

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 3 June 2025 at 9:00 am

Council Chambers / Virtual Meeting

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Woods declared the meeting open at 9:35 am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson	James Woods (Mayor)
Deputy Mayor	Elizabeth Williams
Councillor	Ralph F. Blyth
Councillor	Mickitja Onus
Councillor	Donna Nadjamerrek
Councillor	Monica Wilton
Councillor	James Marrawal

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Director Community and Council Services	Fiona Ainsworth
Manager Technical Services	Kylie Gregson
Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO	Gina Carrascalao
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator	Heidi Walton
Governance Advisor	Debbie Branson
Information Advisor	Ben Heaslip
Leanne Johansson	Manager Business and Commercial Services (<i>item 12.2 only</i>)
Imran Shajib	Finance Manager (<i>item 8.8 only</i>)
GUESTS	Nil

3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

Agenda Reference:	3.1
Title:	Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice.

OCM117/2025 RESOLVED:

**On the motion of Mayor Woods
Seconded Cr Onus**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Note the absence of Crs Otto Dann, Jermaine Namanurki, Jacqueline Phillips Tamar Nawirridj and Steven Nabalmarda;
2. Note the apology received from Crs Otto Dann, Jermaine Namanurki and Jacqueline Phillips;
3. Determine Crs Otto Dann, Jermaine Namanurki and Jacqueline Philipps are absent with permission of the Council; and
4. Determine Crs Tamar Nawirridj and Steven Nabalmarda are absent without permission of the Council.

CARRIED

4 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Agenda Reference:	4.1
Title:	Acceptance of Agenda
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

OCM118/2025 RESOLVED:

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

THAT COUNCIL accepted the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 May 2025.

CARRIED

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Agenda Reference:	5.1
Title:	Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff
Author:	Jasmine Mortimore, Governance Advisor

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

OCM119/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Wilton
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL receive the declarations of interest as listed for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 3 June 2025.

CARRIED

Cr Donna Nadjamerrek joined the meeting at 9:41 am.

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda Reference:	6.1
Title:	Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

OCM120/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL confirm the minutes of 29 April 2025 Ordinary Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.2
Title:	Local Authority Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

OCM121/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Wilton
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL note the minutes of the following Local Authority meetings and reviewed decisions made by the Local Authority:

Community	Date Held	Quorum	Date of next meeting
Maningrida	12 May 2025	Yes	14 July 2025
Warruwi	13 May 2025	Yes	15 July 2025
Gunbalanya	14 May 2025	Yes	16 July 2025
Minjilang	15 May 2025	Yes	17 July 2025

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.3
Title:	Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes.

OCM122/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Onus
Seconded Cr Blyth

THAT COUNCIL note the minutes of 16 May 2025 Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee as and reviewed decisions made by the Committee.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.4
Title:	Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes.

OCM123/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL confirm the minutes of 21 May 2025 Special Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	Review of Action Items
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

OCM124/2025 RESOLVED:

**On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Mayor Woods**

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Review of Action Items*; and
2. Reviewed the outstanding action items and give approval for completed items to be removed from the register.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.2
Title:	Call for Nominations NT Place Names Committee LGANT representation
Author:	Gina Carrascalao, Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

The Council considered a report on Call for Nominations NT Place Names Committee LGANT representation.

OCM125/2025 RESOLVED:

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

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Call for Nominations NT Place Names Committee LGANT representation; and*
2. Deferred the item for consideration to the next Council / post 2025 Local Government Elections.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.3
Title:	Endorse Date for NAIDOC Public Holiday
Author:	Luisa Arango, Human Resources Manager (Acting)

The Council considered a report on Endorse Date for NAIDOC Public Holiday.

OCM126/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor Woods
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Endorse Date for NAIDOC Public Holiday*; and
2. Approve **Friday 11 July 2025** and **Friday 10 July 2026**, as the additional public holiday dates for the staff and Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.4
Title:	Requesting Sponsorship for Women AFL Team
Author:	Gina Carrascalao, Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

The Council considered a report on Requesting Sponsorship for Women AFL Team.

OCM127/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Wilton
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Requesting Sponsorship for Women AFL Team*;
2. Advise that the request was supported in principal however the matter was deferred to seek further clarification; and
3. Extend an invitation to the Arnhem Wildfires Womens' Football Team representative to make a presentation to the next Council meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.5
Title:	Proposed amendments to the Local Government Act 2019
Author:	Katharine Murray, CEO

The Council considered a report on Amendments to Local Government Act.

OCM128/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the reports titled:

- Discussion Paper Part A: Amendments to Local Government Act 2019;
- Discussion Paper Part B: proposed changes to superannuation payments, rating frameworks, and principal member appointment;
- Discussion Paper C: proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct;
- Draft joint LGANT submission.
- Amendments to *Local Government Act*.

8 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	8.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Gina Carrascalao, Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

OCM129/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL receive and noted the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.2
Title:	Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor
Author:	Gina Carrascalao, Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

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

OCM130/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams
Seconded Cr Blyth

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.3
Title:	Meetings and Events attended by the CEO
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the CEO.

OCM131/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor Woods
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Meetings and Events attended by the CEO*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.4
Title:	Community and Council Services Report - April 2025
Author:	Fiona Ainsworth, Director of Community and Council Services

The Council considered a report on Community and Council Services Report - April 2025.

OCM132/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL received and noted the report entitled *Community and Council Services Report - April 2025*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.5
Title:	Technical Services Projects Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Projects Report.

Feedback was requested in relation to the suspension of catch and release fishing project in Jabiru. It was agreed that a further report be prepared for the next Council meeting with timelines and outcomes included.

OCM133/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Cr Onus

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Technical Services Projects Report*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.6
Title:	Commemorating 80 yrs since Hiroshima and Nagasaki
Author:	Gina Carrascalao, Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

The item was considered in item 8.1 – Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

Agenda Reference:	8.7
Title:	Human Resources Report - 1 April to 16 May 2025
Author:	Luisa Arango, Human Resources Manager (Acting)

The Council considered a report on Human Resources Report - 1 April to 16 May 2025.

The Mayor proposed a casual hub of staff within community. Council was advised that options are being considered.

OCM135/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Onus
Seconded Deputy Mayor Williams

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Human Resources Report - 1 April to 16 May 2025*.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 am and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

Agenda Reference:	8.8
Title:	Financial Report for the period ended 30 April 2025
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Finance

The Council considered a report on Financial Report for the period ended 30 April 2025.

Imran Shajib, Finance Manager was present for this item only.

The Mayor raised the Brockman Oval Lights and questioned why they were not included in the work in progress. The question was taken on notice.

OCM136/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Williams
Seconded Mayor Woods

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Financial Report for the period ended 30 April 2025*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.9
Title:	2024-25 Audit Plan and Engagement Letter
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Council considered a report on 2024-25 Audit Plan and Engagement Letter.

OCM137/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Cr Wilton

THE COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *2024-25 Audit Plan and Engagement Letter*.

CARRIED

9 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Elected Member Questions with or without Notice
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Elected Member Questions with or without Notice.

Mayor Woods advised that as a member of the Maningrida Homeland School Board Cr Wilton had a conflict of interest in the item tabled for consideration. Cr Wilton left the meeting at 1:26 pm.

Correspondence from Homeland School Company was tabled for information. The correspondence was in relation to a *Request for Advice on Land Availability for Homeland School Company Accommodation*. The correspondence was noted The Mayor was informed that it would be necessary to engage external consultants to undertake a feasibility study. The costs associated with engaging consultants will be brought before Council for consideration in September 2025.

Cr Wilton returned to the meeting at 1:43 pm.

10 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Agenda Reference:	10.1
Title:	Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM139/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Blyth
Seconded Deputy Mayor Williams

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 52 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public at 1:43 pm to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Reference:	11.1
Title:	Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

Agenda Reference:	11.2
Title:	Sublease Obligations for Jabiru Employee Housing
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(e). It contains information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

Agenda Reference:	11.3
Title:	Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council
Author:	Clem Beard, Project Manager

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Agenda Reference:	11.4
Title:	Local Government Funding Levels Fourth Update
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(i). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Agenda Reference:	11.5
Title:	Local Government Act Amendments - LGANT Feedback
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(e). It contains information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest.

Agenda Reference:	11.6
Title:	Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

12 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Reference:	12.2
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
Author:	Jasmine Mortimore, Governance Advisor

The Report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulation 2021 Part (3) Administration - Division 2 Section 51(1)(c)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

The public was re-admitted at 2:46 pm.

13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 1 July 2025.

UNCONFIRMED

14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor Woods declared the meeting closed at 2:46 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 3 June 2025.

UNCONFIRMED