



AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council
To be held on Tuesday 26 August 2025
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

- Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Martene Johnson – Executive Assistant - Minute Taker
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk
- Brett Kimpton – Manager Environment and Municipal Services
- Casey Anderson – Manager Corporate Administration and Acting Manager People and Culture
- Matt Arnott - Manager Project Portfolio
- Rhett English - Manager Community Relations
- Jo Brosnan - Manager Strategic Communications
- Shez Clemow – Rates and Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
- Kimberly Worrigal – Contracts Coordinator

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
7.1	Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council 22 July 2025	5
7.2	Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council 21 July 2025	21
8	Business Arising from Previous Minutes	25
8.1	Action Update July 2025.....	25
9	Mayoral Business	28
10	Correspondence and Documents	29
10.1	Correspondence Incoming July 2025	29
10.2	Correspondence Outgoing July 2025	33
11	Petitions	36
12	Public Question Time (matters referred to the agenda).....	36
13	Notice of Motion.....	36
14	Reports of Officers.....	37
14.1	2024-25 Acquittal - IPG2400010 - New Animal Dog Pound	37
14.2	LGANT Annual Membership.....	43
15	Reports from Committees.....	49
15.1	Minutes from Committees.....	49
16	Elected Member Activities	49

17 Late Agenda	49
17.1 2024-25 Acquittal - LGR2015/0010 - Provision of local government services to Binjari.....	49
17.2 Finance Report July 2025.....	49
18 General Business	49
19 Closure of Meeting to Public.....	49
20 Confidential Items	49
20.1 Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes 22 July 2024	49
20.2 Final Compliance Review Report	49
20.3 Minutes of the Confidential Special Meeting of Council 21 July 2025	50
21 Resumption of Open Meeting	50
22 Closure of the Meeting.....	50

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 or obtained by emailing records@ktc.nt.gov.au

6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

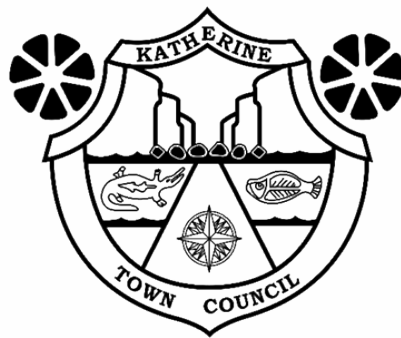
7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 22 JULY 2025

Report Type: For noting

Attachments: 1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 22 July 2025 - Minutes - Unconfirmed [7.1.1 - 15 pages]

Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 July 2025 as a true and accurate record.



MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held on Tuesday 22 July 2025**

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



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

Mayor Clark declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025 open at 12:01 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Maddy Bower
- Councillor Amanda Kingdon - via video conference
- Councillor Peter McDougall

OFFICERS

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk - Minute Taker
- Martene Johnson - Executive Assistant - Minute Taker
- Desiree Rodgers – Manager Finance
- Heather Traeger – Manager People and Culture
- Brett Kimpton – Manager Environment and Municipal Services
- Rhett English - Manager Community Relations
- Jo Brosnan - Manager Strategic Communications - via video conference
- Kimberly Worrigal – Contracts Coordinator

- Staff - 1

PUBLIC - 14

4.2 APOLOGIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-159

Moved: Cr McDougall; **Seconded:** Cr Coburn

That Council accepts the apology of Cr Trembath and Cr Mott.

CARRIED 5|0



FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest.

Nil conflicts declared.

6 PRESENTATIONS FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES

7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-160

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2025 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon



7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 30 JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-161

Moved: Councillor Bower; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 30 June 2025 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE JUNE 2025

Council Resolution 20.6

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

1. That Council endorse the annual reviewed Katherine Town Council Corporate Risk Register.
2. That Council release the resolution to the open minutes.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Councillor Bower, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Mayor Clark, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil



9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-162

Moved: Councillor Bower; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The Mayor provided overview of recent activities and meetings attended, including the following:

- Bendigo Bank Meeting - Discussions were held regarding economic predictions for 2026 and upcoming projects within the Northern Territory.
- The Territory Coordinator outlined the identification and prioritisation of key infrastructure projects across the region, including the Energy Link and road diversion initiatives.
- A meeting was conducted with Woolworths representatives to address concern regarding staff safety in light of ongoing antisocial behaviour in Katherine. Woolworths is considering changing hours to better protect employees.
- An overview of the LGANT Board meeting is included within the agenda for Council's reference.
- Council received a briefing introducing the role and responsibilities of the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (AAPA). The presentation provided a broader knowledge on the protection of sacred sites, noting that once an area is recognised as sacred, its size does not affect the status. AAPA is governed by a board comprising of 12 members and 2 independent representatives.
- The final draft of the revised Local Government Act has been completed but not yet been circulated for review.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-163

Moved: Councillor Kingdon; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council receive and note the incoming correspondence for June 2025.

- Attachments:
1. Letter - DFAT - Foreign Arrangements Scheme - 13 Jun 2025 - ID233617 [**10.1.1** - 2 pages]
 2. Guidance Note on Considerations for negotiating and entering foreign arrangements - ID233617 [**10.1.2** - 4 pages]
 3. Fact sheet 3 - Local Government - ID233617 [**10.1.3** - 1 page]
 4. LGANT Board meeting Communique - 18 June 2025 - ID234384 [**10.1.4** - 2 pages]
 5. ALGA Board Meeting Communique - 9 May 2025 - ID234384 [**10.1.5** - 1 page]
 6. NG A 25 COMMUNIQUE - ID234958 [**10.1.6** - 2 pages]
 7. Notice - LGANT - Instrument Approval of procurement entity - 1 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2030 - ID235357 [**10.1.7** - 1 page]
 8. Letter - ALGA CEO - Thankyou Ingrid Stonhill - 7 July 2025 ID235766 [**10.1.8** - 1 page]



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES - Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025

9. Letter - RDA NT CEO - Letter of Introduction - 9 July 2025 - ID235769 [10.1.9 - 1 page]

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

CEO Ingrid Stonhill attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) conference as a delegate, where she presented on the use of digital technology in small councils. The presentation focused on the implementation and success of the *Snap Send Solve* platform, highlighting its positive impact on both Council operations and community engagement.

A concern was raised regarding procurement changes and referenced in the recent LGANT communique. Specifically, the arrangement with *Local Buy* noting the absence of quotation and tender process within the exemption.

10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-164

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

Attachments: 1. Email - Teresa Cummings - KTC Public Question - \$5million council loan - 15 July 2025 - ID236090 [10.2.1 - 2 pages]

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

Discussion

A concern was raised that the response letter did not adequately address the public question. It was noted that Ms Cummings may return to council should she feel her question remains unanswered.

11 PETITIONS

12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)

There were Questions from the Gallery at the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025

Question	Response
Page 10 - Where is the letter from Cr Kingdon to be tabled at the next meeting	Taken on notice
Page 30 - Department of Logistics and Infrastructure - Energy Link Corridor, what will happen to the businesses affected.	The Council have only received a map at the information session, questions will need to go to Minister Hersey or the Department. Council have been advised the pipeline will run from Elliott to



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES - Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025

	Darwin, there are 2 plans and we have gotten the same information as the public.
Are Council aware of the taxi rank outside Woolworths is to be shutdown?	Council have not been notified.
What is the plan for the remaining green bins around town?	The bin exchange will occur, Council are disappointed with the roll out and it is under review explaining there were difficulties with the contractual arrangements.

Mayor Sid Vashit expressed his appreciation to the Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting. He extended sincere thanks to the elected members for their outstanding contributions, acknowledging challenges of public service and the scrutiny faced not only within the Katherine community but also across the broader local government sector.

Mayor Vashit conveyed his best wishes to all candidates standing for election, wishing them success in their campaigns.

It was noted that the proposed Energy Link project, original intended to run from Tenant Creek, is no longer proceeding.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

14.1 2025-26 MUNICIPAL PLAN

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-165

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council receive and note the amended 2025-26 Municipal Plan layout changes.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Cr Kingdon requested clarification on the additional photographs, Mayor Clark confirmed there was a page duplicated and the photographs were then added.

Cr Bower commented one of the photos was unusual but expressed her appreciation for the staff thanking them and acknowledging a job well done.

14.2 ACQUITTAL - PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2020-2021 - UPGRADE THE KATHERINE HOT SPRINGS CARPARK

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-166



Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

That Council endorse the 2020-21 Local Government Priority Infrastructure Fund LGR20015/00010 final acquittal for upgrades to the Hot Springs carpark.

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon

Discussion

A concern was raised regarding the difficulty of exiting the Hot Springs carpark via the loop and re-entering, noting that signage does not clearly indicate this is permitted.

It was noted there is no pedestrian markings within the carpark despite the frequent foot traffic. A request was made for additional road and pedestrian markings. This matter will be investigated further.

A query was raised regarding whether the carpark meets current safety standards. It was confirmed that the project was undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards.

Cr Bower called a Point of Order, stating that the discussion should focus on governance matters, as the issue raised is operational. Mayor Clark agreed, confirming that the matter is operational in nature.

Cr Bower also called a Point of Order to request that questioning the integrity of the CEO and staff cease.

14.3 SISTER CITY ARRANGEMENTS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-167

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council write to the Mayor of General Santos City advising that the Katherine Town Council does not wish to continue the Sister City relationship.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The new council may consider future Sister City arrangements that will be required to go through the Department of Foreign Affairs.

14.4 PROCUREMENT POLICY V8

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-168

Moved: Councillor Bower; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council approves the reviewed Procurement Policy (Version 8).

CARRIED 4|1

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Councillor Kingdon



Discussion

Council discussed the changes and scope of the policy, noting that council policies require ongoing updates and should be treated as living documents.

The policy applies to elected members and all council staff, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Cr Kingdon called a Point of Order, stating that the Mayor had disregarded her comments and aligned with the CEO.

Cr McDougall called a Point of Order, requesting an apology from Cr Kingdon for her remarks, which were perceived as an attack on the CEO. The motion was seconded by Cr Bower.

Cr McDougall further requested that Cr Kingdon be removed from the remainder of the meeting unless an apology was provided. Cr Kingdon issued an apology, which was accepted by the CEO.

14.5 CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND FRAMEWORK

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-169

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council approve the recommended administrative amendments to the Risk Management Policy and Framework.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

14.6 FINANCE REPORT JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-170

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council

- a. Endorses the Finance Report for the Month of June 2025.
- b. Approves the transfer of \$1,000,000 24/25 operating surplus to the Contingency Reserve (Pool) and approves the transfer of \$1,000,000 24/25 operating surplus to the Capital Renewal Reserve (Civic Centre).
- c. Approves the transfer \$1,000,000 from the Contingency Reserve (Pool) to the 25/26 council fund for the aquatic centre capital budget.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

14.7 COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-171

Moved: Councillor Bower; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

That Council receive and note the Community Relations Department report for the Month of June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES - Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025

AGAINST: Nil

14.8 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-172

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

That Council receives and note the Corporate Administration Report for the month of June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall

AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

The bin rollout was discussed, with issues noted during implementation. It was clarified that the rollout was managed by the contractor and not directly by Council.

Feedback regarding the rollout has been received and is currently being addressed in discussions with the contractor.

14.9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES REPORT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-173

Moved: Councillor Bower; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the report of the Environmental Services Department for June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall

AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Feedback was received from residents expressing a desire to retain the green bins for green waste use. It was noted that there is no penalty for not returning the bins to Council.

A query was raised regarding Council's plan for the green bins and whether they could be re-purposed for green waste and recycling.

It was clarified that the green bins will be designated to landfill, as there are currently no viable recycling options. Establishing a recycling facility is not financially feasible for a small council.

14.10 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-174

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor McDougall

That Council receive and note the report of the Infrastructure Services Department for June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall

AGAINST: Nil



Discussion

A query was raised regarding feedback on the entrance to Woolworths. Council has received two letters of feedback, and staff have responded appropriately to the constituents.

A question was raised about a reported motorbike accident at the location. Council advised that it is not aware of such incident.

Concerns were raised about visitors and constituents using the loading dock to access the carpark from First Street, despite signage indicating "Do Not Enter," It was noted that public behaviour has improved since the initial stages of the upgrade.

An update was provided on the Lindsay Street amenities, with the plan to open the facilities to users with the week.

14.11 PEOPLE AND CULTURE QUARTERLY REPORT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-175

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the People and Culture report for the quarter April to June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

A query was raised regarding whether cultural wellness training had taken place including the timing and cost to Council.

It was confirmed that Council provides ongoing staff training, which was approved as part of the annual budget. Council also has a Wellness Strategy in place, which includes initiatives such as craft afternoons for staff.

15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

15.1.1 Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee Meeting - Minutes - June 9 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-176

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the minutes of the Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 9 June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Councillors expressed their support for having Simone Croft join the committee. It was noted her



knowledge of the community will be a valuable asset to the committee especially for her contributions to the Centenary celebrations and the preservation of local history.

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-177

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for June 2025.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

Cr Kingdon will forward her activities to the Manager Governance and Risk.

17 LATE AGENDA

17.1 KATHERINE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE - FUNDING AND REPORTING - JAN - JUNE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-178

Moved: Deputy Mayor Coburn; **Seconded:** Councillor Kingdon

That Council endorses the six-month report on Katherine Visitor Information Centre Operational Funding.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion

A query was raised regarding the status of the agreement with the Northern Territory Government. it was confirmed that the agreement remains in place.

A question was raised about how the Visitor Information Centre managed with the influx of staff and whether any issues were encountered. Council acknowledged the exceptional performance of the Visitor Centre team, noting that they have attracted outstanding personnel.

The team has recently received accolades and nominations from visitors - recognition not previously achieved - which reflects the high standard provided. Council expressed pride in the staff and affirmed that the recognition is well deserved.

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

All elected members expressed their gratitude and reflections on their term, acknowledging the



achievements and challenges faced by the council.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 2:00 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-179

Moved: Mayor Clark; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

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.

CARRIED 5|0

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall
AGAINST: Nil

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 17 JUNE 2025 MINUTES

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.

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:	(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

20.2 CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 30 JUNE 2025 MINUTES



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

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:	(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

20.3 CONFIDENTIAL ACTION LIST

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.

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

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:	(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

20.4 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 5 JUNE 2025 UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.



20.5 KATHERINE AQUATIC CENTRE UPGRADE - PROJECT UPDATE

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.

20.6 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part or the Council of 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) (iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-185

Moved: Councillor McDougall; **Seconded:** Councillor Bower

1. That Council endorse the annual reviewed Katherine Town Council Corporate Risk Register.
2. That Council release the resolution to the open minutes.

CARRIED 5|0

For Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Bower, Councillor Kingdon and Councillor McDougall.

AGAINST: Nil

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 2:26 pm.

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 July 2025 was declared closed at 2:26 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 26 August 2025.

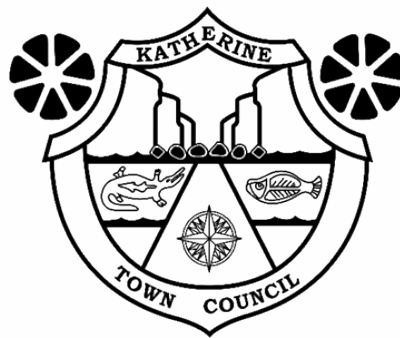
7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 JULY 2025

Report Type: For noting

Attachments: 1. Special Meeting of Council - 21 July 2025 - Minutes - Unconfirmed [**7.2.1** - 3 pages]

Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 21 July 2025 as a true and accurate record.



MINUTES

**Special Meeting of Council
Held on Monday 21 July 2025**

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



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

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Elisabeth Clark (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Denis Coburn
- Councillor Maddy Bower
- Councillor Peter McDougall
- Councillor Kerrie Mott - via video conference
- Councillor Jeremy Trembath

OFFICERS

- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk - Minute Taker

GUESTS - Cassandra Emmett HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

4.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility to declare any conflicts of interest.

6 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 12:05 pm.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Moved: Mayor Clark; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Coburn

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.

8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**8.1 MAYORAL REPORT - COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

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:	(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

9 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 1:17 pm.

10 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Special Meeting of Council - 21 July 2025 was declared closed at 1:17 pm.



8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE JULY 2025

Report Type: For noting

Attachments: 1. Action Report OMC - 20 Aug 2025 [**8.1.1** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Action update.

22-10-2024	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 October 2024	14.2	Policies	On Hold
Live Streaming ability to be included in the upgrades to the Civic Centre. Policy to be revised following the upgrades.				
25-03-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 25 March 2025	14.1	CBD speed changes	In Progress
Letter sent to Minister Yan cc CEO DoLI 7 April 2025 DLI Executive Director Northern Region in discussions with CEO for information to assist with council decision. Minister Hersey spoke to the matter at her meeting with elected members, but there was no resolution. Minister Hersey said she would seek advice about the report sent to council stating which Councillor spoke on Councils behalf. OMC 17 June 2025 update - Noted no response from Minister Hersey regarding follow-up information on the CBD speed changes. Minister Yan advised he will meet with Council on his next visit regarding the CBD speed changes. ED DLI emailed CEO Council 7 August to follow-up and has agreed to meet with the new council to seek decision and briefing on other matters, date to finalised. Update 31 July – Letter from Minister Yan to Mayor acknowledging the speed restriction modifications.				
22-04-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 April 2025	10.1	Correspondence Incoming March 2025 - Request to raise with DLPE at next meeting to provide the data supporting the claim that the Materials Recovery Facility in Katherine is not viable.	Not yet started
22-04-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 April 2025	14.10	Environmental Services Report for the Month of March 2025 - Request to conduct a feasibility study on introducing a green waste bin for residents who cannot transport their green waste to the waste management facility.	Not yet started
17-06-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 17 June 2025	14.7	Crown Land Licence - Part Lot 2999 - Katherine Showgrounds - - That Council authorises the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to sign, seal,	In Progress

			and execute a three-year Crown Land Licence over Part Lot 2999, supporting the continued use of the area as additional parking for the Katherine Showgrounds.	
14/07/2025: Requested DLPE for an update regarding CLL over Part Lot 2999.				



9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING JULY 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - DPLE - Broadening and Simplifying the Container Deposit Scheme - 02 Jul 2025 - ID237535 [**10.1.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Minister Yan - Speed Restriction Modifications Katherine Terrace - 31 Jul 2025 - ID237536 [**10.1.2** - 2 pages]



Department of LANDS,
PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENT

Level5 Energy House
18-20 Cavenagh Street Darwin NT 0800

Postal address
GPO Box 1680
Darwin NT 0801

[E \[oceo.dlpe@nt.gov.au\]\(mailto:oceo.dlpe@nt.gov.au\)](mailto:oceo.dlpe@nt.gov.au)

T 08 8999 4840

File reference
33-SF25-818

Dear CDS stakeholder

Re: Broadening and simplifying the container deposit scheme

I am writing to inform you about changes to the Northern Territory's container deposit scheme (the scheme).

The Northern Territory Government will be introducing amendments to the *Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011* later this year to expand the scope of the scheme to ready to drink beverage containers up to 3 litres. As a result, the scheme will be broadened to include wine and spirit bottles, plain milk containers, and larger containers of 1 litre or more of pure juice and flavoured milk.

This follows extensive consultation, including on draft legislation in mid-2024, which confirmed strong support for the proposed reforms. In response to some industry concerns, and consistent with the approach taken by the Queensland Government when it expanded its scheme:

- new scheme entrants will be provided with a longer period to include the 10-cent refund marking on container labels
- the frequency of reporting and payment will be reduced for small wine and spirit manufacturers and suppliers.

The amendments to expand the scheme will commence at least 6 months after being passed by the Legislative Assembly. This will allow sufficient time for industry to implement the proposed changes and help ensure a good customer experience at collection depots.

A Fact Sheet with further information about the reforms to the scheme is enclosed

The Circular Economy Team will continue its stakeholder engagement to support scheme participants and other stakeholders.

If you have any queries, please email circular.economy@nt.gov.au or call (08) 8924 4123.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joanne", written over a circular official stamp.

Joanne Townsend
Chief Executive Officer

2 July 2025



MINISTER FOR LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 8660

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

Via email: records@ktc.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor *ELISABETH.*

Thank you for your correspondence dated 7 April 2025 regarding the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure's (the Department) speed restriction modifications on Katherine Terrace, and Katherine Town Council's concerns regarding increased heavy vehicle use of the roadway.

The respective adjustments required for council street signs are acknowledged and I understand the Department is working with council staff to determine the best course of action before the contractor is engaged to apply the agreed-upon changes to council roads.

The outcome of the permanent reduction of the speed limit on Katherine Terrace to 40km/h, will create a lower speed environment and reduce risks associated with high pedestrian and vehicle interactions during peak times.

Acknowledging Katherine Town Council as a key stakeholder in the planning of a heavy vehicle diversion around the township, I have requested the Department continue to work closely with Katherine Town Council to deliver improved safety outcomes and alleviate heavy vehicle volumes along the highway at Katherine Terrace.

In 2019, a planning study was completed with a recommended route around Katherine. The development of an alternate heavy vehicle route will improve traffic flow, reduce congestion and enhance safety for both local and highway users.



- 2 -

In October 2024, the Department applied for \$350 million of funding through the Australian Government Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook under the Federation Funding Agreement Schedule. Unfortunately, there was no funding announced for the Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route in the Australian Government's March 2025 Budget. Without the funding support from the Australian Government, this project will not be able to proceed in the short to medium term.

I welcome the opportunity to meet with Katherine Town Council to discuss this matter further and I value the opportunity to work together towards improved safety for the Katherine community.

Yours sincerely



BILL YAN

31 JUL 2025



10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING JULY 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - General Santos City Mayor - Sister City - 15 Aug 2025 - ID2375274 [**10.2.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Katherine Softball Association - Grant application support letter - 6 Aug 2025 - ID237530 [**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

15 August 2025

The Honourable Ms. Lorelie Pacquiao
General Santos City
Republic of the Philippines
City Hall Drive
9500 General Santos City
Philippines

Dear Mayor Pacquiao

Greetings from Katherine in the Northern Territory.

In the recent Council meeting of 22 July 2025, Council decided that we will not pursue our Sister City relationship in the future. This was due to the many years (at least 18 or more years) that our council has not done anything further with our relationship.

The rules regarding Sister City relationships have also changed here in Australia so our council decided that we could not continue for the time being. We are only a small council and do not have the capacity to form Sister City relationships. Perhaps as we grow that could change in the future.

Our Council has an election at the end of August, and I will not be here for the next term.

I wish you, Councillors and the people of General Santos City good health and please do not hesitate to contact us here at Katherine Town Council via email at records@ktc.nt.gov.au or phone (061 8 8972 5500).

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Clark
Mayor



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

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is a letter of support for Diana Ross who is applying for a grant to do a history of Katherine Softball for Katherine and the Big Rivers Region which includes Barunga, Beswick, Borroloola and Timber Creek. She intends to make a visual display and compile a dossier on the history that has been part of our region for at least 50 years.

The history of these types of events is important for our future reference. Katherine has had a diverse culture in sports here and it is necessary to maintain and keep the history alive. It is also part of the strategic plan that the Katherine Softball Assoc. recognised that needed to be done.

Diana is dedicated to organising this history for the benefit of all sporting and community members here. Currently there is not much available on the history of sport in Katherine so it is another reason why it is so important to capture as much as possible from past players and seniors while we can before it is lost for good.

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Clark
MAYOR
KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL

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, 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 2024-25 ACQUITTAL - IPG2400010 - NEW ANIMAL DOG POUND

Author: Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Risk
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For decision
Attachments: 1. Acquittal From IPG 2023-24 Dog Pound 24 06 205 [**14.1.1** - 2 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council endorses the 2024/2025 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant acquittal for the IPG2400010 New Animal Impound Facility and the acquittal be forwarded to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

Purpose of Report

To formally acquit the 2024/2025 Local Government Immediate Priority Grant acquittal for the IPG2400010 New Animal Impound Facility for the amount of \$250,000.

Strategic Plan

1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.5 Financial - Have long-term financial sustainability in Council to allow for continued growth and development.

1.5.3 Pursue grants for new and upgraded infrastructure and programs.

Municipal Plan

1.5.3.1 Seek funding for projects outside of Council budget

4.1.2.2 Dog pound relocated to the Waste Management Facility and current vehicle impound yard relocated

Background

The Local Government Immediate Priority Grants (IPG) program is to provide funding for projects that are designed to boost community amenity; support community development and infrastructure and support animal management projects.

Council were awarded \$250,000 for a new Animal Impound Facility on the 11 March 2024. The approved grant was to be fully expended by 30 June 2025 and an acquittal submitted by 30 August 2025.

Discussion

The project will:

- a) Increase the capacity of the Katherine Municipal Depot by relocating the pound
- b) Ensure safety of staff and animals in a new pound facility
- c) Increase the single accommodation capacity of the pound
- d) Allow for the pound to be used in all seasons.

The new facility will incorporate:

- Capacity for up to 20 dogs, single accommodation (min 4.5m² as existing)
- Fans
- Auto water bowls
- Food Bowls
- 2 x Isolation cages (separate from general pound area) to allow for proper management of potentially diseased animals or for appropriate containment of pups/young dogs susceptible to disease.

- Dry storage area
- Informal office area – capacity to undertake impounding administrative duties on site as well as additional cold storage capacity (fridge)
- Meet & Greet Facility
- Building orientation and eave design to reduce impact of the sun, directly on facility, particularly primary enclosures.
- Up to date waste management infrastructure that supports the separation of waste between primary enclosures and isolation enclosures.
- Appropriate landscaping surrounding facility to support temperature control and ventilation.

The new pound facility construction is expected to be completed in September. The acquittal is attached to the report.





Consultation Process

Report developed with the Manager Projects Portfolio whose team manages the project.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

NTG Funding \$250,000.00
Council approved budget \$183,232.18
Expenditure \$282,803.56

The project remains as approved by the Minister but incomplete. The Facility as of 30 June 2025 was approximately 65% complete. The project will be finalised within the council approved 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.

Grant Funding Acquittal

Immediate Priority Grant Program

Council/Organisation Name: **Katherine Town Council**

Grant Program Year: 2024/2025

Grant Application Number: IPG2400010

Purpose of Grant: New Animal Impound Facility

Purchases were in accordance with the Northern Territory Buy Local Plan: ☒ Yes ☐ No

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACQUITTAL FOR THE PERIOD ENDING

Local Government Immediate Priority Grant	<u>250,000</u>
Other income	<u>183,232.18</u>
Total income	<u>\$433,232.18</u>
Total Expenditure (Specify accounts and attach copies of ledger entries) <i>An 'administration fee' is not to be apportioned to the grant for acquittal purposes.</i>	<u>\$282,803.56</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$150,428.62</u>

IS THE PROJECT COMPLETED AS APPROVED BY THE MINISTER: ☐ Yes ☒ No (If no, please explain why)

The project remains as approved by the Minister but incomplete. The Facility as of 30 June 2025 was approximately 63% complete. The project will be finalised with council budget.

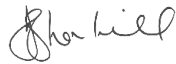
We certify, in accordance with all the conditions under which this grant was accepted, that the expenditure shown in this acquittal has been actually incurred and reports required to be submitted are in accordance with the stated purpose of this grant.

Acquittal prepared by: **Amanda Haigh**

20 / 08 / 2025

Laid before the Council at a meeting held on ____/____/____ Copy of minutes attached.

CEO or CFO:



20 / 08 / 2025

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY

File Number: _____

Grant amount correct: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Expenditure conforms to approved purpose: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Procurement – Bought from Territory Enterprise: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Minutes checked: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Balance of funds to be acquitted: _____

Date next acquittal due: ____/____/____

ACQUITTAL ACCEPTED:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Acquittal checked by: _____

Comments:

MANAGER GRANTS PROGRAM:

____/____/____

14.2 LGANT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Author: Martene Johnson, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For noting
Attachments: 1. 2025-07-28 Letter - LGANT Membership Value Propositions (KT C) [14.2.1 - 5 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council note the Annual Membership Subscription from the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT)

Purpose of Report

To notify Council of the subscription and the key achievements of LGANT

Strategic Plan

Not Applicable

Municipal Plan

Not Applicable

Background

LGANT's achievements for the 2024/25 year

Discussion

Achievements are listed in the attachment

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.



28 July 2025

Mayor Elisabeth Clark
Katherine Town Council

elisabeth.clark@kta.nt.gov.au

Dear Mayor Clark,

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

I want to thank you for being a valued member of the Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) and take this opportunity to highlight some of our key achievements from 2024/25 on behalf of the LGANT Board and Secretariat.

Elections

LGANT has actively supported the sector through several electoral milestones. We:

- facilitated the LGANT Board election process in partnership with the NT Electoral Commission in November, ensuring transparency and member engagement, and welcomed the re-election of five Directors and four new Directors.
- advocated for local government priorities through briefings and stakeholder engagement in the lead-up to the NT and federal elections.
- supported the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) federal election campaign: 'Put Our Communities First'.
- dedicated resources to building relationships with new Ministers and departmental staff to ensure they're familiar with the sector's issues and areas of opportunity.
- helped promote candidacy for the Barkly and Groote Archipelago Regional Councils elections and in preparing the sector for the 2025 Local Government Elections. We are happy to say that the new Groote council has joined as full members.
- secured departmental funding to develop a Territory-wide candidate information campaign and delivered pre-election candidate information sessions on request. LGANT also represented members on the 2025 Local Government Elections Working Group.

Member Services – Advocacy

LGANT continued to advocate strongly on behalf of its members. Our efforts spanned multiple channels including, but not limited to, submissions, media releases, committee representation, and direct engagement with ministers and agencies.

We are pleased to say that LGANT's advocacy efforts have resulted in tangible outcomes across multiple policy area. This includes amendments to telecommunications facility approvals under NT



Planning Scheme remaining impact assessable in favour of amenity and considered consultation, and an increase in base allowances for elected members.

We also advocated for the removal of conditional rating and commissioned two reports to support our position.

Other advocacy activity was focused on superannuation for elected members, clarifying rate exemptions, and ensuring code of conduct framework reform. As a result, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development included proposed amendments as part of Tranche 2 amendments to the Local Government Act 2019.

Our submissions also influenced other key legislative reforms, and LGANT appeared before the Legislative Scrutiny Committee to advocate for the exclusion of the Local Government Act from the scope of the Territory Coordinator Bill.

Representation on committees/working groups is a key element of LGANT's advocacy efforts and in recognising this, we completed a review of the 15 external committees that LGANT coordinates representation for. We also implemented more rigorous consultation and reporting requirements to ensure the sector is well represented. More information on these committees can be found at: <https://lgant.asn.au/member-services/advocacy-and-policy/external-committee-representation/>.

Submissions included:

- NT Territory Coordinator Consultation Bill
- NT Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (tranche 1)
- Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill (tranche 1)
- Legislative Amendments to the Local Government Act 2019 (tranche 2)
- Productivity Commission's final report into the review of Closing the Gap
- Guidelines for the Reconnection, Employment and Learning (REAL) Program
- Proposed NTG Aboriginal Grant Policy
- Remote Stores (food security) Program Standards discussion paper
- Review of the Regional Migration Discussion Paper
- Conditional rating
- NTG's Strategic Directions Planning Policy discussion paper
- NTG's Draft Strategic Planning Policy
- Regional Economic Development and Jobs Program (RJEDP) grant guidelines
- Remuneration Tribunal's inquiry into local government and Local Authority member allowances
- Jobs and Skills Australia 2025-26 Work Plan Consultation
- Regional Telecommunications Independent Review
- Productivity Commission's inquiry into Opportunities in the Circular Economy
- Parliamentary Committee on Northern Australia's inquiry into energy, food and water security
- Local Government National Report



Contributed to ALGA's submissions:

- Indigenous-led review of Closing the Gap
- Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (Colvin Review)
- Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review)
- Amendments to the Powers and Immunities Framework (Telecommunications Infrastructure) - Consultation Paper

Member Services – Projects

LGANT delivered on strategic projects to enhance sector capability including collaborative initiatives across councils, development of shared resources, and facilitation of partnerships that address local government challenges. Our project work is informed by member feedback and aligned with sector priorities.

LGANT successfully:

- advocated for renewal as a Procurement Entity for a further five years and signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Local Buy, strengthening procurement options for member councils. LGANT also worked with Local Buy to improve the platform, including the ability to filter by location and the use of six key supplier badges, such as the Diversity Badge (which includes Indigenous businesses), to help councils find and work with local and diverse suppliers more easily. LGANT also added NTIBN as a Local Buy Indigenous Business certifying authority.
- negotiated a new contract with WALGA for the continuation of IR/HR services to members and fee-free access for members to WALGA's salary and workforce survey.
- delivered the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) for 2023/24, providing individual council comparisons on expenses.

Member Services – Roads

Sustainable road funding and infrastructure development remained a critical focus for LGANT's advocacy. We continued to engage with Territory and Australian government stakeholders to secure funding and recognition of local roads as essential infrastructure.

This year, we completed a desktop audit confirming the LGANT road network spans 1,903km. Key renewal projects included Bonya Road causeway and adjacent road sealing, and Pukulki Road sealing.

Member Services – Workforce

Workforce development is a key priority. LGANT:

- promoted careers in local government by hosting a stand at the 2025 VET Careers Expo and through collaboration with ISACNT.
- facilitated a new MOU with NORFORCE aimed at pursuing mutual community and workforce enhancement opportunities. The first two councils NORFORCE are working with are Central Desert and Barkly Regional Councils.
- created opportunities for 25 local government trainees by negotiating funding and delivery of the Local Government Traineeship Pilot Program in partnership with GTNT and ISACNT.
- established a HR Network in partnership with the WALGA, providing networking and workshop opportunities for council staff.



- established Communications Network in partnership with Access PR, providing networking and workshop opportunities for council staff.
- engaged with Public Skills Australia to ensure appropriate accredited training options for the sector and undertook research and ongoing advocacy for an improved Local Government learning and development framework.

Communications and Profile

LGANT's communications strategy has evolved to increase engagement and visibility. We:

- grew our media presence thanks to our ongoing partnership with Access PR and increased our LinkedIn followers by 28% (to over 2,000).
- visited 12 of our 17 member councils, strengthening relationships and gathering insights to inform our work.
- finalised the 2025/26–2027/28 Strategic Plan and developed the 2025/26 Operational Plan to support its delivery.
- delivered the 2024 November Conference (including Annual and General Meetings) and the 2025 May Symposium (including General Meeting), which provided valuable networking, learning, and strategic planning opportunities for members across the Territory.
- supported the NT representatives at ALGA's six Board meetings and provided the Secretariat services for the LGANT Board's six meetings and strategic planning day.

Corporate functions

LGANT established an Independent Remuneration Committee and subsequently implemented Board Director meeting fees for Board Directors.

We also developed key governance requirements for new Board Directors, including Consent to Act, Indemnity Agreement, and Declaration of Interests forms.

LGANT strengthened its risk management framework through Board workshops and formal endorsement of a new Risk Appetite Statement, enhancing oversight and guiding risk tolerance. To support implementation of the new Statement, a Risk Dashboard with detailed profiles across nine key risk themes was also developed. LGANT also secured funding to assist in the review of all internal policies and finalised 15 of 34.

Our internal capacity expanded with the appointment of a new CEO, an additional Project and Advocacy Advisor, a new Director of Public Affairs, a Marketing and Communications Coordinator, and a Business Support Trainee (who was promoted to Executive Officer). LGANT also introduced an Employee Assistance Program for staff.

Your membership

LGANT increased alternate revenue sources to ensure value can be delivered to members while rebuilding their confidence in the organisation.

We are happy to say that this increase enabled the Board to maintain 2025/26 subscription fees at 2023/24 levels.

Your council's 2025/26 member subscription fee invoice is attached.



LGANT remains committed to promoting the sector's achievements and advocating for its needs at every opportunity and we thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another year of collaboration and progress.

Should you have any questions about your membership, or the highlights outlined above, please don't hesitate to contact me or Mary Watson, CEO on 0417 864 183 or mary.watson@lgant.asn.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kon Vatskalis', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Kon Vatskalis
President

CC: Ingrid Stonhill, CEO

15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

17 LATE AGENDA

17.1 2024-25 ACQUITTAL - LGR2015/0010 - PROVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES TO BINJARI

17.2 FINANCE REPORT JULY 2025

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 22 JULY 2024

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.

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:	(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

20.2 FINAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW REPORT

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:	(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.
------------------------	---

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.

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

20.3 MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 21 JULY 2025

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:	(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

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:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 23 September 2025.