

OPEN MINUTES for the Ordinary Council Meeting 29 October 2026

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

Chair opened the meeting with prayer at 09:21 am.

Members in Attendance:

Deputy President Stephen Dhamrrandji (Chair)
Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra
Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra
Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi
Cr. Evelyna Dhamarrandji (Attended via Teams)
Cr. Ganygulpa Dhurrkay
Cr. Jason Mirritjawuy (Joined the meeting at 01:15 pm)
Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika
Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu

East Arnhem Regional Council Staff:

Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)
Divyan Ahimaz (Director – Community and Corporate Services)
Shannon Cervini (Director – Council Services)
Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager)

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.1 Attendance

SUMMARY:

This report is to table, for the Councils record, any absences or apologies. Council need to make a decision on whether absences are granted permission.

MOC 2025/339 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the absence of President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Cr. David Warraya and Cr. Lirrpiya Mununggurr.

(b) Notes the apology received from Cr. David Warraya and Cr. Lirrpiya Mununggurr.

(c) Notes President Lapulung Dhamarrandji and Cr. David Warraya are absent with permission of the Council.

(d) Requests Deputy President Stephen Dhamarrandji to write a letter to President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, acknowledging his importance, that council values him and cares for him and encouraging him to attend the Council meetings in person.

(e) Determines Cr. Lirrpiya Mununggurr is absent without permission of the Council under Section 47(1) (0) of the Act.

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MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.2 Declarations of Interest

SUMMARY:

Elected members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council.

MOC 2025/340 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Ganygulpa Dhurrkay)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the Conflict of Interest and Related Parties Register, as amended.

(b) Notes no Conflicts of interest declared at today's meeting.

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.3 Previous Council Minutes

MOC 2025/341 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra)**

That Council endorses the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 27 August 2026.

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 Local Authority Logos

SUMMARY:

The Local Authority logos are part of an ongoing project initiated by Local Authority Members in Galiwin'ku to show the history of individual communities. Three draft logos have been developed with Local Authority Members in Milingimbi, Ramingining and Galiwin'ku.

The name of each Local Authority is currently under review. Each logo will be updated to reflect the new name once a final decision has been endorsed by Council.

MOC 2025/342 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the updates and progress on Local Authority Logos.

(b) Supports further consultation by Councillors with the Local Authorities, to fully capture the story and meaning of their logo for their Local Authority.

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LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.2 Local Authority Name Changes

SUMMARY:

To present the outcomes of consultation undertaken with Local Authorities regarding proposed amendments to Local Authority names and seek Council's endorsement of the preferred naming options.

MOC 2025/342 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the outcomes of the Local Authority name change consultation.

(b) Endorses the proposed Local Authority names received from the consultation process, noting the Yirrkala Local Authority's amended name is subject to consultation and endorsement from the relevant Traditional Owner organisations.

(c) Authorises an updated submission to the Northern Territory Local Government Representation Review.

(d) Authorises submission of the endorsed changes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development for approval.

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.3 LGANT November 2026 Conference

SUMMARY:

The LGANT Conference is an annual event that brings together local government representatives from across the Northern Territory. It provides an opportunity for councillors and senior staff to discuss issues affecting local government, share knowledge and learn about current developments in the sector.

Attendance at the conference will allow Council delegates to network with other councils, government agencies and key stakeholders, while representing Council's interests and gaining information that may benefit the community.

The cost of attending the conference will be funded from the Councillors' Professional Development Allowance budget and can be accommodated within the existing budget allocation.

MOC 2025/344 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra/Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi)**

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That Council:

(a) Appoints the President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Deputy President Stephen Dhamarrandji and Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu, together with the Chief Executive Officer, as Council's delegates to attend the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Conference to be held in Alice Springs on 10 and 11 November 2026.

(b) Authorise the President to nominate an alternate delegate to represent Council at the LGANT Conference should the President Lapulung Dhamarrandji, Deputy President Stephen Dhamarrandji or Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu be unable to attend, with associated costs funded from the Councillors' Professional Development Allowance budget.

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.4 Repayment of Unspent Grant Funds - Growing up Strong Kids Program

SUMMARY:

To seek Council approval for the repayment of unspent grant funds to Anglicare NT for the Growing Up Strong Kids Program (Grant 1319).

MOC 2025/345 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra/Cr. Ganygulpa Dhurrkay)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the completion and acquittal of the Growing Up Strong Kids Program (Grant 1319).

(b) Notes that unspent grant funds of $93,298.49 (GST exclusive) were identified following final acquittal.

(c) Notes that the total repayment amount, including GST, is $102,628.34.

(d) Approves the repayment of $102,628.34 to Anglicare NT in accordance with the funding agreement and Tax Invoice No. IN076723.

LOOKING FORWARD - DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

2.5 Repayment of Unspent Grant Funds - 4WD Buses for Gapuwiyak and Ramingining

SUMMARY:

To seek Council's endorsement for the repayment of unspent grant funding to the Australian Government relating to the 4WD Buses for Gapuwiyak and Ramingining project delivered under the Investing in Community Program.

MOC 2025/346 **RESOLVED (Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)**

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That Council:

(a) Notes the completion and acquittal of the 4WD Buses for Gapuwiyak and Ramingining project.

(b) Notes that total grant funding received for the project was $440,000.00.

(c) Notes that eligible project expenditure totalled $419,850.07.

(d) Approves the repayment of $20,149.93 in unspent grant funds to the Australian Government in accordance with the Funding Agreement.

(e) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake all actions necessary to finalise the grant repayment and close the funding agreement.

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 Minutes of Committees

MOC 2025/347 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra/Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi)**

That Council endorses the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 24 September 2026.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 Minutes of Local Authorities

MOC 2025/348 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council endorses the minutes of the following meetings:

(a) Ramingining Local Authority Meeting held on 22 September 2026.

(b) Milingimbi Local Authority Meeting held on 23 September 2026.

(c) Galiwinku Local Authority Meeting held on 28 September 2026.

(d) Yirrkala Local Authority Meeting held on 30 September 2026.

(e) Gunyangara Local Authority Meeting held on 01 October 2026.

(f) Ramingining Local Authority Special Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

(g) Milingimbi Local Authority Special Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

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(h) Galiwinku Local Authority Special Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

(i) Gapuwiyak Local Authority Special Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

(j) Yirrkala Local Authority Special Meeting held on 21 October 2026.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Local Authority Action Registers

SUMMARY:

This report provides a summary list of actions arising from Local Authority meetings in each of the East Arnhem Regional Council communities.

MOC 2025/349 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bobby Wunungmurra/Cr. Ganygulpa Dhurrkay)**

That Council:

(a) Endorses the actions included in the Local Authority Actions List as recommended by each Local Authority, or as amended.

(b) Approves the removal of completed actions and as recommended by each Local Authority.

Tea break was taken from 10:45 am to 11:15 am.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 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.

MOC 2025/350 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Evelyna Dhamarrandji)**

That Council:

(a) Notes the CEO Report.

(b) Calls for real action to address domestic and family violence, and achieve genuine engagement with young offenders and their families and genuine outcomes, including:

1. **Tackle the illegal sale of kava and other substances that are having a devastating affect on our people.**
2. **All community members to call out any domestic violence, which is not part of our culture.**
3. **Support community events to call out Domestic and Family violence.**

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4. **Coordination with the NT Police and local stakeholders of community events to call out and challenge domestic and family violence.**

5. **Family Responsibility Agreements and Parental Responsibility Orders to be developed and implemented to have real consequences, and additional necessary funding to be provided.**

6. **Support Council, the NT Police, and other organisations to coordinate camps for deep and genuine engagement with young offenders and their parents / key family members, and other activities and engagement with young offenders, and the provision of effective funding from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments.**

7. **The collection of clear data to demonstrate the effect of all these actions.**

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Council Services Report

SUMMARY:

This report is to provide information on the progress, successes, challenges, and future opportunities of the Council Services Directorate.

MOC 2025/351 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council notes the Council Services Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.6 Community Services Report

SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with an update on the activities, achievements and key operational matters across Community Services for the period August to October 2026.

During the reporting period, Council continued delivering essential community programs, with strong participation in community and youth activities, continued aged care and disability support, and positive outcomes for participants. Continued progress was also made in strengthening service quality, compliance and operational systems.

Workforce shortages, infrastructure requirements and service sustainability remain ongoing challenges, particularly within Child Care Services. Council continues to address these matters whist striving to maintain service delivery and working with various stakeholders to improve outcomes across the region.

MOC 2025/352 **RESOLVED (Cr. Ganygulpa Dhurrkay/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)**

That Council notes the Community Services Report.

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NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.7 Public & Transport Infrastructure Report

SUMMARY:

This report is submitted for the Council's consideration and provides program updates from the Council Services Directorate. The updates pertain to capital projects and initiatives aligned with the 2026-2027 Annual Plan.

MOC 2025/353 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council notes the Public & Transport Infrastructure Services Report.

Lunch break was taken from 12:25 pm to 1:15 pm.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.8 Human Resources Report

SUMMARY:

This report provides an overview of Human Resources activities and workforce data for the reporting period. Key HR functions continue to include recruitment, onboarding, workforce planning, employee relations, learning and development, and compliance with employment legislation and Council policies. The attached data provides details of current staffing levels and other workforce indicators to assist Council in monitoring organisational performance and workforce trends.

MOC 2025/354 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi)**

That Council approves the Human Resources Report for the period ended 30 September 2026.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.9 Finance Report

SUMMARY:

This report is tabled to the Council to provide the Finance Report for the period ended 30 September 2026 for its approval.

MOC 2025/355 **RESOLVED (Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council approves the Finance Report for the period ended 30 September 2026.

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NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.10 Correspondence

SUMMARY:

This report details the incoming and outgoing correspondence that Council has received and sent.

MOC 2025/356 **RESOLVED (Cr. Jason Mirritjawuy/Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika)**

That Council notes the Correspondence Register and updates.

4 Confidential Reports

MOC 2025/365 **RESOLVED (Cr. Bandi Bandi Wunungmurra/Cr. Cyril Bukulatjpi)**

That Council move into a confidential session.

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 99 of the Local Government Act, 2019.

That the decisions of Closed Session be noted as follows:- As noted in the Confidential Minutes.

5 Date of Next Meeting

17 December 2026.

6 Meeting Close

The meeting concluded at 04:16 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 29 October 2026 and are to be confirmed.

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