



MINUTES OF THE DOCKER RIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE  
DOCKER RIVER COUNCIL OFFICE ON  
THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025 AT 10:30 AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

Due to connectivity issues, the meeting was adjourned to 11:28am before it was declared open

**2 WELCOME**

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

**3.1 Attendance**

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Ruby James, Member Priscilla Abbott, Member Winsome Newberry Member Denise Brady and Member Rosina Kunia

Councillors:

Member Abraham Poulson attended from the Alice Springs office via Teams

Council Employees:

Ken Satour – A/Director Council Services, Damien Ryan – Area Manager, Stephen Trindle – Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb – Coordinator Governance

Ruth Tahere – Project Management Officer attended via Teams

Guests:

Jessica Scrutton – Representative Housing, Local Government and Community Development

Jennifer Newman and Justin Duncan – Representatives Department of Social Services

Ben Kaethner – Representative Central Land Council attended via Teams

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Member Marlene Abbott

Absentees:

Member Selinda Lily De Rose

### **3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES**

***DRLA2025-001 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Winsome Newberry)***

That members:

- a) noted the attendance to the meeting;
- b) accepted the apology received from Councillor Marlene Abbott; and
- c) recorded the first absence without a notice received from Member Selinda De Rose to this meeting.

### **3.3 Resignations**

**NIL**

### **3.4 Terminations**

**NIL**

### **3.5 Nominations**

#### **3.5.1 VACANCIES ON 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).

The membership of Ann-Marie Burke was revoked, due to her absence without notice from two consecutive meetings and as a consequence, a vacancy on the Authority was created.

***DRLA2025-002 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Denise Brady)***

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepted the nomination received from Mr Brett Stockman to cover the one vacancy; and
- b) requested that Council endorse the nominee.

## **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

***DRLA2025-003 RESOLVED(Denise Brady/Ruby James)***

That the Docker River Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

***DRLA2025-004 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Winsome Newberry)***

That the Docker River Local Authority resolved the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2024 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

## **6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

### **6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED**

***DRLA2025-005 RESOLVED(Denise Brady/Priscilla Abbott)***

That the Docker River Local Authority noted the that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting

## **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

***DRLA2025-006 RESOLVED(Winsome Newberry/Rosina Kunia)***

That the Docker River Local Authority noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

### **7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION**

***DRLA2025-007 RESOLVED(Winsome Newberry/Rosina Kunia)***

That the Docker River Local Authority declared no conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.

## **8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS**

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

Minute note: A Housing Representative did not attend this meeting.

### **8.1 THE DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the presentation from the Department of Social Services is to provide information about the Digital Connectivity Project

***DRLA2025-008 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)***

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the presentation from the Department of social services; and
- b) provided feedback on the installation of the Wi-Fi Installation System in Docker River; and
- c) suggested the Council office or the Community Store as possible locations.

## **8.2 FERAL CAMELS AND HORSES – CLC**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Central Land Council Representative Ben Kaethner updated members of the ongoing issue with feral animals, in particular wild camels and horses.

There was only one option available to ensure the wellbeing and safety of the community residents and this would be discussed at a community meeting.

#### ***DRLA2025-009 RESOLVED (Denise Brady/Priscilla Abbott)***

That the Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the information provided by the CLC Representative; and
- b) noted that CLC will provide support as the animals are coming of the Land Trust; and
- c) noted that a consultation will be arranged by CLC to discuss alternative options.

## **9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **9.1 YOUTH BOARD REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report outlines the recommendations from the Docker River Youth Board meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024 and seeks feedback from the Docker River Local Authority. The Docker River Youth Board meets twice a year to share ideas, learn how council's decisions are made and help plan community projects.

#### ***DRLA2025-010 RESOLVED (Rosina Kunia/Priscilla Abbott)***

That the Local Authority:

- a) received and noted the minutes from the Docker River Youth Board meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024, tabled at the previous Authority meeting.
- b) did not make any decisions or allocate any funds towards the Sports equipment or a Gaming Console; and
- c) recommends that the Youth Board bring the proposals to the next Authority meeting.

### **9.2 REGIONAL PLANNING INCORPORATING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Regional Plan is developed every year after consultation with MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) communities and directs how we will deliver our vision, mission and goals. The Regional Plan guides MRC staff to deliver on our mission to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.

The Local Authority is asked to guide and support MRC staff in the development of the 2025-26 Regional Plan in the consideration of the development of the community and planning in relation to the community's infrastructure.

#### ***DRLA2025-011 RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Denise Brady)***

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the consultation and agreed to support MRC staff in the development of the MRC 2025-26 Regional Plan; and
- b) will consider its priorities in relation to the development of the community's infrastructure.

### 9.3 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.

#### **DRLA2025-012 RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Rosina Kunia)**

##### **That the Local Authority:**

- a) **noted the Acquittal and Certification of the Docker River Local Authority Project funding as at 30 June 2024;**
- b) **noted the funding at risk of being returned to NTG is \$73,542.87**
- c) **approved to close:**
  - **Project 2121 – Movie equipment for Youth Board, noting completion and returning the underspend of \$42.90 to unallocated.**
  - **Project 2127 – Shade Shelter at Tjungu Park, accepting the following:**
    - **noted that this project will be covered under Grant funding; and**
    - **reallocated the underspend of \$20,000.00 to Project 2129.**
- d) **received the updates on the progress of its projects and provided the following feedback on their priorities:**
  - **Project 2122 – New Park:**
    - **accepted the quote from DSB Construction to install the Shade Structure over the park;**
    - **noted as a priority for the PMO office to source quotes for fencing around the playground only;**
    - **removed the solar bbq due to the cost; and**
    - **did not make any decisions on their preference for seating.**
  - **Project 2129 – Solar lights at entry**
    - **accepted the reallocation of \$20,000.00 from Project 2127; and**
    - **noted and accepted the quote received from Harvey Development for \$35,200.00.**
  - **Project 2570 – Mobile water trailer;**

- received and accepted the quote from Pump and Power for \$25,531.00; and
- in anticipation of receiving their 2024/2025 project funding, members agreed to allocate an additional \$7,000.00 to cover delivery and contingencies.

e) discussed and the wishlist items and removed Relocate Playground.

#### **9.4 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.

##### ***DRLA2025-013 RESOLVED(Denise Brady/Priscilla Abbott)***

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that \$902.58 was spent on the tidiest yard competition;
- b) noted that \$3,580.00 was spent on the Generator with the electric start;
- c) note that there is \$699.00 remaining of discretionary funds;
- d) discussed allocating the remaining funds towards a Community Easter BBQ; and
- e) noted that these funds must be spent before 30 June 2025.

#### **9.5 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.

##### ***DRLA2025-014 RESOLVED(Rosina Kunia/Winsome Newberry)***

That the Local Authority accepted the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Docker River.

### **10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS**

#### **10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

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

##### ***DRLA2025-015 RESOLVED(Winsome Newberry/Rosina Kunia)***

That the Local Authority of Docker River noted and accepted the attached report

#### **10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety in Docker River.

##### ***DRLA2025-016 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Denise Brady)***

That the Authority noted and accepted the Community Services report.

## **11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

### **11.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The expenditure report shows spending until 31 January 2025 in the Docker River Local Authority community.

***DRLA2025-017 RESOLVED(Denise Brady/Winsome Newberry)***

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Expenditure report as at 31 January 2025.

## **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.

***DRLA2025-018 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Winsome Newberry)***

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

Minute Note: Members advised that a solar light at the park was not working. Council Services to follow up as an operational matter.

## **13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **13.1 GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Members can discuss matters in relation to services provided by the Northern Territory Government. This may include:

- NT Housing
- Roads outside of MRC's Area
- Education
- NT Health

***DRLA2025-019 RESOLVED(Priscilla Abbott/Denise Brady)***

That the Local Authority noted and discussed the matters raised regarding maintenance and repairs not being actioned.

The Representative from NTG advised members that after the meeting, she will inspect one of the houses and follow up with Housing regarding its condition.

## **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 8 MAY, 2025**

## **15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 1:47 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Docker River Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday 13 March 2025 and were confirmed on the 22 May 2025.