



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:55AM

1.1 NOMINATION OF ACTING CHAIRPERSON

FLA2025-019 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Bridget Doolan)

That members agreed that Thomas Stewart be Acting Chairperson for this meeting.

2 WELCOME

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

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Michael Ferguson – arrived at 11:26am, Member Thomas Stewart, Member Bridget Doolan and Darryl Doolan – Provisional Member

Councillors:

Councillor Patrick Allen and Councillor Lisa Sharman

Council Employees:

Ken Satour – Acting Director Council Services, Victor Morgan – Acting Area Manager Council Services and June Crabb – Coordinator Governance and Minute Taker

Guests:

Nil

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Member Susan Doolan

Absentees:

Member Andrew Davis and Member Rosemary Matasia

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).

FLA2025-020 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the current membership of the Local Authority;**
- b) accepted the nomination received from Darryl Doolan; and**
- c) called for community nominations to remain open to fill the remaining vacancy.**

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

FLA2025-021 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Patrick Allen)

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

FLA2025-022 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Thomas Stewart)

That the Finke Local Authority accepted the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 12th of March 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

FLA2025-023 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Patrick Allen)

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

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

FLA2025-024 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Bridget Doolan)

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

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

FLA2025-025 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Bridget Doolan)

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.**

Representatives from the Remote Housing team did not attend this 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.

FLA2025-026 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) urged all eligible residents to ensure they are enrolled to vote;**
- b) agreed to encourage 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.

FLA2025-027 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority:

- a) provided its priorities in relation to the development of the community's infrastructure; and**

- b) discussed the following ideas for long term project considerations:
- Upgrades at the Football Oval to include Change rooms with toilets and showers
 - Commentary Box
 - Public toilet facilities
 - Laundry unit.

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.

FLA2025-028 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that \$5,897.18 are funds *at risk* of being returned to NTG;
- b) noted the progress on their current projects as at 13 May 2025 as follows:
 - 2132 – Stealth Solar lights, noting that the lights are in community and waiting on the Civil team to install.
 - 2133 – Wash down Bay, accepting the quote from Blueprint Construction for \$9,867.00 to supply and install the concrete slab.
- c) discussed and determined the priority of the wishlist items and made the following decisions:
 - That the Area Manager conducts an assessment on what would be required to move the back net at the Softball field so that the Pitcher is not facing the sun.
 - From the Closed Projects – move Shade Cover over the front office playground to the wishlist.
 - Kept all other wishlist items open for future updates.
- d) did not close any projects; and
- e) 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.

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.

FLA2025-029 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Thomas Stewart)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted the spending on their 2024/2025 Discretionary funds;
- b) noted that a Purchase Order has been raised for the gardening kits; and
- c) noted the remaining balance of \$111.12 and chose not to allocate these funds.

9.4 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2025-030 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the update on the action item 'Fence Around Community Safety Office'; however advised that their concerns related to the 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 when entering the carport.
Members requested that the Manager for Community Safety be available at the next LA meeting to answer a questions relating to the services that they provide.
- b) noted the update on the action item 'Utilise Gym Equipment' and closed action.

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.

Active open positions within the Org Structure as at 30 April 2025.

FLA2025-031 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Finke; and
- b) accepted that the vacancies available in Youth Services were inaccurate as Council is not funded for Youth programs in Finke.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2025-032 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority of Finke noted and accepted 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.

FLA2025-033 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority of Finke noted and accepted the Community Services reports.

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.

FLA2025-034 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority discussed the following matter relating to General Council Business:

- **Request that the Aged Care Manager be available at the next Local Authority meeting to answer questions in relation to the School meals.**

11 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority provided additional feedback to the matters currently raised for Non-Council Business.

- **Some residents have been waiting more than 12 months to have their air-conditioners repaired or serviced and it was not good enough. Members asked for an update for the next LA meeting.**
- **Members did not comment on the rent being too high and left this open for an update at the next meeting.**

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST, 2025

13 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1:03 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.

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