



**MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting of Council**

**Friday, 4 March 2022**  
**At 08.30 AM**

Council Chambers, Civic Centre,  
Stuart Highway, Katherine

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
KATHERINE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT CIVIC CENTRE, STUART HIGHWAY, KATHERINE  
ON FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2022 AT 8:30AM**

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- ELECTED MEMBERS** :
- Mayor Elisabeth Clark
  - Deputy Mayor Kym Henderson
  - Councillor Amanda Kingdon
  - Councillor Benjamin Herdon
  - Councillor Denis Coburn
  - Councillor Jeremy Trembath
  - Councillor Madeleine Bower
- OFFICERS** :
- Mrs Ingrid Stonhill, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
  - Mr Kerry Whiting, Director Corporate and Community Services (DCCS)
  - Mr Brendan Pearce, Director Infrastructure, and environment
  - Mrs Persis Bhandara – Governance and Executive Officer (Minute Taker)

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Unconfirmed

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## 1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of Katherine's Aboriginal peoples. We acknowledge the First Australians as the traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history. We pay respect to the Elders of the community and extend our recognition to their descendants past present and emerging.

## 2 OPENING PRAYER

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

## 3 MEETING DECLARED OPEN AT 8.34 AM

## 4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 4.1 Apologies

- Councillor Benjamin Herdon.

### 4.2 Leave of Absence

- Nil.

## 5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 6 REPORTS OF OFFICER

### 6.1 Rates Recovery – Discharge of Overriding Statutory Charge

Purpose:

1. To seek Council's approval on the discharge of an Overriding Statutory Charge held over Assessment 280 for arrears totalling \$13,915.87 as the property is being sold; and
2. To approve all future Overriding Statutory Charge processes to be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer for action under Division 4 of the Local Government Act.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the removal of the statutory charge on Assessment 280 through the completion of the relevant land titles form signed under seal by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer; and
2. Delegate to the Chief Executive Officer all future Overriding Statutory Charge processes required under Division 4 of the Local Government Act.

Moved: Councillor Bower

Seconded: Councillor Kingdon

**Minute No. 04.03.2022-SMC1**

**That the recommendation listed above be adopted.**

Notes:

- Councillor Kingdon queried how do they know if there is a conflict of interest as no information except the Assessment No. has been provided.

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DCCS responded in his opinion the report had been purposely written so that no confidential information is in the report and therefore no conflict will apply.

- Councillor Coburn asked for clarification. DCCS responded: Discussion is 2-fold (1) rate recovery process, legislation and register of charge over property, property being sold and to remove a charge on land sold. (2) streamline the process, delegate to the CEO for future process.
- Councillor Kingdon queried the total of \$1.2m being outstanding since 2015. DCCS confirmed the debt amount.
- Deputy Mayor Henderson wanted to confirm the May 2015 date on the report. DCCS stated unfortunately, yes, we have dropped the ball on rate arrears, we do have a process, and this has started again.
- Deputy Mayor Henderson asked if we have a standard procedure to follow? DCCS stated a 12-step process will be followed. The CEO stated that the Council had been mindful of COVID and the implications and considerations regarding the last 2 years and the hardship on some.
- The Mayor mentioned Council have a process for rate payers facing financial difficulties. DCCS confirmed we do have a policy for charging late fees. The Mayor mentioned this may be a deterrent for rate payers to pay their rates on time and to let them know we cannot do what we need to do if rates are not paid.
- Deputy Mayor queried recommendation 2. delegate to CEO. CEO responded a six-monthly review will come to Council.

**CARRIED 6/0**

## **8 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

Meeting was closed at 08:48 am.

Elisabeth Clark  
**MAYOR OF KATHERINE**