MINUTES OF THE DOCKER RIVER LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE DOCKER RIVER COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 11.16AM

2 WELCOME

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Chairperson Priscilla Abbott, Member Ruby James, Member Winsome Newberry and Member Brett Stockman

Via Teams – Member Rosina Kunia

Councillors

Via Teams - Councillor Abraham Poulson

Council Employees

Keith Hassett – Director Council Services, Victor Morgan – Area Manager, Stephen Trindle – Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb – Governance Coordinator

Guests

Katharine O'Donohue – Representative - Member for Gwoja

Apologies

Councillor Peter Wilson and President Roxanne Kenny

Absentees

Nil

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.

DRLA2026-15 **RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority:

- **a) noted the Member's attendance at this meeting;**
- **b) tabled apologies received from Councillor Peter Wilson and President Roxanne Kenny, for this meeting; and**
- **c) recorded no Member absent, without notice, for this meeting.**

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	**4.1**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Membership**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, 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).

At the meeting held 4 February 2026, members of the Docker River Local Authority appointed Priscilla Abbott as Chairperson, effective until February 2027.

DRLA2026-16 **RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Priscilla Abbott)**

That the Local Authority;

- **a) noted an additional vacancy created following the revocation of Selinda De Rose's membership due to absence from two consecutive meetings;**
- **b) acknowledged the two vacancies and called for community nominations to open to fill these positions; and**
- **c) reminded members that failure to provide notice of absence may result in their membership being at risk.**

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.

DRLA2026-17 **RESOLVED (Ruby James/Winsome Newberry)**

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 4 February 2026 to be approved by the Authority.

DRLA2026-18 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority confirmed the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Docker River Local Authority Meeting held 4 February 2026 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

ITEM NUMBER:	**7.1**
TITLE:	**Acceptance of Agenda**

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

DRLA2026-19 **RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Ruby James)**

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.

DRLA2026-20 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Ruby James)**

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:	**Census Engagement Team - ABS**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Census Engagement Team are attending the Local Authority Meeting to introduce their staff, provide information about the Census, outline employment opportunities, gain community support for the Census and seek input regarding the best approach to ensure participation is maximised.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

a) **notes and accepts the information provided by the Census Engagement Team; and**
b) **provides advice on ways to improve participation within the community.**

Minute Note: The Representatives from the Census Team did not attend this meeting.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.1**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Project Register**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area 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.

***DRLA2026-21* RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority:

a) received the 2024/25 Project Funding acquittal and Certification;

b) noted that the unallocated funds of $48,141.20 includes the 2025/26 LAPF allocation of $ 44,800.00

c) acknowledged that $47,522.67 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;

d) noted the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management office and kept open:

- **2122 – New Park Location until the invoice from DSB Construction is received'**
- **2125 – Bases for Solar lights noting that the bases are yet to be ordered;**
- **2128 – New Playground, noted the advice from the Director Council Services and with the following decisions made:**
  - **not to proceed with the development of a new playground near the former Aged Care site, as the timeframe associated with securing a lease and engaging contractors would be lengthy, and the overall costs prohibitive.**
  - **to retain the current playground location and equipment at Lasseter's Park, noting that flooding within the park occurs infrequently.**
  - **In the event of flooding, the Civil Team will be responsible for closing the park, excavating trenches to divert the water, or pumping out the excess water as required.**
  - **to rename this project 'Maintenance and flood management to Lasseter Park'**
  - **requested that the PMO Office liaise with the CSC to procure a suitable pump capable of managing the debris and water associated with the park flooding.**
- **Upgrades to the Cemetery – allocating $35,000.00, with a request that the Project Management Office procure plinths, noting that the plinths may be engraved, and plaques can be affixed at a later date when needed by the community.**

e) closed completed Project 2124 – Bin Trailer, returning $3,519.80 to unallocated.

f) created a new project – Sports uniforms, allocating $5,000.00 to procuring 22 x AFL guernseys, socks and shorts and 18 x Women's Softball jerseys, noting that the PMO Office will oversee this project.

ITEM NUMBER:	**10.2**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Discretionary Funds**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, 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.

***DRLA2026-22* RESOLVED (Rosina Kunia/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority:

a) **noted the spending towards the Community Easter Celebration;**
b) **noted the amendment to revise the uniform allocation from $887.74 to $1,144.90, with the adjusted amount to be returned for reallocation;**
c) **resolved that the remaining balance be applied towards a Purchase Order to the Store to top up the smart power cards in equal amounts for each community house that is occupied. Noted that the CSC will liaise with the store and distribute the allocated top-ups.**
d) **was reminded that unspent funds will be forfeited if not used by 30 June 2026.**

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

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

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

DRLA2026-23 **RESOLVED (Winsome Newberry/Priscilla Abbott)**

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

ITEM NUMBER:	**11.2**
TITLE:	**Youth and Community Services Report**
AUTHOR:	**Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer**

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

DRLA2026-24 **RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Brett Stockmen)**

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Safety report

12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.1**
TITLE:	**General Council Business**

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

DRLA2026-25 **RESOLVED (Brett Stockmen/Winsome Newberry)**

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:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise matters 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

***DRLA2026-26* RESOLVED (Priscilla Abbott/Rosina Kunia)**

That the Local Authority:

a) noted the updates on previous matters to keep open:

- **Housing Maintenace noting that a Representative was intending to visit community to assess the houses and capture unreported issues.**
Members also requested that Housing organise a 'pop up shop' allowing residents to speak with a Representative in person.

b) Closed actions:

- **Housing construction was discussed, with members noting that a consultation process had been undertaken and that affected tenants had reviewed, signed, and agreed to the current design and the materials proposed for the construction of new community housing.**
- **Lot 139 – Ruby James, noting that no further issues were raised by Member James during the meeting.**

c) raised and discussed the following matter for NTG to follow up on.

- **Damaged and Lost Smart Power Cards – How does residents apply for a replacement card when lost or damaged.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 22 JULY, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1:09 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Docker River Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 29 April 2026 and were confirmed on 22 July 2026.