MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL SERVICE DELIVERY CENTRE-MATARANKA 36 ROPER TERRACE, MATARANKA NT 0852ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 8:30 AM

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 (via audio/video conference);
- Councillor Ash GARNER;
- Councillor Samuel EVANS (via audio/video conference);
- Councillor Michelle FARRELL; and
- Councillor Patricia FARRELL.

1.2 Staff Members

- Cindy HADDOW, Acting Chief Executive Officer;
- Tony HOPP, General Manager Community Services and Engagement;
- Luke HADDOW, General Manager Infrastructure Services and Planning;
- Garry GILES, Acting General Manager Corporate Services and Sustainability;
- Chathurangi DIAS, Acting Finance Manager;
- Kellie JOHNSTON, Assets Manager;
- Upeksha UDUWALAGE, Training and Development Coordinator;
- Cristian COMAN, Manager Corporate Compliance;
- Cristie GEER, Programs Manager (via audio/video conference);
- Niloy MAZUMDAR, Contracts Coordinator;
- Annika BERENDES, Programs Communications Coordinator; and
- Bhumika ADHIKARI, Governance Engagement Coordinator (minute secretary).

1.3 Guests

- Greg EVANS, Financial Consultant (via audio/video conference); and
- Mataranka School 3 Staff and 11 children.

2 MEETING OPENED

The Ordinary Meeting of Council opened at 8:37 am. Mayor Tony JACK welcomed members, staff and guests and the Roper Gulf Regional Council Pledge was read.

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

2026/1 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council accepts the tendered apology from Councillor John DALYWATER, Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR and Councillor Samuel EVANS.

Councillor Samuel EVANS joined the meeting at 8:39 am.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
6.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes
2026/2 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***
That Council confirms the minutes from its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 17 December 2025.

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
7.1 Action List
2026/3 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)** ***CARRIED***
That Council:
(a) receives and notes the Action List; and
(b) approves the removal of completed items.

Councillor Patricia Farrell left the meeting at 8:44 am.
Councillor Patricia Farrell returned to the meeting at 8:47 am

8 PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8.1 Previous Committee Meeting Minutes
2025/4 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***
That Council receives and notes the Previous Committee Meeting Minutes.

Cr. Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR joined the Meeting at 8:53 am.

9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS
Nil.

10 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST
Nil.

11 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE
11.1 Incoming Correspondence
2026/5 **RESOLVED (Councillor Michelle Farrell/Councillor Samuel Evans)** ***CARRIED***
That Council:
(a) accepts the Incoming Correspondence Report;
(b) waives the fee of Mataranka Sports and Recreation Grounds for the Annual Sports Camp for the Isolated Children's Parents' Association to be held from the 07 to 09 October 2026 (inclusive);
(c) notes the resignation of Councillor Melissa ANDREWS-WURRAMARRBA from Council and Local Authorities;

(d) nominates Councillor Ash GARNER as Council's representations to the membership of Ministerial Advisory Committee of Cultural Affairs (MACMA);
(e) supports The - Y's grant application and directs the Chief Executive Officer to supply correspondence to that effect; and
(f) supports the return of Barunga Festival to Community Management, and appoints a staff member as its representative to be determined by the Chief Executive Officer.

12 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Outgoing Correspondence

2026/6 **RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council notes the Outgoing Correspondence Report.

13 WARD REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Helen LEE and Councillor Preston LEE declared a Conflict of Interests at item (e) (personal) and left the meeting at 9:12 am and returned the meeting at 9:16 am.

13.1 Nyirranggulung Ward Report

2026/7 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Samuel Evans)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:
(a) receives and notes the Nyirranggulung Ward Report;
(b) approves the recommendations from the Wugularr Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 12 January 2026;
(c) approves the recommendations from the Manyallaluk Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 12 January 2026;
(d) approves the recommendations from the Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 13 January 2026;
(e) accepts and appoint the nomination of Lana BROOME and Eventhia FRIDAY and appoints them Members of the Barunga Local Authority;
(f) requests Council to progress the Blanasi Collection matter and to undertake appropriate consultation.
(g) receives and notes Councillor Preston LEE's resignation from Barunga Local Authority;
(h) increases membership of Wugularr Local Authority to ten (10);
(i) appoints Councillor Preston LEE to Wugularr Local Authority; and
(j) receives and notes the Deputy Mayor concern pertaining to Bulman Local Authority Meeting not being postponed rather than cancelled.

13.2 Never Never Ward Report

2026/8 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:
(a) receives and notes the Never Never Ward Report;
(b) approves the recommendations from the Mataranka Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 03 February 2026;
(c) notes the resignation of Shirley ROBERTS as a Member of the Jilkminggan Local Authority;
(d) accepts the nominations of Adrian DOCTOR and Patricia BAKER for the Jilkminggan Local Authority and appoints them as a member of the Jilkminggan Local Authority;
(e) notes the resignation of Edna ILES as a Member of the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority;
(f) accepts the nominations of Caroline VINCENT for the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority and appoints her as Members of Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority.
(g) rescinds the membership of Annabelle DAYLIGHT from the Mataranka Local Authority;
(h) calls for expression of interest for Water Allocation trading in Mataranka; and
(i) requests for urgent remedial works to be carried out at the Mataranka airstrip.

13.3 Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report

2026/9 **RESOLVED (Councillor Patricia Farrell/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report.

13.4 Yugul Mangi Ward Report

2026/10 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Yugul Mangi Ward Report;
(b) receives and notes Cr. Melissa ANDREWS-WURRAMARRBA resignation from Ngukurr and Urapunga Local Authorities; and
(c) appoints Cr. Michelle FARRELL to the Ngukurr and Urapunga Local Authorities.

13.5 South West Gulf Ward Report

2026/11 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the South West Gulf Ward Report;
(b) notes the resignation of Trish ELMY from the Borroloola Local Authority;
(c) rescinds the membership of Gadrian HOOSAN from the Robinson River Local Authority; and
(d) reduces the size of Robinson River Local Authority to eight (8).

14 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

14.1 Mayor's Report

2026/12 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Mayor's Report;
(b) receives and notes the Mayor's concerns pertaining to NDIS providers inducing clients by way of unethical means; and
(c) directs the Chief Executive Officer to express Council's concern pertaining to unscrupulous National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) service providers taking advantage of vulnerable community members in Council's Region to the Regulator – the National Disability Insurance Agency.

14.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

2026/13 **RESOLVED (Councillor Patricia Farrell/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Report; and
(b) notes with concern, the excessive Safe NT OCHRE card processing times and requests that the Chief Executive Officer to correspond with the responsible NT and Commonwealth ministers pertaining in relation to the same.

14.3 Council Meeting Attendance Report

2026/14 **RESOLVED (Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Council and Committee Meeting Attendance Report;
(b) authorises the attendance of Elected Members at training workshops to be held on Tuesday 09 June 2026 at the Council Chambers; and
(c) changes the date of the June Audit and Risk Committee Meeting to Friday 12 June 2026.

14.4 LGANT Annual and General Meetings Call for Motions

2026/15 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That the Finance and Infrastructure Committee:

(a) calls for motions for the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Annual and General Meetings;
* OCHRE Cards application processing
* NDIS scams and fraud targeting vulnerable constituents

(b) approves the attendance of its delegation Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR, Councillor Ash GARNER, Councillor Preston LEE, Councillor Patricia FARRELL at the LGANT Meeting in from 14 April 2026 to 15 April 2026 (plus associated travel days).

14.5 LG Governance Essentials

2026/16 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***CARRIED***

That Council nominates Councillor Ash GARNER, Councillor Preston LEE to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Governance Essentials for Local Government course in Darwin on 12 – 13 March 2026 (inclusive), plus associated travel days.

15 CORPORATE SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY DIVISIONAL REPORT

15.1 Council Financial Report as at 31.01.2026

2026/17 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Council's Financial Report as at 31 January 2026.

15.2 Grant Funding Acquital

2026/18 **RESOLVED (Councillor Michelle Farrell/Councillor Des BARRITT)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Immediate Priority Grant Program Funding Acquittal;
(b) receives and notes the Community Places for People (CPP) Grant Program; and
(c) receives and notes the Local Government Immediate Priority Grant 2022-23 Acquittal.

15.3 Numburindi Corporation Ltd - Numbulwar Grants Applications

2026/19 **RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to supply a letter of support to the Numburindi Corporation Limited's (NCL) application for organisational capacity building funding through Creative Australia;
(b) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to supply a letter of support to the Numburindi Corporation Limited's (NCL) application to the Community Benefit Fund for the replacement of the Numburindi Store roof;
(c) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to supply a letter of support to the Numburindi Corporation Limited's (NCL) application to the Aboriginal Investment NT Community Impact and Innovation Grant;
(d) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to supply a letter of support to the Numburindi Corporation Limited's (NCL) application for a vehicle gift through the Community Benefit Fund; and
(e) authorises the Chief Executive Officer to supply a letter of support to the Numburindi Corporation Limited's (NCL) application to the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation for the Art Centre development in Numbulwar.

16 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISIONAL REPORT

16.1 Programs Update

2026/20 **RESOLVED (Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Programs Update report; and

(b) Council to hold a Community Information Day barbeque at upcoming community-based Briefing days to promote public engagement with Council especially relating to vacancies and Community issues.

16.2 Aged Care and Disability Services Report

2026/21 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Patricia Farrell)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Aged Care and Disability Report.

Mataranka School Group joined the meeting at 11:24 am.

17 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AND PLANNING DIVISIONAL REPORT

17.1 Local Authority Projects Update

2026/22 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

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

17.2 Major Projects Report

2026/23 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Major Projects Report.

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

19 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil.

20 CLOSED SESSION

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

2026/24 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor 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 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 Domain Title
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.

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.

20.5 ALGA NGA 2026 Submissions
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 2025/26 Budget Review Report
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.

20.1.1 Return to Open Meeting
2026/31 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***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 3:18 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 February 2026and will be confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Mayor Tony JACK
Confirmed on 22 April 2026.