



HUMAN | EQUALITY
RIGHTS
INDEPENDENCE
COMMUNITY | EQUITY
WORK CONFIDENCE
RESPECT

OPEN AGENDA for the Gunyangara
Local Authority
30 October 2025

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

Djambarrpuyŋu

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

- limurr dhu rä-l-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurrungalaŋaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharay walŋaw,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ḍapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Dhaŋu

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

- ŋalma ŋarru rä-l-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ŋakanhaminyarawu ŋalmalinguwaywuru,
- ga dharay walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ḍapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumatj

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

- ŋilimurru yurru rä-l-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu gaŋga'thinyarawu ŋilimurrungalaŋawu,
- ga dharay walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ḍapthunmaranhamirri bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marraŋu

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

- Dalimurr wurruku rä-l-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurrungalaŋaw
- Gaŋgathinyamaranharaw wonḍaŋarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walŋaw,
- Ga ŋayaŋu-ḍapmaranhamirr ŋalimurr wurruku bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

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

EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Gunyangara Local Authority will be held at the Gunyangara Council Office offices on Thursday 30 October 2025 at 11:30 am.

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

Dale Keehne
Chief Executive Officer

List of Members:

- Antoine Gintz
- Doug Yunupingu
- Elizika Puertollano
- Syd Yunupingu
- Malakhi Puertollano
- Cr. Murphy Yunupingu
- Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu

Dial-in Details:**Microsoft Teams**

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 438 696 272 952 0

Passcode: kX9Bk6Vq

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,,109908984#](#) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 109 908 984#

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	MEETING ESTABLISHMENT	6
1.2	Opening of Meeting.....	6
1.3	Attendance	6
1.4	Conflict of Interest	6
1.5	Previous Local Authority Minutes.....	7
2	LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS	17
3	NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT	17
3.1	Local Authority Action Items	17
3.2	CEO Report	24
3.3	Council Services Report	26
3.4	Technical and Infrastructure Service Report.....	32
3.5	Human Resources and Finance Report.....	37
4	GENERAL BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING	42
5	MEETING CLOSE	42

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 March 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Gunyangara LA Meeting 03042025 Minutes [1.5.1 - 9 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Gunyangara Provisional Local Authority Meeting 28 March 2025

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN RO

MEMBERS:

In the Chair Antoine Gintz, Syd Yunupingu, Murphy Yunupingu, Doug Yunupingu joined the meeting at 11.50am and new members Kingsley Dhamarrandji and Dominic Yunupingu.

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Dale Keehne – CEO.

Signe Balodis – Director Council Services.

David Thompson - General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services. (via TEAMS)

Ryan Gablonski – Council Services Manager

Minute Taker – Wendy Miller, EA to the CEO.

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

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.

GUN2025/7 RESOLVED (Murphy Yunupingu/Doug Yunupingu)

That the Local Authority:

(a) Notes the absence of Cr Marrpalawuy Marika, Cr. Banambi Wunungmurra, Cr Priscilla Yunupingu, Elizika Puertollano and Malakhi Puertollano.

(b) Notes the apology received from Elizika Puertollano, Cr Priscilla Yunupingu.

(b) Notes Cr Marrpalawuy Marika, Cr. Banambi Wunungmurra, Cr Priscilla Yunupingu, Elizika Puertollano and Malakhi Puertollano are absent with permission of the Local Authority.

(d) Confirms acceptance of Kinglsey Dhamarrandji and Kinglsey Yunupingu's nominations as members of the Gunyangara Local Authority.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

GUN2025/8 **RESOLVED** (Kinglsey Dhamarrandji/Doug Yunupingu)

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

GUN 2025/9 **RESOLVED** ({mover}/{seconder})

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 31 January 2025. - These minutes are unable to be ratified in this meeting due to the meeting being Provisional.

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

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

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.1 Guest Speaker - Northern Territory Police

SUMMARY:

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

GUN 2025/10 **RESOLVED** (Antoine Gintz/Murphy Yunupingu)

That Local Authority thanks the Guest Speaker Superintendent Jody Nobbs from the Northern Territory Police for his update and discussion on youth crime.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.2 Guest Speaker - Mr Yinjiya Guyula MLA

SUMMARY:

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

This presentation did not proceed.

Unconfirmed

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

3 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA NGUNIYI

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**3.1 Local Authority Action Items****SUMMARY:**

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

GUN 2025/10 **RESOLVED** (Doug Yunupingu/Antoine Gintz)

Local Authority moved to lunch break at 12.45pm and returned at 1.24pm.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT**3.2 CEO Report****SUMMARY:**

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

The CEO report was unable to be ratified due to members leaving the meeting prior to the Recommendation being read.

Antoine Gintz left the meeting at 2:56 pm.

Doug Yunupingu left the meeting at 2:58 pm.

Kingsley Dhamarrandji left the meeting at 2.57pm.

The formal provisional meeting finished at 2.56 due to the absence of three members, which made endorsement of the CEO report impossible. However report updates were still provided by the General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services and the Director of Council Services in addition to the Human Resources and Finance Report.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Manager Report

SUMMARY:

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

The Council Services Report was read to the remaining members, but was unable to be ratified due to absence of members and lack of Provisional Quorum.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical & Infrastructure Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

The Technical and Infrastructure Services report was read to the remaining members, however was unable to be ratified due to other members leaving the meeting and Provisional Quorum being unable to be reached.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

28 MARCH 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY

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

The Human Resources and Finance Report was read to the remaining members, however could not be ratified due to members leaving the meeting leaving insufficient members for Provisional Quorum.

MINUTES OF LOCAL AUTHORITY**28 MARCH 2025**

4 Confidential Reports

There were no confidential reports this round.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The members have asked that the Council Services Manager invite NIAA to the next Local Authority Meeting.

The members are in favour of inviting Yingiya Mark Guyula MLA to future meetings. Executive Assistant to the CEO to pass on the invitation to Mr Guyula's office.

5 Date of Next Meeting

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

6 Meeting Close

The Provisional meeting closed at 2.56pm, however further reports were read to the remaining members and the meeting unofficially closed at 3.44pm.

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 [3.1.1 - 5 pages]

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
Kava Pilot	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.

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.	27.09.24 – Director Council Services to action with Manager Council Services and provide update. <i>From merged action - 09.04.24 – Murphy Yunupingu to provide translation wording for the sticker.</i> <i>09.04.24 – Council Services Manager to work with Murphy to get the wording to start the sticker process.</i> <i>24.04.24 – Stickers to be provided.</i> <i>03.06.24 – Council Services/MSS to find out where current stickers are located and get them out to community.</i> <i>25.06.24 – Ongoing Council Services Manager to update.</i> <i>27.09.24 – Request waste services Manager provide stickers be attached to rubbish bins.</i> 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 further discussion with Murphy prior to next LA Meeting. Also correct spelling on the other side.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		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.
Speed humps.	Speed Humps are required across community.	03/04/2025 – 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.
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.	27.09.24 – Director Technical and Infrastructure Services to investigate and provide an update. 11.12.24 – Ongoing 31.01.25 – Regional Manager Transport and Infrastructure currently investigating and looking at different solutions. 03/04/2025 - 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.
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.	03.04.25 – Council Services Manager to look into this for the members. 23.04.25 - Ongoing for next LA meeting. 25.06.25 – NIAA were invited however meeting was cancelled due to unrest in the community.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
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.	03.04.25 EA to stay in touch with Mr Guyula's office to confirm availability and extend an invitation. 23.04.25 – 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. 25.06.25 – 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 Uiibo to be invited as well.

ADVOCACY ITEMS/ITEMS ON HOLD:

Gunyangara Roads 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.
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.

GUNYANGARA ACTIONS

		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. 24.04.2024 – as above, still waiting on information. 03.06.24 unsuccessful – covered in Tech report. 31.01.25 – Move to Advocacy
--	--	--

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 CEO Report

AUTHOR Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

SUMMARY:

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

GENERAL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Report

AUTHOR Shannon Cervini (Council Services Regional Manager)**RECOMMENDATION****That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.****SUMMARY:**

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

BACKGROUND:

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

GENERAL:Council Support Services

On 28 July 2025, Council Services Manager / Municipal Services Supervisor, Ryan Gablonski resigned from his position and therefore concluded his employment with East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC). We would like to thank Ryan for his efforts and contributions throughout his time with EARC.

Recruitment has been ongoing for a Municipal Services Supervisor, and this process has identified a suitable candidate who has been offered the role, set to commence in mid-November 2025.

On Wednesday 16 July 2025, East Arnhem Regional Council conducted a community consultation event, outside of the Gunyangara Council Office from 10am – 3pm. The purpose of the consultation was to gather detailed community feedback on EARC services, local infrastructure, youth engagement, communication preferences, and advocacy needs.

These consultations were conducted in all communities 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



EARC Community Consultation - Gunyangara

residents. By aligning community perspectives with Council planning, EARC strengthens its commitment to inclusive, accountable, and forward-looking governance.

Municipal Services

In the absence of a Municipal Services Supervisor, we would like to acknowledge and thank Marngarr Resource Centre Aboriginal Corporation (MRCAC) for their assistance and collaboration to ensure that public spaces are maintained within the community. MRCAC's grounds work crew have carried out litter pick-ups, hard waste removals along with mowing public spaces and vegetation removal from the culverts in the community. This partnership has ensured that works have been kept localised and provide opportunities for the local work crew to expand their workload.

Our EARC Yirrkala Municipal Services team along with relief Council Services Manager, Adam Johnson, have been tirelessly working on cleaning up and processing all existing waste and recyclables at the Gunyangara Transfer Station. This project has been very labour intensive and thrown up many challenges, however great progress has been achieved with the site almost back to a clean slate, ready for a redesign and re-purpose from a public site to an internal private recyclable's laydown area. This will allow recyclables to be collected in bulk before being sent off site to be recycled.

Community Night Patrol (CNP)

Community Night Patrol continues to engage with stakeholders and support agencies to encourage participation in community activities and initiatives. Due to the demanding schedules of various agencies and the challenges associated with Community Night Patrol's late-hour operations, establishing collaborations with some service providers can be difficult. Recently, Community Night Patrol and the Sobering Up Shelter met with police to discuss ways to improve collaboration and coordination between our services.

It is encouraging to note that all three patrol vehicles are consistently operational, indicating increased participation from Indigenous staff during their shifts. Additionally, there has been a positive development in children's attitudes toward night patrols, as they become more confident in engaging with patrol personnel. Engagement with youth through movie nights and sporting events has also increased. Community Night Patrol has been attending school holiday programs such as movie nights and basketball games.

We are pleased to report that Gunyangara is currently 100% indigenous staffed. We recently farewelled Valerie Dhamarrandji as she has chosen to dedicate her time to the Dhupuma Barker School. We are actively working on recruiting a suitable replacement.

We are looking into future training opportunities in the following areas. First Aid, Dual Diagnosis training to identify mental health and drug related issues and Personal Protection Strategies and de-escalation tactics.

Active Communities and Youth Services (AC&YS)

Gapuwiyak Active Communities Coordinator Sikeli Qounadovu facilitated Yirrkala/Gunyangara AC&YS activities throughout September while Yirrkala/Gunyangara AC Coordinator Rob Kestle was on annual leave. Rob returned from annual leave on 13 October 2025.

A Successful September School Holiday Program was delivered jointly between Gunyangara/Yirrkala that also saw Next 9 Sports Academy come to the region and facilitate a successful Basketball Workshop in Gunyangara/Yirrkala between 29 September 2025 – 3 October 2025.

Weekly Basketball Nights continue to be held that rotate between in Yirrkala and Gunyangara with participation from Dawurr boarding school.



Next 9 Sports academy in Gunyangara.

Upcoming events include the 5th Annual AFL X Under 15 Boys Regional Championships to be held in Gapuwiyak on 25 October 2025. This will see the participation of a combined Gunyangara/Yirrkala team and a Community Gala Day also to be held in Gapuwiyak on the week of 24 November 2025.

One of the challenges has been the limited staffing available to support delivery of AC&YS activities between Gunyangara and Yirrkala as the Active Communities Workers are not working consistently rostered hours. We currently have 2 Active Communities Worker positions open and advertised.

Waste and Environmental Update

Hamish Brace (EARC Regional Manager – Waste & Environment)

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

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

Environment space.

"I visited the community of Gunyangara in the third week of August and my second week in this new exciting position. Meeting the EARC team and viewing the works depot and lay down area."

Gunyangara Transfer Station

The Gunyangara Transfer Station has been closed for public access and a project to process all materials and reset the site is underway. The Waste & Environment team is planning to utilise the site as a recyclable's laydown area, where materials such as scrap metal, gas bottles and tyres can be stockpiled in containers before being transported out of the community to be recycled.

So far, we have processed, one 20' container of white goods and three skip bins of scrap metal. The scrap metal was sent into Darwin. Also, a 10' container of tyres is going to TyreCycle. Loose scrap metal on this site will go to recycling. Other items that have been sent away for recycling include fire extinguishers, gas bottles and electronic waste.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

The Waste & Environment team is planning another round of Container Deposit Scheme activity in late October, early November, which will assist in providing income for the community residents and help to remove cans and bottles off the road verges and public spaces.

Animal Management Program UpdateReporting month/period: July to September 2025Any issues or concerns that need to be addressed at LA or council meeting: NilOverall comments:

- Despite being a smaller community, the demand for veterinary services in Gunyangara is high. The team endeavours to follow up on cases as quickly as possible, however as we are also delivering veterinary visits to our more remote communities, it is sometimes impossible to follow up on cases straight away. We have received some negative feedback from certain community members on this which is disappointing as we strive to provide consistency of care across all communities. This community receives far more vet visits across the year than more remote communities like Ramininging, Galiwinku, Milingimbi and Gapuwiyak so we would like to remind everyone that we are doing the best we can as a team to follow up. A special thanks for vet nurse Tristan from the NCL for performing an emergency call out to Gunyangara to remove a lure from a cat's foot whilst the team were in Milingimbi during August. Dr Maddy also attended an emergency call out for a sick dog to Gunyangara in the last week of August to ensure consistency of care.
- Veterinarian Dr Maddy and vet nurse Sarah visits on the 17th of July, and veterinarian Dr Cassandra and vet nurse Sarah visit on the 13th of August.
- Returning locum veterinarian Dr Cassandra will be covering Dr Kelso's maternity leave until December.
- Moderate engagement with 68 parasite treatments.
- Multiple visits for sick or injured animals, including treatments for a dog after a croc attack, a dog hit by a car, paraphimosis, and a cat with a lure stuck in its foot.
- A request for euthanasia on Gulupa dog that was brought into Gunyangara was performed, as well as euthanasia of several feral cats in community.
- Dog and cat population in good overall health. Low numbers of ticks seen, no mange noted. Much of the dog population is already desexed.
- Known aggressive dog in community has attacked a child. Owner has refused euthanasia but has permitted desexing and the dog has been successfully castrated. There is hope that the castration will reduce the dog's drive to roam the community looking for females on heat and how aggressive he is. Unfortunately, castration does not remove the risk of future attacks, and the community is warned to still be wary.
- Upcoming vet visit: October 1st by Dr Cassandra.

Service Delivery Table:

GUNYANGARA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
Dogs Desexed	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	13
Cats Desexed	0	0	0	3	4	1	0	0	4	12	15
Community consultations	2	3	3	3	2	8	1	5	0	27	56
Remote/Phone consultations	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	9	21
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	0	0	3	3	1	1	1	1	0	10	5

Minor procedures/other surgeries	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	4
Parasite Treatments	11	73	8	39	4	57	50	6	12	260	291
Euthanasia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	6	0
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Engagements	15	76	14	51	12	70	54	16	23	331	406

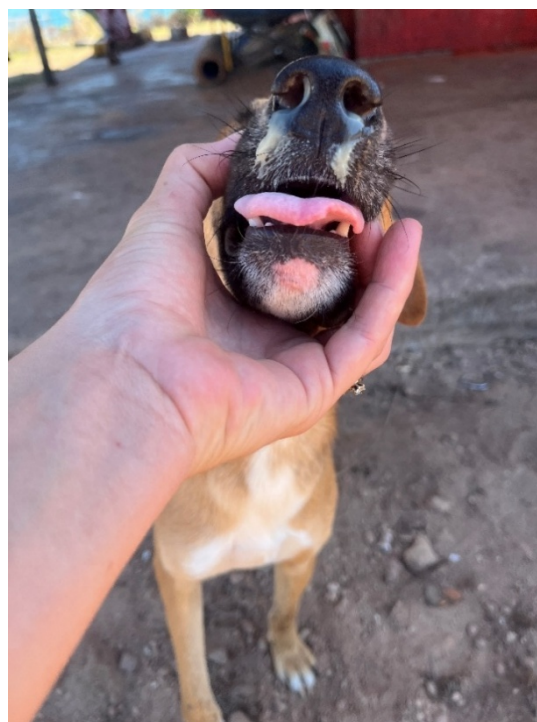
Staff Education/training activities:

- 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.

Photos:



Cheeky dog Rio spotted wandering around community.



Dog hit by car with dislocated jaw, treatment provided.



Puppy that Dr Maddy fixed in Gunyangara in late August that suffered from paraphimosis.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Service Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

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

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

GENERAL:

122 – Fleet Management

Scheduled Servicing Updates

In October all EARC vehicles, plant and trailers in Gunyangara had their scheduled six-monthly servicing in accordance with the Organisations Maintenance policy.

116 – Lighting for Public Safety

Gunyangara Public Streetlights.

- Arnhem Electrical and Refrigeration were awarded the contract to undertake the repair and maintenance of public streetlights in Gunyangara
- These works are now 100% complete

Community	LED Public Street Light out of service based on night-time audit inspection
Gunyangara	3 – Public LED Street lights

118 – Local Road Maintenance and Traffic Management

Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage Program – East Arnhem Region

Australian and Niugini Services has recently been awarded the tender to undertake the Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage Program for a 12-month period across the six communities within the East Arnhem Region, including Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak, Galiwin'ku, Yirrkala, and Gunyangara.

The scope of works for the 12 month period includes:

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

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

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

119 - Local Road Upgrades and Construction

RFT T25-203419.1 Round 3 – Gunyangara Stormwater Infrastructure Upgrades – Construction Phase

The proposed T25-203419.1 Round 3 Gunyangara Stormwater Infrastructure Upgrades tender project was advertised for public tender on Friday, 7 March 2025 and closed on Wednesday, 7 May 2025. The proposed Stage 1, 3, 4, 7 (Provisional Item), 8 (Provisional Item) & A (Provisional Item) works shall comprise of the following:

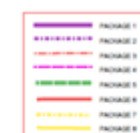
- Mixture of kerb and gutter installations
- Construction of formalised road junction(s) at road intersection(s)
- Drainage works, batter and road reserve reinstatement
- Construction of erosion protection works
- Provision of traffic management and control
- Supply and install road furniture and traffic control devices
- Undertake pavement marking requirements
- Rehabilitation works

Tender pricing submissions were received from potential contractors and were assessed to be competitive. However, due to the recent de-amalgamation of Groote Eylandt (Angurugu, Umbakumba and Bickerton Island) And the formation of their own local regional council, the available project budget has been reduced. As a result, the proposed stormwater infrastructure project cannot proceed at this stage.

The project will remain on hold until further external funding sources can be secured to meet the construction costs.

Consultations are currently underway with the external federal funding organisations and associated agencies to seek and secure the necessary funding to enable the project to proceed.

Project status – ongoing



112 – Building Infrastructure**Lot 16 Council Office –Shipping Container Shelter & Storage**

This scope of works included the construction of a container storage shelter.

The project was awarded to Grenfell Build, with all works completed successfully.

The project is now 100% complete.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Merianne Bretag (General Manager People and Corporate Services)

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUMMARY

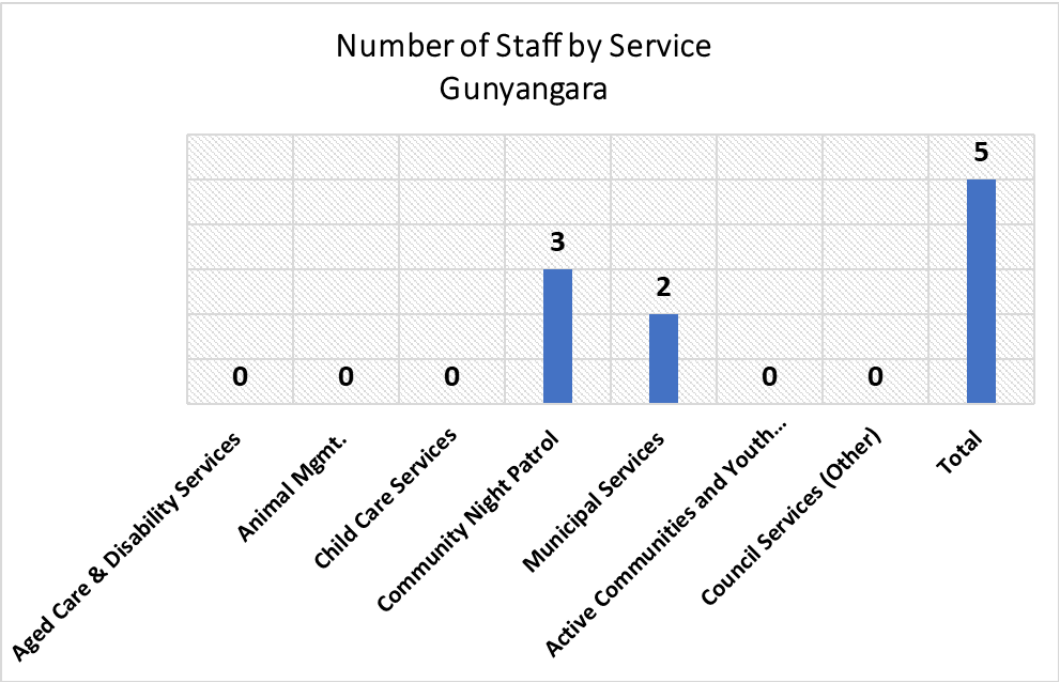
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 30 September 2025 within the Local Authority area.

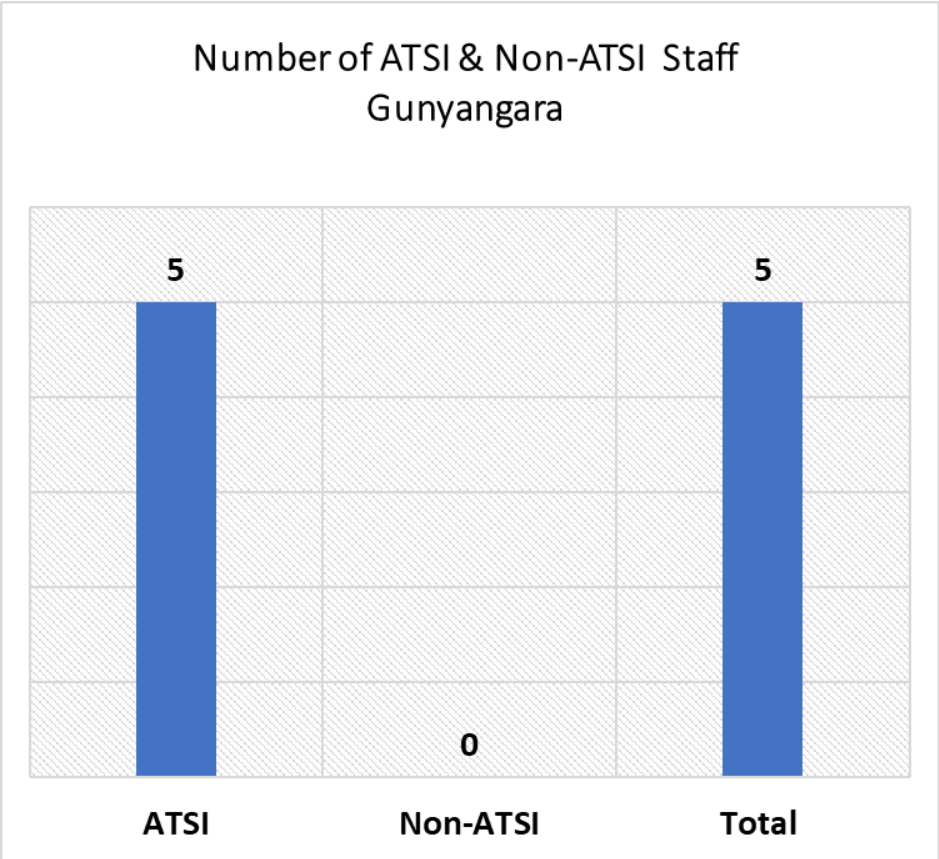
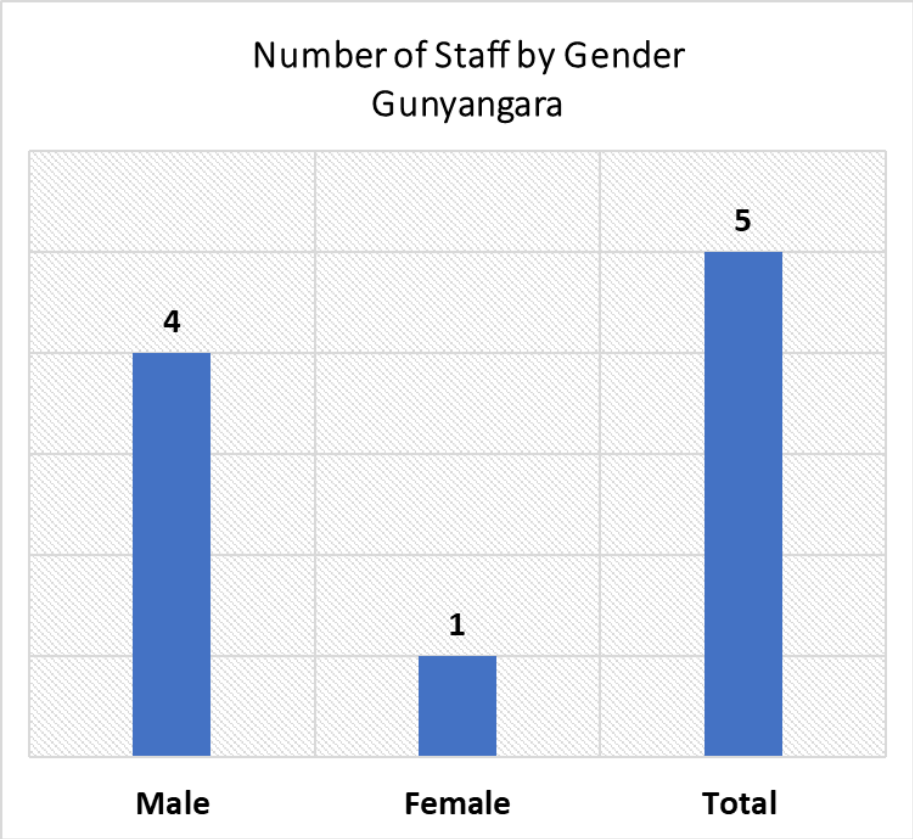
BACKGROUND

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

GENERAL

Employee Statistics:





Vacancies as of 30 September 2025:

Position	Community	Type of Employment	Level	No. of Vacancies
Active Communities Worker (1)	Gunyangara	Community	Level 1	2
Municipal Service Supervisor	Gunyangara	External	Level 6	1
Community Night patrol Officer - Gove Peninsula	Gunyangara	Community	Level 2	1

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

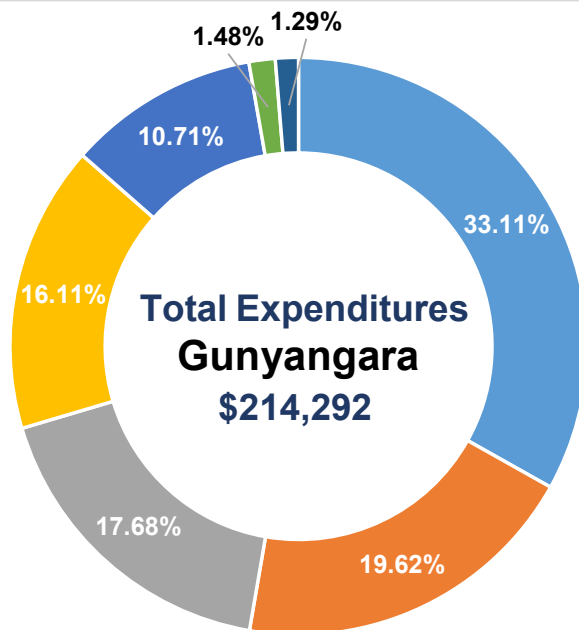
ATTACHMENTS:

1. 03. September 2025 Gunyangara LAPF Funds Left [3.5.1 - 1 page]
2. 03. September 2025 Gunyangara DRAFT Report [3.5.2 - 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - GUNYANGARA FUNDS LEFT

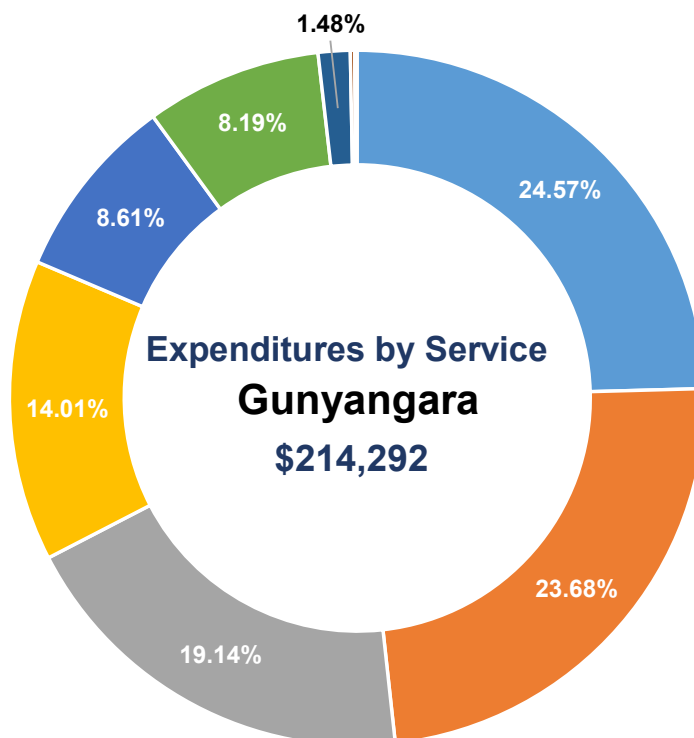
As at 30th September 2025

	\$ AMOUNT
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR	121,795
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	121,795
LESS: PROJECTS BUDGETED	
301519 - LAPF - Gunyagara - Landscaping and beautification	(33,600)
TOTAL PROJECTS BUDGETED	(33,600)
LESS: PROJECTS (ACTUAL COMMITTED FUNDS)	
301419 - LAPF - Gunyagara - Footpaths (school to Gumatj Office)	(143,799)
TOTAL PROJECTS (COMMITTED FUNDS)	(143,799)
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND)	(55,604)
COUNCIL CONTRIBUTION AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS	582,602
ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDING LEFT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS	526,998



where money was spent?

- Materials and Contracts \$70,960
- Core Recovery \$42,040
- Employee Costs \$37,886
- Fleet & Buildings \$34,528
- General \$22,943
- IT Charges \$3,166
- Insurance & Finance \$2,769



- 122 - Building and Infrastructure Services \$52,644
- 129 - Waste and Environmental Services \$50,752
- 147 - Community Patrol and SUS Services \$41,026
- 169 - Municipal Services \$30,015
- 107 - Council Services \$18,452
- 118 - Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management \$17,546
- 152 - Active Communities \$3,169
- 156 - Community Events \$423
- 108 - Veterinary and Animal Control Services \$265

4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

GENERAL BUSINESS:

5 Meeting Close