



OPEN AGENDA for the Yirrkala Local Authority 28 January 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-ŋiwmaran:

- limurr dhu räl-manapanmirr ganydjarrwu limurruŋgalaŋjaw rur'maranharaw,
- ga dharray walŋaw,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapmaranhamirr bukmak bala-räli'yunmirr.

Dhaŋu

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

- ŋalma ŋarru räal-manapanmi ganydjarrwu ŋakanhaminyarawu ŋalmaliŋguwaywuru,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapthumanmi bukmak bala-räli'yunmi.

Gumatj

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

- ŋilimurru yurru räl-manapanmirri ganydjarrwu gaŋga'thinyarawu ŋilimurrungalaŋjawu,
- ga dharray walŋawu,
- ga ŋayaŋu-dapthunmaranhamirri bukmak bala-lili'yunmirri.

Marraŋu

Dhuwanydji dhäwu barraŋga'yun EARC-ŋur bukmakku yolŋuw yukurru buku-ŋiw'maram wäŋa mittji malanyinha:

- Dalimurr wurruku räl-manapanmirr djäk ganydjarrwu ŋalimurrungalaŋjaw
- Gangathinyamaranharaw wondanarrgunharaw,
- Ga djäga walŋaw,
- Ga ŋayaŋu-dapmaranhamirr 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 28 January 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 Council's public office.

Dale Keehne
Chief Executive Officer

Members:

Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru

Lirrpiya 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: 496 675 495 459 74

Passcode: dM7yz69y

Dial in by phone

[+61 2 8318 0005,,670934953#](#) Australia, Sydney
[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 670 934 953#

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 29 October 2025.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Yirrkala Local Authority- Minutes 29 Oct 2025 [1.5.1 - 6 pages]



OPEN MINUTES for the Yirrkala Local Authority
29 October 2025

1 Meeting Establishment

YOW NGILIMURR BUKU'LUNGTHUN DHIYAK MEETINGU GA MALA DJARRYUN ROM

Members in Attendance:

Lirrpiya Mununggurr

Djapirri Mununggirritj

Adrian Gurruwiwi

Fabian Marika

Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu

East Arnhem Regional Council Officers:

Signe Balodis (Director – Council Services)

Labhhjeet Bhullar (Administration Manager)

Paul Hyde Kaduru (Governance and Compliance Manager)

Meeting opened at 11:30 AM

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 2025/32 **RESOLVED** (Djapirri Mununggirritj/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)

That the Local Authority:

- (a) Notes the absence of Dipilinga Marika, Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru, James Dhurrkay and Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika.
- (b) Notes Dipilinga Marika, Graham Mungurrapin Maymuru, James Dhurrkay and Cr. Marrpalawuy Marika are absent with permission of the Local Authority.

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

29 OCTOBER 2025

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.4 Conflict of Interest

SUMMARY:

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

YIR 2025/33 RESOLVED (Adrian Gurruwiwi/Fabian Marika)

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

MEETING ESTABLISHMENT

1.5 Previous Local Authority Minutes

YIR 2025/34 RESOLVED (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Fabian Marika)

That the Local Authority approves the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 May 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

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

29 OCTOBER 2025

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 2025/35 RESOLVED (Lirrpiya Mununggurr/Djapirri Mununggirritj)

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.

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 2025/36 RESOLVED (Lirrpiya Mununggurr/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 Services Manager at every Local Authority Meeting to provide information and updates to members.

YIR 2025/37 RESOLVED (Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu/Fabian Marika)

That the Local Authority notes the Council Services Managers report.

YIRRKALA LOCAL AUTHORITY MINUTES

29 OCTOBER 2025

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Service 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 2025/38 RESOLVED (Fabian Marika/Adrian Gurrwiwi)**That the Local Authority notes 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 30 September 2025 within the Local Authority area.

YIR 2025/39 RESOLVED (Lirrpiya Mununggurr/Cr. Priscilla Yunupingu)

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

GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 General Business

YIR 2025/40 RESOLVED (Adrian Gurrwiwi/Djapirri Mununggirritj)**RECOMMENDATION:****Local Authority to invite**

- (a) NLC Regional Manager Craig Bonney to the next Local Authority meeting.
- (b) NTG representative from Department of Housing to provide updates on repairs and maintenance of the residents.

The next meeting is to be held on 5 February 2026.

5 Meeting Close

The meeting closed at 02:50 PM.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Local Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 29 October 2025.

UNCONFIRMED

2 Looking Forward - Discussions and Decisions

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

3 Noting Progress and Achievement

YOW GALKI MEETING DJA DHAWARYUNA YURRU NGILIMURR RONGIYI GA NHAMA
NGUNIYI

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

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.1 Local Authority Action Items

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

The current Local Authority Action Items List, and updates on progress to complete them, is attached.

GENERAL:

The attached report gives the Local Authority an opportunity to check that actions from previous meetings are being implemented. New actions will be added to the Action Register.

If an action is completed the Local Authority need to request the item to be removed from the Action Register, for the Council to endorse.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Local Authority Yirrkala [3.1.1 - 5 pages]

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
PA System	<p>That the Local Authority:</p> <p>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.</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. 29.10.25 – GMTIS to organise a meeting with Rirratjingu to explore the option of connecting PA to EARC system.</p>
Children's Playground \$60,000		<p>18.01.2021 – application lodged with the NLC for approval to construct – awaiting consultative forum. 12.05.2021 – Ongoing 25.11.2021 – Was not approved. Will be discussed again in six months' time. 24.03.2021 – purchasing the kit – to be installed undercover – waiting on approval. 26.05.2022 – Waiting on approval. 22.06.2022 – Unit has been purchased – will await consultation on location. 02.12.2022 – Consultation timeframes have not been provided by the NLC. 03.02.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals. 02.06.23 – waiting on consultation and approvals. 27.07.23 – has been raised with Chief Minister. 29.08.23 – ongoing waiting on outcomes. 26.10.23 – been purchased waiting on consultations. 05.02.24 – still waiting on approvals. 08.04.24 – Awaiting for approval from NLC. 24.04.24 – Waiting on Land Trust 25.06.24 – As above 27.07.24 – Still waiting on NLC approval for land usage. 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. 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. 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. 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>
Alter current application for community toilet block and Ceremony area to change Location from shady beach to ceremony ground.	28.05.25 – Action Item title changed to include Ceremony Area.	<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 , 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>
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>
<i>Yirrkala Future Actions/ Advocacy:</i>		

YIRRKALA ACTIONS

ACTION ITEM	ACTIONS	STATUS
Marine Navigation Lights at Yirrkala Ramp		<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

3.2 CEO Report

AUTHOR Dale Keehne (Chief Executive Officer)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the CEO Report.

SUMMARY:

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

GENERAL:

Happy New Year to all Local Authority Members, your families, communities and homelands. I have been spending time with family like you all over the end of year.

I look forward to another strong year of working with you, local leaders and members of our six Yolngu communities related homelands.

There are many issues, challenges and opportunities to help shape a better life for all, with our strong local Indigenous leaders at the heart of it all.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.3 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 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 Services

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

We are pleased to welcome Mr Larry Gurruwiwi as our Community Media Officer. Larry commenced work with us on 13 November 2025. He is passionate about radio broadcasting and brings with him a wealth of experience having previously worked with Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (ARDS) and has been a part of the well-known Andrew Gurruwiwi Band. He also performs interstate with his band at various events representing Yolŋu culture through his music. During his radio shifts he plays Yolŋu music and talks about community stories and updates. The program airs on the 105.03FM frequency.



EARC Yirrkala Christmas Party

In December, we were visited by a Consultant from Think Safe Solutions to provide guidance on Cyclone Preparedness. This gave us the opportunity to learn more about safety, quality and compliance requirements and to apply these across the organisation by following best practice procedures.

To celebrate the festive season, we decorated the Yirrkala Office foyer with an impressive Christmas display. We had a great time decorating to bring some festive vibes to the workplace and capped this off by having a Christmas party with the entire EARC Yirrkala team.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that our Post Office services have improved by using a new parcel scanner provided by Australia Post as a part of their scanner trials program. This now allows us to easily track, return and transfer parcels. The benefit to the community is that they can now see in real time via tracking, if their parcel is awaiting collection at the Yirrkala Post Office.

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



East Arnhem Regional Council Yirrkala Council Office – 2025 Christmas Display



East Arnhem Regional Council Yirrkala Council Office – 2025 Christmas Display (lights off)

Municipal Services (MS)

We are pleased to welcome our new Municipal Services Officers, Dion Yunupingu, Jeremy Wunungmurra and Dominic Maymuru onboard to our Yirrkala Municipal team.

Our Municipal team has been working hard across the community on general clean-ups, hard rubbish removal and recycling projects.

The MS team has been working in and around the Oval to maintain its great condition and held up well throughout both the dry and wet seasons. They have also done great work during the Cyclone Preparation hard rubbish clean-up across the community collecting approximately 44 cubic meters of hard rubbish in Yirrkala.



Cyclone Preparation – Hard Rubbish Collection.



Cyclone Preparation – Hard Rubbish Collection.



Cyclone Preparation – Hard Rubbish Collection.

We are also glad to share that we have resumed the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in the Yirrkala community with a successful round completed in November 2025. It was great to see the new MS team and the community's enthusiasm and participation in the CDS project.

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)

There has been ongoing strengthening of the night patrol team as a cohesive unit, showcasing excellent teamwork. On 23 December 2025, Community Night Patrol members distributed small Christmas gifts to children within the community. This initiative helped to maintain positive relationships between youth and Night Patrol officers and provides an opportunity to engage with young community members and gain insight into their plans for the holiday season.



Celebrating Christmas with kids.

We would like to acknowledge the resignation of Arlene Marika, who has dedicated the past five years to serving the Yirrkala community with commitment and passion. Arlene will be sincerely missed by the Community Night Patrol team.

Additionally, we bid farewell to Tekiya Maymuru, who was with us for a short period before relocating back to Queensland.

Despite these resignations, we have maintained our regular patrol services to the Yirrkala community. The Night Patrol Coordinator has been actively involved in patrol operations to ensure that service quality continues at a high standard.

Community Night Patrol continue to support active communities with their activities and events.



Yirrkala Community Night Patrol team.

Along with the Sobering Up Shelter (SUS) team, the Community Night Patrol team participated in a de-escalation training session. The training covered strategies for managing volatile situations, reading body language, increasing situational awareness, and effectively handling multiple situations to achieve positive outcomes.



Community Night Patrol and Sobering Up Shelter teams in training.



Community Night Patrol and Sobering Up Shelter team. Community Night Patrol and Sobering Up Shelter Christmas Party at Nhulunbuy Pool.

Aged Care Services and Disability Services (AC&DS)

Our Aged Care team and clients continue to engage in fun activities, both in the centre and out in the community.

Our National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants and support team members have also been busy with activities in the centre as well as driving around to participate in activities with NDIS clients.

We had a wonderful time at the client's Christmas party, celebrating with Christmas carols, food and games.



In the rainy season we spent time picking wild plums, bush apples and fresh mangoes.



Christmas Lunch in the Centre.

Our staff are looking forward to completing their Cert III in Individual Support in the coming year. We thank our EARC Training and Development team for their continuous support in this.

The new Aged Care Reforms came into effect on 1 November 2025. These reforms are centred around the new Aged Care Act with a new Statement of Rights, focusing on putting older people's rights first. We continue to inform our clients about the changes to support and service delivery to ensure a smooth transition. Clients and staff are learning and moving forward together in this new journey.

Child Care Services

This quarter has been a positive and productive period for our Child Care team, with a strong focus on collaboration, continuity of care, and family engagement. Staff have continued to work closely together to provide a safe, nurturing, and consistent environment for children, particularly during the busy end-of-year period.

We are proud of the team's commitment to maintaining routines, supporting children's emotional wellbeing, and building strong relationships with families. The team demonstrated flexibility and professionalism during the lead-up to the festive season, ensuring children felt supported and included in all activities. Overall, the dedication and teamwork shown this quarter have been a key strength of the service.



Child Care Christmas Party.

We recently said goodbye to Hellen Wayambo who was the Child Care Team Leader. Hellen has moved interstate to reunite with her family. Staff, children and families will all miss her a lot.

We are currently in the interviewing process to re-hire the childcare Team Leader position in the new year.

We held our Christmas Party in September 2025, which had a great turnout with most families attending. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the year together, strengthen family connections, and create a welcoming community atmosphere.

Our Regional Manager, Maggie visited the service this quarter and provided valuable support to all staff on the floor. Her presence was greatly appreciated by the team.

Throughout the quarter, programming focused on supporting children's social development, creativity, and sense of belonging. End-of-year and festive-themed activities were incorporated into both indoor and outdoor learning experiences.

Children participated in group art activities, music and movement sessions, and collaborative play that encouraged sharing, communication, and confidence-building. Routine-based activities continued to support independence, while play-based learning remained central to the daily program.



Child Care Christmas Party.



Children Learning Cooking Skills at the Centre.

Professional development has continued to be a priority this quarter.

Roisin has completed her Food Safety Supervisor training and is currently awaiting her final assessment to be marked.

All full-time staff have either completed or are scheduled to complete Red Nose Safe Sleep training, ensuring ongoing compliance with safe sleep practices and reinforcing our commitment to children's health and safety.

Active Communities and Youth Services (ACYS)

The current Active Communities (AC) team consists of the AC Coordinator, Rob Kestle, Sharee Yunupingu, Denzel Marika, Steven Marawili.

Over the reporting period, a wide range of recreational activities have been delivered as part of the program. These have included volleyball, art and craft, movie nights, basketball, table tennis, skateboarding and disco.

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. Attendance has remained strong, and the activity provides a positive weekly outcome for participants.

In addition to basketball, a disco was held in Yirrkala on Friday 14 November 2025. The event was well-attended and considered a success by ACYS staff. Social events like these play an important role in building engagement and strengthening community connections.

A volleyball gala day was recently held in Gapuwiyak, providing another sporting and community engagement opportunity for young people.



Active Communities Disco - Yirrkala.

The drop-in centre re-opened in December and has already become a well-used space for young people and is already being enjoyed for movie nights and art and craft activities, so the centre continues to grow in activity and usage.



Active Communities Disco - Yirrkala.

No formal training sessions were held during November and December, allowing the focus to shift toward end of year activities and holiday programs.

Waste and Environmental Update

This team is doing an excellent job during the Christmas period, while Brad Lena, the Municipal Services Supervisor, is taking some well-deserved leave with his family.

Thank you, EARC team, for continuing to deliver standard services throughout this festive Period at Yirrkala.



Yirrkala Municipal Services team.

Goal 2

2.2 Collaborate with the community and stakeholders for safer communities.2.2.1 Facilitate and advocate for community safety, improved safety, improved health and other services.

Pre-Cyclone Clean-Up Weeks had been moved forward across the EARC footprint in accordance with Bureau of Meteorology modelling, which indicates that the cyclone/wet season will commence earlier in the year.

This saw us carry out a Pre Cyclone Clean Up week in Yirrkala between 17 – 21 November 2025.



Yirrkala Pre Cyclone Week Clean Up Poster.

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

- Dr Cassandra visited Yirrkala with veterinary Nurse Sarah on the 27 – 28 November 2025.
- Dr Maddy performed surgeries on the week of 9 December 2025 with Sarah.
- Good engagement during the reporting period with 53 engagements across the period
- Large percentage of the dog and cat population already desexed, population numbers appear stable.
- Upcoming visits: To be confirmed for 2026

Service Delivery Table:

Yirrkala	October	November	December	25- 26 FY	24- 25 FY
Dogs Desexed	0	5	1	10	21
Cats Desexed	1	8	0	15	22
Community consultations	3	1	0	30	95
Remote/Phone consultations	1	2	2	9	38
EARC Veterinary Cabinet medication dispensed	1	2	0	6	21
Minor procedures/other surgeries	0	1	0	2	7
Parasite Treatments	25	0	0	199	426
Euthanasia	0	0	0	3	7
Private practice consultations (Mainland)	0	0	0	0	2
Total Engagements	31	19	3	271	639

Additional Collaborations:

- Laynhapuy Homelands:
 - Dr Maddy met with Laynhapuy Homelands in June to discuss collaborating on contracted veterinary services in their homelands. Even though our team has limited capacity, we have offered to assist where possible to increase the outcomes in the homelands from a One Health perspective. Veterinary visits to Baniyala, Dhalinybuy, Gan Gan, Gurrumurru, Wandawuy and Garthalala have been done this year, with surgical visits to Gan Gan, Dhalinybuy and Baniyala. The EARC Animal Management Program has a commitment to assist the animals and people of East Arnhem where possible. We are hoping to continue this partnership again in 2026.

Dr Maddy met with Laynhapuy on 18 December 2025 to discuss the ongoing partnership in 2026.

Stakeholder engagements, Community education activities: N/A

Photos:



Angel in clinic for her operation!



Puppy with abscess recovering well.



Nala before her leg amputation!

NOTING PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

3.4 Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Local Authority note the Technical and Infrastructure Services Report

SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

GENERAL:**Yirrkala New Cemetery**

Concerns have been raised regarding the limited availability of burial space within the existing cemetery. Investigations are currently underway and indicate there may be additional land available within the current lot boundary; however, civil works would be required to improve accessibility. Further updates with proposed costings will be provided at the next LAPF 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

3.5 Human Resources and Finance Report

AUTHOR Ralph Reddy (Finance Manager)**RECOMMENDATION**

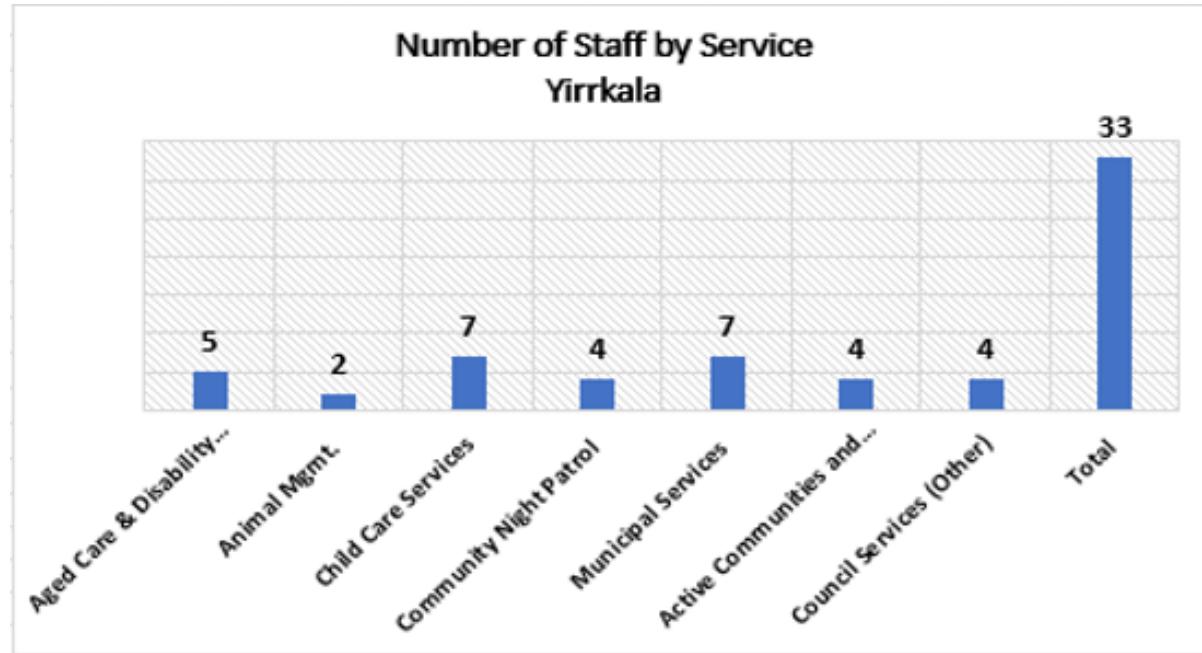
That the Local Authority receives the Human Resources and Employment information as of 31 December 2025.

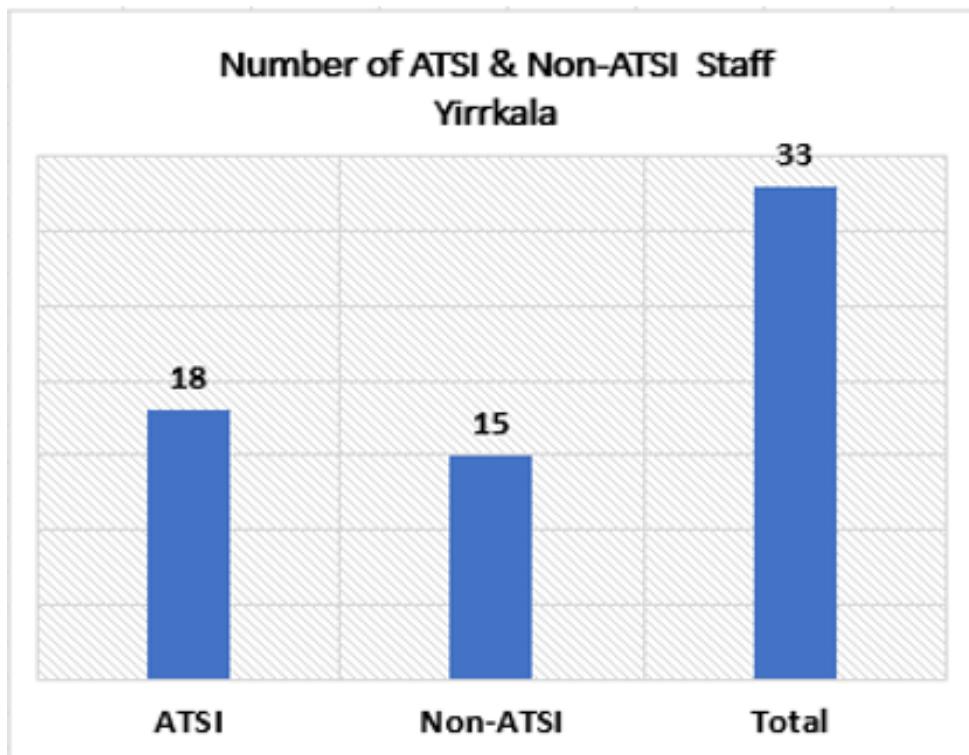
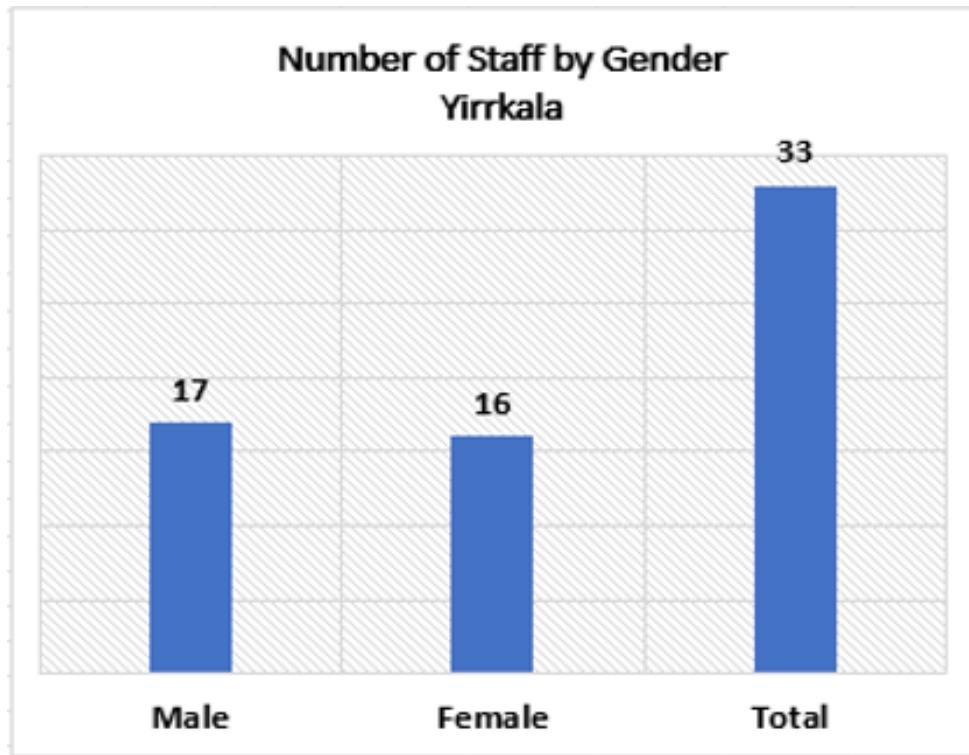
SUMMARY:

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

BACKGROUND:

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

GENERAL:Employee Statistics:



Vacancies as of 31 December 2025:

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
Child Care Team Leader	Yirrkala	Full Time Permanent	External	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:

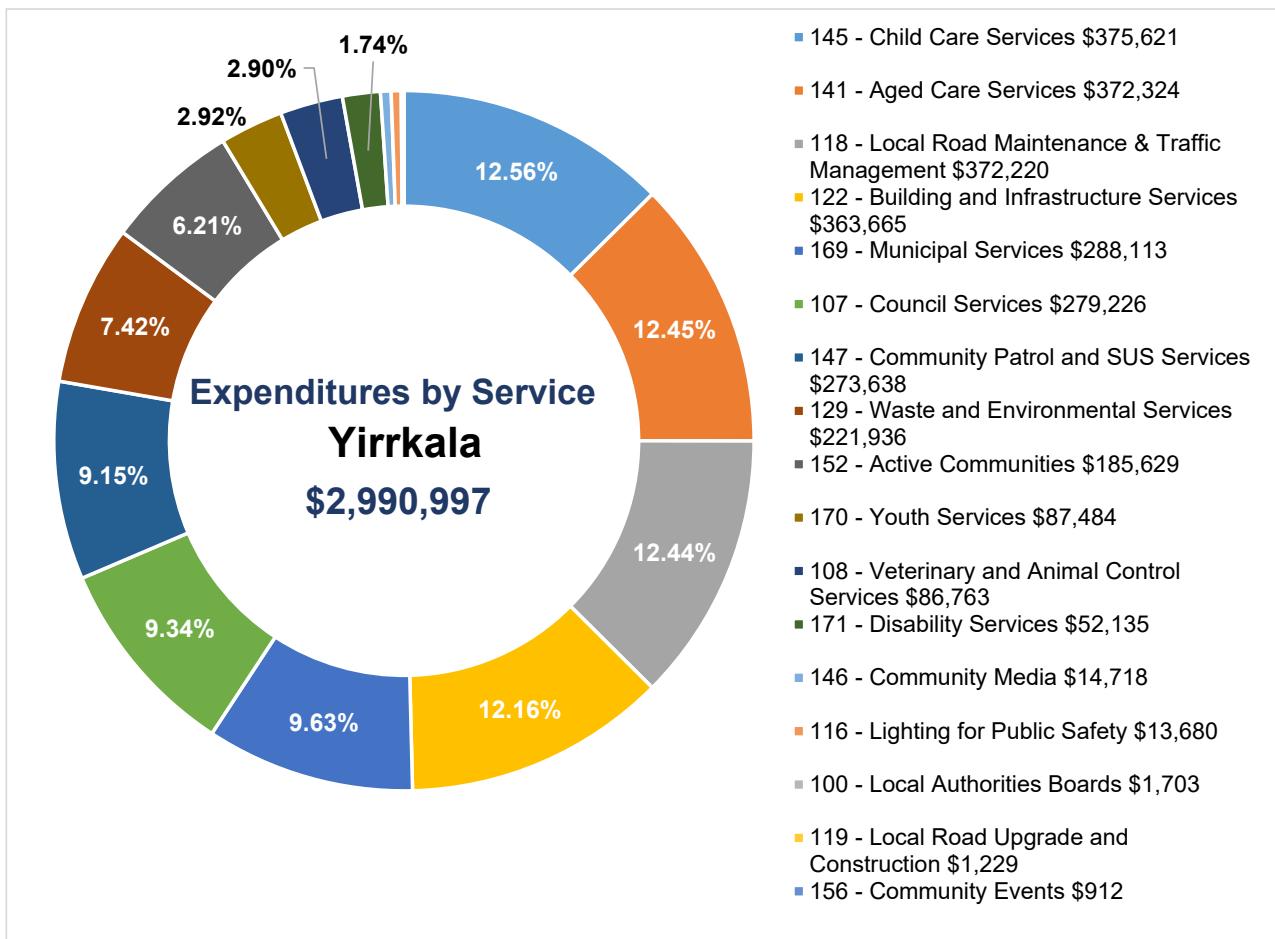
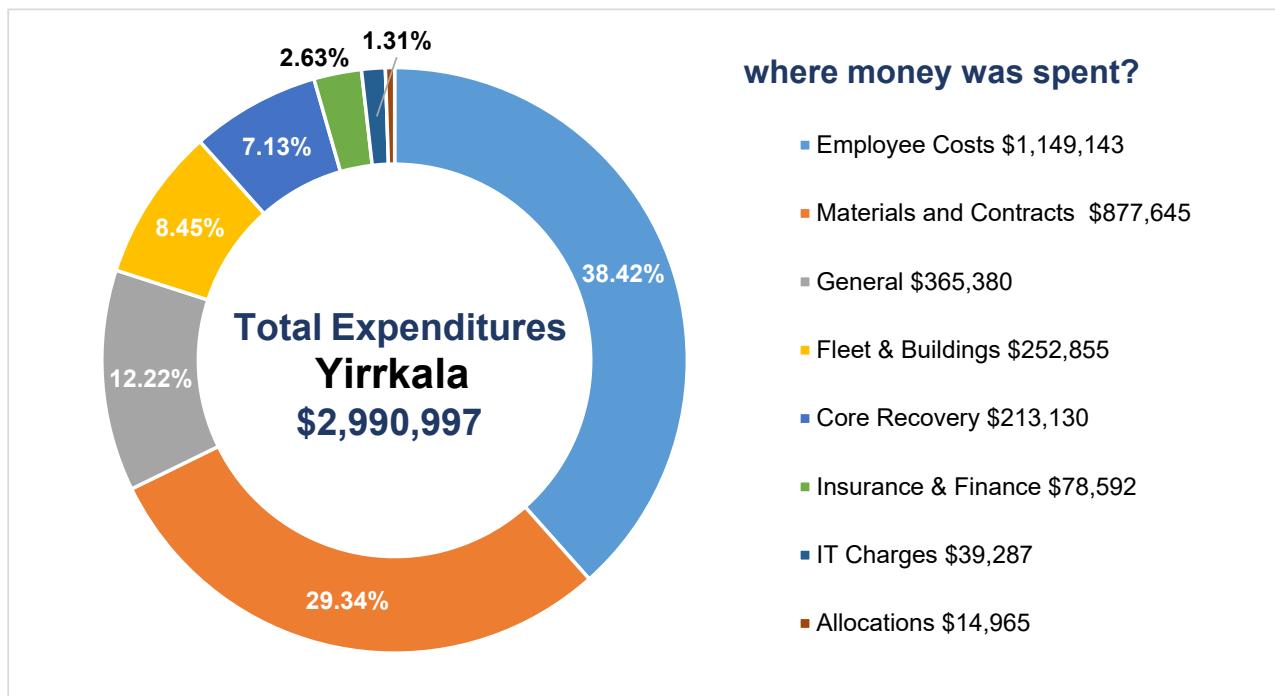
1. 06. December 2025 Yirrkala LAPF Funds Left [3.5.1 - 1 page]
2. 06. December 2025 Yirrkala Chart LA Report [3.5.2 - 1 page]

LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING (LAPF) - YIRRKALA

FUNDS LEFT

As at 31st December 2025

	YTD ACTUAL	COMMITMENTS	ACTUAL + COMMITMENTS	FULL YEAR BUDGET	PROGRESS % (ACTUAL vs BUDGET)
CARRIED FORWARD LAPF FROM PRIOR YEAR	376,661	-	376,661	302,245	
LAPF RECEIVED THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	-	-	-	107,700	
TOTAL AVAILABLE LAPF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR	376,661	-	376,661	409,945	
LESS LAPF PROJECTS					
277218 - Unallocated LAPF 2017-2018, Yirrkala	-	(13,440)	(13,440)	-	0%
TOTAL PROJECTS	-	(13,440)	(13,440)	-	0%
ESTIMATED LAPF - LEFT (OVERSPEND) / UNDERSPEND			363,221	409,945	



4 General Business and Date of Next Meeting

5 Meeting Close