

Minutes of the West Arnhem Regional Council Ordinary Council Meeting
Wednesday, 29 July 2026 at 9:00 am
Council Chambers

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting open at 9:00am, 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	Joseph Diddo
Councillor	Ralph McCoy
Councillor	Henry Yates
Councillor	Daniel Siebert
Councillor	Ralph F Blyth
Councillor	Dwane Baker

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Katharine Clare Murray
Interim Community and Council Services	Peter Mickleson
Manager Finance	Imran Shajib
Director Technical Services	Grant McKenzie
Technical Services Manager	Kylie Gregson
Governance Advisor (Acting)	Joy Mickleson
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.

OCM223/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes the late arrival of Cr Jermaine Namanurki;
2. Notes the apology received from Cr Steven Nabalmarda, Cr Joseph Diddo and Cr Mickitja Onus;
3. Determines Cr Steven Nabalmarda, Cr Joseph Diddo and Cr Mickitja Onus 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.

The Deputy Mayor declared a Conflict of Interest in Item 6.4 - Northern Land Council Section 19 Lease Advice and agreed to leave the meeting while the matter was being considered.

OCM224/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL acknowledges the declarations of interest disclosed in relation to the items listed for consideration at the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 July 2026.

CARRIED

5 PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

Agenda Reference:	5.1
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.

OCM225/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Dwane Baker

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

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 9:23am to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda.

CARRIED

6 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Agenda Reference: 6.1

Title: Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

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)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

OCM243/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Daniel Siebert

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of Wednesday, 1 July 2026 Confidential Ordinary Council meeting as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference: 6.2

Title: Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence

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.

OCM244/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the attached items of incoming and outgoing correspondence and respond to the email from the Gunbalanya School in relation to the Sport and Recreation program and work to ensure that it continues in future.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference: 6.3

Title: Confidential Review List - June 2026

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

OCM245/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Confidential Review List - June 2026*; and
2. Endorses the items on the *Confidentiality Review List* to be released to be made publicly available, as follows:

Special Council Meeting – 2 April 2025	CEO Credit Card and Bank Authorisations	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Received and noted the report titled CEO Credit Card and Bank Authorisations; 2. Approve the CEO, Katharine Murray, be provided a council issued credit card with a monthly spend limit of \$15,000; 3. Approve only the following council officers be authorised to deal with the Westpac Bank on behalf of the Council: a. Katharine Murray b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters c. Fiona Ainsworth d. Imran Shajib e. Chalana Hansani; and 4. Approve only the following council officers be authorised to deal with the investments held by the National Australia Bank on behalf of the Council: a. Katharine Murray b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters c. Imran Shajib d. Chalana Hansani.	SCM47/2025
Ordinary Council Meeting - 28 January 2026	Determination of Allowances for members of Local Councils	THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled Determination of Allowances for Members of Local Councils.	OCM043/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 28 January 2026	Council issued Credit Cards	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Council Issued Credit Cards; 2. Approves the issuing of a Credit Card to the new Human Resource Manager with a \$4,000 monthly transaction limit; and 3. Approves the cancellation of the Credit Card issued to the Human Resource Coordinator once the Human Resource Manager's Credit Card is activated.	OCM044/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 25 March 2026	Minjilang Local Authority Appointment	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Minjilang Local Authority Appointment; 2. Appoints Josephine Cooper to the Minjilang Local Authority as a community member; and 3. Defers the payment of \$300.00 for Josephine Cooper's attendance at the Minjilang Local Authority Provisional Meeting held on Wednesday, 4 March 2026 until advice is received.	OCM121/2026

Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 April 2026	Rates and Charges for 2026-27	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and note the report titled Rates and Charges for 2026-27; and 2. Approves the West Arnhem Regional Council's Draft 2026-27 Annual Plan for public consultation include a 10% increase in rates and charge in recognition of substantial operating cost increases.	OCM153/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 29 April 2026	Maningrida Change Room Status Update	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Maningrida Changeroom Status Update; 2. Includes in the term and conditions of the contractors' agreements clauses on what products can be bought on to community, how they are to be stored and subject to change at the discretion of the Council; 3. Requests a further report to the May 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting regarding the concept plans and approximate costings; and 4. Investigates funding for a community mural on the Change Room walls.	OCM155/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 May 2026	Maningrida Church Renovations	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Maningrida Church Renovations; 2. Refers the matter to the Maningrida Local Authority; 3. Requests that the church source two additional quotes; and 4. Defers the decision to provide in principal support.	OCM185/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 May 2026	Bank Authorisations	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Bank Authorisations; and 2. Approves only the following council officers be authorised to deal with the Westpac Bank on behalf of the Council: a. Katharine Murray b. Jocelyn Nathanael-Walters c. Imran Shajib d. Chalana Hansani e. James Henderson; and f. Luisa Arango	OCM186/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 May 2026	Council issued Credit Cards	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Council issued Credit Cards; 2. Approves a \$10,000 increase in the Council's total monthly transaction credit card limit; and 3. Approves the issue of a Council credit card with a monthly transaction limit of \$10,000 to the Council's Finance Officer responsible for Accounts Payable.	OCM187/2026
Ordinary Council Meeting - 27 May 2026	Chief Executive Officer's Report	THAT COUNCIL: 1. Receives and notes the report titled Chief Executive Officer's Report; 2. Reschedules the Ordinary Council Meeting from Wednesday to Monday, in October 2026 in Maningrida; 3. Approves the costs associated with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Executive Team to visit the East Arnhem Regional Council on Tuesday, October 2026 to Wednesday; and 4. Declines the request for travel assistance to the attend the funeral service in Darwin.	OCM191/2026

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.4
Title:	Northern Land Council Section 19 Lease Advice
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:	6.5
Title:	Maningrida and Homelands Regional Authority Ltd
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:	6.6
Title:	Council's Priorities
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:	6.7
Title:	Review of Confidential Action Items
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.

OCM249/2026 RESOLVED:
On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy
Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Review of Confidential Action Items*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	6.8
Title:	Chief Executive Officer's 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)(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.

OCM250/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Jermaine Namanurki

THAT COUNCIL receive and note the report titled *Chief Executive Officer's Report*.

CARRIED

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

Agenda Reference:	7.1
Title:	Disclosure of Confidential Resolutions and Re-admittance of the Public
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)(ii). It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

OCM251/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Approves to disclose the selected resolutions from the confidential section of this meeting in the non-confidential meeting minutes;
 - Item 6.1 Confirmation of Confidential Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes
 - Item 6.2 Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
 - Item 6.3 Confidential Review List – June 2026
 - Item 6.7 Review of Confidential Action Items
 - Item 6.8 Chief Executive Officer's Report
2. Opens the meeting to the public at 1:32pm after the discussion of confidential items.

CARRIED

8 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda Reference:	8.1
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.

OCM226/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL confirms the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday, 1 July 2026 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED

9 ACTION REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	9.1
Title:	Review of Action Items
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Review of Action Items.

OCM227/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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:	Financial report for period ending 30 June 2026
Author:	Imran Shajib, Finance Manager

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

OCM228/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Financial report for period ending 30 June 2026*;
2. Receives and notes interim acquittal of the Community Places for People Grant Program

3. Receives and notes two revised acquittals and one interim acquittal of Waste and Resource Management (WaRM) grants.
4. Approves the transfer of \$34,675 to Council's Fleet Reserve from 2025-26 surplus funds;
5. Approves the transfer of \$30,000 to the Council's Election Reserve from 2025-26 surplus funds; and
6. Approves the transfer of \$273,011 to the Council's Insurance Reserve held in a provision on Council's Balance Sheet.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.3
Title:	Service Agreement Establishment of Identity for Regional and Remote Communities
Author:	Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services

The Council considered a report on Service Agreement Establishment of Identity for Regional and Remote Communities.

OCM229/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Service Agreement Establishment of Identity for Regional and Remote Communities*; and
2. Does not enter into a Service Agreement for the Establishment of Identity for Regional and Remote Communities with the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (Transport and Safety Services).

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.4
Title:	LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Grants Commission
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Grants Commission.

OCM230/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *LGANT - Call for Nominations - NT Grants Commission*; and
2. Advises the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory that West Arnhem Regional Council nominates Mayor James Woods as the regional council representative on the NT Grants Commission.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.5
Title:	Warruwi Creche Building - Future Use
Author:	Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services

The Council considered a report on Warruwi Creche Building - Future Use.

OCM231/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Warruwi Creche Building - Future Use*;
2. Advises the Department of Education that Council, after consulting with Traditional Owners, Elders and the community, wants to close the Warruwi creche for good and keep the building for aged care services.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.6
Title:	Local Government Association of the NT - Call for Motions
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Local Government Association of the NT - Call for Motions.

OCM232/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth

Seconded Mayor James Woods

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *Local Government Association of the NT - Call for Motions*; and
2. Approves the following motions to the Local Government Association of the NT General Meeting:
 - a. Enhanced infrastructure funding for remote Northern Territory communities
 - b. Strengthening social and emotional wellbeing supports for young people in remote Northern Territory communities
 - c. Supporting safe places and healing programs for men in remote Northern Territory communities
 - d. Sustainable funding for council run early childhood services in remote Northern Territory communities.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	9.7
Title:	CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel: Member Appointments
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel: Member Appointments.

OCM233/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Ralph F Blyth

THAT COUNCIL:

1. Receives and notes the report titled *CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel: Member Appointments*; and
2. Appoints the following Elected Members as members of Council's CEO Employment and Remuneration Advisory Panel:
 - a. Councillor Dwane Baker
 - b. Councillor Ralph McCoy

CARRIED

10 RECEIVE AND NOTE REPORTS

Agenda Reference:	10.1
Title:	Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence.

OCM234/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph F Blyth

Seconded Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

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:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

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

OCM235/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Jermaine Namanurki

Seconded Cr Henry Yates

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.3
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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.

OCM236/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL receives and notes the report titled *Meetings and Events attended by the Chief Executive Officer*.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.4
Title:	Local Authority Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Local Authority Meeting Minutes.

OCM237/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

THAT COUNCIL notes the minutes of the following Local Authority meetings and reviews decisions made by the Local Authority:

Community	Date Held	Quorum	Date of next meeting
Waruwi	Wednesday, 15 July 26	Yes	Wednesday, 7 October 26

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.5
Title:	Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

OCM238/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT COUNCIL notes the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday, 29 June 2026 and reviewed decisions made by the Committee.

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.6
Title:	Human Resources Report
Author:	Katharine Murray, Chief Executive Officer

The Council considered a report on Human Resources Report.

OCM239/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Daniel Siebert

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.7
Title:	Technical Services Report
Author:	Kylie Gregson, Manager Technical Services

The Council considered a report on Technical Services Report.

OCM240/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Mayor James Woods

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

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

CARRIED

Agenda Reference:	10.8
Title:	Community and Council Services Report
Author:	Peter Mickleson, Interim Director Council and Community Services

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

OCM241/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Cr Ralph McCoy

Seconded Cr Dwane Baker

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

CARRIED

11 ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS WITH OR WITHOUT NOTICE

Agenda Reference:	11.1
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.

OCM242/2026 RESOLVED:

On the motion of Deputy Mayor Jacqueline Phillips

Seconded Cr Ralph McCoy

THAT notes the following questions with or without notice from Elected Members:

- ☐ Street lights – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Roads and Shoulders – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Toad Hall Completion – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Flag Poles installation – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Community WiFi – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Football Changerooms – Gunbalanya
- ☐ 4WD Community Bus – Gunbalanya
- ☐ Residential wash out area – Maningrida (Lot 601 and Lot 602)
- ☐ Foreshore Section C – Outdoor Gym – Maningrida

CARRIED

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 22 September 2026.

13 MEETING DECLARED CLOSED

Mayor James Woods declared the meeting closed at 3:48pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2026.

[Click here to view the agenda for the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29 July 2026.](#)