



MINUTES OF THE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE
AREYONGA COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2025 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 11.00AM

2 WELCOME – Chair Sarah Gallagher

**3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS /
NOMINATIONS**

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Sarah Gallagher, Member Jonathan Doolan, Member Hilda Bert and Member Joy Kunia

Councillors:

Member Marlene Abbott

Council Employees:

Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Keith Hassett – Director Community Services, Stuart Millar – Area Manager, Benny Alick – CSC Areyonga and June Crabb – Governance Coordinator

Via Teams - Ryan Rosenberg – Project Management Office

Guests:

Nil

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Member Garnet Djana and Member Jacob Carol (Yarma)

Absentees:

Member Abraham Poulson

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES

ARLA2025-039 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)

That members:

- a) noted the attendance;**
- b) accepted the apologies received from Members Garnet Djana and Jacob Carol; and**
- c) recorded the absence without notice from Councillor Abraham Poulson**

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

3.5.1 NOMINATIONS FOR THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the changes to the membership of the Local Authority.

ARLA2025-040 RESOLVED(Joy Kunia/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the vacancy on the Authority; and**
- b) called for community nominations to remain open to fill the vacancy.**

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

ARLA2025-041 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Joy Kunia)

That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the Council Code of Conduct.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ARLA2025-042 RESOLVED(Hilda Bert/Joy Kunia)

That the Areyonga Local Authority accepted the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 15 May 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

ARLA2025-043 RESOLVED(Hilda Bert/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

ARLA2025-044 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

ARLA2025-045 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting declared no conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.

8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

8.1 REMOTE HOUSING - REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND TENANCY TEAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This section provides an opportunity for representatives from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development to provide the Local Authority with updates regarding Remote Housing programs, repairs, maintenance and tenancy.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepts any updates from Remote Housing representatives; and**
- b) raises matters relating to housing repairs, maintenance and tenancy within the community.**

Minute Note: A Representative from Housing was not in attendance to this meeting

8.2 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Every four years, people living in the Northern Territory elect representatives to serve on their Local Government Council. Local Government is the level of government most connected to your community, and the 2025 Local Government Elections will be your chance to stand up and represent your local area.

ARLA2025-046 RESOLVED(Jonathan Doolan/Sarah Gallagher)

That the Local Authority:

- a) urged all eligible residents to ensure they are enrolled to vote;**
- b) encouraged community members to consider nominating as candidates; and**
- c) noted that nominations are open until Thursday 31 July.**
- d) noted that polling will be happening in Areyonga at the Council office on Friday 15 August 2025 from 10am to 1pm.**

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 REGIONAL PLANNING INCORPORATING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The MacDonnell Regional Council develops Community Infrastructure plans for each community every five years. These plans are created in consultation with the Local Authority to record the community's priorities for the future development of their Infrastructure.

The Local Authority is asked to guide and support MRC staff in the development of the of the community and planning in relation to the community's infrastructure.

Priority projects discussed at the previous Local Authority Meeting:

- Outdoor Cinema
- Market Garden
- Drainage around the Basketball Court
- Solar lights on the entrance road, like the lights at Ti-tree Roadhouse
- A causeway on the entrance road to prevent the community from being cut off during floods.

ARLA2025-047 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Sarah Gallagher)

That the Local Authority provided its priorities in relation to the development of the community's infrastructure.

9.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area LAPF has been provided for.
- Community based programs – including music, art or dance; uniforms for sporting events; or preservation of culture or traditions.

At risk funds' are funds that may include unallocated funds and/or funds that have been allocated but remains unspent.

ARLA2025-048 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepted the 2024/2025 Project funds allocation of \$30,700.00;**
- b) noted that \$28,749.29 are funds at risk of being returned;**
- c) closed Project 2118 – Fencing and repairs at Playground, reallocating the**

- underspend of \$11,792.02 to the Healthy Community event;
- d) accepted the \$11,792.02 from Project 2118 and committed an additional \$33,770.00 being the current balance of unallocated funds to the Healthy Community event project;
- e) noted the progress on their current projects and kept these open; and
- f) did not discuss the priorities of their wishlist.

9.3 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each financial year, MRC grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority decides how best to commit these funds that will benefit the Community and to improve Community development.

Discretionary Funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

ARLA2025-049 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority

- a) noted that \$2,285.05 of discretionary funds from the 2024-25 financial year were spent with all invoices received;
- b) noted that due to differing funding guidelines, \$1,438.25 that was committed to the Healthy Community event project will be returned to unallocated and approved by the CEO to carry over to the 2025/26 financial year;
- c) noted the approval given from the CEO to carry forward the funds of \$621.80 for the commitment to the School Activities;
- d) noted that an invoice has not been received for the Subway purchased for the School trip;
- e) received the 2025/26 Discretionary funds allocation of \$4,000.00; and
- f) did not allocate any funds at this meeting.

9.4 MRC POSITION VACANCIES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached list of vacancies are opportunities for community members to contribute to the community needs, and the People and Capabilities team asks those present at the Local Authority meeting to encourage community members to apply.

ARLA2025-050 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Joy Kunia)

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepted the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Areyonga as of 3 July 2025; and
- b) invite the Childcare Manager to the next meeting to provide an update to its Children's services.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is an update of Council delivered services in Areyonga across the area of Local Government Service Delivery

ARLA2025-051 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority of Areyonga noted and accepted the Council Services report.

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety, Aged Care, Children's Services and Youth Services.

ARLA2025-052 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Services report.

11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members of the Authority have an opportunity to raise matters that they wish to discuss in General Council Business.

ARLA2025-053 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Sarah Gallagher)

That the Local Authority did not raise and matters relating to General Council Business.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1 GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on matters that members may have regarding Non-Council Services.

This may include, but is not limited to, issues relating to housing, health, schools, police and roads.

ARLA2025-054 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority raised the following matters of Non-Council Business.

- **Invite MLA Chansey Paech - Member for Gwoja.**
- **Invite Tjuwanpa to discuss the services that they provide.**
- **Invite Central Land Council Representatives to discuss leases and land Management.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER, 2025

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:43 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2025 and were confirmed Wednesday, 15 October 2025.