MINUTES

PINE CREEK LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2026

AT 12:30 PM

AT THE PINE CREEK MULTI RESOURCE CENTRE

56 Main Tce, Pine Creek, NT 0847

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Jennifer Marston
Chief Executive Officer

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Meeting Opening 5
2. Welcome 5
3. Attendance and Apologies 5
3.1. Attendees 5
3.2. Apologies and Absentees 5
4. Disclosure of Interest 6
5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations 6
5.1. Resignations 6
5.2. Terminations 6
5.3. Nominations 6
6. Confirmation of Minutes 6
6.1. Pine Creek Local Authority meeting held 9 October 2025 6
7. Council Response to Previous Minutes 6
7.1. Approval of Local Authority Minutes by Council 6
8. Guests and Presentations 7
9. Correspondence 7
9.1. Correspondence 7
10. Reports 7
10.1. Council Operations Manager Community Report 7
10.1.1. Council Operations Manager Community Report - Pine Creek 8
10.2. Finance Report 10
10.2.1. Finance Report for the period ended 31/12/2025 10
10.2.2. Project Funding Update for the period ended 31/12/2025 11
10.3. General Reports 11
10.3.1. Anzac Day 2026 11

10.3.2. Project Title: Pine Creek Water Gardens Pathway, Tourism Town Asset Program – Round 5 12
10.3.3. Pine Creek Sports & Rec School Holiday program 12
10.3.4. Current Liability other General 13
10.3.5. Notification of OSHC Cessation 13
10.4. Attendance Report 14
10.4.1. Local Authority Member Attendance Report 14
10.1. Regional Plan Project Consultation 14
11. Questions from the Public 17
12. Confidential 17
13. General Business 17
14. Next Meeting 18

1. Meeting Opening

The meeting opened at 12:30 PM.

2. Welcome

Chairperson welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

3. Attendance and Apologies

3.1. Attendees

Appointed Members Present

Deputy Mayor - Pine Creek Ward	Yvette Williams
Chair	Sam Forwood
Member	John Roberts
Member	Dianne Benson
Member	Edward Ah Toy
Member	Rosemary Aiken
Member	David Paddy

Staff Present

Mayor	Brian Pedwell
CEO	Jennifer Marston
Director of Council Operations	Tanya Brown
Council Operations Manager - Pine Creek	Kerry Fazldeen
LA Coordinator	Natasha Thompson, via Teams
Community Care Regional Manager	Sagar Chand
Senior Accountant	Robyn Lee, via Teams
Executive Services Manager	Sam Parker, via Teams
Community Safety & Wellbeing Manager	Melissa Motlap, via Teams

Guests

NTG	Sahardi Garling, Via Teams
Agnico Eagle	James Hill, Senior Environment & Community Advisor,

3.2. Apologies and Absentees

Apologies: Juliett Mills

Absent: Lance Ashley

PCLA-2026/1 Resolution: Carried **(Dianne Benson/Sam Forwood)**

Council have received and accept the apology of Juliett Mills.

4. Disclosure of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

5. Resignations, Terminations and Nominations

5.1. Resignations

Nil

5.2. Terminations

Nil

5.3. Nominations

Nil

6. Confirmation of Minutes

ITEM NUMBER 6.1.

Pine Creek Local Authority meeting held 9 October 2025

PCLA-2026/2 Resolution: Carried (Dianne Benson/Sam Forwood)

That the minutes of the Pine Creek Local Authority meeting held 9 October 2025 be taken as read and are accepted as a true record of the meeting.

7. Council Response to Previous Minutes

ITEM NUMBER 7.1.

Approval of Local Authority Minutes by Council

PCLA-2026/3 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/David Paddy)

That the Approval of Local Authority Minutes by Council report be received and noted.

PCLA member John Roberts queried whether the Welcome sign should be included in this report. CEO Jennifer Marston clarified that the Welcome sign falls under the Projects Report mentioned in the table.

8. Guests and Presentations

James Hill, Senior Environment & Community Advisor from Agnico Eagle, attended to connect with the Pine Creek community and provide an update on planned exploration and drilling. He advised that exploration and drilling will take place during the dry season. James mentioned that Agnico Eagle is willing to offer community support through projects and could potentially provide funding. He requested that the Local Authority contact him for any questions or further discussion.

Deputy Mayor asked if the Pit is operated by Agnico Eagle. James confirmed that Agnico Eagle runs the Pit and stated there are about 35 exploration holes planned in the dry season, around April.

CEO Jennifer Marston requested that James send through any proposals for funding that could be offered so that the Local Authority could be aware of the guidelines and types of projects eligible for funding.

Action: Local Authority to follow up with James through the OCM regarding any funding proposals or projects.

James's email address will distributed to the LA members.

9. Correspondence

ITEM NUMBER 9.1.

Correspondence

PCLA-2026/4 Resolution: Carried (Dianne Benson/Sam Forwood)

That the Correspondence report be received and noted.

The PCLA Chair asked the Local Authority if they had any questions regarding the correspondence received.
Deputy Mayor advised that the letter addressed to Gurindji Corporation is not relevant to Pine Creek. The CEO Jennifer Marston noted this.

10. Reports

10.1. Council Operations Manager Community Report

ITEM NUMBER 10.1.1.

Council Operations Manager Community Report - Pine Creek

PCLA-2026/18 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

That the Council Operations Manager, Pine Creek report is received and noted;

PCLA-2026/19 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

A. That the COM will reach out to Kybrook farm to find out what is being done for NAIDOC. PCLA and VDRC may join in with this event; and
B. That the Grant manager will look into a possible NAIDOC grant.

NAIDOC Event Discussion
Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of hosting a NAIDOC event, noting that Pine Creek does not usually host NAIDOC events.

Local Authority member Dianne Benson suggested that the LA could collaborate with Kybrook Farm.

CEO Jennifer Marston requested a follow-up with Kybrook to determine if we could host an event together.

Action: COM to contact Kybrook Farm / PCAAA to determine plans for NAIDOC day.

PCLA-2026/20 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

That the PCLA dates for 2025 are updated:

- 5 May 8:30 am - 10:30 am (online via Teams only) to discuss the Regional Plan
- 4 August 12:30 pm
- 1 December 12:30 pm

There were concerns raised about the proposed Authority meeting dates, as they fall on Thursdays, conflicting with seniors' shopping day Members requested whether meeting days could be adjusted.

CEO Jennifer Marston explained that meeting dates are being moved to accommodate community availability.

A/Executive Services Manager Sam Parker confirmed the updated PCLA dates for 2025.

John Roberts requested clarification on the location of the 5 May meeting. CEO Jennifer Marston confirmed that it would be held online via Teams.

Action: Updated calendar invites will be sent to the Local Authority members and external stakeholders.

PCLA-2026/21 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

That Council follow up with NLC, APRA and the two Aboriginal groups - Jawoyn Wagiman to consult on the wording and seek approval of Welcome sign wording.

Discussion:

PCLA member Rosemary Aiken asked if the wording for the Welcome sign had been decided. CEO Jennifer Marston confirmed that the resolution for the wording was passed at the last meeting. John Roberts commented that while there was a discussion, he does not believe a formal decision was made, as further advice was required to ensure the wording met all requirements.

The Local Authority Coordinator found the resolution from PCLA 9 October 2025:

Resolution PCLA-2025/104 - Carried (John Roberts / Sam Forwood)

The PCLA agreed on the location, style and wording for the welcome sign:
1. Welcome to Pine Creek
2. NT Goldfields
3. Jawoyn Wagiman Country

The wording will need to be submitted to NLC for approval.

PCLA-2026/22 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

Tourism Grant and Beautification Project

Council Operations Manager Kerry Fazldeen provided an update on the Tourism Grant and Beautification project:

- All cement has been delivered.
- Work is pending the arrival of the saw.

Discussion:
Members raised concerns regarding other footpaths in Pine Creek, noting some are in poor condition. CEO Jennifer Marston clarified that future Regional Plan projects could allocate further funding for footpath upgrades.

John Roberts suggested that footpaths in the Water Gardens should be ripped up, replaced, and compacted to address root problems and prevent future cracking. CEO Jennifer Marston clarified that the current funding is for repairs only, not for new concrete paths.

It was agreed that future grants could support new paths, not just repairs.
John Roberts also questioned if the grant was specifically for tourism, with both PCLA member Edward Ah Toy and John Roberts agreeing they did not recall the grant being tourism-specific.

CEO Jennifer Marston clarified that two projects were merged, and $10,000 was allocated for the Local Authority to repair footpaths. The total combined grant funding is $39,271, with the condition that footpath repairs contribute to tourism and town beautification.

10.2. Finance Report

ITEM NUMBER 10.2.1.

Finance Report for the period ended 31/12/2025

PCLA-2026/23 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/David Paddy)

That the Local Authority Finance report is received and noted.

Robyn Lee, senior Account with VDRC, was introduced to present the Finance reports.

Edward Ah Toy queried whether the red figures in the finance report indicated an overspend. CEO Jennifer Marston clarified that the red figures actually represent underspent amounts due to a vacancy, not overspending.

ITEM NUMBER 10.2.2.
Project Funding Update for the period ended 31/12/2025

PCLA-2026/24 Resolution: Carried (Sam Forwood/Dianne Benson)

That the Project report is received and noted.

PCLA-2026/25 Resolution: Carried (Dianne Benson/Edward Ah Toy)

That the unspent funds of $1,496 is returned to the PCLA funding for use in future projects.

10.3. General Reports

ITEM NUMBER 10.3.1.
Anzac Day 2026

PCLA-2026/26 Resolution: Carried (Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams/David Paddy)

That the Anzac Day report is received and noted;

PCLA-2026/27 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Edward Ah Toy)

A. That PCLA allocates $300 to support an ANZAC Day 2026 event at Pine Creek and notes that Victoria Daly Regional Council will contribute an equal amount bringing the total budget for the event to $600.00; and
B. That the Dawn Service will proceed as normal and the VDRC and PCLA will organise an event at the MRC or Top pub following the Dawn Service.

The CEO confirmed that Council could run the event using the proposed $300 or alternatively, the Local Authority could donate the funds. The Dawn Service will proceed as normal. Members discussed holding an event following the Dawn Service. Deputy Mayor suggested asking Chris for the use of his courtyard, but the CEO mentioned the Multi Resource Centre (MRC) or Top Pub could be used as alternatives. It was agreed that a breakfast would be provided, similar to the one held

at the Australia Day event. The breakfast will be hosted by VDRC at the MRC or Top Pub.

ITEM NUMBER 10.3.2.

Project Title: Pine Creek Water Gardens Pathway, Tourism Town Asset Program – Round 5

PCLA-2026/28 Resolution: Carried (Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams/David Paddy)

That the PCLA Water gardens footpath upgrade report is received and noted.

PCLA-2026/29 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/John Roberts)

A. That the PCLA note that preliminary works will be undertaken internally using equipment purchased with Local Authority funds (up to $9,817.76).
B. That the PCLA notes that the remaining works will be outsourced due to time constraints associated with grant funding compliance and completion deadlines;

Discussion: John Roberts asked if contractors could lay pipes at the same time as undertaking the concrete works. Kerry Fazldeen, Council Operations Manager for Pine Creek, confirmed that the Operations Team will be carrying out these works.

PCLA-2026/30 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Deputy Mayor Yvette Williams)

That the Local Authority coordinator follow up on the Water garden project and resolve whether it is complete or if there is funding available to complete the woks required.

ITEM NUMBER 10.3.3.

Pine Creek Sports & Rec School Holiday program

PCLA-2026/31 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Edward Ah Toy)

That the Pine Creek School holidays program report is received and noted.

ITEM NUMBER 10.3.4.

Current Liability other General

PCLA-2026/32 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Sam Forwood)

That the report is received and noted;

PCLA-2026/33 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Sam Forwood)

A. That the PCLA resolve to utilise the $300 donation for the ANZAC day activities;
B. That the COM ensure that the funds are spent before the close of the financial year; and
C. That VDRC will write to the local member and thank him for the donation.

Discussion:

The CEO advised that the $300 liability amount originated from a donation by Dheran Young. John Roberts suggested allocating the money to ANZAC Day activities, and the CEO confirmed that Dheran Young would be thanked for the donation and informed that the funds will be used for ANZAC Day.

ITEM NUMBER 10.3.5.

Notification of OSHC Cessation

PCLA-2026/34 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/John Roberts)

That the Out of School Hours Care Pine Creek report is received and noted.

Discussion:

The CEO provided a summary of the report and confirmed that the OSHC program is no longer being delivered. John Roberts raised whether Night Patrol could take on activities for children, similar to what they had previously done. Rosemary Aiken asked if Night Patrol could operate the program in the future.

The CEO explained that the funding body had been approached to allow Night Patrol staff to run the program, including offsetting staff salaries with funding from Sport and Recreation. Additional funding was requested for this but was unfortunately denied by the funding body.

10.4. Attendance Report

ITEM NUMBER 10.4.1.

Local Authority Member Attendance Report

PCLA-2026/35 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Sam Forwood)

That the Pine Creek Attendance Report is received and noted.

ITEM NUMBER 10.1.

Regional Plan Project Consultation

PCLA-2026/5 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Sam Forwood)

That the Regional Plan Consultation report is received and noted;

PCLA-2026/6 Resolution: Carried (David Paddy/Edward Ah Toy)

A. That the PCLA review and discuss the projects contained in the current 2025–2026 Regional Plan and identify any items that should be carried forward, amended, or removed; and
B. That the resolution for $15,000 towards vet visits, two times per year is removed from the Regional Plan as it is not needed.

PCLA-2026/7 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Sam Forwood)

A. That the PCLA allocate, this Financial Year, $3,000 to purchasing pine trees from the Darwin supplier including transport and other accessories required to make the planting successful and in around April 2026 the Chair of the PCLA will source approximately 20 pine trees after the wet season; and
B. That the Park and Gardens team will plant the trees in locations that are near sprinklers to ensure there is a water source, before June 2026.

PCLA-2026/8 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/David Paddy)

A. That the COM will consult with the Deputy Chair to obtain a quote including delivery for 5 water filled flood barriers with an approved budget of up to $1,000;
B. That Park and Gardens will install water filled flood barriers;
C. That the PCLA notes that this project will be undertaken in conjunction with the re-circulation project at the water gardens; and
D. The Local Authority coordinator will follow up on the water gardens re-circulation projects to establish the status of the project and to ensure that the deliverables for the new projects are sequenced.

PCLA-2026/9 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Rosemary Aiken)

That the PCLA allocate up to $5,000 for the Park and Garden team or a supplier to fix the foot path sections of the foot path near the health clinic on Baxter Terrace, Pine Creek.

PCLA-2026/10 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Rosemary Aiken)

That the PCLA allocate up to $1,000 to install seating with a canopy already owned by VDRC and a sign to be made and delivered at the newly installed bike path.

A discussion was held about the sign's design. It was agreed that the sign should indicate the bike path project was delivered by the Victoria Daly Regional Council

(VDRC) and supported by the Pine Creek Local Authority and the Northern Territory Government.

PCLA-2026/11 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Edward Ah Toy)

That the PCLA allocate $500 to the Victoria Daly Regional Council International Women's Day event on 8 March 2026.

A discussion took place between CEO Jennifer Marston and the Deputy Mayor, noting that the event would be hosted at the VDRC Katherine Regional office on 8 March. VDRC will encourage participation from Pine Creek residents, offering transport to and from the event. The CEO will send invitations to the community members via the Local Authority email distribution list.

PCLA-2026/12 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Dianne Benson)

A. That the PCLA allocate up to $40,000 funding for art work / Murals in the 2026/27 with the location being:

- the MRC with an image of hooded parrot and Gouldian finches native to Pine Creek
- the brick toilet block with an image that depicts the mining heritage of the town and pine trees
- At the Ah Toy store with a Chinese image of a dragon and Edward Ah Toys father Jimmy Ah Toy
- the side of the cafe with an image of Maisey
- and the water tank along the rail corridor with a vintage style welcome sign which would require consent from the National trust; and

B. That the PCLA notes that VDRC will seek a grant wherever possible to contribute and write letters to those of the projects that require approval.

PCLA-2026/13 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Rosemary Aiken)

That the PCLA allocate $1,000 from the PCLA 2026-2027 budget towards the senior Christmas event 2026.

PCLA-2026/14 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/John Roberts)

That the PCLA allocate $500 from the PCLA 2026-2027 budget towards the Australia Day event 2027.

PCLA-2026/15 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/Sam Forwood)

That the PCLA allocate $500 towards ANZAC day.

PCLA-2026/16 Resolution: Carried (Rosemary Aiken/Sam Forwood)

That the PCLA allocate $200 for prizes for PCLA Christmas lights competition

PCLA-2026/17 Resolution: Carried (John Roberts/Rosemary Aiken)

That the PCLA write to Agneco Gold to seek their support to fund a major project to achieve improved parking for tourists and foot paths for community safety.

11. Questions from the Public

12. Confidential

Nil

Members of the press and public to be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act, 2008 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

13. General Business

PCLA-2026/36 Resolution: Carried (Edward Ah Toy/John Roberts)

That the PCLA Chair writes a letter to the NT Police commander for this region, seeking community consultation to discuss the concerns about police presence in the Pine Creek so that the community input can be provided before a decision to withdraw from the community is heard. The letter will include that there are 4 licensed premises in Pine Creek.

Discussion:
The Deputy Mayor mentioned that she was aware the police were considering withdrawing their presence from Pine Creek. PCLA members were not previously informed, which indicates that the police have not consulted the community. The Commander was invited to this meeting and has committed to attending the next PCLA meeting.
The Deputy Mayor noted that if an incident occurs, police would come from either Katherine or Daly River.

Action:
The Director of Council Operations will include a project in the 2026/27 Regional Plan to remove the buildings at the VDRC compound that previously contained asbestos.

Action:
Concerns were raised about the road to Kybrook Farm. Since this section is a DLI (Department of Infrastructure) road, the Director of Council Operations will engage with DLI regarding the road's condition.

14. Next Meeting

The next Pine Creek Local Authority Meeting will be held 12 May 2026, online to discuss the Regional Plan.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held 24 February 2026 at Victoria Daly Regional Council office, 18 Pearce Street, Katherine, NT, 0850.

Everyone is welcome to attend in person or join via teams.

The meeting closed at 2:39 PM .