



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10.30AM

1.1 NOMINATION OF ACTING CHAIR

FLA2026-01 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Susan Doolan)

That members nominated Thomas Stewart as Acting Chair of the Local Authority meeting.

2 WELCOME

The attendees were welcomed by Thomas Stewart and quorum was achieved.

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Member Rosemary Matasia, Member Bridget Doolan, Member Susan Doolan and Member Thomas Stewart.

Councillors

Via Teams: Councillor Veronica Lynch and Councillor Matthew Palmer

Council Employees

Council Services Coordinator Bryan Forby

Via Teams: A/Director Council Services Jake Potter, Area Manager Council Services Damien Ryan, Project Management Officer Ryan Rosenberg, and Governance Coordinator Shae Millar.

Guests- Via Teams

Shane Franey – Member for Namitjira, Bill Yan’s office

Dee [Adelle McCorkindale] – Project Officer Community Development – Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, NTG

Malavika Manoj – Project Officer Community Development – Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, NTG

Bernadette Sheilds – Australian Bureau of Statics Census Engagement Team

Bri Alexander – Manager, Digital and Community Engagement, CAAMA Radio

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.

FLA2026-02 RESOLVED (Rosemary Matasia/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **noted the Member’s attendance at this meeting;**
- b) **tabled apologies received from Councillor Andrew Davis, President Roxanne Kenny, A/CEO Keith Hassett and Penangke Cultural Consultants; and**
- c) **recorded the Member absences, without notice, of Michael Ferguson, Darryl Doolan and Councillor Patrick Allen for this meeting.**

Minute note: Due to inclement weather this meeting was attended by non-residents remotely

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	4.1
TITLE:	Local Authority Membership
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to acknowledge the attendance and membership on the Authority, highlight current vacancies, and to apprise the Local Authority of any legislative changes to appointments introduced in the Local Government Act 2019 (the Act).

FLA2026-03 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority;

- a) **welcomed returning Councillors Patrick Allen, Andrew Davis and duly elected Councillors Veronica Lynch and Matthew Palmer to the Finke Local Authority;**
- b) **accepted the following appointments of Council;**
 - o **Roxanne Kenny as President**
 - o **Maryanne Malbunka as Deputy President;**
- c) **called for community nominations to remain open to fill the vacancy;**
- d) **noted that memberships will be revoked if members are absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings.**

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.

FLA2026-04 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Rosemary Matasia)

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 Finke Local Authority Meeting held 13 August 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

FLA2026-05 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Susan Doolan)

That the Local Authority confirmed the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Finke Local Authority Meeting held 13 August 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings with the amendment in the Non-Council Business report that the bicycles provided by Bill Yan's office were donated by Northern Territory Police.

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.

FLA2026-06 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Thomas Stewart)

That the agenda papers for this Local Authority meeting as presented, were 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.

FLA2026-07 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Susan Doolan)

That the Local Authority Meeting:

- a) **noted the Conflict of Interest Policy; and**
- b) **that members declared no 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.

FLA2026-08 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the information provided by the Census Engagement Team as follows:

- **A summary of what the census is.**
- **What the data is used for.**
- **How the census is carried out.**
- **That the individual information collected remains confidential and is not shared with other government agencies.**
- **Details about job opportunities working with the Census teams and were advised that interested people should visit their local employment service provider to get assistance with applying for jobs.**

ITEM NUMBER:	9.2
TITLE:	CAAMA Radio
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The representatives from CAAMA Radio are seeking permission from the Local Authority

to install metal signs within the community that will display the CAAMA Radio frequency and encourage community members and visitors to tune in to the radio.

CAAMA Radio is also seeking guidance about the most appropriate location for the sign, whether at the entrance to the community or another agreed place.

FLA2026-09 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) approved the installation of a CAAMA Radio sign within the community; and
- b) advised that they would like the sign to be near the entrance to the community. Members will advise the CSC Bryan Forby of their preferred location and MRC will work with CAAMA radio to ensure that the location is suitable.

ITEM NUMBER:	9.3
TITLE:	Community Alcohol Planning Engagement
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the information provided by Penangke Cultural Consultants.

Minute Note: Representative submitted an apology and did not attend the meeting.

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.

FLA2026-10 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority:

- a) reviewed the information presented;
- b) provided feedback to MacDonnell Regional Council to ensure local needs and community priorities are reflected in the development of the Regional Plan as

follows:

- members would like a more consistent Youth Program currently provided by NPY Women’s Council
- more interaction with head office staff
- more training for employees
- more full-time positions
- Mobile water tank for use at the cemetery and shade trees and fruit trees added to the community infrastructure plan.

Minute note

ITEM NUMBER:	10.2
TITLE:	Action Register
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

FLA2026-11 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the updates to the actions as received; and
- b) reiterated that they would prefer a fence around the grounds of the community safety office;
- c) moved enclose the trusses under the shade structure at Titji Park to the project wish-list with the Project management office to investigate materials and cost.

ITEM NUMBER:	10.3
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.

FLA2026-12 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority:

- a) acknowledges that \$15,703.66 are funds at risk of being returned to NTG;
- b) notes the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management office as follows:
 - project 2131 New Solar Lights and Batteries – only 2 solar lights were operational. These have been installed. Closed this project and returned unused funds to unallocated once all invoices have been received.
 - Project 2133 Wash Down Bay – reopened this project so that the invoices can be paid noting that this project will be closed and remaining funds returned to unallocated funds once all invoices have been received.
 - Project 2134 Bench Seats, Concrete and Sporting Equipment – that all materials are in community and ready for installation by the Civil Team;
- d) approved that the Project Management Office pivots its major project from Community Orchard to Lights at the Football Oval possibly using solar power to circumvent the requirement for upgrades to Power and Water’s infrastructure; and
- e) created a new wishlist item from the action item ‘Enclose the Trusses’ under the shade structure at Titji Park noting that the PMO will investigate materials and costs to be presented at the next meeting.

ITEM NUMBER:	10.4
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.

FLA2026-13 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that the funds have been returned as the events did not take place due to Sorry Business;
- b) allocated \$4,000.00 for the purchase of football guernseys for the Finke Crows football team; and
- c) acknowledged that the funds must be spent with goods received by the 30th June 2026.

11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

FLA2026-14 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the attached report.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.2
TITLE:	Aged and Children's Services Report
AUTHOR:	Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of Aged and Children's Services

FLA2026-15 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Rosemary Matasia)

That the Local Authority of Finke noted and accepted the Aged and Children's Services report.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.3
TITLE:	Youth And Community Safety Report
AUTHOR:	Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety in Finke

FLA2026-16 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Rosemary Matasia)

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.

FLA2026-17 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority did not raise any matters of general Council business.

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

FLA2026-18 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Thomas Stewart)

That the Local Authority:

- a) closes the item 'Water Issues' as this matter has been resolved;**
- b) were advised that there will be a team from housing in Finke on the 17 March to discuss maintenance and tenancy issues;**
- c) advised that the airconditioners in the community are swampies, not functional and have been an issue for an extended period of time and that this is causing health issues for the residents including the very young and older people. This issue is a source of intense concern for residents.**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 20 MAY, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:54 pm.

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