



Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Special Council Meeting
Tuesday, 28 October 2025 at 10:00 am
Council Chambers

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 10:04am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson	James Woods (Mayor)
Deputy Mayor	Jacqueline Phillips
Councillor	Ralph Blyth
Councillor	Mickitja Onus
Councillor	Joseph Diddo
Councillor	Jermaine Namanurki
Councillor	Henry Yates
Councillor	Ralph McCoy
Councillor	Steven Nabalmarda

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Governance Advisor	Debbie Branson

GUESTS

Independent	John Oberhardt - Local Government Services Group
-------------	--

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.

SCM67/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL acknowledged the late arrival of Cr Diddo.

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.

SCM68/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL accept the agenda papers as circulated for the Special Council meeting held on 28 October 2025.

CARRIED

Out of respect the Council conducted a minute silence at 10:06am.

Cr Diddo joined the meeting at 10:07am.

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Agenda Reference:	5.1
Title:	Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

Chief Executive Officer, Katharine Murray declared an interest in Item 7.1 Chief Executive Officer's Performance Review and advised that she would leave the meeting when the matter was being considered.

SCM69/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the disclosure of interest that were declared in relation to the items as listed for the Special Council meeting held on 28 October 2025.

CARRIED

6 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Agenda Reference:	6.1
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.

SCM70/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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 10:08am to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

7 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	CEO Probation Review
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

SCM71/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *CEO Probation Review*;
2. Support the recommendation made by the CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel to permanently appoint Katharine Murray to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the West Arnhem Regional Council; and
3. Endorse the attached confidential letter addressed to Katharine Murray on behalf of Council and signed by Mayor James Woods.

CARRIED

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

Agenda Reference:	8.2
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
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.

The public was re-admitted at 10:16am.

9 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Chairperson Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 10:16am.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 October 2025.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 October 2025.