget for the Local Authority area. Also, the report details the number of staff against the different service areas.

GENERAL:Employee Statistics:

**Number of Staff by Gender
Gapuwiyak**



**Number of ATSI & Non-ATSI Staff
Gapuwiyak**



Job Title	Location	Employment Type	Recruitment Type	No. of Vacancies
ACDS Support Worker -	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Trades Assistant	Gapuwiyak	Casual	Community	1
Community Media Officer	Gapuwiyak	Part Time Permanent	Community	1
Municipal Services Officer	Gapuwiyak	Part Time Permanent	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:

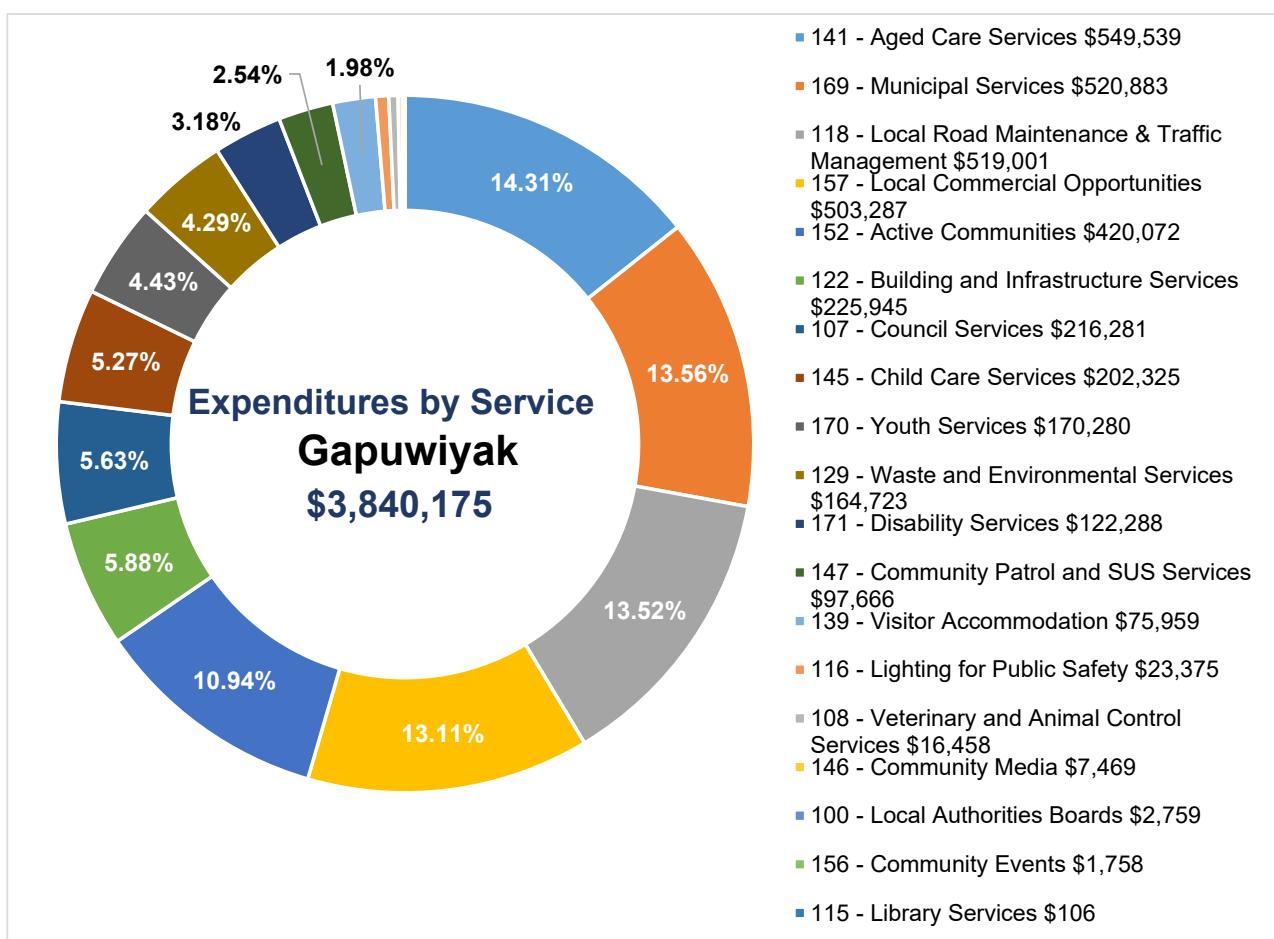
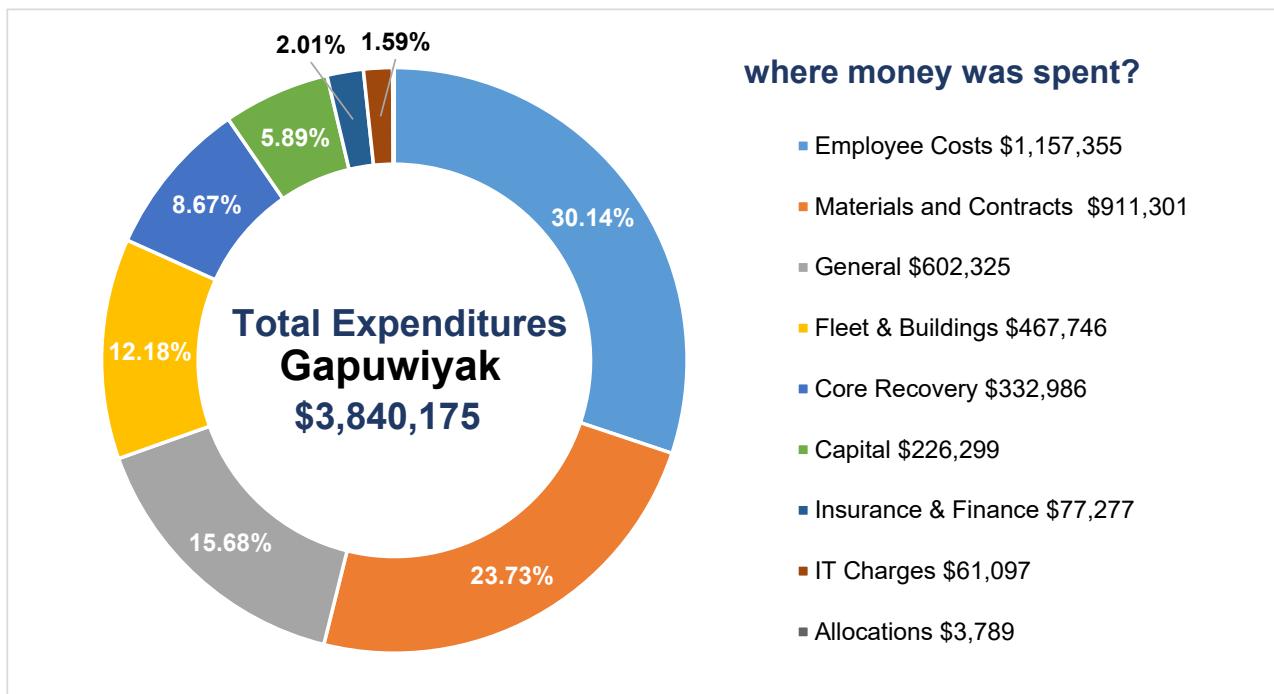
1. 06. December 2025 Gapuwiyak LAPF Funds Left [3.5.1 - 1 page]
2. 06. December 2025 Gapuwiyak Chart LA Report [3.5.2 - 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GAPUWIYAK

FUNDS LEFT

As at 31st December 2025

	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	(7,582)	(40,973)	(48,555)	(1,240,973)	1%
310616 - LAPF - Gapuwiyak Cemetery Lighting	-	-	-	(50,000)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	(7,582)	(40,973)	(48,555)	(1,290,973)	1%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			408,197	(700,921)	



NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.6 Five Year Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gapuwiyak LA Presentation [3.6.1 - 7 pages]



Background

East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) delivers Local Government and Community Services across six remote Indigenous communities in East Arnhem Land: Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala and Gunyangara. Each of these communities is unique in culture, language, and local priorities, yet they also share common aspirations for services, infrastructure, and inclusive community development.

In July 2025, I was engaged by the East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) as an independent consultant to conduct community consultations with the people of the six communities and their related homelands. The purpose of the consultations was to gather detailed community feedback on EARC services, local infrastructure, youth engagement, communication preferences, and advocacy needs.

These consultations were conducted with the aim of supporting Council's development of its next 5-Year Strategic Plan, ensuring that future planning and decision-making reflect the voices, aspirations, and priorities of the region's residents. By aligning community perspectives with Council planning, EARC strengthens its commitment to inclusive, accountable, and forward-looking governance.

Methodology

- Community Notification: Visits were advertised in advance via the public address system, posters around the community, and verbal notification through local networks.
- Participants: Community Elders, service providers, and interested residents.
- Approach: Guided discussions around Local Government Services, Community Services, Infrastructure, Communication and advocate.
- Data Capture: All comments were documented verbatim in tables (six in total), which remain unaltered in this report.





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Community Feedback Overview

Gapuwiyak Consultation details:

Location: Council Park (Outside EARC Council Office)

Date: 9th July 2025

Time: 10am – 3pm

Summary: Residents highlighted safe, family-friendly facilities and youth participation. Feedback included: improved customer service point; youth pathways into local services; play spaces and shade; fencing and drinking stations; road and outstation maintenance with drainage safety; split-shift Night Patrol with a bus; cultural and holiday programs; regular veterinary services; lighting on key routes; space for events; childcare equipment; and Council advocate for housing repairs, training pathways, women's safety, mortuary facilities, transport infrastructure and a public laundry.

Services	Community comments/feedback
Council Services (Post Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger building – Council to review usage of other half of Council Building.
Municipal Services (Parks & Gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More younger staff for the future - Agree
Building & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More playgrounds (like the oval one) – Seek locations from Local Authority and review funding options More shade structures at the oval – Council to explore the possibility of planting established trees with protective structures around the trees. Fencing – Council to review fencing along the road outside the park at the Council office. Fencing around the oval (1m high) – Council reviewing options. Public drinking stations – 1 at oval – review options that are robust for public infrastructure





Roads Maintenance & Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More regular maintenance (including outstations) – Maintenance has been scheduled twice a year between two contractors. Municipal Services team for minor road repairs. Drainage pipes – Review safety measures for children and community members.
Waste & Environment	
Community Night Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More staff – Advocate – additional funding required Use a mini bus. Not a Hilux – Review the option to procure in 26/27. Flexible times (split shift) 6pm – 12am & 12am to 6am – Advocate – additional funding required.
Community Media	
Active Communities & Youth Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More community activities More cultural learning (Yolŋu and Balandja) More holiday programs More bush trips Saturday morning sports for kids <p>EARC's Active Communities & Youth Services (ACYS) currently organises and delivers 10 inter-community Gala Days in the communities every year. These Gala Days are festivals where the ACYS team engage with community in sports and additional activities including cross-participation between the East Arnhem communities. These festivals have been a strong community engagement tool. In addition, the service also organises 5-10 individual activity providers to cater to specific activities such as skateboarding, gymnastics, music and dance workshops etc.</p> <p>The ACYS team also facilitates 5 regional wide tournaments/events.</p> <p>Considering the success of the above in the communities, perhaps work on a low-level communications strategy to market our offerings to community and wider.</p> <p>We currently do not have resources including additional funding, staffing and housing to accommodate weekend programs in the community.</p>





Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage – possibly at oval, for events – Advocate for external funding requirement • More regular community engagement events - Yes
Animal Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I’m happy with the vets” • More regular visits- Advocate – Additional funding required • Focus on cats - Yes • Target de-sexing – Yes. More promotion of scheduled visits in Community.
Public Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Top road from Airport to town entrance (Gapuwiyak Road) -Lights at new Art Centre -Cemetery -Council Office park Above locations to be reviewed with Local Authority Members. • Oval lights on timer so kids go to the oval to play 6pm -9pm – Council has the ability to schedule lights at the ovals through the ACYS team. Possibility of having this 1 night per week for discussion with ACYS.
Aged Care Services & Disability Services	
Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More equipment • More for mums to do <p>• The Gapuwiyak Child Care Service is earmarked for Capital Works upgrades through the submission of a grant. We currently expect the application to commence in March or early Q2 2026 .</p> <p>Our Child Care Service has an open-door approach towards parents of children attending the service. However, our service is legislatively funded to provide child care services to the community and not to create activities for parents and the wider community members.</p> <p>It should also be noted that our Community Libraries, including the Gapuwiyak Library offers a safe space for parents in the community, five days a week.</p>





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Local Authority Project Funding	
How do you want to hear from EARC	
Advocate and Seek to Secure Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More houses – fix fences • More jobs for Yolŋu • Mechanic – Yolŋu trainee • Help getting wood for families • A mortuary • The sewer pump overflows in to the lake • Pathways for trainees – Year 11 & Year 12 (EARC and School to work together) • Women working with Police • Womens Shelter • Activities for young adults 19-25 • Barge landing upgrade • Public Laundry <p>Council will look at advocacy opportunities from a regional view.</p>





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4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

5 Meeting Close