



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE
COUNCIL OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025 AT 10:30 AM

1 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 10:45 AM

1.1 NOMINATION OF THE CHAIR

FLA2025-001 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Lisa Sharman)

That Council nominated Thomas Stewart as acting Chair of the Local Authority Meeting.

2 WELCOME

2.1 Welcome to Country – Thomas Stewart

**3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS /
NOMINATIONS**

3.1 Attendance

Local Authority Members:

Member Bridget Doolan, Member Susan Doolan, and Member Thomas Stewart.

Councillors:

Member Andrew Davis, , Member Lisa Sharman, and President Roxanne Kenny.

Council Employees:

James Walsh – Manager Project Management Office,

John Flemming – CSC Finke, Tammy Shields – Acting Area Manager Council Services, Sai Katam – Project Officer, Ainsley Roscrow – Acting Manager MacKids and Shae Thompson – Coordinator Governance.

Via Teams: Ruth Tahere – Project Management Office, June Crabb – Coordinator Governance.

Guests:

David Doolan – Finke Traditional Owner and CLC Delegate - entered at 11:00am

3.2 Apologies/Absentees

Apologies:

Councillor Patrick Allen, Member Rosemary Matasia and Chairperson Michael Ferguson

Absentees:

NIL

3.1 & 3.2 ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES & ABSENTEES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the attendance;
- b) accepted the apologies from Councillor Patrick Allen, Member Rosemary Matasia and Chairperson Michael Ferguson; and
- c) noted that there were no absences without notice for this meeting.

3.3 Resignations

NIL

3.4 Terminations

NIL

3.5 Nominations

3.5.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIPS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This paper highlights the changes to the Local Authority Membership and notes the two vacancies currently available.

FLA2025-002 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted that Mr Aloyiscois Hayes is no longer an Elected Member for MacDonnell Regional Council and consequently no longer a member of the Authority;
- b) noted the current membership on the Authority;
- c) noted the two vacant appointed members positions; and
- d) called for community nominations to remain open.

4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT

FLA2025-003 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Susan Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority noted the Council Code of Conduct.

5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

FLA2025-004 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) accepted the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 5th of March 2024 as an accurate record of the proceedings; and
- b) accepted the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 4th of December 2024 as an accurate record of the proceedings.

6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND NOTIFICATIONS OF GENERAL BUSINESS AND NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED

FLA2025-005 RESOLVED (Susan Doolan/Lisa Sharman)

That the Finke Local Authority noted that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting.

7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

FLA2025-006 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Bridget Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

7.2 MEMBERS DECLARATION

FLA2025-007 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Bridget Doolan)

That the Finke Local Authority did not declare any conflict of interest with the meeting agenda.

8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS

8.1 REMOTE HOUSING - REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND TENANCY TEAM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This section provides an opportunity for representatives from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development to provide the Local Authority with updates regarding Remote Housing programs, repairs, maintenance and tenancy.

FLA2025-008 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority noted that representatives from the remote housing team did not attend the meeting.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 ACTION REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides a running list of Local Authority action items as reported in previous

meetings.

FLA2025-009 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the progress on the action items as reported in the previous minutes as follows:

- a) noted that the Green Space will be an orchard in the same location as the previous orchard. Members agreed that this would include fruit trees and garden beds that would contain a combination of vegetable and bush foods native to the Finke area. This will provide food security for the community. Members closed this action as it will be addressed as project updates at future meetings;
- b) kept open Fence Around Community Safety Office to be addressed at the next meeting; and
- c) noted that the manager of aged care is working with the principal of the school to improve the school nutrition program and closed this item.

9.2 REGIONAL PLANNING INCORPORATING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Regional Plan is developed every year after consultation with MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) communities and directs how we will deliver our vision, mission and goals. The Regional Plan guides MRC staff to deliver on our mission to improve the lives of Council residents by delivering valued and relevant services.

The Local Authority is asked to guide and support MRC staff in the development of the 2025-26 Regional Plan in the consideration of the development of the community and planning in relation to the community's infrastructure.

FLA2025-010 RESOLVED (Susan Doolan/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority:

- provided guidance and support for MRC staff in the development of the MRC 2025-26 Regional Plan; and
- agreed to provide its priorities in relation to the development of the community's infrastructure on the poster that will be held at the office by the CSC.

9.3 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT REGISTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Northern Territory Government (NTG) and invested in projects and development to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of acceptable purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. e.g. park fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. e.g. trailers, graders, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures/stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community facilities, e.g. sporting venues, upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation; upgrade of women's or men's sheds /shelters.
- Festivals or other events – to be conducted only within the Local Authority area LAPP

has been provided for.

- Community based programs – including music, art or dance; uniforms for sporting events; or preservation of culture or traditions.

At risk funds are funds that may include unallocated funds and/or funds that have been allocated but remains unspent.

FLA2025-011 RESOLVED (Susan Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority:

- a) noted the Acquittal and Certification (as attached) of the Finke Local Authority Project funding as at 30 June 2024;
- b) noted that \$5,897.18 are funds *at risk* of being returned to NTG;
- c) noted the progress on their current projects as provided by the Project Management Office as follows:
 - 2132 – Stealth solar lights and concrete have been delivered and are being stored at Amoonguna. CSC will be transporting out to community next week and the civil team will install them.
 - 2133 – Clarified that a water connection is not necessary. CSC to provide specific location and meterage to PMO.
 - 2137 – Shade cover over playground – were advised that the PMO was quoted \$14,104.42 to install the shade shelter. Noted that there are insufficient funds to go ahead with this project. Moved the project to the wishlist and returned \$5,000 to unallocated funds.
- e) noted that there are now \$6,797.18 of unallocated funds; and
- f) discussed the priority of the wishlist items and determined that there are insufficient unallocated funds to move any items to the projects list.

9.4 LOCAL AUTHORITY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each financial year, MacDonnell Regional Council grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority. These funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July and 30 June.

FLA2025-012 RESOLVED (Susan Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Finke Local Authority:

- a) noted the spending on their 2024/2025 Discretionary funds;
- b) noted that \$2,829.23 are funds that are available to spend; and
- c) allocated the remaining funds to be spent on a garden tools kit for each house to include as many items as the budget allows of the following:
 - rakes [iron and plastic],
 - shovels
 - hoses; and
 - a limited number of wheelbarrows that will be kept at the council office for the use of community members.

9.5 MRC POSITION VACANCIES REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached list of vacancies are opportunities for community members to contribute to the community needs, and the People and Capabilities team asks those present at the Local Authority meeting to encourage community members to apply.

FLA2025-013 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Bridget Doolan)

That the Local Authority accepted the list of vacant positions available with MacDonnell Regional Council in Finke.

10 COUNCIL MANAGED SERVICES REPORTS

10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LA REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Finke across the area of Local Government Service Delivery

FLA2025-014 RESOLVED (Lisa Sharman/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority of Finke Notes and accepts the attached report.

10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICES LA REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on the delivery of services for Community Safety, Aged Care and Children's Services.

FLA2025-015 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority of Finke Notes and Accepts the attached reports.

11 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

11.1 EXPENDITURE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The expenditure report shows spending until 31 January 2025 in the Finke Local Authority community.

FLA2025-016 RESOLVED (Susan Doolan/Lisa Sharman)

That the Local Authority noted and accepted the Finance report as at 31 January 2025.

12 GENERAL BUSINESS

12.1 GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Members of the Authority have an opportunity to raise matters that they wish to discuss in General Council Business.

FLA2025-017 RESOLVED (Andrew Davis/Susan Doolan)

That the Local Authority discussed the following matter relating to General Council Business:

Members requested new bins and noted that this is an operational matter and bins are currently in the process of being purchased.

13 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

13.1 GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on matters that members may have regarding non-council services.

FLA2025-018 RESOLVED (Bridget Doolan/Andrew Davis)

That the Local Authority raised and discussed matters of General Non-Council Business.

- a) The CSC will provide house numbers where there are faulty air-conditioners to James Walsh PMO. This information will be passed on to Jessica Scrutton - Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development and will be reported on at the next meeting.
- b) The CSC will provide names and lot numbers for the elderly people that are paying high rents to James Walsh. This information will be passed on to Jessica Scrutton - Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development and will be reported on at the next meeting.
- c) Gym equipment had been purchased by Minister Bill Yan's office and the discretionary funds of the Local Authority. It needs to be moved to a suitable location so that the equipment can be utilised. The chairman of the LA has stated that he would like to take ownership of making the equipment available. Is there may be funding to pay him for this service. There may be a small allocation of sports funding for a position within the Community Safety team for around 7 hours a week. This will be investigated by Liz , Tammy and Ainsley.
- d) Noted that Bill Yan's office sent condolences to the Doolan family and has donated \$300.00 worth of food at the store.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 21 MAY, 2025

15 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting terminated at 12:12 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and are UNCONFIRMED.