

# AGENDA

**Ordinary Meeting of Council  
To be held on Tuesday 23 January 2024  
At 12:00 pm**

Civic Centre, Council Chambers  
24 Stuart Highway, Katherine NT 0850

The Chief Executive Officer of Katherine Town Council  
hereby provides notice of the Ordinary Meeting of Council  
in accordance with Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2019*



**ELECTED MEMBERS**

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Maddy Bower
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon
- Councillor Peter McDougall
- Councillor Kerrie Mott
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

**OFFICERS**

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Rosemary Jennings – Director Community Services
- Mr Avtar Singh – Director Corporate Services
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk

**VISION:**

**Katherine is a place of opportunities. We celebrate diversity as we live, work, learn and grow together.**

**MISSION:**

**Together, we will work effectively today to shape our exceptional future tomorrows.**

**VALUES:**

- 1. Accepting of diversity**
- 2. Sense of community**
- 3. Respect for people, environment, and culture.**

---

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1 Acknowledgement of Country .....5

2 Opening Prayer.....5

3 Opening of the Meeting .....5

4 Attendance.....5

    4.1 Present .....5

    4.2 Apologies .....5

    4.3 Leave of Absence .....5

5 Declaration of Interest.....5

6 Presentations from External Agencies.....5

7 Confirmation of Previous Minutes.....5

8 Business Arising from Previous Minutes .....5

9 Mayoral Business .....6

    9.1 Mayor Activities December 2023 .....6

10 Correspondence and Documents .....8

    10.1 Correspondence Incoming December 2023 .....8

    10.2 Correspondence Outgoing December 2023 .....17

11 Petitions .....20

12 Public Question Time (matters referred to the agenda).....20

13 Notice of Motion.....20

14 Reports of Officers.....21

    14.1 Council Representatives on Council Advisory Committees .....21

    14.2 NT Heritage Council .....24

    14.3 ALGA 2024 National General Assembly .....27

    14.4 Acquisition by Agreement of Proposed NT Portion 8000 .....54

    14.5 Lease and Licence - Amplitel Pty Ltd - 28 Second Street .....60

    14.6 Licence Over Crown Land - Lot 3468 .....63



---

14.7 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023.....	65
14.8 Infrastructure and Environment Report for December 2023.....	75
15 Reports from Committees.....	79
15.1 Minutes from Committees.....	79
16 Elected Member Activities.....	79
16.1 Elected Member Activities December 2023.....	79
17 Late Agenda.....	82
18 General Business.....	82
19 Closure of Meeting to Public.....	82
20 Confidential Items.....	82
20.1 Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes.....	82
20.1.1 Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes 12 December 2023.....	82
20.2 Confidential Reports of Officers.....	82
20.2.1 Greening Advisory Committee.....	82
20.2.2 TENDER T23-04 – KERBSIDE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC WASTE WITHIN THE KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL MUNICIPALITY.....	82
21 Resumption of Open Meeting.....	82
22 Closure of the Meeting.....	82



## **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the first nations people of the Katherine township and surrounding council communities. We recognise the first nations culture as one of the longest surviving cultures in the world and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future.

## **2 OPENING PRAYER**

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

## **3 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

## **4 ATTENDANCE**

### **4.1 PRESENT**

### **4.2 APOLOGIES**

### **4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

## **5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members Disclosure Conflict of Interest

Elected Members must declare any conflicts of interest in accordance with Councils Conflict-of-Interest Policy. A copy of this policy can be downloaded from [www.katherine.nt.gov.au](http://www.katherine.nt.gov.au) or obtained by emailing [records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au)

## **6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

## **7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

## **8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**



---

## 9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

### 9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2023

Report Type: For noting

---

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for December 2023.

#### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update on the Mayoral activities and engagements since the last Council meeting. The elected member reporting obligation forms part of the Katherine Town Council's Annual Report to the community, outlining elected members contribution to the Town council's service delivery.

#### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.1 Strong Leadership - Lead a strong local democracy with a community that is actively engaged in Katherine's strategic direction.**

1.1.1 Strengthen our councillor profiles to increase community awareness of who they are.

**3. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS - 3.1 Sports and Civic Events - Provide sporting infrastructure and appropriate events to encourage community connectedness.**

3.1.1 Hold events throughout the year that acknowledge themes that are important to our town and its residents, such as memorial days.

**6. BIG RIVERS INTER-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION – 6.3. Inter-Government Collaboration and Advocacy - Collaborate with Territory and federal governments.**

6.3.1 Advocate for the interests of our community.

<b>Mayor Lis Clark</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity attended</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> December	St. Josephs Primary School Young Territory Author Award
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Local Radio with Sue
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Katherine High School Presentations
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Katherine Times
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight
4 <sup>th</sup> December	International Day of People with a Disability Awards Ceremony
4 <sup>th</sup> December	Katherine Police
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Meet and greet with Minister Brent Potter
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Change of Command at RAAF
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Casuarina St. Primary School Leadership award
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Future direction for Godinymayin and Luncheon
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Special General Meeting LGANT
18 <sup>th</sup> December	LGANT CEO Review
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Meeting with CEO Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Local Radio with Sue



## 10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

### 10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING DECEMBER 2023

Report Type: For noting

---

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - Administrator - Congratulations Circular Economy Winner - 7 December 2023 - 185698 [**10.1.1** - 1 page]
  2. Letter - LGANT - DIPL Response to second bridge Katherine - 19 December 2023 - 186265 [**10.1.2** - 2 pages]
  3. Letter - Shadow Minister for LG - Community Government Council Consultation - 19 December 2023 - 186708 [**10.1.3** - 1 page]
  4. Letter - Minister DIPL - Re Roadside trivia signs - 19 December 2023 - 185934 [**10.1.4** - 2 pages]
  5. Email - LGANT - Nomination for the NT Place Names Committee - 17 January 2023 - 187213 [**10.1.5** - 2 pages]





*Government House  
Northern Territory*

Mrs Ingrid Stonhill  
Chief Executive Officer  
Katherine Town Council  
PO Box 1071  
KATHERINE NT 0851

Dear Mrs Stonhill / *Ingrid*

As joint Patrons, we write to congratulate the Katherine community on recently being recognised as the winner of the *Circular Economy* in the recent 2023 Northern Territory Sustainable Community Tidy Towns Award.

How wonderful that the commitment to a sustainable and healthy community has been recognised in such a spectacular way. The communities' dedication is inspiring and highly commendable. Please convey our congratulations to all those in Katherine on this achievement.

It is important that we come together to celebrate our achievements as a whole, and also acknowledge those individuals, who tirelessly work to make our communities better places. Congratulations and well done!

I wish you the very best in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

His Honour Professor the Honourable Hugh Heggie PSM  
Administrator of the Northern Territory

Ms Ruth Jones

7 December 2023



Department of  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

Chief Executive  
Level 5 Energy House  
18-20 Cavenagh Street  
DARWIN NT 0801

Postal Address  
GPO Box 1680  
DARWIN NT 0801

T 08 8924 7029  
E [andrew.kirkman@nt.gov.au](mailto:andrew.kirkman@nt.gov.au)

File Ref  
2023/0199-0011~0031

Mr Sean Holden  
Chief Executive  
Local Government Association of the Northern Territory  
PO Box 2017  
PARAP NT 0820

via email: [sean.holden@lgant.asn.au](mailto:sean.holden@lgant.asn.au)

*Sean*

Dear Mr Holden

**Re: Katherine Town Council second bridge and alternate route of Katherine River**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 5 December 2023 to Louise McCormick Infrastructure Commissioner, regarding the Katherine Town Council's request for a Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route (KHVAR), including a second bridge over Katherine River.

I appreciate your and Katherine Town Councils' interest in fast-tracking the construction of the KHVAR project.

As you are aware, the Northern Territory operates within the constraints of finite resources and prioritising capital intensive infrastructure projects is a critical exercise. This combined with infrastructure deficits necessitates a strategic approach to allocate funds where they can have the most significant impact.

The funding allocation process is intricate, taking into account the urgency and critical nature of each project. The current planning forecast for KHVAR has been designated as a medium to long-term priority (5 -10 years) in the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics strategic framework, NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2023. The Department's current focus is on addressing key infrastructure projects like the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub and Katherine East Neighbourhood Centre retail and commercial precinct that are integral to the Katherine community's growth and development.

The current timeline does not diminish the importance of the KHVAR project, on the contrary, it underscores the need for thorough planning to ensure the optimal allocation of resources. As a part of the Department's forward planning, a strategic planning study was completed in 2019 to identify the preferred alignment for the KHVAR and is currently being included in the Katherine Land Use Plan to provide credibility and certainty to the preferred alignment.

It is reassuring that the Department's records for the last 10 years indicate that the Kathrine River has not been flooded and the bridge remains unaffected. The existing Adelaide to Darwin rail line provides an alternate freight route for essential freight, adding an extra layer of contingency.

Your understanding and continued support in this matter are highly valued. The Department remains committed to keeping you informed of any developments and updates regarding the project timeline. Should you have any further inquiries or require additional details, please contact Mr Chandan Kalase, Executive Director Transport Planning on 08 8924 7270 or [chandan.kalase@nt.gov.au](mailto:chandan.kalase@nt.gov.au).

Thank you for your dedication to the Katherine community's progress, and I look forward to collaborative efforts in achieving the region's long-term infrastructure goals.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Kirkman  
Chief Executive

19 December 2023



RECEIVED  
08 JAN 2024

BY: .....

## SHADOW MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Parliament House  
State Square  
Darwin NT 0800  
[Opposition.Leader@nt.gov.au](mailto:Opposition.Leader@nt.gov.au)

GPO Box 3700  
DARWIN NT 0801  
Telephone: 08 8936 5659  
Facsimile: 08 8942 6827

Ms Ingrid Stonhill  
Chief Executive Officer  
Katherine Town Council  
PO Box 1071  
Katherine NT 0851

Dear Ms Stonhill

### Community Government Council Consultation

The Opposition is currently consulting widely with Territorians on a pathway to stronger local government in remote and regional areas. We are very keen to receive your input into how a reshape of local government in the bush, away from the large regional council model, could improve local outcomes, decision making and control.

Territorians living in the bush had local control and decision making taken away from them in 2008 when the 'Super Shire' model amalgamated 70 small local councils.

The Opposition has heard the concerns of Territorians living in the bush, particularly on Aboriginal communities, that centralised service delivery is not meeting the aspirations and expectations of residents.

If you have a view on service delivery, the current local government system, how improvements could be made or general observations, please let us know. We are seeking direct input from stakeholders like yourself, that will help shape the best way forward to ensure the future of community government councils is tailored to meet the unique requirements of remote communities across the Territory.

If you are interested in providing feedback or discussing this important reform, please contact me on the above details.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St Edgjh'.

Steve Edgington MLA  
**Shadow Minister for Local Government**

19 December 2023



MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

Parliament House  
State Square  
Darwin NT 0800  
minister.bowden@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146  
Darwin NT 0801  
Telephone: 08 8936 5680

Her Worship the Mayor  
Mrs Elisabeth Clark  
Mayor of Katherine  
Katherine Town Council

Via email: [records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au)

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter dated 3 October 2023 regarding roadside trivia signs to manage driver fatigue.

The Northern Territory Government, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, has made a significant investment in the upgrading of rest areas and truck parking bays over recent years; and encourages drivers to take a break and rest at these facilities to reduce fatigue and the associated risk of crashes. In addition, tactile edge lines were installed along the national highways as an intervention to alert drivers when they move away from the traffic lane. The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (the Department) also runs educational programs to bring awareness to students, businesses and tourists.

Your proposal for installing signs has identified fatigue zones. I am advised that the Department is not aware of any known fatigue zone along the Stuart Highway between Katherine and Darwin which needs a specific treatment, so I encourage you to share details of the fatigue zones with the Department.

Queensland has trialled trivia signs on selected roads, however as advised by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads government officers, there is limited information available on their effectiveness.

Even so, I am happy to provide my in-principle support for council funded and maintained trivia signs in the Katherine region.

The signs will need to be maintained according to conditions of permit provided by the Department, as per the Guidelines for Advertising and Activities in Road Reserves, a policy administered by the Department. Given you have already submitted an application, the Department will discuss this further with your Chief Executive.



- 2 -

Should you have any queries please contact Ms Kylie Field, Acting Executive Director, Northern Region on 8973 8922 or via email at [Kylie.Field@nt.gov.au](mailto:Kylie.Field@nt.gov.au).

Thank you for sharing the signage proposal with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Bowden', with a period at the end.

JOEL BOWDEN

18 DEC 2023

## Amanda Haigh

---

**From:** Sean Holden <sean.holden@lgant.asn.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 January 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** \*\*Mayors and Presidents; \*\*Mayors and Presidents EAs; \*\*Council CEOs; \*\*Council CEO EAs  
**Cc:** \*\*LGANTStaff  
**Subject:** Re: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NT Place Names Committee LGANT representation.  
**Attachments:** 2024-01-17 Nomination Form - NT Place Names Committee.docx

Good afternoon

### **Re: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS NT Place Names Committee- LGANT representation.**

The Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics is seeking nominations for one representative of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory to the Northern Territory Heritage Council (NTHC).

The Place Names Act 1967 (the Act) provides for one member of the Place Names Committee for the Northern Territory (the Committee) to be appointed from three people nominated by the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT). The term of the current LGANT member, Mayor Kaye Thurlow, expires on 26 May 2024.

Consistent with advertising for expressions of interest for appointment of external members to the Committee, I ask that three LGANT nominations be provided by 29 February 2024. Please note that the Act allows for reappointment to the Committee and as such, Mayor Kaye Thurlow is again eligible for nomination.

LGANT members have provided valued contributions over many years to effect place naming that recognises the unique history, languages and cultures of the Northern Territory and I look forward to that continuing. Gender balance as well as regional and Aboriginal representation is a key consideration in the composition of the Committee.

Should you require further information, please contact Mr Richard Smith, Senior Director Land Information on 8999 6711 or email [richard.smith@nt.gov.au](mailto:richard.smith@nt.gov.au).

Please send completed nomination forms by email to: [info@lgant.asn.au](mailto:info@lgant.asn.au) by COB Thursday 1 February 2024.

### **The process:**

- Nominees MUST BE elected members and NOT staff.
- Nominees to complete the attached nomination form.
- Nominations must be submitted online to [info@lgant.asn.au](mailto:info@lgant.asn.au) by Thursday 1 February 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Nominations MUST BE endorsed at a local government council meeting by the council.
- Nomination form MUST BE signed by the local government council CEO prior to submission.
- **The LGANT Board will consider the nominations at the Friday 9 February 2024 Board meeting and endorse only THREE nominees to the Minister.**
- The LGANT Secretariat will forward the LGANT Board endorsed nominee to the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics for the appointment ONE of the THREE nominations.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics will contact the successful nominee.

### **BACKGROUND**

Place names are our primary way of identifying different places, be it in cities, towns or out in nature.

Ensuring consistency and accuracy is essential to effective communications, orderly development, and public safety.

Place names must also be enduring to avoid confusion.

Place naming provides a unique opportunity to record the history and stories of the Northern Territory and to commemorate people who have contributed to its development and supported its communities.

One of the principal guidelines applied by the Committee when considering whether to recommend a name to the Minister is its association with the Northern Territory.

Place names are also a pivotal part of Aboriginal culture and history. The identification of geographic features using their original Aboriginal names is:

- a way of showing respect for Aboriginal culture, tradition and songlines
- an important part of the reconciliation process.

The use of Aboriginal language words in other types of place names (such as roads) also provides an excellent opportunity to elevate knowledge of the many first languages of the Northern Territory.

### Members

The Committee has 4 members that are appointed by the Minister for Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Below are the current members of the Committee.

Chairperson	Samantha Wells	Community based member
Member	Chips Mackinolty	Community based member
Member	Kaye Thurlow	Selected from nominations made by the Local Government Association of the NT
Member	Robert Sarib	Surveyor-General - ex-officio Member

Next meeting date is Monday 15 April 2024.

Kind regards,



**Sean G Holden | Chief Executive Officer**

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

t: (08) 8944 9688

e: [sean.holden@lgant.asn.au](mailto:sean.holden@lgant.asn.au) | w : [www.lgant.asn.au](http://www.lgant.asn.au)

21 Parap Road, Parap NT 0820 | PO Box 2017, Parap NT 0820

Subscribe: [Newsletter](#) | [Media Releases](#)



**We are local. We connect.**

*"In the spirit of reconciliation the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today."*

This email is private and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please advise us by return email immediately, and delete the email and any attachments without using or disclosing the contents in any way. The views expressed in this email are those of the author, and do not represent those of the Association unless this is clearly indicated. You should scan this email and any attachments for viruses. Local Government Association of the Northern Territory accepts no liability for any direct or indirect damage or loss resulting from the use of any attachments to this email.





## **10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING DECEMBER 2023**

Report Type: For noting

---

### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter of Support - Salvation Army - Katherine Community Centre Refurbishment Project - 20 December 2023 - 186093 [**10.2.1** - 1 page]
  2. Letter of Support - ARRCs - Rocky Ridge Nursing Home Expansion - 21 December 2023 - 186091 [**10.2.2** - 1 page]



24 Stuart Highway  
PO Box 1071  
Katherine NT 0851  
records@ktc.nt.gov.au  
Ph: 08 8972 5500  
Fax: 08 8971 0305  
ABN 4783 6889 865

20 December 2023

Growing Regions Program Team

To whom it may concern

**RE: Support for The Salvation Army Katherine Community Centre Refurbishment Project**

The services provided by The Salvation Army Katherine Community Centre are vital to Katherine's role as a hub for the Big Rivers region.

Katherine is a medical and government services hub for the Big Rivers regions 32 remote communities. Katherine has been experiencing and will continue to experience a housing crisis. Temporary, and affordable housing shortages impact the ability of countrymen and women to secure shelter when attending or accompany family members needing to make medical or government service appointments in town.

The Salvation Army Katherine Community Centre provides essential life services and facilities for those unable to access that assistance anywhere else in Katherine. They are being stretched to meet a growing demand for services.

Katherine Town Council endorses the proposal to improve facilities that will support improvements in social inclusion and community infrastructure, connections for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, community resilience, affordable food sources, access to employment and other services in a "one stop shop". A facility that is readily accessible for many of the most disadvantaged in our communities.

Whilst we are pleased to note that The Salvation Army Katherine Community Centre has been successful in receiving a grant application from the Community Benefits Fund, the cost of building in Katherine has significantly increased due to labour shortages, supply chain delays, cost of materials and the cost of transportation.

We fully support this application and can attest that a project such as this will have a significant and positive direct impact on the lives of vulnerable peoples.

Yours sincerely,



Ingrid Stonhill  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



**KATHERINE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

24 Stuart Highway  
PO Box 1071  
Katherine NT 0851  
records@ktc.nt.gov.au  
Ph: 08 8972 5500  
Fax: 08 8971 0305  
ABN 4783 6889 865

21 December 2023

Australian Regional and Remote Community Services  
PO Box 43021  
CASUARINA NT 0811

To whom it may concern

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

I am pleased to provide Australian Regional and Remote Community Services (ARRCS) and UnitingCare Queensland with this letter of support towards the application for funding from the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program – Thin Markets for the redevelopment and expansion of Rocky Ridge Nursing Home (Rocky Ridge).

Rocky Ridge provide vital healthcare, wellbeing and psychosocial support, aged care services to the community of Katherine and surrounds.

I commend ARRCS and UnitingCare Queensland on their application which if successful, will bring significant benefits to the community and the residents of Rocky Ridge and Katherine.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Clark".

Elisabeth Clark  
**HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR**



## **11 PETITIONS**

## **12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)**

Questions relating to the agenda, that you would like addressed, can be submitted via email at [records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au), over the phone at 08 8972 5500, in person at the Civic Centre, or through an electronic submission via the [website](#).

Please submit your question/s pertaining to the current Ordinary Meeting of Council agenda. These will be responded to in full and in a public setting.

## **13 NOTICE OF MOTION**



## 14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### 14.1 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Author: Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Risk  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: Nil

---

#### **Officer Recommendation**

1. That Council appoints .... to the Administrative Review Committee for the period to 31 January 2025, and .... be the Chair of the Administrative Review Committee for the period to 31 January 2025.
2. That Council appoints .... to the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the period to 31 January 2025.
3. That Council appoints .... to the Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committee for the period to 31 January 2025, and .... be the Chair of the Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committee for the period to 31 January 2025.
4. Council appoints .... to the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-purpose Centre Advisory Committee for the period to 31 January 2025, and .... be the Chair of the Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-purpose Centre Advisory Committee for the period to 31 January 2025.
5. That Council appoints .... to the Community Grants Assessment Panel for the period to 31 January 2025.

#### **Purpose of Report**

To appoint Elected Members to the Council Advisory Committees for a period of 12 months.

#### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.3 Community Engagement - Improve Council communications and engagement with the community.**

1.3.2 Improve consistency of our communications and engagement in alignment with our strategy.

**3. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS - 3.1 Sports and Civic Events - Provide sporting infrastructure and appropriate events to encourage community connectedness.**

3.1.2 Improve participation in user advisory groups and improve coordination of these groups on Council land.

#### **Municipal Plan**

**1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.4 Support elected members to participate in community engagement forums.

1.1.9 Participate in reference groups, working on issues that affect the community

#### **Background**

Katherine Town Council encourages input from the community about its services, operations and facilities. Council Advisory Committees are one way for the community to provide input or advice to Council on a specific topic or the strategic management of a facility on an ongoing basis.



The following table provides the current membership and appointment term expiration.

<b>Council Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Council Representatives</b>	<b>Appointment</b>
Administrative Review Committee	Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair) Cr Jeremy Trembath Cr Amanda Kingdon	Appointment to 31 January 2024
Audit and Risk Management Committee	Mayor Elisabeth Clark Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn Alternate Cr Kerrie Mott	Appointment to 31 January 2024
Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committees	Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn Cr Madeleine Bower	Appointment to 31 January 2024
Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-Purpose Centre Advisory Committee	Cr Jeremy Trembath Cr Amanda Kingdon	Appointment to 31 January 2024
Centenary of Katherine	Mayor Elisabeth Clark Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn Cr Madeleine Bower Cr Jeremy Trembath Cr Amanda Kingdon	Appointment ex-officio for the duration of the committee
Greening Advisory Committee	Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn Cr Jeremy Trembath Alternate - Cr Amanda Kingdon	Appointment to 26 September 2024
Community Grants Assessment Panel	Cr Amanda Kingdon Cr Madeleine Bower	Appointment to 31 January 2024

### **Discussion**

The Council Advisory Committees memberships is to include two (2) Councillors as per the Council Advisory Committee Policy.

**Administrative Review Committee** - only meets upon receiving an application for review of a reviewable decisions. Council have previously appointed 3 Elected Members to the committee with the Mayor appointed as Chair.

**Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC)** - The role of the Committee is to monitor Compliance by the Council with proper standards of financial management; and Compliance by the Council with the regulations and the Accounting Standards. The ARMC meets a minimum of (4) times per annum. The next meeting is scheduled to occur on 20 June 2024.

**Katherine Sportsground Advisory Committee** – This committee contributes to the further development of the Sportsgrounds and is an advisory committee to Council. Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly with the next meeting scheduled in April 2023.

**Katherine Showgrounds and Multi-Purpose Centre Advisory Committee** - This committee contributes to the development of the Showgrounds and is an advisory committee to Council. Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly with the next meeting scheduled in March 2023.

**Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee** - The town of Katherine will celebrate its 100th year birthday on 1 July 2026. This will mark 100 years since the original declaration of the town. The committee will assist Council by providing guidance on infrastructure, events and funding opportunities which are complimentary to celebrations.

**Greening Advisory Committee** - This committee is to provide Council with strategic guidance and/or recommendations in relation to the development of an environmental sustainability strategy including tree-planting strategy, greening initiatives, and provide cool and shaded spaces.

**Community Grants Assessment Panel** – This is not an advisory committee of council although Council appoint two elected members to the panel that assess applications for the Katherine Town Council's Community Grants Program. This annual program is dedicated to supporting local individuals, organisations and groups who are passionate about making a positive impact within our community. These grants are to help fund initiatives that align with Katherine Town Council's 5 year strategic plan, promoting community development, enhancing social cohesion and address local needs. Katherine Town Council's Community Grants Program opens the 1st of August through to 31st August every year.

### **Consultation Process**

There was no consultation process required for this report.

### **Policy Implications**

As per the Advisory Committee Policy each year on the twelve-month anniversary of the establishment of an Advisory Committee, Council may resolve to provide the opportunity to rotate the existing members (including Councillor/s) of that Advisory Committee with other Councillor/s and members.

### **Budget and Resource Implications**

There are no budget and resource requirements.

### **Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

An Advisory Committee must be appointed in accordance with Section 82 of the *Local Government Act 2019* and:

- may only be appointed by Council resolution,
- may include in its members persons who are not Councillors, and
- must have terms of reference, approved by council resolution, that set out its membership and functions.

### **Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

### **Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

## 14.2 NT HERITAGE COUNCIL

Author: Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Risk  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: Nil

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council approve the nomination of .... to Local Government Association of the Northern Territory for the Northern Territory Heritage Council.

### **Purpose of Report**

For Elected Members to consider the request for nominations to the Northern Territory Heritage Council from Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT).

### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.2 Partner in progress - Provide strategic leadership on economic development issues to promote Katherine's reputation and improve business confidence.**

1.2.2 Act as a connector on key issues affecting the community as a member in key reference groups.

### **Municipal Plan**

#### **1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.9 Participate in reference groups, working on issues that affect the community

### **Background**

The Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage is seeking nominations for one representative of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) to the Northern Territory Heritage Council (NTHC).

The Northern Territory Heritage Council provides advice to the Northern Territory Government on matters affecting the Territory's cultural and natural heritage.

Section 128(2)(c) of the Heritage Act 2011 allows for one of the appointed members of the Heritage Council to be from an organisation representing the interests of local government and the Minister for Local Government has deemed LGANT to be the appropriate organisation.

LGANT has been requested to nominate a person to the Heritage Council starting from 1 February 2024 for a period of three years.

The Heritage Council has 11 members. Six are appointed by the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage at their discretion. The other five members are:

- the CEO, or a nominee of the CEO, of the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- a nominee from the National Trust (NT)
- a nominee from the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA)
- a nominee from an organisation representing the interests of **local government**.
- a nominee from an organisation representing the interests of landowners.



- At least two Council members must be of Aboriginal descent.

Current members (The term of the current NT Heritage Council will expire on the 1 February 2024.)

- Mr Allan McGill AM, chairperson
- Mr Robert Pocock, Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
- Mr Michael Liddle, Local Government Association of the NT
- Ms Francine McCarthy, Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT
- Mr Eddie Webber, National Trust (NT)
- Dr Ilka Schacht, Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities
- Ms Katy Moir
- Ms Rachel Perkins
- Mr Randle Walker
- Dr Daryl Wesley
- Mililma May

### **Discussion**

LGANT has now called for nominations from member councils.

The LGANT representative will be expected to attend ALL meetings and participate fully in NT Heritage Council business. The Council meets a minimum of four times a year, most often in Darwin. However there is at least one meeting a year in Alice Springs, and site visits are a regular part of the duties of a Heritage Council member.

### **The process:**

- Nominees MUST BE elected members and NOT staff.
- Nominees are to complete the nomination form.
- Nominations must be submitted by Thursday 1 February 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.
- Nominations MUST BE endorsed at a local government council meeting by the council.
- The LGANT Board will consider the nominations at the Friday 9 February 2024 Board meeting and endorse only ONE nominee to the Minister.
- The Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (Heritage Branch) will contact the successful nominee.

### **Consultation Process**

There was no consultation process required for this report.

### **Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

### **Budget and Resource Implications**

Council may be required to cover any travel costs of the representative to attend meetings if LGANT don't.

### **Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

### **Environment Sustainability Implications**



There are no environmental sustainability implications.

**Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

### 14.3 ALGA 2024 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Author: Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Risk  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: 1. 2024 NGA Motions Discussion Paper [**14.3.1** - 24 pages]

---

#### **Officer Recommendation**

- 1) That Council approve the Mayor and CEO to attend the National General Assembly 2 to 4 July 2024 and Australian Council of Local Government 5 July 2024 in Canberra.
- 2) That Council submit the following motions to the 2024 National General Assembly:
  - a)

#### **Purpose of Report**

To seek Council approval for the Mayor and CEO to attend the 2024 National General Assembly and nominate motions for the CEO to prepare and submit.

#### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.1 Strong Leadership - Lead a strong local democracy with a community that is actively engaged in Katherine's strategic direction.**

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.2 Partner in progress - Provide strategic leadership on economic development issues to promote Katherine's reputation and improve business confidence.**

1.2.1 Foster strong relationships with Territory and federal governments to ensure coordination and support for economic development initiatives affecting Katherine at the local level and in the Big Rivers Region.

**6. BIG RIVERS INTER-GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION – 6.3. Inter-Government Collaboration and Advocacy - Collaborate with Territory and federal governments.**

6.3.1 Advocate for the interests of our community.

6.3.5 Develop an elected member-led advocacy agenda on key areas of concern including housing, homelessness, liveability, native title.

#### **Municipal Plan**

**1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.8 Continue strong relationships with regional, Territory and federal governments.

1.1.9 Develop an elected member-led advocacy agenda on key areas of concern.

1.1.10 Advocate for the interests of the Katherine community.

#### **Background**

Each year the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) holds the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) Annual Conference in Canberra. The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government. The Conference also incorporates a Mayors forum at the Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) hosted by the Federal Government.

## **Discussion**

The theme of the 2024 NGA will be “Building Community Trust”.

ALGA is seeking motions that align with this theme and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies that will support councils to build trust, both in our communities and as a local delivery partner for the Australian Government.

The discussion paper outlines more detail for motions with this year’s call for motion focusing on twelve priority areas:

1. Intergovernmental relations;
2. Financial sustainability;
3. Roads and infrastructure;
4. Emergency management;
5. Housing and homelessness;
6. Jobs and skills;
7. Community services;
8. Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
9. Data, digital technology and cyber security;
10. Climate change and renewable energy;
11. Environment;
12. Circular economy.

Motions for this year’s NGA should consider:

- how all levels of government in Australia can build trust in each other and earn greater trust from the community;
- practical opportunities for the Australian Government to leverage the trust that local communities have in their local council;
- focus on practical programs that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and
- new program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver the Australian Government’s objectives.

Motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally,
2. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA,
3. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and LGANT,
4. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something,
5. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government, and
6. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions close on Friday 29 March 2024. If council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

The 2024 NGA Conference will be held 2 – 4 July and Australian Council of Local Government 5 July 2024 in Canberra. Each year the Mayor and CEO attend.

### **Consultation Process**

Council may consider approaching Roper Gulf Regional Council and Victoria Daly Regional Council to support motions.

### **Policy Implications**

Motions must complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and LGANT, and identify opportunities for new federal programs and policies.

### **Budget and Resource Implications**

Within current service delivery budget and resource.

### **Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

### **Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

### **Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

# 2024 NGA

Building  
Community  
Trust

National Convention Centre  
Canberra



ATT: 14.3.1 2024 NGA Motions Discussion Paper



AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION



2 - 4  
JULY  
2024

DISCUSSION  
PAPER



Page:30 of 83

## KEY DATES

29 March 2024 | Acceptance of Motions

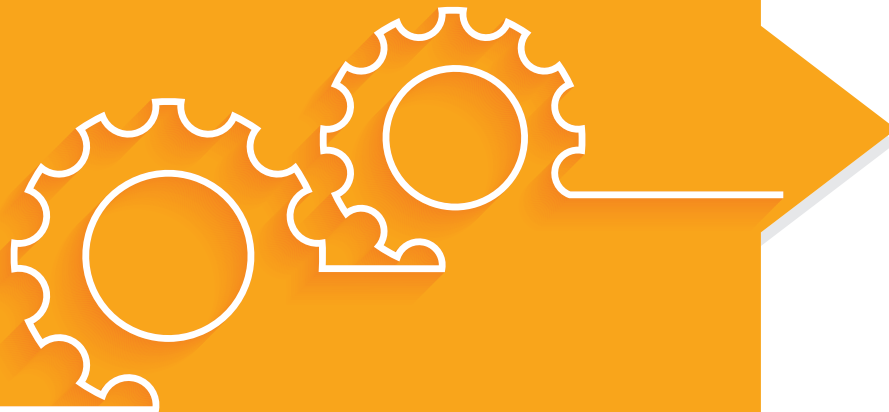
2 July 2024 | Regional Cooperation & Development Forum

3 - 4 July 2024 | National General Assembly

5 July 2024 | Australian Council of Local Government

## TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: **ALGA.COM.AU**



The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 30th National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.

As convener of the NGA, the ALGA Board cordially invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and most importantly unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2024 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper on page 6.

## **BACKGROUND TO ALGA AND THE NGA**

---

ALGA was established 1947. In structure, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has built the profile of local government on the national stage, showcased the value of councils, and most importantly demonstrated - particularly to the Australian Government - the strength and value of working with local government to help deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of debate on motions (NGA Resolutions) could be used by participating councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given the structure of ALGA, its Constitution, and level of resources, the NGA does not bind the ALGA Board. However, the Board carefully considers NGA resolutions as it determines ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA and ALGA is pleased to act as the convener. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

**The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA and those that will take the time to reflect on the purpose of debate on motions outlined in this paper, and to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA.**



# SUBMITTING MOTIONS

Australia is one of the world's great democracies. It is held in high regard across the world but should never be taken for granted.

## **The theme of the 2024 NGA is – Building Community Trust.**

This theme aims to explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and its citizens. This trust is a fundamental building block of our nation's democracy.

While relatively low key, over the past decade there has been increasing public debate by scholars and policy makers about the level of trust in government, its institutions and indeed the operation of our democracy more broadly.

Mark Evans et al (2019) published research in 'The Conversation' indicating that Australians' trust in politicians (our political representatives) and democracy has hit an all-time low. This report indicates 'fewer than 41% of Australian citizens are satisfied with the way democracy works in Australia, down from 86% in 2007.

Public satisfaction has fallen particularly sharply since 2013, when 72% of Australian citizens were satisfied. Generation X is least satisfied (31%) and Baby Boomers most satisfied (50%). Some political authors suggest that these trends in part explain the rise in popularity and the relative success of independents and micro or single-issue parties.

These statistics should be of concern to every level of government and those interested in the future of our communities and Australia's democratic system.

It is said that 'trust is hard-earned, easily lost, and difficult to re-establish – and a key to absolutely everything.' While media and public attention frequently focuses on levels of trust in the national and state governments, local governments have an equally important role in building, maintaining and indeed, often repairing government-community relationships.

At its most fundamental level, the 2024 NGA focusses on the role of local government and how all levels of government can help each other build, maintain and strengthen government-community relationships.

This discussion paper is a call for councils to submit motions for debate at the 2024 NGA to be held in Canberra from 2-4 July 2024.

Motions for this year's NGA should consider:

- how all levels of government in Australia can build trust in each other and earn greater trust from the community;
- practical opportunities for the Australian Government to leverage the trust that local communities have in their local council;
- focus on practical programs that can strengthen the system of local government nationally to provide the services and infrastructure required to support and strengthen our communities; and
- new program ideas that that would help the local government sector to deliver the Australian Government's objectives.

Motions should be concise, practical and implementable and meet the guidelines for motions set out in the paper.

You are encouraged to read all the sections of the paper but are not expected to respond to every issue or question. Your council's motion/s must address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper.

Motions must be lodged electronically using the online form available on the NGA website at: [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au) and received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.

All notices of motions will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee prior to publishing the NGA Business Paper to ensure that they meet these guidelines. This sub-committee reserves the right to select, edit or amend notices of motions to facilitate the efficient and effective management of debate on motions at the NGA.

All NGA resolutions will be published on [www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au](http://www.nationalgeneralassembly.com.au).

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on this website.

Please note that if your council does submit a motion, there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the NGA to move and speak to that motion if required.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 NGA.

# CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

Motions must commence with the following wording:

***This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to ...***

**Please note that resolutions of the NGA do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions.**

# OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Submitters of motions should not assume that NGA delegates will have background knowledge of the proposal. The background section helps all delegates, including those with no previous knowledge of the issue, in their consideration of the motion. Please note, motions should NOT be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

**Try to keep motions practical, focussed and capable of implementation to ensure that relevant Australian Government Ministers provide considered, thoughtful and timely responses.**

Try to avoid motions that are complex, contain multi-dot points and require complex cross-portfolio implementation.

All motions submitted will be reviewed by the ALGA Board's NGA Sub-committee, in consultation with state and territory local government associations, to determine their eligibility for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

When reviewing motions, the Sub-committee considers the criteria, clarity of the motion and the importance and relevance of the issue to local government.

If there are any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, ALGA will raise these with the nominated contact officer. With the agreement of the submitting council, these motions may be edited before inclusion in the NGA Business Papers.

To ensure an efficient and effective debate, where there are numerous motions on a similar issue, the NGA Sub-committee will group these motions together under an overarching strategic motion. The strategic motions will have either been drafted by ALGA or will be based on a motion submitted by a council which best summarises the subject matter.

Debate will occur in accordance with the rules for debate published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions. Associated sub-motions will be debated by exception only or in accordance with the debating rules.

Any motion deemed to be primarily concerned with local or state issues will be referred to the relevant state or territory local government association and will not be included in the NGA Business Papers.

All motions require:

- a contact officer;
- a clear national objective;
- a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion; and
- endorsement of your council.

**Motions should be lodged electronically using the online form available at [www.alga.asn.au](http://www.alga.asn.au).  
Motions should be received no later than 11:59pm AEST on Friday 29 March 2024.**

# SETTING THE SCENE

The theme for NGA24 'Building Community Trust' aims to focus on the role of local government in the Australian system of government and explore the critical importance of trust in governments, between governments, its institutions, and our citizens.

In a recent essay on Capitalism after the Crisis (2023) the Treasurer the Hon Dr Jim Chalmers MP wrote:

*'Our mission is to redefine and reform our economy and institutions in ways that make our people and communities more resilient, and our society and democracy stronger as well.'*

The need to strengthen our democracy was also emphasised the Prime Minister the Hon Anthony Albanese MP in a speech at Queensland's Woodford Folk Festival toward the end of 2022:

*'I urge anyone who thinks our democracy is unassailable to have a look around the world. Even some of the oldest, most stable democracies have come under attack from a whole range of corrosive, insidious forces. No one is immune. Our democracy is precious, something we have carefully grown and nurtured from one generation to the next. One of our core responsibilities is to make it stronger, and the key to that strength is transparency and accountability.'*

In early 2023 the Australian Government established a taskforce to advise government on 'what can be done – practically – to strengthen Australian democracy'.

The 2024 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers.

Further, it is your opportunity to advocate for new or expanded programs and key policy initiatives that could strengthen local governments, its capacity to deliver services and infrastructure to local communities across the nation. This service delivery is critical to build, maintain and strengthen the trust of our citizens.

This year's call for motion focusses on twelve priority areas:

- Intergovernmental relations;
- Financial sustainability;
- Roads and infrastructure;
- Emergency management;
- Housing and homelessness;
- Jobs and skills;
- Community services;
- Closing the Gap and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation;
- Data, digital technology and cyber security;
- Climate change and renewable energy;
- Environment; and
- Circular economy.



# 1. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

'Australia's federal structure, built upon reciprocal financial, legislative and policy responsibilities, requires intelligent cooperation on issues of strategic national significance.'

National Cabinet is a forum for the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers to meet and work collaboratively. National Cabinet was established on 13 March 2020 and is chaired by the Prime Minister. The National Cabinet is a key mechanism in Australia's current intergovernmental architecture.

A representative of local government, the President of ALGA, is invited to meet with National Cabinet once each year. The President of ALGA also attends one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations comprising the Commonwealth Treasurer as Chair and all state and territory treasurers.

A substantial body of research, from Australia and internationally, has highlighted that governments that work together are generally more successful in achieving shared national objectives, including economic recovery from events like the COVID-19 pandemic as well as in service and infrastructure delivery.

This research reinforces the need for local government to be included in relevant ministerial forums that support national priorities – from housing affordability to reaching net-zero emissions. ALGA currently participates in National Cabinet (1/year), Council on Federal Financial Relations (1/year), Infrastructure Transport Ministers Meeting, National Emergency Managers Meeting, Local Government Ministers Forum, Joint Council on Closing the Gap, Planning Ministers Meeting, Meeting of Environment Ministers, Energy and Climate Change Ministers and the Road Safety Ministers Meeting, to represent local government views.

Local government input can provide a community voice, enabling our intergovernmental forums to make decisions with greater legitimacy and authority.

*Given the importance of trust in governments, between governments and its citizens, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?*

*Are there ways of maintaining and enhancing the community's trust in local government?*

*Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?*

## 2. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Trust in governments is highly correlated with their ability to fulfill the implicit social contract between government and its citizens by keeping promises.

Local government is the third sphere of government in Australia's system of government. Councils are comprised of locally elected representatives who understand local needs and engage locally on strategies to meet those needs.

Councils are responsible for providing a wide range of critical local area services including planning, libraries, waste management systems, transport and infrastructure (eg roads and footpaths, parks, sporting grounds and swimming pools) and social services.

These services are critical to the wellbeing, liveability and productivity of all local communities, and therefore the nation. Equally important is the sustaining of democratic processes at the local and regional level.

Local government's total annual expenditure in 2021 -22 was approximately \$43.6 billion. Non-financial assets including roads, community infrastructure such as buildings, facilities, airports, water, and sewerage (in some states) including land, are valued at \$539 billion [ABS Government Finance Statistics, Australia, 2021-22].

In 2021-22, the Australian Government provided \$2.6 billion in Financial Assistance Grants funding to councils. This included \$1.3b which was brought forward from the 2021-22 estimate and paid through state and territory governments in 2020-21.

Nationally, local government derives nearly 90% of its revenue from its own sources (including rates and services charges), compared to around 50% for state governments. Grants from other levels of government make up just over 10% of local government's total revenue, however these grants are particularly important in areas with a low-rate base, and/or high growth rates, and rapidly expanding service and infrastructure needs.

In 2021-22 Financial Assistance Grants to local governments was less than 0.6% of Commonwealth taxation revenue (CTR), a significant drop from 1996 when these grants were at 1% of CTR. In 2023-24 Financial Assistance Grants have fallen to 0.5% of Commonwealth taxation.

*What improvements are needed to the intergovernmental financial transfer system, particularly the Commonwealth transfers to local government, to enhance the community's trust in local government and by extension all governments?*

*Noting that Commonwealth tied funding is provided with detailed requirements how can this system be improved to provide flexibility and maximize the benefit to local communities?*



## 3. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ALGA's 2021 National State of the Assets Report (NSoA) is currently being updated and expected to be launched in 2024. The most recent NSoA shows that while most local government assets such as roads, bridges, buildings, parks and recreation, stormwater, water and wastewater, and airports and aerodromes are generally in good to very good condition, around 10% are not fit for purpose, and around 20–25% are only fair and over time will need attention.

The last NSoA found that in 2019–20 non-financial infrastructure assets were valued at \$342 billion and were depreciating at \$7.7 billion per year. Replacement costs of these infrastructure assets were in the order of \$533 billion.

Local government assets make up a significant proportion of the physical structure of local communities and often provide critical access to and support for citizens to engage in state and national assets and opportunities.

For example, local roads provide important “first and last-mile access” for communities and industry to road networks, integral to economic development and community connection. Local sporting grounds can provide access for community groups to build community participation that has social, health and economic benefits.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government infrastructure?*

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?*

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could develop to maintain, strengthen and enhance the reputation of Australia's infrastructure providers, including local government?*

## 4. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2022 alone, 46 disasters were declared across Australia, covering more than 300 different council areas. In recent years, almost every Australian council has been impacted in some way by fires, floods, or cyclones.

Last year's flooding caused a damage bill of approximately \$3.8 billion to local roads across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. This was just a fraction of the total disaster costs incurred by governments across the country.

There have been numerous NGA motions in recent years regarding natural disasters and this has been a significant priority in ALGA's advocacy program.

In 2022 ALGA successfully advocated for a new \$200 million per year Disaster Ready Fund, with the first round of funding allocated in June 2023. This fund will support councils and communities to mitigate against the risk of future disasters and help address the significant imbalance between mitigation and recovery spending.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to managing emergencies.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

*What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?*

## 5. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Almost every Australian council and community is facing challenges around a lack of affordable housing.

Alarming research by the UNSW City Futures Research Centre shows 640,000 Australian households – or one in 15 households – are under housing stress.

All levels of government, including councils, have a fundamental role to play in addressing this crisis, which is being compounded by high interest rates, rising construction costs and skills shortages.

At a national level, ALGA is a signatory to the National Housing Accord, and in 2023 successfully advocated for a new \$500 million Housing Support Program for state and local governments to deliver supporting infrastructure for new housing developments.

While the provision of affordable housing is not a local government responsibility, councils have a role to play in ensuring there is enough suitably located land available for housing and that a diversity of housing stock is supported. Councils also want to ensure that new housing developments are supported with the necessary services and infrastructure to create liveable and sustainable communities.

Many councils are also addressing thin markets and developing land and housing themselves, delivering local solutions to meet the needs of their communities.

Councils also want to ensure that they engaged with planning decisions that affect local communities. Taking planning powers away from councils does not always support the best local outcomes.

Councils also play an important role addressing some of the causes of homelessness, including social inclusion programs that can assist mental health and family violence issues, as well as providing support for people currently experiencing homelessness.

*What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?*

*How can the Australian Government work with councils to address the causes and impacts of homelessness?*

## 6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Local government is a major employer in Australia providing employment, career advancement and training opportunities for more than 190,800 Australians, across an estimated 400 occupations.

However, councils are facing significant jobs and skills shortages that are constraining their capacity to deliver services and build and maintain local infrastructure.

ALGA's 2022 National Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey indicated that more than 90 percent of Australia's 537 councils were experiencing skills shortages.

The survey also showed that for approximately two-thirds of these councils, these shortages were impacting on project delivery.

In particular, councils are facing a shortage of planners, engineers, building surveyors, environmental officers and human resources professionals.

Skills shortages occur for a variety of reasons including an inability to compete against the private sector, worker accommodation, support services for families, ageing of the workforce and geographic isolation.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?*

*Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?*

*Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?*

## 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES

Councils provide a wide range of services based on local characteristics, needs, priorities, and the resources of their community. Indeed, it is this level of responsiveness and accountability to the local community that is an essential feature of democratic local governments worldwide.

Some of these services are provided to address market failure, and many of them are provided by councils on behalf of other levels of government.

It is important to note that nationally local government is more than 83% self-sufficient ie funded at the local level either through rates, fees and charges, sale of goods and services, or interest. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that total local government annual expenditure in 2021-22 was \$43.6 billion.

Only 17% comes from grants and subsidies from other levels of government. Unfortunately, many of these grants and subsidies are tied, or require matching funding which restricts the ability to address local priorities in the way the council and community might need.

Arguably there is no greater obligation upon government than to maintain the trust that citizens have in meeting their community services obligations and promises, particularly to society's most vulnerable.

Local government community services are broadly defined, and may include but are not limited to:

- environmental health including food safety;
- childcare, early childhood education, municipal health;
- aged care, senior citizens;
- services to people living with disability;
- programs to address disadvantage, to reduce poverty and homelessness;
- sporting and recreational programs;
- arts and cultural activities, programs and festivals;
- tourism and economic development activities; and
- library services.

*Noting the funding arrangements for the provision of local government community services are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to improve the delivery of these services?*

*Are there reforms or improvements in national community services program that would help local governments support the Australian Government to deliver on its national objectives?*

## 8. CLOSING THE GAP AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RECONCILIATION

In 2021, ALGA co-signed a landmark national agreement to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. At the heart of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership are four agreed priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas including education, employment, health and wellbeing, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

The Indigenous Voice Co-design Final Report to the Australian Government was released in December 2021. The Local & Regional Voice will contribute to achieving the Closing the Gap outcomes by providing avenues for Indigenous voices to be heard, including to provide feedback to government on Closing the Gap.

As the level of government closest to the people, councils have an essential role supporting and helping to steer the development of policies and programs in partnership with local Indigenous peoples that address closing the gap priorities at the local and regional level.

Local government plays a positive role in reconciliation and celebrating Indigenous culture and identity, and sustainably funded could work effectively to reduce Indigenous disadvantage in all its forms.

On 14 October 2023, Australians voted in a referendum about whether to change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing a body called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. The referendum did not pass.

*Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?*

*Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?*

## 9. DATA, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND CYBER SECURITY

Provision of information technology to all Australians is vital to innovation, economic growth, and social equity. However, it is potentially even more important to regional Australia where the tyranny of distance increases the inequity of services available – including education, health, economic and social. Innovative technology is becoming more broadly available and could boost productivity and economic growth.

Councils around Australia continue to embrace new technologies to improve their service delivery standards and broaden consultation and engagement with their local communities. However, implementation can be hindered without access to basic technological infrastructure and the necessary IT skills and resources.

In recent times, cyber-attacks on major corporations and other businesses have resulted in significant data breaches. It is a timely reminder as digital information, services and products become an increasing feature of modern business operation including in local government.

Like all risks, local government must manage the risk of cyber-attacks and address cyber security. At a national level, there is limited understanding of local governments' vulnerability to cyber-attacks, preparedness and adequacy of risk management strategies or business continuity planning.

While this is primarily a responsibility of the sector itself, governments at all levels must work together to ensure that the public have confidence in government information management systems and its security.

*Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?*

*Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?*

## 10. CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Australia's changing climate presents a significant challenge to governments, individuals, communities, businesses, industry, and the environment.

The Australian Government has committed to address climate change and in June 2022 submitted its revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The revised NDC included reaffirming a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% from 2005 levels.

Local governments have played an important leadership role in addressing climate change, and councils have supported a wide range of community-based programs and initiatives to lower the carbon footprint of their own business operations and of their local communities.

As a sector, local government has been an advocate and active participant in the debate for lowering carbon emissions, is sourcing renewable energy, has responded creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, and facilitated the construction of green buildings and water sensitive design of cities and towns.

Local government has been at the forefront in addressing the impacts of climate change and adaptation to climate change. In particular, councils have a practical understanding of the risk and impact of climate change on Australia's infrastructure and physical assets, natural ecosystems, local economies and their community.

*Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?*

*Are there initiatives that could assist local governments to build trust in the community for implementation of key climate change and emissions reduction initiatives?*



# 11. ENVIRONMENT

Australia's 537 local councils play an essential role in providing, regulating and managing Australia's environmental services and infrastructure.

Whether it's biodiversity, biosecurity, natural resource management (NRM), contaminated lands, waste management, water resources, sustainability or roadside environments, councils are responsible for educating households and businesses on environment policy, as well as driving environmental programs and initiatives in their local communities.

In recent years the National General Assembly has considered a range of environmental issues, and passed resolutions on biodiversity, biosecurity, conservation, climate change and water security.

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?*

*What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?*



## 12. CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Local government is responsible for the management of household and domestic waste and has a critical role to play in further developing the circular economy.

Australia's 537 councils manage approximately 26 percent of Australian waste, either directly or through contractual arrangements. Each year, local governments collect around 9.7 million tonnes of waste from kerbside bin services, sort it at material recovery facilities (MRFs), and dispatch what can be recycled to reprocessing facilities in Australia and overseas.

Where waste cannot be recovered it is landfilled, and local governments in most jurisdictions must pay a significant levy per tonne for landfilled waste, as well as incur the operational costs of maintaining and managing a landfill.

Collecting, treating, and disposing of Australian domestic waste costs local government an estimated \$3.5 billion annually. Local government also dedicates resources to administering community waste-education programs, collecting litter, addressing illegal rubbish dumping, and ensuring compliance with waste bylaws.

In November 2023, Australia's Environment Ministers agreed that the Federal Government would establish new regulations for packaging as well as mandate how packaging is designed, develop minimum recycled content requirements and prohibit harmful chemicals being used. These changes are expected to have a positive impact on the amount of waste sent to landfill, and the costs borne by councils and their communities.

*How could the Australian Government further strengthen product stewardship arrangements to support local governments in their endeavours to increase recycling and reduce the volume of waste?*

*How could the Australian Government partner with local government to advance the circular economy?*

# CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2024 National General Assembly of Local Government.

## **A FINAL REMINDER:**

- » Motions should be lodged electronically at [www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au) and received no later than 11.59pm on Friday 29 March 2024.
- » Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- » Motions should commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- » Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- » Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- » It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- » Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- » When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2024 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- » Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2024 National General Assembly in Canberra.





AUSTRALIAN  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
ASSOCIATION

8 Geils Court | 02 6122 9400  
Deakin, ACT, 2600 | [alga@alga.asn.au](mailto:alga@alga.asn.au)

[www.alga.com.au](http://www.alga.com.au)

---

## 14.4 ACQUISITION BY AGREEMENT OF PROPOSED NT PORTION 8000

Author: Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Risk  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: 1. Correspondence from DIPL CE Mr Andrew Kirkman - Acquisition by Agreement - 21 November 2023 - 185385 [14.4.1 - 2 pages]  
2. NT Portion 5043 [14.4.2 - 1 page]  
3. Proposed NT Portion 8000 [14.4.3 - 1 page]

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

1. That Council approve the signing and affixing of the Common Seal to the LTO Form “Application to note acquisition by agreement” for the Northern Territory Government acquisition of part of NT Portion 5043 to be known as NT Portion 8000.
2. That Council approve the affixing of the Common Seal to the Deed Regarding Acquisition by Agreement dated 30 September 2022 for the acquisition of part NT Portion 5043 for the purpose of the Northern Territory Government constructing infrastructure for the benefit of the proposed Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub.

### **Purpose of Report**

To sign and affix the Common Seal to the LTO Form “Application to note acquisition by agreement” for Northern Territory Government acquisition of part of NT Portion 5043 to be known as NT Portion 8000 and to approve the affixing of the Common Seal to Deed Regarding Acquisition by Agreement dated 30 September 2022.

### **Strategic Plan**

**4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.1 Better Infrastructure - Identify infrastructure in need of upgrading, potential for new infrastructure, and develop long-term plans to anticipate opportunities for better infrastructure.**

4.1.3 Review Council’s available land to consider potential utilisation opportunities.

### **Municipal Plan**

#### **1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.7 Work with NTG on its Big Rivers Regional Economic Growth Plan.

### **Background**

The Department of Infrastructure Planning and Logistics (DIPL) were endorsed by Council to subdivide a portion of Council controlled land NT Portion 5043 for the purpose of constructing headworks for the proposed logistics hub. Council endorsed at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 24 September 2019 with the following resolution:

*That the Council endorses and supports the request to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics on developing a Deed of Agreement and the subdivision of part of NT Portion 5043, and then transfer to the Northern Territory of Australia, for the purpose of headworks for the proposed Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub.*

The Deed regarding the acquisition by Agreement was executed 30 September 2022.

### **Discussion**

As per the attached letter, the Northern Territory Government has advised of the intention to proceed with the acquisition of that part of NT Portion 5043 depicted in the approved survey plan S2022/047 as NT Portion 8000.

Council are requested to execute the LTO Form "Application to note acquisition by agreement".

**Consultation Process**

There was no consultation process required for this report.

**Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

**Budget and Resource Implications**

There are no budget and resource requirements.

**Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

The Deed Regarding Acquisition by Agreement dated 30 September 2022 was executed and Common Seal used. A resolution to approve this cannot be located, therefore the recommendation includes a resolution to rectify.

**Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

**Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



Department of  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

Ms Ingrid Stonhill  
Chief Executive Officer  
Katherine Town Council  
PO Box 1071  
KATHERINE NT 0851  
E-mail: [records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au)

Chief Executive  
Level 5 Energy House  
18-20 Cavenagh Street  
DARWIN NT 0801

Postal Address  
GPO Box 1680  
DARWIN NT 0801

T 08 8924 7029  
E [andrew.kirkman@nt.gov.au](mailto:andrew.kirkman@nt.gov.au)

File Reference  
AQ2022/0010-0006

*Ingrid*  
Dear Ms Stonhill

**Re: Notice of Intent to Proceed with the Acquisition by Agreement of Part NT Portion 5043 (Proposed NT Portion 8000)**

I refer to the Deed Regarding Acquisition by Agreement (Agreement) (**Attachment A**) between the Katherine Town Council (Council) and the Northern Territory Government (Territory) dated 30 September 2022, with respect to the acquisition of part NT Portion 5043 for the purpose of the Territory constructing infrastructure for the benefit of the proposed Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub.

Pursuant to clause 4(d) of the Agreement, I advise of the Territory's intention to proceed with the acquisition of that part NT Portion 5043 depicted in the approved survey plan S2022/047 as NT Portion 8000 (**Attachment B**). Further, as required under clause 4(f) of the Agreement, the Completion Date for the acquisition is scheduled to occur on 22 December 2023.

Clause 4(e) of the Agreement requires the Council to duly execute LTO Form "Application to note acquisition by agreement" (**Attachment C**) and return it to the Territory within ten (10) business days after the date of this notice. Please ensure that the form is printed double sided, prior to executing and returning the original signed form to:

Ms Kerri O'Brien  
Director Strategic Projects, Crown Land Estate  
GPO Box 1680  
DARWIN NT 0801

Thank you for working with the Department to finalise this matter and we trust that the construction of the ground level water storage tank and the sewerage pump station will provide benefits to Council and the residents of the Katherine area.



The Departmental contact in this matter is Ms Kerri O'Brien, Director Strategic Projects, Crown Land Estate can be contacted by telephone on 08 8924 7201 or by email to kerri.o'brien@nt.gov.au.

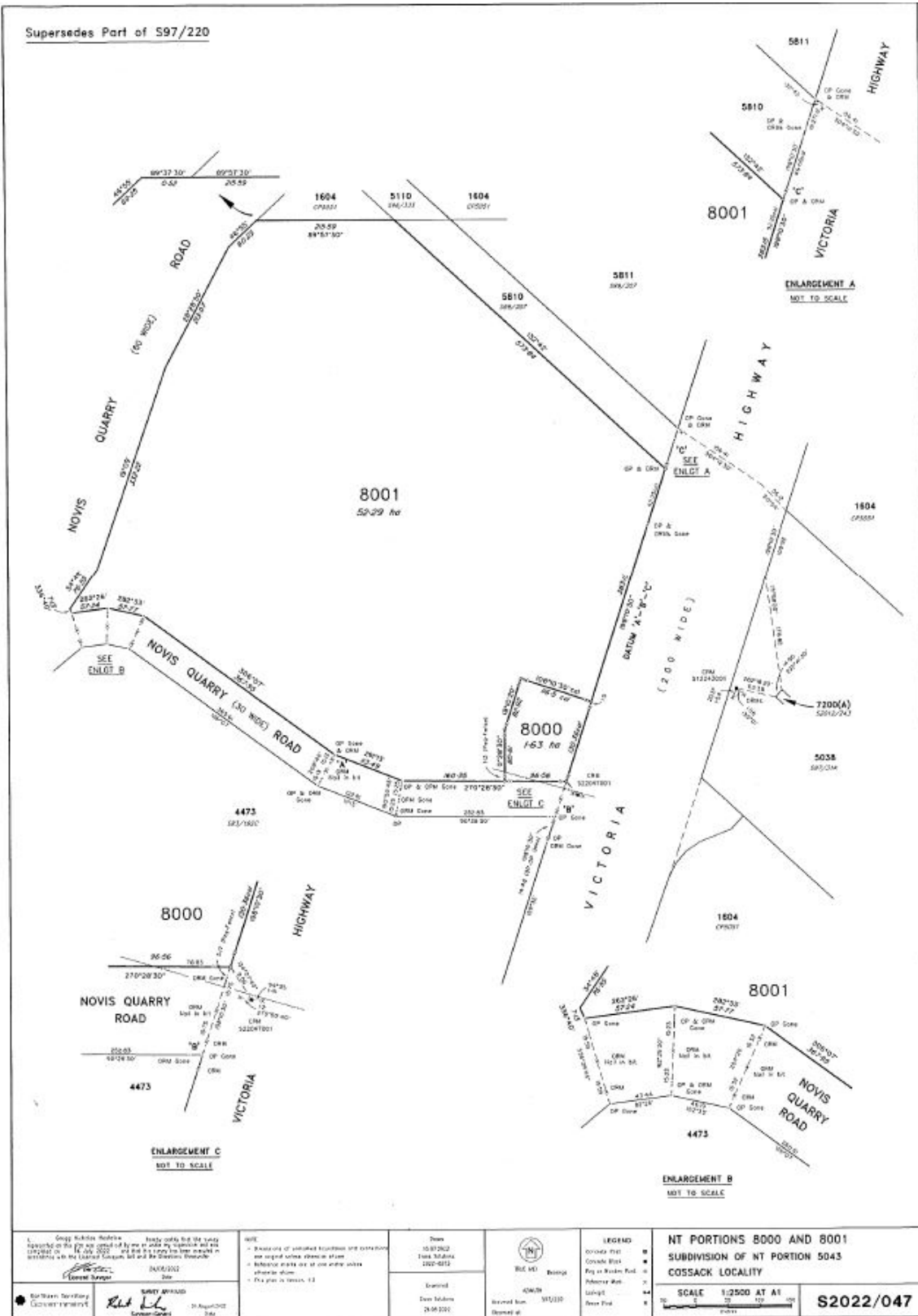
Yours sincerely



Andrew Kirkman  
Chief Executive

21 November 23







---

## 14.5 LEASE AND LICENCE - AMPLITEL PTY LTD - 28 SECOND STREET

Author: Casey Anderson, Administration Manager  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: Nil

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal and execute a five (5) year lease and license agreement, with the option for renewal for an additional term of five (5) years, to Amplitel Pty Ltd for a designated portion of Lot 73, 28 Second Street, Katherine NT.

### **Purpose of Report**

To authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal and execute a lease and licence agreement for a designated portion of Lot 73, 28 Second Street previously known as the Food Ladder Complex.

### **Strategic Plan**

Not Applicable

### **Municipal Plan**

#### **1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.8 Continue strong relationships with Regional, Territory and Federal Governments.

#### **2.1 Corporate Services - Financial Services**

2.1.1 Adhere to internal financial procedures.

2.1.4 Sustainable long-term finances and current risk management practices.

### **Background**

Katherine Town Council and Telstra Corporation Limited were the parties involved in the prior lease. This lease granted Telstra Corporation Limited the option to renew it for multiple further terms.

Telstra Corporation Limited chose to exercise this renewal option under the prior lease for the further term spanning from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2026. Subsequently, Telstra Corporation Limited transferred its interest in the prior lease to the lessee, Amplitel Pty Ltd, on the assignment date.

Acknowledging the assigned interest, Katherine Town Council has engaged in ongoing negotiations with Amplitel Pty Ltd relating to the terms and conditions of the lease and licence.

Katherine Town Council will continue with the arrangements and acknowledge the alterations in the holdings tenant's entity.

The designated area for the lease and license is demarcated in red on the below map. This permitted area encompasses essential infrastructure, including a monopole with attached antenna, facilitating the delivery of Telstra's Core Network Services and Wireless (Mobiles) Network.



### **Discussion**

#### **Licence Term: Five (5) years.**

Commencing: 1 September 2021 Terminating: 31 August 2026

Licence Fee: \$5,180.85 per annum exclusive of GST

Further Terms: One (1) Further Term of five (5) year(s)

#### **Lease Term: Five (5) years.**

Commencing: 1 September 2021 Terminating: 31 August 2026

Lease Fee: \$20,723.42 per annum exclusive of GST

Further Terms: One (1) Further Term of five (5) year(s)

### **Consultation Process**

Council officers have engaged in discussions with the Chief Executive Officer to address and finalise the terms and conditions of the lease and licence.

### **Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

### **Budget and Resource Implications**

Within current service delivery budget and resource.

### **Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

### **Environment Sustainability Implications**



There are no environmental sustainability implications.

**Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



## 14.6 LICENCE OVER CROWN LAND - LOT 3468

Author: Casey Anderson, Administration Manager  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: Nil

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal and execute a three (3) year Crown Land Licence over Crown Land Lot 3468, Katherine NT.

### **Purpose of Report**

To authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to affix the Common Seal and execute a three (3) year Crown Land Licence over Crown Land Lot 3468, commonly known as the Katherine Cenotaph grounds.

### **Strategic Plan**

**2. COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES - 2.2 Prioritise Recreation - Collaborate and innovate with the private and public sectors for positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes.**

2.2.1 Foster growth for a recreational precinct that connects sports, culture and recreation.

2.2.3 Promote an active community with family events, festivals, live music and sports.

**2. COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES - 2.3 Celebrate Diversity - Celebrate diversity in our community and recognise their needs and interests.**

2.3.2 Welcome and connect the Defence community with the Katherine community.

**3. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS - 3.1 Sports and Civic Events - Provide sporting infrastructure and appropriate events to encourage community connectedness.**

3.1.1 Hold events throughout the year that acknowledge themes that are important to our town and its residents, such as memorial days.

**4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.1 Better Infrastructure - Identify infrastructure in need of upgrading, potential for new infrastructure, and develop long-term plans to anticipate opportunities for better infrastructure.**

4.1.1 Develop a shared pathways strategy and potential projects.

### **Municipal Plan**

**1.1 Governance - Governance and Elected Members**

1.1.2 Ensure compliance with local government legislation.

**3.1 Community Services - Community Events and Collaboration**

3.1.2 Collaborate with community partners.

3.1.4 Coordinate celebrations and civic events.

3.1.10 Increased participation and community connectedness at council activities.

### **Background**

The previous Occupation License 4060, over proposed Lot 3468, Town of Katherine, for the maintenance for community purposes that being the Cenotaph grounds has lapsed.



The Occupational Licence is primarily issued for the maintenance for this community area encompassing irrigation, trees, and grassed areas.



### **Discussion**

Recent amendments to the Crown Land Act 1992, effect 25 May 2023, mandate the gradual replacement of existing Occupational Licences with Crown Land Licences.

Subsequently, Council has duly applied for a Crown Land Licence over Lot 3468 and the application has received approval.

The newly granted Crown Land Licence is sanctioned for a term up to three (3) years, set to expire on 4 February 2027.

The Cenotaph grounds play a crucial role in serving the community and Council recognises the significance of this area and remains committed to ensuring the continued functionality of the parcel of land for the benefit of the community.

### **Consultation Process**

There was no consultation process required for this report.

### **Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

### **Budget and Resource Implications**

Within current service delivery budget and resource.

### **Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

### **Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

### **Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



---

## 14.7 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2023

Author: Avtar Singh, Director Corporate Services  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For decision  
Attachments: 1. Monthly Report - Finance - Dec 2023 - Attachment [14.7.1 - 8 pages]

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the Month of December 2023.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Financial Report for December 2023.

### **Strategic Plan**

**4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.2 Lead with Best Practice - Lead by example and set a high benchmark.**

4.2.4 Be prudent with our financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers and sustainable long-term finances with current risk management practices current at all times.

### **Municipal Plan**

#### **2.1 Corporate Services - Financial Services**

- 2.1.1 Adhere to internal financial procedures.
- 2.1.2 Comply with legislative requirements.
- 2.1.3 Prudent financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers.
- 2.1.4 Sustainable long-term finances and current risk management practices.

### **Background**

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 – Part 2 (Division 7), the below monthly report must be presented to Council at their Ordinary Monthly Council Meeting. Accordingly, the commentary attached presents the preliminary financial position of the council at the end of December 2023 with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Certification.

### **Discussion**

- Total YTD operating income is 0.20% above budget.
- Interest revenue is above budget due to growth in the investment portfolio and higher interest rates.
- Operating grants revenue is below budget mainly due to the timing, as majority of the grants are paid in second half of the financial year.
- Total YTD operating expenditure is 6.56% below budget.
- Employee Costs are below budget by 21.75% as some positions remained vacant.
- Monthly creditor payments have been made to all known suppliers with payments made weekly.
- 13% of our Debtors (excluding rates and infringements) are outstanding for longer than 90 days.
- 19.73% of our outstanding rate balance reflects rates outstanding for prior financial years (2022/2023 FY and prior).

**Consultation Process**

CEO, Directors, and Departmental Managers

**Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

**Budget and Resource Implications**

The Report and attachment provide a comparison of Council's YTD actual performance against the budget.

**Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

**Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

**Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.

**CERTIFICATION BY THE CEO TO THE COUNCIL**

I, Ingrid Stonhill, the Chief Executive Officer of Katherine Town Council hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief:

- The internal controls implemented by the Council are appropriate; and
- The Council's Finance Report best reflects the financial affairs of the Council.

Ingrid Stonhill  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Table 1.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement**

<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>YTD Actuals \$</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$</b>	<b>YTD Variance \$</b>	<b>Annual Budget \$</b>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>				
Rates	8,934,345	8,756,737	177,608	8,756,737
Waste Charges	1,475,477	1,439,006	36,471	1,439,006
Fees and Charges	1,307,724	1,148,822	158,902	2,297,644
Operating Grants and Subsidies	444,802	1,110,750	(665,948)	2,221,500
Interest / Investment Income	500,719	225,000	275,719	450,000
Commercial and Other Income	86,000	42,713	43,288	85,425
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>12,749,068</b>	<b>12,723,027</b>	<b>26,041</b>	<b>15,250,312</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>				
Employee Expenses	2,461,868	3,146,291	(684,423)	6,292,582
Materials and Contracts	3,749,049	3,704,911	44,139	7,409,822
Elected Member Allowances	115,667	119,000	(3,333)	238,000
Elected Member Expenses	11,211	30,104	(18,893)	60,208
Council Committee & Allowances	880	12,000	(11,120)	24,000
Council Committee & Expenses	-	3,000	(3,000)	6,000
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	1,840,967	1,738,761	102,206	3,477,522
Finance Costs - Waste Management Facility (WMF)	-	-	-	140,806
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,179,642</b>	<b>8,754,067</b>	<b>(574,425)</b>	<b>17,648,940</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>4,569,426</b>	<b>3,968,960</b>	<b>600,466</b>	<b>(2,398,628)</b>

**Table 1.2 Monthly Operating Position**

<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 2023</b>	<b>YTD Actuals \$</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$</b>	<b>YTD Variance \$</b>	<b>Annual Budget \$</b>
<b>BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	\$ 4,569,426	\$ 3,968,960	\$ 600,466	(2,398,628)
<b>Remove NON-CASH ITEMS</b>				
Less Non-Cash Income				
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	1,840,967	1,738,761	102,206	3,618,328
<b>TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS</b>	<b>1,840,967</b>	<b>1,738,761</b>	<b>102,206</b>	<b>3,618,328</b>
<b>Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>				
Capital Expenditure (KTC funded)	755,411	1,109,800	(354,389)	2,219,600
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)			-	
Transfer to Reserves			-	
Other Outflows (Grant Funded Capex)	144,258	-	144,258	-
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS</b>	<b>(899,670)</b>	<b>(1,109,800)</b>	<b>210,130</b>	<b>(2,219,600)</b>
<b>Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>				
Capital Grants Income	840,755	500,000	340,755	1,000,000
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding			-	
Other Inflow of Funds	53,010		53,010	
Transfers from Reserves			-	
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS</b>	<b>893,765</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>393,765</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>NET BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT</b>	<b>6,404,488</b>	<b>5,097,921</b>	<b>1,306,567</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 2.1 Capital Expenditure and Funding  
By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment**

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>YTD Actuals \$</b>	<b>YTD Budget \$</b>	<b>YTD Variance \$</b>	<b>Current Financial Year (Annual) Budget \$</b>
Buildings & Other Structures	161,918	255,913	(93,995)	511,825
Furniture, Fittings & Equipment	97,608	35,075	62,533	70,150
Improvements	46,650	46,750	(100)	93,500
Plant & Equipment	174,646	572,063	(397,417)	1,144,125
Roads	418,848	200,000	218,848	400,000
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>899,670</b>	<b>1,109,800</b>	<b>(210,130)</b>	<b>2,219,600</b>
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:</b>				
Katherine Town Council	755,411	1,109,800	(354,389)	2,219,600
Capital Grants	144,258	-	144,258	-
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING</b>	<b>899,670</b>	<b>1,109,800</b>	<b>(210,130)</b>	<b>2,219,600</b>

**Table 3. Monthly Balance Sheet Report**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 2023	YTD Actuals \$	Note Reference
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash at Bank		(1)
Restricted Funds	15,022,520	
Unrestricted Funds	6,949,238	
Accounts Receivable		
Trade Debtors	348,000	(2)
Rates & Charges Debtors	4,234,290	
Other Current Assets	435,658	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>26,989,706</b>	
Non-Current Financial Assets	209,955	
Property, Plant and Equipment	96,069,094	
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>96,279,049</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>123,268,754</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	-	(3)
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	(64,815)	(4)
Current Provisions	583,439	
Accruals		
Other Current Liabilities	207,835	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>726,459</b>	
Non-Current Provisions	74,922	
Other Non-Current Liabilities	7,053,377	
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>7,128,299</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>7,854,758</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>115,413,996</b>	
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	75,549,402	
Reserves	6,688,161	
Accumulated Surplus	33,176,433	
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>115,413,996</b>	

**Note 1. Details of Cash and Investments Held**

**CASH AND INVESTMENTS as at 31 DECEMBER 2023**

GENERAL FUND	\$
Commonwealth Bank	
Balance as per bank statement, 31 DECEMBER 2023	2,071,546
Credit card balances	1,812
Balance of Imprest and Petty Cash	1,128
Plus net outstanding deposits/(withdrawals)	458
Adjusted cash at bank balance, 31 DECEMBER 2023	<b>2,074,945</b>

INVESTMENTS						
FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	\$	RATE	DATE	DATE	INSTITUTION	
NAB	1,500,000	4.65%	10-Mar-23	11-Jan-24		
NAB	3,500,000	4.70%	10-Mar-23	12-Feb-24		5,000,000
BOQ	500,000	5.15%	9-Oct-23	8-Oct-24		
BOQ	500,000	5.20%	3-Nov-23	4-Nov-24		
BOQ	1,000,000	5.15%	4-Oct-23	4-Sep-24		
BOQ	1,000,000	5.15%	4-Oct-23	5-Aug-24		3,000,000
AMP	1,500,000	5.30%	14-Dec-23	14-Nov-24		
AMP	1,000,000	5.30%	2-Nov-23	2-Oct-24		
AMP	500,000	5.25%	28-Sep-23	28-Aug-24		
AMP	1,400,000	5.50%	31-Jul-23	28-Jun-24		
AMP	500,000	5.35%	13-Nov-23	14-Oct-24		6,434,580
AMP	1,000,000	5.55%	27-Jul-23	27-Jun-24		
AMP (oncall)	534,580		on call	on call		
Commonwealth Bank	500,000	5.31%	19-Jun-23	14-May-24		
Commonwealth Bank	500,000	4.97%	6-Sep-23	1-Aug-24		
Commonwealth Bank	1,000,000	5.20%	31-Jul-23	25-Jun-24		
Commonwealth Bank	2,500,000	5.40%	28-Aug-23	23-Aug-24		
Commonwealth Bank (oncall)	962,691		on call	on call		5,462,691
<b>Total Investments</b>						<b>19,897,271</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>						<b>21,972,216</b>

Internally Restricted Funds	\$
WMF Make-Good Provision	7,053,377
Capital Renewal Reserve	4,987,646
Contingency reserve	1,000,000
Council Election Reserve	100,000
Council motion reserve	600,515
Provision for Employees	658,361
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	<b>14,399,899</b>
Unrestricted funds	6,949,696
Unexpended Grants- Restricted Funds	622,621
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$ 21,972,216</b>

**Note 2. Statement on Debts Owed to Council (Accounts Receivable)**

Council can select timing of age of debtor	1 – 30 Days	31 – 60 Days	>60 Days	TOTAL
Rates Debtors	3,398,867	-	835,423	4,234,290
Sundry Debtors	30,348	21,128	44,645	96,122
Weighbridge Debtors	190,289	48,192	13,398	251,879
Infringement - Animal	1,584	704	7,405	9,693
Infringement - Parking	-	-	40	40
Infringement - Litter/Camping	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,621,088</b>	<b>70,024</b>	<b>900,911</b>	<b>4,592,023</b>

Arrears continue to be followed especially in the area of rates. Infringement notices unpaid from previous month have been forwarded to Fines Recovery Unit (FRU) for follow up. Sundry and Weighbridge debtors continue to be followed up on greater than 60 days.

**Note 3. Statement on Debts Owed by Council (Accounts Payable)**

Council can select timing of age of creditor	1 – 30 Days	31 – 60 Days	>60 Days	Total
Trade Creditors	-	-	-	-
Other Creditors	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

KTC processes Accounts Payable weekly. Balance owing will be paid in the next payment run after the end of the month.

**Note 4. Statement on Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Payroll Obligations**

KTC is due for refund this amount from ATO	(64,815)
--	----------

**Note 5. Current Ratio**

Current Ratio	36.17	done
---------------	-------	------



**Table 2.2. Quarterly Report on Planned Major Capital Works**

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project	Total Prior Year(s) Actuals \$ (A)	YTD Actuals \$ (B)	Total Actuals \$ (C = A + B)	Total Planned Budget \$ (D)	Total Yet to Spend \$ (E = D - C)	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings & Other Structures			161,918	161,918	280,250	118,332	
Plant & Equipment			174,646	174,646	600,000	425,354	
Roads			352,464	352,464	400,000	47,536	
						0	
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>689,027</b>	<b>689,027</b>	<b>1,280,250</b>	<b>591,223</b>	

**Table 4. Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month**

Where a council credit card has been issued to an Elected Member and/or the CEO, a list per cardholder of all credit card transactions in the month is to be published including the name of the supplier, the amount for each transaction and the reason for the transaction.

Cardholder Name:

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
27-Dec-23	80.00	KMART 3307 KATHERINE AUS	Linen for staff house
21-Dec-23	129.55	Woolworths Online BELLA VISTA AUS	Supplies for Depot BBQ
19-Dec-23	600.00	WOOLWORTHS 5636 KATHERINE AUS	2023 Kindness Award Prize
12-Dec-23	65.31	WOOLWORTHS 5636 KATHERINE AUS	EMIS catering
12-Dec-23	11.98	TOP NEWS KATHERINE NT	Sympathy card - Cr Trembath
<b>Total</b>	<b>886.84</b>		



---

## 14.8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

Author: Kimberly Worrigan, Administration Officer  
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer  
Report Type: For noting  
Attachments: Nil

---

### **Officer Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Department for December 2023.

### **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Elected Members an update regarding the Infrastructure and Environment Department's activities and projects for the month of December 2023.

### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.1 Strong Leadership - Lead a strong local democracy with a community that is actively engaged in Katherine's strategic direction.**

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

**2. COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES - 2.1 Safe Community - Foster a safer community.**

2.1.2 Provide safe and accessible public amenities throughout Katherine.

2.1.3 Improve street lighting for safety.

**3. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS - 3.3 Accessibility and Mobility - Improve the accessibility of facilities and transport infrastructure and provide alternative transport solutions.**

3.3.2 Provide and maintain footpaths and bike paths for ease of movement around town, with a shared pathway strategy.

**4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.2 Lead with Best Practice - Lead by example and set a high benchmark.**

4.2.1 Keep up to date with workplace health and safety training and be safety conscious when carrying out tasks.

4.2.2 Keep up to date with workplace health and safety training and be safety conscious when carrying out tasks.

**4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.3 Attract Skilled Workers - Attract and retain skilled workers.**

4.3.1 Offer Council staff training and development opportunities.

4.3.3 Provide the right conditions and right opportunities.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - 7.4 Reduce Our Footprint - Optimise Council's products, services, and operations to increase efficiencies and reduce our emissions.**

7.4.4 Investigate installing electric car chargers.

### **Municipal Plan**

**4.2 Infrastructure and Environment - Roads, Footpaths, Nature Strips and Cycleways**

4.2.1 Provide and maintain a safe network of road, cycleway and footpath infrastructure.

4.2.6 Make potholes safe and repair in accordance with the Customer Service Charter.

4.2.7 Make trip hazards safe and repair in accordance with the Customer Service Charter.

#### **4.3 Infrastructure and Environment - Storm Water Management**

4.3.2 Maintain all-weather access to sealed rural roads in flood prone areas and at non-permanent creek crossings through culverts and open channels.

4.3.6 Make Side Entry Pit (SEP) lids and grates safe and repair in accordance with the Customer Service Charter.

#### **4.5 Infrastructure and Environment - Weed Management**

4.5.1 Compliance with legislative requirements with the control of noxious weeds.

4.5.2 Track weed infestations.

4.5.3 Non-urgent service requests actioned when a minimum of five requests received.

#### **4.9 Infrastructure and Environment - Open Spaces**

4.9.1 Complete scheduled grounds maintenance of playgrounds, parks, gardens and reserves.

### **Background**

Katherine Town Council's (KTC) Infrastructure and Environment Department continues to provide core services through various service deliverables to the Katherine Community and Municipality.

### **Discussion**

During the festive period and among staffing changes, many projects have been temporarily paused. Updates on these initiatives are anticipated to be available in the forthcoming January 2024 report.

### **Projects Updates:**

#### **Katherine Aquatic Centre Upgrade and Repairs:**

KTC undertook urgent repairs to address issues in various areas, particularly focusing on the joins in the pool and overflow spaces. The concern was dislodged secures, which posed safety risks and potential injuries to facility users. Comprehensive repairs and maintenance were conducted on the swimming pool, specifically targeting the secure screws and joins in both the pool surface and overflow areas.

In line with these improvements, KTC has welcomed a new Project Manager, Matthew Arnott. Currently in the process of familiarising himself with the project, Matthew is enthusiastic about resuming and overseeing the ongoing progress. The collective efforts aim to ensure the facility remains open and provides a safe environment for the public.

#### **Katherine Sportsground Boundary Fencing:**

The installation of sportsground boundary fencing posts has been successfully completed. The next phase, which involves the installation of fence panelling, is set to commence soon. The project is progressing as planned, with a scheduled completion date in the month of January.

KTC is anticipating the timely conclusion of this project, with the primary goal of addressing and deterring the persistent issues of vandalism and anti-social behaviour within our cherished community open space. The implementation of the new fencing infrastructure is expected to contribute significantly to enhancing the security and preserving the integrity of this communal area.

#### **Laneway Closures:**

The closures of Holtze Crescent, Kurrajong Court, and Martin Place laneways are scheduled to commence

on February 5, 2024. Prior to the initiation of the work, residents residing in proximity to these laneways will receive advanced notification.

Signage will be prominently displayed to inform the community of the upcoming closures, and residents can also anticipate receiving a formal notification letter via mail. This proactive communication approach aims to ensure that residents are well-informed and prepared for the upcoming changes in their surroundings.

### **Infrastructure and Environment Updates:**

#### **Civil Airport Update:**

KTC has now commenced operational management of the Civil Airport. The initial steps involved the enlistment of new contractors for cleaning and yard maintenance. Additionally, a comprehensive overhaul of the existing keys and locks system has been completed, aligning it with the KTC bi-locking system.

In the immediate future, KTC is prioritising the enhancement of security measures, optimisation of parking facilities, and the review and negotiation of building leases. These key areas underscore KTC's commitment to ensuring the seamless operation and development of the Civil Airport under its management.

#### **Wet Season Closures:**

As the impending wet season approaches, a temporary closure of the Low-Level bridge, Knotts Crossing, and the boat ramp was implemented for a period of ten (10) days in mid-December.

Council staff carefully monitored river levels during this period, facilitating a swift reopening once deemed safe to do so. The timely reopening allowed these popular locations to remain accessible over the festive period.

The closure of Katherine Hot Springs for the season was a proactive decision, after consultations with the Department of Health and Parks and Wildlife representatives. The presence of a sizable colony of red bats prompted this measure. Post-wet season, thorough cleaning of the area will be imperative.

Concerns about safety have led to the closure of the public walkway connecting the hot springs and the low level. Two significant washouts under the concrete footpath compromise its integrity, requiring the engagement of an engineer for inspection and recommendations on repairs post the wet season. This comprehensive approach underscores the commitment to public safety and the preservation of infrastructure in the region.

#### **Weed Identification and Spraying Training:**

In December, KTC enlisted the services of a local contractor to communicate his expertise to the depot staff ahead of the commencement of our weed spraying program. This proactive measure was taken to guarantee that staff members receive thorough training on essential aspects such as spray rates and the proper use of chemicals for weed control. The training also emphasised developing the knowledge required to accurately differentiate between weeds and native plants and grasses.

KTC aims to minimise the adverse environmental impact associated with weed spraying while ensuring the continued provision of this essential service to the community. This initiative reflects the council's

commitment to balancing community needs with environmental control through staff training and awareness.

**Road Maintenance:**

Depot staff have been addressing minor road maintenance on our rural roads, they have successfully completed shoulder repairs on a segment of Florina Rd, along with resolving issues on McAdam and Emungulan Roads, as well as numerous potholes repairs across the municipality.

As we look ahead, the commitment to road maintenance continues, with plans for further repairs post the conclusion of the wet season. KTC is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of our road infrastructure for the community.

**Footpath Repairs:**

Contractors have been hired by KTC to complete repairs to dangerous footpaths identified in Katherine South. As if after the initial investigation, the tasks were considered not to be outside the expertise of the depot staff. We have also now engaged contractors to complete additional work on pedestrian hazards identified in Katherine East. Completion is due in early January 2024.

**Storm Water Side Entry Pits:**

In December KTC identified an additional three side entry pit of our stormwater system that are broken and in need of repair. We have hired a qualified contractor to complete these projects and make them safe for the public. The infrastructure for the stormwater system is aging and KTC acknowledges it requires ongoing maintenance and repairs.

Previously concrete SEP (side entry pit) lids were not adequately reinforced, and vehicle traffic would significantly damage the SEP lids, new installations have been made more robust to address this issue.

**Consultation Process**

There was no consultation process required for this report.

**Policy Implications**

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

**Budget and Resource Implications**

There are no budget and resource requirements.

**Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications**

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

**Environment Sustainability Implications**

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

**Council Officer Conflict of Interest**

We the Author and Approving Officer declare we do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this matter.



## 15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

## 16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### 16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2023

Report Type: For noting

---

#### **Recommendation**

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for December 2023.

#### **Purpose of Report**

To provide an update on the elected member activities and engagements since the last Council meeting. The elected member reporting obligation forms part of the Katherine Town Council's Annual Report to the community, outlining elected members contribution to the Town council's service delivery.

#### **Strategic Plan**

**1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.1 Strong Leadership - Lead a strong local democracy with a community that is actively engaged in Katherine's strategic direction.**

1.1.1 Strengthen our councillor profiles to increase community awareness of who they are.

**3. SPORTS AND CIVIC EVENTS - 3.1 Sports and Civic Events - Provide sporting infrastructure and appropriate events to encourage community connectedness.**

3.1.1 Hold events throughout the year that acknowledge themes that are important to our town and its residents, such as memorial days.

Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn	
Date	Activity attended

Councillor Madeleine Bower	
Date	Activity attended

Councillor Amanda Kingdon	
Date	Activity attended
2 December	Carols by Candlelight
4 December	International day of people with a Disability Awards Ceremony
8 December	McFarlane Primary School Awards Ceremony in place of Mayor
11 December	Elected Member Information Session
12 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
12 December	Judging Christmas lights
13 December	Senior Citizen Christmas Luncheon in place of Mayor
14 December	School of the Air Awards Ceremony in place of Mayor

Councillor Peter McDougall	
Date	Activity attended
2 December	Carols by Candlelight
11 December	Elected Member Information Session
12 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
12 December	Judging Christmas lights
16 December	Wonka movie Community event

Councillor Kerrie Mott	
Date	Activity attended
9 October	Elected Member Information Session
23 October	Elected Member Information Session



24 October	Ordinary Meeting of Council
2 November	Special Meeting of Council - Audited Financial
11 November	Remembrance Day
27 November	Lansdowne Road Meeting and Elected Member Information Session
28 November	Ordinary Meeting of Council

Councillor Jeremy Trembath requested to be removed from the elected member reporting obligation.



## 17 LATE AGENDA

## 18 GENERAL BUSINESS

## 19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

Members, pursuant with Section 99(2) and 293(1) of the *Local Government Act 2019* gives power to the council to close a meeting to the public to discuss the following confidential items, in relation to matters referred to in regulations 51 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*. This means that all members of the public are now asked to leave the Council Chambers.

I now move a motion to close the meeting to public.

Your Worship, I wish to second that the meeting be closed to public.

## 20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### 20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

#### 20.1.1 Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes 12 December 2023

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

### 20.2 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS

#### 20.2.1 Greening Advisory Committee

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

#### 20.2.2 TENDER T23-04 – KERBSIDE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC WASTE WITHIN THE KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL MUNICIPALITY

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-clause and Reason:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

## 21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

## 22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 27 February 2024.

