



Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council an Ordinary Meeting  
Wednesday, 12 April 2023 at 9:00 am  
Council Chambers, Jabiru

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**Chairperson Mayor Ryan declared the meeting open at 9:06, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.**

Council took a minute silence on the news of the passing of a respected friend, colleague and passionate advocate for land rights in the Arnhem Land Region and all of the Northern Territory, Mr Yunipingu.

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson	Matthew Ryan (Mayor)
Deputy Mayor	Elizabeth Williams (Video Conference)
Councillor	Ralph Blyth
Councillor	Otto Dann
Councillor	Jacqueline Phillips
Councillor	James Marrawal
Councillor	James Woods
Councillor	Julius Don Kernan
Councillor	Henry Guwiyul
Councillor	Donna Nadjamerrek
Councillor	Gabby Gumurdul (Video Conference)

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chief Executive Officer	Paul Hockings
Chief Corporate Officer	David Glover
Chief Corporate Officer	Deirdre O'Sullivan
Chief Operating Officer (Acting)	Fiona Ainsworth
Director of Organisational Growth (Acting)	Peter Ryan
General Manager Technical Services (Acting)	Clem Beard
Governance and Risk Advisor	Jessie Schaecken (Video Conference)
Finance Manager	James Stockdale
Travel and Executive Support Officer	Jasmine Mortimore
Communication and Public Relations Officer	Heidi Walton

## GUEST

Regional Project Officer, Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet, Colvin Crowe

## APOLOGIES

### 3.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The Council considered a report on Apologies and Leave of Absence.

**OCM47/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Woods**

**That Council:**

1. Received and noted Elected Member apology from Cr Ralph for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 12 April 2023,
2. Granted leave of absence to Cr Ralph for the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for 12 April 2023 only; and
3. Requested a letter be sent to Cr Ralph supporting her work endeavours but advising that the balance of her apology is not accepted and request that she attend the:
  - a. Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee on 4 May 2023; and
  - b. Ordinary Council Meeting on 10 May 2023.

**CARRIED**

## ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE

### 4.1 ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE

The Council considered a report on Absent without Notice.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Council noted nil Elected Member absences without notice for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 12 April 2023.**

## ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

### 5.2 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The Council considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

**OCM48/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Phillips**

**That the agenda papers for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 12 April 2023 as circulated be received for consideration at the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

## DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

### 6.1 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

The Council considered a report on Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff.

**OCM49/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams**

**Seconded Cr Woods**

**That Council received the following declarations of interest as listed for the meeting held on 12 April 2023:**

1. Report No 15.3 - Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council (NLC):
  - a. Mayor Ryan NLC Full Council Maningrida, Homelands and Executive Council

- b. Cr Dann NLC Full Council Gunbalayna,
- c. Cr Phillips NLC Full Council Maningrida; and
- d. Cr Kernan NLC Full Council Maningrida, Homelands and Executive Council.
- e. Cr Gumurdul

Council determined, on advice from the Governance and Risk Advisor that Councillors were able to remain in the meeting on account of the report not requiring any action.

**CARRIED**

#### MEETING PROCEDURE

##### 5.1 SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER - GUNBALAYNA WARD BY-ELECTION 18 MARCH 2023

The Council considered a report on Swearing in of newly Elected Member - Gunbalayna Ward By-election 18 March 2023.

#### OCM50/2023 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor Ryan

Seconded Deputy Mayor Williams

That Council congratulated Mr Gabby Gumurdul on his appointment as Councillor to the West Arnhem Regional Council, representing the Gunbalayna Ward after the By-election that was held on 18 March 2023.

**CARRIED**

#### CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

##### 7.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2023

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Previous Minutes - Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 March 2023.

#### OCM51/2023 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Woods

Seconded Cr Phillips

That the minutes of 8 March 2023 Ordinary Council meeting are confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**CARRIED**

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORTS

##### 8.1 REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS LIST

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items List.

#### OCM52/2023 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Blyth

Seconded Cr Dann

That Council:

1. Received and noted report entitled '*Review of Action items list*',
2. Reviewed the outstanding resolutions, and gave approval for completed items to be removed from the list with the exception of the water security item,
3. Approved the travel of Cr Woods in place of Mayor Ryan to the LGANT General Meeting in Alice Springs on 19 and 20 April 2023; and
4. Requested Council submit an EOI to NLC for the land at Minjilang next (landside) to the airstrip for arrival and departure passenger facilities.

**CARRIED**

Council took a break at 10:47 and returned at 11:19

## 8.2 TOP END REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE - ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN

The Council considered a report on Top End Regional Coordination Committee - Economic Growth Plan.

**OCM53/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Marrawal**

**Seconded Cr Kernan**

**That Council advise the Department of Chief Minister & Cabinet (DCM&C) through the CEO as a member of the Top End Regional Coordination Committee that Council:**

- 1. does not wish to take the lead on any priority actions in the Economic Growth Plan.**
- 2. requested an invitation be extended to the Hon Nicole Manison MLA Minister for Northern Australia & Trade and Sandra Schmidt Executive Director DCM&C to Gunbalanya to talk with elected members about the economic growth plan and priority actions due to the proximity of the Gunbalanya Station and associated abattoirs, noting the visit should coincide with a future Ordinary Council meeting and move the location of the meeting to Gunbalanya.**

**CARRIED**

## 8.3 INCOMING AND OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

**OCM54/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Phillips**

**That Council:**

- 1. received and noted the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence during the month of March 2023,**
- 2. requested a response be sent to the letter received on 16 February 2023 from the Hon Eva Lawler MLA Minister for Infrastructure Planning and Logistics reply to LGANT requesting continued advocacy for the prioritisation of the \$9.5M identified in the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2022-2030 for the Arnhem Link Road to be directed toward upgrading the:
  - a. 28 kilometre section from Maningrida to the Ramingining turn off,**
  - b. section from Gunbalanya intersection to Cahill's Crossing estimated at 13 kilometres through Red Lily Lagoon.****

**CARRIED**

## 8.4 MEETINGS AND EVENTS ATTENDED BY THE MAYOR

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor.

**OCM55/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Woods**

**That Council:**

- 1. received and noted the report entitled '*Meetings and Events Attended by the Mayor*'; and**
- 2. approved associated travel cost to attend the listed meetings and events.**

**CARRIED**

## 8.5 MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE CEO

The Council considered a report on Meetings Attended by the CEO.

**OCM56/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Marrawal  
Seconded Cr Guwiyul  
that Council received and noted the report entitled '*Meetings attended by the CEO*'.

CARRIED

#### 8.6 INVITATION TO ATTEND EAST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCILS ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The Council considered a report on Invitation to attend East Arnhem Regional Council's Ordinary Council Meeting.

**OCM57/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Mayor Ryan  
Seconded Cr Marrawal

That Council nominated Crs Blyth, Phillips, Marrawal, Dann and Guwiyul to attend the East Arnhem Regional Council's Ordinary Council Meeting being held in Nhulunbuy on 29 June 2023 along with Mayor Ryan and Paul Hockings CEO.

CARRIED

#### 8.7 REGIONAL PLAN - Q3 REPORT

The Council considered a report on Regional Plan - Q3 report.

**OCM58/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Marrawal  
Seconded Cr Dann

That Council received and noted the progress of the Q3 Service Delivery Plan based on the indicators outlined within the circulated document entitled '*West Arnhem Regional Plan 2022-2023 Quarterly Update*'.

CARRIED

The meeting broke for lunch at 13:00 and resumed 13:45, noting that Cr Kernan was unable to return.

#### OFFICER REPORTS

##### 9.1 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2023

The Council considered a report on Finance Report for the period ended 28 February 2023.

**OCM59/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Phillips  
Seconded Cr Blyth

That Council:

1. Received and noted report entitled '*Finance Report for the period ended 28 February 2023*'; and
2. Requested that future finance reports include the credit card transactions for all cardholders.

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Williams left the meeting at 14:10 and returned at 14:11.

##### 9.2 ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH UNIT REPORT

The Council considered a report on Organisational Growth Unit Report.

**OCM60/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Marrawal  
Seconded Cr Woods

That Council received and noted the report entitled '*Organisational Growth Unit Report*' including the attached acquittal.

CARRIED

### 9.3 AFL STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE TO CRS

The Council considered a report on AFL Strategic Plan - Update to Crs.

**OCM61/2023 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Woods**  
**Seconded Cr Phillips**  
**That Council received and noted report entitled ‘AFL Strategic Plan - Update to Councillors’.**

**CARRIED**

Hilal Ahmed Senior Project Manager joined the meeting 14:47 and left at 15:04.

#### TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORTS

##### 10.1 NEW SUBDIVISION MEETING HELD WITH DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE 17 MARCH 2023 - GUNBALANYA & MANINGRIDA NEW SUBDIVISIONS

The Council considered a report on New Subdivision meeting held with Department of Planning & Infrastructure (DIPL) 17 March 2023 regarding the Gunbalanya & Maningrida New Subdivisions.

**OCM62/2023 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Woods**  
**Seconded Cr Phillips**  
**That Council:**

1. Received and noted the report entitled ‘*New Subdivision meeting held with Dept of Planning & Infrastructure*’,
2. Reviewed the meeting minutes,
3. Directed the administration to:
  - a. To assist representatives from DIPL to conduct a full and comprehensive conditional report for Maningrida Subdivision post the Wet Season 2022/23,
  - b. Work closely with NT Government on future subdivision development; and
  - c. Instruct a subcontractor to carry out immediate works on the remediation of potholes in Maningrida.

**CARRIED**

Sara Fitzgerald Waste and Resource Coordinator joined the meeting at 15:04 and left at 15:52.

##### 10.2 CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME DISCUSSION PAPER RESPONSE

The Council considered a report on Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper Response.

**OCM63/2023 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Mayor Ryan**  
**Seconded Cr Blyth**  
**That Council:**

1. Received and noted the report entitled ‘*West Arnhem Regional Council Response – Container Deposit Scheme Discussion Paper*’; and
2. Endorsed the response to the submission request.

**CARRIED**

##### 10.3 APPROVAL TO ENGAGE KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL

The Council considered a report on Approval to Engage Keep Australia Beautiful.

**OCM64/2023 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of Cr Phillips**  
**Seconded Cr Dann**  
**That Council:**

1. Received and noted report entitled '*Approval to Engage Keep Australia Beautiful*'; and
2. Approved associated cost up to \$23,510 between July 2023 and March 2024 for travel, accommodation and events to participate in the Keep Australia Beautiful programmes.

CARRIED

#### 10.4 WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GRANT 2022-23

The Council considered a report on Waste and Resource Management Grant 2022-23 (WaRM).

**OCM65/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Marrawal

Seconded Cr Guwiyul

That Council:

1. Received and noted report entitled '*Waste and Resource Management Grant 2022-23*'; and
2. Approved \$148,800 of WaRM grant funding be set aside for purchase of a new wheel loader for Warruwi and any extra funds required are allocated from asset sale funds.

CARRIED

#### 10.5 WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Council considered a report on Waste and Resource Management.

**OCM66/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Blyth

Seconded Cr Woods

That Council received and noted report entitled '*Waste and Resource Management Report*'.

CARRIED

#### 10.6 MANINGRIDA CULTURAL WASTE

The Council considered a report on Maningrida Cultural Waste.

**OCM67/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Gumurdul

Seconded Cr Marrawal

That Council received and noted report entitled '*Maningrida Cultural Waste*'.

CARRIED

#### 10.7 BANNING SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY DISCUSSION PAPER RESPONSE

The Council considered a report on Banning Single Use Plastics in the Northern Territory Discussion Paper Response.

**OCM68/2023 RESOLVED:**

On the motion of Cr Phillips

Seconded Cr Woods

That Council:

1. Received and noted report entitled '*West Arnhem Regional Council Response – Banning Single Use Plastics in the Northern Territory Discussion Paper*' and its attachments.
2. Endorsed the response to the submission request.

**10.8 APPROVAL TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS FLEET ASSET**

The Council considered a report on Approval to Dispose of Surplus Fleet Asset.

**OCM69/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Phillips**

**That Council:**

- 1. received and noted the report entitled 'Approval to Dispose of Surplus Fleet Asset'; and**
- 2. approved the sale via auction of the 2017 Isuzu NQR Garbage Compactor – Warruwi.**

CARRIED

**GENERAL ITEMS****12.1 OPERATIONS REPORT - MARCH 2023**

The Council considered a report on Operations Report - March 2023.

**OCM70/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Woods**

**Seconded Cr Marrawal**

**That Council received and noted the report entitled 'Operations Report – February 2023'.**

CARRIED

Cr Gumurdul left the meeting at 16:27.

**12.2 WARRUM WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

The Council considered a report on Warruwi Wildlife Management.

**OCM71/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Marrawal**

**That Council received and noted the report entitled 'Warruwi Wildlife Management'.**

CARRIED

**ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE****13.1 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE**

The Council considered a report on Elected Member Questions With or Without Notice.

**OCM72/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth**

**Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

**The Chairperson invited questions with or without notice from Elected Members:**

- 1. Mayor Ryan brought to the councils attention a letter received by CEO on behalf of Council from the Nja-marleya traditional owners group requesting youth services in Maningrida, further investigation required and a report to Council to follow.**
- 2. Cr Phillips raised concerns for Weed management in Maningrida needs attention due to the wet season, investigate if this could this be outsourced to local rangers**
- 3. Cr Phillips raised Abandoned cars in Maningrida**
- 4. Cr Blyth raised Election signs left in communities – and mentions that by-laws allow for the clean up and on-charge to the relative parties.**

CARRIED

**PROCEDURAL MOTIONS****14.1 CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE DISCUSSION OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**



The Council considered a report on Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items.

**OCM73/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Blyth  
Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

**That Council approved the closure of the meeting to the public pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 52 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.**

**CARRIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - INCLUDING MOVED INTO THE OPEN**

**15.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - CONFIDENTIAL ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2023**

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Previous Minutes - Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 March 2023.

**OCM74/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Mayor Ryan  
Seconded Cr Guwiyul**

**That the minutes of 8 March 2023 Confidential Council meeting are confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**15.2 RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

The Council considered a report on Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes.

**OCM75/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams  
Seconded Cr Woods**

**That the Minutes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee of 28 March 2023 be adopted including:**

- 1. Move the open minutes to the open section of the minutes; and**
- 2. The confidential minutes remain confidential.**

**CARRIED**

**15.3 CURRENT STATUS OF OUTSTANDING REGIONAL LAND USE AGREEMENTS FROM THE NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL**

The Council considered a report on Current Status of outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council.

**OCM76/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Marrawal  
Seconded Cr Woods**

**The Council:**

- 1. Received and noted report entitled '*Current Status of outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council*'; and**
- 2. Provided feedback on current reporting status of listed proposed agreements.**

**CARRIED**

#### **15.4 CONFIDENTIAL RESTRICTED**

The Report was dealt with under section 99(2) of the Local Government Act 2019 clause 51(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations as it contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of staff or possible member of the staff of the Council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual

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#### **15.5 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

The Council considered a report on Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public.

**OCM77/2023 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth**

**Seconded Cr James Marrawal**

**That Council opened the meeting to the public after the discussion of confidential items, and approved to disclose selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes.**

**CARRIED**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 10 May 2023.

#### **MEETING DECLARED CLOSED**

Chairperson Mayor Ryan declared the meeting closed at 17:19.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 12 April 2023.

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Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Confirmed