



MINUTES OF THE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD UNDER THE SHELTER OPPOSITE THE COUNCIL OFFICE ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was held outdoors and declared open at 10:55AM

1.1 NOMINATION FOR CHAIRPERSON

ARLA2026-16 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Jonathan Doolan)

That members nominated Sarah Gallagher as Acting Chairperson for this meeting.

2 WELCOME

Member Sarah Gallagher welcomed everyone to the meeting

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Member Sarah Gallagher, Member Garnet Djana, Member Hilda Bert, Member Jonathan Doolan, Member Joy Kunia and Member Jacob Yarma

Councillors

Nil

Council Employees

Keith Hassett – Deputy Chief Executive Officer/Director Council Services, Victor Morgan – Area Manager, Beatrice Ker – Council Services Coordinator, Lusiana Ravutu – Home Care Coordinator and June Crabb – Coordinator Governance

Guests

Chansey Paech Member for Gwoja, and Katharine O'Donoghue – Representative from the Member for Gwoja Office

Vishnu Khanal – Representative of the Menzies School of Health, Digital Health Project, Donna Lemon, Paumea McKay and Shanaya McAdam-Bray – Representatives Department Local Government, Housing and Community Development,

Ciaran Dunn and Cherisse Buzzacott – Representatives Marion Scrymgour MP Office,
 Alison Anderson – Representative Ngurratjuta,
 Residents of Areyonga Community

Absentees

Councillor Abraham Poulson

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to acknowledge the attendance and to table, for the Authority’s record, any apologies received from Members for this meeting.

ARLA2026-17 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the Member’s attendance at this meeting;
- b) noted no apologies received for this meeting; and
- c) recorded the absence of Councillor Abraham Poulson, without notice, for this meeting.

Minute Note: Member Joy Kunia arrived to the meeting at 11:03am

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	4.1
TITLE:	Local Authority Membership
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purpose of this paper is to highlight the vacancies on the Local Authority (the Authority) and to apprise the Local Authority of any legislative changes to appointments introduced in the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act).

ARLA2026-18 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Garnet Djana)

That the Local Authority;

- a) noted the members’ attendance at the previous meeting;
- b) noted that Sarah Gallagher has stepped down as Chairperson;
- c) discussed to select a Chairperson for a 12-month term at the next meeting;
- d) were advised that Peter Wilson had resigned as an Elected Member of Council;
- e) noted a by-election will be forthcoming for the Iyarrka Ward;
- f) called for community nominations to remain open to fill the vacancy for an appointed member; and
- g) noted that a membership may be revoked if a member is absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings.

5 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

ITEM NUMBER:	5.1
TITLE:	MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains all of the details about the MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct Policy.

ARLA2026-19 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER:	6.1
TITLE:	Confirmation of Previous Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the minutes of the previous Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held 31 March 2026 to be approved by the Authority.

ARLA2026-20 RESOLVED (Jonathan Doolan/Jacob Yarma)

That the Local Authority confirmed the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held 31 March 2026 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

ITEM NUMBER:	7.1
TITLE:	Acceptance of Agenda

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Agenda papers are submitted for acceptance by the Members for this Local Authority Meeting.

ARLA2026-21 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Sarah Gallagher)

That the agenda papers for this Local Authority meeting as presented, be received for consideration at this meeting.

8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER:	8.1
TITLE:	Conflict of Interest

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

ARLA2026-22 RESOLVED (Joy Kunia/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority Meeting:

- a) **noted the Conflict of Interest Policy; and**
- b) **that members did not declare any conflicts of interest.**

9 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

ITEM NUMBER:	9.1
TITLE:	Menzies School of Health Research
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vishnu Khanal from the Menzies School of Health Research will present the key findings of an ongoing digital health project entitled, '*Optimizing Digital Solutions to Improve Access to Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services in Remote Indigenous Communities*', which is scheduled for completion at the end of 2026.

Vishnu Khanal will also be seeking in-principle support from the Local Authority to continue activities beyond the current project period.

ARLA2026-23 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **noted and accepted the report; and**
- b) **agreed in providing in-principle support for the continuation of the described activities beyond the current project period.**

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	10.1
TITLE:	Local Authority Action Register
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a running list of Local Authority action items as raised at previous meetings.

ARLA2026-24 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority noted the progress on the action items as follows:

- a) closed signs for Aged Care, noting that the signs would be installed once completed; and
- b) agreed to keep open the invitation for Tjuwanpa to attend the September meeting to discuss the Remote Areas Employment Services (RAES) and the Remote Job Economic Development (RJED) and how these programs will benefit the community.

ITEM NUMBER:	10.2
TITLE:	Local Authority Project Register
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

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 LAMP 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.

ARLA2026-25 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) acknowledged that \$45,723.83 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;

- b) noted the progress on their current projects as follows:
- 2111 – Ride on mower, accepting the recommendation from the Project Management Office to provide an additional \$15,000.00 towards the purchase of a Diesel mower and agreed to allocate \$5,000.00, with the balance of up to \$10,000.00 to be funded through Council Service Delivery’s Budget.
 - 2112 – Water Bubbler, noting the Purchase Order raised.
 - 2261 – Healthy Community event – noting that planning is underway and the organisers are waiting to hear back from guest speakers.
- c) noted completion and closed Project 2119 – Solar light at Entrance, returning \$1,091.62 to unallocated;
- d) considered the priority of the wishlist items with no decisions made at this meeting; and
- e) requested that the PMO Office source quotes for a fence around the front of the Aged Care facility.

ITEM NUMBER:	10.3
TITLE:	Local Authority Discretionary Funds
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each financial year, MacDonnell Regional Council grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority. These funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

ARLA2026-26 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Joy Kunia)

That the Local Authority noted the spending of their 2025/26 Discretionary funds

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	11.1
TITLE:	Council Services LAR
AUTHOR:	Ellen Fitzgerald, Senior Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Areyonga across the area of Local Government Council Services.

ARLA2026-27 RESOLVED (Jonathan Doolan/Jacob Yarma)

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

ITEM NUMBER:	11.2
TITLE:	Aged Care and Children's Services Report
AUTHOR:	Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Aged Care and Children's Services

ARLA2026-28 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Aged Care and Children's Services reports.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.3
TITLE:	Youth Services and Community Safety Reports
AUTHOR:	Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety and Youth Services.

ARLA2026-29 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Jonathan Doolan)

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

12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	12.1
TITLE:	General Council Business

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to give Members the opportunity to discuss General Council Business items.

ARLA2026-30 RESOLVED (Sarah Gallagher/Hilda Bert)

That the Local Authority noted that no matters were raised in General Council Business.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	13.1
TITLE:	Non-Council Business
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise in relation to services provided by the Northern Territory Government and its external Stakeholders.

This may include:

- Roads outside of MRC's area
- Education
- Health
- Police
- Land Management

ARLA2026-31 RESOLVED (Hilda Bert/Garnet Djana)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **noted that Chansey Paech attended the Local Authority meeting in June and closed this action;**
- b) **determined to close:**
 - **replacement of swampy's with split systems**
- c) **noted the matters raised at the previous meeting and acknowledged the responses received. Members expressed ongoing concerns regarding housing maintenance, communication and responsiveness, and agreed that the following matters should remain open pending further action and updates from the Department:**
 1. **How are repairs prioritised**
Members expressed ongoing frustration regarding delays in maintenance services and the lack of direct communication with residents. Members reiterated their request for Housing, Maintenance and Repairs to establish a pop-up shop in the community to provide residents with an opportunity to discuss outstanding housing matters directly with departmental representatives.
 2. **Noted that 11 dwellings underwent audits in 2025 and requested that all remaining dwellings, particularly those occupied by elderly residents, be prioritised for assessment during the next community visit.**
 3. **The future of Lot 52 noting that information had been requested for more than 12 months.**
 4. **RTB program – is the program still active?**
 5. **Whether Areyonga will receive additional housing through future new build programs.**
 6. **Whether split system air-conditioners will be installed in new builds and to clarify the eligibility criteria for existing dwellings to receive a split system air-conditioner.**
 7. **Provision of advance notice for community visits**

- d) **Discussed new matters raised as follows:**
8. **Significant delays in housing repairs and maintenance, including priority repairs relating to ongoing plumbing issues.**
 9. **Lack of communication regarding housing repairs, including limited updates on the progress of repair requests and scheduled contractor visits.**
 10. **Lack of heating and insulation, particularly in homes occupied by older residents.**
 11. **Licensing, Birth Certificates and Ochre Cards.**
Members noted that Council will contact Tjuwanpa regarding support services for community residents requiring assistance with driver's licences, birth certificates and ochre cards. Members were also reminded that Tjuwanpa has accepted an invitation to attend the September Local Authority meeting to discuss the services that they provide.
- e) **Noted the advice from the Department Local Government, Housing and Community Development (DLGHCD) that residents document maintenance issues by taking photographs and forwarding them to the DLGHCD Team with their name, Lot number, and the reference number received when the issue was reported. Council agreed to assist residents with sending this information to the Department where required.**
- f) **Anti-Social behaviour and vandalism**
NT Police discussed ongoing efforts to address antisocial behaviour through regular patrols, community engagement and collaboration with local service providers. Residents were encouraged to report incidents promptly to assist with police response and monitoring efforts.
- g) **Members asked the Representatives from Marion Scrymgeour's office that they liaise with the Northern Territory Government to facilitate a visit by a Housing Representative to the community to meet with residents who have been experiencing extended delays in receiving housing repairs and maintenance services.**
- h) **Members expressed their appreciation to all special guests and community residents for attending and contributing to their Local Authority Meeting.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:43 pm.

This page and the preceding 8 pages are the minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday 2 June 2026 and are UNCONFIRMED.