



**MINUTES OF THE DOCKER RIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE
DOCKER RIVER COUNCIL OFFICE ON THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 AT 10:30 AM**

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 11.20AM

2 WELCOME

2.1 Welcome to Country – Chairperson Ruby James

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

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Ruby James, Member Brett Stockman and Member Rosina Kunia.

Via Teams: Member Priscilla Abbott [arrived 11:30].

Councillors:

President Roxanne Kenny.

Via Teams: Councillor Marlene Abbot.

Council Employees:

Damien Ryan – Area Manager Council Services and Shae Millar – Governance Coordinator.

Via Teams: Ruth Tahere – Project Management Officer.

Guests:

Jessica Scrutton - Project Officer, Department of Housing, Local Government, and Community Development.

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Councillor Abraham Poulson, Member Selinda Lily De Rose, Member Winsome Newberry, Belinda Urquhart – CEO, and Ken Satour – Director Council Services.

Absentees:

Member Denise Brady

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / ABSENTEES

DRLA2025-020 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

That members:

- a) noted the attendance;**
- b) noted and accepted the apologies from Councillor Abraham Poulson, Member Selinda Lily De Rose, Member Winsome Newberry, Belinda Urquhart – CEO and Ken Satour – Director Council Services; and**
- c) noted the absence without notice of Member Denise Brady.**

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

NIL

3.5.1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This purpose of this paper is to highlight the current membership of the Local Authority and to record the attendance at the previous meeting.

DRLA2025-021 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

That the Local Authority:

- a) officially welcomed Brett Stockman to the Local Authority after his nomination was endorsed by Council on the 15th of April;**
- b) noted that the Local Authority currently has full membership; and**
- c) noted the attendance of members at the previous meeting.**

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

DRLA2025-022 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Marlene Abbott)

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

Minute Note: Priscilla Abbott joined the meeting at 11:30am.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

DRLA2025-023 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

That the Minutes for the Local Authority meeting held on the 13 March 2025 were adopted by a resolution of Docker River Local Authority.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND NOTIFICATIONS OF GENERAL BUSINESS AND NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

DRLA2025-024 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

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

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

DRLA2025-025 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

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

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

DRLA2025-026 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

That the Docker River Local Authority 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 the updates from Remote Housing representatives; and
- b) raises matters relating to housing repairs, maintenance and tenancy within the community.

Minute Note: No representative attended the 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.

DRLA2025-027 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

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 open Friday 11 July to Thursday 31 July.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

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.

DRLA2025-028 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

That the Local Authority

- a) **Provided the following items to be added to the Community Infrastructure Plan:**
 - **Laundromat**
 - **Ablution block**
 - **Football oval grand stand and stage**
 - **BMX track**
 - **Water Park**
 - **Playground equipment; and**
- b) **agreed to meet before the next meeting to generate more ideas for the plan.**

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.

DRLA2025-029 RESOLVED (Ruby James/Priscilla Abbott)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **noted that \$41,542.87 are funds *at risk* of being returned to NTG;**

- b) discussed project 2122 and decided that if a solution can be found to divert water from pooling in the playground area, the PMO can go ahead with the installation of the fence around the playground at its current location and that the new shade structure should be built inside the fence;
- c) discussed project 2129 and decided that the contractor has installed the solar lights too close to the road and that the PMO will work on rectifying this;
- d) noted the update on project 2570 Mobile Water Trailer that the purchase order has been raised and that delivery is expected in 3 months;
- e) did not close any projects;
- f) provided the following feedback on the Youth Board recommendations:
 - The sports equipment and the gaming console should be provided for in the budget of Youth Services.
 - The painting Project will be paid for out of discretionary funds.
 - The uniforms for men and women will be added to the wishlist along with a container to store them in so that the uniforms can be cared for and used on more than one occasion; and
- g) noted and accepted that the unallocated funds are insufficient to open any new projects from the wishlist.

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.

DRLA2025-030 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that no purchase orders were raised for an Easter celebration;
- b) noted that there is \$699.00 remaining of discretionary funds;
- c) allocated the remaining funds to the Youth Board Painting Project at the Rec Hall; and
- d) noted that these funds must be spent before 30 June 2025.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 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.

DRLA2025-031 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

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

10.2 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

DRLA2025-032 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

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

10.3 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

DRLA2025-033 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

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

11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 GERNERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

DRLA2025-034 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Rosina Kunia)

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

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

DRLA2025-035 RESOLVED(Ruby James/Brett Stockmen)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **noted the updates from Jessica Scrutton regarding the housing issues and closed these matters;**
- b) **noted that no date has been set for the Condition Assessment Audit of all houses in Docker River;**
- c) **noted that permission will be required from residents for the pest control team when they come out to treat the houses in June;**
- d) **raised that Priscilla Abbott would like a larger house, Jessica Scrutton has passed on Priscilla's details to the housing team and suggests that Priscilla**

check with NT Housing to find out the status of her application and also that she also take this matter up with the Housing Reference Group – Jessica Scrutton will provide advice on when the next HRG meeting will be held;

- e) raised that there appears to be no one living in house 126 [Green House on the corner] and were advised that if a tenant has their name on the rent agreement and is paying their rent that house will remain in their name. Jessica will raise the matter with NT Housing; and
- f) noted that the Area Manager passed on the following information from the clinic:
 - On the 28th – 29th May Hearing Australia will be in the community
 - On the 2nd - 6th June the dieticians will be in the community
 - On the 10th – 12th June Allied Health will have occupational and physical therapists in the community.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 30 JULY, 2025

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:50 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Docker River Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday 22 May 2025 and were confirmed Monday, 28th July 2025.