



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE  
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023 AT 10:30AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared open at 10:51AM

**2 WELCOME**

2.1 Welcome to Country – Chairperson Michael Ferguson

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

**3.1 Attendance**

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Michael Ferguson, Member Rosemary Matasia, Member Geoffrey Stuart,  
Member Jill Doolan and Member Richard Doolan

Councillors:

Councillor Patrick Allen, Councillor Lisa Sharman, Councillor Andrew Davis

Council Employees:

Sheree Sherry – A/Executive Manager Finance & Governance, Kathleen Abbott – Area  
Manager Service Delivery, Damien Ryan – Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb –  
Governance Officer.

Guests:

Shane Franey – Liaison Officer, Member for Namatjira Office.

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Member Charmaine Stuart

Absentees:

Councillor Aloyischois Hayes

### **3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES**

**FLA2023-054 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Jill Doolan)**

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted the attendance and accepted the apologies received from Member Charmaine Stuart; and
- b) noted the absence without notice of Councillor Aloyiscois Hayes from the meeting.

### **3.3 Resignations**

NIL

### **3.4 Terminations**

NIL

### **3.5 Nominations**

NIL

## **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FLA2023-055 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lisa Sharman)**

That the Finke Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**FLA2023-056 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

That the Minutes of the Finke Local Authority of 26 July 2023 be adopted as a resolution of Finke Local Authority.

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

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

**FLA2023-057 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Patrick Allen)**

That the Finke Local Authority noted the that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting

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

**FLA2023-058 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Geoffrey Stuart)**

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

- **Scrap metal bays at Waste Management Facility.**  
Moved to the wishlist the possibility of having a separate bay for scrap metal. This was so the community could on sell any useable pieces of metal.

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

**FLA2023-059 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

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

- **Grading the Ghan Heritage Road**  
Members were advised that the Road is graded twice per year, and there were currently no plans in place to upgrade the road.  
Members asked that grading take place during the year, especially after the Finke Desert Race and not before.
- **Fences**  
Members asked if the fences around houses could be raised.

## **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**FLA2023-060 RESOLVED (Richard Doolan/Jill Doolan)**

That the Finke Local Authority noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

### **7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION**

**FLA2023-061 RESOLVED (Richard Doolan/Jill Doolan)**

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

## **8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS**

*Nil*

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

### **9.1 FINKE YOUTH BOARD REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

MacDonnell Regional Council (MRC) has set itself a goal to support youth leadership development in all our 13 communities. In order to develop and support our young leaders, the MRC is in the process of developing Youth Boards across the MacDonnell region. MRC is currently working on developing a Youth Board in Finke.

The purpose of this report is to seek feedback from the Finke Local Authority on Finke Youth Board's recommendations to the LA.

**FLA2023-062 RESOLVED (Rosemary Matasia/Geoffrey Stuart)**

That the Local Authority:

- a) received and noted the Finke Youth Board's meeting minutes from the 7th of September 2023; and
- b) determined not to commit funds towards the recommendations of the Youth Board as members were advised by the Officer from Bill Yan's Office that funding may be available from other sources. The Liaison Officer requested that the Youth Board forward onto the Office of Namatjira, quotes for the following:
  - **New Goal Posts for the Footy Oval.**
  - **Gym Station.**

## 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.

Examples of *acceptable* purposes for expenditure include:

- 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.

**The Local Authority has committed all available funds to projects and there is nil balance remaining to allocate.**

**Noted that MRC has yet to receive the 2023/2024 Project funding from NTG.**

**FLA2023-063 RESOLVED (Richard Doolan/Patrick Allen)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) noted that NTG's 2023/2024 project funds commitment of \$26,900.00 had not been received by MRC;
- b) noted that the 2023/2024 project funds from NTG has been allocated to Project – Fence around Cemetery;
- c) noted and accepted the progress of its projects and kept open:
  - 2135 – Wood fire BBQ, noting that the CSC will follow up with an available Contractor to teach the team to install the BBQ's;
  - 2136 – Fence around Cemetery, noting that the Executive Manager F&G would follow up and advise if gates would be installed. Members were advised that a tank at the cemetery would be a health issue if the water was not continually replenished. Members agreed to continue using a trailer with the tank for potable water.
- d) requested that the Softball pitch be realigned to a North/South position so that the batters can avoid facing the sun.
- e) members asked for quotes and timeframe towards a Shade Structure over the Playground at the Office be looked into.

### **9.3 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 2023 and 30 June 2024.

#### **FLA2023-064 RESOLVED (Geoffrey Stuart/Patrick Allen)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) noted that the Purchase Order for the Gardening equipment had been raised; and**
- b) allocated \$1,000.00 towards a Christmas party to be held the first week of December.**

## **10 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORTS**

### **10.1 FINKE LA REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

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

#### **FLA2023-065 RESOLVED (Geoffrey Stuart/Michael Ferguson)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) noted and accept the Service Delivery Report; and**
- b) noted that members inquired on the dosage used to treat animals and how vets determined whether an animal should be euthanized. Members recommended that Councillors raise this matter to invite a Veterinarian to a Council meeting to discuss what the services are that they provide in community.**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on Community Services program delivery.

#### **FLA2023-066 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Geoffrey Stuart)**

**That the Finke Local Authority noted and accepted the Community Services report.**

### **10.3 DTS REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

A summary of Technical Services completed in Finke since the last Local Authority Meeting

#### **FLA2023-067 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Rosemary Matasia)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) noted and accepted the Technical Services Report; and**
- b) noted that members were unclear of what Starlink was.**

## **11 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **11.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The expenditure report shows spending until 31 August 2023 in the Local Authority community.

**FLA2023-068 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Patrick Allen)**

**That the Finke Local Authority noted and accepted the Expenditure Report as at 31 August 2023**

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

### **12.1 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Under item 6.2, members have the opportunity to raise matters of General Business that are discussed at this report.

**FLA2023-069 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Geoffrey Stuart)**

**That the Finke Local Authority noted that the General Business items raised were discussed at Item 6.2.**

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

### **13.1 OTHER NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this paper is to note and discuss the matters raised at item 6.3 and to be informed of any updates to the actions relating to the services provided by the Northern Territory Government.

**FLA2023-070 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lisa Sharman)**

**That the Finke Local Authority:**

- a) **noted the Non-Council Business items raised were discussed at Item 6.3;**
- b) **noted that the DCM&C Representative was waiting on a response from the organisers of the Finke Desert Race for a possible upgrade to Finke's start/finish line.**
- c) **noted the water leak at Lot 54 had been repaired.**
- d) **noted the request from Bill Yan's Representative that members consider a location for a Mens Shed.**
- e) **approved to close Housing and Roads.**

## **14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 2024**

### **15 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 1:47 pm.

This page and the preceding 5 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 4 October 2023 and were confirmed Tuesday, 5 March 2024.