MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE MRC COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ALICE SPRINGS ON FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2026 AT 10:00 AM

1 MEETING OPENED – at 9.54am

An audio recording of this meeting was made for minute taking purposes as authorised by MC09-CP Audio Recording of Meetings Policy. Councillors may request, via majority vote if required, that no audio recording be made where issues of legitimate cultural or spiritual significance are to be discussed.

2 WELCOME

3 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors

President Roxanne Kenny, Councillor Dalton McDonald, Councillor Mark Inkamala, Councillor Patrick Allen, Councillor Andrew Davis, Deputy President Maryanne Malbunka, Councillor Lynn Ward, Councillor Peter Wilson, Councillor Veronica Lynch and Councillor Matthew Palmer.

Staff

Belinda Urquhart – Chief Executive Officer, Keith Hassett – Director Council Services, Ainsley Roscrow – Executive Manager Aged and Children's Services (via Teams), Libby Taylor – Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety, Katie Fuller – Executive Manager People and Capabilities, Barbara Newland – Manager Governance and Strategy.

Guests

Nil.

Apologies

Councillor Abraham Poulson

ITEM NUMBER:	3.1
TITLE:	Attendance and Apologies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report is to acknowledge the attendance and to table, for Council's record, any apologies received from Elected Members for this Ordinary Council meeting.

OCM2026-01 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Peter Wilson)**

That Council:
a) **notes the Elected Members attendance at this meeting;**
b) **accepts the apology received from Councillor Abraham Poulson for this meeting; and**
c) **records no Elected Member absences, without notice, for this meeting.**

4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

ITEM NUMBER:	4.1
TITLE:	Requests for Future Leave of Absence

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report is to table, for Council's record, requests for leave of absence received from Elected Members for this Ordinary Council meeting.

OCM2026-02 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Dalton McDonald)**

That Council:
a) **notes that there were no requests for future leave of absence received at this Council meeting; and**
b) **receives notification that Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety, will be only leave from 7th to 14th April and there will be no staff acting in her absence.**

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.

OCM2026-03 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Lynn Ward)**

That Council notes 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 Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 December 2025 to be approved by Council.

OCM2026-04 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lynn Ward)**

That Council confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Ordinary Council Meeting held 19 December 2025 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 Council for this Council Meeting.

OCM2026-05 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That the agenda papers for this Council 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 interests that may impact on the performance of their roles and ability to make objective decisions.

OCM2026-06 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council:
a) notes the Conflict of Interest Policy; and
b) notes that no Elected Members declared any conflicts of interest with the meeting agenda.

12 LOCAL AUTHORITY

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.1**
TITLE:	**Draft Minutes of the Local Authorities**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Council reviews the minutes of each Local Authority Meeting or Provisional Meetings at the subsequent Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The draft (unconfirmed) minutes attached to this report relate to Local Authority meetings that have occurred since or could not be prepared prior to the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

OCM2026-07 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lynn Ward)**

That Council:

a) **confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Local Authority meetings held in Mt Liebig, Kintore, Amoonguna, Docker River and Wallace Rockhole;**

b) **accepts the Authorities allocations towards the new project proposals as follows:**
   - **Mt Liebig:**
     - **$27,000.00 towards installing two new water bubblers and upgrading the switchboard; and**
     - **$1,500.00 to the purchase and installation of one new beehive.**
   - **Docker River:**
     - **$56,113.67 towards a New Playground**

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.2**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Resignations and Terminations**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
As recorded in the minutes of the Local Authority meetings, the recommendations being put to Council are to accept any resignations received and to note the members dismissed from the Local Authorities.

OCM2026-08 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council:

a) **notes that the following memberships have been revoked due to their absence from two consecutive Local Authority meetings:**
   - **Paul Williams from the Amoonguna Local Authority;**
   - **Selinda De Rose from the Docker River Local Authority; and**

b) **notes that there were no resignations received for the period of this report.**

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.3**
TITLE:	**Local Authority Nominations**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Under section 77 of the *Local Government Act 2019,* Council is required to consider the nominations submitted for Local Authority membership and confirm appointments by resolution.

OCM2026-09 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council considers the nomination received and appoints Edward Craig to the Wallace Rockhole Local Authority.

13 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

ITEM NUMBER:	**13.1**
TITLE:	**Correspondence Report**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides Council with an update on correspondence received and sent by the Council President and CEO in the period since the December 2025 Council meeting.

OCM2026-10 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Patrick Allen)**

That Council notes the correspondence received and sent.

14 PRESIDENT, COUNCILLORS' AND CEO'S REPORT

ITEM NUMBER:	**14.1**
TITLE:	**Council President's Report**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report details the meetings attended by President Roxanne Kenny since the October 2025 meeting of Council.

OCM2026-11 **RESOLVED (Lynn Ward/Dalton McDonald)**

That Council receives the President's report for the period 16th October 2025 to 28th February 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	**14.2**
TITLE:	**CEO Report**
AUTHOR:	**Belinda Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report details the events and meetings attended by CEO Belinda Urquhart during the reporting period.

OCM2026-12 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

That Council receives the CEO report for the period November 2025 to February 2026.

15 OFFICERS' REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.1**
TITLE:	**Council Services Report**
AUTHOR:	**Keith Hassett, Director Council Services**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report outlines the activities of the Council Services Directorate in the areas of Local Government Service Delivery, Housing and Facilities management, Contractual Commercial Services, Housing and Projects.

OCM2026-13 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes and accepts the Council Services Report.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.2**
TITLE:	**Papunya Changerooms Presentation**
AUTHOR:	**Keith Hassett, Director Council Services**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report seeks the approval for construction of new changeroom and grandstand facilities at Papunya to support local sporting competitions by providing secure, fit-for-purpose amenities for players, including appropriate areas for changing and showering before and after use of the oval.

OCM2026-14 **RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Matthew Palmer)**

That Council:

a) **notes the attached proposal regarding the Papunya Changerooms; and**
b) **provides its support for the modular design and construction of the Papunya changerooms.**

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.3**
TITLE:	**Aged and Children's Services Report**
AUTHOR:	**Ainsley Roscrow, Executive Manager Aged and Childcare Services**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides an update on the delivery of Aged and Children's Services for December 2025 - February 2026, throughout the MRC region.

OCM2026-15 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Peter Wilson)**

That Council notes and accepts the Aged and Children's Services report.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.4**
TITLE:	**Youth and Community Safety Report**
AUTHOR:	**Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides an update on the delivery of Youth and Community Safety services for December 2025 – January 2026, throughout the MRC region.

OCM2026-16 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

That Council notes and accepts the Youth and Community Safety Services report.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.5**
TITLE:	**People and Capabilities Report**
AUTHOR:	**Katie Fuller, Executive Manager People and Capabilities**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report highlights current and completed HR initiatives or activities affecting Council and our number one resource – the people!

OCM2026-17 **RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council notes and accepts the People & Capabilities Report.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.6**
TITLE:	**Finance Report period ending 31 January 2026**
AUTHOR:	**Osman Kassem, Finance Manager**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report is tabled to provide Council with the Finance Report for the period ended 31 January 2026.

OCM2026-18 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes and accepts the Finance Report as at 31 January 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.7**
TITLE:	**Finance Report period ending 28 February 2026**
AUTHOR:	**Osman Kassem, Finance Manager**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report is tabled to provide Council with the Finance Report for the period ended 28 February 2026.

OCM2026-19 **RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Patrick Allen)**

That Council notes and accepts the Finance Report as at 28 February 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.8**
TITLE:	**Finance and Risk Committee Minutes**
AUTHOR:	**Osman Kassem, Finance Manager**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
In accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, where the Council does not convene an ordinary meeting each month, it is required to delegate to a Council Committee the authority necessary to undertake the financial functions of the Council.

As MRC Council conducts its ordinary meetings on a bi-monthly basis, this delegation ensures that, in months where an ordinary meeting is not held, the designated committee is empowered to exercise the Council's financial decision-making responsibilities for that period.

OCM2026-20 **RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Mark Inkamala)**

That Council notes and accepts the minutes of the Finance and Risk Committee meeting held 23 January 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.9**
TITLE:	**Presentation of Grant Acquittals**
AUTHOR:	**Osman Kassem, Finance Manager**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The attached grant acquittal reports for NT Grants are required to be laid before Council for acceptance.

OCM2026-21 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council notes and approves the following grant acquittals:

- **Titjikala Sports Oval Lighting – MRC Central Australia Plan – CIP Completion Report;**
- **Kintore Sports Oval Lighting – MRC Central Australia Plan – CIP Completion Report;**
- **Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-25; and**
- **Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2023-24.**

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.10**
TITLE:	**Governance Team Report**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to update Council on the activities of the Governance and Strategy Team.

OCM2026-22 **RESOLVED (Lynn Ward/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council:

a) **notes the Governance Team Report for February 2026;**
b) **requests that there be no Local Authority meetings scheduled in the first quarter of 2027. This is in recognition of the cultural activities which take place during this period; and**
c) **determines that Councillor Patrick Allen will not attend future meetings of the Titjikala Local Authority in person but rather will either attend via Teams or at the Alice Springs Office.**

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.11**
TITLE:	**Discussion Paper 2026-2027 Regional Plan**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A workshop was conducted on Wednesday, 25 February 2026 to facilitate discussion regarding the development of the 2026-2027 Regional Plan. Council is being asked to provide feedback regarding the matters discussed.

OCM2026-23 **RESOLVED (Dalton McDonald/Patrick Allen)**

That Council:

- **notes the PowerPoint presentation "Discussion Paper: 2026-2027 Regional Plan";**
- **provides its feedback in relation to this presentation; and**
- **agrees to the review of the Regional Plan as indicated in the presentation.**

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.12**
TITLE:	**Conflict of Interest Policy v3**
AUTHOR:	**Clare Newland, Coordinator Policy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the update of the Conflict of Interest Policy v3.

OCM2026-24 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council adopts the Conflict of Interest Policy v3 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.13**
TITLE:	**Filling Casual Vacancies Policy v2**
AUTHOR:	**Clare Newland, Coordinator Policy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the update of the Filling Casual Vacancies Policy v2.

OCM2026-25 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Andrew Davis)**

That Council adopts the Filling Casual Vacancies Policy v2 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.14**
TITLE:	**Procurement Policy v7**
AUTHOR:	**Clare Newland, Coordinator Policy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the update of the Procurement Policy v7.

OCM2026-26 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council adopts the Procurement Policy v7 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.15**
TITLE:	**Caretaker Policy v3**
AUTHOR:	**Clare Newland, Coordinator Policy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the update of the Caretaker Policy v3.

***OCM2026-27* RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council adopts the Caretaker Policy v3 as a policy of Council.

16 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	**16.1**
TITLE:	**Notification of General Business Items**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to give Elected Members the opportunity to table items they wish to be debated by Council.

***OCM2026-28* RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Dalton McDonald)**

That Elected Members raised general matters and items of concern and resolved as follows:

a) **that Caylus is not to attend meetings of Local Authorities or associate itself with the activities of MacDonnell Regional Council;**
b) **that Council writes to Caylus to ascertain exactly what its responsibilities are;**
c) **that Council writes to NIAA to request that funding for the Kintore Recreational Hall be transferred to MacDonnell Regional Council;**
d) **that Council writes to Minister Yan, Minister Edgington and Minister Boothby regarding the sealing of the Santa Teresa Road and the Arltunga Tourist Road;**
e) **that Councillor Davis is to provide the CEO with the contact details for the entity that occupies part of the Amoonguna building;**
f) **that Council nominates Deputy President Maryanne Malbunka, Councillor Mark Inkamala, Councillor Andrew Davis and Councillor Veronica Lynch as representatives on the Heritage Council.**

Minute note: The CEO advised that Libby Taylor, Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety has been nominated for the Northern Territory Young Achievement Award. Members congratulated Ms Taylor on her nomination.

Minute note: The CEO reminded Members that the next meeting of Council is only three weeks away.

17 CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

ITEM NUMBER:	**17.1**
TITLE:	**Closure to the public for the discussion of Confidential items**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Pursuant to section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and regulations 51 and 52 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, the meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential matters.

***OCM2026-29* RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Patrick Allen)**

That Council approves the closure of the meeting to the public as confidential items are about to be discussed.

Minute note: The Open section of the meeting closed at 12.29pm.

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

19 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

ITEM NUMBER:	**19.1**
TITLE:	**Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and re-admittance of the public**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Pursuant to section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and regulations 51 and 52 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, the meeting is to be opened to the public following the consideration of confidential matters. Resolutions will be transferred to the open meeting upon the determination of Council.

***OCM2026-35* RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

That Council discloses motions from the confidential section of this meeting in the open section of the meeting and opens the meeting to the public. The motions to be disclosed are as follows:

> ***OCM2026-30* RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Andrew Davis)**
>
> **That Council confirms the unconfirmed minutes of the previous Confidential Council Meeting held 19 December 2025 as a trued and correct record of the proceedings.**
>
> ***OCM2026-31* RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Lynn Ward)**
>
> **That Council notes and receives the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting of the 18th December 2025.**
>
> ***OCM2026-32* RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**
>
> **That Council:**
> **a) notes the PKF Audit Closing Report 2024-25 and Management's response; and**
> **b) congratulates Management on the results of the audit.**

OCM2026-33 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Andrew Davis)**

That Council approves the extension of the external auditor contract for a further two years including the audit periods for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 financial years.

OCM2026-34 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council:

a) considers and notes the NTG Final Compliance Review Report 2023-2024 and

b) notes the Administration's response to the Report.

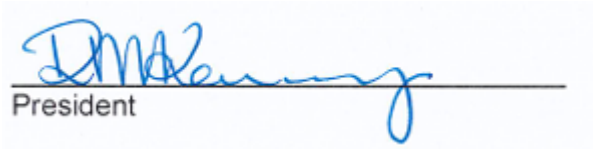
20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting - 17 April 2026 - 10:00 AM

21 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting concluded at 12.47pm.

This page and the preceding 12 pages are the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Friday 20 March 2026 which were confirmed on Friday 17 April 2026.



President