



AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council
To be held on Tuesday 27 January 2026
At 6:00 pm

Godinyamyin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Front Auditorium
Lot 3238 Stuart Highway, Katherine

The Acting 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 Joanna Holden (Chair)
- Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle
- Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse
- Councillor Jim king
- Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts
- Councillor Kathy Glass
- Councillor Anjali Palmer

OFFICERS

- Casey Anderson – Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk - Minute Taker
- Brett Kimpton – Manager Environment and Municipal Services
- Matt Arnott - Manager Project Portfolio
- Rhett English - Manager Community Relations
- Jo Brosnan - Manager Strategic Communications
- Rebecca Baguley – Chief Finance Officer
- Meredith Blair – Finance Manager
- 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.**



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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

Councillor Whitehouse 12 to 18 February 2026.

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 9 DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: Previous Minutes

Attachments: 1. Ordinary Council Meeting - 9 December 2025 - Minutes - Unconfirmed [7.1.1 - 19 pages]

Recommendation

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 9 December 2025 as a true and accurate record.



MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held on Tuesday 9 December 2025**

Godinyamyin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre
Lot 3238 Stuart Highway, Katherine



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 - 9 December 2025 open at 6:00 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

- Mayor Joanna Holden
- Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle
- Councillor Jim King
- Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse
- Councillor Kathy Glass
- Councillor Anjali Palmer
- Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts

OFFICERS

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

PUBLIC - 7

4.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence was received by Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse for the following dates
12 December 2025 – 15 December 2025 and 19 January 2026 – 31 January 2026.

Leave of Absence was received by Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts for the following dates



22 December 2025 – 5 January 2026.

Leave of Absence was received by Councillor Kathy Glass for the following dates

22 December 2025 – 9 January 2026.

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

NIL



7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 25 NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2025-307

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 25 November 2025 as a true and accurate record with the amendment to the date of the Ordinary Meeting of Council, being Wednesday, 26 April 2028 and the amendment on page 14 point 2, resolution OMC-2025-286 Reason for Disposal to be changed back to 'Added in Error', and 'Not a Council Asset' to be removed.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil



7.2 MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 14 NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-308

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 14 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-309

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

That Council receive and note the Action update.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil



9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-310

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

A question was asked about the purpose of the KTown Markets, Marion Scrymgour MP and Youth Justice Reinvestment Committee meeting. Information provided was KTown Markets meet and greet with representatives. Several operational issues were raised during the discussion and have been referred to the operational team for follow-up. Meet and greet meetings with Marion Scrymour MP and Youth Justice Reinvestment Committee meeting.

9.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION GROUP

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-311

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

1. That Council approval the establishment of a Katherine Community Safety Action Group with the purpose of addressing issues affecting community safety through:
 - a. giving the community a voice in community safety issues,
 - b. supporting the development of solutions designed by the community specifically to address Katherine's unique crime and safety challenges,
 - c. improve communication by providing structure which enables, community, police and council to share information,
 - d. advocate for solutions which address the root causes, factors such as housing, substances misuse,
 - e. work with the NTG to advise and implement Crime Prevention Through Environment Design (CPTED) to reduce crime in public spaces, workplaces and homes,
 - f. driving the delivery of community-based solutions, and
 - g. engagement in the development of Council By-Laws.
2. That Council approve the appointment of Councillors Palmer and Whitehouse be appointed as Co-Chairs of the Community Safety Action Group.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - By returning to the community for consultation, Council ensures the framework remains a living evolving document. This approach supports the development of practical solutions. Collaboration with local businesses and the Police will be key to creating sustainable, long-term strategies.



9.3 SERVICE ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

That Council:

1. Approves the delivery of a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) in accordance with Council's responsibilities for effective and efficient service delivery under the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, obtains quotes from suitably qualified external agencies to undertake the SLDA.
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer is to seek funding to support Council costs with the delivery of the SLDA.
4. Authorises Chief Executive Officer to prepare SLDA Project and implementation plan to be endorsed by Council, and
5. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide progress updates, with a final SLDA Report presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

Discussion - Cr Palmer raised the following:

Firstly, the process we have applied bothers me as Council has not discussed this matter in detail before creating the agenda item for the community information and input. I would appreciate if Councillors, as the elected members and voice of the community, had the opportunity to have input into papers before they went out as Agenda Items. This also complies with our roles as elucidated in the Legislation.

Whilst I understand the intent of this agenda item, I do not feel comfortable approving the recommendations as they currently stand.

The document provides a basis for moving this work forward in preparation of developing the Municipal plan for 2026/7 and establishing a foundation for the Strategic Plan in 2 years.

However, it appears to not take into account and build on the achievements of the recent Council – when there is a gain of over \$20M and over 100 projects undertaken, acknowledgement of this work and a commitment to build on these foundations is important.

A situational analysis is important to undertake to recognise past efforts, celebrate them and also to provide a learning experience so we build on these accomplishments.

I also do not believe that \$60K covers this piece of work. We will be looking at least twice the amount, if not more.

I am therefore, suggesting that a scope of works is prepared by Council to take to market that provides

- That Council develop a clear focus and unambiguous scope for the consultant to work on / work with, including the scope's relationship to the existing strategic plan and the current Municipal Plan, including the:
 - Selection criteria and including the consultation process to be undertaken;
 - Cost of the work and source of payment is clearly identified;
 - Criteria for selection of the consultant i.e. local knowledge, expertise etc. identified; and



- Identifies the consultation process with the community, different agencies etc who must be consulted with.

Councillor Tapp Coutts noted that this is a substantial document that will require significant effort from many people. However, it provides a strong foundation to build on. As a working document, it can be refined and adjusted through ongoing consultations, allowing us to tighten and improve it over time.

While the scope is considerable, the thought and effort that have gone into it are fantastic. It captures all the discussions we have had so far and gives us a clear starting point. This is a really solid working document that we can now take back to the community and present to our major stakeholders for further input.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2025-312

Moved: Councillor Whitehouse; **Seconded:** Councillor Palmer

That Council:

1. Approves the delivery of a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) in accordance with Council's responsibilities for effective and efficient service delivery under the *Local Government Act 2019 (NT)*.
2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, to develop a scope of works which includes the relationship with the SLDA to the Municipal and Strategic plan. The consultation process with community and agencies, a terms of reference, the consultant qualifications criteria and include in the scope of works the background work of the previous Council.
3. Authorises Chief Executive Officer to seek matched funding to support the Councils costs with the delivery of the SLDA subject to quotes.
4. Authorises Chief Executive Officer to prepare SLDA Project and implementation plan to be endorsed by Council, and
5. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide progress updates, with a final SLDA Report presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

9.4 COUNCIL COUNCILLOR GOALS FIRST 6 TO 12 MONTHS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-313

Moved: Councillor Palmer; **Seconded:** Councillor Glass

That Council approve the Elected Member first 6 to 12 month goals:

- a. Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle to strengthen the relationships between Katherine Town Council, local businesses, industry leaders, tourism operators and community stakeholders through the establishment of a Business and Tourism Working Group.



- b. Councillor Anjali Palmer to establish a Community Safety Action Group which delivers a structured, collaborative, and preventative approach: not just reacting to crime, but building long-term safety and resilience.
- c. Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts to enhance safety and environs of Katherine by undertaking a sign audit with recommendations for improvements and the beautification of roundabouts.
- d. Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse to reduce the impacts of crime on the community and enhance public spaces through establishing a partnership with the Department of Corrections which will enable Council to engage persons with community work orders.
- e. Councillor Jim King to increase road safety for road trains install a “No Road Trains” allowed on Zimin Drive at Gillard Road to prevent trucks becoming stuck at the low level. Council to investigate having Google maps updated to clearly indicate no road trains are allowed on this road.
- f. Councillor Kathy Glass reduce illegal dumping and enhance community appearance by changing the existing waste management facility opening hours to enable community members access when required to the facility to dump waste.
- g. Mayor Joanna Holden to encourage community connect and wellbeing by enabling the community free entry to the Katherine pool throughout December 2025 and January 2026.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - For point E, a concern was raised for the “No Road Trains” sign. An assessment will be carried out by the Infrastructure and Environment department to determine which signage options are suitable for that road and what can be implemented.

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-314

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

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

Attachments: 1. Letter - Katherine Senior Citizens Association Incorporated - 03 Nov 2025 - I D 243010 [10.1.1 - 1 page]

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil



10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-315

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

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Minister Hon Steven Edgington - Request for Extensions - Audited Financials - KTC - 30 Oct 2025 - I [10.2.1 - 2 pages]
 2. Hon Marion Scrymgour MP - Aquatic Centre - Funding - School Holiday Program - 13 Nov 2025 - I D 2442 [10.2.2 - 2 pages]
 3. Hon Steven Edgington - Minister for Local Government - Request for Funding - Aquatic Centre - 17 Nov [10.2.3 - 1 page]

CARRIED 7 | 0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

11 PETITIONS

12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (MATTERS REFERRED TO THE AGENDA)

Question	Response
Councillors list of activities - Cr King to amend his to include the attendance of Remembrance Day	This will be updated
Financials - Why all the expenditure in table 1.1 doubled compared to previous month? Where is all the money going and coming from?	The variations look similar to the previous report and will be taken on notice. We are expecting recommendations out of the SLDA around formatting of the reports
14.3 Speed Changes - Option B on page 72 and option C on page 73 seem to be the same. What is the difference? Why are we changing all the speed limits?	Where Railway Terrace comes through at the post office, it is the difference in the speeds. Red dots 50km/h and green 40km/h, so it has multiple speed zones in that area. Council believes 40km/hr is an appropriate speed through that area.
Why are there so many items in confidential?	There are 2 previous confidential minutes, business arising, 1 invoice item and the other is the Citizen of the year recipients which we all understand needs to be confidential at this point in time, Audit and Risk Management Committee Annual Assessment report that contains confidential information about the audit and risk assessment.
Why is the invoice in confidential, it should be in the financials?	Question noted and will come back to you at a later date.
Speed changes - There was no consultation done with the Chief Executive Officer and former Mayor. Is this the original document submitted from the document? Note subsection - That there is something missing from the document, from the	Yes its the original document During our discussion with the department, there was no indication of any conversations with any Councillors current or previous, the discussion was last Friday and not publicly minuted.



KATHERINE
TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES - Ordinary Meeting of Council - 9 December 2025

original document a discussion with a member of the Council. Was there a speed limit survey completed?	No survey completed although the Department indicated that most people were traveling under 40km/h.
Was the meeting with the Minister or the Department?	The meeting was with the department.
During the last public question time there was mentioned of the credit card policy. Is it going to happen?	Credit card policy related to the CEO and Mayor to have a credit card. The only person at this point in time with financial delegation is the CEO.
Speed change - What survey did Council do for First street and Railway Terrace? What would be the medium speed on First Street and Railway Terrace?	Council didn't do a survey. It was decided to drop to 40km/h, the medium speed is what Council is going with. Council will make a decision to select one of those options.
What is the number of near misses and incidents, an accident, near misses on Katherine Terrace for 12 months to December 2025?	This is proposal until we pass a resolution. There were notes taken at the meeting but it was not a publicly minuted meeting. Near misses on Katherine Terrace taken on notice.
What Mayoral business is confidential? It's on page 26.	It was a confidential item and met the requirements of the Act.
CBD road changes - If it is approved tonight will it close the business arising.	Yes
Outgoing correspondence - late submission of the audited papers extension letter. When was it sent? And did you receive a reply?	It was sent on 30 October 2025 and we have received a reply.
Infrastructure report - the airport line marking project is included under Environment and Municipal and Infrastructure department reports, should it be with one department?	The Airport management falls under the Environment and Municipal department, and asset maintenance projects within the Infrastructure department
What happens to the dog pound when it floods?	In the event of any disaster we have a disaster plan that has a sub plan that will trigger and activate different levels. We have not decommissioned the old pound so it can be facilitated as well.
Last Friday CBD speed limit meeting, can you expand on that?	The report states the discussion of the meeting.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION

14 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

14.1 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-316

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

That Council approve the revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter Version 6.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer



AGAINST: Nil

14.2 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INDEPENDENTS EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-317

Moved: Councillor Palmer; **Seconded:** Councillor Glass

That Council approve the appointment of Independent Chair Carolyn Eagle and Independent member Ross Springolo to the Audit and Risk Management Committee for a further two years ending 31 December 2027.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - Council has discussed and the reason for the extensions proposed is because we are a very new Council and we feel we need the stability of the independent members who are extremely experienced and can give us a lot of historical background that is required going forward.

14.3 CBD SPEED CHANGES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-318

Moved: Councillor Whitehouse; **Seconded:** Councillor King

That Council endorses and approves Option A, which involves the least number of new signposts and reduces the existing 50kph AREA to a 40kph AREA.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Action: Request the Department of Logistics and Infrastructure (DLI) to install a "40K zone ahead" sign before the bridge when travelling south, ensuring Council does not bear the cost.

14.4 CENTENARY OF KATHERINE COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP - TERMS OF REFERENCE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-319

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

That Council endorse the Centenary of Katherine Community Action Groups Terms of Reference.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - For everyone's awareness, we disbanded the advisory committee at the previous meeting and replaced it with an action group and these are the terms of reference for that group.



14.5 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-320

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

That Council acknowledge and endorse the award recipients for International Day of People with Disability.

- Outstanding Person with Disability – Christina Fowler
- Outstanding Young Person with Disability – Jackson Robertson
- Outstanding Support Person – Hillary Lenehan
- Excellence in Education and Employment – Kintore Street School

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

14.6 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-321

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

14.7 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MONTHLY REPORT

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-322

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

That Council receive and note the Strategic Communications report for November 2025

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - The feedback from the information the Councillors are providing through the reels and videos has been really prevalent receiving positive feedback and we need to look at how to continue.

14.8 COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-323

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

That Council receive and note the Community Relations Department report for the month of November 2025.



CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
 AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - Deputy Mayor Doyle addressed the Manager for Community Relations, noting that the community feedback regarding the library has been overwhelmingly positive and described as sensational.

14.9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-324

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
 AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - Noted the Pre Wet Season Clean Up was very well received.

14.10 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-325

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
 AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - The native plant give away has had positive reports and well done to Council. The work the team is doing is amazing.

15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-326

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



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

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - Noting an amendment to Cr King's activities with the addition of Remembrance Day.

17 LATE AGENDA

17.1 FINANCE REPORT NOVEMBER 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-327

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

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the month of November 2025.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

Tribute to my mother - Toni Tapp Coutts

June Tapp,

I would like to pay a small tribute to my mother June Tapp, nee Forscutt who will celebrate her 90th birthday this week.

My mother came to Katherine as a 12-year-old with her family in 1947. Her mother Glad Forscutt worked in the Lolly Water Factory in Fourth Street, and her father Nick Forscutt was a unionist and mechanic at the power station. He died quite young of a stroke and Nana was left with her young family of teenagers to support.

My mother married at the age of 20 and had her 10th child at the age of 38.

I want to acknowledge her contribution to Katherine in many social and environmental issues.

She has been a feminist, environmentalist and activist all her life. Many of her campaigns included having Aboriginal women domestics being recognised in the Northern Territory Pastoral Award so that they were paid for their work in the early 1970s.

She brought to attention the need for a domestic violence counsellor in Katherine which then led into the establishment of the Katherine Women's Crisis Centre.



She campaigned voraciously against genetically modified (GM) cotton being grown in Katherine, and rallying against the attempt by the Federal Government to establish a Nuclear Waste Dump in the Katherine Municipality near King River.

She has been passionately involved in the anti-fracking movement in recent years and her unrelenting pursuit of justice for her grandson Shane Tapp who was found murdered in the Katherine River. The family did not agree with the outcome of the original investigation. My mother wrote constant letters to the Commissioner of Police and the Coroner for two years, which resulted in a Coronial Inquest into his death, where much damning evidence was given that this was not an accidental death. The case remains open if anyone has any information about this.

She campaigned strongly with marches, posters and petitions to support the movement of restricting the alcohol 'take away' hours which is now the normal for us.

She had for many years been involved in marches, petitions and campaigns to speak out about violence against women and children.

The only surviving member of the seven of her siblings in her family, all of whom are buried here in Katherine, she is also the mother of 10 good human beings who have all contributed much to their local communities.

I have lost count of how many grandchildren and great grandchildren she has, many living here in Katherine.

She is the grandmother of 2013 Master Chef runner-up Lynton Tapp, Holly Tapp, 2014 finalist in the top 12 contestants on The Voice, and Para Olympian, Emily Tapp, who has represented Australia in Tokyo and the Commonwealth Games, and was a three times World Champion Para Triathlete. All of these champions completed their primary schooling on Katherine School of the Air.

As I tell you this brief history, she is probably at home writing a letter to the coroner or a letter against the proposed new energy pipeline.

June Tapp is a Katherine Legend, a Warrior Woman and inspiration to us all.

With respect and love, I wish my mother June Tapp a Happy 90th Birthday.

The Mayor acknowledges Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts mothers contribution and noting she does campaign on the tough issues, wishing her a happy 90th birthday.

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 7:09 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2025-328

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.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
 AGAINST: Nil

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 25 NOVEMBER 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:	(c) (i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

20.2 MINUTES FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 14 NOVEMBER 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.

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-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 KATHERINE AQUATIC CENTRE UPGRADE - INVOICE PAYMENT APPROVAL

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.

20.5 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS 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-clause and Reason:	(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

20.6 2025 AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT 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:	(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

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING



The open meeting resumed at 7:29 pm.

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 9 December 2025 was declared closed at 7:30 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, 27 January 2026.

UNCONFIRMED



7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: Previous Minutes

Attachments: 1. Special Meeting of Council - 17 December 2025 - Minutes Unconfirmed [7.2.1 - 5 pages]

Recommendation

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



MINUTES

**Special Meeting of Council
Held on Wednesday 17 December 2025**

Katherine Library, Conference Room
15 Katherine Terrace, 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 Special Meeting of Council - 17 December 2025 open at 12:39 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

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

OFFICERS

- Casey Anderson – Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk
- Martene Johnson - Executive Assistant and Minute Taker
- Sanjay Kuhan - Financial Accountant

4.2 APOLOGIES

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 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

6.1 ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION SMC-2025-16

Moved: Councillor Whitehouse; **Seconded:** Councillor Glass

1. The Council approves the 2024/2025 Annual Report, including the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2025.
2. The Council note that in accordance with Section 290 (1) of the Local Government Act 2019, the approved Katherine Town Council 2024/2025 Annual Report incorporating the Audited Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 and will be provided to the Minister for Local Government.
3. That Council note that in accordance with Section 290 (2), that the endorsed Katherine Town Council Annual Report 2024/2025, incorporating the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025, will be published on Council's website. Following the delivery of the report to the Minister, a copy will be provided to the Department Housing, Local Government, and Community Development.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

Discussion - Council noted the significant effort undertaken by all staff in completing both the audited financial statements and the Annual Report. Council express its appreciation and formally extended thanks to staff for their dedication and commitment in achieving these outcomes.

6.2 APPROVAL FOR STAFF STANDOWN PERIOD WITHOUT LEAVE 2025

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

That Council approve:

- a. The closure of Council Offices and operations from Monday 29 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026 is inclusive, and to grant staff time off during this period without the requirement to use annual or other leave. Operations exempted from this closure period would be services which we are mandated to deliver such as the Waste Management Facility, Visitors Information Centre, Municipal Services and the Rangers. Staff required to work during this period would be granted the equivalent time as "Time in Lieu" to be used as soon as practical after the Christmas closure period.
Or:
- b. Grant all full-time staff an additional 7.6 hours' leave and all staff that are employed either on part-time or casual basis will be granted leave on a pro rata basis which will be calculated on the standard hours worked and in accordance with the employee's contract. These additional hours are to be taken by 31 January 2026 unless otherwise negotiated in exceptional circumstances.



Discussion - Council noted that the organisation will be closed from 29 December 2025 through 2 January 2026, during which staff traditionally take annual leave. Two options were considered for this period:

- a. Grant staff the full closure period without deduction from annual leave entitlements. This will equate to 4 days paid given New Years is a Public Holiday.
- b. Grant staff one day (7.6 hours) of additional leave.

Council discussed both options and agreed that recognition of staff contributions should be reflected in the chosen arrangement.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION SMC-2025-17

Moved: Councillor King; **Seconded:** Councillor Glass

That Council approve:

- a. The closure of Council Offices and operations from Monday 29 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026 is inclusive, and to grant staff time off during this period without the requirement to use annual or other leave. Operations exempted from this closure period would be services which we are mandated to deliver such as the Waste Management Facility, Visitors Information Centre, Municipal Services and the Rangers. Staff required to work during this period would be granted the equivalent time as "Time in Lieu" to be used as soon as practical after the Christmas closure period.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

6.3 APPOINTMENT JOANNA HOLDEN, MAYOR, MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE REGIONAL CULTURAL PRECINCT LIMITED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION SMC-2025-18

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

1. That Council approve the appointment of Joanna Holden, Mayor as the Katherine Town Council member representative for The Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Ltd Annual General Meeting of the members.
2. That Council authorises Joanna Holden, Mayor to make decisions on behalf of and in the interest of Council as its member representative at the Annual General Meeting of The Katherine Regional Cultural Precinct Ltd Annual General Meeting of the members.

CARRIED 7|0

FOR: Mayor Holden, Councillor Whitehouse, Councillor King, Deputy Mayor Doyle, Councillor Tapp Coutts, Councillor Glass and Councillor Palmer
AGAINST: Nil

7 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Nil



8 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

9 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

Nil

10 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Special Meeting of Council - 17 December 2025 was declared closed at 12:49 pm.

UNCONFIRMED



8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE JANUARY 2026

Report Type: For noting

Attachments: 1. Action Report - 19 January 2026 [**8.1.1** - 3 pages]

Officer Recommendation

1. That Council receive and note the Action update.
2. That Council remove action 23-09-2025 14.1 from the action list.

22-10-2024	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 22 October 2024	14.2	Policies - Live streaming ability to be included in the upgrades to the Civic centre. Policy to be revised following the upgrade.	In Progress
<p>Policy being reviewed to table at the December Ordinary council meeting. Livestreaming capability being investigated.</p> <p>Options for live streaming are progressing. The policy has been tabled to EMIS for Elected Member feedback and comment and will be tabled at the February council meeting for approval.</p>				
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
<p>12 November 2025 - Council officers are reviewing the Head of Terms for the telco lease.</p>				
23-09-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 23 September 2025	14.10	Proposed NBN Telecommunication Lease - 26 Second Street Katherine - That Council will be provided with an updated report once the lease agreement with NBN Co Limited for a designated portion of Lot 73, 28 Second Street, Katherine NT is executed.	In Progress
<p>02 December 2025 - Recommend Council to place this policy on hold and consider in the future.</p>				
23-09-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 23 September 2025	14.13	Legal Representation Costs for Elected Members and Council Employees Policy - That Council lay on the table the Legal Representation Costs for Elected Members and Council Employee Policy to allow Council more time to review.	Awaiting internal response
<p>At the EMIS 16 January 2026, Draft Terms of Reference and Expression of Interest process was reviewed and discussed. The Mayor and A/CEO has requested a meeting with the Hon Minister Scrymgour to discuss.</p>				
9-12-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 9 December 2025	9.2	Establishment of Community Safety Action Group - approved	In progress

9-12-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 9 December 2025	9.3	Service Assessment Proposal – approved and requests the CEO to provide progress updates, prepare SLDA Project and implementation plan to be endorsed by Council, and with a final SLDA Report presented to Council for consideration and adoption.	In progress
Draft Request for Quote is progressing well, procurement will be via local buy.				
9-12-2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council - 9 December 2025	9.4	<p>Council Councillor Goals First 6 to 12 Months –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle to strengthen the relationships between Katherine Town Council, local businesses, industry leaders, tourism operators and community stakeholders through the establishment of a Business and Tourism Working Group. b. Councillor Anjali Palmer to establish a Community Safety Action Group which delivers a structured, collaborative, and preventative approach: not just reacting to crime, but building long-term safety and resilience. c. Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts to enhance safety and environs of Katherine by undertaking a sign audit with recommendations for improvements and the beautification of roundabouts. d. Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse to reduce the impacts of crime on the community and enhance public spaces through establishing a partnership with the Department of Corrections which will enable Council to engage persons with community work orders. 	In Progress

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Councillor Jim King to increase road safety for road trains install a “No Road Trains” allowed on Zimin Drive at Gillard Road to prevent trucks becoming stuck at the low level. Council to investigate having Google maps updated to clearly indicate no road trains are allowed on this road. f. Councillor Kathy Glass reduce illegal dumping and enhance community appearance by changing the existing waste management facility opening hours to enable community members access when required to the facility to dump waste. g. Mayor Joanna Holden to encourage community connect and wellbeing by enabling the community free entry to the Katherine pool throughout December 2025 and January 2026. 	
<p>Free pool entry commenced for school holidays.</p>				



9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

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

Purpose of Report

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

Strategic Plan

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

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

Mayor Joanna Holden	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting
1 December	2025 Chief Minister's End of Year Reception
2 December	NT Police Meeting
2 December	Kintore Street Awards Ceremony
2 December	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
3 December	International Day of People with Disabilities Awards
3 December	Lunch with Nitmiluk Board
4 December	Elected Member Information Session
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Centenary of Katherine - Community Action Group Meeting
10 December	Local Government Act 2019 (Tranche 2) amendments briefing
11 December	School of the Air Awards and End of Year Concert
12 December	Katherine Turf Club - Proposed Infrastructure Improvements
12 December	Tranche 2 Local Government Act Amendments
15 December	LGANT Board Meeting
16 December	GYRACC AGM
16 December	GYRACC and KTC Catch Up for VIC
16 December	End of Year Celebration – Big Rivers Regional Coordination Committee
17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council
17 December	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) Meeting

9.2 COUNCILLOR GOALS FIRST 6 TO 12 MONTHS UPDATE

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

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

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the Councillor First 6 to 12 Months Goals.

Strategic Plan

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

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

Goal	Elected Member	Update
To strengthen the relationships between Katherine Town Council, local businesses, industry leaders, tourism operators and community stakeholders through the establishment of a Business and Tourism Working Group	Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle	In progress, initial discussions held with DTBAR
To establish a Community Safety Action Group which delivers a structured, collaborative, and preventative approach: not just reacting to crime, but building long-term safety and resilience	Councillor Anjali Palmer	Establishment of action group approved by council. TOR and EOI process in draft.
To enhance safety and environs of Katherine by undertaking a sign audit with recommendations for improvements and the beautification of roundabouts	Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts	To commence
To reduce the impacts of crime on the community and enhance public spaces through establishing a partnership with the Department of Corrections which will enable Council to engage persons with community work orders	Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse	Completed.
to increase road safety for road trains install a “No Road Trains” allowed on Zimin Drive at Gillard Road to prevent trucks becoming stuck at the low level. Council to investigate having Google maps updated to clearly indicate no road trains are allowed on this road	Councillor Jim King	To commence
To reduce illegal dumping and enhance community appearance by changing the existing waste management facility opening hours to enable community members access when required to the facility to dump waste	Councillor Kathy Glass	In progress. Operational requirements being investigated.
To encourage community connect and wellbeing by enabling the community free entry to the Katherine pool throughout December 2025 and January 2026	Mayor Joanna Holden	Completed. Funding received from NTG.



10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - NTLRC - Review of S182 LG Act 2019 - 24 Nov 2025 - 244068 [**10.1.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Minister LG - REsponse to request for extension - 28 Nov 2025 [**10.1.2** - 2 pages]
 3. Invitation - Katherine Seniors Citizen Community Christmas Party - 2 Dec 2025 - ID244297 [**10.1.3** - 1 page]
 4. Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment - DCA Appointments - 2 Dec 2025 - ID245234 [**10.1.4** - 1 page]



**NORTHERN TERRITORY
LAW REFORM COMMITTEE**

Old Admiralty Tower
68 The Esplanade, Darwin, NT, 0800

Postal address
GPO Box 1535
Darwin NT 0801

E Lawreformcommittee.DIJ@nt.gov.au

T 08 8935 7657

24 November 2025

Ms Joanna Holden
Katherine Town Council
PO Box 1071
KATHERINE NT 0851

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

Dear Ms Joanna Holden

**CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUTORY IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL LIABILITY PROVISIONS
IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2019**

The Northern Territory Law Reform Committee (the Committee) has accepted the attached Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Attorney-General, the Hon Marie-Claire Boothby MLA, to consider statutory immunity from criminal liability provisions in the *Local Government Act 2019*. The ToR relate to the Coroner's recommendations in the Coronial Findings on 15 November 2024 into the death of Kumanjayi Jirrah in December 2020.

The Committee formed a sub-committee to undertake the inquiry and an attached draft report has been prepared. The Law Reform Committee now invites you to provide any written comment you may have on the contents of the draft report, in particular as to whether there should be an amendment to section 182 of the *Local Government Act* to make clear that the protection from liability is not absolute.

We would be grateful if you could provide your comments within six weeks, and no later than 17 December so as to enable our report to the Attorney General to be submitted by early January. Submissions may be sent electronically to Lawreformcommittee.DIJ@nt.gov.au.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Committee via email or 08 8935 7657.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Fisher".

Amy Fisher
Executive Officer

For
Sue Oliver
President
Northern Territory Law Reform Committee



MINISTER FOR HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 8635

Ms Joanna Holden
Mayor
Katherine Town Council

Email: joanna.holden@ktc.nt.gov

Dear Mayor *Joanna*

I refer to correspondence regarding Katherine Town Council (Council)'s request for additional time to finalise and submit its audited financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2025.

I acknowledge the challenges outlined in your letter, including the departure of key finance staff and the significant increase in landfill rehabilitation costs impacting the finalisation of the financial statement.

The requirement under the *Local Government Act 2019* for a council to submit its annual report (including its audited financial statement) to me and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development by 15 November cannot be altered. The same applies to the requirement under the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021* to submit the audited financial statement to the Northern Territory Grants Commission by the same date.

While I cannot approve an extension to the 15 November deadline, the information regarding the Council's expected late submission is noted. I appreciate that you have alerted me ahead of the deadline.

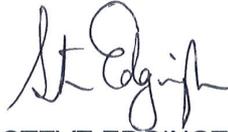
Mr Hugh King, A/Director Sustainability and Compliance, from the Local Government and Community Development Unit will contact the Council's Chief Executive Officer to discuss if any additional support and guidance can be provided regarding this matter.



- 2 -

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to meet the Council's financial reporting obligations.

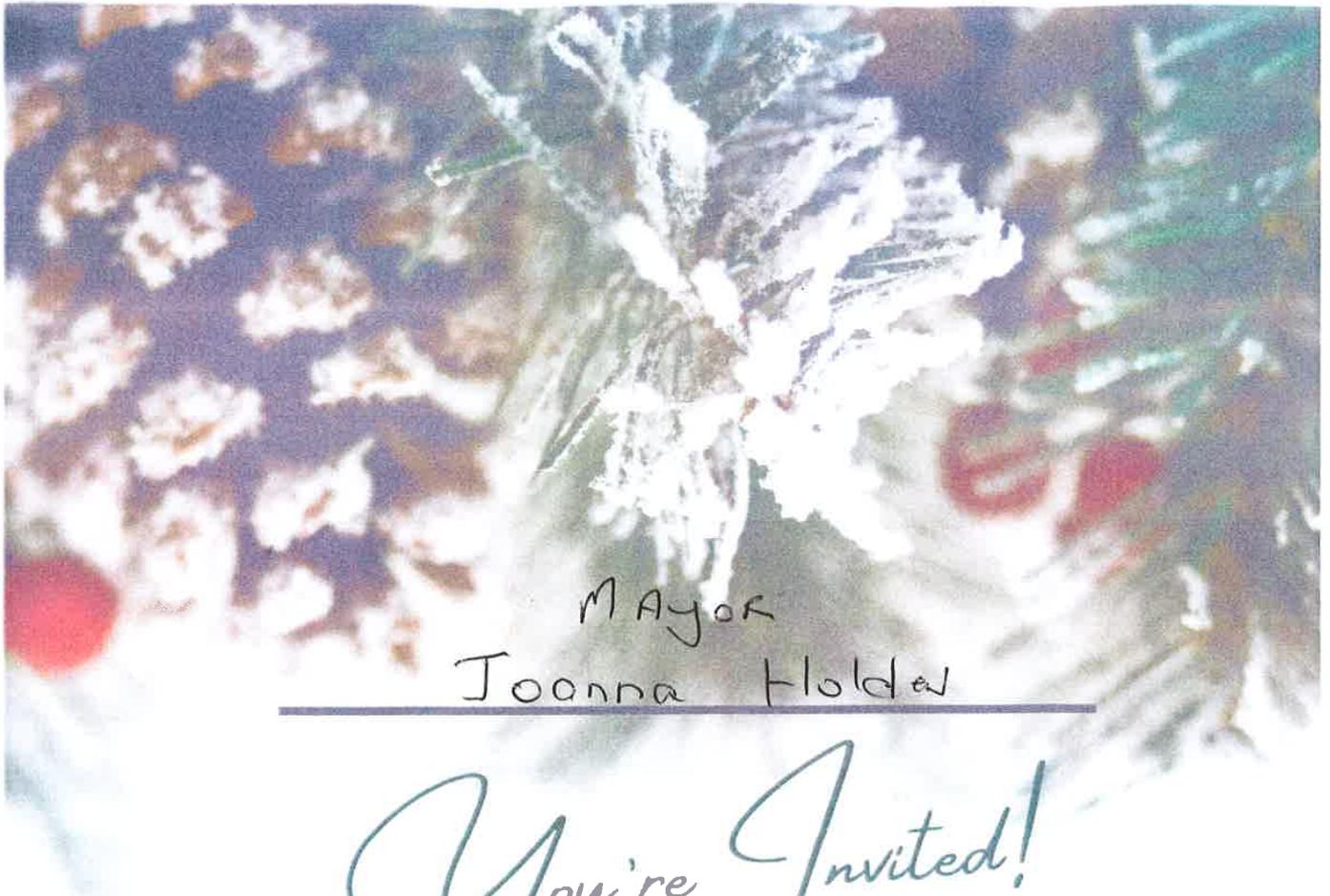
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St Edgington', written in a cursive style.

STEVE EDGINGTON

28 NOV 2025

CC: casey.anderson@krc.nt.gov



MAYOR
Joanna Holdew

You're Invited!

**Katherine Senior
Citizens
Community
Christmas Party**

Wednesday 17th December

11 am at Katherine Country Club

RSVP
12th December

Contact Gillian
0488269632



MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

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

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8999 8624

Her Worship the Mayor
Mrs Joanna Holden
Katherine Town Council

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

Dear Mayor

I am pleased to advise that I have appointed Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse and Councillor Jim King as community members to the Katherine Division of the Development Consent Authority. Furthermore, Mr Clayton Holland has been appointed as the alternate community member, in accordance with Katherine Town Council's nominations.

The term of their appointments will be for a two-year period from 4 December 2025 to 3 December 2027.

Prior to appointees commencing their term of appointment, they are required to provide a satisfactory National Police Check and attend a course of training.

The Department will contact the successful nominees to make the necessary arrangements.

Please note that it is the responsibility of Council to inform all successful and unsuccessful nominees of this decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Burgoyne', written over the typed name.

JOSHUA BURGOYNE

2-12-2025





10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - Minister for Local Government - Request for Funding - Katherine Aquatic Centre - 17 Nov 2025 [**10.2.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Hon Steven Edgington - Service Level Delivery Assessment - 12 Dec 2025 - I D 245383 [**10.2.2** - 2 pages]
 3. Email - Hon Steven Edgington - Service Level Delivery Assessment - 12 Dec 2025 - I D 245390 [**10.2.3** - 2 pages]
 4. Email - Minister Edgington - Submission of Annual Report Delay - 12 Dec 2025 - I D 245392 [**10.2.4** - 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

17 November 2025

The Hon. Steven Edgington
Minister for Local Government
Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
Email: Minister.Edgington@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister,

SUBJECT: KATHERINE AQUATIC CENTRE – SEEKING FUNDING – SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Since March 2024, the Katherine Aquatic Centre has been closed to the Katherine community while Katherine Town Council undertook important revitalisation of this aged infrastructure.

I am pleased to inform you that the Katherine Aquatic Centre should be reopened to the public by the end of November 2025. Once a date has been set it will be our pleasure to invite you to be a part of this important occasion.

Looking ahead to the upcoming school holidays, and acknowledging the existing public commitment to provide free pool access in Alice Springs, I am seeking your support to extend the same opportunity to the Katherine community by enabling free entry to the Katherine Aquatic Centre for children, young people, and their families during school holiday periods

Having the Katherine Aquatic Centre free for the public is a way of ensuring there are fun activities for families and will be a critical program to reduce youth crime and antisocial behaviour in Katherine.

Katherine Town Council is committed to supporting the NT Government's Plan to Reduce Crime, noting it is the first step in also restoring our unique lifestyle and rebuilding the economy which keeps towns such as Katherine alive, vibrant and safe.

It is our hope to secure funding for the Katherine Aquatic Centre to support activities during the upcoming wet season, on an ongoing basis for school holiday periods and which supports family engagement. We are seeking to replicate the successful approach taken in Alice Springs.

To discuss this further, I request that a senior officer from your Department contact Ms Casey Anderson, Acting CEO of Katherine Town Council, on 08 8972 5500 or at email: casey.anderson@ktc.nt.gov.au .

Yours Sincerely



Joanna Holden
MAYOR OF KATHERINE



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

11 December 2025

The Hon. Steven Edgington
Minister for Local Government
Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
Email: Minister.Edgington@nt.gov.au

Dear Minister,

SUBJECT: SERVICE LEVEL AND DELIVERY ASSESSMENT

Firstly, I would like to thank you for the informative and supportive approach your Department has taken in supporting me as a new Mayor, and our elected members. The information shared regarding the recent compliance review issues with Katherine Town Council (Council) provided an invaluable insight into recent concerns and highlighted areas for improvement, consolidation and potential risk.

I feel now is an important time for Council review its service deliver footprint to make sure primary services are being provided and meeting community expectations. These primary services include our waste management, community services, management of public spaces and contributing to building a vibrant, resilient and thriving Katherine.

I am seeking the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development's support for Council to undertake a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) review with an external consultant. This review will be informed by direct feedback from businesses, residents, Council personnel and stakeholders. It will ensure:

- Council implements recommendations from recent compliance investigations, together with risk mitigation strategies; and
- Council's delivery of services aligns to public expectation, and is strong in the delivery of routine services; and
- Council's organisational structure allows for developing local Katherine talent, ensuring consistency with successful councils; and
- A review of the service delivery scope and structure, ensuring this supports the successful delivery of Council services and projects; and
- A review of the Executive Leadership structure focusing on the delivery of strategic outcomes; and
- Manage risks to the future sustainability and operations of the Council; and
- Capture feedback from the small business community to ensure the Council facilitates opportunities to rebuild the main street economy.

It is also timely for Council to undertake a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) to inform the upcoming review of our strategic plan, future municipal services plan, and to ensure our organisational structure delivers for Katherine long into the future. I anticipate a consequence of this SLDA might be a return to the delivery of core Council services, while identifying areas for efficiency in our current operations.

This is an opportunity for the Northern Territory Government to be a partner in success with the Katherine Town Council. Funding support from the Northern Territory Government will enable Council to engage an external consultant. Co-funding will be provided by Council.

Council will develop a consultation approach which allows our commercial and residential community to have a genuine involvement in helping to build a stronger Katherine Town Council and Katherine.

I look forward to discussing with you how, in partnership, we can progress the SLDA for the benefit of our vibrant, resilient and thriving Katherine community.

To discuss this further, please contact me directly on 0439 501 348 or at Joanna.Holden@ktc.nt.gov.au.

Yours Sincerely



Joanna Holden
MAYOR OF KATHERINE

From: Joanna Holden

Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 3:20 PM

To: minister.edgington@nt.gov.au

Cc: tom.leeming@nt.gov.au; Hugh King <hugh.king@nt.gov.au>; beck.stavrou@nt.gov.au; Casey Anderson <casey.anderson@ktc.nt.gov.au>; Thomas Archbold-Manning <thomas.archbold-manning@nt.gov.au>; Jo Hersey <jo.hersey@nt.gov.au>; bridgitte.atkinson@nt.gov.au

Subject: Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) - Katherine Town Council

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your time yesterday afternoon to discuss supporting the Katherine Town Council's decision to undertake a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA). Please find attached a letter with further information.

The purpose of the SLDA will be to assess how Council delivers its services, manages its assets, allocates its resources, and structures its workforce. It will identify opportunities to improve performance, streamline operations, and ensure services align with community priorities and long-term financial capacity.

Katherine Town Council's goal is to reevaluate and reform our services to provide a robust municipal model and strengthen efficiencies.

We are seeking:

- support and guidance with identifying suitably qualified persons or organisations to undertake the SLDA,
- feedback on the proposed scope of work, and
- approximately \$60,000 in funding to support the costs, however we feel the estimated cost of \$60,000 contained in the report would not be sufficient.

Enclosed is the report presented to Council of Tuesday 9th December 2025, it provides further detail on the scope and intention of the SLDA.

The resolution contained in the council report was amended to the below:

That Council:

- 1. Approves the delivery of a Service Level and Delivery Assessment (SLDA) in accordance with Council's responsibilities for effective and efficient service delivery under the Local Government Act 2019 (NT).*
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer, to develop the scope of works which includes the relationship with the SLDA to the Municipal and Strategic plan. The consultation process with community and agencies, a term of reference, for the consultant qualifications criteria and include in the scope of works the background work of the previous Council.*
- 3. Authorises Chief Executive Officer to seek matched funding to support the Councils costs with the delivery of the SLDA subject to quotes.*
- 4. Authorises Chief Executive Officer to prepare SLDA Project and implementation plan to be endorsed by Council, and*
- 5. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to provide progress updates, with a final SLDA Report presented to Council for consideration and adoption.*

Thank you for your time and consideration and we are looking forward to your support of this Council initiative which will deliver sustainability and improved council service delivery.

Kind Regards,

Joanna Holden



Joanna HOLDEN

Mayor

Katherine Town Council, 29 Crawford Street, Katherine NT 0850

P (08) 8972 5500 | F (08) 8971 0305 | **Mobile** 0439 501 348

E Joanna.Holden@ktc.nt.gov.au | **W** www.katherine.nt.gov.au

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From: Joanna Holden

Sent: Friday, 12 December 2025 3:17 PM

To: 'minister.edgington@nt.gov.au' <minister.edgington@nt.gov.au>

Cc: 'tom.leeming@nt.gov.au' <tom.leeming@nt.gov.au>; Hugh King <hugh.king@nt.gov.au>; 'beck.stavrou@nt.gov.au' <beck.stavrou@nt.gov.au>; Casey Anderson <casey.anderson@ktc.nt.gov.au>

Subject: Minister Edgington - Katherine Town Council - Delay of Submission of Annual Report

Dear Minister

We are emailing you to inform you that we are unable to submit our Annual Report and Financial Statement by COB today, as advised in our letter dated 30 October 2025.

This has occurred due to delays by Council's auditors.

Every effort is being made by Council to finalise these statements as matter of urgency.

We will keep you update as this matter progresses.

Thank you for your ongoing support for Council.

Kind Regards,

Joanna



Joanna HOLDEN

Mayor

Katherine Town Council, 29 Crawford Street, Katherine NT 0850

P (08) 8972 5500 | F (08) 8971 0305 | **Mobile** 0439 501 348

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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 CALL FOR MOTIONS: 2026 ALGA NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Author: Martene Johnson, Executive Assistant
Authoriser: Amanda Haigh (Manager Governance and Risk),
Casey Anderson (Manager Corporate Administration)
Report Type: For decision
Attachments: 1. 2026 National General Assembly Discussion Paper [14.1.1 - 24 pages]

Officer Recommendation

1. That Council consider motions to submit to the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in Canberra from 23 to 25 June 2026.
2. That Council approve the elected members and CEO to attend the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) in Canberra from 23 to 25 June 2026.

Purpose of Report

For council to consider proposing motions to submit to the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government and approve attendees to the conference.

Strategic Plan

Not Applicable

Municipal Plan

Not applicable

Background

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

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

The theme for this years National General Assembly is *“Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.”*

Discussion

This year’s call for motions focuses on the following:

1. Financial Sustainability
2. Emergency Management
3. Housing and Planning
4. Roads and Infrastructure
5. Closing the Gap
6. Jobs and Skills
7. Environment
8. Cyber Security
9. Climate Change and

10. Intergovernmental Relations

Motions should be received no later than 11:59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.

ALGA expect any council that submits a motion to be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion. The decision on the speaker is at the discretion of the council.

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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

**Stronger Together:
Resilient. Productive. United**

**2026
National
General
Assembly
Discussion Paper**

National Convention Centre Canberra



ALGA
Australian Local
Government Association

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra in June 2026.

As convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board warmly invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event. The final date for the NGA will be confirmed once the 2026 Federal Government Parliamentary sitting calendar is released.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments. It gives councils a chance to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and strengthen the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2026 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

KEY DATES

27 October 2025 | Opening of Call for Motions

27 February 2026 | Acceptance of Motions closes

TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: [ALGA.COM.AU](https://alga.com.au)

ALGA AND THE NGA – WORKING FOR YOU

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

Since 1994, the NGA has raised the profile of local government on the national stage, showcasing the value of councils and demonstrating – particularly to the Australian Government – the strength and value of working with local government to deliver on national priorities.

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

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

Given ALGA's structure, Constitution, and resources, the NGA resolutions do not bind ALGA. However, NGA resolutions are carefully considered by the Board to determine ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

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

We encourage councils to consider the topics and guidance in this paper as you develop your motions.

The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA 2026 and those who submit motions for debate.

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) gives you and your council an important opportunity to influence the national policy agenda.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper to help you identify motions that address the NGA 2026 theme of “Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.” This theme encourages debate on how councils across Australia can become more resilient, contribute to the nation’s productivity agenda, and present a united voice to the federal government on key issues in the national sphere.

We encourage you to read all the sections of the paper. We have included guiding questions to assist in developing your motion, but you do not have to respond to every question. You can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper with your motion.

Your NGA motion should focus on how local governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face or seize the opportunities that are national priorities.

Each year the Secretariat receives a high volume of motions. Councils are encouraged to submit only their highest-priority motions and ensure it meets the criteria below. Multiple motions on a similar topic may be re-written into a single strategic motion, and councils will be invited by the Secretariat to put their council name to the proposal.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Each motion requires a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.
- You can lodge motions electronically using the online portal available at www.alga.asn.au
- **Motions should be received no later than 11:59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.**

WHO CAN SUBMIT A MOTION

- Any council that is a financial member of their state or territory local government association can submit a motion.
- We will not accept motions submitted on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

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

- > Submit a new motion that has not been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website.
- > Ensure your motion is relevant to the work of local government across the nation, not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.
- > Align your motion with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
- > Propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.
- > Ensure the motion does not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.
- > Avoid being prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

WRITING TIPS

Motions should seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

- > Start with: "This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...".

Be concise, clearly worded, and unambiguous.

- > Use the background section of the form to help delegates understand your issue.
- > Keep your motion to 100 words, the national objective to 100 words, and the key arguments to 150 words.

PROCESS OF SELECTION

The ALGA Secretariat will review motions for quality control and consistency with the criteria.

- > With the agreement of the relevant council, we may edit motions to ensure consistency.
- > If we have any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, we will raise these with the nominated contact officer.
- > Where there are multiple motions on a similar issue, the Secretariat may combine them into a single overarching strategic motion and invite the council to attach their name to the strategic motion.
- > Motions that reflect existing ALGA policy will be noted in the Business papers—but will not be included for debate, as they have already been covered in existing ALGA advocacy and policy positions.

The ALGA Board provides final decision on which motions are included in the Business paper.

- > The ALGA Board and state and territory local government associations will review all submitted motions to determine their eligibility.
- > The ALGA Board will consider the importance and relevance of the issue to local government and whether the motions meet all the criteria.
- > The ALGA Board will refer any motion primarily concerned with local or state issues to the relevant state or territory local government association and it will not include it in the NGA Business Papers.

WHO WILL SPEAK TO THE MOTION AT NGA?

We expect any council that submits a motion to be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion. The decision on the speaker is at the discretion of the council.

AFTER THE NGA

The resolutions of the NGA will be referred to the relevant federal Minister as an outcome of the NGA. Resolutions passed at the NGA do not become binding policy on ALGA, with policy positions to remain at the discretion of the ALGA Board.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.alga.com.au.

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

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- > It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Do not assume NGA delegates will know the background of the proposal. This section helps all delegates to understand your motion and informs decision making. Please note, motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- > Keep motions practical, focussed and can be implemented. This ensures that relevant Australian Government Ministers can respond thoughtfully and promptly. Avoid complex motions with multiple points that require cross-portfolio implementation.
- > If there are any questions about a motion, ALGA will contact the nominated officer. With the council's agreement, these motions may be edited before being included in the NGA Business Papers.
- > Debate will follow the rules published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

SETTING THE SCENE

In the face of evolving challenges and opportunities, local governments around Australia stand at the forefront of driving resilience and productivity. Local governments know we are stronger together and the importance of unity across all levels of government. The theme for this year's NGA, **Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United**, underscores the pivotal role councils play in shaping the nation's future and delivering national priorities.

As the backbone of local communities, councils are uniquely positioned to implement place-based solutions that address both local needs and national priorities. This year's NGA encourages debate on how councils can enhance their resilience, contribute meaningfully to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a cohesive voice to the federal government on critical issues.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, local governments can lead the way in creating sustainable and thriving communities.

The 2026 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the national level.

In this context, this year's call for motion focusses on ten priority areas:

- Financial sustainability
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Roads and infrastructure
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Environment
- Cyber security
- Climate change
- Intergovernmental relations.

1. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial sustainability is the biggest challenge facing Australia's local governments which is why it remains one of ALGA's top priorities. Sustainably funded, councils can play a key role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

The 2025 Parliamentary inquiry interim report into local government sustainability confirmed that the role of councils has evolved and expanded over time, putting significant pressure on local government budgets. It is critical the Federal Government reinstates and finalises the Parliamentary inquiry into local government sustainability.

For almost one in four councils, federal Financial Assistance Grants make up at least 20 per cent of their annual operating revenue. This funding is untied, meaning it can be used to address local priorities.

Over the past 30 years, the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue has dropped from 1% in 1996 to just 0.5% today. To address this, ALGA is advocating for a **return to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue for local government over the next three years.**

ALGA also proposes five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis, including:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply,
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure,
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads,
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate adaptation.

Additionally ALGA advocates for permanent, full membership of National Cabinet, the Council on Federal Financial Relations and the Local Government Ministers' Forum to ensure local perspectives are considered in national decision making.

What are the opportunities to address financial sustainability across councils, and support their capacity to deliver local solutions to national priorities?

Are there improvements to be made to existing federal funding programs and arrangements that would support improved local government financial sustainability?

2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The frequency, duration, and severity of natural disasters in Australia are a major concern for local governments.

Between 2019 and 2023, 434 of Australia's 537 councils faced natural disasters. Since 2020, 346 councils have dealt with at least two or more natural disasters. These numbers highlight that Australia will likely face more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters in the future, as noted by the 2025 Australian National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). Regional communities, which have the least capacity to plan and respond to natural disasters, are often hit the hardest. However, the NCRA also warns that even areas that have never experienced disasters will face one at some point as the climate continues to warm.

More frequent disasters will further strain emergency services and disaster response and recovery efforts at all levels of government. Natural disasters currently cost Australia \$38 billion per year in direct physical damage, economic disruption, and social impacts, affecting millions of people. This figure is forecast to rise to approximately \$73 billion by 2060.

Councils are crucial in supporting their communities during and after disasters, but do not have enough funding to carry out these functions. They are already stretched thin, with many councils facing financial instability, and the increasing frequency of disasters has a cumulative financial impact.

Investing more in disaster prevention and resilience, as well as boosting local government emergency management response funding, will save money in the long run and better protect lives, homes, and businesses. Every dollar spent on reducing the impact of climate-related disasters saves the government up to \$8 in the long term.

ALGA is asking for \$900 million per year to help councils improve their disaster response and resilience. They also want the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and other major reviews, including the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review) and the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review)

The Independent Reviews by Colvin and Glasser support a strategic shift towards disaster risk reduction and resilience. The Colvin Review recommended a major capacity uplift for local government and an enhanced national training and exercise regime which tests and builds local government capability. However, while ALGA notes the need to invest in risk-reduction and resilience-building initiatives, embedding recovery at all points along the emergency management continuum, should always be at the front of mind for all levels of government. ALGA's response to these Reviews reiterated the need for a sustainable funding model for disasters through a non-competitive pathway, and dedicated funding for local government.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to better support them in preparing, responding to, and recovering from, natural disasters.

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

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

How can the Government best support Australian councils to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters?



3. HOUSING AND PLANNING

Australia is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, with a lack of housing supply impacting on homeowners and renters.

The crisis is leading to more people experiencing homelessness and struggling with housing insecurity and affordability.

In many jurisdictions, local government performs a key role in zoning and approving housing and delivering enabling infrastructure. However, councils are often unfairly blamed for delays in housing approvals when most applications that meet the requirements are processed quickly and efficiently.

One of the biggest barriers to building more homes is a lack of funding for enabling infrastructure, including the roads, power and water connections necessary for new developments.

The National Housing Accord – which ALGA is a signatory to on behalf of local government - sets an ambitious national target of 1.2 million new, well-located homes over the next five years. According to ALGA's research, it will cost at least \$5.7 billion to build the infrastructure needed to meet the national housing target. This is in addition to the existing funding gaps for local government infrastructure, which is estimated to be between \$50-\$55 billion for replacing infrastructure in poor condition (2024 National State of the Assets Report).

The 2024 Addressing the Housing Crisis: Unlocking Local Government's Contribution Report by Equity Economics found that 40% of surveyed local governments have reduced new infrastructure developments due to insufficient funding for enabling infrastructure required to support new housing, further exacerbating the housing crisis.

ALGA is calling for a new five-year, \$1.1 billion annual fund that would be provided to all councils to get the foundations right for increasing Australia's housing supply.

We are advocating for local governments to be provided with \$500 million per year for critical and community infrastructure and assets that will help create more liveable communities.

ALGA is also seeking a seat at the table for national discussions on housing policy, including full membership of National Cabinet and the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

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

How can local governments be better supported in their role in planning and approving housing, and delivering enabling infrastructure?

4. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments are responsible for about one-third of Australia's public infrastructure, including local roads, buildings, facilities, airports, water and land.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, Australia's councils manage over \$600 billion worth of assets and infrastructure, which is about ten times their annual revenue.

This makes local governments the most asset-intensive level of government. Councils manage local roads, which make up around 75% of the national road network, totalling more than 650,000 km. These roads serve every Australian and business daily, and are key to Australia's productivity.

Safer roads

The unacceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads has continued to rise every year since 2020.

Tragically, around half of all fatal road crashes occur on local roads in regional areas. During the 12 months ending August 2025 there were 1,353 road deaths, 4.3% higher than the same time in the previous year, according to national road safety data.

Effectively funding the maintenance and necessary safety upgrades of Australia's local road network is a big challenge, and despite recent increases in the federal Roads to Recovery funding, there is still a \$500 million per year shortfall, according to the 2023 Grattan Institute's Potholes and Pitfalls report.

ALGA is calling for \$600 million per year safer roads fund – with \$500 million for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for road safety programs – to support all councils to play a more effective role reducing deaths on Australian roads.

Community infrastructure

Local government libraries, playgrounds, bike paths and community centres are vital to the wellbeing and liveability of communities. However, many of these facilities need significant attention and upgrades.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, around \$8.3 billion of local government buildings and facilities and \$2.9 billion of parks and recreation assets are in poor condition.

On a positive note, since 2021, the amount of local government buildings and facilities in poor condition has fallen from 10 per cent to eight per cent. This is the result of increased federal investment through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, from both the Coalition and Labor governments since 2020.

Unfortunately, this program has ceased and there is an urgent need for ongoing and significant community infrastructure. ALGA is proposing a \$500 million per year community infrastructure fund – to be provided to all councils – to build, (and importantly), maintain and upgrade the local facilities that make communities great.

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

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

Are there opportunities for the Australian Government to support councils to invest in local infrastructure that will help address national priorities?

5. CLOSING THE GAP

Local governments play a crucial role in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. ALGA is a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, which focuses on four priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas like education, employment, health, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to support partnerships that address long-term service gaps and ensure their delivery. However, the Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap found that Federal and state governments are not adequately supporting or involving local governments in these reforms.

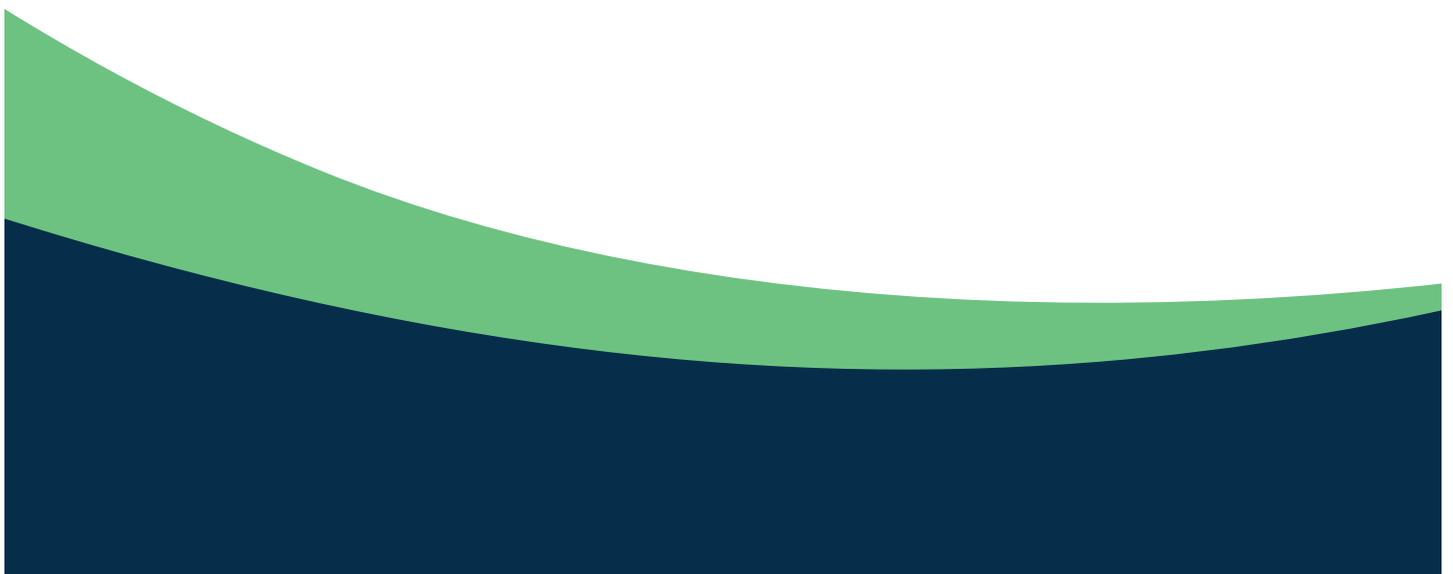
ALGA is calling for more resourcing and funding for local government, to support place-based initiatives or broader programs to enable councils to better facilitate and meet Closing the Gap objectives in their communities.

ALGA is also advocating for the Commonwealth to:

- Establish a national framework/set of protocols outlining which Federal Government departments/agencies should engage with local government in place-based initiatives, and planning for community-level projects or expenditure.
- Seek greater local government input in programs that impact on Closing the Gap targets to better shape programs with local knowledge and the needs of specific communities.
- Develop programs, with state and territory governments, to include funded support positions for local government coordination and partnership efforts (including member associations).
- Recognise councils with majority or all Aboriginal-elected members as key service delivery bodies in policy and program development.

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

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



6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Australia's jobs and skills crisis is significantly impacting local governments, which employ around 213,000 people nationwide. ALGA's 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey found that nine out of ten Australian councils face jobs and skills shortages, hindering project and service delivery.

Town planners, building surveyors, and engineers are the most in-demand professions. These roles are crucial for supporting and enabling communities to become more resilient and to help boost local economic growth and national productivity. National priorities, such as increasing housing supply, cannot be achieved without local government support and the right professionals to undertake this work.

Several factors drive these skill shortages, including difficulty attracting young people to local government jobs, lack of available training courses, wage competition, and insufficient resources to upskill the current workforce. This includes access to training facilities for rural and remote councils, workplace supervisors, subject matter experts, and contextualized training resources.

Councils urgently need more federal funding to invest in workforce development and training programs, attract workers to regional areas, and address broader skills shortages in the national economy. ALGA is calling for the Federal Government's National Skills Plan to acknowledge the vital role of local governments as employers in training and skills development. ALGA also seeks funding opportunities for council employees to access training for identified skills shortage areas, especially in regional and remote communities.

Additionally, it is important for the Commonwealth to undertake a national audit of institutions offering urban and land use planning, building surveyors, and engineering qualifications, and to identify more readily available pathways for regional and remote study.

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

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

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

7. ENVIRONMENT

Local governments play a crucial role in protecting our local environment including places, flora and fauna.

Councils spend more money on environmental protection than any other level of government. According to SGS Economics and Planning, councils spent \$6.75 billion in 2021-22 on biodiversity, biosecurity, water management, and waste management. By comparison, states and territories spent \$6.62 billion, and the Commonwealth allocated \$6.7 billion over the same period.

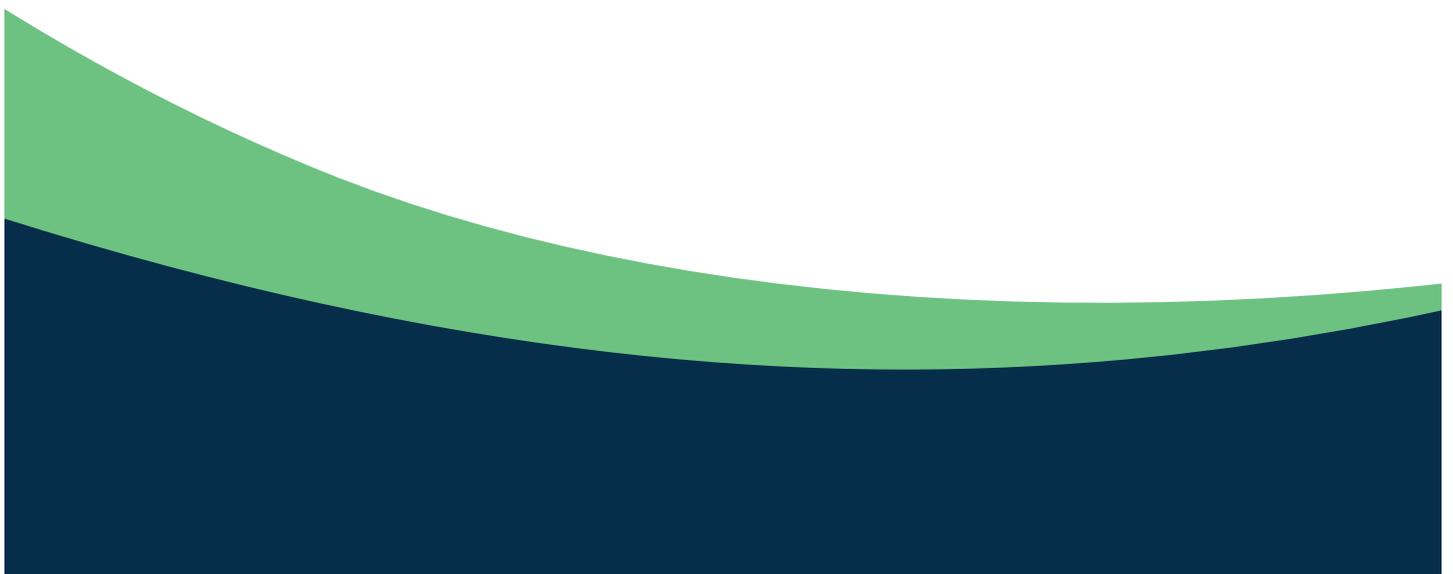
Local government is also key in improving waste management and resource recovery to reduce pollution, maintain communities and keep people healthy. However, as the Australian Government recently reported, we are running out of viable landfill space and circular economy solutions are required.

Local governments are ideal partners for on-the-ground action to deliver environmental priorities and outcomes, but they need better funding and support.

Councils bring a local, community-based and integrated approach to managing environmental issues, including weed and pest management, monitoring and protecting threatened species, contributing to water security and enhancing biodiversity.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Fund councils to support the delivery of national environmental outcomes. This includes outcomes stipulated in international conventions, threatened species action plans, matters of national, state, and local environmental significance, and any new obligations/expectations under reforms to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
- Fund local governments to manage environmental threats, including pests, weeds, and biosecurity threats.
- Ensure local government is appropriately recognised and engaged through environmental law reform processes.
- Seek agreement, under the National Water Initiative, on the overarching social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes and goals for water on a national and holistic basis, and action planning and funding and achieve these outcomes and goals.



Waste management and resource recovery

Collecting, treating, and disposing of waste costs local governments an estimated \$3.5 billion annually.

The 2022 National Waste report revealed waste generation has increased 20 per cent over the last 15 years (8.3 per cent coming from municipal waste). Although, recycling and recovery of Australia's core waste has increased by 57 per cent since 2006-07, Australia still has one of the lowest rates of recycling among OCED countries.

The responsibility and cost for waste reduction in Australia should be borne by industry, and not local governments.

Implementing mandatory product stewardship, including payments to local governments for any residual resource recovery services, would ensure producer responsibility is operationalised and reduce the cost and risk burden on councils.

ALGA is advocating for the Federal Government to:

- Establish a mandatory product stewardship approach for waste materials and ensure product stewardship schemes include, and are effective, in regional and remote areas.
- Ban the importation and manufacturing of products containing identified contaminants.
- Prioritise national policy attention to waste streams with the highest potential to improve environmental outcomes, reduce costs to local government, and create economic opportunity.
- Introduce a 'local government impact assessment' into national waste policy and reform processes to ensure council interests are systematically incorporated into policy design.

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

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

What actions and investments should the Australian Government prioritise to improve resource recovery rates?

What initiatives and approaches should the Australian Government take to improve waste, recycling and resource recovery in regional, rural and remote LGAs?

What are the most significant opportunities in the circular economy and how can the Australian Government engage with local governments to leverage these opportunities?

8. CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security is a growing risk for all Australian governments and businesses, and councils are not immune. However many local governments are under-resourced and struggle to deal with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and attacks.

Local governments manage large amounts of sensitive data about communities and community members, including private information from the aged care, health, and social services they deliver. Furthermore, most councils are responsible for managing critical infrastructure, including water, waste, power networks, and transport systems.

Councils need greater support to strengthen their cyber security preparedness and response capability, and protect valuable data.

ALGA is calling for greater funding and support from the federal government to improve cyber security capability and capacity across the local government sector.

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

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

9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change – including from more frequent and severe natural disasters, coastal erosion and rising temperatures – are being felt right across every community.

Councils, being the closest government to communities, are crucial in creating a sustainable future and helping the Federal Government achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, they need support to manage these impacts.

Climate adaptation

Local governments are on the frontline of climate adaptation. They build public swimming pools to keep people cool, plant trees for shade, and upgrade stormwater systems to handle heavy rains. With their local knowledge and leadership, they play a vital role in addressing climate risks and seizing new opportunities from new industries and achieving national climate adaptation objectives.

Councils are already investing significantly in climate adaptation, but they need more support to match the scale of the challenges. ALGA's modelling shows that councils deliver \$0.8 to \$3.1 in benefits for every \$1 invested. A \$2 billion investment by 2030 could benefit local communities by \$2.2 to \$4.7 billion.

ALGA is calling for a new \$400 million per year climate adaptation fund, to be distributed across all councils to provide local, place-based solutions to Australia's changing climate.

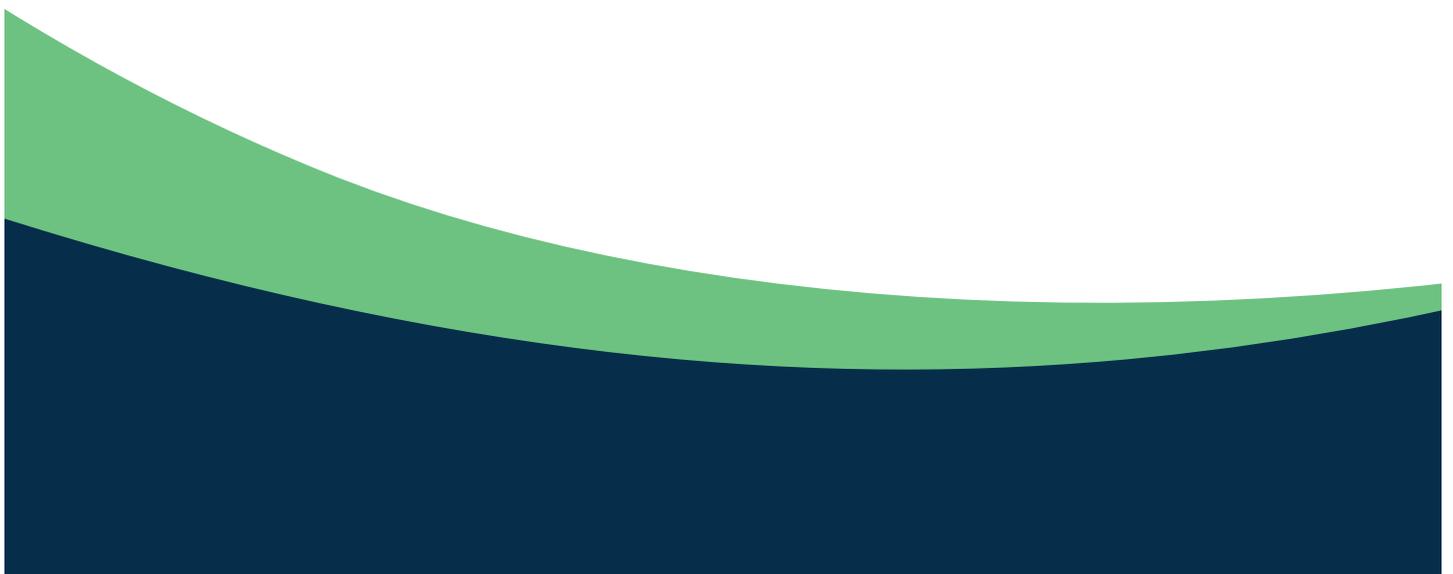
We are also asking the Federal Government to:

- Streamline and make it easier for local governments to undertake climate risk management. This should involve implementing a voluntary climate risk framework for local government which supports consistent climate risk assessment, reporting, decision making and expenditure.
- Develop, operate and maintain an information and data suite designed specifically for local government adaptation use (on an opt-in basis).

Emissions reduction

The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2024 found that 86% of councils (out of 120 respondents) had an emissions inventory. However, they face barriers in reducing corporate emissions, such as internal resourcing (69%), funding (64%), and staff capability (40%).

While councils are committed to reducing emissions locally, they need more funding to avoid burdening ratepayers and to allow communities to benefit from low-emissions technologies sooner.



ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Collaborate with local governments as part of a multi-level governance approach (per the Australian Government's pledge to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) to undertake strategic planning and prioritisation of net zero projects, infrastructure and service needs on a regional level.
- Fund emissions reduction plans with local governments across states and territories to facilitate a place-based approach to achieving net zero communities.
- Expand, and make more accessible, existing funding programs which enable local governments to reduce emissions and support community emissions reduction.
- Provide councils with accessible and nationally harmonised tools to maintain pace with trends in emissions measurement and reporting.
- Ensure local governments are compensated where emissions reduction processes place additional pressure on services and infrastructure (e.g. heavier EV truck impact on maintenance/standards of roads/bridges).

Renewable energy transition

Local governments are crucial partners in the transition to net zero. They engage with project proponents, negotiate community benefits, provide trusted information to residents, and manage the impacts of large projects on roads, housing, and local skills.

Councils strive to create a positive long-term legacy while balancing the immediate risks and impacts of the transition.

ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Create a program of work dedicated to understanding local government experiences with renewable energy transition in their local area and region and develop specific supports for local governments.
- Establish a national approach and mechanism for cost recovery to local governments for the role of brokering benefits between project proponents and their communities, benefitting all Australians.
- Develop and maintain regional plans and a national map demonstrating zoning for prospective and proposed renewable energy projects and transmission corridors.

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

What are the opportunities to support councils to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change?

What support do councils need to ensure that renewable energy projects deliver lasting benefits to the communities that house them?

What are the most significant climate risks being faced by local governments and what approach should the Australian Government take to supporting councils?

What roles and responsibilities for emissions reduction and climate risk management is your council shouldering that should be primarily managed by other levels of government? How should this responsibility be shared or rebalanced?

What are the most significant emissions reduction opportunities for your council and what could the Commonwealth provide to enable you to implement these opportunities?

10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ALGA has unique access and insight into government decision-making in Australia.

We represent local government at Ministerial Councils and forums on a range of key issues including transport, emergency management, energy, climate, environment, planning, culture and Closing the Gap.

At these meetings, ALGA's leaders provide a powerful and strong voice for councils and communities, and ensure local perspectives are considered in national policy development.

However, ALGA does not have a permanent voice on National Cabinet – the main forum linking all governments across the nation.

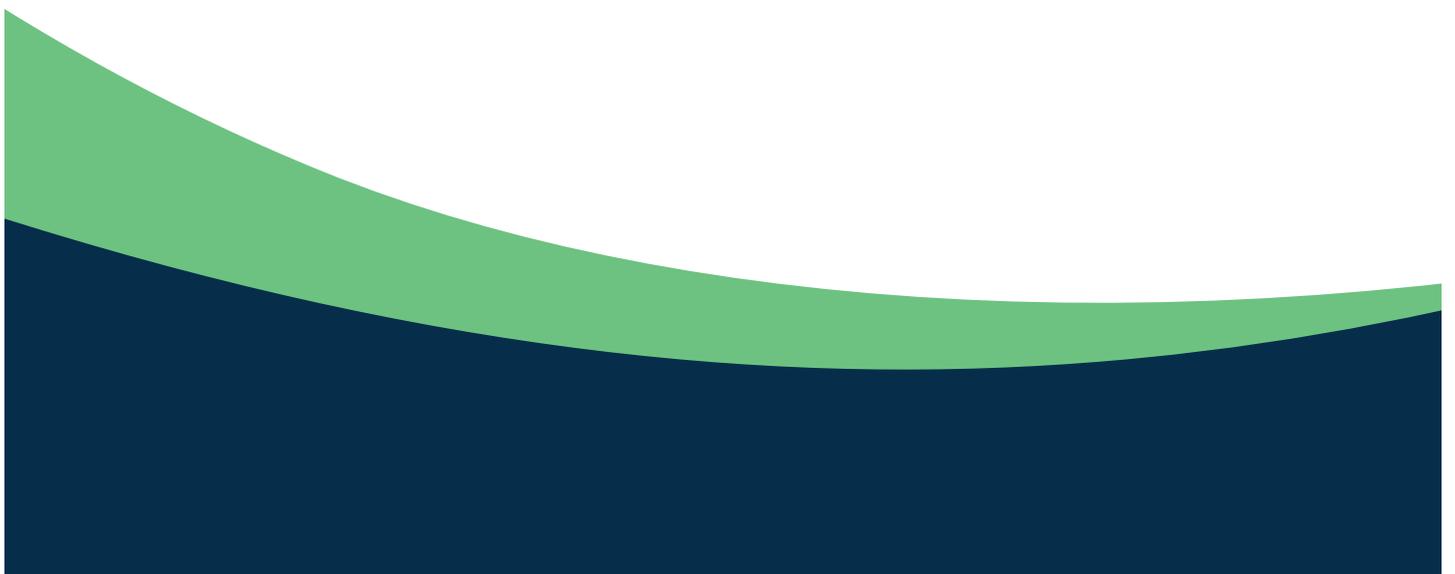
For almost 30 years, ALGA was a valued member and contributor to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). However, ALGA's membership did not carry over when COAG transitioned to National Cabinet in 2020, and ALGA now only attends one meeting each year as an observer. ALGA is also invited to attend one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to return ALGA as a full member of National Cabinet with ongoing membership and voting rights. This will enable local government leaders to provide local perspectives on national decision making and ensure the views of Australian communities are understood and considered.

We are also seeking full membership of the Local Government Ministers' Forum, which ALGA currently attends in an ex-officio capacity.

Given the important role councils play delivering local solutions to national priorities, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?

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



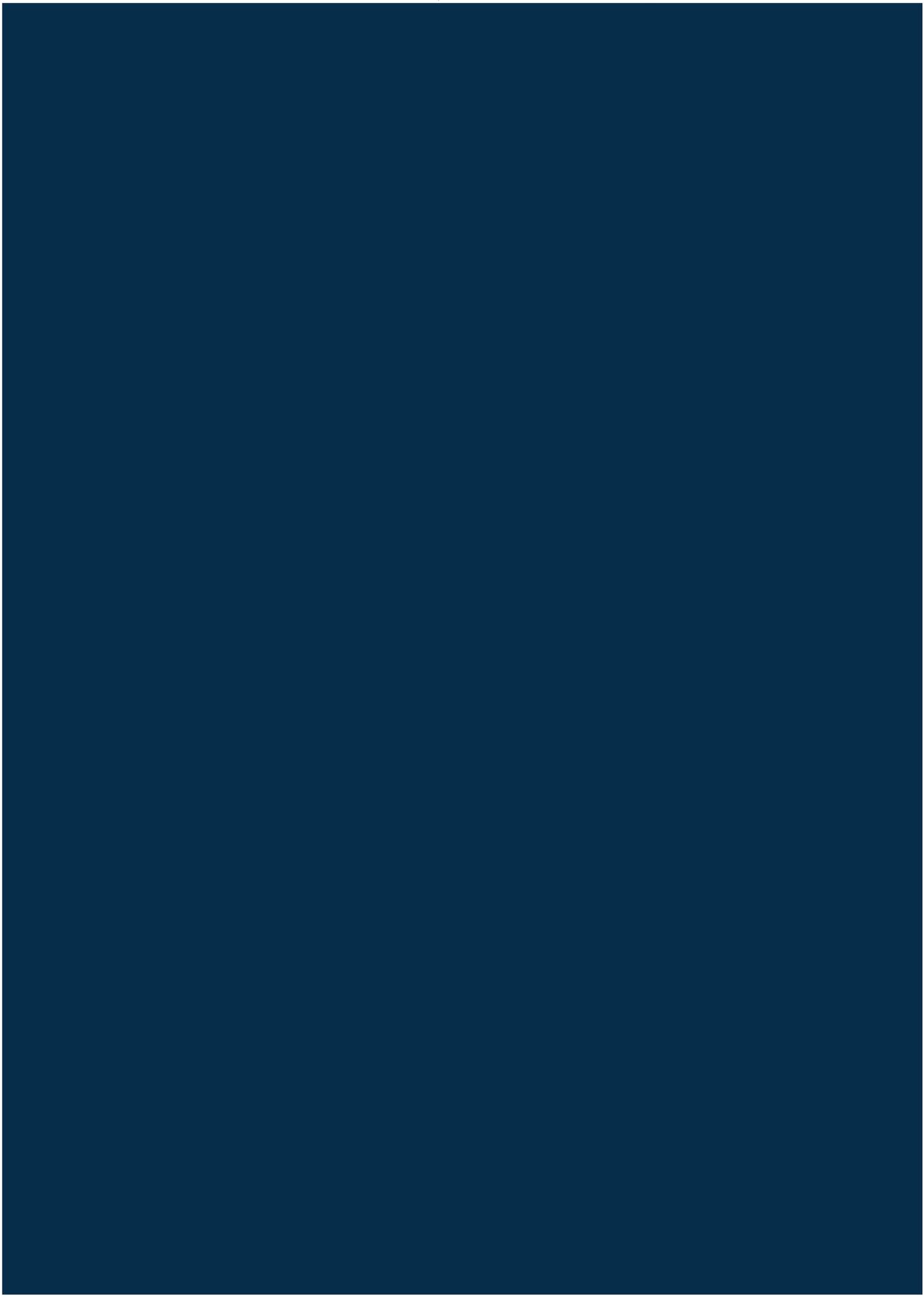
CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A final reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than **11.59pm AEST on 27 February 2026**.
- Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- Motions should commence with the following wording: *'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'*
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2026 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2026 National General Assembly in Canberra.





14.2 NOMINATION - MEMBERSHIP TO THE MINISTERS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS (MACMA)

Author: Casey Anderson, Manager Corporate Administration
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting CEO
Report Type: For decision
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council endorses Councillor Palmer to be nominated for membership on the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA).

Purpose of Report

For Council endorses Councillor Palmer to be nominated for membership of the Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA).

Strategic Plan

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

1.5.1 Collaborate with all three levels of government.

Municipal Plan

1.1.1.8 Elected Members are supported in their role

1.1.3.1 Maintain active membership on reference groups formed to deal with issues affecting the community

Background

Minister's Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs (MACMA) is a non-statutory advisory group established by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. It comprises representatives from multicultural communities and relevant organisations who serve voluntarily and without remuneration.

The MACMA provides advice on matter facing multicultural communities in the NT, collaborates with government to improve policy and service delivery, and addresses matters impacting social, economic, and civic participation. It may direct specific tasks to relevant working groups to address issues such as employment, community safety, and population growth. MACMA meets at least twice a year.

Discussion

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Jinson Charls, has formally written to Council requesting a nomination from Katherine Town Council for membership on the MACMA.

Membership of the MACMA consists of community members and organisational representatives selected for their roles in supporting and advocating for multicultural communities. Local government has an ongoing observer of member status on the MACMA.

The Minister is now seeking a nomination from each local government council for an elected representative to join the MACMA.

Membership continues unless one of the following occurs:

- The elected representative's term on their council ends or is terminated
- The member misses two consecutive compulsory meetings without approved leave from the Chair
- The member resigns



Nominations must be submitted via email and received by the Department no later than **30 January 2026**.

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



14.3 GRANT AGREEMENT - AQUATIC CENTRE FREE ENTRY 2025/2026

Author: Casey Anderson, Manager Corporate Administration
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting CEO
Report Type: For decision
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

Council approves the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer to execute Grant Agreement KATHAQ00001 for the Katherine Aquatic Centre, enabling free entry during the school holiday periods, specifically December 2025/January 2026 and April 2026.

Purpose of Report

For Council to approve the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer to execute Grant agreement KATHAQ00001 for the Katherine Aquatic Centre, providing free entry during the school holiday period.

Strategic Plan

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

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

2. COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES - 2.4 Support Our Youth - Support youth engagement.

2.4.1 Empower youths through youth-focused events and school-holiday activities.

Municipal Plan

1.5.3.1 Seek funding for services and projects outside of Council budget

2.4.1.1 Provide a range of youth focused, free and accessible community events and programs

Background

Katherine Town Council has received a grant agreement from the Northern Territory Government, through its agency Department of People, Sport and Culture, to provide free entry to the Katherine Aquatic Centre during the December 2025/January 2026 and April 2026 school holiday periods.

The total grant value is \$40,000 (GST exclusive).

The grant agreement requires Council approval for signing in order to access the funds

Discussion

The Katherine Aquatic Centre Free Entry Program will provide free public access to the Aquatic Centre during the Northern Territory school holiday periods: December 2025/January 2026 and April 2026.

The program also includes the provision of healthy food options such as fresh fruit, lunchbox snacks, and refreshments.

Free entry will apply during the Aquatic Centre's standard holiday opening hours:

- Monday–Friday: 11:00 am – 7:00 pm
- Weekends: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Grant funds will be used to cover free entry, additional staffing and supervision, and the provision of food, snacks, and refreshments. Free pool entry commenced on 22 December 2025.

Grant Reporting Requirements:

- December 2025/January 2026 Delivery Progress Report: Due 30 January 2026



- April School Holiday Delivery Progress Report: Due 17 March 2026
- Funding Acquittal and Final Report: Due 14 May 2026

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



14.4 FIRST BUDGET REVIEW 2025-2026

Author: Rebecca Baguley, Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For decision
For noting
Attachments: 1. Budget Review 1 [14.4.1 - 4 pages]

Officer Recommendation

1. That Council

- a. Note the first Budget Review for 2025-2026.
- b. Adopt and Approve the Amended 2025-2026 budget with a forecast Net surplus of \$2,929.
- c. Approve the adoption of Council's amended Long-term financial plan which reflects the Amended 2025-2026 Budget

In accordance with Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, Division 4, Item 11 Reserves;

2. That Council

- a. Approve the transfer of reserve funding of \$933,737 previously set-aside for the Aquatic Centre Capital upgrade into the Capital Budget for 25-26.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to the council the First Budget Review for 2025-2026.

Strategic Plan

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

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

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

1.5.1 Collaborate with all three levels of government.

1.5.2 Have a grants officer to seek and coordinate grant funding.

1.5.3 Pursue grants for new and upgraded infrastructure and programs.

1.5.4 Develop and implement a circular economy framework in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government and Big Rivers Region.

1.5.5 Set a prosperous tone to encourage private sector investment.

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

4.2.3 Review Council's fees and charges system to ensure the sustainability of council's facilities and services.

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

Municipal Plan

2.1 Corporate Services - Financial Services

2.1.1 Adhere to internal financial procedures.

2.1.2 Comply with legislative requirements.

2.1.3 Prudent financial management for stronger returns for ratepayers.



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

Background

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2019 (General) Regulations 9, Council is required to undertake two budget reviews during the financial year. Accordingly, Council’s finance team have conducted a first review of the 2025-2026 budget in consultation with the Executive Team and Department Managers. This report presents Council with the first budget review.

Discussion

The first budget review 2025-2026 proposed summary of key changes:

Operating Income – Amended Budget Total		Increased	Decreased
Rates	\$10,079,190	\$88,791	
Bank & Investments	\$ 500,000		\$76,365
Fees & Charges	\$ 2,505,490		\$65,797
Amended Total Operating Income	\$17,342,296		
Operating Expenditure – Amended Budget Total			
Employment Expenses	\$5,884,146		\$185,544
Materials & Contracts	\$8,696,845	\$346,000	
Depreciation & Amortisation	\$6,178,242	\$1,378,235	
Finance Costs – Unwinding of WMF	\$637,509	\$172,188	
Amended Total Operating Expenditure	\$21,782,313		

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE & FUNDING

Amended Capital Expenditure		Increased	Notes
Buildings and Other Structures*	\$10,045,684	\$7,695,684	Budget reclassification of Improvements transferred to Buildings and Other Structures
Amended – Total Capital Expenditure	\$13,418,305	\$3,712,684	
Capital Expenditure – Funding			



Capital Grants	\$6,853,004	\$1,661,975	Katherine & Big Rivers Multi-purpose Sport & Rec Precinct
Deferred Capital Grants (Aquatic Centre Reserve)		\$1,933,738	Transfer from Reserves to Capital Budget Funding
Amended total Capital Expenditure Funding	\$13,418,305	\$3,712,684	

Consultation Process

CEO and Department Managers

Policy Implications

The Budget review is a compliance requirement of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021, Division 4, Item 9 and is governed by the following Council policy frameworks;

- Revenue Policy
- Debt Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Borrowing Policy

Budget and Resource Implications

Identified an ongoing need for resource alignment and timely delivery of capital projects

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

Benefits: Strengthened strategic direction, improved governance.

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.

ANNUAL BUDGET AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2025-2026**Annual Budget Income and Expenditure Statement**

Annual Budget Income and Expenditure Statement	Original Budget 2025-2026	Budget Review 1 2025-2026	Forecast 2026-2027	Forecast 2027-2028	Forecast 2028-2029	Forecast 2029-2030
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING INCOME						
Rates	9,990,399	10,079,190	10,562,991	11,070,014	11,601,374	12,158,241
Waste Charges	1,645,818	1,666,687	1,765,022	1,869,158	1,979,439	2,096,225
Fees and Charges	2,525,689	2,505,490	2,564,980	2,623,519	2,683,462	2,744,844
Operating Grants & Subsidies	2,193,222	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019
Bank & Investment Income	576,365	500,000	1,488,265	2,476,530	3,115,996	3,755,462
Other revenue	372,182	331,910	346,846	362,108	378,040	394,674
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	17,303,675	17,342,296	18,987,123	20,660,348	22,017,330	23,408,465
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
Employment Expenses	6,069,690	5,884,146	6,242,605	6,387,097	6,577,086	6,772,736
Materials & Contracts	8,350,845	8,696,845	9,088,202	9,488,083	9,905,559	10,341,405
Elected Member Allowances	275,520	275,520	275,520	275,520	275,520	275,520
Elected Member Expenses	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
Council Committee Allowances	29,615	14,000	14,630	15,274	15,946	16,647
Council Committee Costs	8,360	5,000	5,225	5,455	5,695	5,945
Depreciation, Amortisation & Impairment	4,800,007	6,178,242	6,226,196	6,254,230	6,284,539	6,305,841
Interest Expenses	58,416	36,051	156,353	238,645	222,942	206,875
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finance Costs - Unwinding of WMF Discounting	465,321	637,509	664,603	692,849	711,902	731,480
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	20,112,774	21,782,313	22,728,334	23,412,153	24,054,189	24,711,449
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(2,809,099)	(4,440,017)	(3,741,211)	(2,751,805)	(2,036,859)	(1,302,984)

Annual Budget Operating Position

Annual Budget Operating Position	Original Budget 2025-2026	Budget Review 1 2025-2026	Forecast 2026-2027	Forecast 2027-2028	Forecast 2028-2029	Forecast 2029-2030
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(2,809,099)	(4,440,017)	(3,741,211)	(2,751,805)	(2,036,859)	(1,302,984)
<i>less</i> Non-Cash Income						
<i>Add Back</i> Non-Cash Expenses	5,265,328	6,815,751	6,890,799	6,947,079	6,996,442	7,037,321
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	5,265,328	6,815,751	6,890,799	6,947,079	6,996,442	7,037,321
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS						
Capital Expenditure	9,705,621	13,418,305	7,249,371	3,265,473	3,720,621	2,669,093
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	-	-	-	250,000	333,333	333,333
Transfers to Reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Outflows	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	9,705,621	13,418,305	7,249,371	3,515,473	4,053,954	3,002,426
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS						
Capital Grants Income	5,191,029	6,853,004	1,090,177	635,029	1,090,177	288,649
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding	-	186,580	-	-	-	-
Other Inflow of Funds	72,178	72,178	54,133	54,133	54,133	54,133
Drawdown of Borrowings	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	-
Transfers from Reserves	-	1,933,738	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	7,263,207	11,045,500	4,144,310	689,162	1,144,310	342,782
NET BUDGETED OPERATING POSITION	13,815	2,929	44,527	1,368,963	2,049,939	3,074,693

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Original Budget 30-Jun-26	Budget Review 1 30-Jun-26	Forecast 30-Jun-27	Forecast 30-Jun-28	Forecast 30-Jun-29	Forecast 30-Jun-30
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ASSETS						
CURRENT ASSETS						
Cash at Bank and On Hand	21,797,762	19,600,218	19,483,831	20,515,536	22,112,941	24,619,526
Trade and other receivables	2,960,023	3,534,108	3,697,897	3,867,853	4,045,660	4,231,682
Inventories	23,165	22,600	23,165	23,721	24,290	24,873
Total Current Assets	24,780,950	23,156,926	23,204,893	24,407,110	26,182,891	28,876,081
NON-CURRENT ASSETS						
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment	130,041,099	143,146,255	144,169,430	141,180,674	138,616,755	134,980,006
Total Non-Current Assets	130,041,099	143,146,255	144,169,430	141,180,674	138,616,755	134,980,006
TOTAL ASSETS	154,822,049	166,303,181	167,374,323	165,587,784	164,799,646	163,856,087
LIABILITIES						
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Current Payables	1,612,566	2,771,605	2,840,895	2,909,077	2,978,895	3,050,388
Deferred Revenue	379,615	364,703	375,644	386,913	398,521	410,476
Current Provisions	619,345	627,225	646,042	665,423	685,385	705,947
Current Borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	2,611,526	3,763,533	3,862,581	3,961,413	4,062,801	4,166,811
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Employee Entitlements	54,361	34,156	35,181	36,237	37,324	38,443
Landfill Rehabilitation Provision	8,403,582	21,028,748	21,693,352	22,386,201	23,098,103	23,829,583
Borrowings	2,000,000	2,000,000	5,000,000	4,750,000	4,416,667	4,083,333
Total Non-Current Liabilities	10,457,943	23,062,904	26,728,533	27,172,438	27,552,094	27,951,359
TOTAL LIABILITIES	13,069,469	26,826,437	30,591,114	31,133,851	31,614,895	32,118,170
NET ASSETS	141,752,580	139,476,744	136,783,209	134,453,933	133,184,751	131,737,917
EQUITY						
Asset Revaluation Reserve	98,420,175	98,420,175	98,420,175	98,420,175	98,420,175	98,420,175
Other Reserves	8,121,899	14,651,023	14,651,023	14,651,023	14,651,023	14,651,023
Accumulated Surplus	35,210,506	26,405,546	23,712,010	21,382,735	20,113,553	18,666,719
TOTAL COUNCIL EQUITY	141,752,580	139,476,744	136,783,208	134,453,933	133,184,751	131,737,917

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

	Original Budget 2025-2026 \$	Budget Review 1 2025-2026 \$	Forecast 2026-2027 \$	Forecast 2027-2028 \$	Forecast 2028-2029 \$	Forecast 2029-2030 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
RECEIPTS						
Rates	9,855,070	9,809,053	10,486,817	10,990,031	11,517,393	12,070,064
Waste Charges	1,621,785	1,650,604	1,751,047	1,854,519	1,964,104	2,080,162
Fees and Charges	2,495,512	2,437,735	2,512,754	2,570,155	2,627,750	2,686,681
Operating Grants & Subsidies	2,193,222	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019	2,259,019
Bank & Investment Income	566,314	486,413	1,477,793	2,465,830	3,104,825	3,743,799
Other revenue	372,182	330,999	346,281	361,552	377,471	394,091
Sub-total	17,104,085	16,973,823	18,833,711	20,501,106	21,850,562	23,233,816
PAYMENTS						
Employee Costs	(6,050,067)	(5,864,883)	(6,222,763)	(6,366,660)	(6,556,036)	(6,751,054)
Materials & Contracts	(8,312,080)	(8,555,177)	(9,115,546)	(9,686,536)	(10,212,374)	(10,756,545)
Elected Members Allowances & Expenses	(330,520)	(330,520)	(330,520)	(330,520)	(330,520)	(330,520)
Council Committee Allowances & Expenses	(37,975)	(19,000)	(19,855)	(20,729)	(21,641)	(22,593)
Interest Paid	(58,416)	(36,051)	(156,353)	(238,645)	(222,942)	(206,875)
Sub-total	(14,789,058)	(14,805,631)	(15,845,037)	(16,643,090)	(17,343,513)	(18,067,587)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	2,315,027	2,168,192	2,988,674	3,858,016	4,507,049	5,166,229
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
RECEIPTS:						
Amounts Specifically for New or Upgraded Assets	5,191,029	6,853,004	1,090,177	635,029	1,090,177	288,649
Sale of Replaced Assets	72,178	72,178	54,133	54,133	54,133	54,133
PAYMENTS:						
Expenditure on Renewal/Replacement of Assets	(9,705,621)	(13,418,305)	(7,249,371)	(3,265,473)	(3,720,621)	(2,669,093)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	(4,442,414)	(6,493,123)	(6,105,061)	(2,576,311)	(2,576,311)	(2,326,311)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
RECEIPTS:						
Proceeds from Borrowings	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	-
PAYMENTS:						
Repayment of Borrowings	-	-	-	(250,000)	(333,333)	(333,333)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	(250,000)	(333,333)	(333,333)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD	(127,387)	(2,324,931)	(116,387)	1,031,705	1,597,405	2,506,585
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	21,925,149	21,925,149	19,600,218	19,483,831	20,515,536	22,112,941
Cash & Cash Equivalents at End of Period	21,797,762	19,600,218	19,483,831	20,515,536	22,112,941	24,619,526

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING BUDGET**By class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment**

	Original Budget 2025-2026	Budget Review 1 2025-2026	Forecast 2026-2027	Forecast 2027-2028	Forecast 2028-2029	Forecast 2029-2030
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
Buildings & Other Structures	2,350,000	10,045,684	3,678,750	-	-	-
Improvements	4,300,000	300,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Plant & Equipment	300,000	300,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	250,000
Furniture, Fittings & Equipment	150,000	150,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Fleet	240,592	240,592	180,444	180,444	180,444	180,444
Infrastructure - Footpaths & Cycleways	1,080,000	1,080,000	500,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Infrastructure - Roads	1,035,029	1,052,029	1,540,177	1,135,029	1,590,177	788,649
Infrastructure - Stormwater & Drainage	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Infrastructure - Street Lighting	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	9,705,621	13,418,305	7,249,371	3,265,473	3,720,621	2,669,093
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING						
Operating Income	2,442,414	2,372,805	3,105,061	2,576,311	2,576,311	2,326,311
Utilisation of Retained Earnings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Grants	5,191,029	6,853,004	1,090,177	635,029	1,090,177	288,649
Deferred Capital Grants	-	1,933,738	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Cash Reserves	-	186,580	-	-	-	-
Borrowings	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	-
Sale of Assets (Including Trade-In)	72,178	72,178	54,133	54,133	54,133	54,133
Other Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	9,705,621	13,418,305	7,249,371	3,265,473	3,720,621	2,669,093



14.5 FINANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2025

Author: Rebecca Baguley, Chief Financial Officer
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For decision
Attachments: 1. Finance Report December 2025 [14.5.1 - 10 pages]

Officer Recommendation

That Council endorses the Finance Report for the month of December 2025.

Purpose of Report

This report is to present to the Council the Financial position of Council for the month of December 2025.

Strategic Plan

4. GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY - 4.2 Lead with Best Practice

Lead by example and set a high benchmark.

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

Municipal Plan

- 1.1.2.2 Ensure compliance with local government legislation
- 1.1.2.3 Ensure compliance with other legislation applicable to Council
- 4.2.1.3 Finance policies and procedures are up-to-date and followed
- 4.2.4.7 Comply with financial legislative requirements

Background

In accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 – Part 2 (Division 7), the below monthly report must be presented to the Council at the monthly Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The Financial Report is compliant with Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 – Part 2 (Division 7) Clause 17, Items 1 and 2, whereby material variances between the most recent actual income and expenditure of the council have been identified in detail against the adopted Municipal Plan Annual Budget.

Accordingly, the commentary attached presents the preliminary financial position of the council at the end of December 2025 with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Certification.

Discussion

Table 1.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement, - Review of Operating Income

The total year-to-date (YTD) operating income exceeds budget expectations by 0.62%. This is due to the following factors: -

- a) Rates Revenue is 6.87% above YTD forecast with a positive variance of \$647,753 for December
- b) Waste Charges (Rates) is 19.5% above YTD forecast result.
- c) Interest for Investment Income is \$239,466 above YTD December. At-call investment interest received of \$35,525 YTD now included in the Budget forecast. 9 of the total 17 Investments are due to mature by 30 June 2026.
- (d) Operating grants revenue is currently 49.15% below budget expectations, primarily due to timing. Council has received 75% of the total Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grant funding. 2025-2026 year – totaling \$322,940. Council received \$658,144 as an early payment made in June



2025 for the 2025-2026 Financial year. The total approved Commonwealth FAG was \$1,304,024.

Table 1.1 - Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement - Review of Operating Expenditure

YTD operating expenditure is 13.91% below budget for the month of December, attributed to the following factors:

- a) Employee expenses are 16.31% below YTD budget due to vacancies in several positions will be filled in the coming months. A reforecast of employee expenses will be undertaken in the bi-annual Budget Review.
- b) Materials and Contracts expenditure constitutes the largest variance in expenditure with a variance of (\$1,139,4743) against YTD Budget forecast. This is attributed to
- c) Election Expenses – down on original forecast. The savings will be transferred to offset hire of Meeting rooms for the Council meetings.

Monthly payments have been processed for all approved suppliers, with disbursements occurring on a weekly basis.

Table 3. Monthly Balance Sheet Report and Notes 2 & 3. Statement on Debts Owed to Council (Accounts Receivable) and Statement of Debts owed by Council (Accounts payable)

a) Aged Payables - Trade Creditors

A total of \$15,455 was due at 31.12.2025 - With \$14,455 applicable to 50% retention monies payable on completion of contracted work. The supplier will be paid in January.

Other Creditors - \$1,120 relates to Council's Social Club – payroll liabilities

b) Aged Receivables – Trade Debtors

Indicates 57.79% of debtors (excluding infringements and rates) have outstanding balances for more than 90 days. Follow-up actions continue through the issuance of monthly statements and follow-up direct calls.

Rates Revenue – Of the \$10,077,518 invoiced in 25-26, \$3,842,435, is current as at 31 December.

\$1,498,470.68 (28.2%) of total Aged Receivables relates to unpaid rates from the 2024/2025 financial year and prior periods. A comprehensive update is provided in the Corporate Services report for November regarding rates debtors.

Consultation Process

- Rates and Regulatory Affairs Co-Ordinator
- Financial Accountant
- Financial Consultant – CFO Business Associates

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications

Budget and Resource Implications

The Bi-Annual Budget Review has been completed with a separate report provided to council as at 31 December, 2025.

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



The Author and Approving Officers declare they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to this report.

Certification by the CEO to the Council

Council Name:	Katherine Town Council
Reporting Period:	31/12/2025

That, to the best of the CEO's knowledge, information and belief:
 (1) The internal controls implemented by the council are appropriate; and
 (2) The council's financial report best reflects the financial affairs of the council.

A/CEO Signed *Clayton Anderson*
Date Signed 19 / 01 / 2026

Note: *The monthly financial report to council must either be accompanied by a written certification by the CEO to the council, as set out above, or the CEO is to provide written reasons for not providing the certification. (Regulation 17(5) of the General Regulations)*

Table 1.1 Monthly Income and Expenditure Statement

	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Annual Budget \$
OPERATING INCOME				
Rates*	10,077,518	9,429,765	647,753	9,990,399
Waste Charges**	1,612,766	1,349,570	263,196	1,645,818
Fees and Charges	1,257,676	1,341,824	(84,148)	2,525,689
Operating Grants and Subsidies	932,171	1,833,046	(900,875)	2,193,222
Interest / Investment Income	547,884	308,418	239,466	576,365
Commercial and Other Income	118,797	194,486	(75,689)	372,182
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	14,546,812	14,457,109	89,703	17,303,675
OPERATING EXPENDITURE				
Employee Expenses	2,544,858	3,040,805	(495,947)	6,069,690
Materials and Contracts	3,246,029	4,385,502	(1,139,473)	8,350,845
Elected Member Allowances	104,159	137,760	(33,601)	275,520
Elected Member Expenses	17,912	44,384	(26,472)	55,000
Council Committee & LA Allowances	880	7,640	(6,760)	29,615
Council Committee & LA Expenses	235	3,333	(3,098)	8,360
Depreciation, Amortisation and Impairment	2,588,743	2,400,003	188,740	4,800,007
Other Expenses	(109,255)	-	109,255	-
Interest Expenses (Finance Costs)	6,134	16,943	10,809	58,416
Gain/Loss on Remeasurement of Landfill	-	-	-	465,321
*TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE	8,399,695	10,036,370	(1,396,547)	20,112,774
OPERATING SURPLUS /(DEFICIT)	6,147,117	4,420,739	1,726,378	(2,809,099)

*NOTE: Rates Revenue is what is billed and not received

**NOTE: Waste Revenue is what is billed and not received

Table 1.2 Monthly Operating Position

	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Annual Budget \$
BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	6,147,117	4,420,739	1,726,378	(2,809,099)
Remove NON-CASH ITEMS				
Less Non-Cash Income	(48,019)	-	48,019	-
Add Back Non-Cash Expenses	2,549,528	2,400,003	(149,525)	5,265,328
TOTAL NON-CASH ITEMS	2,501,509	2,400,003	(101,506)	5,265,328
Less ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS				
Capital Expenditure	5,554,923	6,362,343	807,420	9,705,621
Borrowing Repayments (Principal Only)	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves	-	-	-	-
Other Outflows	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL OUTFLOWS	5,554,923	6,362,343	807,420	9,705,621
Add ADDITIONAL INFLOWS				
Capital Grants Income	2,979,471	4,435,029	1,455,558	5,191,029
Prior Year Carry Forward Tied Funding*	186,580	-	(186,580)	-
Other Inflow of Funds	70,040	36,089	(33,951)	72,178
Application of Retained Earnings	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Reserves	1,000,000	-	(1,000,000)	-
Drawdown of Borrowings	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	2,000,000
*TOTAL ADDITIONAL INFLOWS	5,236,091	5,471,118	235,027	7,263,207
NET BUDGETED OPERATING SURPLUS / DEFICIT	8,329,794	5,929,517	1,052,480	13,815

*NOTE: Prior year Carry Forward Tied Funding is subject to audit and may change

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

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	YTD Actuals \$	YTD Budget \$	YTD Variance \$	Current Financial Year (Annual) Budget \$
Land and Buildings	15,739	170,000	(154,261)	2,350,000
Facilities & Improvements	5,412,300	5,286,750	125,550	4,300,000
Plant & Machinery	9,045	125,000	(115,955)	300,000
Furniture, Fittings & Equipment	-	62,500	(62,500)	150,000
Fleet	-	80,197	(80,197)	240,592
Infrastructure Paths & Cycleways	-	140,395	(140,395)	1,080,000
Infrastructure Roads	28,203	120,000	(91,797)	1,035,029
Infrastructure Storm water & Drainage	24,499	30,000	(5,501)	100,000
Infrastructure - Outdoor Lighting	-	-	-	150,000
			-	
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	5,489,788	6,014,843	(525,055)	9,705,621
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDED BY:				
Operating Income (amount allocated to fund capital items)	1,297,686	543,724.81	753,961	2,442,414
Capital Grants	3,122,062	4,435,029	(1,312,967)	5,191,029
Utilisation of Retained Earnings	-	-	-	-
Transfers from Cash Reserves	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	-
Borrowings	-	1,000,000	(1,000,000)	2,000,000
Sale of Assets (Including Trade-In)	70,040	36,089	33,951	72,178
Other Funding	-	-	-	-
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FUNDING	5,489,788	6,014,843	(525,055)	9,705,621

Table 2.2. Quarterly Report on Planned Major Capital Works

Class of Assets	By Major Capital Project	Total Prior Year(s) Expenditure \$	YTD Actual Spend \$	Total Planned Budget \$	Total Yet to Spend \$	Expected Project Completion Date
Buildings & Other Structures	Aquatic Centre Redevelopment	6,548,019.40	4,942,654.41	10,162,000	-	Oct-25
Buildings & Other Structures	Changing Places Aquatic centre	-	-	162,000	162,000	Dec-26
Buildings & Other Structures	Civic Centre Upgrade	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	Dec-26
Buildings & Other Structures	Carpark Shelters Civic Centre (Solar)	-	-	250,000	250,000	Dec-26
Buildings & Other Structures	Lindsay St Amenities upgrade LRCI	248,508.60	3,081.90	324,000	72,410	Oct-25
Buildings & Other Structures	Waste facility shed raise tipshop	-	344,573.54	350,000	5,426	Jun-25
Improvements	x4 nature playgrounds	78,961.84	12,657.50	200,000	108,381	Jun-25
Improvements	Irrigation Upgrades: priority for Railway Terrace, Glencoe Park, Fuller Park	-	-	400,000	400,000	Jun-26
Infrastructure - Footpaths & Cycleways	Zimin Drive Footpath/Cycleway	-	16,050.00	1,080,000	1,063,950	Jun-26
Infrastructure - Roads	First Street Improvement LRCI P4	329,854.06	12,153.35	350,000	7,993	Jun-26
Infrastructure - Roads	Local Road & Pavements: Sheppard, Needam, Zimin & Giles	-	-	635,029	635,029	Jun-26
Infrastructure - Roads	Rural Intersection Upgrades: Helena/ Florida, Hendry/ Florida, Collins/Byers, Collins/Craigborn	-	-	400,000	400,000	Jun-26
Infrastructure- Outdoor Lighting	Solar Streetlight Trial	-	-	150,000	150,000	Jun-26
Plant & Equipment	30 Tonne Excavator	-	-	300,000	300,000	Jun-26
TOTAL		7,205,343.90	5,331,170.70	19,763,029.00	7,226,514.40	

NOTE: Council has adopted by ARMC resolution a definition for capital works consistent with the NT Government guidelines a minimum threshold for major capital works of \$150,000

Table 3. Monthly Balance Sheet Report

BALANCE SHEET	YTD Actuals \$	Note Reference*
ASSETS		
Cash at Bank		
Tied Funds	18,695,750	(1)
Untied Funds	8,931,173	(1)
Trade Debtors	206,293	(2)
Rates & Charges Debtors	5,347,819	(2)
Other Current Assets	771,080	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	33,952,115	
Non-Current Financial Assets	-	
Property, Plant and Equipment	133,324,707	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	133,324,707	
TOTAL ASSETS	167,276,822	
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	58,217	(3)
ATO & Payroll Liabilities	(11,775)	(4)
Current Provisions	608,956	
Accruals	132,817	
Other Current Liabilities	239,548	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,027,763	
Borrowings	1,000,000	
Non-Current Employee Provisions	33,160	
Waste Management Make Good Provision	20,391,239	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	21,424,399	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,452,162	
NET ASSETS	144,824,660	
EQUITY		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	98,420,175	
Reserves	9,121,899	(1)
Accumulated Surplus	30,887,983	
TOTAL EQUITY	138,430,057	

Note 1. Tied Funds

11210 · Imprest Petty Cash	1,127.68
11220 · Employee Liabilities (Provisions)	642,118.00
33310 Capital Renewal Reserve	6,487,646
33520 Contingency Reserve	1,933,738
33610 Municipal Election Reserve	100,000
33620 Council Motion Funding Reserve	600,515
11230 · Equity Reserves	9,121,899.04
11240 · Waste Management Make Good	7,731,354.00
11250 · Unspent Loan funds for Civic Centre	1,000,000.00
11251 · Unspent Capital Grants	43,989.46
11260 · Deposits Held	155,262.00
	18,695,750.18

Untied Funds - Cash and Cash Equivalents less Tied Funds **8,931,172.50**

Note 1. Details of Cash and Investments Held

<i>Cash at Bank consists of Term Deposits of \$22.8M with maturities as detailed below, with the remaining \$4.2M</i>	
GENERAL FUND	\$
Commonwealth Bank	
Balance as per bank statement as at 31 Dec 2025	27,626,922.68
Credit card balances	6,455.00
Balance of Imprest and Petty Cash	1,127.68
Plus net outstanding deposits/(withdrawals)	
Adjusted cash at bank balance, 31 Dec 2025	27,621,595.36

INVESTMENTS	INSTITUTION	PRINCIPAL \$	INTEREST RATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST	INSTITUTION TOTALS \$	%
	AMP	549,249	4.05%	28-Aug-25	31-Mar-26	13,102.97		
	AMP	1,028,326	4.00%	14-May-25	1-May-26	39,668.03		
	AMP	514,230	4.00%	14-May-25	14-May-26	20,569.21		
	AMP	1,649,483	4.00%	14-Nov-25	14-May-26	32,899.28		
	AMP	1,104,170	3.95%	29-Jun-25	29-Jun-26	43,614.73		
	AMP	1,544,904	3.95%	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-26	61,023.70	6,390,362.27	27.9%
	BOQ	524,117	4.00%	6-Nov-25	6-Nov-26	20,964.70		
	BOQ	523,773	4.10%	8-Oct-25	8-Apr-26	10,707.93	1,047,890.30	4.6%
	CBA	2,730,592	4.01%	26-May-25	26-May-26	109,496.74		
	CBA	547,284	4.05%	1-Aug-25	31-Jul-26	22,104.29		
	CBA	549,639	4.01%	31-May-25	29-May-26	21,919.74	3,827,515.04	16.7%
	NAB	3,669,750	4.05%	11-Nov-25	11-Nov-26	148,624.88		
	NAB	539,105	3.90%	11-Jul-25	13-Jul-26	21,140.30		
	NAB	3,156,000	4.00%	30-Jul-25	30-Jul-26	126,240.00		
	NAB	1,049,863	3.90%	6-Aug-25	6-Aug-26	40,944.66		
	NAB	1,097,684	3.95%	4-Sep-25	4-Sep-26	43,358.51		
	NAB	2,095,000	4.00%	14-Oct-25	14-Oct-26	83,800.00	11,607,401.82	50.7%
	AMP (oncall)	564,578.00		on call	on call 30 days			
	CBA	2,132,022.00		on call	on call 30 days		2,696,600.00	
	Total Investments					860,179.65	25,569,769.43	100%
	Total Funds						27,626,922.50	

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

Council's Debtor Summary	Current	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total
Rates Debtors	3,842,435	-	-	-	1,509,245.89	5,351,681
Trade Debtors	1,102	24,245	17,034	6,890	67,469	116,741
TOTAL	3,843,537	24,245	17,034	6,890	1,576,715.25	5,468,422

Note 3. Statement on Trade Creditors

<i>(Council can select timing of the age of creditors)</i>	Current	Past Due 1 – 30 Days	Past Due 31 – 60 Days	Past Due 61-90 Days	Past Due 90+ Days	Total
Trade Creditors*	99,966	14,455	-	1,000	0	115,421
Other Creditors	1,120	-	-	-	-	1,120
Total Accounts Payable	101,086	14,455	0	1,000	-	116,541

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

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

Council is a large withholder for PAYG purposes and consequently remits withholdings to the ATO on the day of payroll. As its revenue is GST Free monthly net GST is generally an amount payable to Council unless significant grants are received in the period. Payroll liabilities include Superannuation payable and Salary Sacrifice deductions.

**KTC is due for refund this amount from ATO - GST	29,763
**Superannuation Payable Liability at 31 Dec 25	36,707
**Prepaid Fringe Benefits Tax	12,265

**Note this is an estimate only due to timing of reports

Note 5. Current Ratio

* NT Local Government Regulatory Framework	LGR Benchmark	%
Current Ratio (current assets/current liabilities)	0 to + 10%	33.03

Current Ratio adjusted for Tied Funds	0 to + 10%	14.84
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Table 4. Member and CEO Council Credit Card Transactions for the Month

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

Example:

Cardholder Name: Casey Anderson

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
1-Dec	233.65	Woolworths Online BellaVista	General Office amenities
1-Dec	31.75	Dollar and Sense KATHERINE	General Office amenities
3-Dec	\$154.00	XPNA.CO LANE COVE WENSW	Financial Subscription
8-Dec	\$223.90	ZOOM.COM 888-799-9666 SAN JOSE CA	Meeting Software Subscription
9-Dec	\$291.65	XERO AU INV-48562348 HAWTHORN VIC	Financial Subscription
11-Dec	\$286.50	STARLINK INTERNET Sydney AUS	CEO Internet
17-Dec	\$97.73	Dollar and Sense KATHERINE	General Office amenities
17-Dec	\$20.00	NEWS PTY LIMITED SURRY HILLS NSW	Subscription
22-Dec	\$10.00	XRO: XERO CUSTOM CONNE MELBOURNE VIC	Financial Subscription
23-Dec	\$9.14	LS The Black Russian C Katherine AUS	Coffee - Indo Consulting Meetings
24-Dec	\$73.65	WOOLWORTHS 5636 KATHERINE NT	Catering - Staff Farewell
24-Dec	\$2,679.68	TRAVELMANAGERS HAYMARKET NSW	Flight and Accommodation bookings
29-Dec	\$321.55	EZI* Happy HR Pty Ltd Essendon WesAUS	Subscription
29-Dec	\$12.00	NEWS PTY LIMITED SURRY HILLS NSW	Subscription
29-Dec	\$771.88	Adobe Sydney AUS	Subscription
30-Dec	\$370.20	Woolworths Online BellaVista	General Office amenities
Total	5587.28		

Cardholder Name: Ingrid Stonhill

Transaction Date	Amount \$	Supplier's Name	Reason for the Transaction
3-Dec	\$92.52	Intuit Mailchimp Sydney AUS	Subscription
15-Dec	\$0.75	Bank Fees & Charges	ChatGPT Exchange rate fee
15-Dec	\$30.16	Openai *ChatGPT	ChatGPT fee
Total	\$123.43		



14.6 COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

Author: Rhett English, Manager Community Relations
Authoriser: Casey Anderson (Manager Corporate Administration)
Report Type: For noting
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council receive and note the Community Relations Department report for the month of December 2025.

Purpose of Report

To provide an overview of the Community Relations Department activities for the month of December 2025.

Strategic Plan

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

1.1.4 Learn what the community wants to know through community engagement strategies.

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

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

1. STRONG LEADERSHIP - 1.4 Enhance Customer Experiences - Deliver positive customer experiences for visitors and residents.

1.4.1 Continually improve services and our tourism offerings.

1.4.3 Enhance customer experiences at our Visitor Information Centre.

Municipal Plan

1.1.3.2 Encourage and educate the community about the services that are provided by Council

1.4.1.1 Partner with Tourism Top End (TTE) and the Top End Visitor Information Centre

1.4.1.4 Active participation and completion of agreed actions as part of the Big Rivers Region Destination Management Plan implementation team

3.2.4.1 Active participation and completion of agreed actions as part of the Big Rivers Region Destination Management Plan Implementation Team

3.4.6.2 Undertake library operations as per the funding agreement

3.4.6.4 Increase community participation

3.4.6.5 Partner with local organisations to enhance library services and programs

3.4.6.6 Provide access to public computers and free public Wi-Fi

3.4.6.7 Deliver library programs and events for our community

3.4.6.9 Themed book collection and donation drive

Background

The Community Relations Department is responsible for the provisions of customer service and the delivery of public library service, and visitor services to the Katherine community.



Discussion

Christmas Closure Period:

Civic Center

Wednesday 24 December 2025 to Monday 5 January 2026.

Katherine Public Library

Wednesday 24 December 2025 to Tuesday 6 January 2026.

Katherine Visitor Centre

Thursday 25 December 2025, Friday 26 Dec 2025, and Thursday 1 January 2026.

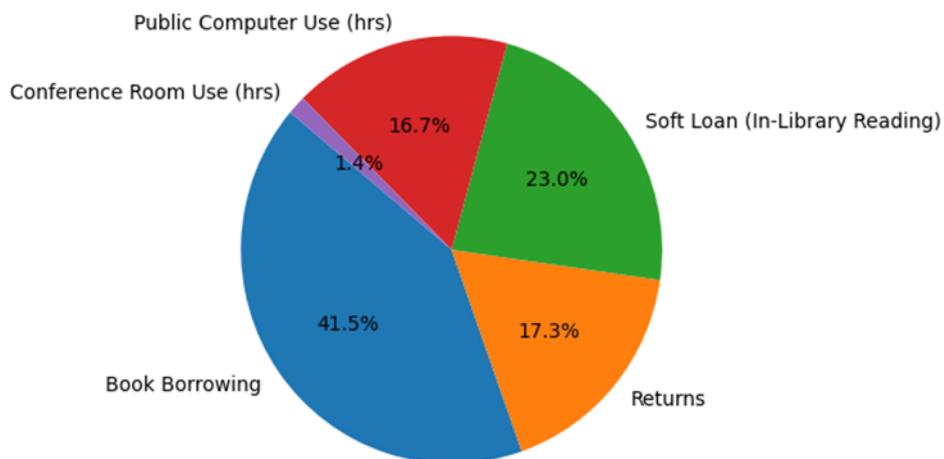
LIBRARY SERVICES

December 2025 recorded strong and positive community engagement at the Katherine Public Library when compared with the same period last year. While the delivery of regular programs was reduced due to the Christmas and New Year holiday period, overall participation remained high through flexible, seasonal and creative activities, demonstrating continued community interest and responsiveness to alternative programming approaches.

Book borrowing remained strong throughout the month, reinforcing the library’s ongoing role in supporting literacy, learning and recreational reading across all age groups. In addition, usage of public computers increased, highlighting the library’s importance as a critical access point for digital services, online information, and essential transactions, particularly during the holiday period.

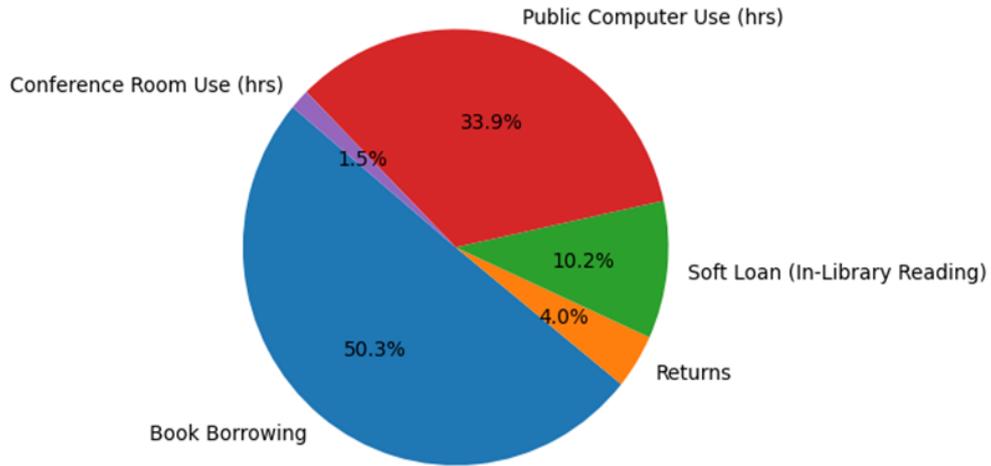
Overall, the December results confirm the Katherine Public Library’s value as a welcoming and adaptable community facility. The ability to maintain strong visitation and service usage during a traditionally quieter operational period reflects effective service delivery, community trust and the library’s continued role as an inclusive hub supporting social connection, learning and digital access.

December 2024 - Library Circulation & Usage

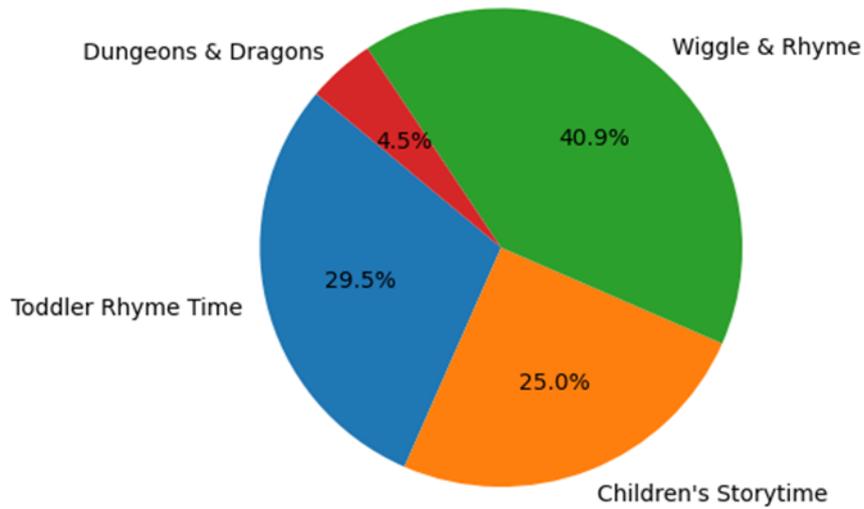




December 2025 - Library Circulation & Usage Breakdown

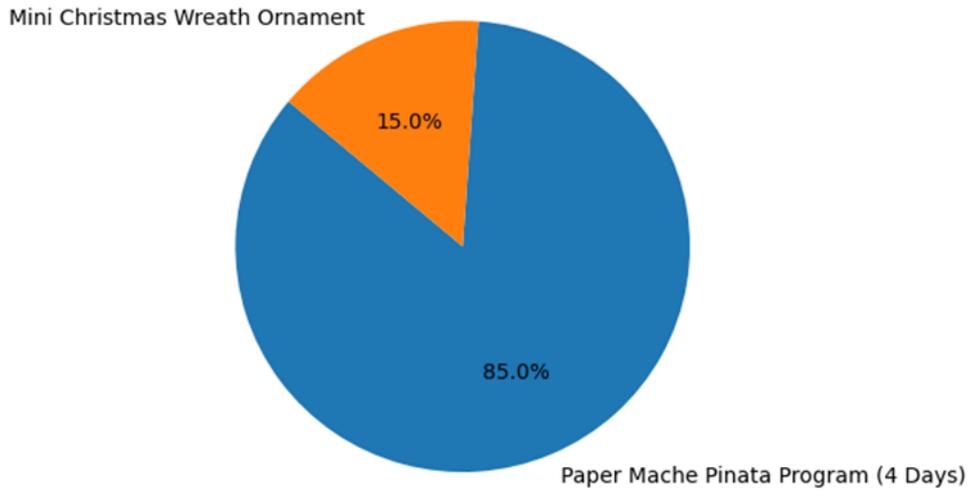


December 2024 - Program Attendance





December 2025 – Program Attendance



VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

December 2025 recorded a strong performance for the Katherine Visitor Information Centre, demonstrating continued recovery in regional tourism activity despite the conclusion of the peak season.

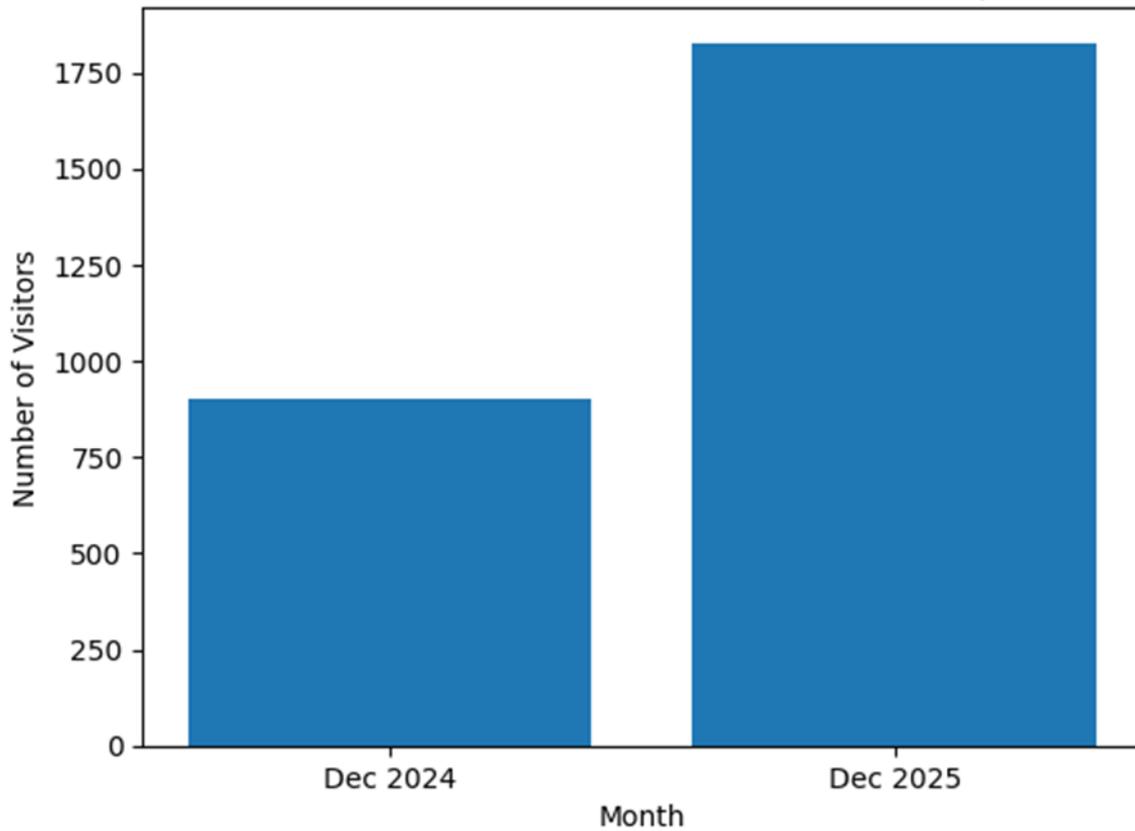
A total of 1,827 visitors attended the Centre during the month, representing a 102.6% increase compared with December 2024, when 902 visitors were recorded. This substantial year-on-year growth highlights increased visitation to the region during the off-peak holiday period and strong engagement with visitor services.

While overall visitation increased significantly, the revenue profile shifted compared with the previous year. In December 2025, Nitmiluk Tours accounted for more than half of all booking-related revenue, reflecting strong demand for Aboriginal cultural and nature-based experiences. By contrast, bookings in December 2024 were more evenly distributed, with “Other Tours” representing the largest share of revenue. This shift indicates evolving visitor preferences and the continued appeal of key regional attractions.

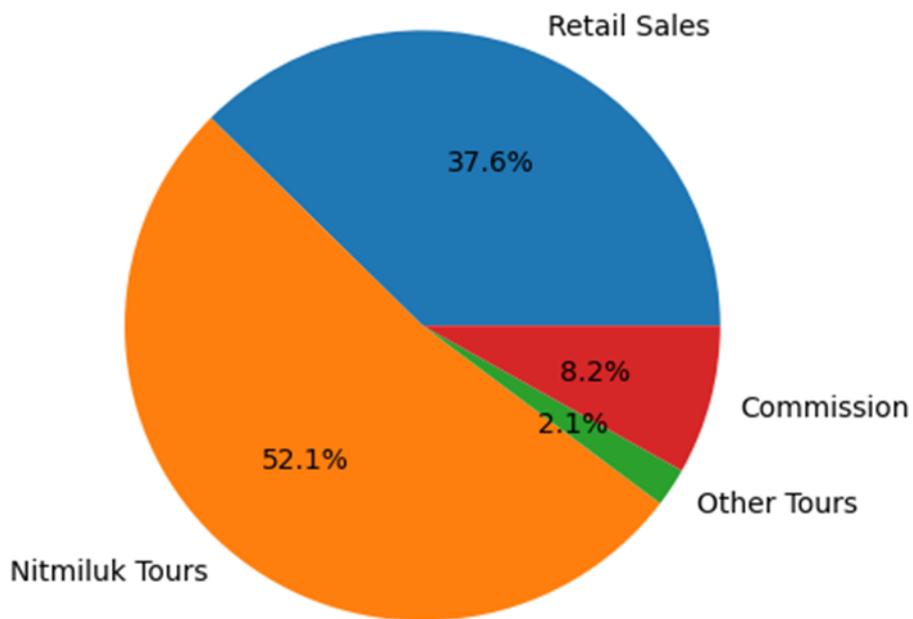
Overall, the December results demonstrate positive momentum for the Visitor Information Centre and the broader visitor economy. Strong visitor growth and high uptake of major tour products reinforce the importance of maintaining high-quality visitor services, strong partnerships with tour operators, and targeted promotion during the wet season.



Katherine Visitor Centre - Visitor Numbers Comparison

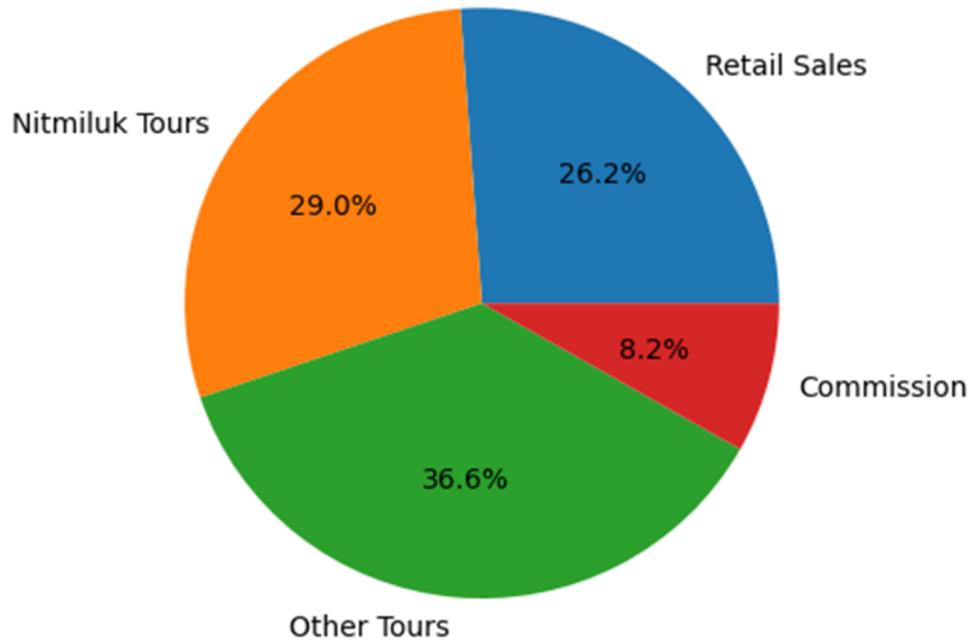


Visitor Centre Revenue Breakdown - Dec 2025





Visitor Centre Revenue Breakdown - Dec 2024



Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



14.7 CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

Author: Casey Anderson, Manager Corporate Administration
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For noting
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

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

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the Corporate Administration Report for the month of December 2025.

Strategic Plan

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

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

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

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

Municipal Plan

1.1.2.2 Ensure compliance with local government legislation

1.1.3.2 Encourage and Educate the Community about the Services that is provided by Council

1.3.3.2 Snap Send Solve

Background

The monthly report of the Corporate Administration provides information that contains for the month of December regarding customer services requests and summary of the rates debtors.

Discussion

Service Request Summary – December 2025

As of December 2025, the Council received 111 service requests across various channels.

- 60 requests were resolved satisfactorily.
- 39 requests remain in progress.
- 12 requests are overdue, indicating areas for process improvement and resource prioritisation.

During the same period, 57 Snap Send Solve (SSS) reports were submitted, primarily concerning overgrown vegetation, tree maintenance, and streetlight outages. Additional requests were received via phone, email, and in-person interactions.

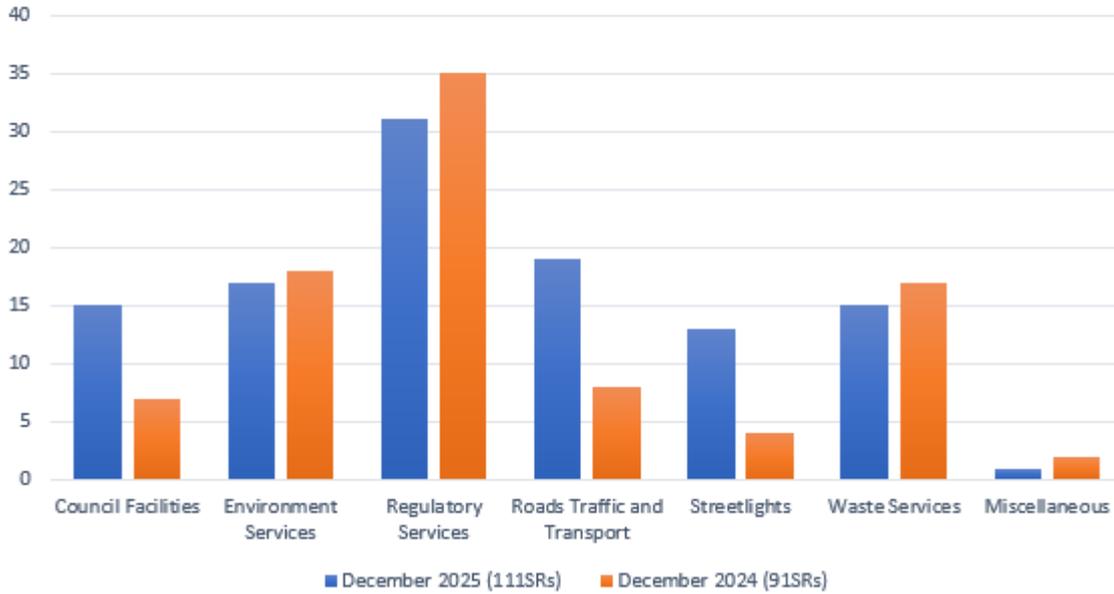
Performance Highlights

- **Resolution Rate:** Approximately 54% of requests were resolved, while 11% are overdue.
- **Channel Usage:** SSS continues to be a significant reporting tool, accounting for over half of vegetation-related issues. This highlights the importance of maintaining responsiveness on digital platforms.

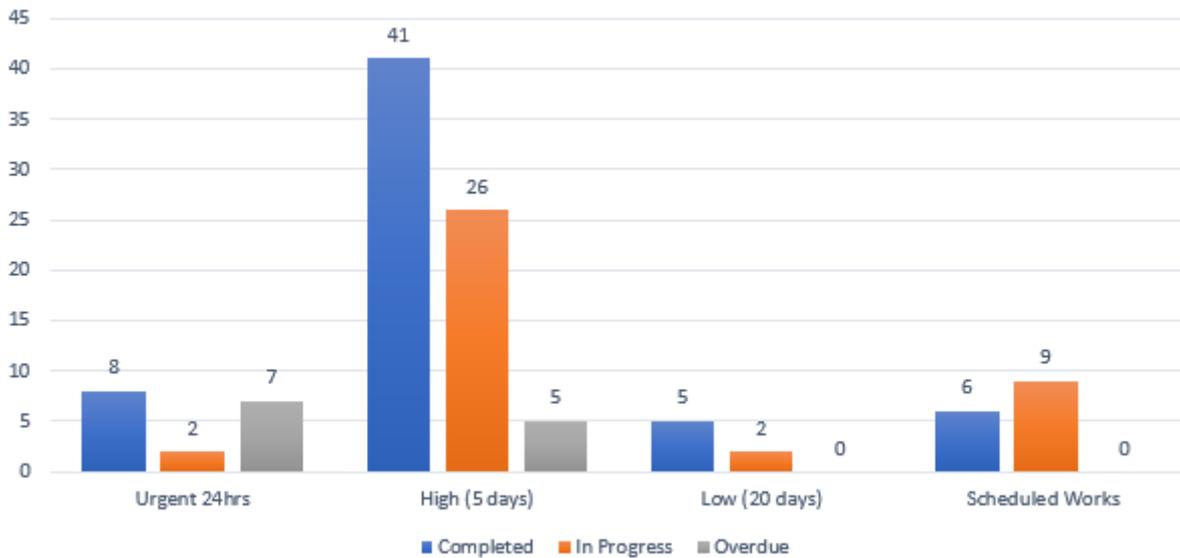


- **Recurring Themes:** Vegetation management and infrastructure maintenance dominate requests, signaling seasonal or environmental factors influencing demand.

INCIDENT TYPES COMPARISON DECEMBER

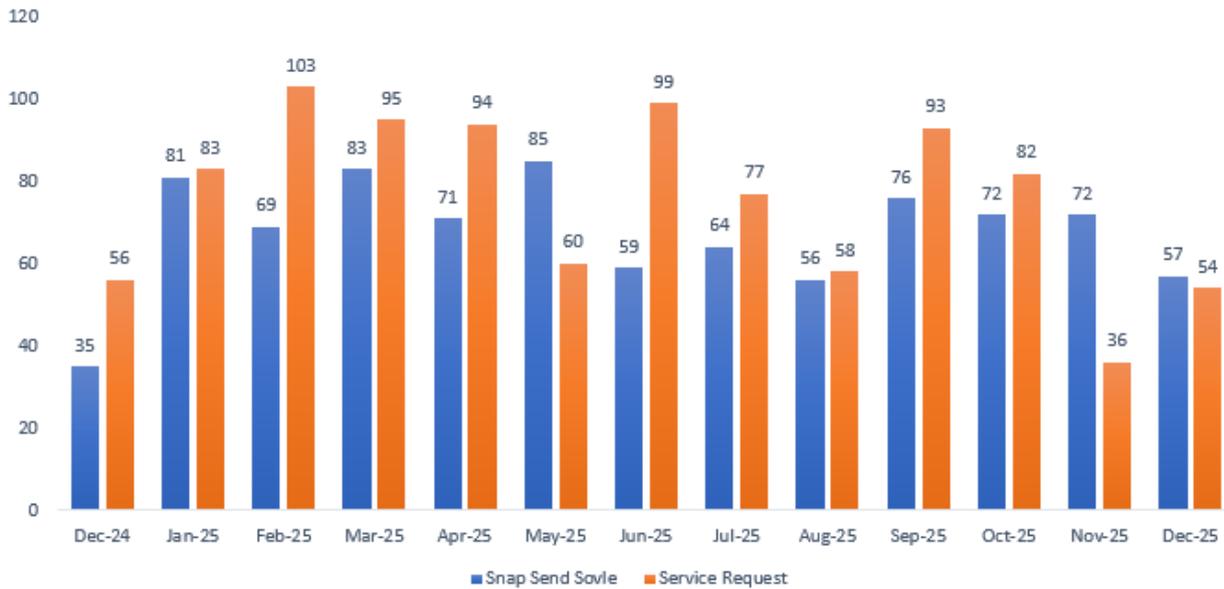


111 SERVICE REQUESTS - TRIAGING RESULTS - DECEMBER





SNAP SEND SOLVE & SERVICE REQUESTS



Breakdown by Service Area

1. Regulatory Services – 31 Requests

Focus: Compliance and animal management, with animal-related issues being most frequent.

- 3 reports for abandoned vehicles
- 7 reports for dogs at large or causing nuisance
- 4 reports for other animal activity reports
- 7 reports for animal attacks or menacing behavior
- 9 reports for lost and found animal
- 1 report for animal cruelty/welfare

Animal-related concerns represent 87% of Regulatory Services requests, suggesting a need for targeted community education and enforcement strategies.

2. Roads, Traffic & Transportation – 19 Requests

Focus: Infrastructure maintenance and signage.

- 4 reports for drains and gutter issues
- 1 report for glass on footpath
- 10 reports for potholes and road damage
- 4 reports for street signage graffiti/replacement

Potholes and road damage account for over 50% of requests.

3. Environmental Services – 17 Requests

Focus: Public space upkeep and vegetation management.

- 10 overgrown vegetation/tree requests
- 2 sprinkler-related requests
- 1 town square tree request
- 4 park, grounds, and oval maintenance (e.g., leaks, sprinkler repairs)

Vegetation management remains the dominant issue, aligning with SSS trends.

RATES RECOVERY AND OUTSTANDING BALANCES UPDATE

Council Rates Overview as of 24 December 2025.

Category	Amount	Details
Total Rates Debtors Balance	\$5,351,680.88	Total outstanding rates owed to Council
2025/2026 Rates Levy Balance	\$3,819,847.11	Outstanding balance for the current financial year
Outstanding Rates – 2024/2025 & Prior Years	\$1,509,245.89	Arrears carried over from previous years
Accrued Interest Penalties (since 1 July)	\$72,348.21	Included within the total outstanding balance
Rates Under Formal Legal Recovery. Assessments Under Statutory Charge.	\$762,354.86	Subject to legal proceedings, inclusive of penalties and legal costs. 39 assessments secured by Overriding Statutory Charges under s256 of the Local Government Act
Recovery Pending – Power of Sale Not Secured	\$59,552.08	One assessment where vacant possession has not yet been secured
Proposed Power of Sale Actions	\$615,986.98	26 assessments being prepared for power of sale
Letters of Demand – 2024/2025 & Prior Years	\$746,891.03	To be pursued across approximately 369 assessments
Financial Hardship / Payment Arrangements	\$3,492.05	Approved hardship or payment extension arrangements

Pursuant to Section 38 of the Local Government Regulations, legal services are exempt from the requirement to obtain quotes or undertake tenders. All related legal expenses may be recovered from the relevant ratepayer by journaling the costs against their assessment and including them in the applicable recovery balance.

Council must initially incur these expenses before recovery from the ratepayer. Accordingly, provisions for such costs should be prudently factored into the proposed budget.

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



14.8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

Author: Brett Kimpton, Manager Environment and Municipal
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For noting
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

That Council receives and notes the report of the Environmental and Municipal Services Department for December 2025.

Purpose of Report

To provide the Elected Members an update regarding the Environmental and Municipal Services Department's activities for the month of December 2025.

Strategic Plan

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

1.1.4 Learn what the community wants to know through community engagement strategies.

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

2.1.3 Improve street lighting for safety.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - 7.1 Waste Management - Implement waste management actions that benefit our community and environment.

7.1.6 Raise awareness to keep our town litter-free.

7.1.7 Implement the Katherine Town Council Waste Management Strategy 2021-2026.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - 7.2 Katherine's Natural Beauty - Showcase the raw beauty of Katherine's natural attractions and protect our natural assets from pollution and overuse.

7.2.2 Embark on greening initiatives with the collective help of the community to beautify and increase green spaces.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - 7.3 Protect Our Water - Sustainably manage our water resources.

7.3.3 Upgrade irrigation of our parks to minimize wastage of town and bore water.

Municipal Plan

2.1.2.1 Assess the condition of public amenities throughout Katherine and implement remediation where required

7.1.7.1 Continue to implement the Waste Management Strategy

Background

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

Discussion

Municipal Services Update:

Depot staff assisted the Events team with preparation of Town Square for the Christmas Tree lighting and the Lindsay Street Complex for the Christmas Carols events.

2.1 Tonnes of litter were collected by hand from public locations within the Katherine CBD in December.

The low-level bridge was closed on Wednesday 23rd December due to rising river levels; the bridge will remain closed for the wet season.

The high-level bridge public boat ramp was closed on Wednesday 23rd December due to rising river levels, the boat ramp will remain closed for the wet season.

Waste Management Facility (WMF)

Recent waste data shows that most material disposed of at the WMF comes from a small number of high-volume waste streams. Commercial activity continues to be the main driver of waste volumes, reflecting ongoing construction, business operations, and regional servicing across Katherine and surrounding areas.

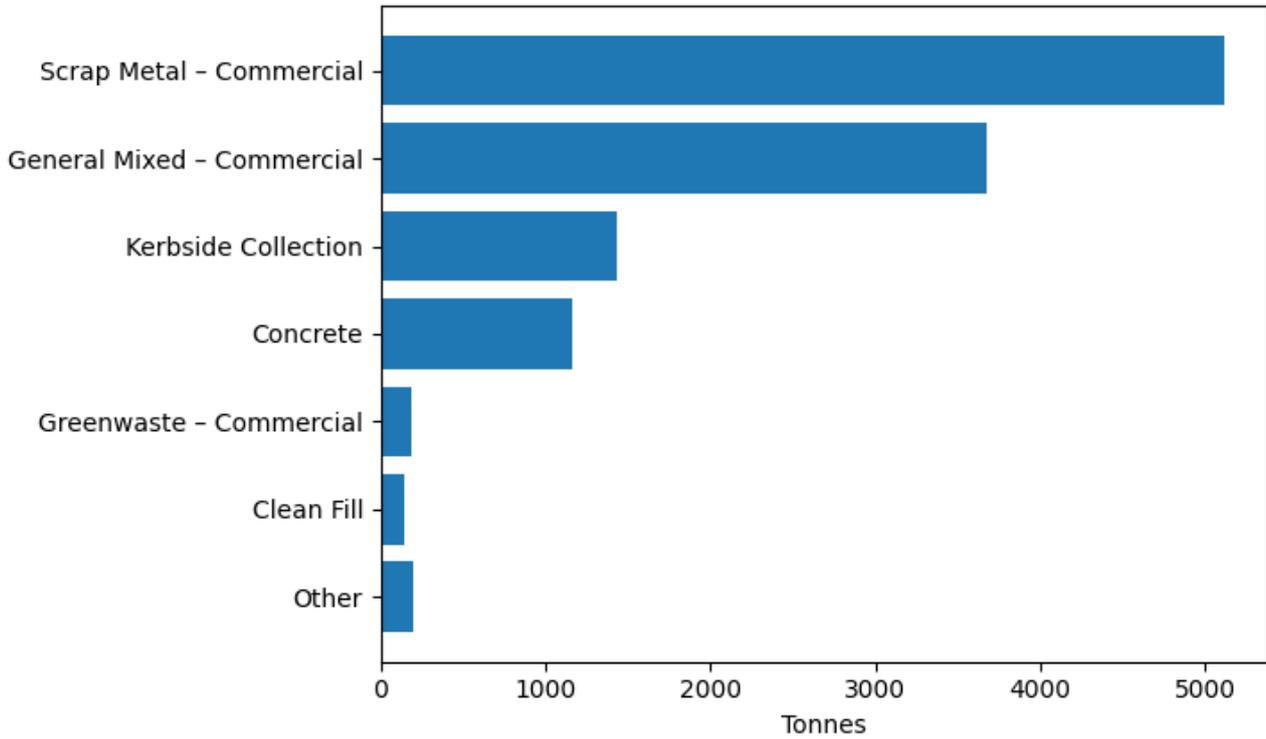
The largest contributors by weight are commercial scrap metal and general mixed commercial waste. These are followed by kerbside household waste and concrete from construction and demolition activities. Together, these waste types account for the majority of material received, while many other waste streams make up only a small share of the total.

Comparing the current financial year to the same period last year shows some changes in the mix of waste being received. Commercial scrap metal volumes have increased, while concrete volumes were higher in the previous year. Overall, the data suggests that waste patterns are shifting in line with economic activity and development cycles in the region.

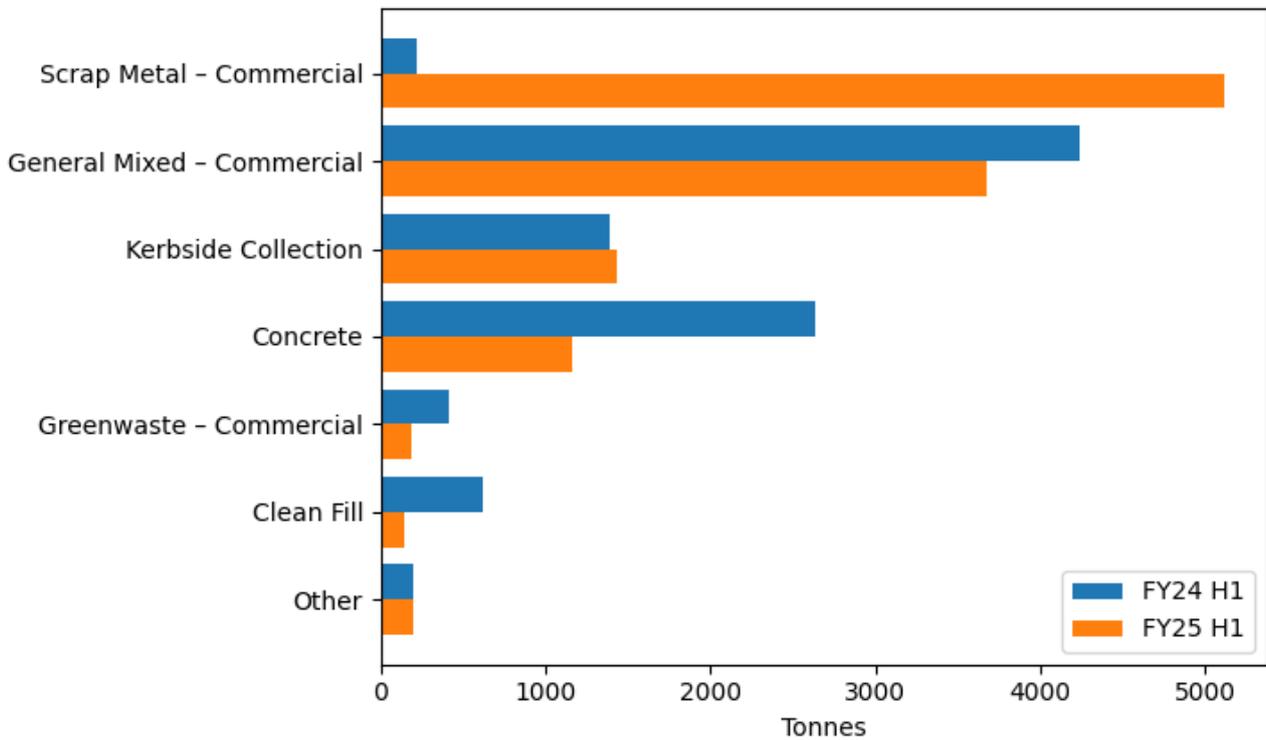
Understanding what types of waste are generated helps Council plan services, manage landfill space responsibly, and identify opportunities to increase recycling and waste diversion. These insights support better long-term planning, ensure facilities continue to operate safely and efficiently, and help Council deliver sustainable waste services for the Katherine community.

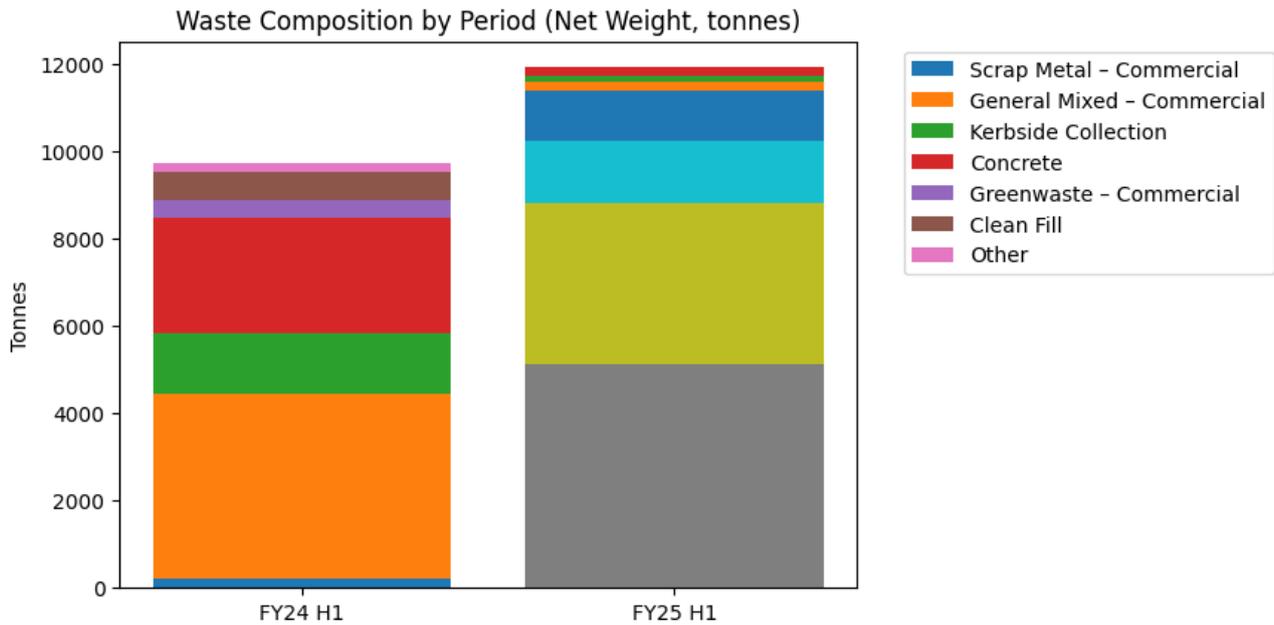


Waste by Type (Net Weight, tonnes)
1 Jul 2025 - 31 Dec 2025



Waste by Type Comparison (Net Weight, tonnes)
FY24 H1 vs FY25 H1





Mosquito Testing

Mosquito Testing was conducted across 11 locations on 2 occasions in December by council staff on behalf of NT Health. No infected mosquitos were detected within the Katherine municipality in December.

Katherine Civil Airport

The aerodrome was closed for 3 days to allow contractors to decommission the temporary runway that has been in service since early 2025. Runway 14/32 was re-opened after construction works that included extending the runway by approx. 600m and widening the runway. The works were completed several months ahead of schedule.

The aerodrome saw 391 aircraft movements for December.

Katherine Aquatic Centre

The Katherine Aquatic Centre reopened to the public on 29 November 2025, with December representing the first full month of operations under the management of The Y Northern Territory. December also coincided with the official reopening celebration and the commencement of the wet season, traditionally a period of high community demand for aquatic facilities.

Patronage increased significantly during December, demonstrating strong community demand following the reopening. Total attendance rose from 315 visits across three operational days in November to 1,964 visits in December, reflecting both seasonal uptake and strong public awareness following reopening communications and events

The official Grand Opening event on 13 December 2025 attracted 229 attendees, excluding event staff, and was well supported by the community, partner organisations, and Members of Parliament.

Group bookings during December included local schools and sporting organisations, with the Katherine Turtles Swimming Club resuming regular squad training, returning competitive swimming activities to the facility.

A school holiday Learn to Swim intensive program was delivered in December, achieving 74% occupancy (17 enrolments) across a five-day program. Demand exceeded capacity, with over 160 families registered on an expression-of-interest list, indicating strong future program growth once term-based programs commence in 2026.

The 2026 program is strong, with:

- Learn to Swim programs scheduled to commence 2 February 2026, and
- The Term 1 school swimming program fully booked, involving five schools between Weeks 2–10.

Future service expansion will include aqua aerobics and school holiday splash activities, subject to staffing capacity and external funding availability.

A small number of temporary closures occurred during December due to weather events, water contamination, and security incidents following break-ins. Throughout this period 6 property damage/crime incidents were recorded.

All incidents were responded to promptly, with facilities secured, pools cleaned, and damaged infrastructure repaired without delay.

Maintenance activity during December focused on commissioning works and minor repairs associated with reopening. Key actions included:

- Installation of shade structures (in progress)
- Splash pad repairs (completed)
- Replacement of damaged backstroke flags and kiosk door following break-ins (completed)
- Removal of temporary kiosk Perspex and ongoing replacement of a lap lane clock

Overall, the facility remains in good operational condition, with no critical maintenance risks identified.

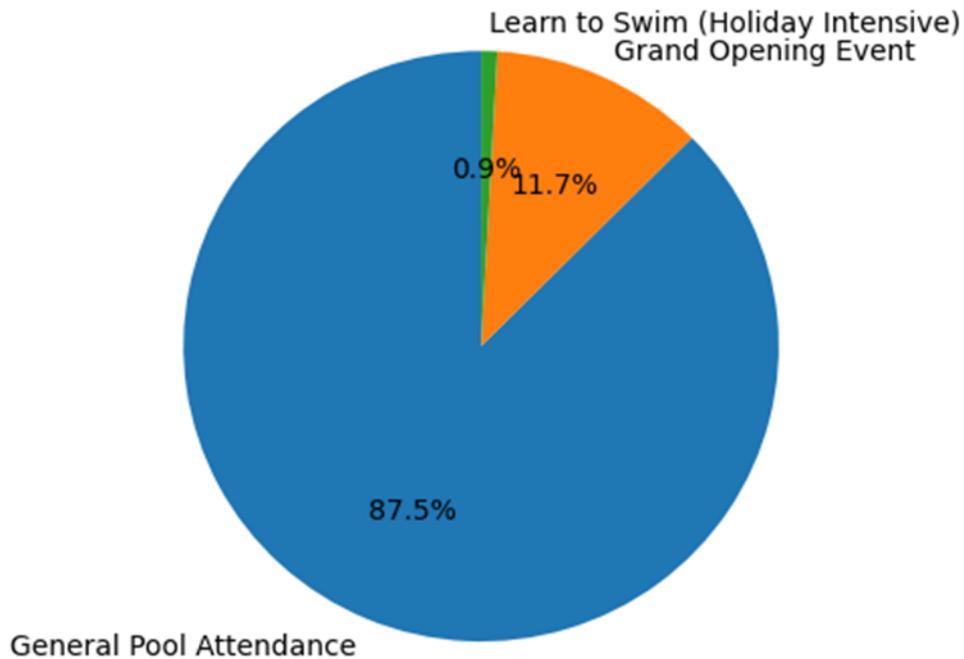
Customer feedback collected via The Y's "Rate It" system indicates strong early satisfaction, with positive commentary focused on staff attitude, safety, and service quality. No detractor feedback was recorded during December, reflecting a positive establishment phase for the reopened facility.

Key Matters for Council

- Strong early patronage confirms the importance of the Aquatic Centre as a core community asset, particularly during the wet season.
- Learn to Swim demand significantly exceeds current capacity, highlighting opportunities for program expansion in 2026.
- Security incidents were managed effectively; however, ongoing monitoring and preventative measures remain a priority.
- No significant safety or compliance issues were identified during the reporting period.



Katherine Aquatic Centre – December 2025 Attendance Breakdown



Binjari Community – Fun Day 18 December 2025

The event aimed to strengthen relationships with the Binjari community, share information on key issues such as housing, and provide an opportunity for NT Police, the Department of Housing, Kalano, AFL NT, Katherine West Health Board, and NT Fire & Rescue to engage directly with residents.

Around 70 community members attended, including a special visit from Santa Claus. KTC facilitated the event as part of our responsibility for delivering municipal services to the community.

Activities on the day included a football clinic, slip-and-slide, face painting, and a free BBQ.

Although the event was organised at short notice, agencies were keen to fast-track engagement before the Christmas period. This initiative represents a positive step for Binjari and a valuable opportunity for KTC to deliver meaningful engagement under our funding agreement.



Regulatory Services

31 Service requests were received for December which included

- 7 Reports of animal attacks or menacing behavior
- 1 Report on animal cruelty
- 7 Reports of lost or found dogs
- 9 lost and found animal reports
- 3 abandoned vehicle reports



22 letters were sent to property owners for unkempt allotments.

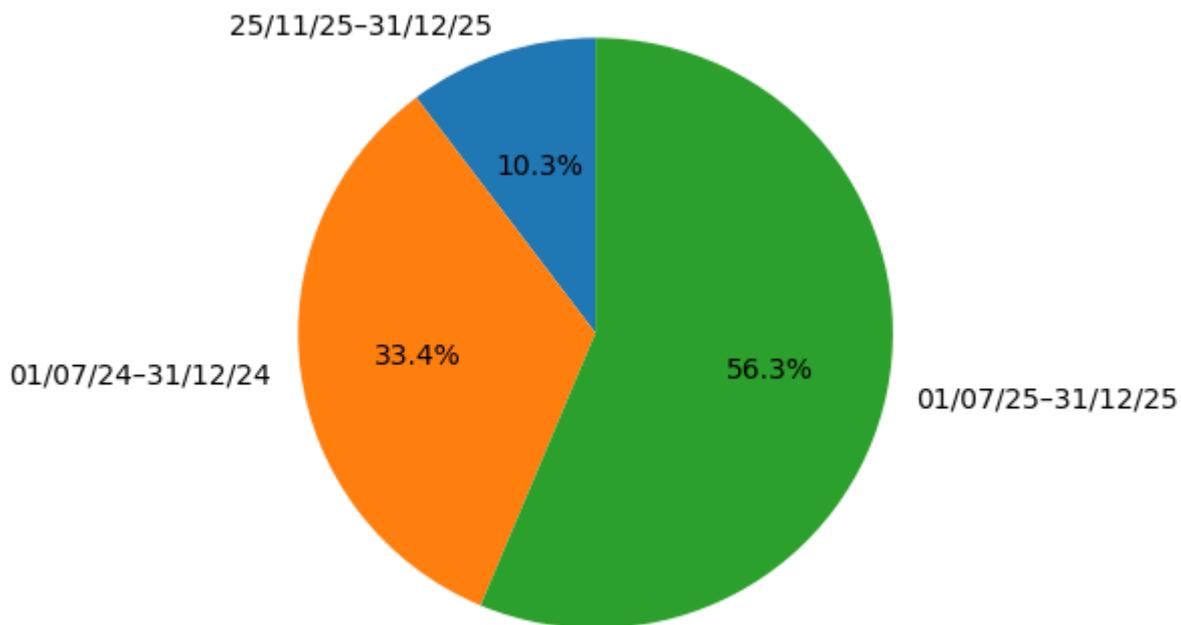
13 dogs were impounded by council staff in December with 4 returned to their owners and 3 dogs adopted by new families.

36 Infringements were issued for animal related matters in December.

Council staff undertook a dog registration compliance operation which resulted in 119 dog registrations for the operation.

(dog handling course?)

Dog Registrations by Period



- 01/07/25 – 31/12/25 largest share (651 registrations)
- 01/07/24 – 31/12/24 moderate share (386 registrations)
- 25/11/25 – 31/12/25 smaller, short-period snapshot (119 registrations)

Regulatory Parking Summary

Council staff continue to work with NT Police focusing on parking related issues caused by taxi operators within the Katherine CBD.

- 4 infringements were issued for parking related offences
- 38 verbal warnings were given to drivers relating to parking matters
- Staff undertook 22 hours of parking patrols in December

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.



Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



14.9 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2025

Author: Kimberly Worrigal, Contracts Coordinator
Authoriser: Casey Anderson, Acting Chief Executive Officer
Report Type: For noting
Attachments: Nil

Officer Recommendation

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

Purpose of Report

To provide the Elected Members an update regarding the Infrastructure Services Department's activities and projects for the month of December 2025.

Strategic Plan

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

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

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

3.1.4 Develop future infrastructure such as a regional sporting precinct, updated aquatic centre and potential water recreation facility.

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

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

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - 7.3 Protect Our Water - Sustainably manage our water resources.

7.3.2 Monitor Council's monthly water-use.

7.3.3 Upgrade irrigation of our parks to minimise wastage of town and bore water..

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

7.4.5 Develop a tree-planting strategy.

Municipal Plan

1.3.3.2 Snap Send Solve

1.3.3.3 Online Search - Cemetery

Background

Katherine Town Council's Infrastructure Service and Projects Department continues to provide core services through various service deliverables to the Katherine Community and Municipality.

Discussion

PROJECT UPDATES

Aquatic Centre Upgrade

During January, the 25m pool shade sails have been installed.

The perimeter garrison security fencing construction is underway.

The building permit for the new BBQ area was issued in mid-January. All necessary permissions are now in place, and construction will soon follow.

Civic Centre Refurbishment

The design stage continues, with further permits and detailed construction drawings due to be finalised in early 2026. Construction works are currently scheduled to begin in February 2026, starting with demolition.

Regional Sports, Recreation and Community Precinct Masterplan (rPPP)

The funding agreement has now been arranged, and the Sportsground Precinct Masterplan project begins imminently. The initial phase of the project will seek feedback from a select group of stakeholders, by invitation. The main stakeholder engagement period will occur later, during the design phase. At the later stage every member of the community will have a chance to have their input into the masterplan, with assistance from professionals.

Zimin Drive Shared Path

Further stakeholder engagement is underway. Relevant land interests who are directly impacted by the preferred path alignment are being consulted.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

December Update

December has been relatively quiet for the Infrastructure Team. Main service requests have been related to ongoing streetlighting issues and pothole repairs.

Council contractors completed pothole repairs on most rural roads, using an approximate total of 3 tons of premix.

There were six reported streetlight outages, one of which affected multiple streets in Katherine South. This particular incident was caused by vandalism to the power lock box, where someone had switched off the breakers. The remaining outages were primarily due to common fault types.

Trees

Council contractors also completed a number of Tree Asset Clearances, with requests coming on behalf of Cleanaway and the local School Buses over our roads and kerbing. Twelve new native trees were planted in Maluka and Grevilia Parks to replace trees that had to be removed due to public safety, council staff will monitor the growth over the wet season.

Upcoming Tender and Quote Assessments

The tender panels and staff are currently assessing submissions received for recently closed tenders and public quotations for a number of programs including Cleaning Services, Weed Management Program and upcoming road works projects.

Consultation Process

There was no consultation process required for this report.

Policy Implications



There are no policy implications resulting from the decision.

Budget and Resource Implications

There are no budget and resource requirements.

Risk, Legal and Legislative Implications

There are no risk, legal and legislative implications.

Environment Sustainability Implications

There are no environmental sustainability implications.

Council Officer Conflict of Interest

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



15 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

15.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

16 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

16.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2025

Report Type: For noting

Recommendation

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

Purpose of Report

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

Strategic Plan

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

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

1.1.3 Improve transparency around issues affecting the community.

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

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

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

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

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

3.1.4 Develop future infrastructure such as a regional sporting precinct, updated aquatic centre and potential water recreation facility.

Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting
3 December	International Day of People with Disabilities Awards
4 December	Elected Members Information Session
4 December	Graduation Ceremony – Clyde Fenton Primary School
5 December	Casuarina Street Primary School - Awards Ceremony
6 December	Carols by Candlelight
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council and Public Question time
10 December	Centenary of Katherine - Community Action Group Meeting
17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council

Councillor Kathryn Whitehouse	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting
1 December	Disability Assessment Panel
2 December	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
4 December	Elected Member Information Session
5 December	Katherine South Primary School Awards Ceremony
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Local Government Act 2019 (Tranche 2) amendments briefing
16 December	Christmas Lights Judging- Residential
17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council
17 December	Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CEPTED) Meeting

Councillor Jim King	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Local Government Act 2019 (Tranche 2) amendments briefing

17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council

Councillor Toni Tapp-Coutts	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting
2 December	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
2 December	Light the Night as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence
3 December	International Day of People with Disabilities Awards
4 December	Elected Members Information Session
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Centenary of Katherine - Community Action Group Meeting
13 December	Swimming Pool Official opening
17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council

Councillor Kathy Glass	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree lighting – Katherine Town Square / Meeting place
2 December	Light the Night as part of the 16 Days of Activism against violence
2 December	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
3 December	International Day of People with Disabilities Awards Ceremony / Lunch
4 December	Elected Members Information Session
5 December	Macfarlane Primary School – Awards Ceremony
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Centenary of Katherine - Community Action Group Meeting
13 December	Swimming Pool Official opening
17 December	Special Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council

Councillor Anjali Palmer	
Date	Activity attended
1 December	Christmas Tree Lighting

2 December	Audit and Risk Management Committee Meeting
2 December	Light the Night as part of the 16 Days of Activism against violence
3 December	International Day of People with Disabilities Awards
4 December	Elected Members Information Session
4 December	Katherine Youth Development Association
5 December	Meeting with KWILS
9 December	Ordinary Meeting of Council
10 December	Local Government Act 2019 Tranche 2 Briefing
13 December	Swimming Pool Opening Ceremony
17 December	Special Audit and risk Management Committee Meeting
17 December	Special Ordinary Meeting of Council
17 December	CPTED Meeting with Dept of Trade, Business and Asian Relations



17 LATE AGENDA

18 GENERAL BUSINESS

19 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

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

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

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

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

20.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 9 DECEMBER 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:	(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

20.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MEETINGS

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.

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

20.3 LEASING OF THE COUNCIL PROPERTY - 35 NEEDHAM TERRACE - SMILE-A-MILE TOY LIBRARY

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.

20.4 TENDER AWARD - T25-13 - CLEANING ALL FACILITIES

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.

20.5 KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL - INVESTIGATION REPORT - DHLGCD

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:	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.
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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:	(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-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

21 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

22 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 24 February 2026.