



OPEN AGENDA for the Yirrkala Local Authority
25 March 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, Yolŋu 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 25 March 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 Mungurrabin 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: 497 362 992 584 70

Passcode: 7dj2Pu9a

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,,234361091#](tel:+61283180005234361091) Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 234 361 091#

Schedule 1 Code of conduct**1 Honesty and integrity**

A member must act honestly and with integrity in performing official functions.

2 Care and diligence

A member must act with reasonable care and diligence in performing official functions.

3 Courtesy

A member must act with courtesy towards other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.

4 Prohibition on bullying

A member must not bully another person in the course of performing official functions.

5 Conduct towards council staff

A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of council staff.

6 Respect for cultural diversity and culture

6.1 A member must respect cultural diversity and must not therefore discriminate against others, or the opinions of others, on the ground of their cultural background.

6.2 A member must act with respect for cultural beliefs and practices in relation to other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.

7 Conflict of interest

7.1 A member must avoid any conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, when undertaking official functions and responsibilities.

7.2 If a conflict of interest exists, the member must comply with any statutory obligations of disclosure.

8 Respect for confidences

8.1 A member must respect the confidentiality of information obtained in confidence in the member's official capacity.

8.2 A member must not make improper use of confidential information obtained in an official capacity to gain a private benefit or to cause harm to another.

9 Gifts

9.1 A member must not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

9.2 A member must not accept a gift from a person that is given in relation to the person's interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.

10 Accountability

A member must be prepared at all times to account for the member's performance as a member and the member's use of council resources.

11 Interests of municipality, region or shire to be paramount

11.1 A member must act in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

11.2 In particular, a member must seek to ensure that the member's decisions and actions are based on an honest, reasonable and properly informed judgment about what best advances the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.

12 Training

A member must undertake relevant training in good faith.

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1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.3 Attendance

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of <>.
- (b) Notes the apology received from <>.
- (c) Notes <> are absent with permission of the Local Authority.
- (d) Determines <> are absent without permission of the Local Authority under Section 47(1) (0) of the Act.

SUMMARY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

RECOMMENDATION:

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

OR

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

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

The Local Government Act (Chapter 7, Part 7.2, Section 114 – Conflict of Interest) details that "A member has a conflict of interest in a question arising for decision by the audit committee,

council, council committee or Local Authority if the member or an associate of the member has any of the following interests in how the question is decided:

- (a) A direct interest
- (b) An indirect financial interest
- (c) An indirect interest by close association
- (d) An indirect interest due to conflicting duties”.

GENERAL:

A conflict of interest is a situation that has the potential to undermine a person’s ability to be impartial because of the possibility of a clash between the person’s self-interest and professional interest or public interest.

When this occurs, the Local Authority Member should declare the interest and remove themselves from the decision-making process.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Yirrkala Local Authority Minutes- 28 Jan 2026 [1.5.1 - 5 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Yirrkala Local Authority
28 January 2026

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:46 AM.

Members in Attendance:

Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru (Chair)
Fabian Marika
James Dhurrkay
Adrian Gurruwiwi
Diplinga Marika
Lirripiya Mununggurr

East Arnhem Council Officers:

Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)
Signe Balodis (Director – Council Services)
Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager) - Attended online
Aaron McKenna (Senior Project Manager) - Attended Online
Adam Johnson (Relief Council Services Manager)
Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager) - Attended online
Ben Waugh (External)

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 2025/41 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/James Dhurrkay)**

That the Local Authority:

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

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 JANUARY 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 2025/42 **RESOLVED (Fabian 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 2025/44 **RESOLVED (Fabian Marika/Adrian Gurruwiwi)**

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2025.

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

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

3 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA
NGUNIYI

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

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.

YIR 2025/51 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/James Dhurrkay)**

That the Local Authority notes the progress of actions from the previous meetings and request that completed items be removed from the Action Register for the Council to endorse.

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

28 JANUARY 2026

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.2 CEO Report

SUMMARY:

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

YIR 2025/45 **RESOLVED (Fabian Marika/Adrian Gurruwiwi)**

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 Council Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

YIR 2025/46 **RESOLVED (Adrian Gurruwiwi/James Dhurrkay)**

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 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 2025/47 **RESOLVED (Lirripiya Mununggurr/Adrian Gurruwiwi)**

That Local Authority note the Technical and Infrastructure Services Report.

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

SUMMARY:

This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 31 December 2025 within the Local Authority area.

YIR 2025/48 **RESOLVED (Adrian Gurruwiwi/Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru)**

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

4 General Business

4.1 Five Year Strategic Plan

YIR 2025/49 **RESOLVED (Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru/Lirrpiya Mununggurr)**

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

The next meeting is to be held on 25 March 2026.

5 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 03:06 PM

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Yirrkala Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 28 January 2026.

UNCONFIRMED

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 [2.1.1 - 5 pages]

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
PA System	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>12.05.2021 – Ongoing.</p> <p>25.11.2021 – Ongoing. Gained permission from Rirratjingu to place speaker on their office building. Quotation being sourced.</p> <p>24.03.2022 – Permission has been granted, however obtaining trades to complete work.</p> <p>26.05.2022 – Ongoing</p> <p>02.12.2022 – New ICT is exploring options for installation with expectations of installation by Jan 2023.</p> <p>03.02.23 – PA to be mounted on one of the new towers on the oval.</p> <p>02.06.23 – Update needs to be obtained from Director Technical & Infrastructure services.</p> <p>27.07.23 – Project is underway.</p> <p>26.10.23 - tied in with lighting replacement which will occur next week with pa system to be put on one of the towers.</p> <p>05.02.24 - Ongoing</p> <p>08.04.24 – Ongoing.</p> <p>24.04.24 – More work to be done electrically.</p> <p>25.06.24 – No update.</p> <p>25.07.24 – No update – meeting was cancelled with Rirratingu, to be rescheduled.</p> <p>26.09.24 – Members to ask Rirratingu to attend next meeting.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>11.12.24 – Ongoing</p> <p>10.02.25 – Ongoing – engage with talks to commence meeting (General Manager Technical and Infrastructure Services)</p> <p>27.03.25 – Have engaged with IT and coming up with a conclusion on how to get the PA system working throughout the community.</p> <p>23.04.25 – Ongoing</p> <p>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.</p>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<p>25.06.25 – To organise a meeting.</p> <p>29.10.25 – GMTIS to organise a meeting with Rirratjingu to explore the option of connecting PA to EARC system.</p> <p>24.02.25 – IT department is working with Rirratjingu.</p>
Children's Playground \$60,000		<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

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<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>

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
		<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 requesting a timeline for approval. – Local Authority to invite the NLC East Arnhem Board Members Djawa Yunupingu , Yananyumul 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.</p>
New Cemetery	General manager to look into location for new cemetery.	<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

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
<p><i><u>Yirrkala Future Actions/ Advocacy:</u></i></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>

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.2 CEO Report

AUTHOR Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)**RECOMMENDATION****That the Local Authority :****(a) Notes the CEO report.****(b) Endorses the improved and expanded Advocacy issues as endorsed by Council.****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:Advocacy

Council and the Local Authorities have formally considered and endorsed a growing number of important issues to advocate for action from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, for the social well-being of the communities and homelands of East Arnhem Land.

The Local Authority is asked to consider and endorse the following improved and expanded Key Advocacy Issues.

1. Youth Justice and new ways of addressing a high and growing level of youth crime focused on community based facilities, where young offenders are required to stay but be provided support from Council and other relevant service providers – for alcohol and other substance mis-use, trauma and family neglect, and engage the offenders in genuine and effective learning on country of traditional culture, identity and respect, community service, sport and recreation, vocational training, and a clear pathway to jobs – and if anyone fails to do this, they will be sent away to the standard prison system.
2. Shift from dependency on government payments and programs like the previous Community Development Program (CDP), and the new Remote Australia Employment Service (RAES), to include the genuine mutual obligation of community members to participate in work or training to continue to receive payments, to support genuine personal and family responsibility and accountability.
3. Real Local Decision Making - a shift from ignoring and excluding our Indigenous controlled Local Authorities and Council to facilitate open, legitimate, and transparent engagement with all communities and homelands to hear the voices of all people, and support genuine engagement, collaboration, and partnership with the other two levels of government, to gain meaningful and practical outcomes.

4. The ongoing and unaddressed problem of the illegal sale of kava, alcohol and other drugs, illegal card games and the damaging effect they have on communities and homelands.
5. The need for genuine co-design of new housing developments, that Council assess and approve, to comply with National Standards.
6. The provision of government housing and other infrastructure necessary for the effective delivery of essential services including Police, Education, Health, Local Government and Community Services.
7. The use of a reasonable percentage of the \$4 billion of committed funds to Indigenous housing in the Northern Territory to be provided for units, duplexes, and houses for local Indigenous workers and vulnerable aged and disabled people, as well as residents of small to large homelands.
8. The de-registration of providers or related companies of disability services that are involved in exploitation and abuse of clients, and other illegal activities.
9. Effective funding of essential and other support services to residents of small to large homelands, across East Arnhem Land.
10. The need for effective consultation, engagement, planning and the commitment of required funding from Rio Tinto, the Northern Territory Government, Federal Government, and other relevant stakeholders, to secure the future of Gove as a regional centre.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.3 Council Services Report

AUTHOR Signe Balodis (Director - Council Services)

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

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

We sincerely thank Valentina Weber, Lochlann Allen and Brad Lena for sharing the load and looking after the Yirrkala Council Office while the Administration Manager and Council Services Manager were away on leave.

We have recently completed First Aid Training and to coincide with this we have refreshed all the first-aid kits in the Yirrkala office, Municipal Services shed and in all vehicles.

The Australia Post Scanner trial is continuing to be a success, having 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

We are pleased to welcome Samuel Munyarryun to our Municipal Services team in the role of Municipal Services Officer.

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.



Skid Steer training in Yirrkala.

In February 2026, the Municipal Services team undertook Skid Steer competency and licencing training delivered by Kullaru. The opportunity was well received and participation in the course was excellent. It was a great chance for team members to come together, support one another in learning new skills, and work together to obtain their tickets



The Yirrkala Municipal Services team during their safety meeting.



A/Council Services Manager, Labh delivering the Monthly Toolbox safety meeting to the team.

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)

The Community Night Patrol team continues to strengthen. We are increasingly collaborating with other organisations and actively engaging with youth. Night Patrol is putting additional efforts into connecting with young people during community activities.

We are pleased to extend a warm welcome to Kasey-Jade Buckley. Kasey brings valuable experience in working with community and, as an Indigenous person from South Australia, has a deep understanding and respect for culture and community. Community Night Patrol – Gove Peninsula are now fully staffed.



Community Night Patrol Coordinator, Renee with some of the local children.

Night Patrol has recently successfully completed their First Aid training. Matthew and Myah completed dual diagnosis training, which helps in understanding that there may be more to a person than just intoxication and provides guidance on identifying potential mental health issues

Night Patrol continues to collaborate with Active Communities and is planning a bi-weekly barbecue for the youth. Also, a Milo station will be set up at the recreation hall to encourage

communication with the youth and discussing the importance of being at home during nighttime hours and staying refreshed for school.

Community Night Patrol staff occasionally feel some frustration due to differences between what community members think their expectations and the actual scope of their responsibilities. A few team members have shared concerns that their efforts may not always be fully recognised, and that efforts to communicate the purpose of Night Patrol to clients can sometimes lead to misunderstandings or discomfort, especially when interacting with intoxicated individuals. Additionally, Night Patrol officers sometime experience verbal abuse from clients.



Matthew and Myah with their Certificates.



CNP Team in their First Aid training.

Aged Care and Disability Services (AC&DS)

Yirrkala Aged Care is supporting 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 homelands.

We continue to work closely with Laynhapuy Aboriginal Corporation – Aged Care and Disability Services to maintain supports for vulnerable persons during the wet season.

Over the past two months, activities have progressed slowly and steadily. Most activities have been conducted at the centre. No community outings have been conducted due to persistent rainy weather that we have been experiencing.

Staff are undergoing necessary training for their roles, e.g. First Aid courses, Food Safety training etc. Disability Support Worker Alex Ellenden is looking forward to commencing his certificate III in Individual Support. He finished school a year ago and has decided to jump straight into the workforce. Now he is working towards a qualification, and he has expressed joy and gratitude for this opportunity.

Staffing at Yirrkala Aged Care has presented challenges. We currently have a few vacant positions available for a Cook, Support Coordinator and two Support Workers. Recruitment processes are underway with the objective of filling all vacant positions as soon as possible.

Child Care Services

We have achieved strong community engagement through the provision of mobile Storytime sessions, cultural events, and intergenerational activities, fostering inclusive participation across diverse age groups.

Child Care Coordinator, Roisin Liddle has finished working with us on 6 March 2026 as she has relocated to Darwin. We would like to thank Roisin for her hard work and dedication that she demonstrated while in the role. The Child Care Coordinator position has now been advertised.



Playtime at the Centre.

Child Care Services realised successful collaboration with partner services, including Families as First Teachers (FAFT), the library, and aged care, strengthening community connections and enhancing service integration.

We recently joined Families as First Teachers for a mobile Storytime session run by Nhulunbuy Library. The children enjoyed listening to stories, singing songs, and participating in arts and crafts activities.

Upcoming events include collaborating with East Arnhem Aged Care for Harmony Day. We will come together to share cultural food, dances, and songs. Children and elders are also planning to make damper and sing songs in Yolŋu Matha. For Easter, we have planned a joint event with FAFT and the preschoolers at the oval, including an Easter celebration and BBQ.

The children have been engaged in a range of learning experiences, including storytelling, music, creative arts, and cultural activities. These activities support social development, creativity, and connection to culture and community.

Our team currently consists of Team Leader, Project Officer and two Child Care Workers. We recently said goodbye to Kenisha Winunguj, who has commenced employment with Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation. Kenisha worked at the service for over 12 months and will be greatly missed by staff, children, and families.

All the team have successfully renewed their First Aid and CPR certifications.



Painting and nature coming together at the Centre.

Active Communities and Youth Services (ACYS)

During the period of January and February 2026 the basketball programs have continued to run successfully on Wednesday nights. These sessions alternate between Yirrkala and Gunyangara and they consistently attract young people from both Marngarr and Dawurr Boarding School. Attendance has remained strong, and the activity provides a positive weekly outcome for participants.

In addition to basketball, a Community Disco was held in Yirrkala on Friday 30 January 2026. As always, this always has a great turnout and is a hit with the youth in Yirrkala. Excitingly, a Music video program was delivered by SoundED in Yirrkala throughout the January school holidays. This provides our youth with exposure to Music production and provides them the opportunity to become famous by featuring in the music video to be enjoyed by future generations to come.

Watch the video 'Yirrkala – One Big Family' here: <https://youtu.be/eair5yXu3Pc?si=wEFMX5aqBRR6jMPv>

These events were well-attended and considered a great success by ACYS staff. Social events like these play an important role in building engagement and strengthening community connections.

Over the reporting period, a wide range of recreational activities have been delivered as part of the program. These have included:

Field games at Rika Park, Games night at the drop-in Centre, Garden time and cook up at the drop-in Centre, Basketball, Tag, Movie Nights and assisting AFLNT in the delivery of their Football program.

Rosie Munungurr and Denzel Marika have recently completed their First Aid training in Nhulunbuy in February 2026.

The current Active Communities team consists of Rob Kestle, Sharee Yunupingu, Denzel Marika, Steven Marawili and Rosie Munungurr. Rob Kestle is currently on leave, returning to work on Monday 16 March 2026.



Active Communities & Youth Services
Yirrkala & Gunyangara



March Activities 2026				
Monday 2 TAG GAME Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM VOLLEYBALL Oval Time: 5PM - 8PM	Tuesday 3 Miwatj Ear Health Clinic Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM	Wednesday 4 BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 5PM - 8PM	Thursday 5 AFLNT CLINIC OVAL Time: 5PM - 630PM	Friday 6 BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 5PM - 8PM
Monday 9 TAG GAME Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM VOLLEYBALL Oval Time: 5PM - 8PM	Tuesday 10 KICKBALL Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM	Wednesday 11 BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 5PM - 8PM	Thursday 12 AFLNT CLINIC OVAL Time: 5PM - 630PM	Friday 13 BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 5PM - 8PM
Monday 16 TAG GAME Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM VOLLEYBALL Oval Time: 5PM - 8PM	Tuesday 17 KICKBALL Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM	Wednesday 18 CHILL OUT Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM BASKETBALL Gunyangara Time: 6PM - 8PM	Thursday 19 AFL Training OVAL Time: 5PM - 630PM	Friday 20 CHILL OUT Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 6PM - 8PM
Monday 23 CHILL OUT Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM VOLLEYBALL Oval Time: 5PM - 8PM	Tuesday 24 KICKBALL Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM	Wednesday 25 CHILL OUT Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM BASKETBALL Yirrkala Time: 6PM - 8PM	Thursday 26 / Friday 27 No Activities	Saturday 28 AFLX GALA DAY Gunyangara Time: 4PM - 830PM
Monday 30 CHILL OUT Drop In Centre Time: 3PM - 5PM VOLLEYBALL Oval Time: 5PM - 8PM	Monday 31 KICKBALL Oval Time: 3PM - 5PM	Connection to Body, Mind, Kinship and Culture Images: Yirrkala, NT, 2026.		

Active Communities & Youth Services Activity Calendar Yirrkala – March 2026

Waste and Environmental Update



Bulk Waste Clean Up poster – Yirrkala.

Goal 2

2.2 Collaborate with community and stakeholder for safer communities.

2.2.1 Facilitate and advocate for community safety, improved safety, improved health and other services.

Community bulk waste clean ups were held across the region with the Yirrkala Bulk Waste Clean Up Week event running from 9 – 13 February 2026. These clean-up initiatives are scheduled to take place quarterly

Animal Management Program (AMP) Update

Reporting month/period: Jan-Feb 2026

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

Overall comments:

- The AMP team has already performed several ad hoc veterinary visits to Yirrkala over the period. A dog was returned to Doyndji homeland with our help after it was reported missing and found using our microchip system. We performed some contracted work in the homeland in 2025.
- The AMPT performed 14 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: The AMP team performed their first veterinary visit for 2026 from 24-25 February 2026

Service Delivery Table:

Yirrkala	Jan/Feb 26	FY 25-26 to date	FY 24-25
Dogs Desexed	0	10	21
Cats Desexed	0	15	22
Community consultations	5	35	95
Remote/Phone consultations	14	23	38
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	8	14	21
Minor procedures/other surgeries	2	4	7
Parasite Treatments	10	209	426
Euthanasia	3	6	7
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	1	1	2
Total Engagements	43	314	639

Staff Education/training activities:

- Sarah Carrall and Saraya Aston attended the CDU First Aid and CPR training course in February. They are now up to date on all first aid training.
- Dr Maddy attended the NT AVA veterinary conference in Darwin in February and learnt new surgical techniques and updated medication regimes that can now be used by our veterinary program this year.
- Dr Maddy is going to perform EARC Veterinary Cabinet training with all CSMs and ancillary staff coming up in March 2026

Additional Collaborations:

- The AMP team will be contacting the local community school soon to book in education visits throughout the 2026 school year.

Photos:



A Dog from Doyndji that the AMP team helped reunite and send back to homeland.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

2.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Local Authority note the Technical 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 Services
- 116 - Lighting for Public Safety
- 118 - Local Road Maintenance & Traffic Management
- 119 - Local Road Upgrade and Construction
- 122 - Building and Public Infrastructure Services

REPORT STORY:

The ongoing monsoonal weather and resulting access issues have delayed any further scheduled works across our remote communities for the Transport and Infrastructure and Building and Infrastructure Areas. If conditions change closer to the meeting date, we will provide the most up-to-date information during the meeting.

The report author does 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 28 February 2026.

SUMMARY:

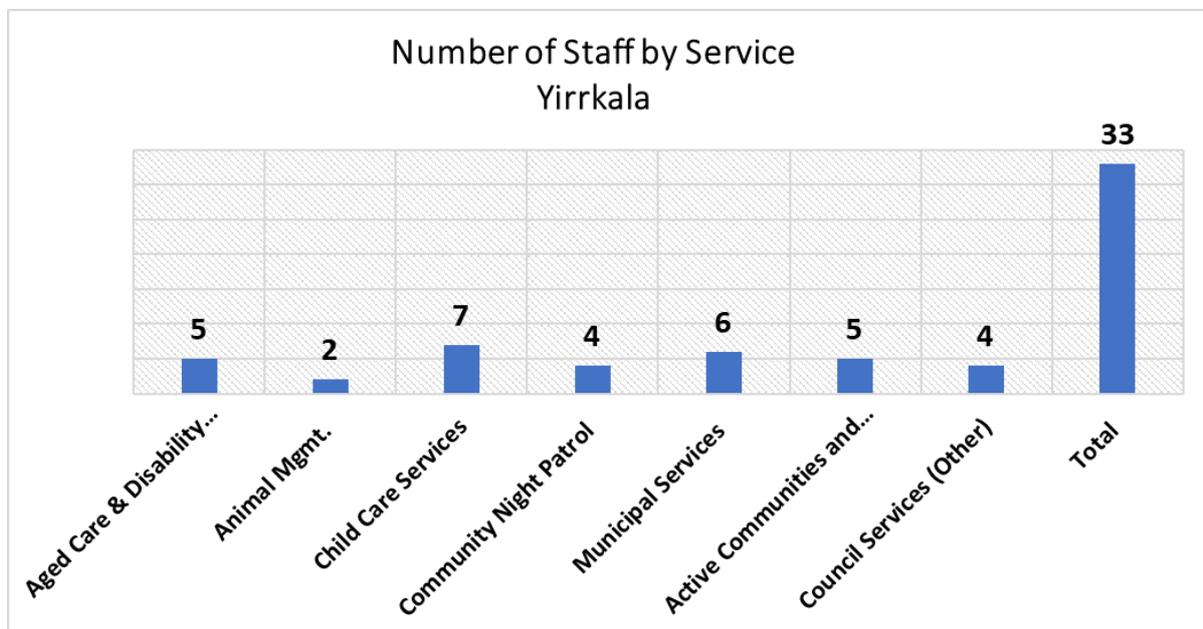
This report presents the financials plus employment statistics as of 28 February 2026 within the Local Authority area.

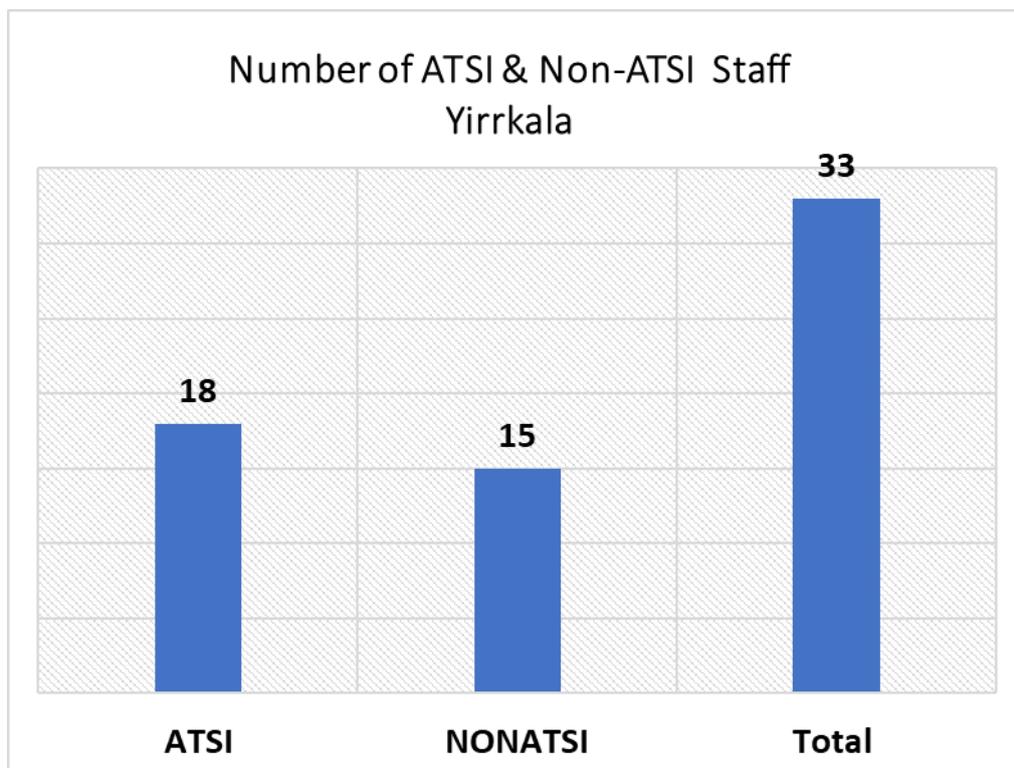
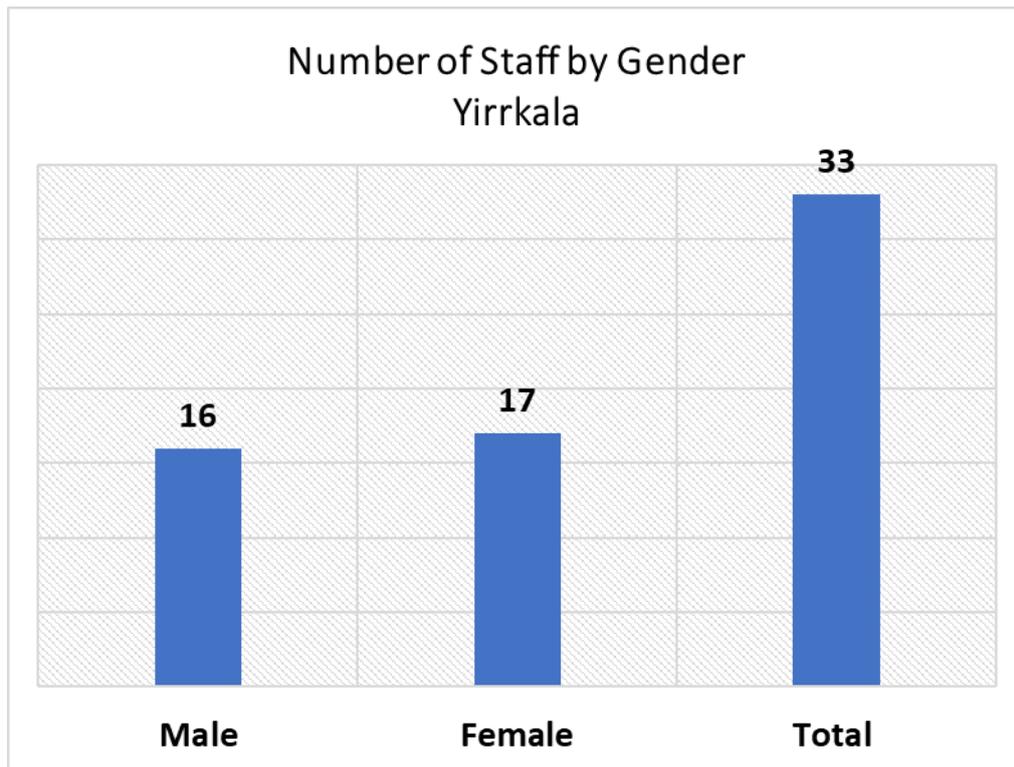
BACKGROUND:

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 28 February 2026:

Job Title	Location	Employment Type	Recruitment Type	No. of Vacancies
Community Media Officer	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1
Municipal Services Officer	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1
Municipal Services Officer	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1
Aged Care and Disability Services Care Coordinator	Yirrkala	Full Time	External	1
ACDS Support Worker - Aged Care	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1
Child Care Coordinator	Yirrkala	Full Time	External	1
Municipal Services Officer	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1
Child Care Worker	Yirrkala	Casual	Community	1

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

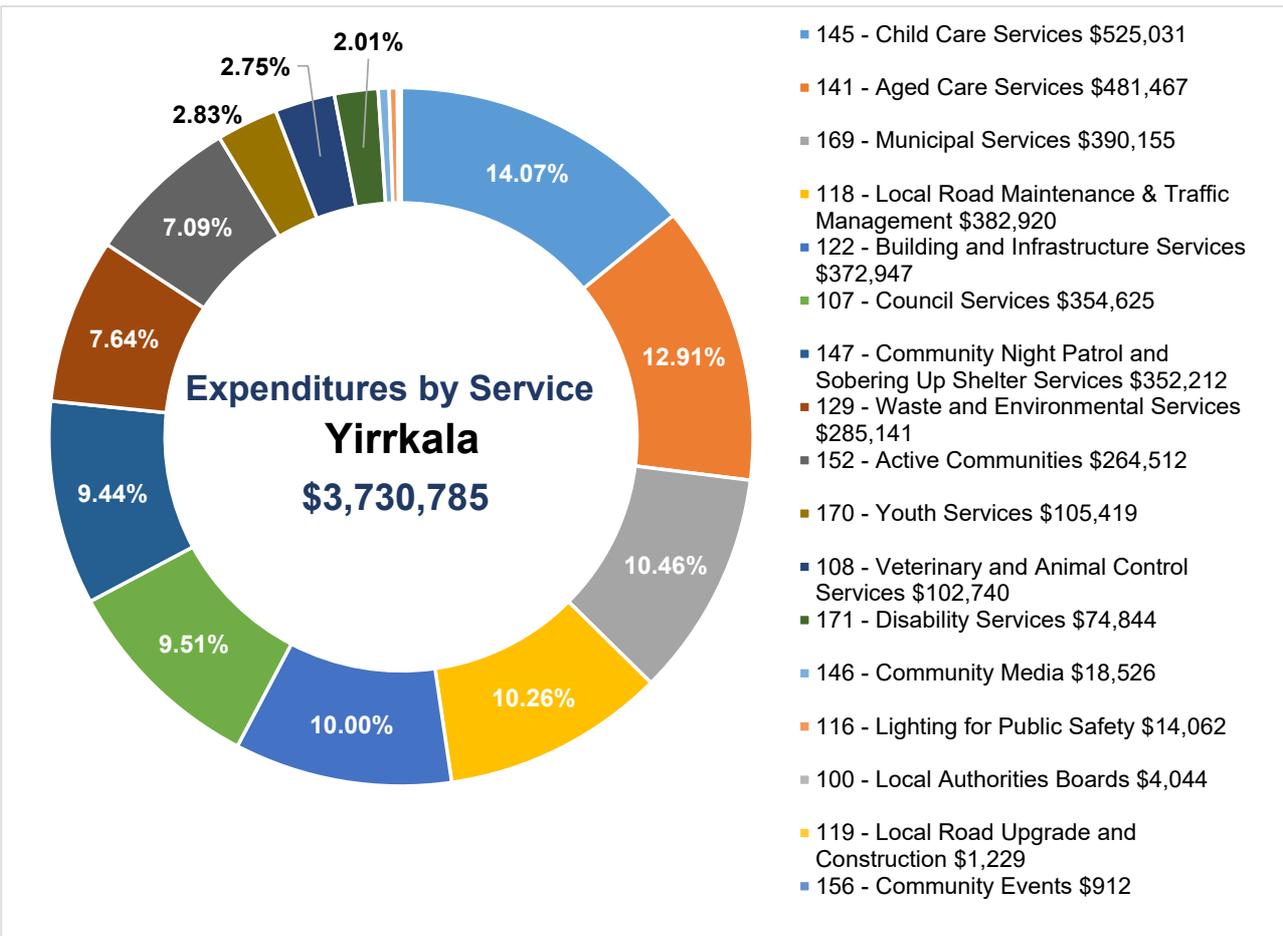
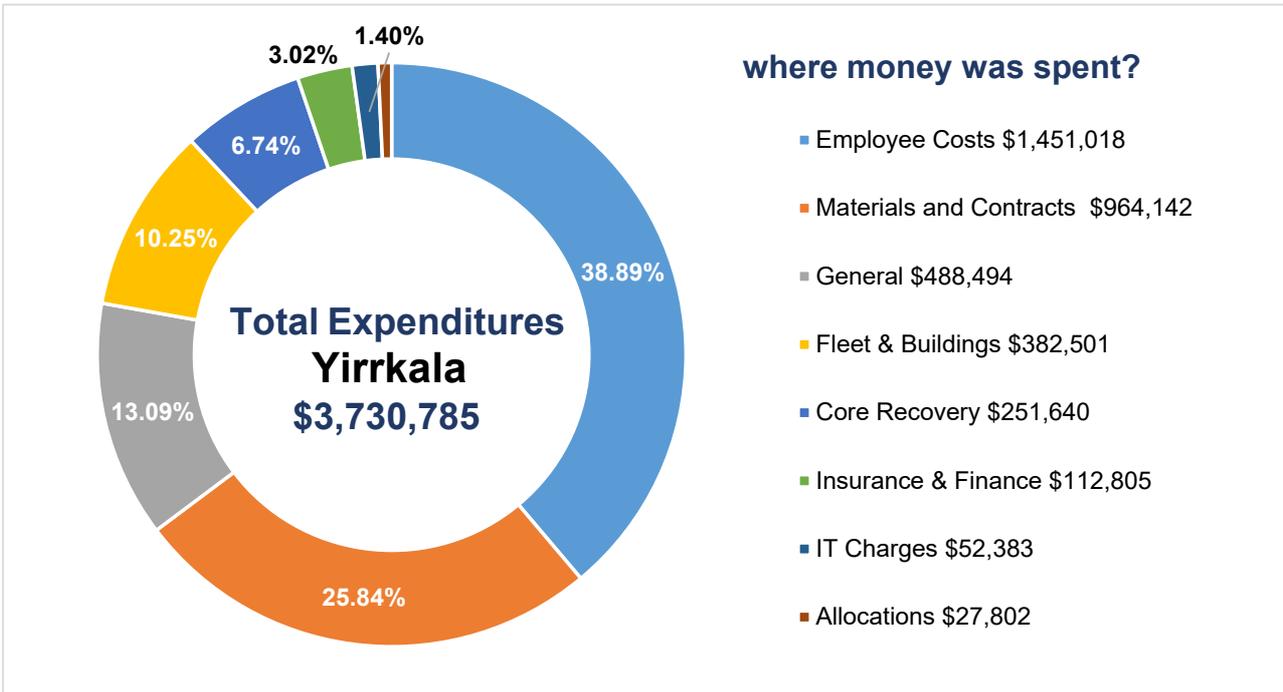
ATTACHMENTS:

1. 08. February 2026 Yirrkala LAPF Funds Left [2.5.1 - 1 page]
2. 08. February 2026 Yirrkala Chart LA Report [2.5.2 - 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - YIRRKALA FUNDS LEFT

As at 28th February 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	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	302,245	-	302,245	409,945	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
277218 - Unallocated LAPF 2017-2018, Yirrkala	-	(13,440)	(13,440)	-	0%
307718 - LAPF - Yirrkala Aged Care Upgrade Contribution	-	(218,345)	(218,345)	(409,945)	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	-	(231,785)	(231,785)	(409,945)	0%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			70,461	-	



3 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Discussion with the Local Police Department

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

GENERAL BUSINESS

3.2 Discussion with the Australian Border Force

RECOMMENDATION

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

4 Meeting Close