



OPEN AGENDA for the Gunyangara Local Authority 1 October 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 wäñakurr malañuwurr buku-liwmaram:

- limurr dhu rä-l-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 rä-l-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 wäñakurru buku-liw'yunmarama:

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

Marrañu

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

- Dalimurr wurruku rä-l-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 1 October 2026 at 11:30 am.

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

Dale Keehne
Chief Executive Officer

Members:

Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu
Antoine Gintz
Doug Yunupingu
Elizika Puertollano
Kingsley Dhamarrandji
Malakhi Puertollano
Syd Yunupingu

Dial-in Details:**Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 433 936 584 298 98

Passcode: c7FN9MM9

Dial in by phone

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Phone conference ID: 888 902 806#

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 May 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gunyangara Local Authority- Minutes 28 May 2026 [1.5.1 - 5 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Gunyangara
Provisional Local Authority
28 May 2026

GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 MAY 2026

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:57 pm.

Members in Attendance:

Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika
Antoine Gintz (Chair)
Dough Yunupingu

East Arnhem Regional Council Staff:

Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)
Sonia Campbell (GM – Technical and Infrastructure Services) – Attended online
Vivek Gummalla (Strategic Coordinator – Council Services)
Labhjeet Bhullar (Administration Manager)
Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager) – Attended online

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.3 Attendance

SUMMARY:

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

GUN 2025/44 **RESOLVED** (Antoine Gintz/Doug Yunupingu)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) **Notes the absence of Elizika Puertollano, Syd Yunupingu, Malakhi Puertollano, Murphy Yunupingu, Kingsley Dhamarrandji and Cr Priscilla Yunupingu.**
- (b) **Notes the apology received from Elizika Puertollano, Syd Yunupingu, Kingsley Dhamarrandji, Malakhi Puertollano and Priscilla Yunupingu**
- (c) **Notes all are absent with permission of the Local Authority.**

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

GUN 2025/45 **RESOLVED** (Antoine Gintz/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)

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

GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 MAY 2026

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

Confirmation of the previous minutes has been postponed due to a lack of quorum.

2 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA NGUNIYI

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.1 Local Authority Action Items

SUMMARY:

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

GUN 2025/46 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika/Doug Yunupingu)

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

2.2 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 2025/47 **RESOLVED** (Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika/Doug Yunupingu)

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 MAY 2026

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.3 Council Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

GUN 2025/50 **RESOLVED** (Doug Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Manager report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

SUMMARY:

This report is submitted for the Council'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 2025/48 **RESOLVED** (Doug Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY:

This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 30 April 2026 within the Local Authority area.

GUN 2025/49 **RESOLVED** (Doug Yunupingu/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)

That Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 30 April 2026.

3 Presentations and General Business**PRESENTATION**

3.1 Presentation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

GUNYANGARA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 MAY 2026

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held on 30 July 2026

4 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 02:47 pm

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Gunyangara Local Authority Provisional Meeting held on 19 May 2026.

UNCONFIRMED

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

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

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.1 Inclusion of Ward Names in Local Authority Titles

AUTHOR Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Gunyangara Local Authority supports the Local Authority's name to be changed to the Gumurr Miwatj- Gunyangara Local Authority, to properly reflect the language of the cultural Ward name.

SUMMARY:

To seek feedback from the Gunyangara Local Authority regarding a proposed naming convention that incorporates both the community name and ward name in Local Authority names.

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:

At its meeting on 28 August 2026, Council endorsed consultation with all Local Authorities regarding the proposed inclusion of ward names in Local Authority names. Council also resolved to consider the outcomes of the consultation before determining whether to seek Ministerial approval for any name changes. Any proposed name changes may also be included as part of Council's input to the NT Local Government Representation Review being undertaken with representation from LGANT.

Council's Local Authorities are currently named using the community name only. The proposed change would incorporate both the community name and the corresponding ward name into the Local Authority name.

The intent of the proposal is to:

- Better align Local Authority names with Council's ward structure.
- Strengthen recognition of ward identity and representation.
- Maintain community recognition while acknowledging the broader ward area.

Example

Current Name:

Gunyangara Local Authority

Proposed Name:

Gumurr Miwatj – Gunyangara Local Authority

Council is seeking feedback from each Local Authority on whether this naming convention is supported and whether there are any alternative naming preferences that should be considered.

The feedback received from all Local Authorities will be presented to Council in a further report. Local Authority resolutions relating to the proposed name changes will also be included in Council's submission to the Local Government Representation Review. Council will then consider the feedback and determine whether to proceed with any proposed name changes and, if supported, seek approval from the Minister for Local Government as required under the Local Government Act.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

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 2026 (8) [3.1.1 - 6 pages]

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTION OWNER	ACTIONS	STATUS
Kava		That the Local Authority: a) Notes the report on the Kava Pilot: Allowing the commercial importation of kava. b) Supports comprehensive community consultation as highlighted in the Northern Territory Government's submission to the Australian Government's Kava Pilot Phase 2: Allowing the Commercial Importation of Kava consultation paper, and the call for Commonwealth funding to support either: 1) increased compliance and policing for the increase in the illicit kava trade, or 2) effective and informed local decision making about kava management to minimise potential harms. c) Supports the Northern Territory Government's request for funding to support research into the health and social impacts from increased kava availability	20.10.22 - 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. 28.09.23 – CEO to provide update in his report during meeting. 14.12.23 – 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. 02.02.24 – NIAA and NTG and Police to attend next Council meeting to continue discussions. 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. 09.04.24 – Ongoing. 24.04.24 – CEO to follow up with Department. 03.06.24 NIAA and NTG to be invited to next Council meeting to provide an update. 25.06.24 – NIAA and NTG attending June Council meeting to provide update and discuss. 29.07.24 – No further updates to provide. 31.01.25 – No further updates, Jacinta Price's office has been engaged in line with the 8 Advocacy items. 19.02.25 – Council is going to seek the support of Local Member Mark Yingiya Guyula MLA for Mulka to raise this issue. 03/04/2025 – Further information in CEO Report. 23.04.25 – No change will re-address with newly elected Government. 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. 30.10.25 - Police in Nhulunbuy informed that they received a letter from the Minister stating that the NT Government is willing to conduct community consultations.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTION OWNER	ACTIONS	STATUS
			28.05.26 - CEO, with Northern Land Council, has commenced discussions with senior officers of Chief Minister and Cabinet to secure support and develop the process to trial the regulation of kava in a community, for later expansion. 25.08.2026 – CEO and Councillors met with Chief Minister and her Department, Chief Minister expressed that she would like to work with Local Authorities on how to go forward regarding the distribution and sale of Kava in East Arnhem communities.
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.	27.09.24 – Director Council Services to action with Manager Council Services and provide update. From merged action - 09.04.24 – Murphy Yunupingu to provide translation wording for the sticker. 09.04.24 – Council Services Manager to work with Murphy to get the wording to start the sticker process. 24.04.24 – Stickers to be provided. 03.06.24 – Council Services/MSS to find out where current stickers are located and get them out to community. 25.06.24 – Ongoing Council Services Manager to update. 27.09.24 – Request waste services Manager provide stickers be attached to rubbish bins. 31.01.25 – 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'. 03.04.2025 — 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

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTION OWNER	ACTIONS	STATUS
			further discussion with Murphy prior to next LA Meeting. Also correct spelling on the other side. 23.04.25 – 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. 25.06.25- stickers have been ordered, once received they will be applied to the bins. 30.10.25 – The stickers have been received and will be installed on the bins by 30th of November. 26.11.25 – In progress. 26.03.26 - In progress. 28.05.26 – Application of stickers need to be completed.
Speed humps.		Speed Humps are required across community.	03.04.25 – 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. 23.04.25 – Engaged with contractor for new speed humps. 25.06.25 – No further update yet. 30.10.25 - TransportWise has finished the audit and submitted their report. The GM Technical & 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. 22.11.25 – Review of report has been completed waiting on community signage maps to undertake installation of signage and speed humps. 24.02.26 – Currently being procured. 26.03.26 – Engaged Local contractor. Estimated completion by end of April. 28.05.26 – Procurement complete, installation to occur in the next couple of weeks. 25.08.26 – Materials received, to be installed.
Need for the provision of environmental flows to be re-established		The lack of tidal flow has resulted in the silting up of the south water body.	27.09.24 – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services to investigate and provide an update. 11.12.24 – Ongoing

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTION OWNER	ACTIONS	STATUS
between north and south water bodies currently separated by the causeway accessing Gunyangara.			31.01.25 – Regional Manager Transport and Infrastructure currently investigating and looking at different solutions. 03.04.25 - Currently in discussions with ARRCOS requested them to look at it and provide a solution. 23.04.25 – Ongoing with ARRCOS 25.06.25 – Further update to be provided once received. 30.10.25 - RM Transport Infrastructure seeking confirmation on the location and extent of work/water bodies area so further investigation can be undertaken appropriately. 24.10.25 – Needed to Seek External funding. 26.03.26 - Needed to Seek External funding. 28.05.26 – Engineering report required. 25.08.26 – Ongoing, need to have an engineer report to proceed.
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.	30.10.25 – Proceed with further works when the Gunyangara Infrastructure assessment has been finalised. 22.11.25 – To be mapped in the new year and released as Tender pending funding available. 24.02.26 – Will be mapped in Grant Funding in the New Financial Year. 26.03.26 – Seeking the funds. 28.05.26 – LA to be provided the staged project approach. In the next meeting Phase 1 estimate will be provided with approximate costing. 25.08.26 – Will be grant submission submitted for these works for footpath and solar lights.
Shade shelter, Grand Stand and Cyclone shelter/Hall near Oval		Provide the costings for Local Authority to consider.	28.05.26 – Shade shelter and Grand stand costings to be provided first. 25.08.26 – Shade shelter and Grand stand costings to be provided in next LA Meeting. Regarding Cyclone Shelter/Hall more information required before proceeding.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ADVOCACY ITEMS/ITEMS ON HOLD:

Gunyangara Roads Stormwater Drainage Upgrade Project		28.09 – Waiting on tenders to close. To hopefully be taken to October Council meeting. Updating at next meeting. 26.10 Tenders will be going to special meeting in 2 to 3 weeks. Update to be provided. 02.02.24 – Ongoing awaiting further negotiation of the contract. 09.04.24 – Ongoing. 24.04.24 – Going back to Tender. 03.06.24 – Still out to tender. 25.06.24 – As above - rolled over as part of draft budget and annual plan. 27.07.24 to be placed in Advocacy. 11.12.24 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. 31.01.25 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. 23.04.25 Will commence early May. 26.03.26 – Waiting for Survey plans of community roads infrastructure from Gumatj. Seek external funding for this project.
Growing Regions Grant Round.	Gunyangara Oval Cyclone and sports building.	28.09 – EOI still underway – hopefully have made the second round in the application process – more updates next meeting. 26.10 Has made the 2nd round. NO NTG funding required. Will provide update. 14.12.23 – Contact from Grant Dept states this has made the 2nd round of Grant process. New Letter of Support submitted. 02.02.24 – Application lodged in December and waiting to hear back on result of application. Will keep updating the members. 09.04.24 – No update. Waiting to hear back on result of application. Will keep updating the members. 24.04.24 – as above, still waiting on information.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

		03.06.24 unsuccessful – covered in Tech report. 31.01.25 – Move to Advocacy
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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:**Review of Some Organisational Positions**

I have consulted with our Darwin and Nhulunbuy staff and Council Services Managers in each community about some improvements in the way Council delivers services. The intention is to enhance coordination, improve accountability and reduce duplication of efforts to create a more effective and efficient integrated service delivery model, for the communities we serve.

This includes expanding the Community Services Directorate to include the executive management and support of People Services - that includes human resources, industrial relations, training and development, workplace health & safety, and Corporate Services - that includes finance, and information technology & communications, procurement, records, as well as Fleet from the previous Technical and Infrastructure Services.

The previous Council Services Directorate will now also have direct responsibility for the executive management and support of the remaining previous Technical and Infrastructure Services of public infrastructure, repairs and maintenance, tenancy and leasing, transport infrastructure and waste & environment.

Most affected staff will just have a different reporting line to one of the two new broader Directorates, and some staff have more specialist or more senior roles.

Engagement on Domestic and Family Violence

Following the strong statements in social and mainstream media against domestic violence and the abuse and neglect of children by President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Deputy President Stephen Dhamarrandji, Councillor Ganygulpa Dhurrkay and Councillor Marpalawuy Marika - I have sought to continue their, the Local Authorities' and broader Council's call for practical action on this extremely important issue.

This has included initiating discussions and meetings with the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, key managers in the Northern Territory Department of Children and Families, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Prevention Division, the No More campaign organisers, attending the East Arnhem DFSV Regional Network, and continued ongoing work and collaboration with the Yalu Aboriginal Corporation.

Effective Youth Justice and Engagement

I have continued to work closely with the Yalu Aboriginal Corporation and government to support the development of other ways of engaging with the young people which provide proper and effective consequences and support to the youth and their families.

Support of the development of an extended camp at a homeland off the main island of Galiwinku, with genuine engagement with young people and their families is one specific and clear initiative.

Post De-amalgamation Funding

I have continued to pursue formal engagement with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development to pursue the proper funding of Council to the commitment of the previous and current NT Government is honoured, to ensure no reduction in service delivery levels as a result of the de-amalgamation of Council.

I will be able to provide an update to the Local Authority of the outcome of a meeting with the Minister and discuss next steps.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Report

AUTHOR

Labhjeet Kaur Bhullar (Council Services Manager)

RECOMMENDATION**That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.****SUMMARY:**

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

BACKGROUND:

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

GENERAL:Council Support Services

Over the past couple of months, the East Arnhem Regional Council in Yirrkala has continued to strengthen existing relationships with stakeholders and support local events and celebrations across the region.



Gunyangara Community

Municipal Services

The Municipal Services Supervisor Troy Dwyer has continued to undertake a range of essential community maintenance activities throughout the reporting period. This included regular mowing, general rubbish collection and clean-up activities, pothole repairs, and ongoing beautification of the Gunyangara community. These works have contributed to maintaining a clean, safe, and well-presented community environment.



Beach Picnic Area

Two Hard Rubbish collections were undertaken during this quarter, instead of the one originally scheduled. The additional collection provided community members with another opportunity to dispose of hard rubbish, particularly those who had missed the initial collection or were unable to have their items ready in time.

The Municipal Services team also completed the labeling of community bins. Labels were provided in both English and Yolngu Matha to ensure the information was clear and accessible to community members. Positive feedback has been received from the community regarding this initiative.



Bin Stickers "Fill Me Up"



Bin Stickers "Slow Down Along Here"

During the reporting period, Gunyangara was involved in both the National Census and the recent Council Bi-Election. The Municipal Services team supported Census activities by providing the large LED screen over several days, allowing important Census information to be displayed and communicated to the community.

The Council Office was also selected as the polling location for the Council Bi-Election. Polling booths were established at the Council grounds, and there was a strong turnout from community members. The event also provided an opportunity for community members to engage with and speak to the election candidates.



LED Screen Displaying Census Information



Mulka Division Bi-Election Set-Up at the Gunyangara EARC Office

Troy Dwyer (Municipal Services Supervisor) successfully completed White Card training during the reporting period. This training supports continued awareness of safe work practices and appropriate conduct on worksites.

Community Night Patrol

On 28 July, at approximately 10:00 pm, the Community Night Patrol team was among the first to arrive at the scene of a vehicle accident on Melville Bay Road. The vehicle had collided with a buffalo and rolled over. Night Patrol officers immediately provided first aid to an injured passenger who had sustained a deep cut to her arm. Other team members checked that all occupants were safely out of the vehicle and that the vehicle's ignition had been switched off. An officer contacted emergency services and warned approaching traffic of the hazard. As no ambulance was available and police arrived approximately 30 minutes later, the Night Patrol team continued assisting at the scene. The team then supported police in securing the area safely. Police acknowledged and thanked the Night Patrol officers for their assistance and professionalism. Police transported the driver and injured passengers to the hospital. Fortunately, everyone involved was reported to be safe, although the buffalo was killed on impact. The team's calm, responsible, and professional response during this challenging incident is highly commended.

Gunyangara Community Night Patrol currently has 100% Indigenous employment rate. Current Gunyangara staff members include Janet Yunupingu, Heather Yunupingu, and Jamie Wunungmurra. Additional team members include Emily Perry (Team Leader), Laylani Gumbula, Lee-Anne Tawhi, Kasey Buckley, Sid Yunupingu and Renee Blythe. Who will work at times in Gunyangara if the regular team is absent. This is to ensure that the service is more likely to operate if the Yirrkala team is unable to attend for any reason.



CNP Coordinator Renee Blythe assisting community at NAIDOC Event



CNP Activities at NAIDOC Day



CNP Activities at NAIDOC Day

On Saturday 29 August, Night Patrol attended the East Arnhem Live concert in collaboration with Nhulunbuy Corporation to ensure there was a transport option for community members to safely get home after the concert.



CNP Team at East Arnhem Live

The Community Night Patrol recently introduced the **CNP Chill Zone**, a stationary patrol initiative operating every second Thursday. The program alternates between Gunyangara and Yirrkala and runs until 10:00 pm.

Night Patrol officers are based at the Sport and Recreation Centre for several hours, providing young people with a safe, welcoming and friendly place to spend time. Children can enjoy snacks, homemade food, Milo or water while talking with officers or participating in activities such as drawing, colouring and reading.

Although the team has experienced some challenges, the overall response from young people has been positive. The initiative is helping to strengthen relationships and build trust between local young people and the Night Patrol team.

A positive example involves a boy in Yirrkala, approximately 13 years old, who previously displayed challenging behaviour towards the patrol team, including sniffing substances and throwing rocks at patrol vehicles. Since the Chill Zone commenced, he has begun stopping for food and talking with officers. This represents encouraging progress in his engagement with the team.



Chill Zone Gunyangara



After Hours Basketball Activities
After-Hours Basketball Activities



Milo is provided during the basketball activities held every second Wednesday, supporting positive engagement between young people and the Community Night Patrol team.

The North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service (NAAFLS) legal education team delivered a session to Night Patrol staff on 27 August 2026. The training covered the legal rights and responsibilities of Night Patrol officers, mandatory reporting requirements, and relevant legal matters relating to domestic and family violence.

Night Patrol representatives attended an Anglicare Community Representative Workshop on 27 August 2026, involving a range of local organisations. Participants discussed gaps within the community, the roles and responsibilities of different service providers, and opportunities to promote health and wellbeing across the region

The Chill Zone has experienced some challenging behaviour from children who attend with the intention of disrupting other participants or Night Patrol officers. In these circumstances, some children have been asked to leave to maintain a safe and peaceful environment where everyone can relax and enjoy the activities.

When parental or caregiver support is required, officers are sometimes unable to locate a responsible adult. Caregivers may be unavailable or participating in activities such as drinking or gambling. Night Patrol regularly transports children's homes; however, some homes are unattended. This requires officers to spend additional time locating a responsible and sober adult who can safely care for the child.

Despite these efforts, some children are later observed roaming around the community, increasing their exposure to unsafe situations and the risk of engaging in harmful or unlawful activities, including substance misuse.

Another ongoing challenge is the community's perception of Night Patrol as a taxi service. In a recent incident, officers advised a group at approximately 11:30 pm that it was their final opportunity to receive transport home. The individuals chose to remain until after 1:00 am, by which time the Night Patrol service had finished operating. Some individuals later expressed dissatisfaction toward the officers. This highlights the need for greater community awareness of Night Patrol's operating hours, responsibilities, and service limitations.

Active Communities and Youth Services (ACYS)

The Active Communities team currently consists of Rob Kestle, Active Communities Coordinator; Jada Cowdrey, Active Communities Team Leader; and Denzel Marika, Sharee Yunupingu and Rosie Mununggurr, Active Communities Workers. There are currently two vacant Active Communities Worker positions in Gunyangara, with recruitment required to strengthen the local team and support ongoing program delivery.

Throughout July and August, the Active Communities team continued to deliver a range of activities in Gunyangara. Wednesday night basketball was delivered on five occasions during the reporting period and received strong participation from community members. A key highlight was the opportunity to work alongside the Next 9 Sports Academy during their visit

to the school, providing positive experience and further engagement opportunities for local young people.



Gunyangara Basketball Team



Basketball Team Photo



*After-Hour
Activities
in*

Gunyangara

A range of recreational and sporting activities continued to be provided during the reporting period, including basketball, volleyball and soccer. These activities support positive engagement, participation, and opportunities for young people to remain active within the community.



After-Hour Activities



The next major event will be the Regional Wellbeing Camp, scheduled to be held at Gulkula from 29 September to 2 October 2026. The camp will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in wellbeing-focused activities and strengthen connections across the region.

No staff training was undertaken during this reporting period.



Active Communities Engaging with Youth

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Ritesh Parikh (Finance Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

That Local Authority receives the Finance, Human Resources and Employment information as of 31 August 2026.

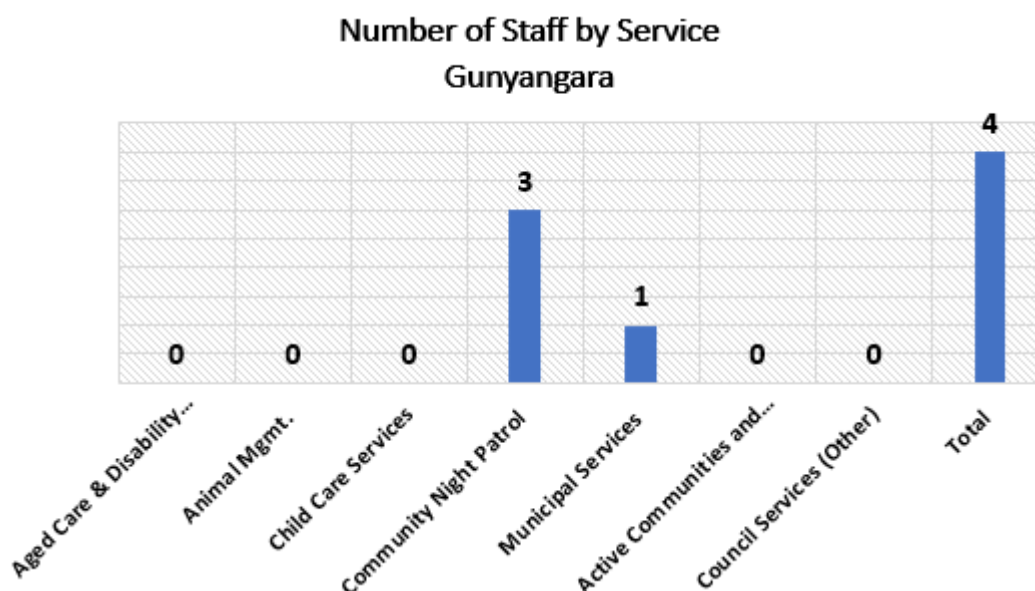
SUMMARY:

This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 31 August 2026 within the Local Authority area.

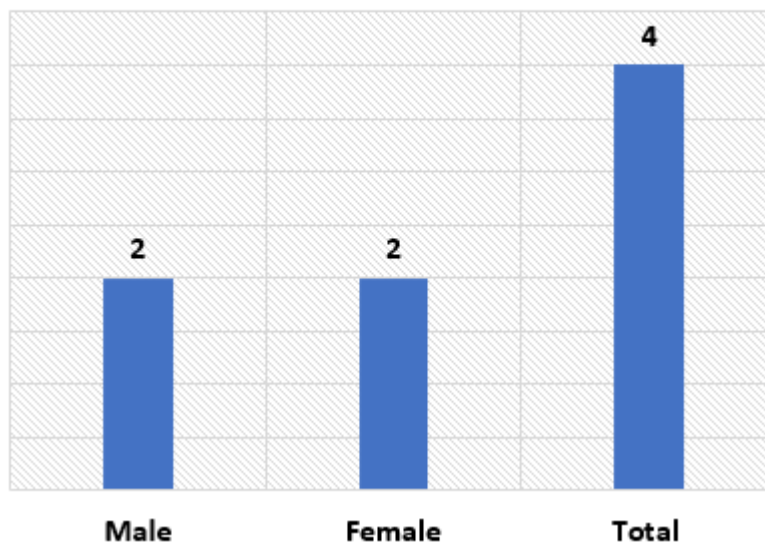
BACKGROUND:

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

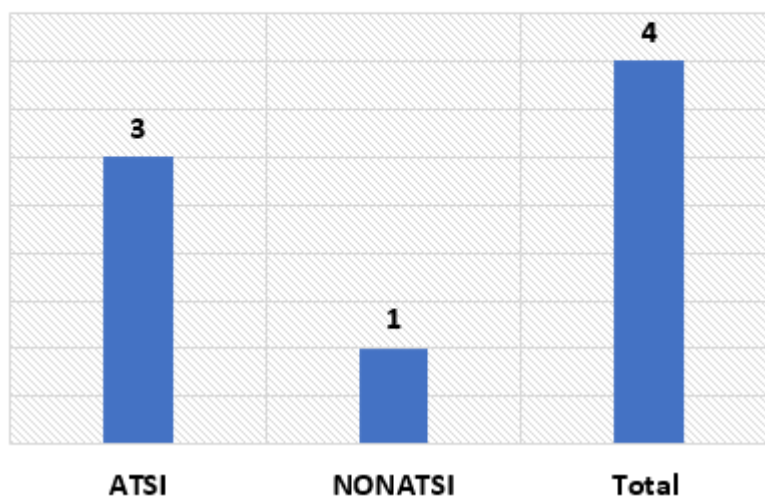
GENERAL:



Number of Staff by Gender
Gunyangara



Number of ATSI & Non-ATSI Staff
Gunyangara



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

ATTACHMENTS:

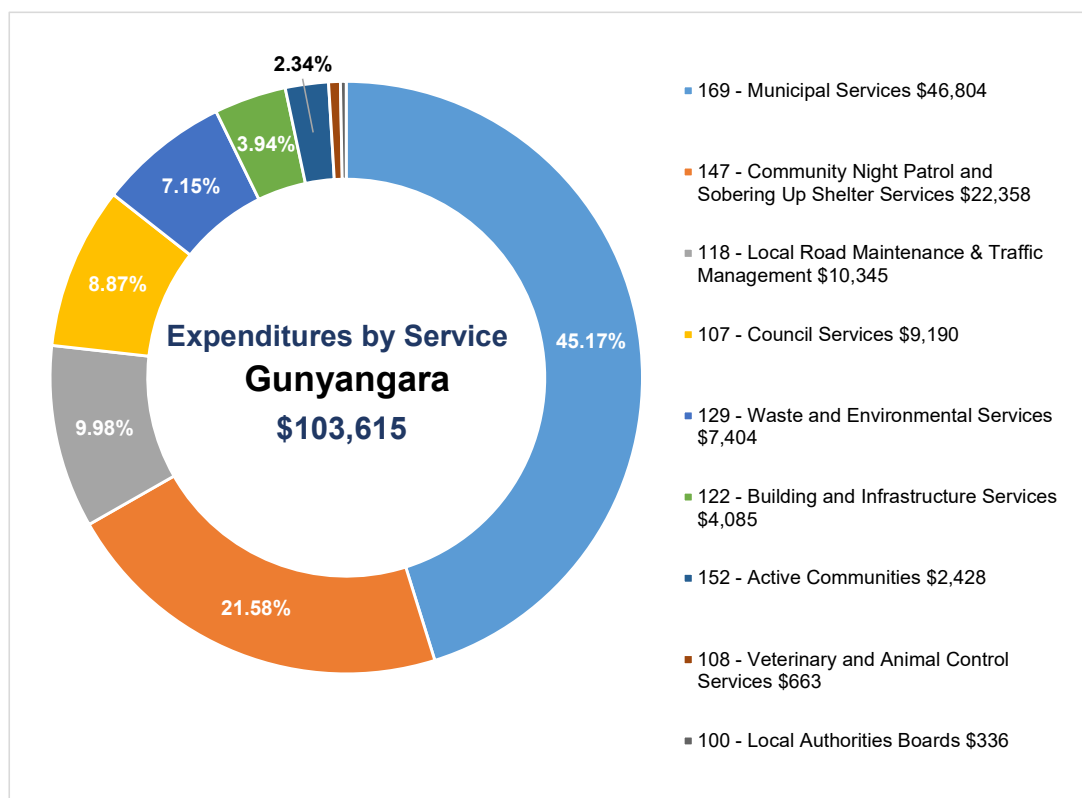
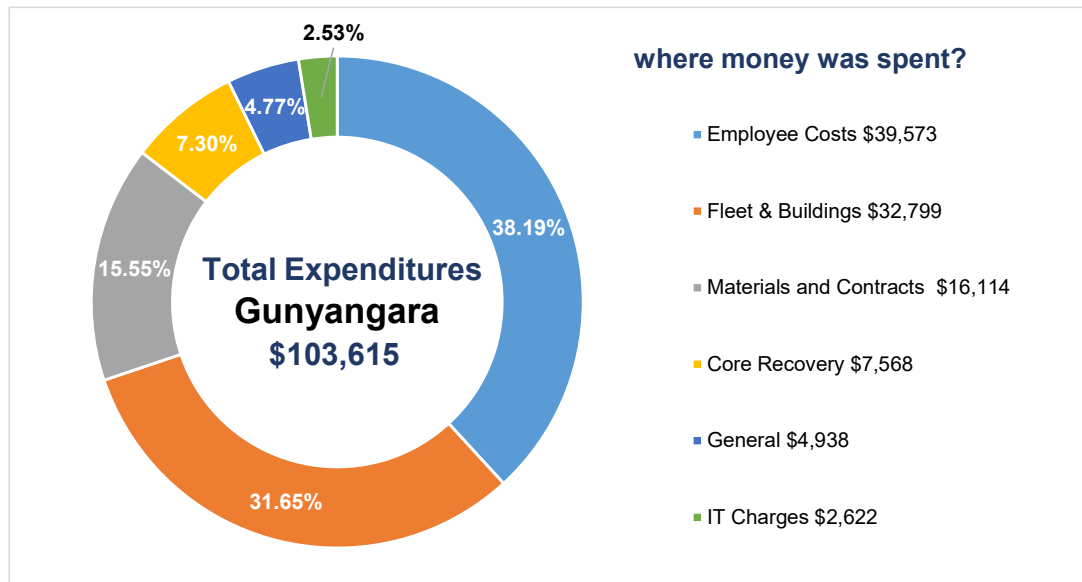
1. Gunyangara LA Report Sept 26 [3.4.1 - 2 pages]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GUNYANGARA**FUNDS LEFT**

As at 31st August 2026

	YTD ACTUAL	COMMITMENTS	ACTUAL + COMMITMENTS	FULL YEAR BUDGET	PROGRESS % (ACTUAL vs BUDGET)
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR*	156,695	-	156,695	103,276	
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-	-	-	34,900	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	156,695	-	156,695	138,176	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
301419 - LAPF - Gunyagara - Footpaths (school to Gumatj Office)	-	-	-	(156,695)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	-	-	-	(156,695)	0%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			156,695	(18,519)	

*Unaudited amount from FY2025- 2026



4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

PRESENTATION

4.1 Discussion with the Local Police Department

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Authority notes the discussion with the Local Police Department.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

PRESENTATION

4.2 Presentation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Authority notes the presentation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation form



08 8986 8986
 info@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au
 PO Box 1060, Nhulunbuy NT 0881
 www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au
 ABN 92 334 301 078

Request to Present at a Local Authority Meeting

EARC have requested that **ALL ORGANISATIONS** provide the following information as part of any request to present at a local authority meeting. This info must be provided at least 10 days prior to Local Authority meeting.

Please complete this form and return it to paulhyde.kaduru@eastarnhem.nt.gov.au. Prior to submitting a request, please review the NT Government **Remote Engagement and Coordination Strategy** at www.dlgcs.nt.gov.au.

We respectfully request that all presentations be kept to 30 Minutes (15 minute presentation time and 15 minutes of question time).

Please enter your contact details below	
Name:	Anna Kreij
Organisation:	NTG
Position:	Community Development Officer
Department:	Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development
Contact number:	0437647596
Email:	Anna.kreij@nt.gov.au

Agenda Item	
1. Which Local Authorities do you wish to attend?	
☒ Galiwinku ☒ Ramingining	☒ Gapuwiyak ☒ Yirrkala
☒ Gunyangara	
☒ Mililingimbi	
2. What is the purpose of the presentation?	
Provide a brief overview of NTG Community Development projects and answer questions raised in previous meetings.	
3. For the agenda item, do you expect to: <i>(please complete the option/s that are relevant)</i>	
☒ Provide information to the local authority about: The NTG Community Development team and previous questions raised ☐ Seek information from the local authority about: ☐ Seek a decision from the local authority about:	



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Other Information (where applicable)		
When is attendance at a local authority meeting required? <i>(Please indicate any time sensitivities)</i>		
☒ Next Available Meeting _____ (date)	☐ Before _____ (date)	☐ After _____ (date)
What communication materials are expected to be used? <i>(Please indicate and attach copies where possible, and consider whether interpreter services are needed)</i>		
Do you require use of any of the following:		
☐ Laptop	☐ Projector	☒ Video Teleconference
☐ Documents Printed (Charges apply)		☐ Whiteboard
If a scheduled local authority meeting does not meet your requirements, a special meeting may be called at a cost of \$1,710 per meeting, <i>Subject to availability of members.</i>		
Do you require a special meeting to be called?		Yes ☐ No ☒
Proposed Dates: _____ or _____ or _____ (1st Choice) (2nd Choice) (3rd Choice)		

Official use Only

Date Received _____

5 Meeting Close