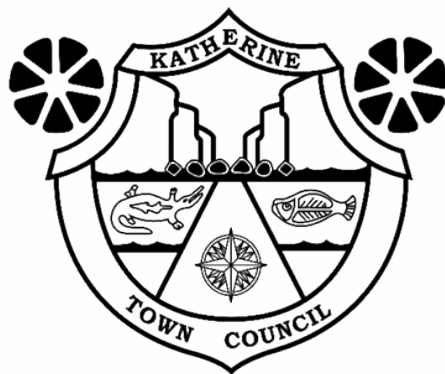




MINUTES

**Ordinary Meeting of Council
Held on Tuesday 28 July 2026**

Top Didj Aboriginal Art Gallery, Exhibition Room
363 Gorge Road, Lansdowne, Katherine NT 0850

1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the first nations people of the Katherine township and surrounding council communities. We recognise the first nations culture as one of the longest surviving cultures in the world and we pay our respects to Elders both past, present and future.

2 OPENING PRAYER

Grant O God to this Council wisdom, understanding and sincerity of purpose in the Governance of this Municipality. Amen

3 OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mayor Holden declared the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 28 July 2026 open at 6:00 pm.

4 ATTENDANCE

4.1 PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS

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

OFFICERS

- Casey Anderson – Acting Chief Executive Officer
- Yeshika Kandanaarachchi – Governance Officer - Minute Taker
- Amanda Haigh – Manager Governance and Risk
- Rebecca Baguley - Chief Financial Officer
- Brett Kimpton - Manager Environment and Municipal

PUBLIC - 8

4.2 APOLOGIES

Nil

4.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-173

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

That Council note:

1. Leave of absence form received from Deputy Mayor Doyle for 10 June to 16 June 2026, on 3 June 2026.
2. Leave of absence form received from Councillor Palmer for 26 June to 5 July 2026, on 15 June 2026.
3. Leave of absence form received from Councillor Palmer for 14 August to 20 August 2026, on 16 June

2026.

4. Leave of absence form received from Mayor Holden for 30 September to 9 October and 28 October to 20 November 2026, on 17 June 2026.
5. Leave of absence form received from Councillor Glass for 19 June to 22 June 2026, on 18 June 2026.
6. Leave of absence form received from Councillor Whitehouse for 24 August to 4 September and 14 September to 25 September 2026, on 21 July 2026.
7. Leave of absence form received from Councillor Glass for 20 August to 24 August 2026, 26 August to 27 August 2026, 2 September to 5 September 2026, and 21 September to 24 September 2026, on 28 July 2026.
8. Leave of absence form received from Deputy Mayor Doyle for 20 August to 1 September 2026, on 3 June 2026.

CARRIED 7|0

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 23 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-174

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 23 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 7|0

7.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-175

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 17 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 7|0

7.3 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 26 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-176

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

That Council confirm the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 26 June 2026 as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 7|0

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

8.1 ACTION UPDATE JULY 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-177

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

That Council receive and note the Action update.

CARRIED 7|0

Discussion

That Council informed that Deputy Mayor Mel Doyle and Councillor Anjali Palmer will be attending the LGANT Conference in November as the two delegates representing Katherine Town Council.

9 MAYORAL BUSINESS

9.1 MAYOR ACTIVITIES JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-178

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

Discussion

Council was briefed on previous meetings with Kununurra representatives, outlining their approach to interrupting cycles of youth offending and the potential for implementing similar strategies in Katherine. It was noted that organisations such as Northern Land Council (NLC) and Northern Territory Council of Social Service (NTCOSS) support youth crime intervention programs; however, funding is not currently available to support implementation in Katherine.

9.2 COUNCILLOR GOALS FIRST 6 TO 12 MONTHS UPDATE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-179

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

10 CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS

10.1 CORRESPONDENCE INCOMING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-180

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

That Council receive and note the Incoming Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - ALGA - National General Assembly invitation 2026 - 15 May 2026 - ID 255890 [**10.1.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Hon Bill Yan MLA - The Transition of Local Councils to Cost- Reflective Electricity Tariffs - 25 June 2026 - ID 255925 [**10.1.2** - 1 page]
 3. Letter - Hon Kristy Mc Bain MP - to LGA Mayors - Proposed reforms to Disaster Management - 1 July 2026 - ID 256206 [**10.1.3** - 2 pages]
 4. Communique - 1 July 2026 LGANT Board meeting Communique - 14 July 2026 - ID 256352 [**10.1.4** - 2 pages]
 5. Communique - ALGA Board meeting 21 May 2026 - 14 July 2026 - ID 256353 [**10.1.5** - 1 page]

CARRIED 7|0

10.2 CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-181

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

That Council receive and note the Outgoing Correspondence:

- Attachments:
1. Letter - Katherine Historical Society Board - Centenary Auction Recipient - 17 June 2026 - ID 25558 [**10.2.1** - 1 page]
 2. Letter - Letter of Support for Team HEALTH Application - Disability Peer Support and Connections Program - 23 June 2026 - ID 255915 [**10.2.2** - 1 page]
 3. Letter - Jackie Thomas - Petition Katherine Hospital Council outcome - 30 June 2026 - ID 256084 - redacted [**10.2.3** - 1 page]
 4. Media Release - KTC - Katherine Town Council adopts municipal plan - 30 June 2026 [**10.2.4** - 1 page]
 5. Media Release - KTC - Territory and Centenary Day Celebrations a Big Hit - 2 July 2026 [**10.2.5** - 1 page]
 6. Image - Media Release - KTC - Territory and Centenary Day Celebrations a Big Hit - 2 July 2026 [**10.2.6** - 1 page]
 7. Image - Media Release - KTC - Territory and Centenary Day Celebrations a Big Hit - 2 July 2026 [**10.2.7** - 1 page]
 8. Letter - Greg Wright - Centenary Auction The Katherine Museum - 3 July 2026 - ID 256204 [**10.2.8** - 1 page]

CARRIED 7|0

11 PETITIONS

Nil

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

12.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-182

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

Councillor Toni Tapp Coutts moved a Motion that the Community Grants Application Form and Guidelines be reviewed and updated before the 2026 release.

CARRIED 5|2

Discussion

Councillor Tapp-Coutts moved to review and update the Community Grants application form and guidelines, citing concerns that the process had become outdated and repetitive, with the same organisations receiving grants repeatedly. It was proposed that the assessment panel should include one Council Officer, 1 Elected Member, and 2 Community Members to enhance transparency.

12.2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

Councillor Anjali Palmer and Councillor Kathy Glass moved a Motion that:

1. Council reinstates Agenda Item 12 to allow questions from ratepayers
2. Council amends its motion OMC-2026-131 to reinstate the 30 minutes question time prior to the

Ordinary Meeting of Council

3. Any query from ratepayers is presented to the entire Council to discuss and determine the appropriate responses as under the Local Government Act 2019 the entire Council is responsible for the decisions made and actions taken by Council.

LOST 3|4

Discussion

Councillor Glass spoke in support of the motion stating that Public Question Time provides ratepayers with a direct, respectful, and transparent opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and seek clarification on matters affecting the community. It was noted that reinstating would strengthen relationships between Council and the community by promoting openness, transparency, accountability, and community participation, consistent with the principles of the *Local Government Act 2019*. Councillor Glass emphasised that Council decisions are made collectively and that responses to matters requiring formal positions should reflect the views of the full Council. The motion was presented as a means of ensuring community members feel heard, respected, and engaged in local governance, and Councillors were encouraged to support the reinstatement of Public Question Time as a demonstration of Council's commitment to the community it serves.

Councillor Palmer spoke in support of the motion stating "This Notice of Motion seeks to restore meaningful opportunities for community participation in Council meetings and reinforce the principles of open, transparent and accountable local government.

The recent changes to Council's meeting procedures have significantly reduced the ability of ratepayers and residents to engage directly with their elected representatives by:

- removing agenda item 12, which previously enabled questions relating to items before the Ordinary Council Meeting;
- limiting Public Question Time to written questions only; and
- providing discretion for the Mayor to determine whether submitted questions will be answered.

While orderly and efficient meetings are important, they should not come at the expenses of democratic participation. Local Government is the level of government closest to the community. It should encourage respectful dialogue, public scrutiny and meaningful engagement with those it represents.

The *Local Government Act 2019* establishes clear expectations that Councils operate transparently and remain accountable to their communities.

Section 21 states that the principal role of a Council is to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of its constituency and to develop a strong and cohesive social life for its residents.

Section 22 requires Councils to provide for the interests and well-being of individuals and groups within their area and to plan and deliver services for the benefit of residents.

Section 24 requires Councils to provide open, responsive and accountable government, to be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of the community, to place a high value on service to its constituency, and to act at all times in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Section 44 recognises that each elected member has a responsibility to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers and, importantly, to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

These legislative principles recognise that community participation is not an administrative inconvenience but an essential component of effective local government.

Importantly, the Local Government Act vests decision-making authority in the Council collectively-not in any one individual. Decisions made by Council are the responsibility of all elected members. It follows that

questions raised by residents regarding Council businesses should be available to the entire Council, allowing all the members the opportunity to hear community concerns, contribute to discussion where appropriate, and collectively determine the most accurate and complete response.

Restoring Agenda Item 12 and reinstating the 30-minute Public Question Time would not diminish the efficiency of Council meetings. Rather, these measures would strengthen transparency, accountability and public confidence by ensuring residents continue to have genuine opportunities to engage directly with their elected representatives.

A healthy democracy relies on informed communities and accessible elected representatives. Respectful public questions and robust discussion should be encouraged, not restricted. By restoring these opportunities, Council demonstrates its commitment to the principles of openness, accountability and community participation that underpin the *Local Government Act 2019*.

Amend recommendation 3: That all questions submitted by ratepayers be provided to the full Council, with responses determined by Council where they relate to Council policy, governance or decisions, and referred to the CEO for response where they relate to operational matters, consistent with the *Local Government Act 2019*."

In discussion, Councillors acknowledged that opportunities already exist for members of the public to raise issues and ask question, with responses provided during the session prior to the meeting or taken on notice where required. However, Councillor Glass noted that public participation is not formally recorded and that Councillors are not always aware of the responses provided to questions taken on notice, and expressed the view that greater transparency would allow Councillors to better understand community concerns and the responses being provided.

It was suggested that the term "Open Forum" may be more appropriate than "Public Question Time", as it would allow community members to make comments, express concerns, or provide feedback without necessarily asking a formal question. It was noted that Council could listen respectfully to these views without being required to take immediate action.

Councillors also discussed the timing of public participation within the meeting agenda. It was suggested that providing an opportunity for public participation at the beginning of a meeting would allow Councillors to hear community views before considering agenda items and making decisions. This was seen as beneficial in ensuring Councillors are aware of community concerns prior to debating matters scheduled for Council consideration.

It was noted that the matter will be referred to the policy review process to clarify definitions, consider legislative and governance requirements, seek community input, and present a revised proposal to Council.

13 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

13.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS GUIDELINES REVIEW

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Katherine Town Council Community Grants Program Guidelines as attached.
2. Endorse the inclusion of one Council officer on the Community Grants Assessment Panel, together with three elected members, to strengthen governance and support the assessment process.

3. Endorse the revised annual Community Grants Program timetable, with applications opening in late August each year in accordance with the proposed schedule.

Discussion

Council discussed the application timeframe and agreed that the existing four-week application period was insufficient for many community organisations to prepare quality submissions. As a result, Council supported extending the application period to six weeks and amending the program timetable accordingly.

Councillors also discussed the composition of the Community Grants Assessment Panel. Councillor Tapp Coutts proposed broader representation within the assessment process to strengthen governance and provide greater community involvement with one Council officer, one elected member, and two or three community members to enhance inclusivity and transparency.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2026-183

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

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Katherine Town Council Community Grants Program Guidelines as attached with a review to be conducted prior to December 2026.
2. Endorse the inclusion of one Council officer on the Community Grants Assessment Panel, together with three elected members, to strengthen governance and support the assessment process.
3. Endorse the revised annual Community Grants Program timetable subject to a six weeks application period and amend proposed schedule accordingly.
4. Lay the grant guidelines on the table for review by December 2026.

CARRIED 7|0

13.2 COUNCIL POLICIES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

That Council approve the Policy - Social Media – Version 4

Discussion

The Council proposed to lay the policy on the table for review following the social media training provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development.

AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OMC-2026-1844

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

That Council lay the Policy - Social Media – Version 4 on table for review following Social Media training by Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development

CARRIED 7|0

13.3 LGANT - CALL FOR MOTIONS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-185

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

1. That Council note the notice of Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) Annual General Meeting will be held in Alice Springs on 11 November 2026.
2. That Council note that Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) call for motions for the Annual General Meeting in November by Close of Business 29 September 2026.

CARRIED 7|0

Discussion

Councillors discussed potential topics for motions, including a community safety partnership framework and waste management issues. Councillors were advised to undertake further research, and consider existing models and requirements to ensure any proposed motions are practical, achievable, and relevant to Katherine's needs. Councillors were encouraged to prepare and submit draft motions for consideration at the August Ordinary Meeting of Council, with the intention of refining and finalising these proposals for decision at the September Ordinary Meeting of Council.

13.4 FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-186

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

That Council

- a. endorses the financial report for the month of June 2026
- b. Approves the transfer of \$1,000,000 25/26 Operating Surplus to the Waste Management Rehabilitation Provision Reserve

CARRIED 7|0

13.5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECTS QUARTERLY REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-187

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

That Council receives and notes the report of the Infrastructure and Projects Department for the April to June 2026 Quarter.

CARRIED 7|0

Discussion

Concern was raised about investing in upgrades to the Henry Scott Recreation Centre, which is not a Council asset, and it was informed that information regarding this will be included in a separate report.

13.6 PEOPLE AND CULTURE QUARTERLY REPORT AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-188

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

That Council receive and note the People and Culture Quarterly Report as at 30 June 2026.

CARRIED 7|0

14 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

14.1 MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES

Nil

15 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES

15.1 ELECTED MEMBER ACTIVITIES JUNE 2026

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-189

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

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

CARRIED 7|0

16 LATE AGENDA

16.1 COUNCIL POLICY - ELECTED MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PROCESS AND CONSEQUENCES

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

1. That Council:
 - a. Endorse the requirement that all elected members must acknowledge that they have read, understood and will comply with all Council policies, relevant to the role, upon commencement and following any amendment to the policy; and
 - b. Authorise the implementation of a policy acknowledgement process through Council's governance systems to support good governance, accountability and legislative compliance.
2. That Council approve the following reporting requirements for non-compliance with council policy:
 - a. All occasions of an Elected Member not complying with council policy should be reported immediately to the Chief Executive Officer.
 - b. Where the report relates to the conduct of an Elected Member, the Chief Executive Officer shall immediately report the matter to the Mayor and a report to the next council meeting.
 - c. Before a report to Council by the Chief Executive Officer or the Mayor, the Mayor or delegate should undertake preliminary enquiries to establish the facts. The preliminary investigations may take any form the Mayor or delegate considers appropriate but must involve discussions with the reporter and the Elected Member concerned. Natural justice principles need to be satisfied in dealing with an alleged breach.
 - d. The Chief Executive Officer must provide a report to the next Council meeting based on the investigation by the Mayor or Delegate.
 - e. The Council must decide whether a matter reported to it under council policy, is a breach. The Council may take any steps it considers reasonable in the

circumstances.

3. That Council approve the below listed sanctions which can be imposed by council if an elected member has failed to comply with council policy, can, by resolution:
 - a. Require the Elected Member to apologise to the person concerned;
 - b. Request a formal apology;
 - c. Counsel the Elected Member;
 - d. Require training,
 - e. Reprimand the Elected Member;
 - f. Pass a censure motion at a Council meeting;
 - g. Make public disclosures of inappropriate conduct (such as making the community aware of the breach through the media or annual report);
 - h. Refer the matter to an appropriate investigative body if the matter is serious; and/or
 - i. Prosecute any breach of the law.

LOST 3|4

Discussion

It was explained that the proposal is not a new policy but an amendment to existing Council policies to ensure consistency across all policy documents. Currently some policies include a requirement for elected members to acknowledge that they have read and understood the policy. The amendment would standardise this process across all policies and align Council's policy framework with recent changes to the Local Government Act and Code of Conduct requirements. It was noted that policy acknowledgments are common governance practice and would generally be required when a policy is amended or updated.

Councillors sought clarification whether there would be a time frame for reviewing and acknowledging policies. It was confirmed that the proposal would apply to future policy amendments rather than requiring immediate acknowledgment of all of existing policies.

Concerns were raised about the limited time available to review the document before the meeting, and a suggestion was made that consideration of the amendment could occur after Councillors had completed the scheduled training and received further information on relevant sections of the Act, Regulations and Guidelines.

17 GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor King acknowledged the passing of two well-known identities of Katherine during the week, Jim Claire and Phillip Malcom Roney.

Councillor Tapp Coutts requested that Council remain informed about potential future data centre developments in Katherine, noting possible impacts such as water usage, noise and appropriate site selection.

Councillor Tapp Coutts also advised that Katherine Central is planning significant refurbishment works over the next 6 to 8 months, including painting, shopfront improvements and general maintenance, which would be a good news for Katherine.

Councillor Glass thanked the committee members, Council staff for their work in delivering successful Katherine Centenary celebrations, acknowledging that the events would not have been possible without their efforts and support.

18 CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

The open meeting was declared closed to the public at 7:14 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-189

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.

19 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

19.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES 23 JUNE 2026

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part or the Council of Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(iii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the security of the council, its members or staff.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
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Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
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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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

19.2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 JUNE 2026

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

19.3 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(b) information about the personal circumstances of a resident or ratepayer;

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(ii) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
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Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(iv) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: Subject to subregulation (3) – prejudice the interests of the council or some other person.
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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-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(d) information subject to an obligation of confidentiality at law, or in equity.

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(e) subject to subregulation (3) – information provided to the council on condition that it be kept confidential and would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to be contrary to the public interest

19.4 REGIONAL SPORTS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PRECINCT (RPPP) - SELECTION OF TENDERER

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-193

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

That the Council decides to:

1. Award Tender T25-12A – Regional Sports, Recreation and Community Precinct (rPPP) to Ashford Lamaya Architects at their submitted tender price of \$971,799.50 (GST exclusive).
2. Release the resolution to the public minutes

CARRIED 7|0

19.5 CIVIC CENTRE REFURBISHMENT - UPDATE

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(c)(i) information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to: cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on, any person.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION OMC-2026-194

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

That the Council elect to:

1. note this status report regarding the Civic Centre Refurbishment
2. allow early works permit at Lot 1865 Stuart Highway which accord with the building permit and

tender requirements for contract T23-03E, the Civic Centre Refurbishment

5. release resolution 1 and 2 to the public minutes.

CARRIED 6|1
AGAINST: Councillor King

19.6 ELECTED MEMBER INFORMATION AND INTERACTION WITH STAFF POLICY BREACH

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(f) subject to subregulation (2) – information in relation to a complaint of a contravention of the code of conduct.

19.7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECRUITMENT

Section Under the Act	The grounds on which part of the Council or Committee may be closed to the public are listed in Section 99(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 2019</i> .
Sub-regulation and Reason:	Regulation 51(1)(a) information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual.

20 RESUMPTION OF OPEN MEETING

The open meeting resumed at 8:42 pm.

21 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The Ordinary Meeting of Council - 28 July 2026 was declared closed at 8:43 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on 25 August 2026.

Statement in Support of Motion to amend Council decision on Question time

Katherine deserves the best Council.

This Notice of Motion seeks to restore meaningful opportunities for community participation in Council meetings and reinforce the principles of open, transparent and accountable local government.

The recent changes to Council's meeting procedures have significantly reduced the ability of ratepayers and residents to engage directly with their elected representatives by:

- removing Agenda Item 12, which previously enabled questions relating to items before the Ordinary Council Meeting;
- limiting Public Question Time to written questions only; and
- providing discretion for the Mayor to determine whether submitted questions will be answered.

While orderly and efficient meetings are important, they should not come at the expense of democratic participation. Local government is the level of government closest to the community. It should encourage respectful dialogue, public scrutiny and meaningful engagement with those it represents.

The Local Government Act 2019 establishes clear expectations that councils operate transparently and remain accountable to their communities.

Section 21 states that the principal role of a council is to act as a representative, informed and responsible decision-maker in the interests of its constituency and to develop a strong and cohesive social life for its residents.

Section 22 requires councils to provide for the interests and wellbeing of individuals and groups within their area and to plan and deliver services for the benefit of residents.

Section 24 requires councils to provide open, responsive and accountable government, to be responsive to the needs, interests and aspirations of the community, to place a high value on service to its constituency, and to act at all times in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Section 44 recognises that each elected member has a responsibility to represent the interests of all residents and ratepayers and, importantly, to facilitate communication between the community and the Council.

These legislative principles recognise that community participation is not an administrative inconvenience but an essential component of effective local government.

Importantly, the Local Government Act vests decision-making authority in the Council collectively—not in any one individual. Decisions made by Council are the responsibility of all elected members. It follows that questions raised by residents regarding Council business should be available to the entire Council, allowing all members the opportunity to hear community concerns, contribute to discussion where appropriate, and collectively determine the most accurate and complete response.

Restoring Agenda Item 12 and reinstating the 30-minute Public Question Time would not diminish the efficiency of Council meetings. Rather, these measures would strengthen transparency, accountability and public confidence by ensuring residents continue to have genuine opportunities to engage directly with their elected representatives.

A healthy democracy relies on informed communities and accessible elected representatives. Respectful public questions and robust discussion should be encouraged, not restricted. By restoring these opportunities, Council demonstrates its commitment to the principles of openness, accountability and community participation that underpin the Local Government Act 2019.

Amend rec 3: That all questions submitted by ratepayers be provided to the full Council, with responses determined by Council where they relate to Council policy, governance or decisions, and referred to the CEO for response where they relate to operational matters, consistent with the Local Government Act 2019

Thank you

Cr Anjali Palmer

28 July 2026