

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Gunbalanya Local Authority
Tuesday, 3 March 2026 at 10:00 am
Council Chambers

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 10:03am, welcomed all in attendance and Member Evonne Gumurdul did a Welcome to Country and Member Kerry Manakgu did an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PERSONS PRESENT

APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson	Andy Garnarradj
Member	Evonne Gumurdul
Member	Kenneth Mangiru
Member	Maxwell Garnarradj
Member	Ishmael Wurramara
Member	Kerry Manakgu
Member	Tamar Nawirridj

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor	James Woods
Deputy Mayor	Jacqueline Phillips
Councillor	Henry Yates
Councillor	Ralph McCoy (via Teams)
Councillor	Daniel Siebert

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Murray
Director Corporate Services	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
Acting Director Community and Council Services	Rick Mitchell
Director Technical Services	Grant McKenzie
Project Manager	Clem Beard
Finance Manager	Imram Shajib (via teams)
Council Services Manager	Vicki McCoy

Governance Advisor Debbie Branson
Executive Assistant Violette Stehlin
Finance Officer Prabesh Basnet
Waste and Resource Coordinator Meredith Newall (via Teams)

GUESTS

NT Police Constable Adam McMahon
NT Emergency Services Rachel Manbawan
Red Lily Health Clinic Michelle Smith
Department of Housing, Local Government
and Community Development, Jabiru Project Claire Joyce

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 8.1 – Invited Guest – NT Police was brought forward.

Agenda Reference:	8.1
Title:	Invited Guest - NT Police
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Invited Guest - NT Police.

Constable Adam McMahon representing the Northern Territory Police and Rachel Manbawan representing the Northern Territory Emergency Services joined the meeting at 10:10am and left the meeting at 10:28am.

GUN1/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Member Andy Garnarradj
Seconded Member Evonne Gumurdul

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY noted the update on Law and Order by the NT Police.

CARRIED

3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

Agenda Reference:	3.1
Title:	Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absence Without Notice
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absence Without Notice.

GUN2/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Member Andy Garnarradj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Notes the apology received from Member Connie Nayinggul
2. Determines Member Connie Nayinggul is absent with the permission of the Authority.

CARRIED

4 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Agenda Reference:	4.1
Title:	Election of Gunbalanya Local Authority Chairperson
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Local Authority considered a report on Election of Gunbalanya Local Authority Chairperson.

Member Andy Garnarradj was nominated as Chairperson by majority members.

GUN3/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Evonne Gumurdul

Seconded Member Tamar Nawirridj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Election of Gunbalanya Local Authority Chairperson*; and
2. Elects Local Authority Member Andy Garnarradj to the position of Gunbalanya Local Authority Chairperson for a period of 12 months.

CARRIED

5 ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

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

The Local Authority considered a report on Acceptance of Agenda.

GUN4/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Member Kerry Manakgu
Seconded Member Ishmael Wurraramara

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY accepts the agenda papers as circulated for the Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting held on 3 March 2026.

CARRIED

6 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Agenda Reference:	6.1
Title:	Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

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

GUN5/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Daniel Siebert
Seconded Member Evonne Gumurdul

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY acknowledges there were no declarations of interest relating to the items listed for the Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting held on 3 March 2026.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	Confirmation of Local Authority Meeting Minutes
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Confirmation of Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

GUN6/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Kerry Manakgu
Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Requests staff to investigate lease ownership over the land of the Gunbalanya Airport; and
2. Invites the Chairman of the Northern Land Council to the next Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting to discuss the upgrades of the airport shelter and airport toilets.

CARRIED

GUN7/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj
Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY confirms the minutes of the Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting held on Wednesday, 16 July 2025, as a true and correct record and that Resolution No. 2 – GAR50/2025, be rescinded as follows:

GAR50/2025 RESOLVED:

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

2. *Approve the allocation of \$200.00 from the Gunbalanya Local Authority funding for the purchase of a farewell gift or to contribute to a farewell for the Sport and Recreation Officer who has resigned.*

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned 11:06am and reconvened at 11:34am.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item 9.1 – Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence was brought forward.

9 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

GUN8/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj

Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Receives and notes the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence;
2. Requests, in regards to the Emmanuel Church Kunbarllanja correspondence, the following items as a long-term plan for the site:
 - New fence
 - Lights
 - Roof iron sheets replaced
 - Toilets repaired
 - Water supplied
 - Power connected and installation of power points
 - Big screen television installed
 - Children's playground
 - Sandpit
 - Firepit
 - Laundry facilities
 - Supervision on site

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.2
Title:	Presentations and Visitors - Red Lily Health Clinic Update
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Presentations and Visitors - Red Lily Health Clinic Update.

Michele Smith representing Red Lily Health Clinic joined the meeting at 11:47am and left the meeting at 12:02pm.

GUN9/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Tamar Nawirridj

Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY notes the presentation from Red Lily Health Clinic.

CARRIED

Order of Business

Item 9.1 – Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence continued.

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

GUN10/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj

Seconded Member Kerry Manakgu

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Accepts the offer from the National Library of Australia, to share the information in relation to the Papers of Sue Kesteven; and
2. Requests that the items are distributed to the family members.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.2
Title:	Finance Report to 31 January 2026
Author:	Imran Shajib, Finance Manager

The Local Authority considered a report on Finance Report 31 January 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm and reconvened at 1:47pm with the absence of Mayor James Woods, Member Kerry Manakgu, Member Evonne Gumurdul and Member Tamar Nawirridj.

Mayor James Woods, Member Kerry Manakgu, Member Evonne Gumurdul and Member Tamar Nawirridj joined the meeting at 2:00pm.

GUN11/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj
Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Finance Report to January 2026*; and
2. Requests that the Active Regional and Remote Communities Program and Support at Home Program be discussed in detail in the next Gunbalanya Local Authority Meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.3
Title:	Technical Services Gunbalanya Projects Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Local Authority considered a report on Technical Services Gunbalanya Projects Report.

GUN12/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj
Seconded Member Tamar Nawirridj

THAT LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *Technical Services Gunbalanya Projects Report*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.5
Title:	CSM Operations Report on Current Council Services
Author:	Vicki McCoy, Council Services Manager, Gunbalanya

The Local Authority considered a report on Technical Services Gunbalanya Projects Report.

GUN13/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Member Evonne Gumurdul
Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *CSM Operations Report on Current Council Services*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.6
Title:	Human Resources Report up to 13 February 2026
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Local Authority considered a report on Human Resources Report up to 13 February 2026.

GUN14/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Kenneth Mangiru
Seconded Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *Human Resources Report up to 13 February 2026*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.7
Title:	2024-2025 Annual Report
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on 2024-2025 Annual Report.

GUN15/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Tamar Nawirridj
Seconded Member Ishmael Wurraramara

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *2024-2025 Annual Report*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.8
Title:	Gunbalanya Landfill Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Local Authority considered a report on Gunbalanya Landfill Update.

Cr Henry Yates and Cr Daniel Siebert left the meeting at 2:45pm.

GUN16/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Member Kerry Manakgu
Seconded Member Kenneth Mangiru

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *Gunbalanya Landfill Update*.

CARRIED

Cr Henry Yates and Cr Daniel Siebert returned to the meeting at 2:48pm.

Agenda Reference:	9.9
Title:	Draft 2026/27 Local Authority Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

The Local Authority considered a report on Draft 2026/27 Local Authority Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan.

GUN17/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Member Evonne Gumurdul
Seconded Member Maxwell Garnarradj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY receives and notes the report titled *Gunbalanya Landfill Update*.

CARRIED

10 ACTION REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	10.1
Title:	Review of Action Items
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

This item was deferred to the next Local Authority Meeting.

Agenda Reference:	10.2
Title:	Cultural Training
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

This item was deferred to the next Local Authority Meeting.

Agenda Reference:	10.3
Title:	Gunbalanya Community Flag Poles
Author:	Clem Beard, Project Manager

The Local Authority considered a report on Gunbalanya Community Flag Poles.

GUN18/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy
Seconded Chairperson Member Andy Garnarradj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Gunbalanya Community Flag Poles*; and
2. Approves the costs of the installing four new Community Flag Poles in Gunbalanya from Local Authority Funding at an estimated cost of \$13,640.00.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.4
Title:	Community Benefit Fund
Author:	Clem Beard, Project Manager

This item was deferred to the next Local Authority Meeting.

11 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Agenda Reference:	11.1
Title:	Local Authority Member Questions with or without Notice
Author:	Debbie Branson, Governance Advisor

The Local Authority considered a report on Local Authority Member Questions with or without Notice.

GUN19/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Henry Yates

Seconded Member Tamar Nawirridj

THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITY recorded for action the following questions from Members.

- Invite Power and Water to the next Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting regarding the water quality in Gunbalanya.
- Relocation of Centrelink Office to be discussed at the next Gunbalanya Local Authority meeting.
- Upgrade the stainless steel toilets at the Gunbalanya office.

CARRIED

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, 11 May 2026.

13 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Chairperson Andy Garnarradji declared the meeting closed at 3:14pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Gunbalanya Local Authority held on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

Click [here](#) to view the agenda for the Gunbalanya Local Authority held on Tuesday 3 March 2026.