MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE MRC OFFICE, AMOONGUNA ON FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2026 AT 9:00 AM

1 MEETING OPENED – at 9.19am

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
Councillor Abraham Poulson, Councillor Andrew Davis, Councillor Mark Inkamala, Councillor Maryanne Malbunka, Councillor Patrick Allen, Councillor Roxanne Kenny, Councillor Veronica Lynch, Councillor Lynn Ward and Councillor Tommy Conway (arrived at 11.45am).

Staff
Belinda Urquhart – Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Newland – Executive Support Manager, Keith Hassett – Deputy CEO/Director Council Services, Libby Taylor – Executive Manager Youth and Community Safety, Katie Fuller – Executive Manager People & Capabilities, June Crabb and Shae Thompson – Coordinators Governance.

Guests
Jimmy Cocking – CEO, Desert Knowledge Australia.

Apologies
Councillor Matthew Palmer and Councillor Dalton McDonald.

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.

***OCM2026-115* RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Patrick Allen)**

That Council:
a) **notes the Elected Members attendance at this meeting;**
b) **tables apologies received from Cr Matthew Palmer and Cr Dalton McDonald for this meeting; and**
c) **records that there were no Elected Member absences, without notice, for this meeting.**

Minute note: Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the bereavement in the family of Cr McDonald.

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.

***OCM2026-116* RESOLVED (Lynn Ward/Andrew Davis)**

That Council:
a) **notes there were no requests for future leave of absence received for this Council meeting; and**
b) **notes that the CEO is on leave from 24 September 2026 – 7 October 2026 and the D/CEO Keith Hassett will be A/CEO during this time.**

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.

***OCM2026-117* RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

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 June 2026 to be approved by Council.

OCM2026-118 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Abraham Poulson)**

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

OCM2026-119 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Mark Inkamala)**

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.

OCM2026-120 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Andrew Davis)**

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

Minute note: Discussion of Item 9.1 – Deputation Request regarding the Safe on Country Fund and Community Panel was deferred to the last item on the agenda to accommodate Mr Cocking's ability to attend the meeting.

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 Meeting 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.

The Local Authority meetings covered in this report are for the period since the 10 June 2026 and include:

- Finke – 10 June
- Papunya – 11 June
- Hermannsburg – 16 June
- Haasts Bluff – 1 July
- Amoonguna – 9 July
- Mt Liebig – 15 July
- Docker River – 22 July
- Wallace Rockhole – 23 July
- Santa Teresa – 5 August

OCM2026-121 **RESOLVED (Lynn Ward/Patrick Allen)**

That Council:

a) **approves the minutes of the Ordinary Local Authority meetings held in Finke, Papunya, Hermannsburg, Haasts Bluff, Docker River, Wallace Rockhole and Santa Teresa;**

b) **approves the minutes of the Provisional Local Authority meetings held in Amoonguna and Mt Liebig; and**

c) **accepts the Authorities allocations towards new and existing projects as follows:**
   - **Finke:**
     - **$815.45 to Project 2133 Wash Down Bay.**
   - **Papunya:**
     - **$135,000.00 to Project 2507 Cemetery Extension, Fencing and the Outdoor Chapel; and**
     - **$72,677.00 to a new project "Scoreboard".**
   - **Hermannsburg**
     - **Transferred $5,000.00 from Project 2158 Shade Shelter with Cement Flooring to Project 2154 Water Bottle Refill Stations.**

- **Amoonguna:**
  - **$40,000.00 towards a new project "Potable Water Trailer".**
- **Mount Liebig**
  - **$5,000.00 towards Project 2421 "Purchase and Install One New Beehive".**
  - **$5,000.00 towards a new project "3 x Caution Horse/Camel Road Signs".**
- **Docker River**
  - **$33,309.00 towards a new project "Solar System and Generator".**
- **Wallace Rockhole**
  - **$8,500.00 towards Project 2221 'Plumbing Repairs' in the Rec Hall**
- **Santa Teresa**
  - **$30,000.00 towards new project "1 3on3 Basketball Half Court".**

ITEM NUMBER:	**12.2**
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.

OCM2026-122 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council considers the nominations received and appoints Amanda Abbott and Nadeen Williams to the Wallace Rockhole Local Authority.

13 STANDING ITEMS REPORT

ITEM NUMBER:	**13.1**
TITLE:	**Action Register Ordinary Council**
AUTHOR:	**June Crabb, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Council reviews the actions that have been raised at previous Ordinary Council meetings and provides the status and/or updates of each action

OCM2026-123 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Andrew Davis)**

That Council:

a) notes the response to the action raised; and
b) accepts the recommendation to close all items.

ITEM NUMBER:	**13.2**
TITLE:	**Correspondence Report**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

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 June 2026 Council meeting.

***OCM2026-124* RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Lynn Ward)**

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 and events attended by President Roxanne Kenny since the report presented at the June 2026 meeting of Council.

***OCM2026-125* RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

That Council receives the President's report for the period 1st June to 13th August 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.

***OCM2026-126* RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Andrew Davis)**

That Council receives the CEO report for the period June to August 2026.

15 OFFICERS' REPORTS

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.1**
TITLE:	**Council Services OCM Report**
AUTHOR:	**Jake Potter, Manager Fleet and Infrastructure**

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, and Projects.

OCM2026-127 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes and accepts the Council Services Report.

Minute note: There was a break for morning tea at 10.03am and resumed at 10.15am.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.2**
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 Youth Services and Community Safety across the MRC region for June and July 2026

OCM2026-128 **RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Mark Inkamala)**

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

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
This report provides an update on the delivery of Aged Care and Children’s services throughout the MRC region.

OCM2026-129 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council notes and accepts the attached Aged Care and Children’s Services report.

Minute note: During the workshop prior to the Council meeting Ms Roscrow provided a detailed briefing to Council regarding her report as she could not attend the Council meeting.

She also demonstrated the storydoctor.app, its functionality and the benefits which can be derived from its use. Members will be provided with login/password details to access the app. In her absence the report was presented by Ms Urquhart, Chief Executive Officer.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.4**
TITLE:	**People and Capabilities Report**
AUTHOR:	**Katie Fuller, Executive Manager People and Capabilities**

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

OCM2026-130 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Lynn Ward)**

That Council notes and accepts the People & Capabilities Report.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.5**
TITLE:	**Finance Report period ending 31 July 2026**
AUTHOR:	**Osman Kassem, Finance Manager**

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

OCM2026-131 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Mark Inkamala)**

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

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.6**
TITLE:	**Finance and Risk Committee Minutes**
AUTHOR:	**Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy**

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.

OCM2026-132 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Maryanne Malbunka)**

That Council notes and accepts the minutes of the Finance and Risk Committee meeting held 30 July 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	15.7
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.

***OCM2026-133* RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes and approves the following grant acquittals:

- **Local Authority Project Funding 2025-26 by Community:**
  - **Amoonguna**
  - **Areyonga**
  - **Docker River**
  - **Finke**
  - **Haasts Bluff**
  - **Hermannsburg**
  - **Imanpa**
  - **Kintore**
  - **Mt Liebig**
  - **Papunya**
  - **Santa Teresa**
  - **Titjikala**
  - **Wallace Rockhole**
- **Regional and remote burial areas grant 2024-25**
- **Tranche 1: Kintore Sports Oval Lighting 2024/801**
- **Tranche 1: Titjikala Sports Oval Lighting 2024/801**
- **Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) grant Year 1 2024-25**
- **Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) grant Year 2 2024-25**
- **Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) grant Year 1 2025-26**

ITEM NUMBER:	15.8
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.

***OCM2026-134* RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes the Governance Team Report for June and July 2026.

ITEM NUMBER:	15.9
TITLE:	Update on Organisational Development Plan
AUTHOR:	Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of progress made in relation to the Organisational Development Plan.

OCM2026-135 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Abraham Poulson)**

That Council notes and accepts the update of progress regarding the Organisational Development Plan.

ITEM NUMBER:	15.10
TITLE:	Use of the Common Seal
AUTHOR:	Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Section 38(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019* (LGA) states that "the affixing of the Common Seal to a document must be authorised or ratified [endorsed] by resolution of the Council". This report requests Council to endorse the use of the Common Seal on the listed documents.

OCM2026-136 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Lynn Ward)**

That Council ratifies the use of the Common Seal on the following documents:
- **Deed of Variation of Lease – CLC Lot 122 Cemetery Santa Teresa**
- **Deed of Mutual Termination – Dept Health Volatile Substance Abuse Grant**
- **Deed of Variation – Dept Education Community Child Care Funding Agreement**
- **Deed of Variation of Lease – CLC Waste Management Facility Santa Teresa**

ITEM NUMBER:	15.11
TITLE:	Code of Conduct - Commencement of Parts 3 and 4 of the Local Government Act
AUTHOR:	Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to advise Members of changes to the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and in particular to review the new Code of Conduct Framework.

OCM2026-137 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Patrick Allen)**

That Council notes the changes to the *Local Government Act 2019* and *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* and has reviewed the new Code of Conduct Framework.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.12**
TITLE:	**Rates Concession 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 Rates Concession Policy v3.

OCM2026-138 **RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Andrew Davis)**

That Council adopts the Rates Concession Policy v3 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.13**
TITLE:	**Investment 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 Investment Policy v3.

OCM2026-139 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Veronica Lynch)**

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

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.14**
TITLE:	**Code of Conduct Policy (CEO) v2**
AUTHOR:	**Clare Newland, Coordinator Policy**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval for the update of the Code of Conduct Policy (CEO) v2.

OCM2026-140 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Veronica Lynch)**

That Council adopts the Code of Conduct Policy (CEO) v2 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	**15.15**
TITLE:	**Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record 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 Shared Services Policy v3.

OCM2026-141 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Lynn Ward)**

That Council adopts the Sufficient Interest in the Assessment Record Policy v3 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	15.16
TITLE:	Shared Services 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 Shared Services Policy v2.

OCM2026-142 **RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Abraham Poulson)**

That Council adopts the Shared Services Policy v2 as a policy of Council.

ITEM NUMBER:	15.17
TITLE:	Review of Delegations Register
AUTHOR:	Barbara Newland, Manager Governance & Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update regarding the sub-delegations made by the CEO in the Delegations Register.

OCM2026-143 **RESOLVED (Maryanne Malbunka/Andrew Davis)**

That Council notes and approves the sub-delegation made by the CEO to the Deputy CEO.

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.

OCM2026-144 **RESOLVED (Mark Inkamala/Patrick Allen)**

That the Chairperson invites Elected Members to raise items of concern they wish to be discussed in this meeting. Matters raised included:

- **There was much discussion regarding the failing power, water and sewage infrastructure in the Papunya community. This failing infrastructure is the**

primary obstacle to building new homes, directly contributing to chronic overcrowding and poor community health.

An <u>Action Item</u> arose from this discussion requiring the CEO to write to the Prime Minister, the Human Rights Commission, the Environmental Health Branch of the Department of Health and Indigenous Essential Services, a not-for-profit subsidiary of the Power and Water Corporation.

- **The CEO advised Council that Ms Libby Taylor has been nominated in the NT Australian of the Year awards.**
- **Ms Taylor advised Council that the Chairpersons of the MRC Youth Boards will be attending the October meeting of Council.**
- **President Roxanne Kenny and Christine Allen were congratulated on being finalists in the recent Alice Springs NAIDOC awards.**
- **Mr Hassett advised Council that Council was required to consider the appropriateness or otherwise of the current Ward boundaries within MRC. Council resolved that the boundaries were appropriate and should remain as they are.**

Minute note: There was a break for lunch at 11.53am with the meeting resuming at 12.50pm to accept the Deputation by Mr Cocking.

9 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

ITEM NUMBER:	**9.1**
TITLE:	**Deputation Request to attend Council Meeting - Safe on Country Fund and Community Panel**
AUTHOR:	**Shae Thompson, Coordinator Governance**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Desert Knowledge Australia [DKA] wishes to introduce the Safe on Community Fund and Community Panel, seek input into prospective Community Panel Members from the MRC region and priorities that Councillors are prepared to share about community safety and reduction of violence in homes and communities.

OCM2026-145 **RESOLVED (Veronica Lynch/Patrick Allen)**

That Council accepts the presentation about the Safe on Country Fund and Community Panel.

Minute note: Mr Cocking provided a PowerPoint presentation which described the Safe on Country Fund. It was noted that MRC is not eligible to apply but may consider partnering with community-based Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to deliver approved projects. The formation of the Community Panel was discussed.

20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting - 30 October 2026 - 10:00am.

21 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 1.31pm.

This page and the preceding 13 pages are the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Friday 28 August 2026 and are unconfirmed.

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President