

MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, ORDINARY MEETING
OF COUNCIL HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROPER GULF REGIONAL
COUNCIL SUPPORT CENTRE
2 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE, NT ON WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2023
AT 08:30AM

1 PRESENT MEMBERS/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Elected Members

- Mayor Tony JACK;
- Deputy Mayor Helen LEE;
- Councillor Samuel EVANS;
- Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR;
- Councillor Patricia FARRELL (video conference);
- Councillor Annabelle DAYLIGHT;
- Councillor Gadrian HOOSAN;
- Councillor Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI (video conference);
- Councillor John DALYWATER; and
- Councillor Selina ASHLEY.

1.2 Staff

- Marc GARDNER, Chief Executive Officer;
- Cindy HADDOW, General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability;
- Clare CUPITT, Acting General Manager Corporate Services and Engagement;
- Maricar RHODES, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer; and
- Bhumika ADHIKARI, Governance Officer (minute secretary).

1.3 Guests

- Karen HOCKING, Project Manager, Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet;
- Dick GUIT OAM, Independent Chair, Land Development Committee;
- Jasmine HUSSON, Senior Program Manager, Land Development, Planning and Development, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics; and
- Ash RINGIN, Consultant Project Manager – Housing Projects, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

2 MEETING OPENED

The Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting opened at 8:58am. The Mayor welcomed members, staff and guests and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

3 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

115/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Annabelle DAYLIGHT)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) accepts the tendered apology from Councillor Owen TURNER; and
- (b) does not accept the tendered apology from Councillor Jana DANIELS.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

116/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI) CARRIED

That Council confirms the minutes from its Ordinary Meeting held on 21 June 2023 and affirms them to be a true and accurate record of that meeting's decisions and proceedings.

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 ACTION LIST

117/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Annabelle DAYLIGHT)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Action List; and
- (b) approves the removal of completed items.

8 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

- NT Remuneration Tribunal Determination – Vehicle Allowance – (CEO Marc GARDNER);
- Subdivisional Guidelines;
- Ngukurr Boat Ramp Road; – (CEO Marc GARDNER)
- Reconciliation Action Plan Summary report;
- CEO Review Committee – Confidential session; and
- Local Authority Review – (CEO Marc GARDNER).

9 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Chief Executive Officer Marc GARDNER, declared an interest as Council representative for item 15.7 CouncilBiz report.

10 PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

10.1 PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

118/2023 RESOLVED (Patricia FARRELL/Samuel EVANS)

CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the Previous Committee Meeting Minutes report.

15.1 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

119/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Selina ASHLEY)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) appoints Councillor Helen LEE as Deputy Mayor for a term of 2 years or until the next general election of the Council (whichever is sooner);
- (b) formally acknowledges the valuable service and contribution of former Cr MacFarlane to the Roper Gulf Regional Council over many years of service.

N.B. The election of the Deputy Mayor was undertaken by way of secret ballot with the Chief Executive Officer as the Returning Officer for the process. The results of which were publicly declared in open session. The decision to hold a secret ballot was unanimous.

The results were publicly declared as follows:

Deputy Mayor:

Cr. Helen LEE (nominated by Cr. John DALYWATER); 8 votes in favour.

Cr. Samuel EVANS (self-nominated); 2 votes in favour.

Karen HOCKING, Project Manager from the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet provided Code of Conduct Training at 10:05 and finished the Training at 10:28am.

Council adjourned the meeting for morning tea at 10:28am and reconvened at 11:05am.

Dick GUIT OAM, Independent Chair, Land Development Committee and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics team presented to Council on Subdivisional Guidelines at 11:05am and left the meeting at 11:35am.

11 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

120/2023 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) accepts the incoming correspondence;
- (b) requests the Chief Executive Officer to invite the Remuneration Tribunal to Ordinary Meeting of Council scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 25 October 2023 in Ngukurr;
- (c) requests the Chief Executive Officer to include Agenda item on the Big Rivers Region Mayors and CEOs' Meeting;
- (d) requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Remuneration Tribunal with further queries about \$5000 budget capped per year for the vehicle allowance; and
- (e) requests the Chief Executive Officer to write a letter of support to the Murweh Shire Council, Office of the Mayor in relation to Remote Australians Matter conference.

12 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

121/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Samuel EVANS)

CARRIED

That Council notes the outgoing correspondence.

13 WARD REPORTS

13.1 YUGUL MANGI WARD REPORT

122/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Selina ASHLEY)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Yugul Mangi Ward Report;
- (b) approves the Provisional recommendations from the 06 June 2023 Ngukurr Local Authority Minutes; and
- (c) requests the Chief Executive Officer calls for a 21 day nomination period to fill the two (2) vacancies on the Ngukurr Local Authority.

Cr Gadrian HOOSAN left the meeting, the time being 11:40 am.

Cr Gadrian HOOSAN returned to the meeting, the time being 11:42 am.

Cr Tony JACK left the meeting, the time being 11:43 am.

Cr Tony JACK returned to the meeting, the time being 11:45 am.

13.2 SOUTH WEST GULF WARD REPORT

123/2023 RESOLVED (Gadrian HOOSAN/Annabelle DAYLIGHT)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the South West Gulf Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendations from the 03 August 2023 Borroloola Local Authority Minutes;
- (c) rescinds the membership of Raymond ANDERSON from Borroloola Local Authority;
- (d) requests the Chief Executive Officer calls for a 21 day nomination period to fill the one (1) vacancy on the Borroloola Local Authority;
- (e) rescinds the membership of Jasmine CAMPBELL, Curtis SHADFORTH and Margaret SHADFORTH from the Robinson Local Authority; and
- (d) reduces the total membership of Robinson River Local Authority from Twelve (12) members to Nine (9) members.

Cr Annabelle DAYLIGHT left the meeting, the time being 12:03 pm.

Cr Annabelle DAYLIGHT returned to the meeting, the time being 12:04 pm.

13.3 NUMBULWAR NUMBURINDI WARD REPORT

124/2023 RESOLVED (Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR/Samuel EVANS)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendations from the 20 July 2023 Numbulwar Local Authority Minutes;
- (c) notes the resignation tendered by David MURRUNGUN from the Numbulwar Local Authority;
- (d) approves the nomination received from Amanda NGALMI for membership on the Numbulwar Local Authority; and
- (f) requests to postpone the Numbulwar Local Authority from Wednesday, 06 September 2023 to Friday, 15 September 2023.

Council adjourned for Lunch at 12:34pm and reconvened at 1:15pm.

13.4 NEVER NEVER WARD REPORT

125/2023 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI/Patricia FARRELL) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Never Never Ward Report;
- (b) approves the Provisional recommendations from the Mataranka Local Authority Meeting held on 01 August 2023;
- (c) approves the Provisional recommendations from the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Meeting held on 19 July 2023;
- (d) approves the nomination received from Naomi WILFRED for membership on the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority;
- (e) requests the Chief Executive Officer open a '21-day Nominations Period' to fill one (1) vacancy on the Jilkminggan Local Authority;
- (f) requests the Chief Executive Officer open a '21-day Nominations Period' to fill one (1) vacancy on the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority;
- (i) rescinds the membership of Alan CHAPMAN from the Mataranka Local Authority Meeting;
- (j) requests the Chief Executive Officer open a '21-day Nominations Period' to fill one (1) vacancy on the Mataranka Local Authority; and
- (k) change the meeting time of the Mataranka Local Authority to commence at 1:00pm on scheduled meeting dates due to safety and logistical issues.

13.5 NYIRANGGULUNG WARD REPORT

126/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Helen LEE) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Nyirranggulung Ward Report;
- (b) approves the Provisional recommendations from the Wugularr (Beswick) Local Authority Meeting held on 03 July 2023;
- (c) approves the recommendations from the Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on 04 July 2023;
- (d) requests the Chief Executive Officer open a '21-day Nominations Period' to fill the two (2) vacancies on the Manyallaluk Local Authority;
- (e) requests to reconvene one more Manyallaluk Local Authority before considering possibility of combining Barunga and Manyallaluk Local Authority together; and
- (f) amends the Barunga Local Authority Minutes to include Charlane BULUMBARA and Ambrose BULUMBARA as present.

14 GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS, AUSTRALIA DAY

127/2023 RESOLVED (Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR/Patricia FARRELL) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes this report;
- (b) submits one Citizen of the Year Award registration for the entire Roper Gulf region, rather than submitting a registration for each community;
- (c) any nominations from each Award category be entered into the Roper Gulf region award; and
- (d) each community hold a localised Australia Day event which is not registered with the Australia Day Council and no large regional event is held.

14.2 NT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION – VEHICLE ALLOWANCE – CEO MARC GARDNER

128/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council invites the members of the NT Remuneration Tribunal to the October Ordinary Meeting of Council in Ngukurr to consult the Council in relation to the amendments to the determination Local Government Elected Members and Local Authority Allowances Determination.

14.3 SUBDIVISIONAL GUIDELINES

129/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Selina ASHLEY) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) acknowledges and thanks the Northern Territory Government in relation to the presentation on the new Northern Territory Subdivisional Guidelines; and
- (b) formally accepts the new Northern Territory Subdivisional Guidelines as being applicable to the entire Roper Gulf Regional Council area.

14.4 NGUKURR BOAT RAMP ROADS

130/2023 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI/John DALYWATER) CARRIED

That Council in principle supports the allocation up to \$1,000,000 towards road upgrades to Ngukurr Boat Ramp, if Government funding partners are successful in the allocation of funds towards a new Ngukurr Boat Ramp.

14.5 RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN SUMMARY REPORT

131/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the verbal update on Reconciliation Action Plan.

14.6 CEO REVIEW COMMITTEE – CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

This item is moved into Confidential Session.

14.7 LOCAL AUTHORITY REVIEW

132/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Samuel EVANS) CARRIED

That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer provide a report to Council on the review of all Local Authorities of the Roper Gulf Regional Council for the 25 October 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

15 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

15.2 MAYOR'S REPORT

133/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Annabelle DAYLIGHT) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the Mayoral Report.

15.3 COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORT

134/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the Council Meeting Attendance Report.

15.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY - CALL FOR MOTIONS - NOVEMBER 2023 GENERAL MEETING

135/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Samuel EVANS) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory – Call for Motions – November 2023 General Meeting report;
- (b) submits motions to the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory on issues of strategic importance as below:
- Land availability;
 - Alcohol management;
 - Social Planning;
 - Role and Sustainability of Local Government and Mechanism for reviewing financial assistance grant methodology;
 - Town Camp Roads;
 - Northern Territory Government Protocols with Council;
 - Numbulwar Safe House;
 - Remuneration Tribunal; and
 - Cotton industry issues.
- (c) nominates Mayor Tony JACK, Deputy Mayor Helen LEE, Cr. Samuel EVANS, Cr. Selina ASHLEY, Cr. Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI, Cr. Patricia FARRELL and Cr. Annabelle DAYLIGHT to attend the meeting and conference.

15.5 LGANT 2022-2023 MEMBER VALUE PROPOSITION REPORT AND MEMBER SUBSCRIPTION INVOICE

136/2023 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI/Selina ASHLEY) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the LGANT 2022-2023 Member Value Proposition Report and Member Subscription Invoice report.

15.6 RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO LOCATION OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL AND DATE OF AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE - OCTOBER 2023

137/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) does not approve a change to the location of the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 25th October 2023, from Ngukurr Community to Katherine; and
- (b) does approve a change to the meeting date of the Audit and Risk Committee from 18th October 2023 to 23rd October 2023 at 11:00am.

15.7 COUNCILBIZ UPDATE

138/2023 RESOLVED (Samuel EVANS/Selina ASHLEY) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the report in relation to the CouncilBiz Update.

15.8 CHANGES TO ORGANISATIONAL DELEGATIONS (NON FINANCIAL)

139/2023 RESOLVED (Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR/Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI) CARRIED

That Council approves the changes to the Organisational Delegations Manual (non-Financial).

16 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Cr Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR left the meeting, the time being 02:36 pm.

Cr Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR returned to the meeting, the time being 02:37 pm.

17 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISIONAL REPORT

17.1 IMPROVED VISITOR MANAGEMENT AND LIVING SKILLS PLANS FOR MULGGAN CAMP 2023-24

140/2023 RESOLVED (Annabelle DAYLIGHT/Selina ASHLEY) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Improved Visitor Management and Living Skills Plans for Mulggan Camp Agreement for 2023 – 24 report; and
- (b) approves the use of the Common Seal for the execution of the funding agreement for the above program with the Department of Territory Families and Communities.

17.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES & ENGAGEMENT DIVISIONAL UPDATE

141/2023 RESOLVED (Samuel EVANS/Gadrian HOOSAN) CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Community Services & Engagement Divisional Update report; and
- (b) approves for the Chief Executive Officer to sign and enter into the agreement with YMCA NT for the management of the Borroloola and Ngukurr swimming pools.

18 CORPORATE SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY DIVISIONAL REPORT

18.1 2023-24 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

142/2023 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI/Patricia FARRELL) CARRIED

That Council notes and approves the proposed timeline for the 2023-24 Community Grants Program, Round 1.

18.2 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS UPDATE

143/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update report.

Cr Annabelle DAYLIGHT left the meeting, the time being 02:50 pm.

Cr Annabelle DAYLIGHT returned to the meeting, the time being 02:51 pm.

Cr Samuel EVANS left the meeting, the time being 02:51 pm.

Cr Samuel EVANS returned to the meeting, the time being 02:54 pm.

18.3 COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 JULY 2023

144/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR) CARRIED

That Council receives and notes the Council's Financial Report as at 31 July 2023.

18.4 NUMBULWAR SAFE HOUSE

145/2023 RESOLVED (Selina ASHLEY/Helen LEE) CARRIED

That Council writes to Hon Selena UIBO, Member for Arnhem (Numbulwar), the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and also the Hon Kate WORDEN, Minister for Territory Families and Minister for Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, in relation to establishing a Women's Refuge / Safe House at Numbulwar and requesting that the Territory take-on this as a priority project and apply for the upcoming funding that will soon be available through the Commonwealth FO2021-7622 Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program.

19 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AND PLANNING DIVISIONAL REPORT

19.1 MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT

146/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Selina ASHLEY)

CARRIED

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Major Projects report;
- (b) approves the budget amendment of \$45,000 (Council contribution) and \$20,000 (Barunga Local Authority contribution) for the Barunga Softfall Project; and
- (c) approves the budget amendment of \$125,000 for the Mataranka Dump Point.

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

147/2023 RESOLVED (Helen LEE/Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR)

CARRIED

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be closed to the public to consider the Confidential items of the Agenda:-

20.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes Confidential Session - *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(e), 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.*

20.2 Previous Committee Minutes Confidential Session - *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(e), 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.*

20.3 Community Development Programme (CDP) Update - *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(c)(i) (c)(iii) (c)(iv) (e) (f), information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the interests of council or some other person; AND 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; AND information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.*

20.4 Chief Executive Officer's Report - *The report will conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 and Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 s51(1)(a) (c)(iii) (e), 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; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff; AND 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.*

The meeting moved to the Confidential Session at 3:56pm.

RETURN TO OPEN

148/2023 RESOLVED (John DALYWATER/Samuel EVANS)

CARRIED

That pursuant to section 99(2) and 293(1) of the Local Government Act 2019 and section 51(1)(a) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 the meeting be re-opened to the public.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 4:27pm.

21 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4:28 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday, 23 August 2023 and will be confirmed at the next meeting.

Mayor Tony JACK
Confirmed on Wednesday, 25 October 2023.