



Minutes

Ordinary Board Meeting 6th June 2025

District of Orroroo Carrieton Council

Venue: Orroroo Golf Club, 15 West Terrace, Orroroo

OPENING OF MEETING

The President Mayor Rodney Reid opened the meeting at 10.30 am and welcomed all attendees. He acknowledged new Mayors and CEOs attending the meeting for the first time, including Acting Mayor Michael Phillips-Ryder, Kristen Clark and David Stobbe.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Mayor Chapman also welcomed everyone to the meeting on behalf of the District of Orroroo Carrieton Council and provided an Acknowledgement of Country paying his respects to the Ngadjuri, Narungga, Nukuna, Kurna and Peramangk people, the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gathered on. He acknowledged their cultural beliefs and their past, present and on-going connection to the land.

I ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Present:

Mayors: Rodney Reid, Mark Wasley, Bill Gebhardt, Leonie Kerley, Sue Scarman, Ken Anderson, Allan Aughey, Roslyn Talbot, Ken Anderson, Grant Chapman, Leon Stephens, Stephen McCarthy, Ruth Whittle OAM, Michael Phillips-Ryder (Acting),

CEOs: Darren Starr, Henry Inat, Sean Holden, David Stevenson, Stephen Rufus, Martin Borgas, David Stobbe, Henry Inat, Kristen Clark

Others: Bridget Ransome (N&YLGA), Hon Tony Piccolo MP, Hon Geoff Brock MP, Tom Venning (Liberal for Grey), Tim Viner-Smith (HDS Consulting), Mayor Dr Heather Holmes-Ross (President, LGA)

Welcome

Stephen Rufus gave a presentation on the Orroroo Carrieton region acknowledging their proud and vibrant community. He also acknowledged the three Indigenous communities that intersect in the region being Nukuna, Banggarla and Ngadjuri.

Stephen reported that the council’s strategic direction is based on 4 key pillars incorporating prosperity, lifestyle, leadership and landscape. Key projects in the region include main street development, residential sub-division, entrance signage and beautification work at Carrieton. There is also a master plan for the Orroroo Recreation Ground in relation to football and netball and space for an RV Park.

Tourism is an important attractor for Orroroo Carrieton including key historic locations, walking trails, lookouts, parks and ranges.

1.1 Apologies

Mayor Bim Lange, Paul Simpson, Dylan Strong, Martin McCarthy, Andrew Cameron, James Miller, Clinton Jury, Acting Mayor Richard Carruthers, Richard Dodson, Peter Ackland, Penny Pratt, Fraser Ellis.

1.2 Leave of Absence Nil

1.3 Conflict of Interest Nil

1.4 Previous meeting minutes Northern and Yorke LGA

The minutes of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association held on 21st February 2025 had been distributed.

Motion: That the minutes of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association Board Meeting held on 21st February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

1.6 N&YLGA Action List

N&YLGA Meeting – 6 June 2024

Item	Topic	Action	Status	Comment
4.2	Advocacy Plan / consultation with member councils	A draft Advocacy Plan has been prepared.	On-going	A draft Advocacy Plan is to be presented at the 6 th June 2025 N&YLGA Board meeting. Refer agenda item 3.4
	Roads / Transport Plan	HDS has been appointed as consultants and is progressing the review.	On-going	An update of the plan is to be presented at the 6 th June Board meeting. Refer agenda item 2.3
4.7	Forums	Waste	On-going	Contact has been made with the CEO KESAB to progress this initiative.

1.7 Report Title: Deferred / Adjourned Items Nil

2 PRESENTATIONS

President Dr Heather Holmes-Ross

President Dr Heather Holmes-Ross of the LGA opened the discussion for Mayors and CEOs to talk through any issues or concerns going forward. She noted that the LGAs Strategic Plan is about to be released after a recent consultation period. She noted that one of the issues the LGA is dealing with at present is behaviour in council chambers and further research is being carried out in this regard which may lead to legislative changes.

Mayor Stephens mentioned the drought implications for the state at present, noting that although the southern area of the state was represented in discussions, it would be important for the Northern councils to also have the opportunity to feed into deliberations and actions related to drought relief. Mayor Anderson agreed that the 6 councils in the Flinders Alliance had also been left out of key conversations around drought impacts.

Tom Venning (Liberal for Grey)

Tom Venning reported that he will be attending his first Parliamentary sitting on 22nd July 2025. The principal issues for the region that he will be advocating for are drought impacts, developments at Port Pirie and Port Wakefield and an increase in federal funding grants. It was noted that councils need more untied grants so they can specifically apply funding to their requirements.

A number of Northern & Yorke Mayors and CEOs will also be attending ALGA in June in Canberra to advocate for better outcomes across the region.

Tim Viner-Smith (HDS Consulting)

Tim Viner-Smith of HDS Consulting presented an overview of the Road Transport Plan Review and an update on the N&Y LGA Special Local Roads Program (SLRP) applications for this year's funding. Just over \$6m has been applied for in this year's SLRP applications from the Northern & Yorke region.

Tim urged councils to make contact with him to also investigate other avenues of funding for local roads (e.g. black spot grants).

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the update of the Review of the Road Transport Plan.

Moved: Mayor Aughey Seconded: Mayor Wasley CARRIED

3 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Audit & Risk Management Committee

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the Draft Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes of the 22nd May 2025 and the 28th May 2025.

Moved: Mayor Chapman Seconded: Mayor Wasley CARRIED

3.2 Executive Committee

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the Draft Executive Committee Minutes of 30th May 2025

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor McCarthy CARRIED

Report title: 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference

Item No: 3.3

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome

I. REPORT PURPOSE

This report provided a brief update in relation to the 2025 Small Town Re-Invention Conference. Draft program. Bridget Ransome will send through the program to all members this week.

Motion: That the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association notes the report.

Moved: Mayor Kerley Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

Report Title: N&YLGA Advocacy Plan

Item No: 3.4

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: Bridget Ransome, CEO N&YLGA

I. REPORT PURPOSE

To provide information and an update of the N&YLGA Advocacy Plan.

Motion: That the Advocacy Plan as at June 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Whittle Seconded: Mayor Anderson CARRIED

Report Title: Drought Relief (Information from SAROC)

Item No: 3.5

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: Bridget Ransome, CEO N&YLGA

I. REPORT PURPOSE

To discuss the current situation in relation to the potential of providing rate relief to primary producers due to the impact of current drought conditions.

Motion: That the report be noted.

Moved: Mayor Scarman Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

4 REPORTS FOR DECISION

Report Title: Financial Services Update Report

Item No: 4.1

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome

I REPORT PURPOSE

This report sought a decision on the following:

- Approve the appointment of ATA Audits as the new auditor providing financial services to the N&YLGA for the purposes of auditing the association and preparing reports for the AGM on 29th August 2025. (Attachment E).
- Approve the change in financial services provider from Colin Davies to Local Government Association Corporate Services
- Approve the change in bank signatories.

Motion: That the N&YLGA Board approve the appointment of ATA Audits as the new auditor providing financial services to the N&YLGA for the purposes of auditing the association and preparing reports for the AGM on 29th August 2025.

That the N&YLGA Board approve that Colin Davies be removed as a signatory on all bank accounts at BankSA for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association.

That the Local Government Association SA be appointed as the new financial services provider for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association for an initial 2-month period (May and June 2025) at a cost of \$1250 per month.

That the Board also appoint Local Government Association SA as the financial services provider for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association for the 2025-26 financial year at a cost of \$15,000 pa.

That the N&YLGA Board approve the following signatories be appointed to all BankSA accounts for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association:

- **Stephen Rufus, CEO Orroroo Carrieton Council**
- **Bridget Ransome, CEO Northern & Yorke Local Government Association**
- **Andrew Wroniak, Executive Director, Corporate Services, Local Government Association of SA**
- **Vanessa Miller, Manager Finance, Corporate Services, Local Government Association of SA.**

Moved: Mayor Aughey

Seconded: Mayor Stephens

CARRIED

Report Title: N&YLGA Communications Plan

Item No: 4.2

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome

I. REPORT PURPOSE

This report outlines a proposed plan to review and update the communications activities of the Northern & Yorke LGA.

Motion: That the Communications Plan for the Northern & Yorke LGA be approved so that the association's communications activities can be updated and progressed; and approve Logo 7 within the plan as the new brand of the association going forward.

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

Report Title: Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-26

Item No: 4.3

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: N&YLGA CEO Bridget Ransome

I. REPORT PURPOSE

This report provides an update of the Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-2026 for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association.

Motion: That the N&YLGA Board approves the Draft Annual Business Plan 2025-2026 for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association.

Moved: Mayor Anderson Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

Report Title: N&YLGA Chief Executive Officer Report June 2025

Item No: 4.4

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: Bridget Ransome, Chief Executive Officer, N&YLGA

I. REPORT PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Chief Executive Officer's duties, as she has now completed her six-month probationary period.

Motion: That Bridget Ransome continues as CEO of the N&YLGA according to her existing contract, as recommended by the Chairperson of N&YLGA, who has considered the achievements made by CEO Bridget Ransome during the Probationary Period of her contract.

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor McCarthy CARRIED

5 MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

5.1 Motions with Notice

Report Title: Local Government Legal Costs

Item No: 5.1.1

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: Mayor Gebhardt, Goyder Regional Council

Motion: That in consideration of the legal services required by all councils that the Local Government Association (SA) progress conversations via the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association combined councils, to review and consider the creation of a regional approach relating to legal costs regarding mutual activities such as planning and Human Resources.

Moved: Mayor Gebhardt Seconded: Mayor Talbot CARRIED

Report Title: Roads and Infrastructure Valuation

Item No: 5.1.2

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2025

Author: Mayor Stephens, Port Pirie Regional Council

Mayor Stephens reported that all councils have to deal with road re-valuations conducted every 4 or 5 years, noting that costs of valuations has gone up by 37%. He enquired whether the State Government has to report their assets in the same way.

Mayor Stephens added that councils are required to adhere to the accounting principles of local government and that the standards are very specific in this regard.

Mayor Stephens added that councils cannot undertake much more cost shifting going forward and that the issue should be taken to SAROC to support a policy change via the LGA.

Motion: That the N&YLGA support this presentation to the SAROC Board and ask for the LGA to seek a review of the renewable assets policy to be in line with the State.

Moved: Mayor Stephens Seconded: Mayor McCarthy CARRIED

5.2 Motions without notice

Motion: That the N&YLGA CEO immediately write to the CEO and President of the LGASA requesting that the LGASA fund Phase 2 of the Regional Childcare Desert Advocacy Project (estimated at \$30,000). This funding is needed to support the ongoing project and to capitalise on the current government's commitment to childcare at both state and commonwealth levels. This is much needed support during the current drought and economic downturn that follows.

Moved: Mayor Scarman Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

5.3 Questions with notice

Nil

5.4 Questions without notice

Nil

6 MEMBERS' COMMUNICATION

6.1 Chairperson's Report

Motion: That the Chairperson's report for June 2025 be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Aughey Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

6.2 Members' Update

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS Nil

Mayor McCarthy reported that the Flinders Alliance of councils are disappointed that the conversations around drought relief have not extended to such things as relief from the Emergency Services Levy, relief from the landscape levy and land tax. Some of these initiatives would take some of the pressures off of the region's local communities. There are some opportunities evident to provide relief in different ways, for example, rate relief could be funded through current drought funding.

Members agreed that there are a range of sensible and simple initiatives that could be taken in what is considered an emergency at the present time.

Mayor McCarthy and Mayor Anderson agreed to summarise an approach and distribute it to Mayors and CEOs in the first instance, with a view to advocate via the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association to elevate the situation with both the LGA and State Government.

Resolution: A report be prepared by the Flinders Alliance.

8 CLOSE – NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm.

The Northern & Yorke LGA will meet again for its Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of the Association at 10.00 am on Friday 29th August 2025 to be hosted by the District Council of Goyder.