



NORTHERN AND YORKE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Ordinary Board Meeting

5th December 2025

Barunga West Council

**Venue: Port Broughton Combined Sporting Club
East Terrace, Port Broughton**

and online via MS Teams

OPENING OF MEETING

The President Mayor Rodney Reid opened the meeting at 10:37 am and welcomed all attendees.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY & WELCOME

Mayor Kerley provided an Acknowledgement of Country and paid her respects to the Nharangga people the traditional custodians whose ancestral lands we gathered on. She acknowledged their cultural beliefs and their past, present and on-going connection to the land.

Mayor Kerley presented an update to the meeting of the Barunga West Civic Square project.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Present:

Mayors: Rodney Reid, Bill Gebhardt, Leonie Kerley, Keith Pluckrose, Allan Aughey, Grant Chapman, Leon Stephens, Ruth Whittle OAM, Michael (Bim) Lange, Bill Close, Kylie Gray, Stephen McCarthy, Roslyn Talbot, Mark Wasley.

CEOs: Darren Starr, David Stobbe, Richard Dodson, Mark McShane, Martin McCarthy, Stephen Rufus, Ross McNeil, Chris Davey, Dylan Strong.

Others: Bridget Ransome (N&YLGA), Andrew Lamb (LGA), Anthony Fox (N&Y Landscape Board), Angela Ruddenkai (PIRSA), Wendy Perkins (Uniting Church in SA), Tim Viner-Smith (HDS Consulting), Professor Kirstin Ross (Flinders University).

Welcome

1.1 Apologies

Andrew Cameron, James Miller, David Stevenson, Hon Geoff Brock MP, Penny Pratt MP, Tamara Harrison, Sean Holden, Mayor Anderson, Hon Tony Piccolo MP.

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 29th August 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

Mayors Whittle and Gray were not present for the vote.

1.6 N&YLGA Action List

N&YLGA Meeting – 5th December 2025

Item	Topic	Action	Status	Comment
4.2	Advocacy Plan / consultation with member councils	An updated Advocacy Plan has been prepared.	On-going	
	Roads / Transport Plan	HDS has been working on the Regional Transport Plan and provided an update at the meeting.	On-going	

4.7	Waste & Resource Recovery Strategy	The review is progressing, and a final report will be presented to the February 2026 meeting.	On-going	
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1.7 Report Title: Deferred / Adjourned Items

Nil

2 PRESENTATIONS

Professor Kirstin Ross, Flinders University – Environmental Health

Professor Ross presented an update on the role of Environment Health Officers in local government. She outlined the work that Flinders University is currently undertaking in providing cadetships linked to online training, to support this important role at the local government level.

Tim Viner-Smith, HDS Consulting – N&YLGA Road Transport Plan Update

Tim Viner-Smith provided an update on the review of the N&YLGA 2030 Regional Transport Plan. His work involves researching and reviewing existing data and documentation and creating an overview of movements within the region and an update of the definitions and methodology of regionally significant routes. This updated plan will support the region as it identifies and progresses grant funding opportunities.

Wendy Perkins, Uniting Church in SA – When Disaster Strikes

Wendy Perkins provided details about the work of Disaster Recovery Ministries which trains and deploys a team of chaplains (lay and ordained) from many denominations and faith groups during times of significant disaster events in communities across the state. In particular the Disaster Recovery Ministries respond to requests from SA Housing Trust in the event of a declared disaster or emergency. At present they have over 300 trained D&RM chaplains across urban, regional and rural SA.

Andrew Lamb Update (LGA)

Andre Lamb provided an update to the meeting, including the financial sustainability federal government enquiry; behaviour management consultation; drought; remuneration tribunal; current libraries campaign; statewide community engagement charter; and the local government elections bill.

3 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

3.1 Audit & Risk Management Committee

Stephen Rufus acknowledged that the Audit & Risk Management Committee now includes CEO Sean Holden.

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association receives and notes the Draft Audit and Risk Management Committee Minutes of the 24th November 2025.

Moved: Mayor Stephens Seconded: Mayor Wasley CARRIED

3.2 Northern & Yorke LGA Policies and Procedures Review

Bridget Ransome indicated the need to review the policies and procedures of the Northern & Yorke LGA, which had not been reviewed and updated for many years.

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association notes the development of a Work Plan in relation to reviewing and updating the policies and procedures of the association.

Martin McCarthy CEO, left the meeting at 11.47 am.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Chapman CARRIED

3.3 N&Y LGA Advocacy Plan Update

Mayor Kerley enquired about the clarification of the Five Nations group as listed in the advocacy plan.

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association notes the update of the Advocacy Plan, especially in relation to the forthcoming State Election.

Moved: Mayor Kerley Seconded: Mayor McCarthy CARRIED

3.4 NY&LGA Chief Executive Officer Professional Development

Mayor Reid noted that the professional development request is within budget.

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association notes the CEO Bridget Ransome’s attendance at Economic Development Australia training in order to retain professional accreditation of the qualification of Australian Certified Economic Developer (ACEcD).

Moved: Mayor Stephens Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

4 REPORTS FOR DECISION

4.1 N&YLGA Banking Provider

Bridget Ransome advised that due to a number of issues experienced within the past 12 months, and after consultation with Vanessa Miller at the LGA, it was recommended that the N&YLGA seek a new banking provider.

Motion: That the N&YLGA Board approves the process for the N&YLGA to commence a procurement process to change banking providers; and receives the recommendation of the Chairman and the N&YLGA CEO upon completion of the procurement process.

Moved: Mayor Chapman Seconded: Mayor McCarthy CARRIED

4.2 N&YLGA Authorised Contacts on Australian Business Register

Bridget Ransome reported that there have been several attempts to update the N&YLGA financial contacts with the departure of Simon Millcock and Colin Davies. The ABR will not recognise a change in N&YLGA Association financial contacts without confirmation of the details by the N&YLGA Board.

Motion: That the office bearers of Central Local Government Region of South Australia Inc trading as Northern and Yorke Local Government Association (N&YLGA) ABN 34728242315 hereby appoint the following as the authorised contacts and associate of the organisation:

- **Bridget Ransome, Chief Executive Officer (N&YLGA)**
- **Vanessa Echevarria, Manager Finance (LGA).**

As authorised contacts and associate, they act on behalf of the organisation in relation to all matters concerning the association’s business registration with the Australian Business Register including but not limited to updating business registration details and correspondence with the ATO or ABR on behalf of N&YLGA.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Wasley CARRIED

5 MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

5.1 Gender Equality Reporting Framework (withdrawn as an agenda item in the meeting).

5.1.2 Financial Sustainability of Local Government

Mayor McCarthy expressed the importance of responding to the federal government's current enquiry into the on-going financial sustainability of local government.

Motion: That the Northern and Yorke Local Government Association request its Chief Executive Officer to collaborate with all member councils and make a submission on behalf of member councils (those wishing to participate) to the Australian Government's inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

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

Mayor Reid acknowledged the passing of James Maitland who was the Mayor of Wakefield Regional Council for seventeen years and also Chair of the then Central Local Government Region of South Australia (now Northern & Yorke Local Government Association).

Mayor Reid also advised that a recent decision of the N&YLGA Executive agreed to write to the LGA in response to the deferment of the appointment of the new CEO of the LGA. He noted the lack of clarity around this decision and what it may mean for the sector.

Motion: That the Chairperson's report for 5th December, be received and noted.

Moved: Mayor Talbot Seconded: Mayor Gebhardt CARRIED

6.2 Members' Update

Motion: That the N&YLGA board meeting move into confidence to hear a report from Andrew Lamb re: rating of land used by energy production and to discuss the recommendations of the N&YLGA Review Committee

All non-members to be excluded except CEO Bridget Ransome and LGA representative Andrew Lamb for the first section.

Moved: Mayor Reid Seconded: Mayor Kerley CARRIED

6.2.1 In Confidence – N&YLGA Chief Executive Officer Review

Motion: That the Northern & Yorke LGA Board acknowledges the high standard of work that CEO Bridget Ransome has completed for the organisation.

That the N&YLGA Board engages an HR Professional to report on the role and expectations for the CEO before considering the Review Committee Recommendations.

Moved: Mayor McCarthy Seconded: Mayor Lange CARRIED

Motion: That Mayor McCarthy be appointed to the N&YLGA Review Committee.

Moved: Mayor Gebhardt Seconded: Mayor Stephens CARRIED

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

8 CLOSE – NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 1.35 pm.

The Northern & Yorke LGA will meet again for an Ordinary Meeting of the association on Friday, 27th February 2026 at 10.30 am hosted by The Barossa Council (venue to be advised).