

AGENDA

FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025

The Finke Local Authority Meeting of the MacDonnell Regional Council will be held at the Finke Council Office on Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 10:30 AM.

Belinda Urquhart

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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- **14 NEXT MEETING 2026**
- 15 MEETING CLOSED



3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER 3.1

TITLE Attendance, Apologies and Leave

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the Member's attendance at this meeting;
- b) tables apologies received for this meeting;
- c) records the Member absences, without notice, for this meeting; and
- d) receives requests for future leave of absence.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Authority can choose to accept the apologies as presented, or not accept them. Apologies that are not accepted will be recorded as absent without notice.



4 NOMINATIONS AND CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER 4.1

TITLE Local Authority Membership

AUTHOR June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

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).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority;

- a) congratulates returning Councillors Patrick Allen, Andrew Davis and duly elected Veronica Lynch;
- b) accepts the following appointments of Council;
 - Roxanne Kenny as President
 - Maryanne Malbunka as Deputy President;
- c) calls for community nominations to open to fill the one vacancy;
- d) notes that memberships may be revoked if members are absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings; and
- e) notes that Council will be running a by-election for the Rodinga ward in November.

BACKGROUND

The chart below shows the current membership of the Local Authority:

Appointed Members Areyonga LA	Meeting Attendance 13 August 2025
Michael Ferguson	Present
Rosemary Matasia	Present
Bridget Doolan	Present
Susan Doolan	Apology
Thomas Stewart	Present
Darryl Doolan	Present
Vacant	

Elected Members Rodinga Ward	
Cr Patrick Allen	Present
Cr Andrew Davis	Present
Cr Lisa Sharman	Present
VACANT	



Local Authorities Overview:

Local Authorities are composed of community members and convene **four times per year** to discuss:

- Council service delivery
- Project funding and progress
- Community project ideas

Functions of Local Authorities (as per the Local Government Act 2019, Section 78):

- Engage communities in local government issues
- Provide a platform for community opinions
- Influence local, regional, and area-wide policy development
- Represent and advocate for community views to the council
- Contribute to regional planning
- Make recommendations on council budgets and local matters
- · Carry out additional functions as assigned by the Minister

This framework ensures that Local Authorities act as a conduit between communities and Council, fostering inclusive governance and informed decision-making

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Council's Local Authority Meeting Procedure, para.4.14: Nominations and Appointments states:

- a) nominations will be tabled at the next local authority meeting and considered. A recommendation on the nominations to Council will be recorded and presented with the nomination forms at the next Council meeting.
- b) in the case that there is a nomination, or nominations submitted but no timely local authority meeting (that is before the next council meeting), nominations will still be presented to the next Council meeting. The Council may appoint based on the submitted nominations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If Local Authorities do not maintain their membership numbers, their ability to make quorum for their meetings is impaired and they may not be able to commit funds to Community projects and events.

All members must attend at least 75% of the Local Authority meeting to qualify for the meeting allowance.

For non-employees of Council, the allowance is usually paid on Friday, after a meeting. For Local Authority Staff, you may be eligible for the allowance at the next scheduled pay date of MRC.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.



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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes the Council Code of Conduct.

MacDonnell Regional Council Code of Conduct

Interests of the Council and Community come first

A member must act in the best interests of the community, its outstations and the Council.

Honesty

A member must be honest and act the right way (with integrity) when performing official duties.

Taking care

A member must be careful to make good decisions (diligence), and must not be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, when performing official duties.

Respect/Courtesy

A member must be respectful to other members, council staff, constituents and members of the public.

Conduct towards council staff

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

Respect for culture

A member must respect different cultures, families and language groups (cultural diversity) and not be unfair towards others, or the opinions of others, because of their background.

Conflict of interest

A member must, if possible, avoid conflict of interest between the member's private interests (family, other job, business etc.) and duties.

Where a conflict exists, the member must inform the Council, Local Authority or Council Committee and not take part in the discussion or vote.

Respect for private business

A member must not share private (confidential) information that they heard as a member, outside of meetings.

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A member must not make improper use of confidential information to gain a benefit or to cause harm to another.

Gifts

A member must not ask for or encourage gifts or private benefits from anyone who might want to do business with or obtain a benefit from Council.

Accountable

A member must be able to show that they have made good decisions for the community, and have allocated the Council's resources carefully and to benefit the region.

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

The Code of Conduct Policy helps Council to ensure that the:

- MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) exercises strong and accountable governance;
- constituents of MRC are aware of the behaviours they can expect from members.



6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ITEM NUMBER 6.1

TITLE Confirmation of Previous Minutes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the minutes of the previous Finke Local Authority Meeting held 13 August 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Finke Local Authority Meeting held 13 August 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

ATTACHMENTS

 FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING MEETING 13.8.2025 - MINUTES [8 of the Minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday, 13 August 2025 pages]

MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2025 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:30AM

2 WELCOME - Chair Michael Ferguson

3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS / NOMINATIONS

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Michael Ferguson, Member Susan Doolan, Member Bridget Doolan, Member Darryl Doolan, Member Thomas Stewart and Member Rosemary Matasia

Councillors:

Member Andrew Davis, Member Patrick Allen and Member Lisa Sharman

Council Employees:

Damien Ryan – Acting Director Council Services, Joe Rawson – Acting Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb

Via Teams: Ruth Tahere – Acting Manager Project Management Office, Emma Haache – Acting Manager Aged Care

Guests:

Shane Franey – Representative Member for Namatjira Office, Amelia Kunoth-Monks, Christa Bartjen-Westermann and Kim Raine – Representatives Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit

Via Teams – Jessica Scrutton – Representative Housing, Local Government and Community Development

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Roxanne Kenny – President, Mark O'Bryan – Area Manager and Ellen Fitzgerald – Acting Area Manager

Absentees:

Nil

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES

FLA2025-035 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)

That members:

- a) notes the attendance; and
- accepts the apologies received from President Roxanne Kenny, Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Mark O'Bryan – Area Manager and Ellen Fitzgerald – Acting Area Manager.

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

3.5.1 VACANCIES IN THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

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).

FLA2025-036 RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) welcomes Darryl Doolan to the Authority;
- b) notes the current membership of the Local Authority; and
- c) calls for community nominations to open to fill the remaining vacancy.

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

FLA2025-037 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)

That the Finke Local Authority notes the Council Code of Conduct.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

FLA2025-038 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)

That the Finke Local Authority accepts the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 21 May 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

FLA2025-039 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Andrew Davis)

That the Finke Local Authority notes that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

FLA2025-040 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)

That the Finke Local Authority notes the Conflict of Interest policy.

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

FLA2025-041 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Andrew Davis)

That the Finke Local Authority did not declare any 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 the updates from Remote Housing representatives; and
- b) raises matters relating to housing repairs, maintenance and tenancy within the community.

Minute Note: Representatives from Housing were not in attendance to this meeting.

8.2 CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL FAMILY LEGAL UNIT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report aims to introduce the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) and outline its vital role and services in meeting the unique legal needs of Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia.

Key approaches for consideration:

- Increase access to justice by delivering culturally safe and trauma-informed legal and social supports
- Provide early intervention and education on family violence and related issues
- Extend outreach to address unmet legal needs.

FLA2025-042 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the information shared by the CAAFLU Representatives;
 and
- b) supports community engagement by the CAAFLU representatives in providing legal and non-legal services that are available to residents.

Minute Note: A request for CAAFLU to attend the Titjikala LA meeting was made to the Representatives by Councillor Lisa Sharman.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2025-043 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Susan Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the updates to the actions raised during previous meetings as follows:
- b) Fence around the Community Safety Office members rejected the idea for bollards, preferring instead that a fence is put in place similar to the fence at the neighbouring property.

Members noted that the Acting Director Damien Ryan will take additional photos to include the preferred fence and forward these onto the PMO Office and Community Safety.

c) Closes action 'School meals'.

9.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT REGISTER

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.

FLA2025-044 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes that \$19,949.91 are funds at risk;
- b) receives their 2024-25 Project funding allocation of \$26,900.00
- c) notes the progress on their current projects as at 30 July 2025:
 - 2132 Stealth Solar lights, notes the lights are in community, chose not to install as originally allocated, and instead closed the project to create a new project, returning the remaining \$5,981.63 to unallocated;
 - 2133 Wash down Bay, noting completion and returning \$1,845.45 to unallocated;
- keeps open 2134 Bench seats, noting that the Civil team will determine the locations at the oval and install them once the concrete has been purchased and in community;
- e) creates a new project Install four Solar lights (from Project 2132) and purchase two new batteries, noting the following:
 - commits the remaining funds currently available to include the funds returned to unallocated at this meeting;
 - replace the batteries in the current solar light at Titji Park;
 - engage a contractor to install the solar lights as the community does not have the necessary equipment; and
 - agreed on the locations:
 - install one solar light in each of the laneways starting across from the council office and continuing over to the next laneway.
 - o an additional solar light in Titji Park, facing the tables/bbg.

- one solar light at the entrance of community, coming from Kulgera.
- f) notes the following updates to the wishlist:
 - the PMO Office advised that there has been no response received from NPY regarding the reorientation of the Softball fences and the PMO Office is now looking for possible funding.
 - Quote received in 2024 for the Shade cover over the front office came in at \$13,000.00 and at the time of this meeting, the Authority did not have the funds available and agreed for this item to remain on the wishlist.
 - The Lights for the Football Oval, noting the following:
 - a commitment of \$250,000.00 from the Community Development Group;
 - the PMO Office has this project noted for the next round of grant funding;
 - the Aboriginal Leadership Group are updated on a regular basis on the wishlist items of the Authorities; and
 - that the existing power supply infrastructure would need a significant upgrade.

9.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

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.

FLA2025-045 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Darryl Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) notes the spending on their 2024/2025 Discretionary funds;
- b) accepts the 2025/26 allocation of \$4,000.00;
- c) discusses allocating these funds at this meeting as follows;
 - \$1,000.00 towards a Tidy Yard competition
 - \$1,000.00 towards a Christmas lights competition
 - \$500 towards the meat, bread and salads for a community bbq
- d) accepts the \$200.00 from the Member for Namatjira's office, and determines the following:
 - each competition will have four prizes made up as follows:
 - \$500 First
 - \$300 Second
 - \$200 Third
 - \$100 donated by the Member for Namatjira's office
 - that visa gift cards be purchased for the top three prizes in both categories
 - judged by a Representative from the Member for Namatjira's Office;
 - to take place Wednesday 17th December, with the BBQ to follow; and
- d) acknowledges that the funds must be spent with invoices received by 30 June 2026.

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.

Active open positions within the Org Structure as at 31 July 2025.

FLA2025-046 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Michael Ferguson)

That the Local Authority accepts the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Finke.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update of Council delivered services in Finke across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

FLA2025-047 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the Council Services report

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2025-048 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority of Finke notes and accepts the Community Services report.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2025-049 RESOLVED (Darryl Doolan/Susan Doolan)

That the Local Authority discusses matters relating to General Council Business as follows:

- a) Request new bins:
 - Acting Director Council Services will inform the Area Manager of the need for new bins.
- b) Titji Park Shade Structure:
 - The trusses for the roof of the shade structure does not have a ceiling, making it easy for kids to climb up and into the roof, creating a high risk of concern and members would like the trusses covered.

Acting Director – Damien Ryan advised that he shall assess the shade structure and forward the photographs onto the Project Management Office to determine what would be involved to have this completed.

12 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

12.1 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.

FLA2025-050 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority raises and discusses matters of General Non-Council Business as follows:

- a) Closed the actions:
 - Air-conditioners:

Housing maintenance team advised the Representative that all jobs had been logged;

- High rent: NTG's Housing Tenancy team will send their Representative out to speak with those elderly tenants whose rental costs are too high.
- b) Members were advised that the Housing Team are looking to set up a popup shop when they are in community conducting inspections, where residents can come in and speak to someone in person regarding any maintenance or rental issues. Members responded with a resounding affirmative.
- c) Water issues.

The ESO advised the NTG Representative that every house in community had water continuously running from either a tap, shower or toilet and that the three sewer ponds were now overflowing due to an increase in excess water. Power and Water advised that the issues stemmed from inside the houses, and recommended that members request Housing to conduct an urgent audit inside every home to find the issue.

d) Bikes program

The Representative from the Member for Namatjira's Office informed members that they had purchased bikes and allocated 50 to the community

- noted that helmets were not included, however they could be purchased with the remaining Discretionary funds;
- both MRC and the Member for Namatjira Office each source a quote for 50 helmets;

The Representative advised the following:

- One day bike assembly course and training available to two recipients.
- The Electorate office will show the recipients a suitable BMX track in Alice Springs to gain a better idea on the design and layout potential for their own community track.
- Council was asked to provide two places of employment for the two
 recipients to run the BMX program.
 Members were advised that the CEO will be informed of the request
 and a response will be given at the next meeting.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2025

12 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1:12 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 13 August 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.





6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

ITEM NUMBER 6.1

TITLE Acceptance of Agenda

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

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



7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ITEM NUMBER 7.1

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the Conflict of Interest Policy; and
- b) that members declare any conflicts of interest.

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



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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.



10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.1

TITLE Action Register

AUTHOR June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the updates to the actions as received; and
- b) reconsiders the recommendation to install bollards as an alternative to fencing.

BACKGROUND

Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject
Finke Local Authority 04/12/2024	Libby Taylor/Council Services	Fence around Community Safety Office

FLA2024-65 – Fence the Night Patrol office

4 Dec 24 - Members expressed concern about the lack of fencing around the grounds of the Community Safety office.

The CSC will take photos and make a drawing of the area and will meet with Michael Ferguson and Liz Scott, Manager of Community Safety, to discuss the concerns. Liz will then present the results at the next Finke Local Authority meeting.

12 Mar 25 - Decision of the Authority is to keep the action open

16 May 25 - update from Community Safety Manager

Yarran Cavalier checked the MacSafe compound and found that there was an existing fence. Could the LA provide more information about what they are requesting? Why is the current fence not adequate?

21 May 25 - Res.030

Members advised that their concerns related to an absence of a barrier between the yarning circle and the carport. Members noted that aside from a few bushes, there was no safety measure in place to prevent incidents should a vehicle fail to stop.

13 Aug 25 - Res.043

Members rejected the idea of bollards, preferring that a fence is put in place similar to the fence at the neighbouring property. Members noted that the Acting Director, Damien Ryan will take photos to include the preferred fence and forward these onto the PMO Office and Community Safety.

20 Oct 25 – Update from Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety Members are reminded that consultation was done and a green fence proposed that was installed by the Civil crew and Night Patrol team.



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Members are urged to reconsider installing bollards as a more suitable alternative to fencing, to align with service level guidelines and landscaping priorities.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Executive Leadership Team Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.



10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.2

TITLE Local Authority Project Register

AUTHOR June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) acknowledges that \$18,242.57 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;
- b) notes the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management office;
- c) notes that Project 2133 Wash down Bay has been reopened, due to an outstanding invoice that is yet to be received; and
- d) notes completion to Project 2134 Bench Seats and closes project, returning \$2,260.94 to unallocated.

BACKGROUND

Members of the Local Authority allocates project funds to support community and sporting infrastructure, open space developments and community priorities. These projects are intended to assist communities to improve community amenity through the provision of social and community facilities.



Local Authorities must formally resolve each initiative for which this funding will be used.

Project 2131	New Solar Lights and Batteries	\$
	Status	Committed
13-Aug-25	Res.044 - created a new project - Install four new Solar	\$ 34,727.08
	lights and purchase two new batteries, noting the	
	following:	
	commits the remaining funds currently available to include the funds returned to unallocated at this meeting.	
	include the funds returned to unallocated at this meeting;replace the batteries in the current solar light at Titji	
	Park;	
	engage a contractor to install the solar lights as the	
	community does not have the necessary equipment; and	
	• agreed on the locations:	
	o install one solar light in each of the laneways starting	
	across from the council office and continuing over to the	
	next laneway.	
	o an additional solar light in Titji Park, facing the	
	tables/bbq.	
	o one solar light at the entrance of community, coming from Kulgera	
22-Sep-25	PMO update - Quotes were sought - best one from GSD -	
0cp	logistics to be determined - then PO will be issued.	
	underspend or (overspend)	\$ 34,727.08

Project 2133	Wash Down Bay		\$
	Status		Committed
9-Sep-24	Res.024 - Allocated \$10,000.00 to a wash down bay for work vehicles to be built within the landfill facility with a concrete base, noting that the CSC to mark out an area for the slab.	\$	10,000.00
22-Oct-24	Res.044 -CSC to mark out the area for the slab.		
25-Feb-25	PMO update - intention was that vehicles would be washed with water trailer, so a water connection is not required. PMO will purchase and supply concrete for Civil Team to install.		
12-Mar-25	Res.011 - Clarified that a water connection is not necessary. CSC to provide specific location and meterage to PMO.		
11-Apr-25	PMO update - Foundation has been dug and awaiting concrete.		
21-May-25	Res.028 - Accepted the quote from Blueprint Construction for \$9,867.00 to supply and install the concrete slab.		
12-Jun-25	PO raised with Blueprint Construction.	-\$	8,154.55
13-Aug-25	Res.044 - Noted completion and returning \$1,845.45 to unallocated. WAITING ON BLUEPRINT CONSTRUCTION INVOICE TO	-\$	1,845.45
	COME THROUGH		
	underspend or (overspend)	\$	-



Project 2134	Bench Seats, Concrete and Sporting Equipment		\$
	Status		Committed
21-May-25	Res.028 - created a new project - 2 x 3m Bench seats, concrete and Sporting equipment (list provided by the members and relayed to the PMO Office), allocating the current balance of the Project funds being \$6,797.18 to this project.	\$	6,797.18
26-May-25	Invoice received from Felton Industries for bench seats.	-\$	1,938.00
5-Jun-25	Invoice received from SportsPower.	-\$	890.90
27-Jun-25	Invoice received from Intersport.	-\$	1,707.34
13-Aug-25	Res.044 - Noted that the Civil team will determine the locations at the oval and install them once the concrete has been purchased and in community.		
22-Sep-25	PMO update - Bench seats have been installed - project can be closed.		
	underspend or (overspend)	\$	2,260.94

Budget consideration	
Balance of underspend or (overspend)	\$ 36,988.02
Total un-allocated funds	\$ -
Total unspent funds	\$ 36,988.02

PROJECTS CLOSED 2025-26

Project 2132	Stealth Solar Lights		\$
	Status		Committed
9-Sep-24	Res.024 - Allocated \$16,000.00 to place 2 x Stealth Solar	\$	16,000.00
	lights on Putula St and 2 x Stealth Solar lights outside the Rec Hall.		
22-Oct-24	Res.044 -Stealth Solar lights still to be ordered.		
28-Feb-25	Invoice received from Green Frog Systems.	-\$	9,955.00
10-Mar-25	Invoice received from Bunnings.	-\$	63.37
25-Feb-25	PMO update - the Civil Team will install once lights arrive.		
	Res.011 - Noted Stealth solar lights and concrete have		
12-Mar-25	been delivered and are being stored at Amoonguna. CSC		
	will be transporting out to community next week and the civil team will install them.		
	Res.028 - Noted that the lights are in community and		
21-May-25	waiting on the Civil team to install.		
	Res.044 - Noted that the lights are in community, chose	-\$	5,981.63
13-Aug-25	not to install as originally allocated, and instead closed the		
13-Aug-23	project to create a new project, returning the remaining		
	\$5,981.63 to unallocated.		
	underspend or (overspend)	\$	-



RAISED	WISH-LIST	ASSIGNED
18-Jul-24	Heavy duty trailer and chainsaw for collecting firewood.	

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Examples of unacceptable purposes for Expenditure include:

- Purchase of vehicles and fuel expenses.
- Payment of salaries, cash prizes or recurrent operating costs of Council.
- Meeting costs and payments to Local Authority members.
- Sponsorship by way of uniforms, travel costs and allowances.
- Purposes that are not related to local Government Services and that should be addressed by another Government agency.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The purchase of any product or service must comply with MRC's Procurement Policy.

Funds from the Grant must be fully expended within two years of receipt of funding. Failure to expend the funds may result in the funds being returned to the Northern Territory Government.

CONSULTATION

Executive Leadership Team

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.



10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER 10.3

TITLE Local Authority Discretionary Funds
AUTHOR June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the allocations made at their previous meeting;
- b) notes that judging will take place on the 17th December by a Representative from the Member for Namatjira's office;
- c) acknowledges that all funds must be spent with goods received by the 30th June 2026.

BACKGROUND

Examples that Discretionary funds can be used for:

Community Christmas and New Year's Festivities Community BBQ's Sports weekends Naidoc Celebration Youth Board Current Financial Year Funds Allocation

Date	2025/2026 Discretionary Funds	Budget \$
1-Jul-25	Approved Funds	\$ 4,000.00
13-Aug-25	Res.045 – commits \$1,000.00 in Visa Gift cards towards a Tidy Yard Competition and allocates the prizes as follows: • First prize - \$500 • Second prize - \$300 • Third prize - \$200 An additional prize of \$100 gift card to be donated by the Member for Namatjira's Office.	
13-Aug-25	Res.045 – allocates \$1,000.00 Visa Gift cards towards a Tidy Yard Competition and allocates the prizes as follows: • First prize - \$500 • Second prize - \$300 • Third prize - \$200 An additional prize of \$100 gift card to be donated by the Member for Namatjira's Office.	
13-Aug-25	Res.045 – Allocates \$500.00 towards meat, bread and salads for a bbq to be held on Wednesday, 17 ^h	



Finke Local Authority Meeting 5 November 2025 - Agenda

December , where the winners of the competitions will be announced.	
Available funds	1,500.00

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Local Authorities decide how to best spend this money to broadly benefit the community. The Local Authority is responsible for consulting with community members to ensure that community priorities are considered when allocating discretionary funds.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The use of funds must be approved at a Local Authority meeting with a full quorum, or a form signed by more than half of the active Local Authority members.

Failure to spend the funds within the financial year (1 July to 30 June) will result in these funds being returned to MacDonnell Regional Council.

CONSULTATION

The Local Authority

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments to this report.



11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.1

TITLE Council Services LA Report

AUTHOR Ellen Fitzgerald, Administration Officer

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Finke across the area of Local Government Service Delivery

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority of Finke notes and accepts the Council Services report.

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

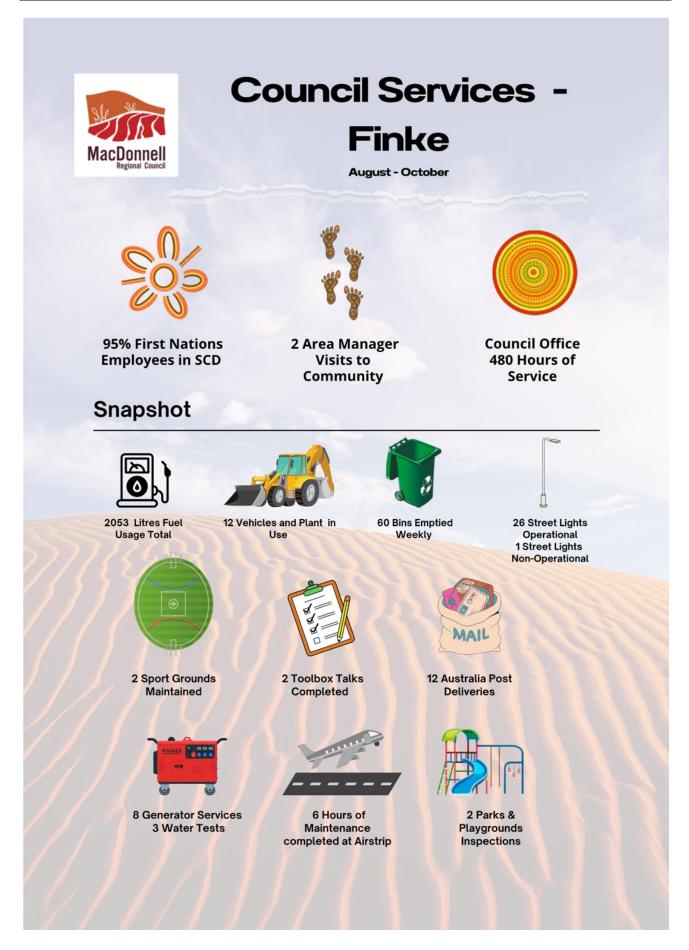
CONSULTATION

Keith Hassett – Director Council Services Mark O'Bryan – Area Manager Kelly Ryan – A/Council Services Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS

1 Council Services LA Report







Animal Management

- MRC's Animal Management Coordinator Michelle will on community on 22nd October.
- Michelle will treat cats and dogs for worms and provide training at the school
- · The vets were on Community in the first week of September

Cemetery Management

- Inside of cemetery has been recently tidied up
- · Grass reduction along fence and firebreak needs to be done

Internal Roads maintenance

- · Firebreaks are being maintained
- · Some potholes require filling
- Some speed bumps need sections replaced
- · Road and speed bump markings need repainting

Maintenance of Parks and Open Spaces

- Rubbish is picked up from parks regularly
- Big clean up of hard rubbish around new Rangers compound and Sorry camp has been done
- Ryan visited to discuss where the new solar lights will be installed near the office park.

Sports Grounds

- Plans to reorient the softball pitch have been had so that sun isn't in the players eyes
- CLC are still working on getting costs for football oval lighting

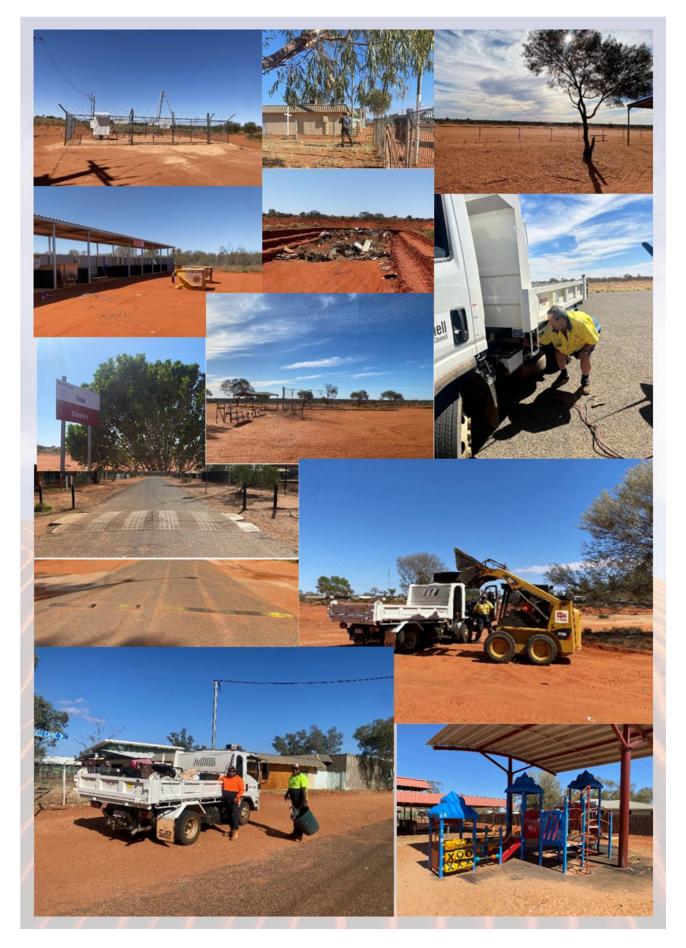
Waste Management

- The community drop off bays are being used and the area is cleaned up weekly
- The waste compound is locked every night
- The civil team do regular rubbish pick ups along the fence line

Weed Control and Fire Hazard Reduction

- Clearing of grass and weeds is ongoing
- Firebreaks are being maintained
- The new water trailer was delivered in September







11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.2

TITLE Aged and Children's Services Report

AUTHOR Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority of Finke notes and accepts the Aged and Children's Services report.

BACKGROUND

All Aged and Children's Services programs continue to be delivered in line with funding requirements.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Ainsley Roscow – Executive Manager of Aged and Children's Services Emma Hacche – Senior Coordinator of Aged Care Pavithra Devasurendra- Coordinator Children's Services And Administration

ATTACHMENTS

1 Aged and Children's Services Finke LAR July - September 2025





Local Authority Report Finke Aged Care



July - Sept 25





4 Staff in the Finke team 100% Community-based Employees are Aboriginal

Stakeholders' engagements: School Committee

Clinic



Lifts provided: 289



Client Interactions: 81

This includes client welfare checks and client engagement at the Aged Care Centre



Personal Care provided: 117
Including:
hower & toilet assistance laundr

shower & toilet assistance, laundry loads, tablet reminders



Active Clients: 8



Training:

Our A/Coordinator for Finke attended two-day training session for coordinators in September which included an information session on the current Digital Health Project being led by Menzies School of Health Research and external training from The Hindwood Institute: 'Working Effectively as a Team'



Meals Provided Breakfast, lunches & Hampers: 1133

SNP Meals delivered: 780



- Our centre was closed on a few dates over the reporting period, out of respect for the passing of a client.
- We continue to be fully staffed with attendance generally very good.
- We are looking forward to our NAIDOC event taking place this month which was postponed over the reporting period due to unforeseen circumstances.







Meals prepared by our staff for school kids as part of the School Nutrition Program







Local Authority MacKids Finke







4 Employees
100% First Nation



13 - Enrolments



Training

- Team Leader has Completed Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care.
- · Team Leader Completed CPR refresher training
- Team Leader and 1 Educator participated in Children Services Team Leader Training



Service Delivery 91 Hours



42 - Meals served



Vacancies
No Vacancies until
enrolments increase



Support 85 Hours Coordinator Support



Stakeholder Engagement

- NPY Representative
- NT Health; Public Health Dietitian
- Department of Education: ECY Regulatory visit

Highlights



- The Team Leader successfully completed Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, with graduation held in September 2025.
- The centre received a positive visit from the new ECY Regulatory team, strengthening compliance, safety, and quality practices across children's services.





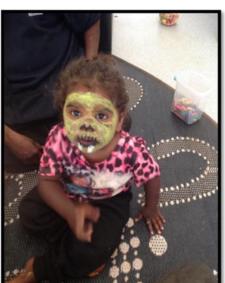
Local Authority MacKids Finke



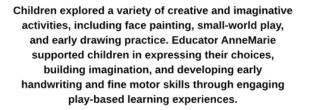
July - September 2025

















Local Authority MacKids Finke



July - September 2025









Christine Allen proudly graduated with a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care from the Batchelor Institute. This achievement highlights her dedication and long-term commitment to early childhood education at the Finke Centre, where she has served for over seven years. Christine celebrated this milestone alongside her Coordinator, Pavi, the Children's Services Team, and ECA Inclusion Support representative, Tracy Murphy, who joined in recognising her hard work and success.



11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER 11.3

TITLE Youth and Community Safety Report

AUTHOR Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of Youth and Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority of Finke notes and accepts the Youth and Community Safety report.

BACKGROUND

All Youth and Community Safety services programs continue to be delivered in line with funding requirements.

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

MacYouth does not currently have a program running in Finke

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Libby Taylor – Executive Manager of Youth and Community Safety Yarran Cavalier – Coordinator of Community Safety and Administration

ATTACHMENTS

1 Youth and Community Safety Finke LAR July - September 2025







Local Authority Report

Finke **Community Safety** July-September 2025



- · 5 staff in the Finke team
- 1 Senior CSO Vacancy
- 100% Community-based **Employees are Aboriginal**
- · 314 Hours patrolled
- · 968 Hours worked
- Work: 5 hour shifts Mon-Fri
- · Between 7pm Midnight



521 Engagements with young people



562 Engagements with over 18's



216 Young people taken home



12 Training Hours



177 Are you okay? Checks



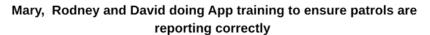
0 Community gatherings



- Highlights MacSafe Team Leader Mary Matasia has been developing her competence learning how to operate the printer and scan documents to attach to emails.
 - · Members of the team attended the farewell lunch for our departing manager Liz Scott in the town office.
 - · We are currently looking at interviews to select both a Senior Community Safety Officer and a Permanent part-time Safety Officer as well.
 - · The Coordinator has only been able to visit the community twice over the reporting period, due to managerial responsibilities and having to coordinate 6 communities during this period.
 - Daily phone contact has been maintained with the Team Leader to ensure the team feel supported.











12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER 12.1

TITLE General Council Business

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and discusses the matters raised; and
- b) notes that any action items arising from these discussions will be moved to the action register for Council to respond.

BACKGROUND

Nil

ISSUES, CONSEQUENCES, OPTIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONSULTATION

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.



13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER 13.1

TITLE Non-Council Business Items

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 01: Developing Communities Goal 02: Healthy Communities Goal 03: Empowered Communities Goal 04: A Supportive Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise matters relating to Non-Council Business.

This may include:

- Education
- Land Management
- Housing/Repairs/Maintenance/New Builds
- Health

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and discusses the matters raised.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development provides updates in regard to Northern Territory Government Services.

Meeting		Subject
Finke Local Authority 13/08/2025	Department of Housing	Leaking/Maintenace issues

FLA2025-050 - Leaking issues

Noted that the sewer ponds were overflowing due to an increase of excess water, that was coming from leaking taps in nearly every house. Power and Water advised that these issues stemmed from inside the house and that members would need to place an urget request to Housing to conduct an audit for each property.

20 Sept 25 – Housing has been informed.

Meeting		Subject
Finke Local Authority 13/08/2025	Member for Namatjira Office/MRC	Second hand Bikes

FLA2025-050 - Bikes Program

Bikes Program

Members noted that the Member for Namatjira's Office had donated 50 bikes to community, advising that their Office was willing to have two recipients undertake training to assemble the bikes. The Representative advised the following:

One day bike assembly course and training available to two recipients.



Finke Local Authority Meeting 5 November 2025 - Agenda

- The Electorate office will show the recipients a suitable BMX track in Alice Springs to gain a better idea on the design and layout potential for their own community track.
- Council was asked to provide two places of employment for the two recipients to run the BMX program.

Members were advised that the CEO will be informed of the request and a response will be given at the next meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.