



MINUTES OF THE PAPUNYA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE PAPUNYA
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 9.48AM

1.1 NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR - *Councillor Graham Poulson*

PLA2026-01PLA2026-02 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Alison Anderson)

That members nominated Graham Poulson as Chair of the Local Authority Meeting.

2 WELCOME

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Member Graham Poulson and Member Alison Anderson

Via Teams: Member Sarah Stockman

Councillors

Councillor Lynn Ward

Via Teams: Councillor Dalton McDonald

Council Employees

CEO Belinda Urquhart, Deputy CEO and Director Council Services Keith Hassett, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety Libby Taylor and Governance Coordinator Shae Millar.

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

Guests

Provisionally nominated members Garrard Anderson and Ashley Robertson.

Adelle McCorkindale Project Officer Community Development – 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.

PLA2026-03 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Alison Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the Member's attendance at this meeting;
- b) tabled apologies received from Member Karen McDonald, Member Justine Stockman and President Roxanne Kenny for this meeting; and
- c) recorded no Member absences, without notice, from this meeting.

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	4.1
TITLE:	Local Authority Membership
AUTHOR:	June Crabb, Coordinator Governance

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).

Appointing a Chairperson every 12 months aligns with good governance practices.

PLA2026-04 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the selection of Graham Poulson as the new Chairperson for a 12-month term;
- b) acknowledged and thanked former Chairperson Karen McDonald for her commitment and hard work on the Authority;
- c) noted that the nominations received from Lynda Lechleitner and Shannon Palmer at the October 2025 Authority meeting have been transferred to the Haasts Bluff Local Authority due to the proximity of their residences to Haasts Bluff;
- d) accepted nominations received from Garrard Anderson and Ashley Robertson to the Local Authority;
- e) noted that a vacancy on the Authority available; and
- f) called for community nominations to remain open.

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.

PLA2026-05 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Dalton McDonald)

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 Papunya Local Authority Meeting held 9 October 2025 to be approved by the Authority.

PLA2026-06 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Sarah Stockman)

That the Local Authority confirmed the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Papunya Local Authority Meeting held 9 October 2025 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Minute Note: While the Local Authority did approve to move forward with the consultation process regarding Community Alcohol Planning at the last meeting, this was the will of only 2 members – one of which is no longer a member. The majority of members are against allowing alcohol in the community. Members believe that this is in the best interests of the community and that this is the consensus of the majority of community members. It was stated that members are concerned about domestic violence issues that may rise with the consumption of alcohol on community. Members reiterated that any further discussion on this topic should be facilitated through Ngurratjuta.

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.

PLA2026-07 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Dalton McDonald)

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.

PLA2026-08 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority Meeting:

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

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.

PLA2026-09 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that a representative did not attend the meeting;
- b) advised that Members Sarah Stockman and Alison Anderson attended the Census Workshop at the convention centre in Alice Springs;
- c) expressed the importance of maximising participation in the Census for resources funding for Papunya; and
- d) advised that members of the Papunya Community have already applied for positions with the Census team and that TikTok resources have been created in numerous languages.

10 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	10.1
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.

PLA2026-10 RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Sarah Stockman)

That the Local Authority noted the update on the FRM Manse and closed this action.

ITEM NUMBER:	10.2
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

PLA2026-11 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) reviewed the information presented; and
- 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:
 - Requested that Council advocate for more funding for improved aged and palliative care facilities in Papunya and increased funding for housing.
 - Requested cooperation with other stakeholders around creating a bush camp for cultural business.

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.

PLA2026-12 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Dalton McDonald)

That the Local Authority:

- a) received the Project Funding Acquittal and Certification as at 30 June 2025;**
- b) acknowledged that \$127,712.00 was at risk of being returned to the NTG. However, the CEO has formally advised the Minister that these funds are being held pending a collaborative stakeholder meeting to ensure the funding is applied efficiently and contributes to coordinated improvements in community infrastructure.**
- c) noted the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management Office as follows:**
 - Project 2195 'Healthy Community Event' - The Deputy CEO Keith Hassett has had a meeting with Costa and Get Grubby's team and expects to be notified of the available dates for the event within the next 2 weeks. The event is expected to be run near the end of this year.**
 - Project 2505 "Yarning Circle" – The civil team have begun working on installation.**
 - Project 2507 'Outdoor Chapel' – waiting for the Lease from CLC for the new cemetery;**
- d) notes the current balance of unallocated funds of \$152,422.29 includes the 2025/26 Project funds of \$68,800.00; and**
- e) closed Project 2508 – Sunday School, returning \$55,255.05 to unallocated.**

Minute Note: Member Alison Anderson notified the Local Authority that, on the 16 April, Papunya is having a Healthy Homes Open Day to promote Healthy Homes and Healthy Eating in the community.

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.

PLA2026-13 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the updates on the current spending of its discretionary funds;
- b) reallocated the unspent funds of \$2,000.00 previously committed to last year's School Sydney trip to the Aged Care to spend on blankets and heaters for the aged care recipients; and
- c) acknowledged that all 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 Papunya across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

PLA2026-14 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Alison Anderson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Council Services report;
- b) raised that there are some leaks in the community and were advised that the ESO has reported these to Power and Water and that Council Services will provide posters and stickers with Power and Water's emergency water leak number. In addition, the Council is about to trial a Snap Send Save initiative where issues can be reported through an App;
- c) received an update on the 'Changerooms Major Project' as follows – that a number of tenders were received for the original build plans that were well over budget. The Councillors were not willing to compromise on the size or location of the building. An alternative modular design has been approved by Council which will come in under budget. The remaining funds could be used to cover the building in a wrap with Papunya team colours;
- d) requested an update on the new scoreboard and were advised that a new laptop was being procured; and
- e) raised that members would like ministers to attend the Council meetings to be advised about the need for increased funding.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.2
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 and Youth Services.

PLA2026-15 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Community Safety and Youth Services report for Papunya; and
- b) requested that Mac Youth take some young people to Barunga for the 60 years of aboriginal land rights celebration for 4 days in June; and
- c) requested that the Community Safety team patrol near the new house builds. This will be followed up as an operational matter.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.3
TITLE:	Aged and Children's Services Report
AUTHOR:	Annaliza Rivera, Senior Administration Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Aged Care Services

PLA2026-16 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Lynn Ward)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Aged Care report for Papunya;
- b) expressed great appreciation to Ngurratjuta staff Sarah Stockman, Franklin Anderson, Nathan Brown and Nathan Nelson for their assistance preparing and delivering food to the aged care recipients during the period when staff were unable to travel out to Papunya due to the roads being closed after the recent weather events;
- c) were advised that the CEO is advocating for funding for a better aged care facility in Papunya; and
- d) were advised that Aged Care Team Leader Amr Mahdy from Haasts Bluff will be coming over to support the team in Papunya and this was met with enthusiastic approval.

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.

PLA2026-17 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Sarah Stockman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) requested that the waste facility be opened during week days for community to drop off household rubbish;
- b) raised that the cemetery was due for a tidy up after the recent rains; and
- c) were asked to encourage community members to apply for work with the civil

team.

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

PLA2026-18 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Sarah Stockman)

That the Local Authority did not raise any matters of Non-Council Business.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 11 JUNE, 2026

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 10:44 am.

This page and the preceding 8 pages are the minutes of the Papunya Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 1 April 2026 and were confirmed Thursday, 11 June 2026.