



MINUTES OF THE AREYONGA LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE  
AREYONGA COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023 AT 10:30AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared open at 10.43AM

**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 Garnet Djana, Member Hilda Bert, Member Jonathan Doolan, Member Joy Kunia and member Jacob Carol

Councillors:

Councillor Abraham Poulson and Councillor Marlene Abbott

Council Employees:

Keith Hassett, Director Service Delivery, James Walsh, Area Manager Service Delivery, Lucie McKean, CSC Areyonga and Gaurab Ghimire, Governance Admin Officer

Guests:

Community Residents

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Kenneth Lechleitner, Regional Coordinator Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet due to mobile network connection

Absentees:

Member Naphtali Scobie

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

#### **ARLA2023-029 RESOLVED(Jonathan Doolan/Hilda Bert)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted attendances, apology and absentees to the Areyonga Local Authority meeting.

#### **3.3 Resignations**

NIL

#### **3.4 Terminations**

NIL

#### **3.5 Nominations**

NIL

### **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### **ARLA2023-030 RESOLVED(Joy Kunia/Hilda Bert)**

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

### **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

#### **ARLA2023-031 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Jonathan Doolan)**

That the Minutes of the ordinary meeting held 23 March 2023 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**

#### **ARLA2023-032 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Jonathan Doolan)**

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

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

#### **ARLA2023-033 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Jonathan Doolan)**

Noted that the members have provided notification of matters to be raised in General Council Business as follows:

- a) Wi-Fi at the Childcare centre, staff shortage & recent break ins
- b) Firewood
- c) Slashing grass inside residents premises
- d) Local Staff from each department to attend LA meeting

### **6.3 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS** **ARLA2023-034 RESOLVED(Jacob Carol/Jonathan Doolan)**

Noted that the members have provided notification of matters to be raised in General Non-Council Business as follows:

- a) Empty Housing
- b) Mobile network connection
- c) CDP and local employment
- d) Hon Minister Chanston Paech to attend Local Authority

## **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

#### **ARLA2023-035 RESOLVED(Garnet Djana/Hilda Bert)**

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

### **7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION**

#### **ARLA2023-036 RESOLVED(Garnet Djana/Hilda Bert)**

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

## **8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS**

*Nil*

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

### **9.1 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.

## **ARLA2023-037 RESOLVED(Hilda Bert/Joy Kunia)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) noted and discussed the spending of its 2022/2023 Discretionary Funds;
- b) approved the quote presented to LA at the meeting to buy the Tiger tops football uniform/Jersey sets and allocated \$3,000.00
- c) approved to spend the remaining fund \$1,000.00 to buy power cards for community residents; and
- b) noted that the funds will be forfeited if not spent before 30 June 2023, in about a month time.

## **9.2 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.

## **ARLA2023-038 RESOLVED(Marlene Abbott/Garnet Djana)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the progress of their projects as follows;
  - Project 2112, Solar Lights – Spot for the one remaining solar light will be erected when member decide where to erect the light and a Sorry camp could be an option if the lights at the camp couldn't be fixed and waiting for concrete to be delivered.
  - Project 2113, Install shade shelter and water tank at football oval – waiting for contractors (AJ Nicole) to come out to community and complete the jobs.
  - Project 2116, Trees at Football Oval – member assigned men to decide on the locations to plant the tress as the trees have been received.
  - Project, Stage near Basketball Court – member approved to buy a modular stage attached in the agenda, printed and provided to LA at the meeting and allocated \$8,000.00 to the project.

## **ARLA2023-039 RESOLVED(Jonathan Doolan/Joy Kunia)**

- b) approved the closure of completed projects as follows:
  - Project 2114, Shade Sails and repairs to Playground equipment – noting that the quote received for this works are way over the budgets available and moved the project to a wish-list, LA have elected to do a new project to replace this project with fencing.
  - Project 2115, Youth board project – noting that the all funds have been spent.

#### **ARLA2023-040 RESOLVED(Jonathan Doolan/Joy Kunia)**

- c) created a new project 'Fencing and repairs' at the Playground to replace the project 2114 and reallocated the funds \$32,772.50 to this project noting that any shortfall will be covered by the unallocated funds.

### **9.3 ACTION REGISTER**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

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

#### **ARLA2023-041 RESOLVED(Hilda Bert/Joy Kunia)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority:

- a) noted the progress report on actions from the minutes of previous meetings as received and kept action open:
- Noted that the grading would take place in the next few months and top keep open until that happens.
  - Rec hall separation – noting that the quote is being sourced.
- b) noted the quote for stage attached in the project register and closed the action regarding investigate and present modular staging.

## **10 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORTS**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on Community Services program delivery.

#### **ARLA2023-042 RESOLVED(Joy Kunia/Garnet Djana)**

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

### **10.2 AREYONGA LA CSC REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is an update of council delivered services across the area of local Government Service Delivery

#### **ARLA2023-043 RESOLVED(Joy Kunia/Hilda Bert)**

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the attached report.

## **11 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **11.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2023**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The expenditure report shows spending until 30 April 2023 in the Local Authority Community.

#### **ARLA2023-044 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Hilda Bert)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and accepted the expenditure report as at 30 April 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.

#### **ARLA2023-045 RESOLVED (Garnet Djana/Hilda Bert)**

That the Areyonga Local Authority noted and discussed the items raised at Item 6.2 as follows:

- a) **Wi-Fi at the Childcare centre, staff shortage & recent break ins during festival**

LA raised that the Wi-Fi password has been leaked and youths are overcrowding around the childcare centre to use the Wi-Fi. There has been recent break ins at the centre around festival season. LA enquired about child care centre staffing and were concerned for centre being closed. It was responded that the Wi-Fi password change will be notified to the IT department to resolve and staff shortage at the childcare centre is an ongoing due to certification requirements in the process of recruitment. Vacancy has been advertised for recruitment.

- b) **Firewood**

LA notified the council that the civil team used to get the wood fire at times when it was a 'Shire' from around the community for elders to put up a fire and this hasn't happened for a long time. It was responded that the 'Shire' has been modified with the new local government act and this request may not be possible for civil team to work on due to insurance and other risk involved.

- c) **Slashing grass inside residents Houses**

LA requested if the grass could be slashed inside the resident premises and the respond was that, the Council is not allowed to slash the grass inside houses.

- d) **Local Staff from each department to attend LA meeting**

LA has requested for community staff members such as MacYouth & MacSafe team leaders could attend the LA meetings and this will be notified to the respective departmental managers.

## **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.

#### **ARLA2023-046 RESOLVED (Abraham Poulson/Garnet Djana)**

**That the Areyonga Local Authority:**

- a) notes and discusses the Non-Council Business items raised at Item 6.3 as follows:**

**- Empty Housing**

**LA raised that there are number of issues to address by the Housing department regarding empty houses, overcrowding and break ins. HRG meeting has not been held for a very long time.**

**- Mobile network connection**

**Internet and phone reception has been a huge issue for the community and this has been raised several times to come up with solutions. It was discussed at the last year June meeting that the small cells around the football oval could be a solution but no action has been taken towards the solutions.**

**- CDP and local employment**

**Member discussed that here are no noticeable CDP activities happening in the community and requested that the CDP program should be run and prioritised for a local indigenous people.**

**- Hon Minister Chanston Paech to attend Local Authority**

**LA Members from the Local Authority have strongly asked Council to invite Hon Minister Chanston Peach to attend next Local Authority meeting and provide support to the issues raised and discussed by the LA at this meeting and on the matters raised at the meeting held on June 2022.**

- b) Noted that the DCM&C have approached governance team to phone in but it was not feasible due to mobile network connection.**

Minute note: Members and community residents were served with BBQ after successful meeting as it was LA outdoor meeting followed by community BBQ.

## **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 10 AUGUST, 2023**

## **15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 12:04 pm.

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Areyonga Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2023 and were confirmed Thursday, 10 August 2023.