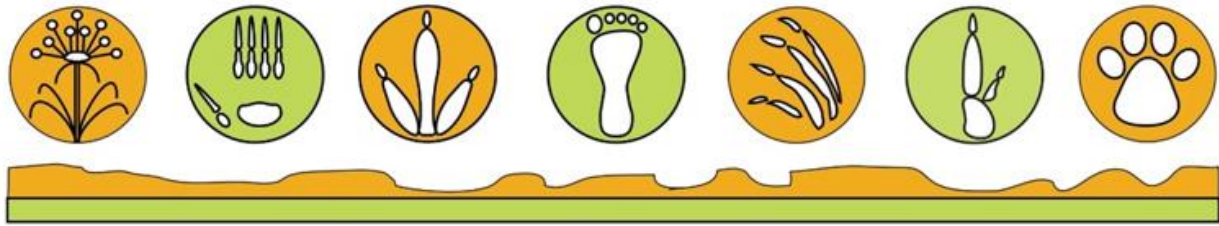


BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



MINUTES Elliott LA Meeting

Barkly Regional Council's Elliott LA Meeting was held in the Conference Room on Thursday 14 December 2023 at 10:36 am.

Ian Bodill

Chief Executive Officer

OUR VISION

We strive to be a responsive, progressive, sustainable council which respects, listens to and empowers the people to be strong.

The Way We Will Work

We will make it happen!

We will be engaged and have regular opportunities to listen.

We will have strong policies and budgets to ensure our programs and services are progressive and sustainable.

Respect is shown in everything we do, and we have acceptance of all cultures in the Barkly Region and their practices through a culturally competent Council.

We are a responsible Council.

We will be a responsive Council.

We want to empower local decision making.

We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

We want to be able to sustain our environment – our communities, our physical places, our people, and our organisational culture.

We will aggressively pursue additional funding from both levels of government to improve the standard of living of people across the region.

We need to be realistic, transparent, and accountable.

1 OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

1.1 Authority Members Present

Meeting commenced at 10.36am with Bob Bagnall as Chair.

Jody Nish
Jason Mullan
Kevin Gaskin
Kevin Neade

1.2 Staff and Visitors Present

Cr Lennie Barton (Suspended / Invited guest)

Cr Heather Wilson (Suspended / Invited Guest)

Peter Holt (BRC Official Manager)
Ian Bodill (BRC CEO)
Gillian Molloy (BRC Director Community Development)
Brody Moore (BRC Director Operations & Communities)
Emmanuelle Okumu (BRC Governance Manager)
Paul Hyde Kaduru (BRC Local Authority Coordinator)
Barry Natrass (BRC WHS Manager)
John King (BRC Consultant)
Melissa King (BRC Consultant)
Louise Bielby (Office Chief Minister in Cabinet)
Ruth Morley (Via Teams Video Link)
Patrick Smith (Elliott OIC NT Police)

1.3 Apologies to Be Accepted

Apologies

Christopher Neade (Elliott Area Manager)
Lora Jackson (Appointed Member)
MLA Steve Edgington (Member for Barkly)
Darius Plummer (Electorate Officer)
Sally O'Callaghan (DIPL Regional Director Barkly)

1.4 Absent Without Apologies

Nil

1.5 Resignations

Nil

1.6 Disclosure of Interests

Nil

1.7 Review of Disclosure of Interest

Nil

2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Confirmation of previous Minutes

2.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

MOTION

That the Elliott Local Authority receives and confirms the minutes of the previous meeting held in Elliott on 09 November 2023 as a true and accurate record.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Jody Nish

Seconded: LA Member Kevin Gaskin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/25

3 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Actions from previous Minutes

3.1 New format Action Tracker to be tabled

MOTION

That the Local Authority receives and notes the Elliott LA action items and resolution tracker and approve the removal of duplicate entries along with updates to the resolution tracker.
An updated format Resolution Tracker document was tabled at the meeting by chair Bob Bagnall.

BACKGROUND

The chair Bob Bagnall expressed frustration at the perceived inaction by BRC staff and the Barkly Regional Council councillors in progressing the resolutions passed by the Elliott Local Authority.

1. BRC House at 8 Lewis St Elliott

- 1.1. First raised as an issue in 2017. Building demolished and future action included in a 5-year action plan.
- 1.2. No updates received for 12 to 18 months.

2. Jim Rennie Reserve Master Plan

- 2.1. First raised as an issue in 2018.
- 2.2. The Master Plan included:
 - 2.2.1. Golf Course
 - 2.2.2. Football Oval
 - 2.2.3. Mini Putt Putt
 - 2.2.4. Tennis Court
 - 2.2.5. Mini Cricket Pitch
 - 2.2.6. BMX Track

The Local Authority believes this item sits with the BRC infrastructure directorate and expressed their support to help advance the project, as much of the costing has already been obtained.

3. Elliott Sobering Up Shelter

3.1. Proposal first raised in 2018

3.2. The Elliott Local Authority received a presentation by Leisca McCarthy CEO of Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation on 10 August 2023, but no further developments have been forthcoming.

4. Curb and Guttering for Brown and Kooringa Streets and road maintenance of Drover's Drive, Newcastle Waters.

4.1. Advice received from DIPL that internal roads in Elliott and Newcastle Waters are the responsibility of Local Council Authority/BRC as they are not NTG managed roads.

5. Nature Strip/Service Rd

5.1. Sally O'Callaghan (DIPL Regional Director Barkly) attended the Elliott LA Meeting on 09 November 2023. She gave a verbal presentation and took questions from the authority members as to plans DIPL had for Elliott in the near future.

6. Tree Planting

6.1. In 2017 BRC had stated that funding was available for tree replacement in the Barkly Region due to drought conditions. No funds were made available to Elliott, so the Local Authority went ahead and identified the need for tree planting in Elliott in the local plan. More than 90 trees have been planted to date with 60 more ready to be go in. More funds have been committed by the Local Authority to purchase 175 more trees to be planted throughout Elliott and to be given to residents to plant in their home yards.

7. Polaris ATV

7.1. It is minuted that in the Elliott Local Authority meeting held on 06 April 2023 the BRC Mayor Jeffrey McLaughlin had stated that the Barkly Regional Council would purchase this vehicle for Elliott due to constraints imposed on LAPF approved items for purchase. Quotes were obtained in September 2023, but no further developments have been forthcoming.

8. Proposed Re-Development of Lots 1, 2, 19 & 20 Stuart Highway Elliott

8.1. Authorisation given to Development Assessment Services DIPL for a Development Application to be lodged by Troppo Architects on behalf of Northern Interests Pty Ltd by BRC CEO Russell Anderson on 13 July 2023.

8.2. Transfer did not proceed, and legal advice is being sought as to arrangements going forward.

9. Street Sweeper

- 9.1. Elliott street sweeper was taken to Tennant Creek with a commitment from the then Barkly Shire Council that it would be made available 4 times / year. The street sweeper has only been to Elliott once in the last 2 years.

10. Elliott Water Park

- 10.1. Contractor to attend and repair in the next few days.

11. Playground Equipment

- 11.1. \$50,000 committed by Local Authority. Barkly Backbone Team indicated more funds may be available and has provided the necessary application documentation to be completed.

12. Tourism Notice Board

- 12.1. BRC Manager Peter Holt met recently with Danial Rochford CEO of Tourism Central Australia. Once dimensions are provided for the signage, up to \$12,000 can be allocated.

13. Peacocks

- 13.1. BRC Director of Community Development Gillian Molloy is to arrange for Peacock population to be relocated.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Kevin Gaskin

Seconded: LA Member Jody Nish

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/26

4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORTS

Chief Executive Officers Reports

4.1 Chief Executive Officer Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority receives and notes the verbal presentation from BRC CEO Mr Ian Bodill.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Jody Nish

Seconded: LA Member Kevin Gaskin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/27

5 FINANCE REPORTS

Finance Reports

5.1 Finance Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and receives the finance report for DEC 2023.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Jody Nish

Seconded: LA Member Kevin Gaskin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/28

6 AREA MANAGERS REPORTS

Nil

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

General Business

7.1 Letter to Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands from Member for Barkly

RECOMMENDATION

That the Authority receives and notes the letter sent to the Hon Selena Uibo and the response received by the Member for Barkly the Steve Edgington MLA.

General Business

7.2 Barkly Animal Management Program

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority receives and notes the verbal address from Director of Community Development Gillian Molloy on the Barkly Animal Management Program to date and proposed for 2024.

General Business

7.3 The Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons Church)

MOTION

That the Local Authority receives and notes the request from the Church of Latter-Day Saints to hold regular church services at the Elliott Sports & Rec Centre and confirm approval.

SUMMARY

The Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons Church) have asked to hold regular church services at the Elliott Sports & Rec Centre. They would prefer to hold these inside than have it outside. They may be willing to pay for use of building and have asked for this matter to be put to the Local Authority for discussion.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Jody Nish

Seconded: LA Member Jason Mullan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/29

General Business

7.4 Australia Day Awards

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority notes and receives an update from the Elliott Area Manager regarding nominations for 2024 Australia Day Awards and cast their vote as to who should receive the awards on Australia Day 2024.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

9 OTHER MATTERS FOR NOTING

Nil

10 REPORTS FROM BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL

Reports from Barkly Regional Council

10.1 BRC Manager Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Local Authority receives and notes the verbal presentation from BRC Manager Mr Peter Holt.

11 VISITOR PRESENTATIONS

Visitor Presentations

11.1 BRC Manager Peter Holt

Mr Holt introduced himself and explained his role as Manager in the place of the Barkly Regional Councillors, suspended pending an investigation into the councils' processes and procedures since January 2022.

The investigation, to be undertaken by Alice Springs based lawyer Ruth Morley is expected to conclude on 12 March 2024 after which the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty; Minister for Local Government; Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, will deliver his findings following 3 weeks consideration based on the outcome of the investigation and responses received by councillors regarding the report.

Mr Holt emphasised that he would like the suspended councillors to remain engaged during the 3-month investigation to assist with budget planning and priorities for 2024.

He expressed concern that recommendations were being put to the Barkly Regional Council (BRC) by the Barkly Local Authorities (LA), however there did not appear to be an action list being followed based on those recommendations.

Approximately \$800,000 of LAPF money was at risk of being returned, unspent, dating back to 2016-17.

Another observation relayed to the LA was that council minutes were referring to CEO and Director reports with no documented detail as to what was said in those reports.

There needed to be a two-way exchange of information, not one-way from LA to Council with no feedback.

Once the investigation is concluded there may be a by-election or the councillors may be reinstated.

Visitor Presentations

11.2 BRC Investigator Ruth Morley

Ms Morley is an Alice Springs based lawyer appointed by the Northern Territory Government to investigate the actions of the BRC from January 2022 up until October 2023.

Ms Morley joined the meeting via an MS Teams video link and apologised for not being present in person but thanked the LA members for allowing her to join and present at the meeting remotely. The investigation had concluded so far, that the BRC meeting minutes over the above-mentioned period do not demonstrate that the councillors had discussed or considered proposals or ideas put to them from the Barkly LA meetings.

Consideration will be given to the weight of input from the Barkly LAs into the Barkly Regional Council 2023 – 2024 Annual Regional Plan.

Ms Morley explained that this investigation would not be looking at employees or code of conduct matters.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business

12.1 Alterations to Sporting Change Rooms

MOTION

That the Elliott Local Authority approve proposed alterations to the sporting change rooms at the oval to better cater for privacy and cultural sensitivities of users.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Kevin Neade

Seconded: LA Member Jason Mullan

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/30

Other Business

12.2 Purchase of Tree Guards

MOTION

That the Elliott Local Authority approve the purchase of guards for newly planted trees in the community.

RESOLVED

Moved: LA Member Jason Mullan

Seconded: LA Member Jody Nish

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Resolved ELLA-23/31

13 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Elliott Local Authority next meeting date is Tuesday 23 January 2024.

Meeting Closed at 1:20 pm

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE ELLIOTT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 DECEMBER 2023 AND ARE UNCONFIRMED.