

**From:** Shirley Crane [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 May 2022 4:23 PM  
**To:** Lis Clark <[elisabeth.clark@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:elisabeth.clark@ktc.nt.gov.au)>; [ingrid.stonhill@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:ingrid.stonhill@ktc.nt.gov.au); Records (KTC) <[records@ktc.nt.gov.au](mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Items on the agenda

To the Katherine Town Council

I noticed that there are several items on the agenda for tonight's Council meeting that are a cause for serious concern.

The first is the removal of the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of Council meetings. I really cannot see the point of that. Katherine is a town with at least 8 churches, all of which are regularly attended, and there will be many residents in the town who are very offended by such a move. The argument that there has been a separation of Church and State does not apply to this situation. It actually applies to the formation of policy and the possibility of interference by the Churches, and that is nothing to do with asking for guidance and wisdom prior to a meeting. The prayer is a reminder that we are all human, with responsibilities to act in the interests of others and is a very positive way to start a meeting. The Lord's Prayer is recited at Federal Parliament and in most State Parliaments. If it goes, to be fair to all residents of Katherine, then so should the Welcome to Country.

The second is the cancellation of the current public forums altogether. The initial cancellation of the pre-meeting forums was something of a public relations disaster when it happened several years ago. Saturday is perhaps not the best time to have them, because at least half the town works on Saturday, but to do away with them altogether would reflect very negatively on the Council, since it would appear as if the Council is cutting itself from the people it is supposed to represent. The Council has faced that accusation in the past and the wisdom of bringing the issue up again is very doubtful.

I hope those matters are dealt with positively and no moves are made to remove either of them.

Regards  
Shirley Crane