



AGENDA OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE OFFICE
OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ALICE SPRINGS ON FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER
2025 AT 9:30 AM

1. MEETING OPENED

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present: Independent Chair Randle Walker, President Roxanne Kenny, Councillor Dalton McDonald, Councillor Veronica Lynch, Deputy President Maryanne Malbunka

Staff: Belinda Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer and Osman Kassem, Manager Finance.

Apologies:

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting – 11 December 20243

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4.1 That the Committee Members note the Conflict of Interest Policy and that Committee Members declare any conflict of interest with this meeting agenda6

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - NIL

6. OFFICERS' REPORTS - NIL

7. GENERAL BUSINESS – NIL

8. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

- 8.1 Audited Financial Statements 2024-25
The report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and Section 50 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021. It contains 51(1)(c)(iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: (iv) subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10. MEETING CLOSED

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER 3.1
TITLE Confirmation of Previous Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the minutes of the previous Audit Committee Meeting held 11 December 2024 to be approved by the Committee

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Audit Committee Meeting held 11 December 2024 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

ATTACHMENTS

1. AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING 11.12.2024 - MINUTES



MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE CEO'S OFFICE ON
WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024 AT 11:00 AM

11 MEETING OPENED at 10.06am

12 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors:

Independent Chair Randle Walker, Member Lisa Sharman, Member Andrew Davis, Deputy President Dalton McDonald and President Roxanne Kenny

Staff:

Belinda Urquhart, CEO, and Sheree Sherry, Chief Financial and Information Officer.

Apologies:

Nil.

13 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**3.1 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 OCTOBER 2024
AC2024-003 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Dalton McDonald)**

That the minutes be taken as read and be accepted as a true record of the Meeting.

14 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

15 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

16 OFFICERS' REPORTS

6.1 2024 AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

AC2024-004 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Andrew Davis)

That the Audit Committee reviews and notes the Draft General Purpose Financial Report, including the Independent Audit Report, for the year ended 30 June 2024.

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

18 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting terminated at 10.09am.

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting - 29 August 2025 - 11:00 AM

This page and the preceding page are the unconfirmed minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2024.

Chairperson

4 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER	4.1
TITLE	Conflict of Interest

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report outlines the minimum standard of behaviour expected of the Committee in relation to declaring personal or family financial interests that may impact on the performance of their roles and ability to make objective decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

- a) **notes the Conflict of Interest Policy; and**
- b) **the Committee Members declare any conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.**

BACKGROUND

Conflicts of interest arise when members are influenced, or appear to be influenced, by personal interests when doing their jobs. The perception of a conflict of interest – the way it seems to the public - can be as damaging as an actual conflict, because it undermines public confidence in the integrity and fairness of MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC).

Under the *Local Government Act*, not declaring a conflict of interest or improperly disclosing information can lead to imprisonment.

Examples of conflicts of interest and improper disclosure of information:

Tendering and Purchasing – financial conflict of interest

- Example: Council has advertised for a contractor for irrigation of a football oval. A member is employed by a company which has tendered for the contract. This may affect, or it may reasonably be suspected that it could affect, their ability to make an unbiased or fair decision when the contract choice is considered by Council.

Tendering and Purchasing – non-financial conflict of interest

- Example: A contractor tendering for a Council contract for road works offers to seal the road to a member's house. The member would not be seen as impartial or fair when choosing the contractor for the job.

Information and Opportunities

- Example: a member may know a lot of information about tenders for contracts coming up in the MRC area before the tenders are made public. Conflicts can arise if the member gives this information to a friend or relative working for a company so they can have a better chance of winning the contract.

Undue Influence

- Example: a member tries to pressure a hotel in Alice Springs into providing free accommodation, because they are a member of Council.

Declaring a Conflict of Interest

As soon as practical after a member becomes aware of a conflict of interest in a matter that has come up or is about to come up before or during a meeting (council, local authority or

Audit Committee Meeting 3 October 2025 – Agenda

council committee), the member must disclose or tell the relevant interest to the meeting and to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MRC.

Details of members' interests and the nature of those interests will be recorded in the relevant Register of Interests published on the Council's website and to be available for any member of the public to look over at the Council's public office.

In addition, if a member enters into a personal or business relationship with another member or Council employee that could result in a conflict of interest, then this relationship must be reported to the President and CEO. A file note will be made and recorded on the relevant Register of Interests.

Uncertainty about whether a conflict of interest exists or not

If a member is unsure whether or not they have a conflict of interest, they should give full details to the CEO or seek independent legal advice.

The CEO does not have a responsibility to decide whether or not a member has a conflict of interest in a matter. The responsibility for determining whether a member has a conflict of interest is up to the individual member.

If you do have a Conflict of Interest

After a member has disclosed the nature of the interest, the member must not, without approval from the Minister:

- be present during any discussion of the meeting when the matter is being discussed
- take part in any decision related to the matter
- Influence another member in their decision.

Members will not become involved in the promotion or endorsement of products and/or services unless this has been approved in line with Council's policies and Code of Conduct.

Complaints Regarding Failure to Disclose an Interest

Any person may make a complaint that a member has or may have failed to disclose or tell of a conflict of interest. All complaints should be directed to the MRC CEO.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

The Disclosure of Interests Policy helps Council to ensure that:

- the business of Council is conducted with efficiency, fairness, and integrity; and
- members act in the best interests of Council and do not seek personal or family gain when performing their duties or use their public office for personal gain.