



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE  
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 13 AUGUST 2025 AT 10:30 AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared open at 10:30AM

**2 WELCOME – Chair Michael Ferguson**

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

**3.1 Attendance**

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Michael Ferguson, Member Susan Doolan, Member Bridget Doolan, Member Darryl Doolan, Member Thomas Stewart and Member Rosemary Matasia

Councillors:

Member Andrew Davis, Member Patrick Allen and Member Lisa Sharman

Council Employees:

Damien Ryan – Acting Director Council Services, Joe Rawson – Acting Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb

Via Teams: Ruth Tahere – Acting Manager Project Management Office, Emma Haache – Acting Manager Aged Care

Guests:

Shane Franey – Representative Member for Namatjira Office, Amelia Kunothe-Monks, Christa Bartjen-Westermann and Kim Raine – Representatives Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit

Via Teams – Jessica Scrutton – Representative Housing, Local Government and Community Development

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Roxanne Kenny – President, Mark O'Bryan – Area Manager and Ellen Fitzgerald – Acting Area Manager

Absentees:

Nil

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

**FLA2025-035 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

That members:

- a) notes the attendance; and
- b) accepts the apologies received from President Roxanne Kenny, Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Mark O'Bryan – Area Manager and Ellen Fitzgerald – Acting Area Manager.

### **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).

**FLA2025-036 RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Lisa Sharman)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) welcomes Darryl Doolan to the Authority;
- b) notes the current membership of the Local Authority; and
- c) calls for community nominations to open to fill the remaining vacancy.

## **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FLA2025-037 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

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

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**FLA2025-038 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

That the Finke Local Authority accepts the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 21 May 2025 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

## **6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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

**FLA2025-039 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Andrew Davis)**

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

## **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**FLA2025-040 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

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

### **7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION**

**FLA2025-041 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Andrew Davis)**

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.

Minute Note: Representatives from Housing were not in attendance to this meeting.

### **8.2 CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL FAMILY LEGAL UNIT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report aims to introduce the Central Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Unit (CAAFLU) and outline its vital role and services in meeting the unique legal needs of Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia.

Key approaches for consideration:

- Increase access to justice by delivering culturally safe and trauma-informed legal and social supports
- Provide early intervention and education on family violence and related issues
- Extend outreach to address unmet legal needs.

**FLA2025-042 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the information shared by the CAAFLU Representatives; and
- b) supports community engagement by the CAAFLU representatives in

**providing legal and non-legal services that are available to residents.**

Minute Note: A request for CAAFLU to attend the Titjikala LA meeting was made to the Representatives by Councillor Lisa Sharman.

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

### **9.1 ACTION REGISTER**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

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

#### **FLA2025-043 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Susan Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority:**

- a) **notes and accepts the updates to the actions raised during previous meetings as follows:**
- b) **Fence around the Community Safety Office – members rejected the idea for bollards, preferring instead that a fence is put in place similar to the fence at the neighbouring property.**  
**Members noted that the Acting Director Damien Ryan will take additional photos to include the preferred fence and forward these onto the PMO Office and Community Safety.**
- c) **Closes action ‘School meals’.**

### **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.

#### **FLA2025-044 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)**

**That the Local Authority:**

- a) **notes that \$19,949.91 are funds at risk;**
- b) **receives their 2024-25 Project funding allocation of \$26,900.00**
- c) **notes the progress on their current projects as at 30 July 2025:**

- 2132 – Stealth Solar lights, notes the lights are in community, chose not to install as originally allocated, and instead closed the project to create a new project, returning the remaining \$5,981.63 to unallocated;
  - 2133 – Wash down Bay, noting completion and returning \$1,845.45 to unallocated;
- d) keeps open 2134 – Bench seats, noting that the Civil team will determine the locations at the oval and install them once the concrete has been purchased and in community;
- e) creates a new project – Install four new Solar lights and purchase two new batteries, noting the following:
- commits the remaining funds currently available to include the funds returned to unallocated at this meeting;
  - replace the batteries in the current solar light at Titji Park;
  - engage a contractor to install the solar lights as the community does not have the necessary equipment; and
  - agreed on the locations:
    - install one solar light in each of the laneways starting across from the council office and continuing over to the next laneway.
    - an additional solar light in Titji Park, facing the tables/bbq.
    - one solar light at the entrance of community, coming from Kulgera.
- f) notes the following updates to the wishlist:
- the PMO Office advised that there has been no response received from NPY regarding the reorientation of the Softball fences and the PMO Office is now looking for possible funding.
  - Quote received in 2024 for the Shade cover over the front office came in at \$13,000.00 and at the time of this meeting, the Authority did not have the funds available and agreed for this item to remain on the wishlist.
  - The Lights for the Football Oval, noting the following:
    - a commitment of \$250,000.00 from the Community Development Group;
    - the PMO Office has this project noted for the next round of grant funding;
    - the Aboriginal Leadership Group are updated on a regular basis on the wishlist items of the Authorities; and
    - that the existing power supply infrastructure would need a significant upgrade.

### **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.

#### **FLA2025-045 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Darryl Doolan)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) notes the spending on their 2024/2025 Discretionary funds;
- b) accepts the 2025/26 allocation of \$4,000.00;
- c) discusses allocating these funds at this meeting as follows;
  - \$1,000.00 towards a Tidy Yard competition
  - \$1,000.00 towards a Christmas lights competition

- \$500 towards the meat, bread and salads for a bbq
- d) accepts the \$200.00 from the Member for Namatjira's office, and determines the following:
  - each competition will have four prizes made up as:
    - \$500 – First
    - \$300 – Second
    - \$200 – Third
    - \$100 donated by the Member for Namatjira's office
    - that visa gift cards be purchased for the top three prizes in both categories
  - judging by the Representative from the Member for Namatjira's Office to take place Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, with the BBQ to follow; and
- d) acknowledges that the funds must be spent with invoices received by 30 June 2026.

#### **9.4 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 31 July 2025.

##### **FLA2025-046 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Michael Ferguson)**

That the Local Authority accepts the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Finke.

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

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

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

This report provides an update of Council delivered services in Finke across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

##### **FLA2025-047 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)**

That the Local Authority notes and accepts 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.

##### **FLA2025-048 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Rosemary Matasia)**

That the Local Authority of Finke notes and accepts the Community Services report.

## **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.

#### **FLA2025-049 RESOLVED (Darryl Doolan/Susan Doolan)**

That the Local Authority discusses matters relating to General Council Business as follows:

- a) **Request new bins:**  
Acting Director Council Services will inform the Area Manager of the need for new bins.
- b) **Titji Park Shade Structure:**  
The trusses for the roof of the shade structure does not have a ceiling, making it easy for kids to climb up and into the roof, creating a high risk of concern and members would like the trusses covered.  
Acting Director – Damien Ryan advised that he shall assess the shade structure and forward the photographs onto the Project Management Office to determine what would be involved to have this completed.

## **12 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **12.1 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.

#### **FLA2025-050 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)**

That the Local Authority raises and discusses matters of General Non-Council Business as follows:

- a) **Closed the actions:**
  - **Air-conditioners:**  
Housing maintenance team advised the Representative that all jobs had been logged;
  - **High rent:**  
The Housing Tenancy team will send their Representative out to speak with those elderly tenants whose rental costs are too high.
- b) **Members were advised that the Housing Team are looking to set up a pop-in site when they are in community conducting inspections, where residents can come in and speak to someone in person regarding any maintenance or rental issues. Members responded with a resounding affirmative.**
- c) **Water issues.**  
The ESO advised the NTG Representative that every house in community had water continuously running from a tap, shower or toilet and that the three sewer ponds were now overflowing due to an increase of excess water. Power and Water advised that the issues stemmed from inside the houses, and recommended that members request Housing to conduct an urgent audit inside every home to find the issue.

**d) Bikes program**

The Representative from the Member for Namatjira's Office informed members that they had purchased bikes and allocated 50 to the community

- noted that helmets were not included, however they could be purchased with the remaining Discretionary funds;
- both MRC and the Member for Namatjira Office each source a quote for 50 helmets;

The Representative advised the following:

- One day bike assembly course and training available to two recipients.
- The Electorate office will show the recipients a suitable BMX track in Alice Springs to gain a better idea on the design and layout potential for their own community track.
- Council was asked to provide two places of employment for the two recipients to run the BMX program.

Members were advised that the CEO will be informed of the request and a response will be given at the next meeting.

**11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER, 2025**

**12 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 1:12 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 13 August 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.