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2 October 2026

NT Local Government Representation Review Submission

Dear Committee Members,

Overview

The East Arnhem Regional Council has actively promoted awareness of the Local Government Representation Review through its website and social media posts.

The elected Council and its six formally endorsed Local Authorities, and more broadly community and homeland members across the East Arnhem Region, have not expressed or received any interest in changing the current number of elected Council members, Local Authority members, or the long standing cultural based Electoral Wards, that reflects strong satisfaction with and support of the current Council region and its electoral wards.

These Wards are Gumurr Miwatj in the east, to Gumurr Miyarrka, Birr Rawarrang in the central part of the region, to Gumurr Marthakal and Gumurr Gattjirrk in the western part of the region.

Cultural based electoral wards were formally created based on the direct cultural knowledge and advice of the Indigenous Chairs of each pre-cursor Community Council, through their representation on the Shire Transition Committee in the year before the formal creation of the Council in July 2008, and amended to include one more in 2012.

More Appropriate Naming of Local Authorities

Council has expressed a strong interest in reviewing the naming of the Local Authorities that are currently all named after the major community in each of the cultural based electoral wards, but do not reflect the reality of the strong historical and ongoing cultural connections of all community and homeland members across each cultural based ward.

As part of Council's consideration of governance and representation matters, Council resolved to undertake consultation with each of the six Local Authorities on whether they wish to amend their respective Local Authority name to better reflect both the community and the cultural based electoral ward in which they are located.

Consultation was undertaken with Local Authorities across the region. Of the six Local Authorities, five meetings were held and formal resolutions were unanimously passed.

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The outcomes of the consultation and formal resolutions of the respective Local Authorities are summarised below. The:

- **Ramingining Local Authority** supported changing its name to the:

  Rawarrang - Ramingining Local Authority to properly reflect the language of the cultural ward name.

- **Milingimbi Local Authority** supported changing its name to the:

  Gumurr Gattjirrk - Milingimbi Local Authority to properly reflect the language of the cultural ward name.

- **Galiwinku Local Authority** supported changing its name to the:

  Galiwinku - Gumurr Marthakal Local Authority to properly reflect the language of the cultural ward name.

- **Yirrkala Local Authority** supported changing its name to the:

  Yirrkala Dhanbul - Gumurr Miwatj Local Authority to properly reflect the language of the cultural ward name, subject to consulting and gaining the endorsement of the local Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and Gumatj Corporation.

- **Gunyangara Local Authority** supported retaining its current name without change, in that this cultural name reflects the Gumatj homelands that surround the community, as the:

  Gunyangara Local Authority

- **Gapuwiyak Local Authority** has not been able to meet formally yet due to cultural sorry business. However the elected Councillors for the Gumurr Miyarrka Ward have been consulted and advised that the Local Authority should be re-named to the:

  Gapuwiyak & Homelands Local Authority

East Arnhem Regional Council recommends that the above naming changes be supported and adopted, and welcomes the support of the Representation Review Committee to this end.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Dale Keehne
Chief Executive Officer
East Arnhem Regional Council