



OPEN AGENDA for the Yirrkala Local Authority
27 May 2026

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-ŋiwŋaram:

- limurr dhu räŋ-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurrŋgalaŋaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharray walŋaw,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Dhaŋu

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

- ŋalma ŋarru räŋ-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ŋakanhaminyarawu ŋalmaliŋuwaywuru,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumatj

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

- ŋilimurru yurru räŋ-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu gaŋga'thinyarawu ŋilimurrŋgalaŋawu,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapthunmaranhamirr bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marraŋu

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

- Dalimurr wurruku räŋ-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurrŋgalaŋaw
- Gaŋgathinyamaranharaw woŋdanŋarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walŋaw,
- Ga ŋayaŋu-ŋapmaranhamirr 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 Yirrkala Local Authority will be held at the Yirrkala Council Office offices on Wednesday 27 May 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:

Graham Mungurrapin
Maymuru Lirripiya Mununggurr
Djapirri Mununggirritj
Dipilinga Marika
Adrian Gurruwiwi
Fabian Marika
James Dhurrkay
Cr Priscilla Yunupingu
Cr Marrpalawuy Marika

Dial-in Details:

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 454 760 466 591 14

Passcode: UP6uQ6Hw

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,,462152436#](#) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 462 152 436#

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 25 March 2026.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Yirrkala Local Authority Minutes 25 March 2026 [1.5.1 - 5 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Yirrkala Local Authority
25 March 2026

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

Djapirri Mununggirritj opened the meeting at 11:35 am.

Members in Attendance:

Djapirri Mununggirritj (Chair)
Adrian Gurruwiwi
James Dhurrkay
Dipilinga Marika
Fabian Marika
Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru
Lirriya Mununggurr

East Arnhem Regional Council Staff:

Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)
Signe Balodis (Director – Council Services)
Sonia Campbell (GM – Technical and Infrastructure Services) – Attended online
Labhjeet Bhullar (Council Services 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.

YIR 2025/52 **RESOLVED** (Djapirri Mununggirritj/Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika and Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu.
- (b) Notes the apology received from Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika and Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu.
- (c) Notes Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika and Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu are absent with permission of the Local Authority.

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

25 MARCH 2026

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

YIR 2025/53 **RESOLVED (Dipilinga Marika/Lirripiya Mununggurr)**

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

YIR 2025/54 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/Adrian Gurruwiwi)**

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 January 2026.

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.

YIR 2025/55 **RESOLVED (Dipilinga Marika/Adrian Gurruwiwi)**

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.

YIR 2025/58 **RESOLVED (Adrian Gurruwiwi/James Dhurrkay)**

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

25 MARCH 2026

That the Local Authority :

(a) Notes the CEO report.

(b) Endorses the improved and expanded Advocacy issues as endorsed by Council.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.3 Council Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

YIR 2025/59 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/Dipilinga Marika)**

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.4 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.

YIR 2025/56 **RESOLVED (Djapirri Mununggirritj/Dipilinga Marika)**

That Local Authority note 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 28 February 2026 within the Local Authority area.

YIR 2025/60 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru)**

That Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 28 February 2026.

3 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

DISCUSSION WITH THE LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

3.1 Discussion with the Local Police Department

YIR 2025/57 **RESOLVED** (Djapirri Mununggirritj/Fabian Marika)

That the Local Authority

- (a) **Notes the updates provided by the local Police Department.**
- (b) **Calls for an official review to be conducted to determine the structural safety rating of all housing and other buildings across the local communities and homelands of East Arnhem land and beyond, to ensure the protection of the lives of all Yolnu and Balanda people, through all people being properly informed of where they can safely shelter, and provision of funding to construct new cyclone shelters / multi purpose halls where needed, in the event of cyclones up to a category level 5.**

YOUTH REPRESENTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

3.2 Youth Representation and Engagement

YIR 2025/61 **RESOLVED** (Djapirri Mununggirritj/James Dhurrkay)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Authority Endorses the appointment of at least one young woman and one young man (16 to 25 years of age) – to formalise the greater direct engagement of young people, and their voices on important issues, challenges and opportunities.

The next meeting is to be held on 27 May 2026.

4 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 03:28 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Yirrkala Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 25 March 2026.

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

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 Yirrkala 2026 2 [2.1.1 - 9 pages]

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

<u>ACTION ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION OWNER</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Kava			<p>12.05.2021 – Email was received, stating that there is no action regarding the Kava Pilot – Ongoing</p> <p>18.05.2021 – Update provided to LA, EARC will be provided update from government once received.</p> <p>12.01.2022 – A separate report was presented on this by the CEO – ongoing.</p> <p>15.03.2022 – A detail discussion took place with the members, President and the CEO.</p> <p>17.05.2022 - Call on the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to work with the Local Authorities and Regional Council to ensure genuine and thorough consultation and engagement with all communities and homelands of East Arnhem Land, on the important and pressing issues of the possible introduction of the legal sale of kava and alcohol’.</p> <p>19.07.2022 – Ongoing</p> <p>20.09.2022 - covered in CEO Report</p> <p>19.10.22 - President and CEO to follow up a positive discussion on this issue at a meeting with the Chief Minister to the region, with the Executive Director of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, on gaining action on the Local Authority and Council resolutions.</p> <p>22.11.2022 – As above.</p> <p>17.01.2023 – Deferred until return of CEO from leave.</p> <p>21.03.23 – to be discussed in CEO Report. Good progress being made with the Government.</p> <p>26.10.23 – to be discussed and covered in the CEO Report.</p> <p>21.11.23 – Progress being made with discussions with Chief Ministers Office Dr Frank Daly. However, Dr Daly has since left NTG so further discussions to be had with his replacement.</p> <p>14.12.23 – As above.</p> <p>23.01.24 – Further discussions to be held ongoing with NIAA at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>21.02.24 – Discussion took place among the PFES and NTG regarding issues relating to Kava and Alcohol in the communities. PFES requested continuous support from communities to provide information so that these can be addressed.</p> <p>26.03.24 – Ongoing</p> <p>24.04.24 – CEO to write to Department for an update.</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

			<p>21.05.24 – NTG and NIAA to be invited to next Pre-Agenda day of Council</p> <p>25.06.24 - Response from Linda Burney received 23 May 2024 to CEO correspondence of September 2023 advising further discussion with Gerrit Wanganeen from NIAA. NIAA & NTG attending June 2024 Council meeting.</p> <p>16.07.24 – No progress since last discussion.</p> <p>21.01.25 – CEO has raised this issue with Jacinta Price’s office as one of 8 Advocacy Items.</p> <p>19.02.25 – Council is going to seek the support of Local Member Yingiya Guyula MLA for Milka to raise this issue.</p> <p>18.03.25 – Mr. Guyula spoke to the members via TEAMS and had a discussion regarding kava. Further update in the CEO Report.</p> <p>27.05.25 – Further talks occur with newly elected Government. Superintendent Jody Nobbs has been able to leverage NTG, with a support-based consultation with community to occur in next financial year.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Councillors want to form a committee and travel to Darwin to raise their concerns and get some action. They are tired of no action and are especially worried about the harm the illegal sale of kava is causing in the community, particularly to children.</p> <p>24.10.25 – Police in Nhulunbuy informed that they received a letter from the Minister stating that the NT Government is willing to conduct community consultations.</p> <p>20.05.26- 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.</p>
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YIRRKALA ACTIONS

<p>PA System</p>		<p>That the Local Authority: Requests the General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services to have discussions with Rirratjingu on options to improve the public announcement system coverage in Yirrkala.</p>	<p>12.05.2021 – Ongoing. 25.11.2021 – Ongoing. Gained permission from Rirratjingu to place speaker on their office building. Quotation being sourced. 24.03.2022 – Permission has been granted, however obtaining trades to complete work. 26.05.2022 – Ongoing 02.12.2022 – New ICT is exploring options for installation with expectations of installation by Jan 2023. 03.02.23 – PA to be mounted on one of the new towers on the oval. 02.06.23 – Update needs to be obtained from Director Technical & Infrastructure services. 27.07.23 – Project is underway. 26.10.23 - tied in with lighting replacement which will occur next week with pa system to be put on one of the towers. 05.02.24 - Ongoing 08.04.24 – Ongoing. 24.04.24 – More work to be done electrically. 25.06.24 – No update. 25.07.24 – No update – meeting was cancelled with Rirratingu, to be rescheduled. 26.09.24 – Members to ask Rirratingu to attend next meeting. 28.11.24 – Ensure Rirratingu is invited to next Local Authority meeting for discussions. Manager of Building and Infrastructure team to meet with Rirratingu and gain a solution and provide follow up. 11.12.24 – Ongoing 10.02.25 – Ongoing – engage with talks to commence meeting (General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services) 27.03.25 – Have engaged with IT and coming up with a conclusion on how to get the PA system working throughout the community. 23.04.25 – Ongoing 28.05.25 – Rirratingu as advised they would like to have a joint PA system with EARC. Members have asked that this be a priority – General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services will work with Regional Manager Council Services and Council Services Manager to ensure this is progressed as a matter of priority. 25.06.25 – To organise a meeting.</p>
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YIRRKALA ACTIONS

		<p>29.10.25 – GMTIS to organise a meeting with Rirratjingu to explore the option of connecting PA to EARC system.</p> <p>24.02.26 – IT department is working with Rirratjingu.</p> <p>25.03.26 – IT Manager waiting on information from Rirratjingu. The Local Authority invites the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation Chair, CEO and other nominated board members to meet together at the next Local Authority meeting to discuss these and any other issues of importance of how we can work together.</p>
<p>Children’s Playground \$60,000</p>		<p>18.01.2021 – application lodged with the NLC for approval to construct – awaiting consultative forum.</p> <p>12.05.2021 – Ongoing</p> <p>25.11.2021 – Was not approved. Will be discussed again in six months’ time.</p> <p>24.03.2021 – purchasing the kit – to be installed undercover – waiting on approval.</p> <p>26.05.2022 – Waiting on approval.</p> <p>22.06.2022 – Unit has been purchased – will await consultation on location.</p> <p>02.12.2022 – Consultation timeframes have not been provided by the NLC.</p> <p>03.02.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals.</p> <p>02.06.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals.</p> <p>27.07.23 – has been raised with Chief Minister.</p> <p>29.08.23 – ongoing waiting on outcomes.</p> <p>26.10.23 – been purchased waiting on consultations.</p> <p>05.02.24 – still waiting on approvals.</p> <p>08.04.24 – Awaiting for approval from NLC.</p> <p>24.04.24 – Waiting on Land Trust</p> <p>25.06.24 – As above</p> <p>27.07.24 – Still waiting on NLC approval for land usage.</p> <p>26.09.24 – Update to be provided by Director Technical and Infrastructure Services waiting on NLC. A letter to be compiled to NLC to ask when this will be resolved.</p> <p>31.10.24 – Council to raise its dissatisfaction in the lack of any progress in gaining approval from NLC regarding the approval use of land for children’s playground and waste transfer station for Yirrkala.</p> <p>28.11.24 – Local Authority to invite the NLC East Arnhem Board Members Djawa, Yanawul and Craig Bonney to the next Local Authority meeting to discuss approval of the playground and waste transfer station for Yirrkala.</p> <p>11.12.24 – Ongoing as above.</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

			<p>10.02.25 – Investigate and follow up with approval status. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services to speak with NLC and write a letter to invite them to the next meeting.</p> <p>27.03.25 – Ongoing as above.</p> <p>23.04.25 – No change.</p> <p>28.05.25 – An email was sent to NLC with no response. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services will attend the NLC office in person to progress this matter in a face to face discussion to gain traction.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Report findings has been delivered and waiting for the necessary processes to go through. Technical and Infrastructure team to organise meeting with Craig Bonney as there are few projects that EARC has been waiting on .</p> <p>29.10.25 – GMTIS to follow up with NLC Regional Manager Craig Bonney and to provide map of the planned playground site at the next LA Meeting.</p> <p>22.11.25 – Ongoing</p> <p>26.11.25 – Move to Advocacy till we obtain funding for the project.</p>
<p>Alter current application for community toilet block and Ceremony area to change Location from shady beach to ceremony ground.</p>		<p>28.05.25 – Action Item title changed to include Ceremony Area.</p>	<p>03.02.23 – Agreed location no problem. To potentially include a shower. Shane to update this item.</p> <p>02.06.23 – WIP</p> <p>26.10.23 – change to change rooms and toilet block at ceremony area. We have received funding for this.</p> <p>22.02.24 – LAPF Project. Ongoing.</p> <p>08.04.24 – Awaiting NLC approval.</p> <p>24.04.24 – waiting on Land Trust approval</p> <p>25.06.24 – As above.</p> <p>27.07.24 – Still waiting on NLC approval. Two ceremony areas in Yirrkala. Members request one toilet block at each. Director Technical & Infrastructure Services to write an additional letter to follow up for the members. Also to investigate resources for cleaning the toilet and to have it open on Saturdays.</p> <p>27.09.24 – As above</p> <p>26.09.24 – Ongoing Director Technical and Infrastructure Services – toilets for Webb way and recreation area – a letter be written to the NLC from LA requesting a timeline for approval.</p> <p>28.11.24 - Ongoing Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services – toilets for Webb way ceremony ground and recreation area – a letter be written to the NLC from LA</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

			<p>requesting a timeline for approval. – Local Authority to invite the NLC East Arnhem Board Members Djawa Yunupingu , Yananymul Mununggurr and Craig Bonney to the next Local Authority meeting to discuss approval of the toilets for Webb Way ceremony ground and recreation area for Yirrkala. Building and Infrastructure Manager to consult and liaise with community members to develop a list of needs and map of locations.</p> <p>11.12.24 – Writing a letter to the NLC requesting a timeline for approval – still in progress.</p> <p>10.02.25 – Compile info to write letter for support. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure to engage with Rirratingu.</p> <p>27.03.25 – Have engaged with Rirratingu in regards to ceremony area and toilet block project.</p> <p>23.04.25 – Plans have been drawn up and are currently in costing.</p> <p>28.05.25 – Rirratingu to be asked to join next Local Authority meeting to discuss – General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services to pass on the invitation.</p> <p>25.06.25- May need to seek new funding as previous funding was terminated.</p> <p>29.10.25- GMTIS to confirm the location and the stage of works for this project. Seek new funding revenue for this project.</p> <p>24.02.26 – To apply for the grant funding to be able to complete the Ceremony area.</p> <p>25.03.26 - The Local Authority confirm that the current location of the ceremony area on Webb Way, and the Infrastructure on it is the location that the GMTIS will apply for a Section 19 lease, following discussions to seek support from the Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation.</p>
<p>New Cemetery</p>		<p>General manager to look into location for new cemetery.</p>	<p>23.04.25 – Ongoing there are three cemeteries in Yirrkala two of which Council have the lease on. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services and Director Council Services will review after walk around and revise.</p> <p>28.05.25 – The members have endorsed the new cemetery area as show in the Yirrkala Municipal map dated 12012015.</p> <p>25.06.25 – No further updates as yet.</p> <p>29.10.25 – GMTIS to follow up the progress of NLC submission for section 19 lease on the proposed new cemetery area and update in the next LA Meeting.</p> <p>24.02.26 – Civil works to be completed current cemetery, new cemetery not required at this stage.</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

			<p>25.03.26 – Work to commence at the end of wet season including Rirritjingu Aboriginal Corporation indigenous training facility participants and using the earth works as a training opportunity.</p>
<p><u>Yirrkala Future Actions/ Advocacy:</u></p>			
<p>Marine Navigation Lights at Yirrkala Ramp</p>			<p>1.06.2020 – The Council does not have jurisdiction for the boat ramp, and in turn, any marine navigation lights for it. The Local Authority agreed for the Council to advocate for this in the future, as proposed by the Director of Technical & Infrastructure Services and the CEO of Council.</p> <p>18.01.2021 – Issue for Advocacy ongoing.</p>
<p>Children’s Playground \$60,000</p>			<p>18.01.2021 – application lodged with the NLC for approval to construct – awaiting consultative forum.</p> <p>12.05.2021 – Ongoing</p> <p>25.11.2021 – Was not approved. Will be discussed again in six months’ time.</p> <p>24.03.2021 – purchasing the kit – to be installed undercover – waiting on approval.</p> <p>26.05.2022 – Waiting on approval.</p> <p>22.06.2022 – Unit has been purchased – will await consultation on location.</p> <p>02.12.2022 – Consultation timeframes have not been provided by the NLC.</p> <p>03.02.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals.</p> <p>02.06.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals.</p> <p>27.07.23 – has been raised with Chief Minister.</p> <p>29.08.23 – ongoing waiting on outcomes.</p> <p>26.10.23 – been purchased waiting on consultations.</p> <p>05.02.24 – still waiting on approvals.</p> <p>08.04.24 – Awaiting for approval from NLC.</p> <p>24.04.24 – Waiting on Land Trust</p> <p>25.06.24 – As above</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

<u>ACTION ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION OWNER</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
Kava			<p>12.05.2021 – Email was received, stating that there is no action regarding the Kava Pilot – Ongoing</p> <p>18.05.2021 – Update provided to LA, EARC will be provided update from government once received.</p> <p>12.01.2022 – A separate report was presented on this by the CEO – ongoing.</p> <p>15.03.2022 – A detail discussion took place with the members, President and the CEO.</p> <p>17.05.2022 - Call on the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to work with the Local Authorities and Regional Council to ensure genuine and thorough consultation and engagement with all communities and homelands of East Arnhem Land, on the important and pressing issues of the possible introduction of the legal sale of kava and alcohol’.</p> <p>19.07.2022 – Ongoing</p> <p>20.09.2022 - covered in CEO Report</p> <p>19.10.22 - President and CEO to follow up a positive discussion on this issue at a meeting with the Chief Minister to the region, with the Executive Director of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet, on gaining action on the Local Authority and Council resolutions.</p> <p>22.11.2022 – As above.</p> <p>17.01.2023 – Deferred until return of CEO from leave.</p> <p>21.03.23 – to be discussed in CEO Report. Good progress being made with the Government.</p> <p>26.10.23 – to be discussed and covered in the CEO Report.</p> <p>21.11.23 – Progress being made with discussions with Chief Ministers Office Dr Frank Daly. However, Dr Daly has since left NTG so further discussions to be had with his replacement.</p> <p>14.12.23 – As above.</p> <p>23.01.24 – Further discussions to be held ongoing with NIAA at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>21.02.24 – Discussion took place among the PFES and NTG regarding issues relating to Kava and Alcohol in the communities. PFES requested continuous support from communities to provide information so that these can be addressed.</p> <p>26.03.24 – Ongoing</p> <p>24.04.24 – CEO to write to Department for an update.</p> <p>27.07.24 – Still waiting on NLC approval for land usage.</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

			<p>26.09.24 – Update to be provided by Director Technical and Infrastructure Services waiting on NLC. A letter to be compiled to NLC to ask when this will be resolved.</p> <p>31.10.24 – Council to raise its dissatisfaction in the lack of any progress in gaining approval from NLC regarding the approval use of land for children’s playground and waste transfer station for Yirrkala.</p> <p>28.11.24 – Local Authority to invite the NLC East Arnhem Board Members Djawa, Yanawul and Craig Bonney to the next Local Authority meeting to discuss approval of the playground and waste transfer station for Yirrkala.</p> <p>10.02.25 – Investigate and follow up with approval status. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services to speak with NLC and write a letter to invite them to the next meeting.</p> <p>27.03.25 – Ongoing as above.</p> <p>28.05.25 – An email was sent to NLC with no response. General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services will attend the NLC office in person to progress this matter in a face to face discussion to gain traction.</p> <p>25.06.25 – Report findings has been delivered and waiting for the necessary processes to go through. Technical and Infrastructure team to organise meeting with Craig Bonney as there are few projects that EARC has been waiting on .</p> <p>29.10.25 – GMTIS to follow up with NLC Regional Manager Craig Bonney and to provide map of the planned playground site at the next LA Meeting.</p> <p>22.11.25 – Ongoing</p> <p>26.11.25 – Move to Advocacy till we obtain funding for the project.</p>
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NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.2 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:

The latest issue that the Council and Local Authorities have added to the Council's Advocacy Agenda is:

The de-registration of providers or related companies of disability services that are involved in exploitation and abuse of clients, and other illegal activities.

As CEO I have provided direct input from Council to the NT News / news.com.au on the nature and extent of the exploitation of community members with a disability, and a call for action by the Federal Government to address it.

These points were included in the published news article, that I will talk through with Local Authority Members.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 17052026 N T- News East- Arnhem- Regional- Council-moves-to-protect- NDI S-participants-from-dodgy-p [2.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. 17052026 N T- News EAR C-moves-to-protect- NDI S-participants-from-dodgy-providers-online 1_i 7 A 89 [2.2.2 - 3 pages]

SUNDAY Territorian

MAY 17, 2026

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BINGO JACKPOTS TO A WHOPPING \$47,000
PAGE 2



BASS FANS BRAVE HEAT
PAGES 4 - 5



NT'S BUDGET CLASH
PAGES 10 - 11

FOOTY FEVER HITS NT

GC Suns shine in the Top End as they notch their 10th win in a row at their Darwin fortress **PAGES 12-13**



Council calls for crackdown on dodgy NDIS providers

CARE CROOKS

A remote Northern Territory regional council has taken an unprecedented step in its battle to protect vulnerable citizens from "abuse" by unscrupulous National Disability Insurance Scheme providers.

FULL STORY, PAGE 7

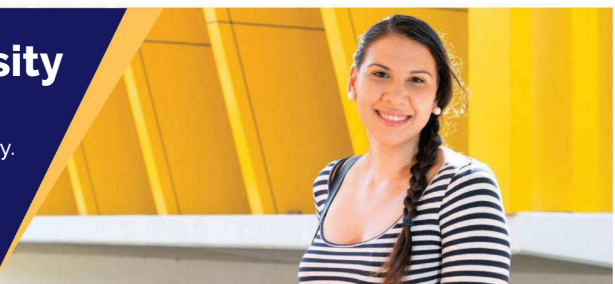
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Our Tertiary Enabling Program is designed to build your confidence before starting a degree, with no fees to study.

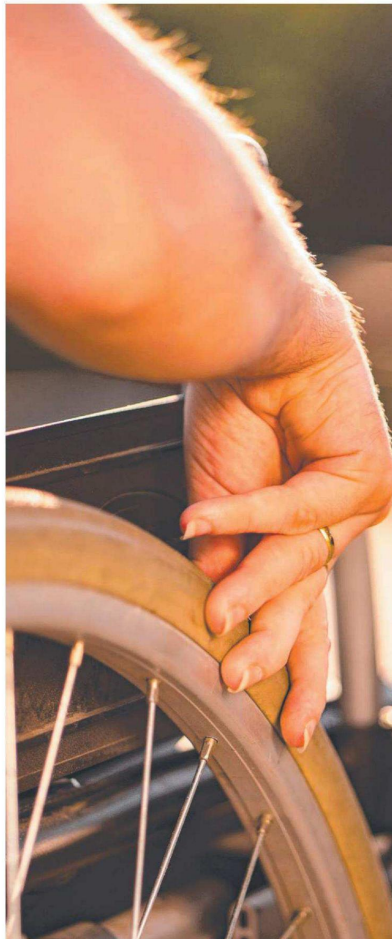


CDU pathways

CRICOS Provider No. 00300K | RTO Provider No. 0373 | TEQSA Provider ID PRV12069



DODGY PROVIDERS TOLD TO GET OUT OF TOWNS



REMOTE COUNCIL ACTS TO PROTECT THE VULNERABLE

Camden Smith

A remote Northern Territory regional council has taken an unprecedented step in its battle to protect vulnerable citizens from "abuse" by unscrupulous National Disability Insurance Scheme providers.

East Arnhem Regional Council recently moved to protect scores of NDIS participants from dodgy service providers, as Territory courts prepare to hear allegations of systemic fraud by NT providers.

At a meeting earlier this year East Arnhem Regional Council carried a formal resolution to protect local NDIS users from operators believed to be acting unethically or illegally.

Communities in East Arnhem Regional Council include Galiwinku, Gapuiyak, Milingimbi and Ramingining. Council's motion sought "the de-registration of providers or related companies of disability services that are involved in exploitation and abuse of clients, and other illegal activities."

East Arnhem Regional Council chief executive Dale Keehne said NDIS providers have entered communities without local ties, housing, workforce or resources and approached people with pre-filled service agreements.

"They were falsely claiming links to councils, community leaders or existing providers," Mr Keehne said. "Over-quoting and overcharging are common and there are community reports of inducement



National Disability Insurance Scheme

ments including illegal supply of kava and alcohol.

"We have had reports of incentives being offered including phones, food, alcohol, cigarettes, cash and vehicles to switch providers. That rapidly exhausts plans and leaves trusted providers as a last resort.

"Participants are then unable to access other genuine and needed services. We have reports of providers claiming significant funds from participants' NDIS allocations by manipulating the participant's need to travel to Darwin for apparent respite."

Another lurk involved support co-ordination services claiming payments for phoning participants in remote communities, then providing no follow-up services or physical visits or participant assessments.

"Unscrupulous providers attempt to gain permits from the Northern Land Council on false grounds, to gain access to communities for their exploitation," Mr Keehne said.

"There are reports of them targeting Aboriginal people with disability at Royal Darwin Hospital, particularly young mothers of children with disabilities."

He said a result of the cor-

ruption is that participant plans are exhausted without essential supports being delivered, meaning participants return to established providers in poorer condition and without funding.

"Remote participants are especially vulnerable due to complexity, poverty and thin markets," Mr Keehne said.

"Trust in the NDIS and its providers is eroded, and legitimate providers are tarnished by bad actors. As well, fraudulent claiming distorts utilisation data, overstating market capacity."

In a column in this newspaper (below), Somerville Community Services chief executive Natasha Fyles noted the need for registration in the Northern Territory to deliver kid sports voucher programs, but not NDIS programs. Dale Keehne agrees that substantial anomaly must be reversed.

"Providers operating in remote communities should be NDIS registered, given heightened vulnerability and risk," he said. "Amendments to registration claims should be proportionate to risk, but remote -

ness and vulnerability do not appear to be considered in these assessments.

Community safeguards are important but cannot replace regulation. "Questions remain about how providers with no local ties, housing or infrastructure receive permits to operate in the community."

Mr Keehne said in conjunction with sweeping changes announced to the NDIS last month, a major increase is required to resource the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission "to support effective education, regulation and enforcement - which is significantly under resourced."



East Arnhem Regional Council's Dale Keehne.

NDIS changes necessary to secure scheme's future

Natasha Fyles



The National Disability Insurance Scheme, or NDIS as it is known, was established in 2013 after a grassroots advocacy campaign that fought for a fairer system for disability support recognising that "Every Australian Counts".

Since it started the NDIS has empowered Territorians living with disability to have choice and control. People with a disability are individuals and therefore the packages that support them need to be designed individually. There can't be a broadbrush approach.

There's an acknowledgment

that this vital service for many Territorians needs to change and the NDIS needs to be sustainable for the long term.

Minister Mark Butler recently outlined to the National Press Club the most significant changes in the way disability supports will be provided since the inception of the NDIS. The government's plan to secure the future of the scheme will be delivered through four pillars: fighting fraud and stopping rorts; slowing rapid costs increases; clearer eligibility requirements; and delivering quality services and support.

The minister spoke about a reduction in NDIS expenditure from over \$70bn to \$55bn by 2030. Figures have been quoted of a reduction of 160,000 people on the scheme. There is much uncertainty as

to who these people will be and what services will be available to them. Understandably, it was what was not announced that has caused much anxiety.

When you're taking something away from people, you need to identify who and what will replace that.

Sadly, since the introduction of the NDIS there have been people who have come to the sector who are doing the wrong thing. Presently, it seems those doing the wrong thing are thriving with very little oversight.

It is astounding that you need to be registered to deliver a program for a kid's sports voucher, yet you can claim thousands of dollars from the government without being registered and without being monitored.

People with a disability are

often isolated and vulnerable, and we have both here in the NT making them more exposed to these poor practices. We need to make sure providers operating in the Territory have the right mission, vision and values.

There have been appalling stories of fraudulent behaviour, and the move to a digital payments system is welcomed as it will enhance transparency and provide stronger oversight.

The changes around NDIS plans being reviewed is also much welcomed.

People with a lifelong disability should not have to go through red tape and prove they have a disability time and time again.

This causes great distress for families and guardians. Reviews should occur when

requested or when they contribute to improving a person's quality of life but not unnecessary plan reviews for bureaucracy's sake.

There are plenty of good stories where the NDIS has changed lives, increased independence and allowed improved choice and control. One such program is Community Access. It is an important program to support individual wellbeing and community life, so it is vital to ensure the views of participants are heard. We must remember the NDIS was designed with a key principle to enhance social inclusion and community participation.

Unlike many areas of the federal government where decisions are made thousands of kilometres away in Canberra, the National

Disability Insurance Agency who implement the scheme for Territorians are based here in the Territory and are approachable. The NT government is also well placed with foundational support programs such as the Child Development Team.

Presently over \$950m in NDIS funding could be allocated to Territorians. This provides a huge opportunity to deliver quality supports in a culturally safe manner across the NT in urban centres, regional towns and remote communities.

Understanding how these scheme changes will impact the quality of life for some of the most isolated and vulnerable in the Territory.

Natasha Fyles is the CEO of Somerville Community Services

NT News | 17 May 2026

East Arnhem Regional Council moves to protect NDIS participants from dodgy providers

The leaders of an NT regional council have moved to stop systemic corruption of the NDIS. Read what's happened.

[Camden Smith](#) – Reporter - [@CamdenSmith1](#)

2 min read | May 17, 2026 - 12:30AM

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East Arnhem Regional Council Dale Keehne

NT News | 17 May 2026

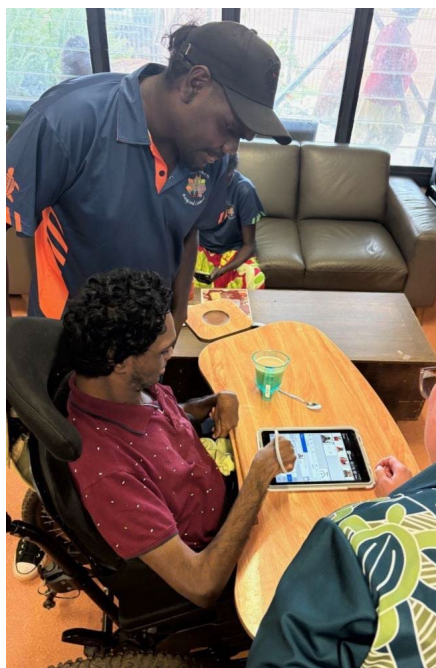
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NDIS participants in East Arnhem Regional Council.

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NT News | 17 May 2026

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Mr Keehne said in conjunction with sweeping changes announced to the NDIS last month, a major increase is required to resource the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission “to support effective education, regulation and enforcement - which is significantly under resourced.”

A Darwin man is facing court on fraud counts in relation to about \$5m in suspicious NDIS claims.

Full Article: <https://www.ntnews.com.au/business/northern-territory/east-arnhem-regional-council-moves-to-protect-ndis-participants-from-dodgy-providers/news-story/c0d1a05872a0069b8c9e003656d68e9f>

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.3 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.

We sincerely thank Lochlann Allen, Troy Dwyer and Labhjeet Bhullar for sharing the workload and looking after the Council Office Yirrkala while Shannon Cervini (Regional Manager-Council Services) is away on leave and Brad Lena (Municipal Services Supervisor) is covering the Municipal Services Supervisor (MSS) role in Milingimbi.

We have recently undertaken several community and stakeholder surveys to better understand service delivery, community needs, and engagement levels. The surveys received strong participation, and the feedback was very positive, which will help support ongoing improvements.



A/CSM conducting community Surveys

The Australia Post Scanner trial continues to be a success. The handheld scanner allows us to digitally scan parcels into the system and notify customers that their parcel is awaiting collection at the Yirrkala CPA.

The Community Liaison Officer position remains vacant, and we are actively seeking suitable candidates to fill this vacancy.

Municipal Services

Our Municipal team has been working hard across the community on general clean-ups, hard rubbish removal and recycling projects. They have been also working in and around the Oval to maintain its great condition and held up well throughout the wet season.

In March 2026, the Municipal Services team achieved a significant milestone by successfully completing their Medium Rigid (MR) truck driving license assessments. This accomplishment ensures that team members are now qualified and authorised to operate MR-class vehicles, improving operational efficiency, flexibility, and service delivery across municipal tasks.

A huge thank you to our Municipal team for their outstanding efforts in cleaning up the community following Cyclone Narelle. The team has worked diligently to clear fallen trees and branches, ensuring public areas are safe and accessible again. Their prompt response, teamwork, and commitment have made a significant difference in restoring normal conditions for the community.



Yirrkala Municipal Team during Post Cyclone Cleanup



Troy Dwyer (Municipal Supervisor Gunyangara) assisting Yirrkala team with the Post Cyclone Cleanup

The Municipal Services and Council Services support team has also provided opportunities for collaboration and support to many organisations both within Yirrkala and surrounding areas by providing our civic equipment in-kind for them to use at their events. Items include the BBQ trailer, gazebos, folding tables, chairs, bins, and LED Screen, etc.

Community Night Patrol (CNP)

Community Night Patrol continues to strengthen as a team. We are increasingly collaborating with other organisations and actively engaging with youth. Night Patrol is making additional efforts to connect with young people during community activities. Night Patrol has been making significant progress in engaging with youth, strengthening relationships, and it is becoming evident that children are developing greater trust in Night Patrol.



CNP engaging with Youth

We currently have no new staff members, but in the process of new hires.

CNP has been actively participating in community activities, hosting Milo and bickie stations bi-weekly and engaging in events with the youth. CNP are enjoying the engagement and are always working towards building stronger relationships with not only youth but the community in general. CNP continue to collaborate with community organisations and youth programs.



CNP Coordinator (Renee Blythe) spending time with kids



Kids Playing with CNP Staff

CNP will continue to participate in any available training opportunities. On 30 April, CNP will meet with Anglicare to gain further insights into Volatile Substance Use (VSU) and to discuss potential ideas for supporting youth who are currently engaging in VSU and their families.

CNP staff occasionally experience some frustration due to differences between community members expectations and the actual regulations of their responsibilities. A few team members have shared concerns that their efforts may not always be fully recognised, and that attempts to communicate the purpose of Night Patrol to clients can sometimes result in difference of options, particularly when interacting with intoxicated individuals. Recently, some community members have expressed concerns linking CNP not “fixing” the youth sniffing, which can be disappointing for officers who are consistently aware of these issues and are doing their best to support the youth and their families. Additionally, CNP officers sometimes encounter verbal abuse and threats from clients and community members, when they are simply trying to do their job.

CNP will be trialing a new shift from 4PM to 8PM to better support active communities and increase engagement with youth. This initiative aims to connect with young people who may remain in the area after activities conclude. The CNP bus will be utilized for this shift, with a handover to the following shift afterward. The focus will be on building relationships with youth and their families during more convenient hours.



CNP and Active Communities Collaborating for youth activities

Aged Care & Disability Services (ACDS)

Yirrkala Aged Care supports over fifty (50+) clients within the community. The service has experienced growth over the beginning of the year as elderly individuals and people with disabilities have relocated to Yirrkala from their homelands.

We would like to thank StARRH – Students Association for Rural and Remote Health for their kind donations towards our bingo prize box, we were also donated a Bluetooth speaker and a board game. The speaker has already come in very handy during our Tuesday morning exercise at the centre with the visiting physio from Arnhem Allied Health Clinic. We are always grateful for the support from different stakeholders.



Students Association for Rural and Remote Health meeting with ACDS clients

We currently have a vacant position for an Aged Care & Disability Services Care Coordinator and two vacant positions for Aged Care & Disability Services Support Worker.

The Rirratjingu Career Pathways Program at the Barawun Centre has been assisting with local employment, we look forward in working together to have the Support Worker positions fulfilled.

Aged care staff, clients and participants attended the Easter Party on the 2 April 2026 at the Yirrkala Recreational Hall. This was the first community event of the year that Yirrkala ACDS took part in. Everyone was enjoying the BBQ by Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and the company of Families as First Teachers (FaFT), Yirrkala School and Yirrkala Childcare. ACDS staff will be attending the annual Midawarr Day at Gove Peninsula Surf Life-Saving Club on 6 May 2026.



Creative Easter hats



Easter party at Recreation Hall

Bush activities are currently on hold due to the cost of fuel price. In the meantime, activities at the centre and in community are continuing as usual.

Our Monthly Activity Calendar are prepared so participants have something to do each day. Some activities include Tuesday morning exercise with support staff or fortnightly with visiting physio, exercise Bingo, DIY candle making, foot spa, aged care barber with support officer, Ben.

ACDS staff completed Certificate III in Individual Support training in March, and the opportunity was well received by all staff.

The recent Tropical Cyclone Narelle did not cause much damage. Clients were all found to be well and safe. Staff and clients were aware of plans before cyclone and post cyclone. The main issue that was faced was what to do during the cyclone event. Clients have reported that the alert message to get to a shelter was delivered too late as wind speed has already picked

up and clients from community could not travel to the shelter in Nhulunbuy. Clients in old home structures/ building were the main ones faced with this issue.

Clients and staff also reported issues with communication from authority or SecureNT as everyone mentioned they have stopped receiving more advice or notification regarding the cyclone around 8:00pm and throughout the night, there weren't any updates provided, people weren't sure what is happening, or if there are any changes to the cyclone category or any other danger.

Child Care Services

We have achieved strong community engagement through collaborations with Families as First Teachers (FAFT), Aged Care and Disability Services and Rirratjingu on Easter celebration in April 2026



Child Care Staff with Kids enjoying Easter



Kids activities during Easter Party

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to Roisin Liddle on 6 March 2026, as she has relocated to Darwin. Roisin has been a valued member of our team, forming strong, meaningful relationships with both staff and families during her time with us. Her positive contribution and commitment will certainly be missed by everyone in our community.

We are pleased to welcome Kalesita Fale to our Child Care Services team in the role of Child Care Coordinator, and the Team Leader position remains vacant. We are in the process of reviewing this and will provide updates as they become available. In the meantime, the team is working collaboratively to ensure continuity of care and maintain the high standards that Roisin helped to establish.

We are Currently developing a partnership with the local library to establish a consistent weekly playgroup, creating a welcoming space for children to connect while supporting early learning through play-based activities. Discussions are focused on securing regular time,

access to space, and opportunities to incorporate elements like storytelling and social interaction.

We have reached out to FaFT to organise structured fortnightly play sessions, with the aim of complementing the weekly library group by offering additional variety and engagement opportunities. Planning includes confirming a recurring schedule, coordinating promotion, and encouraging ongoing participation.

The children have been actively engaging in a variety of experiences, including painting, bike riding, sensory play, drawing on chalkboards, and participating in group time through singing songs and reading books. These activities support children's social development, as well as the development of both gross and fine motor skills. They also provide meaningful opportunities for children to build an understanding of culture and community through shared experiences and interactions.



Child's Easter Treat

A staff meeting was held to build a shared understanding of what a Day Story is and how it aligns with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF), strengthening educators' ability to document and reflect on children's learning. There is a strong interest in supporting staff to attend Early Childhood Australia (ECA) events and childcare conferences as part of ongoing professional development, enhancing knowledge, skills, and current practice. It would be valuable to provide staff with opportunities to visit other council-run childcare centers through a structured staff exchange program (e.g., every three months). This would help broaden educators' understanding of different communities, cultures, and practices, while encouraging collaboration and shared learning across services.

At present, the service is experiencing significant staffing challenges, with limited staff availability impacting on daily operations. There have been occasions when the service has had to close due to insufficient staffing levels. Increasing staff numbers is essential to ensure continuity of care and to support the potential enrolment of more children, as current attendance numbers remain low. Additionally, there are urgent maintenance concerns within the building. The roof is currently leaking, with water seeping into key areas including the learning spaces, kitchen, and sleep room. This poses a risk to the health and safety of children and staff, and it is critical that these repairs are addressed as a priority.

Active Communities and Youth Services (ACYS)

Corrugated Iron Youth Arts creative arts workshops were held in the recent school holidays, to celebrate Youth Week. Great engagement from the community for these workshops that occurred across four days.

We also had a series of excellent dance workshops delivered by Break'n Barrierz in March across both Yirrkala and Gunyangara. A team of three artists delivered the program.

Our Wednesday night basketball programs have gone from strength to strength. There is always a large attendance, and we are often joined by stakeholders for this event.

We are looking forward to attending Dawurr at Dusk on Friday 22 May 2026.

We are looking forward to running an open day at our Drop-in Centre on Friday 29 May 2026 and would love to have Local Authority members visit the newly renovated space on that day.



Youth Activities at Rec Hall



Kids Arts Workshop

The Active Communities team has been running chill-out activities, basketball, volleyball and chair ball. The team also helps with Australia Football League Northern Territory (AFLNT) women's training every Thursday afternoon. On 13 April 2026, Rob Kestle and Christian Arevalo did de-escalation training to build their skills. The team includes Rob Kestle (Coordinator), Denzel Marika, Sharee Yunupingu and Rosie Munungurr. Rob is on leave and will return on 18 May. While he is away, James Kent is leading the program from 5–8 May, and Darran Wyatt is leading from 8–15 May. We are also advertising for a part-time Team Leader to support the program.



Waste and Environment

The Yirrkala Municipal Services team has been directed to use the Nhulunbuy landfill where practicable to reduce barge costs to Darwin. Scrap metal and degassed white goods are accepted at the landfill and added to the Nhulunbuy scrap metal stockpiles for onward transport to Darwin for recycling, providing economies of scale.

Fire extinguishers, e-waste, wheelie bins and tyres are currently barged to Darwin. The team is assessing road transport for Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) containers to deliver savings compared to barge freight.

Community	Waste Stream	No. Pallets/Bags	of Quantity	Estimated Weight (s)
Yirrkala	Tyres	10' container	112 units	4
	Fire Extinguishers	Stillage	4 units	0.26
	White goods	Battery box	3 X 20' containers	5.5
	CDS – Depot	Bulk bags	1 skip bin	0.5
	Scrap metal	Containers & skip bin	3	4.5
	E-Waste	IBC	4	1

	Wheelie bins	Pallets	7	1.7
TOTAL				17.46

Animal Management Program (AMP)

- The veterinary team visited Yirrkala 24 February until 25 February and then the week from 24 March -27 March due to our cancelled Gapuwiyak trip. The team also followed up on some dangerous dog cases in Yirrkala, with dangerous dog signs being placed and discussions with owners about recommendations for their dogs.
- The AMP team performed nine remote consultations in Yirrkala when they were not in community, improving consistency of care in the region. These were mostly sick, injured animals or for parasite control.
- Upcoming visits: Unfortunately, the scheduled veterinary visits to Yirrkala during the last week of April had to be cancelled due to staffing issues.
 - Veterinary nurse ONLY visit by Sarah and Saraya 30 April
 - Veterinary visit: 16 June -18 June by Dr Celia Peters and Sarah

Service Delivery Table:

Yirrkala	Mar/Apr 26	FY 25-26 to	FY 24-25
		date	
Dogs Desexed	9	19	21
Cats Desexed	0	15	22
Community consultations	21	56	95
Remote/Phone consultations	9	32	38
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	15	21
Minor procedures/other surgeries	1	5	7
Parasite Treatments	15	224	426
Euthanasia	1	7	7
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	1	2	2
Total Engagements	58	372	639

Staff Education/training activities:

- Dr Maddy completed the AVA Chartered Veterinary Practitioner Course – Wellbeing Science for Veterinarians – promoting mental health awareness for the profession and particularly important to our team during the difficulties that arise during our work.

Additional Collaborations:

- The AMP team will be contacting the local community school soon to book education visits throughout the 2026 school year.
- Laynhapuy homelands: The veterinary nursing team has been busy providing veterinary nurse visits to Laynhapuy homelands as part of our contracted fee for service arrangements. These have been day trips by Sarah and Saraya. We will be providing veterinary surgical visits later this year in August.

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

- Nil

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

AUTHOR	Sonia Campbell (General Manager - Technical and Infrastructure Services)
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>That Council notes the Technical and Infrastructure Report.</p>	

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.

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 and report owners:

Fleet Services

Errol Weber – Regional Manager - Fleet

112 - Fleet Services

Transport and Infrastructure Department

Arvin Roping – Transport and Infrastructure Manager

116 - Lighting for Public Safety

118 - Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management

119 - Local Road Upgrade and Construction

Building and Infrastructure Department – Capital Projects

John Shrethra – Project Manager

122 - Building and Public Infrastructure Services

REPORT STORY:**112 - Fleet Services (Report Owner –Errol Weber)**

The scheduled replacement of fleet items ensures that the EARC fleet is replaced at the optimum time to ensure that the user has access to a modern and reliable fleet. In the 2027 budget the items detailed below are scheduled for replacement, plus new fleet that has been identified to meet new requirements:

	Ramingin g	Milingim b i	Gapuwiya k	Galiwink u	Yirrkal a	Gunyangar a
Loader	Yes		Yes			
Tractor	Yes	Yes				
MR Truck			Yes			
Dual Cab Tipper				Yes	Yes	
Toyota Hiace	Yes		Yes	Yes x 2	Yes	
MS Hilux	Yes	Yes	Yes			
NP Hilux					Yes	
Troop Carrier s		Yes		Yes		
Toyota BZ4X (electri c vehicle)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes x 2	
Trailer 10 x 5 Tipping			Yes			Yes
Mower Trailer		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Barge Trailer	Yes		Yes		Yes	

116 – Lighting for Public Safety (Report Owner – Arvin Roping)**Repair and maintenance of Public Streetlighting**

Community	LED Streetlights Public out of service	Tentative mobilisation date	Progress update
Yirrkala	13 - LED street lights 4 – GFS200 solar street lights	NIL	100% complete

118 – Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management (Report Owner – Arvin Roping)

T25-203320.1 Civil Maintenance of Pavements and Drainage for a Period of 12 Months – Access Grade Contract

Revised Round 2 Mobilisation Dates 2025/26		Project Status
Ramingining	18 May 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Gapuwiyak	25 May 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Yirrkala	28 June 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Gunyangara	6 July 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season and road conditions (truck access)
Galiwin'ku	9 July 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season, road conditions (truck access) and sea freight via Sea Swift
Milingimbi	21 July 2026	Note: To be confirmed, pending wet season, road conditions (truck access) and sea freight via Sea Swift

119 – Local Road Upgrade and Construction (Report Owner – Arvin Roping)

Capital Upgrades are currently being scoped to be executed in the new financial year.

122 – Building Infrastructure Services (Report Owner – John Shrestha)**Lot 143 - Aged Care Building**

The existing aged care facility will be demolished prior to the construction of the new aged care building. The construction tender is scheduled for release by the end of this week. Construction is projected to commence in August 2026, following completion of the tender evaluation and award period.

During the construction phase, aged care services will continue to operate from a temporary facility, which has recently undergone refurbishment to ensure compliance with relevant standards.



Lot 251 Yirrkala – Childcare Centre

The existing amenities and compliance-related components within the building are currently being upgraded. The project is funded by the CCCFR program, with the contract for works awarded to Goodline. Works are projected to be completed by the end of June 2026.



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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager)

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUMMARY:

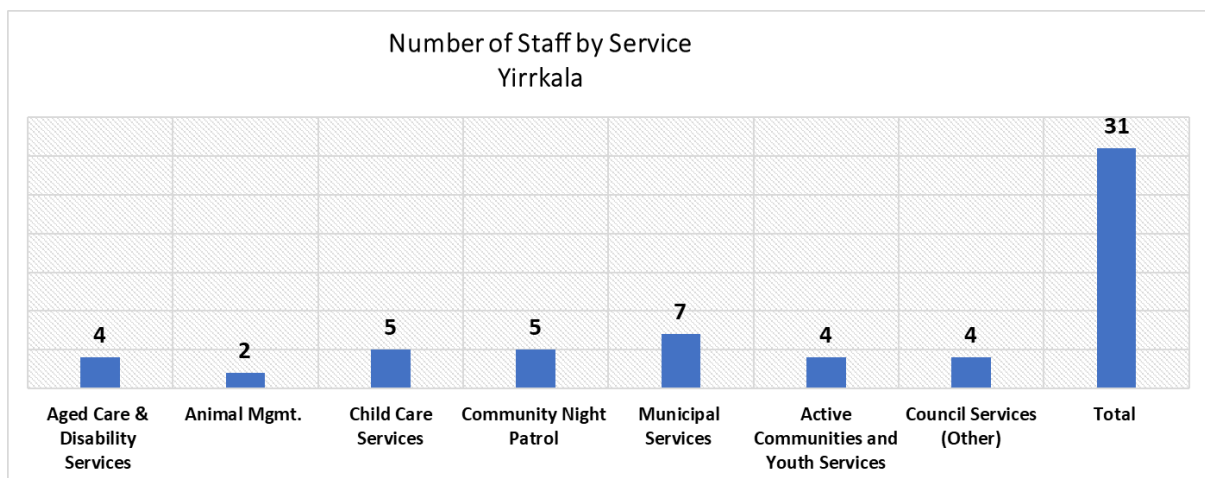
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 30 April 2026 within the Local Authority area.

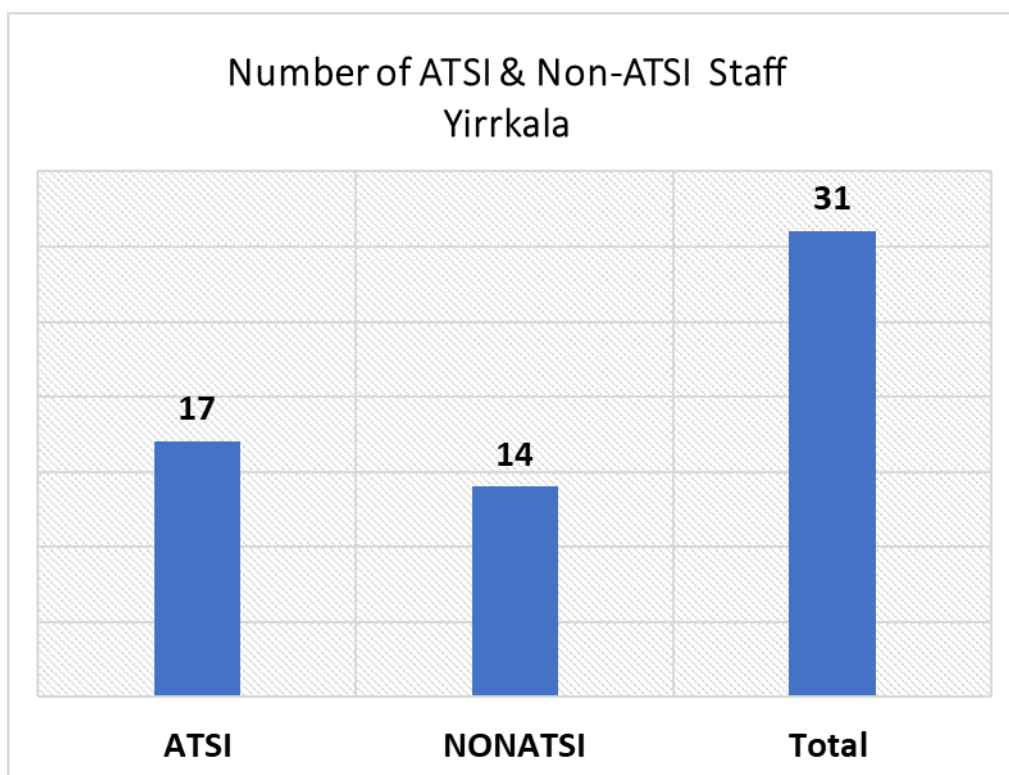
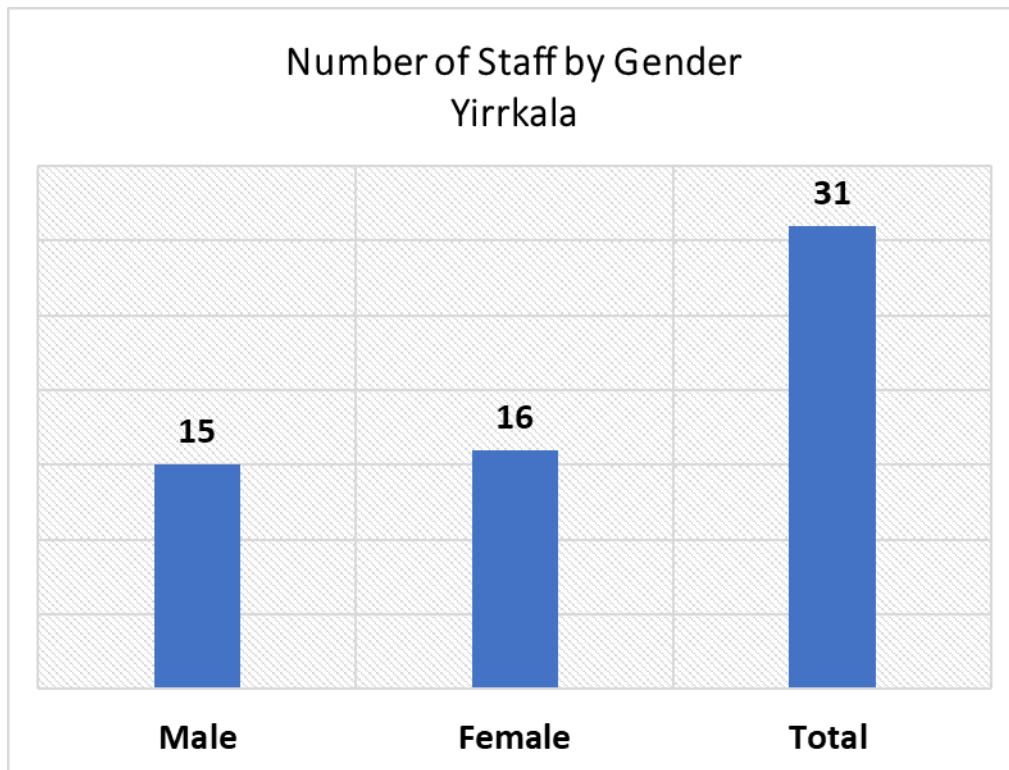
BACKGROUND:

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:

Employee Statistics:





Vacancies as of 30 April 2026:

Job Title	Location	Employment Type	Recruitment Type	No. of Vacancies
Child Care Worker	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Community Media Officer	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Aged Care and Disability Services C	Yirraka	External	Full Time	1
ACDS Support Worker - Aged Care	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Child Care Coordinator	Yirraka	External	Full Time	1
Municipal Services Officer	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Active Communities Team Leader	Yirraka	External	Part-time	1
Child Care Team Leader	Yirraka	External	Full Time	1
ACDS Support Worker	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Child Care Worker	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
CNP Officer - Gove peninsula	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1
Active Community team Leader	Yirraka	External	Part-time	1
Community Night Patrol Officer – Gd	Yirraka	Community	Casual	1

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

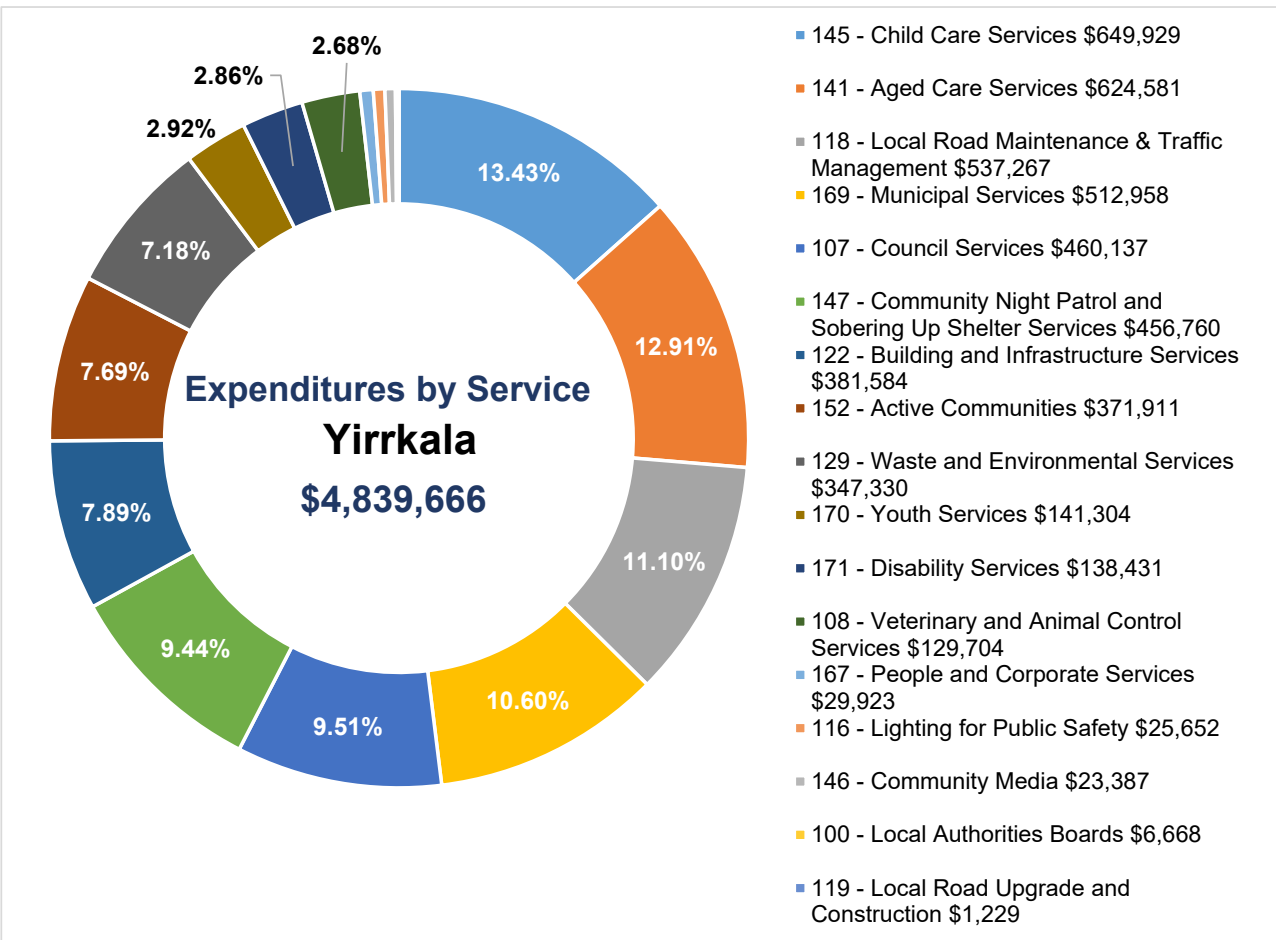
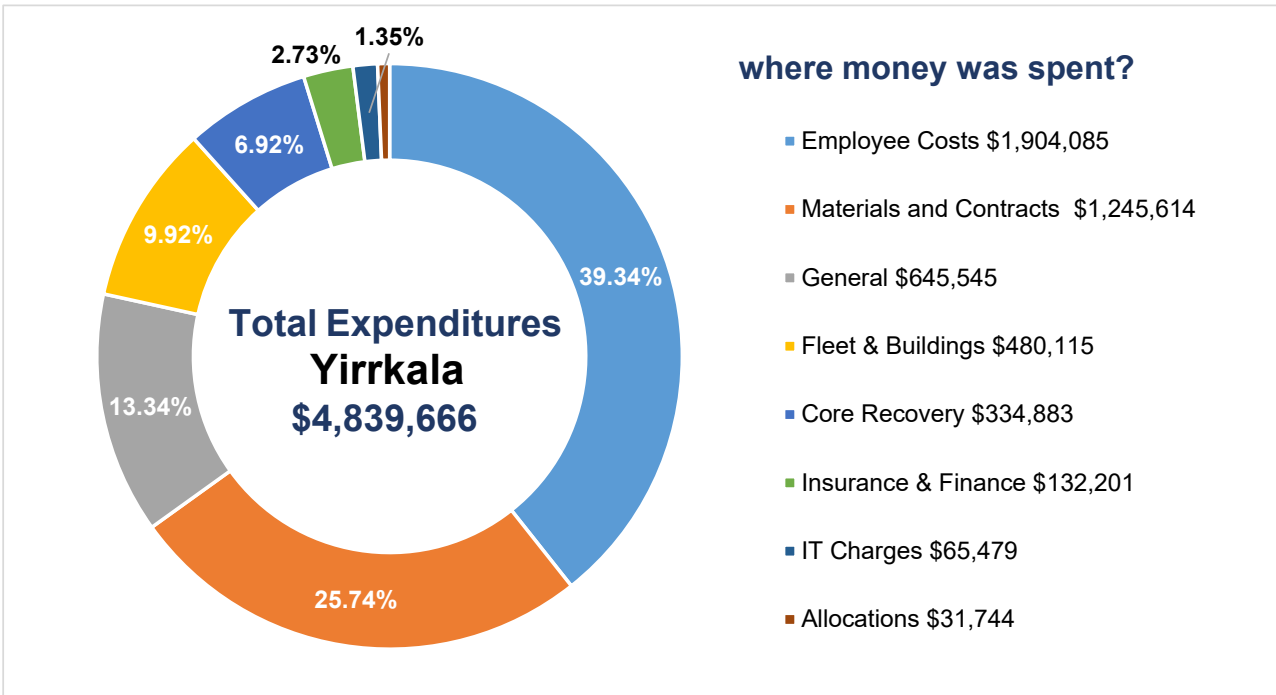
ATTACHMENTS:

10. April 2026 Yirraka LAPF and Chart Reports [2.5.1 - 2 pages]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - YIRRKALA FUNDS LEFT

As at 30th April 2026

	YTD ACTUAL	COMMITMENTS	ACTUAL + COMMITMENTS	FULL YEAR BUDGET	PROGRESS % (ACTUAL vs BUDGET)
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR	302,245	-	302,245	302,245	
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	107,700	-	107,700	107,700	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	409,945	-	409,945	409,945	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
277218 - Unallocated LAPF 2017-2018, Yirrkala	-	(13,440)	(13,440)	-	0%
304918 - Local Authority Project Funding Yirrkala - Revenue	(594)	-	(594)	-	0%
307718 - LAPF - Yirrkala Aged Care Upgrade Contribution	(594)	(218,345)	(218,938)	(409,945)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	(1,188)	(231,785)	(232,972)	(409,945)	0%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			176,973	-	



3 Confidential Reports

4 Presentations and General Business

PRESENTATION

4.1 Presentation from the Local Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Local Police.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

PRESENTATION

4.2 Presentation from the Australian Border Force

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by Australian Border Force.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

PRESENTATION

4.3 Presentation from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the updates provided by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

ATTACHMENTS:

Presentation Request 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:	Stacey Bulluss Brien Roberts
Organisation:	Fisheries NT
Position:	Engagement Officer, Research scientist
Department:	Of Agriculture and Fisheries
Contact number:	0408459037
Email:	Stacey.Bulluss@nt.gov.au

Agenda Item	
1. Which Local Authorities do you wish to attend?	<input type="checkbox"/> Galiwinku <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gapuwiyak ✓ <input type="checkbox"/> Gungyangara <input type="checkbox"/> Milingimbi <input type="checkbox"/> Ramingining <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yirrkala ✓
2. What is the purpose of the presentation?	To inform the LA of the Barramundi reform. Government is removing the use of gill nets from the commercial Barramundi Fishery. Changes to Barramundi fishery licensing arrangements and permitted gear types is still to be decided.
3. For the agenda item, do you expect to: (please complete the option/s that are relevant)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide information to the local authority about: The Barramundi reform <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seek information from the local authority about: What is the optimal use of this resource in the future. Should there still be a commercial Barramundi fishery in some form in the NT. Should we keep Barramundi only for recreational/ Tourism fishing? What development opportunities exist for Aboriginal people in a future Barramundi fishery? How will reform affect supply of wild caught fish to the public? <input type="checkbox"/> Seek a decision from the local authority about:



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 www.eastarnhem.nt.gov.au
 ABN 92 334 301 078

Other Information (where applicable)	
When is attendance at a local authority meeting required? <i>(Please indicate any time sensitivities)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Next Available Meeting 26 th <u>May</u> (date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Before _____ (date) <input type="checkbox"/> After
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:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laptop <input type="checkbox"/> Documents Printed (Charges apply)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projector <input type="checkbox"/> Video Teleconference <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed Dates: _____ or _____ or _____ (1st Choice) (2 nd Choice) (3 rd Choice)	

Official use Only

Date Received _____

PRESENTATION

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

RECOMMENDATION:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS:

5 Meeting Close