



MINUTES OF THE PAPUNYA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE PAPUNYA
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10.06 AM and quorum was achieved.

2 WELCOME

Attendees were welcomed by Chairperson Graham Poulson

3 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance, Apologies and Leave

Local Authority Members

Chairperson Graham Poulson, Member Karen McDonald, Member Sarah Stockman, Member Justine Stockman, Member Alison Anderson, Member Ashley Robertson and Member Garrard Anderson.

Councillors

Councillor Tommy Conway.

Via Teams: President Roxanne Kenny and Councillor Lynn Ward.

Council Employees

CEO Belinda Urquhart, Area Manager Victor Morgan, Council Services Coordinator Tammy Shields, and Governance Coordinator Shae Millar.

Via Teams: Director Council Services Keith Hassett and Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety Libby Taylor attended the meeting from 10:35am to 10:45am to present information regarding the Healthy Community Event project.

Guests

Via Teams:

Katharine O'Donoghue from the Office of the Member for Gwoja Chansey Paech entered the meeting at 10:20am

Shelly Beatie from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development entered the meeting at 10:40am.

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.

PLA2026-34 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Ashley Robertson)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the Member's attendance;
- b) accepted an apology received from Cr Dalton McDonald; and
- c) recorded no Member absences, without notice, for this meeting.

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

ITEM NUMBER:	4.1
TITLE:	Local Authority Membership
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, 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).

Member Graham Poulson was nominated at the April 2026 meeting as Chairperson for a 12-month term.

PLA2026-35 RESOLVED (Graham Poulson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that a vacancy on the Authority is currently available; and
- b) called for community nominations to remain open to cover this vacancy.

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.

PLA2026-36 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Ashley Robertson)

That the Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct and discussed the upcoming changes to the 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 11 June 2026 to be approved by the Authority.

PLA2026-37 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority confirmed the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Papunya Local Authority Meeting held 11 June 2026 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

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.

PLA2026-38 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Karen McDonald)

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

PLA2026-39 RESOLVED (Ashley Robertson/Graham Poulson)

That the Local Authority Meeting:

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

10 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	10.1
TITLE:	Non-Council Business
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide members with the opportunity to raise matters that concerns community as a whole; in relation to services provided by the Northern Territory Government and its external Stakeholders.

This may include:

- Roads outside of MRC's area
- Education
- NT Health
- NT Police
- Land Management
- Other Service Providers

Members are strongly encouraged to report individual housing issues directly to NT Housing by calling their toll-free line on 1800 104 076.

Local Authority discussions will focus on broader issues that affect the wider community.

PLA2026-40 RESOLVED (Sarah Stockman/Karen McDonald)

That the Local Authority:

- a) received an update on the state roads;
- b) raised that the section of road between the Haasts Bluff turn off and Papunya is continuously rough and is damaging peoples vehicles;
- c) identified the upgrade of water and sewerage infrastructure as a high priority for the community, noting that current infrastructure limitations are restricting the building of new houses and other priority projects, including the proposed change rooms, ablution blocks, water park, upgrades to the Rec Hall bathrooms and upgrades to the aged care facility to cater to increasing participant numbers. Members were advised that Council has requested Power and Water undertake the necessary infrastructure upgrades. Members requested that the CEO write a letter from the Local Authority to Power and Water / NTG requesting a timeline of when the required upgrades will be made and an outline of how much money will be allocated. This will add to the work previously initiated by Chansey Paech regarding this matter. The CEO will contact Katharine O'Donoghue outside of the meeting and review the minutes of previous meetings to gain more information about the history of this matter; and
- b) raised that the Finke River Mission is currently working on cleaning up some properties within the community. Members would like these properties returned to the community rather than them being automatically returned to FRM.

Minute Note: Katharine O'Donoghue entered the meeting at 10:20am during the non-Council Business report.

11 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	11.1
TITLE:	Action Register
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

PLA2026-41 RESOLVED (Tommy Conway/Garrard Anderson)

That the Local Authority

- a) accepted the updates on the action items; and
- b) closed these items.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.2
TITLE:	Local Authority Project Register
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, 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.

PLA2026-42 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Justine Stockman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) acknowledged that \$127,712.00 is funds at risk of being returned to NTG;
- b) noted the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management Office as follows:
 - Project 2191 'Additional Resources Towards the Community Development Plan'. MRC went to a meeting with CLC on 11 June and are still waiting for

CLC to advise on the details of their plan and kept this project open so that the Council and the LA can support the plan;

- Project 2195 'Healthy Community Event' the proposed date is 7 October. It will involve Costa and Scrap Boy. They will be planting some trees in the community and some yards. They will also be working with the school. They will produce a music video about healthy lifestyles with the community and provide an educational package to the school.
- Project 2505 'Yarning Circle' the area has been cleared, the seats have been assembled and installation will be completed in the coming weeks. The Members requested that a shelter above the seating be considered in the future. Council services are planning on installing a solar light in the area.
- Project 2507 'Cemetery Extension, Fencing and Outdoor Chapel' MRC is still waiting on the lease agreement from CLC. Members advised that this has been approved and that the formal agreement should be available soon;
- Project 2197 'Scoreboard' members advised that the current scoreboard is working and that minimal additional equipment is required. MRC will consult with Paul from AFLNT to investigate what is required. Members requested that Council investigate if the scoreboard can be moved to improve visibility under the lights. Members decided to add new white light globes for the football lights and speakers to be installed atop the lights to this project; and

c) reiterated that softball lights are a priority item on the wishlist.

Minute Note: Director Council Services Keith Hassett and Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety Libby Taylor attended the meeting from 10:35am to 10:45am to present information regarding the Healthy Community Event project. Shelly Beatie entered the meeting at 10:40am.

ITEM NUMBER:	11.3
TITLE:	Local Authority Discretionary Funds
AUTHOR:	Shae Thompson, 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.

PLA2026-43 RESOLVED (Garrard Anderson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the spending of last financial year's discretionary funds;
- b) received the new financial year's allocation of \$4,000.00;
- c) allocated \$2,000 toward items for aged care recipients in the community. The number of recipients and some prices for portable air-conditioner units will be presented at the next meeting;
- d) allocated \$2,000 toward food and fuel for 3 buses to travel to and from Lajamanu for the upcoming football weekend. Member Garrard Anderson will communicate with Shae Millar to organise the purchase orders; and
- e) acknowledged that all funds must be spent with goods received by the 30th June 2027.

12 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	12.1
TITLE:	Council Services LAR
AUTHOR:	Prisca Mufambisi, Senior Admin Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

PLA2026-44 RESOLVED (Ashley Robertson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Council Services report;
- b) were advised about the additional initiatives that Council Services has put into place to combat the litter issue;
- c) thanked the Council Services team for the additional work they did before and after the sports weekend; and
- d) thanked Members Garrard Anderson and Sarah stockman for their work organising the sports weekend.

ITEM NUMBER:	12.2
TITLE:	Youth Services and Community Safety Report
AUTHOR:	Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

PLA2026-45 RESOLVED (Karen McDonald/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Community Safety and Youth Services report; and
- b) thanked the Community Safety team for their assistance in making the sports weekend a success.

ITEM NUMBER:	12.3
TITLE:	Aged Care 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 and Children's Services.

PLA2026-46 RESOLVED (Alison Anderson/Justine Stockman)

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

13 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	13.1
TITLE:	General Council Business

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

PLA2026-47 RESOLVED (Ashley Robertson/Tommy Conway)

That the Local Authority:

- a) requested that the road to the airstrip be sealed to improve access particularly for the ambulance and were informed that Council will apply for a 'Roads to Recovery' grant for this purpose.
- b) would like the following statement written and be read at each meeting:

The community members of Papunya do not support perpetrators of violence and say no to any form of violence. We do not want violent behaviour to be seen as acceptable by the children of Papunya. The LA members want three rules documented for community –

- No violence
- No selling grog
- No drugs

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER, 2026**15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 11:33am.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Papunya Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 and are UNCONFIRMED.