



# MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council  
Held on Tuesday 27 February 2024**

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 - 27 February 2024 open at 12:00 pm.

## 4 ATTENDANCE

### 4.1 PRESENT

#### ELECTED MEMBERS

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

#### OFFICERS

- Ms Ingrid Stonhill – Chief Executive Officer
- Ms Rosemary Jennings – Director Community Services
- Amanda Haigh – Governance and Executive Officer (minute taker)
- Staff x 5

**PUBLIC** - 3

### 4.2 APOLOGIES

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-21**

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

That Council accepts the apology of Councillor Maddy Bower and Councillor Jeremy Trembath.

**CARRIED 5|0**

FOR: Mayor Clark, Deputy Mayor Coburn, Councillor Kingdon, Councillor McDougall and Councillor Mott  
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 23 JANUARY 2024**

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-22**

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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



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

### **8.1 ACTION UPDATE JANUARY 2024**

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-23**

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

That Council receive and note the Action update.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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



## 9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

### 9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2024

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-24**

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

That Council receive and note the Mayoral activities for January 2024.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

Acknowledged the new Chief Minister visit and that we are fortunate to have her come to Katherine from time to time.

The PFAS independent review team advised they were still to meet with indigenous communities then release the review.

The remote power system briefing on the sustainable power options that are being rolled out in the remote communities. Raised be good to get an update on Katherine supply with the power outages that occur and that the solar farm is not switched on.

## 10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

### 10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-25**

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

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - Minister for LG - RE ratatability charities and PBIs - 16 February 2024 - 188493 [10.1.1 - 2 pages]
  2. tabled paper 1074 - NT remuneration tribunal report on determination no 1 of 2024 Allowance for Councils [10.1.2 - 9 pages]
  3. tabled paper 1076 - NT remuneration tribunal report on determination no 1 of 2024 Allowances for Local Authorities [10.1.3 - 3 pages]

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

### 10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-26**

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

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - T 20-08 - Katherine Sportsground - Pavilion - Defects - 25.01.2024 - 187503 [10.2.1 - 2 pages]



2. T 20-08 - Defects Rectification Register - 15.01.2024 - 187503 [**10.2.2** - 2 pages]
3. Letter - Prime Minister - Bring a Plate - 16 February 2024 - 188544 [**10.2.3** - 2 pages]  
**CARRIED 5|0**

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

## 11 PETITIONS

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

There were no Questions from the Gallery at the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 27 February 2024.

## 13 NOTICE OF MOTION

## 14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### 14.1 GRANT ACQUITTAL - IMMEDIATE PRIORITY GRANT 2022-23 SPORTSGROUND FENCING STAGE 1

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-27**

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

That Council endorse the funding acquittal for the Local Government Immediate Priority Grant Program 2022-23, IPG2300022, \$160,220 for the Katherine sports precinct fencing renewal Phase 1.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

Noted that the fence looks fabulous and looking forward to the next stage when extra funding is available. The fence will secure outside of the lot, once complete suggest reviewing the inside fences to replace or remove if not required.

### 14.2 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT - KATHERINE SHOW SOCIETY

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-28**

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

That Council endorses and approves of the two (2) year Partnership Agreement between Katherine Town Council and the Katherine Show Society.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

The extra funding is in line with other partnerships that the council has offered. The council understands the costs are increasing to do business just like council face. This is a small amount and a good business decision for these groups. Noted the show last year was very successful and bigger than previous years. Katherine is one of the few places that still have a country show and we need to support them.

### 14.3 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - KATHERINE TENNIS CLUB

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-29**

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

That Council endorses the ongoing MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 with Katherine Tennis Club under the terms and provisions of previous years.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

The 2 public courts that are normally open all the time are closed during the night due to the security risk. Council is working with the Tennis Club, to make sure the whole facility is safe before they are fully open again.

Current security includes lighting and screamer alarm, there is no CCTV.

### 14.4 GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT - TERRITORY TOURISM DISCOUNT SCHEME 2024

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-30**

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

That Council approves the signing and affixing of the Common Seal to the Grant Funding Agreement: Schedule 'D' to the Visitor Information Services Partnership Agreement 2023 – 2025 with the Northern Territory Government.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

This is very exciting and great to see tourism initiatives again.

The Katherine Visitor Information Centre can book for anywhere in the territory using the 25% discount on bookings.

Suggestion to approach the Chief Minister to see if the NTG will continue the MyKatherine vouchers.

Katherine had the highest number of visitors during COVID and recently been named the fourth place in the 2024 Aussie Town of the Year.

### 14.5 SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT - WEST ARNHEM REGIONAL COUNCIL

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-31**



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

That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Shared Service Agreement with West Arnhem Regional Council to acquire services for Record Management.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

#### Discussion

A shared agreement can be with different councils depending on need and what benefits can we gain. Records management is very important, and we know we can do better through continuous improvement. We are negotiating the costs proposed with West Arnhem Regional Council (WARC). Katherine Town Council has and will continue to share knowledge with our local government counterparts and hoping WARC will have a similar approach.

### 14.6 FINANCE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-32**

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

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the Month of January 2024.

**CARRIED 4|1**

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

#### Discussion

The Total Non Cash Items include depreciation, outflows, capital funding, sale of asset adjustments from calculations done in December. They are not funds flowing in or out of organisation, just adjustment of the books.

The WMF make good provision is allocated for capping at end of life. We are required to put the land back as close as possible to the quality before you begin, as a requirement of EPA.

Noted that some of the investments are with unethical banks with them having significant holding in gas and mining. Although we are currently enjoying the benefits but recognise that this is not good.

The parking debts are actioned for recuperating following due process then go to debt collection agency which will increase the costs.

Request for capital grants breakdown - taken on notice

Councillor Mott advised that she would will write a report to table at the next month's EMIS the reason why for repeatedly voting against the monthly financial report each month.

### 14.7 CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT - JANUARY 2024

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-33**

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

That Council receive and note the Corporate Services Report for the month of January 2024.



**CARRIED 5|0**

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

Discussion

Congratulations on the Snap Send Solve awards, noting this is the second year in a row. Council thanked the team for the good work done to achieve this.

The Multiple Dwelling policy was rescinded last year now legislation will be applied correctly to all rateable properties.

Thanked the Corporate Services department especially for keeping up with all requests. Noted that there is only one ranger at the moment.

#### **14.8 COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-34**

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

1. That Council receive and note the Community Services Department report for the Month of January 2024.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

Discussion

Thanks again to the library team for great work.

With the closure of roads and rains impacts on access to Katherine. This also created people being stuck in town so able to capitalise on therefore the VIC noticed a slight increase from previous years. Noted that there are limited products available this year.

Thanked Community Services department and Director Rosemary Jennings.

#### **14.9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-35**

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

That Council receive and note the report of the Infrastructure and Environment Department for January 2024.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

Discussion

Council has not received any recent feedback regarding closing laneways. All feedback received has been positive.

Council cannot remove graffiti from private property so packs will be available to owners at less than cost



price, \$40 .00, with social media communications being pushed out soon. Anyone who comes into the Civic Centre can purchase a graffiti pack.

Hot Springs sprinklers were recently tested therefore being on during the day. They are scheduled to come on at night.

Works will commence soon at the Hot Springs for erosion control with the installation of a barrier that will be an outdoor art gallery. The project is to stop erosion impact and to save the Hot Springs. The art work will entice people to stay on the path.

Verge mowing is in response to the New Years storm to assist residents as much as possible. Recognised that residents have a lot to clean up in their own yards let alone the council verge. Also noticed that fencing is a natural barrier to maintaining verges so attempt on a goodwill but huge cost on rate payers so this will be reviewed for the future.

52 metres of the identified bird breeding area is DIPL land. The star picket fencing aims to preserving the finches habitat during the wet season. It is noted that weeds are growing in the breeding area.

## 15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

### 15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

### 15.2 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

## 16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

### 16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2024

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-36**

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

That Council receive and note the Elected Member activities for January 2024.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

Discussion

Councillor Kingdon advised that she attended Australia Day celebrations but that it was missed transferring to the report and will be included in next month.

Councillor McDougall apologised for not submitting his activities as he had been away.

## 17 LATE AGENDA

## 18 GENERAL BUSINESS

The Heritage Church will be holding an International Womens Day event on the evening 8th March, everyone bring a plate.

Katherine Town Council's upcoming Community Events for March:

#### **Clean Up Katherine Campaign**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31 March 2024

Time: Month long campaign

Campaign Details:



- Month long campaign.
- Those who want to participate need to collect rubbish bags and gloves from CIVIC Centre.
- Those wanting to participate can collect rubbish when and where they choose throughout the month of March.
- If they would like the incentive (\$20 local café voucher or movie pass with small popcorn and drink) they need to submit a picture via the Snap, Send, Solve App.
- Filled bags can be left on the verge in town for council to pick up or rural people can take to the Waste Management Facility free of charge.

### **International Women's Day**

Date: Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: GYRACC

Event is fully booked

Event Details:

- Our panel will include the National Australian Senior Citizen of the year attend (Yalmay), along with Selena Uiibo and Michelle Duggan.
- The event is free to attend, but tickets are essential.
- Morning tea provided.
- Optional free professional portrait.
- Lucky seat prize from Outstation Interior + Design.

### **Come & Try Sports Expo**

Date: Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Time: 9am-12pm

Location: The Y

Event Details:

- Free event.
- Over 20 sporting groups in attendance.
- Collect a map from the KTC table, visit all the stalls and go into the draw to win sporting prizes.
- Zaki Zaki café attending.

### **Harmony Day Citizenship Ceremony**

Date: Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Time: 12pm-1pm

Location: GYRACC

### **Bombing of Katherine – Commemorative Event**

Date: Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Time: 10am-11am

Location: Katherine Museum

## **19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC**

**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 the public.

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

The time being 1.02pm

## 20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

### 20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

#### 20.1.1 Confirmation of Previous Confidential Minutes 23 January 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:	(c) (iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.

### 20.2 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### 20.2.1 Confidential Action 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.

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

### 20.3 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS

#### 20.3.1 CEO Performance 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.

### 20.3.2 Centenary of Katherine Advisory Committee Expression of Interest

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-2024-42**

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

1. That Council approves the appointments of Robbie Friel and Jake Quinlivan to the Centenary of Katherine 2026 Advisory Committee.
2. That Council approve the resolution to the open meeting.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

### 20.3.3 Katherine Aquatic Centre Upgrade

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.

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2024-43**

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

1. That Council selects pool construction contractor Sitzler for design and construction of the Aquatic Centre Upgrade.
2. That the resolution is moved to the open minutes.

**CARRIED 5|0**

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

### 20.3.4 Complaint of Councillor



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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:	(f) subject to subregulation (2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

## 20.4 CONFIDENTIAL LATE AGENDA ITEMS

### 20.4.1 Leave of Absence

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.

## 21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 2:34 pm.

## 22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 27 February 2024 was declared closed at 2:34 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 26 March 2024.