

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
 Tuesday, 24 February 2026 at 12:00 pm  
 Council Chambers

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

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 12:00pm, welcomed all in attendance and did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2      **PERSONS PRESENT**

**ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairperson	James Woods (Mayor)
Deputy Mayor	Jacqueline Phillips
Councillor	Jermaine Namanurki
Councillor	Ralph McCoy
Councillor	Daniel Siebert
Councillor	Steven Nabalmarda
Councillor	Ralph F Blyth
Councillor	Mickitja Onus

**STAFF PRESENT**

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Acting Director Community and Council Services	Rick Mitchell
Director Corporate Services	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
Director Technical Services	Grant McKenzie
Manager Technical Services	Kylie Gregson
Governance Advisor	Debbie Branson
Executive Assistant	Violette Stehlin
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator	Heidi Walton

**GUESTS**

A/Director Learning and Development Local Government and Community Development Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development	Karen Hocking (Mandatory Training only)
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### 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.

OCM49/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the apology received from Cr Henry Yates, Cr Joseph Diddo and Cr Ralph F Blyth (Tuesday, 24 February 2026 only); and
2. Determines Cr Henry Yates, Cr Joseph Diddo and Cr Ralph F Blyth are absent with permission of the Council.

CARRIED

### 4 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

The Council considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

OCM50/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

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

CARRIED

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.

The Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips declared an interest in Item 11.5 – Current Status of Outstanding Regional Land Use Agreements from the Northern Land Council.

OCM51/2025 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the item listed for the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 February 2026.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm to commence Elected Member Mandatory Training Module 2 with Karen Hocking, Acting Director Learning and Development, Local Government, Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

The meeting reconvened at 2:53pm.

Agenda Reference:	6.1
Title:	Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Confirmation of Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes. The Chief Officer advised that the LGANT have advised that the 2026 April Conference in Alice Springs has been cancelled and the General Meeting will be held in Darwin on 15 April 2026.

It was agreed that a report be tabled to the Ordinary Council Meeting in March 2026.

OCM52/2025 RESCINDED 24 FEBRUARY 2026:

On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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 rescinding Resolution OCM012/2026 as follows:

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

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

OCM53/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

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:	7.2
Title:	Women in Small Business Summit 2026
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

Item 7.2 – Women in Small Business Summit 2026 was deferred.

Agenda Reference:	7.3
Title:	Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

OCM54/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the minutes of the Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026;
2. Appoints Cr Micketja 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.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

OCM55/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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

CARRIED

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

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

OCM56/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

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

CARRIED

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

The Council considered a report on Meetings and Events attended by the Chief Executive Officer.

OCM57/2026 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 Chief Executive Officer*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.4
Title:	Community and Council Services Report
Author:	Rick Mitchell, Acting Director Council and Community Services

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

OCM58/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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

CARRIED

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

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Report.

OCM59/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

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

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33pm and was reconvened on Wednesday, 25 February 2026 at 8:33am with Cr Ralph F Blyth in attendance.

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

The Deputy Mayor joined the meeting at 8:46am.

The Council considered a report on Financial report for period ending 31 January 2026.

The *Local Government Act 2019* section 209 permits the Council to appoint an Auditor for a fix term of between 2 and 5 years. Council's recent contract with Nexia Edwards Marshall NT was for 3 years (2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25) therefore an extension to this appointment will be within the fixed term limits permitted by legislation. Nexia Edwards Marshall NT have confirmed they are able to undertake the 2025-26 audit for the same price as the 2024-25 service. This contract extension will provide time for the Council to undertake a proper procurement process to appoint the Council Auditor for the next 4 years, starting 2026-27.

OCM60/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and notes the report titled Financial Report for the period ending 31 January 2025;
2. Approves the Regional and Remote Burial Areas Grant Funding 2024-26 Acquittal for Maningrida and Warruwi;
3. Approves 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;
5. Approves Community Places for People Grant Program 2025-26 Acquittal for Warruwi Community Hall; and
6. Approves the extension of the 3-year Nexia Edwards Marshall NT audit contract to include an additional year to cover 2025-26.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.2
Title:	Women in Small Business Summit 2026
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Women in Small Business Summit 2026.

OCM61/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
 Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Women in Small Business Summit 2026*;
2. Approves the Deputy Mayor 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; and
3. Approves that funds are allocated from the Elected Members Professional Development allowance.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.7
Title:	Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED)
Author:	Rick Mitchell, Acting Director Council and Community Services

The Council considered a report on Remote Jobs and Economic Development (RJED).

OCM62/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Steven Nabalmarda  
 Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.8
Title:	LGANT - Guideline 1 Review - Local Authorities
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on LGANT - Guideline 1 Review - Local Authorities.

OCM63/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
 Seconded Mayor James Woods

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

CARRIED

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

The Council considered a report on LGANT – Feedback Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Discal Sustainability submission.

OCM64/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki  
Seconded Cr Ralph F Blyth

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

CARRIED

## 9 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

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

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

OCM65/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL raised the following questions:

- RMAC – Pre-requisites for the Chairperson role
- Request Council to engage with the Department of Lands and Infrastructure in regard to the road conditions within the region including Arnhem Highway
- Engaging a Debt Collection agency as an option
- NIAA Closing the Gap – Place Based Partnerships
- KWAC Meeting Dates
- Maningrida Airport – Sorry Business / Cultural Obligations – priority access – a letter be sent to the Federal Member for Aboriginal Affairs
- Spartan Parks – Playground – Tour Visit
- Maningrida Changeroom Plaque referred to the Maningrida Local Authority
- Housing Concession implemented into Local Communities – investigate eligibility
- Waruwi – Fighting teenagers – Council to advocate to assist

CARRIED

LGANT – Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Governance Essential for Local Government

OCM66/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL approves the cost associated with Cr Ralph McCoy attending the LGANT Australian Institute of Company Directors Course on 12-13 March 2026 in Darwin and are funded from the Elected Members Professional Development Allowance.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned 10:26am and reconvened at 10:46am.

## 10 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

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

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

OCM67/2026 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 10:56am to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

## 11 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Reference:	11.1
Title:	Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM70/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of Wednesday, 28 January 2026 Confidential Ordinary Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.2
Title:	Confidential Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

OCM71/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Micketja Onus

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the confidential minutes of Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee confidential meeting held on Tuesday, 10 February 2026; and
2. Requests that the item relating to Jabiru Airport be deferred until GAC provides further information.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.3
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Violette Stehlin, Acting Executive Assistant to Mayor and CEO

OCM72/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.4
Title:	Review of Confidential Action Items
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM73/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Review of Confidential Action Items*; and
2. Reviews the outstanding action items.

CARRIED

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

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

Agenda Reference:	11.6
Title:	Organisation Structure Update
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM74/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Organisation Structure Update*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.7
Title:	2025-26 Water Concessions Request
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

OCM75/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *2025-26 Water and Rates Concession Request*;
2. Approves the grant of a full 2025-26 rates concession to the Jabiru Golf Club on Lot 2101 plan 410 Jabiru;
3. Approves the grant of a capped water use concession to the Jabiru Golf Club, for up to 7,700 Kilolitres of water use per quarter for the period 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026 (12 months) for Lot 2101; and
4. Approves a 2025-26 rates payment plan for the Jabiru Golf Club on Lot 2324 Plan 410 Jabiru of \$3,567.37 per month for the 2025-26 rates to be paid in full by 30 September 2026.

CARRIED

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

OCM76/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
 Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Jabiru Childcare Centre Update*; and
2. Continues to lobby for funding for the repair of the roof.

CARRIED

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

OCM68/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
 Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Tender Evaluation - Provision of Veterinary Services - West Arnhem Region*;
2. Approves the University of Melbourne be awarded the contract to supply Veterinary Services under the animal management program across the West Arnhem Region for a total price of \$304,590.00;
3. Requests a further report detailing the statistics of the services provided; and
4. Request that in future Council scopes broader for tender suppliers.

CARRIED

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

OCM77/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
 Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *LGANT Update - Amendments to the Local Government Act and Regulations*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.11
Title:	Maningrida Region Consortium
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM78/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
 Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Maningrida Region Consortium*; and
2. Supports the Maningrida Region Consortium proposal to seek \$300,000 over twelve months from NIAA to support a staged establishment process.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.12
Title:	Draft 2026-2027 Budget
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director of Finance

OCM79/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
 Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and notes the report titled *2025-26 Budget Review and Draft 2026-27 Budget*;
2. Approves the revised 2025-26 budget and long-term financial plan; and
3. Approves the 2026-27 budget and long-term financial plan for development discussion with Council's Local Authorities in March 2026 with the depreciation change.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.13
Title:	Community Honour Boards
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM80/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
 Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Community Honour Boards*;
2. Determines that, out of respect, the names of the West Arnhem Regional Council Elected Members who have passed remain on the Honour Board in Jabiru in full; and
3. Refer the Community Honour Boards to the Local Authorities.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.14
Title:	Gunbalanya Local Authority Appointment
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM81/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Gunbalanya Local Authority Appointment*; and
2. Appoints Connie Nayinggul and Tamar Nawirridj to the Gunbalanya Local Authority as community members.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.15
Title:	Chief Executive Officer's Report
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM82/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL notes the verbal operational update provided by the Chief Executive Officer.

CARRIED

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

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

OCM83/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth  
 Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Approves to disclose the selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes as follows:
  - Item 11.1 Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
  - Item 11.2 Confidential Special Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes
  - Item 11.3 Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
  - Item 11.4 Review of Confidential Action Items
  - Item 11.6 Organisation Structure Update
  - Item 11.7 2025-26 Water and Rates Concession Request
  - Item 11.8 Jabiru Childcare Centre Update
  - Item 11.9 Tender Evaluation - Provision of Veterinary Services -West Arnhem Region
  - Item 11.10 LGANT Update - Amendments to the Local Government Act and Regulations
  - Item 11.11 Maningrida Region Consortium
  - Item 11.12 2025-26 Budget Review and Draft 2026-27 Budget
  - Item 11.13 Community Honour Boards
  - Item 11.14 Gunbalanya Local Authority Appointment
  - Item 11.15 Chief Executive Officer's Report
2. Opens the meeting to the public at 1:50pm after the discussion of confidential items.

CARRIED

13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25 March 2026.

14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 1:50pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.