

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 29 October 2025 at 9:00 am
Council Chambers

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 9:15am, 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	Jermaine Namanurki
Councillor	Henry Yates
Councillor	Ralph McCoy
Councillor	Steven Nabalmarada

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
Acting Executive Assistant	Violette Stehlin
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator	Heidi Walton

GUESTS

Nil

Council conducted a minute silence in recognition of sorry business.

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.

OCM253/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the absence of Cr Joseph Diddo and the late arrival of Cr Steven Nabalmarda; and
2. Determines Cr Joseph Diddo and Cr Steven Nabalmarda are absent with 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.

OCM254/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 October 2025.

CARRIED

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.

Mayor James Woods declared an interest in Item 7.8 LGANT Nomination for LGANT President.

OCM255/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest received in relation to the items listed for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 29 October 2025.

CARRIED

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.

OCM256/2025 RESOLVED:
 On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips
 Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting, amended as follows:

Item 7.18 Mayor’s attendance at the National Justice Forum – increase expenditure \$2800.00.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.2
Title:	Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM257/2025 RESOLVED:
 On the motion of Mayor James Woods
 Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Tuesday, 28 October 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.3
Title:	Local Authority Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

OCM258/2025 RESOLVED:
 On the motion of Mayor James Woods
 Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL notes 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	13 October 2025	Yes	Monday, 2 March 2026

CARRIED

7 ACTION REPORTS

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

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

Cr Steven Nabalmarda joined the meeting at 9:44am.

OCM259/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Review of Action Items*; and
2. Reviews the outstanding action items and gives approval for completed items to be removed from the register and include the Jabiru Street Lights.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.2
Title:	Approval to Dispose of Surplus Fleet Assets
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

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

OCM260/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report entitled *Approval to Dispose of Surplus Fleet Assets*; and
2. Approves to dispose of fleet registration numbers CA19LL, CB46LV, 920282, CE03ST, and CC12GL.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.3
Title:	Draft Council Meeting Schedule for 2026 Calendar Year
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Draft Council Meeting Schedule for 2026 Calendar Year.

OCM261/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report entitled *Draft Council Meeting Schedule for 2026 Calendar Year*; and
2. Approves the attached 2026 Council Meeting Schedule.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.4
Title:	Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Territorians (MACST)
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Territorians (MACST).

OCM262/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Territorians (MACST)*; and
2. Appoints Cr Ralph McCoy as the West Arnhem Regional Council nomination to the Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Territorians.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.5
Title:	Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2025
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Council considered a report on Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2025.

Cr Ralph Blyth left the meeting at 10:19am and returned at 10:25am.

OCM263/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and note the report titled *Financial Report for the period ending 30 September 2025*;
2. Approves all four Local Authority Project Funding 2024-25 Certifications and Project Reports; and
3. Approves the Acquittal of Waste and Resource Management grant 2024-25.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38am and resumed at 10:54am.

Agenda Reference:	7.6
Title:	Risk Management and Audit Committee Member Update
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

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

OCM264/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Risk Management and Audit Committee Member Update*; and
2. Approves a revision of the Risk Management and Audit Committee Terms of Reference be laid before the Council, on or before the first ordinary council meeting in 2026, and that the Council continues to seek suitable expressions of interest to fill the vacant independent Chairperson role.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.7
Title:	LGANT Submission - Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry Local Government Council and Local Authority Member Allowances 2026
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on LGANT Submission - Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry Local Government Council and Local Authority Member Allowances 2026.

OCM265/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Accepts, receives and notes the late report titled *LGANT Submission - Remuneration Tribunal Inquiry Local Government Council and Local Authority Member Allowances 2026*; and
2. Acknowledges and supports the Local Government Association of the NT draft submission to the Remuneration Tribunal's Inquiry into Local Government Council and Local Authority Member Allowances for 2026.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.8
Title:	LGANT Call for Nominations – President and Municipal Board Directors
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on LGANT Call for Nominations – President and Municipal Board Directors.

Mayor James Woods left the meeting at 11:15am and Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips assumed the role of Chairperson.

Cr Blyth raised concerns in relation to the Mayor’s workload and current commitments. The Deputy Mayor supported a nomination from a regional council for President.

Mayor James Woods returned to the meeting at 11:31am.

OCM266/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Accepts, receives and notes the late report titled *LGANT Call for Nominations – President and Municipal Board Directors*; and
2. Endorse the nomination from Mayor James Woods as the President of the Local Government Association NT Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Mayor James Woods assumed the role of Chairperson.

8 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	8.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

OCM267/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes items of incoming and outgoing correspondence including LGANT and ALGA Board Meeting Communiques and correspondence from Shine Lawyers and a response from Mills Oakley.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.2
Title:	Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM268/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes 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.

OCM269/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph Blyth
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:12pm and Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips left the meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 12:51pm.

Agenda Reference:	8.4
Title:	Technical Services Projects Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Projects Report.

OCM270/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.5
Title:	Regional Waste Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Waste Update.

Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips joined the meeting at 1:13pm.

OCM271/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.6
Title:	Regional Cemetery Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Cemetery Update.

Cr Ralph Blyth left the meeting at 1:18pm.

OCM272/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.7
Title:	Human Resources Monthly Report
Author:	Luisa Arango, Human Resources Manager (Acting)

The Council considered a report on Human Resources Monthly Report.

OCM273/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Human Resources Monthly Report*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.8
Title:	Jabiru Town By-laws 2024
Author:	Fiona Ainsworth, Director of Community and Council Services

The Council considered a report on Jabiru Town By-laws 2024.

OCM274/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Jabiru Town By-laws 2024*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.9
Title:	Lurra Festival 2025
Author:	Fiona Ainsworth, Director of Community and Council Services

The Council considered a report on Lurra Festival 2025.

OCM275/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Lurra Festival 2025*.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 8.10 – Chief Executive Officer’s Report and Item 9.1 – Elected Member Questions with or without Notice were deferred.

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.

OCM276/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

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 1:42pm to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 11.5 – Bank Authorisations and Item 11.6 – Council issued Credit Cards were bought forward for consideration.

Agenda Reference:	11.5
Title:	Bank Authorisations
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Council considered a report on Bank Authorisations.

OCM277/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Bank Authorisations*; and
2. Approve only the following council officers be authorised to deal with the Westpac Bank on behalf of the Council:
 - a. Katharine Murray
 - b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
 - c. Fiona Ainsworth
 - d. Imran Shajib
 - e. Chalana Hansani
 - f. James Henderson; and
3. Approve only the following council officers be authorised to deal with the National Australia Bank on behalf of the Council:
 - a. Katharine Murray
 - b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
 - c. Imran Shajib
 - d. Chalana Hansani
 - e. James Henderson.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.6
Title:	Council issued Credit Cards
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Council considered a report on Council issued Credit Cards.

OCM278/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Council issued Credit Cards*;
2. Approve the revised Credit Card (Mayor and CEO) policy;
3. Approve the issuing of a Credit Card to the new Director Technical Services; and
4. Approve the change of Council Credit Card monthly transaction limits as follows:
 - a. CEO card limit reduce from \$15,000 to \$10,000
 - b. Director Finance card limit reduce from \$8,000 to \$7,000
 - c. Director Council and Community Services card limit reduce from \$10,000 to \$7,000
 - d. Direct Technical Services card limit to be \$7,000
 - e. HR Coordinator card limit increase from \$2,000 to \$4,000.

CARRIED

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

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

OCM279/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL confirm the minutes of the Confidential Ordinary Council meeting held on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.2
Title:	Confirmation of Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM280/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL confirm the confidential minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Tuesday, 28 October 2025 as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.3
Title:	Confidential Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM281/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Confidential Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.4
Title:	Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council
Author:	Clem Beard, Project Manager

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

As a board member on the Northern Land Council, the Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips declared a conflict of interest. However, Council determined that given the reports were for noting only the Deputy Mayor was not required to leave the meeting

OCM282/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Mayor James Woods
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council; and
2. Note the status of outstanding Land Use Agreements.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.7
Title:	Council's Medium to Long Term Financial Position
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

The Council considered a report on Council's Medium to Long Term Financial Position.

The matter was deferred to the Special Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 13 November 2025.

Agenda Reference:	12.1
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM283/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Approve to disclose the following selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes:
 - 11.1 Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Meeting Minutes
 - 11.2 Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
 - 11.3 Risk Management and Audit Committee Minutes
 - 11.4 Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern land Council
 - 11.5 Bank Authorisations
 - 11.6 Council issued Credit Cards

2. Open the meeting to the public at 1:57pm after the discussion of confidential items.

CARRIED

The public was re-admitted at 1:57pm.

8 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS CONTINUED

Agenda Reference:	8.10
Title:	Chief Executive Officer's Report
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Chief Executive Officer's Report.

Cr Onus left the meeting at 2:05pm.

Cr Nabalmarda left the meeting at 2:05pm and returned at 2:06pm.

OCM284/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Chief Executive Officer's Report*.

CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips left the meeting at 2:10pm.

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.

OCM285/2025 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT the Council note the questions raised with or without notice from Elected Members as follows:
Gunbalanya – Road work poor condition, issues with shoulders and pot holes
Maningrida – Airport Fencing and Lighting
Animal Management across Communities, include Dingos at Jabiru Landfill.

CARRIED

13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 20 November 2025.

14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 2:18pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29 October 2025.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29 October 2025.