



# MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Held on Tuesday 26 May 2026**

Top Didj Aboriginal Art Gallery, Exhibition Room  
363 Gorge Road, Lansdowne, 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 Holden declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 26 May 2026 open at 6:00 pm.

## 4 ATTENDANCE

### 4.1 PRESENT

#### ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Joanna Holden (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle
- Councillor Jim King
- Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse - via video conferencing
- Councillor Kathy Glass - via video conferencing
- Councillor Anjali Palmer - via video conferencing
- Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts

#### OFFICERS

- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk
- Yeshika Kandanaarachchi – Governance Officer - Minute Taker
- Matt Arnott - Manager Project Portfolio
- Meredith Blair - Manager Finance

**PUBLIC** - 12

### 4.2 APOLOGIES

Acting Chief Executive Officer Casey Anderson was an apology for this meeting.

### 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

### 6.1 2026 CENSUS - CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING | AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Deb Tyler and Mar Johnston from Australian Bureau of Statistics presented to the Council meeting, outlining the importance of 2026 Census, new strategies for inclusion, and plans for the community engagement in Katherine, with a focus on addressing previous challenges and ensuring comprehensive data collection.

Deb Tyler outlined that feedback from the previous census, particularly delays in getting forms out during Covid and difficulties with online completion has been addressed through improved strategies, including multiple response options and access via MyGov. The census collects a broad range of data, for major infrastructure planning like hospital needs to community-level information such as library services, and they emphasised that all data is strictly protected and cannot be used to identify individuals.

Mar described new response forms, including braille and accessible forms, the availability of interpreters, and the establishment of pop-up hubs to assist residents, especially those from culturally and linguistically diverse background and hard to reach groups to improve participation rates.

The pop-up hub event in Katherine will take place from 10 to 12 August, between 10:00am to 6:00pm, within the Woolworths complex. A private room will be available for individuals requiring assistance completing their forms. In response to questions from the audience, the presenters confirmed that people without fixed addresses will be counted under the homelessness strategy. The census team will also work with hospitals, hotels, caravan parks, farm stays, and other accommodation providers to ensure tourists, seasonal workers, and travelers are included.

Paper forms will be delivered to all households via the letterbox, while census workers will deliver forms directly to residents without a letterbox or those living in outlying areas. Australian Bureau of Statistics is also recruiting local community field officers to assist with census completion as a trusted local support on casual basis. Two census staff members, Barbara Quick (Homelessness strategy) and Robbie Hale (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strategy), will be in Katherine the following week. Ms Tyler provided her mobile number - 0401 599 752 for anyone needing to coordinate with these staff.

*Councillor Glass left the meeting at 6:16 pm, and returned 6.16 pm.*

Audience raised concerns regarding people staying in farm stays and informal accommodation away from town, as well as travelers staying at truck stops. The presenters advised that this information would be passed to the relevant teams to ensure these areas are included. They noted that census follow-up activities will continue for two weeks after the main event to capture individuals who may have been missed. The census team will also provide information to the Visitor Information Centre to ensure visitors are aware of their obligations and available support, and pop-up hubs will be available to assist residents with form completion.



## 7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 28 APRIL 2026

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-120**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 28 April 2026 as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED 7|0**

#### Discussion

Councillor Palmer raised concerns about missing actions in the action register from the discussions in the previous minutes, Mayor Holden advised this should be raised under business arising from the previous minutes.

## 7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 13 MAY 2026

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-121**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 13 May 2026 as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED 7|0**

## 8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 8.1 ACTION UPDATE MAY 2026

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-122**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

1. That Council receive and note the Action update.
2. That Council remove the below action from the action list:

Ordinary Meeting of Council - 25 September 2025	14.13	Legal Representation Costs for Elected Members and Council Employees Policy	On Hold
--	-------	--	---------

**CARRIED 7|0**

#### Discussion

Councillor Palmer raised her question on why did actions from the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council which was held on 28 April 2026 not mention in the action register; the actions included:

- more information from CEO under the item 14.2 Katherine Visitor Information Centre - Funding and Reporting - July - December 2025,
- review on the contractor repairs particularly in Cossack area before approve the payments under the item 14.12 Infrastructure and Projects Report for the month of March 2025,
- keep matters regarding the ongoing advocacy for the hospital, aged-care facilities, and other key services on the agenda, and
- review the layout of Council's finance report template under the item 18 General Business.

Mayor Holden advised that certain advocacy items require a formal council decision or motion to be added to the action register, and that ongoing advocacy for healthcare will be addressed through the petition process having in the agenda.



## 9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

### 9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES APRIL 2026

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-123**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Doyle

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for April 2026.

**CARRIED 7|0**

#### Discussion

Council noted the clarification provided by Mayor Holden regarding her activities for the Month of April 2026. During the Municipal Forum at the Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT) Symposium on 14-15 April, the Mayor Holden confirmed that no specific issues were raised by or affecting Katherine Town Council with general discussions covering emergency response matters, which Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT) will progress further independently, with no direct action required from council, proposed changes to the Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT) Constitution, which will be released for consultation in due course.

The Mayor further advised that the Mayor and CEO sessions did not identify any matters of particular impact to Katherine, the Northern Territory Grants Commission meeting attended was a confidential Board meeting with further information expected in due course regarding methodologies, and the meetings with the Parliament Speaker and the Local Member did not result in any matters impacting Council.

### 9.2 COUNCILLOR GOALS FIRST 6 TO 12 MONTHS UPDATE

*Council advised that Councillor Glass' connection dropped in and out at 6.32 pm.*

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-124**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council receive and note the Councillor First 6 to 12 Months Goals update.

**CARRIED 7|0**

#### Discussion

Council discussed the low-level bridge signage and noted it will be moved back further towards Gillard Crescent.

## 10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

### 10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-125**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:



- Attachments:
1. Letter - Chief Minister - Appreciation of Contribution during the recent flooding - 27 April 2026 - ID 253139 [10.1.1 - 1 page]
  2. Letter - CEO - DPSC - Ministers Advisory Council for Senior Territorians - 8 May 2026 - ID 253248 [10.1.2 - 1 page]
  3. Letter - Hon Jo Hersey MLA - Flood Recovery Fund - 11 May 2026 - ID 253242 [10.1.3 - 2 pages]
  4. Letter - Chief Minister - Community Safety Issue in Katherine - 13 May 2026 - ID 253318 [10.1.4 - 3 pages]
  5. Letter - Hon Kristy Mc Bain MP - Critical infrastructure Priorities in Katherine - 14 May 2026 - ID 253324 [10.1.5 - 2 pages]

**CARRIED 7|0**

#### Discussion

Council discussed the Chief Minister's correspondence and clarified that while monthly meetings with the Northern Territory (NT) Police representative do occur, these engagements are limited to the presentation of statistical dashboards, which are later made public, and do not include detailed discussion about solutions for the issue.

It was further advised that although the Manager Environment and Municipal Services attends the Katherine Community Safety Collaboration forum, the forum focuses on a range of operational matters such as blitzes along railway terrace, dog-owner education, and Council has not been provided with broader strategic information arising from these meetings. Council also confirmed that the statement regarding Deputy Mayor Doyle has engaged directly with Mr Thomas Archibold-Manning is incorrect. For accuracy and transparency, Council requested that the minutes formally record that the Chief Minister's statement regarding Council's level of engagement is not correct and does not reflect Council's actual involvement in these matters.

## 10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-126**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - Hon Jo Hersey - Invite to Council Meeting - Katherine Town Council - 15 May 2026 - ID 253369 [10.2.1 - 1 page]
  2. 180526 CM response to Roundtable Call is Unacceptable [10.2.2 - 1 page]

**CARRIED 7|0**

## 11 PETITIONS

### 11.1 REPLACE KATHERINE HOSPITAL WITH A NEW FACILITY OUTSIDE THE KATHERINE FLOOD ZONE



**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-127**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council receive and note the petition from Katherine Community regarding Replace Katherine Hospital with a new Facility outside the Katherine Flood Zone and prioritise the delivery of a new hospital and consideration stand as order of the day for the meeting.

**CARRIED 7|0**

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

There were Questions from the Gallery at the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 26 May 2026

Question	Response
What is the process of handling a petition laid on the table?	The Mayor clarified that a petition can be tabled as an order for the day.
Page 145 - Why would removing item 12 result in no Public Question Time being recorded?	Council confirmed they are not required to record Public Question time in the minutes.
Will Council respond to questions submitted online?	Online submissions are for preparing answers for the meeting, not for written replies. Questions requesting a written response should be requested via <a href="mailto:records@ktc.nt.gov.au">records@ktc.nt.gov.au</a> .
What is the purpose of submitting questions online before the meeting?	Early submission allows Council to prepare and have available relevant information for the meeting.
Why is the Municipal Plan confidential at this stage?	It is a draft document and will be released for public comment once Council approves the draft.
What is the current status of Bylaws?	Previous proposed changes were financial; now with the parliamentary council, will be tabled back to council before being released for the public consultation.

*Councillor Glass left the meeting at 6:50 pm.*

**13 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Nil

**14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

**14.1 KATHERINE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION GROUP (KCSAG) - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-128**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council:

1. Approve the establishment of the Katherine Community Safety Action Group.



2. Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Katherine Community Safety Action Group.
3. Note that an Expression of Interest process will be undertaken via *Your Say Katherine* to invite community and stakeholder participation in the Katherine Community Safety Action Group.
4. Note that a further report will be presented to Council regarding recommended membership appointments following the Expression of Interest process.
5. Appoint Councillor Anjali Palmer and Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle as the co-chairs of the Katherine Community Safety Action Group.

**CARRIED 6|0**

#### Discussion

Councillor Palmer raised concerns regarding the decision-making process surrounding the establishment of the Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KSCAG), noting that she had not been involved in decisions relating to the matter. Mayor Holden acknowledged the concern and stated that she had been under the impression that the matter had been discussed in the previous Council meeting. She stated that, given Councillor Palmer's clarification, the relevant section of the recommendation could be removed and revisited.

Councillor Palmer noted that work on the Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KSCAG) Terms of Reference (TOI) had been undertaken last year by herself and Councillor Whitehouse and expressed concern that progress had been slow. She emphasised the need to establish the Katherine Community Safety Action Group (KSCAG) as a priority.

The EOI process and stakeholder engagement were considered operational matters, engaging to encourage the EOIs will be undertaken by staff of the Council.

The Secretariat support role is identified to be included in the draft Municipal Plan as part of broader discussions on resourcing Council committees.

Councillor Palmer requested a timeline of the EOI and the first meeting.

## 14.2 KATHERINE FM SPONSORSHIP

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-129**

**Moved:** Councillor Tapp Coutts; **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council approve sponsorship with Katherine FM for five 2-hour live broadcasts at events celebrating the Centenary year.

**CARRIED 6|0**

## 14.3 LGANT CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING 10 - 11 NOVEMBER 2026 - ALICE SPRINGS

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-130**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

1. That Council note the next Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Conference, Annual General Meeting, and Dinner on 10 and 11 November 2026 in Alice Springs.

**CARRIED 6|0**

#### Discussion

The Mayor Holden indicated her unavailability to attend the LGANT Conference in November 2026 and the need to appoint another delegate at the next Council meeting.

#### 14.4 ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL AGENDA AND REPORTS

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-131**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

1. That Council approve the revised Council meeting report template May 2026.
2. That Council continue the public question time commencing at 5.30pm till 5.50pm prior to an Ordinary Meeting of Council and remove from the agenda item 12 Public Question Time (Matters Referred to the Agenda).
3. That Council continue to accept submissions for public questions for matters referred to the agenda electronically that will be at the discretion of the Mayor to be tabled at the meeting or responded to at a later date.
4. That Council Department reports are quarterly reporting on the municipal plan deliverables and measures from 1 July 2026.
5. That Council approve the inclusion of the council media releases in the outgoing correspondence section for the agenda.

**CARRIED 5|1**

##### Discussion

Councillor Palmer expressed concerns about transparency and accountability regarding removing the Agenda Item 12 Public Question Time, and she was not in favour of recommendations 2 and 3.

#### 14.5 PETITION - ELOISE SIMUDVARA - COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION TERRITORY ENERGY LINK

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-132**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Doyle

1. That Council note the petition from Eloise Simudvarac regarding NT Department of Industry, Infrastructure and Logistics to uphold their promise to the Katherine community to host a community information session regarding the proposed Territory Energy Link does not meet the requirements of By-Law 143 (5).
2. That Council will continue to advocate for community engagement information sessions for the Katherine community from Territory Energy Link on the multi-user, multi-asset Elliot to Darwin infrastructure corridor.

**CARRIED 6|0**

##### Discussion

The Council noted the petition and agreed to continue advocating for a community information session, and decided not to take a formal position on the project until fully informed.

#### 14.6 PETITION - KATHERINE COMMUNITY - REPLACE KATHERINE HOSPITAL WITH A NEW FACILITY OUTSIDE THE KATHERINE FLOOD ZONE

##### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-133**



**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Doyle

That Council actively advocate to the Northern Territory and Australian Governments to secure funding and prioritise the delivery of a new hospital.

**CARRIED 6|0**

Discussion

Council noted that Council would continue to advocate strongly on the hospital issue. Council were informed of the appointment of Chris Hoskins, a former Department of Health officer, to lead work examining the situation at Royal Darwin and Katherine Hospital. Comments on the ABC radio from Mr Hoskins highlighted concerns about Katherine Hospital being one of the few hospitals in Australia to have closed twice in two weeks due to flooding, and spoke about the long-term importance of planning, noting it may be a 10-year process. Noting that it is expected Mr Hoskins would hopefully consult with the Katherine Community, Katherine Town Council, and relevant stakeholders, and confirmed that if this did not occur, Council would ensure engagement took place.

#### **14.7 FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2026**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-134**

**Moved:** Councillor King; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the month ending 30 April 2026.

**CARRIED 6|0**

Discussion

The Manager Finance will provide clarification on the claim under recoveries on page 168.

The Council committees' allowance, figure is high due to Audit and Risk Committee, noting that the allowances for the two external experts represent a significant cost.

The 31% variance over the budget for buildings and other structures relates to timing around payments, and that the annual budget is not expected to be affected.

Clarification on tied funds - employee liabilities on page 174 confirmed the amount relates to leave entitlements, including annual leave and components of long service leave with current and long-term liabilities.

#### **14.8 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2026**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-135**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council receives and notes the Corporate Administration Report for the quarterly period of February to April 2026.

**CARRIED 6|0**

Discussion

Council noted the increased efficiency of the quarterly reporting format and the improved capacity it



provides for meaningful trend analysis.

## 14.9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES QUARTERLY REPORT AS AT 30 APRIL 2026

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-136**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council receives and notes the report of the Environmental and Municipal Services Department for February 2026 to April 2026.

**CARRIED 6|0**

Discussion

Council acknowledged the great report.

## 15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

## 16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### 16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES APRIL 2026

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-137**

**Moved:** Deputy Mayor Doyle; **Seconded:** Councillor Tapp Coutts

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for April 2026.

**CARRIED 6|0**

## 17 LATE AGENDA

## 18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Tapp-Coutts acknowledged Monica Henry, a teacher at the Katherine School of Air, for her recent achievements noting that Ms Henry had won two age group titles at the National BMX Championships and has qualified for the World Championships to be held in Brisbane in August. Council recognised her accomplishments, noting that she has achieved significant success in a short period of time and agreed that her efforts should be acknowledged, and she be congratulated and wished best for the upcoming World Championships.

## 19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 7:21 pm.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-138**

**Moved:** Mayor Holden; **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor Doyle

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 28 APRIL 2026

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.
----------------------------	---

## 20.2 MINUTES OF THE CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 13 MAY 2026

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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.

## 20.3 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS 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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(b) information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer;



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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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 CIVIC CENTRE REFURBISHMENT - 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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

#### 20.5 EXTENSION OF DUE DATE – DECLARED CHARGE ON LAND (ASSESSMENT 556)

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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(b) information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer;

#### 20.6 DRAFT 2026-2027 MUNICIPAL PLAN



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.

**AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2026-144**

**Moved:** Councillor Tapp Coutts; **Seconded:** Councillor King

1. That Council approve the Draft 2026-2027 Municipal Plan; including budget, long term financial plan, rates and fees and charges; for public consultation from 2 June 2026 to 22 June 2026 with the following amendments

- a. Front page to include the word Draft
- b. Page 5 – addition of Acting to Chief Executive Officer, add the Mayor and Acting CEO signature, include the link for the 2027 Strategic Plan
- c. Page 9 – under Planning, Governance and Compliance include the link to the 2027 Strategic Plan and add a Community Consultation blurb “A 21-day consultation period ran from 2 to 22 June 2026 to ensure our plans reflect local priorities. Elected Members received the draft Municipal Plan on 15 May 2026, 6 business days before endorsing it for public consultation at an Ordinary Meeting of Council 26 May 2026.

Council promoted the consultation through Your Say Katherine [www.yoursaykatherine.com.au](http://www.yoursaykatherine.com.au) and Council website, and Elected Members engaged with residents throughout the period to seek feedback. The final 2026-2027 Municipal Plan will be adopted at the Special Meeting of Council on 25 June 2026.”

- d. Page 13 – under Office of CEO remove Museum
- e. Page 15 – replace Corporate Administration blurb with “The Corporate Administration team delivers a broad range of internal and external services that support Council operations, including information and communication technology (ICT), rates administration, records compliance, facility leasing and insurance management.  
  
Frontline responsibilities include revenue services, such as managing rates, fees, charges, and fines through regulatory processes.  
  
The team is dedicated, and highly skilled across key administrative functions. Their focus is to optimise operational efficiency, enabling other departments to concentrate on their core functions”

- f. Page 18 – remove the black vertical line
- g. Page 19 – remove from highlights “Improving Access to Council meetings” and replace with Hot Springs toilet and that the Hot Springs toilet and cooling town square are subject to grant funding
- h. Page 21 – remove highlight tables and replace with an image
- i. Change colour of pages 22 to 33 to align with the Strategic Plan Priorities colouring
- j. Page 26 – remove words {update table content}
- k. Page 35 and 36 – Replace wording and rating table with attachment 20.6.3 2026-2027 Rates Waste and Fees and Charges - 28 April 2026
- l. Page 37 – add Finance 2026-2027 Heading and the Budget Assumptions with attachment 20.6.2 Budget Assumptions and Explanatory notes
- m. Page 38 – remove decimal points in the Budget Operating Surplus/Deficit line



- n. Page 39 – remove decimal points in the Budget Operating Surplus/Deficit line, remove Total Operating Income line
- o. Page 41 – remove word Equity in the middle of table under Liabilities
- p. Page 43 – add image
- q. Last page to be added to incorporate image and contact details
- r. Page 5 - Replace the existing Mayor's words by these words.

"Mayor's introduction

This year's Municipal Plan marks a fresh start for Council — and for Katherine.

Following the election of an entirely new Council in September 2025, this is the first plan we have delivered together. We didn't want it to be just another document — we wanted it to reflect what you've told us really matters.

And you've been clear.

We've heard about the importance of safe, reliable roads (especially after a big wet), well-maintained public spaces that suit our unique environment, practical and accessible community facilities, and keeping Katherine a connected, liveable place to call home.

This plan is our first step in responding to those priorities.

You will notice it is focused, measured and—quite deliberately—a little conservative. As a new Council, we are taking the time to properly understand our financial position, including the liabilities we carry and what it will take to meet them responsibly into the future. That means being careful with how we spend today, so we can deliver when it really counts tomorrow.

In simple terms: we're focused on getting the basics right. Delivering core services well, maintaining what we have, and making steady, visible improvements where we can. That might not sound flashy—but it's the foundation of a Council that works.

Over the coming year, this work will also help shape our longer-term direction, and we will continue listening to the community as we plan for Katherine's future.

On behalf of Council, thank you for your ongoing input, honesty and engagement. We value it, and it is helping guide the decisions we are making every day.

We're committed to building a Katherine that is strong, sustainable and ready for what comes next — and we're glad to be on that journey with you."

- s. Page 18 - Put the actual projects under Highlights and move the information on 18 to 19.

2. That Council move the resolution, report and attachments to the open minutes.

**CARRIED 6|0**

## 20.7 CIVIC CENTRE



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 Local Government Act 2019.
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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 Local Government Act 2019.
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(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 Local Government Act 2019.
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

## 21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 7:51 pm.

## 22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 26 May 2026 was declared closed at 7:51 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 23 June 2026.