



# **WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA**

**ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2026**



## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary Meeting of the West Arnhem Regional Council will be held in Council Chambers Jabiru on Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 12:00 pm.



Katharine Clare Murray  
Chief Executive Officer

## Code of Conduct: The Local Government Act 2019

As stipulated in Schedule 1 of the Act, the Code of Conduct for Members is as follows:

1. *Honesty and Integrity:* A member must act honestly and with integrity in performing official functions.
2. *Care and diligence:* A member must act with reasonable care and diligence in performing official functions.
3. *Courtesy:* A member must act with courtesy towards other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.
4. *Prohibition on bullying:* A member must not bully another person in the course of performing official functions.
5. *Conduct towards Council staff:* A member must not direct, reprimand, or interfere in the management of, council staff.
6. *Respect for cultural diversity and culture:* A member must respect cultural diversity and must not therefore discriminate against others, or the opinions of others, on the ground of their cultural background.  
A member must act with respect for cultural beliefs and practices in relation to other members, council staff, electors and members of the public.
7. *Conflict of interest:* A member must avoid any conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, when undertaking official functions and responsibilities.  
If a conflict of interest exists, the member must comply with any statutory obligations of disclosure.
8. *Respect for confidences:* A member must respect the confidentiality of information obtained in confidence in the member's official capacity.  
A member must not make improper use of confidential information obtained in an official capacity to gain a private benefit or to cause harm to another.
9. *Gifts:* Members must not solicit, encourage or accept gifts or private benefits from any person who might have an interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.  
A member must not accept a gift from a person that is given in relation to the person's interest in obtaining a benefit from the council.'
10. *Accountability:* A member must be prepared at all times to account for the member's performance as a member and the member's use of council resources.
11. *Interests of municipality, region or shire to be paramount:* A member must act in what the member genuinely believes to be the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.  
In particular, a member must seek to ensure that the member's decisions and actions are based on an honest, reasonable and properly informed judgment about what best advances the best interests of the municipality, region or shire.
12. *Training:* A member must undertake relevant training in good faith.

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

West Arnhem Regional Council acknowledges the First Nations Custodians, and the many Language and Family groups who are Managers and Caretakers to each of their Traditional homelands and Waters across the West Arnhem Region Wards.

West Arnhem Regional Council pays its respects and acknowledges Elders, past, present and rising.

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>3.1</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                    |

#### SUMMARY

This report is to table, for Council's record, any apologies, and requests for leave of absence received by Council's Chief Executive Officer from Elected Members, as well as record any absence without notice for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 February 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the absence of ...
2. Notes the apology received from .....
3. Determines ... are absent with permission of the Council.
4. Determines ... are absent without permission of the Council.

#### COMMENT

Council can choose to accept the apologies or requests for leave of absence as presented, or not accept them. Apologies or requests for leave of absence that are not accepted by Council will be recorded as absent without notice.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Section 47(o) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Council's Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

#### Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>4.1</b>                                |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Acceptance of Agenda</b>               |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b> |

#### SUMMARY

Agenda papers are presented for acceptance at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 February 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 February 2026.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Section 92(1) *Local Government Act 2019*.

Council's Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

##### **Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities**

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation

##### **Goal 6.5 Planning and Reporting**

Robust planning and reporting that supports Council's decision-making processes

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>5.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>         |

#### SUMMARY

**Elected Members** are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration at an Ordinary Council Meeting:

- 1) In the case of a matter featured in an officer's report or written agenda item by disclosing the interest to the meeting as soon as possible after the matter is raised.
- 2) In the case of a matter raised in a general debate or by any means other than the printed agenda of the Council meeting, disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised.

Under disclosure, the Member must abide by the decision of the Council on whether they shall remain in the Chambers and/or take part in the vote on the issue. The Council may elect to allow the Member to provide further particulars of the interest prior to requesting them to leave the Chambers.

**Staff Members** of the Council are required to disclose an interest in a matter at any time on which they are required to act or exercise their delegate authority in relation to the matter. Upon disclosure, the staff member is not to act or exercise their delegated authority unless Council expressly directs them to do so.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the items listed for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 February 2026.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY/STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Section 114 (Elected Members) *Local Government Act 2019*

Section 179 (staff members) *Local Government Act 2019*

Council's Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

#### Goal 6.4 Risk Management

The monitoring and minimisation of risks associated with the operations of Council.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## WEST ARNHem REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>6.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>        |

#### SUMMARY

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday, 28 January 2026 are submitted to Council for confirmation that those minutes are a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday, 28 January 2026, as a true and correct record of the meeting amended as follows:

- Item 9.7 - Local Government Association of the NT April 2026 Conference and General Meeting – Alice Springs
- To include Cr Daniel Siebert to attend the conference and general meeting.

#### STATUTORY AND POLICY

Section 101 and 102 *Local Government Act 2019*

Council's Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals of the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

#### Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026-01-28 Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes - Unconfirmed [6.1.1 - 20 pages]



Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 28 January 2026 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 9:04am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Chairperson | James Woods (Mayor) |
| Councillor  | Ralph Blyth         |
| Councillor  | Mickitja Onus       |
| Councillor  | Joseph Diddo        |
| Councillor  | Jermaine Namanurki  |
| Councillor  | Henry Yates         |
| Councillor  | Ralph McCoy         |
| Councillor  | Steven Nabalmarda   |
| Councillor  | Daniel Siebert      |

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             |
| Manager Finance                         | Imran Shajib              |
| Governance Advisor                      | Debbie Branson            |
| Executive Assistant                     | Violette Stehlin          |

GUESTS

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Chris Moore  | Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development |
| Claire Joyce | Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development |

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.

OCM001/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the late arrival of Cr Nabalmarda
2. Notes the apology received from Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips; and
3. Determines Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips is 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.

OCM002/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 January 2026.

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.

OCM003/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges there were no declarations of interest in relation to the items as listed for consideration during the Council meeting held on 28 January 2026.

CARRIED

6 STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cr Daniel Siebert made his Statement of Commitment as a newly Elected Member of West Arnhem Regional Council.

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 7.0                                |
| Title:            | Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes   |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

The Council considered a report on Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes.

OCM004/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, 20 November 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 7.2                                |
| Title:            | Special Council Meeting Minutes    |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

The Council considered a report on Special Council Meeting Minutes.

OCM005/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 11 December 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

8 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 8.1   |
| Title:            | Presentations and Visitors - Apex Security Group              |
| Author:           | Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO |

The Council considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Apex Security Group.

The matter was adjourned to the following Ordinary Council Meeting.

Representatives from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development were present as observers.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15am and reconvened at 9:33am.

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.

OCM006/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

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.

CARRIED

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.2                                |
| Title:            | Filling Casual Vacancies Policy    |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

The Council considered a report on Filling Casual Vacancies Policy.

OCM007/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Filling Casual Vacancies Policy*; and
2. Endorses the updated Filling Casual Vacancies Policy as attached to the report.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.3  |
| Title:            | Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                              |

The Council considered a report on Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly.

With the attendance of the Mayor, a Councillor and the Chief Executive Officer it was considered the meeting be postponed until their return.

OCM008/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly*;
2. Nominates Cr Jermaine Namanurki together with the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend the 2026 National General Assembly in Canberra;
3. Approves costs associated to travel, accommodation and registration for each delegate attending;
4. Does not submit a motion to the 2026 National General Assembly; and
5. Reschedules the Ordinary Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 24 June 2026 to Wednesday 1 July 2026.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.4                                       |
| Title:            | Warruwi and Kakadu By-Election            |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer |

The Council considered a report on Warruwi and Kakadu By-Election.

OCM009/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Warruwi and Kakadu By-Election*;
2. Determines a date for the Warruwi By-Election be set in June 2026; and
3. Advises that Kakadu By-Election be held at the latest in April 2026.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.5                                       |
| Title:            | Strategic Plan - Review of Pillars        |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer |

The Council considered a report on Strategic Plan - Review of Pillars.

OCM010/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Strategic Plan - Review of Pillars*; and
2. Endorses the proposal by the CEO to commence consultation with the elected members, local authorities and senior management to review the strategic direction to ensure alignment with current priorities and values.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.6   |
| Title:            | Malbak Aboriginal Corporation - Letter of Support |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer         |

The Council considered a report on Malbak Aboriginal Corporation - Letter of Support.

OCM011/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph F Blyth

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Malbak Aboriginal Corporation - Letter of Support*;
2. Endorses a letter from West Arnhem Regional Council in support of Malbak Aboriginal Corporation's Expression of Interest to the Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund; and
3. Approves the Mayor and CEO to provide letters of support to stakeholders which align with the Council's Strategic Pillars with letters being brought to Council for endorsement at the following Council meeting.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.7  |
| Title:            | Local Government Association of the NT April 2026 Conference and General Meeting - Alice Springs |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer  |

The Council considered a report on Local Government Association of the NT April 2026 Conference and General Meeting - Alice Springs.

OCM012/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Joseph Diddo

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Local Government Association of the NT April 2026 Conference and General Meeting - Alice Springs*; and
2. Approves the costs associated with registration, accommodation and travel expenses for Mayor James Woods, Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips, Cr Henry Yates and Chief Executive Officer, Katharine Murray to attend the Local Government Association of the NT 2026 April Conference and General Meeting which will be held in Alice Springs.

CARRIED

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.8                                |
| Title:            | Vacancy - Finance Committee        |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

The Council considered a report on Vacancy - Finance Committee.

OCM013/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Vacancy - Finance Committee*; and
2. Appoints Cr Daniel Siebert as a Council Committee Member of the Finance Committee replacing Cr Ralph F Blyth as temporary member.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.9   |
| Title:            | Financial report for period ending 31 December 2025 |
| Author:           | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Finance         |

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

Cr Steven Nabalmarda joined the meeting at 10:21am.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58am and reconvened, with the absence of Cr Steven Nabalmarda at 11:25am.

OCM014/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph F Blyth

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Financial report for period ending 31 December 2025*;
2. Approve \$41,000 be allocated from the unallocated capital reserve to a capital project titled Rectification Works for Jabiru Town Water; and
3. Approve \$70,000 be allocated from the unallocated capital reserve to a capital project titled Rectification Works for the Jabiru Sewer Pond and Irrigation System.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.10   |
| Title:            | Sponsorship Policy                             |
| Author:           | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance |

The Council considered a report on Sponsorship Policy.

Mayor James Woods left the meeting at 11:42am and returned at 11:43am.

OCM015/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Sponsorship Policy*; and
2. Approves the Sponsorship Policy, as amended to include the organisation or the individual needs to be resides in the Council Local Government area and application to be considered by Council in April, for the Council to apply going forward.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.11   |
| Title:            | Proposed 4WD Bus for Sporting Events - Usage Agreement |
| Author:           | Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services              |

The Council considered a report on Proposed 4WD Bus for Sporting Events - Usage Agreement.

OCM016/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Proposed 4WD Bus for Sporting Events - Usage Agreement; and*
2. Endorses draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), with the Council Service Manager's approval required only, for the use of the Council 4WD Bus for Sporting Events.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.12  |
| Title:            | West Arnhem Region - Community Flag Poles   |
| Author:           | Grant Mckenzie, Director Technical Services |

The Council considered a report on West Arnhem Region - Community Flag Poles.

OCM017/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *West Arnhem Region - Community Flag Poles;*
2. Provides the Local Authority the opportunity to review the flag poles within their community, consider the cost to repair, upgrade, installation of poles and the purchase of additional flags; and
3. Continues to maintain the poles, replace the flags when required and provide the resources to comply with the relevant protocols.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.13  |
| Title:            | Expenditure of WaRM Grant Funding               |
| Author:           | Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator |

The Council considered a report on Expenditure of WaRM Grant Funding.

OCM018/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled Expenditure of WaRM Grant 2025/2026 period; and
2. Approves the expenditure of up to \$148,800 from WaRM Grant Funding as follows:
  - Landfill Operator Training
  - Waste data software licences and tablets
  - Purchase of materials for each Waste Management Facility
  - Engagement of Keep Australia Beautiful Council
  - Purchase of a woodchipper for the Jabiru Waste Management Facility.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 9.14  |
| Title:            | Nomination – Minister’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                         |

The Council considered a report on Nomination – Minister’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

OCM019/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives, notes and accepts the late report titled *Nomination – Minister’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs; and*
2. Nominates Cr Daniel Siebert as West Arnhem Regional Council’s representative as a member of the Minister’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs.

CARRIED

10 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 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.

OCM020/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

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

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.

OCM021/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Joseph Diddo  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

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.

OCM022/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm and reconvened at 1:07pm with the absence of Cr Jermaine Namanurki and Cr Steven Nabalmarda.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.4  |
| Title:            | Local Government Association NT - Local Government Act Amendments |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                         |

The Council considered a report on Local Government Association NT - Local Government Act Amendments.

OCM023/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Local Government Association NT - Local Government Act Amendments*.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.5   |
| Title:            | LGANT Draft Submission - Senate Inquiry into Regional Aviation |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                      |

The Council considered a report on LGANT Draft Submission - Senate Inquiry into Regional Aviation.

OCM024/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT Draft Submission - Senate Inquiry into Regional Aviation*.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.6   |
| Title:            | LGANT - Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation (GEBC) Project |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                              |

The Council considered a report on LGANT - Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation (GEBC) Project.

OCM025/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Gamba Eradication and Biodiversity Conservation (GEBC) Project*.

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.

Cr Steven Nabalmarda joined the meeting at 1:20pm.

OCM026/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.8  |
| Title:            | Regional Waste Update                           |
| Author:           | Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator |

The Council considered a report on Regional Waste Update.

OCM027/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

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

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.9  |
| Title:            | Regional Cemetery Update                        |
| Author:           | Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator |

The Council considered a report on Regional Cemetery Update.

OCM028/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

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

CARRIED

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.10                              |
| Title:            | Finance Committee Minutes          |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

The Council considered a report on Finance Committee Minutes.

OCM029/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL notes the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Thursday, 18 December 2025 and reviews the decisions made by the Committee.

CARRIED

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.11                                 |
| Title:            | Human Resource Monthly Report         |
| Author:           | Luisa Arango, Human Resources Manager |

The Council considered a report on Human Resource Monthly Report.

OCM030/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.12  |
| Title:            | Community and Council Services Report                    |
| Author:           | Fiona Ainsworth, Director Community and Council Services |

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

Cr Jermaine Namanurki joined the meeting at 1:35pm.

OCM031/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Joseph Diddo  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

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

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 10.13  |
| Title:            | Northern Territory Electoral Commission - West Arnhem Regional Council Election Report |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer  |

The Council considered a report on Northern Territory Electoral Commission - West Arnhem Regional Council Election Report.

OCM032/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Northern Territory Electoral Commission - West Arnhem Regional Council Election Report*; and
2. Extend their appreciation to staff involved in the Local Government Elections including Heidi Walton, Rick Mitchell and Marnie Mitchell.

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.

OCM033/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL raised the following questions:

- Power Outages – Jabiru – Further feedback at the Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.
- Barossa Future Fund- Further feedback at the Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.
- GACJT By-laws and Regulations – Correspondence received – to be referred to Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

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.

OCM034/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

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 2:07pm 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                            |

OCM035/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of Confidential Ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, 20 November 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.2  |
| Title:            | Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor              |

OCM036/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarada  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of Confidential Special Council meeting held on Thursday, 11 November 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.3                                   |
| Title:            | Confidential Finance Committee Minutes |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor     |

OCM037/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL notes the minutes of the Confidential Finance Committee and reviews the decisions made by the Committee.

CARRIED

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.4                               |
| Title:            | Confidential Action Report         |
| Author:           | Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor |

OCM038/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Confidential Action Report*; and
2. Reviews the outstanding action items and given approval for completed items to be removed from the register.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.5  |
| Title:            | Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council |
| Author:           | Clem Beard, Project Manager   |

OCM039/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

3. Receives and notes the report titled Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town;
4. Notes the status of outstanding Land Use Agreements; and
5. Notes to proceed with proposed Land Use agreement for Lot 2368 Jabiru – Spray Irrigation.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.6                                      |
| Title:            | Warruwi Local Authority Appointment       |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer |

OCM041/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Warruwi Local Authority Appointment*; and
2. Appoints Ida Waianga to the Warruwi Local Authority as a community member.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.7   |
| Title:            | 2025-26 Rates and Charges Payment Plans        |
| Author:           | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance |

OCM042/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph F Blyth

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *2025-26 Rates and Charges Payment Plans*;
2. Approves a payment plan of 2025-26 Rates and Charges for Property Number 800690 on condition the 2025-26 Notice of Rates and Charges amount is paid in full by 30 June 2026;
3. Approves a payment plan of 2025-26 Rates and Charges for Properties Numbers 800028, 800133, 800465, 800676, 800761 and 802187 on condition the respective 2025-26 Notice of Rates and Charges are paid in full by 30 June 2026; and
4. Approves remission of interest if the Council approved payment plans' minimum payment instalments, as set out in this report, are paid.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.8  |
| Title:            | Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer                 |

*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: | 13.9                                   |
| Title:            | Minjilang Lot 175 - Land Use Agreement |
| Author:           | Clem Beard, Project Manager            |

OCM040/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Minjilang Lot 175 - Land Use Agreement*; and
2. Refers the matter to the Minjilang Local Authority Meeting in March 2026.

CARRIED

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.10  |
| Title:            | Council Issued Credit Cards                    |
| 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)(iii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.11  |
| Title:            | Grants Update                                  |
| Author:           | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance |

OCM045/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Grants Update*.

CARRIED

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.12                                     |
| Title:            | Jabiru Child Care                         |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer |

*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: | 13.13                                     |
| Title:            | Chief Executive Officer's Report          |
| Author:           | Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer |

This item was withdrawn.

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Agenda Reference: | 13.14              |
| Title:            | Jabiru Airport     |
| Author:           | James Woods, Mayor |

OCM047/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Jabiru Airport* and refer to the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee and the next Ordinary Council meeting.

CARRIED

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

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Agenda Reference: | 14.1   |
| 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 4:14pm.

15 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

16 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 4:14pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2026.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28 January 2026.

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>7.1</b>                                |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Review of Action Items</b>             |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report is submitted for Council to review and discuss the progress on outstanding action items from Council meetings.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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.

#### BACKGROUND

Action items arise out of resolutions of Council or questions asked by Councillors. The attached register provides the current status of the action items as provided by the administration. The administration recommends items as complete but it is for Council to determine whether the item remains active or is complete and can be removed.

#### COMMENT

The actions that Council resolves to occur are to be acted upon by the administration. This report enables Council to progressively discuss and acknowledge the status of items.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

##### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

##### Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. Actions Open [7.1.1 - 2 pages]

| Meeting Date | Status             | Action Required   | Assignees                      | Action Taken  |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 21/05/2024   | In Progress        | <b>AFL West Arnhem</b><br>OCM157/2023 RESOLVED: Request increased advocacy for AFL in West Arnhem Region - refer to WFL in West Arnhem document. BACKGROUND Marnie Mitchell: Through a partnership with AFL NT remote development managers will help support program and development sessions for both Minjilang and Warruwi with WARC covering accommodation / travel / meal costs and AFLNT cover wages of the staff. Community leadership are working together to facilitate the community visits bimonthly. Council Services Manager continue to support AFL initiatives within their Sport and Recreation Teams. OCM109/2024 RESOLVED: Requests further information on the details including costs of Tiwi Bomber football team for AFTNT. OCM215/2024 RESOLVED A pproach West Arnhem stakeholders to support the development of a West Arnhem AFL team. | Katharine Murray               | Further information report to follow in March 2026.   |
| 18/06/2024   | On Hold            | <b>Fleet Disposal Policy</b><br>OCM137/2024 RESOLVED: Request policy of fleet disposal to be updated to include assessment of each vehicle and expression of interests within community before auction in Darwin.   | Kylie Gregson                  | Delegations Manual needs to be rationalised before Asset Management Policy can proceed.   |
| 18/06/2024   | In Progress        | <b>Identification Services</b><br>OCM6/2025 RESOLVED: Request Council partner with MVR to assist with certifying documents for identification services.   | Rick Mitchell                  | MVR Director has advised MOU is still under lawyer consideration and draft is not yet available to present.   |
| 29/04/2025   | In Progress        | <b>Carpark Sealing at the rear of Maningrida Council Office</b><br>OCM101/2025 RESOLVED: Explore options of relocating water line through Power Water to facilitate further car park options.   | Kylie Gregson                  | Council has requested quotes for consideration. This matter will be handed to the Regional Roads Manager once recruitment takes place, position is currently advertised.  |
| 29/04/2025   | Recommend Complete | <b>Maningrida Airport Fencing</b><br>OCM106/2025 RESOLVED: The need for permanent fencing.  | Grant Mckenzie, Kylie Gregson  | Procurement will proceed with a forecast project delivery during the 2026 dry season.   |
| 30/06/2025   | In Progress        | <b>Cultural Training</b><br>OCM157/2025 RESOLVED: Request a draft policy be prepared to be considered further at a future workshop which will include consultation with the local authorities.  | Katharine Murray, Luisa Arango | Council approved the proposed topics. Consultation with the Local Authorities will commence in March 2026.  |
| 29/10/2025   | In Progress        | <b>Risk Management and Audit Committee</b><br>OCM264/2025 RESOLVED: Draft Terms of Reference to Ordinary Council Meeting January 2026 and seek suitable expressions of interest to fill the vacant independent Chairperson role.  | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters      |   |
| 29/10/2025   | In Progress        | <b>Animal Management - Communities</b><br>OCM284/2025 RESOLVED Advise rangers in each community concerns in relation to managing feral animals, in particular to buffalo, wild pigs and dingos.   | Rick Mitchell                  | Administration has reached out to rangers in respective communities: Gunbalanya - Njanjma Rangers are currently in community consultation to determine a strategy to manage the feral animals in community and have suggested a meeting with Council in January to provide update. Jabiru - KNP do not have a strategy in place for Jabiru township but are open to discuss further. Djurrubu Rangers have not been available to discuss. Warrwui - Mardbalk Sea Rangers have a Healthy Country Plan in conjunction with NLC and TOs and are monitoring animal numbers and collecting data to formulate strategy. Minjilang - Garngi Community Rangers are unable to comment as no coordinator on island. Maningrida - Have been unable to make contact with Bawinanga/Djelk Rangers. Will provide further updates when received. |
| 20/11/2025   | In Progress        | <b>Council's Medium to Long Term Financial Position</b><br>SCM79/2025 RESOLVED: Require the CEO to provide an updated report on Council's medium to longer term financial position, with the 2025-26 budget review, between January and April 2026.   | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters      | Approximately April 2026.   |

|            |                    |   |                           |  |
|------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| 20/11/2025 | In Progress        | <b>Cyclone Shelters</b><br>OCM309/2025 RESOLVED: Minjilang, Warruwi and Maningrida - priority discussions with NIAA, Closing the Gap (Priority Reform 2) and governments.   | Katharine Murray          | Attempted meeting with NIAA delayed.   |
| 28/01/2026 | In Progress        | <b>Warruwi and Kakadu By-Election</b><br>OCM009/2026 RESOLVED: Determines a date for the Warruwi By-Election be set in June 2026; and Advises that Kakadu By-Election be held at the latest in April 2026.  | Katharine Murray          | Waiting on a response from NTEC / Ministerial approval on proposed dates.                              |
| 28/01/2026 | In Progress        | <b>Strategic Plan - Review of Pillars</b><br>OCM010/2026 RESOLVED: Endorses the proposal by the CEO to commence consultation with the elected members, local authorities and senior management to review the strategic direction to ensure alignment with current priorities and values.  | Katharine Murray          | Referred to the March 2026 round of Local Authority meetings.  |
| 28/01/2026 | Recommend Complete | <b>Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade</b><br>Recommendation to amend Council's Original Decision be referred to the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee That approval be granted to the previous Council's allocated Jabiru dog park funding of \$30,000.00 in Council resolution OCM272/2024, be used as general co-contribution for the Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade 2025-26 capital project which includes the Council's original dog park plans. | Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters | Refer to the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee held 10 February 2026 minutes and recommendations. |
| 28/01/2026 | Recommend Complete | <b>Barossa Future Fund</b><br>OCM033/2026 RESOLVED: Further feedback at the Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.  | Katharine Murray          | Verbal update provided at the Ordinary Council Meeting February 2026.                                  |
| 28/01/2026 | Recommend Complete | <b>Power Outages - Jabiru</b><br>OCM033/2026 RESOLVED Further feedback at the Ordinary Council Meeting in February 2026.  | Katharine Murray          | Verbal update to be provided to the Ordinary Council Meeting February 2026.                            |

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>7.2</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Women in Small Business Summit 2026</b>       |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for Mayor James Woods to attend the Women in Small Business Summit 2026 in Sydney, Australia.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Women in Small Business Summit 2026*; and
2. Approves/Does not approve Mayor Woods to attend the 2026 Women in Business Summit in Sydney, Australia on Wednesday, 18 March 2026 and costs associated with travel and accommodation to a total of \$8,323.55.

#### BACKGROUND

The Executive Assistant to the Mayor and CEO received an invitation for Mayor Woods to attend the 2026 Women in Small Business Summit hosted in Sydney, Australia on Wednesday, 18 March 2026. The Summit is part of Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ACCI) Future Makers initiative designed to elevate women's leadership and ownership in small businesses across Australia.

The Summit focuses on advancing women's participation in the small business sector. They will identify practical methods for increasing women's involvement in business ownership, provide clear guidance on establishing and expanding viable enterprise and examine the specific barriers that women business owners commonly experience.

The anticipated financial implications to Council, are as per the below table:

| Item               | Description   | Price  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Event Registration | Registration to attend the Women in Small Business Summit 2026  | <b>N/A as ACCI has offered this Summit at no cost to participants.</b> |
| Flight             | Maningrida > Darwin > Sydney (return)   | <b>\$6,740.20</b>  |
| Accommodation      | Shangri-La Sydney   | <b>\$1,220.00</b>  |
| Allowances         | 17.03.2026 – Lunch, dinner and incidentals<br>18.03.2026 – Breakfast, dinner and incidentals<br>19.03.2026 – breakfast and lunch. | <b>\$263.35</b>  |
| Taxi               | Accommodation to Airport (return)   | <b>\$100.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       |   | <b>\$8,323.55</b>  |

\* All costs are estimates and subject to final bookings and allowance rates.

#### COMMENT

Nil

## **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

Determination 1 – 2025 Allowances for member Local Government Councils and Reasonable Expenses and Benefits (Council, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council are responsible for managing its resources.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals of the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

### **PILLAR 1 PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS AND BELONGING**

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging. We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.

### **Goal 1.3 Communication**

Deliver dynamic communication, which is culturally informed and appropriate, engaging and relevant to the interests of Council.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Women in Small Business Summit & Dinner [7.2.1 - 6 pages]



**FUTURE MAKERS**   
 Women in Small Business Summit  
 Wednesday, 18 March 2026, Sydney

## Women in Small Business Summit & Dinner



Wed, 18 Mar, 8:30am - 10pm AEDT

[Add to calendar](#)



Shangri-La Sydney

The Rocks NSW, Australia

### Description

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (ACCI's) Women in Small Business Summit is a cornerstone event of the Future Makers program.

The Summit is part of ACCI's Future Makers initiative to empower women entrepreneurs.

The Summit is dedicated to empowering women in small business. Its objective is to explore strategies that increase women's participation in business ownership, provide practical pathways for establishing and growing successful enterprises, and tackle the unique barriers women entrepreneurs face.

It will also showcase the economic and social benefits of women's entrepreneurship, reinforcing its alignment with ACCI's vision to make Australia the best place in the world to do business, ultimately driving higher living standards for all.

<https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-small-business-summit-and-dinner/tickets>

[Register](#)

Future Makers is proudly supported by the Commonwealth Government under the Advancing Gender Equality in Gender-Segregated Industries grant.

**Date:** Wednesday, 18 March 2026

**Location:** Shangri-La, Sydney

**Summit:** 8:30am — 4:00pm

**Summit Dinner:** 6:30pm -10:00pm

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**INTUIT**

 **turbotax**  **creditkarma**  **quickbooks**  **mailchimp**

## Agenda

8:30 am - 9:00 am

**Registrations**

9:00 am - 9:25 am

**Summit Opening**

9:25 am - 9:45 am

**Session 1 | Opening Keynote — Ministerial Welcome**

Amanda Rishworth - Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations

9:45 am - 9:50 am

**Future Makers Overview & Impact**

Jodie Trembath — ACCI Director of Skills, Employment and Small Business

<https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-small-business-summit-and-dinner/tickets>

Register

**Session 2 | Keynote - From Kitchen Table to Global Brand**

Abigail Forsyth OAM - Founder of KeepCup

10:20 am - 11:00 am

**Session 3 | Panel Discussion - Setting Up for Success: How to Build It Right (or Fix It Later!)**

This session dives into the practical and personal side of building strong business foundations. Whether you're starting from scratch, restructuring for growth, or stepping into a formal role as a family member, we'll explore how to set your business up for success, and fix it if you need to.

11:00 am - 11:20 am

**Morning Tea Break & Networking**

11:25 am - 11:55 am

**Session 4 | Keynote — The Next Generation: Empowering the Transition from Work to Business Owner**

Anaita Sarkar - Founder and CEO of Hero Packaging

11:25 am - 11:55 am

**Intuit QuickBooks Breakout**

Booking Required - Reserve your spot when you register for the summit. Places are limited.

12:00 pm - 12:40 pm

**Session 5 | Panel Discussion — The Money Conversation: Funding, Growth & Financial Power**

This session will examine structural challenges in lending, cash flow management, and superannuation participation. Featuring insights from financial leaders, the panel will offer solutions to improve financial literacy, business credibility, and long-term viability.

12:40 pm - 1:20 pm

<https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-small-business-summit-and-dinner/tickets>

Register

1:20 pm - 2:00 pm

**Session 6 | Panel Discussion — Growth Reimagined: Affordable Strategies and Digital Power Moves for Small Business Success**

This session explores growth as a brand first strategy, showing how women led small businesses - especially those in regional areas, where distance and visibility challenges are greater - can stand out, attract loyal customers, and unlock new opportunities by building a clear, authentic and consistent brand.

2:00 am - 2:20 pm

**Session 7 | Keynote — She Means Business: Where Policy Meets Practice**

Lynda McAlary-Smith - The Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

2:20 am - 2:40 pm

**Afternoon Tea & Networking**

2:45 am - 3:15 pm

**Session 8 | Keynote**

Kristina Karlsson - Founder of kikki.K

3:15 pm - 3:25 pm

**Summit Closing**

Andrew McKellar, CEO of the Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

3:30 am - 4:00 pm

**Speed Mentoring Breakout**

Booking Required - Reserve you spot when you register for the summit. Places are limited.

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

**Intuit MailChimp Breakout Session**

<https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-small-business-summit-and-dinner/tickets>

[Register](#)

## Summit Speakers



**Hon Amanda Rishworth MP**  
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations



**Abigail Forsyth OAM**  
Co-Founder  
Managing Director of KeepCup ...



**Anaita Sarkar**  
CEO and Founder  
Hero Packaging  
...



**Kristina Karlsson**  
Founder  
kikki.K  
...

Show more

## Dinner Speakers



**Astrid Jorgensen OAM**  
Founder and director  
Pub Choir  
...



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Humanitix dedicates 100% of profits from booking fees to charity

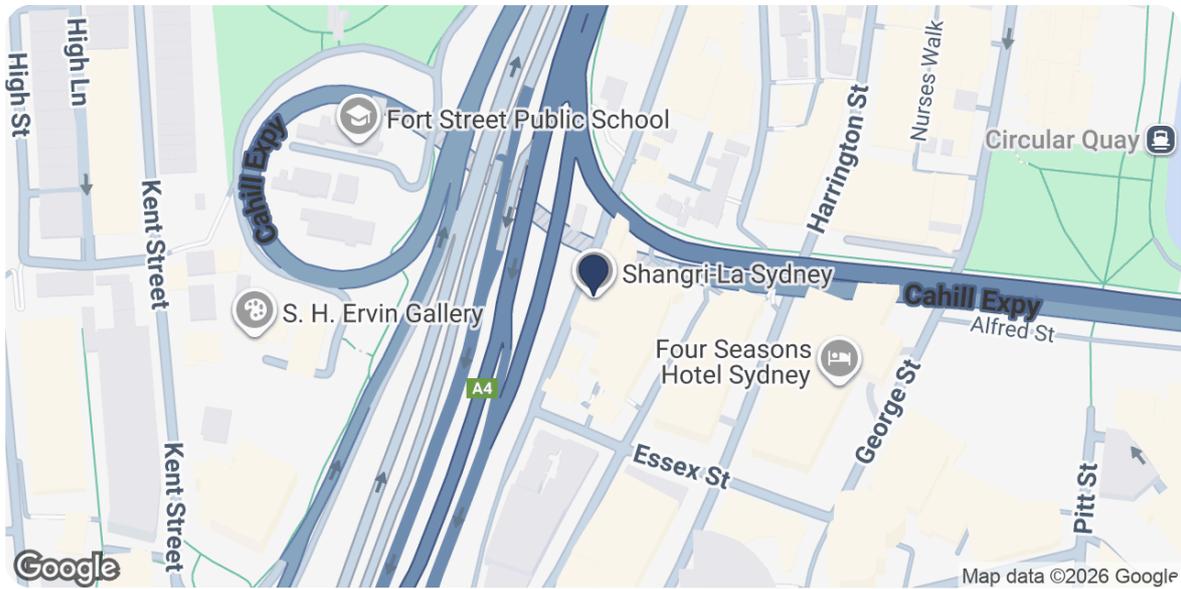
## Location

Shangri-La Sydney

<https://events.humanitix.com/women-in-small-business-summit-and-dinner/tickets>

Register

Get directions



## Refund policy

No refund policy specified.

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Register

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>7.3</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>             |

#### SUMMARY

The unconfirmed minutes of the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026 are submitted to the Council for noting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the minutes of the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026;
2. Appoints Cr Mickitja Onus as Chairperson of the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee and the appointment be reviewed post the Kakadu By-Election; and
3. Approves the previous Council's allocated Jabiru dog park funding of \$30,000.00 in Council resolution OCM272/2024, be used as general co-contribution for the Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade 2025-26 capital project which includes the Council's original dog park plans.

#### BACKGROUND

The minutes of a council committee must be tabled at the next meeting of the council.

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Sections 101(3) and 101(4) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Council's Scheduling and Conduct of Meetings (Elected, Local Authority and Council Committee Members) Policy.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals of the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

#### Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 02 10 Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes [7.3.1 - 5 pages]



Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Special Kakadu Advisory Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 10 February 2026 at 10:00 am  
Council Chambers

---

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING**

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 10:00am, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

**2 PERSONS PRESENT**

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Mayor      | James Woods   |
| Councillor | Ralph Blyth   |
| Councillor | Mickitja Onus |

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**GUESTS**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development, Jabiru Project | Claire Joyce |
|---|--------------|

**ADJOURNED**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am and reconvened at 10:28am to conduct an on-site meeting at the Jabiru Childcare Centre.

**3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>3.1</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                    |

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

**KWAC01/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Cr Mickitja Onus

**Seconded** Mayor James Woods

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Notes the apology received from Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips; and
2. Determines Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips is absent with permission of the Committee.

**CARRIED**

**4 NOMINATION OF CHAIRPERSON**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>4.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Nomination of Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Chairperson</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                       |

The Committee considered a report on Nomination of Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Chairperson.

Cr Ralph Blyth nominated Cr Mickitja Onus as Chairperson, Cr Mickitja Onus accepted the nomination.

**KWAC02/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Cr Ralph F Blyth

**Seconded** Mayor James Woods

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Nomination of Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Chairperson*; and
2. Recommends to Council that Cr Mickitja Onus be appointed Chairperson of the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee and the appointment be reviewed post Kakadu Ward By-Election.

**CARRIED**

Cr Mickitja Onus assumed the Chair.

**5 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>5.1</b>                                |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Acceptance of Agenda</b>               |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b> |

The Committee considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

**KWAC03/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods

**Seconded** Cr Ralph F Blyth

THAT THE COMMITTEE accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 February 2026.

**CARRIED**

**6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>6.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>         |

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

**KWAC04/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Cr Ralph F Blyth

**Seconded** Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT THE COMMITTEE acknowledges there were no declarations of interest in relation to the items as listed for consideration during the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 February 2026.

**CARRIED**

**7 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>7.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                             |

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

**KWC05/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods

**Seconded** Cr Mickitja 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 10:38am to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

**CARRIED**

**8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.1</b>                                  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>   |

*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.*

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.2</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Jabiru Childcare</b>                          |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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.*

|                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.3</b>                |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Jabiru Airport</b>     |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>James Woods, Mayor</b> |

*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.*

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.4</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade</b>               |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance</b> |

**KWAC08/2026 RESOLVED:**

**On the motion of** Cr Mickitja Onus

**Seconded** Cr Ralph F Blyth

## THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade*; and
2. Recommends to Council that approval be granted to the previous Council's allocated Jabiru dog park funding of \$30,000.00 in Council resolution OCM272/2024, be used as general co-contribution for the Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade 2025-26 capital project which includes the Council's original dog park plans.

**CARRIED**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.5</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Citizen of the Year Awards</b>                |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

**KWAC10/2026 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of** Cr Ralph F Blyth  
**Seconded** Cr Micketja Onus

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Citizen of the Year Awards*; and
2. Agrees that there will be no 2026 Citizen of the Year awards in Jabiru.

**CARRIED**

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

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>9.14</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                                     |

**KWAC11/2026 RESOLVED:**  
**On the motion of** Mayor James Woods  
**Seconded** Cr Micketja Onus

THAT THE COMMITTEE:

1. Approves to disclose the following selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes:  
Item 8.4 Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrade  
Item 8.5 Citizen of the Year Award; and
2. Opens the meeting to the public at 11:53am after the discussion of confidential items.

**CARRIED**

## **10 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED**

Chairperson Micketja Onus declared the meeting closed at 11:53am.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee held Tuesday, 10 February 2026.

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.1</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence</b>      |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report is to table items of correspondence received and sent since the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### BACKGROUND

In June 2025, Council requested that incoming and outgoing correspondence be made available in hard copy for Council Members to view at each meeting separate to the agenda. Correspondence available is as follows:

#### COMMENT

| Type   | Date       | Sender/Receiver                         | Reference  |
|--------|------------|---|--|
| Email  | 30.01.2026 | BDO Cairns                              | Appointment of Financial Controller CouncilBIZ   |
| Email  | 30.01.2026 | Department of People, Sport and Culture | Nomination of Cr. Daniel Siebert as a member of the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs |
| Letter | 30.01.2026 | National Broadband Network              | Land Access and Activity Notice  |
| Letter | 30.01.2026 | Malbak Aboriginal Corporation           | Letter of Support  |
| Letter | 04.02.2026 | Hon. Steven Edgington MLA               | Closing the Gap  |
| Letter | 06.02.2026 | Hon. Steven Edgington MLA               | Maningrida Region Consortium   |
| Letter | 06.02.2026 | Ida Waianga                             | Letter of Congratulations Warruwi Local Authority  |
| Letter | 12.02.2026 | Hon. Steven Edgington MLA               | Urgent Meeting request to Discuss Jabiru Airport and Jabiru Childcare Centre                             |
| Letter | 12.02.2026 | Hon. Steven Edgington MLA               | Meeting Request with Mayor Woods   |

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Nil.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report is aligned to the following pillars of the *Regional Plan and Budget 2023-2024*:

#### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

**Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities**

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.2</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Meetings and Events attended by the Mayor</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report provides information to Council on meetings and events attended by the Mayor since the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### BACKGROUND

The meetings and events listed involve discussions that influence or may affect the operations of the Council or relationships with external agencies.

#### COMMENT

| Date(s)    | Location        | Reason for Meeting   | Person(s) met with                     |
|------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 10.02.2026 | Jabiru          | Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Meeting                                     | Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Members |
| 10.02.2026 | Jabiru          | Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation Board Meeting                                     | Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation       |
| 18.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Closing the Gap Place-Based Partnerships Community of Practice                     | National Indigenous Australians Agency |
| 18.02.2026 | Darwin          | Meeting with Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation Lawyers to Discuss Jabiru Airport    | Cozens Johansen Lawyers                |
| 19.02.2026 | Darwin          | Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service  | Various Stakeholders                   |
| 19.02.2026 | Darwin          | Reception to Commemorate the 84 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin | Various Stakeholders                   |

#### LEGISLATION AND POLICY

Nil.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

## **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals of the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

### **PILLAR 1 PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS AND BELONGING**

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging. We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.

#### **Goal 1.1 Community Engagement**

Seek out and support diverse perspectives and collaborations with community, community leaders, businesses, agencies and local service providers to enhance community life.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.3</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Meetings and Events attended by the CEO</b>   |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report provides information on meetings and events attended by the CEO since the last Ordinary Council Meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### BACKGROUND

The meetings listed involve discussions that influence or may affect the operations of the Council or relationships with external agencies.

#### COMMENT

| Date(s)    | Location              | Reason for Meeting   | Person(s) met with   |
|------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 03.02.2026 | Jabiru                | Remediation of the Jabiru Landfill                                       | Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town and the Office of the Supervising Scientist |
| 04.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams       | Grant Management System  | SurePact   |
| 04.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams       | Grants for the Jabiru Lakeside Precinct Upgrades                         | Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development                        |
| 05.02.2026 | Darwin                | Quarterly Meeting  | Department of Logistics and Infrastructure   |
| 06.02.2026 | Darwin                | Barossa Aboriginal Future Fund   | Santos   |
| 10.02.2026 | Jabiru                | Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Meeting                           | Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Members   |
| 10.02.2026 | Jabiru                | Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation Board Meeting                           | Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation   |
| 10.02.2026 | Telephone Appointment | Jabiru Childcare Centre  | Department of Education  |
| 11.02.2026 | Jabiru                | Rio Tinto Jabiru Social Infrastructure Fund Governance Committee Meeting | Various Stakeholders   |

|            |                 |   |   |
|------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 11.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Maningrida Region Consortium Meeting  | Various Stakeholders  |
| 12.02.2026 | Darwin          | Quarterly Meeting   | Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development |
| 13.02.2026 | Darwin          | Office of the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (Northern Territory) Nominated Recipient Forum 2026 | Various Stakeholders  |
| 13.02.2026 | Darwin          | Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town Monthly Meeting   | Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation                                 |
| 13.02.2026 | Darwin          | Funding Jabiru Childcare and Water Infrastructure   | Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development |
| 16.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Local Government Association Northern Territory Tranche 2 Amendments Feedback                                 | Various Stakeholders  |
| 16.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Housing in Maningrida   | Stedman's Construction Maningrida                                 |
| 17.06.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Heads of Agency Meeting   | Various Stakeholders  |
| 17.02.2026 | Jabiru          | Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Monthly Meeting   | Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation                                 |
| 17.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | The Just Transition Local Leadership and The Role of Councils in Australia's Energy Transition                | Various Stakeholders  |
| 17.02.2026 | Jabiru          | Meet and Greet  | Energy Developments Limited                                       |
| 18.02.2026 | Darwin          | Regional Development Australia Northern Territory Strategy Launch   | Various Stakeholders  |
| 18.02.2026 | Microsoft Teams | Closing the Gap Place-Based Partnerships Community of Practice  | National Indigenous Australians Agency                            |
| 18.02.2026 | Darwin          | Meeting with Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Lawyers  | Cozens Johansen Lawyers   |

|            |        |  |                                |
|------------|--------|--|--------------------------------|
|            |        | to Discuss Jabiru Airport  |                                |
| 19.02.2026 | Darwin | Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service  | Various Stakeholders           |
| 19.02.2026 | Darwin | Reception to Commemorate the 84 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin | Various Stakeholders           |
| 20.02.2026 | Darwin | Induction to Advisory Committee  | JLT Risk Solutions             |
| 20.02.2026 | Darwin | Northern Territory Health Heatwave Hazard Plan Project                             | Office of Emergency Management |

#### **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

Nil.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report is aligned to the following pillars and goals of the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### **PILLAR 1 PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS AND BELONGING**

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging. We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.

#### **Goal 1.1 Community Engagement**

Seek out and support diverse perspectives and collaborations with community, community leaders, businesses, agencies and local service providers to enhance community life.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.4</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Community and Council Services Report</b>                         |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Rick Mitchell, Acting Director Council and Community Services</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report is presented to the Council to provide an overview of community and council services delivered across the West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC) locations, for the reporting period of 01-31 January 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### BACKGROUND

High level operational figures are provided to ensure transparency, communication, and insight are provided to elected members.

#### COMMENT

##### 1. Business and Commercial Services

###### 1.1. Aerodrome Reporting Officer (ARO) Services (Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang, Warruwi)

Total number of Care Flight callouts that occurred:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 4        | 3        | 3       | 17           |
| Maningrida | 4        | 11       | 13      | 62           |
| Minjilang  | 1        | 0        | 1       | 5            |
| Warruwi    | 0        | 0        | 2       | 0            |

Current ARO-trained staff available across the region:

- Gunbalanya: 3 (including the Senior Works Team Leader)
- Maningrida: 4 (including the Council Services Manager (CSM) for emergencies only)
- Minjilang: 3 (including the Council Services Manager (CSM) for emergencies only)
- Warruwi: 2

###### 1.2. Centrelink Services (Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Minjilang, Warruwi)

Centrelink was open during the reporting period, with the exception of:

| Community  | Date                | Reason for closure |
|------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Gunbalanya | N/A                 | N/A                |
| Jabiru     | 9.01.26 – 13.01.26  | Staff availability |
| Warruwi    | 14.01.26 - 15.01.26 | Power issues       |
|            | 19.01.26            | Staff availability |
|            | 20.01.26            | Sorry Business     |

|           |                     |  |
|-----------|---------------------|--|
| Minjilang | 01.01.26 – 09.01.26 | Self-serve only due to Centrelink officer holidays |
|-----------|---------------------|--|

### 1.3. Post Office Services

Total amount of post received and delivered (kg):

| Community  | November | December | January  | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 1,356.54 | 1,367.51 | 1,322.54 | 9,472.05 kg  |
| Maningrida | 3,620.9  | 4,824.25 | 2,948.90 | 31,305.55 kg |
| Minjilang  | 256      | 256      | 196      | 1,800.36 kg  |
| Warruwi    | 246      | 427      | 255      | 2,700 kg     |
| Jabiru     | 7,930.2  | 8,190.3  | 7,250.32 | 58,432.72 kg |

### 1.4. Power Water Services (Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang, Warruwi)

|  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|--|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Total number of new Services Requests (SR) received: | 23       | 29       | 32      | 319          |

### 1.5. Grants

Refer to the separate Finance Report.

### 1.6. Tenancy

|                            | November | December | January | Year to date |
|----------------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Number of new tenants      | 4        | 1        | 4       | 18           |
| Number of vacating tenants | 2        | 1        | 2       | 21           |

|  | Gunbalanya     | Jabiru                    | Maningrida  | Minjilang | Warruwi |
|--|----------------|---------------------------|---|-----------|---------|
| Current total number of properties under refurbishment | 1<br>(Lot 552) | 2<br>(3 Frew & 1 Maranta) | 0<br>(Lot 405 damaged/break in but repairs put on hold) | 0         | 0       |

- Gunbalanya Toad Hall is being refurbished after water damage/flooding – this is not staff accommodation; it is utilised for visiting contractor accommodation.

## 2. Community Services

### 2.1. Broadcasting (Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Minjilang, Warruwi)

Total number of Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) on-air hours:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 38.4     | 43.2hrs  | 38.4    | 278          |

|            |   |   |    |    |
|------------|---|---|----|----|
| Maningrida | 0 | 8 | 64 | 72 |
| Warruwi    | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  |
| Minjilang  | 0 | 0 | 0  | 0  |

- In Gunbalanya, Council and community announcements were regularly aired, helping to keep residents informed and engaged with key events and services.
- Maningrida's Broadcasting Officer services were provided on 16 of the 20 available days, between 08.00am – 12.00pm.

## 2.2. Community Care (Aged Care – Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Minjilang, Warruwi)

Number of Aged Care recipients by community as of 31.01.26:

| Community    | CHSP      | HCP/SAH   |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Kakadu       | 8         | 1         |
| Gunbalanya   | 6         | 10        |
| Minjilang    | 1         | 2         |
| Warruwi      | 2         | 0         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>13</b> |

Total meals provided SAH & CHSP:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 500      | 558      | 624     | 3,680        |
| Jabiru     | 206      | 236      | 244     | 1,552        |
| Minjilang  | 48       | 50       | 92      | 606          |
| Warruwi    | 82       | 60       | 62      | 734          |

## 2.3. Community Safety (Night Patrol – Gunbalanya, Minjilang & Warruwi)

Number of nights Night Patrol operated:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 10       | 14       | 12      | 36           |
| Minjilang  | 20       | 20       | 20      | 147          |
| Warruwi    | 17       | 17       | 20      | 137          |

- Gunbalanya Night Patrol operations were impacted during the reporting period due to staff shortages.
- Night Patrol services in Minjilang operated on all available nights during the reporting period. Home brewing continued in the community, which led to unrest, including domestic violence. This is increasing with the number of people visiting the community and travelling throughout the region.
- Patrol continuity in Warruwi was affected on 2 nights during the reporting period. Operational challenges were primarily associated with New Year's and Australia Day public holidays, which required increased vigilance and community engagement.

## 2.4. Early Learning Centres (Jabiru Childcare Centre, Minjilang & Warruwi Creches)

Total attendance at the Early Learning Centres:

| Community                            | November | December | January | Year to date |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Jabiru                               | 205      | 145      | Closed  | 1,259        |
| Minjilang                            | 59       | 28       | Closed  | 456          |
| Warruwi (Closed since December 2024) | 0        | 0        | Closed  | 0            |

Total closures at the Early Learning Centres:

| Community                            | November        | December        | January         | Year to date    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jabiru                               | 0               | 8               | Closed all days | 9               |
| Minjilang                            | 10              | 18              | Closed all days | 54              |
| Warruwi (Closed since December 2024) | Closed all days | Closed all days | Closed all days | Closed all days |

New enrollments at the Community Creches:

| Community                            | November | December | January | Year to date |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Minjilang                            | 0        | 0        | 0       | 3            |
| Warruwi (Closed since December 2024) | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0            |

- Mayor, CEO and Director have approved for a Community Engagement activity in Warruwi with Stakeholders and community, to discuss their requirements for early years education. This has been postponed until 23 March 2026.
- The Warruwi Creche remained closed for the reporting period.
- The Minjilang Creche was closed for the month of January due to electrical issues caused by water damage.
- The Jabiru Childcare centre was closed during this reporting period.

## 2.5. National Disability Insurance Scheme (Gunbalanya, Jabiru, Minjilang, Warruwi)

Number of National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants receiving services as of 31.01.26:

|                                      | Gunbalanya | Jabiru | Minjilang | Warruwi | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|
| NDIS Participants receiving services | 14         | 2      | 0         | 2       | 18    |

Total NDIS meals provided:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 352      | 382      | 420     | 2,760        |
| Jabiru     | 88       | 92       | 94      | 520          |
| Minjilang  | 0        | 0        | 0       | 0            |
| Warruwi    | 92       | 106      | 186     | 1,474        |

- There are currently no participants registered with Council for services in Minjilang.

## 2.6. National Disability Insurance Agency

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Remote Community Connector (RCC) based in Jabiru. Meetings and engagement across the region; as follows:

|   | November | December | January | Year to date |
|---|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Community and Stakeholder Engagement Activities               | 0        | 38       | 85      | 226          |
| Participant Check-In  | 0        | 0        | 0       | 58           |
| Access Request Forms prepared for potential NDIS Participants | 0        | 0        | 1       | 21           |
| Service Provider Visits                                       | 0        | 0        | 1       | 18           |
| NDIA Supported Visit  | 0        | 0        | 0       | 2            |
| Number of other Activities Agreed to By Agency                | 0        | 0        | 0       | 2            |
| Community Visits  | 0        | 1        | 1       | 8            |

- The RCC spent 05.01.26 - 09.01.26 in Gunbalanya, predominantly assisting with Community Care and engaging with NDIS participants when able.
- The RCC has been working closely with Red Lily Child Health Nurse and NDIA access assessor, on attempting to gain NDIS access for children in Warruwi.
- RCC attended meetings with the NDIA Relationship Manager and separately with Community Allied Health Team (CAHT) during their visit to Jabiru.

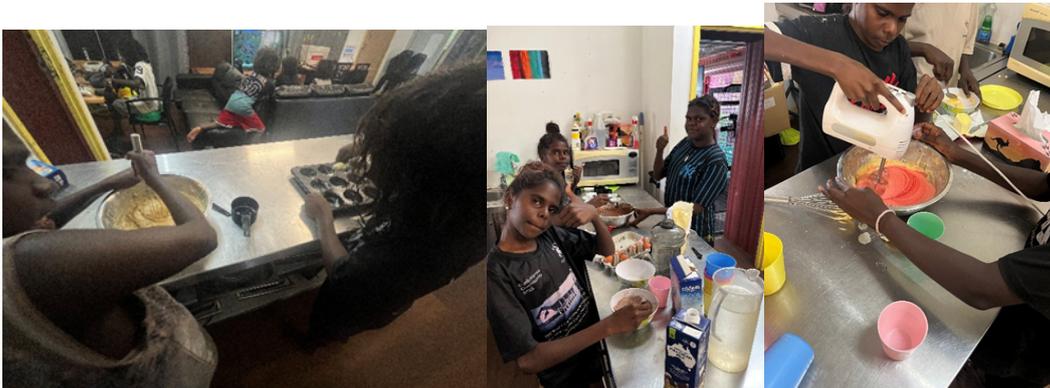
## 2.7. Sports and Recreation

Total attendance at the Sports and Recreation programs:

|            | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Gunbalanya | 412      | 1095     | 526     | 3,780        |
| Maningrida | 1880     | 835      | 750     | 8,072        |
| Minjilang  | 349      | 685      | 629     | 3,315        |
| Warruwi    | 0        | 150      | 270     | 1,388        |
| Jabiru     | 320      | 68       | 0       | 2,147        |

During the reporting period:

- In Gunbalanya, the team focused on deepening youth engagement, strengthening stakeholder relationships, and planning program delivery for the year ahead. The introduction of age-specific and girls-only sessions at the Youth Centre achieved excellent results, attracting new participants and fostering greater inclusion, particularly among young women.
- Partnership development continued to progress strongly in Gunbalanya throughout the reporting period, with ongoing collaboration with the Clontarf Foundation and early-stage discussions with their female counterpart to support school-aged girls. Continued stakeholder engagement also enabled safe youth access to the community pool.



*Activities in Gunbalanya included cupcake making during January*

- No activities were delivered in Jabiru during this reporting period due to the resignation of WARC YSR representative. Recruitment efforts are ongoing to restore program delivery and community engagement as soon as possible.
- In Minjilang, Australia Day event was held with 150 Participants including Breakfast, lunch and dance party.
- Regular weekly programs continued in Minjilang throughout the reporting period, focusing on physical activity, community engagement, and inclusiveness across all age groups. Activities were delivered at key community locations, including the Recreation Hall and local basketball court.
- In Warruwi, The Recreation Hall was opened throughout the January school holidays, providing a safe and engaging space for community members.
- Over the school holidays, Sport and Recreation in Warruwi held some light activities such as basketball scratch matches and a disco for the young children. These were well attended by community members.



*The children in Warruwi enjoyed skateboarding activities and a disco*

- The Youth Centre in Maningrida delivered creative activities such as tie-dye shirt making, dance sessions, and the Dance & Film Project, which encouraged repeat participation across multiple sessions.
- Weekend “Dive-In Movie” sessions at the pool provided a safe and engaging recreational alternative during extreme heat conditions.

### 3. Council Services

#### 3.1. Aquatic Centres (Jabiru, Maningrida)

Total attendance at the Aquatic Centres:

| Community  | November | December | January | Year to date |
|------------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Maningrida | 636      | 1,250    | 394     | 6,931        |
| Jabiru     | 649      | 368      | 410     | 5,171        |

- Jabiru pool was closed 03.01.26 due to power outages. There was no pool chlorination over the holiday break as the chlorine pump not working. The pool kiosk was broken into on 10.01.26 and 12.01.26.
- Maningrida pool attendance numbers were down over the reporting period due to storm damage to shade sails, and a one-and-a-half-week closure due to staff medical leave. Low numbers also due to wet weather and generally a low number of people around town.

#### 3.2. Library (Jabiru only)

Total attendance at the library:

| Community | November | December | January | Year to date |
|-----------|----------|----------|---------|--------------|
| Jabiru    | 218      | 139      | 85      | 1,489        |

- The library was closed for 6 days during the reporting period, due to limitations within the operations team.

#### 3.3. Community Works

- Works team continually provide support and assistance to the Tenancy department, facilitating movement of furniture and larger maintenance issues where required.
- Drains and roadside verges remain a priority this time of year due to current seasonal weather and erosion being present.
- Road street sweeping has been conducted minimally, due to weather conditions and machinery availability.
- The cul-de-sac at the end of Langford drive was repaired but has now been damaged due to vehicles driving through.
- Rubbish bins have been replaced around communities due to excessive damage; new stock has been ordered for all communities.



*Work Crew in Warruwi were rebuilding the playground fence, which was destroyed by vandals*

- All communities are having issues with Animal Management. Feral/introduced animals continue to cause issues and concerns in all communities, causing damage to infrastructure, wetlands, public areas and dispersing rubbish around communities.
- West Arnhem Regional Council mechanics have conducted scheduled repairs and maintenance to Council equipment and assets over multiple visits to communities across the West Arnhem region to carry out services and repairs as required.
- The new Community Hearse arrived in Maningrida.
- Community is awaiting the arrival of the new ride-on mowers.
- Cert 3 in Civil Construction Training underway and on-going for all communities.
- Road works continue across the region with priorities being potholes, roadside edges and drainage.
- Rubbish collection continues as per scheduling with minimal disruptions to services across the region.
- Hard rubbish collection remains ongoing at this time of year due to possible potential weather events.
- Inspections and reports remain up to date and on schedule.
- Street light audits requested for end of month, January 2026.

### **3.4. Community Wins**



*A successful Australia Day event was reported in Minjilang, with 150 Participants attending a Breakfast and lunch BBQ and dance party*

#### **4. Technical Services**

Refer to the separate Technical Services Project Report.

#### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

Not applicable.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### **PILLAR 1 PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS AND BELONGING**

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging. We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.

##### **Goal 1.1 Community Engagement**

Seek out and support diverse perspectives and collaborations with community, community leaders, businesses, agencies and local service providers to enhance community life.

##### **Goal 1.3 Communication**

Deliver dynamic communication which is culturally informed and appropriate, engaging and relevant to the interests of Council.

##### **Goal 1.4 Community Events**

Deliver cultural, civic and sporting events which engage and unite the community.

##### **Goal 1.6 Youth Engagement**

Deliver diverse, targeted programs and events which actively empower and engage young people as valuable partners in decision-making which effects them.

#### **PILLAR 3 SAFETY AND WELLBEING**

As an 'Employer of Choice', we provide and promote a positive culture of safety, inclusion and respect. Our people are skilled, informed and have opportunities to grow and develop within our organisation. Services provided to community are professional, impactful, engaging and appropriate to local needs.

##### **Goal 3.4 Community Service Delivery**

Provision of high quality, culturally informed programs that support and enhance the safety and wellbeing of community members.

**PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE**

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

**Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities**

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.5</b>                                       |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Technical Services Report</b>                 |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services</b> |

#### SUMMARY

This report is presented to the Council to provide an overview of all Local Authority and other Council projects delivered across the West Arnhem Regional Council locations, for the reporting period up to 10 February 2026.

#### RECOMMENDATION

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

#### BACKGROUND

High level operational/project management reports are provided to ensure transparency, communication, and support are provided to elected members.

#### COMMENT

As per the attached report, a comprehensive snapshot is provided to the Council of all current projects being undertaken by the Technical Services Team.

#### STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Not Applicable.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

##### **PILLAR 4 SERVICE DELIVERY AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

We provide high quality infrastructure and service delivery that meets the unique needs of each community, creates a sense of place and contributes towards promoting a sense of pride in community.

##### **Goal 4.1 Strategic Infrastructure and Asset Management**

Strategically manage, maintain and enhance community infrastructure.

##### **Goal 4.2 Fleet, Plant and Equipment**

Provide a modern and well-maintained fleet of plant and vehicles capable of meeting service delivery requirements.

##### **Goal 4.3 Waste and Water Management**

Deliver environmentally and economically sound solid waste, water and sewerage services.

##### **Goal 4.4 Local Road Management and Maintenance**

Tactically monitor, maintain and manage Council gazetted roads and community safety via traffic management.

## **PILLAR 5 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION**

Leading by example, we commit to developing a culture of sustainable practice. We recognise and champion the importance of safe-guarding our environment for future generations by working collectively with community, private enterprises and all tiers of government.

### **Goal 5.1 Recycling and Waste**

Develop recycling and waste initiatives which protect and preserve community natural resources and the local environment.

### **Goal 5.2 Procurement**

Develop and implement a leading-edge sustainability procurement strategy.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Technical Services Projects - OCM Feb 2026 [8.5.1 - 4 pages]

## GUNBALANYA COUNCIL PROJECTS

| STATUS      | PROJECT COMPLETE | TASK   | DESCRIPTION  | % DONE |
|-------------|------------------|--|--|--------|
| In Progress | 31-07-2026       | Insurance claim accepted - Works awarded to M+J Builders. Following site visit, surveyors now advising this is a flood prone area and buildings need to be elevated higher. Build to take place in Darwin, then transported for site installation. Target completion now extended to end of July 2026. | Gunbalanya Flood Insurance Toad Hall, Laundry & damaged house. | 70%    |

## JABIRU COUNCIL PROJECTS

| STATUS      | PROJECTED COMPLETE | TASK   | DESCRIPTION  | % DONE |
|-------------|--------------------|--|--|--------|
| In Progress | 31-07-2026         | Overview - Replanting of garden beds, move existing park benches under cover, install charging ports and bubbler.  | Jabiru Town Square Revitalisation (Rio Tinto).                                     | 40%    |
| In Progress | 30-04-2026         | Insurance claim accepted - Works awarded to TB Constructions. Replacement of internal ceiling due to water damage. Target completion end of February 2026.   | Jabiru Hall Ceiling Replacement - Insurance.                                       | 40%    |
| In Progress | 30-6-2027          | Cultural approval received for Dog Park, Playground and Outdoor Gym from GAC. Awaiting release of funds to commence tender procurement process of projects.  | Dog Park & Playground - Lakeside Park.<br>Outdoor Gym - Brockman Oval (Rio Tinto). | 25%    |
| In Progress | 31-7-2026          | Internal upgrades include - Pressure wash surfaces, painting walls, ceilings and doors. Supply and install new toilet pans, shower roses, toilet paper dispensers, paper towel dispensers, mirrors above basins. Supply & install new lighting as required. Awaiting release of funds to commence works.   | Town Square Public Toilet Upgrades (Rio Tinto).                                    | 25%    |
| In Progress | 31-7-2026          | Internal upgrades include - Pressure wash surfaces, painting walls, ceilings and doors. Supply and install new toilet pans, shower roses, toilet paper dispensers, paper towel dispensers, mirrors above basins. Investigate and repair internal water leaks. Awaiting release of funds to commence works. | Brockman Oval Public Toilet Upgrades (Rio Tinto).                                  | 25%    |
| In Progress | 31-7-2026          | Replace existing wayfinding signs that are damaged and faded. Awaiting release of funds to commence works.   | Wayfinding Sign Upgrades (Rio Tinto).  | 25%    |

**MANINGRIDA COUNCIL PROJECTS**

| STATUS      | PROJECTED COMPLETE | TASK  | DESCRIPTION                             | % DONE |
|-------------|--------------------|---|---|--------|
| In Progress | 31-03-2026         | Construction commenced December 2025, delayed due to structural design. Admendment in place, awaiting design. | Maningrida Toilets upgrade near office. | 25%    |

**MINJILANG COUNCIL PROJECTS**

| STATUS      | PROJECTED COMPLETE | TASK  | DESCRIPTION   | % DONE |
|-------------|--------------------|---|---|--------|
| In Progress | 31-03-2026         | Works awarded to Stedman's Construction. Contractor kick-off meeting completed. Boundary cleared, fencing completed, 6 mtr pavement completed. Pending works, installation of shelter, planting of pandanus and palms, installation of footpath. Target completion end of March 2026.   | New Minjilang Cemetery.   | 80%    |
| In Progress | 31-03-2026         | Administration lodged an "Expression of Interest" documentation on the 22 January 2019 to the Northern Land Council (NLC) to commence consultation with the community on proposed leasing arrangements to ensure WARC can continue to deliver core services to the community. Consultations and approvals were conducted by the NLC and a proposed lease for staff accommodation was received by WARC on 3 December 2019. Council approved the leasing arrangements 10 June 2020. Since the council endorsement received on 10 June 2020, the leasing arrangements have been on hold due to the unavailability of accessing Council reserve funds to construct the infrastructure required. Additionally, no external staff have been employed to manage the childcare as 100% employment has been utilized by local indigenous staff from the community. Administration has identified since 2020 staff housing is not required to manage the community childcare service therefore no land use agreement (Lot 175) has been executed. | Minjilanga Lot 175 - Expression of interest application for section 19 lease. | 5%     |

**WARRUWI COUNCIL PROJECTS**

| STATUS | PROJECTED COMPLETE | TASK | DESCRIPTION | % DONE |
|--------|--------------------|------|-------------|--------|
|--------|--------------------|------|-------------|--------|

## WEST ARNHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.6</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Financial report for period ending 31 January 2026</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Finance</b>        |

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Council with the Financial Management Report for the period ended 31 January 2026 and seek approval for the two Acquittals of Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-25.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### THAT COUNCIL

1. Receive and note the report titled Financial Report for the period ending 31 January 2025;
2. Approve the Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26 Acquittal for Maningrida and Warruwi;
3. Approve the Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26 Acquittal for Minjilang;
4. Approve the Community Places for People Grant Program 2024-25 Acquittal for Warruwi Community Hall; and
5. Approve Community Places for People Grant Program 2025-26 Acquittal for Warruwi Community Hall.

#### BACKGROUND

The CEO must, in each month, give the Council (or Council's Finance Committee) a report setting out:

- The actual year to date income and expenditure of council;
- The most recently adopted annual budget; and
- Details of any material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure, and the most recently adopted annual budget.

The report must be in the approved form.

The report must be accompanied by the CEO's certification in writing, to the Council, that to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:

- The internal controls implemented by Council are appropriate; and
- The Council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of Council.

If the CEO cannot provide the certification, then written reasons for not providing the certification is to be submitted.

#### Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26

Council was awarded funding \$50,000.00 to upgrade the Minjilang cemetery; and \$43,000.00 to upgrade the Maningrida and Warruwi cemeteries. These projects have been completed, and the Minjilang project has an underspent of 3,751.00. This will be refunded to the funder

Council was awarded one-off grant totalling \$415,000.00 to Upgrade the Warruwi Community Hall. This project has been successfully completed with minor unspent amount of \$27.00. This will be refunded to the funder.

#### **COMMENT**

The *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* requires the previous month's financial report to be given to the Council.

#### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

Regulation 17 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* outlines the requirements for the monthly financial report to Council.

The format of the monthly financial report follows the prescribed format set out in the CEO of the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet's approved form published on the NT Government Local Government Unit's website.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The CEO is responsible for laying before the Council a monthly financial report and the Council is responsible for managing its resources.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

#### **PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE**

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

#### **Goal 6.1 Financial Management**

Provision of strong financial management and leadership which ensures long term sustainability and growth.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 1. Monthly Financial Report - January 2026 [**8.6.1** - 20 pages]
2. 2. Acquittal - Maningrida and Warruwi- RRBA Grant 2024-26 [**8.6.2** - 1 page]
3. 3. Acquittal - Minjilang- RRBA Grant 2024-26 [**8.6.3** - 1 page]
4. 4. Acquittal - 2024-25 Community Places for People Grant Program [**8.6.4** - 1 page]
5. 5. Acquittal - 2025-26 Community Places for People Grant Program [**8.6.5** - 1 page]

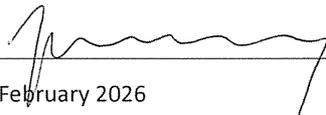
### Certification by the CEO to the Council

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Council Name:</b>     | West Arnhem Regional Council |
| <b>Reporting Period:</b> | January 2026                 |

That, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief:

- (1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
- (2) The council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

**CEO Signed**



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**Date Signed**

13 February 2026

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**Note:** The monthly financial report to council must either be accompanied by a written certification by the CEO to the council, as set out above, or the CEO is to provide written reasons for not providing the certification. (Regulation 17(5) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*)

[Monthly Financial Report for January 2026](#)
[Report 1](#)

Table 1. Income and Expenditure Statement

Expected YTD Annual Budget Completion

58%

| Period ended 31 January 2026              | Notes | YTD Actuals<br>(A)<br>\$ | Commitments<br>(B)<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>(C)<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>(A - C)<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ | YTD Actual<br>Compared to<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>(A / E) % |
|---|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>OPERATING INCOME</b>                   |       |                          |                          |                         |                               |   |  |
| Rates                                     |       | 2,757,567                | -                        | 2,977,972               | (220,405)                     | 2,979,401   | 93%  |
| Charges                                   | 1     | 2,906,794                | -                        | 3,156,233               | (249,439)                     | 4,028,377   | 72%  |
| Fees and Charges                          |       | 394,737                  | -                        | 419,809                 | (25,072)                      | 716,625   | 55%  |
| Operating Grants and Subsidies            |       | 11,708,330               | -                        | 13,107,149              | (1,398,819)                   | 18,273,980  | 64%  |
| Interest / Investment Income              |       | 123,473                  | -                        | 96,520                  | 26,954                        | 160,000   | 77%  |
| Commercial and Other Income               | 2     | 7,616,497                | -                        | 8,231,901               | (615,403)                     | 13,918,879  | 55%  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>             |       | <b>25,507,398</b>        | <b>-</b>                 | <b>27,989,584</b>       | <b>(2,482,185)</b>            | <b>40,077,263</b>   | <b>64%</b>   |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>              |       |                          |                          |                         |                               |   |  |
| Employee Expenses                         |       | 9,599,488                | 25,707                   | 10,519,073              | (919,585)                     | 18,392,316  | 52%  |
| Materials and Contracts                   | 4     | 2,533,300                | 1,038,314                | 4,067,234               | (1,533,934)                   | 8,084,222   | 31%  |
| Elected Member Allowances                 |       | 201,849                  |                          | 238,085                 | (36,236)                      | 402,120   | 50%  |
| Elected Member Expenses                   |       | 112,574                  |                          | 163,708                 | (51,135)                      | 324,854   | 35%  |
| Council Committee                         |       | -                        |                          | -                       | -                             | 7,000   | 0%   |
| Council Committee & LA Allowances         |       | 8,328                    |                          | 24,930                  | (16,602)                      | 36,305  | 23%  |
| Council Committee & LA Expenses           |       | 8,000                    |                          | 19,291                  | (11,291)                      | 33,858  | 24%  |
| Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment |       | 3,075,006                |                          | 3,075,006               | -                             | 5,271,438   | 58%  |
| Interest Expenses                         |       | -                        |                          | -                       | -                             | -   | -  |
| Other Expenses                            | 3     | 5,267,287                | 147,673                  | 7,220,904               | (1,953,617)                   | 11,789,983  | 45%  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>        |       | <b>20,805,830</b>        | <b>1,211,694</b>         | <b>25,328,229</b>       | <b>(4,522,400)</b>            | <b>44,342,097</b>   | <b>47%</b>   |
| <b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>      |       | <b>4,701,569</b>         |                          | <b>2,661,354</b>        | <b>2,040,215</b>              | <b>(4,264,834)</b>  |  |

| Period ended 31 January 2026          | Notes | YTD Actuals<br>(A)<br>\$ | Commitments<br>(B)<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>(C)<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>(A - C)<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ | YTD Actual<br>Compared to<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>(A / E) % |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>Charges Income</u>                 |       |                          |                          |                         |                               |   |  |
| Sewerage                              | 1     | 663,179                  | -                        | 561,275                 | 101,904                       | 750,797   | 88%  |
| Water                                 |       | 725,508                  | -                        | 991,378                 | (265,870)                     | 1,674,000   | 43%  |
| Waste Collection                      |       | 1,518,107                | -                        | 1,603,580               | (85,473)                      | 1,603,580   | 95%  |
|                                       |       | <b>2,906,794</b>         | -                        | <b>3,156,233</b>        | <b>(249,439)</b>              | <b>4,028,377</b>  |  |
| <u>Commercial and Other Income</u>    |       |                          |                          |                         |                               |   |  |
| Income Allocations                    | 2     | 3,733,498                | -                        | 4,011,525               | (278,026)                     | 6,686,128   | 56%  |
| Agency and Commercial Services Income |       | 3,452,899                | -                        | 3,823,202               | (370,303)                     | 6,503,520   | 53%  |
| Other Income                          |       | 430,100                  | -                        | 397,174                 | 32,926                        | 729,231   | 59%  |
|                                       |       | <b>7,616,497</b>         | -                        | <b>8,231,901</b>        | <b>(615,403)</b>              | <b>13,918,879</b>   |  |
| <u>Other Expenses</u>                 |       |                          |                          |                         |                               |   |  |
| Travel, Freight & Accommodation       | 3     | 489,980                  | 63,057                   | 603,334                 | (113,354)                     | 1,179,643   | 42%  |
| Fuel, Utilities & Communication       |       | 1,307,328                |                          | 1,310,264               | (2,935)                       | 2,308,220   | 57%  |
| Finance Expenses                      |       | 5,606                    |                          | 6,185                   | (579)                         | 10,390  | 54%  |
| Other Expenses                        |       | 3,464,373                | 84,616                   | 5,301,121               | (1,836,748)                   | 8,291,730   | 42%  |
|                                       |       | <b>5,267,287</b>         | <b>147,673</b>           | <b>7,220,904</b>        | <b>(1,953,617)</b>            | <b>11,789,983</b>   |  |

| NO. | Note. 4 All Commitments                                 | Commitments |
|-----|---|-------------|
| 1   | Active Regional and Remote Communities Program          | 254,575     |
| 2   | Water Management: Jabiru                                | 148,707     |
| 3   | Brockman Oval Lights - Jabiru                           | 69,551      |
| 4   | Sewerage Management                                     | 68,039      |
| 5   | Corporate Financial Management                          | 67,753      |
| 6   | Maintain local roads                                    | 64,214      |
| 7   | Jabiru Gym Upgrade                                      | 47,800      |
| 8   | Manage Information Technology and Communications        | 46,206      |
| 9   | West Arnhem Cemetery Establishment                      | 36,585      |
| 10  | Operate and maintain swimming pool                      | 33,574      |
| 11  | Parks and Public Open Space - including weed control    | 28,770      |
| 12  | Waste Management  | 20,023      |
| 13  | LRCI Phase 4 - Part B - Malabam Road - Maningrida       | 19,776      |
| 14  | ABA - Maningrida Oval Changerooms                       | 15,570      |
| 15  | Operate post office business                            | 12,495      |
| 16  | LAP - Installation of outdoor gym equipment at the pool | 10,488      |
| 17  | Community Service Delivery                              | 10,264      |
| 18  | Sports and Recreation                                   | 10,146      |
| 19  | WaRM - Waste and Resource Management                    | 8,840       |
| 20  | Maintain plant, equipment and motor vehicles            | 8,058       |
| 21  | Manage Electricity and water business                   | 7,714       |
| 22  | LAP - Purchase of 4x4 Hearse                            | 7,520       |
| 23  | 4WD Buses -Gunbalanya and Maningrida -Sports &          | 5,365       |
| 24  | ICT Transition  | 3,900       |
| 25  | Manage Visitor accommodation                            | 3,777       |
| 26  | Operate Fuel Storage Facility                           | 3,510       |
| 27  | Aerodromes Inspection and Maintenance                   | 3,410       |

| NO.          | Note. 4 All Commitments                                 | Commitments      |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| 28           | Manage and maintain cemeteries                          | 2,988            |
| 29           | Regional and Remote Burials Grant - MINJILNAG           | 2,600            |
| 30           | Food Preparation Services                               | 2,334            |
| 31           | Install and maintain street lights                      | 2,240            |
| 32           | Operate Long day care                                   | 2,070            |
| 33           | Australia Day Grant                                     | 1,829            |
| 34           | Maintain staff houses                                   | 1,590            |
| 35           | Manage Council Governance                               | 1,443            |
| 36           | LAP - Additional Garden Hard Structure at the Billabong | 1,120            |
| 37           | National Australia Day Council - Australia Day Grant    | 865              |
| 38           | Manage Creche   | 586              |
| 39           | Home Care Packages Program (HCP)                        | 492              |
| 40           | Kurrung Sports Carnival - Sport Australia               | 397              |
| 41           | Executive leadership - Council & Community Services     | 281              |
| 42           | Manage Technical Services                               | 279              |
| 43           | Support at Home Program                                 | 275              |
| 44           | NDIA - Remote Community Connector                       | 110              |
| 45           | Seven Purchase Orders <\$100                            | 187              |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>1,038,314</b> |

Table 2. Monthly Operating Position

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Expected YTD Annual Budget Completion | 58% |
|---------------------------------------|-----|

| Period ended 31 January 2026                                 | Notes   | YTD Actuals<br>(A)<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>(C)<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>(A - C)<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised<br>Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ | YTD Actual<br>Compared to<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>(A / E) % |
|--|---------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)<br/>(Table 1.)</b> |         | 4,701,569                | 2,661,354               | 2,040,215                     | (4,264,834)  |  |
| <b>Remove NON-CASH ITEMS</b>                                 |         |                          |                         |                               |  |  |
| Less Non-Cash Income   | 5       | (3,733,498)              | (4,011,525)             | 278,026                       | (6,686,128)  | 56%  |
| Add Back Non-Cash Expenses                                   | 6       | 6,755,380                | 6,966,852               | (211,472)                     | 11,957,566   | 56%  |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS</b>                                  |         | <b>3,021,881</b>         | <b>2,955,327</b>        | <b>66,554</b>                 | <b>5,271,438</b>   |  |
| <b>Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>                              |         |                          |                         |                               |  |  |
| Capital Expenditure  | Table 3 | (3,848,745)              | (4,708,883)             | 860,138                       | (6,215,606)  | 62%  |
| Other Outflow of Funds                                       | 7       | (1,511,000)              | -                       | (1,511,000)                   | (1,378,500)  | 110%   |
| Transfer to Reserves   | 8       | (142,500)                | -                       | (142,500)                     | (1,400,000)  | 10%  |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>                             |         | <b>(5,502,245)</b>       | <b>(4,708,883)</b>      | <b>(793,362)</b>              | <b>(8,994,106)</b>   |  |
| <b>Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>                                |         |                          |                         |                               |  |  |
| Capital Grants Income - (WaRM)                               | 9       | 148,800                  | -                       | 148,800                       | -  |  |
| Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding (Capital)              | 10      | 5,031,013                | 5,031,013               | -                             | 5,031,013  | 100%   |
| Proceeds from Sale of Assets                                 |         | 6,363                    | -                       | 6,363                         | 90,000   | 7%   |
| Other Inflow of Funds  | 11      | 143,217                  | -                       | 143,217                       | 1,378,500  | 10%  |
| Transfer from Reserve  | 12      | 1,511,000                | -                       | 1,511,000                     | 1,487,989  | 102%   |
| <b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>                              |         | <b>6,840,393</b>         | <b>5,031,013</b>        | <b>1,809,380</b>              | <b>7,987,502</b>   |  |
| <b>Net BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>            |         | <b>9,061,598</b>         | <b>5,938,812</b>        | <b>3,122,786</b>              | <b>-</b>   |  |

| Period ended 31 January 2026   | Notes | YTD Actuals<br>(A)<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>(C)<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>(A - C)<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised<br>Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ | YTD Actual<br>Compared to<br>2nd Revised<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>(A / E) % |
|--|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Non-Cash Income</u>   |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Income Allocations (internal movement)   | 5     | (3,733,498)              | (4,011,525)             | 278,026                       | (6,686,128)  | 56%   |
| <u>Non-Cash Expenses</u>   |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Expense Allocations (internal movement)  | 6     | 3,680,374                | 3,891,847               | (211,472)                     | 6,686,128  | 55%   |
| Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment  |       | 3,075,006                | 3,075,006               | -                             | 5,271,438  | 58%   |
|  |       | <b>6,755,380</b>         | <b>6,966,852</b>        | <b>(211,472)</b>              | <b>11,957,566</b>  |   |
| <u>Other Outflows</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Insurance Payment 2025-26 (OCM239/2025)  | 7     | (1,400,000)              | -                       | (1,400,000)                   | -  |   |
| Project from Capital Reserve - Rectification Work Jabiru Sewer Pond and Irrigation System (OCM0014/2026) |       | (70,000)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
| Project from Capital Reserve - Rectification Work Jabiru Town Water (OCM0014/2026)                       |       | (41,000)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
|  |       | (1,511,000)              | -                       | (1,400,000)                   | -  |   |
| <u>Transfer to Reserves</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Insurance 2026-27  | 8     | -                        | -                       | -                             | (1,400,000)  |   |
| Capital Reserve - Water meter Replacement  |       | (30,000)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
| Sponsorship Reserve  |       | (30,000)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
| Fleet Replacements   |       | (32,500)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
| General Reserve  |       | (50,000)                 | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
|  |       | (142,500)                | -                       | -                             | (1,400,000)  |   |

| Period ended 31 January 2026  | Notes | YTD Actuals<br>(A)<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>(C)<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>(A - C)<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised<br>Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ | YTD Actual<br>Compared to<br>2nd Revised<br>Approved<br>Budget<br>(A / E) % |
|---|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Capital Grants Income</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Capital Grants - Territory Government - (WaRM)  | 9     | 148,800                  | -                       | 148,800                       | -  |   |
|   |       | <b>148,800</b>           | -                       | <b>148,800</b>                | -  |   |
| <u>Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Capital Grants Income Carried Forward   | 10    | 5,031,013                | 5,031,013               | -                             | 5,031,013  | 100%  |
|   |       | <b>5,031,013</b>         | <b>5,031,013</b>        | -                             | <b>5,031,013</b>   | 100%  |
| <u>Other Inflow of Funds</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Capital Reserve - Decommission of Old Fuel Tank   |       | 7,237                    | -                       | 7,237                         | -  |   |
| Kerb and Channel Airport to Workshop Road - Warruwi   |       | 4,188                    | -                       | 4,188                         | -  |   |
| Capital Reserve - Water meter Replacement   | 11    | 30,000                   | -                       | 30,000                        | -  |   |
| Insurance claim - Fleet   |       | 101,792                  | -                       | 101,792                       | -  |   |
|   |       | <b>143,217</b>           | -                       | <b>143,217</b>                | -  |   |
| <u>Transfer from Reserve</u>  |       |                          |                         |                               |  |   |
| Insurance Payment 2025-26 (OCM239/2025)   | 12    | 1,400,000                | -                       | 1,400,000                     | -  |   |
| Project from Capital Reserve - Rectification Work Jabiru<br>Sewer Pond and Irrigation System (OCM0014/2026) |       | 70,000                   | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
| Project from Capital Reserve - Rectification Work Jabiru<br>Town Water (OCM0014/2026)                       |       | 41,000                   | -                       | -                             | -  |   |
|   |       | <b>1,511,000</b>         | -                       | <b>1,400,000</b>              | -  |   |

**Table 3. Capital Expenditure and Funding**  
**By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment**

| CAPITAL EXPENDITURE<br>Period ended 31 January 2026       | Notes | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | Commitments<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ | Approved 2nd<br>Revised Budget<br>(SCM90/2025)<br>(E)<br>\$ |
|---|-------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---|
| Infrastructure  | 12,13 | 3,067,048         | 262,099           | 3,244,372        | (177,324)          | 4,154,145   |
| Buildings   | 12,14 | 334,360           | -                 | 295,692          | 38,668             | 363,000   |
| Vehicles  | 12,15 | 304,783           | 61,992            | 436,345          | (131,561)          | 786,340   |
| Plant and Equipment                                       | 12,16 | 11,543            | 355,567           | 562,053          | (550,510)          | 741,769   |
| Local Authority Funded projects                           | 12,17 | 131,010           | -                 | 170,421          | (39,412)           | 170,351   |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>                          |       | <b>3,848,745</b>  | <b>679,658</b>    | <b>4,708,883</b> | <b>(860,138)</b>   | <b>6,215,606</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:</b>               |       |                   |                   |                  |                    |   |
| Operating Income (amount allocated to fund capital items) |       | 448,585           | 82,588            | 944,525          | (495,940)          | 1,199,021   |
| LA Funding  |       | 131,010           | -                 | 170,421          | (39,412)           | 170,351   |
| Capital Grants  |       | -                 | -                 | -                | -                  | -   |
| Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding                     |       | 3,160,996         | 597,070           | 3,593,936        | (432,941)          | 4,756,234   |
| Insurance claim - Fleet                                   |       | 101,792           | -                 | -                | 101,792            | -   |
| Proceeds from Sale of assets                              |       | 6,363             | -                 | -                | 6,363              | 90,000  |
| <b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING</b>                  |       | <b>3,848,745</b>  | <b>679,658</b>    | <b>4,708,883</b> | <b>(860,138)</b>   | <b>6,215,606</b>  |

| No | Note. 12 Commitments for Capital Expenditures             | Budget<br>Commitments<br>\$ |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1  | Two F3690 Mowers - Fleet : Region                         | 82,588                      |
| 2  | ABA - Oval Changerooms : Maningrida                       | 262,099                     |
| 3  | 4WD Buses -Sports & Recreation :Gunbalanya and Maningrida | 61,992                      |
| 4  | Replace Fuel Tank : Minjilang                             | 181,318                     |
| 5  | Remote Jobs for Economic Development – Job Creation       | 91,661                      |
|    | <b>Total</b>  | <b>679,658</b>              |

| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b><br><b>Period ended 31 January 2026</b> | <b>Notes</b> | <b>YTD Actuals</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>YTD Budget</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>YTD</b><br><b>Variance</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>Approved</b><br><b>2nd Revised</b><br><b>Budget</b><br><b>(SCM90/2025)</b><br><b>\$</b> |
|---|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <u>Infrastructure</u>   |              |                                 |                                |  |  |
| Council Contribution - New Dog park at Jabiru                     |              | -                               | -                              | -  | 30,000   |
| Install and maintain street lights : Jabiru                       |              | 27,332                          | -                              | 27,332                                     | -  |
| Operate and maintain swimming pool : Jabiru                       |              | 20,817                          | -                              | 20,817                                     | -  |
| Water Management: Jabiru  |              | 92,994                          | 115,994                        | - 23,000                                   | 115,994  |
| Sewerage Management: Jabiru                                       |              | 1,826                           | -                              | 1,826                                      | -  |
| ABA - Maningrida Oval Changerooms                                 |              | 1,155,091                       | 1,736,787                      | - 581,695                                  | 1,736,787  |
| Brockman Oval Lights - Jabiru                                     |              | 1,307,497                       | 1,283,285                      | 24,212                                     | 1,412,254  |
| Revitalisation Project - Jabiru                                   | 13           | 11,542                          | 39,369                         | - 27,827                                   | 114,620  |
| West Arnhem Cemetery Establishment - Maningrida                   |              | 263,074                         | -                              | 263,074                                    | 409,814  |
| West Arnhem Cemetery Establishment - Minjilang                    |              | 31,670                          | -                              | 31,670                                     | -  |
| CBF - Jabiru Library Revitalisation Phase 2                       |              | 36,849                          | 35,091                         | 1,758                                      | 41,947   |
| Repair and Maintenance of Maningrida Basketball Court             |              | 33,847                          | 33,847                         | -  | 42,730   |
| Jabiru Gym Upgrade  |              | 1,600                           | -                              | 1,600                                      | 50,000   |
| Installation of a New Fuel Tank at Minjilnag                      |              | -                               | -                              | -  | 200,000  |
| Repair the Maningrida Pool Eroded Footings                        |              | 38,508                          | -                              | 38,508                                     | -  |
| Regional and Remote Burials : Minjilang                           |              | 44,400                          | -                              | 44,400                                     | -  |
|   |              | <b>3,067,048</b>                | <b>3,244,372</b>               | <b>- 177,324</b>                           | <b>4,154,145</b>   |
| <u>Buildings</u>  |              |                                 |                                |  |  |
| Darwin Officer New Partition                                      |              | -                               | -                              | -  | 20,000   |
| Maintain staff houses : Gunbalanya                                |              | 127,840                         | 108,000                        | 19,840                                     | 108,000  |
| Maintain staff houses : Jabiru                                    |              | 179,120                         | 162,692                        | 16,428                                     | 200,000  |
| Manage Creche : Minjilang   | 14           | 11,050                          | -                              | 11,050                                     | -  |
| Operate Long day care : Jabiru                                    |              | -                               | 10,000                         | - 10,000                                   | 20,000   |
| Operate post office business : Jabiru                             |              | -                               | 15,000                         | - 15,000                                   | 15,000   |
| Community Service Delivery : Region                               |              | 16,350                          | -                              | 16,350                                     | -  |
|   |              | <b>334,360</b>                  | <b>295,692</b>                 | <b>38,668</b>                              | <b>363,000</b>   |

| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b><br><b>Period ended 31 January 2026</b>  | <b>Notes</b> | <b>YTD Actuals</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>YTD Budget</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>YTD Variance</b><br><b>\$</b> | <b>Approved 2nd Revised Budget (SCM90/2025)</b><br><b>\$</b> |                |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------|
| <b>Vehicles</b>  |              |                                 |                                |                                  |  |                |
| Transfer to Reserve for Future Capital Projects  |              | -                               | -                              | -                                | 50,000   |                |
| 2 x Hilux 4x4 Double Cabs : Region   | 15           | 112,612                         | 161,306                        | (48,694)                         | 242,500  |                |
| 1 x Hilux 4x4 Double Cab : Warruwi   |              | 55,984                          | 55,984                         | 0                                | 55,984   |                |
| 4WD Buses -Gunbalanya -Sports & Recreation   |              | 69,054                          | 119,054                        | (50,000)                         | 218,484  |                |
| 4WD Buses -Maningrida -Sports & Recreation   |              | 61,992                          | 100,000                        | (38,008)                         | 219,372  |                |
| Additional Parts for CD70GV  |              | 5,141                           | -                              | 5,141                            | -  |                |
|  |              | <b>304,783</b>                  | <b>436,345</b>                 | <b>(131,561)</b>                 | <b>786,340</b>   |                |
| <b>Plant and Equipment</b>   |              |                                 |                                |                                  |  |                |
| Rubbish Truck parts & Hyundai Wheel Loader Freight (Hydraulic Cylinder, Grips, Bolts and Rubber)                                     | 16           | 11,543                          | 11,543                         | -                                | 11,543   |                |
| Maintain plant, equipment & motor vehicles : Region  |              | -                               | -                              | -                                | -  |                |
| Street Sweeper & Skid Steer  |              | -                               | 310,000                        | - 310,000                        | 310,000  |                |
| Ride on Mower & Street Sweeper   |              | -                               | 60,000                         | - 60,000                         | 60,000   |                |
| Ride on Mower  |              | -                               | 50,000                         | - 50,000                         | 50,000   |                |
| Solar upgrade at landfill facilities in Gunbalanya and Maningrida. Additional projects Sewerage tank Maningrida and CC TV Gunbalanya |              | -                               | 61,101                         | - 61,101                         | 183,303  |                |
| Remaining Funds to be Refunded to the funder   |              | -                               | 40,652                         | - 40,652                         | 40,652   |                |
| Zero Turn Mower - funded by Remote Jobs for Economic Development program   |              | -                               | -                              | -                                | 28,757   |                |
| Zero Turn Mower - funded by Remote Jobs for Economic Development program   |              | -                               | -                              | -                                | 28,757   |                |
| Zero Turn Mower - funded by Remote Jobs for Economic Development program   |              | -                               | 28,757                         | - 28,757                         | 28,757   |                |
| Installation of a Fuel Tank : Minjilang  |              | -                               | -                              | -                                | -  |                |
|  |              |                                 | <b>11,543</b>                  | <b>562,053</b>                   | <b>- 550,510</b>   | <b>741,769</b> |
| <b>Local Authority Funded projects</b>   |              |                                 |                                |                                  |  |                |
| Purchase of 4x4 Hearse :Maningrida   |              | 17                              | 93,618                         | 142,350                          | (48,732)   | 142,279        |
| Solar Lights at Back Road : Gunbalanya   |              |                                 | 1,203                          | -                                | 1,203  | -              |
| Oval Lighting : Gunbalanya   | 17,583       |                                 | 17,583                         | -                                | 17,583   |                |
| Connection of Water Service - New Cemetery : Minjilang   | 18,605       |                                 | -                              | 18,605                           | -  |                |
| Installation of outdoor gym equipment at the pool : Maningrida   | -            |                                 | 10,488                         | (10,488)                         | 10,488   |                |
|  |              | <b>131,010</b>                  | <b>170,421</b>                 | <b>(39,412)</b>                  | <b>170,350</b>   |                |

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 January 2026  | YTD Actuals<br>\$  | Notes              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |                    |                    |
| Cash at Bank                         |                    | <b>A &amp; A.1</b> |
| Tied Funds                           | 6,480,478          |                    |
| Untied Funds                         | 5,369,396          |                    |
| Accounts Receivable                  |                    |                    |
| Trade Debtors                        | 685,694            | <b>B</b>           |
| Rates & Charges Debtors              | 950,666            | <b>C</b>           |
| Other Current Assets                 | 492,096            |                    |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>          | <b>13,978,330</b>  |                    |
| Non-Current Financial Assets         |                    |                    |
| Property, Plant and Equipment        | 127,144,492        | <b>D</b>           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>      | <b>127,144,492</b> |                    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                  | <b>141,122,821</b> |                    |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                    |                    |
| Trade Creditors                      | 708,061            | <b>E</b>           |
| ATO & Payroll Liabilities            | 34,862             | <b>F</b>           |
| Current Provisions                   | 2,747,673          | <b>G</b>           |
| Accrued Expenses                     | 442,994            |                    |
| Other Current Liabilities            | 927,046            |                    |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>4,860,636</b>   |                    |
| Non-Current Provisions               | 258,363            |                    |
| Other Non-Current Liabilities        | 8,190,268          | <b>H</b>           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> | <b>8,448,631</b>   |                    |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>             | <b>13,309,267</b>  |                    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                    | <b>127,813,555</b> |                    |

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 January 2026 | YTD Actuals<br>\$  | Notes |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>EQUITY</b>                       |                    |       |
| Asset Revaluation Reserve           | 59,047,626         |       |
| Capital Reserve                     | 100,425            |       |
| Election Reserve                    | 87,989             |       |
| Disaster Recovery Funding           | 100,000            |       |
| Fleet Capital Reserve               | 32,500             |       |
| Sponsorship Reserve                 | 30,000             |       |
| Equity Adjustments                  | 22,842,829         |       |
| Accumulated Surplus                 | 45,572,186         |       |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                 | <b>127,813,555</b> |       |

**BALANCE SHEET NOTES**

| Note A. Details of Cash and Investments Held | \$        | \$                |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| <u>Investments Held</u>                      |           |                   |
| Operating Bank Account                       | 141,214   |                   |
| Business One - Post Office Bank Account      | 54,439    |                   |
| Business Maxi Bank Account (Note A.1)        | 5,262,753 |                   |
| General Trust Bank Account                   | 134,955   |                   |
| Traditional Credit Union - Shares            | -         |                   |
| Term Deposits (Note A.1)                     | 6,255,000 | <b>11,848,361</b> |
| <u>Cash Held</u>                             |           |                   |
| Floats                                       | 1,513     | <b>1,513</b>      |
| <b>Total Cash and Investments Held</b>       |           | <b>11,849,874</b> |
| <b>Less: Restricted Cash</b>                 |           | <b>6,480,478</b>  |
| <b>Balance Unrestricted Cash</b>             |           | <b>5,369,396</b>  |

| Note A.1 Higher Interest Earning Investments     | Deposit Date | Principal \$      | Interest Rate | Maturity Date | Terms |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Westpac  | 21/03/2024   | 5,000             | 3.85%         |               |       |
| NAB  | 11/11/2025   | 300,000           | 4.20%         | 9/07/2026     | 240   |
| NAB  | 28/10/2025   | 450,000           | 4.13%         | 28/10/2026    | 365   |
| NAB  | 14/01/2026   | 500,000           | 4.35%         | 16/06/2026    | 153   |
| NAB  | 30/12/2025   | 500,000           | 4.20%         | 29/04/2026    | 120   |
| NAB  | 19/12/2025   | 500,000           | 4.25%         | 18/05/2026    | 150   |
| NAB  | 19/12/2025   | 500,000           | 4.20%         | 20/04/2026    | 122   |
| NAB  | 9/12/2025    | 500,000           | 4.20%         | 8/05/2026     | 150   |
| NAB  | 13/11/2025   | 1,000,000         | 4.10%         | 11/02/2026    | 90    |
| NAB  | 12/11/2025   | 1,000,000         | 4.15%         | 13/04/2026    | 152   |
| NAB  | 12/11/2025   | 1,000,000         | 4.20%         | 10/07/2026    | 240   |
| Business Maxi Bank Account                       |              | 5,262,753         | 1.55%         |               |       |
| <b>Total Higher Interest Earning Investments</b> |              | <b>11,517,753</b> |               |               |       |

| Note B. Trade Debtors      | Current        | Past Due<br>31 - 60 Days | Past Due<br>61 - 90 Days | Past Due<br>90+ Days | Total<br>\$    |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| NDIS Debtors               | -              | 5,898                    | 1,054                    | 8,509                | <b>15,461</b>  |
| ChildCare Debtors          | 46             | 7,846                    | 3,941                    | 29,617               | <b>41,450</b>  |
| Trade Debtors              | 156,373        | 406,790                  | 4,215                    | 61,405               | <b>628,783</b> |
| <b>Total Trade Debtors</b> | <b>156,419</b> | <b>420,535</b>           | <b>9,209</b>             | <b>99,531</b>        | <b>685,694</b> |

| Note C. Rates & Charges Debtors          | To be Levied in 2025/26 | Current        | Past Due 31 - 60 Days | Past Due 61 - 90 Days | Past Due 90+ Days | Total \$       |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| General Rates                            | 2,705,202               | 193,036        |                       |                       | 24,308            | 217,344        |
| Special Rates                            | 277,344                 | 4,082          |                       |                       | 292               | 4,374          |
| Water Charges                            | 1,074,999               | 288,044        |                       |                       | 260,007           | 548,052        |
| Waste Charges                            | 2,275,347               | 168,643        |                       |                       | 12,254            | 180,897        |
| <b>Total Rates &amp; Charges Debtors</b> | <b>6,332,891</b>        | <b>653,805</b> | -                     | -                     | <b>296,861</b>    | <b>950,666</b> |

Refer sub Note C.1

| Note C.1 Rates & Charges Debtors -Past 90+ Days | Dec-25            | Jan-26            | Difference      |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|   | Past Due 90+ Days | Past Due 90+ Days |                 |
| General Rates                                   | 24,308            | 24,308            | -               |
| Special Rates                                   | 292               | 292               | -               |
| Water Charges                                   | 350,596           | 260,007           | (90,589)        |
| Waste Charges                                   | 12,254            | 12,254            | -               |
| <b>Total Rates &amp; Charges Debtors</b>        | <b>387,450</b>    | <b>296,861</b>    | <b>(90,589)</b> |

|  | 1 July 2025<br>Assets & WIP | YTD WIP          | YTD New<br>Assets &<br>Capitalising<br>WIP | YTD<br>Disposals | Accumulated<br>Depreciation | YTD WDV<br>Balance | Notes |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Note D. New Physical Assets (including WIP) YTD</b> |                             |                  |  |                  |                             |                    |       |
| Land   | 520,000                     | -                | -  | -                | -                           | 520,000            |       |
| Section 19 Leases                                      | 5,310,030                   | -                | -  | -                | (1,116,712)                 | 4,193,318          |       |
| Jabiru Town Sub Leases                                 | 3,837,875                   | -                | -  | -                | (555,528)                   | 3,282,347          |       |
| Buildings  | 31,999,050                  | -                | -  | -                | (16,452,737)                | 15,546,313         |       |
| WIP - Buildings  | 154,404                     | 334,360          | -  | -                | -                           | 488,764            | D1    |
| Infrastructure   | 109,350,475                 | -                | -  | -                | (16,955,724)                | 92,394,751         |       |
| WIP - Infrastructure                                   | 4,467,247                   | 3,104,440        | -  | -                | -                           | 7,571,687          | D2    |
| Vehicles   | 2,773,191                   | -                | -  | -                | (2,457,159)                 | 316,032            |       |
| WIP - Vehicles   | 66,729                      | 398,401          | -  | -                | -                           | 465,131            | D3    |
| Furniture and Fittings                                 | 927,205                     | -                | -  | -                | (763,295)                   | 163,910            |       |
| WIP - Furniture  | 64,512                      | -                | -  | -                | -                           | 64,512             |       |
| Plant and Machinery                                    | 9,171,647                   | -                | -  | -                | (7,045,464)                 | 2,126,183          |       |
| WIP - Plant and Machinery                              | -                           | 11,543           | -  | -                | -                           | 11,543             | D4    |
| <b>Total Non- Current Assets</b>                       | <b>168,642,366</b>          | <b>3,848,745</b> | -  | -                | <b>(45,346,618)</b>         | <b>127,144,492</b> |       |

| <b>Work-In-Progress (WIP - items not yet recorded in the Asset Register) Note:</b>  |
|---|
| <b>D1</b> - Expenditure not yet capitalised - Includes Concrete paving works & chain mesh fence Rec Hall Warruwi 48k; Jabiru Housing upgrade \$179k; Gunbalanya Staff Housing upgrade \$92k                                   |
| <b>D2</b> - Expenditure not yet capitalised - Includes Maningrida toilet extension \$1.06M; Gunbalanya Oval Lights \$1.15M; Upgrade basketball area \$33k; Minjilang Cemetery establishment \$132k                            |
| <b>D3</b> - Expenditure not yet capitalised - Includes Hilux 4x4 \$101k; Toyota Hiace Bus \$67k; carryout 4wd to maningrida \$82k; Replacement Hilux 4x4 for Warruwi \$54k; \$WD Conversion to the Hiace Bus-Maningrida \$62k |
| <b>D4</b> - Expenditure not yet capitalised - MAN Rubish Truck parts \$8.3k   |

| Note E. Trade Creditors                         | Current | Past Due<br>31 - 60 Days | Past Due<br>61 - 90 Days | Past Due<br>90+ Days | Total<br>\$               |
|---|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Trade Creditors                                 | 575,024 | 46,891                   | 19,318                   | 66,827               | 708,061                   |
| <b>Sub Note E.1-Under Retention \$34,503.60</b> |         |                          |                          |                      | <i>Refer sub Note E.1</i> |

| <b>Note F. Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations</b>                         |
|--|
| <i>As at the date of this report, all reporting and payment obligations have been met.</i> |

| <b>Note G. Provisions (Current and Non-Current)</b> | \$        | \$               |
|---|-----------|------------------|
| <u>Current Provisions</u>                           |           |                  |
| Employee Annual Leave                               | 1,159,165 |                  |
| Long Service Leave                                  | 813,976   |                  |
| Doubtful Debts                                      | 10,807    |                  |
| Provision - other                                   |           |                  |
| Insurance for 2026-27                               | 723,724   |                  |
| Replacement of Council's aged IT equipment          | 40,000    |                  |
|   |           | <b>2,747,673</b> |
| <u>Non-Current Provisions</u>                       |           |                  |
| Long Service Leave                                  | 258,363   |                  |
|   |           | <b>258,363</b>   |
| <b>Total Provisions</b>                             |           | <b>3,006,036</b> |

| <b>Note H. Other Non Current Liabilities</b> | \$        | \$               |
|--|-----------|------------------|
|  |           |                  |
| Section 19 Lease Liability                   | 4,658,222 |                  |
| Jabiru Town Sub Lease Liability              | 3,532,046 |                  |
|  |           |                  |
| <b>Total Other Non Current Liabilities</b>   |           | <b>8,190,268</b> |

## Monthly Financial Report for Local Authority Areas

## Operating Income and Expenditure for Local Authorities for the Period Ending 31 January 2026

Report 2

|   | Regional Office / Unallocated |                   |                    | Minijilang LA     |                  |                    | Warrwi LA         |                  |                    | Gunbalanya LA     |                  |                    |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|   | YTD Actuals<br>\$             | YTD Budget<br>\$  | YTD Variance<br>\$ | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ |
| <b>OPERATING INCOME</b>                   |                               |                   |                    |                   |                  |                    |                   |                  |                    |                   |                  |                    |
| Rates                                     | -                             | -                 | -                  | 80,189            | 73,292           | 6,897              | 104,348           | 118,237          | (13,889)           | 440,186           | 443,330          | (3,144)            |
| Charges                                   | -                             | -                 | -                  | 66,665            | 67,857           | (1,192)            | 104,932           | 106,664          | (1,732)            | 361,731           | 390,622          | (28,891)           |
| Fees and Charges                          | 96,305                        | 106,812           | (10,507)           | 12,508            | 7,416            | 5,092              | 17,361            | 18,046           | (684)              | 3,977             | 8,250            | (4,273)            |
| Operating Grants and Subsidies            | 8,964,225                     | 8,707,850         | 256,375            | 716,083           | 729,408          | (13,325)           | 710,055           | 820,976          | (110,921)          | 403,176           | 1,160,954        | (757,778)          |
| Interest / Investment Income              | 123,473                       | 96,520            | 26,954             | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| Commercial and Other Income               | 3,665,126                     | 4,065,699         | (400,573)          | 576,040           | 572,292          | 3,748              | 496,197           | 476,491          | 19,706             | 1,083,691         | 1,027,270        | 56,420             |
| Untied Revenue Allocation                 | -                             | -                 | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>             | <b>12,849,130</b>             | <b>12,976,881</b> | <b>(127,751)</b>   | <b>1,451,485</b>  | <b>1,450,265</b> | <b>1,220</b>       | <b>1,432,893</b>  | <b>1,540,414</b> | <b>(107,520)</b>   | <b>2,292,761</b>  | <b>3,030,427</b> | <b>(737,666)</b>   |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>              |                               |                   |                    |                   |                  |                    |                   |                  |                    |                   |                  |                    |
| Employee Expenses                         | 3,772,978                     | 4,204,201         | (431,223)          | 802,259           | 819,331          | (17,071)           | 876,771           | 939,689          | (62,918)           | 1,123,679         | 1,194,030        | (70,351)           |
| Materials and Contracts                   | 369,417                       | 1,007,597         | (638,180)          | 188,679           | 249,751          | (61,072)           | 138,055           | 293,507          | (155,452)          | 599,532           | 709,664          | (110,132)          |
| Elected Member Allowances                 | 201,849                       | 238,085           | (36,236)           | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| Elected Member Expenses                   | 112,574                       | 163,708           | (51,135)           | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| Council Committee & LA Allowances         | 1,678                         | 3,452             | (1,774)            | 700               | 5,020            | (4,320)            | 1,650             | 5,425            | (3,775)            | 1,950             | 8,425            | (6,475)            |
| Council Committee & LA Expenses           | -                             | -                 | -                  | 1,440             | 3,453            | (2,012)            | 1,536             | 1,800            | (263)              | 411               | 2,205            | (1,795)            |
| Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment | 3,075,006                     | 3,075,006         | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| Interest Expenses                         | -                             | -                 | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  | -                 | -                | -                  |
| Other Expenses                            | 2,276,375                     | 3,914,197         | (1,637,823)        | 481,608           | 507,189          | (25,581)           | 341,078           | 458,131          | (117,053)          | 531,279           | 552,886          | (21,608)           |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>        | <b>9,809,876</b>              | <b>12,606,245</b> | <b>(2,796,370)</b> | <b>1,474,687</b>  | <b>1,584,743</b> | <b>(110,056)</b>   | <b>1,359,091</b>  | <b>1,698,552</b> | <b>(339,461)</b>   | <b>2,256,850</b>  | <b>2,467,210</b> | <b>(210,360)</b>   |
| <b>OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>      | <b>3,039,254</b>              | <b>370,635</b>    | <b>2,668,619</b>   | <b>(23,202)</b>   | <b>(134,479)</b> | <b>111,277</b>     | <b>73,802</b>     | <b>(158,139)</b> | <b>231,941</b>     | <b>35,910</b>     | <b>563,216</b>   | <b>(527,306)</b>   |

|   | Maningrida LA     |                  |                    | Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee |                  |                    | Total             |                   |                    |
|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|   | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ | YTD Actuals<br>\$              | YTD Budget<br>\$ | YTD Variance<br>\$ | YTD Actuals<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$  | YTD Variance<br>\$ |
| <b>OPERATING INCOME</b>                   |                   |                  |                    |                                |                  |                    |                   |                   |                    |
| Rates                                     | 700,322           | 745,413          | (45,091)           | 1,432,521                      | 1,597,700        | (165,179)          | 2,757,567         | 2,977,972         | (220,405)          |
| Charges                                   | 686,484           | 735,252          | (48,768)           | 1,686,982                      | 1,855,838        | (168,856)          | 2,906,794         | 3,156,233         | (249,439)          |
| Fees and Charges                          | 50,436            | 37,391           | 13,045             | 214,150                        | 241,895          | (27,745)           | 394,737           | 419,809           | (25,072)           |
| Operating Grants and Subsidies            | 503,687           | 1,294,677        | (790,990)          | 411,104                        | 393,284          | 17,821             | 11,708,330        | 13,107,149        | (1,398,819)        |
| Interest / Investment Income              | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | 123,473           | 96,520            | 26,954             |
| Commercial and Other Income               | 1,057,824         | 966,323          | 91,501             | 737,620                        | 1,123,826        | (386,205)          | 7,616,497         | 8,231,901         | (615,403)          |
| Untied Revenue Allocation                 | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | -                 | -                 | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>             | <b>2,998,752</b>  | <b>3,779,055</b> | <b>(780,304)</b>   | <b>4,482,378</b>               | <b>5,212,542</b> | <b>(730,165)</b>   | <b>25,507,398</b> | <b>27,989,584</b> | <b>(2,482,185)</b> |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>              |                   |                  |                    |                                |                  |                    |                   |                   |                    |
| Employee Expenses                         | 1,141,299         | 1,275,494        | (134,195)          | 1,882,501                      | 2,086,329        | (203,827)          | 9,599,488         | 10,519,073        | (919,585)          |
| Materials and Contracts                   | 477,962           | 700,243          | (222,281)          | 759,654                        | 1,106,472        | (346,818)          | 2,533,300         | 4,067,234         | (1,533,934)        |
| Elected Member Allowances                 | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | 201,849           | 238,085           | (36,236)           |
| Elected Member Expenses                   | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | 112,574           | 163,708           | (51,135)           |
| Council Committee & LA Allowances         | 2,350             | 4,175            | (1,825)            | -                              | -                | -                  | 8,328             | 26,497            | (18,169)           |
| Council Committee & LA Expenses           | 3,023             | 5,478            | (2,455)            | 1,590                          | 4,788            | (3,198)            | 8,000             | 17,723            | (9,723)            |
| Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | 3,075,006         | 3,075,006         | -                  |
| Interest Expenses                         | -                 | -                | -                  | -                              | -                | -                  | -                 | -                 | -                  |
| Other Expenses                            | 964,958           | 920,601          | 44,357             | 671,989                        | 867,898          | (195,910)          | 5,267,287         | 7,220,904         | (1,953,617)        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>        | <b>2,589,592</b>  | <b>2,905,991</b> | <b>(316,399)</b>   | <b>3,315,734</b>               | <b>4,065,487</b> | <b>(749,753)</b>   | <b>20,805,830</b> | <b>25,328,229</b> | <b>(4,522,400)</b> |
| <b>OPERATING SURPLUS /(DEFICIT)</b>       | <b>409,160</b>    | <b>873,065</b>   | <b>(463,904)</b>   | <b>1,166,643</b>               | <b>1,147,055</b> | <b>19,588</b>      | <b>4,701,569</b>  | <b>2,661,354</b>  | <b>2,040,215</b>   |

# Snapshot – January 2026 Financial Report



**Total Inflow of Funds**  
 (Operational Income \$25.5M, Capital Funding \$5.18M, TRF from Reserve \$1.51M, Other inflows 0.15M)  
 (Year to Date)

**\$32.34** ↑

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$33.67  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$30.45

Million

**Total Operating Result**  
 (Surplus / Deficit)  
 (Year to Date)

**\$4.70** ↓

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$4.58  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$6.14

Million

**Working Capital Ratio**

**2.20** ↑

Month Comparison: Jan 25 2.31  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 2.08

**Total Cash at Bank**

**\$11.85** ↓

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$10.36  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$12.35

Million

**Restricted Cash (Tied)**

**\$6.48** ↑

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$6.93  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$6.16

Million

**Cash Flows**  
 (Movement in January 2026)

**-\$0.50**

Month Comparison: Jan 25 -\$1.10  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 -\$0.29

Million

**Unrestricted Cash (Untied)**

**\$5.37** ↓

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$3.43  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$6.19

Million

**New Physical Assets, including WIP**  
 (Year to Date)

**\$3.85**

Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$1.50  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$3.61

Million

**Total Assets**  
 Property, Plant, and Equipment

**\$127.14**

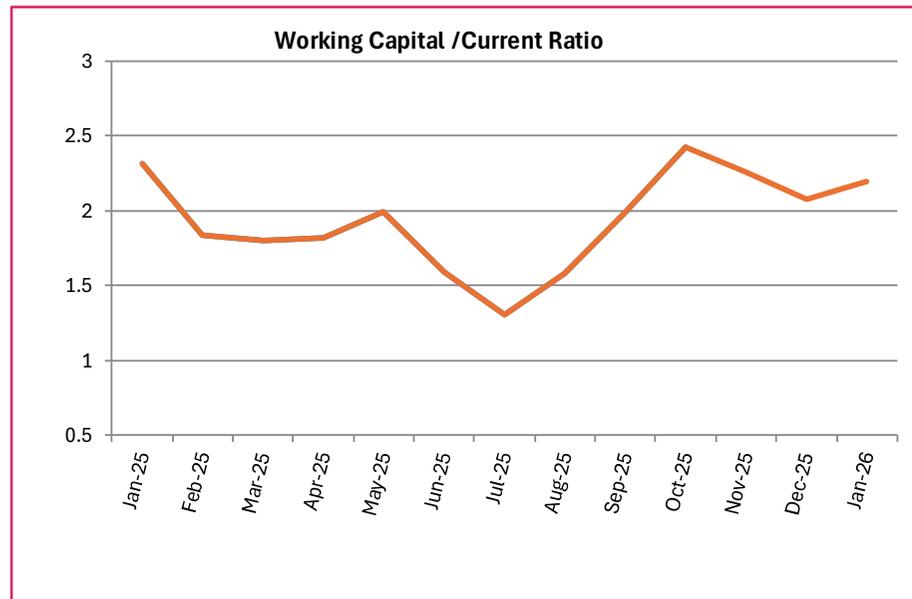
Month Comparison: Jan 25 \$80.46  
 Month Comparison: Dec 25 \$127.65  
 (Includes Revaluation of \$59.7)

Million

## Working Capital Ratio from January 2025 to January 2026



| Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25 | May-25 | Jun-25 | Jul-25 | Aug-25 | Sep-25 | Oct-25 | Nov-25 | Dec-25 | Jan-26 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2.31   | 1.84   | 1.80   | 1.82   | 1.99   | 1.59   | 1.31   | 1.58   | 1.99   | 2.42   | 2.26   | 2.08   | 2.20   |



## Acquittal of Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26: West Arnhem Regional Council

**Purpose of grant:** Remote Burial Areas Grant for Maningrida and Warruwi projects

**Grant application number:** RRBA2300012

Purchases were in accordance with the Northern Territory [Buy Local Plan](#):

Yes  No

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACQUITTAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING** click or tap to enter a date.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Regional and remote burial areas grant  | \$43,000        |
| Other income  | -               |
| <b>Total income</b>   | <b>\$43,000</b> |
| <b>Total expenditure (please attach copies of evidence of all expenditure associated with the RRBA grant)</b> | <b>\$43,000</b> |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>   |

The project been completed as approved by the Minister:  Yes  No (If no, please attach a separate document explaining why)

We certify, in accordance with all the conditions under which this grant was accepted, that the expenditure shown in this acquittal has been actually incurred and reports required to be submitted are in accordance with the stated purpose of this grant.

Acquittal prepared by: CHALANA HANSANI

13/02/2026

\* Laid before the Council at a meeting held on 24/02/2026

\* Copy of minutes attached  Yes  No

CEO or CFO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

File number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant amount correct:  Yes  No

Expenditure conforms to approved purpose:  Yes  No

Procurement - bought from Northern Territory enterprise:  Yes  No

\* Minutes checked:  Yes  No

Balance of funds to be acquitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date next acquittal due: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### ACQUITTAL ACCEPTED:

Acquittal checked by: \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

### Comments

MANAGER GRANTS PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_ /\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

\* For local government councils, all acquittals must be laid before a council meeting for formal ratification and a copy of the minutes must be provided with the acquittal.

## Acquittal of Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26: West Arnhem Regional Council

Purpose of grant: Remote Burial Areas Grant for Minjilang

Grant application number: RRBA2300001

Purchases were in accordance with the Northern Territory [Buy Local Plan](#):  Yes  No

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACQUITTAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING click or tap to enter a date.

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Regional and remote burial areas grant  | \$50,000        |
| Other income  | \$0             |
| <b>Total income</b>   | <b>\$50,000</b> |
| <b>Total expenditure (please attach copies of evidence of all expenditure associated with the RRBA grant)</b> | <b>\$46,249</b> |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>  | <b>\$3,751</b>  |

The project been completed as approved by the Minister:  Yes  No (If no, please attach a separate document explaining why)

We certify, in accordance with all the conditions under which this grant was accepted, that the expenditure shown in this acquittal has been actually incurred and reports required to be submitted are in accordance with the stated purpose of this grant.

Acquittal prepared by: CHALANA HANSANI

16/02/2026

\* Laid before the Council at a meeting held on 24/02/2026

\* Copy of minutes attached  Yes  No

CEO or CFO: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

File number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant amount correct:  Yes  No

Expenditure conforms to approved purpose:  Yes  No

Procurement - bought from Northern Territory enterprise:  Yes  No

\* Minutes checked:  Yes  No

Balance of funds to be acquitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date next acquittal due: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

#### ACQUITTAL ACCEPTED:

Acquittal checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Comments

MANAGER GRANTS PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

\* For local government councils, all acquittals must be laid before a council meeting for formal ratification and a copy of the minutes must be provided with the acquittal.



# West Arnhem Regional Council

## 2024-25 Community Places for People Grant Program

Council/Organisation Name: West Arnhem Regional Council

Grant Program Year 2025-26

Grant Application Number: CPP2300010

Purpose of Grant: Warrauwi community hall

Purchases were in accordance with the Northern Territory Buy Local Plan:  Yes  No

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACQUITTAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Grant Income  | \$104,726.00 (EX. GST) |
| Other income  | -                      |
| Total income  | \$104,726.00 (EX. GST) |
| Total Expenditure (Specify accounts and attach copies of ledger entries)<br>An 'administration fee' is not to be apportioned to the grant for acquittal purposes. | \$104,699.00 (EX. GST) |
| Surplus/(Deficit)   | \$27.00 (EX. GST)      |

IS THE PROJECT COMPLETED AS APPROVED BY THE MINISTER:  Yes  No (If no, please explain why)

We certify, in accordance with all the conditions under which this grant was accepted, that the expenditure shown in this acquittal has been actually incurred and reports required to be submitted are in accordance with the stated purpose of this grant.

Acquittal prepared by: CHALANA HANSANI 16/02/2026

Laid before the Council at a meeting held on 24/02/2026 Copy of minutes attached.

CEO or CFO: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

File Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant amount correct:  Yes  No

Expenditure conforms to approved purpose:  Yes  No

Procurement – Bought from Territory Enterprise:  Yes  No

Minutes checked:  Yes  No

Balance of funds to be acquitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date next acquittal due: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

ACQUITTAL ACCEPTED:  Yes  No

Acquittal checked by: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

MANAGER GRANTS PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.7</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED)</b>                   |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Rick Mitchell, Acting Director Council and Community Services</b> |

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Remote Jobs Economic Development (RJED) program.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED)*.

#### BACKGROUND

| Date                                    | Action  |
|---|---|
| 31/01/2025                              | Application Round 1 submitted                                       |
| 28/03/2025                              | Application Round 1 notification of approval                        |
| 1/8/2025 – amendments requested by WARC | Grant Agreement Received for WARC signing                           |
| 3/9/2025                                | Second Grant Agreement Received for WARC signing                    |
| 30/9/2025                               | Grant Agreement Return to funder WARC signed                        |
| 1/10/2025                               | Grant Agreement returned to WARC fully executed                     |
| 23/10/2026                              | Commenced internal discussions on implementation                    |
| 10/11/2025 to 19/01/2026                | Review of Position Descriptions. Workplace consultation undertaken. |
| 20/01/2026                              | CEO Approval of Position Descriptions                               |
| 06/02/2026                              | All twelve (12) RJED positions advertised in relevant communities   |
| 19/02/2026                              | Session 1 to commence for Round 3 of RJED applications              |

The Remote Jobs Economic Development (RJED) program is now fully underway within Council. A total of twelve (12) positions across three (3) communities have been identified, and all recruitment

requests have been submitted to West Arnhem Regional Council's recruitment team for processing. These positions are scheduled to be advertised in the week ending Friday, 13 February 2026.

Positions included are:

| Position Title        | Employment type           | Hours of work                     | Work Location                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Waste Assistant       | Fixed Term - 30 June 2028 | 38 hours per week<br>= 1 FTE      | Jabiru = 1<br>Gunbalanya =1<br>Maningrida = 1 |
| Pool Assistant        | Fixed Term - 30 June 2028 | Part time = 20 hours<br>=0.52 FTE | Jabiru = 2<br>Maningrida=2                    |
| Precinct Assistant    | Fixed Term - 30 June 2028 | Part time = 20 hours<br>=0.52 FTE | Jabiru = 1<br>Gunbalanya =1<br>Maningrida = 1 |
| Bereavement Assistant | Fixed Term - 30 June 2028 | Part time = 20 hours<br>=0.52 FTE | Maningrida = 2                                |

## STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Human Resource Management Policy

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council are responsible for managing its resources.

## STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

### PILLAR 1 PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS AND BELONGING

Investing in relationships and partnerships at all levels supports and strengthens community and belonging. We prioritise the value of partnerships and relationships as a key determinant of a happy, strong and thriving community.

#### Goal 1.2 Economic Partnerships

Secure increased income opportunities (grants and commercial) that create employment and/or improve community life.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.8</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>LGANT - Guideline 1 Review - Local Authorities</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>      |

#### SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information from the Local Government Association of the NT regarding the review of Guideline 1 – Local Authorities.

#### RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Guideline 1 Review - Local Authorities*.

#### BACKGROUND

Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) are seeking feedback on the review of Guideline 1 – Local Authorities.

The document is attached with the feedback from LGANT. Councils are invited to provide further comment or respond to LGANT's submission.

#### COMMENT

LGANT requires feedback by 24 February 2026.

#### STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act NT 2019  
Guideline 1 – Local Authorities

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

#### STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

##### PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

##### Goal 6.3 Council and Local Authorities

Excellence in governance, consultation administration and representation.

#### ATTACHMENTS

1. DRAFT Guideline 1 - Local Authorities - 06012026 MW [8.8.1 - 6 pages]

## ***Guideline 1: Local Authorities***

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### **Contents**

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
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| 3  | Definitions .....   | 2 |
| 4  | Establishing and maintaining local authorities .....            | 2 |
| 5  | Local authority members .....                                   | 2 |
| 6  | Policy for appointments and resignations .....                  | 3 |
| 7  | Minimum number of meetings .....                                | 3 |
| 8  | Proxy membership .....  | 3 |
| 9  | Local authority payments .....                                  | 4 |
| 10 | Local authority meetings .....                                  | 4 |
| 11 | Provisional meetings .....                                      | 4 |
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|    | Schedule .....  | 6 |

### ***Guideline 1: Local Authorities***

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#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDELINE NO. 1**

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*Local Government Act 2019*

#### **Making of Guideline**

I, Steven Mark Edgington, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development, under section 342 of the *Local Government Act 2019*, hereby make this Guideline for the purposes of the Act.

.....  
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community  
Development  
/ / 2026

## **Guideline 1: Local Authorities**

---

### **1 Title**

- 1.1 This Guideline is titled *Guideline 1: Local Authorities*.

### **2 Commencement**

- 2.1 This Guideline commences on the day after it is made by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Community Development. All previous versions of this Guideline are revoked.

### **3 Definitions**

For the purposes of this Guideline:

**Act** means the *Local Government Act 2019*.

**council** means a council for a region.

**member** means a local authority member.

**prospective member** is a member nominated by the local authority and awaiting ratification by council.

**provisional decision** means a decision, by majority vote, made by the members at a provisional meeting (see clause 11.5).

**provisional meeting** means, at the time and place set for a local authority meeting when a quorum has not been established, at least one third of members are present and agree to hold a meeting (see clause 11.1).

**Remuneration Tribunal** means the Tribunal as defined in Part 2 of the *Assembly Members and Statutory Officers (Remuneration and Other Entitlements) Act 2006*

### **4 Establishing and maintaining local authorities**

- 4.1 A council must establish and maintain the local authorities for the council listed in the Schedule to this Guideline.
- 4.2 A council must determine the boundary for each of its local authorities.
- 4.3 While local authority boundaries are defined it is acknowledged some initiatives that deliver community outcomes may cross boundaries.

### **5 Local authority members**

- 5.1 A council must resolve the members' name and number of members for each local authority at an ordinary council meeting.
- 5.2 There must be at least 6 members and a maximum of 14 members for each local authority, unless the Minister approves a different maximum number of members for a particular local authority.
- 5.3 Different local authorities of a council may have different membership numbers.
- 5.4 A local authority may recommend for consideration by the council, different categories of membership or representation at meetings (such as associate membership, stakeholder representation, honorary membership, observers; or specific representation from certain groups such as Traditional Owners, clans, young people, women).
- In resolving the membership, minimum and maximum number of membership for a particular local authority, council will consider recommendations from the local authority on its composition, membership and the number of members for that local authority.
- 5.5 A council must keep a register, accessible on the council's website and at the council's public office, of the following information in relation to each member of a

## Guideline 1: Local Authorities

local authority:

- (a) the member's name;
- (b) the date of appointment;
- (c) the local authority the member represents;
- (d) whether the member is a council elected member or otherwise a community member;
- (e) the date of the cessation of the member's membership (if applicable).

(e) 5.6 A council must also collect the following information in relation to each member of a local authority: age, gender, and if they identify as Aboriginal or not.

### 6 Policy for appointments and resignations

6.1 A council must have a policy for its local authorities that provides for the following:

- (a) calling for nominations as soon as practicable after a vacancy arises;
- (b) how the call for nominations is to be advertised and promoted so that residents of the local authority area know about it, know who to give a nomination to and when nominations close;
- (c) consideration of the nominations received, which must be an item of business at the first ordinary meeting of the council after nominations close;
- (d) the selection process for local authority members;
- (e) how it takes into account the recommendations of the local authority;
- (f) the selection process and the term of appointment of the chairperson; including the option of a rotating chairperson;
- (g) the process for the resignation of a member in writing;
- (h) how, and in what circumstances, appointment of a member may be revoked or otherwise cease (such as non-attendance).

6.2 The local authority may resolve to endorse prospective membership for any vacancies at an ordinary meeting or a provisional meeting. Prospective membership will count for the purposes of quorum.

### 7 Minimum number of meetings

7.1 The CEO must ensure that at least 4 meetings for each local authority are held in a financial year, unless the local authority resolves to meet less than 4 times a year and the lesser number of meetings has been approved by council resolution. council.

7.2 Provisional meetings may be counted to satisfy the minimum number of meetings.

### 8 Proxy membership

8.1 A local authority may recommend to the council that proxies are allowed.

8.2 Where a local authority and the council agree to proxy membership, a proxy can only substitute for each local authority member a maximum of 2 meetings in a financial year.

8.3 Appointment of a proxy for a meeting should be notified to council at least 2 days before the local authority meeting. The CEO will provide a briefing to the proxy member, including:

- minutes from the previous meeting;
- current agenda items for discussion;
- an outline of the role and expectations of a local authority member.

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Commented [MW2]: Advertising implies payment so suggest removing and leave promoted

Commented [SG3]: Does the council have to resolve that this is permitted? It might vary between local authorities within the same local government area.

Commented [SG4]: Must it be the same proxy attending both meetings? Or can a different proxy be nominated?

Commented [SG5]: Would the location of the meeting and proximity to the council be a factor to consider? Are meetings held outside of the council area?

## Guideline 1: Local Authorities

### 9 Local authority payments

- 9.1 Council **elected** members are not eligible for a local authority payment in relation to attending local authority meetings or provisional meetings but may be entitled to claim extra meeting allowance.
- 9.2 Eligible members, including proxy and prospective members, are entitled to the respective local authority payment as determined by the Remuneration Tribunal if they comply with the requirements of this guideline and are present for at least 75 per cent of the scheduled meeting time for which the meeting payment is claimed.
- 9.3 To access the Remuneration Tribunal's Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Government Authorities, visit [cmc.nt.gov.au](http://cmc.nt.gov.au).

### 10 Local authority meetings

- 10.1 The agenda for local authority meetings must be prepared in consultation with the chairperson of the local authority and include the following:
- any declarations of conflicts of interest by members;
  - previous minutes;
  - items requested by members;
  - a report from the CEO (or delegate) on all local authority matters before council; including a progress and financial report on local authority projects and a report on current council services and projects in the local authority area;
  - visitor presentations;
  - general business and community questions.
- 10.2 Once in each financial year, a local authority agenda must include a review of:
- the council's annual report for the previous financial year;
  - the council's proposed regional plan for the next financial year;
  - the council's budget for proposed projects for the local authority area for the next financial year;
  - community plans of the council or local authority where they exist.
- 10.3 The minutes of a local authority meeting must record decisions taken.

#### Notes for clause 10

- Section 97(3) of the Act requires that notice convening a local authority meeting, which includes the agenda, must be publicly available on the council's website.
- Section 102(2) of the Act requires that a copy of local authority minutes must be publicly available on the council's website and at the council's public office within 10 business days after the date of the meeting.

### 11 Provisional meetings

- 11.1 If there is no quorum for a local authority meeting, but one third of total members are present, the members who are present may hold a **provisional meeting**.
- Example for clause 11.1*
- If there are 9 total members of a local authority and 6 members are unable to attend, the 3 members who are present may agree to hold a provisional meeting.*
- 11.2 A provisional meeting does not have the powers or functions that the council may have delegated to the local authority.
- 11.3 During a provisional meeting, all agenda items may be discussed. Minutes must be taken, and the minutes must clearly state that it was a provisional meeting.

Commented [SG6]: Are there any other reports/plans that is required? Are all these reports listed required?

## **Guideline 1: Local Authorities**

- 11.4 Members at a provisional meeting can confirm the minutes of a previous provisional meeting. However, members at a provisional meeting cannot confirm the minutes of a previous local authority meeting.
- 11.5 Members at a provisional meeting may, by majority vote, make recommendations to the council, provided any such recommendations are qualified as being a decision of the members at a provisional meeting (**provisional decision**).
- 11.6 The minutes of a provisional meeting must identify decisions taken as provisional decision.
- 11.7 A copy of the minutes from provisional meetings must, within 10 business days after the date of the meeting, be available to the public on the council's website and at the council's public office.
- 11.8 A local authority meeting can confirm the minutes of a provisional meeting.
- 11.9 A local authority can ratify a provisional decision at a subsequent local authority meeting, and if it chooses to do so, it becomes a decision of the local authority.

### **12 Consideration of draft local authority minutes by council**

- 12.1 Draft minutes and items for attention from local authority meetings, including provisional meetings, must be tabled at the next ordinary meeting of the council and included in the agenda.

*Note for clause 12.1*

*Sections 101(4) and 101(5) of the Act have an equivalent requirement for local authority meetings.*

- 12.2 The council's response to the draft minutes from local authority meetings must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the council.

*Note for clause 12.2*

*Section 101(5) of the Act has an equivalent requirement for local authority meetings.*

### **13 Reporting**

- 13.1 For each local authority meeting (or provisional meeting, if applicable), the council must submit to the local authority a current financial report of actual results against the latest approved budget for the local authority area.

- ~~13.1~~ 13.2 The council must decide on and report back to the local authority on its response to the meeting minutes and items raised for attention.

*Note for clause 13.1*

*Section 40 of the Act provides that a council may delegate its powers and functions to a local authority, except where a council resolution is required under the Act.*

- 13.3 It is best practice for a council to reference local authority decision numbers or provisional decision numbers (as the case requires) in the council's regional plan and annual report in relation to local authority priorities, projects and activities.

*Note for clause 13.3*

*Refer to sections 34(1)(c) and 291(1)(b)(ii) of the Act for relevant legislative requirements.*

Commented [SG7]: 13.1 & 13.3 was included in the changes approved in March 2025.

13.1 is referred to in Guideline 5 - Budgets so I have included this back in.

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## **Guideline 1: Local Authorities**

### **Schedule**

Local authorities to be established and maintained by councils:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Barkly Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ali Curung</li> <li>2. Alupurrurulam</li> <li>3. Ampilatwatja</li> <li>4. Arlparra</li> <li>5. Elliott</li> <li>6. Tennant Creek</li> <li>7. Wutunugurra (Epenarra)</li> </ol> <p><b>Central Desert Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Anmatjere (Nturiya, Pmara Jutunta, Wilora, Ti Tree)</li> <li>9. Atitjere</li> <li>10. Engawala</li> <li>11. Lajamanu</li> <li>12. Laramba</li> <li>13. Nyirripi</li> <li>14. Willowra</li> <li>15. Yuelamu</li> <li>16. Yuendumu</li> </ol> <p><b>East Arnhem Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Galiwin'ku</li> <li>18. Gapuwiyak</li> <li>19. Gunyangara</li> <li>20. Milingimbi</li> <li>21. Ramingining</li> <li>22. Yirrkala</li> </ol> <p><b>Groote Archipelago Regional Council</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23. Angurugu</li> <li>24. Milyakburra</li> <li>25. Umbakumba</li> </ol> <p><b>MacDonnell Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26. Amoonguna</li> <li>27. Areyonga</li> <li>28. Finke (Aputula)</li> <li>29. Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)</li> <li>30. Hermannsburg (Ntaria)</li> <li>31. Imanpa</li> <li>32. Kaltukatjara (Dockar River)</li> <li>33. Kintore (Walungurru)</li> <li>34. Mt Liebig (Amundurrngu)</li> <li>35. Papunya</li> <li>36. Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte)</li> <li>37. Titjikala</li> <li>38. Wallace Rockhole</li> </ol> | <p><b>Roper Gulf Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>39. Barunga</li> <li>40. Borroloola</li> <li>41. Bulman</li> <li>42. Jilkminggan</li> <li>43. Manyallaluk (Eva Valley)</li> <li>44. Mataranka</li> <li>45. Minyerri (Hodgson Downs)</li> <li>46. Ngukurr</li> <li>47. Numbulwar</li> <li>48. Robinson River</li> <li>49. Urapunga</li> <li>50. Wugularr (Beswick)</li> </ol> <p><b>Tiwi Islands Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51. Milikapiti</li> <li>52. Pirlangimpi</li> <li>53. Wurrumiyanga (Nguui)</li> </ol> <p><b>Victoria Daly Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>54. Amanbidji</li> <li>55. Bulla</li> <li>56. Kalkaringi / Dagaragu</li> <li>57. Nauiyu (Daly River)</li> <li>58. Pine Creek</li> <li>59. Timber Creek</li> <li>60. Yarralin / Nitjpurru (Pigeon Hole)</li> </ol> <p><b>West Arnhem Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61. Gunbalanya (Oenpelli)</li> <li>62. Maningrida</li> <li>63. Minjilang</li> <li>64. Warruwi</li> </ol> <p><b>West Daly Regional Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65. Nganmariyanga</li> <li>66. Peppimenarti</li> <li>67. Wadey</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 February 2026

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>8.9</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>LGANT - Feedback: Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability submission</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>  |

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update of the Local Government Association of the NT (LGANT) submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Feedback: Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability submission*.

#### **BACKGROUND**

LGANT sought feedback from all councils on their submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability. Attached is their final submission.

#### **STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

Nil.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

This report aligns to the following pillars and goals as outlined in the *Regional Plan and Budget*:

##### **PILLAR 6 FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE**

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do. We are leaders of best practice and excellence in governance, advocacy, consultation and administration. Our processes, procedures and policies are ethical and transparent.

##### **Goal 6.1 Financial Management**

Provision of strong financial management and leadership which ensures long term sustainability and growth.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. 2026 1 22 DRAFT Federal Inquiry submission for review [8.9.1 - 17 pages]

VERSION 3.2  
22 January 2026



**Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local  
Government Sustainability**

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## Introduction

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to this Inquiry into the Financial Sustainability of Local Government. Noting that our 2024 submission will be duly considered at this stage of the inquiry, we have sought to update the information originally provided and offer current case studies.

LGANT acknowledges and welcomes the findings in the Interim report into local government sustainability, released in February 2025. Namely, that the role of local government councils has evolved away from the limited scope of rates, roads and rubbish into broader service delivery, and that this has presented challenges as a result of cost shifting, the barriers presented by funding requirements such as co-contributions, and that councils are often expected to attract and maintain the workforce to service the mounting expectations on councils' service delivery – often without additional funding and occasionally, being blocked from accessing funding.

We expect that the final report, to be released following this stage of the Inquiry, will outline the Committee's views and recommendations to better support the changing face of local government, and to ultimately fulfil community expectations and their crucial needs. We echo ALGA's expectation that the Australian Government responds to the Inquiry report by increasing untied funding provision to councils.

## Recommendations

In consideration of the initial issues presented by LGANT, and in response to the reinstated Inquiry Terms of Reference, we recommend the following:

1. That Indigenous majority councils are recognised as being Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs)
2. That the Financial Assistance Grants be increased to their historical level of one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and for retrospective catch-up payments to be made.
3. That the SEIFA measures of social disadvantage be prioritised in the calculations for distributing untied Federal grants.
4. That the principles of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation be applied to the distribution of Federal grants.
5. Where funding is tied, the duration of funded programs be set at a minimum of three to five years duration to enable for delivery stability and quality.
6. That funding programs be directed to reduce the proportion of their funding being tied to specific projects.
7. That adequate funding be provided to flood-proof the NT's major highways and railway through the construction of bridges, flood ways and bridges.
8. That airstrips, particularly in remote communities, be raised to a standard, and maintained through a dedicated funding program, to accommodate aircraft.
9. That the prohibitive cost of freight to the NT be acknowledged through the establishment of a Freight Equalisation Scheme.
10. That Conditional Rating (rate capping) over the Territory's pastoral and mining leases be abolished.
11. Resource local government to enable the sector to fulfil its role as a prime partner in the achievement of Closing the Gap targets.
12. That local government's pivotal role in emergency management (particularly at the planning and preparedness stages) and its vital part in disaster recovery should be acknowledged and appropriately funded.
13. That the ATO undertake a review of tax regulations to implement concessions to assist in overcoming the impediments NT councils confront in attracting and keeping qualified staff.

14. That NT-specific migration levers are put in place to help address workforce development issues and skills shortages in regional and remote areas.

### Local government in the Northern Territory

LGANT, as a membership organisation, is the voice of local government representing all councils across the NT. This membership consists of five municipals, three shires, ten regional councils, and one associate member. LGANT provides leadership, support, representation, and advocacy on behalf of our member councils for the direct benefit of their communities.

The local government sector in the NT collectively employs more than 3,000 people and is frequently the largest employer of Indigenous people in remote and regional areas. It contributes more than half a billion dollars to the NT economy and manages a vast proportion of the NT's public assets, including thousands of kilometres of roads. The 2022 Australian Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey NT Report confirmed the NT has the highest proportion of Indigenous employees in the local government sector nationally. Councillors and council officers have built strong relationships in their communities.

In summary, providing services in regional and remote Northern Territory is an order of magnitude more difficult than elsewhere in Australia: culturally, environmentally and in confronting the tyranny of distance and thinly distributed ratepayers (see the ACT Index below). These conditions make the local government sector in the NT quite unique, especially in relation to its success in the delivery of essential and complex services into communities over vast distances while remaining mindful of cultural differences. For these reasons we recommend the Committee positively consider conducting hearings in the NT.

### The broader context

Over the past three decades two conflicting forces have developed with profound impacts on the local government sector nationally: a significant level of cost shifting to local government requiring councils to take up additional services, particularly human services (e.g. aged care, childcare etc.). In the NT, for regional councils especially, councils are often the public service provider of last resort. They are regularly required to provide postal and Centrelink services, for instance.

Over the same period local government's status as the third tier of government has been steadily eroded<sup>1</sup>. While local government councils are narrowly seen to be responsible for roads, rates and rubbish, their communities expect so much more and in regional areas, they're often the only suitable provider of essential services such as Centrelink, Australia Post, aged care and childcare. Meanwhile, a majority of councils in the NT are also impacted by a current regime of rate capping (known as conditional rating) whereby rates for pastoral and mining leases/tenements are set by the NT Government without the requirement of consultation with affected councils.

At a federal level, the narrow view of local government council scope has been reflected in funding decisions (most significantly declines in the allocations under the Financial Agreement Grant Act) and the often off-hand treatment of the sector in inter-government interactions (e.g. the Closing the Gap process and more recently with the Housing Australia Future Fund roll-out. Despite local government having a pivotal part in the implementation of the housing initiative our members report only cursory consultation.)

<sup>1</sup> Dollery, Brian, Joe Wallis and Percy Allan (2006), The Debate that had to happen but never did: The changing role of Australian local government, *Australian Journal of Political Science*, 41:4 553-567

#### The unique NT context

Local government councils are often the largest employer of Indigenous people in remote and regional areas in the NT, collectively supporting around 3,000 jobs or about 7% of public sector employment in the NT.

Several regional councils have been proactive in recruiting and training local Indigenous employees across a range of distinct roles. MacDonnell Regional Council's Empowered Workforce initiative has been successful in staffing positions in the 13 very remote communities its services across its vast area – "113 ACTs" (see Table 1), see Case Study below.

#### Case study: MacDonnell Council's Empowered Workforce

MacDonnell Council covers an area of more than a quarter of a million square kilometres stretching from the WA to the Qld borders surrounding Alice Springs. It has a population of 5,748 and a population density of 0.03 per square kilometre. Most of this population is dispersed between 13 communities.

Council's brief is to deliver a wide array of services including aged and disability care, early childhood development, youth development and community safety as well as postal, social security and the essential services of maintaining power, water and sewerage operations and infrastructure.

Of its 480 employees 80 percent of MacDonnell Regional Council's employees are Indigenous. Through a conscious decision to provide an attractive development path for these workers more than half of the community service coordinator roles (the most senior Council position in communities) are Indigenous. Council has encouraged workers in communities to also undertake relevant training.

Commented [SZ1]: MRC: Is this still current?

This innovative approach and others like it sits in contrast to the Productivity Commission's observation regarding Closing the Gap's implementation by other tiers of government, saying:

*... there has been no systematic approach to determining what strategies need to be implemented to disrupt business as usual of governments. What is needed is a paradigm shift. Fundamental change is required, with actions based on a clear logic about how they will achieve that change.*

The NT local government sector is clearly an exception to this finding.

The frustration for LGANT, and its members, is the lack of recognition of the sector's achievements exacerbated by the policy shift to increasing support for Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) at the exclusion of local government councils (in some instances). LGANT has been, and remains, strongly supportive of the intent to support ACCOs but is mystified and frustrated that the evolution of local government in supporting Indigenous people remains unrecognised. Despite 11 of the 18 councils NT's councils having all or majority Indigenous elected members, they are not recognised as being Aboriginal Community-Controlled organisations. Having Indigenous-majority councils recognised as ACCOs is far more than a vanity issue. This status brings with it the opportunity to apply for an increasing number of grants which are being offered only to ACCOs. Having this status allows for more flexibility with employment terms enabling employees to be offered Fringe Benefit Tax concessions which can be greatly influential in attracting and retaining staff.

In addition to being illogical this position is disrespectful of those elected members, underestimates the contribution local government has made and can make on a range of crucial functions into the future. Local government is not recognised as having played an integral role – over a prolonged period – in supporting this progressive change. The practical steps the sector has taken to engage Indigenous people in decision making have been impressive. NT Councils' relationship with Indigenous people is unique nationally:

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- Almost 60 percent of all local government elected members in the NT are Indigenous,
- Just under 90 percent of Regional Council elected members are Indigenous.

**Recommendation 1: That Indigenous majority councils are recognised as being Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs)**

### The structure of the Northern Territory's local government sector

The issue of financial sustainability in the NT councils has two layers: urban or municipal councils; and secondly, regional and shire councils, the largely non-urban councils located in more remote parts of the Territory. The characteristics of each are:

#### Municipal Councils<sup>2</sup>:

- Service most of the NT's population across more densely populated areas,
- The council headquarters is based within their Local Government area
- Municipal councils have the capacity to generate much of their own revenue (more than 60 per cent) through a sizable number of commercial and household ratepayers
- They have decent economies of scale to provide core local government services, facilities, and infrastructure.

#### Regional<sup>3</sup> Councils (including Local Authorities)

- Regional councils service vast areas with thinly distributed populations that make up a smaller proportion of the NT's total population (see The ACT Index, Table 1 below)
- They service many small local communities widely dispersed across their council area
- The council headquarters are often located within a neighbouring municipal council area to attract and retain administrative staff
- They are by a wide margin the largest employer of Indigenous people. Their workforces are between 60 and 80 percent Indigenous
- Regional councils have small numbers of household and commercially rated properties with a sizeable proportion being NTG-owned housing, and conditionally rateable properties (typically mining and pastoral leases, for whom rates are set by the NTG under the *Local Government Act 2019*)
  - This imbalance of ratable properties makes them highly dependent on grant funding, often more than 60 percent of total revenue
- Provide many services on behalf of, or as an agent of, the Territory or Federal Governments
- They are obliged to establish Local Authorities<sup>4</sup> and involve them in developing strategic and business plans for the communities they represent.

<sup>2</sup> Municipal Councils are: Alice Springs Town Council, the City of Darwin, Katherine Town Council, Litchfield Council and the City of Palmerston

<sup>3</sup> Regional Councils are: Barkly Regional Council, East Arnhem Regional Council, Central Desert Regional Council, MacDonnell Regional Council, West Arnhem Regional Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council, West Daly Regional Council, Tiwi Islands Regional Council, Groote Archipelago Regional Council, and Victoria Daly Regional Council.

<sup>4</sup> Local authorities operate within Regional Councils representing smaller communities. There are 67 local authorities across regional and remote communities in the NT. They are involved in planning, giving feedback on service delivery and identifying priority community projects to their Regional Councils. Regional councils operate local authorities.

#### Shires<sup>5</sup>

Shires are the smallest of the types of Local Government in the NT. They are typified by:

- Servicing a small proportion of the Territory's population
- Their headquarters are within the council areas
- All are within 200kms of Darwin
- A small number of rateable household and commercial properties
- A substantial proportion of their funding comes from grants.

### The financial sustainability and funding of local government

Financial sustainability is by far the most pressing issue for local government. This is particularly so for councils beyond the urban areas with small ratepayer bases, extensive road networks, dispersed populations with high needs and with a significantly higher cost base to deliver each of their services.

In the lead up to the 2022 federal election, Labor made an election commitment to 'fair increases' in its Financial Assistance grants. ALGA advocated for the sector that councils nationwide finally see these increases following the 2025 election and, to date, these have not been forthcoming. It is imperative that this committee give this issue its highest priority.

In recent decades local government has been called upon to deliver an ever-increasing range of services while funding has declined and become more erratic and prescriptive in how it must be spent. That this is done from the distance of urban Canberra to small remote communities seems unlikely to deliver positive outcomes.

As the level of government that delivers many of the services which affect people's day-to-day lives local government is essential to supporting safe, productive, and liveable communities. Despite this local government collects less than four percent of national taxation while being responsible for around one third of Australia's public infrastructure (valued at close to \$650bn)<sup>6</sup>.

Local government's limited access to a growth tax prevents the sector from providing the services and infrastructure to meet growing community needs, or their growing portfolios of infrastructure in need of renewal.

In 2024, the Grattan Institute reported local government needed an additional \$1bn per year to maintain their roads. ALGA's national 2024 State of the Assets Report highlights that 10 per cent of local government infrastructure are in poor condition and need attention. The NT's extreme environmental conditions, compounded by the annual wet season, which causes many roads to be damaged and rendered impassible. These local conditions in the NT make it probable that these estimates from the Grattan study are very conservative estimates.

This is exacerbated by the fact that NT continues to receive the lowest proportion of Financial Assistance Grants as a result of the distribution formula relying on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) plus population density data as the basis of funding. This criterion is highly disadvantageous to the NT's regional councils who all service widely dispersed areas with populations under 10,000. The unfortunate, unintended outcome is that communities with the greatest level of social and economic advantage continue to receive the greatest amount of funding, while areas facing disadvantage receive the smallest proportion of funding.

<sup>5</sup> Shire Councils are: Belyuen Community Government Council, Coomalie Community Government Council and Wagait Shire Council

<sup>6</sup> 2022-23, ABS cat. no. 5512.0, TABLE 339, Total Local General Government Balance Sheet – Total Assets  
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### Distribution of grant funding

Four of Australia's top ten most disadvantaged regions, including one in the top three, are in the NT. 2025 Financial Assistance Grant data suggests that the most disadvantaged local government areas are receiving roughly \$1,183 per km for roads, compared with \$2,247 per km for roads in most advantaged local government areas. This strongly correlates to the remoteness of these areas, with remote and very remote areas receiving \$995 and \$772 per km respectively, compared to \$2,600 per km for roads in major cities. Needless to say, this impacts the ability for those living regional and remote access to essential services, safety in emergency situations, and employment and education opportunities. The challenges facing these communities closely parallel the measures included in the Closing the Gap initiative.

Further to this it is worth considering the unique NT context in that approximately 50 per cent of land in the NT has become legally Aboriginal-owned since the enactment of the *Native Title Act (1993) (Cth)* and the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 (Cth)*, including 91.5 per cent of the Territory's coastline<sup>7</sup>. Although the land is managed by four Aboriginal Land Councils, 18 Local Government Areas overlay these lands (making up 98% of the NT). To this end, local government councils fulfil their roles and responsibilities without the added consideration (as part of funding arrangements) that a higher level of service delivery is needed to address inequality in the most disadvantaged regions. This does not appear to be recognised in the proportion of grant funding for which the NT is a recipient. The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) should be a key component for Federal grants generally.

Compounding this issue is the fact that many councils are heavily reliant on the income they receive from the NTG as rates for public housing. This revenue stream is as high as 88 per cent of all rateable property income for both Central Desert and Tiwi Islands Regional Councils. In other regional councils it still accounts for more than half of total revenue, ranging from 50 to 80 per cent. The NTG's current commitment to transfer a portion of urban public housing to community housing management and regional and remote housing to ACCOs over the next several years, and a lack of clarity around the application of rates exemptions and concessions is a clear threat to the already small rates base of councils. At a Federal and NT level, the policy levers in place do not account for the higher service-level expectation of councils, and need, experienced particularly in LGAs with a population highly reliant on housing assistance and other essential services.

When considering this remarkably inequitable situation it is instructive to refer to the well-established principle of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation (HFE) used by the Commonwealth to determine the distribution of GST revenue to the states and territories. In its report on HFE the Productivity Commission<sup>8</sup> says:

*HFE involves the transfer of funds to or between States to offset differences in revenue-raising capacities and/or the use of providing services and infrastructure.*

Applying this definition, it is abundantly clear that the Commonwealth is failing entirely in meeting its obligations to the NT Local Government sector.

**Recommendation 2: That the Financial Assistance Grants be increased to their historical level of one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue and for retrospective catch-up payments to be made.**

<sup>7</sup> Northern Land Council Annual Report 2024-25. Retrieved from <https://www.transparency.gov.au/publications/prime-minister-and-cabinet/northern-land-council/northern-land-council-annual-report-2024-25/part-1---about-us%3A-our-land%2C-our-sea%2C-our-life/whom-we-serve>

<sup>8</sup> Productivity Commission, *Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation Inquiry Report: Overview and Recommendations* (No. 88), May 2018, Canberra

**Commented [SZ2]:** CDRC/Tiwi - to confirm or delete.

**Commented [SZ3R2]:** Open to additional info/case studies from all councils

**Recommendation 3: That the SEIFA measures of social disadvantage be prioritised in the calculations for distributing untied Federal grants.**

**Recommendation 4: That the principles of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation be applied to the distribution of Federal grants.**

#### Duration of tied funding grants

To support its member councils LGANT has created a Local Government Cost Index<sup>9</sup>, which includes a basket of goods and services which are specific to local government. These include but are not limited to:

- Employee costs
- Contractual services
- Materials expenses
- Depreciation
- Electricity
- Water and sewerage
- Travel and accommodation
- Fuel
- Printing, stationary, advertising
- Insurance
- Property leasing
- Consultancy expenses
- Telecommunications
- IT
- Food
- Miscellaneous

The Index estimates the rate of increase for NT local government costs over the past two financial years is: 5.47% (for 2021/22), 3.76% (2022/23) and 3.85% (2023/24). For the NT's regional councils' actual expenses rose by an average of 17.6% in 2021/22 and 7.7% in 2022/23, far outstripping the national level of inflation of 6.1% for 2021/22 and 6.0% for 2022/23.

Research commissioned by ALGA reinforces this picture; over the past decade local government expenditure per capita has remained unchanged, while spending by the other two tiers has grown. Much of the striking differences between the sector-wide increases and those experienced by regional councils can be explained by municipal councils' advantage from their location within more populous areas with greater market competition to source goods and services. A practical example of these disparities is the cost of repairing a pothole. In Darwin this is likely to be about \$900-1,100; beyond Katherine it is likely to be twice this amount and beyond Tennant Creek three times. Another example was clearing out a remote cattle grid which cost more than \$30,000.

The dependence of regional councils on grants is extreme with an average of only 20 per cent of their income coming from rates.

Grant funding programs work to their own timetables, they are not available as and when they are needed. In addition, the co-contribution requirement of an increasing number of grants rules out many of the councils with the greatest need from even considering applying while the lack of any allowance for housing and administrative costs and the application preparation process itself places an additional impost on councils drawing an already scarce number of staff away from their primary functions. Grants also require acquittal at their completion which can make further demands on senior staff. The impact of these demanding processes – once again – falls disproportionality on

<sup>9</sup> [Local Government Cost Index - LGANT](#)

**Commented [SZ4]:** Section to be updated with latest LGCI (due 23/1)

those councils with the greatest needs. The short-term nature of these programs makes it very difficult to attract high quality staff. Relocating thousands of kilometres from homebase for a 12-month contract is far less attractive than a contract which offers a lengthier period. The resulting fluctuations in revenue (again, affecting regional councils and shires most profoundly) makes considered, long-term strategic planning virtually impossible. The fact they are often granted with strict timeframes makes it difficult to attract skilled staff, often leading to these programs not fulfilling their potential, or the intended benefits.

**Grant dependence**

Grants provide most of the revenue for regional and shire councils and a considerable proportion for municipal councils. The lack of flexibility these grants impose is significantly magnified due to the proportion of these grants which are tied. The majority of regional councils in the NT are reliant on tied funding for more than half of their total grant funding.

This has several important flow-on effects including:

- Seeing services being offered and then closed when funding ends.
- Councils eventually unable to maintain governance and operational best practice, affecting both sustainability and optimal service delivery.

Whereas long-term financial plans extending a decade into the future are in place in other jurisdictions they are impossible in the NT due to brittle and quixotic funding. This poses a risk to councils who are bound by the *Local Government Act 2019* to prepare long-term financial plans to a period of at least four financial years where these must include forecasted tied and untied grant funding.

**Case study: NT Operational Subsidy**

One way the NT Government invests in local government is through the Operational Subsidy. The Operational Subsidy is untied funding that was put in place to address the limited revenue-raising capacity of regional and shire councils; however, it is not keeping up with increased costs and in fact has barely increased since 2014/15 when the funding pool was \$26.44million. In 2024/25 the funding pool was \$34.5million - an \$8million increase in 10 years, a figure that has only just kept up with Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases over that period. Unfortunately, the Operational Subsidy stagnated at \$31.5million from 2019/20 to 2024/25. The 2024/25 increase however was not new funding and was cannibalisation of other local government grant funding – and overall funding to the NT Government’s Local Government Unit, where the Operational Budget is administered from, decreased in in 2024/25.

To this, the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) is a measure of the change in the cost of goods and services purchased by local governments over time, conceptually like the CPI in that it is a measure of the average change in cost over time. Recent LGCI figures show the increase in costs for councils across the NT: 2021/22 was 5.47%, 2022/23 3.76%, and 2023/24 3.85%. Interestingly, one of our member regional councils recently advised their Operational Subsidy funding has declined by about \$300,000 in the last five years despite these increases.

A more insidious development has been the proliferation of loss-making grants. The most common instance of this is through grants which enable the construction of infrastructure with no account being taken of the operating and maintenance costs the new structure incurs. Furthermore, under legally enforced auditing requirements councils are required to account for the depreciation of this asset. Since the 2016/17 financial year depreciation costs have increased 12.2 percent per year. Combined these consequences have resulted in councils having to cannibalise other existing activities to cover these additional costs. The impact of this is profound and seldom acknowledged beyond those steeped in the detail of council finances.

**Commented [SZ5]:** Regional councils to provide feedback

**Commented [SZ6]:** Update

**Commented [SZ7R6]:** Should be in the big LGCI spreadsheet - coming 23/1

**Recommendation 5: Where funding is tied, the duration of funded programs be set at a minimum of three to five years duration to enable for delivery stability and quality.**

**Recommendation 6: That funding programs be directed to reduce the proportion of their funding being tied to specific projects.**

#### Funding for critical infrastructure

The Territory is heavily dependent on freight being transported from the south via the Stuart Highway the Barkly Highway from the east and the Victoria Highway to the west. Through a combination of their design and the flat topography of the country (this seriously limits run-off following a substantial storm) these highways are regularly impassible due to flooding. As a result, these events prevent the free flow of people, basic commodities, and other essentials. In parallel with these improvements to road and rail infrastructure investment needs to be made into building airstrips on which aircraft can land to both evacuate residents and deliver emergency supplies.

Airstrips, particularly in remote communities, are key strategic points not only in terms of supply of goods, but in the event of medical and disaster evacuations. However, they are not recognised, nor funded, as essential national infrastructure. Council owned and managed airports/airstrips are council-funded (lacking the capacity to generate revenue), and the cost of maintaining such infrastructure to regulatory standards is compounded as a result of elevated costs of labour, and obtaining materials, in remote and regional areas. This either pulls funding from other council-provided essential services or infrastructure, or results in that critical community infrastructure becoming unfit for purpose.

**Recommendation 7: That adequate funding be provided to flood-proof the NT's major highways and railway through the construction of bridges, flood ways and bridges.**

**Recommendation 8: That airstrips, particularly in remote communities, be raised to a standard, and maintained through a dedicated funding program, to accommodate aircraft.**

#### Freight equalisation

Distances in the Northern Territory can be difficult to conceptualise for many Australians. For the benefit of the Inquiry, LGANT has created "The ACT Index" which quantifies the number of times the entirety of the Australian Capital Territory fits into each of the NT's regional council areas (Table 1 below).

**Table 1: NT Regional Councils area measured against the ACT**

| Council                             | Council area (Sq. Kms) | ACT Area (Square Kms) | The ACT Index |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Barkly Regional Council             | 322,713                | 2,360                 | 136.74        |
| Central Desert Regional Council     | 282,000                | 2,360                 | 119.49        |
| East Arnhem Regional Council        | 30,769                 | 2,360                 | 14.11         |
| Groote Archipelago Regional Council | 2,541                  | 2,360                 | 1.07          |
| MacDonnell Regional Council         | 268,329                | 2,360                 | 113.70        |
| Roper Gulf Regional Council         | 201,000                | 2,360                 | 85.17         |
| Tiwi Islands Regional Council       | 7,483                  | 2,360                 | 3.17          |
| Victoria Daly Regional Council      | 153,287                | 2,360                 | 64.95         |
| West Arnhem Regional Council        | 49,675                 | 2,360                 | 21.05         |
| West Daly Regional Council          | 14,000                 | 2,360                 | 5.93          |

Commented [SZ8]: GARC to check

The Territory's distance from major suppliers in the south and east imposes significant costs on every aspect of all the NT councils' operations. These pressures effect all councils but, again, particularly the smaller more isolated regional councils. A large – and growing – component of these costs is the cost of freight.

Some concrete examples illustrate how freight cost disparities impact the NT:

- Pothole repairs: In Darwin, repairing a pothole typically costs between \$900–\$1,100. Beyond Katherine, the cost is approximately double, and beyond Tennant Creek<sup>10</sup>, it can be three times higher.
- Cardboard recycling: For Alice Springs, transporting cardboard to Adelaide to meet national recycling standards costs \$1,650 per journey<sup>11</sup>. The alternative is to send the material to landfill, which undermines environmental goals and national consistency.
- Deliveries: from Tennant Creek to outlying communities are charged at \$3.30/km. If the road is unsealed the cost increases to \$5-6/km. This does not take account of the cost of getting the freight to the Tennant Creek depot.

High freight costs in the NT:

- Inflate the price of goods and services.
- Discourage private sector investment.
- Limit competitiveness of local producers.
- Impede supply chain reliability for remote communities.

The Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics estimates that the cost of delivering a tonne of freight to the Northern Territory is an average of \$114, outbound it is \$76. Considering inflation at 22.5%, that cost is likely to be closer to \$140 inbound, and \$93 outbound in 2026. This compares with 2025 estimates of \$19 and \$18 respectively for Queensland. For Tasmania, which benefits from the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme, the costs are \$56 (inbound) and \$53 (outbound)<sup>12</sup>.

**Recommendation 9: That the prohibitive cost of freight to the NT be acknowledged through the establishment of a Freight Equalisation Scheme.**

#### Conditional rating

The rates paid by holders of pastoral and mining leases in the NT are set by the NT Minister for Local Government. The sector has consistently advocated for a fairer system of rating – preferably that rates are the business of councils and that conditional rating (known as rate capping in other jurisdictions) be abolished.

The 2025 Australian Strategic Policy Institute report *Northern Australia: Securing a developing economy to secure a developed nation* talks about the short-term 'booms' fostered by major large-scale projects, and their influence on policy setting. The current NT government has demonstrated its commitment to industry through its pledge to rebuild the economy by creating a regulatory environment with industry in mind. As a result, continued advocacy to reform the system of conditional rating has largely been rebuffed. This is one part of the policy framework that sees the benefits of large-scale operations flowing interstate or internationally ('economic leakage') with the leaseholder enjoying the benefit of reduced rates set by the NTG (some annual rates paid by large-scale pastoral leases being comparable to residential rates), rather than paying fair rates that would be reinvested in the communities housing these projects. It sets economic development apart from

<sup>10</sup> LGANT - Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability

<sup>11</sup> Alice Springs Town Council – Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into local Government Sustainability

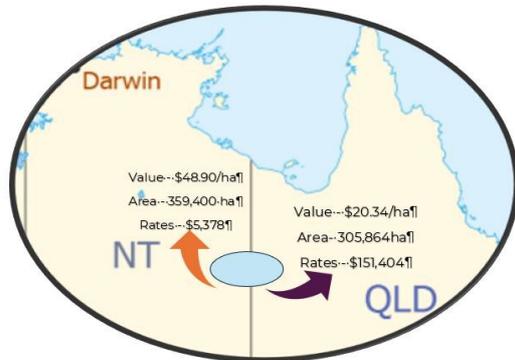
<sup>12</sup> [TraNSIT Supply Chains \(csiro.au\)](https://www.csiro.au/traNSIT/SupplyChains)

social and community development by failing to acknowledge the crucial role of councils to foster both.

All councils are potentially liable to conditional ratings being imposed within their boundaries, if they have any pastoral or mining leases. Currently thirteen of the NT's 18 councils are affected<sup>13</sup>. These rates have been charged historically low when compared with equivalent leases in other jurisdictions, in particular Northern WA and Northwestern Qld. A striking example of this is Rockland Station which lies across the NT/Qld border, in almost equal proportions. The NT portion of the property is 359,400 hectares and is valued at \$48.90/ha. The Qld section is 305,864ha., valued at \$20.34/ha. Despite this the rates for each of these lease holdings are dramatically different: \$5,378 in the NT vs. \$151,404 in Qld. This is even though a larger proportion of the property's land area lies on the NT side of the border.

**Commented [SZ9]:** GARC to confirm if conditional rating applies

**Figure 1: Comparison of Conditional rating levels in NT and Qld.**



This differential continues to be the case despite being increased 151 percent by the Minister over three years from 2022. In affected regional councils these adjustments only increased the value of conditional rating from \$0.95m in 2021/22 to \$2.84m in 2024/5 or 2.4 percent to 6 percent of general rates. Whilst the level of these conditional rates is relatively low, they are very important to the most affected regional councils which have extremely low existing levels of self-generated income<sup>14</sup>.

The continuation of conditional rating further removes the autonomy of these predominantly Indigenous-majority councils and places an unfair burden on other ratepayers, all for relatively minimal benefit to pastoralists, miners and the NT Government.

**Table 2: Resource and Pastoral contribution to Territory and Local Government**

<sup>13</sup> These Councils are: Alice Springs Town Council, Barkly Regional Council, Central Desert Regional Council, Coomalie Community Government Council, East Arnhem Regional Council, Groote Archipelago Regional Council, Katherine Town Council, Litchfield Council, MacDonnell Regional Council, Roper Gulf Regional Council, Victoria Daly Regional Council, West Arnhem Regional Council and West Daly Regional Council.

<sup>14</sup> For the purposes of this research a sample of the five most affected regional councils were used as the basis for analysis. They are: Barkly, Central Desert, MacDonnell, Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly Regional Councils.

| Sector               | Value of production |                 | Contribution to NT Gov. |              | Contribution to Local Gov. |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|                      | \$,000              | % of production | \$,000                  |              | % of production            |
| Mining and petroleum | 5,654,000           | 411,220         | 7.3%                    | 1,676        | 0.03                       |
| Primary production   | 545,000             | 9,490           | 1.7%                    | 1,164        | 0.21                       |
| <b>Total.</b>        | <b>6,199,000</b>    | <b>420.71</b>   | <b>6.8</b>              | <b>2,840</b> | <b>.045</b>                |

Source: "Conditional Rating Report", Mead Perry Group, March 2024

The NT Government has reiterated its desire to ensure predictability for the mining and pastoral industries by maintaining that rates are to be set by the Minister. The sectors have been benefitting from predictably low rates for many years, and the table below shows this by way of comparison with other jurisdictions versus those set by the NT Government:

**Table 3: Differential Rates Case Studies**

| Jurisdiction            | Mining sector rate per \$1,000 of assessed value | Pastoral sector rate per \$1,000 of assessed value |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Cloncurry Shire (Qld)   | \$193.59 – \$653.72                              | \$49.74 – \$58.54                                  |
| Port Hedland (WA)       | \$227.57   | \$120.00   |
| Western Downs (Qld)     | \$4.97 – \$588.30                                | \$2.68   |
| Shire of Ashburton (WA) | \$385.68   | \$192.90   |
| NT Government           | \$8.74   | \$0.77   |

See Attachment 1 – Differential Rates Case Studies for further information.

**Recommendation 10: That Conditional Rating (rate capping) over the Territory's pastoral and mining leases be abolished.**

#### Closing the Gap

The inequitable position of the Territory's local government sector is even more egregious when considering that the most disadvantaged councils are those with the highest proportion of Indigenous residents and the highest ranking in terms of social disadvantage, as measured by the SEIFA index.

This lamentable situation persists despite the bi-partisan support of the Australian Parliament for the Closing the Gap initiative:

*...to overcome the entrenched inequality faced by too many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so that their life outcomes are equal to those of all Australians*

In its 2024 Review of Progress on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap the Productivity Commission said:

*...governments are not adequately delivering on this commitment. Despite some pockets of good practice, progress in implementing the Agreement's Priority Reforms has, for the most part, been weak and reflects tweaks to, or actions overlaid onto, business as usual approaches.*

The report also notes the huge deficits in how the Australian and state and territory governments are not supporting or involving the local government sector in Closing the Gap.

The 2025 Closing the Gap Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led Review made a number of findings generally that local government councils, as a Party to the Agreement, are not delivering, i.e. Key finding 6: Governments have yet to commence any genuine transformative work. The cause of this being identified as a lack of unity between the tiers of government in addressing their responsibilities under the Agreement, while another significant cause identified by LGANT being that councils are not adequately resourced for implementation of the priorities.

As the sphere of government closest to the community, local councils are important stakeholders in delivering services and infrastructure to Indigenous people, particularly in regional and remote areas of the NT where there are no other, or less capable, service providers. Doing business and delivering services in regional and remote parts of the NT is tough, expensive, and vastly different to delivering services in any of Australia's urban areas.

LGANT and the local government sector more broadly, have realised there is potential to be a far stronger partner in implementing the National Agreement and the transformative changes it aspires to. However, the sector is currently restricted due to competing demands, resourcing constraints and a lack of a genuine partnership from the other two spheres of government.

**Recommendation 11: Resource local government to enable the sector to fulfil its role as a prime partner in the achievement of Closing the Gap targets.**

### The changing demands of local government

As has been outlined above, over the past few decades local government across Australia has been progressively encouraged to extend its historical role in providing services to property to increasingly adding services to people to its portfolio. In some cases, this has been cost shifting by the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments, in others it has been in response by councils to local needs and the expectations of residents. In either case it has dramatically added to the load and the complexity of local government operations and to supporting financial sustainability.

#### Emergency management and disaster recovery

Emergency management and disaster recovery are increasingly critical issues for all levels of government. Disaster events in the NT are among the most severe in Australia and are becoming more frequent.

NT Councils are handicapped through considerable ambiguity between local government legislation and the emergency management agencies within the NTG. LGANT acknowledges the primacy of NTG agencies but despite the Territory Emergency Management Plan and the Territory Emergency Management Council Strategic Plan 2020-2023 highlighting the need for an "integrated approach" by different tiers of government and yet local government finds itself regularly sidelined at a local level.

LGANT is aware of policy development on these issues which is currently underway. It should be emphasised that local government is best positioned to act in a prompt way suited to conditions. Aside from this recognition councils must be appropriately funded to fill this vital role.

**Recommendation 12: That local government's pivotal role in emergency management (particularly at the planning and preparedness stages) and its vital part in disaster recovery should be acknowledged and appropriately funded.**

## Structural impediments to security for local government workers and infrastructure and service delivery

Employment numbers by councils in the NT vary widely, from four to almost 400. Skills shortages are endemic across the sector and, according to a survey of councils<sup>15</sup>, half reported these shortages were delaying projects and degrading service delivery. The professions in which shortages are most serious are community development and engagement officers, accountants, allied health professionals, trades people, supervisors and team leaders, and youth support workers.

Across the sector, councils consistently identify housing scarcity as one of the most significant barriers to workforce stability. Many regional and remote councils lack the capital needed to build or maintain staff housing, while older stock continues to deteriorate. Complex *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory) 1976* section 19 leasing arrangements, limited freehold land availability, approval delays and funding constraints (e.g. the \$4bn remote housing package explicitly excludes staff housing) further restrict councils' ability to plan, invest, and respond to workforce needs. These systemic barriers directly undermine councils' capacity to attract and retain staff.

No formal data is available to LGANT about local governments use of labour hire services. Anecdotally labour hire providers are used to fill urgent skills gaps, but their cost and their availability make this a crisis-only choice. In the Workforce Survey more than a third of councils forecast they would be making less use of these labour hire services in the foreseeable future.

### Trends in the attraction and retention of staff, including labour hire practices.

All NT councils are confronted by significant challenges in attracting and keeping staff. A high participation rate and low unemployment in the Territory point to low capacity in the local labour market. The local government sector's financial constraints mean councils are regularly outbid by Territory and Commonwealth agencies in competition for staff. These factors result in considerable "churn" amongst staff at the cost of corporate memory and experience, and succession planning. The decision by several regional councils to locate their administrative offices outside their council boundaries<sup>16</sup> is one indicator of these tensions.

For all councils, the position is worsened by the disparity in wages paid by private sector and other levels of government, making the attraction and retention of labour a challenge where councils simply can't compete.

There are a variety of concessions the Federal Government could provide to alleviate these attraction and retention challenges, including but not limited to:

- More generous superannuation regulations.
- Reviewing and increasing remote tax concessions.
- Fringe Benefit Tax Concessions.
- Exemptions for HECS (Higher Education Contribution Scheme) and HELP (Higher Education Loan Program) repayments for tertiary study.
- Faster NT-specific visa processing pathways.

Skilled migration is a critical workforce lever for NT councils, particularly in regional and remote areas where persistent shortages in technical, regulated, and community-facing roles cannot be

<sup>15</sup> 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey: Northern Territory Report, SGS Economics and Planning, November 2022

<sup>16</sup> West Daly, East Arnhem, Tiwi Islands and West Arnhem Regional Councils and Belyuen Community Government Council all have their offices in Darwin; Central Desert and MacDonnell Regional Councils are headquartered in Alice Springs; Roper River and Victoria Daly Regional Councils are in Katherine. These location decisions have been adopted to alleviate the difficulty in attracting and retaining staff in remote areas.

met through local labour supply alone. Councils consistently report chronic vacancies in engineering, mechanics, water operations, childcare, aged care, compliance, community safety, and key operational positions, roles essential to maintaining basic services yet extremely difficult to fill through domestic recruitment.

Current skilled migration pathways, however, do not reflect the realities of the NT labour market or the operating context of remote local government. Councils face slow and administratively burdensome sponsorship processes, limited eligible occupations, and visa settings that fail to recognise the NT's acute skill shortages, geographic isolation, and need for long-term, place-based workforce stability.

Migration levers must complement, rather than replace, local training and Indigenous workforce development initiatives; migration fills critical gaps but cannot substitute for long-term investment in local workforce pathways. However, without strengthened and NT-relevant migration settings, councils will continue to face workforce shortages that cannot be addressed through domestic pathways alone.

**Recommendation 13: That the ATO undertake a review of tax regulations to implement concessions to assist in overcoming the impediments NT councils confront in attracting and keeping qualified staff.**

**Recommendation 14: That NT-specific migration levers are put in place to help address workforce development issues and skills shortages in regional and remote areas.**

## **WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL**

### **FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>9.1</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Elected Member Questions with or without Notice</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>              |

#### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to give Elected Members a forum in which to table items they wish to be debated by Council.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Chairperson invites questions with or without notice from Elected Members.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

### FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026

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

#### **SUMMARY**

Pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and regulation 52 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*, the meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential matters.

#### **LEGISLATION AND POLICY**

Section 99(2) of the *Local Government Act 2019*

Regulations 51 and 52 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021*

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**FOR THE MEETING 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The information in this section of the agenda is classed as confidential under section 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* and regulation 52 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2021*.

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|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.1</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>                     |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.2</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Confidential Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                          |

*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: 11.3**

**Title: Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence**

**Author: Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO**

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.4</b>                                      |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Review of Confidential Action Items</b>       |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.5</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council and Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Clem Beard, Project Manager</b>   |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.6</b>                                      |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Organisation Structure Update</b>             |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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)(a). It contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.7</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>2025-26 Water Concessions Request</b>              |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance</b> |

*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)(b). It contains information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.8</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Letter to Employers regarding Jabiru Childcare Centre's Urgent Financial Sustainability Concerns</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>  |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.9</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Tender Evaluation - Provision of Veterinary Services - West Arnhem Region</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Clem Beard, Project Manager</b>   |

*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.*

## **SUMMARY**

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.10</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>LGANT Update - Amendments to the Local Government Act and Regulations</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b>                             |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.11</b>                                     |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Maningrida Region Consortium</b>              |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.12</b>  |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Draft 2026-2027 Budget</b>                         |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance</b> |

*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: 11.13**

**Title: Community Honour Boards**

**Author: Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer**

*The report will be dealt with under Section 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and General Regulations 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.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.14</b>                                     |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Gunbalanya Local Authority Appointment</b>    |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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)(a). It contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.*

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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>11.15</b>                                     |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Chief Executive Officer's Report</b>          |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer</b> |

*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.*

**12 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**  
**WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**FOR THE MEETING TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

**RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC**

|                          |   |
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| <b>Agenda Reference:</b> | <b>12.2</b>   |
| <b>Title:</b>            | <b>Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public</b> |
| <b>Author:</b>           | <b>Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor</b>                                     |

*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.*

**13 NEXT MEETING**

**14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED**