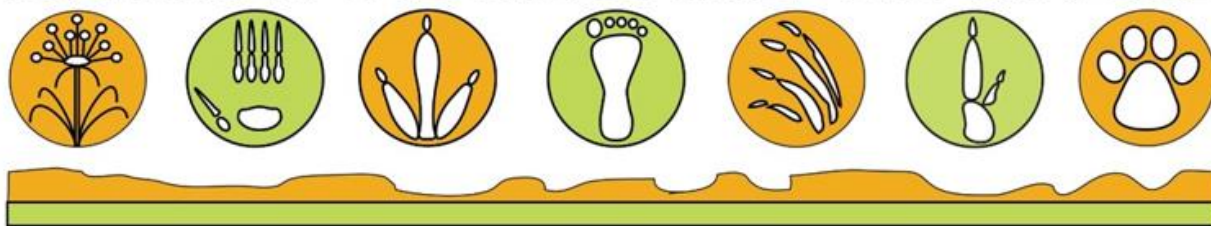


# BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



## MINUTES ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting of the Ordinary Council Meeting of the Barkly Regional Council was held in Council Chambers, 41 Peko Road, Tennant Creek on Wednesday 24 April 2024 at 9:30 am.

**Jeff MacLeod**  
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.

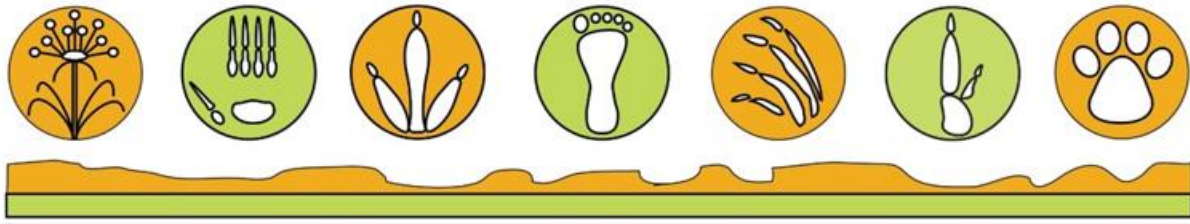
We want to ensure that our services are sustainable and that our region has a standard consistent level of services.

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.

# BARKLY REGIONAL COUNCIL



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Warumungu, Mudberra, Jingili, Wakaya, Wambaya, Waanyi, Walpiri, Warlmanpa, Alyawarr, Anmatyerre and Kaytetye Country on which Barkly Regional Council live and work, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to the ancestors and elders of these lands, past, present and emerging.

May we continue to work together to Deliver sustainable outcomes through a process Based on mutual respect and understanding.

## COUNCIL PRAYER

Our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust you will guide and bless this meeting of the Barkly Regional Council. We pray that you will ensure that all discussions and decisions made today are just and fair as they will affect all people within. We also pray for your guidance to ensure that all our dealings are appropriate to all those whom we represent and will reflect an equitable and honest approach to the issues to be discussed today.

Amen

## 1 OPENING AND ATTENDANCE

### 1.1 Audio recording of meeting.

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for minute taking purposes as authorised by Council Policy Audio Recordings of Meetings. Councillors may request, via majority vote if required, that no audio recording is made where issues of legitimate cultural or spiritual significance are to be discussed.

### 1.2 Elected Members Present

Meeting commenced at {9:30} with the Official Manager Peter Holt as Chair

#### **Elected Members Present**

- Peter Holt - Official Manager

### 1.3 Staff Members Present

#### **Staff Members Present**

- Jeff MacLeod - Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Faye Jennings - Executive Manager
- Romeo Mutsago - Chief Financial Officer
- Emmanuel Okumu - Governance Manager
- Murray Davies - Director of Corporate Services
- Brody Moore - Director of Operations and Remote Communities
- Gillian Molloy - Director of Community Development
- Ryan Francis - Acting Director - Tennant Creek
- Barry Natrass - Work Health and Safety Manager

### 1.4 Visitors Present

#### **Visitors Present**

- Kailas Kerr - Central Desert Training

### 1.5 Apologies and Leave of Absence

#### **Apologies**

Nil

#### **Absent Without Apologies**

Nil

### 1.7 Review of Disclosure of Interest

There was no declared interest in any item in this agenda

## 2 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### Confirmation of previous Minutes

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#### 2.1 Confirmation of previous minutes

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager receives and note the Minutes of the 27-03-2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council as a true and accurate record on that Meeting.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/134*

## 3 ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

### Actions from previous Minutes

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#### 3.1 Actions from previous minutes

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager;

1. Receive and note the items in the action register.
2. Resolve that the ELT review the action register and decide which items to recommend to the council for closing at the next ordinary meeting of the council.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/135*

## 4 ADDRESSING THE MEETING

*Nil*

## 5 OFFICIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

### Official Manager's Report

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#### 5.1 The Official Manager's Report.

##### **MOTION**

That Council receives and notes the official manager's report on activities since the last OCM.

##### **The Report**

###### **Barkly Regional Plan**

The most critical issue for all Local Authority meetings during March and April was to provide input to the Regional Plan 2024-25. This has now been completed for all Local Authorities and the first draft of the Plan will be presented at the next round of meetings. The regional budget is also currently in development.

###### **CEO Recruitment**

With Ian Bodill's resignation as of the 28th March 2024, the council has commenced recruitment for a new Chief Executive Officer. ANSON was selected as recruitment agency and the application process closed on 15th April. In the interim, we have been most fortunate to gain the assistance of Mr. Jeff MacLeod, CEO of MacDonnell Regional Council for over a decade, and one of the most experienced and highly respected senior executives in local government in the Northern Territory. Mr. MacLeod will act as the CEO initially for two months up to the end of May 2024.

###### **The BRC Investigator's Report**

The report on the Investigation of the Barkly Regional Council by Ms. Ruth Morley has now been presented to the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Chaney Paech. The report was completed and went to the Minister on 12 March. This week face-to-face briefings for all councillors and those referenced in the report will be provided by Ms. Morley at the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet office, independent of Council. Those referred to in the report will have opportunity over the following 21 days to respond to the report before the Minister makes his determination.

###### **PowerWater**

The council has commenced regular meetings with PowerWater to ensure improved collaboration across the Barkly. Some of the issues raised included the replacement of streetlights in Tennant Creek, emergency power in Ali Curung (where a 3-day power failure meant the community did not have power or running water), the failure of Smart Meters, issues raised by the Elliott LA including the quality of drinking water, and the possibility of a solar power project at Juno.

PowerWater has offered to provide briefings on the matters raised, although no response has been received as yet, and reports will be provided to BRC and local authorities.

###### **Juno Farm**

After a request from the Department of Education and the Youth Justice unit the BRC has agreed to allow the use of the Juno Farm accommodation, currently used for a high school skills program, to house school aged students referred by the courts. This arrangement will be in place until the Youth Justice facility funded under the Barkly Regional Deal is completed mid year.

###### **LGANT Meeting**

A meeting of the Local Government Association of the NT was held in Darwin on April 18 and 19. The Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition attended the meeting and were asked about their policies and plans for the local government sector. A key concern across the sector was the intention for further de-amalgamations and particularly for the return of community councils.

###### **Barkly Regional Deal**

The Governance Table recently announced that there would be a review of the governance of BRD but the council expressed some concern that there could be negative public perception if the review



was not seen to be independent of government and the other key partners in the Deal. The BRC has been critical of the lack of clarity in the Council's role and the lack of a clear auspicing agreement and would seek to raise these issues as part of the review.

**RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/136*

## 6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORTS

### Chief Executive Officers Reports

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#### 6.1 BRC bylaws report

**MOTION**

That the Official Manager;

1. Receive and note the BRC bylaw report.
2. Refers the bylaws to the ELT to discuss the necessary issues regarding the BRC bylaws and report back to the council on best option.

**RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/137*



## Chief Executive Officers Reports

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### 6.2 Audio Recordings of Meetings Policy

#### MOTION

That the Official Manager;

1. Receives and notes the Audio Recordings of Meetings Policy.
2. Approves the policy and makes amendment setting the length of time for storing the meeting recording to four years.

#### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/138*

## Chief Executive Officers Reports

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### 6.3 Governance report

#### MOTION

That the Official Manager;

1. Receives and note the current list of BRC committees; and
2. Resolves that the following names be corrected. Dr Diana Rayment and Louise Beilby.

Minute note.

The Official Manager said it has been more than four months now since he requested animal management issue to be resolved including convening of AMAC meeting.

The director of community Development said she will be waiting for clear instructions from the CEO and once that direction is received, she will implement it. As of now, no such instruction in relation to animal management has been given.

#### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/139*

## 7 FINANCE REPORTS

### Finance Reports

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#### 7.1 Finance Report, YTD 31 March 2024

##### MOTION

That the Official Manager;

1. Receive and note the Finance Report for the YTD 31 March 2024.
2. Resolve that moving forward, Purchase Order summary be presented to council confidential session.

Meeting Notice.

The Official Manager asked that the CFO follow up with the Bank regarding the change of signatory from former CEO Ian Bodill to the current CEO.

In financials, the officers highlighted that there was an expense were overspent, particularly on one item. The overspent was mainly due to the cost of labour hire and equipment repairs. However, the items were being rectified, such as the labour-hire service stopping in most areas.

The Official Manager said that for transparency and the general public's benefit, he would like to see such a narrative on what led to the overspent included in officers' reports, including measures officers are putting in place to ensure overspent doesn't happen.

##### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

##### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/140*

## 8 CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

### Corporate Services Directorate Reports

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## 8.1 ICT Report

### MOTION

That the Official Manager receives and notes the ICT Report

### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/141*

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## Corporate Services Directorate Reports

### 8.2 ICT transition

### MOTION

That the Official Manager notes, approves and acts upon the recommendation:

- BRC acknowledges its previous intent to migrate away from Council Biz
- BRC issues the required six months' notice to the Minister and Council Biz of its intention to discontinue its alignment with and usage of Council Biz's services.
- Council continues to pay its subscription with council biz until the migration process is complete.

Meeting note.

The Official Manager asked why the council was pulling out of Council Biz and whether appropriate risk measures had been implemented for IT to become in-house.

Officers responded that the decision to pull out of council business was not made hastily. All councils were provided with the option by council biz to pull out or not. After careful consideration, the council resolved to manage and control council IT in-house, citing the high cost charged by Council Biz.

Officers further said that the council had implemented sufficient security software and backups, including additional staff resources, in preparation for the withdrawal of the Council Biz.

### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/142*

## 9 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE REPORTS

### Community Development Directorate Reports

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#### 9.1 Community Development Directorate Report

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager receives and accepts the Community Development Directorate report.

Minute note 1.

Officers verbally reported that the council has had to refund aged care covid fund 2021-2022 totaling to \$198,000.

The Official Manager said that for transparency and the general public's benefit, he would like to see information about the council failing to use funds and instead refunding them included in officers' reports, including reasons why such funds were not used before the time expired.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/143*

## 10 TENNANT CREEK DIRECTORATE REPORTS

### Tennant Creek Directorate Reports

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#### 10.1 Tennant Creek Directorate March Report

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager receives and notes the March report from the Tennant Creek Directorate.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/144*

## 11 OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE REPORTS

### Operations Directorate Reports

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#### 11.1 Councilor Membership on vacant respective Local Authorities

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager;

1. Note and accept the proposal for suspended Councilor inclusion on vacant Local Authority Committee positions.
2. Calls for LA nominations for the vacant positions and encourages the suspended Councilor interested to apply.
3. Accept the nominations and appoints the following people to fill currently vacant Local Authority positions in their respective communities.
  - Valarie Campbel - Arlurrurulam LA.
  - Ashely Toby - Arlurrurulam LA.
  - Lorraine Gibson N - Tennant Creek Local Authority

##### Minute note

The CEO advised that members' appointments to LA need to follow the council policy on appointment and resignation, which is provided for under the ministerial guideline and is also on the council website.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/145*

## Operations Directorate Reports

### 11.2 Operations Directorate Report

#### MOTION

That the Official Manager notes and accepts the attached Operations Directorate and Service Delivery Report.

#### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/146*

## Operations Directorate Reports

### 11.3 Draft Minutes of Local Authority Meetings

#### MOTION

That the Official Manager;

1. 1.Note and accept the Minutes of the Tennant Creek, Elliott and Wutunugurra Local Authority Committee meeting minutes, as an accurate record of meeting.
2. 2.Notes and approves the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Ordinary Local Authority Meetings held in Tennant Creek, Elliot and Wutunugurra communities;
3. 3.Notes and approves the following new projects established by the Local Authorities:

Elliott

- -Investigate the installation of a water supply at Elliot Cemetry.
- -If water supply is secured, install shade shelter and investigate ablution block to Cemetry.
- -Request for Council to explore leasing options for the Memorial Area adjacent to Highway.
- -Contact DIPL regarding securing on-going contract to maintain nature verge along Highway.
- -Installation of Yarning Circle in Elliott – Supported by Elliott LAC, funded by AAI.
- -Incorporation of Elliott youth to the Elliott Local Authority as guests.
- -Correspondence to NT Government and Police requesting new Police facility in Elliott.
- -Assess Shade Structure condition for potential repair or replacement.
- -Request to repair solar lights at the Elliott Park, adjacent to Council Office.
- -Request from Elliott LA to BRC to purchase and install shade cloth and furniture for Elliott Library.

#### RESOLVED

Moved: Peter Holt

Seconded: {Peter Holt}

#### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/147*

## 12 COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Nil*

## 13 GENERAL BUSINESS

### General Business

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#### 13.1 Kailas Kerr from Central Desert Training

##### MOTION

That Council receives and notes the presentation by Kailas Kerr from Central Desert Training.

Minute note;

The Official Manager asked if Central Desert Training supports indigenous people who would like to self-refer and seek training support.

The presenter explained that the eligibility for pre-employment support is determined by the funding agreement between CDT and NIIA, which necessitates partnerships with organizations such as Rainbow or RN. Therefore, applicants must be registered with Rainbow or RN.

However, the council can benefit from the Scheme B program, which allows staff who are already employed to receive training and mentorship.

##### RESOLVED

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

*Resolved OMC-24/148*

## General Business

### **13.2 General Business.**

The Official Manager raised the following concerns which he required information and answers from officers.

Why has the Animal Management Advisory Group meeting not yet been convened to address the issues around animal management, even though he has been asking for it since January.

Whether officers contacted the vet service, AMRIC, and all the other parties and tried to find out what options they thought would work in solving animal management issues in the region and what roles they are prepared to play.

Whether the officers finished working on the draft project plan around the animal management as requested by the council?

How does the council support the local vet, and have officers been able to locate the MOU between BRC and the veterinary services? The Official Manager said that seeing that MOU is vital enables understanding the agreed obligation between what BRC is meant to offer towards the vet services and what the vet service is meant to do.

Otherwise, the vet may continue to act in a way that the council feels is inappropriate. There is no document that the council can use to guide its decision-making; the best would be an MOU between the council and the vet practice.

In reply, the CEO advised he would work with the officers to find out what the council already offers to the vet practice. He said that in relation to the council supporting the local vet, the council is already supporting the vet practice by providing the vet with a free place to run his business. If further support is needed, then that can be looked at after understanding what is in the MOU.

The CEO advised that the Director of Corporate Services will instruct his team to locate the MOU if it exists.

Regarding why the AMAC had not been convened, the Officer said the Official Manager had indicated that he would meet with the CEO and Director of Community Development to agree on certain issues before the AMAC could be convened, but that meeting has yet to take place.

Officers raised concerns that the local vet has been contacting the LA chairperson directly rather than through council structures.

The CEO advised that, first of all, if the vet required LA participation, the vet should only meet the whole LA during the LA meeting and not just the LA chair.

The Official Manager said that all these issues can be resolved once the MOU is located and both parties agree on obligations and processes. Plus, if AMAC can be convened to discuss these issues, we see a way forward.

The Director of Community Development indicated she would wait for further instruction from the CEO on what she is required to do around animal management.

## 14 CORRESPONDENCE

### Correspondence

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#### 14.1 Correspondence

##### **MOTION**

That the Official Manager receives and notes the BRC incoming and outgoing correspondence since the last OCM.

Minute notes.

The Official Manager said he was aware of letters sent to various agencies on behalf of LA, and he is wondering why those were not included in the list.

Officers said they would seek guidance from the CEO on whether such correspondence ought to be included.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Moved: Peter Holt**

**Seconded: {Peter Holt}**

##### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Resolved OMC-24/149*

## 15 DECISION TO MOVE INTO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

*Nil*

## 16 NEXT MEETING AND MEETING CLOSE

The next Ordinary Council Meeting of Barkly Regional Council will be held on 24 April 2024. The meeting closed at 12.33pm.

This page and the preceding 15 pages are the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on, 24 April 2024 and are unconfirmed.