



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE
COUNCIL OFFICE ON THURSDAY 9 MARCH 2023 AT 10:30AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:43am.

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 Charmaine Stuart, Member Jill Doolan, Member Geoffrey Stuart and Member Richard Doolan

Councillors:

Councillor Lisa Sharman and Councillor Patrick Allen

Council Employees:

Chris Kendrick – Director Corporate Services, Kathleen Abbott – Area Manager Service Delivery and June Crabb – Governance Officer

Guests:

Eric Turner – Regional Project Officer, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Sian Powell – Representative from AEC's NT IEPP Program

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Member Michelle Allen, Member Rosemary Matasia and President Roxanne Kenny

Absentees:

Nil

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES

FLA2023-001 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Richard Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted the attendance and accepted the apologies received from Members Michelle Allen, Rosemary Matasia and President Roxanne Kenny; and**
- b) noted that no absentees were recorded.**

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

NIL

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

FLA2023-002 RESOLVED (Jill Doolan/Patrick Allen)

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

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF LA PREVIOUS MINUTES

FLA2023-003 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Richard Doolan)

That the Minutes of the Finke Local Authority of 5 October 2022 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

FLA2023-004 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Charmaine Stuart)

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

FLA2023-005 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)

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

- 1. Rubbish Days**
- 2. Staff Training/Qualifications**

Members advised that they would like to gain the necessary qualifications to be able to work alongside contractors who come to community to repair or maintain

infrastructure . Director Corporate Services advised that MRC provides training to their staff and should they require specific training to speak with their Council Services Coordinator or the Service Delivery Manager. Members were also advised that there are procedures that must be followed when external parties request to hire out equipment or staff.

Community residents should also be discussing their training needs with Catholic Care as they can source services that offer training towards qualifications and licences.

6.3 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

FLA2023-006 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Michael Ferguson)

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

1. Repairs to fences

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

FLA2023-007 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)

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

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

FLA2023-008 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)

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

8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

8.1 AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) is an independent Federal Agency that operates under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* and the reason for this paper is to provide information on the work they are doing in various remote communities on the Indigenous Electoral Participation Program (IEPP)

FLA2023-009 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Geoffrey Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority noted and accepted the presentation from the Australia Electoral Commission.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek feedback from the Local Authority on the structure and assembly of the Local Authority meeting Agenda to best meet the needs of the community and to ensure that their regional councils' planning, prioritising, funding and delivery of services and infrastructure is being met.

The intention is that LA's should be able to set their own agendas and conduct their own meetings, while recognising the role of Councils in managing administration and building capacity.

Following this report is an attachment of a meeting Agendas' Table of Contents and the subjects highlighted are a prerequisite for an Agenda.

The Local Authority is asked to discuss what they would like to see included in a meeting agenda and provide examples of good practices.

FLA2023-010 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority:

- a) reviewed and discussed the contents of a meeting agenda; and**
- b) identified that members did not wish to make changes to the current agenda.**

9.2 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides a running list of Local Authority action items as reported in previous meetings.

FLA2023-011 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Geoffrey Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted the progress reports on actions from the minutes of previous meetings as received; and**
- b) approved the closure of completed action – Renegotiating an alternative WMF.**

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.

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.

FLA2023-012 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Richard Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted completion and closed Project 2133 – Trees around Oval, reallocating the underspend of \$2,154.73 to Project 2136.**
- b) noted and accepted the progress of its projects and kept open:**
 - Project 2135 – Wood fire BBQ;**
 - Project 2136 – Fence around Cemetery, receiving the reallocation of \$2,154.73 and noting that the materials for the water tank had arrived in community and the tank will be installed once the stands are cemented in. Requested for Service Delivery to source quotes on different types of fencing and that they be submitted at the next LA meeting.**

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 2022 and 30 June 2023.

FLA2023-013 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Geoffrey Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted that their full allocation of \$4,000.00 was still available;**
- b) noted that the funds had to be spent by 30 June 2023; and**
- c) elected to defer the spending of their 2022/2023 Discretionary funds to a later date.**

10 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

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

FLA2023-014 RESOLVED (Charmaine Stuart/Michael Ferguson)

That the Finke Local Authority noted and accepted the Council Service Delivery Report, Finke.

Minute Note: Trophies were presented and congratulations given to the members and their community on achieving Tidy Town's Four Gold Stars Award

Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:21pm

Meeting resumed at 12:59pm

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on Community Services program delivery.

FLA2023-015 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Charmaine Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted and accepted the Community Services report; and
- b) requested that MRC write to NPY Women's Council on behalf of the Local Authority and request that the upkeep to the Community Hall and facilities be maintained as it is showing states of disrepair.

11 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS

11.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The expenditure report shows spending until 31 December 2022 in the Local Authority community.

FLA2023-016 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Charmaine Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority noted and accepted the Expenditure Report as at 31 December 2022.

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.

FLA2023-017 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Michael Ferguson)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) discussed the General Business matters raised, noting that Staff Training/Qualifications had been discussed at item 6.2:
 - 1. Rubbish Days, being advised that rubbish collection was Monday and Thursday and hard rubbish collected Wednesday.

FLA2023-018 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Michael Ferguson)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) accepted to hold meetings in an outdoor space;
- b) agreed that meetings could be recorded for minute taking purposes;
- c) suggested that members be given individual posters with all Local Authority meeting dates listed.

FLA2023-019 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Michael Ferguson)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) discussed the Development of the 2023 / 2024 Regional Plan;
- b) provided feedback to the Development of the 2023 / 2024 Regional Plan noting that the Finke Community could achieve the following:
 - Lights at the Football Oval
 - Picnic tables, trees, shade shelters and water bubblers at the oval
 - Outdoor Basketball Court with water bubblers, seating and shade
 - Fence around the Softball field
 - BMX Track
 - Swimming Pool
 - Changing rooms at sports grounds
 - Public toilets and showers
 - Waterpark
 - Fans for the Rec Hall
 - Parks with playgrounds, shade and picnic tables
 - Laneway between Council office to Store

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.

FLA2023-020 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Geoffrey Stuart)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted and discussed the Non-Council Business items raised at Item 6.3;
 - 1. Repairing or replacing fences.

Members advised that there are quite a few fences around residents houses that need repairing or replacing.

The Representative advised that he had emailed Housing when the matter was raised and unfortunately had not had a response. He informed members that he will follow up with Housing and bring a response to the next meeting.
- b) noted and accepted the updates and progress on actions from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet and kept open;
 - Grading Maryvale Road to Finke; and
 - Housing
- c) approved closure of the completed action – Telstra Services.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 3 MAY, 2023

15 MEETING CLOSED - 1:51PM

This page and the preceding 6 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday 9 March 2023 and were CONFIRMED on Wednesday 3rd April 2023.