

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
Thursday, 20 November 2025 at 9:00 am  
Council Chambers

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 9:06am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Director Community and Council Services	Fiona Ainsworth
Director Finance	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
Director Technical Services	Grant McKenzie
Manager Technical Services	Kylie Gregson
Governance Advisor	Debbie Branson
Executive Assistant	Violette Stehlin

GUESTS

Santos - Government and Stakeholder Relations Manager	Peta Haughey
Santos - First Nations Engagement Adviser NT/WA	Neil Pomfret

### 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.

OCM286/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the apology received from Cr Joseph Diddo and acknowledge Cr Ralph F Blyth and Steven Nabalmarda's late attendance;
2. Determines Cr Joseph Diddo is absent with permission of the Council.

CARRIED

### 5 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Agenda Reference:	5.1
Title:	Acceptance of Agenda
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

OCM287/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 November 2025.

CARRIED

## 6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Agenda Reference:	6.1
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.

The Director Finance declared an interest in Item 8.1 – Presentations and Visitors – Santos – Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund.

The Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips and Cr Henry Yates declared an interest in Item 13.3 – Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council.

Cr Mickitja Onus declared an interest in Item 13.4 – Airports – Future Operations.

The Chief Executive Officer declared an interest in Item 13.5 – LGANT – Call for Nominations – NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee.

OCM288/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Henry Yates  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the item listed for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 20 November 2025.

CARRIED

## 7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM289/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday, 29 October 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.2
Title:	Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

Cr Steven Nabalmarda arrived at 9:17am.

OCM290/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Henry Yates  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 13 November 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Order of Business

Item 8 – Deputations and Presentations was deferred until the representatives had arrived.

## 9 ACTION REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Review of Action Items
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

OCM291/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Review of Action Items*; and
2. Reviews the outstanding action items and give approval for completed items to be removed from the register including the RJEDP items.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:41am to receive an update on Cyclone Thina and the weather conditions across the region.

The meeting reconvened at 9:45am.

Agenda Reference:	9.2
Title:	LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Water Safety Advisory Council
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Water Safety Advisory Council.

OCM292/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Water Safety Advisory Council*; and
2. Endorses Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips' nomination to the Royal Life Saving Society NT, NT Water Safety Advisory Council and advise Local Government Association of the NT

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.3
Title:	LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Place Names Committee
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM293/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Place Names Committee*; and
2. Endorses the nomination of the Director of Finance to the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment NT Place Names Committee and advises the Local Government Association of the NT.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:54am and reconvened at 10:06am.

Agenda Reference:	9.4
Title:	Financial report for period ending 31 October 2025
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Finance

The Council considered a report on Financial report for period ending 31 October 2025.

OCM294/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Financial report for period ending 31 October 2025*;
2. Approves the Acquittal of Critical upgrades to Minjilang staff housing (IPG);
3. Approves the Acquittal of Purchase of a new garbage compactor for Minjilang (IPG); and
4. Approves the Acquittal of West Arnhem Cemetery Establishment Program.

CARRIED

## 8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Reference:	8.1
Title:	Presentations and Visitors - Santos - Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Santos - Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund.

Peta Haughey, Government and Stakeholder Relations Manager and Neil Pomfret, First Nations Engagement Adviser NT/WA joined the meeting at 10:30am and left at 11:03am.

OCM295/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL notes the presentations by Santos in relation to the Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:04am and reconvened at 11:25am.

Cr Ralph F Blyth joined the meeting at 11:25am.

Agenda Reference:	8.2
Title:	Presentations and Visitors - Local Government Association NT Chief Executive Officer
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Local Government Association NT Chief Executive Officer.

LGANT Chief Executive Officer, Mary Watson joined the meeting at 11:25am and left at 12:03pm.

OCM296/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL notes the presentations by the Local Government Association of the NT, Chief Executive Officer Mary Watson.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm and reconvened at 12:39pm.

Agenda Reference:	8.4
Title:	Presentations and Visitors - NT Police
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The presentation was cancelled due to the representative's priorities in relation to the severe weather conditions within the region.

Agenda Reference:	8.5
Title:	Presentations and Visitors - National Indigenous Australians Agency
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

This item was scheduled for Friday, 21 November 2025 after the meeting had closed.

Agenda Reference:	10.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

OCM297/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence including:

- \* Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development - Delay to 2024/25 Local Authority Project Funding Certification and Project Reports;
- \* NT Australia Government Gazette - Appointment of Financial Controller;
- \* Jabiru Area School - 2025 Annual Awards Sponsorship; and
- \* Kakadu Air - Jabiru Airport.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.2
Title:	Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor
Author:	Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

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

OCM298/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.3
Title:	Meetings and Events attended by the CEO
Author:	Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

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

OCM299/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Meetings and Events attended by the CEO*.

CARRIED



## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cr Ralph F Blyth made his Statement of Commitment as he was absent at the first meeting of the new Council.

Agenda Reference:	10.4
Title:	Community and Council Services Report
Author:	Fiona Ainsworth, Director of Community and Council Services

The Council considered a report on Community and Council Services Report.

OCM300/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report entitled *Community and Council Services Report*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.5
Title:	Regional Waste Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Waste Update.

OCM301/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Regional Waste Update*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.6
Title:	Regional Cemetery Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Cemetery Update.

OCM302/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Regional Cemetery Update*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.7
Title:	Technical Services Projects Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Projects Report.

OCM303/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Technical Services Projects Report*.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13pm and reconvened at 2:27pm.

Agenda Reference:	10.8
Title:	LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Planning Commission
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Planning Commission.

OCM304/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Planning Commission*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.9
Title:	Vacancy - Finance Committee
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Vacancy - Finance Committee.

OCM305/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. receives and notes the report titled *Vacancy - Finance Committee*; and
2. appoints Cr Ralph F Blyth as a member of the Finance Committee for a temporary appointment until permanently filled.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.10
Title:	Cultural Training in Communities
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Cultural Training in Communities.

OCM306/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT Council receives and notes the report titled *Cultural Training in Communities*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.11
Title:	Draft First Nations Employment Plan and Survey - Feedback
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Draft First Nations Employment Plan and Survey - Feedback.

OCM307/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Draft First Nations Employment Plan and Survey - Feedback*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.12
Title:	Implementation of Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program
Author:	Fiona Ainsworth, Director of Community and Council Services

The Council considered a report on Implementation of Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program.

OCM308/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Implementation of Remote Jobs and Economic Development Program*.

CARRIED

## 11 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Agenda Reference:	11.1
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.

OCM309/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT Council acknowledge the following questions:

- Gunbalanya Flag poles, flags and solar lights – referred to Local Authority;
- Warruwi Flag poles – confirmation;
- Maningrida Airport – shelter / enclosed facility; and
- Cyclone shelters, Minjilang, Warruwi and Maningrida – priority discussions with NIAA, Closing the Gap (Priority Reform 2) and governments.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm, scheduled to reconvene on Friday, 21 November 2025 at 10:05am with the absence of Cr Ralph F Blyth.

## 12 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Agenda Reference:	12.1
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.

OCM310/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Henry Yates

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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 {time} to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

13 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Reference:	13.1
Title:	Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM311/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL confirms the confidential minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday, 29 October 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	13.2
Title:	Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM312/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Henry Yates  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the confidential minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 13 November 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	13.3
Title:	Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council
Author:	Clem Beard, Project Manager

OCM313/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council; and
2. Notes the status of outstanding Land Use Agreements.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	13.4
Title:	Airports - Future Operation
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM314/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive, accept and note the report titled *Airports - Future Operation*; and
2. Investigate the proposal further and report to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	13.5
Title:	LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM315/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee*; and
2. Endorses the nomination of Chief Executive Officer, Katharine Murray to the NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee and advise LGANT accordingly.

CARRIED

The Chief Executive Officer, Katharine Murray returned to the meeting at 10:49am.

Agenda Reference:	14.1
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM316/2025 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Approves to disclose the following selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes:
  - Item 13.1 Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
  - Item 13.2 Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
  - Item 13.3 Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council
  - Item 13.4 Airports - Future Operation
  - Item 13.5 LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Councils Discretionary Trust Advisory Committee
2. Opens the meeting to the public at 10:51am after the discussion of confidential items.

CARRIED

15 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 10:52am.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2025.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2025.

16 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 28 January 2026.