



NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Ordinary Board Meeting

29th August 2025

Regional Council of Goyder

Venue: Council Chamber, 1 Market Square, Burra

OPENING OF MEETING

The President Mayor Rodney Reid opened the meeting at 10:54 am and welcomed all attendees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Mayor Reid, provided an Acknowledgement of Country and paid his respects to the Ngadjuri, 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, Bill Gebhardt, Leonie Kerley, Sue Scarman, Ken Anderson, Allan Aughey, Grant Chapman, Leon Stephens, Ruth Whittle OAM, Michael (Bim) Lange, Bill Close, David Patton (Acting), Stephen McCarthy.

CEOs: Darren Starr, Sean Holden, David Stevenson, David Stobbe, Maree Wauchope, James Miller, Martin Borgas, Richard Dodson,

Others: Bridget Ransome (N&YLGA), Hon Geoff Brock MP, Tom Venning (Liberal for Grey), Andrew Lamb (LGA), Rebecca Howard (N&Y Landscape Board), Daniel Willson, Angela Ruddenkai,

Welcome

1.1 Apologies

Mayor Roslyn Talbot, Dylan Strong, Martin McCarthy, Andrew Cameron, Acting Mayor Richard Carruthers.

1.2 Leave of Absence Nil

1.3 Conflict of Interest Nil

1.4 Previous meeting minutes Northern and Yorke LGA

Motion: That the minutes of the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association Board Meeting held on 6th June 2025 (with correction) be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor Chapman Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

1.6 N&YLGA Action List

N&YLGA Meeting – 29th August 2025

Item	Topic	Action	Status	Comment
4.2	Advocacy Plan / consultation with member councils	A draft Advocacy Plan has been prepared.	On-going	
	Roads / Transport Plan	HDS has been appointed as consultants and is progressing the review.	On-going	
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

Brett Mattson and Archie Hooper (Airgentic – AI Citizen Service)

Sean Holden introduced Brett Mattson and Archie Hooper, of Airgentic. Brett provided a brief introduction to their AI product which has been implemented by both the District Council of Mt Remarkable and The Flinders Ranges councils as an overlay to frequently asked questions, providing

efficiencies in directing people to required information and follow-up. The product:

1. Reduces the load on human contact centres
2. Enhances 24x7 customer self-service support
3. Increases contact centre team productivity
4. Gathers actionable customer insights.

The program also works well with CMS systems and provides website integration, for consistent accuracy and tone of messaging.

The Airgentic team can configure the service; review and test, with up to 15 hours of training, and live analytics. Back-up of data is also ensured, and councils own the data.

Andrew Lamb Presentation (LGA)

Andrew Lamb presented at the meeting in relation to Local Government Elections and correspondence from the Minister.

It was noted that the date would not change for council elections, in the same year as a state election. There is a Bill to parliament this year so the electoral commission and councils can start planning in relation to future organisation of the timing of elections.

Elected member behaviour has been moved into the Upper House Parliament as an issue for review. LGA has engaged Flinders University to research this issue and the LGA is working on a support package for councils.

It was noted that the drought continues to be an issue, and the federal government has just also announced more funding in this regard. A submission has also been made to the state government in relation to a rates deferral program.

The LGA has also been looking at initiatives in relation to the long-term financial sustainability of councils. Other items:

- Need for an increase in Special Local Roads Program funding
- CEO remuneration tribunal – pending
- LGA State Election platform
- Electricity generators bill (Hon Frank Pangallo).

It was noted that the Northern & Yorke region was not included in drought discussions at the LGA/State Government level and there is a need in future to have representation from the region at any future discussions of this type going forward.

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 28th May 2025.

Moved: Mayor Kerley Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

3.2 2025 Small Town Reinvention Conference

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

Moved: Mayor Anderson Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

3.3 Media Training for Mayors and CEOs

Feedback from the recent Media Training for Mayors and CEOs was very positive. It was noted that the training would likely be conducted again next year for those that missed out this time. Mayor Reid also mentioned a possible follow up course for council staff involved in communications activities especially in relation to writing press releases. It was also noted that training in public speaking would also be appropriate for Mayors and CEOs.

Mayor Reid suggested Bridget Ransome develop a proposal and bring it to a future meeting for consideration.

Motion: That the Media Training report be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Gebhardt Seconded: Mayor Close CARRIED

4 REPORTS FOR DECISION

4.1 N&YLGA Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026

Motion: That the N&YLGA Board approve and accept the proposal to undertake the review of the N&YLGA Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-2026.

Moved: Mayor Anderson Seconded: Mayor Scarman CARRIED

5 MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

5.1 Motions with Notice

Chief Executive Officer, Northern and Yorke LGA Employment Contract

Motion: That the N&YLGA Board approve the change in employment contract for Bridget Ransome, CEO of Northern & Yorke LGA from 0.8FTE to 1.0FTE, effective from 1st September 2025 so that she can fully carry out the duties required of this role for the Northern & Yorke Local Government Association Member Councils.

Moved: Mayor Scarman Seconded: Mayor Whittle OAM LOST

5.2 Motions without notice

Nil

5.3 Questions with notice

Nil

5.4 Questions without notice

Mayor McCarthy confirmed that he is now a member of the Drought Advisory Committee.

6 MEMBERS' COMMUNICATION

6.1 Chairperson's Report

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

Moved: Mayor Aughey Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

6.2 Members' Update

Nil

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8 CLOSE – NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 12:43 pm.

The Northern & Yorke LGA will meet again for an Ordinary Meeting of the association on 28th November 2025 at 10:30 am, to be hosted by the Barunga West Council.