



MINUTES OF THE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE  
AREYONGA COUNCIL OFFICE ON THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2023 AT 10:30AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared open at 10:51am as a provisional meeting before reaching quorum with the arrival of Members Johnathan Doolan and Jacob Carol at 10:55am.

**2 WELCOME**

2.1 Welcome to Country – Chairperson Sarah Gallagher

**3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS /  
NOMINATIONS**

**3.1 Attendance**

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Sarah Gallagher, Member Jonathan Doolan, Member Jacob Carol and Joy Kunia

Councillors:

Councillor Abraham Poulson and Councillor Marlene Abbott

Council Employees:

Chris Kendrick – Director Corporate Services, James Walsh – Area Manager Service Delivery, Damien Ryan – Council Services Coordinator, Lucie McKean – Council Services Coordinator, Kieran McKean – Essential Services Officer and June Crabb – Governance Officer.

Guests:

Katharine O'Donoghue – Representative from the Office of Chanston Paech, MLA, Member for Gwoja and Ellie Chan – Project Coordinator, Public Health Division, CAAC.

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Member Garnet Djana, Member Hilda Bert and Member Naphtali Scobie

Absentees:

Nil

### **3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**ARLA2023-001 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Joy Kunia)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority:**

- a) noted the attendance to the meeting; and**
- b) accepted the apologies received from Members Garnet Djana, Hilda Bert and Naphtali Scobie.**

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### **3.3 Resignations**

**NIL**

### **3.4 Terminations**

**NIL**

### **3.5 Nominations**

**NIL**

## **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

**ARLA2023-002 RESOLVED(Marlene Abbott/Joy Kunia)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the Council Code of Conduct.**

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**ARLA2023-003 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Sarah Gallagher)**

**That the Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 14 September 2022 be adopted as a resolution of Areyonga Local Authority.**

## **6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND NOTIFICATIONS OF GENERAL BUSINESS AND NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED**

**ARLA2023-004 RESOLVED(Joy Kunia/Sarah Gallagher)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting**

### **6.2 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**ARLA2023-005 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Abraham Poulson)**

**That members provided notification of matters to be raised in General Council Business as follows:**

- a) Broken down vehicles**
- b) Licencing / Training for Staff**
- c) Early Learning staff working at Aged Care**

### **6.3 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**ARLA2023-006 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Abraham Poulson)**

**That members did not raise any matters to be discussed in General Non-Council Business**

### **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

#### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**ARLA2023-007 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Sarah Gallagher)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting noted the Conflict of Interest policy.**

#### **7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION**

**ARLA2023-008 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Sarah Gallagher)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting declared no conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.**

### **8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **8.1 INDIGENOUS EYE HEALTH & NT TRACHOMA PROGRAM - TRACHOMA**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the visit is to seek permission and cooperation from the community for the planned Trachoma trip. Date is yet to be finalised. The program is intended to educate the community about Trachoma and provide information on the Trachoma program.

*Local Authority and community will be made aware when the Trachoma trip dates are finalised. At the moment, LA is being informed of the upcoming Trachoma program and seeking cooperation and permission for the program to go ahead.*

*An IEH community flipchart will be provided at the meeting.*

**ARLA2023-009 RESOLVED(Marlene Abbott/Joy Kunia)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority noted that Representatives from the Trachoma Program were not in attendance to meeting.**

#### **8.2 HEALTHY FOOD, STRONG FUTURE FOR KIDS PROJECT - AAAC**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Healthy Food, Strong Future for Kids Project is led by the University of Queensland, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and Apunipima Cape York Health Council.

This project, conducted in Central Australia and Cape York, aims to evaluate the impact of price discounting healthy foods for women and children on diet quality, food security, and affordability of a healthy diet; and to learn from community members their experiences and proposed solutions to improve food security, to inform a community-led food security framework.

**ARLA2023-010 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Jonathan Doolan)**

**That the Local Authority noted and accepted the presentation shared by Representatives of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress.**

## **9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **9.1 AREYONGA YOUTH BOARD'S REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek feedback from the Areyonga Local Authority on Areyonga Youth Board's recommendations to the LA. The development of Youth Boards in MRC communities has been supported by MRC's Governance and Compliance Department and Youth Services Department. MRC is not resourced to establish Youth Boards in all communities without Community Support and assistance from Stakeholders.

#### **ARLA2023-011 RESOLVED(Abraham Poulson/Joy Kunia)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- 1) noted the 04/10/2022 Youth Board meeting minutes submitted by Areyonga Youth Board;
- 2) received and discussed the Youth Board's letter from 04/10/2022 to the LA;
- 3) discussed and approved the Youth Board's funding request of \$2,408.00 for 2 speakers for the band room
- 4) discussed solutions to having metal bins in front of the rec hall and the basketball court, noting that Service Delivery will look into supplying the bins.
- 5) discussed the Youth Board's suggestion from their 24 June 2022 meeting about creating a separate space in the rec hall for males and females, requesting that the Youth Board take measurements and bring quotes in separating the space to the next Authority meeting
- 6) noted that sealing the oval would not be considered at this time due to the expense: and
- 7) provided feedback that trees around the Oval were an LA project and would be sourced by the Council Services Coordinator.

### **9.2 ACTION REGISTER**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The attached register provides a running list of Local Authority action items as reported in previous meetings.

#### **ARLA2023-012 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Joy Kunia)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted the progress report on actions from the minutes of previous meetings as received; and:

- a) kept open Action - Building the Road up, noting that the Grader team would be in community and will assess and grade the road as necessary; and
- b) asked that the Youth Board forward the invitation letter to the Department of Education and requested that the action be moved to Non-Council Business for the Representative to follow up.

### **9.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

- Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCM&C) and invested in projects to benefit and improve the community. Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. For example - office upgrades, fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service

delivery. For example - trailers, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures /stands.

- Upgrade/enhancement of community sporting facilities. For example upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation.
- Festivals or other events – but must only be conducted within a council's own Local Authority area.

**ARLA2023-013 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted the progress of their projects and kept open:**

- a) **Project 2112 – Solar lights, noting the following placements:**
- one light installed at the entry into community on the housing side;
  - second light at the Sorry Camp; and
  - that members advise the CSC on the location for the third light.

**ARLA2023-014 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority and kept open:**

- a) **Project 2113 – Install Shade Shelter and Water Tank at Football Oval: and**
- allocated an additional \$4,000.00 to the project.

**ARLA2023-015 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority kept open:**

- a) **Project 2114 – Shade sails and upgrade and repairs to playground equipment.**

**ARLA2023-016 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Joy Kunia)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority kept open:**

- a) **Project 2115 – Youth Board Project; and**
- Allocated \$2,408.00 for the purchase of two speakers for the band room.

**ARLA2023-017 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority kept open:**

- a) **Project 2116 – Trees at Football Oval; and**
- Requested that the CSC seek quotes on Gum trees.

**ARLA2023-018 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority kept open:**

- a) **Project – Stage near Basketball Court, noting the following:**
- MRC do not hold a lease for the area near the court. If the Local Authority wanted a stage built, MRC would need to apply to CLC and approval could take some time. The Local Authority were asked to consider modular staging as they were portable, durable and easy to set up. The Local Authority requested that Service Delivery investigate the modular designs and bring pictures and quotes of the units to the next LA meeting.

**ARLA2023-019 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority added the following items to the wish list and requested:**

- a) **Technical Services to investigate having a Stage placed on the other side of the creek; and**
- b) **Investigate drainage options at the Park.**

#### **9.4 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

##### **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.

##### **ARLA2023-020 RESOLVED (Joy Kunia/Marlene Abbott)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) **noted that the funds of their 2022/2023 Discretionary Funds had not been spent;**
- b) **were advised that the funds would be forfeited if not expended with goods received by 30 June 2023; and**
- c) **chose to allocate their funds at a later date.**

#### **10 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORTS**

##### **10.1 COUNCIL SERVICE COORDINATORS REPORT**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is an update of Council delivered services in Areyonga across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

##### **ARLA2023-021 RESOLVED (Jacob Carol/Sarah Gallagher)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted the attached report.

##### **10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on Community Services program delivery.

##### **ARLA2023-022 RESOLVED (Joy Kunia/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Services report; and

## **11 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **11.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2023**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The expenditure report shows spending until 28 February 2023 in the Local Authority Community.

#### **ARLA2023-023 RESOLVED (Marlene Abbott/Jonathan Doolan)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted the expenditure report as at 28 February 2023.**

## **12 GENERAL BUSINESS AS RAISED AT ITEM 6.2**

### **12.1 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to give members the opportunity to raise matters that they wish to discuss at item 12.1 - General Council Business.

It is to be noted that Technical Services has on their Capital Works Program a project to upgrade the Areyonga Council Office. Part of that scope is to replace the vinyl flooring with ceramic tiles.

As the flooring has artwork painted on it, members are being asked if they approve the removal of the vinyl flooring.

Additionally, the members are asked to discuss and give feedback on the following matters:

- a) LA meetings to be held in an outdoor space starting April 2023.
- b) LA meetings to be recorded for minute taking purposes.
- c) How can MRC assist the Local Authority members to achieve Quorum?
- d) Is there any suggestions from the Local Authority to encourage members to attend and participate in the meetings?
- e) Consultation to replace the flooring in Areyonga's Reception Office
- f) Consultation on the Redevelopment of MRC's 2023/2024 Regional Plan.

#### **ARLA2023-024 RESOLVED (Marlene Abbott/Sarah Gallagher)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority:**

- a) **noted and discussed the matters raised at Item 6.2 as follows;**

- **Broken down vehicles**

**The Local Authority were informed if a broken down car was a danger to community residents, then that car would be moved to the side, however to remove a car to the WMF, the owner of the car would need to sign a form granting permission to MRC to remove the car.**

- **Training / Licences**

**It was noted that training is available for MRC staff and recommended that staff consult with their immediate Supervisor to determine the type of training required.**

- **Early Learning Staff at Aged Care.**

**Members were advised that some of the Early Learning Centres were closed due to a shortage of qualified Early Learning Team Leaders. Community Staff who worked in those centres were employed in other areas including Aged Care.**

**ARLA2023-025 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Jacob Carol)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) gave approval that the next LA meeting could be held outdoors;
- b) accepted that the Authority meetings could be recorded; and
- c) provided feedback to achieving quorum by requesting that members were notified of future meetings, well in advance.

**ARLA2023-026 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Marlene Abbott)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority gave approval for the vinyl floor to be removed.

**ARLA2023-027 RESOLVED(Marlene Abbott/Jacob Carol)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority discussed and provided feedback on the Development of the 2023 / 2024 Regional Plan noting that the Community could achieve the following:

- Stage near the Old House
- Water Trough for wildlife or a Dam
- Walking trail
- Shade Shelter at Softball Oval
- Sand around Solar light at Sorry Camp
- Toilet block at Sorry Camp

**13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS AS RAISED AT ITEM 6.3**

**13.1 OTHER NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet provides any necessary updates in regards to Northern Territory Government services.

At the beginning of the meeting, under item 6.3, members of the Areyonga Local Authority have an opportunity to provide notification of matters they wish to discuss in General Non-Council Business.

**ARLA2023-028 RESOLVED(Sarah Gallagher/Joy Kunia)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) noted that a Representative from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet was not in attendance to the meeting;
- b) noted the advice given by the Representative from the Member for Gwoja Office, advising that residents can send their office an email regarding their housing issues; and
- c) noted the request that Housing consider an easier system for residents to access reporting repairs as the current system takes too long and is not user friendly.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 24 MAY, 2023**

**15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 1:52 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday 23 March 2023 and are UNCONFIRMED.