MINUTES OF THE DOCKER RIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE DOCKER RIVER COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was postponed to 11:22AM before being declared open

2 WELCOME

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Member Priscilla Abbott, Member Rosina Kunia and Member Brett Stockman

Councillors

Councillor Peter Wilson

Via Teams: Councillor Abraham Poulson and President Roxanne Kenny

Council Employees

Keith Hassett – Director Council Services, Ainsley Roscrow – Executive Manager Aged and Children Services, Victor Morgan – Area Manager and June Crabb – Governance Coordinator

Via Teams: Jake Potter - Manager Housing and Project Management Office

Guests

Alice Honner – Senior Engagement Officer and David Kerrin – Assistant Director Remote Engagement, NIAA Representatives

Via Teams: Shelly Beattie – Manager, Community Development, Housing and Local Government and Peta-Lee Cole-Manolis – Cultural Consultant, Penangke Consultancy

Apologies

Nil

Absent

Member Winsome Newberry and Member Selinda De Rose

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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.

DRLA2026-01 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Ruby James)**

That the Local Authority:
- **a) noted the Member's attendance at this meeting;**
- **b) noted that no apologies were received for this meeting;**
- **c) resolved that the absence of Member Winsome Newberry without notice received, be recorded as her first non-attendance; and**
- **d) recorded Selinda De Rose as absent from her second Authority meeting.**

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).

In accordance with good Governance practices, Docker River's first Local Authority meeting in 2026 will include the selection of a chairperson for a 12-month term.

DRLA2026-02 **RESOLVED (Brett Stockmen/Rosina Kunia)**

That the Local Authority;
- **a) noted the selection of a new Chairperson for a 12-month term and appointed Priscilla Abbott to fill the role;**
- **b) acknowledged and thanked former Chairperson Ruby James, for her commitment and hard work on the Docker River Local Authority;**
- **c) accepted that the membership of Selinda De Rosa be revoked for her absence from two consecutive Authority meetings; and**
- **d) noted two vacant positions and called for community nominations to open.**

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.

DRLA2026-03 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

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 Docker River Local Authority Meeting held 22 October 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

DRLA2026-04 **RESOLVED (Rosina Kunia/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority approves the following unconfirmed minutes as a true and correct record of the proceedings:

a) the Ordinary meeting held 22 October 2025; and
b) the Provisional meeting held 28th July 2025

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.

DRLA2026-05 **RESOLVED (Ruby James/Priscilla Abbott)**

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.

DRLA2026-06 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

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:	**Community Alcohol Planning Engagement**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Representatives from Penangke Cultural Consultants are attending the Local Authority meeting to begin a consultation process regarding Community Alcohol Planning.

DRLA2026-07 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the information provided by Penangke Cultural Consultants.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.1**
TITLE:	**Introduction to the Regional Plan**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Local Authority with the opportunity to contribute to the development of MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) Regional Plan.

It is important that Local Authorities are consulted during the development of the Regional Plan to ensure that the priorities and needs of residents across the region are accurately represented

DRLA2026-08 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority:

a) reviewed the information presented;

b) provided the following feedback to MacDonnell Regional Council to ensure local needs and community priorities are reflected in the development of the Regional Plan:

- **Employment opportunities**
- **Improvements to Cemetery, Waste Management, and Infrastructure**
- **Focus on skill development, training opportunities, leadership and well-being for local staff**
- **Advocate for stronger collaboration between MRC and external**

stakeholders to enhance service deliver across Essential Services, Education, Roads and Housing.

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.2**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Project Register**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, 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 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.

DRLA2026-09 **RESOLVED (Brett Stockmen/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **acknowledged that $62,702.87 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;**
b) **noted the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management office and resolved to keep the following projects open:**
   - **2124 – Bin Trailer, noting that once they arrive in Alice Springs, they will be registered and undergo the necessary safety checks, before being dispatched to community;**
   - **2125 – Bases for the Solar lights – requested that the solar lights be distributed between the Cemetery and the three parks.**
c) **made the following decisions in relation to Project 2122 – New Park Location and Structures:**
   - **noted that the cost of temporarily relocating the playground equipment, diverting the water from the park when it floods, or installing stormwater treatment measures exceeded the Authority's budget;**
   - **noted that Council Services and the Project Management Office will re-assess the park and the playground equipment and determine the required course of action;**
   - **closed the Project, re-assigning the balance of $56,113.67 to a new project;**
d) **created two new projects:**
   - **Upgrades to the Cemetery - source quotes for shade, seating, plaques**

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and repairing the existing fence or quote to install a new fence (with no funds allocated at this point).

- **New Playground, accepting the reassigned funds of $56,113.67 to the project and determined:**
  - **Playground to be installed near the former Aged Care building, noting that Council will require the relevant lot number to investigate the lease for that area.**

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.

DRLA2026-10 **RESOLVED (Rosina Kunia/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority:

a) noted the spending towards the Community Christmas Party;
b) noted the available funds and allocates these funds as follows:
- **$1,000.00 towards a Easter Community Celebration including cake;**
- **removed the uniforms from the Project wishlist and allocated $2,000.00 towards Men's AFL Uniforms and Ladies Multi-Sports uniforms.**

c) noted that these funds will be forfeited if not spent with invoices received by 30 June 2026.

Minute Note: A delegate was not selected by the members to take the lead on the design, logo, quotes to be sourced, sizing or storage for the uniforms.

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.1**
TITLE:	**Council Services LA Report**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

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

DRLA2026-11 **RESOLVED (Rosina Kunia/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority of Docker River noted and accepted the Council Services report tabled at this meeting.

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.2**
TITLE:	**Youth and Community Safety Report**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

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

DRLA2026-12 **RESOLVED (Ruby James/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority:
- **a) noted the Community Safety Report; and**
- **b) accepted the update on the Childcare Centre**

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.

DRLA2026-13 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

That the Local Authority did not raise any matters for discussion

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

DRLA2026-14 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **noted the Manager from Community Development, Housing and Local Government in attendance to the meeting;**

b) **noted the update to the current issue regarding Housing:**

- **DLI undertook community consultation on the new modular designs, including providing tenants with a sample of the build materials. The NTG Representative's understanding is that all affected tenants signed to acknowledge and agree to the proposed materials and design of the buildings.**
  The list of signatures has been requested and will be provided to the Local Authority members once received.
  Members advised that they were not aware of the consultation and had not signed any agreement.

c) **Members requested that a Housing Representative visit community to engage with residents and assess housing conditions, noting that several properties had sustained considerable damage from feral camels and have been unoccupied for several months, despite having active tenancies.**
The affected properties included:
  - **Lot 124**
  - **Lot 153**
  - **Lot 160**
  - **Lot 162**

d) **Member Ruby James has requested a follow up to her maintenance requests for Lot 139 regarding the issues around her toilet, air-conditioner and water leaks.**

Minute Note: Chair Priscilla Abbott has requested an update on the status of her housing application.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:53 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Docker River Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2026 and are UNCONFIRMED.

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