MINUTES OF THE ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT CENTRE 2 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE, NT ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 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;
- Councillor Olga DANIELS;
- 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;
- Chathurangi DIAS, Finance Manager;
- Kellie JOHNSTON, Assets Manager;
- Cristian COMAN, Manager Corporate Compliance;
- Cristie GEER, Programs Manager (via audio/video conference);
- Kathy MARA, Executive Assistant to the CEO;
- Bhumika ADHIKARI, Governance Engagement Coordinator
- Daniele PIGA, Governance Coordinator (minute secretary); and
- Annika BERENDES, Programs Communications Coordinator.

1.3 Guests

- Peter PANGQUEE, President, Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT);
- Mary WATSON, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT);
- Greg EVANS, Financial Consultant (via audio/video conference); and
- Friedrick LAW, KPMG Enterprise, Audit and Assurance.

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.

UNCONFIRMED

That Council received a deputation from the Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT), as delivered by Peter PANGQUEE, President, and Mary WATSON, Chief Executive Officer:
General deliberations and remarks made by Council pertaining to issues across the Roper Gulf Region, in lack of town and social planning, poor infrastructure, lack of government consultation and conditional rating.

Friedrick LAW, KPMG Enterprise, Audit and Assurance, supplied the Council with a deputation of the Audited Financial Statements.

Fredrick LAW, KPMG Enterprise, Audit and Assurance, left the Meeting at 10:37 am.

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

2026/140 **RESOLVED (Councillor Michelle Farrell/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council accepts the tendered apology from Councillor John DALYWATER.

Councillor Samuel Evans left the meeting at 9:04 am.
Councillor Samuel Evans returned to the meeting at 9:08 am.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee left the meeting at 9:17 am.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee returned to the meeting at 9:19 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards left the meeting at 9:54 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards returned to the meeting at 9:57 am.
Councillor Patricia Farrell left the meeting at 9:55 am.
Councillor Patricia Farrell returned to the meeting at 9:57 am.

Meeting adjourned at 09:58 am and reconvened at 10:28 am.

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil.

6 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2026/141 **RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)** ***CARRIED***

That Council confirms the minutes from its Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 26 August 2026 and affirms them to be true and accurate record of that Meeting's decisions and proceedings.

7 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Action List

2026/142 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Samuel Evans)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:
(a) receives and notes the Action List;
(b) approves the removal of completed items; and
(c) notes that resolution 2026/71 (f) and (h) cannot be progressed any further due to being unable to engage to Jilkminggan Community Aboriginal Corporation (JCAC) due to legal matters.

8 PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

8.1 Previous Committee Meeting Minutes

2026/143 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***CARRIED***

UNCONFIRMED

That Council receives and notes the Previous Committee Meeting Minutes.

9 CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

10 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Deputy Mayor Helen LEE, Councillor Michelle FARRELL and Councillor Sue EDWARDS declared conflict of interest at Item 13.2.

11 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Incoming Correspondence

2026/144 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Michelle Farrell)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the incoming correspondence; and
(b) supports the application of the Numburindi Corporation for the Airstrip Upgrade and directs the CEO to supply a letter to that effect.

12 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Outgoing Correspondence

2026/145 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Samuel Evans)** ***CARRIED***

That Council notes the Outgoing Correspondence Report.

13 WARD REPORTS

13.1 Nyirranggulung Ward Report

2026/146 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Nyirranggulung Ward Report;
(b) approves the recommendations from the Wugularr Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 05 October 2026;
(c) approves the recommendations from the Manyallaluk Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 05 October 2026
(d) approves the recommendations from the Barunga Local Authority Meeting held on Tuesday, 06 October 2026;
(e) approves the recommendations from the Bulman Local Authority Meeting held on Thursday, 08 October 2026;
(f) advocates on behalf of the Wugularr Local Authority for increased police presence in Wugularr, including a Police station;
(g) requests a report on by-laws development to be supplied to it at its next Ordinary Meeting;
(h) agrees to fund 50% of the Water Taps Installation Project at Heritage Park (PR20) and amends budget for this purpose; and
(i) creates a Major Project for the Manyallaluk Access Road, repairs and maintenance.

Councillor Olga Daniels left at 10:51 am and returned at 10:53 am.

13.2 Never Never Ward Report

2026/147 **RESOLVED (Councillor Olga Daniels/Councillor Samuel Evans)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Never Never Ward Report;
(b) approves the recommendation from the Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority Meeting

held on Tuesday, 01 September 2026;
(c) rescinds the membership of Shaunette MARTIN from the Mataranka Local Authority;
(d) appoints Sharon FORBES as a Mataranka Local Authority Member;
(e) requests the Chief Executive Officer to call for nominations to appoint for the Mataranka Local Authority;
(f) appoints Antoinette JOE as a Jilkminggan Local Authority Member;
(g) considered the request from Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority's concern regarding, the lack of communication and services delivery from the Alawa Aboriginal Corporation (AAC) and requests Council to cease payments to AAC until issue is rectified;
(h) reschedules the November 2026 Jilkminggan Local Authority Meeting and Mataranka Local Authority Meeting to be held on 17 November 2026;
(i) reschedules the December 2026 Hodgson Downs (Minyerri) Local Authority Meeting to be held on Friday, 4 December 2026;
(j) requests scoping of Rubbish Collection Service in Larrimah;
(k) general deliberations on Health Services in Mataranka; and
(l) requests the Chief Executive Officer to contact Sunrise Health and Katherine West Health in relation to Health Service delivery in Mataranka and throughout the Roper Gulf Region.

Deputy Mayor Helen LEE, Councillor Michelle FARRELL and Councillor Sue EDWARDS deliberated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Sunrise.

Councillor Sue EDWARDS further recused herself whilst nominations for the Mataranka Local Authority were considered.

Mayor Tony Jack left the meeting at 10:55 am.
Mayor Tony Jack returned to the meeting at 10:58 am.
Councillor Ash Garner left the meeting at 11:00 am.
Mayor Tony Jack left the meeting at 11:01 am.
Councillor Ash Garner returned to the meeting at 11:02 am.
Mayor Tony Jack returned to the meeting at 11:08 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards left the meeting at 11:10 am.
Councillor Michelle Farrell left the meeting at 11:10 am.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee left the meeting at 11:10 am.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee returned to the meeting at 11:21 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards returned to the meeting at 11:21 am.
Councillor Michelle Farrell returned to the meeting at 11:21 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards left the meeting at 11:22 am.
Councillor Sue Edwards returned to the meeting at 11:39 am.

13.3 Numbulwar Numburindi Ward Report

2026/148 **RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/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 Thursday, 03 September 2026; and
(c) appoints Thaddeus ALLEN as a Numbulwar Local Authority Member.

Councillor Samuel Evans left the meeting at 11:41 am.
Councillor Samuel Evans returned to the meeting at 11:41 am.
Councillor Des Barritt left the meeting at 11:42 am.
Councillor Des Barritt returned to the meeting at 11:42 am.

13.4 Yugul Mangi Ward Report

2026/149 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

NOT FIRM

(a) receives and notes the Yugul Mangi Ward Report;
(b) approves the recommendations from the Ngukurr Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday, 02 September 2026;
(c) approves the recommendations from the Urapunga Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday, 02 September 2026;
(d) appoints Annie DANIELS as a Local Authority Member of Urapunga Local Authority; and
(e) requests scoping for cans recycling for Ngukurr to be presented to it at its next Ordinary Meeting.

13.5 South West Gulf Ward Report

2026/150 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Michelle Farrell)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the South West Gulf Ward Report;
(b) ratifies the resignation of Mike LONGTON from the Borroloola Local Authority;
(c) endorses and supports the Borroloola / Ngardara Solar Microgrid Project as undertaken by the Ngardara Co-operative and Original Power, and supports its expansion throughout its Region; and
(d) nominates and appoints Mayor Tony JACK as the contact point and spokesperson for Council on that matter (c).

14 EXECUTIVE REPORTS

14.1 Mayor's Report

2026/151 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Mayor's Report.

14.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

2026/152 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

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

14.3 Council Meeting Attendance Report

2026/153 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Council and Committee Meeting Attendance Report; and
(b) authorises all Elected Members to attend Mandatory Departmental Training in-person, to be held in Katherine on Thursday,19 November 2026, at 01:00 pm, plus associated Travel Days;
(c) authorises Councilor Samuel EVANS to attend the LGANT Annual General Meeting and associated travel days (if registration allows);
(d) nominates Mayor Tony JACK and Councillor Ash GARNER as the voting delegates at LGANT; and
(e) rescinds the membership of the Independent Member David BLAIR from the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and directs the Chief Executive Officer to commence the appointment process.

14.4 Calendar Meeting Schedule – Council, Committee and Local Authority Meetings 2027

2026/154 **RESOLVED (Deputy Mayor Helen Lee/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) confirms its Briefing Day and Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held in Katherine on 15 and 16 December respectively; and
(b) confirms its Meeting Calendar for 2027 as tabled.

15 CORPORATE SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY DIVISIONAL REPORT

15.1 Adoption of Annual Report including Audited Financial Statements

2026/155 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Patricia Farrell)** ***CARRIED***

That Council, in accordance with Chapter 14 of the *Local Government Act 2019* (the Act), formally adopts the Annual Report and all content therein, with edits, as a true and accurate record of:

(a) Its independently audited Annual Financial Statement (in accordance with ss 207, 208, 291 (1) of the Act);
(b) Its assessed performance against its stated goals as outlined in its Regional Plan;
(c) All other reportable obligations according to applicable law for the 2025-2026 Financial Year; and
(d) directs the Chief Executive Officer to supply the Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm and reconvened at 01:00 pm.

15.2 Council Finance Report as at 30.09.2026

2026/156 **RESOLVED (Councillor Des Barritt/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Council's Financial Report as at 30 September 2026.

16 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND ENGAGEMENT DIVISIONAL REPORT

16.1 Vet Program Fees for Service Charges

2026/157 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***CARRIED***

That Council defers the matter to the next Ordinary Meeting in December.

Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr left the meeting at 1:05 pm.
Councillor Edwin Nunggumajbarr returned to the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Mayor Tony Jack left the meeting at 1:18 pm.
Mayor Tony Jack returned to the meeting at 1:22 pm.

16.2 Aged Care and Disability Services Report

2026/158 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

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

17 INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES AND PLANNING DIVISIONAL REPORT

17.1 Major Projects Report

2026/159 **RESOLVED (Councillor Ash Garner/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***

That Council receives and notes the Major Projects Report.

17.2 Local Authority Projects Update Report

2026/160 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Sue Edwards)** ***CARRIED***

That Council:

(a) receives and notes the Local Authority Projects Update Report; and
(b) allocates an additional $1,000 towards the Arnhem Crows Presentation Project.

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

That Council notes Councillor Edwin NUNGGUMAJBARR's concerns pertaining to unrest in Numbulwar. Council further noted that those concerns are applicable Region-wide.

UNCONFIRMED

That Council notes Mayor Tony JACK's remarks and concerns pertaining to Ochre Card's processing, causing significant disruption and distress to current and prospective employees.

19 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS
Nil.

20 CLOSED SESSION
DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION
2026/161 **RESOLVED (Councillor Olga Daniels/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***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 :-

Councillor Patricia Farrell left the meeting at 1:58 pm.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee left the meeting at 1:58 pm.
Councillor Patricia Farrell returned to the meeting at 1:59 pm.
Deputy Mayor Helen Lee returned to the meeting at 2:00 pm.
Councillor Patricia Farrell left the meeting at 2:09 pm.
Councillor Patricia Farrell returned to the meeting at 2:11 pm.
Councillor Samuel Evans left the meeting at 2:13 pm.
Councillor Samuel Evans returned to the meeting at 2:16 pm.

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 Rating Matter
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*

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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.

20.5 Auditors' 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 Grant Funding allocation
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 2026/2027 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.*

20.8 Code of Conduct Complaint against Elected Member
2026/169 **RESOLVED (Councillor Sue Edwards/Councillor Des Barritt)** ***CARRIED***
That Council:
(a) Receives and Notes the Outcome of its Code of Conduct Complaint against Councillor Preston LEE;
(b) Receives and Notes the Summary Decision Notice;
(c) Receives and Notes the Notice of Decision; and
(d) Makes public the Resolution and Notice of Decision as required by Regulation 51 (2) of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* as the Matter is no longer prescribed as Confidential in accordance with Section 293 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2019*.

20.1.1 Return to Open Meeting
2026/170 **RESOLVED (Councillor Samuel Evans/Councillor Ash Garner)** ***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 3:23 pm.

This page and the preceding pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, held on 28 October 2026 and will be confirmed at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Mayor Tony JACK
Confirmed on 16 December 2026