



MINUTES OF THE PAPUNYA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE
PAPUNYA COUNCIL OFFICE ON THURSDAY 24 JULY 2025 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:42AM with a prayer by Member Graham Poulson

1.1 NOMINATION OF CHAIR

PLA2025-037 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Karen McDonald)

That members agreed that Member Graham Poulson be Acting Chairperson for today's meeting.

2 WELCOME

3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS / NOMINATIONS

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

From the Papunya Office: Member Justine Stockman, Member Garrard Anderson and Member Graham Poulson

From the Alice Springs Office: Chairperson Karen McDonald and Member Sarah Stockman, Deputy Dalton McDonald and Member Tommy Conway

Council Employees:

Belinda Urquhart – CEO, Keith Hassett - Director Community Services, Rhiannon Collie – CSC Papunya and June Crabb – Governance Coordinator

Via Teams: Ruth Tahere – Project Management Office

Guests:

Lynn Ward – Local Authority Nominee

Jeff Hulcombe - Junior Rangers Program, Ngurratjuta

Christine Munroe – Papunya School Principal

Alison Anderson (Traditional Owner) and Tammy Stephens – Ngurratjuta Representatives

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

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Nil

Absentees:

Member Terence Abbott, Member Casey (Sammy) Pearce and Councillor Jason Minor

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES

PLA2025-038 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Tommy Conway)

That members:

- a) notes the attendance; and**
- b) records the second absences without notice of Terrence Abbott and Sammy Pearce from this meeting**

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

3.4 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

PLA2025-039 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Garrard Anderson)

That members notes the membership of Terrence Abbott and Sammy Pearce was terminated as they missed two consecutive Local Authority meetings.

3.5 Nominations

3.5.1 NOMINATIONS TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the changes to the membership of the Local Authority.

Two vacancies on the Authority were created due to the dismissal of Sebastian Allen for being absent without notice from two consecutive Local Authority meetings and a resignation submitted by Sammy Butcher.

Council endorsed the nomination received from Garrard Anderson, subsequently, leaving one vacancy to fill on the Authority.

PLA2025-040 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the creation of two additional vacancies due to the termination of memberships;**
- b) notes that there are currently three positions available;**
- c) accepts the nomination received from Lynn Ward and Alison Anderson; and**
- d) calls for community nominations to open to fill the remaining vacancy.**

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

PLA2025-041 RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Graham Poulson)

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

PLA2025-042 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Tommy Conway)

That the Minutes of the Papunya Local Authority Meeting of 3rd April 2025 be adopted by a resolution of Papunya Local Authority.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

PLA2025-043 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Graham Poulson)

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

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

PLA2025-044 RESOLVED (Tommy Conway/Garrard Anderson)

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

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

PLA2025-045 RESOLVED (Tommy Conway/Garrard Anderson)

That the Papunya Local Authority did not declare any conflict of interests 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: A Housing Representative 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.

PLA2025-046 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) urges all eligible residents to ensure they are enrolled to vote;**
- b) encourages community members to consider nominating as candidates;**
- c) notes that nominations are open until Thursday 31 July; and**
- d) notes and accepts the Information for Candidates for the 2025 Local Government Elections.**

8.1 THE JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM - NGURRATJUTA/PMARA NTJARRA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of the presentation from Ngurratjuta / Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation is to introduce aspects of the Junior Ranger Program, including its rationale, approach to planning and progress.

PLA2025-047 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority notes and accepts the presentation from Ngurratjuta / Pmara Ntjarra Aboriginal Corporation.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

PLA2025-048 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the progress on the action items that arose at previous meetings; and**
- b) closes Actions – Speed Bumps, Cultural Signs and Heavy traffic signs as these had been completed and were awaiting delivery to Papunya.**

9.2 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.

Priority projects discussed at the previous meeting included upgrading the Softball Oval and a Gymnasium.

PLA2025-049 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the updates from the Project Management Office regarding the Community Infrastructure Plan;
- b) notes that locations for playgrounds should be carefully selected, to prioritise the safety and well-being of children taking into account factors such as visibility and hazards;
- c) notes the recommendation that shade shelters should be placed over playgrounds and seating provided for parents; and
- d) notes that MRC are in discussions with Greg Drew from Ngurratjuta regarding the Splashpad, BMX Track and Community Garden/Orchard.

9.3 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.

PLA2025-050 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes that \$113,870.13 are funds *at risk*;
- b) accepts the 2024/2025 Project funding allocation of \$63,900.00;
- c) closed Project – Plaques to commemorate the Aboriginal Pastors, returning \$132.00 to unallocated funds;
- d) notes the progress on their current projects as at 30 June 2025 and noted the following updates:
 - Mature trees project placed on hold and suggested to incorporate into the Community Garden/Orchard Project;
 - The Healthy Community project. The PMO Office will consult with members and stakeholders on a timeline to hold the event;
 - Bin Trailers are waiting on a few minor details before they will be delivered to community;
 - Yarning Circle project. A request was made to cancel the project, however members did not endorse this request and the project will continue;

- **Sunday School project.** Members were advised that asbestos had been found in the existing structure next to the Church and it would cost an additional \$40,000.00 for the Contractors to remove the asbestos safely and construct the Sunday School. Members were then asked to consider moving the structure for the Sunday School to the new cemetery as it was previously intended for.
After consultation with Traditional Owner, Alison Anderson, members agreed to close this project, return the underspend of \$13,546.35 to unallocated funds and to open a new project that will include the Sunday School structure.
- e) **creates a new project – Outdoor Chapel**
On the recommendation of Ms Anderson, it was proposed that an outdoor chapel, utilising the Sunday School structure be constructed within the new cemetery with the following conditions:
 - A central path is laid down the in middle of the cemetery
 - The grave sites to start at one end of the path and be allotted evenly on each side of that path
 - The chapel constructed at the other end of the path
 - The chapel must be centred to the path so when viewing the cemetery from the chapel, the layout would appear symmetrical
 It was noted that no funds have been allocated at this stage.
- f) **discusses the priority of the wishlist items and closes bike and tyres, and Tennis Court, noting that they would not be considered.**

9.4 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each financial year, MRC grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority decides how best to commit these funds that will benefit the Community and to improve Community development.

Discretionary Funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

PLA2025-051 RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) **notes that \$3,966.46 of the 2024/2025 discretionary funds were spent with all invoices received;**
- b) **notes that the remaining \$33.54 to be added to the 2025/26 financial year;**
- c) **receives the 2025/2026 Discretionary funds of \$4,033.54;**
- d) **notes that these funds must be spent with invoices received by 30 June 2026;**
and
- e) **did not allocate funds at this meeting.**

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 16 July 2025.

PLA2025-052 RESOLVED (Tommy Conway/Graham Poulson)

That the Local Authority accepts the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Papunya as of the 16 July 2025.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Papunya across the area of Local Government Service Delivery

PLA2025-053 RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Graham Poulson)

That the Local Authority of Papunya notes and accepts the attached Council Services report.

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety, Aged and Disability Services and Youth Services.

PLA2025-054 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Dalton McDonald)

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes and accepts the attached Community Services Report; and
- b) requests that the Aged Care team ensure that the meals they are delivering are handed to the residents who have paid for that service.

11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Nil

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members of the Authority have an opportunity to raise matters that they wish to discuss in General Council Business.

PLA2025-055 RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Justine Stockman)

That the Local Authority raises and discusses matters relating to General Council Business.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1 GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A representative provides necessary updates regarding Northern Territory Government services.

Members are given the opportunity to raise and discuss general matters of Non-Council Business.

This may include, but is not limited to, issues relating to housing, health, schools, police and roads.

That the Local Authority:

- a) notes the information shared by the Principal, Papunya School on the activities and programs implemented by the School:
 - The School and Preschool had undertaken separate educational reviews and these reviews had been documented and sent back to the school.

Ngurratjuta Representative Alison Anderson requested the school provide copies of the School review report and the Pre-School review report to the next Authority meeting.

Ms Anderson advised the Principal that moving forward, Ngurratjuta, as the Local Decision Makers for Papunya are to be consulted prior to Departmental Staff visiting community to engage with residents.
- b) accepts the information shared by Ms Anderson, Ngurratjuta Representative as follows:
 - That Ngurratjuta are in the process of consulting with Papunya residents to gain feedback on transitioning from NT Health to Congress.
 - Notes that the CSC will notify CLC to provide portable toilets for Sorry Camps.
 - Suggests building another toilet for people arriving off the bush bus as they currently use the Aged Care toilet and it is not sufficient.
 - Raises that the Finke River Mission Manse has been unoccupied for at least 10 years, noting that asbestos was in the building. The CSC advised that she has been in contact with FRM and they have responded. This letter will be presented at the October meeting.
 - Requests that Housing be invited to address the issues with sewage and water access as these issues are putting a heavy strain on the existing infrastructure in community.
 - Requests a grading schedule for the roads.
- c) notes the updates provided by the Representative of Housing, Local Government and Community Development:
 - The NT Police advised that they are not able to attend every Local Authority meeting unless there are specific concerns raised by the members.
 - Notes that Project plans for a BMX track, Splashpad and Community garden are under review and once finalised, they will be put to the Delegates for approval. When this process is completed, the funds will be given to MRC to implement the projects.

Members noted that MRC are currently liaising with Ngurratjuta regarding the projects and will continue consultations of future developments.

 - Notes that NTG will consult with Ngurratjuta and members on a Remote Precinct Project.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2025

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1:37 pm.

This page and the preceding 8 pages are the minutes of the Papunya Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday 24 July 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.