



HUMAN | EQUALITY  
RIGHTS  
INDEPENDENCE  
COMMUNITY | EQUITY  
WORK CONFIDENCE  
RESPECT

**OPEN AGENDA for the Gunyangara**  
**Local Authority**  
**29 January 2026**

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

**Djambarrpuyngu**

Dhuwandja dhäwu dhipunur EARC-nur bukmakku yolñuw mala nhämunha limurr ga nhina wänjakurr malañuwurr buku-liw'maram:

- limurr dhu räi-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurrungalañaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharray walñaw,
- ga ñayanu-ḍapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

**Dhañu**

Dhañum dhäwu EARC-nur bukmakku yolñuwu warrawu nhämunha ñalma yaka nyena ñayambalmurru buku-liw'yuman:

- ñalma ñarru räi-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ñakanhaminyarawu ñalmalinguwaywuru,
- ga dharray walñawu,
- ga ñayanu-ḍapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

**Gumatj**

Dhuwalanydja dhäwu EARC-nuru bukmakku yolñuwu mala nhämunha ñilimurru yukurra nhina wänjakurru buku-liw'yunmarama:

- ñilimurru yurru räi-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu ganga'thinyarawu ñilimurrungalañawu,
- ga dharray walñawu,
- ga ñayanu-ḍapthunmaranhamirri bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

**Marrañu**

Dhuwanydji dhäwu barrañga'yun EARC-nur bukmakku yolñuw yukurr buku-liw'maram wäña mittji malanyha:

- Dalimurr wurruku räi-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ñalimurrungalañaw
- Gangathinyamaranharaw wonḍañarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walñaw,
- Ga ñayanu-ḍapmaranhamirr ñalimurr 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 Gunyangara Local Authority will be held at the Gunyangara Council Office offices on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 11:30 am.

Agendas and minutes are available on the Council website [www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au](http://www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au) and can be viewed at the Councils public office.

Dale Keehne  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Members:**

Antoine Gintz

Doug Yunupingu

Elizika Puertollano

Syd Yunupingu

Malakhi Puertollano

Kingsley Dhamarrandji

Cr Murphy Yunupingu

Cr Priscilla Yunupingu

**Dial-in Details:**

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 473 444 589 702 6

Passcode: ZN78FX3A

**Dial in by phone**

[+61 2 8318 0005,,349361441#](#) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 349 361 441#

**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

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#### 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

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#### 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**

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**1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes****RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 October 2025.**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Gunyangara Local Authority- \_ Minutes 30 Oct 2025 [1.5.1 - 6 pages]



**OPEN MINUTES for the Gunyangara**  
**Local Authority**  
**30 October 2025**



## GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

30 OCTOBER 2025

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**1 Meeting Establishment**

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

**Members in Attendance:**

Antoine Gintz

Elizika Puertollano

Cr. Murphy Yunupingu

Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu

**East Arnhem Regional Council Officers:**

Signe Balodis (Director- Council Services)

Adam Johnson (Council Services Manager)

Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager)

**MEETING ESTABLISHMENT**

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## 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.

GUN 2025/13 **RESOLVED** (Antoine Gintz/Elizika Puertollano)**That the Local Authority:**

- (a) Notes the absence of Malakhi Puertollano, Syd Yunupingu and Doug Yunupingu.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Malakhi Puertollano.
- (c) Notes Malakhi Puertollano is absent with permission of the Local Authority.
- (d) Determines Syd Yunupingu and Doug Yunupingu are absent without permission of the Local Authority under Section 47(1) (0) of the Act.

## GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

30 OCTOBER 2025

**MEETING ESTABLISHMENT**

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## 1.4 Conflict of Interest

**SUMMARY:**

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

GUN 2025/14 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Elizika Puertollano)

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

**MEETING ESTABLISHMENT**

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## 1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

GUN 2025/15 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

**That the Local Authority approves of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 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

## GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

30 OCTOBER 2025

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**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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## 3.1 Local Authority Action Items

**SUMMARY:**

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

GUN 2025/16 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Cr. Murphy Yunupingu)

**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.**

**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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## 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.

GUN 2025/17 **RESOLVED** (Elizika Puertollano/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)

**That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.**

**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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## 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.

GUN 2025/18 **RESOLVED** (Antoine Gintz/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)

**That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.**

## GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

30 OCTOBER 2025

**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.

GUN 2025/19 **RESOLVED** (Elizika Puertollano/Antoine Gintz)

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

**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.

GUN 2025/20 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

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

**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

## 4.1 Bulk Waste Management

GUN 2025/21 **RESOLVED** (Elizika Puertollano/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Local Authority recommends EARC and Gumatj representatives to meet and discuss the bulk waste management solutions for Gunyangara community.**

## 4.2 Pause on Infrastructure Works Pending Engineering Audit

GUN 2025/23 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Any current works involving Infrastructure to be paused until the engineering Audit has been completed through Gumatj engagement for Gunyangara community.**

**GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES**

**30 OCTOBER 2025**

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The next meeting is to be held on 30 October 2025.

**5 Meeting Close**

The meeting closed at 01:25 PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 30/10/2025.

UNCONFIRMED

## 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 Gunyangara Action Register [3.1.1 - 5 pages]

## GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
Kava Pilot	<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><b>20.10.22</b> - 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><b>28.09.23</b> – CEO to provide update in his report during meeting.</p> <p><b>14.12.23</b> – Dr Frank Daly no longer works for NTG, waiting on replacement to continue discussions. Meeting with Jim Rogers and NIAA postponed until Feb Council meeting.</p> <p>02.02.24 – NIAA and NTG and Police to attend next Council meeting to continue discussions.</p> <p><b>21.02.24</b> – 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><b>09.04.24</b> – Ongoing.</p> <p><b>24.04.24</b> – CEO to follow up with Department.</p> <p>03.06.24 NIAA and NTG to be invited to next Council meeting to provide an update.</p> <p><b>25.06.24</b> – NIAA and NTG attending June Council meeting to provide update and discuss.</p> <p><b>29.07.24</b> – No further updates to provide.</p> <p><b>31.01.25</b> – No further updates, Jacinta Price's office has been engaged in line with the 8 Advocacy items.</p> <p><b>19.02.25</b> – Council is going to seek the support of Local Member Mark Yingiya Guyula MLA for Mulka to raise this issue.</p> <p>03/04/2025 – Further information in CEO Report.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> – No change will re-address with newly elected Government.</p> <p><b>25.06.25</b> – 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><b>30.10.25</b> - Police in Nhulunbuy informed that they received a letter from the Minister stating that the NT Government is willing to conduct community consultations.</p>

## GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
Speed safety signage and merged action 'Council to provide stickers for bins, providing correct orientation.'	Members request speed/safety signage be added to both sides of rubbish bins.	<p><b>27.09.24</b> – Director Council Services to action with Manager Council Services and provide update.</p> <p>From merged action - 09.04.24 – Murphy Yunupingu to provide translation wording for the sticker.</p> <p><b>09.04.24</b> – Council Services Manager to work with Murphy to get the wording to start the sticker process.</p> <p><b>24.04.24</b> – Stickers to be provided.</p> <p><b>03.06.24</b> – Council Services/MSS to find out where current stickers are located and get them out to community.</p> <p><b>25.06.24</b> – Ongoing Council Services Manager to update.</p> <p><b>27.09.24</b> – Request waste services Manager provide stickers be attached to rubbish bins.</p> <p><b>31.01.25</b> – No further updates. Decision to be made on what signs need to say on the bins. Look at one for top of bin showing direction to point to street, - speed signs in language - 'fill me up' being one suggestion. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services waiting on signage suggestions from members. Do members want 'slow down' in Yolngu? Options to be provided at next LA meeting. 'Correct orientation for the bin'.</p> <p><b>03.04.2025</b> — Members looked at the handout provided by Communications Advisor which was written in Gumatj – it stated, 'fill me up'. On other side it says 'slow down 40ks' – Members would like signage just to say 'Slow Down' with a pedestrian with a child to show people walking. Without a speed limit. (Members also noted that 40ks and hour is too fast. General Manager Technical Services advised the current audit that also includes road safety will be able to investigate this as well) Review the artwork and provide Council Services Manager with revised artwork and further discussion with Murphy prior to next LA Meeting. Also correct spelling on the other side.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> – In last LA meeting some artwork was presented to members and the chair has approved the latest signage, so production of the stickers for the bins will commence.</p> <p><b>25.06.25-</b> stickers have been ordered, once received they will be applied to the bins.</p>



## GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<p><b>30.10.25</b> – The stickers have been received and will be installed on the bins by 30<sup>th</sup> of November.</p> <p><b>26.11.25</b> – Completed.</p>
Speed humps.	Speed Humps are required across community.	<p><b>03.04.25</b> – General Manager Infrastructure Services to implement with audit and requires a map of community to show where the community wants the speed humps. Working with Council Services Manager and members – sit down and map it out.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> – Engaged with contractor for new speed humps.</p> <p><b>25.06.25</b> – No further update yet.</p> <p><b>30.10.25</b> - TransportWise has finished the audit and submitted their report. The GM Technical &amp; Infrastructure Services and RM Transport Infrastructure will meet with TransportWise to go through the recommendations and plan a 5–10 year strategy for transport infrastructure. To make sure grant money is used for the most important repairs, maintenance, and upgrades.</p> <p><b>22.11.25</b> – Review of report has been completed waiting on community signage maps to undertake installation of signage and speed humps.</p>
Need for the provision of environmental flows to be re-established between north and south water bodies currently separated by the causeway accessing Gunyangara.	The lack of tidal flow has resulted in the silting up of the south water body.	<p><b>27.09.24</b> – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services to investigate and provide an update.</p> <p><b>11.12.24</b> – Ongoing</p> <p><b>31.01.25</b> – Regional Manager Transport and Infrastructure currently investigating and looking at different solutions.</p> <p><b>03.04.25</b> - Currently in discussions with ARRCOS requested them to look at it and provide a solution.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> – Ongoing with ARRCOS</p> <p><b>25.06.25</b> – Further update to be provided once received.</p> <p><b>30.10.25</b> - RM Transport Infrastructure seeking confirmation on the location and extent of work/water bodies area so further investigation can be undertaken appropriately.</p>
Invitation to NIAA	The members have asked that the Council Services Manager invite a representative from National Indigenous Australians Agency to the next Local Authority meeting.	<p><b>03.04.25</b> – Council Services Manager to look into this for the members.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> - Ongoing for next LA meeting.</p> <p><b>25.06.25</b> – NIAA were invited however meeting was cancelled due to unrest in the community.</p>

**GUNYANGARA ACTIONS**

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>ACTIONS</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
		<b>30.10.25</b> – To invite representative from NIAA for next LA meeting.
Invitation Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA	The members confirm their support of inviting Mr. Guyula to future LA meetings and potentially an outside community gathering for all to attend.	<p><b>03.04.25</b> - EA to stay in touch with Mr Guyula's office to confirm availability and extend an invitation.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> – EA has been in contact with Mr Guyula's office, unfortunately he is in Parliamentary sittings during Round 3 LA Meetings and is unable to attend.</p> <p><b>25.06.25</b> – Email to his office to advise of meeting dates for this year and next year – visit communities face to face. Welcome to come to all meetings. – Governance and Compliance Manager to coordinate. Leader of opposition – Selena Uibo to be invited as well.</p> <p><b>30.10.25</b> – Governance Manager to coordinate the invite of MLA Yingiya and Leader of opposition – Selena Uibo.</p>
Footpath from Boat club to EARC council office road corner along the Drimmie Head road and additional solar lights installed.	This Footpath is needed for safety reasons as residents are walking along the road in the dark.	<p><b>30.10.25</b> – Proceed with further works when the Gunyangara Infrastructure assessment has been finalised.</p> <p><b>22.11.25</b> – To be mapped in the new year and released as Tender pending funding available.</p>
Pause works in Gunyangara		<b>26.11.25</b> - To pause all works in Gunyangara until Audit has been completed by Gumatj.

**ADVOCACY ITEMS/ITEMS ON HOLD:**

**GUNYANGARA ACTIONS**

Gunyangara Roads Upgrade Project		<p><b>28.09</b> – Waiting on tenders to close. To hopefully be taken to October Council meeting. Updating at next meeting.</p> <p><b>26.10</b> Tenders will be going to special meeting in 2 to 3 weeks. Update to be provided.</p> <p><b>02.02.24</b> – Ongoing awaiting further negotiation of the contract.</p> <p><b>09.04.24</b> – Ongoing.</p> <p><b>24.04.24</b> – Going back to Tender.</p> <p><b>03.06.24</b> – Still out to tender.</p> <p><b>25.06.24</b> – As above - rolled over as part of draft budget and annual plan.</p> <p><b>27.07.24</b> to be placed in Advocacy.</p> <p><b>11.12.24</b> May be able to access additional funding, may be able to advertise for third round – give an update once tender submissions received in next couple of months.</p> <p><b>31.01.25</b> a Road audit is coming through for road safety – waiting on it's completion to understand what needs to occur – current potholes will be filled in next week.</p> <p><b>23.04.25</b> Will commence early May.</p>
Growing Regions Grant Round.	Gunyangara Oval Cyclone and sports building.	<p><b>28.09</b> – EOI still underway – hopefully have made the second round in the application process – more updates next meeting.</p> <p><b>26.10</b> Has made the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. NO NTG funding required. Will provide update.</p> <p><b>14.12.23</b> – Contact from Grant Dept states this has made the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Grant process. New Letter of Support submitted.</p> <p><b>02.02.24</b> – Application lodged in December and waiting to hear back on result of application. Will keep updating the members.</p> <p><b>09.04.24</b> – No update. Waiting to hear back on result of application. Will keep updating the members.</p> <p><b>24.04.24</b> – as above, still waiting on information.</p> <p><b>03.06.24</b> unsuccessful – covered in Tech report.</p> <p><b>31.01.25</b> – Move to Advocacy</p>

**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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## 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 Report

<b>AUTHOR</b>	Signe Balodis (Director - Council Services)
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b> <b>That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Manager Report.</b>	

**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:**General Council

Council continues to deliver services in Gunyangara to support a clean, safe and functional community. Services are focused on maintaining day-to-day operations, supporting local participation and responding to community needs as they arise.

Municipal Services

Troy Dwyer commenced in the role of Municipal Services Supervisor in mid-November. His previous position was with North East Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation as Grounds Services Supervisor, where he oversaw the maintenance of ovals, parks, gardens and road verges across the township of Nhulunbuy. Troy was raised in Arnhem Land in Nhulunbuy and is familiar with the local area and surrounding communities.

He has been settling into the role well and has been learning the specific needs within the community of Gunyangara since commencing. Works carried out to date include mowing and maintenance of parks, the town oval, public areas and verges. With the wet season underway, pothole repairs have also been a priority. Beautification of public areas and the collection of rubbish have continued.

Recent work has also been completed on the community oval, including repairs to the irrigation system. The system is now operating as it should, and the oval is improving. Troy considers the community oval an important space for a range of activities for community members. With the football season approaching, he has also declared himself a proud supporter of the local Gopu team.

Troy thanks the community for their patience while he has been settling into the role and looks forward to continued engagement as work progresses.



*Troy Dwyer and Yirrkala Municipal Services officers carrying out litter clean-up*

### Community Night Patrol

The Gunyangara Community Night Patrol team is working well together and has built strong relationships in the community. On 23 December, the team handed out small Christmas gifts to local children, which helped create positive connections with young people and families. The team is fully staffed by local community members, with several officers having long service and experience. There were no staffing changes during this reporting period.

The team recently completed de-escalation training with the Sobering Up Shelter, which focused on staying safe, managing difficult situations and improving communication. Some officers have raised that community members do not always understand the Community Night Patrol role, which can lead to frustration, especially when working with people affected by alcohol. These issues are being managed, and ongoing support is being provided to staff.





*Community Night Patrol team handing out gifts to community children*

#### Waste and Environmental Update

Council worked with Envirobank, Dhupuma Barker School and Gumatj Ltd to run a community clean-up day at Gunyangara. The event was well attended and involved teachers, students, community members and Council staff working together to collect rubbish and care for the local area. Council provided a BBQ and drinks for participants and organised the removal of all rubbish collected on the day. Students received certificates for taking part, and the activity created a positive atmosphere, with strong engagement and enjoyment from young people. Envirobank also acknowledged the effort, noting the high number of bags collected in a short time and the strong community spirit.

Council also collected Container Deposit Scheme containers and passed the funds raised to Dhupuma Barker School to support school activities. Pre-cyclone clean-up activities across East Arnhem have been brought forward this year following advice that the wet season may start earlier. These activities help reduce risks around the community and support cleaner, safer public spaces.



*Teachers and students at Dhupuma Barker School receive certificates for participation in the clean-up*

### Animal Management Program Update

**Reporting month/period:** October to December 2025

**Overall comments:**

- Returning locum veterinarian Dr Cassandra covered Dr Kelso's maternity leave until December.
- Veterinarian Dr Cassandra and vet nurse Sarah visit on 2 October and 26 November. Dr Maddy and Sarah also visited the community on 17 December.
- Moderate engagement with 79 community engagements across the period.
- Dog and cat population in good overall health. Low numbers of ticks seen, no mange noted. The majority of the dog population is already desexed.
- Upcoming vet visit: Dates to be confirmed for 2026.



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

- 'Rio' the dog that resides at house Lot 42 Gunyangara has bitten another person in mid-December. The person bitten was a child and was flown to Darwin for surgery. The police have been contacted. This dog has been deemed dangerous by our team after previous attacks on people. We castrated this dog with owner permission in September as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping this community safe. The team has conducted lengthy community consultation regarding this dog. Dr Maddy visited the house with Sarah on 17 December, and the owners are planning on removing the dog from the community. Euthanasia was declined. The AMP team has placed dangerous dog signs at the front entrance and gate entrance to the property with owner's permission. The AMP team is seeking any further guidance from the LA representatives about dangerous dogs in their community.

**Service Delivery Table:**

Gunyangara	October	November	December	<u>25- 26 FY</u>	<u>24- 25 FY</u>
Dogs Desexed	3	1	0	6	10
Cats Desexed	1	0	0	5	13
Community consultations	6	0	2	13	59
Remote/Phone consultations	0	0	1	4	24
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	0	0	3	12
Minor procedures/other surgeries	0	0	2	3	3
Parasite Treatments	31	30	2	128	387
Euthanasia	1	0	0	7	0
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Engagements</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>508</b>

**Staff Education/training activities:**

- 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/Community education activities:**

Dr Cassandra visited Dhupuma Barker School, teaching the children about how to take care of their dogs and cats. Lessons were conducted for Families as First Teachers, transition, and years one through to six. The kids engaged well with the lessons and appeared to enjoy themselves, with all participants taking home prizes and presents for getting involved.



*Vet nurse Sarah with Namal with the broken jaw.*



*Our little volunteer Reef helping with parasite treatments – here he is carrying snowy who just received treatments!*

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT****3.4 Human Resources and Finance Report**

**AUTHOR** Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager)

**RECOMMENDATION**

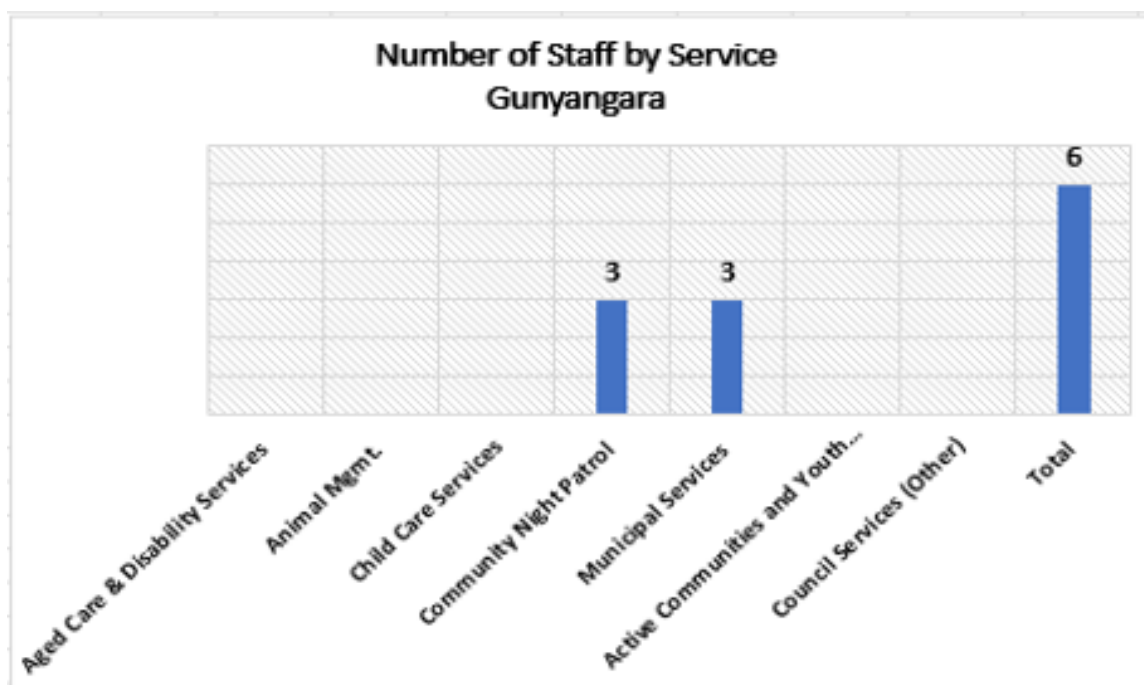
**That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 31 December 2025.**

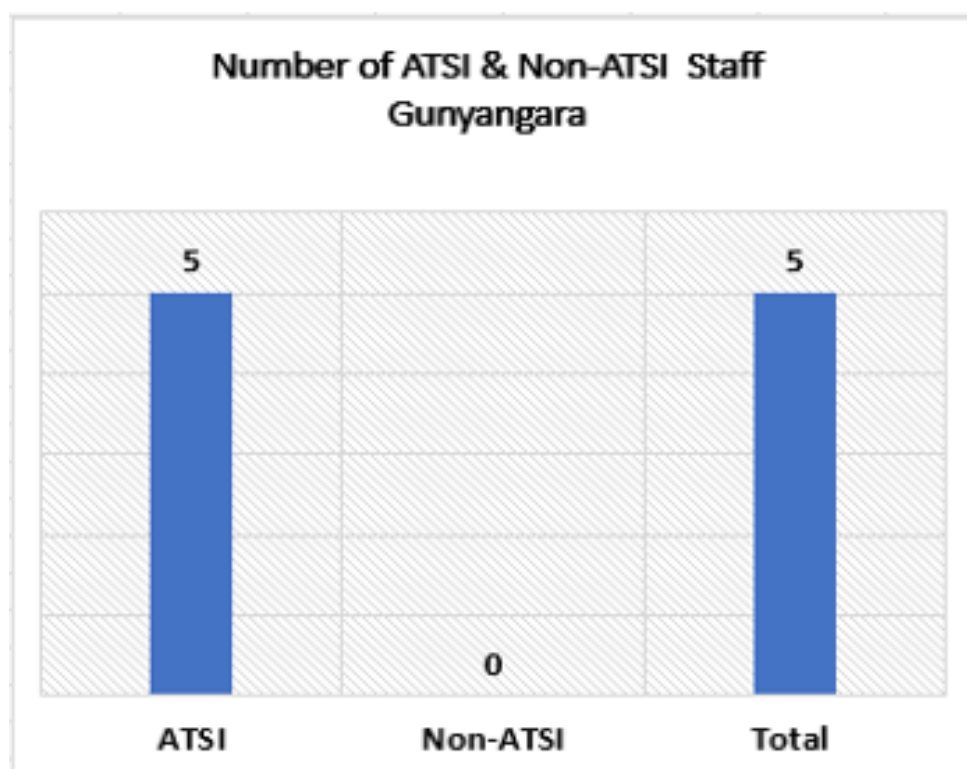
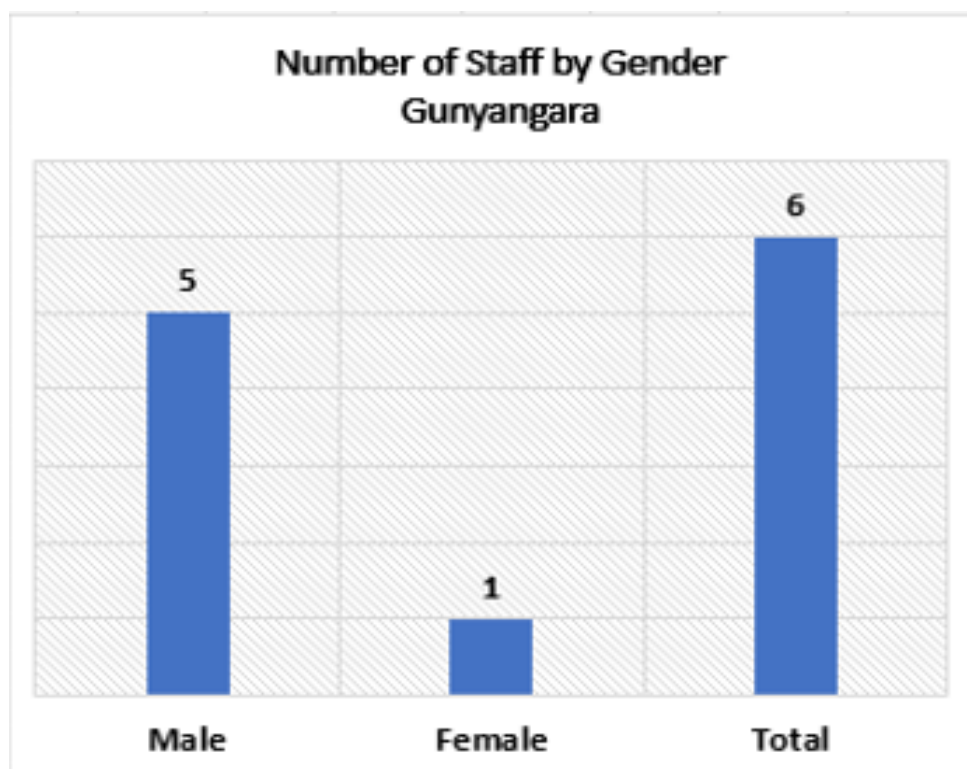
**SUMMARY:**

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:



Vacancies as of 31 December 2025:

Job Title	Location	Employment Type	Recruitment Type	No. of Vacancies
Active Communities Worker	Gunyangara	Casual	Community	1
Active Communities Worker	Gunyangara	Casual	Community	1

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

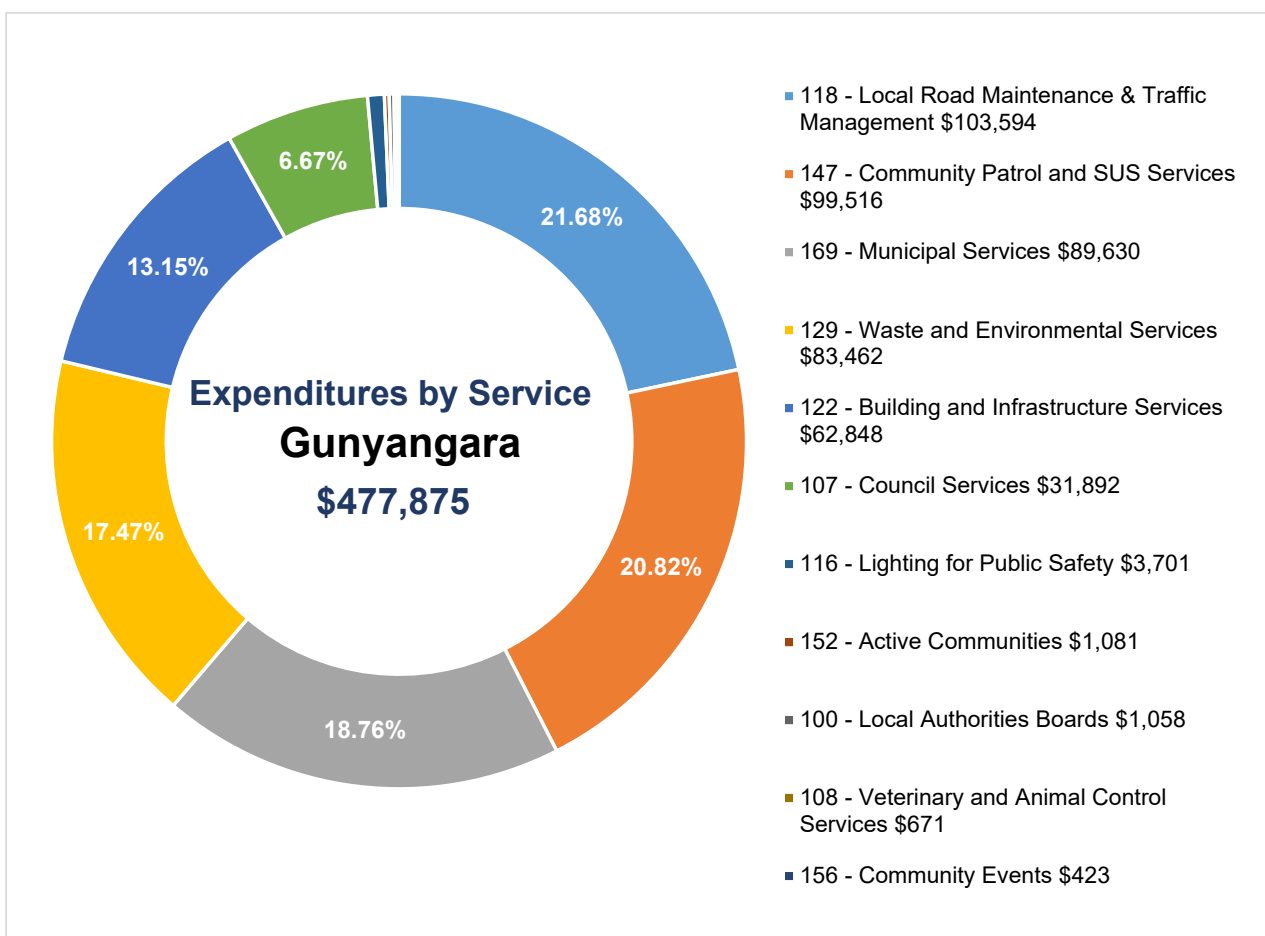
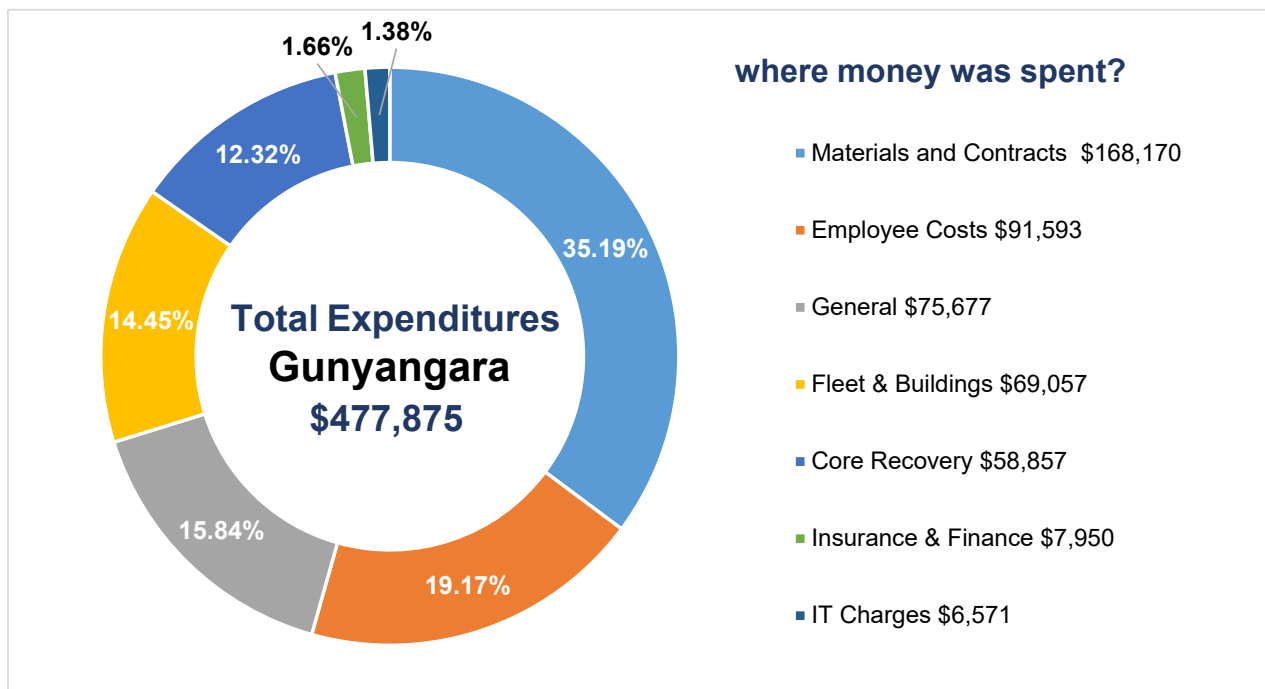
**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 06. December 2025 Gunyangara LAPF Funds Left [**3.4.1** - 1 page]
2. 06. December 2025 Gunyangara Chart LA Report [**3.4.2** - 1 page]

## LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GUNYANGARA 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	121,795	-	121,795	121,795	
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-	-	-	34,900	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	121,795	-	121,795	156,695	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
301419 - LAPF - Gunyagara - Footpaths (school to Gumatj Office)	-	(143,799)	(143,799)	(156,695)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	-	(143,799)	(143,799)	(156,695)	0%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			(22,004)	-	



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**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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3.5 Presentation from Ben Waugh

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Gunyangara- L A- Presentation Ben W [3.5.1 - 5 pages]





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## 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

### Gunyangara Consultation details:

**Location:** Outside of the East Arnhem Regional Council Office

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Time:** 10am – 3pm

Summary: Residents highlighted safety, youth engagement and communication. Feedback included: playground repairs; traffic calming on local roads; lighting between key locations; strong Night Patrol presence; sports carnivals and cultural learning; regular community meetings; and Council advocate for transport to services and events, job opportunities and training.

Services	Community comments/feedback
Council Services (Post Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More communication with community - <a href="#">Yes</a></li> <li>More good staff – <a href="#">Additional funding required for more staff</a></li> </ul>
Municipal Services (Parks & Gardens)	
Building & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fix playgrounds – <a href="#">Council to review options</a></li> </ul>
Roads Maintenance & Upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speed bumps (Drimmie Head Rd) – <a href="#">In-progress. External consultant reviewing.</a></li> </ul>
Waste & Environment	
Community Night Patrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff are excellent</li> </ul>
Community Media	
Active Communities & Youth Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More activities (like sports carnivals)</li> <li>Cultural activities for kids</li> <li>Yolngu people to teach, and learn</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">EARC's Active Communities &amp; Youth Services (ACYS) currently organizes 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-</a></p>





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	<p>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, 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>
Animal Management	
Public Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street lights from the cause-way to the bus stop – Review and seek funding for street lighting.</li> <li>• Lights at Bus stop – Review and seek funding for street lighting.</li> <li>• Lights on east side of the cause way at the beach – Need to consider impact on marine life in this location.</li> </ul>
Aged Care Services & Disability Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hunting/Bush trips We provide meals and some clients travel to Yirrkala to access the service.</li> </ul>
Community Events	
Child Care	
Local Authority Project Funding	
How do you want to hear from EARC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community meetings (BBQ's) – Yes Could be as part of LA meetings.</li> </ul>
Advocate and Seek to Secure Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus service to Centrelink and funerals</li> <li>• More job opportunities</li> <li>• Training for young kids and adults to become job ready</li> </ul> <p>Council will look at advocacy opportunities from a regional view.</p>







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**NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**

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3.6 Presentation from Local Police

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Police.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

**4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting**

**5 Meeting Close**