



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, HELD  
AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT CENTRE  
2 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE, NT ON WEDNESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2025 AT 8:30 AM

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## **1 PRESENT MEMBERS/STAFF/GUESTS**

### **1.1 Elected Members**

- Mayor Tony JACK (Chairperson);
- Deputy Mayor Helen LEE;
- Councillor Preston LEE;
- Councillor Sue EDWARDS;
- Councillor Des BARRITT;
- Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR;
- Councillor Kathy-Anne NUMAMURDIRDI;
- Councillor Ash GARNER;
- Councillor Samuel EVANS;
- Councillor Michelle FARRELL; and
- Councillor Patricia FARRELL.

### **1.2 Staff Members**

- David HURST, Chief Executive Officer;
- Cindy HADDOW, General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability;
- Tony HOPP, General Manager Community Services and Engagement;
- Luke HADDOW, General Manager Infrastructure Services and Planning;
- Cristian COMAN, Manager Corporate Compliance;
- Cristie GEER, Programs Manager (via audio/video conference);
- Bhumika ADHIKARI, Governance Engagement Coordinator; and
- Daniele PIGA, Governance Coordinator (minute secretary).

### **1.3 Guests**

- Greg EVANS, Financial Consultant (via audio/video conference).

## **2 MEETING OPENED**

The Ordinary Meeting of Council opened at 8:35 am. Mayor Tony JACK welcomed members, staff and guests and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

At request of Mayor Tony JACK, Council observed one minute's silence out of respect for the victims of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack and their families.

Councillor Michelle FARRELL formally sworn-in by Mayor and Chief Executive Officer by reciting the Affirmation of Office. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillors and Staff formally congratulated Councillor Michelle FARRELL and welcomed her to Council.

## **3 WELCOME TO COUNTRY**

Mayor Tony JACK welcomed all persons to Country.

## **4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**4.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence**

2025/209 **RESOLVED** (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr)

**CARRIED**

That Council accepts the tendered apologies from Councillors John DALYWATER and Melissa ANDREWS-WURRAMARRBA.

**5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Nil.

**6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES****6.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

2025/210 **RESOLVED** (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)

**CARRIED**

That Council receives and notes the minutes from its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 October 2025.

**7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES****7.1 Action List**

2025/211 **RESOLVED** (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)

**CARRIED**

That Council:

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

**8 PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES****8.1 Previous Committee Meeting Minutes**

2025/212 **RESOLVED** (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)

**CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Previous Committee Meeting Minutes;
- (b) invites Awais UR REHMAN, Independent Member of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee to attend the first Committee Meeting of Calendar Year 6 in-person; and
- (c) invites Ian SWAN, Claudia GOLDSMITH and Carolyn EAGLE, Independent Members of the Audit and Risk Committee to attend the June 2026 Committee Meeting in-person.

**9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

**10 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Councillors Michelle FARRELL, Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR and Samuel EVANS declared a conflict of interest at Item 20.8.

**11 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE****11.1 Incoming Correspondence**

2025/213 **RESOLVED** (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Des Barritt)

**CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) accepts the Incoming Correspondence Report;

- (b) receives and notes the Contract Variation for the Active Regional and Remote Communities Program from the Northern Territory Government;
- (c) approves the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Contract Variation Agreement with the Northern Territory Government;
- (d) approves the use of the Common Seal on the funding agreement documents;
- (e) directs the Chief Executive Officer to compile and supply a response to Local Government Funding and Fiscal Sustainability Inquiry (Cth);
- (f) requests the Chief Executive Officer to ascertain the Maranboy Police Station staffing situation;
- (g) receives and notes the renaming of the Edith River Bridge to the Mike REED Bridge request from Member of Katherine, and requests for Traditional Owners to be consulted on the matter before any further deliberations; and
- (h) agrees to assist the Mataranka Fishing Club with the installation of guttering and fencing as per its request.

## 12 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

### 12.1 Outgoing Correspondence

2025/214 **RESOLVED (Councillor Patricia Farrell/Councillor Sue Edwards)** **CARRIED**

That Council notes the Outgoing Correspondence Report.

## 13 WARD REPORTS

### 13.1 Nyirranggulung Ward Report

2025/215 **RESOLVED (Councillor Preston Lee/Councillor Michelle Farrell)** **CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Nyirranggulung Ward Report; and
- (b) does not accept the nomination of Andrea ANDREWS for the Barunga Local Authority.

*Councillor Samuel Evans left the meeting at 9:10 am.*

*Councillor Samuel Evans returned to the meeting at 9:12 am.*

### 13.2 Never Never Ward Report

2025/216 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr)** **CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Never Never Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendations from the Jilkminggan Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 04 November 2025;
- (c) approves the recommendations from the Mataranka Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 04 November 2025;
- (d) approves the recommendations from the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 01 December 2025;
- (e) notes the resignation of Alesha SANDY as a Member of the Jilkminggan Local Authority;
- (f) accepts the nominations of Helen HAWKINS and Lorretta GIBSON and appoints them as members of the Mataranka Local Authority and declines the nomination of David EAST;
- (g) requests scoping of Council's asset dispositions in Mataranka;
- (h) establishes the Mataranka Citizen of the Year Committee, to assess and nominate candidates for the Citizen of the year, to be ratified by the Mayor;
- (i) appoints Mayor Tony JACK, Councillor Des BARRITT and Councillor Sue EDWARDS to the above; and
- (j) requests Chief Executive Officer to ascertain and address the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) safety hazards on Roper Creek Bridge arising overgrown vegetation and lack of signage.

*Deputy Mayor Helen Lee left the meeting at 9:26 am.  
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee returned to the meeting at 9:28 am.*

### **13.3 Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report**

**2025/217 RESOLVED (Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr/Councillor Michelle Farrell) CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendations from the Numbulwar Local Authority meeting held on Wednesday, 03 December 2025;
- (c) requests the Chief Executive Officer to invite Department of Education (Cth) decision-makers to attend the early child care centres throughout the Council's Region with Council to supply accommodation and intra-Region transport; and
- (d) rescinds the membership of Amanda NGALMI from the Numbulwar Local Authority.

*Councillor Des Barritt left the meeting at 9:36 am.  
Councillor Des Barritt returned to the meeting at 9:36 am.*

### **13.4 Yugul Mangi Ward Report**

**2025/218 RESOLVED (Councillor Patricia Farrell/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Yugul Mangi Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendation from the Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 02 December 2025;
- (c) approves the recommendation from the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 02 December 2025; and
- (d) directs the Chief Executive Officer to continue advocacy for telecommunication, especially Cellular Communications for the Urapunga Community.

*Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr left the meeting at 9:37 am.  
Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr returned to the meeting at 9:39 am.*

### **13.5 South West Gulf Ward Report**

**2025/219 RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Des Barritt) CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the South West Gulf Ward Report;
- (b) approves the recommendations from the Borroloola Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday, 06 November 2025; and
- (c) rescinds the Membership of Gadrian HOOSAN from the Borroloola Local Authority.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 am and reconvened at 10:16 am.

## **14 EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

### **14.1 Mayor's Report**

**2025/220 RESOLVED (Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr) CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Mayor's Report; and
- (b) invites Tessa MAYBERRY to attend all upcoming Gulf Region Local Authority Meetings commencing in 2026.

*Councillor Samuel Evans left the meeting at 10:33 am.*

**14.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report****2025/221 RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Des Barritt)****CARRIED**

That Council receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report.

**14.3 Council Meeting Attendance Report****2025/222 RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Deputy Mayor Helen Lee)****CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Council and Committee Meeting Attendance Report; and
- (b) authorises the attendance of Elected Members at training workshops to be held on Thursday 18 December 2025 at the Council Chambers.

*Councillor Samuel Evans returned to the meeting at 10:35 am.***14.4 Calendar Meeting Schedule - Council, Committee and Local Authority Meetings****2025/223 RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Des Barritt)****CARRIED**

That Council approves the 2026 Meeting Schedule – Council (and Briefing Days), Committee and Local Authority Meetings as outlined in the Calendar (attached).

*Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr left the meeting at 10:36 am.**Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr returned to the meeting at 10:38 am.***14.5 ALGA Call for Motions - National General Assembly 2026****2025/224 RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)****CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) resolves its formal motions for submission, and the composition of its Delegation to attend the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly, scheduled to be held in Canberra from the 23 June 2026 to the 25 June 2026 (plus associated travel days); and
- (b) authorises the attendance of Mayor Tony JACK, Deputy Mayor Helen LEE, Councillors Sue EDWARDS, Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR, Ash GARNER, Patricia FARRELL, Michelle FARRELL, Melissa ANDREWS, Samuel EVANS and Preston LEE.
- (c) Motions to comprise of:
  - i. Childcare Availability;
  - ii. Logistics Infrastructure;
  - iii. Water Security; and
  - iv. Appropriate Community Consultation.

**15 CORPORATE SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY DIVISIONAL REPORT****15.1 Council Financial Report as at 30.11.2025****2025/225 RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr)** **CARRIED**

That Council receives and notes the Council's Financial Report as at 30 November 2025.

**16 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISIONAL REPORT****16.1 Animal Management Research Proposal****2025/226 RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Ash Garner)****CARRIED**

That Council:

- (a) receives and notes the Animal Management Research Proposal Report;
- (b) endorses the Proposal; and
- (c) directs the Chief Executive Officer to compile and supply a Letter of Support for the same.

**16.2 Programs Update**

2025/227 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)** **CARRIED**  
That Council receives and notes the Programs Update Report.

*Councillor Patricia Farrell left the meeting at 11:06 am.  
Councillor Patricia Farrell returned to the meeting at 11:09 am.*

**17 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AND PLANNING DIVISIONAL REPORT**

**17.1 Allocation of WARM grant towards purchase of a Car Crusher**  
2025/228 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr)** **CARRIED**

That Council approves the allocation of the 25-26 WARM Grant of \$207,800.00 to the following project.

- \$207,800.00 towards the purchase of Car Crusher.

**17.2 Local Authority Projects Update**

2025/229 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Preston Lee)** **CARRIED**  
That Council receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update Report.

**17.3 Major Projects Report**

2025/230 **RESOLVED (Councillor Edwin Nungumajbarr/Councillor Samuel Evans)** **CARRIED**

That Council receives and notes the Major Projects Report

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am and reconvened at 12:50 pm.

**18 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

**19 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Nil.

**20 CLOSED SESSION****DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION**

2025/231 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Deputy Mayor Helen Lee)** **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**

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

**20.2 Action List**

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

**20.3 Previous Committee Minutes Confidential Session**

*Regulation 51(1)(d) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

**20.4 Chief Executive Officer Leave**

*Regulation 51(1)(a) - 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)(a). It contains 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.*

**20.5 Aged Care and Disability Services Report**

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) - 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..*

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

**20.6 Workshop Rates Review**

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) - 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.*

**20.7 2025/2026 Budget Review**

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(d) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

### **20.8 Prospective Memorandum**

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(e) - 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.*

### **20.9 Urgent Remediation Works**

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) - 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.*

*Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) - 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.*

#### **20.1.1 Return to Open Meeting**

**2025/241 RESOLVED (Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Councillor Patricia Farrell) 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.

### **21 CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 3:39 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 December 2025 and will be confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

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Mayor Tony JACK  
Confirmed on 25 February 2026.