



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

UNCONFIRMED



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.



original document a discussion with a member of the Council. Was there a speed limit survey completed? Was the meeting with the Minister or the Department?	No survey completed although the Department indicated that most people were traveling under 40km/h. 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? What is the number of near misses and incidents, an accident, near misses on Katherine Terrace for 12 months to December 2025?	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. 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.



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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