

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 27 May 2026 at 9:00 am  
Council Chambers via Teams

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1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 9:08am, 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	Joseph Diddo
Councillor	Ralph McCoy
Councillor	Steven Nabalmarda
Councillor	Mickitja Onus
Councillor	Dwane Baker

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Acting Director Community and Council Services	Rick Mitchell
Interim Director Community and Council Services	Peter Mickleson
Director Corporate Services	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters
Director Technical Services	Grant McKenzie
Governance Advisor	Debbie Branson
Executive Assistant	Violette Stehlin

### 3 APOLOGIES AND ABSENCES

Agenda Reference:	3.1
Title:	Apologies, Leave of Absence and Absent Without Notice
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM158/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the apology received from Cr Jermaine Namanurki, Cr Henry Yates and Cr Ralph F Blyth;
2. Notes the late arrival of Cr Steven Nabalmarda; and
3. Determines Cr Jermaine Namanurki, Cr Henry Yates, Cr Daniel Siebert and Cr Ralph F Blyth are an apology with permission of the Council.

CARRIED

### 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Agenda Reference:	4.1
Title:	Disclosure of Interest of Members or Staff
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

Mayor James Woods, and Cr Micketja Onus declared an interest in Item 11.5 – Sponsorship Applications Received and agreed to leave the meeting when the item was being considered. *Noting this item was deferred.*

Deputy Mayor Jacque Phillips declared an interest in Item 11.11 – Cultural Training within Communities and agreed to leave the meeting when the item was being considered.

OCM159/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the items listed for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting held on 27 May 2026.

CARRIED

### 5 STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cr Dwane Baker made his Statement of Commitment as a newly Elected Member on Council.

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.

OCM160/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, 29 April 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.2
Title:	Confirmation of Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

Cr Steven Nabalmarda joined the meeting at 9:17am.

OCM161/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Monday, 11 May 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	Review of Action Items
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

OCM162/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Review of Action Items*;
2. Acknowledges the advice from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development that there is nothing under the Local Government Act 2019 that prevents Council using the operational funds to repatriate a deceased senior community member;
3. Requests a quote to repatriate the deceased by charter which will be paid directly by Council to a maximum cost of \$5,000.00; and
4. Reviews the outstanding action items and gives approval for completed items to be removed from the register.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.2
Title:	Local Authority Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

OCM163/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the minutes of the following Local Authority meetings and reviewed decisions made by the Local Authority; and
2. Provides in-kind and in-principal support to the upgrade of the Gunbalanya Community Shelter Arrkuluk and Kakbi together with external stakeholders such as Gunbalanya Nominees, Emmanuel Church and Wurdwurd Foundation.

Community	Date Held	Quorum	Date of next meeting
Maningrida	Monday, 11 May 2026	Yes	Tuesday, 14 July 2026
Gunbalanya	Tuesday, 12 May 2026	Yes	Wednesday, 15 July 2026
Warruwi	Wednesday, 13 May 2026	Yes	Thursday, 16 July 2026
Minjilang	Thursday, 14 May 2026	Yes	Friday, 17 July 2026

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.3
Title:	Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Member Appointment and Terms of Reference Review
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Member Appointment and Terms of Reference Review.

OCM164/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and note the report titled *Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Member Appointment and Terms of Reference Review*;
2. Appoints Cr Dwane Baker to the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee as of Friday, 15 May 2026; and
3. Approves that the current Terms of Reference be amended so that the position of Chairperson of the Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee have an option to rotate on a per meeting basis.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.4
Title:	LGANT November 2026 Conference   Alice Springs
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on LGANT November 2026 Conference | Alice Springs.

Liaise with Cr Daniel Siebert in relation to attending given his absence at the meeting.

OCM165/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *LGANT November 2026 Conference | Alice Springs*; and
2. Approves the costs associated with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive Officer, a Director, Cr Ralph McCoy, Cr Dwane Baker and Cr Daniel Siebert to attend the LGANT November 2026 Conference in Alice Springs, Tuesday 10 November 2026 and Wednesday 11 November 2026.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.5
Title:	Regional Cemetery Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Cemetery Update.

OCM166/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
 Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Regional Cemetery Update; and*
2. Approves the proposed signage design for the Jabiru Cemetery subject to consultation with Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation Jabiru Town and their approval.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	7.6
Title:	Financial report for period ending 30 April 2026
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Finance

The Council considered a report on Financial report for period ending 30 April 2026.

OCM167/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
 Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and note the report titled *Financial report for period ending 30 April 2026; and*
2. Approves Community Places for People Grant Program 2024-25 Acquittal for Warruwi Community Hall.

CARRIED

## 8 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

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.

OCM168/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
 Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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.

OCM169/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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.

OCM170/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
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:	Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM171/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL notes the minutes of Kakadu Ward Advisory Committee held on Friday, 15 May 2026 and reviewed decisions made by the Committee.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38am and reconvened at 11:01am.

Agenda Reference:	8.5
Title:	Human Resource Monthly Report
Author:	Luisa Arango, Human Resources Manager

The Council considered a report on Human Resource Monthly Report.

OCM172/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Joseph Diddo

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.6
Title:	Technical Services Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Report.

OCM173/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.7
Title:	Pavement Defects
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Pavement Defects.

OCM174/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Joseph Diddo

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Pavement Defects*;

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.8
Title:	Regional Waste Update
Author:	Meredith Newall, Waste and Resource Coordinator

The Council considered a report on Regional Waste Update.

OCM175/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.9
Title:	2026 Local Government By-Election - Warruwi
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on 2026 Local Government By-Election - Warruwi.

OCM176/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *2026 Local Government By-Election - Warruwi*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	8.10
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.

OCM176/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT COUNCIL:

1. receives and notes the report entitled *Community and Council Services Report*; and
2. requests that the First Nations Employment Plan be brought to the Ordinary Council Meeting in July 2026 for discussion.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Elected Member Questions with or without Notice
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM178/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Steven Nabalmarda

THAT the Council acknowledges the following questions raised without notice from Elected Members:

- Maningrida Barge Land Access Road – Sealing.
- Fuel – capacity in Minjilang and Warruwi, deliveries to Maningrida and Gunbalanya.
- Care flight contract – transition / continuity of service.

CARRIED

## 10 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Agenda Reference:	10.1
Title:	Closure to the Public for the Discussion of Confidential Items
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM179/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Joseph Diddo

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 11:51am 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

OCM180/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Confidential Ordinary Council meeting held on Thursday, 29 April 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.2
Title:	Confirmation of Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM181/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Confidential Special Council meeting held on Monday, 11 May 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.3
Title:	Review of Confidential Action Items
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM182/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and note the report titled *Review of Confidential Action Items*; and
2. Requests that a letter be sent to the Northern Land Council raising the Council's concerns in relation to the storage of volatile substances in communities.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.4
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM183/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Mickitja Onus

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.5
Title:	Sponsorship Applications Received
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

OCM184/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Cr Micketja Onus  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receive and note the report titled *Sponsorship Applications Received*; and
2. Form a Sponsorship Application Panel comprising of Cr Ralph F Blyth, Cr Ralph McCoy and Cr Dwane Baker and any other councillor that does not have a conflict of interest in the applications; and
3. Delegates the Sponsorship Application Panel authority to determine the actual amounts that will be granted, where the applications meet the criteria of the policy, given the applications have succeeded the amount of sponsorship funds set by Council in this financial year.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.6
Title:	Maningrida Church Renovations
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 51(1)(b). It contains information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer.*

Agenda Reference:	11.7
Title:	Bank Authorisations
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

*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)(d). It contains information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.*

Agenda Reference:	11.8
Title:	Council issued Credit Cards
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

*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:	11.9
Title:	Risk Management and Audit Committee - Vacancy of Chairperson
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

OCM188/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
 Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Risk Management and Audit Committee - Vacancy of Chairperson*; and
2. Approves forming a Risk Management and Audit Committee Chairperson Application Review Panel comprising of Mayor James Woods, Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips, Cr Ralph F Blyth, Cr Mickitja Onus and Chief Executive Officer to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of a Chairperson.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.10
Title:	Grants Update
Author:	Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters, Director Corporate Services

OCM189/2026 RESOLVED:  
 On the motion of Cr Mickitja Onus  
 Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and note the report titled *Grants Update*;
2. Approves the submission to the Australian Government's (Regional Development Australia NT) Regional Investment Readiness and Impact Fund to seek funding support to finalise project plans for the proposed future Maningrida outdoor exercise and recreation facility; and
3. Approves the submission of the Northern Territory Government's Community Benefit Funding application to construct a new playground in Minjilang.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	11.11
Title:	Cultural Training within Communities
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.*

Agenda Reference:	11.12
Title:	Chief Executive Officers Report
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)(c)(iii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.*

## 12 DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTIONS AND RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PUBLIC

Agenda Reference:	12.1
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

OCM192/2026 RESOLVED:  
On the motion of Mayor James Woods  
Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

### 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 Confirmation of Confidential Special Council Meeting Minutes
  - Item 11.3 Review of Confidential Action Items
  - Item 11.4 Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
  - Item 11.5 Sponsorship Applications Received
  - Item 11.9 Risk Management and Audit Committee – Vacancy of Chairperson
  - Item 11.10 Grants Update
2. Opens the meeting to the public at 3:00pm after the discussion of confidential items.

CARRIED

The public was re-admitted at 3:00pm.

## 13 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 1 July 2026.

## 14 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2026.

[Click here to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27 May 2026.](#)