



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

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared open at 10.44AM

**2 WELCOME**

Attendees were welcomed by Chairperson Michael Ferguson and quorum was achieved.

**3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE**

|                     |                                        |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>3.1</b>                             |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Attendance, Apologies and Leave</b> |

Local Authority Members

Member Michael Ferguson (Chairperson), Member Susan Doolan, Member Brigit Doolan, Member Thomas Stewart and Member Darryl Doolan

Councillors

Councillor Patrick Allen.

Via Teams: Councillor Andrew Davis, Councillor Veronica Lynch and Councillor Matthew Palmer

Council Employees

Area Manager Damien Ryan, Council Services Coordinator Bryan Forby, Essential Services Officer Kelly Ryan and Governance Coordinator Shae Millar.

Via Teams: Project Management Officer Ryan Rosenberg and Governance Coordinator June Crabb.

Guests

Malavika Manoj, Shanaya McAdam Bray and Paumea McKay from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

**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.

**FLA2026-19 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Darryl Doolan)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the Member's attendance;
- b) tabled apologies received from Member Rosemary Matasia, President Roxanne Kenny, CEO Belinda Urquhart, Deputy CEO Keith Hassett; and
- c) recorded no Member absences, without notice, for this meeting.

**4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP**

|                     |                                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>4.1</b>                                |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Local Authority Membership</b>         |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>June Crabb, Coordinator Governance</b> |

**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).

**FLA2026-20 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Patrick Allen)**

That the Local Authority;

- a) noted the current membership of the Authority;
- b) called for community nominations to remain open to fill the vacancy;
- c) noted that revocations may occur if members are absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings.

**5 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

|                     |                                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>5.1</b>                                |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct</b> |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report contains all of the details about the MacDonnell Council Code of Conduct Policy.

**FLA2026-21 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Darryl Doolan)**

That the Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

**6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

|                     |                                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>6.1</b>                              |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b> |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides the minutes of the previous Finke Local Authority Meeting held 4 March 2026 to be approved by the Authority.

**FLA2026-22 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Darryl Doolan)**

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

**7 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>7.1</b>                  |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Acceptance of Agenda</b> |

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**FLA2026-23 RESOLVED (Darryl Doolan/Patrick Allen)**

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

**8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>8.1</b>                  |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Conflict of Interest</b> |

**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.

**FLA2026-24 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Patrick Allen)**

That the Local Authority Members:

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

## **10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

|                     |                                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>10.1</b>                               |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Action Register</b>                    |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>June Crabb, Coordinator Governance</b> |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

#### **FLA2026-25 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Darryl Doolan)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the updates to the actions as received; and
- b) approved the recommendation to install spherical concrete bollards as an alternative to fencing. These could be painted by local artists and closed this item.

|                     |                                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>10.2</b>                               |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Local Authority Project Register</b>   |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>June Crabb, Coordinator Governance</b> |

### **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.

#### **FLA2026-26 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Patrick Allen)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) accepted the 2024/25 Project Funding Acquittal and Certification (attached);
- b) noted the available funds of \$53,482.48 include the 2025/26 Project Funds allocation of \$28,800.00

- c) noted the progress on their current project 2134 'Bench Seats, Concrete and Sporting Equipment' that this should be installed by the Civil Team before the next meeting;
- d) allocated \$815.45 to cover the deficit to 2133 – 'Wash down Bay' and closes project once all invoices have been paid; and
- e) discussed the wish list items as follows:
  - Removed 'Heavy Duty Trailer and Chainsaw for Collecting Firewood' from the wish list due to safety and liability concerns.
  - Noted that a submission regarding the 'Lights for the Football Oval' has been sent to the NTG and Council is waiting for the response. This has been added to the Community Infrastructure Plan and will be removed from the wish list.
  - 'Enclose the Trusses Under the Shade Structure at Titji Park' The PMO has received a costing for panel ribbed ceiling and installation of around \$45,000.00. The PMO is also investigating a mesh cover alternative which may be unsuitable as it can still be used to climb on the structure. Members advised that the Community Development Program [CLC] should be able to allocate some funds toward this item. Members and the PMO will follow up on this.
  - Added 'Battery Powered Wheeled Line Trimmer' to the wishlist with the PMO to investigate costs as a ride on mower was deemed too expensive.
  - Added '2 Interchange Benches with Shelter for the Football Oval' to the wish list. The PMO will investigate the costs.
- f) requested that the PMO provide the cost of installing goal posts at Mount Liebig to the Finke Local Authority in order to assist with decision making about solutions for their own goal posts.

|                     |                                            |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>10.3</b>                                |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Local Authority Discretionary Funds</b> |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>June Crabb, Coordinator Governance</b>  |

### **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.

### **FLA2026-27 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Darryl Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority:**

- a) noted the spending of their 2025/26 Discretionary funds;
- b) allocated the remaining \$400.00 to sports equipment to be purchased from Hot Stuff 4 the Sporting Buff; and
- c) acknowledged that the funds must be spent with goods received by the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

## **11 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS**

|                     |                                                        |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>11.1</b>                                            |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Council Services LAR</b>                            |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>Ellen Fitzgerald, Senior Administration Officer</b> |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**FLA2026-28 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Thomas Stewart)**

**That the Local Authority noted and accepted the attached report.**

|                     |                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>11.2</b>                                           |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Community Safety Report</b>                        |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer</b> |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**FLA2026-29 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Darryl Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Safety report**

|                     |                                                       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>11.3</b>                                           |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Aged Care and Children's Services Report</b>       |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer</b> |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

**FLA2026-30 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Darryl Doolan)**

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

## **12 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>12.1</b>                     |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>General Council Business</b> |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to give Members the opportunity to discuss General Council

Business items.

**FLA2026-31 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Bridget Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority:**

- a) requested that Council Services investigate the condition of the water trailers and provide an update as an action item at the next meeting; and
- b) requested that Councillors attend Local Authority meetings in person.

**13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

|                     |                                           |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>ITEM NUMBER:</b> | <b>13.1</b>                               |
| <b>TITLE:</b>       | <b>Non-Council Business</b>               |
| <b>AUTHOR:</b>      | <b>June Crabb, Coordinator Governance</b> |

**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

**FLA2026-32 RESOLVED (Thomas Stewart/Darryl Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority:**

- a) approves the ABS to hold a BBQ and Census information session in Finke sometime in July and discussed the importance of everyone being counted in the Census for funding.
- b) provided additional information regarding the air-conditioner issue that swampy air-conditioners have been decommissioned by housing years ago with no replacement supplied. This is the case in all community houses in Finke. People in the community are using inefficient and ineffective portable alternatives and running hoses to rooves to use their swampies. Members provided the following names and lot numbers for Housing to investigate air-conditioner issues:
  - lot 114 – Maryanne – Air-conditioner decommissioned
  - Lot 79 – Jonella – Swampy disconnected – Water in the ceiling after the airconditioner was repaired. It is not safe to use the airconditioner. Tennants are worried about the electricals in the roof.
  - Lot 56 – Michael Ferguson – swampie disconnected 3 years ago. People with athsma live in this house. Michael has been reporting this for years.
  - Lot 111 – Jennifer Doolan – swampie disconnected.
  - Lot 82 – Susan Doolan – water connection turned off;
- c) Accepted the update on Housing Issues – rent and maintenance that the Pop-Up Stall did occur. However, members requested that Housing come out and do another Pop-Up Stall as there was little notice about the visit which prevented community members from taking advantage of the opportunity to raise their housing issues. Members requested that posters be sent out at least 2 weeks prior to the visit; and

- d) requested to be advised of the grading schedule for the Gahn Heritage Trail Road and the road to Kulgera after the Finke Desert Race.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 12 AUGUST, 2026**

**15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 12:21 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 10 June 2026 and were confirmed on 12 August 2026.